EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

August 21, 2020

Coronavirus: Destination Updates

INDIA

On 15 August, India marked its 74th Independence Day. Unlike previous years, the celebrations were low-key in terms of participation of people keeping all the safety and social distance norms issued by the government

India's coronavirus count has risen to over 2.8 million with 69,652 new cases in the last 24 hours. The fresh cases marked the biggest one-day jump in the country so far. Over 2 million people have recovered from COVID-19, taking the recovery rate to 73.90 per cent as per statement released by the Ministry of Health.

Maharashtra accounts for the maximum of cases (628,642), followed by Tamil Nadu (355,449), Andhra Pradesh (316,003), Karnataka (249,590), Uttar Pradesh (167,510) and Delhi (156,139).

Although scheduled International passenger flights remains suspended in India, the government has established air travel "bubbles" arrangements with the United States, UK, France, Germany, UAE, Qatar and Maldives. It is negotiating with 13 more countries on similar scheme. These include Australia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Bahrain, Israel, Kenya, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and neighboring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan.

Vistara airline has announced that it will operate special, non-stop flights between Delhi and London Heathrow from 28 August to 30 September 2020, marking its foray in long-haul international operations.

In a welcoming move for the tourism industry, the state government of Kerala announced a relief package Rupees 455 crore (+/- USD 61 million) for the industry. It is hoped that the financial package presented by Kerala will inspire other states and the central government to work out a similar package for the ailing travel industry of India.

The coronavirus case count in India now stands at 29,05,800 cases with 21,58,946 (74.30%) recoveries according to latest health ministry figures. 54,849 (1.89%) people have died due to the virus.

For the latest national updates you may visit https://www.mygov.in/covid-19/