



Tourist Guides' Federation of South India®  
Regd. No. 303/2007

Plot # 12A, Kumaran Nagar 2nd Cross  
Virugambakkam, Chennai - 600 092  
Tel : +91 - 44 - 2479 8023  
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### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

I write this on the eve of our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to be held in Cochin.

The interests of the South Indian Regional Level Guides (RLGs) were being continuously ignored or belittled over the years. This sparked the need to bring together guides from the Southern Region under one umbrella. Thus was formed the Tourist Guides Federation of South India (TGFSI) in 2007 for the Welfare of all RLGs in the Southern Region. Since our formation, we have been growing, making meaningful impact and awareness in the industry about Professional Guides at all levels.

One of our first initiatives, our website, [www.tgfsi.org](http://www.tgfsi.org) is user friendly, giving a comprehensive data of all RLGs and is widely used by Tour Operators and others in the industry in India and across the world with reference to Guides of South India. Postings can be made by Tour Operators seeking to find a guide and we assist them with those available at the time.

Our meeting with IATO on Guide Tariff in 2011 was an eye-opener and thus was also implemented the separate Cruise guide fees in the market that is being successfully followed by all guides since.

TGFSI has an amicable relation with Guides and Guide bodies around the world and is fully aware of the problems and limitations faced by our community in our own country.

**Every guide holding a license is recognized and is equal** to the Ministry of Tourism. Due to geographical and financial limitations, we do not offer our physical presence to the various hierarchies in the Government Sector. However we are in constant contact with the Ministry at all levels concerned as and when required.

TGFSI has stopped miscreants working as guides on different occasions. As an important initiative to control unapproved guiding in Tamil Nadu where most tours initiate in Chennai, our members on individual resourcefulness took steps to approach other local guide associations in Tamil Nadu for collaboration in order to effectively check the evils in our profession. Unfortunately this has not come through due to power play and unacceptable attacks on our organization and its members, also at a personal level.

We strongly condemn any conditions and demands thrust on guides that come in the way of unification, co-operation and betterment of the guide community at large, particularly when put forth from one of our own community.

We are happy to inform you that under consultation with TGFSI, many of our demands were considered by IITTM particularly the option of various centers for course conduction including



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Chennai also being made one of the training centers. The course overall was successfully and smoothly completed.

I humbly call upon one and all to be united and persistent, and not be lead away by forces trying to harm our unity or cause to threaten our hard work in fighting against oddities that we come across in our profession.

JAI HIND!