

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026**

- **India-Oman Joint Working Group Meeting on EPC 2026:** A virtual meeting of the 1st India-Oman Joint Working Group (JWG) was held on 18 February 2026 to finalise the proposed India-Oman Executive Programme of Cooperation (EPC) 2026.
- The Secretary (Tourism) chaired the 8th meeting of the National Board for Adventure Tourism (NBAT) on 24.02.2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by line Ministries and all other board members, special invitees from States of Rajasthan, West Bengal and UT of Ladakh.
- The Honorable Minister of Tourism chaired a joint consultative meeting with all the member associations of the FAITH (Federation of Associations of Indian Tourism & Hospitality). The meeting discussed various aspects of the Indian tourism sector, Ease of Doing Business matters and the way forward actions in achieving the Vikasit Bharat Goals.
- The Union Budget 2026 has introduced a strong set of tourism-focused announcements aimed at driving regional development. Ministry of Tourism is in establishing the National Institute of Hospitality with the level of excellence of IIMs in hospitality management studies to function as bridge between Academia- Industry and Government. NIH will enhance our students, Industry adaptive employability globally and elevate India's standing in hospitality education. The budget announcement on upskilling 10000 tourist guides for 20 iconic destinations in collaboration with the leading IIMs has resulted in the moral boosting and rejuvenation of the Tourist guide eco system. The reach out from IIMs to Ministry of Tourism to collaborate with IITTM in rolling out the training is encouraging. Ministry of tourism indents to execute the announcements on the Mountain, Turtle & Bird trails with an anchoring unified national framework for trail systems with emphasis on carrying-capacity norms, zoning and environmental safeguards and with certified guide ecosystems in place. The model will integrate community-led sustainable tourism with homestays, nature guides, and trail stewardship groups. Local community inclusive tourism efforts will not only offer sustainable livelihood opportunities but also positions India as a world-class destination for trekking, nature-based and adventure tourism.
- Another notable development was that the Economic Survey has included two dedicated paragraphs on Tourism this time. Para 7.23 a Domestic Resilience with High value segments and Para 9.54 & Para 9.5 on Tourism schemes with the Title Tourism.
- At MOT's initiative, the subject tourism has been included in the high-level committee of Niti Aayog on central level regulations pertaining to hotels and hospitality, as also Cabinet Secretary's Task Force. The committee is expected to examine and recommend simplification/removal of licenses/permissions required under various regulations which was also one of the demands of the industry partners.

- High Level Committee Chaired by Mr. Rajiv Gauba, Member Niti Ayog held in-depth deliberations on 11th of February with key stakeholders from Hospitality and Tourism industry on various aspects of Ease of Doing Tourism business like time frame on project approvals, classification guidelines, liquor licenses, solid waste management requirements etc.
- A Review meeting with the members of the Task Force was held under the chairmanship of Secretary (Tourism) on 06th February 2026 to evaluate the present status of recommendations of Task Force and future course of action, to further align the hospitality courses with industry practices. During the meeting, CMD/President/VP/CEO level officials from the most prestigious Hotel Chains operating in India, including President of Hotel Association of India were present.
- A detailed review was done in Kashi, and a separate letter has been sent on the issues and possible resolutions.

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