



FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

01ST APRIL 2026 - ISSUE NO #111

TRAVEL AGENTS FEDERATION OF INDIA

EDITED & CONTENT COMPILED BY SUMITA KASHYAP



TAFI 40 YEARS LOGO DESIGNED BY TAFI WESTERN INDIA CHAPTER

As we celebrate a monumental milestone—our 40th anniversary spanning 1986 to 2026—we are thrilled to officially unveil our new commemorative logo!

This fresh design was created to honour our shared history and embodies our core legacy: 40 Years of Trust & Travel.

What Our New Emblem Represents:

When you look at the new logo, you will notice four distinct stars. Each star is a tribute to a specific decade of our collective journey:

- The 1st Star: Our foundational years, building a unified voice for travel professionals.
- The 2nd Star: Our rapid nationwide growth and expanding industry influence.
- The 3rd Star: Our shared resilience in navigating global shifts and challenges.
- The 4th Star: Our current era of modern innovation and unwavering dedication to you.

Together, these four stars do more than celebrate our rich past; they illuminate The Way Forward for the next dynamic chapter of Indian tourism. Thank you for being the driving force behind our success. We could not have reached this incredible milestone without your trust and partnership. Here's to celebrating our legacy and shaping our future, together!

Abbas Moiz
President

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.



Sumita Kashyap
Editor
TAFI Newsletter
National Managing Committee, TAFI
Director – Sigma Travel & Cargo Pvt. Ltd, Chennai

Associate Editors

1. Hitank Shah
2. Dilip Masrani
3. S Somaskandan (Shekar)
4. Anoop Kumar
5. Shamim Shah
6. Jitul Mehta

This fortnight's edition of the Travel Agents Federation of India Newsletter brings together a vibrant snapshot of the momentum shaping our travel fraternity across the country and beyond.

From national-level recognition by VFS Global and thought leadership at the ICC Aviation & Tourism Summit to energetic chapter engagements across regions, the Federation continues to strengthen its role as a catalyst for collaboration, capability building, and industry representation. Meetings with diplomatic missions, destination partners, and stakeholders reflect growing opportunities for members in an evolving travel landscape.

Encouraging developments across aviation, tourism policy, hospitality expansion, and infrastructure further signal a positive outlook for the sector. At the same time, destination features like Chympe Falls and the Gaganachukki Jalapathotsava remind us of the incredible experiences waiting to be discovered and promoted.

As always, this issue is packed with updates, insights, and initiatives designed to inform, connect, and inspire you. We invite you to explore the pages ahead and stay engaged with the many opportunities unfolding within our dynamic travel community.

NATIONAL NEWS



VFS Global recognised Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) for its support in streamlining visa processes across India. TAFI members improve documentation accuracy and efficiency. The partnership strengthens outbound travel growth and customer experience, with both organisations committed to deeper collaboration and maintaining high service standards in visa facilitation.



Mr. Anil Kalsi, Vice President of the Travel Agents Federation of India, was a panelist at the “Digital Transformation in Travel” session during the ICC Aviation & Tourism Summit 2026, held on 26 March 2026 at Le Méridien New Delhi.

The session, chaired and moderated by R.K. Suman, explored how emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data analytics, cloud computing, and automation are transforming the tourism and aviation sectors. The discussion emphasized improved operational efficiency, enhanced customer engagement, personalized travel experiences, and a stronger focus on sustainability. The panel also featured Harjinder Singh and Shruti Swaroop, who shared valuable insights on evolving digital trends and industry practices.

During a follow-up interaction, Mr. Kalsi highlighted TAFI’s initiatives, including stakeholder showcases, e-visa webinars, and IATA sessions across regions to strengthen agent capabilities. He also emphasized the vital role of travel agents in supporting passengers in dynamic and challenging travel environments.

He was presented with a token of appreciation for his contribution.

BENEFITS OF JOINING TRAVEL AGENTS FEDERATION OF INDIA (TAFI)



Ø TAFI provide your organisation a platform to meet, interact and network with 1400 plus members comprising of Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Transporters, Airlines, Hoteliers and Tourism Departments in India. And those who are related with the Travel and Tourism Industry.

Ø Your organisation will have the guidance, support and backing of the managing committee who are experts in various fields and are recognised for their contributions.

Ø Networking Opportunities through Bimonthly meeting you will have the opportunity to attend Chapter meetings. These meetings give you the opportunity to learn of the various trends and developments in the travel and tourism industry. And getting Leadership opportunities to enhance business.

Ø Issues and concerns affecting the industry will be voiced and attempts to find solutions and suggestions will be made which could benefit your organization.

Ø Once you become a member, you can use the TAFI logo in your stationery, business cards and office signage. The TAFI logo endorses that you are a genuine Travel Agent / Tour Operator.

Ø Membership of TAFI enhances your ability to interact with Government and tourism bodies. Benefit from industry experts in areas such as legal matters, GST, and taxation and refunds.

Ø Through our regular circulars / newsletters you will get relevant and updated information with regards to IATA government circulars changes taking place in the Airlines Passport office and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Ø TAFI organizes Conventions for members in different parts of the world. Our members get to explore the venue and open opportunities to grow in business. Some of our recent conventions have been in Abu Dhabi, Turkey, Jerusalem, Durban, Dubai, Macau, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia etc. Our most recent convention was held in Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam.

Ø JBGA - For Active Members we have the Joint Bank Guarantee Arrangement scheme, member can be financially covered the IATA BSP through.

We look forward to welcoming you to TAFI Family soon.

PAULOSE K MATHEW – Managing Committee Member (TAFI)

CHAPTER NEWS

ANDHRA PRADESH



The Turkey Destination B2B Event in Hyderabad saw participation from key travel trade stakeholders. Graced by Orhan Yalman Okan and Basak Onsal Demir, Chapter members strengthened ties and explored opportunities to promote Turkey. M.F.H. Khan and Shaik Azhar won gift vouchers for an eight-night five-star stay in Turkey destination program



TAFI Chapter members attended the Turkish Universities Fair 2026 in Hyderabad. Chapter Treasurer Md. Irfan Ali met Orhan Yalman Okan, reinforcing growing education collaboration between India and Türkiye.

Mr. Orhan Yalman Okan, Honourable Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye in Hyderabad, graciously hosted an Iftar Dinner for distinguished guests from various sectors. Office Bearers of the TAFI Andhra Pradesh Chapter attended on 20 March 2026, further strengthening ties and fostering continued engagement between the travel fraternity and the Consulate.



A revival meeting of the TAFI Andhra Pradesh & Telangana Chapter was held on 24 March 2026 under the guidance of Chapter Mentor Mr. Paulose Mathew. The Chapter resolved to conduct elections soon with support from Asego Insurance. Key discussions covered the Atluri Travels JBGA issue, strengthening engagement with the tourism department, and plans for TAFI's 40-year celebrations. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Treasurer Mr. Mohd Irfan Ali.

CHAPTER NEWS

K E R A L A



The TAFI Kerala Chapter attended an Interactive Product Training Program hosted by AVIAREPS on 26 March 2026 at Taj Vivanta Ernakulam, Marine Drive.

Members received updates on Visit Brussels, Utah Elevated, Maldivian, Budget, LIFE, and Outletcity Metzingen, enhancing destination knowledge and strengthening professional networking within the global travel trade community.

T A M I L N A D U



TAFI Tamil Nadu Chapter marked its presence with an exclusive stall (No. D325) at the Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF) Chennai from 20th to 22nd March 2026. The stall showcased TAFI's initiatives, enabled interaction with travel trade professionals, and strengthened industry connections, reflecting the Chapter's commitment to collaboration, visibility, and growth within the travel fraternity.



TAFI Tamil Nadu Chapter Chairman C. K. Raja along with National Managing Committee Member Sumita Kashyap met Mr. Tan Yi Hao, Vice-Consul at the Consulate General of the Republic of Singapore in Chennai on 17th March 2026. The meeting focused on discussions regarding the Singapore visa submission process and key requirements of travel agents, aiming to strengthen coordination and facilitate smoother visa support for the travel fraternity.

TAFI Chapter member Mr. Raja Rengarajan attended the USA Alaska Roadshow on 19 March at Pullman Hotel, Chennai, interacting with Mr. Bill Wright of Explore Fairbanks Alaska and Ms. Kathy Hedges of Northern Alaska Tour Company, strengthening destination engagement for Alaska tourism promotion.



CHAPTER NEWS

G U J A R A T

TAFI Gujarat Chapter at IITM Ahmedabad 2026



The India International Travel Mart (IITM) Ahmedabad 2026, held on 20th March 2026, brought together leading travel trade professionals from across the region for a vibrant industry gathering. We are proud to share that Mr. Bijal Shah, Chapter Secretary, graced the inaugural ceremony as the Guest of Honour, marking a moment of pride for the TAFI Gujarat Chapter.

Several esteemed chapter members also participated in this important B2B event, making the most of valuable opportunities for networking, collaboration, and strengthening industry partnerships.



TAFI GUJARAT HOSTS AI MASTERCLASS FOR MEMBERS

TAFI Gujarat Chapter successfully organized a Masterclass on Artificial Intelligence on 28th March 2026 at The Fern Hotel, Ahmedabad (Series by Marriott).

The session, conducted by Mr. Aman Kaushik, provided practical, hands-on learning for members.

We sincerely thank GRN Connect for their valuable presentation and partial sponsorship.

The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Hitesh Shah and Mr. Ronak Shah, and concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Anurag Bhatnagar.

The program was also broadcast live on YouTube to ensure wider participation.

CHAPTER NEWS

KARNATAKA



The chapter meeting held on 26 March saw 80%+ member attendance — a figure that signals genuine engagement and alignment within the trade community. Key discussions focused on strengthening collaboration, improving member participation, and setting direction for future initiatives.

The meeting was structured, outcome-driven, and reflected a clear intent to keep the chapter active and relevant. A notable highlight was the distribution of TAFI-branded bags to all members — a thoughtful gesture that reinforced identity, belonging, and professionalism. The group photograph from the session reflects this unity — members standing together as part of a collective working towards shared goals.



The Karnataka Chapter had a strong presence at Travmart Bengaluru on 28 March 2026. Treasurer Selma Furtal was invited as a dignitary to light the ceremonial lamp during the inauguration alongside senior industry leaders.

The images capture a moment of recognition — traditional lamp lighting against the backdrop of a major trade event. Representation at such platforms positions the chapter within the larger industry ecosystem and opens doors for collaboration, visibility, and credibility earned through consistent engagement.

CHAPTER NEWS

The Hiring Excellence workshop saw 85%+ participation and addressed a real operational challenge — recruitment. The session covered a structured approach: defining role clarity, identifying competence attributes, screening profiles with intent, and conducting interviews beyond surface-level questions. The "iceberg model" made a key point clear — skills are visible, but traits, motive, and self-image drive performance. One member summed it up well: hiring the right person is a business decision that directly impacts customer experience.



NORTH INDIA



Team TAFI Northern India had the privilege of greeting respected Sh. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Former Union Cabinet Minister, on the auspicious occasion of the Eid festival ON 21st March at his residence. The interaction reflected warm festive wishes and strengthened the spirit of goodwill and continued engagement between the travel fraternity and respected public leadership.

Shri Rajiv Aggarwal, Secretary of TAFI Northern India Chapter, met H.E. Lee Seong-ho, Hon'ble Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, to discuss opportunities for strengthening tourism cooperation and enhancing bilateral travel ties.



TAFI North India successfully hosted its bimonthly Chapter Meeting at The Park New Delhi, attended by over 100 travel agents and industry stakeholders. Samarth Saxena delivered an engaging presentation, while Tarun shared updates on Asego's latest offerings.



Chairman Dinesh Kumar welcomed members, and Anil Kalsi along with Khushvinder Sarna highlighted key national initiatives. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Charu Arora, followed by networking over cocktails and dinner. As the final meeting of the financial year, it reflected strong participation and appreciation for the Chapter's proactive efforts.

AIRLINE



Airlines told to keep 60 % seats free for passenger selection. India strengthens passenger rights and accessibility amid aviation growth. The country emerges as the 3rd largest domestic aviation market globally and airports handling over 500,000 passengers daily,

Air India completes revival of 30 grounded aircraft with return of Boeing 777-300ER VT-ALL. The milestone concludes a major post-privatisation fleet aimed at strengthening operational capability and supporting long haul expansion.



Bengaluru airport launches 'Connections by BLR' to enhance transfer experience. The programme is built around three core pillars - ease, efficiency and experiential value - aimed at addressing common challenges faced by transit passengers.

ITSA chaos hits US airports amid shutdowns. Airport security operations are strained, leading to extensive queues and widespread flight delays. Passengers face cancellations and long waits, with authorities advising early arrivals.



TOURISM



Indian arrivals in USA decline by 6 pc in 2025. First fall after double-digit growth post-pandemic. The regions that reported increases in visitation included Central America, growing 4.7 pc, Eastern Europe, growing 2.5 pc and the Middle East, which grew 2 pc.

Rome's Colosseum gets a fresh look that recreates the footprints of long-gone columns. The Colosseum's exterior piazza has been revitalized with new travertine marble slabs recreating the original columns that once stood there.



Getting around Singapore to cost more for tourists as fuel prices rise. Singapore taxi fares will increase from March 24 to May 31. Passengers will pay an extra SGD0.50 to SGD0.80 per trip. Fuel costs have surged globally.

Delhi govt likely to table tourism board bill in legislative assembly. Delhi is gearing up to boost its profile as a prime destination for tourism and film production. Initiatives like reduced fees and a single-window clearance system are already in motion, aiming to attract filmmakers and visitors alike.



VISA AND HOSPITALITY



IHCL partners with Gulshan Group to launch 1st Taj branded serviced apartments project in North India with an investment of 1000 Crores. The Project in Noida will include 150 Hotel rooms and 74 Serviced residences.

Mosaic Hotels enters Ayodhya with Mosaic Connect launch. The move aligns with rising demand in India's spiritual tourism sector following infrastructure growth and increased visitor footfall.



Modern jetty planned at Gateway of India to handle tourist rush: Minister. This initiative aims to ease congestion and improve safety at the popular landmark. The state is also working on modernizing boats and passenger amenities

The Leela acquires ultra-luxury resort in Coorg, expands into nature-led hospitality. The Leela Coorg Forest Sanctuary. The 71-villa property set across 76 acres near Madikeri marks the brand's entry into nature-led, wellness-focused hospitality.



DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT

CHYMPE FALLS - MEGHALAYA



Located Near Amlarem, West Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. Krem Chympe (often associated with Chympe Falls/Cave) is a magnificent river cave and waterfall system. It is widely recognized as one of the longest and most spectacular, yet relatively unexplored, river caves in the region.

Tucked deep in the lush forests of Meghalaya, Chympe Falls is one of those hidden places in India that remain unknown to most travelers.



The falls are located around 12 km from Amlarem town. You can hire a local vehicle from Jowai or Dawki. The nearest airport is in Shillong (around 90 km away), followed by a scenic road journey.

October to March is ideal when the weather is clear, and the water flow is perfect for enjoying the natural pool. Reaching the falls requires a short but slippery forest trail.



GAGANACHUKKI FALLS, SHIVANASAMUDRA – CELEBRATING THE GRANDEUR OF GAGANACHUKKI JALAPATHOTHSAVA

ARTICLE BY NALINA S MURTHY, AVION NETWORK, KARNATAKA



The annual Gaganachukki Jalapathothsava, celebrated on September 14 and 15 at Shivanasamudra village in Mandya District, Karnataka, is a vibrant monsoon festival that showcases the breathtaking beauty of the majestic Gaganachukki Falls while promoting eco-tourism and regional culture.

Held during the peak monsoon season, when the waterfalls are in full flow, the festival attracts over 50,000 visitors from across India each year. The powerful cascades create a spectacular natural setting, and as evening falls, the illuminated waterfalls transform the landscape into a mesmerizing visual experience for visitors and photographers alike.

A major highlight of the festival is the grand cultural procession featuring hundreds of folk artists, students, and cultural troupes dressed in colorful traditional attire. The celebrations include vibrant folk dances, music performances, and



cultural presentations that reflect the rich heritage and traditions of Karnataka, creating a festive atmosphere for visitors of all age groups. Nature-based experiences such as guided walks around the scenic surroundings and boat rides along the Kaveri River add to the charm of the event. The evenings conclude with spectacular fireworks and laser shows set against the dramatic backdrop of the illuminated falls.

The Gaganachukki Jalapathothsava not only celebrates the region's natural splendor but also supports local tourism, artisans, and communities, making it a signature monsoon attraction and a must-visit festival in Karnataka's tourism calendar.

EVENTS CALENDAR

2 0 2 6

	Event	Date	Place	Website
1	MATTA FAIR	Apr 3 - 5	Kuala Lumpur	https://www.mattafair.org.my/index.php/en/about/amf.html
2	ILTM	Apr 8-12	Capetown	https://www.iltm.com/africa/en-gb.html
3	WTM	Apr 13-15	Cape Town	https://www.wtm.com/africa/en-gb.html
4	ATM	May 4-7	Dubai	https://www.wtm.com/atm/en-gb.html
5	ILTM	May 4-7	Sao Paulo , Brazil	https://www.iltm.com/latin-america/en-gb.html
6	IMEX Germany	May 20-22	Messe Frankfurt, Germany	https://imex-frankfurt.com/newfront
7	ITB China	May 26-28	Shanghai World Expo Center, China	https://www.itb.com/en
8	IATA AGM	Jun 6-8	Rio de Janerio Brazil	https://www.iata.org/en/events/agm/agm-2026/
9	IITM	Jun 16-18	Chennai	https://iitmindia.com/
10	IITM	Jun 23-25	Bengaluru India	https://iitmindia.com/
11	TTF	July 9-11	Kolkata	https://ttfotm.com/
12	IITM	Jul 16-18	Chennai	https://iitmindia.com/
13	IITM	Jul 23-25	Bangalore	https://iitmindia.com/

TAFI QUIZ TIME

Test your TAFI Knowledge !

Who can Participate and how ?

- Should be a TAFI Member (Authorised or Alternative Member) to participate and should have paid the membership Fees up to date.
- First 5 qualified Answers will be considered as winners. Answers to be sent to editor@tafi.org.in ONLY.
- Any other form of communication to the editor will become invalid participation.
- The Decision of the Editor on the Qualified list will be final and cannot be challenged.
- Winners will be communicated and recognized in the next TAFI Newsletter Publication.
- The Winners will get an Amazon Voucher (or Similar) worth Rs 1000
- The cut-off date for Members to send in the answers for every newsletter Publication will be within 24 hours window of the date of 1st Circulation.
- The Editorial Team reserves the right to amend the Terms & Conditions without any prior notice.
- Winners will be considered based on apt answers for all the questions asked.
- Only 1st answer sent to us by mail will be considered for the contest.

When is EOGM (Extra Ordinary General Body) Meeting held and what is its purpose in TAFI ?

Click to Answer editor@tafi.org.in

Answer to Quiz on 16 March 2026:

What is the minimum Quorum required for Conducting an AGM or EOGM

Answer: The Quorum of the AGM/EOGM shall be 1/3rd of the total Voting members of the Federation .Any adjourned meeting for want of quorum shall be held half an hour later at the same place and the members present shall form the quorum.

Winners of 16st March 2026

1. Bright Manohar – Ceeban Travel
2. Shoaib Ahmed Shah, Shah Travels
3. Darshit Masrani, Favourite Tours & Forex Pvt Ltd

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

Follow us on :

 <https://tafionline.com>

 [tafiindia](#)

 [tafi tweets](#)

 [The Travel agents Federation of India](#)

 [tafi.national](#)

To other countries,
I may go as a tourist,
but to India, I come as a pilgrim.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

