

INDIA

India administered a record 8.6 million doses of vaccine on 21 June, which was the first day of the new policy offering free vaccines to all adults. As on date, over 301 million people in the country have received at least one dose of vaccine and over 3.8% of the total adult population have been fully vaccinated. Vaccination drives have been ramped up across the country with the goal of moving forward and being prepared for the future. The number of cases reported daily has also gone down dramatically and states have started to slowly ease lockdown restrictions and restarting economic activities.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced the opening of all centrally protected monuments, museums, and sites effective 16 June. However, the reopening of the monuments will be subject to the guidelines issued by individual states. Following the announcement and easing of lockdown restrictions, states like Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh have definitely experienced a boost in tourism particularly short weekend trips and queries for destination weddings. Agra too has witnessed a significant footfall following the reopening of the Taj Mahal and other monuments.

On 21 June, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Government of India organised a unique event to observe the International Day of Yoga. The Ministry conducted yoga and cultural programmes at 75 heritage sites across the country including Ellora Caves (Aurangabad), Nalanda (Bihar), Sabarmati Ashram (Gujarat), Hampi (Karnataka), Ladakh Shanti Stupa (Leh), Sanchi Stupa (Vidisha), Sheesh Mahal (Patiala), Rajiv Lochan temple (Chhattisgarh) and Bomdila (Arunachal Pradesh), among others. The Union Culture & Tourism Minister, Prahlad Singh Patel was the Guest of Honour at main event, held at the Red Fort (Delhi).

While international tourism remains banned, the hospitality industry is busy preparing itself to be ready to welcome guests once more. The Six Senses Fort Barwara, located about 30 minutes from Ranthambore National Park is set to open its doors to guests in September 2021. The RAAS Hotels also recently added a new member to their family. The iconic pastel pink Raj Mahal Palace of Jaipur is the newest addition to RAAS's repertoire of unique boutique properties.

With international travel starting in many European and Asian countries, we are optimistic about the future for India as well. India's recovery rate is also on the rise, which coupled with the scaled up inoculation drive points to a possible recovery of the industry soon.

For detailed and latest updates on vaccination and number of cases, please [click here](#).