



IAAI Newsletter

January 2015, 1st Fortnight Issue

IAAI Column

IITT2015 AT MUMBAI

IAAI participated in the 2015 edition India International Travel & Tourism Exhibition held recently at Mumbai between Jan 15 to Jan 17. The IAAI stall was manned by team from Maharashtra which included members from the Director Board as well as from the National Committee. The IAAI team included National Treasurer Mr Salvadore Saldanah, Western Region Director Mr Naresh Rajkotia, National Committee members Mr Rajiv Shroff, Maharashtra President Mr Chetan Momaya, Mrs Aruna Shetty (Maharashtra Secretary), Mr Siddharth Shah (Maharashtra Treasurer) put in a lot of hard work during the three days & IAAI could achieve enrolment of 52 new members / trade partners.

A conference focusing on key industry issues was also held during the conference. Mr Biji Eapen., National President (IAAI), was one of the distinguished speakers & was also one of the panelists.

The Exhibition saw national and international participation of tourism boards, tour operators, hoteliers, DMCs, cruise lines etc with about 200 hosted buyers, around 1000 prescheduled meetings.



Aviation News

US-bound Etihad flights from India to offer preclearance at Abu Dhabi airport from 15th Jan 2015



Air travellers on all Etihad Airways flights to the US from this week will be able to avail of the benefits of arriving in the US, having precleared US Customs and Border Protection at Abu Dhabi airport. From January 15, US preclearance will open for the early morning EY103 to New York JFK and EY183 to San Francisco flights, both of which connect with in-bound services from Mumbai, Delhi and other cities in India and the Indian subcontinent.

The new early morning US preclearance operation complements the mid-morning one, which caters to Etihad Airways passengers on flights to Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Los Angeles, New York JFK, and Washington, D.C., who proceed through the facility.

All air travellers flying to the US from Abu Dhabi will enjoy the benefits that US customs and immigration preclearance offers. Since its opening in January last year, the US preclearance has been extremely popular with air travellers, particularly those from the Indian subcontinent and Middle East region. More than 325,000 people have passed through the facility, arriving in the US as domestic passengers.

The preclearance process provides passengers with the unique opportunity to pass through all required checks, including US customs, immigration and security while in Abu Dhabi before they board their flight to the US, enabling them to avoid queues on arrival.

Another benefit of US preclearance is that baggage security screening meets US TSA security standards, allowing air travellers who connect onto a US domestic flight to have their baggage checked through from Abu Dhabi to their final destination.

Aviation News

Kullu-Chandigarh chartered flights to resume in April 2015



Manali-based private airlines company, Himalayan Bulls, in association with Deccan Charter, is set to revive its eight-seater chartered flights between Kullu and Chandigarh from April 10, 2015. The company has started accepting return bookings for the Chandigarh-Kullu sector till July 10 from the proposed date of re-start through its online portal www.airhimalayas.com.

A fare of Rs 5,825 has been fixed by the airlines for one-way travel between Chandigarh and Kullu or vice versa for the first three seats, while the remaining five seats will cost Rs 6,949 each. The tentative time of departure of the 40-minute one-way flight from Bhuntar to Chandigarh would be 11 am and 12.40 pm. The flight will take off from the Chandigarh airport for Bhuntar at 11.50 am and 1.30 pm.

Ethiopian Airlines, Air India expand codeshare



Ethiopian Airlines and Air India have expanded their codeshare coverage, enabling customers travelling between India and Africa to enjoy connectivity options between domestic Indian points and African destinations.

Ethiopian operates daily flights to both Mumbai and New Delhi. The two Star Alliance member carriers, which have already a codeshare in place for the Mumbai and New Delhi routes, have expanded their agreement to include African points on Ethiopian operated network thru its main hub in Addis Ababa, such as Kigali, Entebbe, Dar es Salaam, Harare and Nairobi, and on Air India's domestic routes beyond Mumbai and New Delhi with the inclusion of Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Bangalore.

Ethiopian is planning to significantly scale-up its footprint in the Indian market with the start of double-daily flights and the opening of a new route in Southern India in 2015.

Ethiopian is a global Pan-African carrier currently serving 84 international destinations across 5 continents with over 200 daily flights and using the latest technology aircraft such as the B777s and B787s.

Aviation News

Air Costa to add 8 aircrafts



vistara

Andhra Pradesh-based regional airline Air Costa to add eight aircrafts before 2016 to its existing four aircrafts. The airline, which reported an operating profit in the month of December, 2014 for the first time, said that it will be a pan-India player by the end of 2015. The Airline made an operating profit of Rs 1.5 crore in December 2014 and this is the first time Air Costa is posting a monthly operational profit. The company has clocked over Rs 40 crore as flown revenue in December. The company reported a load factor of 80% in December, while for the quarter it reported 77% load factor. The Airline also reduced its expenses and optimised the cost, which it said it would continue to do.

The Airline also plan to add four Embraer Jets (E190) aircrafts in 2015 and in 2016 each to support its foray into other parts of the country. The airline flies 34 flights a day between 15 city pairs, connecting 9 stations with four Embraer E Jets - two 112 seat E190s and two 67 seat E 170s. Of these, the airline enjoys a monopoly on three pairs: Jaipur-Chennai, Tirupati - Vishakhapatnam, and Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam sectors, and a duopoly on five others. On the other sectors, the airline enjoys competition from just two other airlines.

Government grants Vistara 3-month exemption from flying to North East, J&K, Andamans



vistara

In a special dispensation granted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India to Tata-Singapore Airlines-backed Vistara, the full-service carrier will not have to comply with the mandatory Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG), followed by all Indian airlines, for the first three months of its operations. Vistara, which launches commercial operations from January 9, will operate on Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Ahmedabad, and Ahmedabad-Mumbai routes to begin with.

According to Government guidelines, all scheduled airlines are required to deploy in the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep, and at least ten per cent of their deployed capacity on the 12 Trunk or category-I routes such as Delhi-Mumbai. Also, 50 per cent of the capacity deployed on category-I routes is to be deployed on category-III routes.

Aviation News

IndiGo announces additional domestic services starting from January 2015

IndiGo

IndiGo will launch its fifth daily non-stop flight between Delhi and Ahmedabad, Delhi and Pune, and Pune and Bengaluru. In addition, the airline will fly its sixth daily non-stop flight between Mumbai and Ahmedabad from January 5, 2015. Last month, IndiGo had announced the addition of Kozhikode as its 32nd domestic and 37th overall destination in its network. Effective January 1, 2015, the schedule introduced six daily non-stop flights, including daily non-stop flights between Kozhikode and Dubai, daily non-stop flights between Kozhikode and Mumbai, daily flights between Kozhikode and Delhi (via Mumbai), and 15th daily non-stop flight between Delhi and Mumbai. Also effective January 1, IndiGo started its fourth non-stop flight between Kolkata and Agartala.

Flight	Origin	Destination	Departure	Arrival	Effective	Frequency
6E-625	Delhi	Ahmedabad	19:45	21:15	04 January	Daily
6E-626	Ahmedabad	Delhi	07:30	09:00	04 January	Daily
6E-597	Delhi	Pune	09:35	11:45	04 Jan - 28 Mar	Except Sat
6E-575	Pune	Bengaluru	12:15	13:40	04 Jan - 28 Mar	Except Sat
6E-576	Bengaluru	Pune	14:50	16:15	04 Jan - 28 Mar	Except Sat
6E-594	Pune	Delhi	16:45	18:55	04 Jan - 28 Mar	Except Sat
6E-637	Mumbai	Ahmedabad	05:50	07:00	05 January	Daily
6E-636	Ahmedabad	Mumbai	21:45	2:55	05 January	Daily
6E-374	Kolkata	Agartala	15:45	16:40	01 January	Daily
6E-373	Agartala	Kolkata	17:10	18:05	01 January	Daily

Hospitality News

Goa Tourism to start hot air balloons in April



Goa Tourism is going to start hot air balloons and amphibious vessels in April 2015. Camping Retreats, a renowned Delhi-based agency, has been selected to provide the hot air ballooning service, while US based consortium with D'Souza Leisure has been selected to provide the amphibious vehicles service in the state.

According to GTDC, as many as six amphibious vehicles will be introduced and the vessels can operate on water and land and will be equipped with all facilities required for effective and smooth conduct of operations. This venture will further facilitate 'Hop On Hop Off' tours along Goa's inland waterways and chain of jetties and ferry ramps, bird watching tours and eco-tourism tours. As many as 34 passengers can be accommodated per trip for duration of 30 minutes to an hour. These boats will be manufactured in Goa with US technology in collaboration with AGCL-Goa. The hot air ballooning safaris will be designed by Camping Retreats and will induct two hot air balloons at the introductory phase. The initial plan is to introduce hot air balloon tours to Dudhsagar Water Falls.

MTDC ranked No 1 tourism board among India's best performing public sector enterprises



Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has been recognised as the number one tourism board among India's best performing Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs). MTDC won the award for 'Tourism PSE of the Year' and is the first and only tourism board to get this appreciation.

MTDC is promoting the tourism brand 'Maharashtra Unlimited', and for the campaign - 'Maha Hai Maharashtra' - is also appreciated as the Best Tourism Brand Media Campaign. Maharashtra ranks number one in attracting foreign tourists. In 2013, the state received 4,156,343 foreign tourists and 82,700,556 domestic tourists.

Hospitality News

Golden Tulip Hotels to open four properties in South Asia in Q1 2015



GOLDEN TULIP
HOTELS • INNS • RESORTS

Golden Tulip Hotels will open four new hotels in South Asia under Golden Tulip and Royal Tulip brands in Quarter one of 2015. While three of the upcoming hotels are in India, one will be in Bangladesh. The upcoming properties are Golden Tulip Neemrana (Rajasthan), Golden Tulip (Vasundhara, UP- Delhi NCR), Royal Tulip Luxury Resort Kufri, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) and Royal Tulip Luxury Resort Cox Bazaar Bangladesh. Royal Tulip is a 5-Star brand and Golden Tulip is a 4-Star brand.

Marriott opens second Kochi property at LuLu Mall



Marriott International, Inc. has opened Kochi Marriott Hotel, the fifth hotel under the company's flagship Marriott Hotels brand in India. This will be the second Marriott International property in the city and is located at the LuLu Mall campus. Kochi Marriott Hotel offers 274 guest rooms, which include 25 club suites, one vice presidential suite, and one plush presidential suite. Kochi Marriott Hotel features 720 sq mtr of banquet and meeting space, equipped with the latest technology and amenities. It also offers a helipad on the roof. This is the only hotel in Kerala to have such a feature.

Acron Waterfront Resort now open in Goa



Property developer Acron, which has over 45 residential and hospitality developments in Goa and Mumbai since 1988, has opened Acron Waterfront Resort, situated at the edge of River Baga in Goa. Acron Waterfront Resort, the newest member of the Fortune Group of Hotels and part of ITC's hotel chain, offers 29 plush rooms equipped with modern amenities. The rooms offer views of the river, the sea and the courtyard. The property offers facilities like spa, infinity pool, temperature-controlled Jacuzzi, and service of a personal butler and a private chauffeured car.

Hospitality News

Aamod Resorts launches 2 properties in Udaipur and Barog

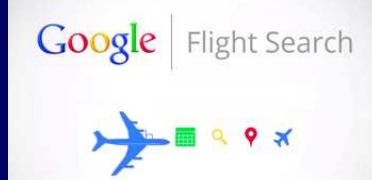


Aamod Resorts has launched two properties—Dunn Perk Manor at Barog in Himachal Pradesh and Amantra Shilpi by Aamod in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Located five kms away from the city centre, Amantra Shilpi by Aamod is designed on a modern yet ethnic pattern, and houses 42 rooms in Deluxe, Super Deluxe and Premier categories, all well-equipped with all modern amenities.

Dunn Perk Manor at Barog, nestled one km away from the Kalka-Shimla Highway (NH-22), is an eight-room property. A large villa, Dunn Perk Manor offers a private roof-top patio and all modern day amenities. The expansive dining hall with attached projection lounge has sofas for guests to relax. The recreational zone offers indoor activities including a pool table. The villa has an in-house gymnasium along with steam and sauna facility. The decoratively lit rooftop patio is furnished with deck-beds and centre tables. The villa also has parking facility available on site along with driver accommodation.

Google launches Flight Search tool for India



Search giant Google had introduced Flight Search tool for Indian Internet users. It has roped in Goibibo as partner for the feature. Flight Search will allow users to search for flights within Google, as well as compare and book flights on mobile devices. Users planning a holiday can make use of this tool to immediately see the price and duration of flights based on users' preferences and previous searches. A user has to just enter the departure and destination cities and he/she will get all flight details.

So far, these travel portals would get queries from searches conducted on Google. But now Google will make use of this data for Flight Search. When you click on the departure date field, you'll see a calendar with the lowest fares for the route highlighted for each day. You can also use the lowest fares graph below the calendar to see how prices may fluctuate based on the season, holidays or other events. Scrolling through a couple of months quickly shows you when it's a great time to fly.

Once you select your departure and return dates, you'll be presented with a list of 'Best Flights', which represents the best trade-off between convenience and price. You can always view other flights by scrolling through the summary list or selecting, 'Show longer or more expensive flights'.

Industry News

Contactless Credit and Debit cards launched

These cards are based on Near Field Communication technology, which provides customers the improved convenience of speed



ICICI Bank, the country's largest private sector Bank, announced the launch of the country's first 'contactless' debit and credit cards. These cards are based on the near-field communication technology, which provides customers improved speed to complete a transaction, and enhanced security as they remain under the control of the customer.

The speed of transactions will add momentum to high value payments. Also, the level of security is higher since the card doesn't leave the customer during the transaction process. The Bank has introduced these cards in Gurgaon, Hyderabad and Mumbai to begin with & will be gradually extended to other cities.

Over 1200 Electronic Data Capture (EDC) machines capable of accepting contactless payments have been set-up across merchants in these cities. The merchants include quick service restaurants, coffee shops, shopping marts and fuel stations where fast transactions are required.

Visa News

VFS Global announces revision of UAE visa fees



As per directive from the UAE Immigration Department (www.dubaivisa.net), visa fees have been amended from January 4, 2015 onwards. The revised fee for Tourist Visa is Rs 5,810; 96 Hours Visa is Rs 4,150; 14 Days Visa is Rs 5,810; Express Tourist Visa is Rs 7,245; Express 96 Hours Visa is Rs 5,500; and Express 14 Days Visa is Rs 7,245.

Australia launches online visa pilot programme for Indians



A pilot programme has been launched to make it easier for Indian business and tourism visitors to apply online for visa to travel to Australia. The pilot programme, which has been started on a trial basis, covers online lodging of subclass 600 visas for Indian business and tourism visitors. It will be rolled out through selected travel agents across India.

Under the Australian Government's national tourism strategy, Tourism 2020, India has the potential to contribute between AUD 1.9 billion and AUD 2.3 billion annually to their tourism industry by 2020. That's why in the first half on 2015, the Australian Government is rolling out a trial of online visa applications to capitalise on this rapidly growing visitor market and create jobs.

Photo Feature

Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)



An aurora is a natural light display in the sky (from the Latin word *aurora*, "sunrise" or the [Roman goddess of dawn](#)), predominantly seen in the high latitude ([Arctic](#) and [Antarctic](#) regions). Auroras are caused by charged particles, mainly electrons and protons, entering the atmosphere from above causing ionization and excitation of atmospheric constituents, and consequent optical emissions. Incident protons can also produce emissions as hydrogen atoms after gaining an electron from the atmosphere.

The following locations provide some kind of infrastructure, like tours, observation points etc :-

[Jukkasjärvi, Northern Sweden](#), is the site of the original [Ice hotel](#), with excellent viewing infrastructure.

[Fairbanks, Alaska](#): famous for aurora viewing, with many tours and sites that cater to aurora sighting.

[Tromsø, Northern Norway](#), is an easily accessible location with numerous excursions.

[Skibotn, Northern Norway](#), enjoys an extremely dry climate, thus providing excellent chances of viewing.

Open Space



Lighter Moments



SMARTNESS

Dad - Dear, I want you to marry a girl of my choice.

Son - no way..

Dad - She is the daughter of world's richest man.

Son - then its done.

Then his dad goes to that richest man..

Dad - I want your daughter to marry my son.

Rich man - nope

Dad: He is the COO of world bank.

Rich man - then its done.

Then Dad again goes to president of bank.

He asked - appoint my son the COO of the world bank.

Him - Never

Dad: - He is the son in law of World's richest man.

Him - then its fine.

THIS IS Smartness...!!

Thought for the Fortnight

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.

IAAI Director Board

1. Mr Biji Eapen, National President Pvt. : Speedwings Travel & Cargo Ltd., Kochi.
2. Mr V L Jekannathan, National Gen. Secretary (Madurai) Pvt. Ltd., Chennai. : All India Travel Agency
3. Mr Salvadore Saldanha, National Treasurer : S V Airlinks Pvt Ltd., Mumbai.
4. Ms Surinder Kumar, Director—NR New Delhi. : Travelmate India Pvt Ltd.,
5. Mr Rajendra Churiwala, Director—ER Kolkata. : Survottam Travels (P) Ltd.,
6. Mr T K Gopakumar, Director—SR Ltd., Chennai. : Magellan Travel Services (P)
7. Mr Naresh Rajkotia, Director—WR : Madhuras Travels & Tours, Mumbai.

Newsletter Editor

Mr Devendra Ghule

Asst Editor

Mr Saras Deshpande

Sudin Travels & Forex Pvt Ltd., Pune

We welcome your suggestions to improve this newsletter.

The same may be forwarded to iaai.pune@iaai.in

In case you do not receive any issue of the Newsletter, the same can be viewed on the IAAI website : www.iaai.in