

Update on IATO Activities (Saturday 1st July to Saturday 15th July 2023)

Dear Members

Greetings

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Saturday 1st July to Saturday 15th July 2023)

Segments covered are

Communication / Letters that addressed key issues

Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings/Chapter news

Media Coverage

Chapter News

Request your feedback to further the content of our weekly report.

Communication / Letters that addressed key issues

Wednesday 12th July

- IATO wrote to Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Revenue Secretary and expressed its gratitude to the Government for partial relief of TCS levy on Overseas Tour Packages and further request to re-look at TCS provisions.

IATO thanked the government for giving partial relief by deferring the hike of Tax Collection at Source (TCS) percentage from 5% to 20% on Overseas Tour Packages till 30th September 2023 and also retaining TCS rate at 5% on amount charged up to Rs.7 lakh per annum per buyer and the 20% rate will only apply for billing above this limit.

IATO requested to kindly look into the following aspects

TCS should be reduced to 2.5%. In case the Government reduces the TCS percentage below 5% on overseas tour packages, larger number of persons will book their tours through the Indian Tour Operators who are registered in India and pay TCS. Secondly, from the business point of view, the tourists would not rush to book tours from foreign tour operators or book from online tour operators who are not registered in India and consequently they are not liable to collect TCS.

Remittances through international debit / credit cards should not be included in the LRS Scheme of the RBI.

The question pertains to applicability of TCS when the overseas tour package is booked from the foreign tour operator by a resident individual. Since the seller in this case is the foreign tour operator, we wonder how he will collect and deposit TCS to the Indian Government when the foreign tour operator do not maintain any permanent establishment in India and is not subject to Income tax rules of the Indian Government may be looked into and clarified again to dispel any confusion in the industry.

The new taxation regime with 20% TCS after the limit of Rs. 7 lakhs (w.e.f. 01.10.2023) would put the onus of collection of tax on the tour operators for which tour operators neither have the capability nor the resources which are required for implementing it. Tax regime should foster ease of doing business while with the new regime, it may work against its objective.

A Copy of the letter was marked to A. Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, B. Dr. T. V. Somanathan, F.S. & Secy. Expenditure, C. Shri Vivek Joshi, Secretary (FS), D. Mrs. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary (Tourism), E. Ms. Pragya Sahay Saksena, Member (Legislation & Systems), F. Mr. K.C. Varshney, Joint Secretary, Tax Policy and Legislation (TPL-I),

2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 1 update sequence by date: 1, 2, 4,5,12,14 July

Saturday 1st July



➤ EC at the Rajniwas Palace Dholpur for the meeting

Sunday 2nd July





- On invitation EC at two Hotels in Agra

Tuesday 4th July

- All Members were informed on the Co-option of Mr. Deepak Kumarr Bhatnagar, Director, Minar Travels India Pvt. Ltd. in the IATO Executive Committee
- All Members were informed on the Rationalization of Fee for Airport Entry Passes Pan India

Wednesday 5th July

- All Members were informed on the invitation for Webinar, Goa Resorts & Ama Stays & Trails on Thursday, 6th July 2023 at 1500 Hrs.
- All Members were informed on the Ganga Vilas Special Varanasi INR Tariff & Itineraries.

Thursday 6th July

- All Active Members, were informed on the First Joint Tourism Working Group Meeting between India and Egypt in Cairo from 24 -26 July 2023
- All Members were informed on the Introduction of Aguada Jail Complex - A Captivating Venue for Unforgettable Experiences
- All Members, (recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India) were informed on the List of Proposed Fair/ Tourism Mart 2023-24 where Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India would be participating

Wednesday 12th July

- All Members were informed on the Restructuring of IATO State Chapters

Friday 14th July

- All Members were informed on the Revision in Guide Fee w.e.f. 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2025.



- IATO and TGFI meeting on the revision of Guide Fee

Saturday 15th July

- All IATO Regional Chapter Chairmen and State Chapter Chairmen/Co-Chairmen/State-in-Charge were informed on the IATO Regional/State Chapter Chairmen meeting on 28th September 2023 in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad)

Media Coverage

Segment 3 update sequence by date: 3, 5, 6, July

Monday 3rd July

link of the story in FE on the issue of TCS.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/tcs-should-be-brought-down-to-2-5-per-cent-say-domestic-tour-operators/3148341/>

Indian-tour-operators-breathe-sigh-of-relief

<https://eturbonews.com/indian-tour-operators-breathe-sigh-of-relief/>



More than 1.6 million jobs projected to be created in the tourism industry this...

#tourism #tourismindia #tourismindustry M...
youtu.be

<https://youtu.be/kq6uixp7cUU>

Tuesday 4th July

BREAKING news

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E-invoicing compliance costs to increase amid govt reducing turnover threshold repeatedly
IC Karna, Associate & Tourism Consultant, IATO questioned regularly with which govt. reduced turnover threshold from ₹500 or to ₹150 or "industry apprehends it to be ₹50, taking up four operators' compliance cost of e-invoicing," he added.

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Skilled workforce shortage in the tourism industry is a serious concern: FCM India
Gaurav Khanna, GM (Products & Industry Relations), FCM India, commented travel & tourism sector relies on skilled manpower. "Lack of workforce is a concern as it pressures existing employees and resources and this is not sustainable for businesses," he said.

HONOURING the heroes among us

Meghalaya Tourism Policy aims to develop tourism sector, attract international travellers
"Meghalaya Tourism Policy, 2023 in Shillong" aims to develop tourism sector as a game changer for the state and effectively augment its meagre resources by exploiting the abundantly available natural beauty that can attract visitors from across the globe.

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'Love the Philippines' to enhance & improve travel experience, says President, Philippines
Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr, President, Philippines said that "Love the Philippines" will promote tourism. He said, "Campaign will improve travel experience, build into a sense of travel, promote regional products" will be guidelines for Philippine tourism industry, he added.

SanKash
SURGE IN SOLO TRAVEL, J&K, MANALI PREFERRED
For more & details contact: priyanka@bottindia.com +91 9117 1639639 | gunjan@bottindia.com +91 96302 99000 | www.bottindia.com

Wednesday 5th July

KAZAKHSTAN
Embassy on an extraordinary tour: Kazakhstan's great heritage, Discover the world of Kazakhstan

IATO announces special membership drive with new offers & discounts
Mr. Ravi Gosain, Vice President – IATO recently shared details of the IATO Special Membership Drive, which is offering special discount, valid till July 31, 2023. IATO has fully waived off Admission (Joining fee) of Rs. 10000/- plus GST for the new membership for all the applicants pan India, for applications received before July 31, 2023. From August 1, 2023, 100 % waiver on Admission (Joining Fee) from the applicants who are based in Andaman Nicobar Islands; Andhra Pradesh, Bihar; Chhattisgarh; Chandigarh; Dadra & Nagar Haveli; Daman & Diu; J&K; Jharkhand; Ladakh; Lakshadweep; North East States; Odisha, Puducherry, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

Turkiye to welcome highest ever number of Indian travellers in 2023
Turkiye has emerged as a top holiday and weddings destination for Indian visitors over the recent years. According to the latest reports, the country has broken all previous inbound travel records from India this year as it saw an increase of 88.03% travellers until April 2023 alone. The two most visited cities were, Istanbul and Nevsehir. The country has emerged as an ideal destination for the FIT and MICE segments amongst Indian travellers.

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Jazeera Airways opens pre-ordering for Duty Free and On-board shop
Jazeera Airways has now introduced pre-ordering through their online Duty Free and On-board shop. Passengers can opt to pre-order items from an extensive collection of luxury perfumes, jewellery, electronics, tobacco and other gift items from the Jazeera Duty Free or On-board shop to receive them on-board their flight. Prices of all pre-ordered items will be up to 15% lesser than those purchased in-flight.

Sarovar Hotels & Resorts opens Citadel Sarovar Portico Bengaluru
Sarovar Hotels & Resorts announced the opening of Citadel Sarovar Portico in the Silicon Valley of India, Bengaluru. With the opening, the group has strengthened its presence in the city where it currently operates five successful hotels under Sarovar Premiere and Sarovar Portico brands. The hotel offers 125 rooms and suites and a lobby level 44 covers multi-cuisine restaurant Flavours that serves Café style menu and a contemporary bar, The Chill.

Jay Bhatia,
Vice President, TAAI
"Our convention will serve as a conduit for fostering stronger bi-lateral relationships between India and Sri Lanka. With around 200 Sri Lankan tourism stakeholders participating in the B2B sessions, we expect this event to be a fruitful venue for networking and establishing strong business relations. Such interaction is vital in harnessing the growth of inbound and outbound travel from India and channelling it towards destinations that offer new, exciting experiences. As we all prepare to gather in Colombo, let us seize this opportunity to explore these trends, share our insights, and work together to shape a future where travel transcends borders and truly transforms lives."

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Thursday 6th July



travelturtemag 6th July, 2023

1 IATO special membership drive with special offers is valid till 31st July 2023

Mr Ravi Cosain, Vice President – IATO apprised of the IATO Special Membership Drive with special offers valid till 31st July 2023.



2 IndiGo Soars in 'Airlines Top 50' Rankings

IndiGo, the leading airline in India, has risen in the 'Airlines Top 50 2023' ranking list, advancing from the 34th position to an impressive 31st rank.




3 Sarovar Hotels and Resorts open Citadel Sarovar Portico Bengaluru

Sarovar Hotels & Resorts announced the opening of Citadel Sarovar Portico in the Silicon Valley of India, Bengaluru.



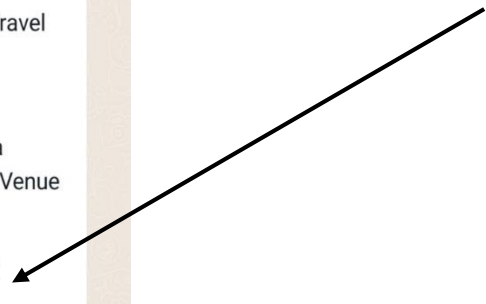
Sunday 9th July



BOTT Weekly Roundup: July 2 – July 8, 2023 |
67th convention of the Travel Agents Associ...
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BOTT Weekly Roundup: July 2 - July 8, 2023

- ▶ 67th convention of the Travel Agents Association of India inaugurated in Colombo
- ▶ Evolve Back Kamalapura Palace Hampi is the Official Venue for 3rd G20 CWG
- ▶ IATO announces special membership drive
- ▶ AATO delegation meets DGP



Chapter News

Segment 4 update sequence by date: 5, July

Wednesday 5th July



- IATO new Chapter Chair of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Mahendra Pratap Singh, Managing Director, Travel India Tourism Pvt Ltd. Being felicitated by Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla Principal Secretary, Tourism & Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, Sunday 9th July

