



# FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

16TH APRIL 2026 - ISSUE NO #112

# 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.



# TAFI MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION



For Membership registration visit our website [www.tafionline.com](http://www.tafionline.com) and apply online

Categories:

- Active (IATA-approved, voting rights)
- Associate (branch of Chartered/Active, Chapter-level voting rights)
- Allied (Tour Operator, Transportation/Hoteliers, no voting rights )
- Affiliate (Ticketing but Non-IATA, no voting rights )

Documents required to process your application:

1. Letter of Undertaking of Rs.100/- Stamp paper (format is available on the website - kindly download and print on Rs. 100/- Stamp).
2. Balance Sheet and IT Return copies of last 2 years OR Company Networth Certificate from CA (for new companies)
3. Company & Director's / Proprietor / Partner's PAN copy.
4. MSME, Shops & Establishment License copy, Incorporation Certificate, etc.
5. IATA Certificate copy, if IATA accredited agent.
6. If private company then Memorandum & Articles of Association or if a partnership / LLP concern, then a copy of partnership / LLP deed.
7. GST Certificate
8. Company Profile
9. Registration fee : Rs.14122/- Active Category , Rs.11890/- Associate Category, Rs. 11176/- Allied and Affiliate Category

Benefits:

Networking with 1400+ members, Airlines, Hostellers and Tourism Departments. Expert Insights- Regular Information updates areas such as legal matters GST & taxation. Experts from National MC backing up and provide support for refunds from Airlines. TAFI logo usage in office signage, Business cards and office stationery. Sponsored Conventions in India and Various countries, Association Organise seminars in various subjects by Industry Experts. Financial security scheme (JBGA) for IATA.

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**PAULOSE K MATHEW – Managing Committee Member (TAFI)**

# CHAPTER NEWS

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR



### Mountnoor – Sarovar Premiere Hosts TAFI J&K Meet

On March 28, 2026, Mountnoor – Sarovar Premiere held its soft opening and Travel Agents Appreciation Meet in Pahalgam, felicitating Travel Agents Federation of India – J&K Chapter members. Owner Sajad Ahmed Beig, along with Sabzar Ahmad and Jameel Ahmad, welcomed guests. Attendees included MC Member Shamim Shah, Chairman Burhan Yaqoob, and senior members Nasir Shah, Zahoor Qari, Showkat Pakhtoon, Mohammad Ibrahim Siah, Ather Yameen, Abrar Qadir, Waseem Gossani, Maqsood Badyari, Rahil Bashir, Irshad Hazari, Muzamil Ahmad, Faisal Ahmad, and Nasir Mir.

The event reinforced collaboration between the hospitality and travel sectors.



The Department of Tourism, Hospitality & Leisure Studies at the University of Kashmir organized a one-day national conference on “Beyond Sustainability: Advancing Regenerative Models in Tourism Development” on March 24, 2026. The event saw participation from tourism stakeholders across India, including officials from the Department of Tourism, Government of J&K, industry representatives, and civil society members.

Shamim Ahmed Shah attended as Guest of Honor and spoke on sustainable tourism in Kashmir, stressing environmental responsibility among visitors and authorities. He also appreciated the department’s role in organizing such initiatives and contributing to human resource development in tourism.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## K E R A L A



On March 31, 2026, members of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) gathered at the Vivanta Ernakulam, Marine Drive, for the "Swisspiration Workshop," an exclusive destination training and networking event hosted by Switzerland Tourism, Travel Switzerland, and Rail Europe.

The session equipped local travel professionals with vital product updates and strategic sales tools, featuring a roadshow-style format for one-to-one meetings with key partners, including experts from Titlis and TourFox. Designed to strengthen Kochi's travel trade expertise, the event concluded with a networking lunch, fostering direct collaboration between destination specialists and Kerala's leading travel agents to enhance Swiss tourism offerings in the region.

## W E S T E R N I N D I A



The Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) Western India Chapter hosted a well-attended meeting at the Bombay Presidency Golf Club, with over 110 members and partners participating. Chairman Jay Kantawala unveiled TAFI's 40th-year commemorative logo, highlighting unity and progress.

Secretary Arun Iyer shared updates on meetings with Neelesh Gatne of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation on a digital platform for agents, and Sanjay Khandare, Tourism Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, regarding regulation of unlicensed operators.

Sessions included geo-political travel insights, a Labour Code briefing by Bazyan Mistry, a presentation by Vijay Kesavan of Aerticket.in, and a collaboration announcement by Vikas Sinha of TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## TAMIL NADU



TAFI members actively participated in the exclusive product presentation hosted by Hong Kong Tourism Board and StarDream Cruises in Chennai. The informative session, supported by Yorker DMC and And Everywhere, showcased key cruise offerings and destination insights, followed by networking over lunch.

TAFI Chapter President Mr. CK Raja, TAFI National Managing Committee Member Ms. Sumita Kashyap, National Committee Member Mr. Bright Manohar, along with TAFI Committee Members, attended the event and engaged with industry partners to strengthen collaboration and promote cruise tourism opportunities for members.

## G U J A R A T



### TAFI Participates in World Tourism Hub Roadshow, Rajkot

TAFI Gujarat Chapter proudly supported the successful Roadshow organised by World Tourism Hub on 10th April at Celestia, Rajkot. The event was inaugurated by our Chapter Chairman, Mr. Dilip Masrani, along with Committee Member Mr. Keyur Gondalia and Rajkot City Convenor Mr. Kishan Sidpara. The roadshow witnessed enthusiastic participation from 18 DMCs engaged in both Domestic and International B2B business, creating a dynamic platform for networking and collaboration within the travel trade fraternity. We extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Ali Tinwala, our esteemed member and a renowned DMC, for efficiently managing the event and ensuring its grand success.

# CHAPTER NEWS

KARNATAKA - A DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT

## VIDHANA SOUDHA: THE PRIDE OF KARNATAKA

By Yasin Sharieff, Secretary TAFI Karnataka Chapter | Labbaik Tours and Travels (Intl) Bangalore



**"A simple yet powerful step towards building new ideas, better products, and stronger value for clients."**

TAFI Karnataka Chapter recently organised a guided walking tour of Vidhana Soudha, bringing members together for a unique and insightful experience. Conceived by Kengal Hanumanthiah and completed in 1956, this architectural marvel is India's largest legislative building. Built entirely of Bangalore granite, its design is a brilliant fusion of Neo-Dravidian, Indo-Saracenic, and European styles.

The tour offered exclusive access to key areas, along with a deeper understanding of the building's history, architecture, and role in Karnataka's governance. Members explored grand staircases and majestic domes, gaining a profound appreciation of Bengaluru beyond its modern identity as a tech hub.



More than just a visit, it helped members see how such curated local experiences can be developed into meaningful travel products. By incorporating knowledge-driven tours of such landmarks, we elevate the travel experience from simple sightseeing to meaningful engagement. The initiative also created strong networking opportunities and reinforced the importance of learning and evolving as travel professionals.

# AIRLINE



**Akasa Air expands network capacity by 22% in Summer 2026 schedule. The expansion includes higher frequencies across key domestic routes and increased International operations. In north India it has expanded its operations from Delhi with 50%.**

**ITA Airways joins Star Alliance, expanding global connectivity. ITA Airways has officially joined Star Alliance as its 26th member, strengthening global connectivity and enhancing seamless travel options.**



**Amid the ongoing war in West Asia, Air India suspends flights to Israel till May 31. This move affects over 40,000 Indians in Israel wishing to travel home. Most airlines have stopped services to Tel Aviv.**



**Air India CEO Campbell Wilson resigns amidst ongoing challenges. Second major airline leadership exit in India after Pieter Elbers of IndiGo. Wilson will stay on while in acting capacity while Air India looks for a suitable replacement.**



# TOURISM



Around 1,500 tourists stranded in Sikkim, evacuation process underway. Temporary closure of the Lachen axis due to a road breach near Tarum Chu Bridge. As an alternative the stranded tourists are being evacuated through Dongkya La Pass.

LG Saxena launches official portals for Ladakh Tourism, sacred Buddha Relics exposition in a major ease of doing Business reform. documentation for Registration reduced from 18 to just 2 and the validity extended form 1 year to 5 years.



Gujarat: Ambaji to become 'two-day destination'; project to recreate Nakki Lake ambiance. The development includes landscaping, fountains, and an amphitheatre. Once completed, devotees visiting Ambaji will be able to enjoy boating, serene lake views encouraging them to extend their stays.



Kilimanjaro ice cover triples in 15 years Rare conservation success story amidst global warming. The number of climbers on Mount Kilimanjaro increased from more than 60,000 in the 2023/2024 tourist season to over 69,000 in the 2024/2025 season.



# VISA AND HOSPITALITY



IHCL signs Gateway hotel and convention centre near Bengaluru airport. Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) has signed a 300-key Gateway Hotel and Convention Centre in Devanahalli near Bengaluru airport. The signing aligns with IHCL's strategy to expand its presence and strengthen its footprint in Bengaluru

VFS Global opens visa application centre in Bhubaneswar, expands eastern India footprints. The facility will initially serve 10 countries and aims to reduce dependence on Kolkata for visa submissions, supporting growing outbound travel demand.



Planet Hotels & Resorts accelerates India expansion with lifestyle and premium focus. The company is strengthening its footprint across urban and leisure destinations . including Goa, Thane, Powai and Manali.



India cautions nationals to check terms for visa-free travel to Phu Quoc .Indian Embassy in Hanoi warns against passport loss .The Indian embassy in Vietnam has issued a travel advisory for its nationals visiting Vietnam,



# DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT

K O L L I H I L L S - N A M A K K A L D I S T R I C T , T N



Kolli Malai, also known as Kolli Hills, is a hill station and taluk in Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu, India. The hills are named Kolli Malai after the goddess Etukkai Amman (also known as Kollipavai), who guards the hills with her divine protection

The Kolli Hills are featured in several works of classical Tamil literature such as Silappathigaram, Manimekalai, Purananuru and Akananuru.



The hills are said to be guarded by Kollipavai, also called Ettukkai Amman, the local deity. Sages chose Kolli Hills to do their penance the demons disrupt their rituals Kollipavai chased away the demons with her enchanting smile.

Farm products of the hills include black pepper and other spices, jackfruit, banana, pineapple, oranges, and tapioca, Rice and minor millets (foxtail, finger millet and little millet) form the staple food of the tribal people who inhabit these hills



# EVENTS CALENDAR

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	Event	Date	Place	Website
1	ATM	May 4-7	Dubai	<a href="https://www.wtm.com/atm/en-gb.html">https://www.wtm.com/atm/en-gb.html</a>
2	ILTM	May 4-7	Sao Paulo , Brazil	<a href="https://www.iltm.com/latin-america/en-gb.html">https://www.iltm.com/latin-america/en-gb.html</a>
3	IMEX Germany	May 20-22	Messe Frankfurt, Germany	<a href="https://imex-frankfurt.com/newfront">https://imex-frankfurt.com/newfront</a>
4	ITB China	May 26-28	Shanghai World Expo Center, China	<a href="https://www.itb.com/en">https://www.itb.com/en</a>
5	IATA AGM	Jun 6-8	Rio de Janerio Brazil	<a href="https://www.iata.org/en/events/agm/agm-2026/">https://www.iata.org/en/events/agm/agm-2026/</a>
6	IITM	Jun 16-18	Chennai	<a href="https://iitmindia.com/">https://iitmindia.com/</a>
7	IITM	Jun 23-25	Bengaluru India	<a href="https://iitmindia.com/">https://iitmindia.com/</a>
8	TTF	July 9-11	Kolkata	<a href="https://ttfotm.com/">https://ttfotm.com/</a>
9	IITM	Jul 16-18	Chennai	<a href="https://iitmindia.com/">https://iitmindia.com/</a>
10	IITM	Jul 23-25	Bangalore	<a href="https://iitmindia.com/">https://iitmindia.com/</a>
11	TTF	Aug 6-8	Ahmedabad	<a href="https://ttfotm.com/">https://ttfotm.com/</a>
12	ATM	Aug 17-20	Dubai	<a href="https://www.wtm.com/atm/en-gb.html">https://www.wtm.com/atm/en-gb.html</a>
13	PATA Travel Mart	Aug 18-20	Sarawak Malaysia	<a href="https://www.pata.org/pata-travel-mart-2026">https://www.pata.org/pata-travel-mart-2026</a>
14	TTF	Aug 20-22	Mumbai	<a href="https://ttfotm.com/">https://ttfotm.com/</a>

# 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> answer sent to us by mail will be considered for the contest.

Which Date was the 100<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Newsletter and what was special and specific segment for the boost of the Newsletter in the Edition ?

Click to Answer [editor@tafi.org.in](mailto:editor@tafi.org.in)

### Answer to Quiz on 01 April 2026:

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

### Answer:

EOGM meeting is organised only if there are any amendments in the constitution or bylaws to be made.

### Winners of 01<sup>st</sup> April 2026

1. Jibin Mathew –Trinity
2. Darshit Masrani – Favourite tours & Forex, Rajkot
3. Sidhath K Sujith – Benzyleo Holidays
4. Hanif – Rawabi Tours and Travels India Pvt Ltd
5. Akhila Pranav – Sree Sai Travels & Services

# 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](mailto:editor@tafi.org.in)

Yours faithfully

The Editor

Follow us on :

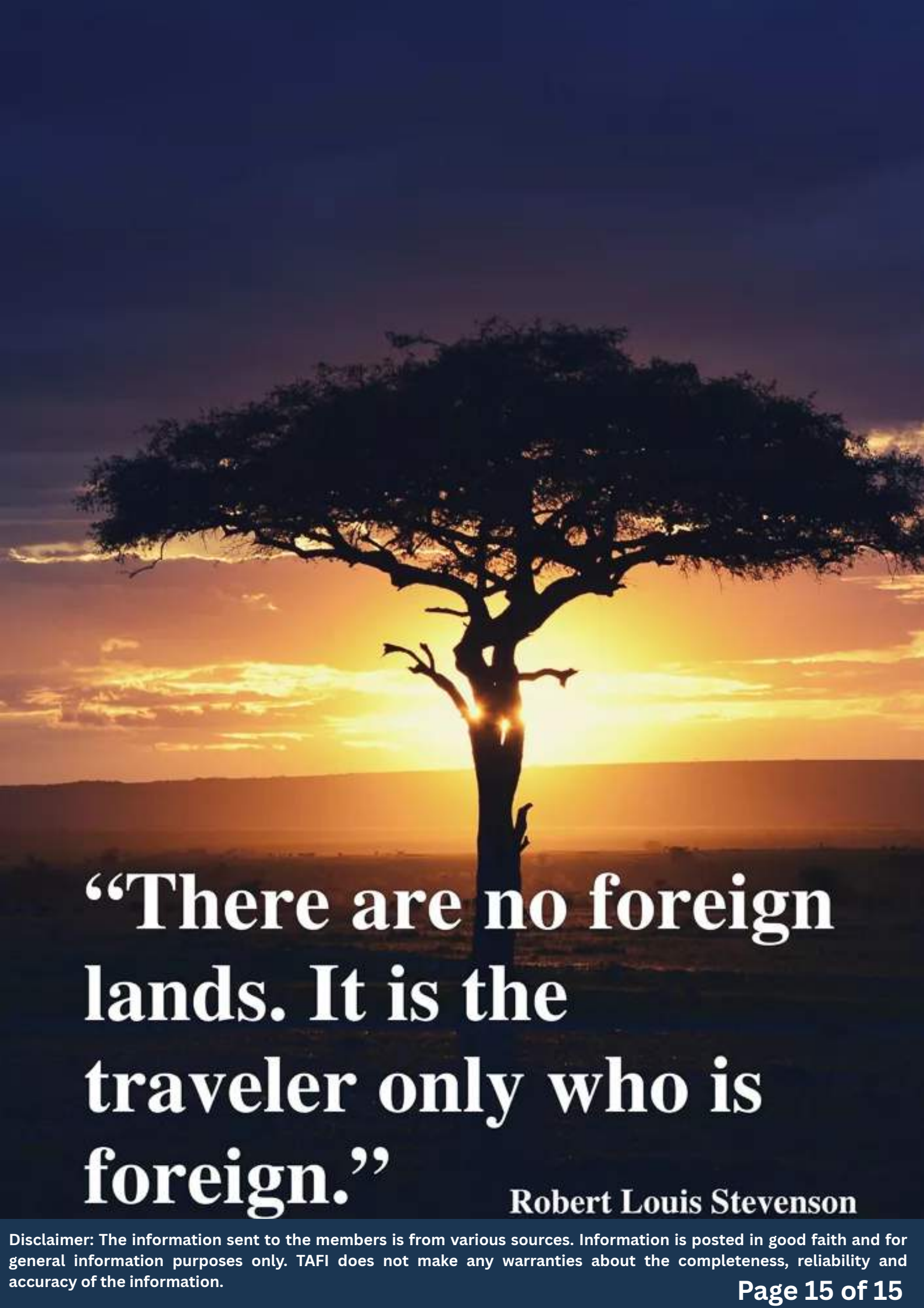
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**“There are no foreign  
lands. It is the  
traveler only who is  
foreign.”**

**Robert Louis Stevenson**