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Hospitality industry welcomes Maharashtra's tourism initiatives

HRAWI applauds Maharashtra's 2024 tourism policy for substantial financial support, fiscal incentives, and focus on eco-tourism and cultural preservation.

HRRAWI has complemented the Maharashtra government's new tourism policy for 2024, highlighting its potential to transform the state's tourism landscape. The policy, which emphasises sustainable development and cultural preservation, marks a significant step towards transforming Maharashtra into a premier global tourist destination.

"We are thrilled about the Maharashtra government's tourism policy 2024. This progressive framework, aimed at positioning Maharashtra as a premier global tourist destination, is a game changer for our industry. The policy's strategic initiatives and incentives are set to attract investments and create more than 30 lakh jobs. Additional Floor Space Index (FSI), relaxed building restrictions to expedite projects, capital subsidies, State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) reimbursement, electricity duty exemptions and interest subventions on loans are some of the key requirements of the industry. We believe, once implemented, it will give a big push to the state's tourism and hospitality sectors. We anticipate its effective implementation within the stated objectives and the ease of doing business (EoDB) framework," said **Pradeep Shetty**, President, HRAWI.

Substantial financial support

Under the new tourism policy, an annual financial allocation of ₹1,666 crore is sanctioned. This investment is earmarked for incentives and operational support, ensuring backing of the tourism sector. The policy also promises to facilitate fast-track clearances, provide additional FSI, and relax building restrictions, thereby encouraging new developments and expansions in the tourism sector.

Fiscal incentives

The policy introduces several fiscal incentives, including capital subsidies, SGST reimbursement, electricity duty exemptions, and interest subventions. These measures are designed to reduce the financial burden on tourism businesses and stimulate growth. Additionally, the policy emphasises the enhancement of tourism infrastructure. This includes the

such as Best Tourism Village, Homestay, and Agro-Tourism units.

Focus on ecotourism

A major component of the policy is its focus on ecotourism and cultural preservation. By prioritising these areas, the policy aims to support projects that promote sustainable tourism practices and revival of indigenous arts, culture,

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installation of Wi-Fi, CCTV, and a 24x7 tourist-police helpline to ensure safety and connectivity for visitors. The policy also features awards for tourism ventures

and cuisine. This focus aligns with the National Tourism Agenda, improving coordination between the state and central governments. □

