

# COUNT DOWN STARTS TODAY...

## TAFI **KUCHING** CONVENTION 2022

**20 SEP - 23 SEP 2022**

**16 SEP - 20 SEP - PRE TOURS**

**23 SEP - 26 SEP - POST TOURS**

### EXOTIC DESTINATIONS FOR PRE & POST TOURS

**PENANG**



**LANGKAWI**



**KOTA KINABALU**



**JOHORE DESARU**



**KUALALUMPUR-GENTING**



**SELANGOR**



**KUCHING**



**MELAKA**



**\*Delhi HC fines Chinese ecommerce INR 20 lakh for Vistara trademark infringement**

The Delhi High Court has imposed a cost of INR 20 lakh on AliExpress, a Chinese e-commerce company, for selling keychains and baggage tags bearing the 'VISTARA Marks' in an aubergine and gold color-combination, infringing trademark of Vistara Airlines. "The use of the 'VISTARA Marks' is not only amounts to infringement and passing off of the mark of the plaintiff but would cause dilution of the mark of the plaintiff. It is also likely to cause deception and confusion in the mind of

the plaintiff (Vistara) also issues baggage tags to its crew members which bear its 'VISTARA Marks', the suit said. "Airports are an incredibly critical junction of not only travel but also of trade and commerce; any lapse in security, especially by permitting the sale of vagrantly-infringing goods, would be turning a blind eye to obvious wrongdoings of the defendant (Chinese company)," the court noted. Disposing of the suit, the court said, "Keeping in view the above as also the object and mandate of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015; the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018; and the Delhi High Court Intellectual Property Division Rules, 2022, the plaintiff is held entitled to damages and costs quantified at INR 20 lakh.

**\*Alliance Air board to discuss restoration of pilots' salary this month:**

Alliance Air has assured pilots that restoration of salaries to the pre-Covid level will be discussed by its board later this month after a section of the airline's pilots went on strike on Friday. The pilots' strike, which resulted in cancellation of various flights, was called off recently after the airline told them that the salary issues will be looked into, according to a source in the know of the developments. Alliance Air, owned by the

government, operates around 100 flights daily. It has a fleet of 21 aircraft, including 19 ATR aircraft and 2 Dornier planes. In an internal communication, Alliance Air CEO Vineet Sood told pilots that the airline has partially restored their salaries in April. The carrier is considering further restoration of salaries from September onward and the board will discuss the matter during its meeting scheduled for September 16, as per the communication. One of the pilots' demands is the restoration of salaries to the pre-Covid level. In the wake of the pandemic, the salaries were cut by 60 per cent and till now, the pay has not been fully restored, the source said. Alliance Air is yet to issue a statement on the pilots' strike on Friday or on salary issues.

**\*Australian airports to face service disturbance as ground staffers prepare to strike:**

Some of Australia's major airports are likely to face disruptions on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> Sep, as hundreds of workers from major service providers are expected to strike for a better payment and working conditions. The country's major transport union, Transport Workers Union of Australia (TWU), said in a statement that hundreds of ground handlers from Dnata will hold a 24-hour strike on September 12, while logistic service provider, Menzies, in the states of New South Wales and Victoria, will apply to the Fair Work Commission to hold a protected action ballot, reports news agency. "Workers at both companies are

pushing for viable jobs and greater financial security including more guaranteed hours for part-time workers and fair pay increases in their enterprise agreements," said the statement. "Dnata and Menzies ground workers are forced to pursue strike action for the first time because they can't afford to stay in this industry if the extreme downward spiral of wages and conditions continues." Dnata workers have voted in favor of strikes on September 2, which will see around 350 workers participating in the strikes across airports in Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide. TWU said the industrial action will primarily impact the international operations of Australian flag carrier, Qantas, with knock-on effects to domestic travel. Qantas cut its own ground workers during the Covid-19 pandemic and outsourced the service to other companies like Dnata. Kaine said Qantas' management's strategy to dictate low wages and conditions from afar has turned the aviation careers into insecure jobs no one can afford to stay in. "We need to rebalance aviation towards good, secure jobs that keep skilled workers in the industry and ensure the safety of the travelling public."





**\*Madhya Pradesh tourism signs MoU in Cambodia to boost ties**

Madhya Pradesh Tourism organized a roadshow in Phnom Penh, Cambodia recently. An MOU was signed between Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board and CATA to further strengthen tourism ties between the two regions and enhance cooperation and goodwill. Minister of Tourism and Culture Usha Thakur was the chief guest on the occasion. The Guest of Honor was Minister of Tourism, Royal Government of Cambodia Dr. Thong Khon. Principal Secretary (tourism) and managing director of MP Tourism Board SS Shukla hosted the evening. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Devyani Khobragade, followed by a speech delivered by Dr. Thong Khon who

highlighted the importance of India's role in the socio-cultural milieu of Cambodia. This was followed by a speech by minister Usha Thakur who spoke about how the two countries India and Cambodia are connected by various cultural and historical ties that date back to antiquity. She then pointed out several places of interest in MP such as the three UNESCO World Heritage sites, the holy river Narmada, the rich forests and also about the state's endeavor to build new circuits encompassing the various Shaktipeeths, Jyotirlingas and the Buddhist trail. PS Shukla spoke about the subsidy that is offered to Indian travelers visiting Angkor Vat and sought a similar arrangement from the Cambodian government for travelers to India. He said that Pravasiya Bhartiya Divas will be in Indore in 2023 and sought the support of the Indian diaspora in Cambodia.

**\*Not more than 9 lakh visited Puri for Rath Yatra: Odisha Government**

Contrary to the government's expectations, the arrival of devotees on the occasion of Rath Yatra in Puri on July 1 was less than 10 lakh. The government was expecting the footfall of about 15 lakh devotees as they were allowed to take part in Rath Yatra after two years without any Covid curbs. According to the data shared by the tourism department, altogether 8,97,137 devotees, including 40 foreigners, attended Rath Yatra this year. This is just 1.5% increase from the arrival of devotees for Odisha's biggest annual festival in 2019. Altogether 8,83,930 devotees,

including 285 overseas pilgrims had attended Rath Yatra on July 4 in 2019. Though Rath Yatra was observed in 2020 and 2021, the government banned the participation of devotees in view of the Covid pandemic. Only a few duty-bound servitors and government officials conducted the car festival amid imposition of curfew in the last two years. The Puri district administration said a steady rise in Covid positive cases in the run-up to Rath Yatra this year might have prompted devotees to skip the festival. Unlike the previous years, the flow of devotees was thin in the morning and afternoon on the Rath Yatra day. But their numbers swelled up as the day progressed. Most of the parking lots were empty until the evening. Some hotels had witnessed last minute cancellation of bookings. The government's massive preparations started a month before the festival. Several ministers, bureaucrats and IPS officers convened a series of review meetings to ensure that nothing was left to chance. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik too had reviewed the preparedness.

**\*From littered Bali beaches to sustainable tourism:**

Villagers in the island of Java set the rules for tourists visiting their area, working with the local government to help protect popular sites. At the foot of Mount Sindoro, a popular tourist site in Indonesia's Central Java, locals set the rules for visitors. Break the rules and a fine of up to 1 million rupiah (US\$67) applies, but if you can't pay you might instead be asked to plant tree seeds. The Sindoro Mountain area is one of a growing number of the 1734 'desa wisata' or rural tourist villages seeking to ensure sustainability for future generations of Indonesians. The initiative aims to improve the welfare of local communities, boosting the local economy as well as delivering a tourist destination that is free of solid waste - especially plastic. Having attracted the attention of Indonesia's

Minister of Tourism, the location is now home to an annual event bringing more economic benefit to the region. The event called Java Tantara is made up of three main cultural and historical-travelling activities: the Mountain Festival, the Daendels Run, and the Rally Truck Festival. These activities are held with the support of numerous regencies and cities in South, Central, and North Java. Tourism contributes around 4.1 percent to Indonesia's annual GDP, but the Indonesian government is seeking to push this to 10-12 percent in the next 5- 10 years.



### **\*The Philippines' travel recovery experiences slowdown**



The recovery of Philippines' inbound and outbound travel is slowing down due to high airfares, a weakening peso, and a logjam in embassies' processing of visa applications and renewal. Arjun Shroff, managing director of Shroff International Travel Care, said travelers prefer domestic travel over international travel due to the high costs of airfares, "which has risen by more than 60-80 per cent in some cases". Asiareps Travel Services general manager, Ritchie Tuano, agreed that airlines' high fuel cost "significantly contributes" to the travel slowdown. He added that the surge of revenge travelers did not cause air travel demand to spike, even though most airlines

were not 100 per cent operational. This, coupled with the longer processing time of visa applications at embassies – which itself is trying to cope with the surge in demand and staffing issues – are all contributing to the slow down, noted Shroff. Tuano said: "Embassies should be adding more staff, even though temporarily, to hasten the visa processing time." Moreover, the weakening of the Philippine peso reached an all-time high this week, and has also made it costlier for long-haul travel. That is why Filipinos are choosing to fly regionally to South-east Asian countries, or other countries that are visa-free, agents observed.

### **\*Laos travel operators race to obtain LaoSafe certification:**



Travel operators across Laos are racing to certify tour guides and drivers to cope with the surge in demand for organized tours since Laos reopened its borders to international tourists on May 9. LaoSafe has witnessed an increase in requests for training and certification with the anticipated influx of tourists for the coming season. To date, over 710 tour guides and 270 drivers have achieved LaoSafe certification. LaoSafe is a nationwide initiative designed to create a world-class health and hygiene system within the tourism and hospitality industry, developing sector-specific standards for accommodation, F&B, tour guides and drivers to raise the benchmark of hygiene provision throughout the country and build international confidence in Laos as a safe tourist

destination. Encouraging tour operators in Laos to apply for LaoSafe, Duangmala Phommavong, Managing Director, EXO Travel Laos, said: "The LaoSafe training that our guides have received has helped them prioritize safety and cleanliness. As a tour operator, I want travelers to know that Laos has safety standards in place for them to travel with peace of mind and confidence." A spokesperson of Asian Trails Laos commented that LaoSafe empowered DMCs like them to offer customers a "safe and quality experience" and access a "harmonization of services and the creation of standards on a national scale".

### **\*South Korea removes pre-departure tests for international arrivals from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept:**



South Korea has lifted the pre-departure Covid-test requirement for inbound travelers starting September 3. The new rule came after a state infectious disease advisory committee recommended the government scrap the mandatory pre-travel PCR tests for international arrivals. Previously, those inbound were required to show a negative result within 48 hours of their PCR tests or within 24 hours of their rapid antigen tests to enter the country. Travelers are still required to take a PCR test within the first 24 hours of their arrival in South Korea and upload the test result on a Q-code website. The government will also introduce the retooled Covid-19 vaccines known to be more effective for the more dominant BA.5 Omicron variant later this

year – those aged 60 and over, or with underlying health conditions, will be prioritized for inoculation.

### \*Vande Bharat train's stability test at 180 kmph with glass full of water



The Southern Railways lauded the trial run of Vande Bharat Express. A trial run was held for the new **Vande Bharat Express** wherein the train clocked in speeds of over 180 km/hr. The video of the trial run was shared by Southern Railways on their official Twitter handle today, 6 September. The video shows a glass full of water remaining still while the train was speeding along its route. The Southern Railways lauded the trial run and wrote, "Take a look at the new Vande Bharat rake on trial run clocking 180-183 Kmph. A glass filled to the brim with water stays stable even as the train speeds at 180 Kmph"

### \*Singapore: Non Vaccinated Travelers can now Visit Singapore without Quarantine



Now that non-fully vaccinated travelers (including Children above 13 years old) can now visit Singapore without quarantine. All they have to do is: Before arrival, they will only need to: 1)**Produce negative RT PCR** or professionally administered **ART result taken 2 days before departure** 2)**Purchase Covid-19 travel insurance for duration of stay in SG**. While in Singapore, required to observe prevailing **Safe Management Measures** (SMMs). Vaccinated-

Differentiated SMMs (VDS) are still applicable to F&B outlets, nightspots and large events, including cruise. Essentially, non-vaccinated travelers will not be able to dine in F&B establishments or get on board cruises. Masks are not required outdoors and indoors, except in health care settings and on public transport.

For more info, please visit - <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19-phase-advisory>

### \*Sentosa celebrates Golden Jubilee by giving back to the community



Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) celebrated 50 years with key partners and guests at the Sentosa Golden Jubilee Dinner on September 2 at Siloso Beach, where Singapore's president Halimah Yakub attended as guest-of-honor. To commemorate this milestone, SDC gave back to the Singapore community by presenting her with a cheque of S\$3,908,888.88 (US\$2.78 million) for the President's Challenge and Community Chest. President Halimah said: "Sentosa holds a special place in Singaporeans' memories, and it is heartening to see how Sentosa and SDC have grown alongside Singaporeans over the past 50

years. It is befitting that SDC has made giving back to the community an integral part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations." The funds were raised through the Sentosa Golden Jubilee Charity Golf held on August 27 and 28, and all proceeds will be channeled to benefitting agencies of President's Challenge and more than 100 social service agencies and 200 critical programs supported by Community Chest.

### \*IndiGo appoints Pieter Elbers as new CEO:



Former KLM Chief Executive Officer and industry veteran Pieter Elbers assumed charge as the new CEO of IndiGo. "Further to our letter dated May 18, 2022, we wish to inform you under Regulation 30 of SEBI LODR Regulations that Petrus Johannes Theodorus Elbers (Pieter Elbers) has joined as Chief Executive Officer of the Company with effect from today, September 6, 2022," InterGlobe Aviation Limited that runs the country's largest aviation service under the brand IndiGo said in a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges. Elbers has assumed charge three weeks before he was originally envisaged to join. He has replaced 71-year-old Ronojoy Dutta. As per a

statement released by IndiGo on May 18, Dutta was scheduled to retire on September 30, 2022. "We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Pieter Elbers as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. India promises to be the last bastion of enormous growth globally and given Elbers' deep understanding of the business, his legendary leadership qualities coupled with his energy and passion, we are ever so confident that under his stewardship, IndiGo will play a pivotal role in this growth opportunity," Rahul Bhatia, Managing Director of IndiGo, said in a statement in May while making the announcement about Elbers' appointment



### \*Expo 2020 Dubai pavilions, Garden in the Sky to reopen today



You can relive your Expo 2020 Dubai memories from today, September 1, when two pavilions and a rotating observation deck reopen to the public. The legacy site, called Expo City Dubai, officially opens on October 1, but the **Mobility and Terra** pavilions and the **Garden in the Sky** will start receiving visitors from 8 Sep. Tickets cost Dh50 per person per pavilion, while the Garden in the Sky experience is priced at Dh30 per ride. The pavilion tickets are free for children aged 12 and under, and the Garden in the Sky experience is free for those aged five and under. The rotating observation deck is a flying garden that soars 55 meters above the ground. The tree-lined open-air upper deck and air-conditioned lower one offer panoramic, 360-degree views of the 4.38-sqkm Expo site. During the six-month Expo, it was among the top attractions, with scores of excited visitors queuing up for the experience. The biggest draws at the pavilion are its nine-meter-tall, photo-realistic figures from the Golden Age of Arab civilization, including ancient navigator Ahmad Ibn Majid and celebrated explorer Ibn Battuta. You will be dwarfed by their giant presence, and wowed by their innovations that helped drive global mobility through the centuries. **Terra**, which means 'Planet Earth', offers an immersive experience through the wonders of the natural world. It demonstrates the damage being done to the planet, and highlights ways you can make a difference before it is too late. Visitors are encouraged to make a pledge towards positive change, with promises ranging from meat-free days, to swapping cars for public transport.

### \*MP government to launch 10 trains under Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana



Madhya Pradesh government has decided that senior citizens of the state would now be able to visit undertake pilgrimage by airplane under Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana from January 1, 2023. Ten new trains will run for them announced Tourism and Culture Minister, **Usha Thakur**. From September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, five new trains of Tirth Darshan Yatra will be run in which about 5,000 senior citizens will be taken to different pilgrimages. Along with this, there is a plan to run 5 more trains on the occasion of Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day on November 1. "In this way, in the coming few months, about 150 trains will be run to provide pilgrimage to the senior citizens of the state," said Minister Thakur. Minister Thakur said that Adi-guru Shankaracharya had established four dhams so that the Hindus can visit the four dhams and attain virtue. "Our Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, started the pilgrimage and he is committed to carry forward the culture. The department is making efforts to realize this vision," said Thakur.

### \*Qatar to reopen Doha International Airport to ease pressure ahead of World Cup 2022



Qatar is to reopen the mothballed Doha International Airport next week, airlines said recently, as it seeks to ease pressure ahead of the 2022 World Cup. Doha International Airport has been in semi-retirement since it was replaced in 2014 by the nearby Hamad International Airport, which has since become a major hub in parallel with the growth of flag carrier Qatar Airways. Ahead of the World Cup which is expected to attract more than one million visitors, the carrier said that its Cairo flights would operate from Doha airport this week for Egyptian fans headed for a club match

Friday between Egyptian league champions Zamalek and Saudi champions Al-Hilal. Kuwait's Jazeera Airways, the UAE's flydubai, Oman's Salam Air and Turkey's Pegasus Airlines, meanwhile, have begun selling tickets to Doha airport starting from September 15. Qatari authorities have yet to officially comment on the move back to Doha airport. It is currently mainly being used for flights by Qatar's royal family and VIPs along with its air force.

### **\*Kazakhstan approves visa-free travel for Indian travelers**



Kazakhstan has recently approved visa-free travel for Indian citizens. This visa is applicable for tourism, unpaid business or personal visits. People cannot get employment or carry out business during their visit. Indians will be granted a total of 42 days of travel in a time period of 180 days. However, people can stay in Kazakhstan only for 14 days at a stretch. This is the first time that travelers are being granted visa exemption to Kazakhstan since the beginning of the pandemic. Besides having closed its borders as required, the country had suspended all visa-free entry during this time. Besides India, Kazakhstan has granted similar privileges to China and Iran.

### **Air India to have systems to proactively alert fliers about flight changes, delays**



Air India will put in place new systems to proactively alert fliers about changes or delays in flight schedules and also set up a coordination team to address airport-specific issues, according to an internal communication. After reviewing block times, airport connecting times and aircraft as well as crew rotations, Tatas-owned Air India has identified various improvement areas for bettering overall performance. In the

internal communication on Friday, Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said the airline would seek airport slots to carry out the improvements. While mentioning that the airline is unlikely to get all the slot changes it would like this season, he said, "now that we know what we want we can progressively refine season-by-season," he said. The airline, which had a domestic market share of 8.4 per cent in July, will also be setting up an airport/ hub control/ regional control coordination team to better understand airport-specific issues. According to the communication, the airline's airport operations teams are working closely with ground handling partners across the network to improve governance and performance. "... we are acquiring better customer-facing systems to proactively alert fliers of schedule changes or delays in advance, and enable them to self-change flights where relevant," it noted.

### **Uttarakhand to expand 46 ropeway initiatives throughout the state**



The Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has given a go-ahead to expand 46 ropeway initiatives beneath the Parvatmala scheme to spice up tourism around the state. "The hill state of Uttarakhand understands the importance of ropeway which is considered as the most eco-friendly mode of transport; hence we have decided to develop 46 ropeway projects across the state which will also provide a boost to tourism," he stated at the assembly of the Uttarakhand Tourism Construction Board held in Dehradun recently. The tourism minister directed the officers to discover the potential of the funicular railway machine in puts place there is not any chance of putting in place a ropeway venture. Funicular railway or incline railway is a machine this is really useful for pulling trains up steep grades with a cable the place the metal wheels can be utilized to steer the teach alongside the tracks without

traction. We have sent a proposal for a ropeway project for Santala Temple to Jaintan wala and once constructed it will make the visit convenient for the tourists and pilgrims," he said. The tourism department with an objective to boost tourism is also preparing a master plan for Auli and a proposal of constructing floating houses and publicizing homestays in the state so that tourists are able to see new tourist destinations during their every visit, tourism officials said. They said the tourism department also directed the officials to develop the Trijugi Narayan temple area in Rudraprayag district as a wedding destination after consultation with gram panchayats and temple priests. Meanwhile, the golf cart trail run has already begun at George Everest House in Mussoorie. "The work was on to develop George Everest house as a major tourism spot in Mussoorie and for that, a golf cart is being run on trial basis form the base of the George Everest house to the house where George Everest spent many years of his life while conducting the survey of area," Chauhan added. Once the golfing carts are a hit, the tourism division will upload 4 extra golfing carts that can be used as commute carrier for George Everest, he stated.



### Air India Group to shift to Mega Gurugram center, start vacating Govt.-owned premises



The TATA Group will house the Group - AI, AI Express and AirAsia India) that will soon be merged with AI Express) at a mega Gurugram facility by next March. It will start vacating the government-owned premises. The move to consolidate workspaces is aimed as an “integral part of its transformation agenda... to improve collaboration, strengthen the organization’s culture, upgrade employees’ work environment and facilities, and more easily deploy new technology,” AI said in a statement. Beginning this month, a number of Air India offices presently housed in

government owned premises across the country are being vacated. The largest base of staff, located in Delhi’s Airlines House, Safdarjung Complex, GSD Complex and IGI Terminal One, will move to an interim office space in Gurugram, National Central Region (NCR), before ultimately relocating to a campus at the newly-constructed **Vatika** One-On-One development in early 2023. Besides Air India, the Vatika One-on-One campus is being provisioned to accommodate Air India Express and Air Asia India. AI CEO & MD Campbell Wilson said: “The consolidation of many premises under one roof, and the evolution from a regionalized to centralized structure, is a significant milestone in Air India’s transformation journey. The physical move will be accompanied by greater focus on team and culture building, together with efforts to enhance accountability and result orientation. The transition to the interim facility in NCR is being undertaken during the course of September 2022. Flexible work hours are also being offered to employees. A senior team is also relooking at the offices in different cities which are housed in legacy premises, with some in Chennai and Kochi having already moved to modern office premises.

### \*IndiGo Co-Founder plans to sell 2.8 % stake in Interglobe Aviation for INR 1,996 crore



Indigo Co-Founder Rakesh Gangwal will sell up to a 2.8 per cent stake in Interglobe Aviation- which owns and operates IndiGo, through a block deal. The total deal value is estimated to be INR 1,996 crore, according to the term sheet. The offer, managed by Morgan Stanley India, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, will mark the beginning of the reduction of Gangwal’s shareholding in India’s largest and most profitable airline. Gangwal, his wife Shobha and their family trust together own 36.6 per cent stake in the company. The shares will be sold at INR 1,850 a share - a discount of 6.5 per cent to its closing price on Wednesday. A host of institutional investors are expected to participate in the offer. According to the terms of the sale, the Gangwal family will have a lock-up period of 150 days before selling or redeeming any share. Analysts tracking the company however, said that despite a lock-up period of 150 days. “150 days is too short a period. Such consistent share selling will weigh heavily on the share price,” an analyst said on the question of anonymity. According to the terms of the transaction, the shares will be sold at INR 1,850 a share - a discount of 6.5 per cent to its closing price on Wednesday. Accordingly, my current intention is to slowly reduce my equity stake in the company over the next five-plus years. While new investors should benefit from the potential future growth in the company’s share price, a gradual reduction of my stake should also allow me to benefit from some of the upsides,” Gangwal then wrote in his letter to the board. The company modified the articles of association to scrap the clause which gave them the right of first refusal over each other’s shares. The amendment was made following an order from the London Court of International Arbitration and passed in a shareholders’ meeting last December.

### \*Greece expects to receive record high revenues for tourism this year

Tourism in Greece, a vital pillar of the country’s economy, is on track to yield record high revenues this year, exceeding pre-Covid levels, according to officials. “2022 has been an amazing year for Greek tourism... I’m very happy to say that both branded and alternative destinations, both on islands and the mainland, were full of travelers and tourists this year, and we are set to surpass this year the numbers recorded in 2019, which has so far been a record year in tourism,” Tourism Minister Vassilis Kikilias stated. In 2019, Greece registered 32 million arrivals and some 18 billion euros in tourism-related revenues, according to Bank of Greece (BoG) data. The data so far this year indicates a strong comeback. Tourism-related revenues were 224.5 per cent



However, there are many challenges lying ahead, such as the upscale of tourism infrastructure to accommodate more visitors, which requires the implementation of a strong strategy, the minister said. "Circumstances are still very peculiar, which leaves a lot of question marks for the future. Nonetheless, we are extremely positive about the future," Vassilikos said.

### **\*Akasa Air launches flights on Chennai-Bengaluru route**



Akasa Air recently launched its first flight from Chennai. With its launch, Chennai becomes the fifth city in its network. The airline will offer twice-daily flights in each direction on the Chennai-Bengaluru route. "We have achieved yet another milestone today with the launch of commercial flights from Chennai, which is the fifth city in our network. From today, we will offer double-daily flights in each direction on this new route," shared Praveen Iyer, Co-Founder, and Chief Commercial Officer, Akasa Air. "Within the next 5 days, we will strengthen our network from Chennai by connecting to Mumbai, the financial capital of India, effective September 15. On the September 26, with the start of the Chennai-Kochi route we

will further strengthen our connectivity from Chennai. The increased capacities across these key focus cities backed by affordable fares will provide our customers many options to choose from while planning their travel. The airline will expand its operations from Chennai. The airline will start one additional daily flight from September 15, 2022, on the Mumbai-Chennai route. Besides, it will add an additional daily flight on the Bengaluru-Chennai route from September 26, 2022.

### **\*Qatar Airways to hire employees from India for various roles from September 16**



Qatar Airways Group said, that it is looking to onboard new employees from India to support its global operations and enhance customer experience over the coming months. The company will start accepting applications from Indian citizens for various roles across divisions from September 16, 2022, Qatar Airways Group said in a statement. When contacted, Qatar Airways Group said they will hire a significant number of staff from India but did not provide the numbers. The Indian recruitment drive is part of the group's global recruitment drive

as the company looks to rebuild the workforce and fuel expansion, the airline added. In India, the group is targeting to hire staff for its various divisions, ranging from Qatar Airways, Qatar Duty-Free, Qatar Aviation Services, Qatar Airways Catering Company, and Qatar Distribution Company to the Dhiafatina Hotels. With a major focus on growing the customer experience team, the group plans to hire a substantial number of staff for various roles, such as culinary, corporate and commercial, management, cargo, customer service, engineering, flight operations, ground services, safety and security, digital, front of the house, administration, as well as sales and finance. "We are committed to bolstering our team and further strengthening the customer experience for travelers, while we boost our operational capabilities by seeking the right people. Qatar Airways has always had a special bond with India and with this recruitment drive, we are further solidifying our commitment to the market," Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Akbar Al Baker said.