

This year's budget seems to be expanding on infrastructure and connectivity – two things our industry has been emphasizing on since long. From last year, it appears decision-makers has taken notice of the fact and furthered the focus on expansion with the budget for 2020. New developments in transport, tourism and aviation emphasized in budget such as increasing air fleet twofold will certainly create better connectivity and revenue opportunities for businesses. Other initiatives, for instance, to develop smart cities and build archaeological sites with on-site museums will present more offbeat destination options to modern traveller and will likely impact inbound tourism positively; simultaneously, enhancing the industry's potential to bring foreign currency and create employment opportunities. We welcome the move to continue advancing infrastructure and expanding connectivity in budget for 2020.

Key highlight certainly had been the undertaking to develop 100 new airports by 2024. This move promises grand opportunities for both the country and people – bringing more revenue, increasing the number of inbound travellers, and generating employment in case of former and creating better connectivity while reducing travel time for latter. Expected to be further enhanced by the extension in number of air fleet from 600 to 1,200 by 2024 is a welcome move. By announcing to develop 17 iconic-world-class structures and planning to make India an aviation manufacturing hub, our Finance Minister has left us optimistic about the future. To summarize, we are hopeful for the INR 2,500 Crore allocation for tourism industry and look forward to a fruitful year with many positive developments expected to materialise as a result.



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The budget 2020-2021 has striven to do a bit for the travel and tourism sector. The government leaves no stone unturned to promote India as a travel destination, and this budget witnessed the same. As the Finance Minister announced five archaeological places that will be set up with museum sites Rakhigarhi, Hastinapur, Sivasagar, Dholavira, and Adichanallur and hence allocated Rs 2,500 crore to promote tourism in the country.

But, the key takeaway is the government's decision to increase the number of aircraft fleet from the present number of 600 to 1200 by the year 2024 under the UDAN scheme. This will boost the sector, will aid in regional connectivity and enable more passengers to travel at affordable rates, a provision of Rs 3,100 crore has been set aside for Culture Ministry in FY21. It's a welcoming decision and we look forward to it as the government has recognized the potential of the tourism industry, it's a big push and this sector needed the infrastructure to be looked at. The overall redevelopment of four railway stations and around 1,1500 trains under the public-private partnership (PPP) model will help to connect iconic tourist destinations.

The government has backed its vision to turn India into one of the world's top tourism hubs by allocating INR 2,500 crore for promoting tourism in general and setting aside a sum of INR 3100 crore for the Culture Ministry to boost regional tourism. What would be wonderful is to have an empowered nodal body comprising of the Govt / OTA / airline, hotel and other industry representatives with the objective of promoting discoverability, ease of booking and fulfilment of our cultural, natural and heritage sites.

Introduction of more Tejas Express type trains and the inauguration of several culturally-significant archaeological sites are other much-needed moves. We also welcome the Hon'ble FM's proposal to develop 100 more airports as well as the doubling of the airline fleet by 2024. This calls for skilled manpower development in parallel. The aim to double the fleet to 1200 in the next 3 years will certainly accelerate the passenger growth rate.



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We welcome the government's initiative to allocate Rs 2500 crore for tourism promotion. Being one of the key drivers of growth and the third-largest forex earner for India, this initiative will further create employment growth and strengthen the tourism industry at large. We believe that India is poised for a quantum leap in the space of tourism which will contribute to the GDP growth in the coming years.