

MoT to shut down 7 overseas offices by March 31, 2023

The Ministry of Tourism has decided to shut down its seven overseas offices tasked with promotional activities by March 31 next year. An office memorandum, issued by Under Secretary Rajesh Kumar, reads, “The undersigned is directed to intimate that as per the approval of the competent



Ministry of Tourism
Government of India

authority, Ministry of Tourism has decided to wind up all the overseas Indian Tourism offices before

March 31, 2023.” “Accordingly, all the officers posted in the ITOs (Indian Tourism Offices) overseas are requested to take necessary action in pursuance of this decision and submit an action taken report,” it further said. “The government somewhere feels that the expenses incurred on the functioning of these offices are not worth the promotions that the Indian tourism sector gets abroad,” a government officer associated with the sector said.



Serbia ends visa-free travel for Indians from January 1, 2023

In view of the requirements of EU visa policy and measures to control illegal migrants, Serbia has put an end to the visa-free travel regulations for citizens of India. With regard to this, a travel advisory has also been issued by the Indian Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, announcing that all Indian travellers visiting Serbia from January 1, 2023, would require a visa to enter the country.

The Government of Serbia has now withdrawn the existing arrangement of visa-free entry into Serbia for all Indian passport holders, and for staying in Serbia for up to 30 days.

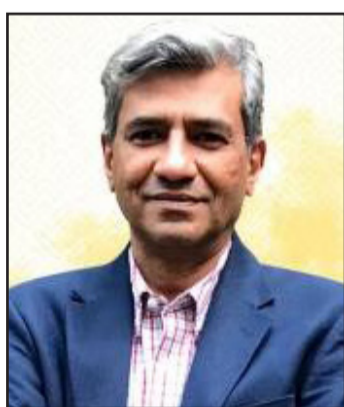
Centre approves proposal to develop Chamundi Hills in Karnataka under PRASHAD scheme

The Centre has approved the State Government’s fresh proposal to secure funds to holistically develop Chamundi Hills under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme.

The proposal was resubmitted after certain issues were raised at the ‘Tourism and Culture Ministers Conference of the Southern Region’ in Bengaluru in 2021. The revised plan has been approved now by the Union Ministry of Tourism and the State Tourism Department and the Office of Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha have been communicated in this regard.



Aloke Singh to take charge as CEO of Air India Express from Jan 1



Aloke Singh

Aloke Singh is going to take charge of the Air India Express as new CEO from January 1, 2023. He is all set to pilot the integrated low cost airline of the Tata group. The Air India Express is being created by merging AirAsia India and Air India Express.

“The two constituent airlines will continue to have the full complement of regulatory post-holders until the merger is complete but, for now, a single CEO will provide the clarity and singular accountability necessary to navigate the process,” said Campbell Wilson, CEO and Managing Director, Air India.

Assam plans mega tourist spot on sandbars of Brahmaputra

The Assam government is contemplating a new addition to the state’s tourism map in the form of a mega seasonal tourist spot on the sandbars of the Brahmaputra river sand beach. Jayanta Malla Baruah, Tourism Minister for Assam chaired a review meeting at the proposed site at Brahmaputra Bali Sapor (river sand beach) which would be developed as a seasonal tourist destination by the tourism department. “The destination will host different adventure sports, traditional sports, art and crafts and many new events which will offer a pleasing experience for the visitors,” Baruah said.



Jayanta Malla Baruah

Maharashtra government to develop tourism circuit in Nanded: Minister

The Maharashtra government will develop a tourism circuit in Nanded district by connecting its popular travel destinations, state Tourism Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha said. Work in this direction will commence in the next three months, he said. The minister was in Nanded to visit the Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Gurdwara. “There are popular tourist spots in Nanded, including temples, gurdwaras and forts. A circuit will be planned to connect these places that are located within the radius of 100 km. Facilities for tourists will be created,” Lodha said.

