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Learn about Malaysia and its lesser-known destinations

‘The Belgium Consulate in Mumbai receives 20 visa applications per hour’

The Indian travellers’ interest to visit Belgium has been increasing day by day as the country has rich history, architecture, gastronomy, and culture. However, the destination is lesser-known to Indians when compared with other European cities, said Frank Geerkens, Consul General the Kingdom of Belgium in Mumbai. Talking about visas, he said that the Belgium Consulate Office in Mumbai receives 20 visa applications per hour. Geerkens also appealed to people to follow the proper procedure while applying for the visa. “Travellers should apply with valid documents,” he exhorted. “After Covid restriction was lifted, we observed a surge in travel, and everyone wanted to travel at the same time,” he explained. Geerkens also said that people should apply for a visa at least 15 days before travelling.



Frank Geerkens

Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

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Korea Tourism showcases its MICE opportunities at Mumbai roadshow

The Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) organised a MICE roadshow in Mumbai, yesterday at Sofitel BKC, showcasing the diverse and dynamic offerings for business events and corporate travel in Korea. The event brought together key players in the tourism and hospitality industry, featuring participation from 7 Destination Management Companies (DMCs), 2 Airlines, 1 Regional Tourism Organization (RTO), and 1 Shopping representative.



Myong Kil Yun, Regional Director India & SAARC Countries, Korea Tourism Organization, expressed his enthusiasm for the event, stating, “We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to bring Korea’s MICE offerings to Mumbai. The roadshow allowed us to connect with key stakeholders and demonstrate why Korea is an ideal destination for hosting memorable and successful business events.”

MoCA proposes 6 ‘Twin City’ airports by 2030

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in India is pursuing a project to develop six ‘Twin City’ airports by 2030 as part of a strategy to alleviate congestion in existing major city airports. Twin City airports are a unique concept where two airports serve neighboring cities or closely located urban areas. This proposal has been shared with the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and a steering committee on greenfield airports led by the Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The aim is to evaluate and implement this plan.



TATA AIG introduces online claims process to fast track travel insurance claims

Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited has introduced a faster and efficient online claims journey through a digital fast-track process for travel insurance claims. The process provides customers with a seamless, user-friendly resourceful platform where they can simply register their claim directly on the tataaig.com website, submit the relevant documents, and track its status, minimizing the need to engage with call centres or through emails. Tata AIG’s new process enables customers to file their claims through an easy-to-use digital claims platform, even while they are traveling.



Cinnamon Hotels upbeat about Indian visitors with opening of Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort

Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, based in Sri Lanka, is highly optimistic about the influx of visitors from the Indian market, particularly with the anticipated opening of the Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort in 2024.

Radhey Tawar, CCO, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, said, “India is the number 1 source market for Sri Lanka, and Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts with 3 hotels in Colombo, and 8 resorts in Sri Lanka. We received an estimated 16-18% of visitors arriving in Sri Lanka.”

Currently, in India, the metro cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai are the key source markets for the hotel company, and they have seen big groups coming in from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and surrounding areas of Delhi. “There is a lot of appetite from travellers beyond the main metros. Our larger traffic comes from the main metros due to direct flight connectivity, and we are more for additional flights and newer routes to enhance visitors to our hotels and resorts.”



Radhey Tawar