



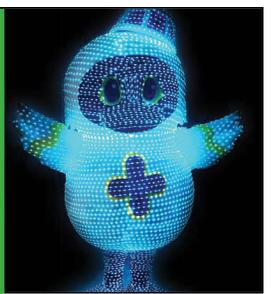
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New Zealand to open travel bubble with Australia soon

New Zealand announced that it will open a long-anticipated travel bubble with Australia on April 19.

The start of quarantine-free travel between the neighbouring nations comes as a relief to families who have been separated by the coronavirus pandemic as well as to struggling tourist operators.

Both countries have been successful in stamping out the spread of the virus.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said health officials believe the risk of the virus being transmitted from Australia is low and that travel is now safe. “The bubble will give our economic recovery a boost and represents a world-leading arrangement of safely opening up international travel while continuing to pursue a strategy of elimination and keeping the virus out,” Ardern said.

No plan to end Kumbh Mela despite rise in Covid-19 cases

Despite the spike in Covid-19 cases, the Union Health Ministry does not plan to end the holy congregation, Kumbh Mela in Haridwar, prematurely and is hoping that standard operating procedures (SOPs) are being followed there.



Despite the apprehension that the Kumbh Mela can be a super-spreader of Covid-19, Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, said, “As the

super spreader events are concerned, the Union Government almost a month ago issued an SOP, specifically for practices to be adopted in Kumbh and had a long meeting with the state government’s officers.” “One fact that we usually lose sight of is that the duration of Kumbh has already been curtailed, Kumbh wherever it happens is usually for three and a half to four months, the present Kumbh has been curtailed to a month,” he added.

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SITA launches AI-enabled solution WorldTracer Lost and Found Property



David Lavorel

Information Technology company SITA has launched WorldTracer Lost and Found Property, an artificial intelligence-enabled solution that solves a million-dollar headache for the air transport industry: how to quickly return items left behind on aircraft or in airports to their owners. Every year passengers leave millions of items – including phones, wallets and bags – on planes and in airports, costing the industry millions of dollars in repatriation costs.

David Lavorel, CEO, SITA at Airports and Borders, said, “WorldTracer is a great example of how SITA continues to evolve its portfolio to meet the changing demands of the industry. For almost three decades, WorldTracer has helped to successfully trace mishandled bags. Now, using new technology, we are adding additional value by helping the industry be more efficient and reduce costs around lost items at a time when it is most needed.”

ETAA North India committee calls upon Union Tourism Secretary

Members of the Enterprising Travel Agents’ Association (ETAA) North India committee met with Union Secretary Tourism, Arvind Singh for a discussion about the difficulties faced by the travel fraternity and the way forward to revive the tourism business. The committee also shared a memorandum with Singh regarding the same and requested help from the Government for revival of the travel and tourism industry.

Airlines fear a big impact on travel on Maharashtra route

Airlines are bracing for a significant impact on air travel to and from Maharashtra after the state government imposed a partial lockdown to tackle a record spike in Covid-19 cases.

“Owing to the latest restrictions imposed in Maharashtra, we do expect some decline in demand for air travel to and from the state, as was the case when similar measures were introduced in the past due to rise in covid cases. We are closely monitoring the market and shall remain nimble in adjusting capacity, if required,” said a spokesperson from Vistara.

