

Update on IATO Activities

Tuesday,16th November to Tuesday, 30th November 2021

Dear Members,

Greetings!

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Tuesday,16th November to Tuesday, 30th November 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. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date:18,20,22,25,26 29,November

Thursday, 18th November

- IATO Luncheon Meeting, Shri Hareet Shukla, Secretary Tourism, Gujarat, invites IATO members to the 36th IATO Convention at Gandhinagar Gujarat 16-18 December 2021







- No Entry Fee to be charged at all ASI Monuments on Friday, the 19th November 2021. All Members were informed

Saturday, 20th November

- Webinar on Tamil Nadu - Land of Architectural Heritage – Part 1 was organised on Saturday at 1100 - 1200 hrs on 20th Nov, 2021,
- All members were informed regarding Participation in FITUR, 19-23 January, 2022

Monday, 22nd November

- All Members were informed on the invitation to The Himalayan Monal Indian AERO Fest 2021 at Khajjiar Chamba.

Thursday, 25th November

- SEPC webinar “Export Promotion Schemes for Global Market Access: A detailed insight” was organised on 25th November 2021 at 1130 to 1300 hours on Zoom. All members were informed

Friday, 26th November

All Members were informed of the Special Fare on IndiGo Airlines for the 36th IATO Annual Convention, 16 – 19 December 2021, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Monday, 29th November

- All Members (Recognized by the Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India) were informed regarding the Participation in ITB Berlin, 09th -13th March, 2022.

2. Media Coverage

Segment 3 update sequence by date: 16,17,18,19,22,24,26,27 November

Tuesday, 16th November

The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/15/world/india-reopens-to-vaccinated-travelers-as-more-asian-countries-loosen-travel-rules.html> 1/2
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/15/world/india-reopens-to-vaccinated-travelers-as-more-asian-countries-loosen-travelrules.html> India reopens to vaccinated travelers as more Asian countries loosen travel rules.

By Sameer Yasir and Jin Yu Young Nov. 15, 2021 Updated 11:23 a.m. ET The Indian government announced on Monday that it would allow vaccinated foreign visitors into the country for the first time

India reopens to vaccinated travelers as more Asian countries loosen travel rules. - The Indian government announced on Monday that it would allow vaccinated foreign visitors into the country for the first time in more than 20 months, delivering a boost to a battered tourism industry as coronavirus cases ease and vaccinations pick up across Asia. As India emerges from a devastating second wave of the virus last spring — with new cases averaging about 20,000 daily, down from a peak of more than 400,000 — **it has begun to allow quarantine-free entry to fully inoculated tourists from 99 reciprocating countries.**

In 2020, the country drew just 2.74 million foreign tourists, down from 10.93 million the previous year, according to government data. Before the pandemic, tourism constituted about 7 percent of the country's economic output and brought in \$30 billion in foreign exchange in 2019. Last month, India said it would resume allowing chartered flights, although few have arrived because those flights tend to be booked far in advance. Monday's announcement expands the rule to all flights from 99 countries that allow vaccinated Indian travelers. But travelers from several major countries — including China, Britain and Canada — are not included because their countries have not reopened to visitors from India.

Rajiv Mehra, a top official at the Indian Association of Tour Operators, said that it would take months before the new arrivals would start making an impact on local economies. But he said that it was a sign of confidence in the country's vaccination rollout that visitors from so many countries will be allowed to come in without going into quarantine.

India Coronavirus Cases › Source: Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University. The daily average is calculated with data that was reported in the last seven days. India recently administered its billionth vaccine dose, and more than 30 percent of the eligible population has been fully vaccinated. But a sluggish start to the vaccine campaign, and a prolonged lockdown in 2020, have taken a toll. According to the National Council of Applied Economic Research, a private think tank, more than 10 million people in the tourism industry lost their jobs in just a threemonth period last year. The government plans to issue 500,000 free visas to bolster tourism. "We are taking baby steps and we will see a good turnout in numbers in coming months," said Jyoti Mayal, the president of the Travel Agents Association of India, a private trade body. "We are working hard to tell tourists to come and visit India and it is safe." India joins a host of Asian countries that are lifting travel restrictions on foreign tourists. South Korea and Singapore initiated a travel arrangement on Monday that allows fully vaccinated visitors to travel to either country without having to quarantine. South Korea plans to open more international travel lanes with neighboring countries as it moves toward a phased reopening. Cambodia, which has fully vaccinated 80 percent of its population, according to the Our World in Data project at the University of Oxford, also ended its quarantine for inbound vaccinated travelers on Monday. All time Last 90 days Feb. 2020 Jun. Oct. Feb. 2021 Jun. Oct. 7-day average 100,000 200,000 300,000 cases 11/16/21, 7:01 AM India reopens to vaccinated travelers as more Asian countries loosen travel rules. - The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/15/world/india-reopens-to-vaccinated-travelers-as-more-asian-countries-loosen-travel-rules.html> 2/2 Sameer Yasir is a reporter for The New York Times, covering the intersection of identity politics, conflicts and society. He joined The Times in 2020 and is based in New Delhi. @sameeryasir Jin Yu Young reports on South Korea and other countries in Asia from the Seoul newsroom. She joined The Times in 2021. @Jin_charl



India reopens to vaccinated travelers a

India Starts Issuing Tourist Visas to Foreigners

But travel service providers say response has been lukewarm so far

Anumeha.Chaturvedi @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India has begun issuing tourist visas to overseas travelers after suspending them in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, but travel service providers said the response has been lukewarm so far.

Last month, the Union home ministry had said it would begin granting fresh tourist visas to foreigners coming to India through chartered flight with effect from October 15. It had also said that foreign tourists coming to India from flights other than chartered aircraft would be able to do so with effect from November 15.

"The rules have been inconsistent and the air bubble arrangement flights are full. The fares are also very steep. Why would tourists come at these rates?" said Rajeev Kohli, joint managing director, Creative Travel. "None of our overseas partners have expressed any interest. Customers have choices and the other countries have been easing restrictions. They also want to rebuild their share of the travel pie."

Jyoti Mayal, president of the Travel Agents Association of India, said she will write a letter to the ministries of civil aviation, tourism, external affairs and three other ministries on Tuesday, urging them to resume scheduled commercial international flights. "Air bubble flights won't be sufficient and competitive enough. Essential travel will happen but tourism

won't happen unless flight prices become reasonable. Leisure travellers won't come otherwise," she said.

Rajiv Mehra, president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators, said the air bubble flight fares are probably three to four times the normal fares. "The government must look at operating the flights as per the bilateral agreements which were in place before March last year. Also, e-tourist visas have not opened for Canada and the UK. The UK is a big source market. The response would be low and it could stay so for months," he said. R Parthiban, director, Swagatam Tours, said while there have been "reciprocal issues" with some countries, there has also been a lot of ambiguity regarding travel rules and requirements such as RT-PCR tests and quarantining.



Wednesday, 17th November

PUBLIC EYE

What to expect at 36th IATO Annual Convention?

IATO, being the nucleus of the inbound travel has been a go-to association for tour operators for decades now. As IATO announces its 36th IATO Annual Convention with conviction and a sense of responsibility, we spoke to the core team of IATO to know what members can expect from the illustrious convention this year.

- Bharti Sharma

The resilient travel industry had its share of gloom in the past 18 months. But associations such as IATO have acted as an anchor in those constant high tides. With the announcement of its 36th IATO Annual Convention which will be held in Gandhinagar Gujarat, the association yet again breeds speculations and anticipations as it is going to be the first tourism mega event in India since the world was ambushed by the Covid 19.

A mega venue for the mega event

The venue, hosting the hemisphere convention between December 16 to 19, 2022, The Leela Gandhinagar is the first luxury hotel in India to be built on the space of a conventional railway

station, 22 metres above the ground. The 318-room property combines modernity with subtle inspirations from local Gujarat architecture and culture and sits proudly atop the railway tracks. IATO has always bestowed its members with the best in class hospitality and the special venue endorses their intention.


Brand India- The Road to Recovery

The well-thought out theme 'Brand India- The Road to recovery' as the name suggests, will emphasise on the industry's road to recovery. The briefing business sessions on diverse strategic topics will address the SWOT to recuperation. This will be the first convention under the leadership of Rajiv Mehra, President,

IATO who observes that the convention is a renewed opportunity to start business and converge on networking at the opportune time as borders are opening up. Members will also be exposed to policy discussions by the state governments thereby enabling them to share out their region-specific strategies.

He adds, "The focus will be on addressing the key issues that plague the industry at present so that the members discuss the same with the policy makers present and discuss among themselves to come to viable solutions. Besides the main theme, the business sessions attempt to dwell on an in-depth analysis of the plan of action to recovery, connectivity, marketing policy framework relating to SEIS and

other pertinent issues, sustainable tourism and other facets. On-site visits at the tourist destinations of Gujarat will add to the productivity and promotion."



Rajiv Mehra

Instilling confidence amongst members

IATO annual convention will set the stage for rebuilding confidence amongst the tourism industry delegates. EM Najeeb, Senior Vice President, IATO states, "We expect about 200 delegates to attend the convention. Besides, we have also invited all the state governments and they will be asked to tell the industry the state of affairs in their respective state with regard to tourists arriving there."



EM Najeeb

Also, delegates will get a chance to meet after a gap of two years to interact and network. Whatever fears we have in mind we will put forward to the senior government officials from the Centre and the state government and will clear our doubts and whatever are impediments in our way, we shall request to resolve."

Meaningful & power-packed networking

"Our annual convention is undoubtedly the flagship event of the Tourism Industry in India," shares Rajiv Gosain, Vice President - IATO. He further adds, "In 2020, we were not able to organise the convention due to the pandemic, so as a managing committee of IATO this year we're shouldering a substantial responsibility of conducting a fruitful convention for the industry to open up. Hence we have carefully crafted the theme of the convention 'Brand India-Road to

recovery in order to give our participants a proposition to adjust to the appropriate change for taking their business forward. We are bringing some of the most renowned and experienced speakers for our knowledge sessions which will help members in enhancing their skills."



Ravi Gosain

Revival begins

Retrospecting the past 20 months and how an unprecedented pandemic brought the world down on its knees, IATO Convention is a call for recovery. Rajiv Kaistha, Hony. Secretary asserts, "With dark shadows behind us, we now need to adjust to the new normal. With the soft opening of e-tourist visas, there is definite optimism in the air. The message we want to forward is that from now onward it's the road to recovery and revival of business. The Indian government has issued a list of 66 countries in category A, where govt has entered into an agreement for mutual recognition vaccination certificates for fully vaccinated travellers. IATO has been on its toes for the reopening of the e-tourist visa and further, the second step is to initiate multiple entry e-tourist visas and restoration of schooler rights. This will enhance members' demand and flight as a affordable prospect for the tourists."

"Members can look forward to effective physical meetings, endorsed by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt of Gujarat and other state governments on the products,

marketing and promotion, connectivity, infrastructure and policy announcements. Besides the above, the theme of the convention is apt considering the present situation and the need for revival," shares Mishra.



Rajiv Kaistha

IATO goes Green

The IATO aim for responsible tourism, an event synonymous with the convention and already a huge hit amongst the members will be organised on day two of the convention. "We at IATO are working towards reducing carbon footprints for a better tomorrow. Along with that, we intend to make our members aware of the surroundings as well as the environment. The convention will bring a hope and a better tomorrow for our members," tells Kaistha.

The best of Gujarat

One of the most exciting facets of the convention is the host destination and its attractions, and this year the delegates are looking forward to reimagining vibrant Gujarat after 20 years. Gosain says to last IATO convention in 2011 and things have certainly changed for good since then. Sunil Mishra, Hony. Treasurer - IATO shares, "Members can market any destination only if they are familiar. There are going to be 6 post-convention tours, which will give members the opportunity to explore the real Gujarat. The members will have the opportunity to discuss the same over networking Luncheons

and Dinners. On-site visits of key destinations of Gujarat would catalyse the marketing angle."



Sunil Mishra



Make for them and energy

With a series of seminars and activities planned for the members, IATO is looking forward to making the convention into a vibrant, full-fledged event. "We have many participants for greater use of such energy they spend on attending our event and for this, we are committed to providing them with potential networking opportunities, value sessions on government policies, automation and digital marketing, responsible tourism in tourism, apart from this, we will have a multifunctional speaker related sessions over music and our popular IATO run. Personally, I wish all stakeholders in tourism and hospitality trade to attend the convention and initiate business relationships and fill the gap which was created by unusual long and long backlogs."



Sanjay Razdan

More to get for industries

Domestic tourism is the basis of the pyramid the foundation of the sector. In the open and free market, hotels and others to stay ahead, must be the chosen phase for the tourism industry. Rajiv Kaistha, Hony. Secretary, says, "Foreign tourists now and then tend to be very interesting and relevant concerns on our members get to deal better with changing yet challenging times."

Secretary, Hony. Secretary - IATO adds, "As IATO Convention will also be the largest congregation of tourism professionals from all over India after Covid-19 pandemic hit

us in March 2020, we all have opportunities to share. Therefore, we wish to hear from the experts about the way forward so that we are meeting from November to 2021."

Nothing no chance with safety and hygiene

Ensuring that every guest stay to not only the most responsible but also the safest, the hotel has implemented stringent safety and hygiene protocols under

'Suraksha by The Leela' - a comprehensive safety program in partnership with Bureau Veritas. The Leela (multinational) also has a zero net-net vaccinated workforce measuring aspects of complete safety in their care. Sanjay adds, "Firstly, the focus would be to follow all WHO and Covid protocols as were disseminated to the world that India is ready to host this convention will be a major hit."



Thursday, 18th November

- IATO paves the way for 'Brand India- The Road to recovery'

<https://www.travelturtle.world/news/iato-paves-the-way-for-brand-india-the-road-to-recovery/>

Friday, 19th November

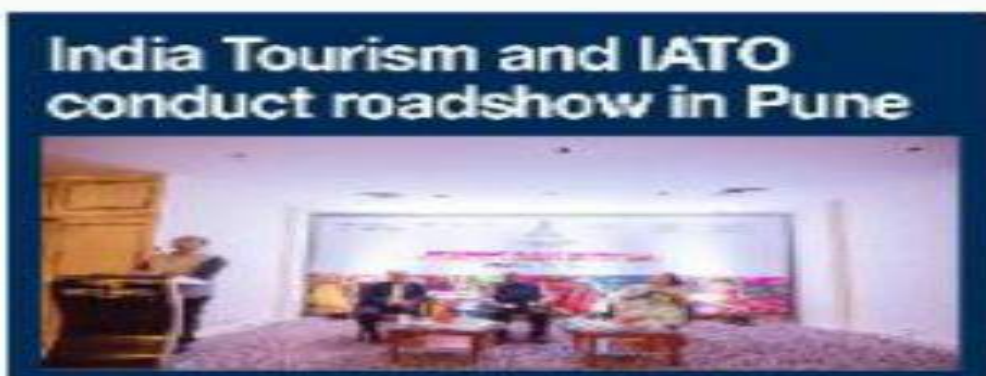
- VP IATO and Chapter Chair UP with the Secretary Tourism UP at the Deepotsav in Ayodhya



- We are finalising a new model whereby seaplane services sustain in Gujarat: Tourism Secretary ..
<https://travel.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/ministry/we-are-finalising-a-new-model-whereby-seaplane-services-sustain-in-gujarat-tourism-secretary/87792587>
- IATO Maharashtra holds first physical networking meet after lockdown.
<https://traveltradejournal.com/iato-maharashtra-holds-first-physical-networking-meet-after-lockdown/>

Monday, 22nd November

Tourism Breaking News



Canada to recognise Covaxin from November 30

Effective November 30, 2021, Canada will expand the list of COVID-19 vaccines that can receive temporary emergency approval to Canada. The list will include Sinopharm, Sputnik V and COVAXIN, matching the World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing.



IATO Maharashtra holds first physical networking meet after lockdown

IATO Maharashtra organised a networking dinner meet on 19th November at Sun-n-Sand Hotel in Mumbai for their members. The physical event was well attended by many members from the Mumbai region. Details were shared about the upcoming 36th IATO Annual Convention to be held from 16th to 19th December 2021 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Many members were expected to attend and their participation was encouraged.



Vietnam Ambassador hints increase in tourist footfall soon at Bodh Gaya

Addressing members of Bodh Gaya Temple Advisory Board (BTAB) on Saturday, Vietnam's Ambassador to India, Pham Sanh Chau, said, "The Mahabodhi Temple is a matter of pride for the people of Bihar. Bodh Gaya is one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage centres in the world. We are quite sure that footfall of both domestic and international



Wednesday, 24th November

Tourism Breaking News

Reunite #INABUDHABI- Luxury webinar on 26th Nov at 11:30am IST

Department of Culture & Tourism (DCT) Abu Dhabi is organising Reunite #INABUDHABI- Luxury webinar on 26th November at 11:30am IST. Get a chance to learn about the latest upscale experiences, luxurious stay options, vibrant dining and entertainment options. To join the webinar, email to jaspreet.kaur@dctdubai.com or call +91 9650199533.

IATO Maharashtra holds first event in 2 years in M'bai

'Wedding clients will spend more on entertainment as new concepts arise'

One of the ardent advocates of non-saree dresses for weddings, Rajeev Jain, MD, Rashi Entertainment, believes that the Indian wedding industry will witness a significant rise as the pandemic eases. "I believe that by 2022 we will witness many international weddings. The client will spend more on entertainment as new concepts arise," he says.

Indore tops list of Cleanest Cities in India for 5th year

- President and IPP IATO at the Launch of All your travel solutions Mobile App by TWO Media



Friday, 26th November

- India allows scheduled Commercial flights from December 15th

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/business-economy/india-allows-scheduled-commercial-international-flights-from-dec-15/2575257.html>

Saturday, 27th November

- India to allow resumption of international flights from December 15
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/regular-international-flights-likely-from-december-15-except-for-countries-where-covid-not-under-control/articleshow/87927523.cms>
- India-allows-scheduled-commercial-international-flights-from-dec-15
- <http://www.uniindia.com/india-allows-scheduled-commercial-international-flights-from-dec-15/business-economy/news/2575257.html>
- International scheduled flights to start from December 15
- <https://hospitality.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/travel/international-scheduled-flights-to-start-from-december-15/87941879>
- IATO Welcomes Resumption of International Flight Operations but Wants More
- <https://eturbonews.com/3009873/iato-welcomes-resumption-of-international-flight-operations-but-wants-more/>

- <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2446071203936/iato-welcomes-resumption-of-international-flight-operations-but-wants-more>

➤ Worldwide Flights India: Common worldwide flights seemingly from December 15, apart from nations the place Covid not beneath management | India Enterprise Information

- <https://www.thetimesoftruth.com/worldwide-flights-india-common-worldwide-flights-seemingly-from-december-15-apart-from-nations-the-place-covid-not-beneath-management-india-enterprise-information/>

3. Chapter News

Segment 4 update sequence by date:16,19,20,23 November

Tuesday,16th November





- On (16th November 2021) on behalf of IATO Chapter Chair Gujarat attended Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting at Statue of Unity-Kevadia and raised points in front of committee as per time slot given and requested them to take the same to further to concern authority.

KEY POINTS FOR GUJARAT

1. Flight connectivity to be improved to the State and particular the Bhuj sector as Rann Utsav Festival starting from November to Mid February every year and this period is also for foreign tourist visit to the Kutch area. As there is only one flight from Bhuj to Mumbai currently and no flights are there to Delhi or any major cities of India. Requested them to look into it & if it is no viable for the airline to operate round the year than they can at least try and operate for 06 months from October to March.
2. Porbandar port to be developed as per international standard which would encourage Cruise Ships to come Porbandar as currently Ships come in morning and leave before it gets dark as Porbandar port does not have night berthing facility. As Porbandar will be ideal if Cruise Ships doc for overnight than from Porbandar we can cover key destination like Sasan Gir, Somnath , Dwarka which will bring mass tourism to the State.
3. Requested also for waving of ASI monuments fee for 01 year which would be a great help in getting tourism back to normalcy.

Friday,19th November

- Hony Secretary at the Maharashtra Chapter Meeting





NETWORKING MEET OF IATOS WESTERN REGION

IATO's Western Region first physical meeting after the lockdown was held on Friday, the 19th November 2021 at Sun-N-Sand Mumbai. **Mr. Jitendra Kejriwal**, Chairman IATO Maharashtra and Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Chapter; **Mr. N S Rathor** and **Mr. Rajnish Kaistha**, Hony Secretary IATO addressed the Western Region members and invited them personally for the **36th IATO Annual Convention being held in Gandhinagar from 16-19 December 2021**. Ms. Bhavan, Assistant Director, India Tourism and Mr. Ajay Prakash, President IAFI were the Guest. The event was well attended by the IATO members and Trade partners from Travel Fraternity.



Saturday, 20th November

- EC Member at the Odisha Chapter Meeting





Tuesday, 23rd November

- Award by GM Go Air for Chapter Chair Maharashtra