

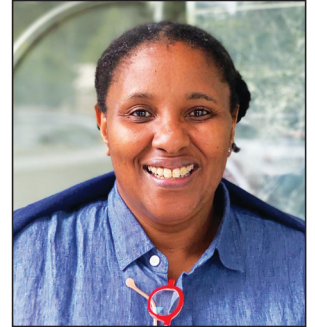
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## Visitors from Chennai to South Africa projected to grow at 30% CAGR by 2025

The city of Chennai is also projected to be South African Tourism's (SAT) highest growth market by 2025, with 30% CAGR. Given the strategic importance of this market, SAT engaged with the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation to discuss skill development and other potential collaborations, while also connecting with other key travel players and corporates.

Neliswa Nkani, Hub Head – Middle East, India and South East Asia, SAT, said, "We are delighted and humbled at the response that destination South Africa has been receiving from the travel fraternity in Chennai. Being one of our top 3 source markets from India and the highest projected growth market, we see immense potential in the city and have been exploring collaboration opportunities to further our footprint here. We are deeply invested in making the destination more accessible to Chennaites, and with support from the High Commissioner and Consul-General, will continue to push for a direct flight from India."



**Neliswa Nkani**

## Asian tourists to reach pre-pandemic intn'l travel levels by 2024: Agoda



Asian tourists are only expected to resume international travel at pre-pandemic levels gradually, by 2024, said Omri Morgenstern, CEO, Agoda. The Asia-focused company expects tourists from Asian countries, excluding China,

will take about six months after respective Covid-19 restrictions are lifted to travel confidently, said Morgenstern.

## Qatar halts visit visas during FIFA World Cup; allows only Hayya Cardholders

Qatar's Ministry of Interior has decided to suspend entry of all visitors through air, land and marine borders from November 1, 2022, allowing only Hayya Cardholders during the World Cup. It will resume the visit visas from December 23, 2022. The Ministry further announced that entry to Qatar is allowed only for Hayya cardholders, which will allow them to stay in the country until January 23, 2023.



## Canada to remove all travel restrictions from Oct 1

Canada will drop all COVID-19 restrictions for travellers from October 1, including vaccination and masking requirements for flights and trains, the government has said.

"As Canadians and international visitors look to make travel plans, the long-awaited removal of all remaining measures effective Oct. 1, 2022

will further expedite recovery for our industry and the Canadian economy," Canada's second-largest carrier WestJet Airlines said in a statement.



## STA partners with Valmiki Tourism for leisure tourism promotion in Telangana

Saudi Tourism Authority (STA) has appointed Hyderabad-based Valmiki Tourism as their marketing partner to promote Saudi Arabia for leisure business in Telangana. Valmiki Hari Kishan, Founder, Valmiki Tourism said, "It's a privilege to work for such a niche segment.

Apart from Hajj pilgrimage, it is an archaeological-rich, multicultural market place and popular tourist destination well worth visiting."



**Valmiki Hari Kishan**

## Navi Mumbai international airport will be operational in 2024: Devendra Fadnavis



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has said that the under-construction Navi Mumbai international airport will become operational in 2024.

The Minister made the comment while addressing the Maratha Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA).

The Navi Mumbai Airport project will be carried out on a public-private partnership model and the City and Industrial and Development Corporation (Cidco), which is the project implementation agency, will incur pre-development work costs.

## Air India extends benefits of Flying Returns till March 31, 2023

Air India's Flying Returns, its first frequent flyer programme, has extended the validity of flying returns (FR) points, tier status and member status, and associated benefits till March 31, 2023. Air India has been



extending the validity for its 3.3 million members since March 31, 2020 so that frequent flyers, who may have postponed their travel plans due to COVID, can still avail the wide range of benefits.