

Update on IATO Activities

(Friday, 1st October to Friday, 15th October 2021)

Dear Members,

Greetings !

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Friday, 1st October to Friday, 15th October 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: 8 October

Friday, 8th October

- **IATO thanked Mr. Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism) on the Government announcing resumption of Tourist Visa**

On behalf of the members of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) and the entire tourism industry, President IATO thanked Secretary Tourism for supporting IATO and the industry for strongly recommending to PMO and the MHA for resuming tourist visa which MHA announced on the 7th of October. This could happen with the cohesive and tireless efforts and strongly putting up the case by Secretary Tourism, DG (Tourism), ADG (Tourism), JS (Tourism) and the entire team in the Ministry, which resulted in this positive decision by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

IATO thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Home Minister, Hon'ble Tourism Minister and the Hon'ble Tourism Minister of States for taking this decision and making the announcements.

IATO put forward immediate steps for favourable consideration: -

1. Ministry of Civil Aviation be requested to resume international flight operation and all airlines should be allowed to start operating their regular passenger flights as per bilateral agreement that was in place before March 2020 so that foreign tourists who want to visit our country can book their tickets. Presently only bubble flights were operating to/from our country, the cost of air ticket was very high and normally seats were not available. Therefore, it was essential that normal international flight operation to/from our country

resumed and air fares became viable for the tourists to choose India for holiday purposes.

2. A request was made to make Visa Fee exemption more practical and beneficial, free E-visa to be extended to all foreign tourists applying for 30 days' visa till 31st March 2023 and it should not be limited to first 5 lakh tourists. This would send positive message globally that India is serious and will encourage foreign tourists to travel to India.

A copy of the letter was marked to A. Director General (Tourism) B. Additional Director General (Tourism) and C. Joint Secretary (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

Tuesday ,12th October

➤ IATO INPUTS/SUGGESTIONS FOR REVIVAL OF TOURISM AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPENING OF TOURIST VISA FROM 15TH OCTOBER AND 15TH NOVEMBER 2021 RESPECTIVELY TO ALLOW FOREIGN TOURISTS TO INDIA

As the situation in our country is improving day by day and is becoming conducive for the inbound tourism to start, it is now announced by Ministry of Home Affairs to open E-tourist visa from 15th October, 2021 for Charter flights and from 15th November, 2021 for regular tourists. This announcement has brought huge hope amongst the stake holders to revive their tourism business. It is very much needed for the tour operators who are doing inbound tourism business and are eagerly looking for the inbound tourism to start.

I. Recommendations for revival of inbound tourism: -

1. As The E-Tourist Visa is going to open now, Ministry of Civil Aviation be requested to resume international flight operation and all airlines should be allowed to start operating their regular passenger flights as per bilateral agreement that was in place before March 2020 so that foreign tourists who want to visit our country can book their tickets. Presently only bubble flights are operating to/from our country, the cost of air ticket is very high and normally seats are not available. Therefore, it is essential that normal international flight operation to/from our country is resumed and air fares become viable for the tourists to choose India for holiday purposes. Announcement for opening of regular flights should be made immediately so that lead time is given to the foreign tour operators/agents to prepare themselves to promote India packages.
2. As per the press release issued by MHA the Tourist Visa will be single entry with 30 days validity. Our members have started getting some queries and FTOs have requested that Tourist Visa should be of Double Entry with 60 days validity as tourist are wanting to travel to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan along with India.
3. To make Visa Fee exemption more practical and beneficial, free E-visa should be extended to all foreign tourists applying for 30 days visa till 31st March 2023 and it should not be limited to first

5 lakh tourists. Also this should be available exclusively for the foreign tourists who opt to visit our country for minimum 5 days. This will send positive message globally that we are serious and will encourage foreign tourists to travel to India.

4. A policy could be made by the Ministry that for at least next two years, all visitors to apply for e-Tourist Visa/Normal Tourist Visa, should travel through an MoT recognised tour operator and/or IATO Member.
5. Any person, who has a Covid -19 fully Vaccination Certificate, should be granted e-Tourist Visa/Normal Tourist Visa and they should not be asked for RT-PCR test other than originating country.
6. All others who do not have Vaccination Certificate should be in possession of RTPCR negative report and test done within 96 hours from the date of arrival in India.
7. All states should be advised to have similar guidelines that any tourist/traveller who is in possession of vaccination certificate should be allowed to travel to any State/Union Territory without insisting on RTPCR test/quarantine.
8. We strongly recommend that e-Tourist Visa should be made applicable immediately for those arriving by land especially on India-Nepal Border as our Hon'ble Prime Minister wants to promote the Buddhist Sector, Buddhist Sector will not be complete till the client visit Lumbini in Nepal. This is possible only by Road. Request this should be done before the International Buddhist Conclave scheduled from 17 -21 November 2021. Please do note that the Buddhist Tourism would be the first to start.
9. It is also requested that by 15th November 2021, the visas which were issued earlier, and still remain suspended should be restored.
10. All the vacant posts especially of the Regional Directors in Indiatourism Offices should be filled up immediately so that proper marketing and promotions can be done by them promoting India as a Safe tourist destination. This will give a strong message.
11. Marketing and promotion should start immediately through Social Media platforms and promotion of Incredible India website where link of IATO website is to be given as in the past which can generate leads and develop business. Traditional Marketing can continue.
12. Strong media campaign both electronic and print should be started with loud and clear message that India Vaccination programme is very successful and exemplary. We need to send a strong message to the world to change the perception about India for image building, positive approach on vaccination being done across India. Let the entire world know that it is a safe destination. Two billion doses will be given by the end of the year, even during the Covid period our mortality was around 15% of what the western world had and these facts and figures must be brought to the attention of the world through the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of External Affairs and we need to involve the

Embassies and High Commissions. They need to come out with press conferences and put up these facts and figures in front of the world. Thus positioning of India through strong messaging needs to hit the world.

13. All the important tour operator from across the globe should be invited immediately on Familiarisation tours on different programs by MOT, because when they come and they are reassured, they will go back and start selling India with positive feedback. Similarly, we need to invite leading foreign journalists and bloggers so that they can see our improvement in safety measures, medical facilities and showcase India across the globe by talking about it on their respective channels.
14. Insurance factor has to be incorporated, either the tourists coming to India should buy the insurance from overseas or they buy on arrival. We need to protect ourselves.
15. Our Ministry should constitute a high level inter-ministerial committee including Industry stake holders, which should meet frequently and take decisions and suitable measure to promote inbound tourism to our country and increase our market share which is comparatively far below considering the tourism infrastructure, and size of our country.
16. Our Ministry should handle the negative advisories and media reports in foreign land, particularly with the key source markets as India is being always projected by the foreign media in a negative manner. The government needs to appoint a PR Agency on priority to counter such negative issues.
17. Road shows should be planned involving stake holders recognised by Ministry of Tourism and to start with these should be organised in Source markets abroad.
18. MOT approved Indian tour operators may be allowed to invite their principal agents on fam trips, which should be hosted with funding from MOT.
19. We had earlier recommended to Translate Dekho Aapna Desh into important foreign languages and should be available on MoT Website and also link to be given on IATO Website which we can circulate amongst all our members.
20. Special focus should be given on Women Safety and Security so that women travellers can be attracted to travel to India and we should change perception of foreign media about our country.
21. The Brochure support and website marketing support for the Foreign tour operators is to be given
22. In revised MDA scheme for overseas promotion, criteria of minimum Rs. 2 crores foreign exchange earning requirement should be removed. We have written earlier also that this clause was not there in the draft proposal, which we received from the Ministry for our inputs. MDA Scheme was introduced for the benefits of small and medium tour operators to give them financial support for overseas marketing and promotions through participation in Road Shows, Sales-cum-study tours, brochure support etc. Prior to revised MDA Guidelines, all MoT recognised inbound tour operators were eligible to avail MDA irrespective of their minimum turnover and there was a cap of upper ceiling of

turnover and not the minimum turnover. Now business of all our members irrespective of size of their business is almost zero and all our members will have to start from scratch to reinstate business for which they will have to do aggressive overseas marketing through participation in Road Shows, sales trips, online promotions etc. for which they need to have support from the Government under MDA Scheme. In case MDA scheme benefits are not available to tour operators whose turnover is below Rs. Two crores they will not be able to do any such promotions and marketing and will not be able to survive. It is, therefore, once again requested to look into our request favourably and remove clause of requirement of minimum foreign exchange earnings of Rs. 2 crores in Revised MDA Guidelines which has been made applicable from 1st January, 2021. Due to Pandemic situation it is requested this clause should be set aside for next 3 financial years and relook on the subject after 3 years.

II. Issues Needs to be taken up with Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce

22. To compete with our neighbouring countries, we need to offer competitive packages for which we need support from the Government with the following:-

- i) We understand in the new foreign trade policy 2021-26, SEIS is going to be withdrawn under new FTP policy by Ministry of Commerce. SEIS is a big support for the Tour Operators in competing with our neighbouring countries which resulted positive growth in the last 4 years. Tour Operators Services are not given any ITC refund on their input services and cascading effect under present GST is also impacted which is a big concern. Effect of these two factors have made Indian tour packages costlier than our neighbouring countries, where GST is only 6-8% and our effective GST on our package tours is 18-23%. SEIS scrips helped us reducing this big difference by passing on some benefits of added value to lure foreign tourists to opt India for their holidays. We, therefore, request that SEIS or similar support mechanism should continue for the tourism industry in the new foreign trade policy being formed. However, if Ministry of Commerce is doing away with the policy and is replaced by introducing RoDTEP Schemed in placed of MEIS but for Services Sector there is no new policy being introduced. The government will have to think of something new to offer similar to RoDTEP considering the services sector especially Tour Operators who do not get ITC as being enjoyed by MEIS and there is no GST on export of goods. We need something better mechanism and percentage refund on our total GST application to counter the competition from our neighbouring countries. For continues growth of inbound tourism we request for similar incentives to continue so that we can pass on the benefits and added value to our foreign tour operators and spend funds on promotion and marketing which we are doing presently by the funds which we are getting through SEIS scrips.

- ii) Cascading effect of GST on Tour Operators Services which need correction. After the implementation of GST with effect from 1st July 2017, tourism has been heavily taxed and the average tax on tourism industry works out to in the range of 18% to 23%. This has resulted loss of business for the small and medium sized tour operators. Many foreign tour operators (FTOs) have started avoiding selling India as a tourist destination and instead they are promoting our neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka etc. where taxes are between 6-8% only. This causes not only loss of business for the Indian tour operators but loss for the country as a whole in terms of both foreign exchange receipts and direct/indirect employment. IATO suggests that either GST may be levied @ 18% on the 10% mark-up (deemed value) so that effective rate of tax on package cost works out to 1.8% of gross billing with no ITC. Alternatively, the gross value may be taxed at 18% GST and input tax credit on all input services including hotels and restaurants may be allowed on actual basis.
- iii) We have another impact of TCS, which is double GST on our Package Tours which we are selling to foreign tourists for Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka etc. combine with India Tour Packages or standalone package. Tax Collection at Source (TCS) on foreign tourists for booking of foreign package tours by the Indian tour operators should be withdrawn immediately as foreign tour operators are avoiding booking of tours of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and other neighbouring countries to avoid 5% additional tax as TCS, which is a big loss not only for the tour operators but also for our country.
- iv) Recently there is an incentive scheme floated by the government for the Champion Sector, it has been sent to all foreign offices that if you send tourists you will get US\$ 25 and US \$50 respectively. As requested by IATO earlier also, this scheme should be applicable to Indian Tour Operators only who all are recognised by the Ministry. Also this needs to be simplified as there are lacunas like asking copy of boarding pass, stamped passport etc. which is very difficult.

We have requested the Ministry to call for a meeting where we can discuss the above so that our Ministry can take these forward at the earliest possible.

Thursday, 14th October

- **IATO Requested MoT to look into pending issues
Regarding 1) Criteria for Issuance of Commercial Airport
Entry Passes (AEP) for the Tour Operators and 2)
Guidelines for Airport Entry Passes**

Criteria for Issuance of Commercial Airport Entry Passes (AEP) for the Tour Operators:- The criteria for issuance of Commercial Airport Entry Passes for the inbound tour operators and hotels was revised last year after detailed

deliberations between Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Civil Aviation. In this regard attached, please find a copy of letter from Ministry of Tourism Government of India letter dated 23rd July 2020 for your ready reference (Copy enclosed).

As per the revised guidelines of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, effective from 8th December 2020, (copy enclosed) there is no separate category of Inbound Tour Operators and as per the revised guidelines, MoT Recognition approval letter is given as “**Tour Operator**”, (sample copy enclosed) whereas in the criteria for Airport Entry Passes it is specifically mentioned “**Inbound Tour Operators**”

Now, when our members are applying for airport entry pass they are being refused, BCAs is asking for letter/certificate of MoT Recognition as “Inbound Tour Operator” as BCAs is not aware of this change in the New Guidelines for the tour operators dated 8th December 2020.

We requested the Ministry to take up with Ministry of Civil Aviation and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security to issue revised guidelines to all their Regional Directors of revised guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism dated 8th December 2020 for issuing new airport passes.

Procedure and Guidelines for Airport Entry Passes **Guidelines for Airport Entry Passes:-** We have not received the revised guidelines so far and requested to send us the revised procedure and guidelines so that our members can apply for airport pass as per the revised procedure and guidelines.

Balance Sheet of 2019-20 to be considered for turnover requirement for Airport Pass:- As there is zero inbound tourism business since March 2020 and members who are applying for Airport Entry Pass will not be able to meet the turn over requirement for the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 as the inbound tourism has not yet started. Therefore, it has been requested that for getting airport pass, turnover requirement may kindly be considered on the basis of turnover for the financial year 2019-20.

A copy of the above letter was also sent to Mrs. Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

➤ **Loan of Rs 10 Lakh to MoT recognised Tourism service providers**

IATO wrote to Additional Director General (Tourism) that NCGTC has issued guidelines and FAQs regarding loan of Rs 10 lakh to the tour operators as was announced by the Hon’ble Finance Minister. However, banks are refusing to entertain this request made by our members for loan. ADG (Tourism) has assured to look into this in next week. A copy of this was sent to Secretary and Director General, Ministry of Tourism Government of India.

2. Webinars/ Panel

Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date: 4,7,8,9,11,12,14 October

Monday, 4th October

- IATO delegation for Buddhist Tourism FAM 4-8 October 2021 to Bodhgaya, Varanasi organised by MOT GOI in association with IRCTC, Govt of Bihar and Govt of Uttar Pradesh.

President IATO welcomed the Hon'ble MOS Shri Ajay Bhatt who flagged off the tour at the Safdarjung Railway Station.





Presentation by COO at Varanasi on the 7th October





Thursday, 7th October

- All Members were informed about the Tourist Visas being resumed with effect from 15th October 2021 for Chartered Flights and with effect from 15th November for others

All Covid-19, protocols and norms notified by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare need to be adhered to by the foreign tourists.

A copy of the Press Release issued by PIB was attached - available on the following

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1761795>

Friday, 8th October

- IATO team visits Gujarat to discuss the Annual Convention Meeting with Mr Hareet Shukla, Secy Tourism Gujarat



Wednesday, 6th October

- Indian industry proposes free Covid insurance to foreign tourists, re-starting scheduled international flights

<http://www.uniindia.com/travel-industry-proposes-free-covid-insurance-to-foreign-tourists-re-starting-scheduled-international-flights/business-economy/news/2525436.html>

Thursday, 7th October

0:23 ... LTE 42

travelworldonline.in/Destinat

Friday 08 October 2021 | News Bulletin | Radio | E-Magazine | Company Info | >> Conducive policy framework, funding incentive and

70 TRAVEL WORLD ONLINE **OUTBOUND** **Best time to Visit ENGLAND** Login | Register

Home | Airlines | Hotels | Tourism Boards | Tour Operators | Destinations | Miscellaneous | Interview

Destinations News

Indian Government announced resumption of Tourist Visa for Foreigners effect from 15th Oct 2021

Posted : 07 October 2021 11:25:33 | By TWO Bureau | GNN Bureau



On the auspicious first day of Navratri, the Indian Government announced the resumption of Tourist Visa for Foreigners coming to India through chartered flights with effect from 15th October 2021 and others from 15th November 2021.

Mr Rajiv Mehra, President of - Indian Association of Tour Operators, thanked the Honourable Prime Minister, Home Minister and Tourism Minister for considering their request in resuming the tourist visa. Rajiv Mehra said, "This is very encouraging for the tourism industry, and we hope the inbound tourism will start to some extent and will give a sigh of relief to the tourism industry stakeholders."

Today | Past Week | LastMonth

- 1 Faith Associations thank PM, MHA and MoT on planned resumption of Inbound tourism from 15 Nov
- 2 Indian Government announced resumption of Tourist Visa for Foreigners effect from 15th Oct 2021
- 3 The Czech Republic awarded the Safe Travels Stamp
- 4 BACL appoints DP Architects, Singapore and Portland Design, UK for Retail Dining Entertainment Village
- 5 India Tourism, Assam Tourism and ADTOI NE Chapter jointly conduct Guwahati Heritage Walk
- 6 Conducive policy framework, funding incentive and demand structure for Drones; Scindia
- 7 Air Asia India commences revolutionary TaxiBot passenger operations in India
- 8 MoT organises 4 day Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour

More News

Travel News Bulletin

0:00 / 0:36

Tags : IATO, Prime minister, Resumption of tourist visa, starting of inbound, Also on Travel World Online

Most Visited

- The Czech Republic awarded the Safe Travels Stamp
- MoT organises 4 day Buddhist Circuit Train FAM Tour
- Tourism Minister to open Israeli Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai...
- Daily limit on Chardham Yatra affecting people, Uttarakhand...
- Concerted efforts of the Govt...
- Millennials willing to travel to Thailand as soon as it open...
- Zojila tunnel, once ready, will spur tourism growth in the U...
- AIN DUBAI all set to open to public on October 21



percent of the Indian economy. Rajiv Mehra, president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), welcomed Thursday's announcement. "This is a very encouraging for the tourism industry and we hope the inbound tourism would start to some extent and will give sigh of relief to the tourism industry stakeholders," Mehra said in a statement. – AFP

- India to allow foreign tourists travelling by chartered flights from October 15, rest from November 15

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-to-allow-foreign-tourists-travelling-by-chartered-flights-from-october-15-rest-from-november-15/articleshow/86841579.cms>

- Tourism Industry welcomes the move to restart issuing of Visas to overseas tourists

<https://m.economictimes.com/industry/services/travel/tourism-industry-welcomes-the-move-to-restart-issuing-of-visas-to-overseas-tourists/articleshow/86844609.cms>

<https://thegreaterindia.in/news/business/tourism-industry-welcomes-the-move-to-restart-issuing-of-visas-to-overseas-tourists/>

- Government-to-start-issuing-tourist-visa-to-foreigners-travelling-to-india-from-october-15

<https://travel.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/ministry/government-to-start-issuing-tourist-visa-to-foreigners-travelling-to-india-from-october-15/86841268>

- India-open-tourists-october-15

<https://news.yahoo.com/india-open-tourists-october-15-140256228.html>

- India-welcomes-foreign-tourists

<https://newsbeezer.com/vietnameng/india-welcomes-foreign-tourists/>

<https://remonews.com/vietnameng/india-welcomes-foreign-tourists/>

<https://newsfounded.com/vietnameng/india-welcomes-foreign-tourists/>

- Foreign-tourists-to-be-allowed-in-india-from-november-15



**Travel & Tourism
World of
News & Views**

11th Oct. 2021

IATO 36th IATO Annual Convention to take place at Leela Gandhinagar from 16 -19 Dec.

Mr Rajiv Mehra, President IATO said, We believe December would be the appropriate time to have convention. It will boost confidence in international travellers and send a clear message that India is safe and ready for business.



Mr Mehra mentioned, "The Stupendous Success of the previous convention has raised the expectations of the members and sponsors. More than 900 delegates are expected to attend the 3 days convention. The IATO convention is always eagerly awaited by all," he added.

Full story on - www.travelworldonline.in

UNWTO and NEOM Launch 'Tourism Experiences of the Future' Challenge

The 'Tourism Experiences of the Future' challenge will source innovative ideas and disruptive business models related to the tourism needs of the future, in line with growing demand for new experiences. All proposals must be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and should include the introduction or adaptation of digital and technological elements. * Optimizing and maximizing the potential of experiential tourism. * harnessing the positive impact of new technology * Alternative business models and Innovative experiences




an opportunity to travel with your favourite stars
Dipha Kakkar Ibrahim Shouvik Ibrahim

E- ticket to travel from the comfort of your couch
with your host AIRASIA

TIT - BIT



Kerala Govt sets up Revolving Fund to support tourism sector workers

Kerala Government has set up a Revolving Fund to provide interest-free loans up to Rs 10,000 to those employed in a wide range of activities in tourism sector without any collateral security, as part of schemes to revive the pandemic-hit industry that provides jobs to thousands across the state.

As per the Government Order issued in this regard, the Revolving Fund has an initial corpus of Rs 10 crore, Tourism Minister Shri P A Mohamed Riyas said, "This fund comes when the tourism sector is poised for the post-pandemic surge. All those who are working in this vital sector can avail the benefit of this scheme to revive their activities", the Minister said.

Those who are employed in any tourism related activities with membership in any of the registered tourism sector organizations will be eligible for the loan under the scheme. Those engaged in units registered under the Responsible Tourism (RT) mission are also entitled to apply for the loan.



IND/AAH an insight into the Incredible!

Vadodara Travel Agents Association was launched under the presidency of Manish Shah.

The official launch of the Vadodara Travel Agent Association was held yesterday at Laxmi Vilas Palace under the presidency of Manish Shah. Prominent dignitaries of the city, includes Member of Parliament, Mayor of Vadodara, King of Vadodara, Neerav Munshi, Commercial Manager Gujarat Tourism, graced the occasion. Manish Shah said, "We wanted to create a platform where our agents can meet, network and discuss current challenges in the business. As a unified front, representation also becomes easier to various government and non-government bodies in times of need."



For media coverage mail to: info@travelworldonline.in

Tuesday, 12th October

Mr Rajiv Mehra, President IATO speaks on the 36th IATO Convention to be held in Gandhi Nagar Gujarat 16-19 December 2021.
<https://fb.watch/8ALMVHqAzO/>

Wednesday, 13th October

DDP PUBLICATIONS

Wednesday October 13, 2021

Tourism Breaking news

Subscribe to our Tourism Webinars Series

Win a trip to Switzerland!

Eastern Cape Tourism seeks to see the region included in more packages to South Africa



Sharing his expectations from the upcoming virtual show Virtually Yours South Africa show on October 20, Vuyani Dayimani, CEO of Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency, says, "The Eastern Cape Province is the jewel of South Africa. After two years of presenting the destination to Indian trade partners, we seek to see it included in more packages to South Africa with more bed nights and geographic spread."

MOT meets inbound associations to plan overseas promotions, including Dubai Expo 2020



Ravil Gogoi, Vice President, IATO, has revealed that MOT met with inbound tourism associations to create a plan for overseas promotion after the was opening announcement by MMA. He says, "While Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav will be the common theme for all, MOT is planning to declare 2022-23 as Visit India Year For Dubai Expo, all associations have been asked to give presentations on the sector they represent."

TAFI ties up with Sarovar for special rates for members



Tourist Agents Federation of India (TAFI) has done a special tie-up with Sarovar Hotels across India for offering special hotel rates to TAFI members. An initiative by the TAFI Hotels & Resorts Committee, the tie-up will allow members to sell inventory of these hotels and resorts using these special rates for their clients. Jigar Dudakya, Chairman, Representative, TAFI, says, "To use the facilities, TAFI members must have a TAFI logo and membership number on their email signature. The same will be verified and checked for authenticity by principals."

Maldivian

Direct flights to Male & Maafaru

Direct Office: +91-11-229-8485, +91-11-229-0186
 +91-88713-22271, +91-88713-11100
 maldivian@maldivian.in
 maldivian@delhiapp@delhi.in

Malaysia announces reopening of Langkawi as pilot project to revive the nation's tourism



Tourism Malaysia is participating for the third time at the third edition of the Gulf Travel Show from 12 to 14 October 2021 as a platinum partner. Sharing an update from Langkawi, Nasaruddin Bin Abdul Mubin, CEO of Langkawi Development Authority, says, "The government announced the reopening of Langkawi as the pilot project aimed at reviving the tourism industry."

Hotels in the region haven't been able to get any relaxation on property tax: HRA East India



Sudesh Poddar, recently-elected President of Hotel & Restaurant Association of Eastern India, says, "In spite of several requests to all state governments, we haven't been able to get any relaxation on property tax. There has been no relaxation of excise license fees too. We have sent several letters and delegations to the respective departments without any result and have met several ministers."



Thailand renews visa application mandate with VFS Global

The Thailand government has renewed its pan-India visa processing mandate with VFS Global, the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. VFS Global will cater to travellers from all four India through visa application centres and drop-off centres for the jurisdiction of the Royal Thai Embassy in Delhi and Royal Thai Consulate General in Kolkata, Mumbai, and Chennai. The company will manage all visa related tasks as well as SFH and long stay non-OA, non-GD employment except medical treatment category.

For more information contact harshal@ddpnl.com +91 96194 99167
 anurita.gupta@ddpnl.com +91 95503 89905
www.tourismbreakingnews.com

For more news & updates please log on to



Friday, 15th October

No license to play recorded sound at hotels; FHRAI & EEMA to sensitise industry



Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) and Event and Entertainment Management Association (EEMA) have jointly planned to organise a nationwide campaign to sensitise industry stakeholders including the Police as well as general public about hotels or wedding venues not requiring to obtain license for playing any sound recording for marriage and related social or religious functions held at the venues.

Ministry of Tourism proposes to declare 2022-23 as Visit India Year: Ravi Gosain, IATO



In a meeting with industry associations on overseas promotions, Ministry of Tourism has proposed that they wanted to declare 2022-23 as Visit India year, starting from 1st August, 2022. "However, we suggested that it should start from 1st Jan, 2022. If they want Visit India Year to be successful and meaningful, they should provide some incentives to the tour operators or tourists who want to visit India," he suggested.



IHG to launch 141-room Holiday Inn Express in Jaipur



IHG Hotels & Resorts has signed a management agreement with Gireesh Kumar Choudhary (GKC) for a new hotel - Holiday Inn Express & Suites Jaipur Karol Bagh at Gopelpura Bypass. The 141-room hotel featuring 141 rooms will be operational by the Q1 of 2023. Sudeep Jain, MD, South West Asia, IHG Hotels & Resorts, said, "We are thrilled to announce the signing of a new Holiday Inn Express & Suites hotel in Jaipur and solidify our presence in the state of Rajasthan."

Maldivian

Everyone else waiting for the 2022-23 season?

Fly direct to Male & Maafaru

Direct flights to Male & Maafaru from 11,400 INR

11,400 INR (11,400 INR) + 11,400 INR

maldivian.com/india/maafaru

I'm very bullish on international opportunities: Ronojoy Dutta, CEO & Whole Time Director, IndiGo



Ronojoy Dutta, CEO & Whole Time Director, IndiGo, has said that he is very bullish on international opportunities. "The reason I'm bullish is we have a fantastic geography and our four-corner strategy. We can fly seven hours from Delhi, seven hours from Mumbai, seven hours from Kolkata seven hours from Chennai and that gives us a circle, which goes to something like Moscow, Barcelona, Madrid, Manila, Beijing, Shanghai."

Heli-hub to be developed in Gurugram, ATF in Haryana to reduce from 20% to 1%: Scindia



Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister, Civil Aviation, met Manohar Lal Khattar, CM, Haryana, recently and discussed many aviation related issues. After the meeting Scindia revealed that a heli-hub would be developed in Gurugram. Khattar further announced that the Haryana government has decided to reduce value added tax (VAT) rate on sale of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to 1% from 20%.

Fly direct to Male & Maafaru



SpiceJet offers getaways, attractions & dining experiences

SpiceJet has partnered with TripAdvisor, allowing customers to book tours, activities and experiences even before the start of the trip. The strategic partnership will enable SpiceJet passengers to choose and book from more than 10,000 handpicked activities and experiences across five countries. Travelling on SpiceJet or its partners, whether it's a ferry trip, a water sports programme or simply an afternoon tea, the platform will offer carefully designed packages to ensure one enjoys a great travel experience every single time. Shivan Bhatia, CEO, SpiceJet said, "Planning a vacation should be seamless and enjoyable which is what we aim to offer."

For more information contact harehar@ddppr.com +91 98104 99187
erumita.gupta@ddppr.com +91 98503 89008
www.tourismbreakingnews.com

For more news & updates please log on to



BULLETIN

IATO convention in Gandhinagar

Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), has announced that its 36th IATO Annual Convention will be held in Gandhinagar in Gujarat from December 16-19, 2021. There will also be post-convention tours for attendees, keeping all safety protocols in mind.

Neha Verma

The venue of the convention is The Leela Gandhinagar, shared **Rajiv Mehra**, President, IATO. The decision was made by the IATO Executive Committee, and Mehra announced the same by saying, "We planned to have our convention in Gujarat in September 2020 but had to postpone the same due to COVID-19".

The statement issued by IATO stated that since the situation is improving now day-by-day and vaccination is going in full swing, December would be the appropriate time to have the convention. The association explained that this will give time to the stakeholders to get their second dose, who have not taken it so far and be ready to attend the convention. All SOPs and norms would be strictly followed and all delegates who will attend the convention, will have to submit copy of fully vaccination certificate and based on that their convention registration will be accepted.



Rajiv Mehra
President, IATO

Mehra added, "The stupendous success of the previous convention has raised the expectations of the members and sponsors. More than 900 delegates are expected for the three-day event and the IATO convention is eagerly awaited by all".

IATO is going back to Gujarat after a gap of 10 years and it will be an excellent opportunity for the members to see the improved and developed infrastructure in Gujarat, claimed the statement.

Mehra also mentioned that industry is going through a very bad time and their focus would

be to have deliberations as to how they can revive tourism and bring it back to pre-COVID level.

There will be many post-convention tours, which would be of great interest for the members, claimed the statement. On the sidelines of the convention, there will be the travel mart, which

All delegates who will attend the convention, will have to submit copy of fully vaccination certificate

will be an opportunity for the exhibitors to showcase exciting and diverse range of destinations, conference and incentive services, especially by the state governments.



The last IATO Convention was held in Kolkata in 2019, which saw delegates from across the country coming together in capital of West Bengal.

Mehra, along with office bearers of IATO, including EM Najib, Sr. Vice President, IATO and Ranish Kausha, Hon. Secretary, IATO, visited Gandhinagar recently to finalise the venue and dates of the convention. Even Statue of Unity was being proposed as a venue for the convention.

After finalising the venue and the dates, the IATO team is currently working on deciding the theme of the convention, as well as the panel discussions & activities that will happen during the course of the 3-day event.

Exhibit A

Exhibit B

the business travel magazine

MICEtalk

A highly credible magazine developed to tackle the pandemic of fake news.

STA
UPI
HAS NEV

Tou
Br

YOU
TRAV

Breaking

E-news
600,000 in
daily
WhatsApp
So

4. Chapter News

Segment 4 update sequence by date:1,12,14 October

Friday 1st October

- Chapter Chair Bihar & Jharkhand



घाटशिला 01-10-2021

पर्यटन की संभावनाओं को लेकर लखाईडीह गांव पहुंचे टूर ऑपरेटर्स

ग्रामीणों के साथ किया मंथन, रूपरेखा तैयार की

भास्करन्यूज़ | मुसाबनी

डुमरिया प्रखंड के लखाईडीह गांव में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने को लेकर इंडियन एसोसियेशन ऑफ टूर ऑपरेटर्स बिहार झारखंड के अध्यक्ष सुनील कुमार सिंह प्रतिनिधि के रूप में गांव वालों से मिलने पहुंचे। मनोरंजन मंगराज टूर ऑपरेटर्स के तरफ से लखाईडीह गांव पहुंच कर उनके साथ रॉक क्लाइंबिंग के ट्रेकिंग ट्रेनर दयानंद मिश्रा और उनके सहयोगी टीम के सदस्य भी शामिल थे। ग्रामीणों के साथ बैठक कर पर्यटक स्थल के रूप में गांव को

जोड़ने और इससे होने वाले रोजगार से ग्रामीणों को होने वाले आर्थिक लाभ पर चर्चा की गयी। साथी ही गांव के युवाओं को रॉक क्लाइंबिंग, ट्रेकिंग कराने की बातें कही गईं। ग्राम प्रधान कान्हु राम टुडू ने इस अवसर पर बताया कि लखाईडीह गांव में आने वाले पर्यटकों को हमारे गांव अतिथि देवो भवः की तर्ज पर स्वागत सत्कार करेगा। हम लोग अपने गांव के साथ आस पास के जनजातीय बहुल इलाकों के गांव को भी इससे जोड़ने का काम करेंगे। जिससे पर्यटन के माध्यम से स्थानीय रोजगार से जुड़ सके।

- On the 1st Chapter Chair J&K had a meeting with Tourism Minister Govt of India, and Addl DG and was the spokesperson on behalf of all the Tour Operator Bodies and deliberated on key issues
 - MDA to be enhanced up to 50%
 - One time bailout Package to be given besides interest waiver and interest free loans to stand up again.
 - Tour Operators is the only tourism society which retained its staff paid salaries and even sold assets & jewellery to pay to staff only to ensure they don't turn up anti nationals or work against the society.
 - Business loss insurance is important besides Govt should restart confidence building measures to bring back tourism immediately with removing travel restrictions at the earliest.
 - Hon'ble Tourism Minister was also requested that he should take up with FINMIN to remove 5% GST on the packages tour operators lose business since clients book directly with hotels to save from this 5% menace

Tuesday, 12th October



हिमाचल भवन में 8-10 अक्टूबर तक आयोजित होगा इंडिया ट्रेवल मार्ट
चंडीगढ़। देश का प्रमुख वार्षिक ट्रेवल एक्सपो - इंडिया ट्रेवल मार्ट (आईटीएम) 8 से 10 अक्टूबर, ऐसोसियेशन ऑफ टूर आपरेटर्स, ट्रेवल एजेंट्स ऐसोसियेशन ऑफ इंडिया, ऐसोसियेशन ऑफ डोमेस्टिक टूर

Thursday 14th October

- Brigadier Hukum Singh Baisla, 39 GTC, cantonment Varanasi felicitating co chapter chairman UP during a cultural event.


