

Update on IATO Activities (Saturday 1st January to Saturday, 15th January 2022)

Dear Members

Greetings

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Saturday 1st January to Saturday, 15th January 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:11,14 January

Tuesday, 11th January

IATO made an appeal to **Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi ji, Prime Minister of India** that for the international travellers coming from non-high risk countries and who have taken both the doses of vaccines and have uploaded a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR report of the testing done within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey, should not be quarantined for 7 days. After thermal screening is done upon arrival at the airport in India and no symptoms found, they should be allowed to leave the airport and international travellers who are coming from high risk countries, they may be home quarantined for 7 days. This will encourage some international travellers to travel to India and there might be some business for survival.

Further IATO requested the Government to think seriously to help the small and medium tour operators with the financial support so that they could survive till the time inbound tourism business was revived. This could be done based on the last turnover of the company in 2019-20 and that at least 75% of the wages paid in the financial year 20019-20, could be given as one time grant.

Financial support to tour operators was required so that the tour operators do not close their offices and continue their business with

their experience staff after the Covid - 19 is controlled and tourism is back to business

*A copy of the letter was marked to **A.** Minister of Home Affairs **B.** Minister for Finance, **C.** Minister of Commerce and Industry **D.** Minister for Health and Family Welfare, **E.** Minister of Tourism & Culture, **F.** Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, **G.** Secretary, Finance Services, **H.** Secretary (Revenue), **I.** Secretary Commerce, **J.** Secretary (Tourism), **K.** Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India,*

➤ **Request to open window for selling of duty scrips by the tour operators**

IATO resent a copy of the letter dated 27th December to Mr. Amit Yadav, Director General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade and reiterated its request to give necessary directives to the concerned authorities to open the window for sale of duty scrips so that tour operators can sell the scrips on available genuine market rates as in 2015-18 period. This is important as IATO members were facing liquidity crunch and the brokers were taking undue advantage of this situation & playing into the nerves of IATO members and guiding towards hoarding of scrips for profits.

A copy of the letter was marked to **A.** Deputy Director General Directorate General of Foreign Trade, **B.** Deputy Secretary Ministry of Commerce and **C.** Director General, Service Export Promotion Council

Friday, 14th January

➤ **IATO requested Mr. Rajinder Nath, General Manager Sales & Marketing, Air India Ltd for full refund of airfare for the bookings being cancelled by the tour operators for travel to Leh, Ladakh**

Due to upsurge in Covid -19 Cases and detection of Omicron variant, state government were taking suitable measures and stringent action to curb spread of Covid. In this regard, DDMA, Leh had issued orders by suspending all tourism activities and other winter events in Ladakh.

IATO requested Air India that in view of the above, some of our members who have booked flights for their clients for travel to Leh but owing to suspension of tourism activities, Air India should make full refund of cancellations being made by the tour operators without any cancellations charges.

A copy of orders issued by the Chairman DDMA, Leh dated 22nd December 2021 was attached.

A copy of the letter was marked to Executive Director, Commercial Air India Limited

2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date:3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11 January

Monday, 3rd January

All Members were informed of the **Extension of Last Date for Submitting applications for Scrip based FTP Schemes.**

A copy of Notification no. 48/2015-2020 dated 31st December 2021 issued by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, was attached, which is self-explanatory.

[Notification_No_48_dt_31_12_2021_English.pdf](#)

Tuesday, 4th January

- All Members (Tour Operators & Travel Agents) were informed on the Taj Hotels Promo code for discounted rates for IATO Members

Individual accounts with Promo Code are being created by Taj Hotels and members will hear on this from IATO soon.

The offer is especially for the IATO members and in case if membership is cancelled or suspended due to any reason including non-payment of membership, the facility of promo code by Taj Hotels would be withdrawn. This would also include members who do not renew their membership pending for the financial year 2020-21 and 2021-22 (which would be automatically renewed once a member paid his/her's annual subscription for the financial year 2020-21).

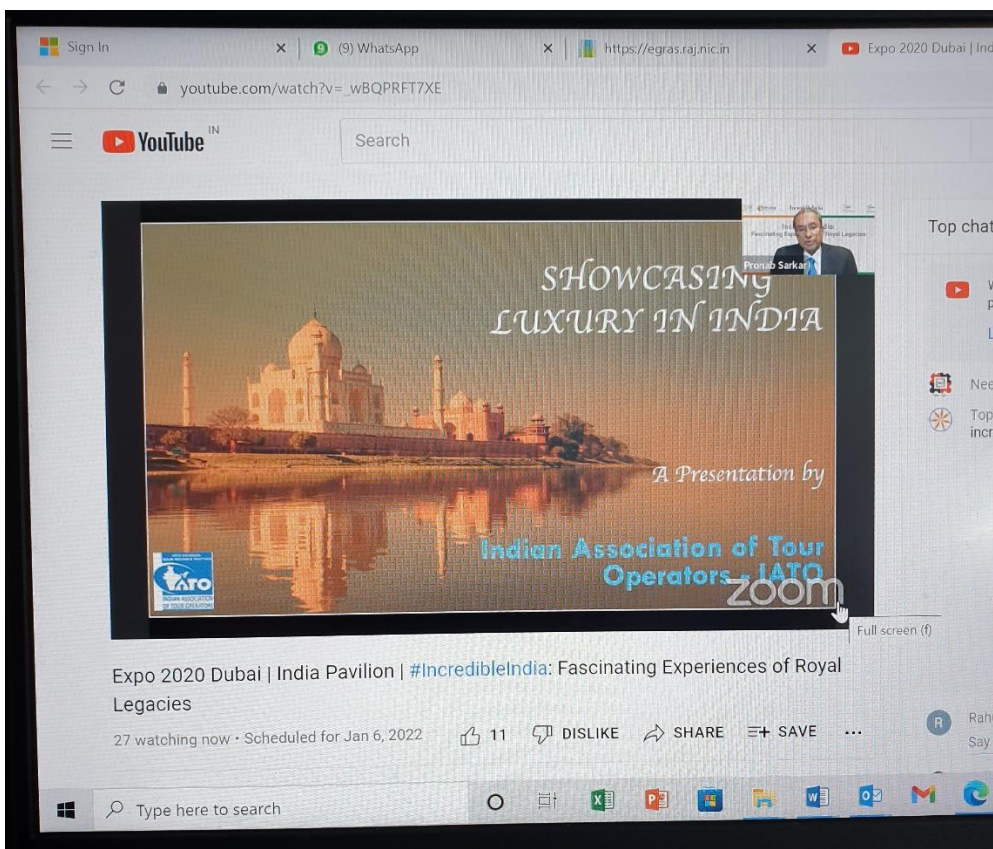
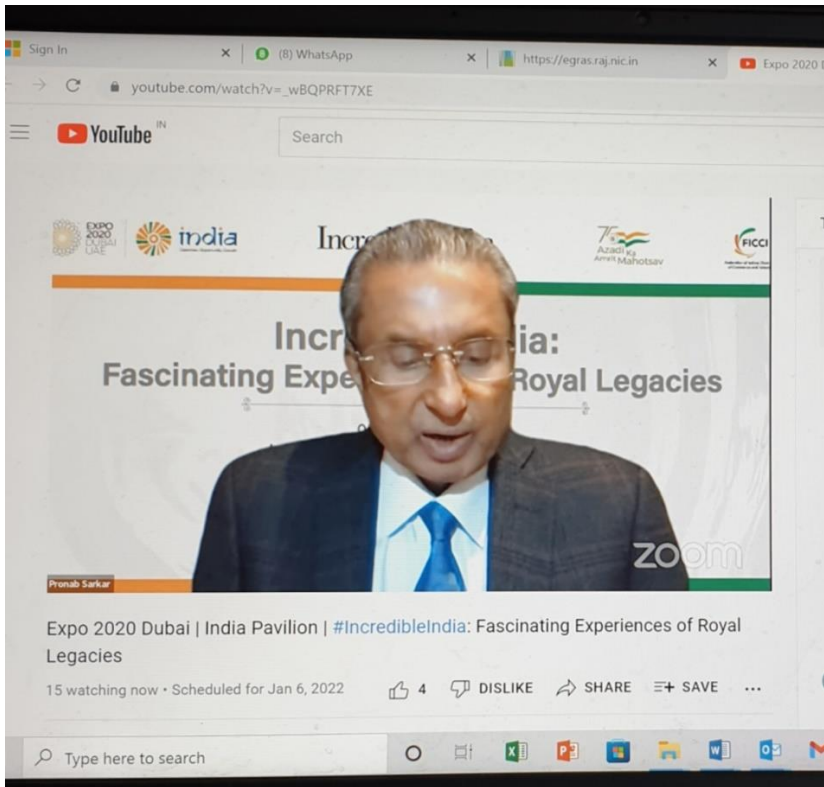
Wednesday, 5th January

All Members were informed on the World Expo Dubai – Live streaming of sessions on Tourism moderated and presented by IATO

- 6th January 2022 (Thursday) at 1630 hours – Session on Incredible India: Fascinating experiences of royal legacies. This session was moderated and presented by Mr. Pronab Sarkar, Immediate Past President IATO with a presentation on the subject.

Thursday, 6th January

- Dubai Expo: Session Speaker Advisory for “Incredible India: Fascinating Experiences of the Royal Legacies”, Jan 6th at 4:30 PM IST



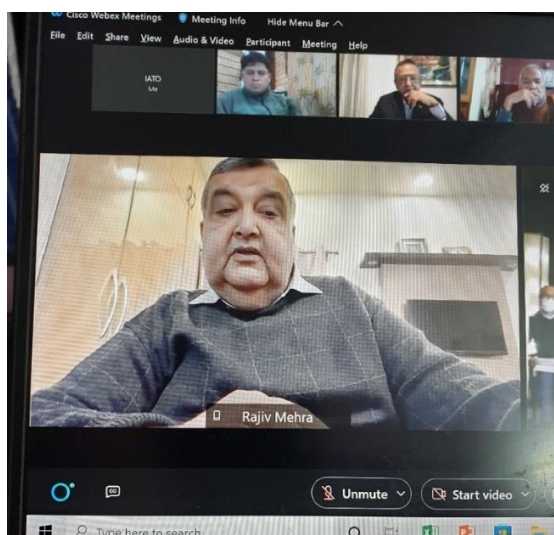
Friday, 7th January

- All Members, were given the link to download the PDF version of IATO Speaks - Special Edition of 36th IATO Annual Convention held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

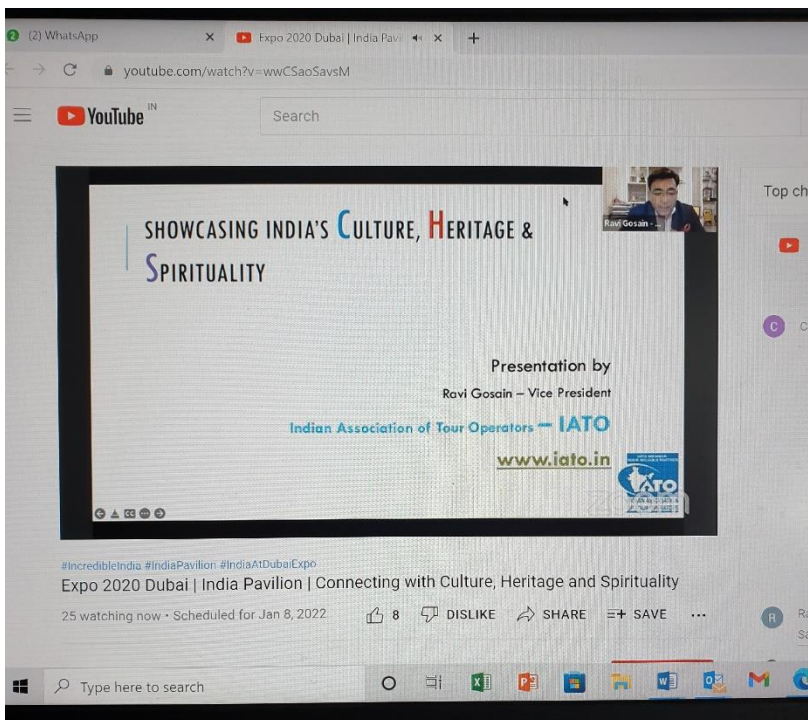
<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/f1a24c3457651aae187629162441e2cb20220107051731/ea8c5c606f7cda550b257e6ae7090aed20220107051759/eec745>

Saturday, 8th January

- A Session on “North East India as an ideal destination of Tourism, post COVID” was held on Saturday, the 8th January 2022 at 11 am. Mr. Rajiv Mehra, President IATO spoke during the session virtually.



- 8th January 2022 (Saturday) at 1600 hours titled “Discover Incredible India - Connecting with Culture, Heritage and Spirituality. This session was moderated by Mr. Ravi Gosain, Vice President with a presentation on the subject.



Sunday 9th January

- 36th IATO Annual Convention was a grand success

<https://safaripus.co.in/36th-iato-annual-convention-was-a-grand-success>

Tuesday, 11th January

- All Members were apprised of the Responsible Tourism Recommendations at the 36th IATO Annual Convention made by RTSOI

3. Media Coverage

Segment 3 update sequence by date:1,3,4,14,15 January

Saturday, 1st January

IATO appeals for one nation one travel policy for international travellers
IATO has requested central and state governments to have a 'One Nation One Travel Policy' for international travellers. It has been noticed that the confusion is being created due to travel guidelines and advisories being issued by various state governments for foreign international travellers. IATO has urged that the policy and guidelines should only be issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW) and this should be followed by all the states/union territories.

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2022 to be held on 10-12 January 2022
The 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2022, organized by the Govt of Gujarat, is slated to be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. One of the largest on-ground events to be held in the last two years, the summit which will take place in Gandhinagar, will host well-known personalities, dignitaries, and VIPs from several industries from across the globe.

Centre mandates ticket booking from three agents for govt-funded air travels
The Finance Ministry yesterday said that for all air travels where the govt. bears the cost, the tickets will be purchased from either of the three agents, Balmer Lawrie, Ashok Travels & Tours, and ITC. In an office memorandum, the Dept of Expenditure under the Finance ministry said the decision has been taken given the disinvestment of Air India.

Social distancing measures reimposed at Mecca's Grand Mosque
After recording the highest number of infections in months, Saudi authorities said they will reimpose "social distancing" requirements between worshippers and pilgrims at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, without specifying whether a capacity has been set. Workers have returned floor markings removed on Oct 17 to guide people to social distance in and around the Mosque.

To read more, visit www.traveltradejournal.com

Monday, 3rd January

3rd January 2022

EXPO 2020 Dubai: Incredible India on the spotlight
For two weeks starting from January 3, India's ministry of tourism is set to showcase the country as a leading tourist destination globally and highlight the vast opportunities in its tourism and hospitality sector, at the India Pavilion at EXPO 2020 Dubai. Visitors will get to see the country's cultural diversity, ancient treasures, business achievements, and leading opportunities with cutting edge technologies at the Indian Pavilion. It will also showcase a modern India that is high on technology while simultaneously celebrating the beauty of Indian art, culture, heritage and cuisine.

IATO asks central & state govts to have One Nation One Travel policy for international travellers
The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has urged the central and state governments to have a One Nation One Travel policy for international travellers. It aims to end the confusion that is being created due to varying travel guidelines/advisories issued by state governments for foreign travellers. The IATO has requested the government to frame one policy that should be followed by all the states/union territories, like it is done in other countries.

Amit Sharma joins as CEO new tourism company 'Travel and I'
"It may not be the best time for our tourism industry, but they say 'there is no best time to do what you want to do,'" says Amit Sharma, the CEO of newly-formed tourism representation company "Travel And I Private Limited", based out of IT city Bengaluru. Sharma has more than two decades of experience working with global airlines and destination management companies. Amit recently said he aims to represent renowned destination management companies from South East Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Vinod Kannan took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vistara

OYO Travelpedia 2021 annual index shows positive travel sentiment
OYO Travelpedia 2021 has some interesting revelations in its 4th annual index based on a consumer survey by OYO to study travel intent and expectations among its user base across some of its core markets. From workations dominating 2021, to exploring domestic offbeat destinations, to doom scrolling on Instagram and travelling more in 2022, the report shows how consumers travelled in 2021 and their resolutions for 2022. According to OYO Travelpedia, nearly 65 per cent of respondents have travelled in the past six months and the majority of them visited their loved ones.

Mandu Mahotsav 2021-22, explore the ancient fort city of Madhya Pradesh

For media coverage, mail to: info@travelworldonline.in
Anil Sharma - 9818079063

Tour operators' body urges govt to end cascading impact of multiple taxes

Wants govt to treat tourism sector on par with IT industry

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, January 11

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has urged the Centre to take measures to solve the challenges of multiple taxation faced by tour operators. It demanded to either lower the GST charged from tour operators or allow input tax credit and end the cascading impact of multiple taxes.

"The tour operators suffer from multiple taxation at different levels as they offer multitude of services...for which they have to pay GST at about 18-23 per cent. Further, on their total billing, they pay GST at the rate 5 per cent (without input tax credit). This compares unfavourably with neighbouring countries where GST rates of about 6-8 per cent are charged from tour operators," IATO said in a statement.



The IATO has demanded that lower GST be charged from tour operators

ors," IATO said in a statement.

'One Country, One Tax'
The body asked the government to treat the tourism industry as a "deemed exporter at par with the IT industry." Stating that though the tourism sector earns valuable foreign exchange, it is not exempted from IGST even though it provides services to the foreign clients. "IATO recommends suitable amendments to correct this

anomaly which will not require inbound tour operators to charge GST from Foreign Tour Operators. This will conform with government's One Country One Tax objective too," the statement added.

Double taxation

It added that the imposition of IGST and TCS (Tax Collected at Source) should be removed from composite tours as tourists, in a bid to avoid this double taxation, book tours in other countries leading to loss of business for Indian tour operators.

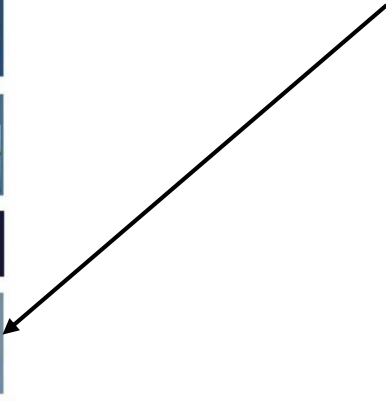
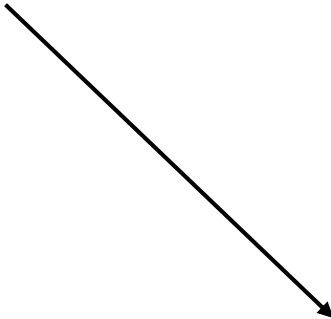
"With regards to Service Export From India Scheme (SEIS), IATO requests that benefit for 2019-20 be notified at the earliest and the benefit to be continued in new Foreign Trade Policy for 2021-25 at enhanced rate from the present rate of 7 per cent to 10 per cent," the industry body said in its budget representation to the government.

- IATO appeals to the government to implement One Nation, One Travel Policy for international travellers

<https://etravelworld.com/s/bx5rcmv>

Tuesday, 4th January

The screenshot shows a mobile news application interface. At the top, it displays the time 11:28, the name 'Sanjeet Ddpl', and the date 'Today, 06:51'. Below this is a 'Breaking news' banner. The main content area features several news articles and advertisements. One article is titled 'Incredible India to have a new portal, MOT working with 3 partners for digital marketing'. Another article is 'Associations must make representation to Commerce Ministry on export incentives: SEPC'. There are also advertisements for 'Eh! CASH via' and 'LIVE X Connect'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Aerosports Policy would bring air sports professionals and int'l tourists: Government' and a small IATO logo with the text 'IATO's appeal: One nation one policy for int'l travellers'.





- **IATO writes to Prime Minister seeking his help to avert financial crisis facing the industry**

<https://www.travelturtle.world/news/iato-writes-to-prime-minister-seeking-his-help-to-avert-financial-crisis-facing-the-industry-2/>

- **President on the Budget recommendations by IATO**



Saturday, 15th January

- Tour-operators write to PM for quarantine waiver, financial aid

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/tour-operators-write-to-pm-for-quarantine-waiver-financial-aid-773735/>

- IATO writes to Prime Minister seeking his help to avert financial crisis facing the industry

<https://www.bottindia.com/iato-writes-to-prime-minister-seeking-his-help-to-avert-financial-crisis-facing-the-industry/>

- IATO writes to PM Modi for announcement of SEIS benefits for 2019-20

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/iato-writes-to-pm-modi-for-announcement-of-seis-benefits-for-2019-20-6023751.html>

- IATO seeks PM Modi's help to avert financial crisis facing the industry

<https://www.hotelierindia.com/business/iato-seeks-pm-modis-help-to-avert-financial-crisis-facing-the-industry>

- IATO seeks Prime Minister's help to prevent financial crisis facing the industry

<http://bwhotelier.businessworld.in/article/IATO-seeks-Prime-Minister-s-help-to-prevent-financial-crisis-facing-the-industry/14-01-2022-417722/>

➤ India Tour Operators Plead for Help Now with Financial Crisis

<https://eturbonews.com/3014417/india-tour-operators-plead-for-help-now-with-financial-crisis/>

- IATO Seeks Prime Minister's Intervention To Avert Financial Crisis Facing The Industry

<https://www.traveltrendstoday.in/news/tato/item/10599-iato-seeks-prime-minister-s-intervention-to-avert-financial-crisis-facing-the-industry>

- Apex inbound tourism body seeks PM's intervene to avert unprecedented financial crisis

<https://www.whereabouts.in/apex-inbound-tourism-body-seeks-pms-intervene-to-avert-unprecedented-financial-crisis/>

- टूर ऑपरेटर्स ने पीएम मोदी को लिखा पत्र, क्वारंटाइन छूट के साथ रखी ये मांगे

<https://www.gnttv.com/india/story/tour-operators-wrote-letter-prime-minister-narendra-modi-regarding-quarantine-exemption-333540-2022-01-15>

- India Tour Operators Plead for Help Now with Financial Crisis

<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2486216375640/india-tour-operators-plead-for-help-now-with-financial-crisis>

- IATO seeks PM Intervention

<http://www.uniindia.com/iato-seeks-pm-intervention/west/news/2621114.html>

4. Chapter News

Segment 4 update sequence by date:5,6,7,8,14 January

Wednesday, 5th January

“Today the IATO AGM was held as per schedule despite heavy snow fall. We conducted the business smoothly and meeting ended with a good spirit. IATO also recognised the work carried out by our senior members in the last 4/5 decades and they were Felicitated. Complete details will be shared thru mail”
Nasir Shah



Thursday, 6th January

- India is a luxury destination by virtue: Prateek Hira at Tourism Fortnight in Expo 2020 Dubai.

<https://etravelworld.com/s/agc8bfv>

Friday, 7th January



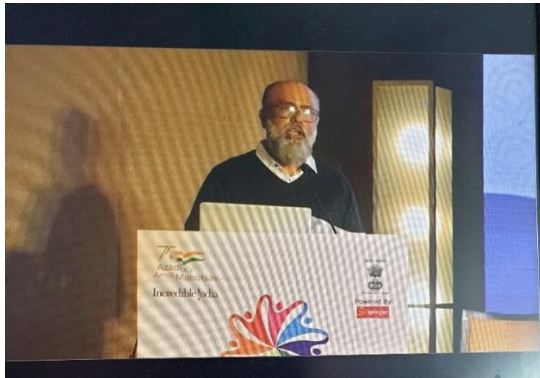
- TOURISM MEETING CONDUCTED UNDER CHIEF MINISTER, DY CM, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY AND OTHER HIGH GOVT OFFICIALS LEADERSHIP IN DEC, MEMBERS CALLED FOR MEETING



- Manmeet Singh felicitated as a key speaker

Saturday, 8th January

Mr Nirmalya Chaudhary moderating at the Session on “North East India as an ideal destination of Tourism, post COVID” was held on Saturday, the 8th January 2022 at 11 am



Friday, 14th January

INTALK

TOURISM IN UTTAR PRADESH

Though the pandemic had hit hard, but the last 2 years have highlighted the power of the domestic market and towards unlocking the full potential of domestic tourism. Uttar Pradesh is a favoured tourist destination in India with Taj Mahal, one of the eight Wonders of the World, located in Agra. Before pandemic in 2019 the state had registered a robust arrival in domestic tourist which reached 53.6 Core and Foreign tourist arrivals crossed over 47.5 Lakhs.

Alluring the domestic market and tapping the potential - **SAFARI Plus INTALK** with **Mr. Sushil Singh**, Managing Director, Jatak Tours & Travels, Varanasi to get the insight of the local progress in terms tourism and how the travel trade and hospitality sector in the state are geared up to tap it.



Mr. Sushil Singh, MD, Jatak, Tours & Travels, Varanasi

Q1] Uttar Pradesh registered highest incoming domestic tourist in 2019. How do you see these changes in past years and the coming years?
UP is largest state of India and have all kind of tourist destinations except beaches. But major tourist attraction is Pilgrimage sites, specially **Varanasi-Ayodhya and Prayagraj**. As per my opinion we have potentials to increase the incoming tourist to 30% growth every year.

Q2] 53.6 Core domestic tourist visited the state in 2019 this was before Covid Pandemic struck. What all factors according to you were the catalysts in the growth of Tourism in the state?

- Multiple factor played the role in the increased number of Domestic tourists -
- a. Closure of outbound tourism
 - b. After long lock down people are eager to go out according to age and taste.
 - c. In UP construction of Kashi Corridor and Ayodhya Bhagwan Shree Ram Temple.
 - d. Condition of roads are much better and Hotels offering

lower rate.
Q3] Uttar Pradesh can be the hub for promoting Buddhist Circuit and Ramayana Trails, you views on this?

Yes, UP is the hub for Spiritual sector be it Hindu, Buddhists or Jain pilgrimage. Pre-Covid I was Handling roughly 7000 Buddhist foreign tourists and 2000 Hindu tourists in UP and Bihar.

Q4] Your View - "Tourism in Uttar Pradesh, an economic driver of growth".

As per my view tourism specially domestic market will be a major economy generator in future. But the Government is not recognizing tourism as industry.

Q5] Are the Travel Trade and hospitality sector in the state prepared for the coming robust in Uttar Pradesh Tourism?

During the past years government and private sector are working closely in developing the infrastructure, airports (turning them to International standards) and also training the local who are direct or indirect connected to tourist. I am sure about in coming years we will be well equipped to welcome the international traveller. Though we are still having shortage of quality hotels and transports in state.

Q6] This year Rudraksh Convention Centre opened. How will this be an add-on to boost the Tourism in the MICE sector?

Rudraksha would be a milestone for Varanasi. But as per the current situation, they have to reduce charges to tap the domestic market. And to host big conventions or events in Rudraksha we are not having the number of hotel inventories to fulfil the requirement in Varanasi.

Q7] According to you, is Government also putting the same amount of effort?

Being a tour operator and having position in IATO - I can suggest few points to state Govt to boost Tourism in state -

1. UP govt should have Tourism policy
2. All tour operators of UP should be registered under UP tourism following the govt norms, terms and conditions which will improve the quality player in the industry.
3. Govt has to reduce Transport taxes and GST structure for 5 year to boost this industry. I am sure minimum 20 to 30 million people will get job via tourism in Uttar Pradesh.

