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Costa Serena to home port in Mumbai, sailings to start from Nov 4

Costa Cruises is set to home port its Costa Serena starting November 4 from Mumbai, and set to add a new destination, Lakshadweep to its route network commemorating its 75th year of operations. The ship will be sailing from Mumbai to the high seas, Goa and Lakshadweep.

Roberto Alberti, Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Costa Cruises, said, "We are strongly committed in offering our Indian guests a unique holiday experience onboard Costa Serena, and we are truly looking forward to starting our operations in November. Costa Serena will be the largest cruise ship to operate domestic itineraries in India. We are hopeful of reaching pre-pandemic passenger numbers from India with this sailing."



Noriah Jaafar takes charge as Director for Tourism Malaysia Mumbai

Tourism Malaysia has appointed Noriah Jaafar as Director for India, to be based at its office in Mumbai. A dynamic leader at the forefront of Malaysia's tourism sector, she has been instrumental in promoting and advancing the country's thriving tourism and travel industry. With a remarkable academic background and extensive experience, she has consistently demonstrated her exceptional leadership skills throughout her career. Her professional journey began in 2002 when she joined Tourism Malaysia as an Assistant Director at the Convention Division.

Qatar's DMC Regency Travel & Tours appoints Red Dot Representations as India Representative

Qatar based DMC Regency Travel & Tours has appointed Red Dot Representations as its India market representative. The development will help Indian MICE and the wedding market to celebrate plush hospitality and excursion experiences in Qatar.



Manoj Kumar Tiwari, General Manager, Regency Travel & Tours, said, "It excites us to have joined hands with

Red Dot Representations. Their proven excellence in understanding global destinations and their experiential approach while striving to serve Indian citizens goes beyond appreciation. We look forward to hosting the Indian market to experience Qatar in its element quintessentially. Whether a corporate event, incentive travel, leisure vacation, or destination wedding, our services are designed to create memorably unparalleled experiences."

Amarnath pilgrims to get 30% discount on advance bookings in Jammu hotels

The All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association (AJHLA) has announced a 30 per cent discount on advance bookings for the Amarnath Yatra pilgrims during their stay in Jammu.

Pawan Gupta, President, AJHLA, said, "As a goodwill gesture, we have decided to offer a 30 per cent rebate to Amarnath pilgrims who make advance room reservations in hotels." This initiative aims to provide support and assistance to the pilgrims embarking on their annual journey to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine in the majestic Himalayas of south Kashmir.



TAFI, VFS Global organise interactive session for members on visa issues

The Western Region Chapter of Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) organised an interactive session with VFS Global in Mumbai on June 14. A large number of

TAFI members were present in the meeting and raised the problems they have been facing on Visa front with Prabuddha Sen, COO, South Asia, VFS Global.

Sen, answered a barrage of questions from the members and assured them that he will communicate to the Diplomatic Community about the problems. But, Sen made it clear that a solution is not possible overnight. Ajay Prakash, President, TAFI, said that the event is a dialogue between TAFI and VFS Global. "We have been interacting with VFS Global and they are very helpful," he said.

Vistara expands codeshare with Lufthansa for Europe

Vistara has expanded its codeshare partnership with Lufthansa, enabling enhanced connectivity to Vistara customers while travelling across Europe.

As a result of this agreement, the 12 key destinations that get included in Vistara's network are Amsterdam (AMS), Stockholm (ARN), Berlin (BER), Budapest (BUD), Copenhagen (CPH), Rome (FCO), Hamburg (HAM), Helsinki (HEL), Lisbon (LIS), Munich (MUC), Oslo (OSL), Prague (PRG). The bilateral codeshare agreement between Vistara and Lufthansa enables both airlines to market and sell flights on each other's networks, which will offer convenient travel options to customers.

