

FIRST GLOBAL EXHIBITION ON TOURISM-INDIA TO BE HELD IN APRIL 2015

GET-India is being planned as Business to Business (B2B) meeting where it is being targeted to invite 300 Foreign Tour Operators from all across the world, who will be fully hosted and will also be offered post FAM tours

In an effort to promote and market India as a global trade destination, the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has embarked upon organizing a Global Exhibition on Services of which Tourism will be a major part and the Federation of Associations of Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has been given the responsibility to organize the Global Exhibition on Tourism— India, (GET-India). GET-India, supported by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) is scheduled to take place from April 23- 25, 2015, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The Prime Minister has given his consent to inaugurate the Exhibition. About 250 tour operators and 175 exhibitors will be a part of this event. A special discount of 30 per cent is being offered to the exhibitors for this inaugural event, which is going to be an annual exhibition supported by MoC and MoT, Government of India.

Elaborating on the upcoming travel mart, Sarabjit Singh, Vice Chairman, FAITH, said, “The three day event will be showcasing not just the private stakeholders but also the various Indian states to international buyers.”



Subhash Goyal, President, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), urged all the



members to participate in large numbers and make this Exhibition a big success.

The exhibiting organizations will include Destination Management Companies (DMCs), Hotels, Resorts, Health & Wellness Centres, Adventure Tour Operators, professional conference organizers as well as Tourism Departments from various states. This collective initiative is to ensure non partisan approach, so that all exhibitors share the same platform at the same time and the buyers are given choice to meet a cross section of tourism and hospitality professionals.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM TO SOON HAVE ITS HEADQUARTERS AT MANDIR MARG, NEW DELHI

IATO CONGRATULATES SECRETARY TOURISM DR. LALIT K. PANWAR FOR 'PARYATAN BHAVAN' PROJECT IN NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Tourism which currently operates from Transport Bhavan will soon have its headquarters at Mandir Marg, New Delhi. The Ministry has roped in New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to construct an office-cum-commercial complex to be called as 'Paryatan Bhavan' near Birla Mandir, spread over an area of nine acres.

It has been long enough to be at Transport Bhavan and running around between Transport Bhavan and C-1 Hutments for the officials and industry partners as this project of having a separate building for Ministry of Tourism has remained pending for long.

The plan also includes constructing a 4-storey building with two or three basement floors for parking. The 150-crore project will have parking space for about 700 cars. The Ministry has asked for space on two floors. The civic agency is planning to construct the building as per green norms.

OPULENCE | GRANDEUR
LUXURY | CONVENIENCE

25 MINUTES FROM Connaught Place & Pragati Maidan

All That You Want For You And Your Travelers
In New Delhi. Be It A Trade Show At Pragati
Maidan, Long Stay Or A Business Visit.

Grand Venizia Offers You,
What You Have Been Missing In Delhi.

LUXURY
stay at budgeted price

6, Bhamra Shah, Opp. Kirpal Bagh Ashram, Near Model Town Metro Station,
ND-09

Tel : +91 11 49222 777

E-mail : info@grandvenizia.com, mkt@grandvenizia.com

Web : www.grandvenizia.com

14 KMS FROM C.P. YET 25 MINUTES.
THANKS TO THE WELL CONNECTED
RING ROAD.

Grand
VENIZIA
A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members,

Season's Greetings from IATO!

The gloomy outlook which we had seen in late 2014 seems to have gone with our efforts to get Tourist-Visa-on-Arrival enabled by Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) successfully launched on 27th November, 2014. Visa process was the main problem which was deterrent for international tourists to visit India. With ETA, this has been resolved to some extent. But we need to include UK, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden and many other traffic generating countries and for which we have already made our request to our Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Home Affairs. Be assured, we will keep our efforts continued.

There is now increasing supply of hotel rooms and that augurs well. Even in course of recently concluded road shows overseas, we have seen that there is a demand for India destination and niche products have acceptance. So keep your packages ready with niche products for the travel exhibitions wherever you are participating in events like FITUR in Spain, ITB Berlin (Germany) and other international markets.

Our present government is pro-tourism which you all have seen. Even our Prime Minister is promoting tourism during his overseas visits and visa relaxation is the beginning of new initiatives. Economy is reviving fast and Ministry too has launched aggressive electronic and print media campaign.

Ministry is also incentivizing growth by putting focused developed programmes with due consultation with IATO and other stakeholders. We are pleading to our Ministry to resolve our MDA problem which remains long pending. Also, Inter-Ministerial meeting has been arranged by Ministry to raise our issues with Railways, Civil Aviation, Culture, Airport Authority and other concerned Ministries. It is mainly to increase coordination with different Ministries which enable faster decision making and lead to efficiency.

I am pleased to inform you that in an effort to promote and market India as a global trade destination, the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has embarked upon organizing a Global Exhibition on Services of which Tourism will be a major part and the Federation of Associations of Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has been given the responsibility to organize the Global Exhibition on Tourism— India, (GET-India). GET-India, supported by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) is scheduled to take place from April 23- 25, 2015, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. I urge all the members to participate in large numbers and make this Exhibition a big success.

Subhash Goyal



MINISTRY OF TOURISM LAUNCHES 24X7 INCREDIBLE INDIA TOURIST HELPLINE

Industry anticipates that Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA) enabled with Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) will see impactful resonance in Indian Tourism



- Dr. Lalit K. Panwar, Secretary, MoT; Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Union Minister of State for Culture (IC), Tourism (IC) and Civil Aviation; Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture at the event

In order to mark the celebration of Good Governance Day, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has launched new initiatives on December 26th 2014 at The Hotel Samrat, New Delhi. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Union Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge), Tourism (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation; Dr. Lalit K. Panwar, Secretary, MoT, Usha Sharma, Addl. D.G., MoT; Ravindra Singh, Secretary Ministry of Culture; and Rakesh Tewari, Director General, Archeological Survey of India (ASI), were present at the event.

Dr. Sharma launched E-Ticketing at the Taj Mahal in Agra and Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi. He also launched a 24x7 Incredible India Tourist Helpline along

with Special Welcome Cards for foreign tourists arriving at 8 international Airports. Dr. Sharma also inaugurated the Incredible India Calendar 2015 amongst several other initiatives as a part of Good Governance Day celebrations.

The other major initiatives which were launched by the Minister include Swachh Bharat Swachh Smarak E-Poster, booklet on 'Badhte Kadam'-Hunar Se Rozgar Tak, Swachh Bharat Swachh Pakwan (Hunar Zayka), Mega Project Destination Development of Gwalior, Braille Book on Delhi Monuments and Adarsh Smarak in which 25 monuments will be developed as model monuments.



IATO WIDENS ITS REACH WITH ROADSHOWS

IATO has extended its reach to newer markets and strengthened its presence in various source markets through roadshows. The year 2014 was filled with a number of roadshows that has been organized across the world. Incredible India Roadshows in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and in consultation with India Tourism Sydney have been finalized by IATO in Australia and New Zealand from 16-19 March 2015. Also, coinciding with these roadshows, it has been decided by the Ministry to organize 'Tourism Week in Australia'. This is in line with the announcements made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Australia.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF CAMPUS BUILDINGS OF NMI AND ICI

The Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge), Culture (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma laid the foundation stones of campus buildings of National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMI) and Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) in Noida. While NMI belongs to the Ministry of Culture, ICI is an Institute of the Ministry of Tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mahesh Sharma said that both these projects were languishing for more than a decade but the hard work of both the Ministries has made it possible to start the process of construction within a short time. The Minister explained that with the tourism sector expected to witness exponential growth, this sector would require matching trained manpower to manage the infrastructure and services, which these two institutes seek to do.

While the project cost of NMI is Rs. 90 crore that of ICI is Rs 70 cr. The Institutes are expected to be completed within two years.



IATO BIDS FAREWELL TO FORMER SECRETARY TOURISM, PARVEZ DEWAN

IATO urges the Ministry of Tourism to introduce Tourist Visa on Arrival for tourism growing markets like UK, France and Italy



Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) hosted its first luncheon meeting for the year 2015 at The Park Hotel, New Delhi. The luncheon was sponsored by IATO's new Allied member V Resorts. IATO honored senior officials in Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA); Bureau of Immigration who helped to overcome the visa issues. IATO also bid farewell to Former Secretary- Tourism Parvez Dewan, who took it on a mission to boost tourism and resolve the visa problem.

Present on the occasion were P.K. Bhardwaj, Commissioner- Bureau of Immigration; Dr. Lalit K. Panwar, Secretary, MoT; Suman Billa, Joint Secretary, MoT; Usha Sharma, Addl. D.G., MoT; Parvez Dewan, Former Secretary, MoT; Subhash Goyal, President IATO; Sarabjit Singh, Sr. VP, IATO; Pronab Sarkar, Secretary, IATO; along with other members.

Sarkar informed that IATO will soon be organizing its roadshows in Sydney, Australia and Indonesia. He urged the members to bring in the suggestions for new destinations potent to do business for this year as IATO aspires to grow tourism exchange. "IATO has also done the follow up on MDA cases and revised MDA Norms. We will soon hold a meeting with the Joint Secretary to have a revision," he added.

Talking about the growth of foreign tourist arrivals to India, Goyal said, "I have given a personal commitment to the Finance Minister that once E-visa is announced the tourism growth will jump to 100 per cent to all the countries excluding 10-12 negative countries. I urge all the members to adequately market their agencies and the E-visa to increase tourist arrivals to India."

Goyal further informed that the Association is trying to get E-visa for tourism generating countries like United Kingdom, France and Italy. The new initiative that the association had kept in front of the Ministry of Finance is service tax exemption based on Foreign Exchange Earnings for tour operators.

"We also aim to stop the Biometric process completely all over the world. It should only be done at the international airports in India. Another issue that we are working upon is to renew the Rail Tourists Agents license that has been impending in the Supreme Court," added Goyal.

Aditi Balbir, Managing Director, V Resorts, gave a presentation on the Company. It is a boutique chain of Resorts having 4 properties in Uttarakhand, 1 in Himachal and 1 in Rajasthan.





IATO SUBMITS BUDGET RECOMMENDATION FOR 2015-2016

A letter from the Indian Association of Tour Operator's (IATO) office was addressed for M. Vinod Kumar, Joint Secretary- TRU-II, Central Board of Excise & Customs, Ministry of Finance. It was subjected as 'IATO's suggestions for Union Budget 2015-16 on behalf of the Tourism Industry.'

1. Exemption of Service Tax on Foreign Exchange earned by the tour operators for inbound and outbound tours: The operators are being heavily taxed under various heads including the service tax and are paying between 27-30% taxes to the government for transport by road, rail and air; providing hotel accommodation; providing food facilities in restaurants; providing cabs; and visit to monuments and guide services.

Recommendation: It is 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.

2. Extension of CENVAT credit benefit to tour operators paying service tax on abated value: Tour operators providing services in relation to tour are presently required to pay service tax on the abated value. The abatements are available to tour operator only if he does not avail the facility of CENVAT credit on inputs, capital goods and input services used for providing the taxable services. In absence of availability of CENVAT credit, the tour operator by implication has to deposit service tax on the abated value in cash.

Recommendation: 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, tourist guide, foreign currency sellers/ money changers etc.

3. Reintroduction of Section 80 HHD of Income Tax for the tourism industry: Under this Act, tour operators and travel agents are allowed to

transfer part of their income to Tourism Development Resource/Funds for investment in the tourism infrastructure and industry related services which was not taxable. However this section had been withdrawn and is not applicable now.

Recommendation: IATO recommends that Section 80 HHD of Income Tax Act be reintroduced to encourage tourism industry.

4. Double taxation on Outbound Tours: Indian tourist those who wish to visit abroad come in contact with the tour operators in India. The payments are being received by the Indian tour operators but substantial amount (roughly 90%) is spent by Indian tour operator for making all arrangements. This situation leads to the double taxation on the outbound tour, firstly in India and secondly outside India, whereas the objective of the proposed provision, as per the guidelines of the Government is to avoid double taxation.

Recommendation: It is recommended that in case of outbound tour, as per the Government policy decision stated in Instructions F. No. B. 43/10/97-TRU, dated 22-8-1997 only the service portion, which is rendered in India, should be taxed and rest should be out of the service tax. This may kindly be reintroduced.

5. Served From India Scheme (SFIS): Under paragraph 3.12 of the Foreign Trade Policy (in short FTP) 2009-14 the duty credit scrip equivalent to 10% of free foreign exchange earned during the year is allowed to the eligible service providers. As per the present law, service tax is payable by the tour operators on their services for inbound or outbound tours and sale proceeds are realized in INR or in foreign currency.

Recommendation: It is recommended that end-use of duty credit scrip issued under SFIS may be liberalized and tour operators may be permitted to utilize the credit in scrip against payment of output service tax. In case the Govt. agrees to grant blanket exemption of service tax on foreign exchange earned by the tour operators, then the suggestion with respect to liberalization of duty credit scrip under SFIS may be discarded as outlived.

India and Germany Joint Working Group meet in Delhi

The 7th meeting of the Indo-German Joint Working Group (JWG) on Tourism was held in New Delhi on 9th January 2015. The Indian delegation was led by Suman Billa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and the German delegation was led by Dr. Marion Weber, Head of the Tourism Policy Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The travel industry was represented by Subhash Goyal, President, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) and Pronab Sarkar, Hony. Secretary IATO.

During the opening remarks, Suman Billa extended a warm welcome to Dr. Marion Weber, Head of the Tourism Policy Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Government of Germany. Speaking on the same Billa stated, "It is time for both the countries to identify areas for working together and to explore new opportunities especially in the field of research, development, education, training, promotion, marketing, destination development and management. I am hopeful that the meeting would be useful in enhancing tourism cooperation between the two countries and thereafter."

Both the delegations gave an overview of the 'Tourism Sector' in their respective countries and re-emphasized on its potential for employment generation and economic growth. Both sides exchanged views on possibilities of technical and professional cooperation which could be further explored for:-



- (i) Exchange of experience in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management.
- (ii) Cooperation in Human Resource Development.
- (iii) Safety and security for tourists in India.
- (iv) Investment in the Tourism and Hospitality sectors.

Subhash Goyal, President IATO, talked about the exigency to swap visits of tour operators, travel media and opinion makers to promote tourism between India and Germany. On the other hand, the importance of interaction between the tour operators and destination managers of the two countries was stressed upon to develop better packages for tourists by Pronab Sarkar, Hony. Secretary, IATO.



is pleased to announce
the LAUNCH OF
UZBEKISTAN
DMC as it's First Jewel in crown

TASHKENT CAMP OFFICE
N-42, 1-Bobodehqon, Yunusabad
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Mob: +998-91-190 6441
Mob: +44-77 0000 3353
Email: dmcuz@viadook.com
www.viadook.com | Skype: viadook.uz



INDIA OFFICE: DOOK CORPORATE SERVICES PVT. LTD.

201 Om Complex, Opp Nirula's, Sec-15, Noida-201301 | Tel: +91 120-68 88 889 (HL)
Mob: +91 8130390321 | Skype id :- viadook.com | Email: query@viadook.com | www.viadook.com

IATO ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2014

The previous year had been challenging in terms of inbound tourism to India. The reasons included visa problems, security issues; yet the association managed a growth of about 7% compared to last year.

During last one year, IATO made all sincere efforts based on the inputs given by the members. While we could achieve some of the very long pending demands, there were some areas, where our efforts are still continued and will not stop till we get the success.

IATO's achievements so far:

- With our persistent efforts of over 20 years, we became successful when government of India introduced on 27th November, 2014, Tourist Visa on Arrival enabled by Electronic Travel Authorization for 43 countries for the tourists arriving at 9 international airports in India to begin with. More countries will be added in phases.
- We have also been able to impress upon the Government to delay the Biometric Process for Visa in France, which has saved from lot of group cancellation in the peak season. This has been postponed till 1st May 2015.
- On our request, the Ministry of Tourism has set up 'Tourist Help Line' to address and guide the tourists during any emergency, which may include medical, crime, natural calamities or on being stranded. This service will be available as toll free on telephone 1800111363 or on a short code 1363. Presently it is only in English language. However, Ministry has agreed to provide this service in 12 international languages in due course.
- E-ticketing for monuments Taj Mahal in Agra and Humayun Tomb in Delhi and Swachh Smarak programme of ASI to keep surrounding of ASI monuments clean and free from touts. E-ticketing for other monuments will follow. This would be a big help for group movements.
- Swachh Bharat Campaign as we need Clean India to boost international tourist arrivals and IATO joined the National programme as announced by Prime Minister.
- Training of Escorts under Skill Development Programme where

over 150 candidates were trained in Chinese Language.

- Handing of Ministry of Tourism FAM Tour by the IATO Active Members under Hospitality Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India.
- Twelve Road shows to various markets overseas.
- CENVAT Credit for Tour Operators which has been made applicable on some of the services.
- Linking of IATO website with Ministry of Tourism website for getting queries generated through MoT Website.
- Online application for renewal of MoT Recognition and also for the new applicants.

Besides, the above, there are some issues where our efforts are continued:

- Export Industry Status for the Tour Operators and all benefits to be given as are being given to exports of goods
- Exemption of Service Tax on the foreign exchange earning
- Revision in MDA guidelines and we hope revised guidelines will be announced very soon
- Revision in Guidelines for Guide Training Programme
- To include more countries in Tourist Visa on Arrival scheme
- Biometric for all the tourists should be on arrival in India at the international airports
- To increase baggage allowance to 20 kgs on all domestic sectors for international tourists
- Renewal of license for Rail Tourist Agents
- Filling up the vacant posts in overseas offices

NEW PROGRAMME BY MoT TO ATTRACT CHINESE TOURISTS TO INDIA

A senior official from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, reported that the Indian government is planning to announce a programme to attract Chinese tourists to India in 'Visit India Year 2015' in China. The Ministry of Tourism will soon make a detailed announce-

ment in this regard. In China, the promotion would be called 'Visit India Year 2015' whereas in India, it will be called 'Visit China Year 2016'.

The official added that soon a team of Chinese television crews would visit Chennai, Puducherry and Kerala to shoot interesting travel

spots. He said India is an interesting destination for Chinese due to many Buddhist pilgrimage centres and other tourist places of interest. The programme will give a big push to the tourist flow between the two countries.

Maharashtra International Travel Mart rescheduled to September 2015

The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has rescheduled this year's Maharashtra International Travel Mart (MITM) from 26-28 February 2015 to 27-29 September 2015. The Mart will take place at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai. The three-day mart will portray the tourism attractions of the state to highlight the key tourist attractions of the state.

The inaugural edition of MITM will be set on a B2B platform with over 250 registered Buyers and Media from over 30 countries exploring business opportunities for discerning travel and tourism products. These features will make the event one of the most sought after travel events in the country.

The hosted buyers will be invited from the key inbound markets like Netherlands, Australia, Canada, France, Greece, Israel Japan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, UAE, UK, USA, South Africa, Singapore, etc. The event is supported by major travel trade and hospitality association in India such as Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Association of Domestic Tour Operators Association of India (ADTOI) and Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI).

IATO MANUAL AND DIARY FOR MEMBERS DISTRIBUTED

Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) brings out 2014-2015 edition of the IATO Manual for the Delhi Convention (September 4-7, 2014). This edition has been designed and produced by Sampan Media Pvt. Ltd. The Manual begins with good luck messages to the IATO team for the Convention followed by overview of IATO, its achievements, destination India, list of the Active and Allied members etc. Also, IATO Diary for the year 2015 was distributed among its members.



International Yoga Week 2015 at Ganga Kinare, Rishikesh

The divine city of Rishikesh gets ready to celebrate the much coveted International Yoga Week from 1-7 March 2015. This International Yoga Festival 2015 will be hosted at various venues across Rishikesh, and Hotel Ganga Kinare will be at the forefront of this prestigious event. Hotel Ganga Kinare has taken it upon itself to present all visiting yoga and meditation enthusiasts and seekers with a wholesome week long window into this 1000 year old traditional art form and way of life. The International Yoga Festival is a truly globally-unique event bringing together so many masters from so many traditions, cultures and countries in one sacred, beautiful place!



ABH-ANDAMAN

A GROUND HANDLING MANAGEMENT COMPANY IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLAND

WE OFFER

TRANSPORT | SHIP, HELICOPTER & SEA PLANE TICKETS | DAY & NIGHT FISHING | SCUBA DIVING | TRACKING TRIPS | GUIDE SERVICE | HOTEL/RESORTS RESERVATION | PACKAGES

Marketing Offices:

Delhi: +919313057165, +919811763447, 26312750
Mumbai: +919920432056; Ahmedabad: +919638313192;
Bangalore: +919686933821

Regd. Office: Sun Sea Resort, MG Road, Port Blair (A&N) +919933280145

rann utsav

1 DEC 2014 **TO** **5 MAR** 2015



GUJARAT TOURISM'S
Midas Touch

Come, Explore, Experience...

The full moon night holds a special surprise not only for the visitors of the White Rann but for the inhabitants of Kutch as well. Under the full moon the white rann comes into its element and gives a surreal and mystical feeling like never before.

Rann Utsav, an initiative of Tourism Corporation of Gujarat in the year 2007, is a dazzling and colourful reflection of Kutch and its precious culture. This enchanting Tent City with its petal shaped tent clusters, is situated at the Dhordo Village near the exotic Great Rann of Kutch also known as the White Rann.

Speaking of the sprawling Tent City spread across an area of 5,00,000 sq.mts., one can rightly opine that it is a beautiful balance between a man-made masterpiece set against an equally breathtaking backdrop of the White Rann.

The accommodation here is no less than the accommodation provided by a well-equipped resort, one certainly feels more pampered than ever here during one's stay. This feeling of being looked after so attentively and affectionately is because of the excellent accommodation options available here:

PREMIUM TENT
DELUXE A/C SWISS COTTAGES
NON A/C SWISS COTTAGES

1 NIGHT 2 DAYS PACKAGE

Rates (INR) Per Person	on twin sharing basis	Extra Person	Sr. Citizen Discount
Premium Tent	8,900	6,100	15%
Deluxe AC Swiss Cottages	7,900	5,400	15%
Non-AC Swiss Cottages	5,900	4,100	nil

2 NIGHTS 3 DAYS PACKAGE

Rates (INR) Per Person	on twin sharing basis	Extra Person	Sr. Citizen Discount
Premium Tent	16,000	9,600	15%
Deluxe AC Swiss Cottages	15,000	9,000	15%
Non-AC Swiss Cottages	11,000	7,000	nil

Besides these accommodation options the Rann Utsav also ensures that an environment as relaxing as your stay is created all across the Tent City. Ensuring this, the Tent City has many pleasant additions this year such as a Leisure Club which includes indoor games along with book shelf for book lovers as well. To give a sweet touch to your taste buds, the tent city even has a cafeteria by a popular urban brand called "The Chocolate Room". Even a pleasant spa against the surreal background of the White Rann will leave visitors truly rejuvenated. The elderly and children are also looked after well here by having a dedicated elder's sitting area and a children's play area. Even golf cart arrangements are made for internal transfers within the tent city. The culture of Kutch is beautifully presented here in the form of memorable song and dance sequences depicting Kutch's rich folklore and a wide variety of handicrafts which include Block Printing, Bandhani, Wood and Metal Carving etc. White Rann under the moon light or under the full moon also is a truly surreal and magnificent site.

“

*What a joy to be at the Rann of
Kutch... white desert, kites, camels, ricks
and colors of Gujarat.*

”



Rann Utsav has much more than only holidaying to it, it can be an ideal destination not only for memorable weddings but also for business meetings and conferences where business can be mixed with pleasure in the most literal sense.

With various interesting places to travel to such as Kala Dungar, Koteswar Mahadev, Narayan Sarovar, Mata No Madh etc. Rann Utsav has all the elements of a perfect package holiday for businessmen, couples and tourists alike. To conclude this magnificent extravaganza, one can opine that the Rann Utsav continues to amaze with every passing year.

Rann Utsav also excites the adventure lover in you by organizing activities such as:

**Paramotoring | ATV (all terrain vehicle) Ride
Trike Bike | Helicopter Joy Ride etc.**

*"Amazing place... glistening salt and miles
of white makes it the most beautiful
place on the earth..."*

-NAVREET SARKARIA

TRAVEL

Rann Utsav will be held at Dhordo, 81 km/2 hr north of Bhuj, which also has the closest airport and railway station. The tour packages include to and fro transfers between Bhuj airport and railway station and Dhordo Tent City, in air-conditioned coaches.

FLIGHT: Bhuj has direct daily flights from Mumbai.

TRAIN: Bhuj is connected to Mumbai by several trains, including the daily Kutch Express. It is connected to north India via the thrice-weekly **Ala Hazrat Express that departs from Bareilly.**

CAR: The roads in Gujarat are excellent. State transport and private buses are available to Bhuj from several Gujarati cities, including Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, and Jamnagar. If you're driving from Mumbai, take NH8 to Vadodara, and get on to the Vadodara-Ahmedabad Expressway. From there, take SH 7/NH 947 towards Viramgam, and continue on the road to Bhuj via Halvad and Bhachau.

FOR BOOKINGS,
www.gujarattourism.com
Toll free no: 1800 200 5080

Email: info@rannutsav.net
www.rannutsav.net
([facebook.com/RannUtsavOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/RannUtsavOfficial))
Toll Free No: 1800 270 2700

IATO ACTIVE MEMBERS MEET CONFERS ON PROLONGING ISSUES THAT REMAIN UNSETTLED

Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) organized its Active Members Meeting on 3rd December 2014 at JP Hotels and Resorts, New Delhi. 23 active members were present in the meeting. During the meeting, IATO had focused on Biometric Scanning.

Speaking on the same, Goyal mentioned, "It should not be done in Indian Embassies/ Consulates overseas and like all other countries. Rather it should be conducted on arrival in India at all the International Airports, even for those countries, where TVOA has not been implemented yet."

Thereafter, Pronab Sarkar gave a brief detail about the Tourist Visa on Arrival scheme. Sarkar mentioned, "Presently TVoA has been launched for 43 countries but this will be broadened and more countries will be added from time to time. Once it is successful, Ministry of Home Affairs will keep on adding more countries. In regard to the same MHA had spent over 400 crore on this project with workforce of 450 people who work round the clock."

Sarkar also informed about the addition of SAARC countries in TVoA. "The association has also suggested for double entry so that tourists can visit the neighboring countries and return. A circular containing all the aspects of TVoA will be issued to abreast members on this," he added.



Issues related to Conditions of rule 6A for export of services in the case of tour operators 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; allowing benefit of CENVAT credit in respect of service tax charged by all the service providers including counterpart tour operators, hotels;

Section 80 HHD of Income Tax Act be reintroduced to encourage tourism; Double taxation on outbound tours to be avoided and only the service portion; under Served from India Scheme (SFIS), end-use of duty credit scrip issued may be liberalized and tour operators permitted to utilize the credit in scrip against payment of output service tax and lastly easing Litigations in service tax.

Sarabjit Singh informed the members about the DRV Annual Convention in 2016. The Convention will be hosting about 1000-1200 tour operators for which MoT has already sent a letter of invitation. Prior to it a visit of DRV officials will be hosted this year. The approximate expenses on this will be about 20 crores.

Other suggestions included:

- Information about the photo specification to be given on the website of TVoA.
- Ministry should give advertisement through electronic and print media.
- The Minister is requested to revive the 20 kgs baggage allowance for the domestic sectors for international tourists based on their itinerary in India.
- Marketing Development Scheme (MDA) cases are pending and not being cleared.

India and Oman signs MoU for strengthening cooperation in tourism

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism, between the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the Ministry of Tourism, Government of the Sultanate of Oman.

The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding, amongst other things, are:

- To expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector
- To exchange information and data related to tourism
- To encourage cooperation between tourism stakeholders including hotels and tour operators
- To establish exchange programme for cooperation in Human Resource Development
- To invest in the tourism and hospitality sectors
- To exchange visits of tour operators / media / opinion makers for promotion of two way tourism
- To exchange experiences in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management

- To participate in travel fairs / exhibitions in each other's country
- To promote safe, honourable and sustainable tourism

India and Oman have enjoyed a strong historical and long economic and political relationship. The two countries are linked by geography, history and culture. Both countries also enjoy warm and cordial relations, which can be ascribed to historical maritime trade linkages, intimacy of the Royal family with India and the seminal role of the Indian expatriate community in the building of Oman.

In recent years, Oman has emerged as an important tourism source market for India in the West Asian region. During 2013, India received 62,252 visitors from Oman. Similarly India has emerged as one of the important source market for Oman in the field of tourism. Considering the mutual benefits, both India and Oman would like to create an institutional mechanism for enhancing cooperation in this sector. The signing of the MoU will further strengthen and further develop the established relationship between the Ministry of Tourism, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Oman for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism on reciprocal basis.

Performance of Tourism Sector during December 2014

The following are the important highlights regarding FTAs and FEEs from tourism during the month of December 2014.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs):

FTAs during the Month of December 2014 were 8.77 lakh as compared to FTAs of 8.22 lakh during the month of December 2013.

- There has been a growth of 6.8% in December 2014 over December 2013 as compared to a growth of 9.1% registered in December 2013.
- FTAs during the period January- December 2014 were 74.62 lakh with a growth of 7.1%, as compared to the FTAs of 69.68 lakh with a growth of 5.9% during January- December 2013.
- The percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during December 2014 among the top 15 source countries was highest from

USA (17.62%), followed by UK (11.44%), Bangladesh (10.22%), Canada (4.81%), Australia (4.75%), Russian Federation (3.91%), Malaysia (3.65%), Germany (2.58%), Sri Lanka (2.54%), China (2.25%), Japan (2.21%), France (2.19%), Singapore (2.11%), Pakistan (1.94%) and Thailand (1.62%).

Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs):

FEEs during the month of December 2014 were Rs. 12,875 crore as compared to Rs. 11,994 crore in December 2013. FEEs in US\$ terms during the month of December 2014 were US\$ 2.051 billion as compared to FEEs of US\$ 1.936 billion during the month of December 2013.

- The growth rate in FEEs in rupee terms in December 2014 over December 2013 was 7.3% as compared to 13.7% in December

2013.

- FEEs from tourism in rupee terms during January- December 2014 were Rs. 1,20,083 crore with a growth of 11.5%, as compared to the FEE of Rs. 1,07,671 crore with a growth of 14.0% during January- December 2013.
- The growth rate in FEEs in US\$ terms in December 2014 over December 2013 was growth of 5.9% compared to a growth of 0.3% in December 2013.
- FEE from tourism in terms of US\$ during January- December 2014 were US\$ 19.657 billion with a growth of 6.6%, as compared to US\$ 18.445 billion with a growth of 4.0% during January- December 2013.

Source: Ministry of Tourism,
Government of India

421.6 PER CENT GROWTH IN 'TOURIST VISA ON ARRIVAL' IN DECEMBER 2014

Government of India has launched Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA) enabled by Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) on 27th November 2014 for 43 countries. Prior to it, only the normal TVoA scheme was in operation for 12 countries. The following are the important highlights of TVoA (including ETA enabled) issued during December, 2014:

- During the month of December 2014, a total of 14,083 TVoA were issued as compared to 2,700 TVoA during the month of December 2013, registering a growth of 421.6%.
- During January –December 2014, a total number of 39,046 TVoA were issued as compared to 20,294 TVoA during corresponding period of 2013 registering a growth of 92.4%. This high growth is due to introduction of ETA enabled TVoA for 43 countries in November 2014.
- The percentage shares of top 10 source countries for TVoA, in India during December 2014, were as follows: USA (24.26%), Russian Federation (15.06%), Republic of Korea (11.01%), Ukraine (8.16%), Australia (7.98%), New Zealand (5.08%), Japan (4.30%), Singapore (4.27%), Germany (4.05%) and the Philippines (3.10%).



- The percentage shares of different ports for TVoA, in India during December 2014, were as follows: New Delhi (35.78%), Mumbai (21.05%), Goa (18.24%), Chennai (7.17%),

Bengaluru (5.76%), Kochi (4.54%), Hyderabad (3.13%), Kolkata (2.35%), and Trivandrum (1.98%).

IATO members participates at Fitur 2015

The first business and promotion forum for the world tourism industry was staged in Madrid from 28 January to 1 February, 2015 at the 35th International Tourism Trade Show. Organized by IFEMA, FITUR 2015 is supported by the sector's principal agents, the World Tourism Organization, UNWTO; the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism as

well as the businesses and entities represented in its Organizing Committee. FITUR is a global meeting point for tourism professionals and the leading trade fair for inbound and outbound Ibero American markets. Around 20 members from the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) participated in this year's forum.



NEW MEMBERSHIP APPROVED TILL DECEMBER 2014

IATO Membership continues to increase and the importance of IATO members in the minds of overseas operators is gaining. The Secretariat gets lot of queries from overseas agents/tourists to check whether the company they plan to deal is a member of IATO or not.

ACTIVE

1. Dravidian Trails Holidays Pvt. Ltd.
S. Swaminathan, Managing Director
Email: swami@dravidiantrails.in
Mob: 9847031007
Tel: 0484-4060601
Web: www.dravidiantrails.in

ALLIED

1. Trip Planners World Pvt. Ltd.
Sanjeev Gulati, Managing Director
Email: sgulati@tripplannersworld.travel
Mob: 9920960209
Tel: 022-26828082
Web: www.tripplannersworld.travel

2. Stay Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (Hello Holidays.in)
Meenu Danwani, Director
Email: meenu@helloholidays.in
Mob: 9810261291
Tel: 011-46566161/62/63
Web: www.helloholidays.in

3. Vermigo Travel India
Vikram Verma, Proprietor
Email: vermigotravelindia@hotmail.com, vermigotravelindia@gmail.com
Mob: 9351374434

Tel: 0141-4049453, 4039453
Web: www.voyageindia.com

4. Bliss Inns Pvt. Ltd. - V Resorts
Aditi Balbir, Managing Director
Email: aditi@vresorts.in
Mob: 9910339362
Tel: 0120-4287054
Web: www.vresorts.in

5. Kiroli India Holidays LLP
Dinesh Singh Kanyal, Partner
Arvind Rajamani, General Manager
Email: dinesh@kirolitours.com, arvind@kirolitours.com
Tel: 0124- 4385761
Web: www.kirolitours.com

6. Lets Travel Pvt. Ltd.
Sundeep Wadhwa, Director
Tina Popli, Director
Email: sundeep@letstravelindia.co.in, tina@letstravelindia.co.in
Mob: 9999901388, 9999357135
Tel: 011-45685555
Web: www.letstravelindia.co.in

7. HAW Travel Management Pvt. Ltd.
Diwakar Tiwari, Director
Zeenat Anjum, Director
Email: diwakar@holidaysaroundworld.com, zeenat@holidaysaroundworld.com
Mob: 9663368330, 9741777862
Tel: 080- 42135355
Web: www.holidaysaroundworld.com

8. Sanah Forex and Travels
Ajmal Akhtar, Director
Asghar Aziz, Director
Akmal Alam, Director
Email: info@sanahforex.com, sales@sanahforex.com, travel@sanahforex.com
Mob: 9810890024, 7042310085
Tel: 011- 23347106, 43980024
Web: www.sanahforex.com

9. Easy Tour of India Pvt. Ltd.
Rohit Trikha, Director
Devender Singh Bhati, Director
Email: rohit@easytoursofindia.com, devender@easytoursofindia.com
Mob: 8527844990, 9412255933
Tel: 0124-4208822
Web: www.easytoursofindia.com

10. Orangetrips Tours and Travels
Karthikai Selvam, Director
Jaya Lakshmi
Email: karthik@orangetrips.com, jaya@orangetrips.com
Mob: 9900004062, 7204061248
Tel: 080-40939742, 40939479

OVERSEAS ALLIED

1. Beijing Punjabi Restaurant Co. Ltd.
Gireesh Singh Chowdhury, Chairman
Email: punjabibj@gmail.com
Mob: 0086-13911465701
Tel: 0086-10-58670221
Web: www.punjabichina.com

EDITORIAL BOARD: MR. SUBHASH GOYAL | MR. RAJEEV KOHLI | MR. AMARESH TIWARI | MR. RAVI GOSAIN
MR. RAJ BAJAJ | MR. GOUR KANJILAL | MS. SULAGNA GHOSH

Write/Fax/E-mail your opinion and suggestions to us at
Indian Association of Tour Operators, (National Body of Tour Operators)
310 Padma Tower II, 22 Rajendra Place, New Delhi - 110 008, Tel: 91-11- 25750034, 25754478, 25738803
Fax: 91-11- 25750028, E-Mail: iato@airtelmail.in, iato@nda.vsnl.net.in, iato@eth.net Website: www.iato.in

MADHYA PRADESH: SHOUT OUT TO WILDLIFE ENTHUSIASTS



Next time you are in Madhya Pradesh check out these national parks:

KANHA NATIONAL PARK (160 km from Jabalpur)
Kanha's sal and bamboo forests, grasslands and streams stretch over 940 sq km in dramatic natural splendour. Kanha National Park is also the only habitat of the rare hard ground Barasingha. Besides this, there are some 200 species of birds, making Kanha a bird watcher's paradise. A Project Tiger Reserve harbouring an abundance of wildlife species, Kanha enjoys the status of a well-maintained and tourist- friendly National Park.

BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK (190 km from Jabalpur: 237 km from Khajuraho)
Bandhavgarh National Park is one place where you can be almost certain of seeing a tiger in its natural habitat.

Stretching over 448 sq km, Bandhavgarh National Park is rich in other forms of wildlife like deer, leopard, sambar and wild boar. It is equally rich in bird life, home to over 200 species. Dominating Bandhavgarh National Park area is the Bandhavgarh Fort. Scattered throughout the park and particularly around the fort, are numerous caves containing shrines and ancient Sanskrit inscriptions.

PENCH NATIONAL PARK (172 Km from Jabalpur, 92 km from Nagpur)
Nestled in the southern slopes of the Satpura ranges, it gets its name from the Pench river that flows through it. It lies in southern Madhya Pradesh, bordering Maharashtra. It is the original setting of Rudyard Kipling's famous work, The Jungle Book. Pench Tiger Reserve has the highest density of herbivores in India.



Call of the Wild

For those who would love to rough it out in the wilds,
Madhya Pradesh offers the never-ending jungles of
Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna & Pench.

Untouched & undisturbed,
watch the animal kingdom
in perfect harmony with Nature.

● Panna

Bandhavgarh ●

Pench ● Kanha



The land of
Incredible India

Madhya Pradesh Tourism

SHOPAL Tel : 0755-2778383, AHMEDABAD - Tel: 079-26462977, 32939000, HYDERABAD - Tel: 040-40034318, KOLKATA - Tel: 033-22833526, 32979000,
LUCKNOW - Tel: 0522-2391003, 4021413, MUMBAI - Tel: 022-22187603, NAGPUR - Tel: 0712-2442378, 3259000, NEW DELHI - Tel: 011-23366638, 32569000, PUNE - Tel: 020-25534007, RAIPUR - Tel: 0771-4348810,
RAJKOT - Tel: 0281-2927988, SURAT - Tel: 0261-2918688, VARANASI - Contact: 09235402180, For online booking, log on to www.mptourism.com, Tourist Helpline (Toll Free): 1800 233 7777, Email: info@mptourism.com