

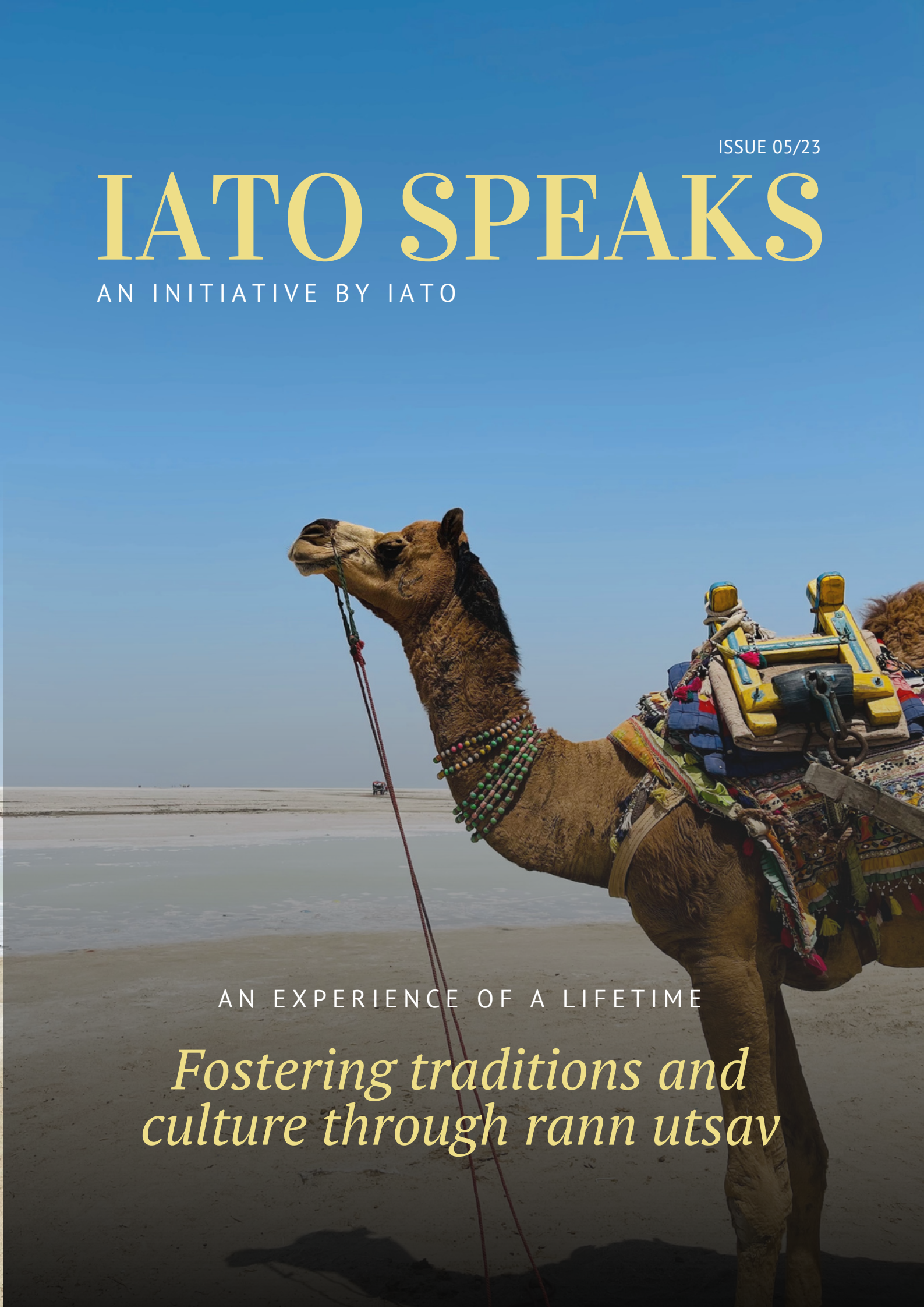
ISSUE 05/23

IATO SPEAKS

AN INITIATIVE BY IATO

AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

*Fostering traditions and
culture through rann utsav*



Immersive HOLI celebration

25th March 2024 | Mayur Lawns, Agra



Inclusions :

2-hour celebration (10am-12pm) // Indian kurta-pyjamas
Organic colours // Goodie bag // Bollywood music and dance
Indian snacks and thandai // Fun locals to interact with.

To know more, reach us at agra@travelbureauindia.com, +91-9820645750

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KOLKATA // LUCKNOW // NEW DELHI // PRAYAGRAJ // VARANASI**



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PRESIDENTS SPEAKS



Dear Friends,

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I find myself filled with a sense of anticipation and enthusiasm for the possibilities that lie ahead. The year 2023 has been a testament to our industry's resilience, adaptability, and unwavering spirit in the face of unprecedented challenges. Now, as we welcome 2024, I am confident that together, we will continue to navigate through the evolving landscape of travel and tourism with determination and innovation.

The Indian tourism industry has shown remarkable resilience amidst the fluctuations and uncertainties brought about by global events. Our collective efforts have paved the way for gradual recovery, demonstrating the inherent strength and potential of our sector. As we move forward into 2024, it's heartening to witness the industry's concerted efforts to rebuild, rejuvenate, and redefine the travel experience.

PRESIDENTS SPEAKS

We're witnessing a renewed focus on sustainable tourism practices, highlighting the importance of responsible travel and conservation efforts. Our commitment to preserving our cultural heritage, protecting the environment, and supporting local communities remains unwavering. This ethos will continue to guide our actions as we strive for a more sustainable and inclusive tourism ecosystem.

Moreover, technological advancements and digital innovations are reshaping the way we operate. Embracing these advancements, we aim to enhance the overall travel experience, offering personalised services and seamless interactions for travellers across the globe.

I am immensely proud of the resilience and unity displayed by our

members. Together, we have weathered storms and emerged stronger. In 2024, we will continue to collaborate, share insights, and collectively drive the industry forward.

Let us seize the opportunities that come our way, harness our collective expertise, and propel the Indian tourism sector to greater heights. With a positive outlook and a collaborative approach, I am confident that 2024 holds immense promise for us all.

Wishing you a prosperous and fulfilling New Year.



Rajiv Mehra
President
IATO





OCTOBER

- ▶ All members were informed on the Registration in Fairview Media International Tourism Conclave (FMITC- Puri) 2023.
- ▶ All members in South India were informed on the Jaffna MICE Expo 2023 - Invitation to South Indian IATO members. Jaffna MICE Expo 2023 to be held from 30th November to 03rd December 2023 in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
- ▶ Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board and IATO signed an MoU to promote tourism in the State.



IATO AFFAIR

- ▶ President of IATO informed all members on the Exorbitant increase for Elephant Safari at Amer Fort fees from 25th October to Rs. 3500/- from Rs. 1100, which IATO has strongly objected and have taken up the matter with the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Principal Secretary Tourism and Art & Culture, Government of Rajasthan and other senior officials of the concerned departments.
- ▶ All members were informed regarding change of date of Pushkar Fair from 20-27 November to 14-20 November 2023.
- ▶ IATO organises its AGM 2023.



NOVEMBER

- ▶ All members were informed regarding restriction imposed on Diesel Buses from 1st November 2023 in Delhi.
- ▶ All Members were informed on the Clarification Regarding Restriction imposed on Diesel Buses from 1st November 2023 in Delhi NCR.
- ▶ It was clarified by the authorities that while the subject Direction No. 78 was issued only in the context of inter-state/inter-city public bus services being operated by the NCR State Govt., including State PSUs and private entities, it was again clarified that these directions shall not be applicable to buses, temp-travellers, mini buses etc. under "All India Tourist Vehicles (Permit)" serving to the tourism sector."
- ▶ Kolkata-based Ambuja Neotia group has acquired Gurugram-based hotel ownership and management company, Tree of Life Resorts & Hotels.
- ▶ All members were informed on the SITE India Education Initiative – Business Auto Workshop on 2nd December 2023.
- ▶ All the IATO Regional/State Chapter Chairmen/Co-Chairmen/State in-Charge was informed on the IATO Special Membership Drive to continue till 31st March 2024.
- ▶ All members were informed on the Invitation for Webinar on Taj Guras Kutir Resort & Spa, Gangtok on 7th November 2023 at 1500 hours.
- ▶ IATO President and Hony. Treasurer met the Ambassador and the Minister (Economic) at the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi. Discussed the exchange of tourism between the two countries for one hour.



IATO AFFAIR

- ▶ All members were informed on the Invitation to join the 15th ATOAI Annual Convention at the Statue of Unity, Gujarat, 16-19 December, 2023.
- ▶ All Members were informed Regarding 17th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE).
- ▶ All members were informed on the Chiapas Birding and Photography Festival 2024 to take place in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico from 28th February – 1st March 2024 and members who are interested may attend.
- ▶ All members (Tour Operators and Travel Agents) were informed on the Royal Orchid & Regenta Hotels – Special Exclusive Rates for IATO Members Valid till 31st March 2024.
- ▶ All members in Delhi/NCR were informed on the Special Invitation for IATO Members: Economic Times Travel & Tourism Conclave & Awards 2023.
- ▶ All members of the association were informed on the Indian Business Delegation for Buyer Seller Meet / Roadshow in CIS Region covering, Russia, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan from 10th December to 22nd December 2023.
- ▶ All members were informed on the Invitation to 6th TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Awards and Sustainable Tourism B2B Travel Trade Show.
- ▶ All members were informed on the IATO Training Programme on 2nd December, 2023.
- ▶ All members (recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India) were informed on the Invitation for Participation in FITUR to be held from 24th to 28th January 2024 in Madrid, Spain.
- ▶ All members were informed on the IATO request to allow plying of BS IV Diesel Buses during GRAP IV in Delhi.
- ▶ All members were informed on the Webinar on Taj Usha Kiran, Gwalior on 1st December 2023.
- ▶ All Active members were informed on the Tourism Promotion Seminar between India – Coastal Provinces of Vietnam, 20-22 December 2023.



Fostering traditions and culture through Rann Utsav

Rann Utsav honours Gujarat and the customs that have been handed down through the ages, blending ethnicity with a contemporary flow. The multi-purpose tent city that houses a variety of events is the highlight of the fair.

An annual event that basks in the splendour and good cheer of the Rann of Kutch has begun in the state of Gujarat. Each year, between November and February, Gujarat Tourism organises the Rann Utsav. Travelers from all over the world are drawn to Gujarat during the Utsav, which revitalises the Rann, therefore the effort by Gujarat Tourism is admirable. After developing a brief but intriguing narrative about the Rann of Kutch's rebirth following the Gujarat earthquakes of 2001, the Utsav has gained popularity in recent years.

What to expect?

This year the Rann Utsav is organised from 10th November 2023 to 25th February 2024, with a slogan that says '**Aapne Kutch nahi dekha list toh**

kuch nahi dekha, Kuch din toh guzaro Gujarat mein.' Authentic Gujarati cuisines that will make your taste buds sparkle with joy accompanied by cultural burst of flavours and activities that can be checked off the bucket

This year's Rann Utsav is all you can ask for with colourful vibrant handicrafts from all over Gujarat and a glimpse of the Gujarati culture wrapped with modern sports and adventures. Spread across the Rann of Kutch, the Utsav opens doors to a tent city that is nothing like your camping trips but a luxurious experience like nothing you have experienced before. Customary welcome by garlands and tilak will give you a flavour of the shenanigans that are in store.



INDIAN ESCAPDE

Organised in the massive tent city of Dhordo surrounded by white desert, the Rann Utsav has array of things starting from authentic cuisine, hand-crafts, mesmerising views and flea markets that will make your trip worthwhile.

Mini Gujarat with a twist

The Rann Utsav this year is a splendid series of activities and merriment of the Gujarati flavours, with luxurious tents and different restaurants for every meal, the travellers are in for a treat. You can also try your hands on pottery and weaving amongst many other things. Apart from the basic cultural vibe, Gujarat tourism has made sure to indulge you in an eventful experience that includes fun activities such as rock climbing, paragliding, zip lining, along with a series of tracks for adventure lovers.

Take a hot air balloon ride and we dare you to recover from it. The experience of overlooking the vibrant hues of the salt sand from the top is so enchanting that you will develop a compulsion to talk and think about it. This year, have the most exhilarating winter in Gujarat at Rann Utsav 2023-2024.

The Utsav brings an amalgamation of adventure sports and indoor sports as well. If you are looking for a family vacay and are trying to figure out

which way to go, Rann Utsav is the best place to be.

There is something for every age, with pool tables in every corner and kids arcade at every stop. Morning tea at your tent and an evening stroll beside the beach. What more can you ask from a place that has a shining sunrise and breath-taking sunset.

Experiencing moments

The major reason for anyone visiting Kutch is to explore its two natural landscapes - Great Rann of Kutch for the White Desert (that you find at Kutch Rann Utsav) and Little Rann of Kutch for the barren crack-land & salt-mashing.



INDIAN ESCAPDE

Rann Utsav has your bags covered. The options will make you go crazy. Exotic handcrafted Gujarati articles, leather articles, splendid silverware, intricate Kutchi embroidery, and beautifully crafted ornaments – either let them feast upon your wallet or allow your eyes to have a feast full time.

The Rann Utsav is not only about travelling and experiencing Gujarat, it is about making and experiencing moments and creating memories. An experience that marvels at the rustic charms, indulging in the local cuisines and street food, unveiling the secrets of dark night skies, gazing into the infinities. It is called the experience of a lifetime for a reason. Getting up to the melodious tunes of folklore and singers binging along as you walk through the white desert to witness the stories behind the marshy land. Clicking selfies with the camel or a ride on it, whichever way the Utsav will make you fall in love with the ruins.

Pocket friendly or not

Ranging from high to low and the number of days for which you plan to visit, there are different packages that are available. The tents have one of a kind names and are well equipped

with all the luxurious as well as basic amenities. Darbari and Rajwadi are the deluxe luxury experience tents that are almost good as any 5 star hotel room. Apart from the two jewels you will find premium, Swiss deluxe tents that are available for the ones that are planning to stay for one or two nights.

The tent city built next to Dhordo Village is an excellent example of how to manage a transient population. Both the AC and non-AC tents have every amenity imaginable. Every necessity is met here, including room heaters, a 24-hour supply of warm water in the middle of a desert, an exposition centre, a shopping complex with everything you need, adventure one and two enormous eating halls, and much more.

You may expect to spend no more than ten thousand rupees for the entire Rann Utsav experience, which includes the tent. This is a modest fee to pay for an exciting vacation spent with your loved ones.



ALLIANCES



**IATO requested
Smt. Usha Sharma,
Chief Secretary, Government of
Rajasthan regarding exorbitant
increase for Elephant Safari at
Amer Fort**

IATO was given to understand that the members of the elephant owner association were insisting on increasing the elephant ride fees from 25th October to Rs. 3500/- from Rs. 1100, which IATO strongly objects to, as it would be in direct contradiction to the government's order.

It was also understood that the Mr Mahendra Khadgawat, Director, Archaeology and Museum, Government of Rajasthan was also in support of the elephant owner association to increase and implement the new fees, which was totally unethical and against the government order. This would jeopardize all efforts of IATO to promote tourism to India and especially to Rajasthan.

As mentioned earlier, IATO was not against the increase, but it should be rational with sufficient advance notice to the industry so that the industry can accordingly send their quotations to the foreign tour operators.

IATO requested the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan to kindly give her directives to all the concerned departments, as to not make any increase from 25th October and the present fee of. Rs. 1100/- to be charged till the time a meeting is called with the stakeholders to decide on the increase.



**IATO appealed to Mrs V. Vidyavathi,
Secretary Ministry of Tourism,
regarding pending cases of
Marketing Development
Assistance (MDA) settlement of
tour operators/travel agents**

IATO was following up with the concerned officials and was given to

ALLIANCES

understand that these were pending for settlement due to shortage of man-power. IATO also offered to depute a person to assist in scrutinising the cases for settlement.



IATO requested Mr Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner, Election, regarding the changed dates of Pushkar Fair

Pushkar Fair is one of the world's largest cattle fairs, which attracts large number of foreign tourists from all over the world and it has become an important tourist attraction for them. Dates for Pushkar Fair are announced year in advance.

IATO took up the matter with Mr Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner, Election and other concerned officials that due to the elections being held in Rajasthan on 25th November, 2023, the District Collector & Magistrate, Ajmer issued orders and changed the dates of Pushkar Fair from 20-27 November

to 14-20 November 2023. This change in the date of Pushkar Fair have put IATO members into serious trouble as they have already made arrangements for the foreign tourists as per the original dates announced a year ago and have made payments to the hotels. Foreign tourists have also booked their international flight tickets for travel to India accordingly. Now it is not possible for IATO members to tell the foreign tour operators to change the date.

If IATO members will refuse providing the committed services to the foreign tourists, they will sue their foreign tour operators and in turn the foreign tour operators will sue Indian tour operators in the court of law as consumer laws in foreign countries are very stringent.

We also mentioned if we cannot organise the Pushkar Fair during the elections it will give a negative feeling amongst the foreign tour operators/-foreign tourists that we are not capable to handle it. On the other hand having elections during the Pushkar Fair will actually be an added advantage for our members to show to the foreign tourists the exemplary Democratic Election Process in India which is the desire of our Hon'ble Prime Minister.



ALLIANCES

IATO spoke to Shri Arvind Nautiyal, Joint Secretary to the Government of India and Member-Secretary



IATO wrote to Shri Arvind Nautiyal, Joint Secretary to the Government of India and Member-Secretary, Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas regarding IATO's request to consider services of tour operators of providing travel by All India Tourist Permit Diesel Buses (tempo traveller and coaches) in essential services category and to allow plying of BS IV All India Tourist Permit Diesel Buses in Delhi.

Tourist Permit Diesel Cars in essential services category and to allow plying of BS IV All India Tourist Permit Diesel Cars in Delhi. IATO requested that a decision should be taken by 30th October 2023,

so that the foreign counterparts can be informed accordingly.

With respect to coaches it was noted that -

- From 1st November 2023 all buses originating from NCR district in the respective state and ply to Delhi or Vice-a-versa will be either EV/CNG/BS VI Diesel vehicles.
- Buses and Tempo Traveller from other places, beyond NCR District in the respective state will be permitted to operate between any city beyond NCR to Delhi and back without any restriction.
- Effective 1st January 2024, buses plying from any area of Rajasthan to Delhi and back shall only be EV/CNG/BS VI Diesel Buses.



ALLIANCES

On point no. 3 above, IATO requested for exemption to this rule till 30th June 2024 as is being done in the case of Uttar Pradesh.

As far as GRAP III is concerned, IATO requested to permit plying of diesel buses/tempo traveller registered on or after 1st January 2018 as there are large number of coaches and tempo travellers, which were registered in 2018.

With respect to Diesel Cars, It was once again requested that BS IV All India Tourist Permit Diesel cars be allowed to ply in Delhi during GRAP III as per following: -

■ As on 1st January 2023 - tourist cars registered on or after 1st January 2017 to be allowed to ply.

■ As on 1st January 2024 - tourist cars registered on or after 1st January 2018 to be allowed to ply.

■ As on 1st January 2025 - tourist cars registered on or after 1st January 2019 to be allowed to ply.

■ As on 1st January 2026 - tourist cars registered on or after 1st January 2020 to be allowed to ply.

■ Only BS VI cars to be allowed to ply from 1st January 2027 onwards.

IATO spoke to Shri Virender Singh, Special Commissioner of Police, Traffic Management Division and Mr Ashish Kundra, Principal Secretary cum Commissioner, Transport Department Government of NCT Delhi on the restriction imposed on Diesel Buses from 1st November 2023

IATO informed that coaches of some of its members were stopped and challaned on 1st November morning from entering into Delhi, which was against the advisory no. 10, dated 26th October 2023 issued by the Transport Department, Government of NCT Delhi and orders issued by Delhi traffic police order no. 4767-4825 dated 31st October 2023.



ALLIANCES

The orders very clearly stated that vehicles originating from any city/town in Haryana to Delhi or Vice-Versa should only be operated by EV/CNG/BS VI buses. There was no restriction imposed if they operated within the state of Haryana or within the state of Delhi.

Further, any vehicle originating in the state of Rajasthan or in the state of Uttar Pradesh beyond the district in NCR were also not covered under these restriction as on that date. Vehicles originating from other districts beyond the district of NCR in the state of Rajasthan will only be covered from 1st January 2024 and vehicles originating beyond the NCR districts in Uttar Pradesh from 1st July 2024.

IATO requested that this information may kindly be disseminated to all the ground staff of the traffic police and the State Transport Authority and they should follow the advisory, so that the tourist vehicles were not stopped unnecessarily.

IATO thanked Mr Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India, for the changed dates of Pushkar Fair to its original dates

IATO also thanked Mr Praveen Gupta, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer, Rajasthan Ms Gayatri Rathore, IAS, Principal Secretary Tourism, Art & Culture, Government of Rajasthan, Dr Rashmi Sharma, IAS, Director Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, Mr Narayan Singh, IAS, Secretary, State Election Commission, Rajasthan and Ms Bharti Dixit, IAS, District Collector and Magistrate, Ajmer, Government of Rajasthan for considering its request favourably.

In line with the thinking of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, IATO sent a message to the concerned officials in Rajasthan to showcase the Democratic Election Process to the foreign tourists who will be in Pushkar on 25th November on the polling date. IATO suggested that 4 or 5 groups of 20 foreign tourists could be made to show them the election process.



ALLIANCES



IATO enquired Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs on the Negative Travel Advisories issued by the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO and Netherland)

FCDO advised against all travel within the vicinity of the India-Pakistan border, except for at Wagah, where travellers can cross the border also against all travel to the region of Jammu and Kashmir (including Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, the city of Srinagar, and the Jammu-Srinagar national highway). It also advised against all but essential travel to the state of Manipur. Netherlands also marked Kashmir in Red.

The fact was that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur was absolutely normal.

IATO requested for withdrawal of these advisories, which were negatively affecting the inbound tourism to India and especially in Jammu &

Kashmir and Manipur, where situation was absolutely normal except for India-Pakistan border areas.



IATO requested Mr B.C. Joshi, Joint Secretary (F-I), Ministry of Home Affairs on the issues with the e-Visa 24x7 Help Desk Number 91-11-24300666

Foreign clients gave their feedback that whenever they call on the help-desk number numerous times the automated voice keeps coming that all the staff members are busy and asks if we'd like to hold on. Clients from Italy, USA and Sri Lanka were facing the same issue.



ALLIANCES



IATO requested Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Government of NCT Delhi regarding restriction imposed on plying of BS IV Diesel Buses during GRAP IV

IATO appraised that restriction/ban on plying of BS-IV diesel vehicles having All India Tourist Permit will hit the tourism sector badly. 95% of the tour operators, travel agents in Delhi are in possession of BS-IV vehicles as BS-VI stage was introduced during Covid in 2020 and tourism business from March 2020 to April 2022 was zero due to restriction on international flights and visa suspensions. Most of the tour operators had no business for over 30 months and they closed down their business. Therefore, IATO members were not in a position to purchase new vehicles. Now inbound tourism was picking up and our members just started their business but still they do not have funds to spend for purchasing new vehicles. However, BS -IV vehicles that they have in possession

is well maintained and has fitness certificate and following the emission norms.

Restriction of plying of BS IV having All India Tourist Permit vehicles will result in that our members will not be able to provide services to their foreign clients traveling from across the globe. This will also be giving a very negative image of our country in front of foreign tourists who will be stopped to enter Delhi. Delhi is the Gateway city for 60-70 % foreign tourists arriving in India. This will result that foreign tourists after return to their country will sue their foreign tour operators in the court of law for lapse of services, who in turn will take Indian tour operators to the court. This will also result in that we in India will not be able to achieve target of 30 million foreign tourists by 2030 as desired by our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

IATO had represented the case to Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), NCR and Adjoining Areas to allow BS IV Diesel Buses having All India Tourist Permit. This was favourably considered by CAQM based on its merit.

IATO requested that Services to be provided to the tourists especially the foreign tourists who have travelled from different countries travelling thousand kilometres with confirmed arrangements in India should be considered under ESSENTIAL SERVICES and

ALLIANCES

plying of All India Tourist Vehicles Commercial Diesel Buses with BS-IV certificate having valid registration and registered after 1st January 2018 and having fitness certificate in case GRAP IV is enforced, should be allowed and there should not be any restriction during GRAP IV stage so that the tour operators are able to provide uninterrupted services to tourists already committed to them.

IATO suggested Mrs V. Vidyavathi, Secretary (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism about India Pavilion at WTM London 2023

IATO wrote to Mrs V. Vidyavathi, Secretary (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism and gave its valuable inputs on the India Pavilion at WTM London 2023 and expressed that the India Pavillion was not up to the standard and mentioned that on a larger global platform where we showcase India, it's crucial to work meticulously to ensure we present ourselves in the best light possible, without appearing inferior to others.



IATO requested Dr. Mahendra Khadgawat, Director Archaeology and Museum Department, Jaipur (A & M), Government of Rajasthan, regarding closure of state monuments and museums on Election Day without any advance notice



It came as a surprise and shock to the tourism stakeholders as all other tourism related activities were normal, hotels were welcoming the tourists, city palace was open, airport and railway staff was functioning normal. Itineraries were made by the tour operators and confirmed to the foreign tourists and at 5 pm on 24th November 2023 IATO, members received the orders that all state monuments and museums will remain closed. Monuments/Museums in all the other states remain open on the Election Day.

IATO requested that on election days, monuments/museums should remain open and be treated as essential services like RTDC hotels and Palace on Wheels. Monuments/museums should only be closed as per scheduled days as tour operators plan itineraries for the foreign tourists accordingly.

TRADE REPORT

Sri Lanka waives visa fee for seven countries, including India

A free Visa regime is implemented for nationals of China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Japan with immediate effect, until 31.03.2024, launching as a pilot program to rebuild the tourism industry in line with the Cabinet of Ministers Approval 23/1885/602/023 dated 24.10.2023. Foreign nationals of the above-nominated countries possessing Diplomatic, Official, Public Affairs, Service, and Ordinary passports are eligible to enjoy a visa-free regime under this scheme.



India resumes E-Visa services for Canada

After an almost two-month hiatus, India has started offering electronic visa services to Canadian citizens again. Following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's claims of the "potential" participation of Indian agents in the June 18 execution of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia, tensions between India and Canada erupted in September. In 2020, India classified Nijjar as a terrorist. Trudeau's accusations were dismissed by India as "absurd" and "motivated". A few days later, Ottawa was ordered to reduce its diplomatic representation in India by New Delhi, which declared it was temporarily stopping the issuing of visas to Canadian citizens. Additionally, India had requested that Canada take strong action against terrorists and anti-Indian groups that are based there.

TRADE REPORT

MoT to organise International Tourism Mart at Shillong

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is organizing the 11th edition of International Tourism Mart at Shillong, Meghalaya from 21st to 23rd November 2023. The International Tourism Mart is an annual event held by the Ministry in one of the North Eastern States on rotation basis, with an objective to provide a bigger platform to the North Eastern stakeholders to interact with their counterparts from both within the country and overseas markets as well as to create awareness about the tourism potential of North East Region (NER) and highlight its unique tourism products, rich bio diversity, unique intangible heritage including local traditions, dance forms, arts, handicrafts and handlooms to a domestic and international audience.

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) Elevates Tehri as the paragliding capital of the world



In a ground-breaking announcement, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) proudly reveals the inaugural Tehri Acro Festival, scheduled to be held from November 24th to 28th, 2023. Recognized as India's First International Aerial Acrobatic Show, this five-day extravaganza will feature the participation of over 150 paragliders, including approximately 35 international athletes, transforming the skies of Tehri into a canvas of thrilling acrobatics.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India participates in World Travel Market (WTM) 2023

Ministry of Tourism, along with various stakeholders including tour operators



TRADE REPORT

and state tourism departments is participating in WTM London from 6 – 8 November 2023. The Ministry of Tourism has taken a space of 650 square meters for the Incredible India Pavilion at WTM 2023, London to showcase varied tourism products and a series of transformative experiences for travellers to India under the theme 'Incredible India! Visit India Year 2023'.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India participates in ITB Asia, Singapore

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India along with various stakeholders including tour operators and state

tourism departments participated in one of the important international travel exhibitions held in Singapore to promote inbound tourism to India globally including the Asia Pacific region. The exhibition – ITB Asia started on 25th October 2023 and ended on 27th October. Ministry of Tourism is leading the participation of the Indian industry at the exhibition, which draws the travel trade business and stakeholders from across the globe and particularly from the Asia Pacific region, to showcase varied tourism products and series of transformative experiences for travellers to India under the theme 'Incredible India! Visit India Year 2023'.



TRADE REPORT

Indian Embassies in Israel, Palestine issue advisories to 'remain vigilant'

As a full-scale war broke out between the ruling Hamas militant group in the Gaza Strip and Israel, killing at least 498 people on both sides, the Indian Embassy in Jerusalem and the Representative Office of India in Palestine have issued advisories urging Indian citizens in those countries to “remain vigilant” and “directly contact the Office” in case of emergency. According to the Israeli military, Hamas terrorists launched more than 2,000 rockets into Israel from the Gaza Strip as they crossed into southern Israel by land, sea, and air using paragliders. Near the border, according to Hamas, it captured a number of Israeli soldiers.



MoT undertaking Special Campaign 3.0 for cleanliness and disposal of pending matters

Ministry of Tourism has undertaken the Special Campaign 3.0 within the Ministry, India tourism domestic offices, Institute of Hotel Management, etc. Preparatory phase of the Special Campaign 3.0 started from 15th of September 2023 to identify targets for the various activities of the campaign. The main campaign has started from 2nd Oct. 2023 and will last up to 31st Oct. 2023. The main focus of the campaign includes the disposal of public grievances, references from the Members of Parliament, Cleanliness drive, weeding out of files, etc.



MEDIA COVERAGE



With W Ibohal (Tourism Director, Manipur), Past President Pranab Sarkar Sir and NE Chapter Chairman Nirmalya during the International Tourism Mart, Shillong



“Opening of visas for Canada, which is one of the largest source markets, would be a booster shot for in-bound tourism. Hopefully, by January, the tourist flow from Canada will begin,” said Rajiv Mehra, president, IATO (Indian Association of Tour Operators).



It was an honour to welcome Ms. Manisha Saxena Director General (Tourism) Ministry of Tourism GOI on her visit on 18th November 2023 at IHM Jaipur to attend Stakeholders meeting.

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<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-resumes-e-visa-services-canadians-9037591/>



'Opening of e-visas for Canadian national a booster shot for our inbound tourism': Rajiv Mehra, IATO President

November 22, 2023



Sharing his views on the resumption of e-tourist

visa for Canadian nationals, Rajiv Mehra, President of IATO, says, "We are happy and pleased with this development as opening of visas for Canada which is one of the largest source market for India, will be a big booster shot for our inbound tourism. Hopefully, the tourist flow from Canada will begin by January. Also, we will urge the government to allow e-visa for Chinese visitors. While other visas are open for the Chinese



BOTT Weekly Roundup: November 5 to November 11, 2023
Ministry of Tourism participates at W...
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BOTT Weekly Roundup: November 5 to November 11, 2023

- ▶ Ministry of Tourism participates at WTM 2023, London
- ▶ IATO special membership drive to continue till March 31
- ▶ Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity New Delhi starts Christmas festivities
- ▶ Signing of Wyndham Garden Chitwan Patihani, Nepal
- ▶ Minor Hotels to debut in Paris with addition of three hotels

MEDIA COVERAGE

TRAVEL turtle TRAILS

13th September, 2023

IATO special membership drive to continue till 31st March 2024

Mr Ravi Gosain, Vice President – IATO apprised that due to the overwhelming response to IATO Special Membership Drive which was valid till 31st August 2023 will continue till 31st March 2024 with special offers.

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TRAVEL WORLD ONLINE MEANS BUSINESS

IATO special membership drive to continue till March 31, 2024

Ravi Gosain, Vice President – IATO apprised that due to the overwhelming response to IATO Special Membership Drive which was valid till August 31, 2023 will now continue till March 31, 2024 with special offers. The objective of this special drive is to facilitate the tourism stakeholders to join IATO in large numbers and make IATO the voice of the industry for which IATO has offered the following: - 1. 100% waiver off on Admission Fee (joining fee) of Rs. 30500/- plus GST for the new membership for the applicants who are based in Andaman Nicobar...

NOVEMBER 2023

Tata Communications, a global digital ecosystem enabler and Singapore Airlines Limited (SIA), the national carrier of Singapore, announced a multi-year agreement to transform the airline's communications and collaboration tools to enhance employee productivity and boost user experience.

SIA and Tata Communications have a successful, long-standing association that has been strengthened over several years. This new transformation initiative delivered on Tata Communications GlobalRapid platform enables SIA users to be...

CONNECT TO OVER 100 CITIES IN UK & EUROPE WITH AIR INDIA'S INTERMODAL AGREEMENT WITH ACCESRAIL

IATO special membership drive to continue till March 31

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Singapore Airlines partners with Tata Communications

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पुष्कर मेला अब 14 से 27 नवंबर तक

अजमेर। चुनाव के मौनजरी थी। इसके बाद राज्य के मुख्य इंटरनेशनल पुष्कर मेले की अवधि चुनाव आयुक्त ने कलेक्टर को घटाने को लेकर इंडियन टूर मेले को लेकर दिशा-निर्देश दिए। ऑपरेटर्स एसोसिएशन और पुष्कर मेला 14 से 27 नवंबर के लोगों द्वारा लगातार विरोध के तहत IATO 26 चलते जिला प्रशासन ने मेला री-शुरू एकम को झंडा चौकी का

A photograph of a street scene in Bagan, Myanmar. In the background, a large, ornate golden pagoda with multiple tiers and a pointed spire stands prominently. The pagoda is surrounded by other smaller structures and trees. In the foreground, several people are walking along a paved path. Some are wearing traditional Burmese clothing, while others are in more modern attire. The scene is captured in a slightly grainy, vintage-style photograph.

Thailand was among the most frequented destinations by Indians post the Covid lockdown, and this means the



MEDIA COVERAGE



the core of the dispute between the Chhabria cousins will be decided by the NCLAT.

The SC will also hear the contempt petition on October 30.

Room for growth: Hotels expect good times to roll on

According to Vivek Shukla, CEO of The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, the hospitality industry is currently experiencing a phase of remarkable growth, primarily due to a positive economic outlook and a surge in business and leisure travel. Over recent years, the sector has been boosted by substantial enhancements in the country's infrastructure, including a robust network of airways, railways and roadways.

Other than G-20 Summit and cricket fever, the upcoming wedding season, meetings, incentives, conferences & exhibitions (MICE), and a renewed interest from global

ation in the West Asia and Middle East. These, in addition to rising air fares and the need for intensive international marketing will impact inbound tourists.

Talking about the reduction in the employee-to-rooms ratio by 20-30% between fiscals 2020 and 2022 by a section of the industry, Indian Association of Tour Operators' President Rajiv Mehra said the retrenched employees were called back. "In fact, now there is a dire shortage of skilled manpower in the industry," he said.



SEJOE JOSE, Chairman-Southern Region
Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO)

IATO brings tier II cities in fo

The 38th IATO Annual Convention, held in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad), saw in attendance t inbound travel industry, along with senior officials from state governments and the Union Ministry of Tourism. Interacted, discussed pertinent issues and business opportunities over the three days.



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Full house at IATO convention

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38th IATO Annual Convention
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Hotels and travel agents should work hand in hand.
Pradeep Hotele Group and the Royal Orchid Hotels have pledged to offer exclusive rates for IATO members.

Sejo Jose, Chairman
Sejo Jose, Chairman of the Southern Region of IATO, said that the convention was a success. He said that the convention was a success. He said that the convention was a success.

BOTT Weekly Roundup: October 1 to October 21, 2023

▶ Rajasthan jumps to 7th position in the new tourism ranking

▶ UNWTO names its Best Tourism Villages of 2023 edition

▶ Madhya Pradesh Tourism



UPDATES

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MP Tourism and IATO sign MoU to promote tourism in Madhya Pradesh

MPTB and IATO have agreed to assist each other in promoting tourism in the state by organising travel visits to Madhya Pradesh, conducting FAM trips, engaging in marketing and awareness campaigns, exchanging publications and academic materials, co-organising travel and tourism trade events, and promoting tourism destinations through media and public relations.

