

IATO interactive meeting on Service Tax



An interactive meeting was organised by IATO at Ashok Hotel in New Delhi on January 23, 2017. IATO had invited Mr S C Kamra, advocate and expert on Service Tax to enlighten the team on the Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT) benefits. Kamra made a presentation on Service Tax and how the notification no.4/2017 dated January 12, 2017, which has increased the Service Tax on tour operators and has in turn allowed tour operators to take (Centre Value Added Tax)

CENVAT credit on various services including hotel accommodation and food, etc, will impact them.

Starting from the basic definition of a tour operator, Kamra defined what are the situations where the tax will be applicable like accommodation, transport, packaged tour, etc. He also explained that for claiming CENVAT credit, members need to maintain record of CENVAT credits to be taken on inputs services effective January 22, 2017 onwards, for which a suggested format has been given.

However, IATO is trying to seek clarification on the issue of services where the tour operators provide only accommodation or only transportation. Letter to this effect is being sent to the Ministry of Finance for clarification.

Detailed report on Page 3

Block your dates

IATO's 33rd Annual Convention will be held from September 7-10, 2017 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The annual convention is a three-day event which includes panel discussions, knowledge sessions, trade fair, responsible run, among numerous other activities. We request you to block your dates and be part of this annual event. The venue is yet to be finalised and will be announced soon





From the very beginning of this year, we have decided to get our priorities right so that all our efforts are in line with our goals. We will synergise our efforts to air our concerns and achieve success

Dear Members,

On behalf of IATO and myself, I extend my best wishes and thank you for all the support you extended to us in 2016. Whatever we could achieve, was because of your valuable feedback and united efforts. I have no doubt that in 2017, IATO will scale higher standards of services and thus enhance the positive image of our organisation.

From the very beginning of this year, we have decided to get our priorities right so that all our efforts are in line with our goals. We will synergise our efforts to air our concerns and achieve success.

Despite the government's business friendly measures, the growth of international tourist arrivals remain more or less on the same level (in actual terms 5 to 6 per cent growth). Our requests for inclusion of multiple entry in e-visa facilitation, e-visa application 120 days in advance, extending the stay period from present 30 days to 60 days, etc have been accepted but government's notification is yet to be issued. The situation has dampened the mood of potential tourists and we could not utilise these positive announcements to attract international tourists for the peak session of December. We have repeatedly requested for an early notification and hope something positive will come out soon. Our ministry had taken up Global Marketing Campaign very aggressively, covering TV, print and digital medium and there is now enhanced awareness which augurs well for our industry. Similarly our long pending MDA scheme where some issues cropped up and delay happened for settling the bills now stand settled and we hope, all pending bills will be settled soon. We even had a meeting with ministry officials to revise the hospitality proposals of the Ministry of Tourism where the guests on MOT Hospitality are handled by our members. The pending issues have also been streamlined based on our recommendations.

Budget recommendations for 2017-18 were sent to Ministry of Finance through our Ministry but the budget outcome is really very disheartening. Already before the budget, Service Tax norms got revised and this was a big blow to our business operations. We had several follow up meetings to update our members on implications of revised Service Tax norms and how they should calculate the tax. Legal experts were also consulted for their expert inputs and guidance for our members. We also represented to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) and expressed our concerns. We met ministry officials on February 7, 2017 and raised all issues.

So we are seized with all our members' concerns. We are also keeping our eyes open on GST progress and continue to suggest our recommendations. We also successfully completed our Annual Day on January 22, 2017 where over 400 people participated. Great teamwork was involved to make this event a big success.

Our training programmes were completed with huge success, thanks to our HRD team. Our website is being completely redesigned with new inputs and we are now ready with our new newsletter. Hope you all find this newsletter informative and looking forward to your valuable suggestions to improve it.

Have a very successful 2017, Good Luck and God Bless.

Pronab Sarkar, President, IATO

CENVAT credit now available to tour operators against service tax levied by hotels

This would surely help the tour operators reduce their tax expense and promote more services.

[illegible]

IATO REQUESTS REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES OF TOUR OPERATORS ARISING FROM NEW SERVICE TAX NOTIFICATION

The declaration of Service Tax notification no. 4/2017 dated January 12, 2017 has raised some concern among the tour operators. The revised entry states the following:

1. CENVAT credit on inputs and capital goods used for providing the taxable service, has not been taken under the provisions of the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004.

2. The bill issued for this purpose indicates that it is inclusive of charges of accommodation and transportation required for such a tour and the amount charged in the bill is the gross amount charged for such a tour including the charges of accommodation and transportation required for such a tour.

IATO wrote to the Department of Revenue seeking some clarifications from the government and also the remedial solution to their apprehensions. Some of the concerns are defined below:

- If a tour operator provides services involving booking of accommodation only in a hotel for the client or arranges transportation only for him as per request of the client, uniform abated value of 60 per cent should apply on these services as well. However, the conditions of the revised entry 11 does not convey this and needs clarity.
- The tour operators, besides hotel accommodation and transport, also provide domestic air tickets and in some cases international air tickets for travel, especially to the SAARC



IATO has proposed to organise a workshop for its members where the revenue officials could be deputed to clarify all the doubts. IATO will also invite the tourism industry professionals to create awareness as they are directly affected by these measures

countries. Therefore, we have to find a solution that Service Tax on domestic air ticket or international air tickets to neighbouring countries is rationalised so that neither our country nor Indian tour operators suffer any loss of foreign exchange.

- Besides India packages, Indian tour operators also promote the neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tibet, etc, for which one package is formed. The tour operators may now have to apply 9 per cent Service Tax

even on portion of the services rendered outside India which will make the tour package expensive. It is, therefore, requested that Service Tax should not be made applicable to services provided outside India as the place of performance is outside India.

- In case of booking of a room in any Ayurvedic resort or hospital, e.g. Ananda in the Himalayas, etc, the resorts are providing medical treatment or Ayurvedic treatment. It is requested to exempt tour operators from paying service tax on the exempted categories of Ayurveda/ hospital for medical tourism.
- As per the above notification no. 4/2017-ST dated January 12, 2017, effective rate of Service Tax on tour operators who are doing outbound business would now be 9 per cent instead of 4.5 per cent. For outbound tourism, where tour operators are admittedly providing services outside India, the facility of CENVAT credit is not available on account of non-applicability of service tax on services hired outside India.

IATO has proposed to organise a workshop for its members where the revenue officials could be invited to clarify all the doubts. IATO will also invite the tourism industry professionals to create awareness as they are directly affected by these measures. IATO will continue to do personal meetings to understand the situation better and also circulate the message to its members.

Budget 2017: Industry highlights

The Budget 2017, announced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, has outlined several developments and plans for the tourism sector. Jaitley referred to tourism as a big employment generator and has announced that the government will set up five special tourism zones in co-ordination with state governments, alongside launching the Incredible India campaign on international level.

This is the first instance of the Railway Budget being integrated into the Union Budget. The merger of the Railway Budget with the general budget will give an impetus to the transport sector's growth, opined PM Narendra Modi.

On tourism and related infrastructure front, the budget saw several announcements for railways, aviation, road and coastal connectivity.

Selected airports in Tier II cities have been identified for taking up operations and development under PPP model. However, the minister hasn't revealed specific details on the same. The focus of railways for the 2017-2018 fiscal will be on passenger safety, capital works and cleanliness, among other issues such as infrastructure upgradation and provisions for passengers. The railways will also take steps for launching dedicated trains for tourism and pilgrimage purposes.

In this direction, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) had announced last month it will launch the first pilgrim train for the North East region on February 17, which will connect to destinations like Jagannath and Konark temples.

In another highlight of the budget, promoting the government's digital initiatives, service charge on e-tickets booked through IRCTC has been withdrawn. The government also



Arun Jaitley

removed all duties on devices used in the process of cashless transactions like point of sales machines, finger print readers etc.

A total of ₹1.3 lakh crore has been allotted for solar powered and disabled-friendly railway stations. By 2019, all coaches of Indian Railways will be fitted with bio-toilets. Rail safety fund with a corpus of ₹100,000 crore will be created over a period of five years. Jaitley has announced a total of ₹55,000 crore for railways in Budget 2017. Whereas, the transport sector in general has been allocated ₹2.41 lakh crore.

A new metro rail policy will be announced, which is expected to open up new jobs for the youth. Additionally, railway-related state-run companies like IRCON and IRCTC will be listed on stock exchanges.

Budget allocation for highways has been stepped up to ₹64,000 crore in FY18 from ₹57,676 crore.

In another traveller-oriented move apart from tourism and pilgrimage trains, Head Post Offices will now be used as the front office for passport services, eliminating the need to travel long distances for obtaining a passport.

The government has also allocated ₹1,840.77 crore to the tourism ministry for the next fiscal, including ₹959.91 crore for the integrated development of tourist circuits.

National carrier Air India, which is surviving on ₹30,231-crore bailout package extended by the previous UPA government, will receive ₹1,800 crore as equity infusion in 2017-2018 under the government's ongoing financial assistance.

What IATO had recommended for Budget 2017-2018

In hope of getting for the tourism sector its much awaited recognition and support from the government, IATO recently submitted its budget recommendations for the year 2017-2018. A summary of issues presented in the report highlighted the dire need of leveraging tour operators against other physical exporters of goods. It highlighted that the tourism industry needs government support and fair treatment at par with the exporters of physical goods on the basis of foreign exchange earnings.

One of the major issues pointed out was that tour operators is the only service which bears the burden of multiple taxes starting from road tax, airport tax, luxury tax to numerous others. The tour operators are being heavily taxed under various heads and are paying between 27-30 per cent tax to the government which includes taxes starting from road tax, toll tax, service tax, airport tax, luxury tax among numerous others. Here is a look at the recommendations:

1. According to the rule 6A of service tax rules, once service is provided outside the taxable territory, no service tax is payable. The tour operators meet all the criteria of the rule except one which says that the place of provision is outside India. So it was



One of the major issues pointed out was that the tour operator's is the only service which bears the burden of multiple taxes starting from road tax, airport tax, luxury tax to numerous others

suggested that the conditions of rule 6A for export of services in the case of tour operators may be relaxed and the services of tour operators earning foreign exchange for the country may be accorded with the status of export of services and accordingly may be exempted from whole of service tax and tourism be given the status of industry. Definition of providing services on Indian soil may kindly be changed for the tour operators and make them at par with export of service on foreign exchange billing as tour operators have to provide service to the foreign visitors in India only.

2. The government in a limited manner, had relaxed the restriction of inadmissibility of CENVAT credit to tour operators

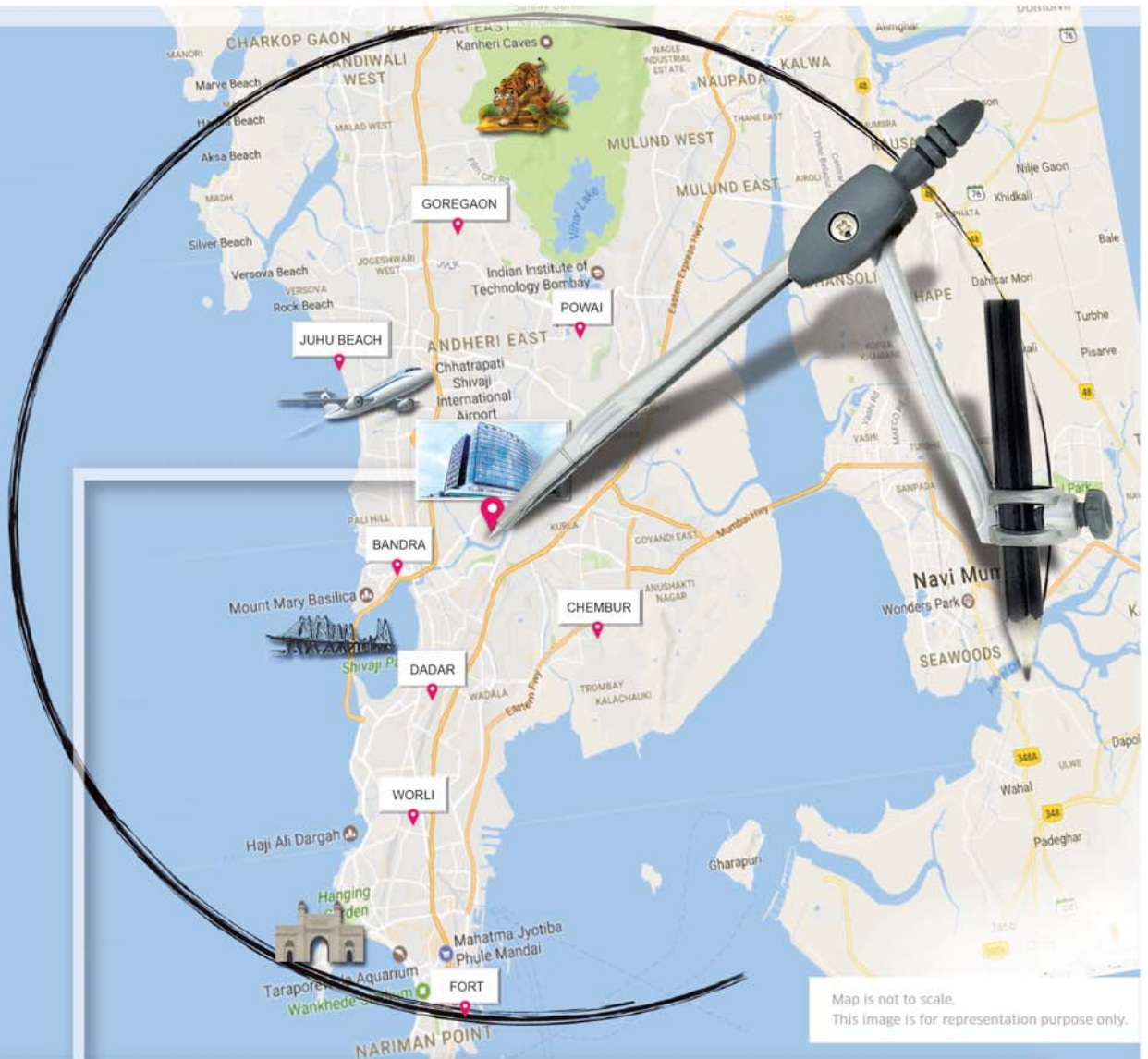
in respect of input services procured and used by them to support their output services. It is recommended that as in the case of hotels, the tour operators may be allowed benefit of CENVAT credit in respect of service tax charged by all the service providers including counterpart tour operators, hotels, cab operator/transporter, rail/air travel agent (for air ticket), tourist guide, foreign currency sellers / money changers, etc.

- 3- With a view to give further boost to the tourism industry in the country, the recommendation of IATO is that the services of tour operators earning foreign exchange for the country may be accorded with the status of export services and accordingly exempted from whole of both Central Good and Service Tax (GST) and State GST. At this stage, we would like to recall that prior to March 1, 2003, the foreign exchange earned by tour operators were fully exempted from service tax by the earlier NDA Govt. under the leadership of then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We, therefore, urge the Ministry of Tourism at the centre to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance for re-introduction of tax exemption from the proposed GST in respect of foreign exchange earnings of tour operators.

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IATO URGES MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

The Indiatourism office in Frankfurt will be participating in international tourism fairs to be held in Moscow, Frankfurt, Kazakhstan and Budapest in 2017. The office has extended an invitation to IATO members to be part of the four exhibitions, namely Moscow International Travel and Tourism Exhibition (MITT) in Moscow, Incentive Travel Meetings and Events (IMEX) in Frankfurt, Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair (KITF) in Almaty, Kazakhstan and Utazas International

S No	Fairs	Date of Fairs	Space	Participation Fee (Euro)	Spots available
1	MIIT 2017	14- 16 March 2017	100	1932,00	10
2	IMEX 2017	21 – 23 May 2017	100	2792,00	10
3	KITF 2017	19 -21 April 2017	63	1702,00	6 – 7
4	UTAZAS	2- 3 March 2017	40	404	4 – 5

Trade Fair in Budapest. The details shared in the above table.

They have already received eight requests for MITT 2017 and appeal to all the interested IATO members to send in

their applications at the earliest. IATO would also urge the interested members to respond within the time frame to tap on the opportunity of international representation.

Participation in international events

As some major exhibitions approach this year, IATO continues to update the members with the latest information. Regular circulars are being sent to educate the members about the details and deadlines pertaining to the rates of the stalls at the exhibition. Here is a look at the latest updates.

Internationale Tourismus-Börse B (ITB Berlin)

ITB Berlin is to be held from March 8-12, 2017. The participation fees has been fixed by the Ministry of Tourism at the cost of 4 sq. m. booth size is ₹1,57,855. Booths can be taken in multiples of 4 sq. m. i.e. 4,8,12, 16 and the participation fee will be accordingly enhanced if booth space requirement is more than 4 sq. m. All stakeholders who

wish to book space within the India Pavilion at ITB 2017 are required to deposit an initial amount of ₹25,000 to the Ministry of Tourism as their commitment towards participation in the event.

East Mediterranean International Travel & Tourism Exhibition (EMITT 2017)

The EMITT 2017 is being held from January 26-29, 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. Like previous year, India Tourism, Dubai would be participating in EMITT and has booked space of 126 sq. m. for industry participation. There would be booths of size 5 sq. m. each for industry participation and would be allotted on first come first served basis. The charges for participation in the India stand per booth would be US\$ 1600.

Borsa Internazionale del Turismo (BIT)

The next edition of Borsa Internazionale del Turismo (BIT) will be held in Milan, Italy from April 2-4, 2017. Considering the increasing interest of Indian tour operators, hotels and resorts, airlines and state tourism departments to participate in this fair as co-exhibitors from India Pavilion, India Tourism is considering to accommodate 20 co-exhibitors in India Pavilion. Each participant will be allotted 4 sq.m. of furnished space equipped with one table, three to four chairs, a small cabinet, an electric power outlet, a garbage bin and a name board. The participation fee for this 4 sq.m. of booth space will be € 832.00 (Euro eight hundred thirty two only). The participation fee has to be remitted to India Tourism, Milan by bank transfer.

IATO discussion on overcoming demonetisation

IATO hosted its luncheon meeting on December 7, 2016 at Siddharth Hotel, New Delhi which was attended by over 65 members including the travel trade media. The event started by paying homage to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalithaa and Frank Goveas, managing director, Trimurti Holidays who passed away on December 5, 2016 and December 1, 2016 respectively. It was followed by Lally Mathews, hon secretary's address on some crucial issues. He mentioned that the association fully supported the Prime Minister's decision of demonetisation, however the members faced several difficulties due to lack in implementation process.

He further informed that Pronab Sarkar, president, IATO, was in regular touch with Hon'ble Minister, Secretary (Tourism), Secretary (Culture), DG (ASI), and others during the period and was able to resolve the major problems. Mathews further informed on how the association had voiced the issue of foreign tourists facing problems due to the restrictions on exchange of foreign currency.

He updated the members on Market Development Scheme (MDA) scheme, "We have been able to settle the pending MDA claims of our members and have also requested the government for revival of guidelines of MDA schemes. The proposals appeals for the participation of our members in international conferences like PATA, UFTAA, etc, shall be covered in MDA norms."

Sarkar informed, "Demonetisation has brought a new wave but has its own share of problems especially for tourists,



but IATO took some immediate steps to solve the problem. After all, the problems we have faced due to purchase of tickets we will strongly push the ministry to order card swipe machines at all ASI monuments."

Talking about the new liberalised visa norms, he stated, "The government's extension of e-visa facilities to eight more countries is a good step towards attracting international visitors. While we had pushed for multiple entry on conference and medical visa, it has been extended to a double entry. However, five more countries are going to be added soon which will take the total to 163. We had also pushed the visa facilities at four ports to promote cruise tourism in India which has been granted by the government. We look forward to make the best of the

situation and promote tourism in the country."

The meeting continued with a progressive question and answer round highlighting the areas to be worked upon. Rajeev Kohli, vice president, pointed out that that few months back, he conducted an online survey and it was very disheartening that out of 1600 members only 63 members responded. He emphasised on the fact that collection of statistical data by the operators is important to be presented if the ministry or media questioned.

In his thank you address, he asserted, "In line with the overall suggestions received from our members as IATO we pro-actively took up those issues with Ministry of Tourism, ASI, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Let us work closely to achieve our targeted growth."

PICTURE GALLERY



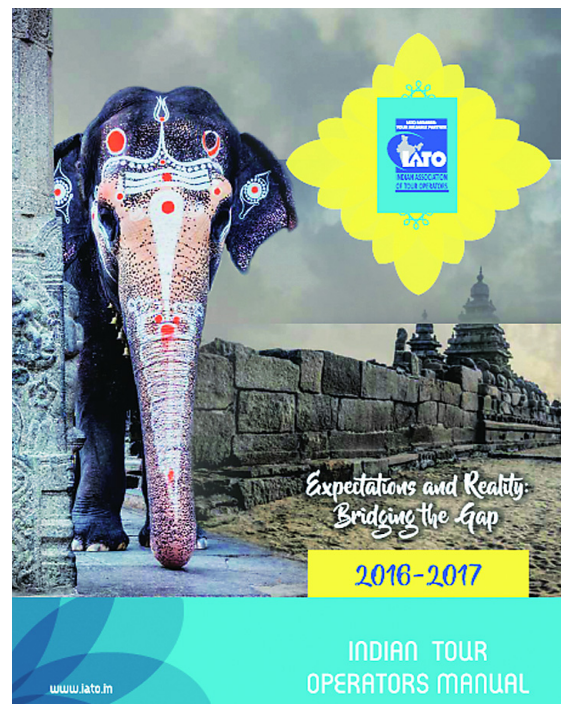
IATO celebrates Annual Day with great fervour

IATO annual day was held on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at the Heritage Transport Museum in Bilaspur. It was a day of great excitement as IATO member families came together to celebrate the occasion. Various activities were organised for the children to participate in along with their parents. Children were seen taking part in activities like camel cart rides, pottery, face painting, tyre race and sack race, while their parents enjoyed games of tug of war, kite flying, ring in the bottle, etc. Many members attended the event and were seen engaging in various activities. The day was observed to celebrate the hard work done for the year and the achievements of IATO till now. Here are few glimpses of the day.



IATO TOUR OPERATORS MANUAL READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

Indian Association of Tours Operators (IATO) has brought out the 2016-2017 edition of the IATO Manual for the Chennai convention. The manual begins with good luck messages to the IATO team for the convention followed by an overview of IATO, its achievements, destination India, list of active and allied members etc.



IATO re-forms sub committees, adds a new one

IATO recently announced the re-formation of its sub committees for 2016-2018. The new year started with the formation of a new sub committee for IATO Youth. As India is driven by its youth force and has the largest youth power in the world, IATO felt that befitting to India's image and keeping up with the times it should endeavour to have a special sub committee for the youth. This sub committee will adapt best practices in the field of sports, youth centric activities and also provide information regarding market trends. This initiative is to develop and promote camaraderie among the members and spirit of cooperation, brotherhood and meet the challenges of the competitiveness from other youth oriented destinations.

The sub committees for 2016-2018

1. Committee for airlines and airports
2. Committee for education and skill development
3. Committee for hotel relations
4. Committee for legal grievances and disputes
5. Committee for tour guide relations
6. Committee for railway, surface transport, cruise and waterways
7. Committee for IATO website and social media promotion
8. Committee for Youth

IATO organises training programmes for members



As IATO always believes that training is an integral part for sustainable tourism growth, fresh sessions of training programmes have been planned for in 2017. The sessions are aimed at improving the skills and enhancing the learning curve of IATO members. The first training programme was a two day event on January 13-14, 2017. The topic of the programme was 'Tourism - The world of opportunities for Gen-X' covering important subjects like:

1. Introduction to the tourism industry and its knowhow
2. Future prospects for tourism industry in India and worldwide
3. Activities and emerging streams in the tourism industry
4. Career prospects – commercial and government agencies
5. Communication skills – interacting effectively
6. Creativity skills – brainstorming and generating new ideas
7. Influencing skills – selling and negotiation
8. Interpersonal skills – handling

difficult customers

9. Personal skills - stress management
10. Professional skills – business etiquettes and ethics
11. Team spirit and self-motivation
12. Time management and cost effectiveness
13. Guest handling and establishing PR
14. Developing tour operator-hotel relationship
15. Dealing with competition and facing challenges.

Held at the Ethiopian Culture Centre, the event was only open for 20 participants on a first come first serve basis. The event was kept close knit to 27 people to enhance the member's experience as a knowledge sharing platform. After the success of the first edition in January, IATO will be organising another training session February 20-21, 2017. The focus will be on issues related to the upliftment of the quality in attitude and service efficiency of our service personnel through intensive training process. Feedback from participants is very encouraging.

Feedback from our participants

"I really find training useful for our successful professional life"
Barnali, LPTI

"The way the things were performed was very effective, each and every aspect of tourism was covered"
Dipesh, Hi Tours

"It was very useful and we will recommend it to others also"
Kanchan, Zutshi World Travels

"The things taught by the trainers are the ones are useful in our professional life"
Saurav, TravelScope

"Knowledge from training will be helpful for our day to day work and activities at work place"
Shweta, Images India Tours

"I will highly recommend it to my colleagues in order to provide professional and amazing services to our client's"
Bhavna, Cox and Kings

"I hope to change my daily practice as a result of this training related to soft tourism skill, team work and team building specially"
Timcy, Sai Voyages India

"It is best to learn from seniors experience in the industry"
Shiksha, Nu Travel Bureau

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR 2016

IATO played an active role in all the decision making process of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tourism to promote tourism to our country and gave its valuable inputs for the following policy making process. Some of the major achievements of the association are:

1. IATO gave valuable inputs for the new tourism policy.
2. The foremost is the e-tourist visa which was announced on November 27, 2014 with 37 countries and today this scheme has been extended to 150 countries.
3. Setting up of medical tourism and wellness board.
4. Swadesh Darshan Scheme for development of circuits.
5. Promotion and development of cruise tourism
6. Launching of HRIDAY and PRASAD Projects
7. 24x7 tourist helpline in 12 foreign languages
8. Marketing initiatives
9. Single window clearance for investment in tourism projects, especially in the niche tourism, spiritual, wildlife, photography, architecture, sufi circuit, etc.

WITH OTHER MINISTRIES

Ministry Civil Aviation

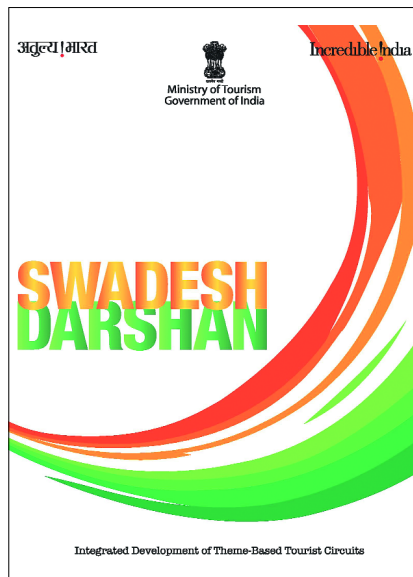
Possible circuits under the Regional Air Connectivity Scheme were discussed with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and IATO submitted its proposal.

Ministry of Railways

Special tourist trains including Buddhist Circuit, wildlife and other religious circuits.

Ministry of Highways

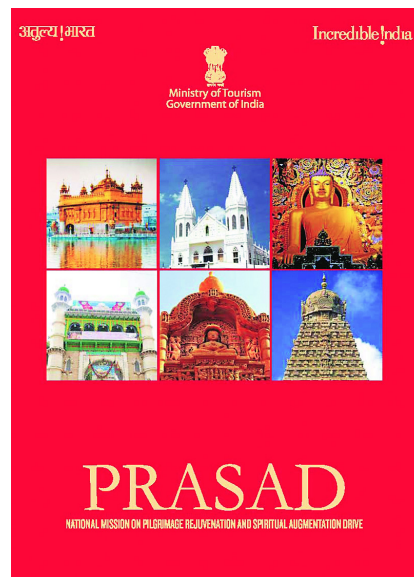
Development of highways with increasing private sector participation; road development programme for the North East region.



IATO has tried to spread its wing for synergised approach to tourism by having regular interactions with all concerned ministries

Ministry of Shipping

Development of international as well as domestic cruise terminal across the Indian coastline, improvement of procedures related to immigration, customs and CISF. Also, for adopting passenger friendly standard operating procedure which should be applicable at all ports in India for sea plane services at Mumbai, etc.



Ministry of Health

Medical tourism facilitation.

Ministry of Commerce

Business tourism facilitation specially visa norms/single window clearance for investments.

Ministry of Environment

Tourism friendly approach for wildlife viewing, tiger habitat regulations, etc.

Ministry of Rural Development

Rural tourism prospects.

Ministry of External Affairs

Multiple entry visa

IATO has thus tried to spread its wing for synergised approach to tourism by having regular interactions with all concerned ministries. IATO's valuable suggestions got due recognition and have been incorporated in the policy documents.

Announcements

IATO to launch a revamped website soon

The IATO website is undergoing some major changes and a revamped website will be launched soon. The new website will have all the updated information of members.

IATO participates in the Bengal Travel Mart

Some IATO dignitaries participated in the Bengal Travel Mart (WBTM 2017), which was held on January 27-30, 2017 in Siliguri.

Statistics 2016

Foreign Tourist Arrivals:

FTAs during the period January-November, 2016 were 78.53 lakh with a growth of 10.4 per cent as compared to the FTAs of 71.14 lakh with a growth of 4.7 per cent in January-November, 2015 over January-November, 2014.

Foreign Exchange Earnings:

Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) from tourism in rupee terms during January-November, 2016 was ₹1,38,845 crore with a growth of 14.7 per cent as compared to the FEE of ₹1,21,041 crore with a growth of 9.7 per cent during January-

November, 2015 over January-November, 2014.

E-tourist Visa: During January to November 2016, a total of 9,17,446 tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 3,41,683 during January to November 2015, registering a growth of 168.5 per cent .

December 2016 : 13.6 per cent growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals in December 2016 over the same period in 2015. USA accounts for highest share of tourist arrivals followed by Bangladesh and UK in December 2016. ₹16,805 crore

Foreign Exchange was earned through tourism.

Domestic travel: India's domestic travel demand in 2016 touched nearly 100 million mark, with the Indian airlines flying 99.88 million passengers between the January-December period of 2016 as compared to 810.91 lakh in 2015, recording an increase of 23.18 per cent. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has said in its statistical analysis that traffic rose nearly 24 per cent in December 2016 to 95.52 lakh from 77.09 lakh registered during the same period in 2015.

New Membership Approved w.e.f. December 19, 2016

Active (Change of Status)

1. Erudite Travel Consultants LLP

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Gangapur Road

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Web: www.bespokeindiaholidays.com

Mr Jay Kajaria, Partner

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Mr Suhel Shaikh, Sr Consultant

2. Colors of India Tours Pvt. Ltd.

Dev Bhavan, Khalini

Shimla-171002

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Mr Narender Bhardwaj, CEO

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Mr Mohinder Prakash, General Manager

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3. Palomino Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.

EC 98, Ground Floor, SFS Flats

Maya Enclave

New Delhi-110064, Tel: 011- 24673384

Email: ajay.vinayak@palominohospitality.com

(M) 9811415135

Mr Ajay Vinayak, CEO

Allied

1. Shree Darshan Tours India

1/47, Ground Floor, Imlok-II

Nadesar

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Email: shridarshantours@gmail.com

Web: www.shreedarshantours.com

Mr Avaneesh Kant Pathak, Vice President

avaneeshpathak.29@gmail.com

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Ms Vinita Pathak, President

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2. Inspiration India (A Unit of Blue Elephant Tours OPC Pvt. Ltd.)

#12, First Floor, MGF, Mega City Mall, MG Road

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Email: mail@inspirationindia.travel

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Email: naresh@travelraze.com

Web: www.travelraze.com

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6. Shree Radhey Tour & Travel Pvt. Ltd.

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Web: www.shreeradheytravels.com

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7. Omalaya Travel Pvt. Ltd.

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Kangra-176216

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(M) 9805163232

Email: info@omalayatrasel.com

Web: www.omalaya.com

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8. World Yatra Tourism Pvt. Ltd.

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Ms Subhadra Kumari

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NEW MEMBERS

9. Goldrop Adventures

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10. MOS Utility Pvt. Ltd.

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11. Om Leisure Pvt. Ltd.

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Web: www.omleisure.org

Mr Debabrata Dash, Managing Director

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12. Estuarine Village Resort

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14. Shree Travels

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15. JC Residency Pvt. Ltd.

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16. Oravel Stays Pvt. Ltd. (OYO)

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17. Holy Voyages

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18. Passion India Tours and Travels

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Mr Sanjay Sharma, Manager

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Sanjay Razdan wins the Desert Storm Rally

Sanjay Razdan, director, Razdan Holidays, an active member of IATO, won the Desert Storm Rally held from January 28 to February 3, 2017 which is also called the Mini Dakar Rally. He participated in the upto 1350 CC modified category, driving a Maruti Suzuki Gypsy and also became the 1st runner-up in all kinds of modified vehicles (competing with much bigger CC and stronger vehicles like Grand Vitaras, Isuzu Dmax, Mitsubishi Pajeros, Renault Duster, etc). He was also able to clock the "Fastest stage time" on the Night stage. IATO extends its heartiest congratulations to him.



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Incredible India



enchanting
tamil nadu
experience yourself



Delightful Art

The glorious past of the temple witnessed many spectacular dancers who performed the Bharatnatyam dance in its complex. The temple was known to be the hub of art, culture and dance in the region.

The abode of spirituality

The sublime beauty and divine charm of the Brihadeshwara Temple welcomes you to Tamil Nadu. Where the blessings of the Gods is a given and the tradition of piety a delight.

Sacred Culture

The ethereal temple hosts the Shiva image as the primary deity and a huge stone linga. The temple complex hosts a Nandi, several sub shrines, mandapas and an assembly hall. The walls are covered with beautiful frescoes dedicated to Shiva.



Holy Heritage

Soak in the architectural marvels of the Brihadeshwara temple designed by the Chola Rulers. More than a thousand years old, the temple is a living testament to the luminous legacy of art and architecture in the region.



Soulful meals

The Temple is in close proximity to many restaurants featuring fresh South Indian cuisine. An adventure for the soul and the stomach.



Excitement galore

Witness the Car Festival with the deity's idols on top. This event is usually attended by thousands of people.

TAMIL NADU TOURISM

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