



Coronavirus: Destination Updates as on 23 October 2020

INDIA

Festive season has arrived in India and with it brought a feeling of hope. This is the time when we celebrate triumph of good over evil, light conquering darkness, and hope replacing despair. As the Goddess descends on earth, she brings blessings of better times ahead.

Celebrations will follow all safety precautions and ensure that the positive trend continues. While the flavour of festivities may feel different this year, virtual gatherings are gaining popularity in many cases.

Domestic tourism is seeing a steady revival with states getting bookings for the upcoming holidays. With festivals like Navratri and Durga Puja going on, people are in the mood to shake off the gloom of the past few months. From hotels to homestays, exciting offers and packages are being offered for both vacations and staycations.

An interesting trend that has come up in the various surveys and studies in the industry is that there is a boost in family travel. The prolonged lockdown and need for social distancing seems to have strengthened familial bonds. Families are increasingly looking for stay-put packages at destinations that give exclusive experiences. Private villas, in-house butlers, and chefs, even hotel buyouts are in trend during this time.

In welcome news, the grounded Jet Airways has got a fresh lease of life with London-based Kalrock Capital and UAE-based entrepreneur Murari Lal Jalan winning the bid for its revival. While the details of the revival plan remain undisclosed, we are hopeful that the airline will soon be restored to its former glory.

8 Indian beaches are now Blue Flag certified by an international jury comprising representatives from UNWTO, UN Environment Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Foundation of Environment Education. This coveted eco-label has been awarded to eight beaches, including Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (AP), Golden (Odisha), Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and Shivrajpur (Gujarat). The certification is given to the beaches that meet the stringent environmental protection, educational, and other sustainable benchmarks set by the FEE.

Internationally, India has now extended air travel bubbles to include 18 nations with the recent addition of Bangladesh and Ukraine. Talks are going on for including even more nations.

In a happy development, the number of cases reported in India has seen a marked decrease since mid-September. The country has reported an inspiring 89.2% recovery rate and things are starting to look steadily positive.

Statistics: Number of cases reported in India stands at 7.7M, with 6.8M cases of recovery. India has reported a 1.5% death rate as on 22 October. For detailed and latest updates, please [click here](#).