

21<sup>st</sup> April 2021,

To All Members,

**Subject : Update on IATO Activities (Monday, 12th April to Sunday, 18th April 2021)**

Dear All,

Please find appended the Update on IATO Activities (Monday, 12th April to Sunday, 18th April 2021)

Segment wise sequencing has been adhered to in the report.

With Regards,

**Rajnish Kaistha**  
**Hony. Secretary**  
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**Update on IATO Activities (Monday, 12th April to Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021)**

Dear Members,

Greetings from IATO !

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Monday, 12th April to Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 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:15,16 April**

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> April**

➤ **IATO urged the Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi ji to re-look into the ECLGS 3.0 announced on 31.3.2021 because of the anomalies in the operational guidelines and the FAQ issued by NCGTC which have defeated the very purpose of the same. Requested to amend it suitably.**

While the Ministry had announced the scheme fixing the eligibility as on 29.2.2020, the NCGTC had issued further conditions to the effect that the A/c should not be either NPA or with DPD (Days Past Due) for over 90 days as on the date of sanction/disbursement of the facility. Even RBI vide its notification dated 21.6.2020, had informed all the money lending institutions (MLI) that, as credit facilities extended under the scheme guaranteed by NCGTC are backed by an unconditional and irrevocable guarantee provided by the Government of India, it was decided that the MLI's shall assign zero percent risk weight on the credit facilities extended under this scheme to the extent of guarantee coverage. The above anomalous operational guidelines were inconsistent with the spirit of both the ECLGS 3.0 scheme, and the RBI notification cited above and had defeated the very purpose of the scheme and should be either revoked or amended suitably.

Hospitality, Travel & Tourism industries were the first and most to be affected by Covid-19 and would be the last sector to recover. Majority of these enterprises have either become NPA or the DPD (Days Past Due) had been over 90 days as on 31.3.2021, the ECLGS 3.0 scheme announcement date. Due to the same, none of the banks were entertaining their application for availing the ECLGS 3.0 scheme benefit.

IATO also requested that the 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. Hon'ble Minister for Finance, B. Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs. C. Governor, Reserve Bank of India, D. Secretary (Revenue) and E. Chief Executive Officer, National Credit Guarantee Trusty Company.*

## **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**IATO requested Mr. Alok Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary Tourism & CMD RTDC, Government of Rajasthan regarding refund of advance paid for Wildlife Safaris in Ranthambore National Park and cancelled due to Covid-19**

On the above reference was drawn to the earlier communication sent on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Many of IATO members who made advance payment for Wildlife Safari booking were struggling to get their refund from the Rajasthan Wildlife Department. Few of them had got refund for the dates when the Ranthambore National Park was closed, whereas refund should be made for all the bookings made for foreign tourists for the bookings made from March till this date and also for future bookings already made as Visas stand suspended and international flights are not operating.

IATO members are pressurised by their principal foreign agents for refund and they are not in a position to make refund till the time they get refund from Rajasthan Government.

IATO requested its Chapter Chairman in Rajasthan, Shri Bhim Singh ji - Chairman of Rajasthan Tours Pvt. Ltd., Jaipur to meet and discuss with Mr Alok Gupta the problems its members are facing, once the situation is under control in Jaipur.

*A Copy of the letter was marked to A. Joint Secretary, Tourism Government of Rajasthan and B. Shri Bhim Singh, Chairman IATO Rajasthan Chapter*

## **2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings**

**Segment 2 update sequence by date:12,16,17,18 April**

### **Monday,12<sup>th</sup> April**

➤ **India Tourism, Bangalore conducted a webinar on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 11.am., commemorating 75 years of India's Independence.**

### **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> April**

➤ **GMR Delhi invited IATO EC for a meeting on Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 12 Noon on Zoom to discuss as to how business can be improved at the airport.**

## **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April**

- **Dekho Apna Desh Episode 85 -Khajuraho - Temples of Architectural Splendour was organised on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (1100-1200 hrs.**
- **All Members were informed on the Restoration of E-Visa for Business, Medical, Medical Attendant and Conference that took shape due to the constant efforts of IATO**

IATO had been constantly writing to the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Home Affairs to restore E-Visa or at least announce the date so that it can inform its counterparts abroad accordingly. IATO had discussed the issue with Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Secretary Tourism and ADG Tourism personally and was assured their full support.

The efforts borne some fruit vide Ministry of Home Affairs Vide MHA's O.M. No. 25022/28/2020-F.I dated 30.03.2021, e-Visa for Business, Medical, Medical Attendant and Conference were restored with immediate effect.

For more details, please visit website

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

or

<https://boi.gov.in/content/restoration-electronic-visa-e-visa-under-sub-categories-other-e-tourist-visa>

List of countries whose nationals are eligible for above e-Visa facility is available on the following link:-

[https://boi.gov.in/sites/default/files/u4/restoration\\_of\\_e-visa\\_countries.pdf](https://boi.gov.in/sites/default/files/u4/restoration_of_e-visa_countries.pdf)

## **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

- **Members were informed about the World Heritage Day 2021 - Webinar on "India's Heritage Powering Tourism" to organised on the 18th April 2021 at 5 pm**

## **3. Media Coverage**

*IATO Received very good coverage by the National Media and others of the Press Release link of which are given below: -*

## **Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April**

- **IATO urges govt for a timeline on resuming tourist visas, international flights**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/iato-urges-govt-for-a-timeline-on-resuming-tourist-visas-international-flights-11618313217718.html>

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/covid-19-update-iato-seeks-timeline-from-govt-on-resuming-tourist-visas-international-flights-6765371.html>

- **Allow fully vaccinated foreign tourists to India, tour opera ..**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/allow-fully-vaccinated-foreign-tourists-to-india-tour-operators-urge/articleshow/82050460.cms>

- **IATO asks government to release SEIS incentives without delay**

<https://travel.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/associations/iato-asks-government-to-release-seis-incentives-without-delay/82051569>

- **Tour operators seeks government support for survival and revival**

<https://www.bhaskarlive.in/tour-operators-seeks-government-support-for-survival-and-revival/>  
<https://www.sify.com/finance/tour-operators-seeks-government-support-for-survival-and-revival-news-news-vens4Pbjacgi.html>

<https://www.sarkaritel.com/tour-operators-seeks-government-support-for-survival-and-revival/>

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=823552>

<http://www.smetimes.in/smetimes/news/indian-economy-news/2021/Apr/13/tourism-support63361.html>

<https://news.webindia123.com/news/articles/Business/20210414/3740212.html>

- **IATO seeks government support to tide over Covid-19 pandemic impact**

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/iato-seeks-government-support-to-tide-over-covid-19-pandemic-impact-1210413010...>

- **IATO seeks govt support to tide over pandemic impact**

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/iato-seeks-govt-support-tide-132708782.html>

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/iato-seeks-govt-support-to-tide-over-pandemic-impact/2064078>

<https://www.ibc24.in/news/IATO-seeks-governments-cooperation-to-bail-out-tourism-industry-from-epidemic-impact-158583>

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April**

surge in Covid-19 cases, India has managed the export of injection... vaccine acts by teaching im... tibility response...

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## Allow fully vaccinated foreigners to visit India, operators urge govt

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**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**New Delhi:** Struggling to survive for over a year now, Indian tour operators have requested the government to reciprocally allow foreign tourists to come to the country.

Tourist visas to India remain suspended since last March though India has, in past few months, increasingly opened its doors for foreigners on other visa categories.

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has asked the government to consider allowing fully vaccinated foreign tourists into the country. "The pandemic has hit all the sectors of the economy hard but the hardest hit is the tourism sector, especially the inbound one, which is almost nil since last one year... urge the government to take steps that can



The steps it has suggested include letting in foreign tourists from countries with which India has 'air bubble' arrangements and those that are allowing Indian tourists to visit their shores

help tour operators to tide over this crisis and remain in business," IATO said in a statement on Tuesday.

The steps it has suggested include letting in foreign tourists from countries with which India has 'air bubble' arrangements and those that are allowing Indian tourists to visit their shores — these include Sri Lanka, UAE, Maldives, Seychelles and Russia.

"IATO requests the government to draw a timetable as per which dates for opening of visas including e-visa and resumption of international flights can be announced. (this) will allow Indian tour operators to sound their counterparts abroad in advance and bookings could be made likewise... countries are opening up for travel for those fully vaccinated and India can adopt the same model," the IATO statement says.

It has also sought abolishing tax collection at source on foreign tourists. IATO president Rajiv Mehra said, "...the objective of TCS levy was to bring Indians in tax net and it was not meant for taxing international tourists and as a result we are losing business to neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka where no such levy is charged."

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## 4. Chapter News

**Segment 4 update sequence by date: 14, 18 April**

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**From Debjit Dutta**

The following has been published today in the Anandabazar Patrika.  
[https://epaper.anandabazar.com/imageview\\_55554\\_72953344\\_4\\_71\\_14-04-2021\\_9\\_i\\_1\\_sf.html](https://epaper.anandabazar.com/imageview_55554_72953344_4_71_14-04-2021_9_i_1_sf.html)

भीड़ रही।

# पर्यटन उद्योग की 2021 में भी उबरने की उम्मीद नहीं

जागरण संवाददाता, आगरा : बढ़ते कोरोना संक्रमण और स्मारकों की बंदी से पर्यटन उद्योग की वर्ष 2021 में भी उबरने की कोई उम्मीद नजर नहीं आ रही। मार्च, 2020 से पर्यटन उद्योग कोरोना से प्रभावित चल रहा है। अब स्मारकों को बंद किए जाने के बाद पर्यटन व हैडीक्राफ्ट कारोबार पर आश्रित करीब पांच लाख लोगों के समक्ष आजीविका का संकट खड़ा हो गया है।

आगरा में पर्यटन प्रमुख उद्योगों में शुमार होने के साथ ही बड़ी संख्या में लोगों को रोजगार देने वाला है। मार्च, 2020 में कोरोना संक्रमण के बढ़ने के साथ पर्यटन के बुरे दिन शुरू हुए थे।

188 दिनों की रिकार्ड बंदी के बाद 21 सितंबर, 2020 को ताजमहल खुलने पर लोगों ने राहत की सांस जरूर ली थी, लेकिन उद्योग कोरोना काल से पूर्व की स्थिति प्राप्त नहीं कर सका। पूर्व की भांति भारतीय सैलानी आए नहीं और विदेशियों पर

## दुखद

- कोरोना के चलते वर्ष 2020 से प्रभावित है पर्यटन
- पर्यटन व हैडीक्राफ्ट पर पांच लाख लोग हैं आश्रित

## पर्यटन कारोबार : एक नंजर

- पर्यटन व हैडीक्राफ्ट उद्योग पर आगरा में करीब पांच लाख लोग प्रत्यक्ष-अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से आश्रित हैं।
- शहर में छोटे-बड़े 500 होटल, 100 से अधिक पेइंग गेस्ट हाउस और 500 के करीब रेस्टोरेट हैं।
- शहर में 150 से अधिक हैडीक्राफ्ट के एंपोरियम, शोरूम आदि हैं।
- करीब 1200 लाइसेंसी गाइड और 525 से अधिक लाइसेंसी फोटोग्राफर हैं।

रोक लगी रही। शुक्रवार से स्मारकों के फिर से बंद होने के साथ ही सारी उम्मीदें भी ध्वस्त हो गईं। कोरोना संक्रमण जिस गति से बढ़ रहा

सरकार ने कोरोना

काल में पर्यटन उद्योग की सुध बिल्कुल नहीं ली। उद्योग अपने आप ही उबरने की कोशिशों में जुटा था। वर्तमान परिस्थितियों में वर्ष 2021 में उद्योग के उबरने की कोई उम्मीद नहीं दिख रही है। पर्यटन उद्योग के लिए यह सबसे बुरा समय है।

सुनील गुप्ता, चेयरमैन नॉर्डन रीजन, इंडियन एसोसिएशन आफ टूर ऑपरेटर्स



बढ़ते कोरोना संक्रमण के चलते इस वर्ष भी पर्यटन उद्योग उबर नहीं सकेगा। स्मारकों के बंद होने के साथ ही सभी काम टप हो गया है। बुकिंग कैंसिल हो चुकी हैं और क्वैरी भी नहीं आ रही हैं। सरकार को पर्यटन से जुड़े लोगों के बारे में सोचना चाहिए।

नंदू गुप्ता, पर्यटन कारोबारी



## मार्च से बंद हैं इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट

इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट मार्च, 2020 से बंद चल रही हैं। टूरिस्ट वीजा सर्विस भी तभी से बंद है। इन दोनों के अभाव में 13 माह से विदेशी पर्यटक नहीं आ सके। अब कोरोना संक्रमण के चलते 15 मई तक के लिए स्मारक बंद किए जाने से हाल-फिलहाल इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट व टूरिस्ट वीजा सर्विस की शुरुआत होती नजर नहीं आ रही है।



है, उससे शीघ्र ही निजात मिलती नजर नहीं आ रही है। इससे पर्यटन कारोबारियों को वर्ष 2020 के बाद

वर्ष 2021 में भी कोरोना के असर से कारोबार के उबरने की कोई उम्मीद नहीं दिख रही है।