

States vie for vacationers as tourism season peaks

States give industry status to hotels and hospitality, set regulation for homestays

AKSHARA SRIVASTAVA & GULVEEN AULAKH
New Delhi, 20 April

Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana are competing for domestic and international tourists amid a surge in travel and tourism across the country and overseas.

Some of these states and Union Territories (UTs) are pegging their tribal festivals, farm, wine, adventure, and wellness tourism, stunning landscapes along with the religious and spiritual tourism circuits to attract tourists, while they confer industry status to the hospitality sector and provide incentives.

Arunachal Pradesh, the land of dawn-lit mountains, recently unveiled a five-year tourism policy through which it aims to achieve a two-fold increase in domestic tourist arrivals and a 10-fold increase in foreign tourist arrivals. It had over 1 million domestic tourist arrivals in 2023.

"Arunachal has a 360-degree tourism opportunity from spiritual, wellness, heritage to biodiversity. Homestays are a revolution and become a window to the most stunning landscapes of the land, which are situated in the remotest locations," Pasang Dorjee Sona, minister for tourism, Arunachal Pradesh, told *Business Standard*.

"We have one five-star hotel in Tawang and smaller chains like Cygnatt are also coming in now. We are also in talks with boutique hotel brands like Postcard Hotels to build in the state," he said, underlining the state's efforts to increase branded hotels, and its efforts to confer industry status to the hotel industry.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir, too, wants to put the state back in the spotlight, and remind travellers that the destination is still "Instagrammable and magical". At a tourism event in Delhi earlier this week, Jammu and



TRAVEL STORY

International tourist arrivals (foreigners + NRIs)

Year	Total arrivals (mn)	Foreign tourists (mn)	NRIs (mn)	Foreign exchange earned (\$ bn)
2019	17.9	10.93	6.98	30.1
2020	6.3	2.74	3.59	6.9
2021	7	1.52	5.48	8.7
2022	14.3	6.44	7.89	21.4
2023	18.9	9.52	9.38	28.07
2024	9.66	9.66	NA*	33.18

*data pending

Centre has outlined religious and medical tourism as key drivers, with India's medical value travel sector projected to reach \$13.42 billion by 2026.

"At every state level a lot is happening. Industry status is being given to hotels, hospitality, which will definitely give impetus to local industry to build more. We have given our suggestions to the ministry of tourism and we're actively engaging with all stakeholders to identify these 50 locations," Pradeep Shetty, vice president of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India, told *Business Standard*.

Telangana's first-ever tourism policy, mapped for the coming five years, aims to develop 27 special tourism areas based on the tourism potential of different regions, including Yadagirigutta, Bhadrachalam, Nalgonda, Warangal, and the Charminar cluster.

Banking on eco-tourism, wellness, and sports tourism, the state intends to position itself among the top five tourist destinations for domestic and international travellers. The state also aims to attract ₹15,000 crore in new investments to the tourism sector in the next five years.

Its neighbour Karnataka is focusing on caravan, heritage, and wellness tourism and aims to attract around ₹8,000 crore as direct investment and generate employment opportunities for 1.5 lakh people. "A priority sector for the state, tourism has an important role to play in Karnataka becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2032," according to the state's policy document.

Up north, after the success of the Maha Kumbh and the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Uttar Pradesh government is looking at a major contribution from tourism towards its goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2029.

The team has submitted the proposal to the government for developing technologies using a new class of semiconductor materials, called 2D Materials, that could enable chip sizes as small as one-tenth of the smallest chips currently in global production and develop India's leadership in semiconductors.

Currently, semiconductor manufacturing is dominated by silicon-based technologies, led by advanced nations such as the US, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

"A team of scientists at IISc submitted a detailed project report (DPR) to the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) in April 2024, which was revised and submitted again in October 2024. The report was later shared with the Ministry of Electronics and IT. The project promises to develop angstrom-scale chips, far smaller than the smallest chips in production today," a source

in the government familiar with the proposal told.

The DPR proposes the development of 2D semiconductors using ultra-thin materials like graphene and transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs). These materials can enable chip fabrication at the angstrom scale, significantly smaller than current nanometer-scale technologies.

The smallest chip currently in production is the 3-nanometer node, manufactured by companies like Samsung and MediaTek.

Sources in the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) confirmed that the proposal has been under discussion. PTI

Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary now new home to cheetahs in India

SANDEEP KUMAR
Bhopal, 20 April

Two cheetahs were released into the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh (MP) by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday. The cheetahs, six years old males named Pawak and Prabhash, had been brought from South Africa in February 2023 and were stationed at the Kuno National Park before being moved to the sanctuary.

Speaking on the occasion, Yadav said, "Releasing the cheetahs was a significant step. The Cheetah Project is an ambitious initiative by the state government aimed at increasing the population of cheetahs and conserving their species in the country."

"After Kuno, Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary has become the second place in not only the state but the country where cheetahs are being relocated. This is a historic moment for wildlife tourism as well," the chief minister added.

Yadav further said that cheetahs were being brought to India not only from South Africa but also from Kenya and Botswana. The state government plans to bring eight more cheetahs from Botswana



MP CM Mohan Yadav releases two South African cheetahs — Pawak and Prabhash — on Sunday in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. They were earlier stationed at the Kuno National Park. The state govt plans to bring eight more cheetahs from Botswana and Kenya by May

and Kenya by May.

Wildlife activists, though, oppose such plans. Activist Ajay Dubey told *Business Standard*: "According to the agreement with South Africa, 10 cheetahs were supposed to be sent annually for 10 years. But after that agreement failed, there is now talk of bringing cheetahs from Botswana."

The International Union for Conservation of Nature protocol clearly states that if wildlife is being reintroduced in a region, two subspecies should not be placed together in the same area. The government is violating this rule. South African and Botswana cheetahs are different sub-species. We will file a petition against this in court," Dubey added.

The Kuno National Park currently houses 26 cheetahs. To accommodate cheetahs in the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, 8,900 hectares of land has been specially prepared.

The Gandhi Sagar sanctuary hosts a significant number of spotted deer, Indian gazelles, and blue bulls, ensuring sufficient food for the cheetahs.

Scientists submit detailed project report to develop new semiconductor material

A team of 30 scientists from India's premier institute, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has submitted a proposal to the government to develop 'angstrom-scale' chips, far smaller than the smallest chips currently in production.

The team has submitted the proposal to the government for developing technologies using a new class of semiconductor materials, called 2D Materials, that could enable chip sizes as small as one-tenth of the smallest chips currently in global production and develop India's leadership in semiconductors.

Currently, semiconductor manufacturing is dominated by silicon-based technologies, led by advanced nations such as the US, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

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Sources in the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) confirmed that the proposal has been under discussion. PTI



State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre (10287), Shankar Sheth Road : 44/2B, Shankar Sheth Road, Gultekdi, Near Sharada Chambers, Pune - 411037. Tel: (020) 26308176, EMAIL: racp.pune@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

A notice is hereby given that the following **Borrowers** have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from bank and loans have been classified as **Non Performing Assets (NPA)**. The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unanswered and such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No	Name of the Borrower	Details of Properties/Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice	Date of NPA	Amount outstanding (As on the date of notice)
1.	Mr. Naveen Vasudeva Murthy (Borrower) Mrs. Bhuvana Naveen Murthy (Borrower) 1) Flat No.304, 3rd Floor, Wing 'A' "EPIC", Gat No. 1102, Wagholi, Pune-412207. 2) R/o No.2145/3, Mathrushree Nilaya 8 Main D Block Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore - 560010. Home Branch- University Road A/C No. 35748140347 Home Loan Maxgain	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No.304, admeasuring area 464 sq. ft. i.e. 43.11 sq. mtrs. (Carpet) and attached Terrace area 72 sq. ft. i.e. 6.68 sq. mtrs. Situated on the 3rd Floor, in Wing 'A' in the building named "EPIC" and also allotted open Car Parking Space, land bearing Gt. No.1102 (New)corresponding (old Gt No.1608), Village Wagholi, Taluka-Haveli, District- Pune Property owned by Mr. Naveen Vasudeva Murthy and Mrs. Bhuvana Murthy	06.03.2025	28.02.2025	Rs.22,29,312.00 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Twelve Only) as on 06.03.2025 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section(8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Kindly treat all the earlier notice issued 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in respect of captioned account as withdrawn.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
SBI HLC Shankar Sheth Road Pune

Date : 21/04/2025
Place : Pune

mahindra HOME FINANCE

Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

Registered Office: Mahindra Towers, P.K.Kurni Chowk, Worli, Mumbai 400 018.

Telephone No. : 91 22 62929800, Corporate Identity Number : U65922MH2007PLC169791

Email: mrfi.investorhelpline@mahindrahomefinance.com, Website : www.mahindrahomefinance.com

STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

₹ In Lakhs

SN	Particulars	Quarter ended 31 March 2025	Quarter ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2025	Previous year ended 31 March 2024	Audited	
						Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	29,558.65	31,031.81	1,19,670.07	1,29,443.59		
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(20,370.13)	61.22	(30,457.57)	484.17		
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(20,370.13)	61.22	(30,457.57)	484.17		
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(15,208.20)	111.80	(22,793.95)	360.49		
5	Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the year [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(15,192.51)	141.19	(22,730.21)	375.46		
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	12,245.96	12,233.07	12,245.96	12,233.07		
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	1,13,784.05	1,36,575.89	1,13,784.05	1,36,575.89		
8	Securities Premium Account	44,294.82	44,045.40	44,294.82	44,045.40		
9	Net worth	1,26,030.01	1,48,808.96	1,26,030.01	1,48,808.96		
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	6,36,407.00	6,51,181.96	6,36,407.00	6,51,181.96		
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-		
12	Debt Equity Ratio	5.05:1	4.38:1	5.05:1	4.38:1		
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of ₹ 10/- each) - (for continuing operations) -	(12.43)	0.09	(18.62)	0.29		
	1. Basic:						