

Create your own story in Saudi Arabia



FAITH proposes 'PM – HINES' market based incentive scheme for industry



FAITH, the policy federation of all the 10 national associations representing the tourism, travel and hospitality industry has proposed 'PM – HINES' or 'Prime Minister – Holiday in India Export Support' for the upcoming foreign trade policy to fast track tourism, travel and hospitality exports from India.

PM – HINES is a combination of two existing similar support mechanisms of the government of encouraging duty-free exports and PLI scheme. On similar concept, to increase tourism, travel and hospitality exports from India we are basing PM – HINES on two key market principals- Drawback of all domestic duties, levies and taxes which have become implicitly built into the price of tourism in India and Market linked Incentive based on increasing exports. FAITH believes this will immediately start make our tourism travel and hospitality exports competitive globally.

Malaysia Tourism launches Online Specialist Program to coincide with ongoing TAFI Convention

Malaysia Tourism has launched an online programme which is dubbed as Malaysia Master Online Specialist Program. The launch of the online specialist programme is coinciding with the TAFI's (Travel Agents Federation of India) ongoing Convention in Sarawak. The online specialist programme will be hosted on and executed by **TravelBiz**



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Monitor. Malaysia Tourism did a similar online programme in 2012. India remains and has been one of the top source markets for Malaysia, and has contributed 735,309 arrivals (+22 per cent) in 2019. The launch of the specialist programme will provide fillip to attract more tourists from India. It is important to mention here that this will be TAFI's third convention in Malaysia and around 700 members of the association are participating in the event.

VFS Global rolls out first-ever Indonesia fast-track visa on arrival service for 75 nationalities, including Indians

VFS Global has entered into an exclusive agreement with TLP, the Immigration Department for Republic of Indonesia and Bank Mandiri, to provide online pre-payment of fees, fast-track access and concierge services to international passengers upon arrival in Jakarta.

Nationals of the 75 eligible countries can apply for their



Indonesia Visa on Arrival through VFS Global by submitting their documents and paying the fees online at www.indonesiavao.vfsevisa.id prior to their travel. Jiten Vyas, Chief Commercial Officer, VFS Global said, "Indonesia is a popular destination for travellers across the globe, and we are excited to unveil a service that will make their visa application journey quicker and simpler. With tech-led Do It Yourself solutions becoming increasingly popular, this first-ever fast-track Visa on Arrival service is sure to offer applicants a more relaxed on-arrival experience."



Jyoti Mayal-led team re-elected unopposed for 2022-24 term

Jyoti Mayal-led team has been re-elected unopposed for the term 2022-24, as no one (other than the Mayal-led team) filed nomination for the fray. The last date of filing nomination was September 15. For the term 2022-24, office bearers remain unchanged. Jyoti Mayal will lead TAAI as President, Jay Bhatia will remain Vice President, and Bettaiah Lokesh, will continue as Hon. Secretary General; and Shreeram Patel, as Hon. Treasurer. Mayal and the team's victory marked the third time in a row despite the pandemic challenges.

Country's longest river cruise service to begin from early 2023

The country's longest river cruise service between Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Bogibeel in Assam will begin from early 2023, said Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

It will cover a distance of more than 4,000 kilometres through the Ganga, Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR) and Brahmaputra. This will give the people of Assam a chance to use waterways to promote trade and livelihood in tourism and cargo transportation, Sonowal added.



"Our government is also identifying avenues to promote inland navigation, river cruise tourism, and construction of suitable terminals across the Brahmaputra," Sonowal said.

Moscow City Tourism Committee debuts in India to tap weddings



The capital city of Russia, Moscow has identified India among its important priority markets, and has set its eyes on tapping the wedding and event segments from India.

During her recent visit to Mumbai, Anastasia Popova, Head of the Directorate of Congress, Exhibition and Industry Projects, Moscow City Tourism Committee, spoke to **TravelBiz Monitor** about their action plan. "India is among our key priority markets, and we are here to promote Moscow as a

wedding destination. We want to showcase there are many locations and quality hotels available for hosting Indian weddings. We have noticed that the Indian tourists know about old Moscow, but haven't been updated about new-age changes in the city."