



# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014 | SECOND FORTNIGHTLY ISSUE

# गणपती वाण्या मास्या

## • INDEX •

IAAI NEWS .....	2
AVIATION NEWS .....	3
HOSPITALITY NEWS .....	7
VISA NEWS .....	9
INDUSTRY NEWS .....	9
INTRESTING PHOTOGRAPHS .....	10
OpenSpace .....	11



## IAAI presence in APJC, a must



**Mr. Biji Epen**  
National President, IAAI

A recent Circular from a Travel Trade Association proclaimed the “good news on the success of unanimous decisions” taken at the 41st APJC meeting held at Mumbai on 6th August 2014.

It also states that – “This APJC (Agency Programme Joint Council) meeting was of tremendous importance since it is very close to the deadline to send transmittals to PA Conference suggesting changes to the IATA resolutions”.

The decisions taken at the 41st APJC meeting held at Mumbai on 6th August 2014, as per a recent circular from a Travel Trade Association were,

a) Corporate Credit Card usage by Agencies: “After extensive deliberations the Agents representatives were able to successfully get the APJC India unanimously agree to send a proposal for change to this resolution giving the Airlines discretion to authorize agencies to use such a Credit Card”.

b) JOINT BANK GUARANTEE was successfully adopted: “APJC India on 6th August unanimously decided to propose to PA Conference, the introduction (re-implementation) of the Joint Bank Guarantee scheme.  
Comments :

Instead of taking up the ‘burning’ issue of the Weekly Payment System (WPS), the Agents’ Representatives put up other less significant matters & not at all putting up the WPS issue for the upcoming PA Conference.

Knowing fully well that such a Remittance cycle is totally against the interests of the majority of the Indian Travel Agents and unsuitable under the Indian Economic and Financial conditions, the Agents’ Representatives should have projected it as the main current issue of Travel Agents.

From all these happenings, it is the duty of the entire Travel Agent fraternity in India to ensure IAAI representation on APJC, so that the burning issues like Weekly Payment System and other important matters are taken up in all earnestness and the rules amended.

## Windowless Air travel – Futuristic feature in Passenger Aircrafts

Paris-based design company Technicon Design recently won an award for their IXION Windowless Jet Concept. The idea is to provide a 360-degree view using cameras mounted on the plane's exterior to capture the scenery and then project that on high-resolution screen on the interior cabin walls and ceiling. And actually any scene could be displayed on the interior. Let's say the view is mostly clouds or ocean.



How about displaying a rainforest? A flight through the Grand Canyon? A trip to the Moon? Solar panels on the exterior would help power the displays. Removing windows has its advantages, too. It reduces the materials and cost needed as well as reducing the weight of the plane. Not having windows allows for a greater flexibility of the interior design of the aircraft, too. Other aircrafts are exploring similar ideas of transparent cabins. In 2012 at the Paris Air Show, Airbus presented an aircraft with an interior fuselage made of displays. And earlier this year, Boston engineering firm Spike Aerospace unveiled a windowless supersonic jet with displays.

## BA and Iberia launch 72 hour reservation hold option at a cost

**IAG** INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES GROUP

**BRITISH AIRWAYS**

**IBERIA**

BA and Iberia have launched a new service allowing customers to hold flight reservations for up to three days before paying for them to 72 hours for as little as £5 through [ba.com](http://ba.com). There's nothing more frustrating than seeing a great flight price but not being able to book it straight away, either because you may need to get the time off work or check it's ok with family or friends – then coming back and finding there are no seats left or the price has changed. Now customers can see the price, hold their seats and be sure that's all they'll pay, up to three days later. Only one person's name is needed to hold the flights. The names of everyone travelling can be added within 72 hours of the booking being held. Seats can be held up to 21 days before departure. The new hold option is the result of a joint project between British Airways and Iberia, both owned by IAG. It applies to reservations for all flights operated by British Airways, including code-sharing flights, Iberia, Iberia Express, and Air Nostrum, including any combinations of flights of British Airways and Iberia, as long as they are on the same ticket. You can only use this feature at least 21 days before departure (generally prices will change most within 21 days of departure, when this would be most useful).

## Soon, flash e-boarding cards to enter aircraft

Domestic flyers may soon be able to board their flights by simply flashing their e-boarding cards at security checks. The Aviation Ministry has asked airport operators to procure the technology for reading bar-coded e-boarding cards so that passengers can board planes just like they enter airports-by showing their e-tickets on phones or tablets. Such card readers are widely used in the Western countries and Aviation Ministry is keen to have this passenger-friendly practice at Indian airports too. Airport operators have been asked to find out about this technology and Ministry is examining how e-boarding cards can be made a reality. Currently, people need a boarding card--from the air port check-in counter or by e-boarding--which is shown at the security gate. After frisking, CISF personnel stamp the card. Flyers are allowed to board planes after it's checked that their boarding cards have that stamp. Meanwhile, in a related move, the ministry has asked security personnel at boarding gates not to send passengers whose baggage tags do not have the "security cleared" stamp all the way back to security check points. Security personnel at the boarding gate will now physically check the cabin bag, stamp the tag on it there itself and allow passengers to board the aircraft. Earlier, passengers whose baggage tags were not stamped were asked to go back to the security check and get the bags screened there. In massive terminals like Delhi's T3, it meant a long last minute dash for passengers--something that aged flyers and those with children found hard to do.



## First seaplane service from Mumbai takes off for Lonavala

The Mumbai-Lonavla seaplane service was launched on Monday 25th August 2014 from Juhu aerodrome. The inaugural flight took off from Juhu to Lonavla, where the amphibious aircraft, the nine-seat Cessna 208 or the four-seat Cessna 206, landed in Pawana dam. The journey takes 30 minutes and cost Rs 2,999. The frequency is one charter flight a day from Monday to Thursday and two flights a day on weekends. Services will also be from Juhu to Shirdi, Meherabad and Shani Shingnapur (landing for all three in Mula dam), Mahabaleshwar (Dhoom dam), and Nashik (Gangapur dam), but the ticket rates

are not yet decided. Bookings can be done online on [www.mehair.in](http://www.mehair.in), which belongs to the operator, Maritime Energy Heli Air Services Pvt Ltd (MEHAIR).

**FLIGHTS**  
Mumbai - Juhu to Pawana Dam, Lonavla  
Ticket **₹2,999** per person, one way

**Duration** 30 minutes  
**Frequency** One flight a day, Monday-Thursday  
Two flights a day, Friday-Sunday

**BOOKINGS**  
Online | [www.mehair.in](http://www.mehair.in)

**AIRCRAFT**  
CESSNA 208 4 seats  
CESSNA 206 9 seats  
Both are amphibious aircraft

**Other routes:** Juhu to Shirdi, Shani Shingnapur and Mahabaleshwar (all Mula Dam for all 21. Mahabaleshwar, Shani Shingnapur and Shirdi are separate stops). Ticket prices set to be decided.

**Future routes:** Depending on the response, flights would be started from Juhu to Shirdi, Shani Shingnapur and Mahabaleshwar. Contact: 022-2610-1000, 022-2610-1001

## IndiGo to introduce 16 new flights across 8 destinations

IndiGo, low-cost and low-carbon airline has announced eight new daily non-stop flights connecting Bengaluru, Kolkata, Kochi and Hyderabad. Effective August 28, 2014, the schedule sees the introduction of first daily flight between Kochi-Kolkata via Bengaluru, 2nd daily flight



between Kochi-Hyderabad via Bengaluru, 3rd daily non-stop flight between Kochi-Bengaluru. The new schedule also introduces 6th daily non-stop flight between Kolkata-Bengaluru and 7th daily non-stop flight between Hyderabad-Bengaluru.

Effective from September 01, 2014 IndiGo introduces eight additional flights with its first daily non-stop flight between Bengaluru-Chandigarh, Chandigarh-Srinagar and 2nd daily non-stop flight between Bengaluru-Goa and Bengaluru-Trivandrum.

New no-frill carrier AirAsia India will fly to Chandigarh in two months as part of its expansion plans to North India. AirAsia's second plane for the Indian operations would be there next week and another in September

## Airport Authority of India planning low-cost airports with minimum facilities

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) plans 50 airports across 11 states that includes barbed wire, not boundary walls; people handling baggage, and not machines; a shorter check-in time to keep lounges small; and local cops instead of the more expensive Central Industrial Security Force; and no food kiosks. Traffic is unlikely to be heavy at these airports. The purpose is to create minimum facilities for aircraft to operate, without compromising on safety and security. The plan includes



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

constructing terminals that facilitate passengers to directly step out of the airport on arrival. All these will bring down costs by 50 per cent. An entire Greenfield low-cost airport can be built for Rs 50 crore. Its modular framework can be added to, if traffic grows. The no-frills airport should be on a 'railway station plus' model, without compromising on safety and security. The focus should shift from security of the airport to security of the aircraft. The approach has to change from visible security to smart security, using CCTV and a small quick-reaction security team. There is no need for costly air-navigation equipment; that can be provided remotely by larger airports.

## More airports to come up in North East India

Government is considering setting up of three Greenfield airports in the North East (NE) region—Pakyong (Sikkim), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Chiethu (Nagaland). Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already taken up the construction of Pakyong airport and the work is in progress and it is expected to be completed in December 2016. The AAI had completed the Master Planning of Itanagar airport and the approval of Steering Committee is in the process. With respect to Chiethu airport, Nagaland government has been requested to find out an alternate site which is more flat and suitable for a capital city airport. There are 12 non-operational airports in the region out of which there is proposal to develop and operationalise eight airports -- Along, Daparizo, Passighat, Tezu and Zero in Arunachal Pradesh, Tura in Meghalaya and Rupsi in Assam and Kailashahar in Tripura. The AAI had taken up a number of infrastructure development works at various airports in the past decade and is planning a number of development works in coming years. The objective is to make Guwahati as inter-regional hub and Agartala, Dibrugarh and Imphal as intra-regional hubs. For this, construction of maintenance hangars, extension and strengthening of runway, extension and strengthening of apron, extension and modification of existing terminal buildings are planned in these airports.

## Lufthansa to start operating A380 to India by Q4 2014



Lufthansa will start flying the Airbus A380 super jumbo aircraft to India by the fourth quarter (Q4) of this calendar year, subject to approval from the Government of India. The airline will fly the plane on the Mumbai-Frankfurt-Mumbai and Delhi-Frankfurt-Delhi sectors. The super jumbo A380, which has a three-class configuration, accommodates 526 passengers. During winter, there is an increase in volume of travellers, and therefore it is beneficial to launch the A380 services to India during that time. Once launched in India, Lufthansa's A380 will gradually replace its Boeing 747-400 and Boeing 747-8 that are currently operational on the Mumbai and Delhi routes. Lufthansa owns ten A380s and will bring into its fleet five more of the aircraft. Of these, two will be flown to India by end of this year, and three are expected to be delivered by 2016.



# AVIATION NEWS

## Boeing, South African Airlines to Develop Tobacco Jet Fuel

To reduce commercial aviation's environmental footprint, Boeing and South African Airways partnered to make sustainable aviation biofuel from a new type of tobacco plant. The companies collaborated with Dutch aviation biofuels company SkyNRG to expand the production of the hybrid plant known as Solaris and grow the tobacco plant as a biofuel feedstock in place of the traditional plant used by the tobacco industry. Test farming is currently underway and biofuel production using oil from the nicotine-free plant's seeds is expected to begin in the next few years. Boeing expects the rest of the plant will be able to be used for the creation of sustainable aviation biofuels in the future.



## Fast Track Service at Budapest Airport

To reduce long lines and enable passengers to pass through security quickly and efficiently, Budapest Airport expanded its Fast Track Lane service, providing swift security checks and quicker access to boarding. Previously only available for passengers flying first or business class, the service is available to all passengers for the cost of approximately \$7. The airport recently installed additional voucher sales points for the Fast Track Lane at the entrance to the passenger-security screening checkpoint in order to make the service easily accessible.

# HOSPITALITY NEWS

## Aamod Resorts launches Alwar Bagh by Aamod in Sariska, Rajasthan

After opening luxury resorts at Narkanda in Shimla district and Bhimtal in Nainital district, Aamod Resorts has launched a 38-room resort near Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar district), Rajasthan. Alwar Bagh by Aamod in Sariska is spread over five acres of land and is located between Sariska National Park and Alwar city and is 2.5 hours drive from Gurgaon.



## UNESCO Adds Myanmar's Pyu Ancient Cities To World Heritage List

Myanmar welcomed the designation of its Pyu Ancient Cities as UNESCO World Heritage sites, marking the country's first entries on the agency's renowned list. The 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in Doha granted UNESCO World Heritage status to the ancient cities of Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra in Myanmar's Irrawaddy River basin earlier this month. The cities include the remains of three brick, walled and moated cities of the Pyu kingdoms that flourished for more than 1,000 years between 200 B.C. and 900. The sites contain the remains of palace citadels, burial grounds, Buddhist stupas and early industrial production sites. The new UNESCO status will help preserve the remains of the ancient cities as well as boost tourism in the region.

Source : [Travelbizmonitor.com](http://Travelbizmonitor.com)

## Helicopter Tourism for Myanmar with Airbus's help



HELICOPTERS could be a new option for tourists travelling in Myanmar if Airbus proceeds with plans to roll out helicopter rental services. Airbus is aiming to bring in a number of helicopters to Myanmar to begin rentals by end-2014. Their first target (in importing

helicopters) was Myanmar's rapidly growing oil and gas industry. But now Airbus hope that soon a few helicopters will come for tourism as well. If passengers want to go to a place which is quite far or difficult to get to, they can fly over or stop somewhere to enjoy a picnic or an excursion. This type of service is only offered by hot air balloons with limited capabilities right now in Myanmar. The idea for tourism is that visitors can book helicopters through the hotel or travel agencies, and take a helicopter to their desired destinations.

Source : [TTG Asia](http://TTG Asia)

## Celebrity Cruises to offer 3 high-end cruise tours in 2015

Celebrity Cruises is to launch regular high-end cruise tours, with the first three set to be offered in 2015 . The product will be known as Celebrity Explorations. Travel agents will earn commission on the land portion at the same rate as their cruise commission. A cruise tour that combines a three-night stay and city tour in Sydney with a Celebrity Solstice cruise from Australia will kick off the new venture in January next year. In August, Celebrity will begin offering a five-night African safari that will end with a cruise on one of several itineraries from Southampton. In December, Celebrity will begin offering a river/ocean cruise combination that includes a four-night voyage on the Amazon River and a longer Celebrity Infinity cruise in South America.





## Vietnam e-VISA for Indian Nationals

Indians can now apply for Vietnam e-VISA. After applying online, an approval letter will be received and the applicant can travel with the copy of the same. Upon arrival they can get the VISA stamped by paying respective VISA fees as per the category applied online.



# INDUSTRY NEWS

## Uber gears up to drive into four more Indian cities

Taxi-hailing app Uber is aggressively increasing its presence in India by simultaneously expanding to four more cities with its premium UberBlack service and slashing prices in Bangalore by 25%. Uber, which has disrupted the taxi market in the United States and the world over, is launching in Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh and Kolkata, making a total of 10 cities in India in less than one year. India is one of our fastest-growing economies and as the company scales their operations these cities made the most sense beyond the first six. A



year ago, Uber first launched in Bangalore, followed by Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune. India is Uber's largest market outside the US, where the company is growing at a scorching 30% month on month. Mumbai is Uber's fastest growing city in Asia. Indian taxi service providers are taking the fight to Uber by banking on their first-mover advantage and a large fleet to create a barrier. Olacabs, TaxiForSure and Meru Cabs all expanding their fleet, revamping their mobile applications and lobbying with the government to bring in parity on rules governing electronic payments.

# INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS

## Live Routes Bridge near Cherrapunji



## LIGHTER MOMENTS

One day a lady was driving on the Highway. She frequently checked her speed gauge to make sure she stayed within the speed limit. However, when she looked into her rear mirror, much to her dismay, she saw a police car not far behind! And, to make matters worse, the police car turned on his flashing lights. She thought to herself,

"Uh-oh, what have I done now? I'm not speeding. I'm not drinking.

I have my seat belt on! I have kept up my license dues and everything!"

So, she pulled over and the police car pulled over to the side right behind her car. She drove her car slowly to a stop, slowly rolled down the window, and prepared for a ticket when she knew she didn't deserve it. A policeman walked up to her window, and spoke to her.

The lady pointed to her ear and shook her head, meaning she was deaf.

The policeman smiled slightly, and knowing sign language, signed back,

"I know. I'm here to tell you that your horn is stuck."

## THOUGHT FOR THE FORTNIGHT

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge,  
but imagination  
— Albert Einstein

# IAAI DIRECTOR BOARD

Mr Biji Eapen, **National President**

Speedwings Travel & Cargo Pvt.Ltd., Kochi.

Mr V L Jekannathan, **National Gen. Secretary**

All India Travel Agency (Madurai) Pvt. Ltd., Chennai.

Mr Salvadore Saldanha, **National Treasurer**

SV Airlinks Pvt Ltd., Mumbai.

Ms Surinder Kumar, **Director—NR**

Travelmate India Pvt Ltd., New Delhi.

Mr Rajendra Churiwala, **Director—ER**

Survottam Travels (P) Ltd., Kolkata.

Mr T K Gopakumar, **Director—SR**

Magellan Travel Services (P) Ltd., Chennai

Mr Naresh Rajkotia, **Director—WR**

Madhuram Travels & Tours, Mumbai.

We welcome your suggestions to improve this newsletter.  
The same may be forwarded to [iaai.pune@iaai.in](mailto:iaai.pune@iaai.in)

## EDITORIAL TEAM

### • NEWSLETTER EDITOR •

MR. DEVENDRA GHULE

### • ASST. EDITOR •

MR. SARAS DESHPANDE  
& MR. BISHWAJIT B.

### • SUDIN TRAVELS & FOREX • PVT. LTD. PUNE

Design by : NIKHIL BINIWALE | [nikhil.biniwale@gmail.com](mailto:nikhil.biniwale@gmail.com)

# THANK YOU!