



2021 HOSPITALITY
#BounceBack



11th Edition

Mamata Banerjee's new cabinet

Indranil Sen, for the second consecutive term, has been elected as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, and the MoS for Information and Cultural Affairs in Mamata Banerjee's new cabinet. For the travel agents in Bengal, Sundarbans and North Bengal are two most important areas for tourism, where maximum footfall is observed. While CM's old-hand Jyoti Priya Mallick has been given the Forest portfolio, young Birbaha Hansda will take care of its MoS role. Sundarban Affairs will be handled by Bankim Chandra Hazra, and Banerjee herself will take charge of Hill Affairs and North Bengal development. Yeasmin Sabina has joined the cabinet as Minister-of-state for North Bengal Development.



Appeal for DBT to hospitality workers

Several associations of travel and hospitality in the country, have asked the government to consider a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to support the livelihood of the people who are jobless ever since the pandemic struck the sector. In an appeal to the governments at the Centre and the states, associations urged for DBT of an amount equivalent to their pre-pandemic basic salaries to support the livelihood of crores of people and their families till the duration of the pandemic. It is roughly estimated that between 10% - 12% of India's direct and indirect employment came from tourism, travel & hospitality services.

Sanjiv Kapoor, new president of Oberoi Hotels and Resorts



Sanjiv Kapoor, former senior executive at Vistara and at SpiceJet, will take over as president of Oberoi Hotels and Resorts Group on June 1. He will refill the president's post which had been vacant since 2017 post the exit of Kapil Chopra, who later became the founder and CEO of the Gurugram-based Postcard Hotels and Resorts. Kapoor joins the Oberoi Hotels Group at a time

when the hospitality industry is struggling under the weight of various state-mandated lockdowns brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic which have crippled the travel and tourism market.

Give salary support to travel industry staff

In the open letter to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several travel agents associations have demanded basic survival income of INR 10,000 for the staff of the agencies, collateral free loans for entrepreneurs with reduced interest, IT holiday for next 5 years and a regulatory authority for the travel sector in the lines of TRAI and SEBI. The "advance salary" shall be paid back, free of interest to the government in installments over 24 months thereafter or deducted at 15% of their salary and paid to the exchequer, mentioned in the letter. "Considering the challenges faced by the travel agents on digital payments, TAAI has demanded reduction of the current transaction charges of 3.5% on credit card payments to 0.5%," they added.

Bodh Gaya hoteliers want tax relief

The people associated with tourism and hospitality business at Bodh Gaya sought relief from the government in view of the heavy financial losses due to the Covid pandemic and subsequent lockdowns since March last year. Bodh Gaya Hotel Association general secretary and president of confederation of All India Traders Association, Sudama Kumar, said a written application in support of the demands was sent to the state industry minister and minister in-charge of Gaya district as per his suggestion. "The government should waive off the interest in the power bill and provide facility of payment in instalments," he demanded. "A request has also been made to waive off the holding tax of hotel buildings during the Covid period" he added.

Flybig to connect North East



Flybig Airlines recently forayed into the North East region to provide connectivity under UDAN scheme to remote areas amidst the pandemic and at a time when the country is facing challenges due to COVID-19. After its successful launch in Central India, Flybig is set to embark on its operations in the diverse routes such as Agartala in Tripura, Dibrugarh in Assam, Tezu and Pasighat in

Arunachal Pradesh, with connections to Guwahati, Shillong and Kolkata. The airline began operations in January 2021 and is focused on connecting tier-2 and tier-3 cities within the country with a fleet of ATR 72 type of aircraft.

Pawar urges Uddhav for concessions to COVID-hit hotels

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar has written to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, seeking concessions for the hotel and tourism industry in Maharashtra, one of the worst-hit sectors amid the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Pawar wrote, "Hotels and permit bars with FL-III licence should be given permission to pay excise tax in four instalments. They should be given concessions in power tariff, and property tax should be waived." He also referred to the Central government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, which has been extended till June 30. The NCP chief said, "Maharashtra government too should implement a similar scheme that will promote employment and rejuvenate the hospitality industry."

Hotel staff to get priority vaccines in Kerala



Hotel and restaurant staff in the 18-45 age group will get priority vaccination in Kerala, announced the state government. The government has notified different priority groups to be considered for priority vaccination based on the suggestions from different departments. The government has included 32 different groups in the new list of frontline workers for priority vaccination. People included in the list can register for free vaccinations on a priority basis.

Rupsi Airport opens in Assam

Rupsi Airport in Assam's Dhubri district started operations recently with a trial flight conducted on the Guwahati-Rupsi-Guwahati route. The airport has been developed under the RCS-UDAN scheme and operations by Flybig Airlines is scheduled to operate on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

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