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India to unveil new National Tourism Policy soon: Reddy

G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region, has said the country has conceived an action plan to develop and promote common themes like Buddhism, Ramayana, Himalaya heritage circuits that link and resonate with partner countries.

India has also made a conscious effort to integrate economic, social and environmental sustainability as a core agenda in policies and priorities. Hence, this will be figuring prominently in the new National Tourism Policy to be implemented soon which will immensely benefit international tourism, he said, according to a press release issued by his office.



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EgyptAir to start flights on Delhi-Cairo route next month

EgyptAir will start a flight between Delhi and Cairo four days a week from August, the airline's North and East India Manager Amr Ali said. Currently, the airline has a flight between Mumbai and Cairo for all seven days in a week. The airline plans to deploy an Airbus A320Neo aircraft on the Delhi-Cairo route which has a seating capacity of 16 in business class and 126 in economy.



Cordelia Cruises keen on sailing to West Asia ports from June 2024

Cordelia Cruises, owned by Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd., is expanding its itinerary to include important ports in West Asia starting from June 2024. Jurgen Bailom, President & CEO, Waterways Leisure Tourism, announced that after commencing international sailings from Chennai to three coasts in Sri Lanka, the cruise operator will now be adding ports in Oman, UAE, the entire Gulf region, Qatar, and Bahrain from Mumbai.



India's airline fleet, airport capacity to likely double in 3-4 years: Scindia

According to Jyotiraditya Scindia India is set to double its commercial fleet and airport capacity in metro cities in the next three to four years.

"There will come a time in India, in the not-too-distant future, the next three years, four years, where our fleet capacity will grow from the current 720 to almost 1,500 aircraft. There will come a time in India, in the not-too-distant future, where if you look at our metro capacities today, which are at roughly 221 million passengers that will grow to about 400 million passengers," he said.



Rajasthan mulls unified Smart Card for entry into tourist sites

The Rajasthan government is working on implementing a system that will provide tourists with access to multiple monuments and transportation facilities through a single smart card. The plan involves developing a portal by the Department of Information Technology, with the Department of Tourism as the nodal agency and the Transport Department also participating. Initially, tourists will be able to visit multiple monuments using a single smart card that can be recharged.



UK Visa fee to go up by 5-7%

The fees and health surcharge paid towards the UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) by visa applicants from around the world, including Indians, are set to rise "significantly" to meet the country's public sector wage increase, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said.

Sunak confirmed a hike between 5 and 7 per cent across the board.

However, he stressed that this would not be met with higher government borrowing for fear of further stoking high inflation and therefore the costs would need to be found elsewhere.

