Update on IATO Activities (Monday 1st May to Monday 15th May 2023)

Dear Members

Greetings

Please find appended relevant activities of our association for the period (Monday 1st May to Monday 15th May 2023)

Segments covered are

- Communication / Letters that addressed key issues
- 2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings/Chapter news
- 3. Media Coverage
- 4. Chapter News

Request your feedback to further the content of our weekly report.

1. Communication / Letters that addressed key issues

Segment 1 update sequence by date: 2, 15, May

Tuesday 2nd May

IATO requested Mr. Arvind Singh, Secretary Tourism, Government of India for inclusion of THSC Certificate in MOT Guidelines for recognition of Tourism Service Providers Qualification.

We requested Ministry of Tourism to consider Diploma/Degree/Certificate course holders of Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) as qualified staff and to amend the guidelines for requirement of qualified staff accordingly. Also, RPL (Review Prior Learning) Certificate of THSC certify the knowledge of Tourism Operation, Marketing and planning for the people who has been working from last 10+ years in the industry. This will benefit the industry

A Copy was marked to **A.** Mr. Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary and **B**. Mr. Sanjay Singh, Dy. Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

Monday 15th May

➤ IATO wrote to Mr. Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary (Tourism) Participation of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in important upcoming overseas travel marts.

IATO apprised that marts like

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

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

A copy of the letter was sent to **A**. Mr. Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism) and **B**. Mr. Roshan M. Thomas, Deputy Secretary (IC, IT & OM), Ministry Tourism, Govt of India

➤ IATO wrote to Mr. Sudesh Poddar, President FHRAI, Mr. Punit Chhatwal, President HAI and Mr. Randhir Vikram Singh, President, IHHA on the Issue pertaining to Long Delay in Receiving Bills for Accounting Purposes where 100% Advance Payments were Made by IATO Members to Approved/ Classified Hotels

IATO apprised that Post Covid dynamics have changed and hoteliers mostly demand full advance payment at booking stage IATO requested that a circular may be issued amongst all FHARI, HAI and IHHA members to issue GST invoice to the tour operators immediately on receipt of payment/services are rendered.

2. Webinars/ Panel Discussions/Circulars/Meetings

Segment 2 update sequence by date: 5,12,13,15, May

Friday 5th May



It was honour and pleasure to meet... -Balwant Singh Bhullar

It was honour and pleasure to meet *Presid... m.facebook.com

https://m.facebook.com/story.php ?story_fbid=4240194526205932& id=100006462795661&mibextid= Nif5oz

Friday 12th May

- ➤ All Members were informed on the IATO Annual Subscription for the financial year 2023-24 reg: Availing 50% discount by paying before 31st July 2023
- ➤ To All Members were informed on the Registration in Fairview Media International Tourism Conclave (FMITC- Kolkata) 2023.

Saturday 13th May

addresses and interactive sessions.

The Pride of Rajasthan Award ceremony was also organized during the conclave, in which Padmashree Gulabo Sapera was given the Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of dance, Kala Ratna Nritya Srijan Award, Hanif Usta for contribution to Usta Art, Kala Ratna Shilp Srijan

Award and Bhim Singh Ji was awarded the Paryatan Ratna
Outstanding Leadership Award for his contribution to tourism.

Pride of Rajasthan function was also organized during the conclave.

Monday 15th May

- President IATO met Shri Rajiv Bansal at the latter's office and discussed three important key issues i.e.
- Reduction of Free Baggage Allowance by the Domestic Airlines- It was requested that Ministry of Civil Aviation/DGCA to issue directive to all the domestic airlines to give free baggage allowance of 20 kgs as it was earlier.
- 2. Refunds of Travel Agents/clients from Go First Airline: Go First Airline is to be directed to make refund of the entire amount pending with them of the travel agents including money security amount deposited with them as bank guarantee so that travel agents can make refunds to their foreign/domestic clients.
 - Also It should be made compulsory for all the airlines operating in India to give bank guarantee / financial security to be kept with DGCA or an appropriate Statutory body to protect the interest of travel agents / tour operators/ airline travellers in a situation when an airline goes bankrupt or ceases to operate like in the case of Jet Airways, Kingfisher and now Go First Airline.
- 3. Exorbitant increase made by MIAL for Commercial Airport Entry Passes for the tour operators: It was requested that MIAL to withdraw increase in Airport Entry Pass Charges for the tour operators rather they should decrease the charges till the time inbound tourism to India is revived. Charges for Airport Entry Pass for the tour operators should not be more than Rs. 72000/- plus GST for one year (Rs. 6000/ per month) for airports in Tier 1 cities and Rs. 36,000/- for airports in Tier-2 and Tier 3 cities per pass.

Media Coverage

Segment 3 update sequence by date: 1,2,3,4,6,10 May

Monday 1st May





TRAVEL WORLD ONLINE MEANS BUSINESS



PM acknowledges the achievements of six years of Udan Scheme

Narendra Minister, recently responded to the tweet by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, wherein Ministry informed that 6 years ago, Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) Udan took flight, connecting Shimla to Delhi. Today, with 473 routes and 74 operational airports, heliports, water aerodromes became the game-changer for the Indian aviation sector. Responding to the tweet PM said that the last 9 years have been transformative for India's aviation sector. Modi also...

FULL STORY - W

Cygnett Hotels & Resorts organise annual GM conclave as it looks to embark on major expansion plans

One of India's fastest-growing hospitality chains. Cygnett Hotels & Resorts recently organised its 6th annual GM Conclave TRANSFORMATION 2023' in Jaipur. In the conference, the hospitality chain focused on diverse aspects including Digital Transformation, Leadership Programme and Cultural Transformation.



The prime objective for organising our GM Conclave was to highlight what our leadership and corporate teams need to do for transforming the company as we look to reach.... FULL STORY-www.twotv.in

IATO writes to PM pressing on key demands



Rajiv Mehra, President of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has recently written a letter to the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) requesting his intervention to implement key demands of the inbound tourism sector.

Mehra in his communication to the PM

has sought his help to restore SEIS (Service Export Incentive Scheme) or introduce an alternative scheme in the new Foreign Trade Policy, as the inbound tourism sector is facing hardships and needs hand-holding by the government. FULL STORY - www.twotv.in



Miral Destinations to highlight key milestones for Yas Island and Saadiyat Island at ATM 2023

Miral Destinations, the trusted one-stop trade and promotional partner for Saadiyat Island and Yas Island Abu Dhabi, has announced its participation in Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023 held in Dubai from... FULL STOMY -

Arabian Travel Market kickstarts at Dubai World Trade Centre

Government officials and industry leaders from the Middle East and beyond are gathering at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from World Trade Centre (DWTC) from May I for the 30th edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM). The milestone event, which will run till May 4 will see global travel, tourism, and hospitality experts come together to explore how their industry is 'Working Towards Net Zero'...

FULL STORY-www.twotv.in

STIC Travel Group wins International Hospitality Award

Celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year, STIC Travel Group – Hyderabad recently bagged The International Hospitality Award for 2023 from the International Hospitality Council London UK. Established in 1973, STIC Travel Group represents the world's best travel, aviation, tourism, cruise and car rental



brands exclusively in India, and is focused on bringing the best of the world to India's doorstep. Headquartered out of India's corporate hub in Cyber City, Gurgaon, STIC Travel Group's vast network of offices covers all regions of India.

E-post ; asharma@indiaah.in Ph. : 9818079063,



Tour Operators Write to PM to Get Sops Restored

Want service export incentive scheme back or an alternative scheme in the new foreign trade policy

Anumeha.Chaturvedi @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Indian Associa-New Delm: The Indian Associa-tion of Tour Operators (IATO) said on Sunday it has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to restore service export incentive scheme (SEIS) or introduce an alternative scheme in the new foreign trade policy, as the inbound tourism sector is still suffering and needs handholding by the government.

In addition, the association sought the roll-back of tax collection at source (TCS) of 20% to 5% on overseas tour packages announced in the Union budget.

IATO president Rajiv Mehra

wrote that these steps would place the tourism industry on a par with foreign tour operators and help it compete with the

neighbouring countries. During India's G20 presidency, under which promoting tourism is one of the key objectives, it would be pertinent for the government to extend a helping hand to the tourism sector, he said in the letter.

Mehra also said the inbound tourism industry was the worst affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic Since resumption of international

flight operations and tourist visas, only 30-40 % of inbound tourism to India has been revived, according to the letter.

Mehra said it took nine years to increase foreign

exchange earnings to \$30.05 billion, in 2019, from \$14.49 billion, in 2010. However, India has slipped back to the 2004 level, when the sector earned \$6.17 billion of forex, which is indicative of the stress the sector is undergoing, he said.

We need to compete. But it becomes very difficult as the government has withdrawn marketing

and promotion support in foreign countries. SEIS has ended and no alternate benefit has been given. GST is as high as 20-23 % without any input tax credit, whereas neighbouring countries are charging 6-8%, "Mehra said in the letter to the PM. To attract tou-rists we need to holistically look at all these issues. As regards the argument of revenue loss, it

would be made up by more than 100 times as tourism has a positive multi-

KEY CONCERN

Even after resumption of international flights, inbound tourism is clai med to be just 30-40% of pre-pandemic levels

on the overall economy." The IATO president also said the four-fold increase in TCS rate to 20% from July 1 is causing losse to the outbound tour operator based in India. "The traveller would simply bypass the Indian operator and book outside, it wi be a lose-lose situation both for the government and the tour operators. This needs to be bro-ught back to 5% as was before o even lower," said Mehra.

समर वैकेशन होटलों में बमुश्किल जगह मिल पा रही

शिमला हो या गोवा...इस गर्मी घूमना दोगुना महंगा

गुलमर्ग के कई होटल 15 जून तक पैक, मनाली में भी वीकेंड पर हाउसफुल

गुरुदत्त तिवारी | नई दिल्ली

इस बार गर्मी की छुट्टियों में अगर आप कहीं घूमने जाने का प्लान बना रहे हैं तो यह खबर जरूर पढ़िए। गुलमर्ग, शिमला, मनाली और गोवा में पर्यटकों की भारी भीड़ है। लोग हवाई जहाज और होटल्स दोनों के लिए दोगुना किराया तक दे रहे हैं, फिर भी बमुश्किल जगह मिल पा रही है।



गुलमर्ग में कई होटल 15 जून तक चलने वाली छुट्टियों के पूरे सीजन के लिए बुक हैं। संभव है, शिमला-मनाली जैसे पर्यटन केंद्रों में कुछ होटलों में कमरे मिल भी जाएं लेकिन वीकेंड पर तो यहां भी पूरे सीजन के लिए लगभग सारे कमरे बुक हैं। हिल स्टेशन ही नहीं गोवा और महाबलीपुरम जैसे पर्यटन स्थलों में भी 50-60%

तक कमरे पूरे सीजन के लिए बुक हो चुके हैं। बाकी बचे कमरों का रेट पिछले साल से दोगुना चल रहा है।

इंडियन एसोसिएशन ऑफ टर ऑपरेटर (आईओटीए) के वाइस प्रेसीडेंट रजनीश कायस्थ कहते हैं, फ्लाइंट का किराया दोगुना होने के बाद भी भरी सीटों का औसत पिछले एक दशक में सर्वाधिक है। होटल में ठहरे और हवाई यात्रा का किराया कितना भी हो, इस पर सरकार का कोई नियंत्रण है ही नहीं। नतीजतन लंबे समय बाद घर से बाहर निकल रहे पर्यटकों का बजद बिगड रहा है। शेष पेज 28 पर



नई दिल्ली। मंगलवार • 2 मई • 2023



मैं भी अपने पहले चुनाव म भागा। मैंने फिर मेहनत व

सहारा= | www.rashtriyasahara.com |

पर्यटन के लिए विदेश की सैर अब पड़ेर्ग

सरकार की नीति से

पर्यटन उद्योग नए संकट

कोरोना की मार के बाद

अब पर्यटन उद्योग पर

टीसीएस की मार

संजय टुटेजा नई दिल्ली । एसएनबी

पर्यटन के लिये विदेश की सैर अब महंगी पड़ेगी। एक ओर सरकार विदेशी पर्यटकों को आकर्षित कर विदेशी मुद्रा को बढ़ाने का प्रयास कर रही है तो दसरी ओर टीसीएस को 5 प्रतिशत से 20 प्रतिशत कर सरकार अब घरेल् पर्यटकों को वैश्विक पर्यटन के प्रति हतोत्साहित कर रही है। सरकार की इस नीति से पर्यटन उद्योग के सामने नया संकट उत्पन्न ह्ये गया है। लगभग तीन वर्ष तक कोरोना की मार झेलने के बाद अब पर्यटन उद्योग को टीसीएस की मार पड़ती दिखाई दे रही है।

देश से प्रति वर्ष लगभग 25 से 30 बिलियन घरेलु पर्यटक विभिन्न देशों में पर्यटन के लिये जाते हैं। विदेश जाने वाले पर्यटकों में बड़ी संख्या ऐसे पर्यटकों की होती है जिनके पर्यटन प्रबंधन की पूरी जिम्मेदारी पर्यटन से जुड़ी ट्रेवल एजेंसिया व अन्य पर्यटन एजेंसियां संभालती है जो पर्यटकों को टूर पैकेज बेच कर दूर की कुल राशि के साथ 5 प्रतिशत

टीसीएस पर्यटकों से वसलती हैं, यह टीसीएस आयकर विभाग में संबंधित पर्यटक के खाते में ही जमा कराया जाता है। टीसीएस को टैक्स कलेक्शन एट सोर्स कहा जाता है, इसका मकसद पर्यटक से विदेश पर्यटन पर किये

जाने वाले खर्च से संबंधित आयकर को ट्रेवल एजेंसी पर ही वसल किया जाना है। चुँक विदेश यात्रा पर किये जाने वाले खर्च को सरकार पर्यटक की आय मानती है, इसलिये इस आय पर टीसीएस के रूप में

आयकर वसुल किया जाता है। वित्तीय वर्ष के अंत में पर्यटक जब अपनी आयकर रिटर्न दाखिल करता है तो यह टीसीएस पर्यटक की कुल आय में समायोजित भी किया जाता है।

केन्द्र सरकार अब पर्यटकों से वसले जाने वाले इसी टीसीएस को 5 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर 20 प्रतिशत कर रही है, और नई टैक्स नीति एक जुलाई से लागू होनी है, ऐसे में पर्यटन उद्योग इस कर नीति को उद्योग के लिये नुकसानदायक मान रहा है। देश में ट्र आपरेटरों के अग्रणी संगठन इंडिय एसोसिएशन आफ ट्र आपरेटर आईएटाओ

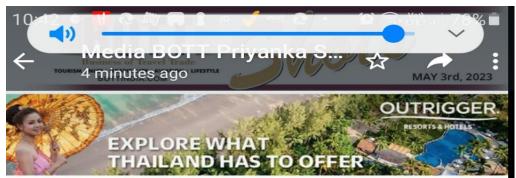
के अध्यक्ष राजीव मेहरा का कहना है कि कोरोना की मार से पर्यटन उद्योग पहले ही संकट का सामना कर रहा है, ऐसे में पर्यटन उद्योग को प्रोत्साहित करने के बजाय नई टैक्स नीति से पर्यटन उद्योग को संकट में डाला जा रहा है। उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी को भी इस संबंध में पत्र

लिखकर इस नीति पर पुर्नविचार करने का अनुरोध किया है।

उनका कहना है कि विदेश जाने के इच्छुक पर्यटक अब देश के टूर आपरेटरों को 20 प्रतिशत टीसीएस चुकाने के बजाय सीधे विदेशी ट्र आपरेटरों से संपर्क करेंगे और उनसे ही दूर पैकेज खरीदेंगे जिससे देश की ट्र आपरेटर कंपनियों को तो साथ ही विदेश जाने वाले पर्यटकों की संख्या में भी कमी होगी जिससे सरकार को जीएसटी भी नुकसान होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार की ओर से पहले पर्यटन से अर्जित विदेशी मुद्रा से टूर आपरेटरों को 5 प्रतिशत सर्विस एक्सपोर्ट इंसेटिव एसईआईएस प्रदान किया जाता था, यह इंसेटिव से मिलने वाली राशि से ट्र आपरेटर अपने व्यवसाय का विस्तार करते थे लेकिन सरकार ने अब एसईआईएस भी बंद करने का एलान किया है। उनका कहना है कि पर्यटन उद्योग को फिलहाल मदद की आवश्यकता है, सरकार जी 20 के माध्यम से देश के पर्यटन उद्योग को बढावा देने का प्रयास कर रही है, इसके लिये यह भीआवश्यक है कि भारत के ट्र आपरेटर विदेशी ट्र आपरेटरों को प्रतिस्पर्धा देने की स्थिति में हों। उनका कहना है कि इस मुददे पर गंभीरता से ध्यान न दिया गया तो पर्यटन उद्योग के सामने बड़ा संकट उत्पन्न हो जायेगा।





Dusit International showcases expanding portfolio @ ATM 2023

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



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

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

"Hello Hong Kong" mega FAM organised for Indian travel trade

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) has successfully concluded the Hello Hong Kong mega familiarisation trip for 35 leading travel brands and industry professionals from across key markets such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad. The Hong Kong familiarisation tour was designed to provide first-hand immersive experience to the leading travel consultants and product managers about Hong Kong's latest tourism attractions.

This Summer Kids Go Free @ Yas Island Abu Dhabi

Miral Destinations has launched its exciting Kids Go Free packages for the summer at Yas Island Abu Dhabi. They announced the same at Arabian Travel Market 2023. The family offering will allow Yas Island's visitors to extend their stay and indulge in a wide array of leisure and entertainment offerings that appeal to travellers of all ages and preferences.



Ankush Nijhawan, Co-Founder,

I am extremely delighted to be here at the Arabian Travel Mart this year and I must say that ATM has never been as busy as what I am experiencing this time around. I think post covid now everybody is hungry for business and these exhibitions provide a perfect platform to stakeholders and decision makers from travel and tourism sector to network and discuss business opportunities. I am very happy to see all my stakeholders here at the ATM Dubai. This is a very promising sign of what lies ahead in store for us. I have said it before also that 2023 - 24 is going to be a gamechanger year for tourism sector.



IATO writes letter to PM requesting for incentives to restore tourism industry



IATO President Rajiv Mehra has written to the Prime Minister requesting him to restore the Service Export Incentive Scheme (SEIS). As an alternative, IATO has suggested a scheme in the new Foreign Trade Policy, as the inbound tourism sector is still suffering.

Abad Hotels & Resorts Fort Cochin! Kochi-City Centre! Munnar! Thekkady! Kumarakom! Marari! Kovalam & Wayanad



Will take back leased land if private players fail to carry forward projects: Rohan Khaunte



With its plan to attract private investment in its premium properties stuck five years after signing of the agreements, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said if the project proponents fail to kickstart the projects, then the government would revisit its decision.





Go First seeks ₹8,000 cr in compensation in SIAC arbitration in order to recover losses



In a statement issued by Goa First airline, it has said that in order to recover losses, it has sought compensation of approximately INR 8,000 crores in the SIAC arbitration. If it is successful in the arbitration, the airline will be able to address the liabilities of its creditors.





AIRPORTS UP FROM 74 IN 2014 TO 148 IN 2023 UNDER UDAN SCHEME

Demand for hospitality jobs up 60% between March 2022 & March 2023: Indeed Report



Jobs portal, Indeed, reveals the top job roles highlighting a remarkable increase in job opportunities in the hospitality sector from March 2022 to March 2023. With a growth of 60% in job postings, career opportunities in the industry are flourishing.

For more information contact harshal@ddppl.com +91 96194 99167 arumita.gupta@ddppl.com +91 96503 99908 For more news & uportes please log on

Saturday 6th May



BOTT Weekly Roundup: April 30 to May 6, 2023

- Ministry of Tourism participates in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023
- Goa Tourism successfully concludes PATA India Roadshow
- IATO writes to PM, appeal to restore incentives for revival of tourism
- Airfares likely to rise as Go First cancellations reduce capacity: TAAI

Wednesday 10th May

https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/go-first-airline-faces-legal-action-from-travel-agents-over-pending-dues-and-credit-shells-issued-to-passengers-11683565559574.html

3. Chapter News

Segment 4 update sequence by date: 1, 8, May

Monday 1st May

All Members were informed On Campus and off campus Interview of MBA Tourism Students of Department of Tourism Management, University of Burdwan, West Bengal

Monday 8th May

Co-Chairman, IATO Andaman & Nicobar UT in Meeting Secretary Civil Aviation during his visit to Port Blair

