



Travel Agents Federation of India Fortnightly Newsletter

Edited & Content compiled by Sumita Kashyap
Issue No #107 - Dated 16 February 2026

Editorial

This edition reflects the momentum, movement, and meaningful milestones shaping our industry today. From inspiring leadership journeys like that of Mr. G.M.J. Thampy and Dr. K.V. Abdul Nazar to TAFI's dynamic presence at OTM, global embassy engagements, state chapter initiatives, and impactful FAM trips – the federation continues to strengthen its voice and visibility across platforms.

With Budget 2026 bringing key reforms for outbound travel, airlines expanding networks, global destinations intensifying their India outreach, and sustainability gaining sharper focus, the travel ecosystem is clearly evolving at pace.

We also spotlight emerging destinations like Ziro Valley, revisit India's historic Raigad Fort, and continue our insights on SDGs and Federation governance.

As always, this newsletter is more than news – it is a reflection of our collective growth, partnerships, and purpose.

Happy reading!

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An editorial is an article or opinion piece typically published in a newspaper, magazine, or website that expresses the viewpoint of the publisher, editor, or editorial board on a specific issue. Its purpose is to analyze current events, provide insight, and often persuade readers toward a particular stance. Editorials can be balanced, reconciliatory, or hard-hitting, offering critical analysis while aiming to inform, motivate, or enlighten readers without being overly opinionated or dogmatic.

Disclaimer: The information sent to the members is from various sources. Information is posted in good faith and for general information purposes only. TAFI does not make any warranties about the completeness, reliability and accuracy of the information.

From Vision to Victory: Celebrating Two Icons of Indian Travel

The Legacy of Mr. G.M.J. Thampy - Chairman & Managing Director, Riya Travels



In the landscape of the Indian travel industry, few stories resonate with as much grit and heart as that of Mr. G.M.J. Thampy. Known affectionately as "Thampy"—the universal "brother"—his

life's work is a testament to the fact that vision is not just about seeing the future, but about building it from the ground up through relentless discipline and a compassionate soul.

Mr. Thampy's journey is the ultimate masterclass in entrepreneurship. Arriving in Mumbai in 1975 with little more than a few hundred rupees, he worked 17-hour days to master the nuances of the Gulf recruitment and documentation sector. While others saw a small, niche trade, he recognized the dawning of global mobility.

In 1980, he took the bold leap to become an IATA-accredited agent, planting the seeds for what is now the Riya Group—a powerhouse with a turnover exceeding 16000 Crores INR. His tactical expansion transcended borders, establishing high-performing operations in the USA, Canada, the Middle East (UAE & Saudi Arabia), and the Far East (Thailand & Philippines).

Recognizing that longevity depends on diversification, Mr. Thampy evolved Riya from a ticketing agency into a comprehensive 360-degree travel ecosystem:

- **Visa Mastery:** With over 1 million visas processed, Riya is an Authorized Partner for 7 Diplomatic Missions. Mr. Thampy pioneered the **Riya Visa Information System (RVIS)**—a digital encyclopedia for global regulations—and the Visa Tracker for real-time transparency.

The Legacy of Dr. K.V. Abdul Nazar - Chairman & Managing Director, Akbar Travels



My (Dr. K.V. Abdul Nazar) entrepreneurial journey is not merely a business success story; it is a testament to purpose-driven leadership, resilience, and vision rooted in service and shaped by responsibility.

My journey as a travel advisor began with a simple belief: travel should be accessible, inclusive, and built on trust. In 1978, I started with a single travel office, guided not by ambition for scale, but by the desire to help people move forward in life. At the time, India particularly Kerala was witnessing the early waves of overseas migration. For many, travel was unfamiliar and daunting, yet it carried the promise of opportunity.

Every journey I enabled carried a dream. Behind each ticket was a family's hope for stability, dignity, and a better future. I understood early on that my role went beyond issuing travel documents it was about earning trust, offering guidance, and standing by people at a pivotal moment in their lives. That responsibility shaped my vision from the very beginning.

As a travel advisor, I worked closely with first-time international travellers many leaving home for the first time. Affordability, accuracy, and transparency were not optional; they were essential. I learned that putting people before profits was not only ethically right, but also the strongest foundation for long-term growth. Trust became the currency on which the business grew.

What began as a modest office gradually expanded through word-of-mouth confidence and consistent service.

- **Marine & Crew Travel:** A 24/7 lifeline for global trade, specialized in complex **SOTO (Sold Outside, Ticketed Outside)** fares and the precision logistics required for offshore industries.
- **Corporate & Leisure:** Transforming travel from procurement to a strategic asset for Fortune 500 companies, while maintaining "boots on the ground" as a **DMC in the UAE and Thailand**.
- **Education & Training:** Bridging the industry skill gap through the **Riya Institute of Hospitality** and guiding global aspirations via **Riya Education (Study Abroad)**.
- **Product Depth:** A true "One-Stop-Shop" offering everything from **Forex (RBI Authorized)** and Insurance to being a **Principal Service Provider (PSP) for IRCTC** and a **GSA for Eurail**.

While many veterans struggled with the transition from legacy systems, Mr. Thampy pivoted with the agility of a tech entrepreneur. He spearheaded the adoption of IATA's New Distribution Capability (NDC), ensuring Riya remains a leader in modern retailing. With more than 29 Airline NDC content integrated into the business tools as an offering to our B2B Travel Partners. Through proprietary tools like Riya Connect and TrvlNxt, he moved the industry from offline legacy business to a seamless online environment.

- **Riya Connect:** A game-changing B2B portal that empowers over 1 Lakh travel agents with 16+ integrated travel products.
- **TrvlNxt:** A cutting-edge, tech-driven platform designed to automate and simplify global travel management. This shift didn't just keep Riya "in the game"—it set the new industry standard for how technology can scale human expertise.

Mr. Thampy has ensured that Riya Group is not just a leader in volume, but a paragon of global corporate standards. The group's commitment to security and sustainability is validated by an elite suite of certifications:

- **Data & Security:** SOC 2 Certified, ISO 27001, GDPR, and PCI DSS compliant.

That early vision evolved into Akbar Travels of India, today the country's largest travel network, with over 120 IATA-authorized branches and a strong global presence across the Middle East, the USA, the UK, Canada, Africa, Malaysia, and Europe. Yet, at its core, the organisation continues to reflect the values of its earliest days customer-first service, affordability, and cultural sensitivity across borders.

Despite the scale achieved, I have remained deeply connected to my roots as a travel advisor. That perspective has allowed the organisation to evolve with changing times while staying grounded in its original purpose. Today, Akbar Travels is embracing digital transformation through its upgraded portal, www.akbartravels.com, featuring an AI-driven interface and smart self-service tools. The objective remains unchanged: to make travel faster, simpler, and more accessible, while strengthening trust through technology.

My journey has extended beyond travel into healthcare, education, technology, and logistics, reflecting a belief in inclusive and sustainable growth. Deeply connected to my hometown of Ponnani, Kerala, I remain committed to giving back through initiatives that strengthen communities and create lasting impact because progress must be shared to be meaningful.

Every journey has a starting point, and mine began with a simple desk, a handful of travellers, and an unwavering commitment to trust. What those early years as a travel advisor taught me was invaluable that success is not defined by scale alone, but by the responsibility one carries toward people who place their faith in you. The foundations laid in 1978 continue to guide everything Akbar Travels represents today. While the world of travel has transformed through technology, globalisation, and digital innovation, the core belief remains unchanged: travel must be accessible, inclusive, and human at its heart. Growth has followed purpose, not the other way around.

- **Sustainability:** ISO 14001 and the prestigious EcoVadis Bronze Medal, placing Riya in the top 35% of companies globally for ESG.
- **Legacy of Excellence:** Named the Best B2B Travel Agency in India for six consecutive years at the World Travel Awards.

Despite his rise to CMD, the name "Thampy" remains his greatest title. His leadership is defined by a rare, "people-first" philosophy. This is evidenced by a dedicated team that has stood by him for decades—a feat nearly unheard of in today's volatile market. He treats his organization not as a corporation, but as a community, leading with the empathy of a man who remembers exactly what it was like to start with nothing. His leadership is defined by empathy—a man who remembers every 6 AM local train ride. This heart is most visible through the Riya Social Welfare Foundation and Project Swapnam. By building and donating 26 modern homes to underprivileged families in Kerala, he has proven that the ultimate goal of success is the upliftment of the community.

"The single most important principle I followed was continuous learning and self-improvement."

For the members of TAFI, Mr. Thampy represents the ultimate professional blueprint: Inspirational in his origins, Visionary in his investments, and Compassionate in his legacy. He remains a student of the craft, proving that in an industry built on movement, the most important journey is the one of self-evolution.

As I look back, the most enduring measure of this journey is not the number of branches or destinations reached, but the lives connected and opportunities enabled along the way. From first-time travellers to global citizens, each journey has reaffirmed the power of trust and service.

The beginning was modest, but the vision was clear. And as the journey continues, it remains rooted in the same principle that shaped the first step forward that travel, when guided by purpose, has the power to transform lives.

From a humble beginning to a globally recognised enterprise, my journey reaffirms a conviction I hold deeply: travel is not just about destinations it is about purpose, trust, and connecting lives. The lessons learned as a travel advisor continue to guide every step forward, reminding me that lasting success begins with service and is sustained by integrity.

“Great journeys build businesses, but vision and trust build legacies.”

Vice President Anil Kalsi Attends Greece Embassy High Tea



The Ambassador of Greece Her Excellency Mrs Alikí Koutsomitopoulou , invited TAFI Vice President Mr.Anil Kalsi along with other selected agents to the Embassy of Greece , New Delhi with co host IndiGo Airlines Mr Vinay Malhotra , Head of Global Sales and his top team for a high tea and networking event “NEXT STOP GREECE” on 02nd February 2026 from 16:00 Hrs to 18:00 Hrs. Delhi to Athens and Mumbai to Athens flights were introduced recently by IndiGo. Greece tourism partners and IndiGo had a good networking session

TAFI VP Flags Sky-High Sri Lanka Fares



Vice President TAFI was interviewed by News Nation TV seeking his views on the surge in airfares from India to Sri Lanka on the eve of the India Pak Cricket match.

TAFI Leaders Participate in Prestigious High Commission Gathering



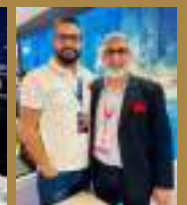
National Day of Sri Lanka, celebrations at the Sri Lanka High Commission, New Delhi on 4th February 2026. Vice President Anil Kalsi and Northern India chairman Dinesh Kumar participated in the event

TAFI Leaders Meet Air India at OTM 2026



TAFI President Abbas Moiz and Vice President Anil Kalsi with Air India at OTM Mumbai on 05th February 2026

TAFI National Committee Team at OTM 2026



TAFI National Committee Team at OTM 2026 at Jio Convention center from 05th February 2026 till 07th February 2026 and the Team also had their National MC meeting on 6th February 2026

GUJARAT

TAFI Gujarat Honoured at VFS Global “Beat the Peak” Event – Ahmedabad



VFS Global organised the “Beat the Peak” event today at Hyatt Regency, Ahmedabad on 3rd February 2026. Ms. Anahita Avari, Head – Sales (South Asia), VFS Global, and Mr. Sharad Gowani, Regional Head, VFS Global, were present at the event. On this occasion, VFS Global felicitated TAFI Gujarat Chapter in recognition of the valuable business contribution by its members.

The award memento was received by: Mr. Hitank Shah – General Secretary, Mr. Ronak Shah – Managing Committee Member, Mr. Dilip Masrani – Chapter Chairman, Mr. Bijal Shah – Secretary, Mr. Keyur Gondalia – Committee Member, Mr. Kishan Sidpara – City Committee Convener. This recognition reflects the strong partnership between VFS Global and TAFI Gujarat and the continued support of our members.

TAFI Gujarat Marks Its Presence at Saurashtra Travel Fair (STF) – 3rd Edition



The Saurashtra Travel Fair (STF) – 3rd Edition was successfully organized by TOGS at The Fern Hotel, Rajkot on 31st January 2026. TAFI Gujarat Chapter Chairman Mr. Dilip Masrani, accompanied by Committee Member Mr. Keyur Gondalia and City Committee Convener Mr. Kishan Sidpara, graced the occasion and conveyed their best wishes to the organizers.

MADHYA PRADESH

Sky Imperial Resort Hosts TAFI Members & Families



TAFI Madhya Pradesh hosted a one-night FAM on 25th January at Sky Imperial Resort, Indore, with 25 members and families, featuring bonding, entertainment, and a property tour. Chairman Mr. Amol Kataria highlighted the resort’s strategic location on the sacred Om pilgrimage circuit and its strong tourism potential. The visit concluded with a Republic Day flag unfurling on 26th January and a vote of thanks by Mr. Maninder Singh Arora.

TAMIL NADU



TAFI Tamil Nadu Joins IHN Road Show

Tamilnadu chapter Chairman Mr C. K .Raja and many members participated in IHN road show at Hotel Hyatt Regency , Chennai on 28th Jan. 2026. At this road show, many international DMC had stall, and it was very useful to our members.

TAFI Tamil Nadu Chairman C.K. Raja Meets Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra



TAFI Tamilnadu Chapter Chairman C K Raja with Hon'ble Tourism Minister Shri Kapil Mishra along with Mr. Syed Malaysia Tourism Board in Tourism summit 2026 at ITC Grand Chola hotel on 30th Jan.

TAFI Leaders Join Tourism Summit 2026



TAFI National Committee Member Mrs.Sumita Kashyap and Mr.Bright Manohar along with other TAFI members participated in the Tourism Summit that happened in Four Points Sheraton on 02nd February 2026

TAFI Tamil Nadu Leaders Share 2026 Calendar Across Key Stakeholders



TAFI Tamil Nadu Chapter Chairman Mr. C.K. Raja, National Managing Committee Member Mr. Bright Manohar, and Chapter Committee Member Mr. V. Vaitheeswaran distributed the TAFI 2026 Calendar to India Tourism Regional Director (South) Mr. D. Venkatesh, Singapore Airlines Manager Southern India Mr. Darryl Chua, SriLankan Airlines Chennai Sales Manager Mr. Kausn Welaratne, and Emirates South Regional Manager Mr. Suthir.

Tamil Nadu Chapter Team Earns Recognition at Emirates Cricket Tournament



TAFI Tamil Nadu Chapter achieved 4th Runner-Up among 20 teams in the Emirates Cricket Tournament. that took place on 08th February 2026 in Chennai.



TAFI Leaders Join Melange Chennai Showcase

TAFI Tamil Nadu chapter members along with the National Managing committee members Mr. Bright Manohar and Ms. Sumita Kashyap participated in Melange Select Road show at Chennai ITC Chola Chennai on 11th February 2026.

KERALA

Emirates Hosts Exclusive Partnership Evening in Kochi



Emirates Airline reaffirmed its commitment to the Kerala travel trade by hosting an exclusive networking evening on 29th January 2026 at the Cabana, Crowne Plaza, Kochi. The event served as a prestigious platform to celebrate the airline's valued partnership with the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) and to explore new avenues for regional collaboration. The gathering was graced by the presence of prominent TAFI leadership, including National Committee Member Mr. Paulose K. Mathew, Kerala Chapter Chairman Mr. Augusthy P.P., Secretary Mr. Tibin Thomas, and Executive Committee Member Mr. Anoop Kumar K.S. Alongside the leadership, a large number of TAFI Kerala Chapter members attended the event, engaging in insightful discussions with the Emirates team.

WESTERN INDIA

TAFI Western India Embarks on Greece EduTour



TAFI Western India kicked off 2026 with a five-night Educational Tour to Greece, supported by Global Destinations and WOTF Group Greece, in association with IndiGo Airlines, coinciding with IndiGo's inaugural direct flight to Athens. A 17-member delegation from TAFI Western India and Pune, led by Mr. Jay Kantawala (Chairman), travelled with Mr. Pranav Kapadia (Founder & MD, Global Destinations), covering Athens and Rhodes, with meetings including the Municipality of Rhodes and the South Aegean Region. The visit concluded with a Republic Day tribute, reaffirming their commitment to promoting Greece.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Yas Island Destination Workshop 2026 Held in Srinagar



The Yas Island Destination Workshop 2026 was successfully held on 30th January 2026 at Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront Srinagar, showcasing leading attractions including Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, SeaWorld Abu Dhabi, Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, and Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi. The workshop brought together key trade partners to explore business opportunities and destination offerings. Mr. Shamim Shah, MC Member of TAFI, attended the event, while Mr. Sumit Nainiwal, Sales Manager – North & East India, delivered a detailed presentation. The initiative served as a valuable platform to strengthen tourism collaboration and promote Yas Island among Indian travelers.

FAM Trip Delegation from Kerala Meets Tourism Leadership in Srinagar



The FAM Trip delegation from Kerala met Mr. Syed Qamar Sajjad, Director Tourism – Kashmir, during a special interaction organized by Sab Dekho Kashmir on 31st January 2026 at Hotel Arison Luxury, Srinagar. The event was attended by Mr. Shamim Shah (MC Member, TAFI) and Mr. Burhan Misgar (Chairman, J&K Chapter – TAFI). Mr. Shah welcomed the delegates and expressed optimism about strengthening tourism exchanges between Kerala and Kashmir. The delegation also felicitated key tourism officials and industry representatives. The meeting marked a constructive step towards enhancing collaboration and increasing tourist flow between the two regions.

Budget 2026 for travel & tourism industry: Key announcements



A key announcement is the creation of a National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid, which will digitally document India's culturally, spiritually and historically significant locations. The initiative is expected to create a unified national repository of tourism assets, improving destination management, interpretation and discoverability while supporting evidence-based planning for states and local bodies.

The Union Budget 2026–27 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Parliament has placed tourism firmly within India's economic and cultural development framework, combining supply-side investments in heritage, skills and infrastructure with demand-side tax relief aimed at easing overseas travel, education and medical mobility.

Under the revised framework, TCS on overseas tour packages will be reduced from the earlier 5% and 20% slabs to a uniform 2%, with no minimum threshold. Additionally, TCS under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) for education and medical purposes has been cut from 5% to 2%. Industry stakeholders view the changes as a meaningful correction that lowers upfront cash outflows for travellers, students and families, and simplifies compliance.

The Budget also outlined the development of 15 major archaeological and heritage sites into experiential cultural destinations. Sites identified include Lothal and Dholavira in Gujarat, Rakhigarhi in Haryana, Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu, Sarnath and Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh, and Leh Palace in Ladakh. The focus will be on upgrading visitor infrastructure, interpretation and storytelling to align these sites with global cultural tourism standards.

Taken together, the Budget 2026–27 tourism measures reflect a shift towards treating tourism as long-term economic infrastructure—combining heritage conservation, skills development, healthcare integration and digital systems. The simultaneous reduction in TCS on overseas travel, education and medical remittances adds a demand-side boost, lowering friction for global mobility while reinforcing India's ambition to remain both a major outbound market and a competitive inbound destination.

IndiGo launches 'UpFront' as part of simplified product portfolio for smarter, personalised travel



IndiGo has unveiled its revamped product portfolio, introducing 'UpFront' – a first-in, first-out economy Class experience featuring front-row seating, extra legroom, and added flexibility. This move marks a major step in IndiGo's customer-centric strategy, offering greater personalisation across its three travel ranges, two cabin types, and five fare choices.

IndiGo to stop flights to Copenhagen, reduce frequencies on Manchester & London routes



IndiGo has announced temporary adjustments to its long-haul network to enhance operational resilience amid ongoing airspace and airport congestion challenges. The airline will suspend Copenhagen services, reduce select frequencies on Manchester and London routes, and implement schedule modifications to ensure greater reliability and on-time performance for wide-body operations.

Akasa Air inducts 33rd aircraft, operated by all-women pilot crew



Akasa Air has added its 33rd Boeing 737 MAX 8-200 aircraft to the fleet, marking the second induction since January 2026. The aircraft, flown to Bengaluru by an all-women pilot crew, underscores the airline's steady growth, operational discipline, and commitment to sustainable fleet expansion as it advances toward its long-term network goals.

FLY91 launches daily Kochi-Agatti service, strengthening air connectivity to Lakshadweep



Regional carrier FLY91 has commenced daily services on the Kochi-Agatti route, enhancing connectivity between Kerala and the Lakshadweep islands. The new service complements the airline's Goa-Agatti route, improving access for island residents and supporting regional tourism. FLY91 also announced plans to add six new regional stations soon.

INDIA OUTREACH

After 31 pc rise in 2025, Morocco steps up outreach in India. Rising interest in cultural circuits, urban centres and premium travel.



Sarawak to redouble promotion in India for Visit Malaysia Year 2026



Robust bookings from India for FIFA World Cup 2026

Marginal 1 pc rise in Indian travellers to Singapore in 2025. 1.2 million Indian visitors, 5 pc rise in spending by overseas travellers



Brisbane and Gold Coast join forces to attract India's fast-growing travel market

With 20 pc rise in tourists, Taiwan launches ambitious Indian market push. Taiwan Tourism Administration plans roadshow in Delhi, participation in OTM.



Taiwan Tourism Administration has outlined an aggressive calendar of activities to engage with the Indian travel trade in 2026 with a roadshow in Delhi and participation in tourism fair OTM.

South African Tourism to host 2026 India roadshow in six cities.OTM Mumbai, six-city outreach and over 41 exhibitors to drive trade and travel.



South African Tourism has announced the schedule of the 2026 edition of its Annual India Multi-City Roadshow, beginning with its participation at OTM Mumbai 2026, followed by engagements across six Indian cities.

Riu expands Elite Club footprint to Zanzibar with Riu Palace Swahili.Adults-only resort with new premium services



Hospitality landscape in Tanzanian island Zanzibar has shifted with Riu Hotels & Resorts opening Riu Palace Swahili, an adults-only property in Nungwi that introduces Elite Club services and new entertainment formats to the island.

UN Tourism sets road map for International Year of Sustainable Tourism 2027 .Member States back framework to guide preparations and governance.



With 2027 in view, UN Tourism says it has moved from mandate to method, unveiling a Road Map that defines how sustainable and resilient tourism will be coordinated, governed and delivered globally.

Spain sets a tourism record with 96.8 million foreign visitors in 2025



Spain achieved a new tourism record in 2025, welcoming 96.8 million foreign visitors, a 3.2% increase from the previous year. This surge in international arrivals and a 6.8% rise in tourism revenue align with Spain's goal of a more sustainable, quality-focused tourism model. The nation continues its strong post pandemic recovery, contributing significantly to its GDP.

Mount Fuji cherry blossom festival cancelled due to overtourism



A cherry blossom festival boasting a highly Instagrammable view of Japan's Mount Fuji has been cancelled after residents complained of overtourism fuelled by the weak yen. The city, however, admits that even if the festival itself is cancelled, its venue -- a park overlooking Mount Fuji, cherry blossom trees and a five-story pagoda -- may still see a spike in visitors as spring nears.

Glasgow and Aberdeen airports raise pick-up and drop-off charges. Airports cite rising costs, stress free alternatives remain available



Glasgow and Aberdeen airports in Scotland are increasing the fees charged to drivers for picking up and dropping off passengers, citing rising operating costs, according to airport operator AGS Airports.

Akasa Air Co-Founder Praveen Iyer to exit; Anand Srinivasan appointed Chief Commercial Officer



Iyer's departure comes less than six months after another senior leadership exit at the airline. In October last year, Neelu Khatri, who headed international operations, stepped down from her role. With Iyer's exit, this marks the second high-level leadership departure within a relatively short span, as the airline continues to scale operations and refine its organisational structure.

Indian students turn to Europe as US sees 30% drop in 2025 amid visa curbs



More Indian students are heading to Europe for studies. This trend is growing as visa rules tighten. European countries offer lower costs and better job prospects. Germany and Italy are seeing a big jump in student numbers. Experts predict this shift will continue. The India-EU trade pact is expected to boost this further.

All necessary arrangements in place to comply with FDTL norms: IndiGo tells DGCA



IndiGo has assured the DGCA that it is ready to meet new pilot duty rules. This follows major disruptions in December. The airline faced penalties and schedule cuts. IndiGo is putting operational and monitoring systems in place. Compliance with the new Flight Duty Time Limitation norms begins February 11, 2026. The DGCA monitored operations closely during a temporary exemption period.

Nahargarh Biological Park becomes major tourist attraction in Rajasthan



Nahargarh Biological Park has witnessed a strong start to 2026, attracting over 57,000 visitors in just 39 days, according to forest officials. The lion and tiger safaris continue to draw major crowds, with 284 tourists experiencing the wildlife rides on Sunday amid a surge of family visitors during the holiday rush.

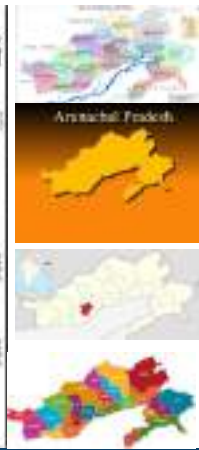
Demand for price ceilings rise as hotel room rates touch Rs 1 lakh per night in Delhi



A nationwide Local Circles survey has revealed growing consumer concern over steep hotel tariffs during major events, with 74 per cent of respondents demanding government intervention through a price ceiling mechanism. The study, which gathered over 34,000 responses, found that 57 per cent of consumers have faced excessive hotel charges in the past three years.

Ziro Valley Arunachal Pradesh

Destination Spotlight



Ziro Valley is a stunning hill station in Arunachal Pradesh, India, renowned for its lush paddy fields, pine-covered hills, and the unique culture of the Apatani tribes. Located at about 1,500 meters above sea level in the Lower Subansiri district, it serves as home to over 50,000 Apatani people who practice innovative wet-rice and fish farming

Ziro lies roughly 115 km north of Itanagar, Arunachal's capital, amid bamboo groves and biodiversity-rich forests. Reachable by road from Guwahati (via Naharlagun) or by small aircraft to Ziro Airport, visitors need an Inner Line Permit due to its northeastern border location.

Apatani Culture

The Apatanis are unique for their settled lifestyle, unlike nomadic neighboring tribes, and traditional practices like nose plugs (worn by women) and facial tattoos, though fading now. Key festivals include Dree (harvest celebration with rituals, dances, and millet beer) and the annual Ziro Music Festival, drawing global artists to this serene plateau.

Key Attractions

Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary: A 337 sq km biodiversity hotspot at 2,400m with clouded leopards, silver firs, orchids, and endangered species.

Hari Rantu Sacred Groves: Ancient trees like Pumin-Pubyan, planted centuries ago, revered for village welfare.

Tarin Fish Farm and Paddy Fields: Exemplifies sustainable paddy-cum-fish cultivation; spot mithun (Indian bison) nearby.

Hong Village: Authentic Apatani settlement with bamboo houses and cultural immersion spots.

Forts of India Series

Part 14- Raigad Fort (Maharashtra):

Location : Raigad dist, Maharashtra

A significant Maratha fort, historically important for its role in the rise of the Maratha empire.

Raigad, seen in the Raigad district of Maharashtra, India, is a hill fort located near the city of Mahad. It is one of the strongest fortresses on the Deccan Plateau and was historically referred to as Rairee or Rairy fort

The main palace was constructed using wood, of which only the base pillars remain. The main fort ruins consist of the queen's quarters, and six chambers, with each chamber having its private restroom. The chambers do not have any windows. In addition, ruins of three watch towers can be seen directly in front of the palace grounds out of which only two remain as the third one was destroyed during a bombardment. The fort also overlooks an artificial lake known as the Ganga Sagar Lake.

From the fort, one can view the execution point called Takmak Tok, a cliff from which sentenced prisoners were thrown to their death.

A statue of Shivaji is erected in front of the ruins of the main market avenue that leads to the Jagdishwar Mandir, which has Sardar Hiroji Indulkar's name engraved on the first step, his own Samadhi and that of his dog named Waghya



RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE TRAVEL AGENTS FEDERATION OF INDIA~Part 10

7. MANAGING COMMITTEE: Part B

d) IPP shall have no right to vote or hold any office and will have a term, until another person is elected the President and as such the last Outgoing President shall become IPP.

E.g. in the event any reigning President enjoys 2 terms, the IPP shall enjoy 2 terms along with the President. In the event of death or incapacitation or of a President the IPP shall remain until the term of the newly elected President for the balance term of the President. Only death or incapacitation or resignation of IPP, shall leave the post of IPP vacant.

e) Elected and/or Co-opted committee members from other similar Association/s representing the Travel and Tours Agents cannot stand for elections and be elected to the Managing Committee of the Federation. Such members of similar Association/s should not be in the Managing Committee of similar Association/s for at least 1 year prior to filing their nominations or being Co-opted to the Managing Committee of the Federation.

f) Once a member is elected or co-opted in the Federation's National or Chapter Managing Committee he/she cannot hold any office in any other Travel and Tour related Agents' Association/s.

g) President, Vice President, National General Secretary and National Treasurer and five Managing Committee Members shall be elected directly to their respective offices / post/s by the voting members of the Federation. The Managing Committee shall elect amongst themselves a Joint Secretary and a Joint Treasurer.

h) Any person/s who resigns/vacates from any office of the Federation during the tenure of her/his/their term in office, for any reason whatsoever, such person/s shall automatically be deemed to have vacated the seat of the Managing Committee Member/s, even if s/he/they qualify to continue as a Managing Committee Member/s. (This provision shall also apply to the Office Bearer/s of any Chapter of the Federation in any aspect that may be applicable, under the Rules).

SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) in

Tourism Part 7

THE TOURISM VALUE CHAIN

If managed properly, with the full engagement of communities, workers and tourists, the tourism value chain offers opportunities for multi-faceted growth that can contribute to poverty reduction, as well as the creation of job opportunities.

The first layer represents the tourism journey, from a place of origin to a destination, embedded in the tourism assets (third layer, described below) and highly dependent on social and economic linkages with key primary and support activities (second layer below). Consumption activities by tourists, like eating or shopping, etc. require other sectors to produce goods and services like food industries, handicrafts, cultural goods, sport activities, etc. The related SDGs are those on which tourism activities can have a direct economic impact, enhancing prosperity and reducing poverty, while adopting responsible patterns of consumption and production. — **The second layer** includes key primary activities and support activities, as defined in box 1.3 above. The related SDGs are mainly those concerning partnerships in human societies and political governance supported by different national and local institutions, as well as water and energy, social activities like health and education and the different sectors that support tourism such as agriculture, infrastructure and others. — **The third and final layer** consists of tourism assets, such as climate or natural and cultural resources – which often define the type and attraction of a destination. The related SDGs are those linked to the planet and life on the planet



Events Calendar 2026

	Event	Date	Place	Website
1	SATTE	Feb 25-27	New Delhi	https://www.satte.in/
2	ITB Berlin	Mar 3-5 2026	Berlin	https://www.itb.com/en
3	IITM	Mar 20-21 2026	Ahmedabad	https://iitmindia.com/
4	NATAS TRAVEL	Mar 27 - 29 2026	Singapore	https://www.natastravelfair.travel/
5	MATTA FAIR	Apr 3 - 5 2026	Kuala Lumpur	https://www.mattafair.org.my/index.php/en/about/amf.html
6	WTM	Apr 13-15 2026	Capetown	https://www.wtm.com/africa/en-gb.html
7	ATM	May 4-7 2026	Dubai	https://www.wtm.com/atm/en-gb.html
8	IMEX Germany	May 20-22	Messe Frankfurt, Germany	https://imex-frankfurt.com/newfront
9	ITB China	May 27-29 2026	Shanghai World Expo Center, China	https://www.itb.com/en

Who can Participate and how ?

1. Should be a TAFI Member (Authorised or Alternative Member) to participate and should have paid the membership Fees up to date.
2. First 5 qualified Answers will be considered as winners. Answers to be sent to editor@tafi.org.in ONLY.
3. The Mail should have been sent by any one of the registered Email Id's of Authorised or Alternative Representatives in TAFI records.
4. Any other form of communication to the editor will become invalid participation.
5. The Decision of the Editor on the Qualified list will be Final and cannot be challenged.
6. Winners will be communicated and recognized in the next TAFI Newsletter Publication.
7. The Winners will get an Amazon Voucher (or Similar) worth Rs. 1,000
8. The cut-off date for Members to send in the answers for every newsletter Publication will be within 24 hours of the first Circulation.
9. The Editorial Team reserves the right to amend the Terms & Conditions without any prior notice.
10. Winners will be considered based on apt answers for all the questions asked.
11. Only 1 participant (The first correct response) from the TAFI registered Agency will be considered as winner."

Which Type of Membership has Voting Rights & can Stand for Election in TAFI ?

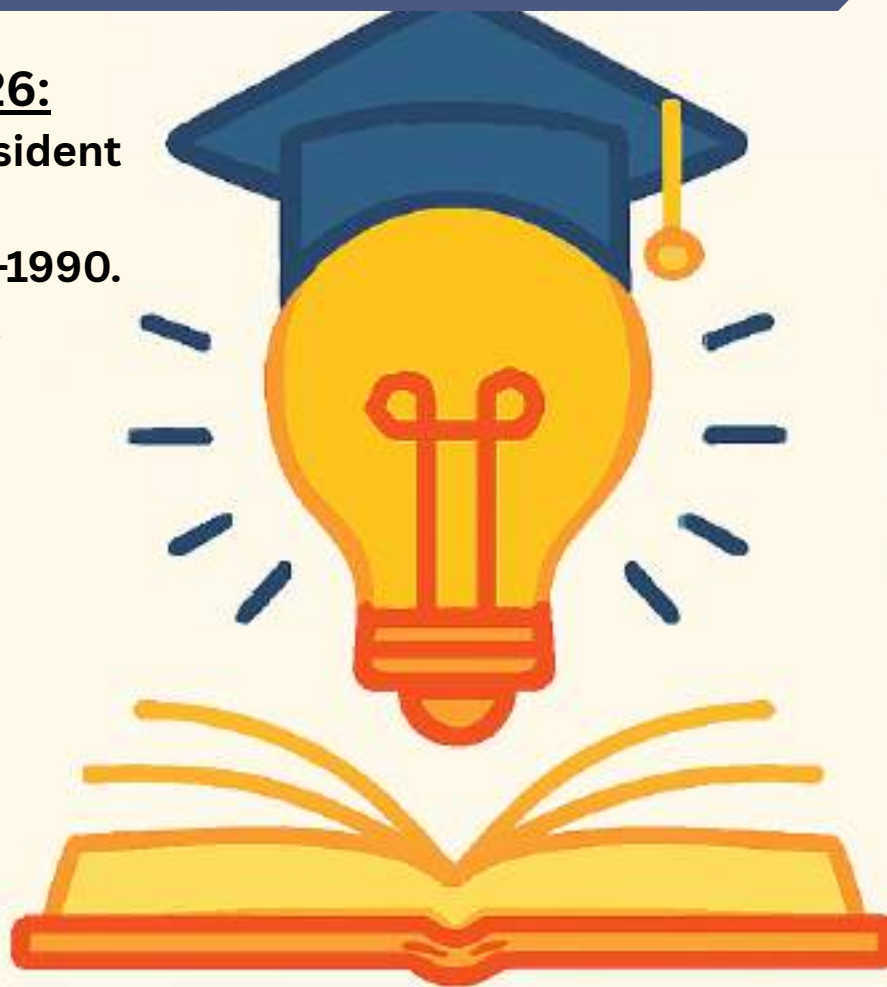
Click to Answer

editor@tafi.org.in

Answer to Quiz on 01 Feb 2026:

Question : Who was the First President of TAFI ?

Answer: Mr Lalit Sheth 1986-1990.
Sree Raj Tours & Travels Mumbai.



QUIZ TIME

Test Your TAFI Knowledge!

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Readers,

We hope you are enjoying the content shared with you through our fortnightly Newsletter. We would like to encourage readers to communicate to “ The Editor “and share your views and concerns pertaining to the industry . We will endeavour to address your concerns to the best of our ability. The best “ letter to the Editor” and its response will be published . We encourage you to add your Name , Designation, Company Name and Photo while communicating to the Editor and get recognized.

Email Id to communicate: editor@tafi.org.in

Yours Faithfully

The Editor

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“The World is a book,
and those who do not travel
read only a page.”



Saint Augustine

