

Update on IATO Activities

(Saturday 16th April to Saturday 30th April 2022)

Dear Members

Greetings!

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Saturday 16th April to Saturday 30th April 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:18.19,23,25 April

Monday, 18th April

- **IATO detailed Mr. G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Director General (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism on Information on Infrastructure to the Hospitality Industry**

IATO had been writing to the Government to grant Industry status to the tourism industry for a long time and some of the states have already granted industry status to the tourism industry are Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Infrastructure status is presently available to the convention and exhibition industry granted by the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India

1. Need for Hospitality Industry to be declared Infrastructure Industry

There is need for us to increase the intensity of high-quality hotel accommodation in India which is currently low as compared to global tourism leaders. Thus for India to enhance its share of global inbound market it needs to create a high quality inventory of classified rooms.

To be able to cater to a significant tourist traffic, India needs to target 2 million classified quality hotel infrastructure. That would imply a mammoth capital expenditure of ₹ 5 lakh crores (assuming a conservative weighted average estimate of ₹ 25 lakhs per room). Assuming a debt to equity ratio of 1.5: 1 this implies term loans capital to the tune of 3 lakh crores and 2 lakh crores to shareholder equity. Such kind of capital can only be raised by private sector and that requires a long term favorable low interest rate regime as hotels are projects with long breakeven period.

2. Benefits to different areas of Tourism sector if infrastructure status is accorded to Hospitality Industry, Fiscal, Non Fiscal by the Central Government, Banking System and State Governments.

- Infrastructure status usually comes with several incentives, including **cheaper bank loans, tax concessions and a higher flow of foreign and private capital.**
- The grant of status enables an industry to raise money from insurance companies, pension funds, and international lenders with a longer tenure and on easier terms. Infrastructure status gives industries access to cheaper foreign currency funding through the external commercial borrowing route. Falling under infrastructure category helps the sector get credit at competitive rates and on long-term basis with enhanced limits.
- Once an industry is accorded infrastructure status, the sector is entitled to a number of benefits coupled with the consequences of implementation of good and services tax, will decrease the overall costs of logistics, additionally, this will also contribute towards furthering the objective of the “Make in India” initiative.
- It is likely to attract a great deal of private investment in the sector as the cost of funding will be at a concessional rate and the players will have a plethora of options to raise money.
- The changed status will enhance the viability of opening up businesses in different regions, thus translating into more demand and growth, a possibility that was not previously considered viable.
- Another significant implication of this step would be job creation. On account of the benefits mentioned hereinabove, the sector would attract a huge number of investors, both Indian and foreign thereby creating employment opportunities in the country. In fact, the creation of the Sagarmala and Bharatmala Projects have already generated jobs for around 3 crore individuals. Thus, the creation of jobs as a result of the grant of infrastructure status can be surmised with certainty.

The hospitality and tourism sectors had put forth recommendations such as granting an infrastructure and industry status to hotels, restaurants and resorts and classifying hospitality under RBI's infrastructure lending norms criteria for access to long term funds besides granting a MAT waiver to the industry for a period of three years beginning April 2022 to March 2025.

3. The worldwide scenario for the countries, which has very big share of inbound tourism, provide benefits and encourage the tourism sector

- Tourism is **Spain's** most important Industry and the Government extends all possible benefits to this industry which is the most revenue earning sector for Spain.
- **The French** authorities have endeavoured to cover the entire national territory with reliable network infrastructure for all inhabitants. This infrastructure has therefore for many years also provided services for summer visitors, holiday-makers, week-end homeowners and, in general terms, all tourists. Besides infrastructure, the French State and territorial authorities have also been involved, on a massive scale, in the creation of tourism superstructures.
- **Germany:** The Federal Government is primarily responsible for establishing an appropriate policy environment for tourism, with the 16 Federal States (Länder) developing, shaping and promoting tourism policy. The Federal Länder-Committee on Tourism meets twice a year, fostering the exchange of information and coordination of measures involving two or more of the Länder. The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) has lead responsibility for tourism policy. The Federal Government's Commissioner for the New Federal States (Länder), SMEs and Tourism

serves as the government's central point of contact within the Federal Government and with the German Parliament (Bundestag), especially with the Parliamentary Tourism Committee. The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy is supported by the Advisory Council on Tourism Issues, which brings together the interests of government, commerce, academia, trade unions and others. The Länder ministries responsible for tourism devise, implement and fund policies to promote tourism development. Local tourism offices coordinate the work of small, local enterprises, promote product design and undertake relevant marketing activities. Each of the Länder has a tourism association representing the interests of regional and local/ municipal organisations and/or a destination marketing organisation.

- **Thailand:** Favourable government policy. In July 2016 the Tourism Authority Thailand (TAT) released its Market Plan 2017. This Plan is in line with the Thailand 4.0 strategy, which aims to transform the country into a value-based economy through innovation, knowledge, technology and creativity.

It is, therefore, requested that hotels be declared as an infrastructure sector so that long term funds are accessible at lowest interest rates to attract private capital hospitality, to create all India jobs and build quality accommodation supply.

India's lending rates were one of the highest in the world. India overnight bank rate (mclr) was around 7.5% + as compared to around 2.3% for China and around 0.3% + for USA. Hotel projects in these countries already have a significant cost of funds advantage as compared to India making it highly cost effective to build hotels there at very low cost of capital.

Additionally hotels also required state level support of taxes such as reduced property taxes, utility tariffs at industrial rates , **GST** at lower slabs with full setoffs.

This is what would make Indian hospitality sector be in a position to support its tourism vision.

Tuesday, 19th April

- **IATO apprised Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation on the Exorbitant increase made by MIAL for Commercial Airport Entry Passes for the Tour Operators**

For past 27 years i.e. since 1995, IATO members who were recognized by the Ministry of Tourism Government of India were being issued Commercial Airport Entry Passes on payment, who were permitted to go inside the arrival hall to receive the foreign tourists at the airport and till the departure hall immigrations counters to facilitate foreign tourists to check in especially

for senior citizens and those who cannot speak English language. This facility to the Ministry of Tourism Government of India recognized tour operators and members of IATO was provided to ensure that foreign tourists coming from different countries were given personalized services and also to ensure that they were not being cheated/hijacked at the airport by the touts or any third party at the airport.

Mumbai International Airport Ltd. increased the Charges for Airport Entry Passes exorbitantly for the tour operators i.e. Rs. 168785 plus GST Rs. 30382 total Rs. 199167/- for one year pass with effect from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. (copy attached)

With such an exorbitant increase in Airport Entry Passes for the tour operators, India packages would increase and we would make our tourist packages uncompetitive vis-à-vis our neighboring countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore etc. who were luring tourists with attractive packages

Facility of Airport Passes was a must for the Ministry of Tourism Government of India recognized tour operators to provide safe and personalized services and receive them at the airport to ensure safety of foreign tourists and also to ensure that they do not become victims of being hijacked by the Lapkas/cheaters at the airport. If the airport entry fee charges are high, it would be very difficult for them to apply for the airport passes

In view of the above, IATO requested the Hon'ble Minister to give directive to withdraw this increase in Airport Entry Pass Charges for the tour operators rather they should decrease the charges till the time inbound tourism to India revived. Charges for Airport Entry Pass for the tour operators should not be more than Rs. 72000/- plus GST for one year (Rs. 6000/ per month) for airports in Tier – 1 cities and proportionately be reduced for airports in Tier-2 and Tier – 3 cities. Airport Authority of India and other agencies like MIAL, DIAL, GMR etc. should not consider this as a revenue generating activity and consider this as a part of providing services to the foreign tourists visiting India and give them a feeling of Indian Hospitality and confidence of safe travel to India.

A copy of the letter was marked to A. Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, B. Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, C. Secretary Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, D. Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation and E ADG Tourism, Ministry of Tourism.

Saturday 23rd April

➤ IATO gave its feedback, suggestions pertaining to issues being faced by the tourists at prominent tourist sites

In a response to the Ministry of Tourism Government of India, email IATO submitted a detailed note with the Ministry focusing on the problems tourists face at prominent tourist sites with special reference to Rock-cut cave temples of Ajanta and Ellora, Fatehpur Sikri, Taj Mahal, and Hampi

Monday 25th April

➤ IATO appealed to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and requested to help the Tourism Industry for revival of inbound tourism to India

IATO apprised the Hon'ble Prime Minister that Inbound tourism industry of India was worst affected due to Covid-19 pandemic. The sector had Zero Business since March 2020. This resulted in Inbound Tour Operators are going through acute financial crisis. 70-80 % of trained employees who were working with them had either lost their jobs or had migrated to their home town/ cities or have joined other industries for their survival.

Now, with restoration of Tourist Visa/e-Tourist Visa and resumption of Visa after a gap of over two years, the Inbound Operators were trying their level best to revive inbound tourism to India but the situation was not very favourable as there was no promotional and marketing activities taking place in overseas markets by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Promotion and marketing of Indian tourism was very important at this stage as we had to start from scratch. In comparison all other countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Dubai were aggressively marketing tourism to revive tourism to their countries and were attracting foreign tourists by luring them with attractive packages.

Recently, Ministry of Tourism had planned to participate in three important tourism events i.e. WTM Africa (11th – 13th April 2022), Arabian Travel Mart in Dubai (9th to 12th May 2022) and IMEX – Frankfurt (31st May – 2nd June 2022) by taking space and setting up India Pavilion where Industry stake holders were also invited to take booths in India Pavilion. Our members were happy with the decision of the Ministry and IATO had sent a list to the Ministry but unfortunately, we did not get any confirmation from the Ministry till this date, which we understand was due to paucity of funds with the Ministry.

IATO made a humble request to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to help the tourism industry by reviving inbound tourism to India and suggested that:

- Ministry of Tourism should participate in all major international travel marts/fairs along with the industry stake holders as was being done earlier i.e. prior to 2020.
- Physical B2B meeting during the structured Road Shows to be organized by the Ministry of Tourism Government of India in coordination with Indiatourism offices and Indian Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates. where foreign tour operators and members of IATO to be invited.
- Incredible India events, evening cultural programme, food festivals, handicraft exhibitions etc. to be organized regularly where foreign tour operators and foreign nationals were invited.
- Fam trips of foreign tour operators, travel writers, bloggers are to be organized by the Ministry of Tourism which had been discontinued due to Covid.
- Electronic and print media campaign for promotion of tourism in all source and new markets to be re-started by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India
- Last but not the least, there are now only 7 Indiatourism offices overseas and remaining offices were closed. Recently 20 Tourism officers had been appointed in various Indian Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad who would look after tourism promotions in their respective countries. However, it is suggested an official of Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India to be deputed in all such embassies who would work under the Tourism Officers under the overall authority of Ambassador/High Commissioner concerned. This would result in regular promotion and marketing of Indian tourism in overseas markets.

A note regarding the above was sent to all the members on Tuesday 26th of April

Wednesday 27th April

- **IATO requested to Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan to withdraw requirement of RTPCR Negative Report for the foreign tourists entering Rajasthan**

IATO apprised the confusion being created due to travel guidelines/advisories issued by Rajasthan Government making it mandatory for all foreign tourists to have RTPCR negative report and show at the airport/railway stations. This had created confusion amongst the foreign tourists who planned to visit Rajasthan and they were feeling harassed and threatened IATO Members to cancel their trip to India and especially to Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Government was requested to kindly follow the guidelines of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and allow foreign tourists to enter Rajasthan if the foreign tourists were fully vaccinated and had already uploaded the vaccination certificate on Air Suvidha App or RTPCR Negative Test Report as per MoHFW and in such case RTPCR report should not be asked again by the Rajasthan Government.

A Copy of the letter was sent to **A.** Shri Vishvendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, **B.** Shri Parsadi Lal, Hon'ble Minister for Medical & Health, Government of Rajasthan, **C.** Shri Murari Lal Meena, Hon'ble State Minister of Tourism, **D.** Smt. Usha Sharma, Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, **E.** Shri Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism), Government of India, **F.** Shri Kuldeep Ranka, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan, **G.** Ms. Gayatri Rathore, Principal Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of Rajasthan, **H.** Shri Prithvi Raj, Secretary, Medical Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Rajasthan and **I.** Mr. Bhim Singh Chairman, IATO Rajasthan Chapter

2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date: 16,18, 21,22,23,25,26,28, April

Saturday, 16th April

- All Members (Tour Operators & Travel Agents) were informed on the ITC Hotels Promo Code Special Rates for IATO Members
- IATO Vice President being welcomed at Agartala Airport by Tripura Tourism Officials



Monday, 18th April

- All Tour Operators & Travel Agents were informed on the Tourism Promotion Event with Khanh Hoa Province on 25th April 2022 . *the date was later, on the 23rd April Circular to members....REVISED TO 9TH MAY 2022.*

- All IATO State Chairmen/Co-Chairmen and State in-Charge were requested to offer their response on the questionnaire (sent to them on 12th and 14th April) to be sent to Mr. Sumitro Kar, Executive Director, WTTCCII.

Thursday 21st April

- President IATO Mr Rajiv Mehra shared his vision during sectorial session on tourism during Bengal Global Business Summit in Kolkata today



Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal signed a MOU with Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) today during Bengal Global Business Summit in Kolkata to initiate a strong industry partnership for the sustainable development of tourism in the state. MOU has been exchanged by **IATO President Mr. Mehra as Hon Secretary FAITH** and **Ms. Nandini Chakravorty Principal Secretary West Bengal Tourism** in presence of the **Honorable Chief Minister Ms. Mamta Banerjee**.





Friday 22nd April



- From VP IATO : Thanks for organising private informal meet with local tour operators during my visit to Agartala. Happy to hear that 6-7 tour operators already filled forms to become IATO members. Appreciate your efforts and thank you very much for your services 🙏
- All Active Members, were informed on the Incredible India Reconnect 2022 (Virtual Road Show) – starting with Oman on 26th April 2022 at 1200 hours

Saturday 23rd April

All Members (Tour Operators & Travel Agents) were informed that the circular sent on 18th April 2022 regarding Tourism Promotion Event with Khanh Hoa Province on 25th April 2022 organized by Consulate General of India, Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) has been postponed to 9th May 2022 and the revised registration link will be sent to in due course.

Monday 25th April

- All Members were informed on the invitation from PATA India Chapter for 11th Update and Outlook Meeting with Ministry of Tourism for the larger tourism fraternity on 28th April 2022 at 4:00 pm on Zoom.

Tuesday 26th April

- **All Members, were informed on the IATO Annual Subscription for the financial year 2022 – 23 for renewal of membership**

Under the present scenario under which our members were still waiting for inbound tourism to revive, the IATO EC took a decision in its meeting held on 25th April 2022, to give further relief to the members by charging a very nominal amount towards the annual subscription for the financial year 2022-23. It was decided to charge the following fee:-

- Active Members – Rs. 1200 plus GST against Rs. 6500 plus GST
- Allied/International members – Rs. 1000 plus GST against Rs. 6000 plus GST
- Associate Members – Rs. 1000 plus GST against Rs. 5500 plus GST

However, in this regard, the points to be noted were

1. IATO had waived off the annual subscription for the financial year 2021-22 for all those members who paid their annual subscription for the financial year 2020-21 and their membership was renewed automatically for the financial year 2021-22.
2. The above relief for the annual subscription for the financial year 2022-23 would be applicable to those members who have paid their annual subscription for the financial year 2020-21 and renewed their membership. Therefore, invoice for the financial year would be sent to them accordingly.
3. Members who got membership of IATO during the financial year 2021-22, will be eligible for the above relief for the financial year 2022-23.
4. However, annual subscription for the new members joining in financial year 2022-23, usual annual subscription as mentioned above along with applicable joining fee will be payable.

A request was made to all members who had not paid their annual subscription for the financial year 2020-21 to pay immediately and get the exemption for financial year 2021-22 and also relief for financial year 2022-23.

Thursday 28th April

- All Active Members were informed on the Joining Link for Incredible India Reconnect 2022 (Virtual Road Show) – USA on Thursday, the 28th April 2022 at 6.30 pm
- To All Members in Tamil Nadu, were informed on the Appointment of Mr. D. Gopinathan as Co-Chairman of IATO Tamil Nadu Chapter
- All Members in Uttarakhand were informed on the Appointment of Mr. Sunil Singh Rana as Chairman of IATO Uttarakhand Chapter

2. Media Coverage

Segment 3 update sequence by date:16,20,22,27,29 April

Sunday, 16th April

- President IATO on DD News
<https://youtu.be/bmp8-dvI85E>



Wednesday, 20th April

- Tour operators to hit over 70% of pre-Covid revenue in FY23, says Crisil, but MSMEs await airfares to stabilise

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-eodb-tour-operators-to-hit-over-70-of-pre-covid-revenue-in-fy23-says-crisil-but-msmes-await-airfares-to-stabilise/2496930/>

Friday 22nd April

- Tourism body eyes Destination Bengal

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/tourism-body-eyes-destination-bengal/articleshow/90990208.cms>

➤ President Covered in TOI

Destination Bengal

Signs MoU With State At BGBS

Tanayana Banerjee
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The apex chamber of tourism industry has set their eyes on unexplored travel destinations in Bengal.

The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH), policy federation of all national associations representing the tourism, travel and hospitality industry of India, joined hands with the state government on Thursday signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS). The aim is to identify and develop uncharted destinations and examine opportunities to promote tourism in existing ones.

A hotel group committed to investing in at least two properties in Bengal, while an inland waterways tourists operator lined up river cruises from Kolkata to Bangladesh and Assam. "We will set up two new properties in north Bengal. We want to expand our business to the Northeast and are looking forward to use Bengal as a gateway to the Northeast," said SP Jain, chairman of Pride Hotels and Resorts. Other major operators said they were in the process of strategic expansion and were searching for new destinations in Bengal for investment.

Elaborating their plans for enhancing river cruises and ferries, Soudamini Mukherjee, CEO of Antara Luxury River Cruises and Heritage River Cruises, said they were committed to investing in two new ships—Ganga Vilas and Nouka Vilas. Ganga Vilas will take tourists on a cruise on the Hooghly, from Kolkata to other places in Bengal, to Bangladesh, Assam and then to Patna in Bihar and Varanasi in UP. Nouka Vilas will offer two to three nights'



A session on tourism is on at the business summit on Thursday

- A hotel group commits to set up two new properties in north Bengal
- An inland waterways tourism operator plans two launch ships—Ganga Vilas and Nouka Vilas. Ganga Vilas will take tourists on a cruise on the Hooghly, from Kolkata to other places in Bengal, Bangladesh, Assam and then to Patna in Bihar and Varanasi in

- UP, Nouka Vilas will offer two to three nights' bookings
- Bengal has promised the operator jetties with shore power by 2025 to provide sustainable energy
- The tourism body will form a task force with Bengal; they will discuss tourism opportunities with DMs in their respective areas



bookings for honeymooners, couples and families. "Around 80% of our staff are from Bengal. We buy only local goods to boost the local economy. We are also trying to cut down on the usage of diesel and are in talks with the Bengal government, which has promised to set up jetties with shore power by 2025 to provide sustainable energy," said Mathur, vice-president of the organization.

About the MoU signed by tourism secretary Nandini Chakraverty and FAITH secretary Rajiv Mehra in the presence of chief minister Manasa Banerjee during the BGBS closing ceremony, Mehra said they would work in close coordination with state executives to boost tourism and revenues. "We will form a task force with Bengal. We will have a bi-annual meeting soon. The representatives of a number of states will participate in the meeting. We will discuss the opportunities and make tourism plans," said Mehra.

Attending a session on 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' at the BGBS, FAITH chairman Nalcal Anand, also the executive director of ITC Ltd, said, "The tourism and hospitality sector is an important growth sector in the country's economy and I hope Bengal would be able to provide the same level of competes as now."

Attending a session on 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' at the BGBS, FAITH chairman Nalcal Anand, also the executive director of ITC Ltd, said, "The tourism and hospitality sector is an important growth sector in the country's economy and I hope Bengal would be able to provide the same level of competes as now."

A British Council report pegged the total worth of the creative industries around the state at Rs 36,000 crore annually contributing to 10% of Bengal's GDP. CMB said the state was also making towards turning AAI and Bagdogra into international airports. "We have handed in AAI for the Bagdogra airport expansion. New airports are coming up in Durgam, Balurghat and Coimbatore. Helicopter landings have been set up to boost tourism," she said.

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देश में भीमवार, शिवरा, मङ्गल, मंगलवार, बुधवार, गुरुवार के टूर पैकेज की हो रही बुकिंग

गरी, विदेशों में दुबई, मॉरीशस, मॉरीशस, सिंगापुर और मलेयिया पर रही हो लोग

जबकि पैसा खर्च करने वाले पर्यटक खेन जा रहे हैं, फिर कुछ को भी हो रही है बुकिंग

दुबई, कनाडा, साउथ अफ्रीका, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और ऑस्ट्रेलिया को लेकर भी हो रही है बुकिंग

Suraj Singh

कोरोना और देश में फिर से दुर्गम विचार में उठाने वाले लोग हैं। पर्यटन में न्यूनी में खर्चों को बढ़ावा देकर, विशाल क्षेत्र में एए अर्थव्यवस्था में सुधार को सुन कर रहे हैं। इस तरह कोरोना के कारण नहीं सिर्फ़ों के रूप में दुर्गम विचार में खुले खर्च को बढ़ावा देकर है।

लोगों के लिए पहाड़ बन रहे पहली पर्यटन

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सूरज सिंह/Suraj Singh 🇮🇳 on Twitter

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t.co

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TRAVELPORT

INTERNATIONAL BOOKINGS TO SE ASIA SHOW UPWARD TRAJECTORY* IN Q1 2022

As MOT kicks off virtual roadshow, IATO urges PM for physical shows and marts to revive tourism



As Ministry of Tourism kicks off one-month long virtual roadshow, titled Reconnect 2022, IATO has written to the Prime Minister to help in revival of inbound tourism. In the letter, Rajiv Mehra, President, IATO has suggested that MOT should participate in international travel mart/fairs along with industry stakeholders and conduct physical B2B meetings in structured roadshows.

HAI requests FM to restore insurance premium rates for hotels prevailing in 2018-19



Hotel Association of India (HAI) has written to Finance Minister, highlighting the steep rise in insurance premiums for hotels in the last few years. HAI has urged the govt to restore insurance premium rates for hotel properties to the level of FY 2018-19. MP Badarshah, Secretary General, HAI, said, "The high insurance premium rates as compared to pre-FY 2018-19 is a major disincentive."

EXCLUSIVE

IN CONVERSATION WITH MR. DEV KARVAT

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Page 03



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BOOKING.COM OFFERS BETTER FLIGHT EXPERIENCE IN INDIA SANS HIDDEN CHARGES & FEES

Our target is to have net carbon zero footprint by 2050: Pratima Badhwar, Accor



Soaking at a panel discussion on Sustainable Business Travel at the 7th NICE Travel Show 2022 in Pune, Pratima Badhwar, Head of Commercial (India & South Asia), Accor, said, "At Accor, our target is to have net carbon zero footprint by 2050. Our project 'Planet 2021' is based on four main pillars: our guests, our owners and vendors, our associates and employees, and our community."

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Event - 21 May 2022
Venue - 11 - 18 May 2022

KOREAN AIR RESUMES NEW DELHI-SEOUL-NEW DELHI DIRECT FLIGHT FROM 5 MAY



Travel projections for Europe & Asia drop from 70% to 56% of 2019 levels: Bain & Company



According to Air Travel Forecast by Bain & Company, travel projections between Europe and Asia have taken a significant hit, dropping from 70 per cent to 56 per cent of 2019 levels, reflecting both the impact of China's lockdowns and soaring operation costs due to bans on flights over Russia airspace. Owing to these issues, air traffic levels are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels until Q2 of 2025.

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IATO appeals to Hon'ble PM to help in revival of tourism industry

In his letter written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Mehra, President IATO has mentioned that with the restoration of Tourist Visa/e-Tourist Visa and resumption of scheduled international flight operation after a gap of over two years, we are trying our level best to revive inbound tourism to India but the situation does not seem to be very favourable as there is no promotional and marketing activities taking place in overseas markets by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Promotion and marketing of Indian tourism is very important at this stage as we have to start from scratch. Mr. Mehra has specifically mentioned that for revival of inbound tourism to India, we need to tell to the world that India is safe to travel and ready to welcome the foreign tourists.

Jazeera Airways announces KD3.8 mn net profit in first quarter 2022

Jazeera Airways recently announced a net profit of KD3.8 million for the first quarter (Q1) of 2022, compared to a net loss of KD5.2 million in the first quarter of 2021. Total revenue for the quarter reached KD35.7 million, up 339.2%, while operating profit stood at KD 5.3 million, up 199.3%. These record earnings were supported by close to six-fold increase in number of passengers with restrictions at Kuwait International Airport being eased and travel capacity gradually increased to levels near to the pre-pandemic period. Similarly, load factor reached 75.2%, an increase of 28.7%. In comparison, during Q1 2019 before the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Jazeera had reported a net profit of KD1.5 million and flown 529.6 thousand passengers. Q1 2022 performance shows strong resilience in the commercial travel, as well as positive sentiment to the sector for 2022 and beyond.

Pride Group of Hotels signs 'Pride Biznotel Aurangabad'

Pride Group of Hotels has announced the signing of 'Pride Biznotel Aurangabad'. Conveniently located adjacent to Aurangabad airport, the hotel is easily accessible to prominent tourist destinations Ajanta & Ellora Caves, Panchakki, and Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Daulatabad fort among others. Pride Biznotel brand is a moderately priced, upscale, full-service hotel that meets the discerning needs of a business, adventure and leisure traveller. Announcing the signing, Atul Upadhyay, Vice President, Pride Group of Hotels said, "We are extremely delighted to expand our footprints in Aurangabad, the tourism capital of Maharashtra."

#FirstOpinion



Mr. Rajiv Mehra,
President,
Indian Association of
Tour Operators (IATO)

"There are now only 7 Indian tourism offices overseas as remaining offices have been closed. Recently 20 Tourism Officers have been appointed in various Indian Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad who would look after tourism promotions in their respective countries. However, IATO suggests that an official of Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India should be deputed in all such embassies who will work under the Tourism Officers under the overall authority of Ambassador/High Commissioner concerned. This will result in regular promotion and marketing of Indian tourism in overseas markets."



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➤ IATO Appeals to Prime Minister for help with India Tourism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXSDhESJVc8>

<https://livestream.travel/podcast/iato-appeals-to-prime-minister-for-help-with-india-tourism/>

<https://www.travelindustrydeals.com/2022/04/iato-appeals-to-prime-minister-for-help.html>

https://eturbonews.com/3067590/iato-appeals-to-prime-minister-for-help-with-india-tourism/?pk_campaign=feed&pk_kwd=iato-appeals-to-prime-minister-for-help-with-india-tourism&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=iato-appeals-to-prime-minister-for-help-with-india-tourism

[IATO Appeals to Prime Minister for help with India Tourism \(eturbonews.com\)](https://www.ivoox.com/en/iato-appeals-to-prime-minister-for-help-with-audios-mp3_rf_86288393_1.html)

https://www.ivoox.com/en/iato-appeals-to-prime-minister-for-help-with-audios-mp3_rf_86288393_1.html

<https://livestream.travel/podcast/iato-appeals-to-prime-minister-for-help-with-india-tourism/>

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MOT should depute officials to embassies under tourism officers for overseas promotions: IATO
Rishi Mishra, President, IATO, in a letter to Prime Minister said that after appointing 20 tourism officers in various Indian Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad, MOT should depute one of its officials in all embassies who will work under the tourism officers under the overall authority of Assistant High Commissioner. "This will result in better promotion and marketing," he said.

MOT to select 5 top strategy papers by overseas tourism officers for future planning: Arvind Singh
At the FICSI India & MOT 11th Update & Outlook Meeting, Arvind Singh, Secretary, Tourism, shared that newly appointed tourist officers in embassies have prepared country-specific strategy papers. "We have selected 5 best papers, which will be presented to Foreign Minister and National Action Director, based on which future strategies in these potential markets will be adopted," he added.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION SUSPENDED FROM UNWTO WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

SECOND PHASE OF DEKHO APNA PRADESH KICKSTARTS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

IN CONVERSATION WITH MR. DEV KARVAT
Minister of Tourism - The Head of the Tourist Authority services to promote benefits for the tourist trade.
Episode 03

As borders open, over 70 per cent Indians are excited to travel internationally: Airbnb
After international border restrictions have gradually eased, almost three-quarters of Indians have plans to travel internationally in the foreseeable future and more than a third of those plan to do so in the next six months, according to research by Airbnb and commissioned by Airbnb. "More than 70 percent of Indians are excited about being able to travel internationally," says the report.

The Future of International Travel
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KARNATAKA TOURISM ORGANISING 19-CITY DOMESTIC ROADSHOW

Maha tourism asks local authorities for maximum participation in UNWTO tourism village awards
Deputy Chief Minister (DyC), Govt. of Maharashtra, has issued letters to all the state Regional Officers (ROs) and 30 Zila Parishad Chief Executive Officers (CEO) instructing maximum participation from villages in Maharashtra in UNWTO Best Tourism Village Awards. Villages can apply in any three categories namely Best Tourism Village, Top-grade Cooperatives and Best Tourism Village Network.

Destination Bengal

Signs MoU With State At BGBS

Tamaghna Banerjee
@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: The apex chamber of tourism industry has set their eyes on unexplored travel destinations in Bengal.

The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH), policy federation of all national associations representing the tourism, travel and hospitality industry of India, joined hands with the state government on Thursday, signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS). The aim is to identify and develop uncharted destinations and examine opportunities to promote tourism in existing ones.

A hotel group committed to investing in at least two properties in Bengal, while an inland waterways tourism operator lined up river cruises from Kolkata to Bangladesh and Assam. "We will setting up two new properties in north Bengal. We want to expand our business to the Northeast and are looking forward to use Bengal as a gateway to the Northeast," said S P Jain, chairman of Pride Hotels and Resorts. Other major operators said they were in the process of strategic expansion and were searching for new destinations in Bengal for investment.

Elaborating their plans on enhancing river cruising experiences, Soadami Mathur of Antara Luxury River Cruises and Heritage River Cruises said they were coming up with two new ships—Ganga Vilas and Nouka Vilas. Ganga Vilas will take tourists on a cruise on the Hooghly from Kolkata to other places in Bengal, to Bangladesh, Assam and then to Patna in Bihar and Varanasi in UP; Nouka Vilas will offer two to three nights

Subhrajit Banerjee

IN THE PIPELINE



A session on tourism is on at the business summit on Thursday

➤ **A hotel group commits to set up two new properties in north Bengal**

➤ **An inland waterways tourism operator plans two launch ships—Ganga Vilas and Nouka Vilas. Ganga Vilas will take tourists on a cruise on the Hooghly, from Kolkata to other places in Bengal, to Bangladesh, Assam and then to Patna in Bihar and Varanasi in**

UP. Nouka Vilas will offer two to three nights' bookings

➤ **Bengal has promised the operator jetties with shore power by 2025 to provide sustainable energy**

➤ **The tourism body will form a task force with Bengal; they will discuss tourism opportunities with DMs in their respective areas**



bookings for honeymooners, couples and families. "Around 80% of our staff are from Bengal. We buy only local goods to boost the local economy. We are also trying to cut down on the usage of diesel and are in talks with the government

to set up jetties with shore power by 2025. We can use sustainable energy and achieve carbon neutrality," said Mathur, vice-president of the organization.

About the MoU signed by tourism secretary Nandini Chakraverty and FAITH secretary Rajiv Mehra in the presence of chief minister Mamata Banerjee during the BGBS closing ceremony, Mehra said they would work in close coordination with state executives to boost tourism and revenue. "We will form a task force with Bengal. We will have a brainstorming meeting soon. District tourism officers of a number of districts will be invited to the table

to discuss the opportunities and make tourism plans," said Mehra.

Attending a session on 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' at the BGBS, FAITH chairman Nakul Arund, also the executive director of PTC Ltd, said, "The tourism and hospitality sector is an important growth sector in the country's economy and I hope Bengal would consider to provide the same kind of incentives."

Quoting the Budget Council report that the total worth of the cruise industries around Durgam Cheru at Rs 36,000 crore annually, contributing to 2.5% of Bengal's GDP, CM Banerjee said the state was also working towards turning Andul and Hooghly into Intervention Corridors. "We have given Rs 100 crore to the Bagdogra airport expansion. New airlines are coming up in Malda, Murshidabad and Cooch Behar. Helicopter landings have been set up in the region to boost tourism," she said.

SUBHRAJIT BANERJEE

3. Chapter News

Segment 4 update sequence by date:16, 29, April

Saturday, 16th April

- Meeting with high level delegation of Bangladesh in presence of Mr. T k Chakma, IAS, Managing Director, Deptt of Tourism, Govt of **Tripura** today


