

1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE FORTNIGHTLY

TRAVTALK

Published from : ★ India ★ Middle East

Covid safety certification body in India

QualSTAR CLASSIFICATION & RATING

www.TravTalkIndia.com

Your daily 2-minute news capsule

TRAVELTV.NEWS

Anytime & Anywhere

www.TravelTV.news

STB India Roadshow 2021

Kicking off the new year early to connect with the travel trade fraternity in India, Singapore Tourism Board (STB) is organising its first Virtual Tradeshow series over a four-day period starting January 12, 2021. Speaking of the initiative, **GB Srithar**, Regional Director, India, Middle East & South Asia, said, "We invite our valued partner-friends to join us and the expected 40+ Singapore tourism stakeholders (comprising attractions, DMCs and hotels) to network and re-engage. Themed 'Charting Our Pathways to Tourism Recovery', we will present

latest developments in Singapore and share information on product enhancements." The roadshows will be held by region: **January 12 - South India, January 15 - North India, January 19 - West India, January 21 - East India.**



GB Srithar
Regional Director, India, Middle East & South Asia, Singapore Tourism Board

MOT has its plate full

Rupinder Brar, ADG, Ministry of Tourism, says that it is imperative that the government and industry work together in promoting both domestic and international travel by leveraging infrastructure development and heritage.

Nisha Verma

Challenging times that COVID-19 brought along have made Ministry of Tourism think out of the box, claims **Rupinder Brar**, adding that she's glad the industry and government are on the same page, giving them comfort that there is harmony in the thought process. "All that needs to be done is to actually start working together on a few things," she suggested.



Rupinder Brar
Additional Director General, MOT

Brar also shared that they are considering the option of providing insurance to inbound travellers. "We are studying

international models to see how we, as a country, can incentivise travellers to come to our country and offer a certain sense of security, which would aid the process. MOT is in dialogue with insurance providers as well as the Ministry of Finance to see if the government could take the tab for insurance, and if not, we could at least put a structure in place for the same. There is a lot of learning for all of us in that and we will be taking it forward," she revealed. Brar

MOT is in dialogue with MoF to see if the government could take the insurance tab

was addressing attendees at a webinar organised by FAITH titled 'Aviation & Insurance'.

Contd on page 10 ▶

Biggest learnings of 2020

Year 2020, when the travel trade had to not only bear the effects of a pandemic but also learn from it, is finally drawing to a close. Here, they share some of the biggest learnings to be remembered by generations...



Homa Mistry
CEO, Trail Blazer Tours

"The biggest learning has been how to survive by reducing expenses. However, there were many pending issues, which in our day-to-day life and corporate world we are unable to do, like product training for our own staff, which we have never given before. Secondly, a lot of work has happened on the IT front to make things more standardised, faster,

sanitised, look and feel better. There is a lot of work that has happened in the back office. We were not able to do a lot of things, but we have been able to achieve a lot during this period."



Sandeep Dwivedi
COO, ITA

"I can list three learnings from 2020: first, aviation is a fundamentally strong industry depicted in the fact that a pandemic-level disruption was required to bring it to an absolute standstill. Second, innovations thrive in disruptions, that is, when the core foundation is shaken, either you struggle to survive underneath the debris or find innovative methods to emerge stronger. Finally, it is best to be a future-oriented organisation with a dedicated committee to constantly analyse the plausible risks for the short, medium and long term, and develop solid risk-aversion techniques."

Contd on page 8 ▶

Northeast: A challenge to open up

Industry leaders are pleading for co-ordinated state rules and COVID-19 protocols in the Northeast region.

Hazel Jain

Most states in the Northeast region have now opened up their borders for non-essential, tourist traffic. Assam has also eased travel restrictions, and tourists carrying a negative RT-PCR certificate can travel anywhere within the state. However, since travellers to Assam like to visit neighbouring states of Meghalaya and Arunachal



Ranjeet Das
President, TOAA

Pradesh as well, the lack of uniformity in rules and regulations between the

Contd on page 15 ▶