

Update on IATO Activities

(Monday, 22nd February to Sunday, 28th February 2021)

Dear Members

Greetings

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Monday, 22nd February to Sunday, 28th February 2021)

Segments covered are

- 1. Communication / Letters that addressed key issues**
- 2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings/Chapter news**
- 3. Media Coverage**

Request your feedback to further the content of our weekly report.

1. Communication / Letters that addressed key issues

Segment 1 update sequence by date:23,24 February

Tuesday, 23rd February

- **Request to look into Pending cases for renewal of MoT Recognition**

On the above subject IATO drew the attention of Mr. Anil Oraw, Regional Director, Indian Tourism North giving reference to Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India notification no. TT-701/2/2018-TT dated 08.12.2020 effective 01.01.2021 regarding revised guidelines for MOT approval and renewal for the tourism service providers and drawing attention to point no 9 sub section(ii) that read as under:
Quote “

In the case of agencies which are already approved/recognized by the ministry of tourism and are seeking renewal of approval/recognition, physical inspection at the time of renewal would not be required, subject to the followings: -

A. Turnover of the agency for the last two preceding years of submission of renewal application has not gone down by more than 50%

(CA Certificate indicating turnover for the preceding two years to be submitted)

B. There are no complaints of serious nature against the agency regarding deficiency of services or any kind of irregularities, etc. brought to the notice of the Ministry of Tourism or any of its offices.” Unquote

In view of the above, IATO requested Mr. Anil Oraw to please approve all the pending cases for renewal and issue the approval letter and also urged him to send the list of such pending cases to IATO office, so that IATO can coordinate with such operators to submit their last three years turn over details to his office duly certified by their Chartered Accountant.

Wednesday, 24th February

➤ Request to Ministry of Tourism on Handling of Tours for the winners of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) and other Award Winners by the IATO members

IATO wrote to Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma, Director General (Tourism) stating that it is in receipt of various requests from Regional Directors of Indiatourism Offices from all the regions to handle Tours for the winners of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, Paryatan Parv etc. without any financial approval and detailed itinerary. The tour operators are not in a financial position to handle the tour unless they are paid in advance for the package tour.

Due to the abnormal conditions IATO requested DG Tourism to consider the following suggestions so that its members are encouraged to handle such Fam Tours of Ministry of Tourism: -

- Complete itinerary with firm dates along with Financial approval with amount approved as per MoT/IATO approved rates to be provided by the concerned Indiatourism Office (as is normally done by OM Division for the foreign guests)
- Flight details to be provided in case of Air Ticket to be purchased and will be charged as per actual plus handling charges and to be paid in advance. (this service was not included in IATO's agreement before and all air tickets were issued by the Ministry)
- 80% of the total amount of the tour to be paid in advance and balance 20% to be paid within 15 days from the date of submitting the final invoice to the concerned Indiatourism Office by the handling agency.
- Cancellation charges will apply as per policy of service providers i.e. airlines, hotels, transport operators, guides etc. as IATO members are not in a position to bear the cancellations charges.

- Minimum 10 days advance information should be given for handling of such tours with complete details as above.

Above request is being made due to the abnormal conditions and the financial crisis our tour operators are facing due to Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Webinars/ Panel

Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date:22,23,26,27 February

Monday, 22nd February

- **To All Active Members,**
- **IATO Elections, 6th March 2021 - Election Procedure**

Further to the email sent on 3rd February 2021 regarding IATO Elections to be held on Saturday, the 6th March 2021 at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi members were requested to note the following

1. Out of 94 outstation active members, Ballot Papers to 93 outstation members were sent through courier and all of these were delivered. One outstation member had opted to cast his vote in person in Delhi on 6th March hence Ballot papers were not sent to him.
2. Ballot Paper were to be returned to IATO office which should reach the IATO office positively by 3 pm on 4th March 2021. All outstation members were requested to send their Ballot Paper only by Speed Post/Courier directly to the IATO office. Members were requested not to hand over or send the Ballot Paper through any other member. Ballot papers handed over in person would not be accepted.
3. Delhi/NCR members who were not able to cast their vote in person, were asked to send proxy letter in favour of a senior person from the same company/ organization, which should reach the IATO Office by 3 pm on 4th March 2021 in sealed envelope. On the Proxy Authority letter, signature of the proxy to be verified by the authorized signatory/ representative of the company on the company letter head. **A sample of the proxy authority letter was attached.** Members were requested not to hand over or send the Proxy letter through any other member and send it through courier/speed post.
4. A copy of ID proof and the visiting card to be attached with the proxy letter to cross verify at the time of elections.
5. Members were requested to note that Proxy/Ballot papers received by Fax or Email would not be accepted and would be treated invalid.
6. If there was still any discrepancy or name change in the authorized representative, the same was to be brought to the notice of IATO office immediately at the earliest and in any case not later than 27th February 2021. Email for making such change was to be sent from the member's registered email id of the company with the IATO office. Name change was not allowed after 27th February 2021 for election purpose.

Tuesday, 23rd February

To All Members: Amendment of Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) related provisions under Chapter – 1 and Chapter -2 of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20

A notification no. 58/2015-20 was issued by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India on 12th February 2021 making amendments in IEC related provisions under Chapter -1 and Chapter -2 of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20. (Copy enclosed in the circular)

A clarification was sought from our Advisor Mr. S.C. Kamra, Advocate about its relevancy on our members.

Clarification received from Mr. Kamra was placed in the circular sent today which was self- explanatory. According to Mr Kamra **“The amendments mentioned at sr. no. 3 and 4 above were also relevant for tour operators holding IEC certificate. They need to update IEC particulars at the GST portal in April, 2021 and so on annually and even if there was no change in the particulars, a confirmation was required to be filed online at the DGFT portal in April, 2021 and so on”**.

Members were advised to adhere to the notification and update their IEC particulars at the GST Portal in April 2021 and so on annually, even if there was no change in the particulars.

Friday, 26th February

The following members expressed their interest to attend India Travel Mart Punjab held from 26 – 28 February 2021 in Amritsar.

1. Mr. D.K. Verma/Mrs. Malti Verma, Saptam Luxury Travels Pvt Ltd
2. Mr Arun Bali ACE Voyages
3. Mr. Sheikh Altaf Hussain, Magic India Tours
4. Mr. Ambuj Tyagi, Amazing India Holidays Pvt Ltd
5. Ms Shibani Ahuja Kapoor, Wander Globe
6. Mr. Shyam Kanan, Rainbow Travels

➤ **Members were invited to a Webinar: Tourism-Travel & Hospitality Event virtually to focus on Sustainable & Responsible Tourism held on 26th February 2021 at 1030 hours**

Chief Guest was Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Government of India

Saturday, 27th February

- **Dekho Apna Desh webinar was organised on Saturday 27th February 2021 (1100-1200 hrs.) on the topic “Adventure Tourism in South India”.**
- **To, All Members,
IATO Elections, Saturday, 6th March, 2021 at 11 AM at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.**

As made aware, IATO Elections are scheduled to be held on Saturday, 6th March 2021 at 1100 hours at The Ashok Hotel, (3rd Floor Banquet Hall), New Delhi. Distribution of Ballot Papers would take place between 1100 hours to 1400 hours. Members are requested to reach in time so that election process can be started sharp at 1100 hours.

The agenda for the Elections is as under: -

10.30 hrs	Tea / Coffee
10.45 hrs	Registration
11.00 hrs	Returning Officer to start the election process.
14.00 hrs	Lunch and Counting of votes. On completion of counting of votes, results to be declared by the Returning Officer followed by address by the new President

Members were requested to note the following :-

1. Ballot Papers are to be ticked (√) in the box against the name to whom a member wants to vote for. Sample of 4 ballot papers are placed on the notice board.
2. Members were requested not to put any other mark or cross or over-write on the Ballot Paper. In such cases, the ballot paper would be treated as invalid.
3. **RPEAT TICK (√) in the box ON THE BALLOT PAPER as per number of posts mentioned i.e.**
4. **a)** For the post of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, Hony. Secretary, Hony. Treasurer and Hony. Joint Secretary - Tick (√) to be put against one candidate for each post.

5. **b)** For the post of EC Members (Active) - Tick (✓) to be put against only Five candidates.

6. **c)** For the post of EC Members (Allied) - Tick (✓) to be put against only Three candidates.

Note:- If ticking was done for more or less candidates, the ballot paper for that particular post would stand invalid and rejected.

Full cooperation of the members was sought in making the election process very democratic and efficient.

Homa Mistry

Returning Officer

IATO Elections – 2020

3. Media Coverage

Segment 3 update sequence by date:22 February

Monday, 22nd February

पुलना

- = आगरा में अक्टूबर से मार्च तक रहता है पर्यटन सीजन
- = इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइंग व टूरिस्ट तीज पर खरी हुई है चीज

पर्यटन सीजन के आंकड़े (वित्तीय वर्ष के अनुसार)

माह	2019-20	2020-21
अक्टूबर	503893	70618
नवंबर	412470	82624
दिसंबर	893096	126133
जनवरी	823670	249435

माह	2019-20	2020-21
अक्टूबर	91348	591
नवंबर	97181	721
दिसंबर	85973	938
जनवरी	83606	1385

ने 28 फरवरी तक इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइंग को स्थगित कर रखा है। टूरिस्ट तीज सर्किट बाल शुरू होगी, इस बारे में भी सरकार कुछ जता रही है।

आगरा का पर्यटन जलौम विदेशी पर्यटकों पर अधिक निर्भर करता है। इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइंग व टूरिस्ट तीज सीजन शुरू हुए बिना विदेशी पर्यटकों का आना संभव नहीं है। सरकार इनकी शुरुआत को प्रोत्साहित, विदेशी पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। सुनील गुप्ता, चेयरमैन इंडियन एसोसिएशन आफ टूर ऑपरेटर्स