

Update on IATO Activities (Monday, 1st February to Sunday, 7th February 2021)

Dear Members,

Greetings!

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Monday, 1st February to Sunday, 7th February 2021)

Segments covered are

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

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

1. Communication / Letters that addressed key issues

Segment 1 update sequence by date:3,5 February

Wednesday, 3rd February

- **Request to JS Tourism 1) To Remove minimum Rs. 2 crore FEE criteria in Revised MDA Guidelines for Overseas Promotion dated 01 January 2021 and 2) To Enrol more tour operators, request revision in Revised Guidelines for recognition of Tourism Service Providers**

IATO wrote to Mr Rakesh Kumar Verma, Joint Secretary Tourism on date giving reference to IATO letter dated 8th January 2021 and the discussion with him in his office on 20th January 2021. During the meeting, it was discussed about the revised MDA guidelines for overseas promotion dated 1st January 2021 and it was clarified that the clause of minimum requirement of turnover of Rs. 2 crore foreign exchange earnings was not there in the draft proposal which IATO received from the Ministry. Therefore, IATO requested that this clause be removed and the same status as it was in their previous guidelines to be there as it will immensely help the small tour operators, who are recognised by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India.

JS T had assured that this will be put up for removal.

IATO informed JS Tourism that it had a meeting with Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel at his residence on 31st January 2021 where along with other pending issues, two issues were put forward.

- 1. To remove clause of minimum foreign exchange earning of Rs. 2 crore in Revised MDA Guidelines Effective from 1st January, 2021**
- 2. In Qualifications requirements for MoT Recognition for Tourism Service Providers, relaxation should be given for requirement of qualified staff and those who are having**

diploma/degree/certificate course from Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council should be considered as qualified staff.

The Hon'ble Minister had agreed to consider the same and made a note of these two key issues

Friday, 5th February

- **Request to help the tourism stakeholders by resolving Important issues pending with Ministry of Tourism and other Ministries**

Welcoming Mr. Arvind Singh, IAS, Secretary (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism IATO discussed the issue of SEIS for financial year 2019-20 which is still pending and put forward that on its request Hon'ble Minister has already written to Finance Ministry, but no information is received till date. IATO thanked Secretary Tourism for assuring to take up the issue with Finance Minister personally.

IATO also apprised the Secretary Tourism on the other two issues which are pending with Ministry of Tourism

1. To remove clause of minimum foreign exchange earning of Rs. 2 crores in Revised MDA Guidelines Effective from 1st January, 2021
2. In Qualifications requirements for MoT Recognition for Tourism Service Providers, relaxation should be given for requirement of qualified staff and those who are having diploma/degree/certificate course from Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council should be considered as qualified staff.

A copy of the letter dated 30th January 2021 addressed to the Hon'ble Minister was enclosed

2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date:2,3,6 February

Tuesday, 2nd February

- **To All Active Members: IATO Elections, 6th March 2021 - Election Procedure**
 - IATO Elections to be held on Saturday, the 6th March 2021 at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.
 - Attention is drawn to Indian Association of Tour Operators' Memorandum of Association clause 11 (Election), Sub clause (f), which has been reproduced in the circular
 - **Important Notes and Code of Conduct and Role of Servicing Office Bearers** have been given

Wednesday, 3rd February

- **From Chapter Chair West Bengal**



WELCOME ON ARRIVAL

Soon tourists arriving in the city of joy are going to get some extra privileges! Exclusive meet and greet points specially designated for tourists with added facilities both at international and domestic terminals of the NSCB Airport in Kolkata. It was indeed a great pleasure for me to propose the concept during an NSCB Airport Advisory Committee meeting on behalf of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) in the recent past and I am thankful to the Airport Authority of India to consider the same and arrange a formal site inspection to initiate the process. The idea is to position the airport and the city as tourist-friendly and facilitate the tour operators at the time of the arrival of the guest. Atithi Devo Bhava.

Saturday, 6th February

- **Dekho Apna desh Webinar Episode 75: Astro- Tourism: The Next Frontier of Nature-based Tourism was organized on 6th February 2021 (1100 -1200hrs)**

3. Media Coverage

Segment 3 update sequence by date:2,3 February

Tuesday, 2nd February

- **Budget 2021: Absence of tax rebate, incentives disappoint hospitality sector**
<https://www.livemint.com/budget/news/budget-2021-absence-of-tax-rebate-incentives-disappoint-hospitality-sector-11612179148348.html>
- **Nothing in budget for sector that contributes heavily to GDP, employment: Travel industry**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/nothing-in-budget-for-sector-that-contributes-heavily-to-gdp-employment-travel-industry/articleshow/80651376.cms>

- **Hospitality and tourism industry 'disappointed' with Sitharaman's Budget**
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/hotels-/restaurants/hospitality-and-tourism-industry-disappointed-with-sitharamans-budget/articleshow/80631582.cms?from=mdr>

- **No recognition for tourism sector in the budget: IATO**

<https://tourismbreakingnews.com/no-recognition-for-tourism-sector-in-the-budget-iato/>

Wednesday, 3rd February

- **India Inc. hails Budget; tourism, telecom sectors disappointed**

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/india-inc-hails-budget-tourism-telecom-sectors-disappointed/article33722333.ece>

Friday, 5th February

- **Restoration of Indian tourist visa; serious ministerial talks underway**
<https://www.ibtimes.co.in/restoration-indian-tourist-visa-serious-ministerial-talks-underway-details-832845>

4. IATO Welcomes the New Secretary Tourism



On the 4th of February 2021, IATO Delegation led by President met new Secretary Tourism, Govt of India, Mr Arvind Singh. IATO welcomed him and took up various issues like SEIS, MDA, Recognition criteria for Tourism Service Providers, Govt to at least announce the date by when International Flights are likely to resume, etc.

Secretary Tourism assured IATO of his intervention and positive action.
