

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2019

- Ministry of Tourism organized National Conference of Tourism Ministers on 20th August 2019 in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge). The conference was attended by State Tourism Ministers of 19 States, Secretaries of Tourism and senior officials from the States and Union Territories (UTs).
- Issues related to the development and promotion of Tourism were deliberated during the National Conference of Tourism Ministers. The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge) launched the Hindi version of the new Incredible India portal and showcased the Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC) Portal during the conference. Presentations were held to get inputs and feedback on the following subjects: -
 - ✓ Developing an all-encompassing One Stop Solution including information on tourism related services through a web based application and a Grievance Redressal Mechanism through Twitter and Tourist-Helpline
 - ✓ Adoption of Adventure Tourism and Bed & Breakfast/Homestay Scheme Guidelines by States/UTs
 - ✓ Status of projects sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan & PRASHAD Schemes and implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS).
- Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge) awarded Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to 4 agencies for 7 sites/interventions and Letter of Intent (LoIs) to 5 Agencies for 8 sites under the Adopt a Heritage: “Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” Project during the National Conference of Tourism Ministers.

- Ministry of Tourism took up the matter for liberalizing the e-Tourist Visa with M/o Home Affairs which has been accepted with the following amendments:

- ✓ e-Tourist Visa of 5-year duration would be permitted in addition to one-year e-Tourist Visa. The e-Tourist Visa for 5 years will be with a stay stipulation of maximum of 90 days' multiple entry and non-extendable
- ✓ A one-month e-Tourist Visa with double entry has been launched
- ✓ e-Conference Visa, in line with e-Conference Visa for Government/P.S.U. conferences, would also be extended to the conferences organized by private persons/companies/organizations

- The fee on e-Tourist Visa has been substantially reduced to increase tourism competitiveness of the country. New rates for e-Tourist Visa are:

30 days e-TV (April-June)	-	US \$ 10/-
30 days e-TV (July -March)	-	US \$ 25/-
01-year e-TV	-	US \$ 40/-
05 years e-TV	-	US \$ 80/-

- Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge) chaired a meeting on 8th August 2019 for participation in the India Tourism Mart (ITM) to be held from 23rd to 25th September 2019 in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi. The State Governments/UTs were requested for participating in ITM and for organizing FAM tours to showcase the tourism destination with their States/UTs. HMT urged the State Governments to make efforts for changing the perception about India as a tourism destination and to take necessary steps to resolve the problems faced by the tourists.
- Secretary (Tourism) chaired a meeting on 8th August 2019 regarding organizing of Paryatan Parv from 2nd to 13th October, 2019 on PAN India basis. The Delhi leg of the Paryatan Parv will be held at Rajpath Lawns from 2nd to 6th October, 2019. The upcoming Paryatan Parv will highlight the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi to commemorate his 150th Birth Anniversary. The States/UTs and Central Ministries were requested to set up pavilions and plan activities showcasing the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

- Ministry of Home Affairs acceded to the request of the Ministry of Tourism for opening more peaks. Adventure tourism in the country has received a big boost with the opening of 125 new mountain peaks for Mountaineering/Trekking in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.
- Ministry of Tourism organized Road Shows in Vietnam, Philippines and Indonesia from 26th to 29th August 2019. Economic Advisor, Ministry of Tourism led the Indian delegation comprising tour operators, destination management companies and representatives from State Governments. The Road Shows were attended by local tour operators, airlines and media.
- An Incredible India public event was organized with support of the Indian Mission at Pacific Place Mall, Jakarta on 30th August 2019. The event was jointly inaugurated by Ambassador of India (Jakarta), Economic Advisor (Tourism) and Acting Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Government of Indonesia. The public event showcased Indian Dance, Culture, Cuisine and Fashion Show.
- Ministry of Tourism deputed Economic Advisor to join the delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry to explore investment potential for India investors in Vladivostok, Russia Far East Region (FER) on 12th & 13th August 2019. In the tourism sector, the Indian delegation expressed its interest for cooperation in hotel & hospitality industry, development of tourist clusters, wellness & health tourism, shopping & entertainment and adventure sports.
- The 2nd Meeting of the India-China High Level Mechanism on Cultural and people to people Exchanges was held on 12th August 2019. in Beijing, China. The Indian delegation was led by the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Government of India and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism was deputed to join the delegation.
- Ministry of Tourism disposed 99 Public Grievances by the end of August, 2019 and 30 remained pending.
