



TAFI -Gujarat Chapter held AGM & EOGM on 10th Nov '22 at Hotel EL Dorado, Ahmedabad

Chapter Chairman **Mr. Manish Sharma** called the AGM of TRAVEL AGENTS FEDERATION OF INDIA – Gujarat Chapter to order and it was attended by 45 members from different Region of Gujarat. Business was conducted as per agenda. Confirmation of previous AGM minutes & Accounts for the FY 2021-22 was presented to floor and it was proposed & seconded by the members present. Further the members deliberated on the activities during the year 2021. Also, Dy, Chairman of Convention Committee **Mr. Jigar** and National Treasurer **Mr. Hitank Shah**, shared the recently held TAFI Convention at Sarawak, which was a runaway success, which was attended by 55 members from Gujarat Chapter members. They also appreciated those volunteers from the chapter who had done a wonderful service to the delegates. Immediately after, the closing of the AGM, the Chapter Chairman Mr. Manish Sharma called the Extra Ordinary General Meeting – **EOGM**, with single Agenda to Elect the Gujarat Chapter Secretary & Committee Member for current term. **Mr. Ronak Shah** from World Travel, Ahmedabad for the post of Chapter Secretary and **Mr. Dilipkumar Masrani** from Favorite Travel, Rajkot for the post of Committee Member were elected unopposed as only these Nominations were received for the respective posts. Later Chapter Office-Bearers appointed **Mr. Sanjay Mehta** from Trans Globe Travels – Rajkot as a Rajkot City Conveyor. EOGM concluded with dinner served.



***TAFI TN Office Bearers invited for a brief meeting with Sarawak Tourism Board:**

Mr. Suriya & Dr. Fency Sivadasan from **Sarawak Tourism board** (STB) had invited TAFI Tamil Nādu Office Bearers along with some prominent travel agents were invited to Tourism Malaysia Chennai Office TM office. A brief presentation on Sarawak. Tourism Board was done by Dr. Fency from STB. Earlier **Tourism Malaysia Director Mr. Razaidi Abd Rahim** welcomes all. He introduces his new **Deputy Director, Mr. Shahrin Tan** to all those present who had joined only couple of days before. He is from Sepang, KL. **Ms M.C. Kavitha** - Manger, Tourism Malaysia took care of those present with snacks & Tea. The delicious Snacks & Tea/Coffee specially prepared by Mrs. Razidi for this event.



***Sarawak Tourism Board's Chennai Mission 2022 By Dr. Fency -Sarawak Tourism Board**

(Brief on STB Mission 2022 to Chennai -Dr. Fency Sivadasan, Senior Manager- Research- Sarawak Tourism Board).



A focused approach to the Indian outbound tourism market

The Indian outbound tourism market has been one of Sarawak's focus markets since 2018. The Indian visitor arrivals to Sarawak showed a positive growth rate of 408.89% during the period of January to October 2022. India placed in one of the top 5 countries in terms of visitor arrival contribution to Sarawak. In September this year, Sarawak hosted the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) Convention 2022 for the first time in Kuching, the capital city of the state. Almost 500 delegates participated in this convention. The TAFI Convention is a catalyst for bridging the gap between India and Malaysia. Sarawak being a steady advocate of responsible tourism since

2011 makes it the perfect venue for this year's TAFI convention in alignment with their "Build Back Better" theme. As part of Sarawak Tourism Board (STB)'s marketing and promotional campaigns together with Tourism Malaysia Chennai, South India, organized the "Flavours of Malaysia" programme in Chennai from 25th November to 4th December 2022 at Westin Hotel, Chennai. This promotional programme is a collaboration between 3 parties Sarawak Tourism Board, Tourism Malaysia (TM) Chennai and Westin Hotel Chennai. The objectives of this joint collaboration are to showcase Sarawak's unique cuisine and culture which are the top-selling propositions of our Culture, Adventure, Nature, Food and Festival (CANFF). In conjunction with this, STB and TM jointly organized a product briefing session with the key tourism stakeholders in South India on 24th November 2022 at the TM office in Chennai. The aim of this engagement session was to create awareness about Sarawak among the South Indian tourism stakeholders. In addition to that, STB had a meeting with Scoot Airlines, South India for the potential of future collaboration and marketing of Sarawak through Scoot airlines. Sarawak, the unexploited and eco-friendly destination in Malaysia has its unique eco-system with a range of flora and fauna. The destination's geography and topography match the post-pandemic traveller's expectations. STB is aiming to enhance the visibility of Sarawak in the Indian market and the Board's collaborative initiatives with key partners in India such as Tourism Malaysia, TAFI, and other key tourism industry stakeholders give add value to this joint venture.

*Flavors Of Malaysia -10 days Celebration to be held from 25 Nov to 10 Dec at Westin



Tourism Malaysia Chennai have organized a delightful 10-day celebration of the diverse Malaysia cuisine in continuation to the celebration of the 65Years of Diplomatic Relations between India and Malaysia. Delegates from the Ministry of Tourism, India joins in celebrating this occasion with Tourism Malaysia, Sarawak Tourism Board, The Airline Partner- Malaysia Airlines and Hospitality Partner- The Westin, Chennai. The Artists had come all the way from Sarawak to showcase the beautiful culture of Malaysia with the exquisite dance performance. **Consul General of Malaysia** for South India, **His Excellency Saravana Kumar, Mr. Sandeep Nanduri, Managing Director** of Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, **Mr Razaidi Abd Rahim, Director**, Tourism Malaysia, newly appointed, **Deputy Director**, Tourism Malaysia **Mr. Shahrim Bin Tan** had grace the occasion. TAFI Tamil Nādu office Bearers were specially invited for this Inaugural Session held at The Westin, Velachery, Chennai on 25 Nov 2022. This food festival had begun on the 25 November 2022 and will be held till 04 December 2022 at **The Westin, Velachery**, Chennai through its partnership with **Tourism Malaysia, Sarawak Tourism Board** and **Malaysia Airlines**

*Domestic air traffic crosses 4 lakh-mark for two straight days



In signs that the country's civil aviation sector is recovering well, domestic carriers flew more than 4 lakh passengers for two consecutive days. After being severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic, air traffic is picking up but is yet to reach the pre-COVID level when the daily average passenger number was more than 4 lakhs. Currently, the average passenger number is around 3.70 lakh and the same is expected to rise in the coming months as generally

December and January witness higher air traffic, according to a senior civil aviation ministry official. On November 27, domestic airlines carried 4,09,831 passengers on 2,739 flights. The number was at 4,05,963 passengers on 2,767 flights on November 26, as per official data. The passenger count on November 27 was also the highest so far since the coronavirus pandemic. The previous high was on April 17 when the count had touched 4,07,975. The passenger count on November 27 was also the highest so far since the coronavirus pandemic. The previous high was on April 17 when the count had touched 4,07,975.

***TAFI signs MoU with HATTA and FEDHATTA**



WTAAA Board interacting with the Mayor of Athens and the President of the Greek travel Association



Mr. Nicholas Chilaiditi's, President of HATTA signing MOU with Ajay

The WTAAA held its annual General Assembly and Board Meeting in Athens on 28 and 29 November 2022. President Ajay Prakash had signed yesterday, 29 Nov, on behalf of **TAFI** with the **Greek Travel Association** and the **Federation of Greek Associations** while he was in Athens for the **WTAAA** Board meeting. They will be sharing information and promotional material with us, and TAFI should also create and share similar info and promos promoting tourism into India, because tourism needs to be bilateral.

***Thailand advises Indians to obtain visas from embassy or consulate to avoid long queues**



Thailand has opened its borders to tourism and the number of passengers and tourists at Bangkok airport has increased leading to long passenger queues at the Bangkok airport seen standing in line for hours. The Thailand Embassy in India has advised Indians to obtain visas from the embassy or consulate to avoid long queues. The reason for the long queues is to get immigration clearance and the number of people taking on-arrival visas is high. Thailand is attracting tourists in a big way after nearly two years of closure due to the Covid pandemic. Thailand's Ambassador to India, **Pattarat Hongtong**, on

Sunday 27 Nov, advised Indians to obtain a Thailand visa from the embassy or consulate general to avoid long queues at the Bangkok airport. Post Covid-19 pandemic, Thailand has opened its border to all citizens and international visitors have been complaining on social media and to the Thai authorities about the long queues at the airport for immigration clearance at Bangkok airport. I think this is quite natural for any airport, not only in Thailand. When we open the borders, nobody can expect the actual number of incoming visitors or tourists. So that's why for Indians we advise them to get the visa from the Embassy or Consulate General before travelling to Thailand that can be helpful to things", the Thai ambassador to India told ANI. She also stressed the preparation at the airport and increasing staff including how to ease the crowd, adding that work is underway to provide the best services to international visitors to Thailand. "We have tried to improve by increasing the people who work at the airport to facilitate the tourists," Pattarat told ANI. According to Thai government report, "Thailand received 3.78 million tourists from January to August 17 this year post covid."

***UAE VISA Update**



UAE Immigration will remain closed during UAE national Day from 1st Dec 2022 to 3rd Dec 2022 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday) and since 4th Dec being Sunday is normal holiday the immigration will open only on 5th Dec 2022. So, plan your New & Extension Visas in advance. as even after immigration resumes on 5th Dec due to backlogs.

*UAE-India flights: Airline announces new rule for passengers



In a notice circulated to all travel agents in the UAE, Air India Express has announced that guests travelling to and from the UAE must ensure that their passports have their primary (first name) and secondary (surname) names. As per the updated guideline, "any passport holder with a single name (word) either in s her in surname or given name will not be accepted by UAE immigration and the passenger will be considered **as INAD**" — a term which stands for inadmissible passenger. The new guideline will go into effect from November 21. Stating an example, the guideline outlines that if any

passenger's name in the passport lists a given name as Praveen with the surname as (blank) OR if his/her given name (blank) with Praveen, then "such a passport will not be issued a visa and in in case the visa was issued previously then he will be INAD by immigration". The circular also states the rule will be applicable to those travelling on a tourist or visit visa but will exclude residence or employment visas.

*New Rules for International Passengers Arriving In India



The self-declaration forms for Covid vaccination that had to be filled in by incoming international passengers on the **Air Suvidha** portal, will no longer be necessary, the government has said. The decision will come into effect from 21st Nov midnight. A notice from the Civil Aviation ministry this evening read, "In the light of sustained declining COVID-19 trajectory and significant advances being made in COVID-19 vaccination coverage both globally as well as in India, Ministry of

Health & Family Welfare has issued revised 'Guidelines for International Arrivals'. It, however, added a statutory warning: The rule could be reviewed if needed in view of the Covid situation. The form on the aviation ministry's Air Suvidha portal was mandatory for incoming international passengers. In it, passengers had to declare their vaccination status, including the number of doses received and their dates. This was in line with the rules in most nations. The ministry, however, said it was preferred that the passengers be fully vaccinated. It was also preferable that all precautionary measures for Covid -- including the use of masks and social distancing at airports -- be continued. Last week, the aviation ministry had said the use of masks was no longer compulsory during air travel, but passengers should use them to prevent another surge of coronavirus. Till then, the use of masks in flights was mandatory. The ministry said the decision was taken in line with the government's policy of a graded approach to Covid-19 management. Over the last weeks, Covid figures have been shrinking. Official data this morning showed that currently, active cases (6,402) comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections. The national recovery rate has increased to 98.8 per cent.

*Air India in talks with Airbus, Boeing to buy planes, says CEO



Tata Group-owned Air India is in talks with Boeing and Airbus about ordering new aircraft and is meeting its immediate needs by leasing planes and repairing grounded aircraft, the airline's chief executive said on 19 Nov. "We are in deep discussion with Boeing, Airbus and engine manufacturers for a historic order of the latest generation aircraft that will power Air India's medium- and long-term growth," Campbell Wilson, the airline's chief executive, said at a Tata corporate event in Mumbai. Wilson said Air India planned to expand its fleet and global network, aiming to increase its market share to 30% on both

domestic and international routes over the next five years. Industry sources said in July that Air India was moving closer to a decision on an order worth \$50 billion at list prices to be split between Airbus and Boeing. The sources said at the time that both plane makers were making a "final push" with the order set to include up to 70 wide-body jets including Airbus A350s and Boeing 787s and 777s, and up to 300 narrow bodies.

***Jet Airways: No flight plan in sight, lenders may sell 11 aircrafts:**



Lenders to Jet Airways are keeping open the option of selling 11 planes of the defunct carrier, effectively pushing the airline into liquidation, as they are increasingly frustrated with the delay in executing the resolution plan. Bankers say the Jalan-Kalrock consortium's failure to pay the required amount even one-and-a-half years after the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the resolution plan, has forced them to relook at their options. "Nobody thought that this would take so long to execute," said a person aware of the deal. "But the fact of the matter is banks cannot transfer the company till we receive the money, and the way things are, it seems that the execution of the deal will not happen soon. Meanwhile, the 11 planes we have in our possession are also losing value. Maybe the time has come to relook at selling those." Banks have received six expressions of interest (EOIs) to buy these planes in a process which was completed in August. However, the monitoring committee of Jet Airways, which includes banks and representatives of Jalan-Kalrock, had decided to postpone the process. Differences have also cropped up as the consortium has not paid the first tranche of Rs 185 crore to lenders and have also laid claim to the lease rentals accrued from Air Serbia to which Jet had leased three Boeing 777 aircraft. On their part, lenders have refused to hand over the company to the consortium before they receive the payment. Last week, the consortium said it has temporarily reduced some employees' salaries by up to 50% and placed some others on leave without pay effective December 1, effectively putting the onus on banks to start the airline.

***Air India to introduce premium economy class: CEO Campbell Wilson**



Air India plans to introduce premium economy class in some long-haul international flights next month, said AI chief Campbell Wilson on Saturday as the Tata group-owned airline works on ways to expand its market share as well as the global network. Air India chief Wilson said the airline will increase its market share to at least 30 per cent in domestic and international routes. The airline is implementing a long-term revival plan and over the next five years, it aims to grow its wide-body and narrow-body fleet as well as expand the global network. "The short-term actions have been to replace carpets, curtains, seat cushions and covers. To fix defective seats and inflight entertainment systems as fast as supply chains will allow. And where parts are no longer available in the market, to work with the likes of Tata Technologies to design and manufacture parts ourselves," said Campbell Wilson, Air India CEO and MD. "We've recently completely revamped the domestic inflight menu, and will be doing likewise, as well as launching premium economy on certain long haul international flights next month," he added. According to Wilson, the airline has restored nearly 20 aircraft that had been grounded for years due to lack of parts and money. In addition to restoring long-grounded aircraft, he said the airline has finalized leases for 30 additional aircraft being delivered over the next 12 months, starting next week, with more in the final stages of negotiation. "Beyond these short-term additions, we are in deep discussion with Boeing, Airbus and engine manufacturers for a historic order of the latest-generation aircraft that will power Air India's medium and long-term growth. At the risk of gross understatement, the investment will be substantial," he said.

International flights from Hyderabad to shift to main terminal



Going abroad from Hyderabad? Then note that all international departures will be shifted to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport's main terminal from November 28. "International departures will be shifted to the main terminal from the erstwhile Interim International Departure Terminal (IIDT) effective 28th November 2022 (sic)," RGIA stated. To clear confusion regarding any departure or arrival of flights, Hyderabad airport has provided the helpline number: 040-66546370. RGIA's initial capacity was 1.2 crore passengers per annum, which went up to 2.1 crore in 2019 (pre-covid). The airport is currently undergoing a major expansion that will raise its capacity to 3.4 crore passengers per annum.

***For US Visa Interview, Waiting Time Nears 1,000 Days**



Those planning to visit the United States on visitor visa - B1 (business) and B2 (tourist) - will have to wait for nearly three years and the waiting time for applicants in India is close to 1,000 days. A search on the US State Department website shows that the waiting period for B1/B2 visa interview is 961 days (as on November 23). The State Department had said earlier this month that it is committed to facilitating legitimate travel to the United States while safeguarding national security. For those living in Mumbai, the waiting time is 999 days and for Hyderabad, it's 994 days. Chennai residents will have to wait for 948 days to get an appointment, while in Kerala, the waiting period is 904 days, according to the State Department website. "The estimated wait time to receive an interview appointment at a US Embassy or Consulate can change weekly and is based on actual incoming workload and staffing. These are estimates only and do not guarantee the availability of an appointment," according to the State Department website. Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, who visited the US in September, had raised the issue of visa applications backlog with the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The top US diplomat said he's "extremely sensitive" to the issue and that they are facing a similar situation around the world, a challenge arising due to Covid. Last week, the State Department said that US visa processing is rebounding faster than projected and is expected to reach pre-pandemic levels in Fiscal Year 2023. Giving the reason behind delays, it said many applicants for US visas are required by the country's law to appear in person. However, local pandemic-era restrictions on public places like our overseas consular sections curbed our ability to see visa applicants.

***Air India most punctual airline in October '22**



Air India was the most punctual airline in October, as per data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The civil aviation regulator calculates On-Time Performance (OTP) of scheduled domestic airlines at four metro airports: Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. Air India reported an on-time performance of 90.8% last month compared with 87.1% in September. The other airlines from Tata Group umbrella Vistara, a 51:49 joint venture with Singapore Airlines, and Air India's subsidiary AirAsia India have also performed well in the punctuality meter. IndiGo continued to be on the fourth position and recorded an 87.5% on-time performance. The largest airline by market share has been unable to beat its rivals in punctuality over the past seven months, monthly data released by the DGCA shows. IndiGo was the most punctual airline for domestic flights in February and March, with 95.4% and 93.9% of flights reaching destinations on time, respectively. In October, IndiGo was followed by government-run Alliance Air with an on-time performance of 74.5%, followed by SpiceJet at 68.9%, and Go FIRST airline continued to be the least punctual for the second month in a row with a 60.7% on-time performance. In passenger load factor (PLF) or capacity utilisation, almost all major airlines recorded an increase except Akasa Air. The passenger load factor for IndiGo rose to 82.1% from 81.4% in September. SpiceJet also witnessed an increase in capacity utilisation to 88.1% from 85.8%. For Tata group airlines, the PLF rose to 82.7% from 79.6% for Air India and to 84.2% from 77% for AirAsia India. Vistara witnessed a marginal increase to 85.5% from 85.4% in September. Akasa Air recorded a dip in capacity utilisation to 77.5% in October from 81.2% in September.

***Dubai expects to record 64.5 million travelers at DXB by year-end:**



Dubai Airports on Tuesday increased again its annual forecast for passenger traffic at Dubai International (DXB) to 64.3 million a strong performance by the hub in the third quarter and the prospects of a stronger surge in the offing in the final three months of 2022. DXB started the second half of the year with a bang with average monthly traffic exceeding the 6-million mark throughout the third quarter. Passenger volumes at DXB recorded a triple-digit surge in the third quarter to reach 18,455,938, propelling the year-to-date September traffic to 46,340,826 passengers, a year-on-year increase of 167.6 per cent. The year-to-date traffic volume represents 72 per cent of DXB's pre-pandemic passenger traffic during the same period in 2019. India was Dubai airport's top country destination in terms of traffic volume, recording 6.8 million passengers in first nine months of the year.

***Indian captains react as Air India plans to hire foreign pilots for Boeing 777 fleet**



Air India has planned to hire foreign pilots to meet its requirements on the Boeing 777 fleet through a placement firm. Documents regarding recruitment showed that these pilots are being offered better pay, lucrative terms, generous benefits and many other perks that have hardly been offered to Indians. However, many senior Indian pilots termed the move as a "crazy initiative" when India already has efficient and experienced pilots for Boeing 777. Senior pilot requesting anonymity claimed that Air India is now hiring foreigners with lucrative benefits while Indian

pilots are barely given leave and paid well below global standards. "Why should a recruitment firm be required when Air India has the in-house faculties to select pilots on their own just as they had recently done for Indians," he added. Air India in September unveiled its comprehensive transformation plan, to establish itself as a world-class global airline with an Indian heart -- the absolute best in class in customer service, in technology, in product, in reliability and in hospitality. The plan is titled Vihaan.AI with identified objectives for Air India over the next 5 years. Post-acquisition, time-bound transformation milestones have been laid out and a series of steps have been initiated towards achieving the same in order to ensure Air India once again emerges as a world class airline. The carrier is looking to rope in around 100 pilots for the wide-body Boeing 777 fleet and has approached various agencies that provide expat flight crew to airlines. "Air India was already facing a shortage of pilots and the recent announcement of the induction of 5 Boeing 777 planes in the next four months and new flights to the US have added to this shortage," "Air India has sought 100 pilots from the market. Though they say they will prefer Indian pilots, they are also open to hiring expat pilots. While these pilots come at 40 per cent higher cost compared to the cost incurred on hiring an Indian pilot, it is also a fact that experienced wide-body pilots are not easily available in the domestic market," a source said.

***Airlines push for lone pilot flights to cut costs despite safety fears**



Airlines and regulators are pushing to have just one pilot in the cockpit of passenger jets instead of two. It would lower costs and ease pressure from crew shortages but placing such responsibility on a single person at the controls is unsettling for some. Over 40 countries including Germany, the UK and New Zealand have asked the United Nations body that sets aviation standards to help make single-pilot flights a safe reality. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency has also been working with plane

makers to determine how solo flights would operate and preparing rules to oversee them. Tony Lucas, an Airbus SE A330 captain for Qantas Airways Ltd. and president of the Australian & International Pilots Association, is concerned that a lone pilot might be overwhelmed by an emergency before anyone else has time to reach the cockpit to help. "The people going down this route aren't the people who fly jets every day," Lucas said. "When things go awry, they go awry fairly quickly." Lucas, a check, and training captain, also worries about the lost opportunities to mentor junior pilots if flight crew are working increasingly on their own. The planned changes bring many challenges. It's not yet clear what would happen if a lone pilot collapsed or started flying erratically. Automation, technology, and remote assistance from the ground would somehow have to replace the expertise, safety, and immediacy of a second pilot. Nothing to date has proved safer than "a second rested, qualified, well-trained pilot physically present on the flight deck," the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations told ICAO in a paper for its assembly last month. "Commercial airline passengers absolutely expect and deserve two pilots in the cockpit," said Joe Leader, chief executive officer of Apex, a New York-based aviation association that focuses on passengers' experiences.

***Masks will no longer be compulsory while travelling by air, announces MoCA**



The use of masks won't be needed anymore during air travel, the civil aviation ministry announced on 16 Nov. Till now, wearing masks/face covers was mandatory while flying. ministry said in a communication to scheduled airlines. As per the communication, "... the in-flight announcements henceforth may only mention that in view of the threat posed by COVID-19, all passengers should preferably use mask/face covers.". The ministry also announced that any reference to fine/penalty related to not wearing masks need not be made during in-flight announcements. The pandemic has seen a rapid decline in the country of late. The total number of active Covid cases in India only accounts for 0.02 per cent of the total infections as of now.

***Direct Flights To Start Soon From Pune To USA, England, Germany**



Civil Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Saturday (November 12) that flights to Germany, England and America will soon start from Pune. Pune-Bangkok air service was inaugurated online by Scindia. "Pune is my city. It is also the educational and cultural centre of the country" he said. . There is a resemblance of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in every corner of this city. Apart from this, it is also a centre of nationalism and communism. I am proud I am getting the opportunity to serve this city and the people of Pune." He informed, "Pune Airport is under the jurisdiction of the Indian Air Force.

Considering the daily rush of passengers from Pune Airport, we requested Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to increase eight slots in Pune. But he extended us as many as 14 slots." Scindia said that it will now be of great help in reducing the congestion at the airport. Airlines in Maharashtra have to pay 26 per cent VAT to start service. In other states, VAT is lower by 3 to 4 per cent. If the Maharashtra state government reduces VAT, more flights from Pune airport will increase in the future. "We have given the proposal regarding VAT reduction to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis," he added further. Scindia said the discussion has been positive, and a decision will be taken soon. Ajay Singh, Managing Director of Spice Jet, said, "The Pune-Bangkok service started from Pune airport is currently only four days a week. However, we will try our best to start this service throughout the week. Therefore, there are signs that soon this airline service will be available for the whole week to the people of Pune.". "Scindiaji made an important point that Pune is designated as a port of call for Germany, UK & USA. This means that we can get connectivity to the UK and Germany provided we can expand the current runway which is eminently possible. We will continue efforts for the same." said Dr Sudhir Mehta, Past President of MCCIA, about the decision

***IndiGo announces recommencement of Hyderabad-Dhaka flights from Dec 8**



In order to enhance international connectivity, IndiGo, on Wednesday announced the recommencement of Hyderabad-Dhaka weekly three flights to improve direct connectivity from December 8. Vinay Malhotra, Global Sales Head, IndiGo in a statement said, in line with its aim to reconnect India with international markets post Covid, the airline is resuming direct flights between Hyderabad and Dhaka. "This will not only create direct connectivity between

these cities but also support the medical tourists travelling from Bangladesh to India. We are committed to providing choices to our customers at affordable fares, with an on-time performance, and a courteous and hassle-free service," he said. According to data given by the Indian Tourism Ministry, Bangladesh accounts for approximately 54 per cent of all overseas medical tourists to India for treatment. For those looking to develop and build their enterprises, travelling to Bangladesh, an ever-expanding industrial hub, is a perfect choice, it said. Hyderabad is also a great destination for tourists from Bangladesh as it has a variety of popular tourist attractions and first-rate medical services, the release added.

***India's aviation score 'best till date', DGCA cites ICAO global safety audit**



India's performance in the audit conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been the "best till date", the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on November 16. While the ICAO is yet to formally release the report, the DGCA said that the country's score is set to improve substantially. "As per the initial reports, the mission was highly successful. India has done extremely well, and our scores will see a substantial improvement putting us in the company of nations with best safety standards and oversight systems," the aviation sector regulator said in a press release.

"While the formal communication from ICAO will be received in due course of time, it is to be noted that this is India's best performance till date," it added. The ICAO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, conducted the audit between November 9 and 16. It covered areas such as legislation, organization, personal licensing, operations, airworthiness, and aerodromes. This was the first audit of the Indian aviation sector conducted by the ICAO in the post-COVID-19 period. The last such exercise was held in 2018. Civil aviation in India has recovered swiftly this year, as the threat posed by coronavirus has declined. In October, the daily number of domestic air passengers touched 4 lakhs, which is close to the pre-COVID level.

***Germany relaxes Schengen short-term visa rules for Indian tourists**



Germany has relaxed rules for Indian tourists who want to apply for a visa, centralizing visa processing at its centre in Mumbai. Appointments can be booked as well as Schengen visa applications can be submitted in all Visa Application Centres across the country run by VFS global, regardless of the applicant's place of residence, reported Economic times quoting the German Missions in India. The German Missions in India, in a statement, said, "Appointments can be booked, and Schengen visa applications can be submitted in all Visa Application Centres run by VFS Global all over India, regardless of your place of residence." The

report also said that if an applications centre, that is closest to the hometown of applicants is fully booked, then the applicants can check other Indian major cities for available appointment slots. This is likely to make it easier for everyone to book an appointment, it added. The German embassy added, "If the Application Centre closest to your hometown is already fully booked, please feel free to check for available appointment slots in one of the other major Indian cities." However, the report also stressed that the relaxation of rules doesn't apply to Indian nationals applying for German national visas (D-visa category), such as employment, student, or family reunification visas. A Schengen visa permits its holders to travel, for tourism as well as business purposes, to any member state of the Schengen area for stays of up to 90 days within 180 days. The application for a Schengen visa can be submitted three months before taking a trip at the earliest. In addition to this, applicants must also submit all the required documents. Earlier in 2022, the German National Tourist Office had reported a 214 per cent y-o-y increase in Indian tourists arriving in Germany. It further revealed that 55 per cent of Indians visit the country for leisure while 38 per cent travel for business.

***Civil Aviation Ministry notifies draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022**



The Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified the draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022 which enable the aviation security regulator, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to impose penalties up to ₹1 crore on airports and airlines for violation of security measures. Once the draft Rules are finalized, the BCAS can impose a fine of ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore (depending on the size of the company) on airports and airlines if they fail to prepare and implement a security programme,

or if they commence operations without seeking a security clearance. Large airports can also face a penalty of ₹1 crore if they fail to plan the design and layout of the airport in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Security Programme. Individuals will also face penalties ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹25 lakh depending on the nature of offence. According to the proposed rules, the BCAS will also be able to suspend or cancel an entity's airport security clearance and security programme. In order to deal with cyber security threats, the rules also require each entity to protect its information and communication technology systems against unauthorized use and prohibit disclosure of sensitive aviation security information. "Once the Aircraft Security Rules 2022 are finalized, they will go a long way in ensuring an effective aviation security apparatus in the country. These are also as per ICAO norms," said **Zulfiqar Hasan, DG at BCAS**. The rules will supersede Aircraft Security Rules, 2011 and were necessary after Parliament passed Aircraft Amendment Act, 2020 in September 2020, giving statutory powers to BCAS, along with the Director General of Civil Aviation and Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau. These allow them to impose penalties which could only be imposed by courts earlier. The Act also raised the maximum penalty from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore. The amendment in Parliament was required after the United Nation's aviation watchdog, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), raised questions about the three regulators functioning without statutory powers. The Ministry has invited stakeholder comments for a period of 30 days. The draft rules were notified on November 10.

***United Airlines flight to Chicago cancelled, 198 passengers stranded at Delhi airport**

Chicago-bound United Airlines canceled its flight from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport after a major technical snag was detected in the aircraft. UA-713 was scheduled for take-off at 1.10 am on 25 Nov, after being pushed back from the bay at Delhi airport... as pilot of United Airlines announced that the flight was facing some technical issues the plane is returning to the parking bay again," a United Airlines passenger told ANI. Around 198 United Airlines passengers are stranded at Delhi airport, accusing airline staff of not providing accommodation on time. United Airlines has deployed Boeing aircraft for long-haul flights for Chicago operations, hundreds of passengers were stranded at the Delhi airport since the intervening night

of Friday and passengers are accusing the airline staff of not providing proper arrangements. "Airline company not giving real-time information about the next flight, no accommodation was given on time," another passenger told ANI. According to Delhi airport officials, United Airlines staff later declared the flight as Aircraft on Ground (AOG) due to the flight duty time limit (FDTL) of crew members.

*Emirates issues guidelines for travelers carrying power banks, electronic devices



Emirates Airline has asked passengers **not to carry more than 15 electronic devices**, and to package them properly. It said each device should be packaged separately, warning travelers that authorities could confiscate devices if they exceed the limit, as well as those which are not properly packaged. "Customers are reminded that they may not carry or check in more than 15 personal electronic devices (**PED**). Personal electronic items should be packaged separately, and not taped or attached to another electrical item", Dubai's flagship carrier said in a statement on its website. "For safety reasons, authorities may confiscate items which are badly packaged, or if the number of items carried exceed the limit of 15 PEDs per passenger. The advisory comes as the holiday season sets in, with air passenger traffic increasing substantially. Emirates has announced a busy travel period for both inbound and outbound travel through Dubai for December, advising passengers to arrive at the airport three hours in advance of their flight. In addition, for safety reasons, Emirates doesn't accept personal motorized vehicles such as hoverboards, mini-Segways and smart or self-balancing wheels on its flights. It also prohibits the carriage of all such devices – with or without batteries – as checked-in or carry-on baggage. While batteries, including lithium metal, and power banks, for portable electronic devices must be carried in carry-on baggage only by passengers. These batteries must be individually protected to avoid short-circuit. Passengers are also not allowed to carry drones on board as cabin baggage, but they can be accepted as checked-in baggage. In addition, passengers will also be asked to either secure the lithium batteries within the drone or remove the batteries and carry them in cabin baggage.

*FAITH proposes enhancing Ease of Doing Business & compliance for Indian tourism



FAITH & its member associations have emphasized that it is critical that the tourism travel & hospitality industry is de bottlenecked to fast-track employment, capital expenditure and foreign exchange earnings from tourism enterprises across the country. They have kick-started dialogues on the rationalization of compliances for tourism, travel & hospitality and are urging the department to discuss the following parameters between all states and other Central Government ministries: It is imperative for tourism, travel, and hospitality to be classified in the concurrent list to ensure a national shared common framework between centers and states for tourism and all its verticals. To prevent tourism & hospitality enterprises to fill multiple paperwork for different permissions, certifications & licenses across central & state governments an e- central repository of such information may be created which can auto populate preliminary documents through a 'standardized template' and thus save immense documentation time & resources. An environment of trust be the basic foundation for all permissions and approvals for ongoing enterprises and thus they should be made available on a self-certification basis against certain timelines. A post facto compliance review can be undertaken after the self-certification through mutual understating. For all permissions and approvals for new projects or greenfield enterprises, they should be made available on a deemed approval basis against pre-defined timelines published on a national approval checklist state-wise for tourism. A common national tourism ID can be generated for all enterprises which is applicable across the country like the GST-ID which classifies tourism business by state and by value chain and fast tracks approvals across all departments. This will reduce fragmentation across the tourism industry in India. – Harmonization of classification norms be undertaken between all Departments of Tourism aligned to Ministry of Tourism which will create a single national tourism enterprise profile which must be acceptable by all other departments and ministries across states and centres thus reducing information redundancy. – Input tax credits for all inputs from states including levies, cesses and taxes on power, fuels, parking, monument tickets, stamp duties, liquor, property taxes etc. should be made available across the country for all tourism GST slabs leading to further transistor towards one country one GST for tourism industry and thus reduce tax on tax. Care should be taken to ensure that classified tourism travel and hospitality enterprises are not regressively taxed but are progressively incentivized for jobs and economic growth that they are creating in their own region. A task force may be formed for review of progress and implementation including MOT and FAITH member associations.

FLASH News: - Amendment: [UAE-India flights: Airline announces new rule for passengers](#)

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Thursday, 24 Nov, amended its travel guidelines which mandated passengers entering the country to fill in their full names on their passports. The Consulate General of India, Dubai tweeted that passengers with only one name will be granted entry if they have their father/family's name mentioned on the second page of their passports. **According to the rule that came into effect on Monday** (November 21), which has **now been amended**, passengers with visiting visas or visas on arrival were to clearly declare both their first and last names on their passports. The rule had created panic among many passengers. As per media reports, some travelers with only one name on their passports were being barred from flying into the UAE. **According to the amended guidelines**, passengers with only one name will be granted entry if they have their father/family's name mentioned on the second page of their passports. It also says passengers with only one name will be eligible for visa on arrival (**VoA**) if they have their father's name or family name on the second page. To implement the new rule, the UAE government has depended on the convention of writing the name cited by part 3.4 of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

***[Karnataka hosts an exclusive "Karnataka Tourism Roadshow" at Panaji, Mumbai, & Pune](#)**

Department of Tourism, **Government of Karnataka**, in a bid to promote the state as the most sought out tourist destination in the country, hosted a series of roadshows at Panaji, Mumbai and Pune on November 21, 23 and 24, respectively. These series of roadshows are organized along with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (**KSTDC**) is aimed to increase domestic footfalls into the state from Goa and Maharashtra. The Roadshow held in **Mumbai** was inaugurated by **Kapil Mohan, IAS**, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Tourism, Karnataka. Similarly, the roadshow at **Panaji** was inaugurated by **HP Janardhana**, Joint Director (Promotion & Publicity), Department of Tourism, Karnataka. **Pune roadshow** was inaugurated with performance of '**Veeragase Kunitha**', an ancient art form of Karnataka, was organized to showcase the vibrant cultural heritage that Karnataka is known for. The roadshow brought together different aspects of Karnataka tourism such as nature, wildlife, adventure, pilgrimage, heritage and many more. Devaraj A, Director, Department of Tourism said, "Karnataka is home to a large and exciting portfolio of globally acclaimed tourist attractions like UNESCO World Heritage sites, splendid wildlife and resplendent nature, virgin beaches etc. The main objective behind the event was to promoting the state as a tourist attraction for leisure tourism, MICE - meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions, adventure and wildlife tourism and as a wedding destination. **G Jagadeesha, IAS, Managing Director**, Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation said, "Karnataka with its diverse range of tourism products is fast emerging as one of the most interesting and productive states for both leisure and business travel.

***[Akasa Air forays into Andhra Pradesh, announce Visakhapatnam as the tenth destination](#)**

Enhances its network with additional flight options on existing sectors from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad and Pune. Offers now 24 daily non-stop flights ex-Bengaluru by connecting to eight cities - Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chennai, Kochi, Guwahati, Pune, and Vishakhapatnam.

***[Besides tourism, Rajasthan will now be promoted as a business state too](#)**

Travelers from across the world are keen to come to Udaipur and Jodhpur due to its scenic beauty and architectural marvels existing in the form of palaces, forts and havelis, however, now, the Rajasthan government is planning to turn these cities into business cities by promoting trade and export from here, confirmed officials. Rajasthan Export Promotion Council (REPC) Chairman, Rajeev Arora said, "New air cargo complex in Udaipur will be coming up soon. The Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation (RSIC) is working to set up an air cargo complex at the Dabok airport in Udaipur to facilitate import and export of goods in the next few months. "In fact, we have sought permission from Central government to start international flights and air cargo complex in this Lake City so that tourists can easily visit this beautiful city and import, and export can also become easier from here," he said. Also, in Jodhpur, the state government is organizing the first international exhibition to ensure it becomes a facilitator to exports and organize buyers' sellers meeting. We will ensure we bring in buyers to ease exports from this city. "Our aim is to take Rajasthan exports to INR 1 lakh crore, and we are trying to touch this target," he added.

*NCLAT asks OYO to deposit 10% of penalty imposed by CCI before hearing appeal



The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (**NCLAT**) has asked Oravel Stays Ltd., owners of brand OYO, the budget hotel aggregator, to deposit 10 percent of the penalty levied by **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** before it hears the appeal filed by the company questioning the order of the CCI. CCI while disposing of a case filed by the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (**FHRAI**) against unfair business practices and anti-competitive agreements by online travel players — MakeMyTrip-Golbibo and OYO — had slapped a hefty penalty amounting to **INR 392 cr** on the online companies. Out of this INR 168cr was the share of Oravel Stays (OYO) as penalty. OYO moved the NCLAT questioning the order of the CCI which came up for admission in the Appellate Tribunal today. While allowing the appeal, the Bench of Justice Rakesh Kumar, and Dr Ashok Kumar Mishra (Technical Member) of the Tribunal has said that the admission of the appeal will “subject to deposit of **10 percent** of the penalty amount which must be deposited within a period of six weeks.” The Court will hear the appeal on April 11, 2023, subject to depositing of the 10 percent of the penalty amount imposed by the CCI on the appellant, OYO. Mukul Rohatgi, Senior advocate appeared on behalf of OYO in the NCLAT. In its order, the CCI had imposed monetary as well as behavioral sanctions on MMT-Go (MakeMyTrip and Golbibo) for abusing its dominant position and for having an anticompetitive arrangement with OYO. Monetary penalty was also imposed on OYO for its anti-competitive arrangement with MMT-Go vide which MMTGo delisted the competitors of OYO from its online portals in 2018. FHRAI had also approached the stock market regulator — SEBI — asking its chairman to take notice of the CCI order and stop processing of the OYO application to raise funds from the market through a public issue.

*Scoot Joins International Air Transport Association



Scoot the low-cost subsidiary of Singapore Airlines Group has attained International. Scoot, the low-cost subsidiary of Singapore Airlines Group, has attained **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** membership and joined the community of 300 IATA members across 120 countries. The membership is only awarded to those airlines that meet IATA’s Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) standards in airline operations. Commenting on the IATA membership, **Mr. Leslie Thng**, Scoot’s Chief Executive Officer, said: We are honored to become an IATA

member. This international recognition affirms our dedication to upholding safety for our passengers. Through the decade, we have continued to enhance our operational resilience and improve our customers’ experience. Looking ahead, we hope to continue to pave the way in redefining and elevating value-travel in our industry. Commenting on the membership, **Philip Goh, IATA’s Regional Vice President** for Asia Pacific said: We are delighted to welcome Scoot as an IATA member. Having Scoot, a low-cost carrier, as a member will further enhance the diversity of views we have in the Association. We look forward to working with the Scoot team towards the sustainable growth of the industry as it recovers from the impact of COVID-19. IATA Membership: The IATA membership is only open to airlines operating scheduled and non-scheduled air services. Maintaining an IOSA registration, and complying with the IOSA programme, is a condition of IATA membership. Opportunities for Scoot: The IATA membership, gives Scoot an opportunity to participate in member conferences that bring together representatives from international airlines. Scoot also gets access to IATA training in major fields such as aviation safety and security, operational efficiency and excellence, sustainability, as well as programmes that help strengthen the capabilities of aviation industry professionals. Scoot, the low-cost arm of the Singapore Airlines (SIA) Group, took to the skies in June 2012 and merged with Tigerair Singapore in July 2017, retaining the Scoot brand for a new phase.

Quote For Thoughts

- “Leadership is the art of giving people a platform for spreading ideas that work.”
- “Don’t follow the crowd, let the crowd follow you.”
- “True Leaders Don’t Create Followers, They Create More Leaders.”
- “Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another.”
- “Feeling Gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a Present and not giving It”.
- “One of the tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency.”