

FICCI hails the new Visa-on-Arrival announcement as the step in right direction for inbound tourism

New Delhi, February 7, 2014: Welcoming the new visa-on-arrival announcement by the Government, **Dr Jyotsna Suri, Sr. Vice President - FICCI and C&MD - The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group said,** "The new liberalized visa regime has the potential to make India one of the most favoured tourist destinations of the world. This is a well timed move just as the next tourist season sets in. Instead of 11 countries, travelers from 180 countries will get to avail visa-on-arrival facility in India."

"FICCI has been recommending steps to promote India as a natural destination for inbound tourism. Our experience through global interactions we have organised such as the Great India Travel Bazaar (GITB) in Rajasthan from 2008 to 2013 and the upcoming 7th landmark global tourism event, the Incredible India Travel Bazaar (IITB), is that this facility is much-needed and would go a long way in promoting inflow of foreign tour operators. The visa on arrival facility will enthuse global participants to attend over 9000 B2B meetings at the forthcoming IITB," **added Dr Suri.**

Post the announcement, FICCI expects a surge in global participation at the IITB scheduled for April 8-9, 2014 at New Delhi and expects over 250 leading foreign tour operators from over 55 countries to join.

"Available data indicates that despite 'not-so-liberalized visa regime' last year India received 68.48 lakh foreign visitors, registering a growth of 4.1% over 2012. Once the infrastructure for granting visa-on-arrival is put in place India will not only gain in terms of more tourists but it will also have positive spin-off on employments and earnings", **Dr Suri stated.**

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