



# 2021 HOSPITALITY #BounceBack



7th Edition



## Tourism Ministry to digitize hotel classification process



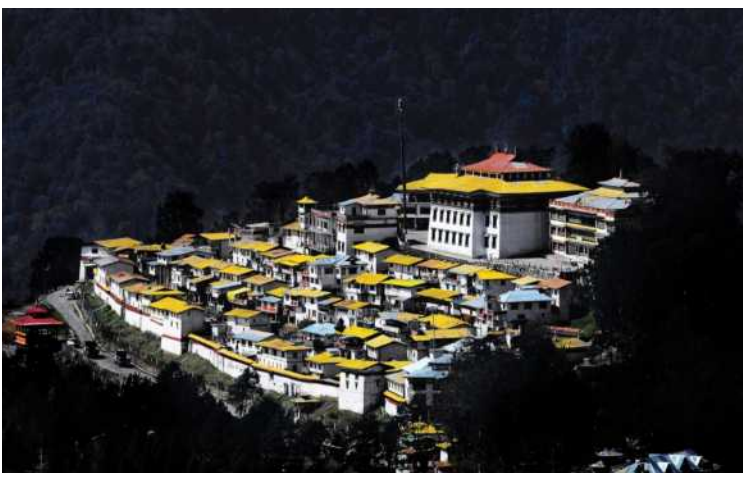
Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister (I/c) of Tourism & Culture has informed the Upper House of the Parliament that the government is considering the digitisation of the hotel classification process to make it "more objective, transparent and time bound". The Minister was responding to a question by Ramya Haridas, Member of Parliament from Alathur constituency of Kerala on the action being taken by the Ministry against India Tourism Chennai officials who have been booked by the anti-Corruption Bureau of the CBI last year.

## Arunachal Pradesh can top as tourist destination

Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein recently called upon the people to promote tourism in the state. Flagging off a motorcycle rally at Kongmukham (Golden Pagoda) in Namsai district, Mein called upon the people to focus on the initiative of 'Dekho Apna Pradesh' to highlight the virgin spots to attract potential tourists and promote tourism in the state in a big way. "The state has huge potential to become one of the best tourist destinations in the country and the state government is putting all efforts to boost the sector," he said.

## FDI India connecting hospitality to foreign investors

FDI India is opening new avenues of foreign credit for leading businesses in the tourism and hospitality sector through the intricate process of the FDI route set by the governing body. With the sector eyeing for revival from the pandemic slowdown, FDI India is helping businesses in financial strength through quality and conflict-free Foreign Investments. With a view to eliminating the challenge of obtaining funds for small and big business owners in India, FDI India is aiding financial assistance to help them meet their financial goals and objectives.



## Industry lauds SC's order on waiver on loans

Supreme Court's recent judgment concluding that the Government's scheme to restrict the waiver of interest on interest or compounded interest to loans worth only up to Rs 2 crores as irrational has come as a major relief to the Hospitality industry. Industry leaders cited the order as a positive sign for the hospitality industry and plans to continue engaging with the Government for sector specific relief

## Leisure Tourism Segment is Leading Revival



Mandeep S Lamba, MRICS, President (South Asia), New Delhi thinks domestic leisure tourism has been driving the recovery in the Indian hotels sector in the post-COVID era, as inbound tourism continues to be on a standstill even after a year. Key leisure markets such as Goa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala have been brimming with domestic tourists looking for a break from their COVID-blues, which helped India-wide hotel occupancy to reach 33-35% at the end of 2020.

## Privatize India tourism: RS members

Acknowledging that the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdowns in the country have dealt a crippling blow to the whole value chain of the Indian tourism, travel and hospitality industry, Rajya Sabha members discussed how best the government can lend a helping hand to the industry. Taking a shot at the government's aggressive disinvestment plan, TRS member KR Suresh Reddy said that instead of privatising PSUs and diluting LIC, the ideal solution would be to privatise India tourism. "That is where you will really get money. Convince the Prime Minister. Make him the face of tourism so that the ministry can benefit," said Reddy



"There has been good demand for occupancy in Kolkata and districts due to the election. It is contributing to the revival of the industry," Hotel and Restaurants Association of Eastern India secretary Sudesh Poddar told PTI. There has been traction in hotel bookings due to election-related travel by political party leaders and members of the media in West Bengal, he said. Demands for rooms are coming mainly from the BJP as its top to mid-level leaders are staying for poll-related works. Rooms are also being booked by the members of the national media who are covering the election.

## NE states saw steady rise in tourist inflow

The northeastern states have seen a steady increase in arrival of tourists in the past five years till 2018-19, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India report said. Tourist inflow into the region rose from 71.62 lakh in 2014-15 to over one crore visitors in 2018-19, said the report. Assam topped the region with the maximum number of tourist inflow during the period under review, but the state's share reduced from 67.68 per cent in 2014-15 to 58.87 per cent during 2018-19. Meghalaya had the highest number of tourist arrivals among the comparable seven northeastern states during 2014-16 to 2016-17

## Poll boost for Bengal hospitality sector

Sumeet Suri, the newly appointed general manager of the JW Marriott Kolkata is getting to know his new charge and the city it is located in. Suri spoke exclusively with ETHospitalityWorld in an interview. Though the hotel may have been built in a location which may not have been in the main core, Suri sensed that it was somehow becoming the centre of the city, with the kind of connectivity and infrastructure in the city. "I see this hotel as a property which has a great international experience of what Marriott is known for and building in those small local connections of Bengal, whether it's through food, or certain experiences in the hotel—It's a fine blend of it. And I see Kolkata now coming in, truly as the old and the new city," he added.

## FSSAI to grant perpetual licences to restaurants

In a major step to reduce compliance and burdens, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to grant perpetual licences to restaurants and food manufacturers on the condition that they file their returns every year. The new licencing norms are expected to benefit industries involved in manufacturing, handling, packaging and selling of food items. Currently, licences need to be renewed between 3-5 years depending on the type of establishments.

## JW Marriott Kolkata's new GM

## After 71% plunge, tourist footfalls peak in Rajasthan

Tourist footfalls in Rajasthan dived 71 per cent in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The recovery of tourist footfall in Rajasthan—a state which attracts most foreign tourists in India has been steady after the lockdown started to be lifted in June last year and movement of people began, albeit with restrictions. In January and February this year, the inflow further strengthened as the state received 16.02 lakh and 18.55 lakh tourists, respectively.

## Bihar's Darbhanga Airport to be expanded



Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri recently said that the Darbhanga Airport in Bihar is being expanded under the UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme. "Districts like Darbhanga have a lot of people who travel for work to other parts of India. We are creating connectivity," Puri said. "At Darbhanga Airport, earlier, there was no place to park the aircraft. Eventually, the facilities are increasing and by creating a bigger terminal and by getting more land, we will be solving the problems," the Minister said.