

# **Update on IATO Activities (Monday, 5th April to Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021)**

**Dear Members**

Greetings

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Monday, 5th April to Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021)

Segments covered are

- 1. Communication / Letters that addressed key issues**
- 2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings/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:5 April***

### **Monday,5<sup>th</sup> April**

**IATO President sought the help of Dr. P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for the Inbound Tourism Industry and the release of SEIS 2019/20 under Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20**

IATO President requested Dr. P K Mishra Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to kindly help IATO to impress upon the Ministry of Finance / Ministry of Commerce / DGFT to announce and release the SEIS Scrips for the year 2019-20 as SEIS is the only hope, that shall help tour operators to survive and revive their business.

IATO also requested for an appointment with Dr P K Mishra at the earliest possible as per date and time convenient to him.

➤ **IATO President wrote to Mr. Rajiv Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director Air India regarding refund of Cancelled Air tickets due to Covid -19 and Hon'ble Supreme Court Ruling**

IATO President addressed the issue that though Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed judgment directing DGCA and the domestic airlines regarding refund on cancellation of air tickets during Covid and a circular was issued by the Director General Civil Aviation for the refund stating that the last date for receiving refund in physical form was 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, but the travel agents'/tour operators who had booked air tickets on Air India had not received the refund so far.

Those who had taken advance from their foreign tour operators/foreign tourists are under extreme pressure to refund the advance they had received from them for booking of air tickets and other arrangements for their visit to India but could not visit India country due to Visa Restrictions and restrictions on International flight.

President IATO sought an appointment with Mr Rajiv Bansal on the above issue.

*A copy of the letter was marked to **A.** Secretary (Civil Aviation) **B.** Secretary (Tourism) **C.** Director General, Directorate General of Civil Aviation. **D.** Additional Director General (Tourism), and **E.** Executive Director (Commercial), Air India,*

➤ **IATO President requested Shri Anurag Singh Thakur Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs for help to the Inbound Tourism Industry**

President IATO sought the help of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs on two key issues

1. Release of SEIS Scrips for the tour operators for the Year 2019-20
2. Request to withdraw Levy of Tax Collection at Source (TCS) on sale of overseas tour program package to foreign tourists from 01.10.2020.

President IATO sought an appointment with Shri Anurag Singh Thakur on the above issues.

## 2. Webinars/ Panel

### Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

**Segment 2 update sequence by date:6,7,9,10 April**

#### Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April

Team IATO met the concerned officials from the Ministry of Tourism, ADG Tourism, discussed key issues and offered suggestions on

- **International Road Shows:** Suggestion was made that they should be handled by IATO, payment to be made by MOT GOI. This will lead to better selection of FTOs, spacing of visits between countries so that IATO members have time to conduct their marketing after the road show and centrally located hotels.
- **Link IATO Website to MOT Website**
- **Release of SEIS**
- **Opening up of borders – E Visa/ Tourist Visa**
- **Scheme to incentivise FTOs who would get tourists.**
- **Priority Vaccinations for tourism professionals**
- **MDA Scheme:** Rs 2 Cr min turnover should be removed as it rules out our small tour operators. IATO has already addressed this issue through written communication and discussions with authorities.
- **MOT Recognition of Tour Operators:** Certified course from THSC (Tourism Hospitality & Skill Council) to be considered as the required qualification for staff at the office of a tour operator.
- Relaxation on Turn Over
- **MDA assistance for Virtual Participation of IATO members in Travel Marts**
- **MOT GOI to support 2 IATO events in a year:** IATO suggestions were discussed
- **FAM Trip for IATO members within India**
- **To clear all pending application with the Ministry for renewal.**

#### MOT POINTS FOR IATO that were discussed

- To have a dedicated helpline for tourists
- Tourism counters at 9 airports: how to improve them

#### Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April

- **IATO members were informed on the ICPB webinar to be organized on “Meet in India - India as a MICE Destination” on 8th April 2021, from 10:30 - 11:30 am.**

#### Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> April

- **Interaction Meeting between our members handling China Market and the EC was held at 4.30 pm on zoom**

#### Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> April

- **Dekho Apna Desh - Episode 84 -Tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage of Jammu and Kashmir was organised on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (1100-1200 hrs.)**