

Ministry of Tourism

Tourism may come under the Concurrent List

Relevant for MHRIL

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Introduction

In a major fillip for the country's tourism sector and related businesses and livelihoods, government is considering the inclusion of tourism in the concurrent list.

Context

The proposed move is aimed at bringing about seamless coordination among various agencies working for the sector and help the sector get placed on the national agenda.

The proposal if implemented will allow both Centre and the states to formulate policies that could benefit the sector which has faced severe setback due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

COVID Impact

The move comes at a time the sector has witnessed shutting of several businesses and job losses in the past one year on the back of the pandemic and the eventual lockdowns across states

Policy Measure

A Parliamentary Standing Committee has hoped that the proposed measure will provide a level playing field to all the hotels which have been badly hit by the ongoing pandemic.

"The Ministry of Tourism has taken up the issue of inclusion of tourism in the Concurrent List with the ministry concerned, so that tourism can be placed on the national agenda," said the tourism ministry in a reply to a Parliamentary Standing Committee whose report was tabled in Parliament.

In another development, the committee has also sought appraisal of the current status of the proposal of granting the infrastructure status to hospitality sector. Infrastructure status has been a long-standing demand of the sector which would help stakeholders get easy and affordable loans.

Current Status

Travel and tourism sectors are now largely treated as a state subject, thereby making states responsible for devising rules and regulations for the sector and make programmes for its development

The Union Tourism Ministry has now taken up the issue of inclusion of sector in the Concurrent List of the Constitution with the ministries concerned.



Industry View

Industry body CII has welcomed move to place tourism in Concurrent list so that effective policies can be made to regulate it.

According to the Hotel Association of India (HAI) the proposal if implemented will help in post-pandemic recovery of the sector. "We welcome initiation of proposal by the Ministry of Tourism for including Tourism in the Concurrent List of Constitution. Once implemented, this will also play a key role in post-Covid recovery," HAI said.