

Hoteliers seek sops to boost local tourism

The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) wants the government to offer a deduction of Rs50,000 for resident Indians on their domestic travels.

Gurbaxish Singh Kohli, vice-president of FHRAI and president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association Western India (HRAWI), said while it was important to draw foreign tourists to India, domestic tourism should also be encouraged. “By incentivizing the resident Indians whose disposable income is on the rise, the government can give a major boost to tourism within the country. High-tax structures in India are pushing domestic travellers to foreign locales because of affordability and exotic experience,” he said.

Referring to PM Narendra Modi’s Independence Day speech, when he had urged Indians to visit at least 15 tourist destinations across India before 2022, Kohli said, “Offering the right incentive to the domestic traveller has the potential to push domestic tourism in India. FHRAI can also work in tandem with the government to boost the sector.”