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Treading trending Lakshadweep

Lakshadweep has gained spotlight as a key domestic travel destination following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the archipelago. Experts feel the destination needs better infrastructural facilities to cash in on its potential.

Janice Alyosius & Hazel Jain

The mesmerizing island group of Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea has recently found itself in the limelight owing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for domestic tourism and the combined efforts of various industry stakeholders. The spotlight on this hidden gem has unveiled a burgeoning interest among travellers

and spurred a flurry of discussions centered on its untapped potential and the necessary enhancements required to transform it into a premier tourist destination.

Pradeep Shetty, President, Hotel and Restaurant Association (Western India) – HRAWI & Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), highlighted the need for infrastruc-

tural upgrades at the destination. "At present, Lakshadweep operates only one or two flights weekly with limited seat capacity using ATRs. There is an urgent need to augment flight frequency and upgrade airport facilities, including larger runways. Simultaneously, augmenting room inventory is crucial. We strongly advocate for a comprehensive tourism development plan for Lakshadweep

encompassing increased flight frequencies, improved airport infrastructure and expanded accommodations. FHRAI emphasizes these upgrades as vital to elevate Lakshadweep's appeal, attracting global tourists while supporting sustainable tourism and local communities. Collaboration with authorities remains pivotal for realizing this vision and nurturing Lakshadweep into a premier des-



Pradeep Shetty
President, HRAWI & FHRAI



MP Bezbaruah
Secretary General, HAI

tionation aligning with the industry's commitment to a thriving Indian tourism landscape," he said.

MP Bezbaruah, Secretary General, Hotel Association of India, *Contd. on page 9*