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Battleground TAFI National Elections

Saturday 24th July, 2021

Team Rejuvenate TAFI



1. Ajay Prakash, President
2. Kamal Ramchand, Vice President
3. Abbas Moiz, Secretary
4. Hitank Shah, Treasurer
5. Lalith Jain, Managing Committee
6. Rani Bachani, Managing Committee
7. Anil Kalsi, Managing Committee
8. Rai Achal Krishna, Managing Committee

9. Seeraj Sabharwal, Managing Committee

Spelling out his priority areas, Ajay Prakash, said, "Finding a way to protect agents from the airlines. This is one area where agents have been suffering over the years." His second priority is to establish a strong rapport with the Ministry, especially Tourism Department. "In the pandemic, we have miserably failed to let our voice be heard in the corridor of power. Travel associations in other countries have evolved but we haven't," he pointed out. Another area under spotlight is to increase the number of members as he believes the strength of an association lies in its strong membership. "We will strive to increase the memberships for our association," he added.

FOCUS AREAS

- Lobbying with various Ministries
- Increasing Membership Base
- Data-driven Industry Representation
- Creating Sustainable Practises for Tourism

Team Creative Change



1. Rajat Bagaria, President
2. Teddy Thomas, Vice President
3. Ashwani Sharma, Secretary
4. Bharat Shah, Treasurer
5. Nutan Gupta, Managing Committee
6. Sapna Rateria, Managing Committee
7. Nasir Zaidi, Managing Committee
8. Natrajan Ramji, Managing Committee

9. Suneet Rawat, Managing Committee

Talking about his team, Rajat Bagaria said, "There was a mutual feeling among the members as well as the senior leadership that the association needs to have a younger team to be able to drive TAFI in this age of digital revolution. Each of the representatives of team Creative Change is a business owner with first-hand experience of the kind of challenges and opportunities that the market presents in this changed scenario. Moreover, each of us is ready to offer hands on support to take the trade community at large, and TAFI in general, forward."

PRIORITY AREAS

- Digital Outreach
- Increasing Membership Base
- Expanding Joint Bank Guarantee Scheme

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All eligible members should exercise their franchise: Pradip Lulla



Pradip Lulla, President, TAFI, appealed to all eligible voters to exercise their franchise in the TAFI national elections slated on July 24. Speaking to TravelBiz Monitor, Lulla said that it is important to

ensure that every eligible member participates in the e-voting process. "Only two teams are contesting in the elections. The members should elect right candidates to make the association a vibrant one," Lulla said.

'High time to address agents' plight'



Making a comeback, Rani Bachani (former Chairman, TAFI Kerala Chapter), said "After seeing the damage the pandemic has inflicted on the travel industry, and with Kerala having no representation on

the national level, I decided to come back. Airlines are protected through bank guarantee, but agents continue to lose crores of money. I have seen agents commit suicide, but this can't go on. We have to find ways and means to protect agents since our margins are wafer thin. I know this is a challenging task, but we must make a start to solve our issues."

Pranav Kapadia appointed as Returning Officer for TAFI election



The existing managing committee of TAFI has appointed Pranav K Kapadia from Global Destination as Independent Returning Officer to scrutinise all the nominations.

Commenting on this, Kapadia said, "It's a proud moment to be involved with association like TAFI (Travel Agents Federation of India) and I thank the managing committee for appointing me as the Returning Officer for their National Elections."

'Team Creative is dynamic & sympathetic to Change'



Natrajan Ramji (Founder Chairman of TAFI Tamil Nadu Chapter), said, "Rajat has been a work horse of TAFI since some years now, and is driven for change. Team Creative is a mix of experienced and young

professionals energised to revamp the association in these troubled times. Being a dynamic and sympathetic team, I felt it was right to support and join them. My aim is to create an ecosystem beyond ticketing for members by driving them towards varied business opportunities like Film Tourism with an aim to drive specialisation."

Some Key Issues for TAFI

- Bringing Back Confidence in TAFI, Empowering Members & Creating Sense of Ownership
- Opening new Chapters, Improving Synchronization & Increasing Accountability
- Commissioning Research for formulating comprehensive Industry Data for national & global Representation
- Protecting agents & focus on releasing pending payments from airlines, beginning with Jet Airways
- Working with other industry associations & strengthening participation of Allied Members
- Reactivating & Strengthening IATA's Travel Agent Redressal Programme
- Educating agents on NDC, changing IT regulations & application of AI for business
- Bring back legacy Agents-Airlines-IATA