

ITB India
1 – 3 September in Mumbai
Connecting you to the Indian Travel Market

PRESS RELEASE

ITB India 2026 Unveils Conference Programme Featuring Leading Industry Voices

Industry leaders from BCD Meetings & Events, Escalent, Expedia Group, MakeMyTrip, Taj Hotels, and more will examine the forces reshaping travel across India and South Asia, alongside the inaugural ITB India Leadership Roundtable with Simon-Kucher, bringing senior leaders together to explore India's evolving role in global tourism.

Mumbai/Berlin, 11 August 2026 – [ITB India 2026](#) will take place at the **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, from 1–3 September 2026**, bringing together key decision-makers and experts from the MICE, corporate travel, incentive travel, hospitality and travel technology sectors. At the heart of ITB India 2026 programme, the **ITB India Conference 2026** will provide a platform for meaningful business conversations, knowledge exchange and industry collaboration, examining how changing traveller expectations, emerging technologies and evolving business models are influencing the next generation of travel.

"Success in today's travel industry depends not only on building new business relationships, but also on understanding the trends and market forces driving change," said **Darren Seah, Executive Director, Messe Berlin Asia Pacific**. "The ITB India Conference complements the business opportunities on the exhibition floor by providing a platform where industry experts can share insights, challenge perspectives and discuss the ideas shaping the future of travel across India and South Asia. By bringing together leaders from across the industry, ITB India continues to foster meaningful dialogue, strengthen collaboration and create new opportunities for growth."



Events:



Other Events:



Press contacts:

Messe Berlin GmbH

Emanuel Höger
Spokesman
Senior Vice President
Communication
Messe Berlin Group
Messedamm 22
14055 Berlin
www.messe-berlin.com

**ITB Berlin / ITB Asia /
ITB China/ ITB India**

Julia Sonnemann
Global PR Manager
T: +49 30 3038 2269
julia.sonnemann@messe-berlin.de
www.messe-berlin.com

Sophia Pleis
PR Manager
Messedamm 22
14055 Berlin
T: +49 30 3038-2269
sophia.pleis@messe-berlin.com
www.messe-berlin.com

Additional information:

www.itb-india.com
www.itb-berlin.com
www.itb-convention.com

For enquiries

info@messe-berlin.asia



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Industry leaders at ITB India explore the forces shaping travel

A comprehensive **ITB India Conference 2026** programme will span two stages, the **Knowledge & MICE Theatre** and **Tech & Experience Theatre**, across four curated tracks: **Knowledge, MICE & Corporate, Travel Technology, and Experiential Travel**. The programme will bring together industry leaders and experts through presentations, fireside chats and panel discussions.

At the **Knowledge & MICE Theatre**, conversations will focus on the market forces influencing the travel industry and the changing priorities of corporate travel and MICE. **"The Next Battlegrounds in Travel: A Fireside Chat with MakeMyTrip"** will see **Raj Rishi Singh**, Chief Operating Officer - Flights, Corporate Travel, Gulf Countries & Marketing, **MakeMyTrip**, alongside **Coney Dongre**, Research Manager, **Phocuswright**, explore the role of artificial intelligence, distribution, experiences, partnerships and market expansion in the next phase of travel.

The evolving business travel landscape will also take centre stage in **"Corporate Travel in the Age of Disruption: What's Next?"**, with **Shenaz Kanorwalla**, Associate Director - Head Business Travel and Events, **Cipla**; **Devendra Saraiya**, Executive Director - Procurement and Travel, **Deloitte India**; and **Rakesh Negi**, Head - Business Transformation & Customer Excellence, **FCM Travel India**, joined by moderator **Deepesh Jethwani**, Vice President - Corporate Travel, **Tripjack**, to address geopolitical uncertainty, economic pressures and evolving employee expectations.

At the **Tech & Experience Theatre**, discussions will turn to how technology and changing traveller preferences are creating new opportunities across the travel ecosystem. **"Travel with Intent: How Values, Emotions and Purpose Shape the New Traveller"** will bring together **Daniel Dsouza**, Co-Founder, **DreamSetGo**; **Capt. M Chouhan**, Chief of Staff & Chief of Flight Safety, **SkyWaltz**; and **Scott Wegener**, Head of Asia Pacific, **Tripadvisor**, to examine how changing

values and motivations are influencing travel decisions and experience design.

Technology and new experience formats will further shape the conversation through **"From Digital Adoption to Digital Advantage in Travel"**, where **Sandeep Dwivedi**, Managing Director - Travel Sellers, India and the Subcontinent, **Amadeus**, and **Nithyashree Sathyanarayanan**, Associate Vice President - New Initiatives and Chief of Staff, **The ePlane Company**, explore how businesses can translate technology investment into competitive advantage. In **"Meetings at Sea – MICE Cruising in India"**, **Jude D'Souza**, Meeting & Events Leader, India, **FCM Meetings & Events**; **SD Nandakumar**, President & Country Head - Holidays & Corporate Tours, **SOTC Travel**; and **Naresh Rawal**, Senior Vice President - Sales & Marketing, **StarDream Cruises India**, will join moderator **Nikhil Jeet**, Director, **Buzz Travel Marketing**, to discuss opportunities for cruise experiences within meetings, incentives and corporate events.

Perspectives from across the travel ecosystem

Beyond these sessions, the wider conference programme will cover meetings and incentives, corporate travel, hospitality, travel technology, cruise, wellness and other emerging areas of the travel industry. Confirmed speakers include **Harshad Donde**, Country Director, India, **BCD Meetings & Events**; **Rohit Kohli**, Joint Managing Director, **Creative Travel**; **Vivek Neb**, EVP & Managing Director APAC & MEA and Global Head, Travel & Tourism, **Escalent**; **Darshana Shirodkar**, Senior Director - APAC Growth Markets, **Expedia Group**; **Auptha Surlidev**, Vice President & Head - Tourism, **IDECK Limited**; **Sushmita Sarangi**, Commercial Director, **Taj Hotels**, Head, **J Wellness Circle**; **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Georg Arlt**, Executive Director, **Meaningful Tourism Centre Ltd**; **Gaurav Chiripal**, Founder & CEO, **QuadLabs**; **Kamaldeep Singh**, Content & Travel Experience Leader, **Spotnana**; **Saurav Chakraborty**, Founder & CEO, **Travel Buddy**; and **Deepak Choudhary**, Founder & President, **WTTA - Worldwide Travel & Tourism Association**.

Collectively, the **ITB India Conference 2026** programme reflects the commercial and strategic developments influencing the future of travel across India and South Asia.

ITB India Introduces Inaugural Leadership Roundtable with Simon-Kucher

Extending its focus on high-level industry dialogue, ITB India 2026 will introduce the **inaugural ITB India Leadership Roundtable**, held in partnership with global strategy consultancy Simon-Kucher. The invitation-only forum will bring together senior leaders from across tourism, travel, hospitality, technology and destination development to examine India's evolving role as both a major tourism destination and an increasingly influential global source market.

"India is entering an exciting new phase in its tourism journey, with its growing importance as both a destination and a source market creating significant opportunities for the industry," said **Lovrenc Kessler, Senior Partner, Simon-Kucher**. "This makes it particularly timely to bring

leaders from across the tourism ecosystem together for an open exchange on how India can translate this momentum into sustainable, long-term growth. We are delighted to partner with ITB India on this inaugural Leadership Roundtable and contribute our global perspective and insights to the conversation.”

The ITB India Conference and Leadership Roundtable form part of the wider ITB India 2026 programme, bringing together the leisure, MICE, corporate travel and travel technology communities for three days of business meetings, knowledge exchange and networking in Mumbai.

The full conference agenda is available at <https://businessmatching.itb-india.com/agenda>, with the complete speaker line-up available at <https://businessmatching.itb-india.com/agenda/speaker>.

Register now for ITB India 2026

Trade visitors can benefit from **Early Bird rates until 28 August 2026**, with access to the ITB India Conference and the wider ITB India 2026 programme from **1–3 September 2026** at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai.

Find out more: [ITB India Website](#)

Visitor Registration: [ITB India Visitor Registration](#)

About ITB India

ITB India is an annual 3-day business-to-business trade show and convention curated to connect you to the Indian Travel Market. ITB India brings together key travel industry leaders and international exhibitors from various segments of **MICE, Leisure, Corporate, and Travel Technology**. Leverage on ITB India to capture the fast-growing **Indian and South Asian Markets**, forge new partnerships, and strengthen existing business relations with the most important players in India and South Asia.

About ITB Global Brand Family

For more than 50 years the name ITB has stood worldwide for the travel industry knowledge 365 days a year, networking and trendsetting events - in a virtual, in-person, or hybrid format alike. ITB India will take place in Mumbai from September 1 to 3, 2026. ITB Asia will be held in Singapore from 21 to 23 October 2026, covering the APAC market. The inaugural ITB Americas will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, from 10 to 12 November 2026, covering the American market. ITB Berlin, the world's leading B2B trade show for the travel industry, will take place in Berlin from March 16 to 18, 2027. ITB China, the premier marketplace for China's travel industry, is scheduled for 25 to 27 May 2027, in Shanghai.

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