

Recommendation Emerging from the Seminar Helicopter Tourism on 01 Oct'08 at New Delhi

- (a) Establish a small task force under the aegis of Ministry of Civil Aviation with representatives from Ministry of Tourism, DGCA, AAI, RWSI, State Govts, helicopter operators, tour operators, and tourists.
- (b) Carry out market survey to identify profitable circuits. Initially identifying a tourist circuit in the hills and another circuit in the south. Build a business model around them so that the venture is profitable. Thereafter build necessary infrastructure including construction of heliports/ helipads.
- (c) Encourage use of suitably configured helicopters for heli tourism preferably single engine helicopters to reduce operating cost.
- (d) Tie up with airlines, hotels, helicopter operators, tour operators to create package tours and seamless travel through easily accessible reservation system.
- (e) Provide a level playing field among helicopter operators to reduce cost and improve efficiency.
- (f) Make heli tourism attractive and affordable as possible by reducing cost of operation through fiscal incentives, lowering taxes on ATE, waiving off of RNFC, landing, parking charges for at least 3-5 years. Infrastructure cost to be borne by state / central government.
- (g) Air Traffic Rules to be reviewed to eliminate delays in helicopter departures/ arrivals from major airports. Flight routing may be made as direct as possible independent of fixed wing traffic.
- (h) Permit import of Pre-owned Helicopters in good and serviceable conditions to reduce cost of acquisition.
- (i) To meet the growing needs of helicopter fleet, establish Helicopter Training Schools for pilots, Maintenance Training Institutions for technicians and Maintenance and Repair organizations for servicing and repair of helicopters.