

Ministry of Tourism

## **India's Travel & Tourism competitiveness Index ranking has improved since 2013 , India has bagged 34th position in 2019 - Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**

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India's Travel & Tourism competitiveness Index ranking since 2013 has improved. The details are as follows:

Year	2013	2015	2017	2019
Rank	65	52	40	34

Improvement in India's ranking in Travel & Tourism competitiveness Index is an encouragement for tourism sector in the country.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has taken several steps for creation of tourism infrastructure in the country so as to attract more tourists, which inter-alia include:

i. Launch of two flagship schemes: Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASHAD- Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive. The projects under these schemes are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

ii. Pursuant to the Budget Announcements of 2018-19, this Ministry has identified 17 sites in 12 clusters in the country for development as Iconic Tourist Sites.

iii. The 'Adopt A Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan', a collaborative effort by Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), State/UTs Governments, envisages developing heritage sites and making them tourist friendly, to enhance tourism potential and cultural importance in a planned and phased manner.

iv. Ministry provides Assistance to Central Agencies for the development of tourism related infrastructure in the country.

Further, Ministry of Tourism regularly coordinates with Ministry of Home Affairs and as a result Ministry of Home Affairs has relaxed the Protected Area Permit(PAP)/Restricted Area Permit(RAP) for a period of 5 Years i.e. till 31.12.2022 in the states of Manipur, Mizoram and

Nagaland and for 29 Islands of Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

As a result of various measures taken by the stakeholders, the tourist visits in the country have increased in the recent years, details of which are given below:

	2016	2017	2018 (Revised)
Domestic Tourist Visits(Million)	1615.4	1657.6	1854.9
Foreign Tourist Visits(Million)	24.7	26.9	28.9

Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination and as part of its on-going activities to promote various tourism destinations and products in the different States and Union Territories of the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura. In addition to advertisement, Promotions are also undertaken through the website and Social Media accounts of the Ministry. In addition, the India Tourism Offices in India and overseas undertake various promotional activities with the objective of showcasing the tourism potential of the different States/UTs.

This information was given by the Minister of State (I/c) of Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

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