

# HOTEL & RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF ODISHA

Regd. Off :

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Regd. No. – 1078-296 of 1985-86

No. HRAO / C / 1156 / 21

27<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Sri Suresh Ch. Mahapatra, IAS**

Chief Secretary to Govt., Govt. of Odisha

Respected Sir,

**We are pleased to enclose herewith minutes of the meeting of the Travel Trade of Odisha with the State Tourism Department, Works Department Chaired by Sri Asit Tripathy, IAS, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister & Hon'ble Chairman, Western Odisha Development Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 6.00 pm.**

The power point presentations made by Commissioner-cum-Secretary Works Dr. Krishan Kumar & Sri S R Jadhav, IAS, Director Tourism on the futuristic plans for beautification & development of Puri Konark, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur etc and the future plans of Tourism Department were mind boggling highly encouraging to the members as everyone realized that the Government is seriously considering Tourism as a priority sector and encouraged a lot of hoteliers to focus on investments into the Tourism Sector.

Address of Sri Vishal Dev, IAS, Principal Secretary Tourism, Sports & YS, informed that Hon'ble Chief Minister is giving maximum importance for the development of tourism and an overall budget of Rs.1500 crore was earmarked for tourism infrastructure, beautification, branding and publicity of Odisha.

The concluding address by Sri Asit Kumar Tripathy, IAS, Principal Advisor to Hon'ble CM & Hon'ble Chairman, WODC, Govt. of Odisha encouraged the industry to come forward and join hands with the Government as tourism is not only the responsibility of Govt. but the responsibility is also lies to the private sector by investing and taking tourism to the next level in Odisha. He informed that development works are being carried out fast by the Tourism and Works Department and by the year 2023 tourist will get a much better experience at Puri Konark, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and other tourist destinations. He congratulated Tourism & Works Secretary for their dynamism in building Odisha to compete with other top tourist destinations of India.

Sri Tripathy, IAS, admitted that hospitality sector is badly affected due to COVID pandemic and Government is seriously considering various issues / problems of the sector and assured that the Government will come forward with proper solutions & relaxations.

Thanking you  
Yours sincerely

**J.K. Mohanty, MHCIMA**

Chairman – Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha & IATO Eastern Region

Co-Chairman – FICCI National Tourism Council / Convenor – CII (Tourism Panel)

Member – State Tourism Promotion Council & Tourism Advisory Committee, GoO

Hony. Secretary, Hotel Association of India

## Minutes of the interactive meeting with Senior level Government Officials and members of HRAO held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 6.00 pm at Chanakya Convention Centre, Swosti Premium Bhubaneswar

The meeting was Chaired by Sri Asit Kumar Tripathy, IAS, Principal Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Chairman, Western Odisha Development Council accompanying by Sri Vishal Ku Dev, IAS, Principal Secretary, Tourism, Sports & YS, Dr. Krishan Kumar, IAS, Comm.-cum-Secretary, Works Department and Sri S R Jadhav, IAS, Director & Addl. Secretary Tourism, Govt. of Odisha.



It was a very informative meeting for the members of HRAO to know the various steps being taken by the Government for boosting the tourism sector of Odisha.

At the outset, Sri Deepak Rathor, advisor, HRAO welcomed all Govt. officials with flower bouquets to the Dias and requested Chairman, HRAO to deliver his keynote address.



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During keynote address while Chairman, HRAO expressed his sincere thanks to the Government who have worked hard by taking pro-active steps for the health and safety of the people of Odisha during the COVID pandemic and take Odisha tourism to a greater level he also highlighted before the Govt. officials various issues / problems which the hoteliers & travel trade are facing due to COVID pandemic. Some of the major issues addressed by Sri J K Mohanty, Chairman, HRAO are

1. **Exemption of Minimum Energy Charges** During Lockdown period. ACTUAL CONSUMPTION TO BE CHARGED.
2. **Municipal / Corporation charges to be exempted** for the Entire Financial Year 2020--2021 including Trade License fees. Also Chairman HRAO appraised the Govt. officials about the huge increase in holding tax by BMC and requested for an amicably settlement of the holding tax at a reasonable rate.
3. **Water Cess/ fees to be Exempted** for the PANDEMIC period.
4. **BAR LICENSES FEES to be refunded**
5. **Extensions of Fire License & “Relaxation of Planning and Building Norms”** for another 1 year at Puri which has very old buildings hence taking time to install fire devices.
6. **Waiver of SGST by the State Government:** SGST should be waived off till the time the situation becomes normal.
7. **Our Government may please write to the CENTRAL FINANCE MINISTER FOR EXTENSION OF LOAN MORATORIUM TILL MARCH 2023.**
9. To accord **Industrial Status to Hospitality Sector** in order to avail various incentives / concessions by hotel industry as per Industrial Tariff.

Before concluding his keynote address, Chairman HRAO requested all Govt. officials presented in the meeting for a favourable consideration which will help hospitality sector for their survival at this pandemic.

Chairman HRAO requested Dr. Krishan Kumar, IAS, Comm.-cum-Secretary, Works Department, Govt. of Odisha to highlight about various developmental steps taken by the Works Department.

## Presentation by Dr. Krishan Kumar, IAS, Comm.-cum-Secretary, Works Department, Govt. of Odisha



Initiating the discussion, Dr. Krishan Kumar, highlighted the various developmental steps have been taken up by the State Government in Puri, Konark, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Sambalpur to give a better experience to the tourists. He informed that in spite of the COVID 19 pandemic, a lot of developments are happening which is going to help tourism sector. The brief highlights of the presentation made by Dr. Krishan Kumar is given here under :

Augmentation of Basic Amenities & Development of Heritage & Architecture (ABADHA) Scheme, has been introduced by the Government for Puri, which was approved by the Cabinet in 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 which in turn make Puri a heritage city by the year 2023. The developments taken up by the Govt. under this scheme are development of 75 mtr width corridor around Lord Jagannath Temple, redesign and development of Badadanda Road into a heritage street that provide safe, comfortable and convenient access for all users and at the same time creating more active spaces, development of 4 lane Shree Setu that connect National Highway directly to Bada Danda through Jagannath Ballav Pilgrim Centre, multi level car parking facility, Large waiting room for tourists at Jagannath Ballav Pilgrim Centre, food plaza, Puri Beach front Development etc., These developments at Puri will make tourists more hassle free visit and will attract tourist to spend more nights at Puri.

Similarly EKAMRA Scheme has been introduced by the Government for development & revival of monuments in and around Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneswar. Dr. Krishan Kumar informed that no state / city in India have 25 ancient monuments except Odisha. These developmental work will enable Bhubaneswar as a hotspot for tourists.

Besides these, Govt. has also spending huge funds for development of Konark Heritage area development, Development of Samaleswari Temple and its periphery in Sambalpur District, and many more developmental works in interior areas as well by improving road connectivity to all remote tourist destinations.

He also informed that the state Govt. has also sorted out long pending issues relating to building plan approvals on the beach front locations at Puri to attract investment in hospitality sector.

## Presentation by Sri S R Jadhav, IAS, Director & Addl. Secretary, Tourism, Govt. of Odisha

While Sri Jadhav expressed his thanks to the HRAO for organizing this forum to interact directly with the travel trade of Odisha he highlighted on future plans of Odisha Tourism.



He informed that Tourism is being taken as priority sector under the direct supervision of Hon'ble Chief Minister and a lot of future developmental works are being initiated by the Govt. on priority under three categories.

Under Category 'A' five important destinations have been earmarked i.e. Satkosia, Hirakud, Bhitarkanika, Chilika & Puri-Konark and necessary bidding and preparation of master plan is under process, by the end 2022 / early 2023 the developmental works at these destination will be completed.

Similarly under category 'B' & 'C' master plans for development of Nandankanan, Daringbadi, Similipal, Udayapur, Talsari, Buddhist Circuit, Harishankar & Nrushinghnath Eco Tourist Destination, Dhabaleswar, Cuttack & Deomali of Koraput District are under process which will boost the tourism potential of Western & Southern Odisha. He also informed that 46 interior / remote destinations have been identified by the Department and the good connectivity infrastructure to these destinations will be taken up by the Department. These steps will give a huge contribution to the tourism / hospitality sector.

Apart from the above, Tourism Department is also giving utmost importance to Cruise Tourism by developing water sports activities, houseboat facilities, amusement parks etc., the Govt. is preparing a master plan for the same. Many other tourism projects are also in pipe line like development of chandrabhaga & ramchandi beach, Preparation of Ecotourism Roadmap of Odisha, Integrated Development of Mahendragiri Hill (Gajapati) under Ramayana Circuit, Development of Kantakabi Laxmikant Mohapatra Memorial Park at Bhadrak etc.

Besides, Odisha Tourism also focusing on promotion of Odia Cuisine, Development of Eco Cottages at prominent forest / eco destinations on PPP mode.

He also informed that in association with IDCO, the Department of Tourism is in the process of identification of private as well as government land which will be made available in the land bank and to be utilized for tourism purpose through Single Window. He appraised to the audience that in last two years, 15 hotel and 13 resort projects and other projects such as 2 Amusement Parks (Wonderla), 1 Day Cruise, 1 House boat, 2 water sports, 4 Muiltplex, 4 Motel/WAC have been approved by Single Window Clearance Authority.

## Branding & Promotion

During the COVID period, various promotional / Branding activities were taken up by the Odisha Tourism such as Odisha by Road Campaign, virtual roadshows, Eco Retreat Camp at 5 tourist destinations etc., and promoted them through Digital & Social media, engaging bloggers and influencers, through Electronic & Print media etc.

## Address by Sri Vishal Dev, IAS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Tourism, Sports & YS, Govt. of Odisha



Sri Vishal Dev informed to the audience that tourism has been given a priority sector by Hon'ble Chief Minister and as a result the tourism budget for the year 2021-22 has got doubled to Rs.1500 crore. The new Tourism Policy is ready to publish and will be declared after announcement of IPR.

In spite COVID pandemic the Tourism Department conducted various promotional activities abiding 100% covid protocols. The Government is also working on various plans like development of hospitality infrastructure in the tourism sector to bring number of good category hotels to the State. He assured that next 2 / 3 years will be very exciting time for tourism to take to its greater height and will be the best tourist destination in the country.

## Remarks by Sri Asit Tripathy, IAS, Principal Advisor to Hon'ble CM and Hon'ble Chairman, WODC



At the outset Sri Tripathy expressed his thanks to the HRAO for conducting such interactive sessions regularly with the concerned Govt. officials. He informed that promotion of tourism is not the only responsibility of Tourism Department, it is the responsibility and priority of entire civilians of the State.

The government is focusing on development of tourism products as well as giving importance towards the safety and security of tourists by which more tourist will visit to our State and Stay more night which in turn will generate more revenue, employment etc. He further informed that by the year 2023 tourists will get better experience at Puri Konark, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and many other tourist destinations. He congratulate to the present team working in the Tourism Department under dynamic supervision of Sri Vishal Dev.

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Listening carefully to the various issues / problems of hospitality sector represented by the Chairman as well as members of the HRAO due to the spread of COVID pandemic, Sri Tripathy admitted that the hospitality sector is badly affected by the COVID pandemic and the Government is thinking seriously on the various issues of this sector. He assured that the Government must come forward with proper solutions / relaxations on various license fees / taxes etc., for the hospitality sector in due course.



To windup the meeting Chairman, HRAO requested Sri Asit Tripathy to release the new tourism magazine published by the HRAO.

The meeting was ended with vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Srinibash Subudhi, Secretary General HRAO, followed by Dinner.

Thanking you  
Most sincerely yours

**J.K. Mohanty** *J.K. Mohanty* **MFCIMA**

Chairman – Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha & IATO Eastern Region

Co-Chairman – FICCI National Tourism Council / Convenor – CII (Tourism Panel)

Member – State Tourism Promotion Council & Tourism Advisory Committee, GoO

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