

Delhi Considers Iconic Monuments as Wedding and Event Venues to Boost Tourism



In an innovative move to elevate its status as a global event and wedding destination, the Delhi government is actively exploring the possibility of opening up its iconic heritage monuments, including the revered Qutub Minar, for private events such as destination weddings and concerts. This ambitious plan, discussed at a high-level roundtable meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025, aims to transform the capital from a primarily political hub into a vibrant center for international events, leveraging its rich historical and cultural landscape.

Chaired by Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra, the meeting involved senior officials from the Department of Tourism, Art, Culture & Language, along with prominent leaders from the events and entertainment industry. The discussions focused on developing policy measures, forging partnership models, and identifying infrastructure needs to facilitate this vision. "Delhi has 70 to 80 heritage monuments that can be effectively used for hosting cultural and private events," stated Minister Mishra, emphasizing the potential for the capital to be recognized for its "creative potential" beyond its political identity.

The initiative seeks to tap into India's booming destination wedding sector, valued at over ₹16,000 crore nationally, and to attract more international tourists. To streamline the process for event organizers, the government plans to introduce a Digital Single Window Clearance System, aiming to drastically cut down on the bureaucratic red tape currently involved in obtaining event permissions. This "one-click permit system" is expected to make Delhi a more attractive option for both domestic and international event planners.

Industry representatives at the roundtable highlighted the need for a standardized and fair fee structure for venue rentals, as current charges are often perceived as arbitrary. Minister Mishra

acknowledged these concerns and pledged reforms to address them. While iconic sites like Qutub Minar and Purana Qila are being considered, the government insists that any use of these heritage sites for commercial events will be strictly governed by rigorous heritage preservation norms. The delicate balance between commercial utilization and the long-term protection of these historical treasures remains a key consideration.

Beyond monuments, the plan also includes developing vacant government land into public event spaces, offering subsidies and tax incentives for large-scale events, and marketing Delhi comprehensively within the global Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) sector. This multifaceted approach underscores the Delhi government's commitment to unlocking the city's tourism potential.

The prospect of celebrating weddings or hosting concerts amidst Delhi's historical grandeur presents a unique draw, blending cultural richness with modern event capabilities. While the idea may prompt discussions among conservationists, the government is poised to formalize these proposals into actionable policy, signaling a new chapter for Delhi's event tourism landscape. The coming months will reveal how effectively the city can balance its role as a custodian of history with its aspirations as a global event hub.