

## **Travel bookings take a hit due to coronavirus outbreak**

Restrictions on travel between China and India due to the outbreak of deadly coronavirus in China has impacted the bookings and the industry is cautiously watching the situation. India announced temporary suspension of e-visa facility for Chinese travellers and foreigners residing in the neighbouring country and issued a fresh advisory saying anyone with travel history to China since January 15 can be quarantined. Now, with the Indian government banning all India-bound airlines from boarding any passengers from China and cancelling valid visas to Chinese or foreigners who have visited China in the last two weeks, it is going to bring almost a complete halt to travel between the two countries.

Over the past few years, the air travel between India and China had grown significantly owing to increased business activities. MakeMyTrip is monitoring the situation closely along with the entire travel industry and is hoping that the steps taken to contain the spread of the disease will help put a lid on the situation soon, he added. On the other hand, the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) said that so far, there has not been any impact on the tourism sector. However, these are early days and "we are constantly monitoring the situation".

Currently, only a couple of provinces in China have been cordoned off and they are not the cities that drive massive traffic to India, FHRAI Joint Honorary Secretary Pradeep Shetty said. "Having said that everyone in the travel industry is still trying to assess the gravity of the situation and is being overcautious. This may result in lesser tourist traffic both locally as well as internationally. So, this could result in some hit in revenues to the hospitality and tourism sector," he added.