



Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries

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5 October, 2020

To,
Shri. Aditya Uddhav Thackeray
Hon'ble Tourism Minister
Government of Maharashtra

Sub: - Re-Opening of Amusement and Entertainment Parks from 15th October, 2020 as per Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 30th September, 2020.

Dear Hon'ble Tourism Minister,

Kindly accept warm greetings from Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries (IAAPI), a National Apex body of Amusement, Theme Entertainment Parks and Indoor Amusement Centres of the Country.

This is further to our letter dated 29st September, 2020 to Hon'ble Chief Minister office requesting for reopening of Amusement Park from 1st October, 2020. In the light of UNLOCK-5 guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 30th September, 2020, vide which Entertainment Parks, which include Amusement Parks, Theme Parks, Water Parks and Indoor Amusement Centres have been allowed to re-open in the entire Country. IAAPI requests your good self to kindly issue necessary guidelines and instructions from State Government with regards to re-opening of Amusement Parks, Theme Parks, Water Parks and Indoor Amusement Centres - (Entertainment Parks) in the State, wef 15th October, 2020 as per aforesaid order of Ministry of Home Affairs.

I am pleased to inform you that, IAAPI has already prepared SOPs under guidance of professionals from the medical fraternity following proper methodology and process towards safety of guests and employees (copy is once again attached for your kind perusal) and we assure that the Amusement Industry will strictly follow all the guidelines and SOPs set by the Government and Local administration.

As per MHA notification, Union Government has reopened almost all the sectors and activities such as Hotel, Resorts, Malls, Gymnasiums, Religious Places, Metros and Museums. Union Government has further relaxed guidelines related to social, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious and political functions and congregations wef, 15th October, 2020 in non-containment zones.

Over the last 6 months, industry has seen job losses, salary reductions, closure of many businesses related to the amusement sector. The amusement industry is a very high CAPEX industry employing a large number of people. Maharashtra has over 26 Amusement park and over 100+ indoor amusement centers, generating direct employment for approx. 20,000 employees and indirect employment for around 1.05 lakh persons. Reopening of the amusement industry which is still in its nascent stage needs the support of the Government now more than ever to tide over this crisis.

The industry has lost its biggest peak season from April – June, 2020 due to lockdown, during which it generates around 60% to 65% EBITA. With the festive season of Dussehra and Diwali approaching, reopening of amusement park will help industry to get back on its feet and work for its revival. We earnestly need immediate support of the State Government for survival and revival of amusement industry in the state of Maharashtra. Re-opening of Amusement Industry will also help the State to accelerate its domestic tourism and will add to the economic growth of the State.

I also wish to bring to your kind notice that IAAPI has made similar request to State Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra for re-opening of Amusement Park (Entertainment Park) in Maharashtra, wef. 15th October, 2020.

In anticipation of an affirmative response for the benefit of the entire amusement industry.

Yours sincerely,

Ajay Sarin
Chairman - IAAPI