

AITTC Newsletter

Issue No - 3 May/June 2013

We welcome you with our third issue of our bi-monthly newsletter.

While progressing with organisation set up, we have amicably nominated the following as office bearers to drive AITTC into the next stage:

Name	Position	Mobile
Sandip Hor	Chairman	+61 0 412 521 416
Ian Cameron	Co- Chairman	+61 0 415 853 134
Shanker Dhar	Vice Chairman	+61 0 403 063 700
Philip Pratley	Secretary	+61 0 466 149 552
Arnold De Souza	Treasurer	+61 0 419 221 955
K.K. Gupta	Public Officer	+61 0 410417 802

Five Star PR remains as the Public Relations Director while i-Databits Technology provides the IT support. Representatives from both the organisations are part of the Executive Committee.

Still three Executive Committee member positions are vacant; so if anyone interested to contribute towards success of AITTC, then please do not hesitate to contact the office bearers.

The development of the Strategic Plan is progressing and it's expected that soon we will be able to present the first draft to our members and stakeholders for consultation. As AITTC is going through its start up phase, the plan focuses on two key aspects – getting the house in order with suitable internal processes and procedures while determining its strategies for future growth with more membership and value adding services to its members and stakeholders

We are keen to commence India operations to make AITTC meaningfully bilateral and Shanker Dhar, by virtue of his extensive background with India Tourism, has been entrusted to expedite the matter. Any suggestions on way forward will be highly appreciated and may please be made directly with Shanker.

We have updated our website to include newsletters, major events and offering links with VFS Global who provides Indian visa services in Australia

Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE), the nation's premier tourism event and international travel trade show was successfully held in April in Sydney. Philip Pratley attended the mega- happening and had a chance to meet the 15 travel agents who came from India. Please contact Philip if anyone interested to get details of the Indian agents. Next year the event will be held in Cairns.

Provided below is some industry news that may be of importance to you:

Major Indian conference to be held in Sydney in November 2013



The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs of the Government of India has decided to hold the 2013 Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Convention in Sydney over three days from November 10-12, 2013. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Hon. Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and the Hon. Barry O'Farrell, Premier of NSW, jointly made the announcement at 1530 Hrs AEST via a video link simultaneously in New Delhi and Sydney. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vayalar Ravi noted that the objective of the event is to reach out to those members of the community who have been unable to participate in the annual PBD in India, and to provide a platform for the Indian community in Australia and the Pacific to contribute to the relationship between countries of the region and India. AITTC Chairman Sandip Hor was present during the video conferencing along with His Excellency Biren Nanda, Indian High Commissioner to Australia and Mr Arun Kumar Goel Consul General of India Sydney

Tourists from India to Australia

There were 15400 visitors from India during March 2013, bringing the total for the three months to March to 41100, an increase of 4.3 per cent relative to the same period previous year.

Australia in the best country in the world

Australia has been voted the 'Best Country in the World' by readers of one of the UK's top luxury travel magazines. The country's latest tourism accolade was awarded by the readers of the Telegraph's Ultratravel magazine as part of their annual reader survey.

Lures of Australia



According to the latest research by the Australian Tourism Commission, Australian food and wine is viewed as the number one attraction by 53% of all international visitors surveyed, after visiting Australia. This has prompted ATC to make food and wine the emphasis of their upcoming marketing efforts. On the ground, this push will put additional pressure on regional businesses that may not be ready for the magnitude of this tourism influx.

Foreign tourist's arrival in India

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) showed a growth of 2.8% in March 2013 over March 2012. FTAs during the Month of March 2013 were 640000 as compared to FTAs of 623000 during the month of March 2012 and 536000 in March 2011. There has been a growth of 2.8% in March 2013 over March 2012 as

compared to a growth of 16.3% registered in March 2012 over March 2011. FTAs during the period January-March 2013 were 2027000 lakh with a growth of 2.3%, as compared to the FTAs of 1981000 with a growth of 10.9% during January-March 2012 over the corresponding period of 2011.

Strict measures to ensure tourist safety



In the aftermath of multiple incidents involving crimes against tourists in the state and travel advisories issued by multiple countries against India, the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa has constituted strict measures to safeguard tourist safety, especially women travellers. One of the initiatives taken by the department specifically for women is setting up of a Tourist Police Force comprising 200-250 IRB (Indian Reserve Battalion) Police. Around 50 of them will be lady constables. The department is also contemplating formation of all women Police team for night patrolling to instil confidence among women tourists and to intervene in any emergency situation. The Police staff which has been drawn from the Indian Reserve Battalion force has been sensitized and trained to deal with the safety and security requirements especially of women travellers visiting the State. Apart from this, the department has also appointed night patrolling teams with one team deployed each in North and South Goa. For a more holistic safety of tourists, the department has also set up Surveillance and Monitoring Teams (SMTs) led by Assistant Tourists Officers.

Taj Group launches its 100th hotel in India



The Taj Group, India's largest hospitality group has launched its 100th hotel in India; Vivanta by Taj, in the millennium city of Gurgaon. The group has 117 hotels globally with a total of 26 hotels part of the Vivanta by

Taj - Hotels & Resorts portfolio. Vivanta by Taj Gurgaon is located 30km south of the national capital, New Delhi. Situated close to the business district and recreational hotspots including Kingdom of Dreams, the DLF golf course and Gurgaon's ubiquitous malls, the hotel provides an opportunity to experience cool and distinctive luxury. Vivanta by Taj - Gurgaon offers an über-cool escape for the 'work hard play hard' traveler who seeks edgy spaces.

Visa on arrival at more Indian Airports

Currently, the visa-on-arrival scheme is available at four international airports – Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata. The Tourism Ministry is in talks with the Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs to extend the visa-on-arrival facility at more airports like Bangalore and Hyderabad to visitors from about 15 countries. At present, it covers citizens of over 11 countries including Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines and Myanmar.

India's Biggest Shopping Mall



Cochin gets a new landmark — the country's biggest shopping arcade. The 2.5 million sq ft — imagine 33 football fields — Lulu Mall is opened in Cochin. The mall is spread over 17 acres, rising three levels. Located at Edappally, at the intersection of NH-47, 17 and the Kochi by-pass, the mall has easy access to the Cochin International Airport as also the railway station. The mall, set to house the best of luxury and lifestyle brands, will redefine the shopping experience. Cuisines international and Indian will be served up at the food court that can take 3,500 people at one go. Scattered about across the mall will be coffee shops and dine-in outlets. The first McDonald's restaurant in Kerala will also open at the mall. Lulu has set aside 22,000 sq ft just for this. A 5,000 sq ft Ice Rink, a 5-D cinema hall, bowling alleys, water rides and games arcades offer diverse engagements. There is Marriott's 300-room hotel. Designed by UK-based consultants WS Atkins, the mall has a parking facility for 3,000 cars with access from all the main roads.

Dragon Air increases flights to Kolkata

Dragon Air has announced that it will operate an extra service between Kolkata and Hong Kong from October 4. The additional service will bring the total number of flights between the two cities from four to five flights per week, giving passengers greater flexibility for travel to Hong Kong and onward to other destinations through the extensive global network of Dragon Air and its sister airline, Cathay Pacific.



Singapore Airlines flights to India

Singapore Airlines and its subsidiaries are planning to increase flights to Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai once Singapore government works out allotment of India seats. Singapore Airlines (SIA), which currently operates three flights from Delhi and two each from Hyderabad and Chennai per week, would be increasing frequency to these Indian cities, after Singapore government works out on allotment of India seats to airlines. SIA along with full-service subsidiary SilkAir and low-cost carrier affiliate Tiger Airways are utilizing over 70 per cent of capacity between India and Singapore. The three carriers currently provide around 29,000 one-way weekly seats to India. Last month, India has revised its bilateral air services agreement (ASA) with Singapore which allowed increase of 2160 seats per week, about 10 per cent, for the Singapore-based carriers.

Contact

Sandip Hor – sandip.hor@aittc.net.

Nicole Lenoir Jordan – nicole@fivestarpr.com.au

News items has been sourced from various media releases