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MoT sanctions 3 Swadesh Darshan projects in Gujarat: G. Kishan Reddy



The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 03 projects for the total amount of INR 179.68 Crore under Swadesh

Darshan scheme and 03 Projects for total of INR105.56cr under 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' in the state of Gujarat. This information was given by Minister of Tourism G. Kishan Reddy in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

Lakshadweep to get Maldives-style water villas soon

Lakshadweep will soon have three premium Maldives-style water villas. As per the reports, the three premium projects will come up at Kadmat, Minicoy, and Suheli islands. Around INR 800 crore will be used in this ambitious project, and the administration has already floated global tenders recently.

Reportedly, three premium water villa projects have been identified in Minicoy (150 keys, and project to cost around INR 319 crore), Suheli (110 keys, and project to cost around INR 247 crore), and Kadmat (110 keys, and INR 240 crore to be used in the project) islands, based on comprehensive location suitability analysis, technical and financial feasibility and project structuring, the administration added in its statement. In a move to create a robust base for maritime economic growth with tourism development at its core, the administration informed that it is making efforts to engage in developing eco- tourism projects at these islands as anchor projects under the aegis of NITI Aayog.



Turkey's Arslantepe Mound added to UNESCO World Heritage list

The Arslantepe Mound, a 8000-year old archaeological mound was inscribed on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites positioning Turkey as a destination with a record number of recognition for its cultural heritage sites. The announcement was done during the recently held Extended 44th UNESCO World Heritage Committee online session in Fuzhou, China.

"The archaeological site of Arslantepe is located in Southeastern Turkey on the Malatya plain, 5 kilometers from the city center and 15 km from the Euphrates River. Malatya is merely a one-hour flight distance from Istanbul. It is a 4-hectare and 30-meter high archaeological mound dominating the plain and formed by the superimposition of settlements for millennia from at least the 6th millennium BCE to the late Roman period," UNESCO said.



IATA urges India to lift restrictions on international flights, end domestic fare capping

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) urged the Indian government to remove COVID-19 related restrictions on airlines in the country. The body of 290 global airlines wants India



to resume operation of international flights along with an end to capacity restrictions and fare capping for domestic airlines.

Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA said the Indian government

should make decisions based on data and science, and remove the restrictions that are impeding the recovery of the aviation sector. "Politicians are quick to impose measures but slow to remove them," said Walsh. He added that travel bubbles were not intended for long-term use but for the return of stranded citizens in other countries. The current global situation was different from last year, he said.

Newly elected Managing Committee of TAFI held its first meeting in Mumbai

The newly elected Managing Committee of TAFI (Travel Agents Federation of India) held its first meeting in Mumbai on 28th



July. Two members Sampat Damani, Disha Travels, Mumbai and S. Baskar, Champion Travels, Chennai were inducted to the MC as per the rules. Besides this, the meeting also

recognised Pradip Lulla as the Immediate Past President. The Managing Committee also appointed Anil Kalsi and Lalith Jain as Joint Secretary and Joint Treasurer respectively.

The meeting also discussed the constitution of a "Think Tank" comprising industry thought leaders, streamlining the functioning of the association through proactive initiatives and the creation of various sub-committees to assist the MC in addressing members' issues.

UAE lifts ban on transit flights from India, 5 other countries

The United Arab Emirates will lift a ban on transit passenger traffic from India, Pakistan, Nigeria and other countries from August 5, the country's National Emergency and Crisis Management Authority (NCEMA) said.

The UAE, a major international travel hub, has banned passengers from many South Asian and African countries for several months due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala to start ultra-low cost airline Akasa Air

Billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala is planning on having 70 aircraft within four years for a new airline he wants to set up in India on



Rakesh Jhunjhunwal

optimism more people will travel by air. Jhunjhunwala, who is considering investing \$35 million and would own 40% of the carrier, expects to get a no-objection certificate from India's aviation ministry in the next 15 days, he said in a Television interview. The ultra-low cost airline will be called Akasa Air and the team, which includes a former senior executive of Delta Air Lines Inc., is looking at planes that can carry 180 passengers, he said.