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Bulletin





### Dear Friends,

I always see the brighter side of life, and as the President of this association, my endeavour is to put my best foot forward in order to help you grow your business. In the last few months, several initiatives and efforts were taken by the team to resolve the issues pertaining to the industry, and an ample number of measures were taken to strengthen the industry as a whole.

IATO believed that the substantial increase in TCS rates would have a significant negative impact on the Indian travel and tourism industry in comparison to overseas tour operators. As a result, we urged that Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Honorable Minister of Finance, remove the 5% to 20% TCS increase on overseas tour packages. In another effort, IATO team raised issues with Shri Rajiv Bansal, Secretary Civil Aviation related to very high domestic and international

airfares, reduction of free baggage allowance by domestic airlines, refunds of travel agents and clients from Go First Airline and the like.

The issue of IATO speaks highlights all the latest happenings in the association and also throws light on the tasks undertaken by the core team of IATO. IATO has also initiated a Special Membership Drive with special offers and has fully waived off the admission (Joining fee) of Rs. 10,000 plus GST for the new membership for all the applicants pan India whose membership applications are received at the IATO office on or before 31st July 2023. This drive was initiated under the guidance of Mr. Ravi Gosain, Vice President, IATO which resulted in an overwhelming response from the industry.

As you all are aware that the 38th IATO Annual Convention is to take place in Chhattrapati Sambhajinagar, (Aurangabad), Maharashtra, from September 29th to October 1 st 2023, I personally would like to extend my invitation to you to be a part of our annual convention and make it a grand success. We intend to make the convention more interactive, engaging, and powerful, and this wouldn't be possible without your support. Mark your calendar, and we will see you at the convention.

Rajiv Mehra President IATO



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### May.

- President FHRAI, Mr. Punit Chhatwal, President HAI and Mr. Randhir Vikram Singh, President, IHHA on the issue pertaining to Long Delay in Receiving Bills for Accounting Purposes where 100 per cent of advance payments were made by the IATO Members to Approved/Classified Hotels.
- IATO apprised that Post Covid the dynamics have changed and hoteliers mostly demand full advance payment at booking stage. Therefore, IATO requested that a circular may be issued amongst all FHARI, HAI and IHHA members to issue GST invoice to the tour operators immediately on receipt of payment/services are rendered.
- All members were informed on the IATO Annual Subscription for the financial year 2023-24 reg: Availing 50 per cent discount by paying before 31st July 2023.

- The members of IATO were informed to the Register in Fairview Media International Tourism Conclave (FMITC- Kolkata) 2023.
- Shri Bhim Singh Ji was awarded the Paryatan Ratna Outstanding Leadership Award for his contribution to tourism.
- All Members were informed on the Invitation for International Museum Expo from 18-20 May 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- All Members were informed that on IATO's efforts, a special discount has been offered by the Ministry of Tourism for Indian Sellers at PATA Travel Mart 2023 from 4th 6th October, 2023.
- All the IATO Regional/State Chapter Chairmen/Co-Chairmen/State in-Charge was informed on the IATO Special Membership Drive Offer Valid till 31st July 2023.



IATO President, Vice President, Hony.Secretary at the G20 TWG meeting in Srinagar with the Lt. Governor of J&K.



President IATO engrossed in a meaningful tourism promotion plan of action with the Hon'ble Lt Governor of J&K.



- All Members were informed on the Advertisement in IATO Speaks (Newsletter) Digital Edition.
- President, Vice President,
  Hony.Secretary at the G20 TWG
  meeting in Srinagar.



- The members were informed on the Special Drive against Fake GST Registration, GST Evasion.
- All Active Members were informed on the Tender Enquiry on Bharat Ko Janiye Yatra 2023.

lst Ever EC Meeting outside Delhi on the 27th and Member Meet at Jaipur Rajasthan at TAJ Amer.



Member Meeting was organized in Jaipur.



### June.

IATO wrote to Mr. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales, IndiGo thanking him for restoring flight on sector Mumbai – Aurangabad – Mumbai from 1st July 2023 and requested support on:-



A late morning flight on sector Delhi – Aurangabad – Delhi from 15th July 2023.



A flight connecting sector
Delhi – Khajuraho – Varanasi – Khajuraho – Delhi
OR Agra –Khajuraho –
Varanasi- Khajuraho –
Agra from 15th September
2023.

All members of the association were informed on the Dekho Apna Desh - webinar being organized on Monday, 5th June 2023 at 1100 hrs, presenting DAD Season 02, Episode No. 28 on topic, "Empowering Youth with 'Travel for LiFE'!".



IATO VP addressing the gathering during at the FMITC 2023.



- All active members were informed on the reconstitution of IATO Sub Committees for 2023-25.
- All active members (Based in Delhi/NCR) were informed on the Outreach Programme of the Income-tax Department on 'TCS provisions for overseas tour packages'.
- The members were informed on the invitation from ATOAI for Seminar/Adventure Tourism road show with a B2B mart on 13th July 2023 in Mumbai.
  - active The members (Recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India) were informed on the Incredible India Tourism Expo 2023 on 15 - 16 July, 2023 at Icon Siam Mall, Bangkok orgabeing nized by Embassy of India, Bangkok.

- All members were informed on the Special Offer for IATO Members by SPG Hospitality – Hard Rock Café, Janpath New Delhi.
- All Members were informed on the IATO Speaks June 2023 edition with a link to download it.
- IATO wrote to Ms. Rajarajeswari R
  Joint Commissioner of Income Tax,
  New Delhi thanking her for organizing 'Outreach Programme on TCC
  provisions for overseas tour packages'. IATO requested:-



For the clarification on the points noted and sought replies from CBDT and be advised accordingly so that IATO could circulate to its members.



A soft copy of the presentation.





- The members were informed on the IATO Interactive Luncheon Meeting on Wednesday, 28th June 2023 at 1100 hours at Hotel Hyatt Regency, New Delhi.
- President, IATO with UNTO Secretary
  General



- The members (Tour Operators & Travel Agents) were informed on the Extension of Taj Promo Code Special rates for IATO Members till 30th September 2024.
- IATO organises its Member Luncheon Meeting on 28 June, New Delhi at Hyatt Regency, Bhikaji Cama Place New Delhi. The luncheon meeting witnessed the presence of over 135 members and members of Press and Media participated.
- All Active Members were informed on the Publicity of Tender Enquiry of Know India Programme (KIP) 2023-24.

### July.

The EC team of IATO at the Rajniwas Palace Dholpur for the EC meeting.



On invitation the EC visited two hotels in Agra.







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









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 Chhattrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad).

IATO's 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.



MPTB and IATO MP Chapter jointly organized a workshop and Panel Discussion in Bhopal on 26th July 2023 which was attended by about professionals 125 tourism Madhya Pradesh. Besides Senior officials of Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation and Office Bearers and Executive Committee members of Indian Association of Tour Operators, about 125 tourism professionals of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh region were present. The main objective of organizing this workshop in Bhopal was as to gauge as to how we can increase the growth of foreign tourists in

Madhya Pradesh, explore new destinations, circuits, collaborate with airlines & hotels with support from IATO and its members and also to increase IATO membership base in the state.







### 38th IATO Annual Convention

### A commitment to excellence and innovation in the tourism industry

his year, the 38th IATO annual convention is taking Chhatrapati place Sambhajinagar, (Aurangabad) from 29th September to 2nd October 2023 at Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, Rama International. The objectives have been set for the convention and the team is working hard to achieve the same. In an interview. Rajiv Mehra, President, IATO shares how this year's convention will be unique and different and how it will benefit the delegates.

The 38th IATO Annual Convention is taking place in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, (Aurangabad), Maharashtra. As a president of IATO, what will be your objective for a successful convention?

Just like every year, the aim would be to maximize participation, offer value to our members and engage in marketing and promotion of the host state in specific, besides Incredible India.

What will be the major attraction for this year's convention and how many delegates are you expecting to register for the 38th IATO Annual Convention?

This year, we are expecting around 900 strong participants. Our business sessions, state presentation, India Travel Mart, IATO entrainment RUN, evenings, networking luncheons and gala dinners and the post tours for onsite marketing of Maharashtra will be the major attractions.



# What are your priorities and expectations for this year's IATO Annual Convention?

The IATO convention has been considered as one of the biggest networking platforms for the inbound operators, hoteliers, etc. The priority would be that the host state, the participating states and our members benefit from this convention and it should make business sense to all and augment tourism to the host state and India.

With the 38th IATO Annual Convention being organised in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, (Aurangabad), how is it going to encourage the inflow of tourists in and around the state?

The business sessions, presentations by the host state, interaction of our members with the authorities of the state, the India Travel Mart and the post tours will encourage the inflow of tourists in and around the state. Through this convention, our members will get first-hand experience of the tourism products and surely encourage them to sell

the destination to their inbound clients. The post-tour will surely make them familiar with the state and also enable them to gather maximum information which will boost the tourism inflow.

# What makes this year's convention different or unique for the industry's stakeholders?

The place - Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, (Aurangabad with the heritage sites of Ajanta, Ellora and the post tours will add value to this year's convention. The historic charm of the place will be the highlight for the participants.

What can the participants expect to gain from the convention that will help them create a near-immediate positive impact on their business?

The input from the speakers at the business sessions, addresses and presentations by the host state along with presentations by the participating states and the post tours all will the added value points for the participants.



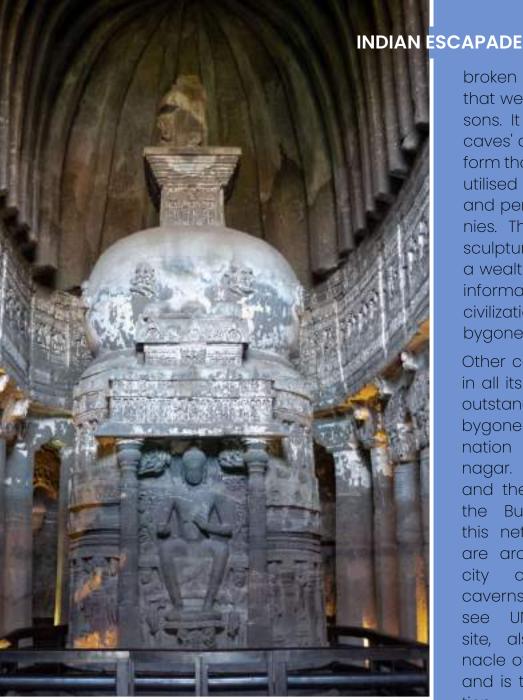
### The tourism capital of Maharashtra - Chhatrapati Sambhaji nagar (Aurangabad)

A whirlpool of Deccan architecture flaunting the Mughal era with forts and caves and traces of Buddhism, Chhatrapati Sambhaji nagar (aurangabad) formerly known as Aurangabad is a medieval treasure.

Sambhaji nagar welcomes tourists with a finely woven tapestry of sights after being named the government's Tourism Capital of Maharashtra in 2010. As the former capital of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in the 17th century AD, the city was named Aurangabad. The town serves as a jumping-off point for exploration of the world-famous Ajanta and Ellora caves, the fortified Daulatabad,

known for its formidable defences, and the architecturally stunning Mausoleums of Sambhaji nagar and Bibi-Ka-Maqbara amongst others. The Grishneshwar Temple, one of only 12 Shiva Jyotirlingas in India is the crowning jewel of the city. The tourist attractions in Sambhajinagar draw many travellers from virtually every region due to their historic magnificence.





broken down into several caverns that were created for diverse reasons. It is very obvious from the caves' construction, structure, and form that the early Buddhist monks utilised them for living, learning, and performing religious ceremonies. The murals, paintings, and sculptures on the walls illuminate a wealth of hitherto unrecognised information about the customs, civilizations, and way of life of a bygone era.

Other caves that are magnificent in all its glory are Ellora Caves. An outstanding architecture from the bygone age is a must-see destination close to Sambhaji nagar. The Yadav group of Jains and the Rashtrakuta dynasty of the Bud-dhist clan constructed this network of caverns, which are around 29 miles from the centre. This group caverns in Maharashtra, a must-UNESCO World Heri-tage also exemplifies the pinnacle of ancient Indian civilization and is the pinnacle of its perfection.

### Somewhere in the caves

Ajanta Caves will be one of the top results when looking for places to visit in Sambhaji nagar. Around 30 Buddhist caves made of rock that date back to the second century are included in this collection and create a perfect sight for histori-ans. They are regarded as the pin-nacle of ancient buildings and the most magnificent example of Indian art. The Ajanta caverns, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are further

### Mirroring the Indian wonder

Bibi Ka Maqbara,' one of the ancient sites in Sambhaji nagar is a vision of bliss if you continue to believe that the Taj Mahal is the sole true representation of love. Mughal The emperor love for Aurangzeb's his wife DilrasBanu Begum is likewise represented by this ancient structure, despite it not being substantial and known as the Taj,it is constructed



#### INDIAN ESCAPADE

on a raised platform, with four minarets guarding its four corners, and is accessible from three separate sides through a flight of stairs.

This historic monument is deserving of your time while you are considering seeing all the top attractions in Sambhaji nagar. It is adorned with magnificent marble with elaborate carvings and decorations, it displays the eternal love.

### In the lap of spirituality

A major Hindu pilgrimage site situated inside the boundaries of the famed Ellora Caves and a charming village about 30 km Sambhaji nagar. temple is a recognised name on the list of tourist attractions close to Sambhaji nagar and regarded а holv as location by Hindu believers. It is also said to be the last or 12th "Jyotirlinga" on earth. The temple, which was first constructed in a prehistoric architectural style out of red bricks and included sculptures of several Hindu gods and goddesses on its walls, was subsequently restored in the 18th century. The holy water heals one's heart and spirit, according to tales, and flows forth from inside the temple.

### Scenic Lake odyssey

Salim Ali Lake is one of the top tourist destinations in Sambhaji nagar for you if you prefer sere-ne settings with natural beauty over busy shops and tourist traps. This expansive body of water, which is surrounded by lush green flora, is a nature lover's paradise because of its peaceful atmosphere and ability listen the to to uninterruptible symphony nature. A huge number of bird enthusiasts like to go bird watching at the bird sanctuary near the lake because of the wide variety of species that can be seen there. This location is worth a visit whether you want to spend the day taking pictures of the lake's natural beauty, taking beauty in person, or its exploring it in a boat.

### Spot countless birds

The intriguing Jayakwadi Dam is Sambhaji another nagar attrac-tion that shouldn't missed. One of the largest earthen dams in Asia as well as one of the larg-est irrigation dams in the whole state of Maharashtra, the Marathwada region, which is prone to drought, primarily benefits from its construction for irrigation and other agricultural uses. Visit the Jayakwadi Bird Sanctuary as well as Jayakwadi Dam while you're there. This area is one of the top tourist destin-

#### **INDIAN ESCAPADE**

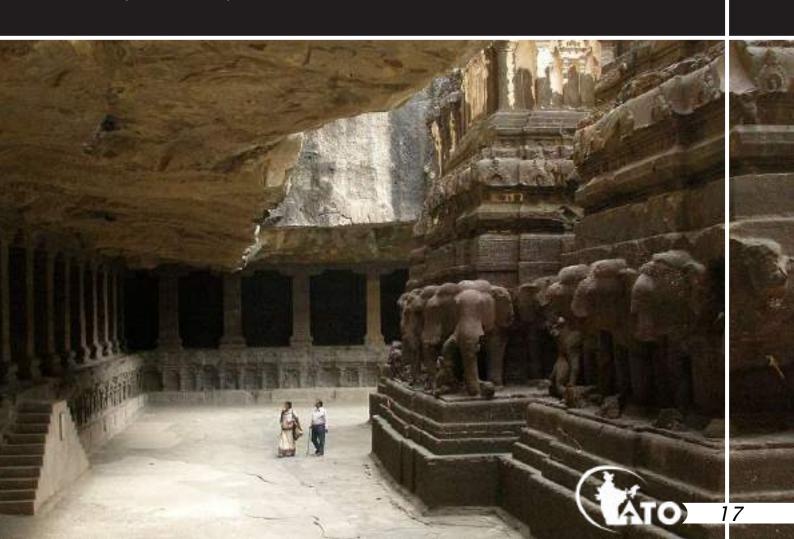
ations close to Sambhaji nagar and is made up of 30 little islands created by Nath Sagar. A great number of local and migratory birds can find shelter in sanc-tuary because shallow water, good weather, and the availabili-ty of food. More than 200 rare and exotic bird species, such as cranes, flamingos, wigeons, brah-miny, and many others, call it home.

Climb to the hilltop

You can see all of Sambhaji nagar City from the top of Goga Baba Hill, which is only a short walk away. Unquestionably one of the greatest sites to visit in Sambhaji nagar is this hilltop, which is a favourite among hikers, photographers, worshipers, and

environment enthusiasts. Both the little temple at the top of the hill and the temple at the foot of the Goga Baba Hill are places where one can pay homage to the Lord. Enjoy the tranquilly that is all around you by spending some time in nature. It is a sight to witness and capture the sunset as it leaves behind vibrant colours. You will be enchanted by this location's peace and tranquilly.

The city has an array of things to explore for travellers. If you are a history fanatic, look no further and visit the city deeply embedded in Indian history. Sambhaji nagar is the heart of Maharashtra Tourism stretching arms to welcome travellers to explore a treasure trove.





IATO apprised Hon'ble G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Culture, Tourism & Samp; North East Region of India on the problem being faced by the Foreign Tourism for online ticket booking Taj Mahal for night viewing

IATO mentioned that The Hon'ble Supreme Court's recent order allowed Online booking of night viewing of the Taj Mahal, which commenced from 1st May 2023. However, the problem being faced is that tourists can book tickets for night viewing maximum seven days in advance to their desired date of visit of Taj Mahal. Whereas Foreign tourists plan their itinerary 3 to 9 months in advance which include travel by air/train/surface, accommodation & sightseeing. They can book their train tickets up to 120 days in advance, which allows them to plan and finalise their visit including Taj Mahal during moonlight. This created significant hardship for them, as they were unable to secure a spot for this unique experience as they do not get the entry ticket of Taj Mahal. In view of the above, it has been requested that booking window for Taj Mahal night viewing should be opened at least 120 days prior to the proposed date of their visit, on the lines of practice being followed by the Indian Railways for train ticket bookings for foreign tourists.

# IATO requested the inclusion of the THSC Certificate in MOT Guidelines

A request was shared with Mr Arvind Singh, former Secretary Tourism, Government of India for the inclusion of THSC Certificate in MOT Guidelines for recognition of Tourism Service Providers Qualification. The organization requested the Ministry of Tourism to consider Diploma/Degree/Certificate course holders of the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) as qualified staff and to amend the guidelines for the requirem-



ent of qualified staff accordingly. Also, the RPL (Review Prior Learning) Certificate of THSC certifies the knowledge of Tourism Operation, Marketing and planning for the people who have been working for the last 10+ years in the industry. This will benefit the industry.





### Importance of participation in the upcoming overseas Travel Marts

IATO wrote to Mr Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary (Tourism) for the participation of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in the important upcoming overseas travel marts. IATO apprised that marts like –

- FIFTM TOP RESA, Paris France 04 06 October 2023
- TTG Rimini, Italy 11 13 October 2023 WTM, London, UK 06 - 08 November 2023
- ILTM (luxury show), Cannes, France 04 07 December. 2023

are very important for English, French and Italian markets and the ministry needs to plan participation well in advance and information to be sent to stakeholders so that they can plan their participation and inform their foreign tour operators to fix up meetings.

### IATO president met Shri Rajiv Bansal to discuss important issues

Mr Rajiv Mehra along with Mr Ravi Gosain, VP met Shri Rajiv Bansal, Minister of Civil Aviation at the latter's office and discussed -



Reduction of free baggage allowance by the Domestic Airlines- It was requested that the Ministry of Civil Aviation/DGCA issue a directive to all the domestic airlines to give free baggage allowance of 20 kg as it was earlier.



Refunds of Travel Agents/clients from GoFirst Airline – It is to be

directed to make a refund of the entire amount pending with them the travel agents including the security amount deposited with them as a bank guarantee so that travel agents can make refunds to their foreign/domestic clients.



It should be made compulsory for all the airlines operating in India to give bank guarantees or financial security to be kept with DGCA or an appropriate statutory body to protect the interest of travel agents /tour operators /airline travellers in a situation

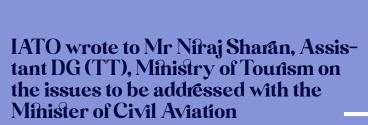




when an airline goes bankrupt or ceases to operate like in the case of Jet Airways, Kingfisher and now GoFirst Airline.



The exorbitant increase made by MIAL for Commercial Airport Entry Passes for the tour operators - It was requested that MIAL withdraw an increase in Airport Entry Pass Charges for the tour operators rather they should decrease the charges till the time inbound tourism in India is 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 - II cities and Rs. 36,000/- for airports in Tier I and Tier III cities per pass.



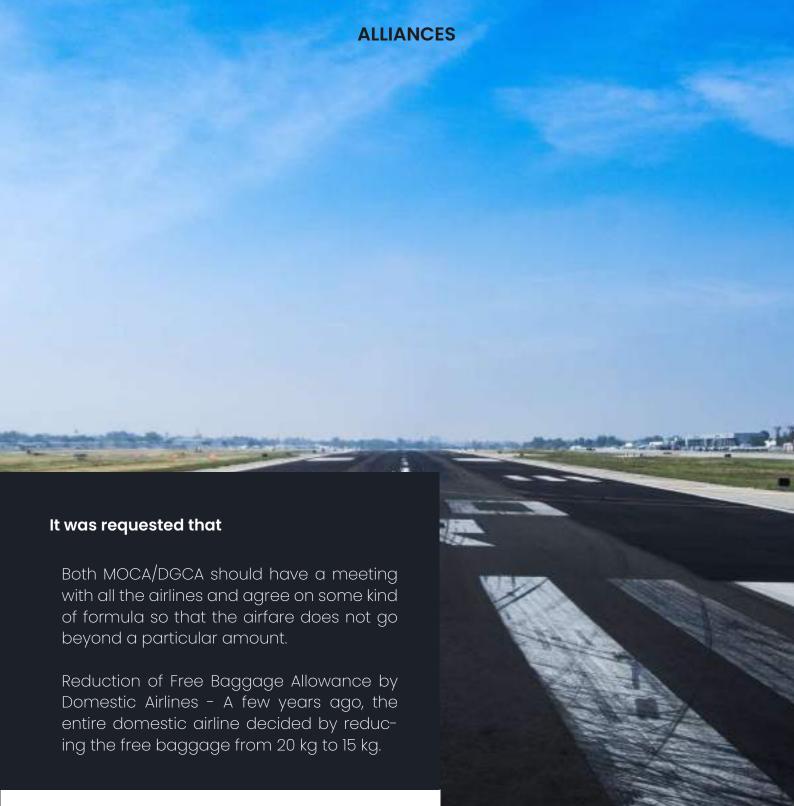
Very High Domestic and International Airfares - Airfares in India have gone high post covid i.e. almost 3 to 4 times higher than what it was in 2020. These airfares are beyond the reach of budget class travellers and also the general public, similar is the case of International airfares. This has resulted in Indian tour packages becoming cost prohibitive and high compared to our neighbouring countries.







BOARDING PASS 455



### It was requested that

Ministry of Civil Aviation/DGCA should emphasise to all the airlines to increase the baggage allowance to 20 Kg in check-in baggage to fulfil the dreams of our Hon'ble Prime Minister for purchasing goods wherever the tourist visit.

Regarding refunds of Travel Agents/clients from GoFirst Airline - The airline is not following the Ministry of Civil Aviation/DGCA directives and the airline issued credit notes to the travel agents, which can only be used to book GoFirst flights. The issuance of credit notes has irked passengers and travel agents worldwide, as these credit notes are of no use since the airline has suspended operations.



### It was requested that

GoFirst Airline is to be directed by MoCA/DGCA to make a refund of the entire amount pending with them of the travel agents including money security amount deposited with them as bank guarantee so that travel agents can make refunds to their foreign/domestic clients.



It should be made compulsory for all the airlines operating in India to give bank guarantee / financial security to be kept with DGCA or an appropriate Statutory body to protect the interest of travel agents/tour operators/airline travellers in a situation when an airline goes bankrupt or ceases to operate like in the case of Jet Airways, Kingfisher and now GoFirst Airline.

Regarding the Exorbitant increase made by MIAL for Commercial Airport Entry Passes for Tour Operators -



For the last 27 years i.e. since 1995, tour operator members who are recognized by the Ministry of Tourism Government of India are being issued Commercial Airport Entry Passes on payment, who are permitted to go inside the arrival hall to receive the foreign tourists at the airport and till the departure hall immigration counters to facilitate foreign tourists to check in, especially for senior citizens and those who cannot speak English language and also to ensure that they are not being cheated/hijacked at the airport by the touts or any third party at the airport.



Mumbai International Airport Ltd.

has 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.



Authorities of Jaipur International Airport owned by Adani Group have even refused to issue Commercial Airport Entry Passes to the tour operators for entry at the airport and have made their high-cost packages of providing meet and greet services to the foreign tourists who are handled by the tour operators which are not accepted by the foreign tourists.





Airport Authority of India and other agencies like MIAL, DIAL, GMR, and Adani's 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.

# IATO wrote to Ms Leena Nandan, Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regarding the closure of Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves



Tour Operators and Hoteliers have booked FITS as well as group series for the coming months. The season (Oct to Mar) gets booked much in advance and so are the flight tickets. The itineraries are made and frozen with various accommodation/transport/Flight/Safaris/ guides/monument tickets booking made much in advance. It is extremely difficult to reschedule the already booked safaris as



the rescheduling would involve changing the arrival/ departure the accommodation, the transport and in any case the flight tickets. Availability of all of the above would also pose a challenge at such short notice.



Viewing the above a request was made to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to withdraw this order/notification to help the tourism industry and this can be implemented from 1st July 2024. However, if it is not possible to extend it till 1st July 2024, it is requested that Tiger Reserves can be closed for the afternoon safaris and keep the morning safaris ON. A reminder was sent to her on 14th June 2023.



### IATO requested Mrs Nirmala Sitharaman Hon'ble Minister of Finance remove a hike from 5 per cent to 20 per cent TCS on overseas tour packages from 01.07.2023

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IATO felt that the steep hike in the TCS rate will result in a tremendous negative impact on the Indian Travel and Tourism Industry vis-à-vis overseas tour operators. It is likely that as an alternative, the buyer will book the overseas tour package from a foreign tour operator and avoid the heavy loading of 20 per cent TCS. This will directly jeopardize the business of Indian Tour Operators who are compelled to collect 20 per cent TCS from 1st July 2023 for onward deposit into the Government exchequer.



Further, The Ministry of Finance has recently clarified that International debit and credit card spending of less than Rs.7 lacs in a financial year will not attract TCS under the RBI's Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS). Consequently, the tourist from India may book the hotel, travel and other related services directly and Imake through International payments debit or credit cards and save the burden of 20 per cent TCS. This will further impact the business of Indian Tour Operators who have not yet fully recovered from the business recession on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Given the above submissions, IATO requested that the hike in TCS provisions from 5 per cent to 20 per cent w.e.f. 01.07.2023 in the case of travellers booking overseas tour packages



through Indian Tour Operators may be withdrawn and the status quo be maintained in the interest of survival of Indian tourism. For this purpose, a suitable exemption notification may be issued under the 5th proviso to sub-section (1G) of section 206 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

# IATO wrote to Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Revenue Secretary and expressed its gratitude to the Government for partial relief of TCS



IATO thanked the government for giving partial relief by deferring the hike of Tax Collection at Source (TCS) percentage from 5 per cent to 20 per cent on Overseas Tour Packages till 30th September 2023 and also retaining the TCS rate at 5 per cent on the amount charged up to Rs.7 lakh per annum per buyer and the 20 per cent 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 per cent. In case the Government reduces the TCS percentage below 5 per cent on overseas tour packages, a 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 the applicability of TCS when the overseas tour package is booked from a 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 does 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 per cent 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 regimes should foster ease of doing business while the new regime; may work against its objective.

#### TRADE REPORT



Airport fees have remained constant since the pandemic, although airfares in important regions in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East have rapidly increased. According to a study on regional airfare trends done by Airports Council International Asia-Pacific and Flare Aviation Consulting, the country with the highest increase in airfare was India (41 per cent), followed by the United Arab Emirates (34 per cent), Singapore (30 per cent), and Australia (23 per cent).



### US Embassy opens appointments for student visas in July and August

The opening of appointments for student visas for the period of mid-July to mid-August has been announced by the American embassy in India. Indian students can now easily schedule appointments via the official website, which lessens travel time and increases accessibility to the visa application procedure.

#### TRADE REPORT

### PM addresses G20 Tourism Ministers' Meet

G20 ministers meeting was attended by Mr Rajiv Mehra, President and Mr Ravi Gosain, Vice President in Goa on invitation of Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India and had meetings with tourism trade representatives of G20 nations. The Prime Minister said that India's approach to tourism on the ancient Sanskrit based verse 'Atithi Devo Bhavah' which means 'Guest is God'. The Prime Minister informed that India during its G-20 presidency is organizing nearly meetings in 100 different 200 locations all the country over making every experience different from the other. "If you ask your friends who have already visited India for these meet-ings, I am sure that no two experiences will be alike", he added.

### Tourism Sector to boost the economy by 200 Billion dollars

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), India's travel and tourism industry is expected to contribute \$200 billion (Rs16.5 trillion) to the nation's GDP in 2023, just 3.5 per cent less than it did in 2019. Additionally, the industry is anticipated to add over 1.6 million new jobs this year, bringing the total number of employees to almost 39 million, virtually regaining the employment levels lost due to the Covid-19 outbreak.







# A big relief for the Industry as government delays the new TCS rules until October 1

The government has delayed the implementation of new Tax Collected at Source rates for international transfers, including travel packages, from July 1, 2023, until October 1. According to the Ministry of Finance, the choice was made to provide banks and card networks enough time to implement the necessary IT-based solutions.



### TRADE REPORT

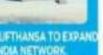


Information and communication technology are relevant to the travel and hospitality industries. To help travel organisations plan and book flights and tours, facilitate easy transactions, and carry out other procedures associated to tours, solution providers offer a variety of software and applications. Travel technology solutions, which mainly rely on online reservation systems, are widely used in the airline business.

### Indian tourists can now pay in rupees in France using UPI

India and France have reached a historic agreement to implement the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the European country. This occurs during the two-day visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Paris. From the top of the Eiffel Tower, Modi announced that soon, visitors from India will be able to pay in rupees using UPI. At the La Seine Musicale, a performing arts facility on an island in the River Seine, he was speaking to the Indian community.





**IDIA NETWORK** DOS 2 NEW POUTES

### 38th IATO Convention to be organized in Sambhaji Nagar from 29 Sept-2 Oct



Indian Resociation of Tear Operators (APD) stated BULLETIN 30" MTO Convention will be tetal from 25 Sept-2 Oct in Santheir Nager, Maharasters. The convention will be inaugurated on 29th evening, sessions on 30th and the post tours will take place on 1-2 Dct.

### Tour Operators Write to PM to Get Sops Restored

hant service export incentive scheme back or an alternative scheme in the new toreign trade policy

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### IATO promises constant support

Rajv Mehra tranks IATO members for re-electing tim as President, says electing six office-beaver unopposed is unprecedented in IATO's history and promises that his team, elected for the two-year term, will try its best to do whatever it could do for the travel fraternity.











#### PM acknowledges the achievements of six years of Udan Scheme

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#### GM conclave as it looks to embark on major expansion plans

One of India's tracest-growing hospitality chains, Cygnets Hatets & Resent recently organised its 6th annual GM Constave TRANSFORMATION 2023 in Japan In the conference the hospitality chain floured on siverse aspects including Digital Transformation, Leadership Programme and Cultural Transformation



The prime objective for organising our GM Conclave was to highlight what our feadership and corporate teams need to do for transforming the PULLSTORY - evenient

### IATO writes to PM pressing on key



President of the Association of Tour Operature (ATO) has securely written at lease to the Prime Minister (Manarchie Mode) requireming his intervention to implement key devel of the inhoused tour ten socker.

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वर्ष विकासी (विकास) के उपयोग उत्तर के



स्महारा= www.rashtriyasahara.com



में भी अपने पहले यूनाव बारा स्टेडिन केन्स

### पर्यटन के लिए विदेश की सैर अब पड़ेगी महंगी

wine in Sel-Willer of the are sold बोर्च । एक तीर बराबत विदेश ज्याची को त्रवसीत यह विदेशी बुद्ध की अपूर्ण या क्रमान्या को है में दूसरे और तेत्रीहर को 5 क्रीसा में 50 जीवत का गरंपा अब चीत्र कोटमी को क्रिका गर्था के और कुछन्तीक का मी हैं। स्वस्ता की का सी three the present the self-real albber will

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ता में पुरावास्त्रीयः प्राथिति कहा कि महस्तर भी और में बहुति महिल्ल के अधित क्रिकेट मुख्य में हुए अपनेतर्ग भी है। प्रतिश्व स्वितित स्थानोर्ग का अधिक ने जिसमें बाले और में कु अपने असे पास्त्रम का पित्रम बता ने सीमन समार ने अन एप्योजनीय में का

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### Dusit International showcases expanding portfolio @ ATM 2023

EXPLORE WHAT

THAILAND HAS TO OFFER

Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies, is showcasing its expanding portfolio of international properties - including its first hotels in Europe, Japan, and Nepal - at the Arabian Travel Market 2023, being held from May 1 - 4. Led by Mr Nichlas Maratos, Vice President Commercial, Dusit International, and Mr. Bandar Qagish, Director of Sales, Middle East, the Dusit team includes representatives from existing Dusit properties such as Dusit Thani Abu Dhabi; Dusit Thani Dubai; Dusit Doha Hotel; dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar, Oman; Dusit Thani LakeView Cairo; Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket and Dusit Thani Maldives



### IATO writes to PM, appeal to restore incentives for revival of tourism

IATO President Mr. Rajiv Mehra has written to the PM requesting him to restore SEIS (Service Export Incentive Scheme) or introduce an alternative scheme in the new Foreign Trade Policy, as the inbound tourism sector is still suffering and needs hand holding by the government.



OUTRIGGER.

Co-founder, Tho.com

II I am extremely delighted to be here at the Arabian Travel Mart this year and I must say that ATM has never



Indian Association of Your Operators (IATO



RAJIV MEHRA, President



शिमला हो या गोवा...इस गर्मी घूमना दोगुना महंगा गुलमगं के कई होटल 15 जुन तक पैक, मनाली में भी खेकेड पर हाउसफुल year front i of foret



तक कार्य भूते सीधान के तिस् मुख हो चके हैं। बाबों बचे कमरों का रह प्राप्त शाल में दोत्ना बन गर है। हरियम एसोसिएशन और दूर

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इस बार गाँगे की सुदिहातों में आग जानने बारते सुदिहातों के पूरे मीतवा आग कहीं पूजने जान का जाना प्रशा के लिए पूजा है। संभव है, विस्तरक को है जो कर सुबार जानर पहिछा अनानों जीने पहिला केंद्रों में का

गुलपर्ग में कई बीटल 15 जून तक

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pentioned regularly with which good reduced ben-over directable from 15000 or to 150 or. Treducing approfered it to be 15 to beling up for specific compliance cost of a involving," he added

#FirstOpinion



#### IATO announces special membership drive with new offers & discounts

Mr. Ravi Gosain, Vice President - W7D recently shared details of the W7D Special Membership Drive, which is offering special discount, valid till July 31, 3023. (ATO has fully solve off Admission (Joining See) of Rt. 180000/- plus GST for the new membership for all the applicants pan India, for applications received before July 31, 2023. From August 1, 2023, 300 % matter on Admission (Joining Fee) from the applicants who are based in Andarson Nicobar Islands, Andhro Pradesh, Silher, Chhattigarh; Chondigarh; Dadro & Nagor Haveli; Da Dis. 1831; Barthand; Ladakh; Lakshadweeg; North East States; Odisha, Poducheny; Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

#### Turkiye to welcome highest ever number of Indian travellers in 2023

Turkiye has emerged as a top holiday and weddings destinat 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 88.00% travellers until April 2023 alone. The two meet visited cities were, lizantral and Newathix The country has emerged as an ideal destination for the FIT and MICE segments amongst



### विदेश में TCS पर क्रेडिट कार्ड धारकों को राहत विशेष मंत्रकात, गई दिनगे : धामते।

जिलेश पास में केरिय कार्य से खर्च करने संबंध में सरकार में दो वाली को समय क है। पाली बात सरकार ने बात है कि भीवनम विदिश बाई से निर्देश में बन्दे श्चेष्टर धन प्रेक्षा गोजना (ग्लबरहरू) त्वान नहीं आरम्य और इंग्लेंबर इस पा स कार्यकार वह सीमें (रीमीएस) नहीं आपके यस इंटरनैशनस दर कार्ट है और भार विदेश में खर्च का अबन प्रशा करते में काले हैं की प्रशा गा बेच्य को सरेगा।

हुआ बात बत है कि को बोर्ड व्यक्ति हैं। में सात ज़बा रूपने में ज़बाद पुरतान किट बार्ड में करका हैं, प्रश्ना है 30

### घरेलू दूर ऑपरेटर्स ने

ert an Reservers steek en रवता निय है, लेकिन इसके राज ही और केवर कहा है कि टीडीएर मां २३ गोरावें से रखन महिए। enn में प्रबंध मक्को को देश में दूर ऑपरेटर्स की राजीव्य नरूब ब्रीहरू अलीतिका और दूर

### कहा, 2.5% रहे TCS

स्पेरीक्र्यं न्थं विक्री पोस् हा ऑफोटर्स ने मुख्या वो विदेश ने किर पर सर्व पर रोगीरस में बढ़ेतरें ऑप्टेटर्स (अक्टिट्रेस), में विका में

# BULLETIN

### BOTT Weekly Roundup: July 2 - July 8, 2023 |

67th convention of the Travel Agents Associ... bottindia.com





### BOTT Weekly Roundup: June 18 to June 24, 2023

PM addresses G20 Tourism Ministers' Meet... bottindia.com



### Footfall at monuments still a far cry from pre-pandemic peak

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IATO and FAITH delegation neet the Secretary General of

Meeting in Sochod an numb to meet Nr. Zucati

rarul of the United Nation

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### Incressed TCS rates to apply from October 1, 2023

in the Budget discount, can be oppose of Tax Collections ander the Elizablest Re-

#### **Sove. Floats draft National Cruise Tourism Policy**

### Rareada by Wyrethars Gos Arpora expected to open in 2024

### MAG's Airlines first to enable gate-to-

### HE Ecor विदेश में TCS पर क्रेडिट PLI कार्ड भारकों को राहत कप

# turt etrails

To travelturtlemag

6th July, 2023

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

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



### योगेन्द्र को तीसरी ह्यार बिजली व्यवस्था तवर, पि मिला सीईओ का प्रभार

खार समाचार | सिरमीर

प्रकार जुलाता जिल्लाम् स्टब्स कुमार विका के व्यानीसक के बाद जिला पंचायत रीवा के बाँग्ड जेखाँचवारी चोनेन्द्र पाण्डेन को जनात पंचात भारतीर का प्रभावे मुख्य कार्यणला जीवकावे अन्। कर चेता १४१ था। लेकिन उन्हे वितीय आंधकार नहीं दिए गए थे। केवार प्रशासीनक कार्यपटान अधिकारी लॉगर के एस थे। अब

दुक्ति शार्व के स्थानीतरण के बाद पुनः सेनेन्द पांच्येत को सीए में बार विस्कीर जनगर पंडाबत के भूका कर्णामान अधिकानी का प्रमानीना प्रभार हिन्दा गांव है। भी पाल्टेस अनुवाने अधिवासी हैं। again flaged uncomed if from one names. करनेत्व रायस्ता गुर्वक असाम है। बहलास विसनीर पानवद की प्रशासीका मुख्य कार्यपालक अविकासी विकास पर है। लेकिन जनवद कार्यालय अधिकार दिए पर के। विशेष अधिकार पुरुष को मुजार्शकार देश में चलाने के लिए फिला भोकास से अभी भी गुरान परेगा।

### सेन समाज ने की वार्षिक रूप रेखा पर चर्चा

मीबर । स्थानीय अनुसान १६६६ में सेव समान संगठन को व्यक्तित येतन दिलाया मुखेदार व ज़िला आगर ह हर प्रसार मेन की अध्यक्षण में जुनाई जो कियाने नार्थिक लेखा-जोशा प्रस्तुत किया रता। माण ती सामुद्रानिक भाग बनने के हैंगए मर बारी भूमि आवेटन तथा निर्माण को लेकर जनन में नाल्य कार्नवाई करने के संबंध में विश्वार विमन्न किया गया। साथ ही सभी क्लोक के अध्यक्ष तथा गए महिला बनाए गाँउ का प्रधान प पारित हेक्या गया। बेंडक पर्वकारिक केर, रशन्त्रस यार्ग, सारंगरमाम अधिन अरिहर सेर, स्मेज नाचि। जरूरा सैन, जानको ग्रेन, ब्रीनिकारी सेन, राजपाल सेन, ग्रामधा सेन, दीनानचा सेन अर्थर भी नुदर्शत।



रहार समाधार | स्वीधर

र्यस्थाती जियारी के जले हुए दांसवामेंश जली हुई कर्वल, केल्ट्रेंग क्या, अवस्थित PARKET विकाल पार्टील और इंग पत्र के मोक्रात है भावनाद भागे भरतम जिला है आज THAT W गाम वि जनभारत प्रांशान है। बाजपा की गामार एवं चुन्त्रमा मुख्यमंत्री गुक्का मा भो वहाँ जिल्लाम विदे चौवान से प्रक्रम जातन 2 कि इन समस्याओं का निवान करें वनी हुई शीना, विश्व सरकार मुखदारिक अन नहीं अन भार मेडी है जिल्ली की समस्ता के समार में कुछ योगाने को नैवार नहीं स्टोरी है। अरवेश कार्र कार्रस गार्ने के देश एवं पूर्व लोकसभा प्रलामी सिद्धार्थ

DON'T INSIST ON SPEED GOVERNORS FOR G20, SAYS HC

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court has directed the state government to not insist on the requirement of fitment of speed governors in high-end vehicles, to be used as taxis for guests attending the G20 summit, scheduled to be held in the national capital in August and September this year.

The court's order comes on a plea by Indian Tourist Transporters' Association seeking directions to the Centre and Delhi government to remove the prohibition from registering high-end vehicles as taxis without fitment of speed governors, till the time these are easily available in the market.

On Friday the court directed



त्योंधर निवासी महेन्द्र प्रताप बने चेयरमैन, जिले के पर्यटन को मिलेगा बढ़ावा

### आईएटीओ के चेयरमैन महेंद्र प्रताप ने की प्रमुख सचिव पर्यटन शुक्ला से मुलाकात

भोपाल। मप्र टूरिज्म बोर्ड ने इंडियन एसोसियेशन ऑफ

ट्र ऑपरेटर की नेशनल कमेटी द्वारा ट्रेवल इंडिया ट्रिज्म के डायरेक्टर महेंद्र प्रताप सिंह को मप्र एवं छग चेप्टर का चेयरमैन नियुक्त किया है। सिंह ने मप्र पर्यटन विभाग के पीएस शिवशेखर

pack peace and experience

Siving Taj Mahai, Quitub Minar a miss, clomestic tourists are flocking to places travelogues often slop



#### RAJIV MEHRA, President ndian Association of Tour Operators (IATO)

### ताज दर्शन को दिन में 'आधार' रात को बेकार

के तरि राज्य को आजनतान दिकट मुक्तिए में आधार कार्त को कोई साला को है। धारतीय मुग्ताना सर्वेश्वम (स्ट्राज्यह) ने अनल्यान टिकट बुध काने के तिल प्रत्यान पत्र के विकल्पी में आधा पार्ट की शामिश नहीं किया है, जबकि दिन में ताजमात के दिसद सुध पराने में पहलान गांत्र के रूप में पह माना है। इस व्यवस्था ने पर्यटकों के साथ हो दूर अओटर्ड को परेकाने उठानी

सुप्रीय कोई के कांबर, 2022 के आदेश पर प्रमुख्या ने तानमान के रहित प्रमण नहें अस्त्रत्यहर हैं फेट श्रृष्टिंग की व्यवस्था नर्ज में शुरू की हैं। काल राजि दर्शन के लिए पर्यटक वेबसहर asi paygov org in से भार दिन पूर्व प्रत्योग दिक्ट सुक करा शक्ते हैं। प्रस्थाय ने दिक्ट कुक कराने को वर्षटकों के लिए anche State | 100 or of प्राप्ते के बार्ट, बेटर कार्ट और पुर्विय लड़ारेंस को है मृत्य किया है। आधार कार्ड की कल्लासन

गाँव दर्शन की कुकित में वरिशत एउ के विकल्पने सामित जो उत्तवर कर्त फारकोर्ट, शहर करते, केन बार्ड, सहीय सहसंग हैं जिल्ला



कार जार ने कार महात की प्रमान की दिवाद की उपन्यापन दिवाद कुछिए के जिस सामन उस के जिसका के भार में उसना करते की

गरसम्बद्धाः स्था क्षेत्रस्य में सम्बद्धाः को रिकट अध्यक्त कार्त से बुद कर सकता है, से इसमें रहत में कर आपनि हें? वर्तत्व रही भ्रमण की विकट कुछ करने को आधार कार्ड बन देंगे है। इसके मान्य नहीं होने में हमें दूसरे प्रधान-यम महाने पत्तो है। इससे परिवासी हो सोति ।

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विकारिक्ट में विसेन्द्रिय ( प्रशासीयन) इस्टाम कारवाको दूर करने को प्रथम किया से स्था है।

ड. स्थापना परेत, अरोगा प्रशासी

विकेट होटा है। इसके सामी इसी प्रीक्षक जोमेन में प्रतान में विश्वकत अब नहीं हैं। नेहानन मिकवरित के

कर्त, देन कार्त समी कई अग्र

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त्या है. प्यांक पात्रामा होते प्रमान में तरता है। एक दिन वी तर प्रस्तान विकास में अध्यानकार पार्ट के अध्य देश में पूर्विमा का स्टब्ह में 50-50 पूर्ववर्ती समीत बार प्रमण में बाता है। एक दिन

### Domestic Travel Operators Welcome TCS Rollback, but Say Move is a Partial Relief

Industry bodies demand a reduction in TCS on overseas tour packages to 2.5% to spur demand

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Sew Belbe Tracel industry bodies and comparison have reduced in the protocol of partial reliable to the posterior of the protocol of



anglication for the local travel indus-ry is the application of lighther entries cannot fin account limbol W.S. provi-sions food September 30 new free alone food September 30 new free units only other the equal crosses C. listed per legislatural per assessed which would over respectiye? Indian institution to writers. Hence the law produce services in the respectively on an addressed Theoretication of listed parties services are constructed. the Country of the CCA bey make the last war के स्थापन कर कर में सामित



### Industry Bodies Seek TCS Relief for Travel Agents

Write to govt, RBI demanding parity on all payment modes and holiday packages

Amuschs Chaturyadi attracegous Lists

New Delhi: A family finding both on including Association. Proof, one instruction and Makida Association of Justine (Abblich) from some edgether to seek relief for deposite transporter to (C. (Destanger de Statement). Proof for deposite transporter to (C. (Destanger de Statement). Proof for the statement of the control of the control

Covt clarification that inflored and debit card spends on foreign travelup to 17 lakh will be excluded from LRS limits is ambiguous, they say

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Business

### Govt. to clarify TCS on foreign spends

Pleasure Manitury seeks no residue persistant doubten over applicability of new 20% tax collected at outrest an intersects. expenditure Strong had issued detailed chefe atom in May infloring many from industry and tampiseers over key

Taying times



### PM addresses G20 Tourism Ministers'



panely and Pauliff delegation meet the Secretary General of UNWTO

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IATO ATTENDS 4TH TWG MEET HELD FROM 19-22 JUNE 2023 IN GO

### No TCS on overseas credit card spendings up to ₹7 lakh

APTER coming under criti-cism for levying 20% tax on oversem credit card payments. the government on Friday an-nounced that any payments by an individual using their in-ternational debit or credit cards up to #2 lash per common would be excluded from the liberalised remittance acheur or LRS limits and will not at tract any tax collection at source (TCS)

Concorns have been mised shout the applicability of TCS to small transactions under EHS limits from July 1, 2008. To



reiterated. Becautig the Reerve Bunk of India (RSE) had introduced a new provision to bring oversens credit card spends under the LRS scheme as per which the individuals can decentiones of up to \$3.5 dle class individuals. The would also freeze their cash fo nearly a yest. In addition, tour operator

also criticised the centre more. Bajir Mehrs, Vice Pres dont of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has written to the Prime Ministe that the increase in PCS from 5% to 20% from 01 July 202 will cause loss to the outbour tour operators have in India. 'The travellow world simply bypose the Indian operator and besk outside. If word be a lose-lose situation for but the Government and the tex operators. This needs to b



INDIA









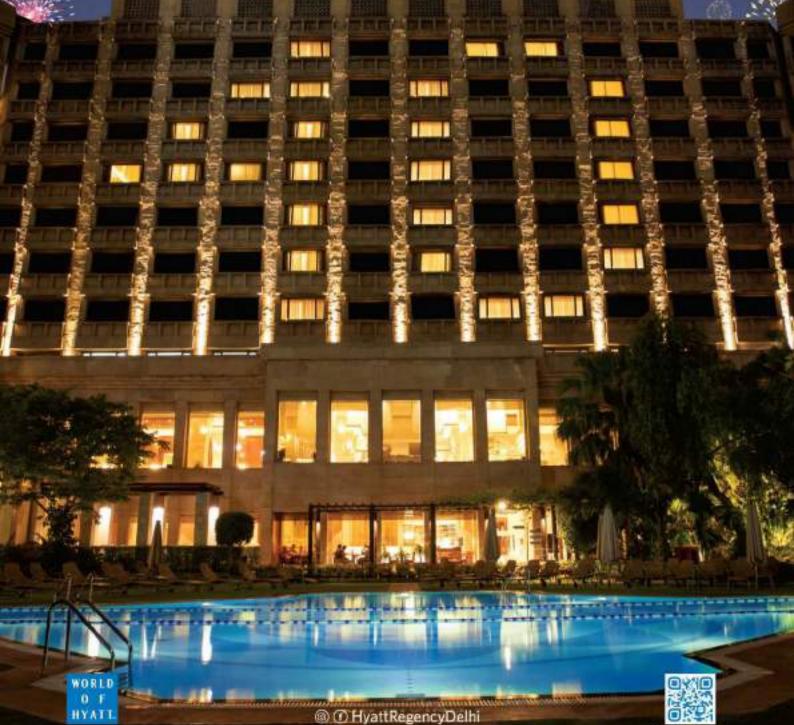








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