

## **Protests kill verve of peak tourist season**

The ongoing unrest in the country among other things has impacted the hospitality sector during the peak season of the year. Domestic travellers are postponing their current plans due to safety concerns. There is 20-23 per cent month-on-month fall in the flight bookings in the affected cities for December. Travel advisories issued by some countries might also impact Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) numbers for year-end travel. Search trends for the coming month has also seen a decline of 27 per cent in the affected cities. Due to difficult travel conditions, there has been a slight rise in cancellations for immediate travel.

The situation is similar when it comes to hotel bookings, too. Industry experts are of the view that due to the current state of affairs there would be a fall in the hotel bookings during the Christmas -New Year period as compared to same time last year.

“The impact of the current situation will last for a long time. Not only will this curb domestic travelling but foreign travellers are also to get affected. We are expecting a dip in the total hotel bookings as against last year but exact number would be clear in 2-3 days,” said Gurbaxish Singh Kohli, President, Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI).