

Himachal Pradesh makes Covid e-pass mandatory after tourists rush



Jai Ram Thakur

The Himachal Pradesh government has issued a travel advisory for tourists and made Covid e-pass mandatory after thousands of people flocked the state, popular for its scenic mountain towns and resorts, causing massive traffic jams in several areas over the weekend.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that though the government has removed the condition of RT-PCR negative report entering the state they must follow Covid-19 guidelines. People visiting the state would be monitored through registration on the Covid e-pass software, said Thakur.

TAFI to hold national elections next month via e-Voting

The Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) is set to hold its national elections next month using e-Voting for the safety of its members. The effective term for the new team would be 2021-2022. As per TAFI's circular to its members, the elections were supposed to be held in 2020. However, due to Covid-19, the chapter elections were delayed, which affected the national elections. "We are now streamlined with regards to the elections at the chapter, and will be having our national elections in the month of July 2021. The term for the team coming in the election would have been 2020-2022, but due to the delay the team will only have an effective term of 2021-2022," TAFI said in the circular. "As the election process will be electronic, and considering the lockdown and COVID, no agents who pay their fees after 18th June will either be eligible to vote or stand for election," the circular states.



Mauritius to reopen for international travellers from July 15



Mauritius is set to welcome international travellers from July 15, 2021. The island will be opening in phases and during the first phase, from July 15 to September 30, 2021, will enable vaccinated travellers to enjoy a resort holiday on the island. Holiday-makers will be able to enjoy facilities within their chosen resort premises, including the swimming pool and beach. If guests stay over 14 days and have negative PCR tests during their stay in the resort, they will be able to explore the island's attractions. However, for shorter stays, they may leave the resort earlier and travel back home.

Travellers to Mauritius aged 18 years or over must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. They must undergo a PCR test between 5 and 7 days before departure and a negative result is required to travel to the island. Travellers will also have a PCR test on arrival at the airport in Mauritius and on day 7 and 14 of their resort holiday, as applicable.

IndiGo mulls flight services to Beijing, Cairo, Nairobi, Moscow, Jakarta, Manila & CIS



Ronojoy Dutta

IndiGo is planning overseas flights of up to 7-hour duration from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and Kolkata, some of them with its longer-range Airbus A321s. However, the airline said that the condition is these countries need to lift Covid-related restrictions and the regular international flights should resume operations soon.

Ronojoy Dutta, CEO, IndiGo said, "As soon as the Covid pandemic comes down, you will see the airline going in every direction. He also added that the airline has so many markets within six, seven hours to places like Beijing, Moscow, Cairo, Nairobi, Jakarta, Manila, and all the CIS countries in between them."

Odisha to provide financial package to Covid-hit tourism sector

Odisha government is soon going to announce a financial package for the Covid-hit tourism sector of the state, said Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Tourism Minister, Odisha.

"The Chief Minister (Naveen Patnaik) is expected to soon announce a financial package for the tourism sector. The need is to work towards sustainable tourism, and we cannot have a situation where risk management is not taken care of," Panigrahi said.

Kerala plans to make popular tourist destinations as 100% vaccinated zones

All popular holiday destinations in Kerala may soon be declared as complete "vaccinated zones" as the state government is mulling to provide COVID-19 jab to everyone in the tourism sector, which had suffered massive loss due to the pandemic.

The government has already started providing vaccines to those working in the industry after including them in the prioritised list considering them as front line COVID fighters. Kerala Tourism Minister P A Mohammed Riyas, said, "We are mulling to make famous tourist destinations in the state 100% vaccinated zones by July 15 with the support of the Health Department."

