

MONTHLY EDITION
SEPTEMBER 2026 | ISSUE 04

The **MACH** MONTAGE

Travel Diaries

New destinations, fresh perspectives,
unforgettable experiences.

Travel Updates:

Recent travel news

People & Culture

Celebrating our people, partnerships,
and shared achievements.

STAY INFORMED.

Your monthly roundup of key updates.

NEWS UPDATES

INDIA'S RIVER CRUISE PASSENGER NUMBERS SURGE TO 29 LAKH IN FY25-26

We're thrilled to share that India's river cruise passenger traffic experienced a monumental surge, growing from 4.35 lakh in FY 2024-25 to over 29 lakh in FY 2025-26. This extraordinary milestone marks a major leap forward for inland waterway tourism, expanding national waterway infrastructure, terminal connectivity, and luxury river expeditions to open up a world of seamless travel, heritage exploration, and economic opportunities across the country's iconic river basins.



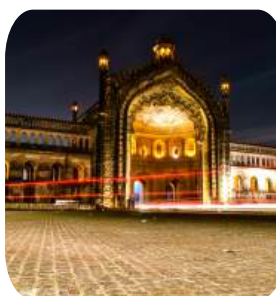
GLOBAL BAGGAGE MISHANDLING RATE FALLS 23% IN 2025

We're thrilled to share that the global baggage mishandling rate dropped by 23% in 2025, falling to 4.9 bags per 1,000 passengers according to SITA's 2026 Baggage IT Insights report. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for global aviation, driven by AI routing, real-time data sharing, and digital tracking to open up a world of seamless travel, enhanced operational efficiency, and reliable passenger experiences worldwide.



IHCL OPENS 181-KEY TAJ PALACE LUCKNOW, MARKING CHAIN'S 60TH HOTEL IN UP

We're thrilled to share that Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) has inaugurated the 181-key Taj Palace, Lucknow in Gomti Nagar, marking the group's 60th property in Uttar Pradesh. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for luxury hospitality and business travel in the state, introducing modern architectural design, world-class dining, and UP's first-ever 'The Chambers' members-only club to open up a world of seamless travel, corporate events, and economic opportunities across the region.



SCHENGEN VISA REJECTION RATE FOR INDIAN APPLICANTS RISES TO 15.8%

We're thrilled to share that India has maintained its position as the third-largest source market for Schengen visa applications globally, filing over 1.15 million applications. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for global travel demand, highlighting the growing appetite of Indian travelers to explore Europe despite an overall rejection rate of 15.8% (over 1.81 lakh rejections), while opening up a world of seamless travel opportunities, stronger outbound tourism growth, and expanding flight routes across top destination countries.



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Dear Mach community,

August and September are special months for thousands of students across India as they embark on an exciting new chapter of their lives - travelling across the world to join universities and pursue their higher education.

Every year, during this time, we have the privilege of hearing from many anxious and excited parents who entrust us with the travel arrangements and visa assistance for their children. For us, this is much more than just arranging a ticket or a visa. We understand the emotions, expectations and responsibility that come with helping a young student begin a journey so far away from home.

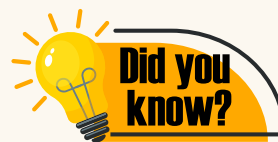
We feel truly proud and privileged to be a small part of this important milestone in their lives.

On behalf of the entire Mach family, I wish all the students travelling through us and equally, those who are not - every success, happiness and a wonderful journey ahead. May you make your parents proud, create beautiful memories and make the most of the opportunities that await you.

And to all the parents: please remember that Mach is always just a call away. If your child, or you, need any assistance or support during this journey, anywhere in the world, please feel free to reach out to us because at Mach, travel is not just about getting you from one destination to another. Sometimes, it is about helping you take the first step towards your dreams.

Wishing all our young travellers a safe journey and a bright future!

Warm Regards,
Kaushik Ghosh
Joint Managing Director
Mach Travel Solutions Ltd



Did you know that KG was also a **Radio Podcaster?**

He used to host the hugely popular Sunday travel show "Globe Trotting with Kaushik" on the renowned London based Bengali radio station "Radio Bangla Net".

Every Sunday, he took listeners on a virtual journey around the world and stayed on air for more than four years!



Event Spotlight: Café Akasa Takes Off at Mach Kolkata

On July 31st, our Kolkata office had the pleasure of hosting Akasa Air for a high-flying edition of their quarterly Supplier's Day celebration. The event brought the inflight experience right to our floor, giving our team an exclusive, hands-on look at what makes their passenger journey unique.

Highlights from the Day

- **Product Roadmap Updates:** The Akasa Air team presented their latest developments, sharing insights into their upcoming product lineup and service enhancements.
- **Café Akasa Live Showcase:** The onboard dining team set up an impressive physical display of their signature inflight meal options, letting us explore the menu options served high above the clouds.
- **Special Guest Chef:** A lead chef from Taj SATS joined the presentation to share the culinary artistry, fresh ingredients, and prep strategy behind Café Akasa's gourmet offerings.

Thank you to everyone who joined the session, engaged with the Akasa team, and helped make this Supplier's Day showcase a resounding success!



SOUTH AFRICA ROLLS OUT 24-48 HOUR ETA FOR ELIGIBLE INDIAN TRAVELERS

We're thrilled to share that South Africa has introduced a fast-track Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system for eligible Indian passport holders, enabling fully digital application processing within 24 to 48 hours. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for long-haul travel to the African continent, eliminating traditional physical visa sticker applications and embassy visits to open up a world of seamless travel, safari adventures, and business opportunities for short-term stays of up to 90 days.



MAHARASHTRA, RUSSIA EXPLORE DIRECT MUMBAI-ST PETERSBURG FLIGHTS TO BOOST BILATERAL TOURISM

We're thrilled to share that Maharashtra and Russian tourism authorities are exploring the launch of direct flights between Mumbai and St. Petersburg. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for Indo-Russian travel and trade relations, facilitating enhanced air connectivity and streamlined travel routes to open up a world of seamless travel, cultural exchange, and mutual tourism growth between both regions.



NEWS UPDATES

SMALLER CITIES DRIVING NEARLY 70% OF INDIA'S OUTBOUND TOURISM DEMAND

We're thrilled to share that Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities have officially emerged as the primary engines of India's international travel market, now accounting for nearly 70% of the country's total outbound tourism traffic. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for regional tourism growth, driven by expanding international flight connectivity from regional airports, rising disposable incomes, and easy digital visa access to open up a world of seamless travel, global exploration, and unprecedented holiday demand from non-metro India.



INDIA EXPANDS E-VISA ACCESS TO 88 ENTRY POINTS, ADDING BHOPAL AND TIRUPATI AIRPORTS

We're thrilled to share that the Ministry of Home Affairs has notified 11 new international entry points for e-visa holders, expanding India's designated e-visa network to a total of 88 ports. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for inbound tourism and regional connectivity, adding Bhopal and Tirupati international airports alongside nine key land ports to open up a world of seamless travel, spiritual tourism, and heritage exploration for global visitors.



INDIA SET TO JOIN GLOBAL ELITE WITH ASIA'S FIRST DESERT-THEMED NIGHT SAFARI IN GUJARAT

We're thrilled to share that Gujarat has received Central Zoo Authority approval to launch Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari and zoological park at Juna Deesa in Banaskantha district. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for wildlife tourism and eco-conservation, establishing a ₹542-crore destination across 103 hectares featuring five dedicated nocturnal enclosures, arid ecosystems from three continents, and native species to open up a world of seamless travel, night-time safari adventures, and economic opportunities across the region.



DIGI YATRA ADDS DRIVING LICENSE AS VERIFIED IDENTITY FOR SEAMLESS AIRPORT TRAVEL

We're thrilled to share that Digi Yatra has officially integrated the Driving License (accessed securely via DigiLocker) as an additional verified identity credential on its app. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for digital aviation infrastructure and passenger convenience across India, allowing travelers to choose between Aadhaar or Driving License to create their primary digital ID and opening up a world of seamless travel, enhanced flexibility, and paperless contactless airport processing.



GOA TO ROLL OUT 30-SECOND BIOMETRIC IMMIGRATION UNDER FAST-TRACK PROGRAM

We're thrilled to share that Goa is set to roll out the Fast-Track Immigration - Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) across its international airports. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for regional air travel infrastructure, enabling pre-verified passengers to complete immigration checks in under 30 seconds via biometric e-gates and opening up a world of seamless travel, enhanced tourist flow, and convenient global access across the state.



BURJ KHALIFA BECOMES FIRST UAE ATTRACTION TO ACCEPT UPI PAYMENTS

We're thrilled to share that 'At the Top, Burj Khalifa' has officially integrated Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for online ticket bookings in partnership with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), NEOPAY, and Emaar Entertainment. This monumental milestone marks a major leap forward for cross-border digital commerce, making the iconic Dubai landmark the first UAE attraction to offer instant UPI e-commerce transactions and opening up a world of seamless travel, hassle-free pre-departure bookings, and familiar payment options for Indian visitors.



Five-Star Airline

backed by official certification from Skytrax.

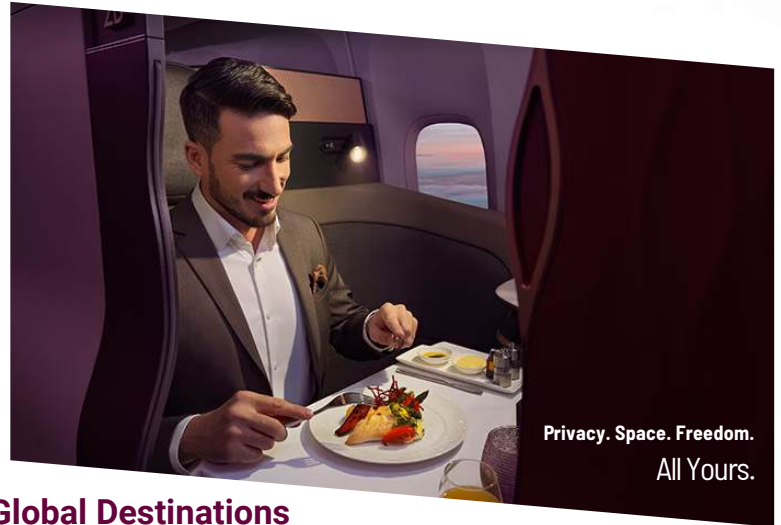


Qsuite raised the bar so high that it redefined what premium travel should feel like.

Q SUITE

First in Business. Best in the Skies.

Experience the pinnacle of luxury travel with Qsuite - Qatar Airways' award-winning Business Class, designed to redefine comfort, privacy and personalised service.



From Doha to the World: Qatar Airways Takes Off to Over 160 Global Destinations

The World's Best Airline, as **voted by Skytrax** in **2025** for the ninth time, is adding 26 destinations to its network starting today. With its return to iconic gateways in Asia and Europe and the launch of new routes in the Americas, the airline is restoring connectivity to key global markets. Qatar Airways' award-winning travel experience includes secure and seamless transfers through its **Hamad International Airport hub**, and **inflight connectivity** with Starlink - the **fastest Wi-Fi in the sky**.

Select the Qsuite that's best for you

Whether travelling with family, friends, or business colleagues, movable panels will allow you to transform your space into a social area, allowing you to work, dine or socialise at 40,000 feet.



Single Suite



Twin Suite



Double Suite



The Quad

THE QSUIE EXPERIENCE

- Direct aisle access from every seat
- Ample storage for a clutter-free journey
- Ambient mood lighting
- Noise-reducing design for a peaceful journey
- Thoughtful details that make you feel at home



Seamless connections.
Exceptional journeys.
One world.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE QSUIE



YOUR OWN PRIVATE SUITE

Sliding doors and generous personal space give you complete privacy to work, relax or unwind.



FULLY LIE-FLAT COMFORT

A true bed in the sky with a plush mattress, premium bedding and adjustable cushions.



PERFECT FOR TRAVELING TOGETHER

Innovative quad seating lets you convert your space into a private suite for four.



ENTERTAINMENT LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Enjoy up to 8K Personal Screens with thousands of movies, shows, music and games.



EXQUISITE DINING

Savour world-class cuisine, anytime you like, crafted by acclaimed chefs.



PRIORITY EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

From check-in to baggage, enjoy seamless priority and exceptional service.

TRAVEL *Joke*

“

Why did the traveler bring
a ladder to the airport?

Because they heard
the trip was going to
new heights!

”



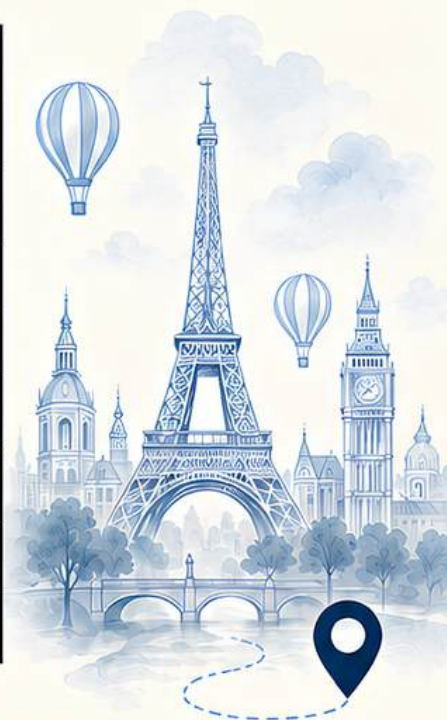
SUDOKU

Test your logic. Take the journey!



Fill the grid so that
every row, column
and 3x3 box contains
the numbers 1 to 9
only once.

2				3			4	
	3		6					7
		9			7	1		8
		4		7	2			
	2	5		8	1	9		
1		3			6			5
				2		4		
4		6	8				7	
5			9			3		



TRAVEL TIPS



1. PACK LIGHT

Travel easier by carrying only
essentials and versatile outfits.



2. SAVE OFFLINE MAPS

Download maps in advance so
you can navigate without internet.



3. LABEL YOUR BAG

Add your name and contact
details for easy identification.



4. CARRY LOCAL CASH

Keep a small amount of local
currency for quick purchases.



5. KEEP MEDICINES HANDY

Carry important medicines and a
basic first-aid kit in your hand luggage.



6. DOUBLE-CHECK DOCUMENTS

Review passport, tickets, and
bookings before leaving home.



Celebrating New Beginnings

At Mach, we believe that every achievement deserves to be celebrated and every new beginning deserves encouragement.

This month, we proudly celebrated the remarkable success of some of our employees' children who excelled in their Board examinations and secured admission to prestigious institutions for their higher studies.

To honour their achievement, Mach presented each student with a certificate signed by our Chairman, Joint MD and CHRO, along with a personal letter and a carefully curated collection of motivational books to inspire their journey ahead.

It was our small way of saying "Well done and dream even bigger!"

We congratulate these young achievers and wish them a bright, fulfilling and successful future. Their journey has just begun, and we are proud to be a part of it.

Spotlight on Our Rising Stars



Anishka Dhama:

Admitted to KIET University, Ghaziabad to pursue Btech.



Adrika Saha

Admitted to Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition (IHM) to pursue Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Hotel Administration



Twinkle Ghosh

Admitted to Manipal University, Rajasthan to pursue Chemical Engineering



Destination Talk!

Faroe Islands

Faroe Islands is a remote North Atlantic archipelago between Iceland and Norway, celebrated for its dramatic cliffs, grass-roof villages, cascading waterfalls, puffin-filled shores, and untouched landscapes. It is an extraordinary off-beat destination for travellers seeking raw natural beauty, slow travel, and memorable Nordic experiences.



MÚLAFOSSUR WATERFALL



GASADALUR & CLIFFSIDE VIEWS



TÓRSHAVN & GRASS-ROOF VILLAGES

HOW TO REACH

Travellers from India can reach the Faroe Islands via connecting flights through major European hubs such as Copenhagen, Reykjavik, or Paris, followed by onward access to Vágar Airport (FAE). Mach Travel Solutions Ltd. can assist with seamless flight routing and itinerary planning.



IDEAL PROGRAM

6 Nights / 7 Days

Ideal for scenic drives, hiking, village exploration, photography, boat excursions, and relaxed Nordic escapes at a comfortable pace.



BEST HOTELS

- Hotel Føroyar
- Hilton Garden Inn Faroe Islands
- Havgrim Seaside Hotel 1948
- Hotel Brandan
- Gjáargarður Guesthouse



VISA INFORMATION

Indian passport holders generally require a valid Schengen visa to visit the Faroe Islands. Travellers should carry a valid passport, return flight details, hotel bookings, travel insurance, and proof of funds. Always verify the latest visa requirements before travel.



BEST TIME TO VISIT

May to September



PERFECT FOR

Nature lovers, photographers, honeymooners, small groups, slow travellers, and off-beat explorers.



MUST EXPERIENCE

- Múlafossur Waterfall
- Lake Sørvágsvatn hike
- Puffin spotting at Mykines
- Scenic drives and turf-roof villages
- Boat tours beneath sea cliffs



MACH RECOMMENDS

Pair Tórshavn, Vágar, and Mykines for a beautifully balanced Faroe Islands journey combining nature, local culture, and unforgettable photo moments.



BOOK YOUR PACKAGE

Phone: +91 70703 62182 / 80161 80323

Email: nishit.paul@machtravel.com

For customized itineraries, flights, hotels, and sightseeing, connect with Mach Travel Solutions Ltd.

Faroeese author and cultural figure Jørgen-Frantz Jacobsen achieved lasting international renown, marking his place in Scandinavian literature:

"The Faroe Islands, blessed by the relentless sea, are the dwelling place of nature's heart."



Two Friends - One Journey -

Old stories. New milestones. One extraordinary bond.

Then



Pradeep



Then



Karambir

Now

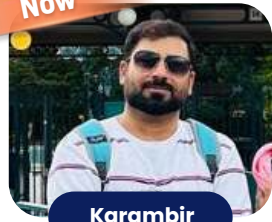


Pradeep



Family Picture

Now



Karambir



1 What was your first impression of each other? And has that impression changed?

Pradeep: Karambir looked like a serious guy. It took me some time to discover that the seriousness was only on the face!

Karambir: Pradeep looked very confident and slightly over-smart! Unfortunately, both impressions were correct. Some things never change!



2 If you had to describe your younger selves in just three words, what would they be?

Pradeep: Energetic, mischievous, ambitious.

Karambir: Curious, restless, adventurous.



3 Who was the more mischievous one in those early days?

Pradeep: Definitely Karambir. I was simply his innocent partner in crime.

Karambir: Pradeep! And today he has become very good at pretending otherwise.



4 Please share one story that the other person may not want published!

Pradeep: There are too many! But friendship survives because some stories remain between friends.

Karambir: I have enough stories to write a book. But I value our friendship—and my career!



5 What is one thing about the other person that has remained exactly the same over all these years?

Pradeep: His loyalty. Once he considers you a friend, he stays a friend.

Karambir: His energy. Even after all these years, he still wants to get things done yesterday!



6 What is one quality in the other person that you genuinely admire?

Pradeep: His ability to build relationships and connect with people. That comes naturally to him.

Karambir: His ownership. Once he takes responsibility, he does not let go easily.



7 And what is one habit of theirs that drives you absolutely crazy?

Pradeep: Karambir wants everything immediately. Sometimes I wonder if he thinks there are 48 hours in a day.

Karambir: Pradeep can talk about a subject for much longer than necessary.

NO THINKING ALLOWED

Pradeep

Karambir

Coffee



Tea or coffee?



Tea

Night owl



Early bird or night owl?



Early bird

Planner



Planner or improviser?



Improviser

Pradeep



Who talks more?



Pradeep

Pradeep



Who gets angry faster?



Pradeep

Both!



Who is more stubborn?



Both!

Karambir



Who is more likely to take a last-minute decision?



Pradeep

Karambir



Who is more likely to say, "I told you so!"



Pradeep

Genuine



One word for your friend?



Dependable

Unfinished



One word for your journey together?



Extraordinary

A

What does Mach mean to you personally today?

“

”

Pradeep: We want to build something we can genuinely be proud of.

Karambir: Mach is an emotion now. It is our responsibility to build something bigger than ourselves and leave behind a strong legacy.



B

When you look at Mach three to five years from now, what do you want it to become?

“

”

Pradeep: A company that is respected not only for its size, but for its people, service, innovation and integrity.

Karambir: A truly global travel company with Indian roots, strong values and the ambition to compete with the best.



C

What is the one big milestone you would love to see Mach achieve during your journey with the company?

“

”

Pradeep: For me, it is not only the number. I want to see Mach become a name that people across the world recognise and trust. The numbers will follow.

Karambir: I would love to see Mach become a ₹5,000-crore organization.



Some friendships grow into partnerships. Some partnerships grow into legacy.



TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

4 Featured Frames



Kaushik Ghosh, Joint MD



Rishabh Attrish, Senior Manager
Noida Branch



Suman Karmakar, Sr. General Manager - Operations (Events)
Kolkata Branch



Prajit Talukder, GM Sales - Leisure
Kolkata Branch

TIPS ON WORK-LIFE BALANCE



1. Set Clear Boundaries

Define work hours and protect your personal time.



2. Take Active Breaks

Stretch, walk, or move regularly to reset your energy.



3. Protect Your Focus

Limit distractions and finish one important task at a time.



4. Learn to Say No

Commit realistically and avoid unnecessary overload.



5. Make Time for Wellness

Prioritize sleep, hydration, and daily self-care.



6. Unplug to Recharge

Step away from screens after work and truly unwind.



Balanced people create exceptional journeys.

