

International tourism likely to open in India by 15 October

International tourists may be able to travel to India by October 15 and an announcement is likely to be made by the Central government soon, Union Minister of State for Tourism Shripad Naik said.

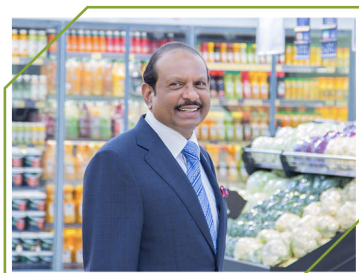
"As Covid-19 decreases, we will start national and international tourism. The announcement will be made soon and there is a possibility of it beginning after October 15," Naik told reporters. "International flights have started and we have requested for charter flights to resume by a particular date so that people can book trips to India and nowhere else," he added.

International charter flights account for a bulk of the foreign tourist footfalls to Goa. Earlier this month, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had forwarded a request made by travel and tourism industry stakeholders to the Union Home Affairs Ministry urging the latter to grant permissions to international charter flights at the earliest.

(Source: www.traveldailymedia.com)



'Online shopping will thrive, but malls are here to stay'



BENGALURU: Abu Dhabi-based Lulu Group International has opened its new shopping mall in Bengaluru, after the pandemic somewhat delayed its mall development pipeline in India. Global Malls, an eight lakh sq ft property in Rajajinagar, opened on Monday and is spread across 14 acres. The mall will have a 2 lakh sq ft Lulu Hypermarket and a 60,000 sq ft entertainment zone 'Funtura'.

Lulu Group has invested ₹5000 crore in five properties in the country - Lulu Mall Kochi and Y Mall Triprayar are operational, Global Malls, Bengaluru, and Trivandrum and Lucknow will open soon. While the company usually owns and operates its own malls, Lulu has the leasehold and management rights to the Bengaluru mall.

In an interview, Lulu Group chairman and managing director M.A Yusuf Ali spoke about the recovery of the retail sector, co-existence of online and offline retail and India being an important part in its growth plans. Edited excerpts can be viewed on the hyperlinked source.

(Source : www.livemint.com)

Varanasi to Become First City in India to Use Ropeway Services for Public Transportation

The Varanasi Development Authority Vice Chairman Isha Dutta on Sunday (3rd October 2021), said that India will be the third country in the world after Bolivia and Mexico City, to have a ropeway for public transport. The ropeway service will cover a distance of 4.2 km aerially in the city of Varanasi. Nearly, 220 cable cars will run on the ropeway. Varanasi, commonly known as the Gateway of Eastern India, will cover the pilot project of the ropeway service worth Rs 424 crore. The overall cost of the pilot project is likely to divide between the state government and centre in the ratio of 20: 80.

The ropeway service is expected to run at night. The project will be executed in a public-private partnership model. The stations build for the ropeway services will depict Kashi's culture, religion, and art.

(Source: www.india.com/news)



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“Sport Climbing” became a part of the OLYMPIC GAMES when it was played on 3rd August in Tokyo Olympics. As the global industry leader and the inventor of Climbing Walls in 1985, EP Climbing was chosen exclusively to design and manufacture three state-of-the-art climbing walls for Sport Climbing’s first ever debut in the Olympic Games. The wall had been designed by world-class sports architects and made using the strongest of material. This sport already has a long history in Europe and USA.

Headquartered in France, EP climbing also accounts for majority of the BEST Climbing facilities made in India. Few of the biggest climbing facilities include India’s first climbing wall made in 1995 at Darjeeling (Himalayan Mountaineering Institute), a top-notch climbing wall made for India’s first Climbing World cup in Navi Mumbai 2016 which saw representation from 20+ countries, a humongous 4-sided climbing wall at a height of 6600 ft. in Sikkim with a view of Mt. Kanchenjunga, and latest is India’s biggest high-performance Sport Climbing facility made in 2017 at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, which is also the home training facility for Indian Climbing team and the only climbing wall certified by the International Climbing Federation for hosting international tournaments.

Royal Caribbean launches world’s largest cruise ship, packed with attractions

The new cruise ship, featuring eight distinct neighbourhoods and holding nearly 8,000 passengers, will debut in May 2022. Wonder of the Seas will feature eight distinct neighbourhoods, including the all-new Suite Neighbourhood where Royal Suite guests enjoy a Suite Sun Deck, lounge and private restaurant. Also fresh to the ship is the cantilevered pool bar, The Vue. Wonder Playscape also debuts, an interactive, open-air kids’ play area with slides, climbing walls, games and puzzles.



The new ship will retain favourite features from other Royal Caribbean ships. The Ultimate Abyss, the tallest slide at sea, will return, as will Central Park, the lush green neighbourhood featuring real plants. The Caribbean-inspired pool deck experience also remains in place, alongside high speed waterslide, The Perfect Storm, and aqua park Splashaway Bay.

(Source : www.blooloop.com)



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Disney World opening its Star Wars hotel experience on March 1, 2022



General bookings will open on October 28 for the two-night themed stays that include dining experiences and a visit to Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, the Star Wars-themed land at Disney's Hollywood Studios park. Galactic Starcruiser is a new hotel and attraction rolled into one. During the two-night stay, guests can choose their roles, fighting for the rebel Resistance, training as a Jedi, battling on the side of the First Order, or dodging authorities as a smuggler.

(Source: www.travelweekly.com)