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FTAs during Jan-Aug reach close to 50% pre-pandemic level

Foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) till August 2022 have reached close to 50% of the numbers during the corresponding period in the pre-pandemic year 2019, according to the government data, with officials pointing out that the recovery so far has been on the expected lines.

According to data from the Ministry of Tourism, a total of 3,263,219 FTAs have been recorded this year till August, which is 47.2% of the 6,914,987 foreign travellers who visited the country in the corresponding period in 2019.

In terms of month-wise recovery, the data suggests that while the FTAs in January this year were 18.1% of the corresponding figures in 2019, it increased up to 78.3% of the pre-pandemic year numbers in July. The figure stood at 62.2% in August with 498,243 arrivals as compared to 800,837 in the corresponding month in 2019.



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Aeroflot launches service on Moscow-Goa route

Russian flag carrier Aeroflot has launched flights to Goa from Moscow, starting yesterday. The airline currently operates its air services on the Moscow-Delhi-Moscow route twice-a-week with an Airbus A330 aircraft. Aeroflot will fly its Airbus A330 aircraft every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from Moscow to Goa, offering 28 seats in the business class and 268 in the economy class, the airline said in a statement.



Air India reduces incentive for travel agents, associations slam the move

Air India has reduced the assured incentive from the current 1 per cent to 0.5 per cent for both the domestic and international sectors for the BSP agents in India for FY 2022-23. Reacting to this,



Jyoti Mayal, President, TAAI, said, "We were expecting an increase to a minimum of 3 per cent for the efforts undertaken by our member agents to promote, book and sell Air India inventory along with collection of total airfare and assure payments to the airline through IATA."

India to reach pre-pandemic arrivals by March 2024: Tourism Australia

Tourism Australia is hopeful of reaching the pre-pandemic inbound arrival numbers from India by 2024. The destination marketing agency has termed India and Singapore as the two key markets to lead the post pandemic recovery process. Nishant Kashikar, Country Manager- India & Gulf, Tourism Australia, said that they have already witnessed 86% pre pandemic traffic from India for the April to August 2022 period, and are hopeful of reaching the 400,000-arrival-mark by March 2024. "India is our lead booking market, and the traffic is driven by VFR segment, followed by Incentives movement, post pandemic."



Nishant Kashikar

Airasia sells its remaining stake in India operations to Air India

Airasia Aviation Group Limited sold its remaining stake in Airasia (India) Private Limited, its India operations, to Tata group-led Air India, according to a regulatory filing. The agreement comes as Airasia makes its strongest-ever comeback to the skies following the pandemic, which allowed the airline to review its strategic goals and narrow its focus on ASEAN, given its robust network and large presence in the region.

"Since 2014, when we first commenced operations in India, Airasia has built a great business in India, which is one of the world's biggest civil aviation markets in the world. We have had a great experience working with India's leading Tata Group," said Bo Lingam, Group Chief Executive Officer, Airasia Aviation Group. "This is not the end of our relationship, but the beginning of a new one as we explore new and exciting opportunities to collaborate and enhance our synergies moving forward," added Lingam



IATO Convention 2022 to be held in Lucknow, UP From Dec 16-19

The 37th Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) Annual Convention is going to be held from December 16 to 19, 2022 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The theme of the Convention is Inbound Tourism – What Lies Ahead.

Ravi Gosain-Vice President will be the Chairman of the convention along with Sunil Mishra-Hony. Treasurer and Prateek Hira-Chairman, IATO Uttar Pradesh Chapter, as the Co-Chairmen. This was announced by Rajiv Mehra IATO President in the 40th Annual General Meeting held in New Delhi. The inaugural function will be held at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow.

