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## Transformative changes in J&K tourism post G20: Tourism Secretary

Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir experiences transformative changes following the successful G20 meeting held in May this year, Secretary Tourism, Syed Abid Rashid Shah said on that the government has started promoting 75 offbeat destinations to ensure infrastructural development in the Union Territory.

Speaking to the media after inaugurating a two-day art exhibition, Secretary Tourism said the people of J&K enthusiastically participate in the events of national and international importance and wish such events to be held regularly in the UT.



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## Punjab CM pitches Amritsar as wedding tourism destination; announces multi-use development

Pitching Amritsar as the wedding tourism destination, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has announced a 100-acre 'Celebration Point' in the city with marriage palaces, banquet halls and hotels as he invited more and more tourists to visit the state and enjoy the hospitality and warmth, for which Punjabis are famous the world over.

"In Amritsar, we are coming up with a new project — Celebration Point, which will be spread over 100 acres of land. There will be a marriage palace, banquet halls to suit every pocket. The tariff will start from INR 25,000 and will go up to INR 10 lakh. There will be three-star and four-star hotels. In a single place, people will get everything. People can come there to celebrate any happy occasion. Those who want their children to get married and seek blessings from Golden Temple the same day, will be able to do so," Mann said.



**Bhagwant Mann**

### Destination DC records 21.9 million visitors; launches new advertising campaign

Against the backdrop of a fresh advertising campaign, Destination DC (DDC), the official destination marketing organisation for Washington, DC, announced visitation is trending towards a return to pre-pandemic levels. In 2022, the city welcomed 21.9 million visitors, including 1.2 million international visitors. That means domestic visitation has rebounded to 91 percent of pre-pandemic figures, while international visitation has rebounded to 60 percent.

## Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority sees an increase of 51% in tourism growth

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) recently unveiled its latest statistics for the period of January to June 2023, showcasing remarkable growth in their tourism sector.

According to the latest BTEA data, Bahrain welcomed a staggering 5.9 million visitors during the first six months of 2023, representing a remarkable 51% increase from the same period in the previous year when 3.9 million tourists visited the country. This substantial surge in arrivals emphasizes Bahrain's growing attraction as a premier tourist destination.



## IATO set to organise its 38th Annual Convention in Sambhajinagar from Sept 29-Oct 2

The 38th IATO Annual Convention is going to take place from September 29 to October 2, 2023 in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad), Maharashtra and the theme of the convention is: Inbound Tourism and Emerging sustainable trends, informed Rajiv Mehra, President, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO).

Welcom Hotel by ITC Hotels Rama International will be the venue hotel and all the activities on all the three days i.e. registration for the convention, inaugural function, business sessions and evening programmes will be held at Rama International.

Mehra also said that Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde have confirmed to inaugurate the inaugural function.



## Visit.brussels records 35k overnights from India in 2022; conducts roadshows in Mumbai & Delhi

With the view to reinforce its presence in the India market, visit.brussels conducted roadshows in Delhi and Mumbai witnessing an attendance of over 150 key partners, luxury agents and media. The roadshow in Mumbai also focused on the student programme for Belgium, which was attended by guests from schools and universities in India.

In 2022, Brussels as a destination had witnessed 35,000 overnight stays from India out of which 56% of the travellers were leisure travellers and 44% were business travellers. 50% of the departures were from Mumbai while about 20% were from New Delhi.

