



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

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India's Hotel Sector Poised for Stronger Growth in Second Half of FY27

NEW DELHI: India's hotel industry is expected to gain further momentum in the second half of FY27, supported by strong domestic leisure demand and a gradual recovery in corporate and international travel, according to a sector report by Phillip Capital.

The hospitality sector remained resilient during the first quarter of FY27 despite geopolitical disruptions and seasonal challenges. Industry occupancy increased by

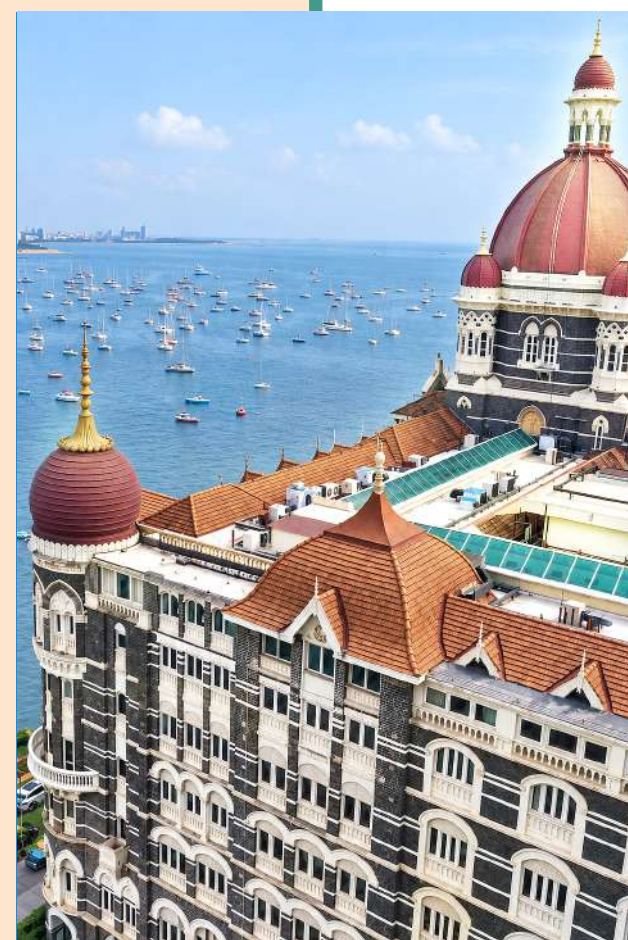
2-4 percentage points year-on-year, while average room rates (ARR) rose by 6-8 per cent. Revenue per available room (RevPAR), a key indicator of hotel performance, grew by 11-13 per cent during the quarter.

Leisure destinations lead recovery

Demand during the first quarter was particularly strong in leisure destinations, with resorts outperforming business-focused hotels. Indian Hotels recorded

RevPAR growth in the high-20 per cent range in Rajasthan and Goa. Chalet Hotels reported a 19 per cent increase in RevPAR at its resorts, compared with around 5 per cent growth at its business hotels. Leela Hotels also saw stronger growth at its resorts, where RevPAR rose 24 per cent, compared with 14 per cent at city hotels. The trend highlights the continuing strength of domestic leisure travel, even as corporate

(Cont. on page - 6)



A B2B FAMILIARIZATION VOYAGE FROM COCHIN TO MUMBAI HIGHLIGHTS THE GROWING POTENTIAL OF CRUISE TOURISM IN INDIA

Cordelia Cruises: Sailing Towards a New Era of Cruise Tourism from Kerala

COCHIN: Cruise tourism is steadily emerging as one of the most promising segments of India's travel and tourism industry, and the recent familiarization voyage organized by Cordelia Cruises for its B2B travel partners from Cochin to Mumbai offered an excellent opportunity to experience the product first-hand and understand the immense possibilities of cruise holidays.

The FAM trip brought together travel trade partners for an immersive cruise experience, enabling them to explore the ship, understand its accommodation, dining, entertainment and recreational facilities,



and experience the overall cruising lifestyle. The well-planned programme also provided the participating B2B partners with comprehensive product orientation, helping them gain a better understand-

ing of how cruise holidays can be positioned and promoted to the growing Indian travel market, observed by VS Abdulkareem, CMD – Flycreative Online Limited, who participated in the FAM.

The initiative assumes particular significance at a time when India is gradually evolving as an important cruise tourism destination and potentially a future cruise hub in the region. With a vast coastline, diverse destinations, a growing middle class and increasing demand for experiential holidays, cruise tourism offers considerable opportunities for both domestic and international tourism.

For Kerala in particular, the prospects are encouraging. The state has been witnessing strong growth in tourism traffic, supported by its unique combination of beaches, backwaters, hill destinations, Ayurveda, wellness, culture and hospitality.

The development of cruise connectivity from Cochin can add another attractive dimension to Kerala's tourism product and provide travellers with an entirely different holiday experience.

(Cont. on page - 6)

IndiGo to Strengthen Gaya - Bangkok Air Connectivity

GAYA: IndiGo is set to strengthen international air connectivity from Bihar with the launch of a direct service between Gaya and Bangkok from October 26,

2026. The new connection is expected to provide a significant boost to tourism and pilgrimage travel between Bihar and Thailand, particularly benefiting vis-

itors travelling to Bodh Gaya, one of the world's most important Buddhist pilgrimage destinations.

Bodh Gaya attracts pilgrims and tourists from across the globe, especially from Buddhist-majority countries in Southeast and East Asia. Improved direct connectivity with Bangkok is expected to make the

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We are very pleased to announce that, **one** is coming out with a special Saudi National Day e-supplement on 22nd September, 2026 along with the regular issue.

This special e-supplement will carry highly researched and informative features, articles and photographs — all exclusively on the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This edition will be e-presented to the heads of several missions in India and to our embassies abroad, apart from corporate houses and top political leaders.

Saudi Arabia is a major trade partner of India and to further strengthen the friendship and trade relations between Saudi Arabia and India, our special edition will be communicating goodwill messages to His Highness King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the people of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Egypt: Where the Pyramids, Pharaohs and the Nile Tell an Eternal Story

BY PRINCE MANJALIL

From the monumental pyramids of Giza to the hidden tombs of Luxor, Egypt's ancient landscape remains a remarkable testament to a civilisation that shaped history.

Few places on Earth evoke the mystery and grandeur of the ancient world quite like Egypt. Across its deserts and along the banks of the Nile stand

eteries, workers' settlements and the enigmatic Great Sphinx.

The Great Pyramid, built for Pharaoh Khufu, is the most famous of the three. Along with the Pyramid of Khafre, it represents the extraordinary architectural and engineering abilities of ancient Egyptian civilisation. For centuries, these structures have stood as powerful symbols of Egypt

south, near modern-day Luxor, lies another extraordinary chapter of ancient Egyptian history - the Valley of the Kings.

For almost 500 years, from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Dynasties of the New Kingdom, this dramatic desert valley served as a burial ground for pharaohs and powerful nobles. Instead of building enormous pyramids, the rulers of this era had elaborate tombs carved deep into the surrounding rock.

The valley lies on the western bank of the Nile, opposite ancient Thebes, within the vast Theban Necropolis.

It is divided principally into the East Valley, where most of the known royal



Nile: The River That Made Egypt

inscriptions, reveal much about the beliefs, rituals and expectations surrounding death and the afterlife in ancient Egypt. They also demonstrate how Egyptian funerary traditions evolved over the centuries.

Nile: The River That Made Egypt

Connecting these ancient landscapes is the

through northeastern Africa, the Nile eventually reaches the Mediterranean Sea. Its waters have supported agriculture, settlements, trade and transportation across the region for thousands of years, earning the river a unique place in the environmental, economic and cultural history of Africa.

The Nile is formed by two major tributaries - the White Nile and the Blue Nile. The White Nile is the longer of the two and is traditionally regarded as the main headwater, beginning in the Lake Victoria region before flowing through Uganda and South Sudan.

The Blue Nile begins at Lake Tana in Ethiopia and contributes a much greater volume of water. The two rivers meet at Khartoum in Sudan, creating the main Nile that continues northwards through the Nubian Desert and into Egypt.

Passing through Cairo, the river eventually reaches the Mediterranean, where it spreads into the fertile Nile Delta, one of the most important agricultural regions of Egypt.

A Civilisation Written in Stone and Water

The pyramids, royal tombs and the Nile are more than individual attractions. Together, they tell the story of a civilisation that understood architecture, astronomy, agriculture, engineering and the importance of preserving its cultural traditions.



Pyramids of Giza

monuments that have survived thousands of years, offering a glimpse into one of history's most fascinating civilisations.

At the heart of this extraordinary legacy is the Giza Pyramid Complex, also known as the Giza Necropolis. Built during the Fourth Dynasty of Egypt's Old Kingdom, around 2600 -2500 BC, the complex is home to three monumental pyramids - the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Pyramid of Khafre and the Pyramid of Menkaure - together with temples, cem-

and its ancient heritage.

Their fame spread far beyond Egypt in antiquity. During the Hellenistic period, the Great Pyramid was recognised as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, a distinction that has given it an enduring place in global history. Remarkably, it is the oldest of the Seven Wonders and the only one still substantially surviving today.

But Egypt's story does not end at Giza.

A Valley of Kings and Hidden Tombs

Hundreds of kilometres



Valley of Kings and Hidden Tombs

tombs are located, and the West Valley, also known as the Valley of the Monkeys.

The rock-cut tombs, decorated with paintings and

Nile, the great river that has been central to Egyptian civilisation for millennia.

Flowing northwards

Air India, Drukair partner to boost India-Bhutan connectivity

NEW DELHI: Air India and Drukair, Royal Bhutan Airlines, have entered into an interline partnership to make travel between India, Bhutan and international destinations more convenient.

The agreement enables passengers to book eligible journeys on both airlines under a single ticket, with coordinated connections and baggage transfers to the final destination.

Through Air India's Delhi hub, passengers can connect to Dru-

kair services to Paro, Bumthang, Gelephu and Yonphula. Drukair passengers, meanwhile, can connect through Delhi, Guwahati and Kolkata to Air India's extensive do-

mestic network, including Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kochi.

The partnership also provides Drukair travellers with access to Air India's international destinations, including London, Paris, Frankfurt, New York, Toronto, Sydney and Melbourne.

The airlines said the agreement will strengthen tourism, business travel and people-to-people ties between India and Bhutan while offering travellers greater choice and seamless connectivity.



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WILL BE A RELIABLE INTERFACE BETWEEN JOB PROVIDERS AND JOB SEEKERS

Uzbekistan Opens Doors to Indian Travellers with 30-Day Visa-Free Entry

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan has announced a 30-day visa-free regime for Indian citizens, marking a major boost for tourism, business travel and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

The announcement was made by Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Uzbekistan. The move is expected to make the Central Asian destination more accessible to Indian tourists and business travellers.

Air connectivity between



the two countries has also strengthened significantly, with 14 direct flights operating every week. The increased connectivity, coupled with visa-free access, is expected to encourage more Indian visitors to explore Uzbekistan's historic cities, cultural heritage and growing business opportunities.

President Mirziyoyev highlighted the expanding India-Uzbekistan partnership, noting that bilateral trade crossed US\$1 billion last year, while the number of joint ventures between the two countries has increased sevenfold in recent years.

The visa-free initiative is being seen as an important step in deepening economic, cultural and tourism ties between India and Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan's President said the measure would contribute significantly to strengthening people-to-people contacts, tourism and business exchanges.

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GULF FAQs

Is a husband legally required to document divorce?

I am a Muslim woman. I would like to know whether the husband is responsible, under the new Personal Status Law, for documenting the divorce and the "take back" (revocation). Are there any penalties if he fails to do so?

Yes, the husband is required to document the divorce and may be liable to pay compensation if he fails to do so. Article-58 of Federal Decree-Law No. 41 of 2024 on the Issuance

of the Personal Status Law states: The husband must document the divorce before the competent court within a maximum period of 15 days from the date of its occurrence. This does not affect the wife's right to file a case to prove the divorce.

If the husband fails to document the divorce within the specified period, without an excuse acceptable to the court, the wife is entitled to compensation equivalent to alimony from



the date of the divorce until the date of its documentation. Furthermore, the husband must also document the take back, as

per Article -64 of the same law: In the case of a revocable divorce, the husband must document the take back before the competent

court within a maximum period of 15 days from the date of the take back if the divorce has already been documented. He must also inform the wife of the take back immediately upon its occurrence, even if the divorce has not been documented.

If the husband fails to document the take back within the specified period, and the woman is unaware of it and marries another person, the take back becomes invalid.

Who is responsible for the up-keep of property?

I am seeing many contradictory explanations online about who is responsible for main-

tenance in Dubai buildings – the landlord or the tenant. How is this determined, and what does the law say? My landlord says that minor maintenance, such as changing bulbs and fixing small bathroom fitting leaks, must be handled by me, while major issues like air conditioning or windows are his responsibility. Is this correct?



tenance in Dubai buildings – the landlord or the tenant. How is this determined, and what does the law say? My landlord says that minor maintenance, such as changing bulbs and fixing small bathroom fitting leaks, must be handled by me, while major issues like air conditioning or windows are his responsibility. Is this correct?

In Dubai, it is the responsibility of a landlord to carry out the maintenance and repair works of a rented apartment. This is in accordance with Article-16 of Law No. 26 of 2007 regulating the relationship between landlords and tenants in the Emirate of Dubai, which states: "Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, a landlord shall, during the term of the lease contract,

that affects the tenant's full intended use of the real property."

Furthermore, a landlord may be responsible for rectifying any breakdown, damages or defects caused to a rented apartment if such breakdown, damages or defects are caused due to reasons which are beyond the control of a tenant.

This is in accordance with Article 17 of the Dubai Rent Law, which states: "A landlord may not make to the real property or any of its facilities or appurtenances, any changes that preclude the intended use of the same.

The landlord shall be responsible for any such changes, whether made by him or by any other person authorised by him. In addition, the landlord shall be responsible for any breakdown, impairment, defect

or damage sustained by the real property for reasons beyond the control of the tenant." A tenant must pay rent on time and take reasonable care of the property. A tenant is only responsible for minor restorations or maintenance that are agreed upon or customary for tenants.

Any changes, repairs or restorations must be approved by a landlord and the necessary official authorities. This is in accordance with Article-19 of the Dubai Rent Law, which states: "The tenant must pay the rent on due dates

and maintain the real property in such a manner as an ordinary person would maintain his own property.

Without prejudice to the tenant's obligation to carry out the restorations that have been agreed upon or which are customary for tenants to undertake, the tenant may not make any changes or carry out any restoration or maintenance works to the real property unless so permitted by the landlord and after obtaining required licences from the competent official entities."

In view of the above, it is the responsibility of your landlord to carry out the maintenance and repair works of the rented apartment unless it is agreed in the tenancy contract that specific maintenance and repair works are undertaken by you at your own cost.

However, as a tenant, it is your responsibility to maintain the rented apartment in good condition and not to make any changes and/or carry out restoration or maintenance works without obtaining the permission of your landlord and the competent authorities.

When can a ship be impounded to recover debt in UAE?

I am an Indian businessman living and working in the UAE and I have a loan against one person who owns a ship. Do I have the right to attach the ship in order to guarantee my money? What are the procedures of such attachment?

You can attach the ship only in case your debt is considered as maritime debt, according to Article-53 of the Federal Decree Law No. (43) Of 2023 Concerning the Maritime Law which exclusively defines the maritime debts and stipulates that "Pre-

judgment attachment shall be created on the ship in satisfaction of a maritime debt only, by a decision of the competent court".

The procedures for such attachment are: You should submit the application to the competent court. You should submit a financial guarantee with the attachment to fulfil the necessary needs for the security and safety of the ship and its crew during the period of attachment.

The competent court should accept the financial guarantee submitted by the attachment application. The attachment of the

ship shall result in preventing the same from sailing. A copy of the Prejudgment attachment report shall be delivered by the enforcement officer to the ship agent or to the captain of the ship or his representative.

The Prejudgment attachment applicant shall file a case for the validity of the attachment before the competent court in whose jurisdiction the attachment is executed, not later than five working days from the date of the attachment. Otherwise, the Prejudgment attachment shall be considered null and void.

Cordelia Cruises: Sailing Towards a New E of...

(Cont. from page - 1)

The proposed commencement of new sector operations from Cochin to the Maldives and Colombo, expected from October, could further strengthen this opportunity. Such connectivity has the potential to make cruise holidays more accessible to Indian travellers, while also creating attractive itineraries for

international visitors looking to combine Kerala with neighbouring destinations.

For the travel trade, the growing cruise segment also opens up a new avenue for business diversification. Cruise holidays can be packaged for families, leisure travellers, groups, corporate incentives, MICE movements, celebrations and special-interest tour-

ism. With the right product knowledge and customer orientation, B2B travel partners can play an important role in taking cruise tourism beyond the traditional metropolitan markets.

The Cordelia Cruises FAM trip therefore goes beyond simply showcasing a cruise product. It represents an important step towards building product

awareness within the travel trade and creating a stronger ecosystem for cruise tourism in India.

As consumer preferences continue to evolve from conventional sightseeing towards experiential and multi-destination holidays, cruising is well positioned to become an increasingly important component of the Indian tourism land-

scape. With Cochin's strategic location, Kerala's booming tourism potential and expanding regional connectivity, the future of cruise tourism from Kerala looks particularly promising. The journey has only begun—and Kerala could well be sailing towards becoming one of India's most exciting gateways for cruise tourism

Goa Tourism Gains Momentum, 61.38 Lakh Visitors in Seven Months

PANAJI: Goa welcomed 61.38 lakh tourists between January and July 2026, with the state witnessing steady demand even during the traditionally lean monsoon season. The latest figures have strengthened expectations of a busy winter tourism season, supported by rising international charter bookings and growing interest in experiences beyond Goa's beaches.

Of the total visitors during the first seven months, 59.02 lakh were domestic tourists, while 2.36 lakh were international visitors. Overall arrivals increased marginally by 0.08 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year. July recorded 6.94 lakh visitors, registering a 2.27 per cent year-on-year increase, indicat-



ing that monsoon tourism is gaining traction.

Tourism beyond beaches

Goa Tourism is increasingly promoting the state as a year-round destination, encouraging visitors to explore its culture, heritage, cuisine, wellness, nature and hinterland rather than restricting their holidays to conventional beach

tourism.

The state is also developing segments such as wellness, heritage, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions), adventure, nautical and spiritual tourism, gastronomy and workations. The strategy is aimed at attracting visitors throughout the year and reducing dependence on the tradi-

tional peak tourist season.

Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte said the latest numbers reflected the resilience of Goa's tourism sector despite uncertainty in global travel markets. The state, he said, is working to diversify both its tourism products and in-

ternational source markets while strengthening connectivity.

The international tourism outlook for the upcoming winter season is particularly encouraging. TUI Group is scheduled to begin charter arrivals in November, with four flights a week from the UK- two from Manchester and two from Gatwick.

Air India teases arrival of another Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner

NEW DELHI: Air India has teased the arrival of another Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner from Boeing's facility in Everett, Washington, marking another step in the Tata Group-owned airline's ongoing fleet modernisation programme.

The airline shared an image of the aircraft fresh from the Boeing factory, describing it as another milestone in its transformation journey. However, Air India has not disclosed the aircraft's registration or delivery timeline.

The latest development comes as Air India contin-

ues to expand and modernise its wide-body fleet. The airline received its first factory-built Boeing 787-9 in January this year. The aircraft, equipped with three cabin classes, features interiors specifically designed for Air India and installed on Boeing's production line.

Alongside new aircraft induction, Air India is also undertaking a major refurbishment programme for its existing Boeing 787-8 fleet. Twenty-six legacy Dreamliners are being progressively upgraded with modern interiors and the airline's new branding.

IndiGo to Strengthen Gaya - Bangkok...

(Cont. from page - 1) destination more accessible and support the growth of the region's tourism and hospitality sectors.

The development also underlines the growing importance of Gaya Airport as an international gateway for Bihar and could contribute to stron-

ger cultural, religious and people-to-people ties between India and Thailand.

The new international link is expected to further enhance Bihar's position on the global Buddhist tourism circuit while opening up greater opportunities for the state's travel and tourism industry.

India's Hotel Sector Poised for...

(Cont. from page - 1) travel has taken longer to recover.

Weddings and MICE to boost demand

The outlook for the coming months is encouraging, with a heavier wedding calendar expected to generate additional hotel demand. Improving MICE - Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions -activity is also likely to support occupancy and room rates.

International travel is expected to pick up seasonally from October, as connectivity improves and overseas visitor demand

gradually recovers. Phillip Capital said limited additions to hotel supply in several key markets could further support room rates and RevPAR as demand strengthens.

The report expects domestic leisure demand to remain strong in Q2FY27, while corporate travel gradually normalises and international tourism continues its recovery.

Positive outlook for hospitality industry

The combination of rising travel demand, limited new hotel supply and improving corporate and international activity is

expected to create a favourable environment for India's hospitality sector during the remainder of FY27.

The industry's performance also reflects a broader shift in India's travel market, with domestic tourists increasingly driving demand for resorts and leisure destinations across the country.

With the wedding season, festive travel, MICE activity and international tourism expected to gather pace, India's hotel sector appears well positioned for a stronger second half of FY27.