



25<sup>th</sup> May, 2021/7237

To,

**Shri Jawahar Chavda**

Hon'ble Minister of Tourism and Fisheries  
Government of Gujarat  
Gandhinagar.

**Natubhai Patel**  
President

**Hemant N. Shah**  
Sr. Vice President

**K. I. Patel**  
Vice President

**Pathik S. Patwari**  
Hon. Secretary

**V. P. Vaishnav**  
Hon. Secretary (R)

**Sachin K. Patel**  
Hon. Treasurer

**Sub: Relief package and Revival measure for survival of Travel & Tourism Industry.**

Greetings from Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI).

At the outset, we would take this opportunity to appreciate the commendable efforts taken by Government of Gujarat under the able leadership of Honorable Chief Minister Shri Vijay bhai Rupani for the Trade & Industry in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sir, you will agree that the entire industry fraternity, especially the Travel & Tourism Industry are worst hit & they are facing survival issues due to the restrictions imposed since last 2 years to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We feel that Travel & tourism Industry is left out in the relief package given by Govt. As Travel & Tourism Industry is the drivers of our economic growth and employment, the current situation poses a very serious threat to the economy. It is therefore need of the hour to provide as much relief as possible to help them survive and come out of the acute crisis.

GCCI has a Travel & Tourism Task Force which have members which include Associations and various leading tour operators and travel agents operating in State of Gujarat. The associations who are member of Travel & Tourism Task force as follows:

- TAFI -TRAVEL AGENTS FEDERATION OF INDIA
- TAG-TRAVEL ASSOCIATION OF GUJARAT
- TAAI- TRAVEL AGENTS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
- GTVOA- GUJARAT TOURIST VEHICLE OPERATORS ASSOCIATION
- GRTOA- GUJARAT RAILWAY TOUR ORGANIZOR ASSOCIATION



The task force had a brain storming meeting on 19th May 2021 Principal Secretary, Tourism Department Mrs. Mamta Verma also remained present through Video Conference and heard us patiently. After detailed deliberations and discussions in the meeting, we all unanimously decided to submit our proposals as follows which would help to revive our industry.

Our request is divided in 2 parts – Direct Financial help & revival measures which can sustain and enable to grow in this difficult time.

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## Direct Financial Help

- 1. Waiver of Property Tax for year 2021-22 & 2022-23** for all the companies connected to Travel & Tourism registered in Gujarat. As you are aware most of the office establishment were either closed or non-operative due to Lock down / no business activity due to COVID 19 during this period.
- 2. Relief of Electricity bills.** –The electricity bills raised by Electricity Board (Like GEB) and Companies like AEC/SEC etc consist of 2 types (a) on basis of consumption (b) fixed cost. We request for waiver of Fixed cost and agree to pay of consumption as it is actually consumed by the user. For year 20-21 as the bills are paid an appropriate amount may be given as credit and for year 21-22 bills may be raised as requested.
- 3. Subsidy for the salary paid to the employees of Travel agents and tour operators.** For year 20-21 and 21-22 as you are well aware there have been no business or hardly 5% business was possible. Keeping in mind the human aspect and as per the appeal of Hon'ble Prime Minister to take care of the salaried people, Travel agents' companies have paid good % of salaries to their staff despite of negligible income form the business. We request for payment of at least 35% of the salary paid by the companies to their employees. This will be a big relief to the companies who have retained the employees.
- 4. Subsidy for the salary paid to the Drivers & cleaners of Luxury Bus.** For year 20-21 and 21-22 as you are well aware there have been no business or hardly 5% business was possible. Keeping in mind the human aspect and as per the appeal of Hon'ble Prime Minister to take care of the salaried people, the companies have paid good % of salaries to their staff despite of negligible income form the business.



- We request for reimbursement of at least 35% of the salary paid by the companies to their employees. This will be a big relief to the companies who have retained the employees.
5. **RTO Tax for Bus/Taxi Operators** – In continuation of above request at point no 4 we would also request for the refund & waiver of RTO & OTHER TAXES for the year 20-2and 21-22.
  6. **GST** – GST collected during 21-22 & 22-23 and in that SGST portion may be reimbursed to the Travel agent companies which will enable them to survive in this difficult time.
  7. **Interest waiver on working capital**- During the 20-21& 21-22 the business was nil/ very low and interest burden have been quite heavy. We request to waive the interest for year 2021 & 21 -22.

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## Revival measures

1. Aggressive social media campaigns through different channels such as FACE BOOK, INSTAGRAM, LINKEDIN, TWITTER etc. across the country which shall assist in revival of domestic tourism coming to Gujarat.
2. Removal of Fear Psychosis and create a positive sentiment for Traveling & tourism. Confidence building ad campaign may be done by GOG and should Promote few tourist spots of Gujrat by offering special packages which can be availed by Corporates of state as well.
3. Pilgrimage Tourism subsidy against proof of documents.

Sir, we are fully aware that the situation is quite serious and issues are complex but we have full trust and confidence in your good self and we are sure that under your leader ship and guidance the Travel and Tourism Industry would be able to survive and come out of difficult time. We would also request your good selves to help and co-ordinate with other departments of State as required. Please advise if any more information is required, we shall submit the same at the soonest possible.

With best regards,

**Natubhai Patel**  
President