

Update on IATO Activities

(Monday 1st August to Monday 15th August 2022)

Dear Members,

Greetings !

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Monday 1st August to Monday 15th August 2022)

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:5, August

Friday 5th August

IATO wrote to Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Secretary (Home Affairs) regarding Restoration of Tourist/e-Tourist Visa for Foreign Tourists and request to allow entry through land borders

IATO emphasised that the Hon'ble Prime Minister had emphasised on promotion of Buddhist Tourism to India and this segment was fast picking up and IATO members were aggressively marketing Buddhist Tourism packages in overseas markets. Foreign tourists who visit India also go to (Lumbini), Nepal and Bhutan as part of package. However, they were facing problem while entering/re-entering India as entry through land borders from Nepal and Bhutan was presently not allowed.

In view of the above, IATO requested to kindly allow entry of foreign tourists through land borders of Nepal and Bhutan for the revival of Buddhist Tourism. This was also required as there are very limited flights to Bhutan.

IATO further requested that e-Tourist Visa for the international travellers from the countries such as the UK, Canada etc. may kindly be restored as high number of tourists visit India from these countries.

A Copy of the letter was marked to A. Shri Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism), B. Mr. G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Director General (Tourism), C. Shri Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary (Tourism), D. Shri Sumant Singh, Joint Secretary (Foreigners), Ministry of Finance and E. Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration.

Friday 12th August

- IATO requested Mr. Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary (Tourism) if Ministry of Tourism could consider taking booth space and set up India pavilion where industry stakeholders can participate in OTDYKh International Tourism Expo which is scheduled to be held from 13-15, September, 2022 in Moscow.

A copy of the letter was marked to **A.** Shri Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism), **B.** Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Director General (Tourism)

2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date:1,2,3,4,5,9,10,12 August

Monday 1st August

- All Members were informed on the Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) on Wednesday, the 24th August 2022 at 1800 hours at The Park Hotel, New Delhi.
- All Active Members were informed on the Invitation from SEPC for Interaction meeting with Tourism & Hospitality Sector on 8th August,2022 at The Park, New Delhi
- All Members were informed on the Caution Notice – Fake message being sent on WhatsApp under the name of Rajiv Mehra.

Tuesday 2nd August

- All Members were informed on the PATA India Tourism Impact Contest

Wednesday 3rd August

- All Members were informed on the Waiver off of entrance fee at all the ticketed Centrally Protected Monuments from 5th to 15th August 2022.

Thursday 4th August

- All Members were informed on the Webinar on the topic of Teej - The Celebration of Unification on 6th August 2022 at 1100 hrs.

- President and the Vice President at the DANANG TOURISM PRESENTATION IN INDIA 2022



Friday 5th August

- All Active Members were informed on the Webinar on Tourism with province of Vietnam, Lao Cai on 05 August 2022 1330-1530 hrs.(IST) being organized by Embassy of India Hanoi

Tuesday, 9th August

All Active Members were informed on the Invitation for Hybrid Tourism Event being organized by Embassy of India, Bucharest, Romania on 1st September 2022

- All Members were informed on the IATO Interactive Meeting on Wednesday, the 24th August 2022 at 1900 hours at The Park Hotel, New Delhi

Wednesday, 10th August

- All Members were informed on the Applicability of GST on cancellation charges of air and rail tickets

Friday 12th August

- All Members were informed on the 28th OTDYKH International Tourism Expo, Moscow, Russia from 13-15 September, 2022

3. Media Coverage

Segment 3 update sequence by date:4,10, August

Thursday 4th August

- Foreign tourist arrivals pick up, but still a long way behind 2019 levels.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/foreign-tourist-arrivals-pick-up-but-still-a-long-way-behind-2019-levels-122080200372_1.html

Wednesday, 10th August

- VP IATO joins TravStack as Strategic Investor.



4. Chapter News

Segment 4 update sequence by date:13, August



➤ **IATO Gujarat Chapter meet at Hotel Taj Vivanta – Ahmedabad**

Points discussed were – How to grow more with helping each other in business within IATO members, How we move forward from the current situations, To add more members in IATO Gujarat family

We also gave National flags to all the members so they can host the same at there houses and celebrate Har Ghar Tiranga, meet was attended by EC member Mr Ashok Dhoot ji also.


