

Tourist Guides Federation of South India

(TGFSI)



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Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Hon'ble Minister for Tourism

Govt.Of India

Sub: Issue of QR code verified identity cards for Tour Guides

Ref: Incredible India Tour Guide (IITG) identity cards

Respected sir,

We, Tourist Guides Federation of South India (TGFSI), is the largest organisation representing the Regional Level Tourist Guides (IITG), under the Ministry of Tourism in Southern region. On this occasion, we would like to congratulate you on assuming the post as the tourism minister of our country.

We are sure that your able leadership will take the tourism industry to newer heights.

The relevance and need of qualified and professional tour guides are of utmost importance in the development of tourism in the world. Tourist guides are the key organ, in connecting the visitor to the destinations through its their personal skills and knowledge. All major countries which are ranked high in tourism industry, always ensure the quality, authenticity and dignity of tour guides in their country.

In our country also, Ministry of Tourism used to select and train tour guides under AMSAR ac of 1959. Understanding the importance of this profession in creating a better impression of our country to its visitors, Ministry used to keep high standards in issuing license to the tour guides in our country.

However, in the recent past Ministry has diluted the entire process and made the tour guide profession a mere academic qualification. Instead of the Regional Level Tourist Guide License, now a certificate called "**Incredible India Tour Guide**" is issued. These identity cards are printed without any authenticity and can be manipulated by anyone.

Already within months of IITG cards are issued, many has started manipulating it and printing it in their own names. We have already brought this to the notice of Regional Director, South.

Earlier the licenses were issued with holograms, and the present cards are mere plastic laminated cards without any authentication.

We request your urgent intervention in ensuring the identity cards of Tour Guides with a mark of authenticity, which can be verified by any body in ensuring that the authenticity of the tour guide they have hired.

We suggest the “**QR code**” printed on the card which connect to the India tourism portal displaying the credentials of the tour guide and the card validity.

This will be cost effective and easy to verify by any person who are hiring a guide for his authenticity. This not only will ensure the proper identity of the tour guide, but also will protect the identity cards issued by the ministry being misused by anti-social elements.

We request your office to do the needful to issue our identity cards with proper authentication, at the earliest before the commencement of the coming tourist season in our country.

Expecting your earlier action, we always assure our best services and co-operation.

for TGFSI

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