

Sectoral

Tourism & Hospitality

1. What are the initiatives taken by the Indian government in the cruise tourism sector?

The following initiatives have been undertaken by GOI: 1. The government is in process to develop 5 ports as cruise tourism hubs. These are Mumbai, Goa, Mangalore, Chennai and Kochi. These terminals will have facilities such as hospitality, retail, shopping and restaurants. 2. 200 minor ports to be develop jetties for such cruise vessels. 3. The cruise tourism policy shall be introduced by government shortly.

2. What are the initiatives taken by the Indian government in the medical tourism sector?

The following initiatives have been undertaken by GOI: 1. A new category of visa "Medical Visa" has been introduced by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment 2. The Ministry of Tourism has included the promotion of Medical Tourism as new initiatives. The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA), administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, provides financial support to approved tourism service providers. 3. To boost medical tourism, the government today announced setting up of the National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board to provide help to those visiting the country for health care need. The Board, besides Ministry officials, will include other stakeholders such as hospitals, hoteliers, medical experts and tour operators.

3. What are the initiatives taken by the Union Government to develop rural tourism in India?

The tourism ministry has sanctioned INR 131 lakhs for the development of four rural tourism sites. The states in which these sites are Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Tripura.

4. What are the government's initiatives under Lighthouses Tourism in India?

The GOI has identified 78 lighthouses in the country as centres of tourism, which are in the first phase under Public Private Partnership (PPP). The identified lighthouses are in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The GOI has kick started the 'lighthouse tourism' project by inviting initial qualification bids to develop eight lighthouses in the first phase, at a cost of INR 128 crore, under the public-private-partnership model for 7 lighthouses.

5. What is difference between Prasad Scheme and "Spiritual Circuit" under Swadesh Darshan Scheme?

The 'PRASAD' scheme, focuses on development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations. Whereas, in the 'Spiritual Circuit' identified under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the thrust is on development of particular thematic circuit consisting of various religious/spiritual destination in a State and Union Territory.

6. What is Prasad Scheme?

Under the scheme 'Prasad', the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations. Under the PRASAD scheme, thirteen sites have been identified for development, namely: Amritsar, Ajmer, Dwarka, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Kedarnath, Kamakhya and Patna. In Union Budget 2017-18, INR 100 crore has been allocated for Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD).

7. What is Swadesh Darshan Scheme?

Under the scheme 'Swadesh Darshan', the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits. Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, 13 thematic circuits have been identified, for development namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit. In Union Budget 2017-18, 959.91 crore has been allocated for the Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around specific themes under Swadesh Darshan scheme.

8. How much FDI is allowed under tourism & hospitality?

i) 100% FDI is allowed under the automatic route in tourism and hospitality ii) 100% FDI allowed in tourism construction projects, including the development of hotels, resorts and recreational facilities.

9. What rates will be applicable for accommodation in various hotels/ guest houses/ inns in India?

The GST rates applicable for accommodation in hotels, inns, guest houses, clubs, campsites or other commercial places meant for residential or lodging purposes will depend upon the tariff per unit per day declared by the respective accommodation establishment. The slabs of GST rates applicable are given below: 1. Less than INR 1000- Nil 2. INR 1000 and above but less than INR 2500- 12 % 3. INR 2500 and above but less than INR 7500- 18 % 4. More than INR 7500- 28 %

10. What rates will be applicable for travel by air?

The GST rates applicable on air tariffs are as below: 1. Travel by economy class - 5 % 2. Travel by other than economy class - 12 %

11. What is the minimum eligibility for sponsorship of events having potential for promotion of tourism to and/or within India?

The Ministry of Tourism invites proposals to support cultural, music, dance, literary, sports, cinema and other events which have potential or create potential for attracting large number of tourists, both domestic and international. The support to these events would be decided on a case to case basis based on the potential for promotion of tourism as well as the benefits that would accrue from it for the promotion of Incredible India brand, subject to the following basic minimum eligibility conditions: (i) The event to be supported may be held in India or abroad. (ii) The event should have been in existence since the last five years or should have completed at least 5 editions as of 31.12.2013 and should be supported by a certificate to this effect from a Chartered Accountant. (iii) The event should have a total expenditure of at least INR 1.00 Crore for each edition supported by audited statements of expenditure on the event for last five years.