



BUDGET 2024-25 – Continued focus on infrastructural development, fiscal prudence and consolidation. Tourism continues to be accepted as an engine of growth for the economy. Emphasis on spiritual tourism, however no policy changes to expedite growth.

Tourism and hospitality play a crucial role in the growth of the Indian economy. The continued focus on government spending on infrastructure development augurs well for the sector. Improved infrastructure would translate into better connectivity which will be beneficial to the promotion of tourism. The development of the eastern region especially Odisha, temple corridors in Gaya / Bodhgaya, Rajgir and identification of Nalanda as a key tourism site continue to demonstrate the government's intent to utilize the potential of tourism. Regrettably, however there has been no policy announcement to facilitate the development of hotels and promotion of inbound tourism. The announcement of GST simplification, comprehensive review of the income tax Act provides some hope for the sector that has been seeking rationalization of taxes. The benefits to individuals on taxation will augment the spending power. The focus on skilling and incentivizing employers for creating jobs are other positives that will benefit all sectors.

Although not directly linked to this budget, the industry would continue pursuing its ask for grant of infrastructure status for the hospitality sector and industry-related benefits by all state governments.

About HAI

Established in 1996, Hotel Association of India (HAI) has evolved as an integrated hospitality industry platform to keep pace with the growing buoyancy ushered in by the liberalization of Indian economy in the mid-90s. With its membership extending from major hotel groups; boutique, heritage and small hotels, HAI represents the entire spectrum of the industry. Its Executive Committee is a potent combination of the commitment of hotel owners on one hand and hard-core professionalism of hotel managers on the other. As the apex Industry Body, HAI works in the areas of Promotion of Regional Cooperation and Hospitality Research & Education in addition to taking Industry centric initiatives. By launching Unprecedented 'Social Inclusion' initiatives, HAI also projects the 'Social Face' of the Indian hospitality industry”