

# **Update on IATO Activities**

**(Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021)**

**Dear Members,**

Greetings !

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Segments covered are

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

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

## **1. Communication / Letters that addressed key issues**

**Segment 1 update sequence by date:25,27,28 May**

### **Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May**

- **IATO requested Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister for Finance to help the tourism stakeholders for survival and revival of business**

Citing the fact that the for over 14 months, tourism industry was going through heavy financial crisis due to Covid-19 especially the Inbound Travel and the Tourism industry was worst affected as all Visas were suspended and International flights were cancelled since March 2020. In spite of running from pillar to post and having approached all in the Corridors of Power in the concerned Ministries to get some support and relief from the government for survival of the tourism industry, it did not get any financial help though the Government had announced various financial package in the past few months.

IATO requested

- 1. The release of pending SEIS Scrips for 2019-20 for the tour operators at the earliest, as this would help them to survive for 6-8 months and revive their business.**

2. Withdraw TCS on foreign tourists visiting India The provision of TCS to be made applicable only to persons / companies residing in India and not to foreign citizens / foreign tour operators located outside India.
3. ECLGS 3.0 was announced on 31.3.2021. It has anomalies in the operational guidelines and FAQ issued by NCGTC had defeated the very purpose of the same. The current NCGTC operational guidelines & FAQ which prescribed DPD (Days Past Due) or NPA restrictions as on the date of sanction/disbursement of the ECLGS facility, should be either revoked or amended suitably. It was requested that tourism industry stakeholders who do not have overdraft facility should also be eligible to get benefit of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

*A Copy of the letter was marked to **A. Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, B. Minister of State for Tourism & Culture, C. Secretary (Revenue), D. Secretary (Economic Affairs) and E. Secretary (Tourism)***

➤ **IATO requested Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister for Finance to Rationalize GST on Tourism Industry to help Inbound Tourism Business to Revive**

IATO understood that GST council meeting would be held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and it anticipates that during the meeting, impact of Covid-19 on the industries which have been badly hit would also be discussed.

IATO opined that in order to revive its business, to compete with the neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, it was required to reduce taxes on the tourism products of India, to initiate the process of undertaking a review and rationalisation of GST applicable across different aspects of the Indian tourism, travel & hospitality industry

The measures proposed by IATO were

1. Removal of cascading effect of GST on Tourism Industry by charging GST on Deemed Value.
2. GST/IGST may be fully exempted on the services provided outside India to foreign tourists i.e. in neighbouring countries even if package includes India tour.
3. Tourism industry to be treated as deemed exporter at par with IT Industry under [Export of Services](#)

*A Copy of the letter was marked to **A. Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, B. Minister of State for Tourism & Culture, C. Secretary (Revenue), D. Secretary (Economic Affairs) and E. Secretary (Tourism)***

## **Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May**

- **IATO requested Mr. Maneck Davar, Chairman, Service Export Promotion Council to waive off SEPC Membership Renewal Fee for the financial year 2021-22**

Drawing his kind attention to IATO's earlier email/letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 on the subject, IATO addressed that there was no business in 2020-21 and 2021-22 also does not seem to be very favourable for inbound tourism business. Therefore, tour operators would not be able to claim SEIS for the financial year 2020-21 and also IATO cannot predict for 2021-22 as it is not sure as to when the inbound tourism to our country is going to revive.

*A copy of the letter was marked to Director General, Service Export Promotion Council.*

## **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May**

- **IATO wrote to Mr. Melwin D'Silva, Executive Director Commercial, and Mr. Rajinder Nath, General Manager Sales & Marketing, Air India on the refund issue, further to its email dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and post the virtual meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

As discussed earlier, IATO gathered the information from its members whose refund were pending from Air India. A list of such members was enclosed region wise with their contact details. Air India is to send the list to their Regional Managers of the concerned region to speak and resolve the issues.

## **2. Webinars/ Panel**

### **Discussions/Circulars/Meetings**

**Segment 2 update sequence by date:24,28,29 May**

## **Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> May**

- **Honouring the Noble Souls**

All IATO Regional/State Chairmen/Co-Chairmen/State in-Charge were informed on the mail received from Mr. Sanjeet from TRAV TALK. Trav Talk would be organising a Prayer meeting to pay homage to all those who have lost their lives in the last one year due to Covid -19 on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 from 4 – 5 pm. They were requested to share with IATO the names of such IATO members and their staff who had left for heavenly abode in last one year i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 till date. Besides they can also share with IATO

names of hotel staff or transporters staff or anyone else like guides who have lost their lives due to Covid -19. A photograph, name, company name and date of birth and date of death of such members or the employees would be required. A link for the virtual prayer meeting being organised by TravTalk along with other trade associations is being sent separately.

### **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May**

- **IATO Webinar on Upskilling of Members was held on Domestic Tourism on Friday, 28th May 2021 at 4 pm on Zoom.**

A Webinar on “Upskilling of Members on Domestic Tourism” was organised by IATO on Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 from 4 to 5.30 pm on Zoom, which was attended by over 150 members. There was lot of interest from the members and they actively participated in the webinar. There was special interest on Wedding Tourism. For the benefit of our members who could not join, the video is being uploaded on YouTube and link is being sent to the members separately.

### **Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> May**

- **A Webinar on Precautions during and Post Covid was held on 29th May 2021 at 11 am on Zoom.**

A webinar on “Precautions during and Post Covid” was organised on 29th May 2021 at 11 am on Zoom by FAITH and members of all the FAITH member associations were invited. Dr. Chandy Abraham, the CEO for ITC's Healthcare Project was the Guest speaker. Webinar was well attended by industry colleagues including our members and they found the webinar very useful and informative. There were lots of queries raised the members which were clarified. For the benefit of members who could not join, it has been requested to FAITH to upload the video of the webinar on YouTube and once it is available on YouTube, link will be sent to the members

## **Media Coverage**

**Segment 3 by date:25,27, May**

### **Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May**

- **If you hold an Indian passport, which countries can you travel to now?**

[If you hold an Indian passport, which countries can you travel to now?](#)  
India Today

Flights aren't operating and countries aren't even issuing e-visas," Rajiv Mehra, President of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), said.

## **Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May**

### ➤ **Hindi newspaper Hindustan**



### ➤ **IATO urges finance ministry to moot proposal of lowering GST for tourism sector**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/iato-urges-finance-ministry-to-moot-proposal-of-lowering-gst-for-tourism-sector/articleshow/82972161.cms>

### ➤ **IATO requests the Finance Ministry for financial relief amid COVID-19 crisis**

<http://bwhotelier.businessworld.in/article/IATO-requests-the-Finance-Ministry-for-financial-relief-amid-COVID-19-crisis/27-05-2021-391066/>

### ➤ **Battered tourism industry seeks relief from government to survive pandemic**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/battered-tourism-industry-seeks-relief-from-government-to-survive-pandemic/articleshow/82973282.cms>

### ➤ **Rationalise and reduce GST burden on tourism service providers: IATO to FM**

<https://travel.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/associations/rationalise-and-reduce-gst-burden-on-tourism-service-providers-iato-to-fm/82994745>

### ➤ **Tourism body writes to FM to consider lowering of GST**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/tourism-body-writes-to-fm-to-consider-lowering-of-gst/article34651991.ece>

## **3. Chapter News**

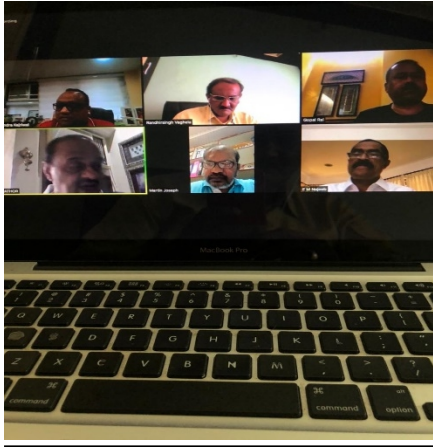
**Segment 4 update sequence by date:25,27,30 May**

## **Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May**

- Mr Sejo Jose informed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May that the Southern Region conducted their first regional chapter meeting on 21st May via Zoom.

### Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May

- Regional Head West had the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with state Chapter Chairs of the region at 11 am over Zoom.



### Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> May

#### UTF FAM TRIP TO RAH BAGH – HARWAN



SITTING L – R: RAUF TRAMBDO (ATOAK) SHAMIM SHAH (JKTA) NASIR SHAH (IATO) NAZIR RAH (RAH BAGH) AM SHANGLDD (PILTOF) ZAHODR QARI (TAAI) M. HAFEEZ SHALA (TASK)  
STANDING L – R: AJAZ GDSANI (KHYBER) EMRAN GDSANI (TTIG) YASIN TUMAN (MASCOT) FAROOD KUTHOD (TAAK) MUSHTAQ RESHI ( DTDAK) HILAL WANGDD (TAFDK)



“It was indeed a wonderful FAM Trip to Rah Bagh, where everyone was of full praises for a classic & wonderful property created. The location is superb so is the ambience created. The food was delicious and the display was truly international. We wish all the best to the Owner Nazir Rah for a fabulous resort creativity” **NASIR SHAH. Chapter Chair J&K.**

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