

Shripad Naik's vision to boost tourism in Goa

Recently the Hon. Minister of State (MoS) for Tourism (Independent Charge) and Culture (Independent Charge), Government of India, Shri Shripad Naik was in Goa to meet the Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar and the Tourism Minister, Government of Goa, Shri Dilip Parulekar. The purpose of this Centre-State meeting was to chart out projects and initiatives for Goa Tourism. One of the top most priorities on the agenda would be liberalisation of e-visa which will help to attract more tourists. Currently, Goa offers Visa on Arrival facility to only 12 countries. E-visa facilities will cover larger number of countries. Projects to develop hinterland tourism, agro tourism and beach cleaning will also be taken up.

MTDC to give Mumbai cab drivers a makeover

The famous yellow and black cab drivers in Mumbai are in the process of undergoing a major transformation, and it should not come as a surprise if they welcome you onboard their cab in crisp English. The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) along with GVK and Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (MCED) have planned to train taxi drivers in spoken English and behavioural skills, and more information on prominent tourist places across Mumbai will be shared with them. The project kick started at the Sahar Airport with nearly 60 cab drivers being trained on the first day. The project has been conceptualised looking into the growing number of tourists visiting Maharashtra, and also to ensure smooth flow of information between tourists and cab driver. In the first phase 1110 cab drivers will be trained of which 750 will be trained at the international airport. The remaining cab drivers will be trained at Dadar Station, Kurla Terminus, Bandra Terminus, CST, Mumbai Central and Churchgate Stations.

Kolkata Airport bags the best improved ASQ Award

The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards are presented in four categories by Airport Council International (ACI): Best Airport by Region, Best Airport by Size, Best Small Airport and Best Improvement. In the Best Improvement Category in Asia Pacific Region 'Kolkata Airport' has won recognition. This category includes airports which have experienced the biggest improvement in ASQ rating between 2012 and 2013 in their region. Kolkata Airport is being managed by Airports Authority of India. The award was received by Dr. B P Sharma, Airport Director, Kolkata in the 9th ACI Asia Pacific Regional Assembly meeting in Seoul, Korea on May 27, 2014. Shri B P Sharma handed over the award to Shri Alok Sinha, IAS, Joint Secretary, MoCA & Chairman, AAI in presence of Shri G K Chaukiyal, Member (Operations) on May 29, 2014 at New Delhi.



(L-R): Shri B P Sharma, Shri Alok Sinha, Shri G K Chaukiyal

Air India joins Star Alliance

Air India has joined Star Alliance—a global alliance of 26 leading international carriers. The national carrier is the first airline from India to have been inducted into this prestigious group—thereby scripting a new chapter in the annals of India's domestic aviation. As a Star Alliance member, Air India will, from July 11, 2014 offer its passengers seamless travel experience across the Alliance network around the world besides premium customer recognition and benefits across member airlines. Air India's entry into the Star Alliance would facilitate its access to a vast global network, offering unmatched reach and connectivity.

Kerala Tourism embarks on 'Dream Deals' campaign

The Kerala Tourism Department has embarked on a campaign, 'Dream Deals', in a bid to leverage the potential during the peak summer months of April-May, which is an off-season, followed by the monsoons. The discount rate scheme, which is on from April to September, is aimed at providing a new experience to visitors, as the three-month monsoons had hit Kerala on June 1. The proposed visit plan will be automatically forwarded to five accredited tour operators in the state. They will get back to the applicant with the best rates. Besides helping create itinerary-based destinations, budget and the number of days to spend in Kerala, 'Dream Deals' will give users the option to 'play around mixing and matching various destinations into the itinerary until they get the most comfortable one'.

Hotel bookings made easier with iTajGateway mobile app

The Gateway Hotel Fatehabad Road Agra has recently announced the launch of a unique, user friendly mobile app that will help guests make easy hotel booking. The Gateway Hotel has partnered with iTravelApps, to develop the app which uniquely combines details about the hotel with the destination. Called iTajGateway, the app is designed to offer consumers a user-friendly and customised way to make hotel bookings. It also includes audio tours of three monuments in Agra including the Taj Mahal and maps for navigation assistance. Guest can access the app without an internet connection as it is fully programmed to work offline.

Lemon Tree introduce money back offer

Lemon Tree Hotels (LTH), India's leading chain of upscale, midscale and budget hotels has just taken the hospitality industry by storm with its latest and boldest offer till date. The LTH 100 per cent money back offer allows guests to avail full money back on their stays at all Lemon Tree properties across India. This exciting offer is a first in the history of travel and hospitality sector in India and has been designed in line with the 'value for money' philosophy of the Lemon Tree Hotels' group. While it allows guests a stipulated time to earn the incentive, it gives them the flexibility of reclaiming or using this offer all through 2014.



Rahul Pandit

24 Airports identified for development as air cargo terminals

Ministry of Civil Aviation believes that improving efficiency in the existing infrastructure is a continuous process, addition of infrastructure shall also be planned and put in place where ever feasible. Continuing with this Shri Ashok Lavasa, Secretary (Civil Aviation), in a review, directed that Airports Authority of India shall draw plans to develop domestic cargo terminals throughout the country. On lines with the recent development of cargo terminal buildings at Coimbatore and Trichy, facility shall be established at other airports also. Recently similar facility has been established at Mangalore Airport with the infrastructure facilities. In all at 24 airports such domestic cargo terminals will be developed.