

India records 3% surge in foreign tourist arrivals during Jan-Nov 2019

Ministry of Tourism, in a recent statement declared that foreign tourist arrival in India has witnessed a growth of 3.23 per cent amounting to 96, 69,633 (travellers) during January-November 2019. As per a report around 93,66,478 overseas travellers had arrived in January-November 2018. The increase in number of foreign tourist arrivals has also impacted India's ranking in Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum, which has moved the country to 34th rank in 2019 from 65th in 2013.

The significant rise in the number of overseas travellers in India is as a result of several steps taken by the Indian Tourism Ministry last year, including opening of 120 new peaks for mountaineering, reducing e-visa fees and GST rates on hotel room bookings, among others, to boost inbound tourism. Further, the government sanctioned 77 projects for development of thematic circuits for an amount of INR 6,035.70 crore till date under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The ministry also said that integrated development of identified pilgrimage destinations is being undertaken under the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD) Scheme. A total number of 28 projects have been sanctioned amounting to INR 840.02 crore under this scheme.