



— We Work Harder —

Gilpin Travel Management | Executive Brief February 2026: What Leaders Need to Know



Forex & Budget Impact

Currency markets remain volatile amid global policy shifts. India's Union Budget 2026–27 provides relief by reducing TCS on overseas education and medical remittances above ₹10 lakh from 5% to 2%, easing costs for corporates supporting overseas dependents.



Visa & Global Mobility

U.S. employment-based visas for Indian professionals show limited progress. EB-2 and EB-3 categories remain stalled at 2013 priority dates, extending dependence on temporary visas and increasing the importance of proactive immigration planning and compliance.



Corporate Travel Outlook

Global corporate travel budgets are projected to grow by ~5% in 2026, signalling a steady return to in-person business engagement. Hotel bookings are expected to rise 6.3%, with airfares increasing by approximately 4%. While demand is improving, cost discipline remains a key focus.



Travel Risk & Insurance

Travel insurance is evolving into a strategic necessity. Flexible cancellation options, annual multi-trip policies, and digitally enabled risk management are now core elements of effective corporate travel programs.



Tourism & Destination Strategy

India's Budget has announced major tourism initiatives, including heritage circuits, medical travel hubs, and the National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid—supporting richer MICE, wellness, and incentive travel planning.



Wellness & Medical Travel

Kerala continues to strengthen its position as a global wellness destination, with Ayurveda-led, sustainable offerings gaining traction among corporate and high-value travelers.



Airline & Visa Updates (Operational Alerts)

Recent airline, route, fare, weather, and visa advisories may impact corporate travel planning, compliance, and costs. Detailed airline circulars and visa updates with external links are available in the extended newsletter for operational reference.



Gilpin Updates

Hyderabad Office Launched: Strengthening regional presence and client support in a key business hub

Gilpin Eleven: Represented the organization at the Air India Super League 2026, reinforcing teamwork and culture

Implications for Corporate Travel Managers

Visa planning: Persistent U.S. backlogs require early renewals and long-term mobility planning

Air & cost management: Route changes, fare volatility, and forex swings call for tighter policy control

Risk & compliance: Weather advisories and regulatory updates highlight the need for real-time traveler

Executive Takeaways

Travel demand is returning, but cost control remains critical

Visa backlogs require long-term mobility strategies

Forex volatility and policy changes demand smarter planning

Wellness and destination-led travel present new opportunities for corporates

Gilpin Travel Management

End-to-end corporate travel solutions across air, hotels, MICE, forex, visas, and insurance—delivered with precision, compliance, and cost efficiency.