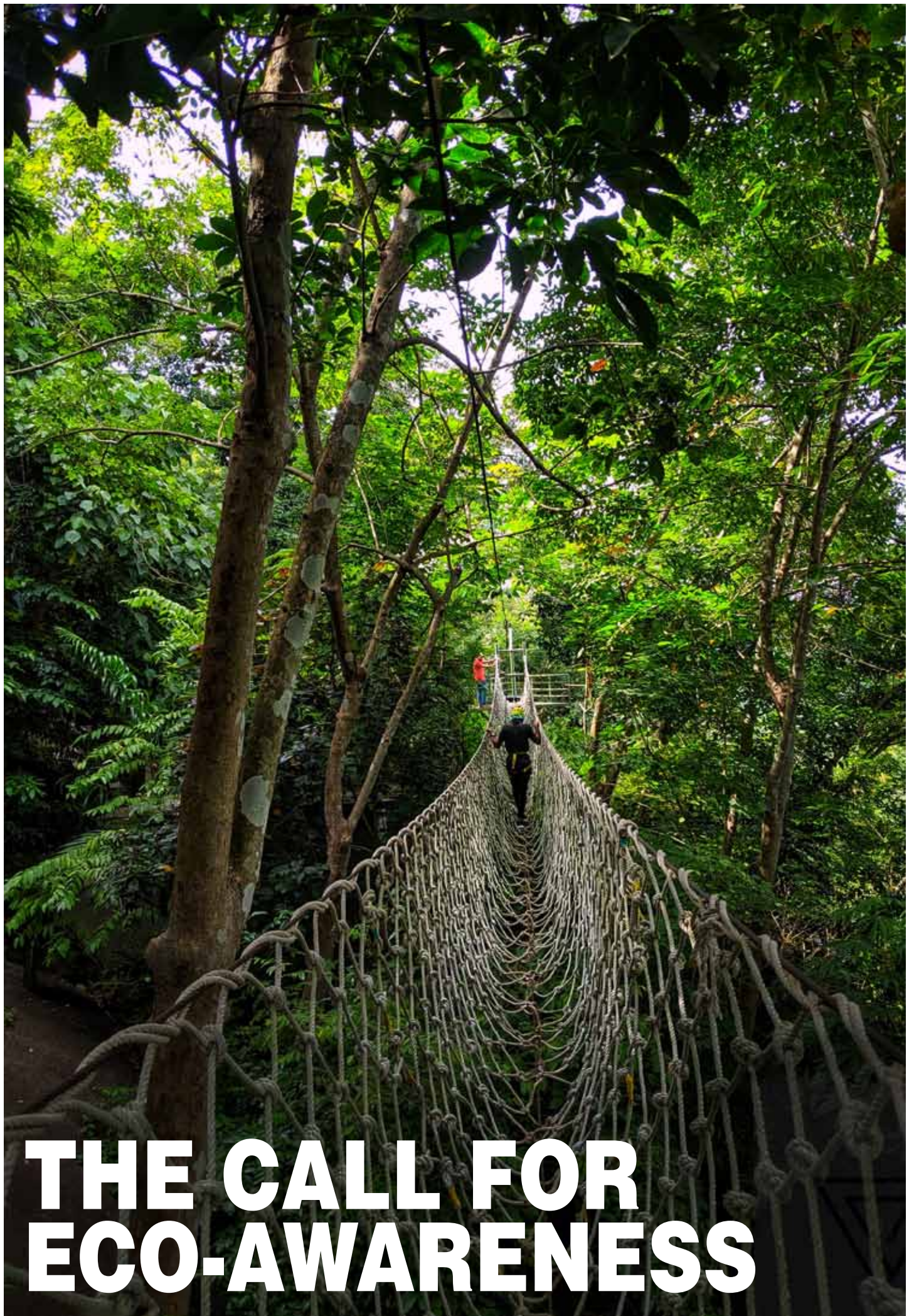


*A Tourism Industry Communication by
Indian Association of Tour Operators*

[illegible]



**THE CALL FOR
ECO-AWARENESS**



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IATO Speaks is a publication of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO). All information is derived from sources, we feel reliable and passed on to the members without any responsibility on our part. IATO assumes no responsibility for returning any unsolicited matters. Jurisdiction is restricted to Delhi.

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous new year. Pray 2023 brings lots of new international tourists to India.

The mammoth success of the IATO Convention especially the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath has helped in opening number of doors for India Tourism. This coupled with the numerous G20 activities will definitely encourage international tourists to visit India.

India has now been positioned as a global leader. It's now our responsibility to encash on this by embarking on a journey to promote Indian tourism globally and ensure we get substantial number of international tourists.

The G20 efforts of promotional activities all over India is helping the country being recognized as a year-round destination ... 365 days of fun & frolic.

You are aware that 2023 has been declared as Visit India Year and now we all should also take some extra step and reach out to the international communities for their tourists to visit India.

We would like to extend our invite to all of you to join IATO Annual Carnival 2023 on Sunday, the 19th February 2023 at Botanix Nature Resort, Damdama Village, Sohna, Gurgaon.

Happy Marketing!

Warm Regards

Your President


NOVEMBER

- ❖ The Department of Tourism, Government of Assam, informed all Members about the invitation to the Assam Tourism Road Show 2022 - New Delhi, on November 21, 2022.
- ❖ IATO VP and Hony. Secretary met The Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Govt of India at the ITM Aizawl



- ❖ IATO-announces-theme-for-Lucknow-convention-over-1000-delegates-likely-to-attend



- ❖ IATO Vice President talks about the key facets of the 37th IATO Convention at Lucknow



- ❖ IATO Chapter Chair Uttar Pradesh talks about the mileage to Uttar Pradesh at the 37th IATO Convention at Lucknow



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IATO Vice President talks about the key facets of the 37th IATO Convention at Lucknow

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- ❖ Santosh Sarangi, Director General of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, was asked by IATO to continue the SEIS for the Inbound Tour Operators' Foreign Trade Policy 2022-2027.
- ❖ Delegation from the IATO during the Sangai Festival's Second Manipur Tourism Congress. The Manipur 7seven Sisters' R K SHARMA, who is in charge of the state, did a good job organising.



- ❖ IATO voiced its concern to Vijay Pal Singh, the managing director of the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, regarding reservations made through Palace on Wheels and the extra fee that RTDC is requesting of our members.
- ❖ IATO wrote to Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation's managing director, Vijay Pal Singh, and made suggestions for the Palace on Wheels - a Pride of Rajasthan Tourism and India tour.
- ❖ The 37th IATO Annual Convention, which will be held in Lucknow from December 16 to 19, 2022, was announced to all delegates.
- ❖ On Friday, December 23, the president and the transport minister of Uttar Pradesh attended the ITTA Convention in New Delhi. This Minister and the Honorable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh attended the 37th IATO Convention Validation Session in Lucknow.

DECEMBER

- ❖ Santosh Sarangi, Director General of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, was tasked by IATO with creating an "Export Promotion Council" specifically for the tourism industry.
- ❖ In light of the prestigious G20 Summit scheduled for September 2023, IATO requested Santosh Sarangi, Director General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, to increase the luxury transport fleet.
- ❖ IATO requested that the Ministry of Tourism's Additional Secretary, Rakesh Kumar Verma, accept the f/y 2019-20 balance statement in order to provide tour operators, travel brokers, and service providers recognition and/or renewal.
- ❖ IATO formally requested that Arvind Singh, Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, restore e-Visa for the Gulf and other significant source markets.



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Trade, was
tasked by IATO
with creating
an “Export
Promotion
Council”
specifically for
the tourism
industry
”

❖ The Fam Trip to Cambodia from January 15–23, 2023, was announced to all Active Members.

❖ The International Yoga Festival, which will be held in Rishikesh from March 1–7, 2023 at Ganga Resort (GMVN) and Yog Bharat Ghat, as well as the incentive programme for tour operators, were both mentioned in a letter that the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) had sent to all Members.

❖ The implementation of the scrapping of old or useless automobiles was told to all member

JANUARY

❖ IATO informed the Ministry of External Affairs' Foreign Secretary, Vinay Kwatra, about the difficulties that foreign tourists are having paying their e-Tourist Visa fees online.

❖ Regarding the exorbitant increase made by MIAL for commercial airport entry passes for tour operators, IATO made an appeal to

Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

❖ In order to revive Buddhist tourism, IATO asked Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism), to permit admission across land borders.

❖ IATO has requested that Dr. M. M. Kutty, Chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, take into consideration the services of tour operators in providing travel by All India BS IV All India Diesel Vehicles and Tourist Permits for Essential Services Delhi Diesel Vehicles with Tourist Permits

❖ The invitation to the Sri Lanka MICE Expo, which will be held in Colombo from March 13–15, 2023, was sent to all members (tour operators and travel agents).

❖ The establishment of Buddhist and Sufi Circuits between India and Central Asia was communicated to all Active Members.❖

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The 37th IATO
Annual
Convention,
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be held in
Lucknow from
December 16 to
19, 2022
”



The Postcard



Once upon a sky



They woke up to a bright sunny day, somebody had pushed a small slip of paper under their door. *'Please be at the helipad by 9:30 am....'*, it said. It was already past 8:15 am, they had an hour or so to get organised and reach the spot. After a quick breakfast of boiled eggs, they were on their way to a make-shift helipad, not far from the tiny town's river.

Jim, the helicopter's pilot; a half-bearded man in a blue and white down-jacket stood by the bright red Bell 212 helicopter, his right hand resting on its door. *"Good morning.....!"* he greeted cheerfully, *"Welcome to Manali, we have perfect weather today, are you both ready to go up with me?, he opened the door "step inside and relax, we should be off the ground soon some one has gone to fetch my map, I left it in my room"*. He was a rugged looking man, the winter winds of high altitudes and his ski escapades in the swiss Alps had given his cheeks a rough tomato texture and cracked his lips. He was an experienced helicopter pilot who had specialised in sorties over high mountainous terrains and rescue work.

Inside the cockpit there were numerous dials and switches around them. She looked out through the windscreen and saw someone running up towards them, he had a folder in his hands. *"Looks like his map has come, we should be taking off now...."*, she was hardly able to contain her excitement. It was their first time going up in a helicopter.

Stepping into the cockpit, the pilot pulled on his headset, and buckled up his seat belt. Resetting few instrument dials, he dutifully adjusted their seat belts, and carried out his pre-flight checks. A few minutes later the copter's rotor began to swish. Keeping his eyes on the temperature gauge, he slowly increased the rpm to warm up its Pratt & Whitney PT6T-3 engine, the needle began to move up. Pressing on the pedals under his feet he re-checked his tail rotor and torque effects correction. Satisfied, that everything was in the right order, he turned on his radio. *"Ok good, we can leave the ground now..."*. Some yards away clusters of wild marijuana plants began to thrash violently in the downdraft of its rotor.

Jim placed his hand on the collective-stick located on his left and began to increase the throttle while sweeping his eyes around to ensure nobody was near. Gently, he began to raise the stick, changing the angle of rotor-blades. A few seconds later they felt a soft shudder, their helicopter swayed lightly for a split moment then lifted off the ground. Reaching for the cyclic-stick on his right, he slowly began to push it forward. The copter started to climb at a tangent into the inviting sky, it rose higher. The vast valley opened up under them and turned into a panorama of fairytale wonderland. Patches of random clouds floating about in the sunlit valley began to cast shadows on the snowdecked

township below. As they went higher, air-pressure dropped, their ears began to pop. All of a sudden the ariel views gripped them, they sat in stunned silence, mesmerized at the sight of landscape below. Turning left, the pilot whisked them away towards the 'Pir Panjal range', minutes later they were flying over the Bara Bangahal basin.

It did not take him long to identify and recognise the Beas Kund surrounded by its lofty mountains. *"Look down there.. look"* he shouted to her through his microphone, *"look look, can you see that small greenish coloured water body, it is at an altitude of appx 3745 meters, that is where we had put up our base camp during our 1974 school boys expedition, we had scaled 3 mountains peaks around it, all above 5000 meters; Shitidhar, Ladakhi and Friendship peak..."*, he proudly informed his wife, but she did not pay attention; she seemed to be in a state of enchantment with the magic of the Indian Himalayas.

Looking down, old memories began to flood his mind. He recollected how his father had firmly encouraged him to join the expedition and how after climbing those mountains successfully, he had become a bit careless about those altitude disciplines and had paid the price for it. Despite of the chuffing noise of the overhead rotor, it seemed to him as if it had all happened with him yesterday. He still remembered that dreadful night, when after a long descent from the summit, he had slept at the higher camp with damp socks. The altitude and minus temperatures had punished him instantly; the next morning he had woken up to frozen feet and totally numb toes, it was the onslaught of a frost-bite. He recalled being put on morphine injections by the accompanying army-trained doctor to relieve him of the excruciating pain of his frost bitten toes, till a rescue team had got to him. Several days later, newspapers had carried a full page story of their school boys Bara Bangahal expedition. *'Young daring school boys scale over 5000 meters high peaks in the Himalayas,'* one of them wrote in its headline.

Jim dropped lower and hovered over the pyramid shaped 5860 meters tall Hanuman Tibba peak. They could see its crevasses and cracked snow fields, its sharp intimidating slopes, the icy lines of its long ridges and its avalanche prone overhangs. The bright sun cast a dolphin like shadow of their helicopter on the vast whiteness, it appeared like a dark silhouette on the infinite white slope. *"Where else on earth will you find paradise?"*, he heard her suddenly shout from her headset. Rising higher again, the pilot turned in the direction of Rohtang pass, they flew over rolling ridge lines, cedar forests and glades of birch and oak trees and more peaks, *"there in the distance you see Deo Tibba mountain...."*.

In the evening at their hotel; around crackling logs of fire and old monk rum, the swiss pilot told them stories of heli-skiing. It snowed heavily. That night she dreamt of Yeti.



The author, Neelam Thakur (Neel) has been a devoted Tourism and Travel professional for over 3½ decades.
thakurquest@gmail.com

IATO URGES GOVT TO EXTEND SEIS UNDER FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2022-27

IATO President discusses SEIS withdrawal and other issues with commerce minister Piyush Goyal at November 7 in New Delhi.

IATO wrote the letter in order to find out if its request for the continuation of SEIS in the upcoming Foreign Trade Policy 2022-27 was being given favourable consideration. This was done in order to support inbound tour operators who were struggling financially and were attempting to rebuild

their businesses after the COVID.

IATO urged the government to establish an alternative programme in the event that SEIS in order to assist incoming tour operators, who made a significant contribution to foreign exchange revenues.❖

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IATO urged the government to establish an alternative programme in the event that SEIS
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IATO SEEKS APPROVAL FOR 2019-20 BALANCE SHEET FOR MOT RECOGNITION

Ministry had agreed to accept the balance sheet for 2019-20 to examine the requirement of Rs. 20 lakh in turnover for all applicants who applied from March 2021 because there would be no business in 2020-21 owing to the pandemic.

In order to extend MoT recognition through March 2023 for those parties who are due for renewal or who wish to reapply because their MoT recognition has already expired, it has been kindly requested that the balance sheet for 2019-20 be approved. The balance sheet for 2019-20 should be accepted at the end of this process, which should last until March 31, 2023. Depending on the circumstance, it may be reconsidered on or after April 1, 2023. This would enable small and medium-sized tour operators to get their MoT renewed in accordance with their revenue for 2019-20.❖



EXPAND FLEET OF HIGH-END VEHICLES FOR TOURISM SECTOR, URGES IATO

India is currently the G20 President and is hosting events in 50 cities to showcase its cultural heritage. The 2023 G20 Summit will take place on 9-10 September 2023, resulting in an increased demand for luxury vehicles.

The expansion of India's transportation fleet and the addition of Electric Vehicles—currently unavailable in India—were both crucial for the country's tourism industry.

The transporters and tour companies lacked the funds to purchase expensive high-end vehicles. For such visits, the majority of the car models

were not made in the country. In order to arrange adequate vehicles for this important Summit and in order to boost the Indian tourism infrastructure to the pre-COVID levels, import of tourist vehicles may be permitted to the tourism exporters for a short duration up to August 31, 2023, at zero tax or with reduced customs duty.❖



MOT SECY'S HELP TO REINSTATE E-VISA FOR GULF NATIONS SOUGHT

IATO stated that several countries, mainly in the Gulf region, don't have access to e-Tourist Visas and are important source markets for specialized tourism. These nations have heavy-spending visitors.

IATO asked for assistance in re-establishing e-Tourist Visas for those nations that were included in e-Visa coverage before March 2022, or prior to COVID-19. As a result, tourists from these nations are currently travelling to neighbouring countries instead of India due to the difficulty of obtaining an e-Visa, which would help to boost inbound tourism to India.❖



DGFT TO SET UP AN INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC 'EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL'

According to IATO, an industry-specific export promotion council was urgently needed and could have a significant impact. Tourism had formerly been a component of SEPC when it was combined with a number of other services.



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Foreign tour operators would be invited to roadshows conducted in various places where they would present on India
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The independent EPC, which might also be known as the “Tourism Export Promotion Council,” would be in charge of handling the international marketing of Indian tourism products. It typically included the following:

1. “Destination India” exhibits and participates in international tourism fairs held all over the world. TEPC may contribute 50% to 75% of the participation fee in cases when tourism exporters (tour operators) would receive shared exhibition space at a reduced price or if they were exhibiting on their own.
2. Foreign tour operators would be invited to roadshows conducted in various places across the world where they would present on India and interact with Indian counterparts. Benefits under MDA would be provided to tourism exporters taking part in roadshows.
3. Financial support would be provided to foreign tour operators (FTOs) who will market and sell Indian tourism items in their areas. This will be entangled together with the Indian Tourism Exporter working with them to ensure effective execution and results.

4. In The same way, every year in India, a “Mega Tourism Exhibition” would be held, with participation open to all States, showcasing not only the products related to tourism and hospitality but also other things that would be of interest to visitors from abroad. For the purpose of exposing all states, it might also incorporate cultural events, regional cuisines, and dance styles.

To enable full participation, tourism exporters will receive discounted prices. The primary goal of TEPC must be to welcome and host more than 1000 foreign tour operators from throughout the world. 400-500 media professionals and TV crews from across the world should be invited and hosted at this time, when the tourism display will be in full swing, to help the initiative get traction as they will be spreading it through their media in their respective regions.

5. An attempt will be made throughout the year to welcome and host foreign tour operators, who will be transported to various regions of the nation to experience them firsthand. All invited tour operators and media representatives, journalists, and TV crews who are attending the Mega Tourism



Exhibition may also receive such field trips.

6. Tourism exporters and TEPC members should have access to the standard benefits under several Ministry of Commerce & Industry initiatives, such as:

- Market Development Assistance (MDA)
- Market Access Initiative (MAI)
- RodTEP (Reimbursement of taxes)
- Incentives similar to MEIS
- GST refund to tourism exporters, as GST exempted or refunded to all other exporters.

These advantages are only available to tour operators who are TEPC members and who market and offer vacation packages for the entire nation. This programme shouldn't be offered to any other types of tourism exporters, such as online travel agencies or booking portals, who would profit from the marketing initiatives undertaken by TEPC and its members without contributing significantly on their own. Additionally, the strain on revenue would be lessened.

7. The provision of high-quality services to visitors must be ensured in order to protect the investment spent in marketing efforts. It will be much simpler to convince tourism exporters to standardise services once the aforementioned prerequisites are in place. For each type



of service, TEPC may create standards, which may then be approved by private certifiers who follow in the footsteps of Chartered Accountants, Chartered Engineers, and other professionals. This self-control will significantly improve the tourism export industry.

8. While TEPC can immediately take over the marketing of tourism exports, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India may for the time being be in charge of destination promotion through international print and electronic media, with the possibility of passing the baton to TEPC in the future.

9. The TEPC should also be in charge of maintaining an extensive website with regular updates, including new articles, pictures, and videos about all of the nation's tourist destinations.

10. TEPC will adhere to established accounting standards and be examined and audited by the CAG.❖

”

GST refund to tourism exporters, as GST exempted or refunded to all other exporters.

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IATO ADVISES PALACE ON WHEELS OPERATION IN LETTER TO MP

IATO expressed gratitude to Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Pal Singh for approving departure of its members' reservations in Palace on Wheels on December 28, 2022. IATO members were threatened by RTDC that their departure would not be permitted until they paid the additional money to corporation .

IATO was apprised of the feelings of its members who were marketing and selling Palace on Wheels in overseas markets.

Numerous IATO members had paid in advance for reservations booked for trips in 2020 and 2021; however, the departures were cancelled as a result of Covid-19, which also suspended all international flights and visas. Therefore, RTDC also decided to cancel Palace on Wheels excursions in 2020 as a result of government limitations and lockdown. However, RTDC did not return the IATO members' advance payments and held onto them for more than two years without charging the members or GSAs any interest.

Our members and GSAs were informed that "All Departures of Palace on Wheels Cancelled by RTDC and Advance Amount of Bookings will be Adjusted in Further Departures on the Same Tariff." Now that the reservations had been rematerialized, RTDC was demanding an extra deposit, which the members found to be extremely unfair and intolerable.

Although the full and final payments had been completed for the upcoming travels in December 2022 and January 2023, RTDC increased the Palace on Wheels pricing without providing adequate warning and was seeking additional payment from the booking agencies.

There were concerns about frequent change in policy guidelines and increase in tariff without notice.

IATO members were now in a difficult situation and were having trouble selling and promoting Palace on Wheels in foreign markets as a result of unfair and frequent changes to terms, conditions, and policies, an increase in tariffs, and a decrease in commission. Additionally, due to the severe consumer regulations in other countries, they are afraid of legal repercussions against their foreign competitors.

Suggestion by IATO

1. Palace on Wheels should be run in a very commercial manner without any bureaucratic interference caused by abrupt changes to regulations and procedures.
2. Once the season's departure dates and prices are revealed, there should no't be any changes. Once a contract has been signed, RTDC should not amend the policy since doing so would subject our members to legal action, which our members cannot afford. Our members sign contracts with their international agents for marketing Palace on Wheels.
3. The additional sum that some of our members had made in protest should be immediately refunded to them.





4. If Palace on Wheels' departure had to be postponed for any reason, we would give our members and GSAs at least 5 weeks' notice, as well as notify IATO and the general public for widespread awareness. IATO will update its members by circular mail.
5. Any departure that is cancelled with at least five weeks' notice must result in a full reimbursement to the booking agent within 15 days so that IATO members can refund their overseas agents. IATO members' advance payments ought to be reimbursed without any cancellation fees or other terms & limitations.
6. There should not be cancellation of departures within 5 weeks from the date of departure and the train should operate even if there are two pax booked in the train.



7. In some instances, the finances of tour operators and GSAs have not been reconciled in many years.

This required quick attention and the necessary action should be taken without further delay. ❖

IATO EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT PALACE ON WHEELS AND ADDITIONAL RTDC CHARGES

RTDC increased the rate for Palace on Wheels without providing adequate warning, and now, despite the fact that full and final payments had already been made for the upcoming departures in December 2022 and January 2023, RTDC is demanding additional money from the booking agencies.



In addition, RTDC did not reimburse IATO members for their advance payments and held onto the money for more than two years despite the fact that Palace on Wheels travels in 2020 were cancelled due to COVID and all overseas flights and visas were suspended. In this case, the force majeure clause should have applied and returned the advance payment that RTDC had received from the booking agencies. The RTDC advised IATO members that "All Palace on Wheels Departures had been

Cancelled and advance amounts of the bookings will be adjusted in later departures on the same pricing." Now that the reservations have been rematerialized, RTDC has requested an extra deposit, which is incredibly unjust and not at all reasonable.

In case RTDC wanted to increase the tariff, it can be done from October 2023 and not for the current season. IATO urged to kindly honour all bookings made by its members for the current season without asking for any additional amount. ❖

IATO COMPLAINS ABOUT MIAL'S HIKE IN PRICES OF AIRPORT ENTRY PASSES

Since 1995, IATO members, recognised by MOT, were issued Commercial Airport Entry Passes on payment to allow them to go inside the airport to greet foreign tourists and until the departure hall immigration counters to assist them in checking in, particularly senior citizens, and those who don't speak English.

1. However, 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 of Rs. 199167/- for one year pass with effect from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. (copy attached).

2. Not only this, the Authorities of Jaipur International Airport owned by Adani Group has even refused to issue Commercial Airport Entry Passes to the tour operators for entry at the airport and have made their own 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 Passes were a must for tour operators to ensure safe and personalised services and to receive foreign tourists at the airport, as well as to ensure that they did not become victims of being hijacked by Lapkas/cheaters at the airport for reasons Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India had made the provision of Airport Entry Passes for tour operators, which was followed for over two and a half decades.

IATO requested

1. MIAL 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 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 - 1 cities and Rs. 36,000/- for airports in Tier-2 and Tier - 3 cities per pass.

2. Airport Authority of India and other agencies like Chhatrapati Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), GMR Group, 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 INFORMS GOVT OF PROBLEMS FACED BY FOREIGN TOURISTS

Since December 30, 2022, IATO members and applicants have been unable to pay the visa fee through the e-visa site for the following reasons:

1. SBI stopped accepting cards issued in India,
2. The AXIS bank server was down since 30th December 2022 and not accepting fee payment
3. Russian tourists were facing difficulties in paying online visa fees in USD since due to western sanctions their international credit cards in USD are suspended.



IATO suggested that

1. Alternative arrangements must be made, for instance, Russians can use credit cards denominated in rubles. Therefore, it would be kind if Russian tourists were allowed

to pay their e-Visa fees in rubles rather than US dollars.

2. SBI should be instructed to accept cards issued in India so that IATO members bringing

visitors from Russia can pay their Visa fee due to Russian bank sanctions. This could be done until Russian nationals were unable to pay e-Visa fees online.❖

'ALLOW ENTRY FROM LAND BORDERS FOR REVIVING BUDDHIST TOURISM'

IATO was informed that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is emphasising the promotion of Buddhist Tourism to India and that this area was rapidly growing, with IATO members vigorously marketing Buddhist Tourism packages in global markets.

Foreign tourists who visited India also went to (Lumbini), Nepal and Bhutan as part of the package. However, they were facing problems while entering/re-entering India as entry through land borders from Nepal and Bhutan presently was not allowed.❖



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HP RECORDS OVER THREE-TIME INCREASE IN TOURIST FOOTFALL

New Products launched by Europamundo with the Tourism Board of Spain
30 November, 2022 at 3 pm IST

UP to give govt owned forts on lease for use as heritage hotels & wedding venues
Mukesh Kumar Meshram, Principal Secretary Tourism and DG, UP Tourism, said that the state govt is ready to lease forts on a very nominal fee for them to be converted into heritage hotels. The state is also open for hosting weddings at these forts.

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No need to fill Air Suvidha forms from today: Govt issues new guidelines
BOTT Weekly Roundup: Nov 20 to November 26, 2022 | The Ministry of Tourism organises 'CEO round table Sustainable Tourism'

The Ministry of Tourism organises 'CEO round table Sustainable Tourism'

FAITH proposes enhanced Ease of doing Business & compliance for Indian tourism hospitality industry

37th IATO Convention preparations on in full swing expects 1100+ delegates

Gol is now focused on promoting the move towards green tourism: Singh
Anand Singh, Secretary, Tourism, at ITMI in Aizawl, shared, "Govt of India is focused on promoting the move towards green tourism. Green tourism has the potential to catalyse local economies, while also minimising the environmental & social impacts."



आध्यात्मिक और ईको टूरिज्म सवि

उग्र सरकार ने पर्यटन नीति-2022 को किया स्वीकृत, साहसिक प



आध्यात्मिक और ईको टूरिज्म सवि

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उग्र सरकार ने पर्यटन नीति-2022 को किया स्वीकृत, साहसिक प

Adventures you do not want to miss!

Suba Group of Hotels crosses 100th milestone; opens Comfort Inn in Udaipur

Suba Group of Hotels expands its footprint in the city of lakes by opening Comfort Inn in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Comfort Inn is a business hotel located near Pratap Circle in Pratap Nagar, a prime area in the city. This is the 100th hotel by the group in India and 63rd Choice Hotel in India. Comfort Inn Udaipur is designed to meet the needs of busy business and corporate travellers. There are 35 well-appointed rooms, a multi-cuisine fine dining restaurant, a roof-top bar, a restaurant and a banquet hall, which makes a perfect venue for hosting corporate events and meetings. The coffee shop serves multi-cuisine food throughout the day.

Surfing school at Beypore to grab global attention: Minister

Kerala turned a new leaf in its post-Covid efforts to rejuvenate travel and hospitality sectors, as the state got its first government-run surfing school with Tourism Minister Shri P.A. Mohamed Riyas inaugurating the seashore facility at Beypore. The water-sport institution at Gotheeswaram Beach "has all the potential to earn global attention", thus boosting the tourism prospects of this Malabar town, the Minister said after formally announcing the surfing school open. "The beach can soon become a sought-after destination and give fillip to the living standards of local communities known for their harmony and people-friendly nature," he added. Welcoming set of novel developmental activities by cooperative ventures led by the youth in Beypore, Shri Riyas lauded state's Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission which recently celebrated its 15th year.

Reni Pani Jungle Lodge introduces Horseback Safaris in Satpura National Park

Located in the pristine forest on the periphery of the Satpura National Park, the conservation and wildlife-focused Reni Pani Jungle Lodge has recently introduced horseback safaris that will be operational between the months of October and June. These riding safaris on the royal family's thoroughbreds and Marwari horses are the first of their kind in Madhya Pradesh. Guided by experts, they offer guests a choice of two identified, distinct trails.

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BREAKING news

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BREAKING news

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18 million Indians travelled abroad till Nov 22, 137% increase over last year: Bol

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Bol, stated that the number of Indian tourists who travelled abroad till November 22, 2022, was 18 million, a 137% increase over last year. He also mentioned that the number of Indian tourists who travelled abroad till November 22, 2022, was 18 million, a 137% increase over last year.

Ministry sought MHA's support to deploy tourist police at key tourism centres: Reddy

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Reddy, stated that the Ministry of Tourism has sought the support of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to deploy tourist police at key tourism centres. He also mentioned that the Ministry of Tourism has sought the support of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to deploy tourist police at key tourism centres.

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UK e-visa arrived late, holiday bookings already been made: Rajnish Kaistha

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Rajnish Kaistha, stated that the UK e-visa arrived late, and holiday bookings have already been made. He also mentioned that the UK e-visa arrived late, and holiday bookings have already been made.

Fly to Europe from India

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India to UAE 10th busiest corridor for family bookings in festive season: Sabre

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Sabre, stated that the India to UAE corridor is the 10th busiest for family bookings in the festive season. He also mentioned that the India to UAE corridor is the 10th busiest for family bookings in the festive season.

BREAKING news

We're here for your travel needs Down Under!

No room for complacency, we need to reinstate some health measures: TAFI

Deputy Minister of Tourism, TAFI, stated that there is no room for complacency, and some health measures need to be reinstated. He also mentioned that there is no room for complacency, and some health measures need to be reinstated.

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E-visa for Canada welcome, we now push for South Africa, KSA & Indonesia: IATO

Deputy Minister of Tourism, IATO, stated that the E-visa for Canada is welcome, and they now push for South Africa, KSA, and Indonesia. He also mentioned that the E-visa for Canada is welcome, and they now push for South Africa, KSA, and Indonesia.

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2023 will see 53% millennials planning more last-minute trips: Booking.com

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Booking.com, stated that in 2023, 53% of millennials will be planning more last-minute trips. He also mentioned that in 2023, 53% of millennials will be planning more last-minute trips.

Amritsar, Chandigarh together have 42 intl air traffic movements per week: Scindia

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Scindia, stated that Amritsar and Chandigarh together have 42 international air traffic movements per week. He also mentioned that Amritsar and Chandigarh together have 42 international air traffic movements per week.

BREAKING news

We're here for your travel needs Down Under!

37th IATO Convention surpasses 1000 registrations, starts on a high note

Deputy Minister of Tourism, IATO, stated that the 37th IATO Convention has surpassed 1000 registrations and started on a high note. He also mentioned that the 37th IATO Convention has surpassed 1000 registrations and started on a high note.

'Convention to raise bar for inbound & work out strategies for quick recovery'

Deputy Minister of Tourism, IATO, stated that the convention aims to raise the bar for inbound tourism and work out strategies for a quick recovery. He also mentioned that the convention aims to raise the bar for inbound tourism and work out strategies for a quick recovery.

Book for 3 nights Get 4th Complimentary

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UP hosting IATO Convention after 18 years, to boost state's tourism potential

Deputy Minister of Tourism, IATO, stated that Uttar Pradesh is hosting the IATO Convention after 18 years to boost the state's tourism potential. He also mentioned that Uttar Pradesh is hosting the IATO Convention after 18 years to boost the state's tourism potential.

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'Great sessions, brainstorming & ideas to make convention meaningful': Verma

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Verma, stated that the convention has great sessions, brainstorming, and ideas to make it meaningful. He also mentioned that the convention has great sessions, brainstorming, and ideas to make it meaningful.

20th December 2022

Travel World Online

Infrastructure and safe environment key for tourism: Yogi Adityanath

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Yogi Adityanath, stated that infrastructure and a safe environment are key for tourism. He also mentioned that infrastructure and a safe environment are key for tourism.

Building relationship between hotels and tour operators discussed at IATO convention

Deputy Minister of Tourism, IATO, stated that the relationship between hotels and tour operators was discussed at the IATO convention. He also mentioned that the relationship between hotels and tour operators was discussed at the IATO convention.

WITC takes lead as 'Guardian of Nature'

Deputy Minister of Tourism, WITC, stated that WITC takes the lead as the 'Guardian of Nature'. He also mentioned that WITC takes the lead as the 'Guardian of Nature'.

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Austrian Airlines reconnects Vienna and Shanghai twice a week

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Austrian Airlines, stated that Austrian Airlines has reconnected Vienna and Shanghai twice a week. He also mentioned that Austrian Airlines has reconnected Vienna and Shanghai twice a week.

A Christmas maiden flight: Austrian Airlines takes off for first time to Norway's Tromsø

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Austrian Airlines, stated that Austrian Airlines has taken a Christmas maiden flight to Norway's Tromsø. He also mentioned that Austrian Airlines has taken a Christmas maiden flight to Norway's Tromsø.

Six senses celebrates 'plastic freedom' this holiday season

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Six Senses, stated that Six Senses celebrates 'plastic freedom' this holiday season. He also mentioned that Six Senses celebrates 'plastic freedom' this holiday season.

TRAVLTALK

Time for reflection & revival

'Year 2022 didn't start well for the industry due to Omicron. However, once destinations started opening and international flights resumed, things changed and today the industry is heading towards pre-pandemic numbers. Stakeholders of the industry reflect on the year going by and share their achievements as they head towards revival.'

India reopens e-visa for Brits

Deputy Minister of Tourism, India, stated that India has reopened e-visa for British nationals. He also mentioned that India has reopened e-visa for British nationals.

MOT focus on soft skills

Deputy Minister of Tourism, MOT, stated that MOT focuses on soft skills. He also mentioned that MOT focuses on soft skills.

India reopens e-visa for Brits

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MOT focus on soft skills

Deputy Minister of Tourism, MOT, stated that MOT focuses on soft skills. He also mentioned that MOT focuses on soft skills.

IATO lays red carpet for inbound

As inbound tour operators from all over the country gather for deliberations at the 37th IATO Convention, scheduled in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from 16 to 18 December 2022, Raju Mahesh, the association president, shares what makes the event productive and beneficial for the members and the travel, tourism and hospitality industry at large.



President's perspective

The IATO Convention is a platform for the industry to come together and discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead. It is a time to share experiences, learn from each other, and build a stronger industry. The convention is a must for all those who are involved in the travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

Key highlights of the convention

- A 3-day event that will cover all the aspects of the industry.
- A platform for the industry to come together and discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead.
- A time to share experiences, learn from each other, and build a stronger industry.

The convention, with the theme 'Rebound Tourism: What Lies Ahead?' is set to explore the future of inbound tourism.

Key dates

- 16th December: Registration opens
- 17th December: Convention begins
- 18th December: Convention ends

For more information, visit www.iato.org

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Legislative Assembly Debates

Kangpokpi doctors launch relay hunger strike

Doctors of Kangpokpi Hospital have launched a relay hunger strike to demand the government to take steps to improve the health services in the region.

Tour operators meet CM Biren

A group of tour operators met with the Chief Minister, Biren Singh, to discuss the challenges faced by the industry and seek his support.

Booing ring on the rise again

The booing ring has seen a resurgence in popularity, with many fans flocking to the events to cheer on their favourite players.

MSI dem

The MSI has announced its decision to withdraw its candidature in the upcoming elections.

Air India leases 12 more aircraft to enhance operations

Air India, announces the lease of six Airbus A320neo narrow body aircraft and six Boeing B777-300 ER widebody aircraft to further augment its existing fleet. These aircraft are expected to be inducted in the first half of 2023 and will be deployed on Air India's short, medium and long-haul international routes. The decision to lease twelve aircraft is in addition to the thirty leased earlier this year including twenty-one Airbus A320, four Airbus A321 and five Boeing B777-200LR widebody aircraft. The Airbus A320neo will be operated on the airline's domestic/short-to-medium haul international routes.

ETAA & Global Destinations hosts Vietnam Destination Session

As part of its endeavour to encourage and abreast members on latest travel developments and new destination opportunities, The Enterprising Travel Agents' Association (ETAA) organised a Destination Training Session on Vietnam in partnership with Global Destinations - an eminent representation firm, representing Three land Travel Vietnam. It was well attended by the members across Mumbai. Moving forward in the post pandemic era with a strong intent to restructure, expand and strengthen its national presence the ETAA Board Meeting was held on the November 26, 2022 chaired by the Founder President and Chairman Emeritus who has decided to devote more time for ETAA in its Silver Jubilee year 2023-24.

The Fern Hotels & Resorts launches Arova Woods Zinc Journey in Lonavala

The Fern Hotels & Resorts opens its new lifestyle resort, Arova Woods Zinc Journey by The Fern in Lonavala, Maharashtra. Speaking of the launch, Ms. Vaishali Momaya, General Manager-Operations, Concept Hospitality-The Fern Hotels & Resorts said, "Zinc Journey by The Fern is our lifestyle brand that provides guests with an innovative environment of style and a dose of the local culture. This boutique full-service resort showcases high-end interiors and comes with its set of experiences, to create a wow factor in the guest stay."

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IATO Convention 2022
37th IATO CONVENTION 2022
19th Nov 2022
In this issue

Message

नए साल के जश्न के लिए पर्यटन क्षेत्र को लगे मुनाफे के पर

कोलकाता, 14 दिसंबर। नए साल के जश्न के लिए पर्यटन क्षेत्र को लगे मुनाफे के पर... (The text continues with details about the tourism sector's expectations for the New Year celebrations, mentioning the impact of the pandemic and the need for government support.)

LOKMAT TIMES

City to host 38th convention of IATO September next year

Tour operators, travel agents, airlines, tourism officials of various states, hotels, and transporters will attend

LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK AURANGABAD

The 38th Convention of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) will be held next year in September in Aurangabad. Maharashtra tourism minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha, during the IATO convention at Lucknow, extended the invitation to all IATO delegates to be present at Aurangabad in 2023, through video conferencing.

Aurangabad Tourism

Development Foundation (ATDF) president Jaswanth Singh and chairman of the Civil Aviation and Public Relations committee, Sunit Kothari, said that it took us three years to convince both the tourism ministry of the government of Maharashtra and the IATO to organize the largest tourism industry convention in the renowned for being a tourism capital Maharashtra. Kothari added that many states were eager to host the convention, but Aurangabad clinched the honour.

Tour operators, travel agents, airlines, tourism officials of various states, hotels, and transporters will be present for this convention. The delegates will visit the historic places in the district, which will boost the tourism industry.

Aurangabad First
Page No. 1 Dec 19, 2022
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पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देगा आईएटीओ

वाराणसी। काशी में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 80 सदस्यीय इंडियन एसोसिएशन ऑफ टूर ऑपरेटर (आईएटीओ) के सदस्यों ने धरोहरों और पर्यटन स्थलों का भ्रमण किया। पहले दिन विश्वनाथ धाम और सारनाथ के पर्यटन स्थलों को देखा। अध्यक्ष राजीव मेहरा ने बताया कि 26 साल बाद यूपी में अधिवेशन में बड़ी संख्या में आईएटीओ के सदस्य शामिल हुए। पर्यटन व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से एसोसिएशन के सदस्यों का गाइडेड टूर हुआ। दीपक भटनागर, महेंद्र माटा, अनिल त्रिपाठी, प्रवीण शाह, हरिश शामिल रहे। संवाद

पर्यटन के लिए बेहतर कानून-व्यवस्था व कनेक्टिविटी

कोलकाता, 26 दिसंबर। पर्यटन के लिए बेहतर कानून-व्यवस्था व कनेक्टिविटी... (The text continues with details about the government's efforts to improve the tourism sector through better laws, infrastructure, and connectivity.)

पर्यटन के लिए बेहतर कानून-व्यवस्था व कनेक्टिविटी

योगी बोले, 26 साल बाद आने वालों के लिए बहुत कुछ बदला, हर तरह के पर्यटन का इकलौता राज्य उग्र

37वाँ वार्षिक अधिवेशन

जयपुर, राजस्थान, 14 फरवरी: मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने कहा कि पर्यटन को गहरी सुरक्षा के साथ और कनेक्टिविटी के साथ पर ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। चंचल रहने वाले पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करने के लिए बेहतर कानून व्यवस्था का बंधन हमारे सामने है। हमें इसे जल्द ही लागू करने की जरूरत है।

राजस्थान के पर्यटन और पर्यावरण विभाग के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अशोक कुमार ने कहा कि 26 साल में प्रदेश में बहुत कुछ बदल गया है। यहां हर प्रकार के पर्यटन के लिए अपार संभावनाएं हैं। पर्यटन पर्यटन में ही देश में नंबर एक है। दुनिया को आकर्षित करने और संस्कृतिक केंद्र बनने में जकार हर कोई हर-हर मालूम को जाना से पर जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि जिस समय में वे यहां आए थे, उसी समय पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है।

आज के समय में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है। हमें 300 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने पड़े हैं। हमें पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है। हमें 300 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने पड़े हैं। हमें पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है।



मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ व अन्य वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के उपस्थिति में पर्यटन विभाग का कार्यक्रम



पर्यटन विभाग के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अशोक कुमार ने कहा कि 26 साल में प्रदेश में बहुत कुछ बदल गया है।

राजस्थान के पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है। हमें 300 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने पड़े हैं। हमें पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है। हमें 300 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने पड़े हैं। हमें पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है।

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अयोध्या बनने की राह पर

मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि देश-दुनिया में हर भारतीय अयोध्या जानकर जगमगाएंगे। हमें इसे बेहतर ढंग से बनाना है। हमें 30 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने पड़े हैं। हमें पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है। हमें 300 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने पड़े हैं। हमें पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमें बहुत कुछ करना पड़ा है।

यूपी को मिला बेस्ट बूथ अवार्ड

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समारोह में नहीं टैटू, गैर-परिचित लोगों को

Hotels, restaurants get ready to party with surge in New Year Eve bookings

Manish Verma, Ahmedabad
Ahmedabad, Jan 26

Hotels and restaurants are gearing up for a full house during the New Year weekend, with current booking trends suggesting pre-pandemic levels. Occupancies are up 100-150 per cent across hotels with a 30 per cent growth in revenues. At the same time, restaurants are witnessing a surge in bookings for the New Year parties. This comes even amidst global concerns about a surge in Covid cases in markets such as China and Japan.



BACK TO THE DANCE FLOOR: There has been a "double-fold increase" in number of bookings for the New Year weekend, over and above pre-Covid times, says an industry insider.

focus on room rate growth basis," he added. According to Rajiv Mehta, President, IATO, the New Year Weekend this year indicates nearly 30 per cent increase in business growth. "There is cautious optimism but bookings and occupancy are on the rise. Hotels are showing very high occupancy. Domestic tourism is still very strong," Mehta added.

Restaurants are almost sold out for New Year's Eve parties, and this is despite price hikes in food and drink rates amidst inflationary pressures. "Our theme of Ro-

surge 23 is well in line with the response we are seeing this year across our SO-CIAL outlets. Packages are selling fine and so we are expecting a good business," said Alexander Valladares, Chief Marketing Officer, Impression Hospitality Restaurants.

COVID-THREAT: Anvita Shukla, Founder and Managing Director of Kempi, said that about 70-80 per cent of the Delhi-based Jaipur restaurant is booked for the New Year's Eve. "There has been a bit of scare with the coronavirus threat in

some nations like China. However, we are back to pre-Covid numbers for Christmas and New Year bookings. I believe overall, things are looking good for the H1 in 2023," he added. Hospitality and restaurant players are stepping up focus on Covid norms. Rishabh Shukla, Business Head of Charcoal Concepts at K Hospitality Corp, said, "We continue to follow safety measures. We haven't seen any impact on business so far in terms of response for new year bookings and don't see this as a hindrance."

IATO to usher in Achhe Din

Tourism stakeholders hope city of 500 million will be among most-visited destinations

Ravi Kant

The tourism industry in India is still grappling to recover after the unprecedented Covid-19 crisis with all the stakeholders, service providers and business entities struggling to survive. With the 80th anniversary of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) scheduled to be held in the city in September 2023, tourism associations are looking forward to the event as a catalyst to boost the industry.

Aggressive marketing and



promotions will help increase foreign tourist arrivals as a permanent basis. They also stressed the need of diversifying tourism products and offering incentives to other Indian states and global markets. The IATO president, Anvita Shukla, said, "Through the IATO convention, thousands of tour operators from all over the country will get a chance to showcase their products and services to the world."

There are many tourism

Maiden event to work wonders

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) is planning to launch the IATO annual convention for the first time in India. The first convention of the state was held in Mumbai in 2012 and the second will be held in Ahmedabad. It will be a landmark event in the history of the state. The IATO convention is an annual event that brings together tour operators from all over the world. It is a platform for the industry to showcase their products and services to the world.

There are many tourism stakeholders who are looking forward to the event as a catalyst to boost the industry. They also stressed the need of diversifying tourism products and offering incentives to other Indian states and global markets. The IATO president, Anvita Shukla, said, "Through the IATO convention, thousands of tour operators from all over the country will get a chance to showcase their products and services to the world."

Expectations

from IATO

- Promotion of city as a tourist destination
- As a platform for the industry to showcase their products and services to the world
- Promotion of the state as a tourist destination

There are many tourism stakeholders who are looking forward to the event as a catalyst to boost the industry. They also stressed the need of diversifying tourism products and offering incentives to other Indian states and global markets. The IATO president, Anvita Shukla, said, "Through the IATO convention, thousands of tour operators from all over the country will get a chance to showcase their products and services to the world."

The Journey of Dr. Kumar

A compulsive passion for travel and interaction with people from different walks of life, this is what describes her the best. She has dedicated her life to promoting tourism. Sitting over nearly 30 years of experience in travel and tourism industry of India, she thoughtfully shares her views on future of India's tourism.



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I am very optimistic about the future of tourism to India. I firmly believes that with all this the growth in the aviation sector and various fields related to tourism

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What led you to pursue a career in tourism?

“It’s kind of lifetime passion for me, I loved to travel and automatically got drawn into the trade, the rest, as they say,

is history. It’s just the passion to travel and meeting people and learning from them has kept me moving”.

Was your organization impacted by Covid-19 pandemic?



"It was a difficult time and I was close to shutting down my business and its activities. However, I maintained a strong communication with my staff and kept all of them motivated. No doubt the situation was really bad, but pulled through it with grit and patience, and today I am glad to say that from 2022 onwards my company, Travel-Mate has started doing well again and we are almost back to our pre-covid levels of commercial revenues".

Is your primary focus on inbound or outbound tourism?

"Well, initially we began by catering to outbound travel, but finally I also got into inbound tourism. It was an inevitable part of the whole thing and we stepped into it, in fact I had few connections in USA which supported my initiative. I feel really happy to promoting the beauty of "India", there are not many places in the world as fascinating as our country".

Which were the countries you initially focused for promoting inbound tourism?

"Like I said I started with USA due to some existing relationships there. Later, I expanded into the UK and Germany markets. Our main focus was on wellness trips, beach activities, and royal experiences like in Rajasthan".

Did you work with someone else before starting on your own?

"I am proud alumni of Thomas Cook and Cathay Pacific, both from whom I have learnt much. I have now been with my own enterprise for 30 years".

What is your perspective on the future of tourism in India?

"I am very optimistic about the future of tourism to India. I firmly believes that with all this the growth in the aviation sector and various fields related to tourism, the future definitely looks bright. The only thing which puts me to some thought is the government's willingness to listen to advice of the professionals. Ideal would be, if the government and all of us could unite together".

What are your hobbies and leisure interests?

"I like to train and skill people in the travel and tourism industry. In fact I run a small institute for this purpose and spend a lot of time teaching and training individuals. I also have quite a passion for performing arts, like singing, theater plays, and Sufi music".

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Travel-Mate has started doing well again and we are almost back to our pre-covid levels of commercial revenues

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World's Largest Bird Sculpture

Jatayu Earth's Center, also known as Jatayu Nature Park, is located in the Kollam district of Kerala, India. The park features a large statue of Jatayu, which was designed and constructed by sculptor and filmmaker Rajiv Anchal. The statue measures 200 feet long, 150 feet wide, and 70 feet tall, making it the world's largest functional bird sculpture. The park covers an area of 65 acres.



■ Bryan

The Jatayu Nature Park has been recognized from the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest functional bird sculpture. According to Hindu mythology, Jatayu sat and took his last breath on this spot after being defeated by the demon king Ravana. The park was built to introduce visitors to the beautiful and scenic Jatayupara area in Kollam, and to provide an opportunity to explore the mythical and cultural significance of the location.

now has the capacity to store 20 lakh units of water and there is also a provision for rainwater storage. The aim of the park is not only to showcase the magnificent statue of Jatayu, which symbolizes courage and loyalty, but also to introduce visitors to the natural beauty of Jatayupara, including its flora and fauna. To achieve this, an agricultural society was formed



The construction of the Jatayu Nature Park took 2 years to complete and was built with the goal of minimizing any negative impact on the ecosystem. One of the main challenges faced during the project was finding a sustainable water source. To address this, a dam was built between two rock valleys which



and plans are underway to have nearby organic product stalls for visitors to explore.

Jatayu Nature Park is named after the famous mythological character Jatayu from the Ramayana, who is remembered for his honesty and bravery. In the story, Jatayu fought against the demon king Ravana when he kidnapped Sita, and although he was unable to save her, he made a courageous effort and his actions are seen as a symbol of bravery and selflessness. The park is built to honour Jatayu's legacy and to remind visitors of the valuable lessons that can be learned from his character.

Chadayamangalam town: This historic town is located near the Jatayu Nature Park and is known for its ancient temples and churches.

Thenmala Dam: This is a popular tourist spot located near the park and is known for its scenic views and boating facilities.

Palaruvi Waterfalls: This picturesque waterfall is located around 40 km from the Jatayu Nature Park and is a popular spot for trekking and picnicking.

Punalur Suspension Bridge: This historic bridge spans across the Kallada River and offers beautiful views of the surrounding landscape.

Ariankavu Temple: This ancient temple is located around 20 km from the Jatayu Nature Park and is known for its intricate carvings and beautiful architecture. It's also possible to find eco-tourism activities, such as trekking, rock climbing and paragliding, as well as cultural and religious



sights like temples and churches in the surrounding areas.

There are several ways to reach Jatayu Nature Park, which is located in Kollam district, Kerala, India.

By Air: The nearest airport is Trivandrum International Airport, which is around 85 km from the park. From there, you can take a taxi or bus to reach the park.

By Train: The nearest railway station is Kollam Junction, which is around 60 km from the park. From there, you can take a taxi or bus to reach the park.

By Bus: The park is well-connected by road and there are regular bus services from nearby towns and cities to Jatayu Nature Park.

By Car: The park is also easily accessible by car and can be reached via National Highway 744.

It's worth noting that the park is located in a remote area, so it's best to plan your trip accordingly and take the necessary precautions if you're planning to drive.❖

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There are several ways to reach Jatayu Nature Park, which is located in Kollam district, Kerala, India.

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NORTH EAST STATES CHAPTER

❖ Chairman, IATO North East States chapter at 2nd Manipur Tourism Congress during Sangai Festival



LADAKH CHAPTER

❖ Chapter Chair Ladakh Had a very fruitful meeting with Secretary Tourism UT Ladakh Kachoo Mehboob Ali in his office chambers at the UT secretariat a few days back and was Happy to announce that Ladakh Tourism is finally participating as Gold sponsorship in the upcoming 37th IATO convention.



IATOLadakh chapter had a meeting of its members yesterday at hotel Padma Ladakh. 37th annual convention was discussed and members showed keen interest in participating in the convention Various other issues related to tourism were also discussed. 8 members were out of the station and could not attend.



UTTAR PRADESH CHAPTER

❖ Minister Tourism of UP being formally invited for IATO Convention by the Chapter Chair UP.



ARUNACHAL PRADESH CHAPTER

Arunachal Pradesh Chapter

Pema Khandu • Follow
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I congratulate Shri Bengia Mrinal on his appointment as the in-charge of Indian Association of Tour Operators for #ArunachalPradesh. I'm confident his efforts will give a new boost to tourism sector in our state, blessed with the best scenic spots in the world. Best wishes!



WEST BENGAL CHAPTER



LADAKH CHAPTER



ANDHRA PRADESH & TELANGANA CHAPTER





"India's Tourism Industry Embraces Sustainable Practices for a Greener Future"

Sustainable tourism is a type of tourism that aims to minimize the negative impact on the environment and local culture, while maximizing the economic benefits for the local community. In India, sustainable tourism has become an increasingly important topic as the country's tourism industry continues to grow.



■ Bryan

One major aspect of sustainable tourism in India is the promotion of eco-friendly practices. This includes encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, reducing waste and carbon emissions, and protecting natural resources. For example, many hotels and resorts in India

have implemented measures to conserve water and energy, such as installing low-flow shower heads and using solar power.

Another important aspect of sustainable tourism in India is the protection of local culture and heritage. This includes preserving traditional architecture and





promoting cultural activities, such as festivals and handicrafts. By promoting and preserving local culture, sustainable tourism can help to create a sense of pride and ownership among the local community, which can lead to increased support for sustainable practices.

Additionally, sustainable tourism in India also focuses on the economic benefits for the local community. This includes promoting local businesses, such as restaurants and shops, and encouraging the use of local guides and tour operators. By supporting local businesses, sustainable tourism can help to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the local community.

In conclusion, sustainable tourism is an important topic in India as the country's tourism

industry continues to grow. By promoting eco-friendly practices, protecting local culture and heritage, and supporting local businesses, sustainable tourism can help to minimize the negative impact on the environment and local culture, while maximizing the economic benefits for the local community.❖



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Chennai: A City of Rich History, Beautiful Beaches, and Vibrant Art and Culture.

Chennai, also known as Madras, is the capital city of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Known for its rich history and cultural heritage, Chennai is a popular tourist destination and an important center for art, music, and dance in South India.



■ Bryan

One of the most striking features of Chennai is its history. The city was founded in 1639 by the British East India Company and was named as Fort St. George. Throughout the years, it has played an important role in the cultural, political, and

economic development of South India. The Fort St. George, which is the first British fortress in India and the birthplace of the city, is a must-visit for history buffs. The Fort Museum inside the fort has a collection of artifacts that give visitors an insight into the city's rich past.



Chennai is also known for its beautiful beaches, which are a major attraction for tourists. The most famous beach is the Marina Beach, which is the second longest urban beach in the world. Visitors can enjoy a stroll along the beach, watch the sunset, or take a dip in the sea. The beach is also home to several historic monuments and statues, including a memorial to the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. J. Jayalalithaa.

The city also boasts of a rich cultural heritage. It is home to many famous temples, churches, and mosques, including the Kapaleeswarar Temple, Santhome Cathedral and the Wallajah Mosque. These places of worship are not only religious sites but also architectural marvels that showcase the rich heritage of

the city.

Chennai is also known for its art and music. The city is home to several prestigious institutions such as the Music Academy, the Bharat Kalachar, and the Kalakshetra Foundation that promote classical dance, music, and art. Visitors can also enjoy a traditional dance performance or a classical music concert in one of the city's many auditoriums.

In conclusion, Chennai is a city that has much to offer to visitors. Its rich history, cultural heritage, beautiful beaches, and vibrant art and music scene make it an ideal destination for tourists. Whether you are a history buff, a beach lover, or a culture vulture, Chennai has something for everyone.❖

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Exploring the Rich Culture and History of Spain

Spain, located in southwestern Europe, is a country known for its rich culture, history, and diversity. From its stunning architecture to its delicious cuisine, Spain offers a unique and captivating experience for visitors.



■ Bryan

One of the most iconic symbols of Spain is its architecture. The country is home to a wide range of architectural styles, from the Gothic cathedrals of the Middle Ages to the modernist buildings of the 20th century. The most famous example of Spanish architecture is the Alhambra, a palace complex located in Granada. The Alhambra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered to be one of

the most important examples of architecture in the world. Another famous example of Spanish architecture is the Sagrada Família, a towering basilica located in Barcelona. The Sagrada Família is still under construction but is already considered to be one of the most important examples of modernist architecture in the world.

Spain is also known for its rich cultural heritage. The country has a long and



fascinating history, dating back to the Roman Empire. The country has been shaped by many different cultures and civilizations, including the Moors, the Visigoths, and the Celts. As a result, Spain has a diverse and unique culture that is reflected in its art, music, and dance. The most famous example of Spanish art is the work of Pablo Picasso, one of the most important artists of the 20th century. The country is also known for its flamenco dance, which is considered to be one of the most important cultural expressions of Spain.

Spain is also known for its delicious cuisine. The country is famous for its tapas, small plates of food that are served in bars and restaurants. The most famous type of tapas is paella, a traditional dish made with rice, vegetables, and meat or seafood. Other popular dishes include tortilla española, a type of potato omelette, and gazpacho, a cold soup made with tomatoes,

peppers, and bread. Spain is also known for its wine, with famous regions such as Rioja and Ribera del Duero.

Spain is also known for its beautiful beaches and climate. The country has more than 8,000 km of coastline and is home to some of the most famous beaches in the world, such as the Costa del Sol and the Costa Brava. The country's Mediterranean climate means that it has warm summers and mild winters, making it an ideal destination for a beach holiday.

In conclusion, Spain is a country that offers a unique and captivating experience for visitors. Its rich culture, history, and diversity, along with its stunning architecture, delicious cuisine, beautiful beaches and climate, make it an ideal destination to visit. Whether you are a history buff, a culture vulture, a food lover or a beach goer, Spain has something for everyone.❖



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INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF TOUR OPERATORS

Offices and chapters across the country

