



IAAI Newsletter

February 2015, IInd Fortnight Issue

IAAI News

IAAI forms Women Empowerment Cell



With an idea to enroll, engage and involve more Women into IAAI mainstream activities, it has been decided to form a Women Empowerment Cell.

Mrs Aruna D Shetty, Joint Secretary , IAAI (Maharashtra) , is being given the additional responsibility to be the Chairperson- Women Empowerment Cell, to look after pan-India interests .

Those who wish to assist her in her mission, are hereby requested to come forward, so that Mrs Aruna will have a fully representative Committee, drawn from all regions.

IAAI News

MALAYSIA BECONS

When we think of Malaysia, may be the first thing that comes to our mind is Petronas Twin Towers at Kuala Lumpur. But there is an immense treasure waiting to be explored. Batu Caves at Selangor, Pasar Seni at Kul, Petaling Street, Nusajaya's Theme Parks, George Town, Maleka City, Genting Highlands, Cameron Highlands, Taman Negara, Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Kabili-Sepilok Nature Reserve, Mulu & Bako National Parks, Langkawi and charming beaches and islands of pristine beauty.



Mr. S. Saldanha, IAAI National Treasurer, Ms. Sneha Rai, Marketing Executive, MTPB, Ms Ratna Mehta, Marketing Manager MTPB, Mr. Nor Shazly Azmi, Deputy Director, MTPB, Mr. Naresh Rajkotia, Director-WR, IAAI, Mr. Anil Gupta, Co-Ordinator Tourism, IAAI

In order to familiarize the Travel Fraternity with this favourite destination, the IAAI Mumbai Team called on Mr. Nor Shazly Azmi, Deputy Director, Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, at Mumbai, on Friday, 27th February, 2015. The outcome was very positive, with both deciding to hold Training Sessions for the Travel Fraternity in Mumbai and Western India in the near future.

Aviation News

IndiGo to increase flights connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur & Srinagar

IndiGo

IndiGo will enhance services on the Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Jaipur, Mumbai-Jaipur, and Mumbai-Srinagar sectors. The new schedule will see the airline operate its 16th daily non-stop flight between Delhi and Mumbai, second daily non-stop flight between Delhi

and Jaipur, and third daily non-stop flight between Mumbai and Jaipur. Additionally, the airline will connect Mumbai to Srinagar, with the launch of its first daily non-stop flight and second daily non-stop flight from Srinagar to Mumbai.

The New Flight Schedule

Flight No.	Origin	Destination	Departure	Arrival Time	Fare*	Frequency
6E 665	Delhi	Mumbai	21:30	23:35	2,953	16th daily non-stop flight
6E 668	Mumbai	Delhi	23:15	01:20^	3,177	16th daily non-stop flight
6E 688	Delhi	Jaipur	8:05	9:00	1,499	2nd daily non-stop flight
6E 687	Jaipur	Delhi	19:25	20:20	1,499	2nd daily non-stop flight
6E 696	Mumbai	Jaipur	17:15	19:00	2,878	3rd daily non-stop flight
6E 695	Jaipur	Mumbai	9:25	11:10	2,693	3rd daily non-stop flight
6E 449	Mumbai	Srinagar	11:00	13:40	4,498	1st daily non-stop flight
6E 448	Srinagar	Mumbai	14:10	17:00	3,902	2nd daily non-stop flight

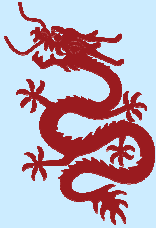
Ethiopian Airlines to increase flights to Mumbai to double daily



Ethiopian Airlines has finalised preparations to start double-daily flights to Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport from next month. The airline has been providing air service to Mumbai for over 43 years. It currently operates daily flights to Mumbai and New Delhi. Both daily flights to Mumbai will be operated with the B787 Dreamliner aircraft. With the double-daily flights, Ethiopian aims to provide optimal connectivity options for passengers traveling between India and its 49 destinations in Africa.

Aviation News

Dragonair to operate additional flight on Kolkata-Hong Kong route from May 12



DRAGONAIR

Dragonair has announced that it will operate an additional service between Kolkata and Hong Kong from May 12, 2015. This additional service will increase the total number of flights between the two cities from five to six flights per week, giving passengers greater flexibility for travel to Hong Kong and onward to other destinations through the extensive global network of

Dragonair and its sister airline, Cathay Pacific.

Dragonair launched flights from Kolkata to Hong Kong in November 2012 with four departures a week. The fifth departure was added in October 2013. Dragonair and Cathay Pacific will now operate a total of 48 passenger flights per week between Hong Kong and six major gateways in India that include Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Flight no.	From	To	Departure	Arrival	Days of operation
KA168	HKG	CCU	2235	0020+1	Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
KA169	CCU	HKG	0010	0600	Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun

Dragonair's network covers 49 destinations across the Asia-Pacific region, including 22 in Mainland China.

Air India launches Delhi-Rajkot flight from Feb 23



Air India Ltd. will connect Delhi to Rajkot from February 23, 2015. The airline will deploy its new 70-seater ATR-72-600 on this route. The flight will operate on all days, except Wednesday.

With the operation of this flight, Rajkot will be connected directly to Delhi and Mumbai. Flight 91631 will leave Delhi at 0550 hrs and arrive in Rajkot at 0815 hrs. The return flight will depart from Rajkot at 0845 hrs and land at 1100 hrs.

Rail News

Glimpses of Railway Budget 2015

Some of the important announcements made by the Union Railway Minister in the Rail Budget 2015 :



- Advance rail ticket booking will be available four months ahead of travel.
- Nine high-speed railway corridors (with a speed of 200 kmph) and high-speed trains will be worked on for capacity augmentation
- In order to provide freedom to passengers to select their meals, e-catering has been introduced in 108 trains on an experimental basis from January this year. Food can be ordered through the IRCTC website at the time of booking of tickets. The Railways is working to integrate the best food chains of the country into this project. Depending on the response from the customers, the facility will be extended to cover more trains.
- The facility of water vending machines, which is currently sparse, will expand to cover most railway stations.
- 'Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat' - On the same lines, over 17,000 more toilets will be replaced by bio-toilets all over India. The Railways has replaced the existing toilets with 17,388 bio toilets.
- Unreserved ticket purchase has been made simpler through smartphones enabling payment by debit cards.
- SMS alert on mobile phones along with a customer portal promoting Digital India Campaign will also be initiated.
- Surveillance cameras on select mainline and ladies compartments.
- Increase in freight rates by 8 to 10 percent
- Apart from introducing a 24/7, toll-free railway inquiry helpline (138), effective March 1, 2015, there will be launch of a security-related 24/7, toll-free complaint number (182).
- Further, about 200 more stations will come under the Adarsh Station Scheme and 400 railway stations (B Category) will have Wi-Fi.
- Over 24 to 26 coaches would be operated in certain trains with more General Class coaches for better travel experience.
- Emulating the model of the Konkan Railway for tourism promotion, the Union Ministry of Railways will launch 'Incredible Rail for Incredible India' and train drivers of auto rickshaws and taxis as tourist guides.

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Rail News

Glimpses of Railway Budget 2015

- No increase in railway passenger fares.
- Operation 5 minutes to ensure that a passenger travelling unreserved can purchase a ticket within 5 minutes.
- The facility of e-ticketing will help us to go paper less.
- Modern facilities for disabled citizens, senior citizens, patients through IRCTC.
- 24 to 26 coaches in certain identified trains, more general class coaches, ladders to be replaced.
- In 400 stations wi-fi facility will be provided.
- Rs 8.5 lakh crore will be invested in Railways in next 5 years.
- Introduction of integrated ticketing will be done, a Defence travel system has been developed to make travel easier.
- Satellite railway terminals in 10 major cities.
- Train travel between Delhi and Mumbai or Kolkata may soon be a 12-13 hour affair with the railways announcing a major change in the way trains are run.



Hospitality News

Coveted recognition for Speedwings Aviation Academy Kochi



SpeedWings, Cochin has been awarded the coveted recognition as an IATA Dangerous Goods Accredited School (ATS) by IATA and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Government of India. Kerala's Hon. Home Minister, Sri. Ramesh Chennithala, inaugurated the Accredited School during a memorable function held at the Grand Hotel, Cochin. He ad-

mired and applauded Sri. Biji Eapen, the Chairman & CEO of the Academy for his persistent hard work that culminated in the award of this recognition, a true blessing to the Academy and to Kerala at large.

SpeedWings, an aviation training venture, pioneered by the experienced expert in the aviation field, Mr. Biji Eapen, in the year 1994, has grown to be the number one institute that serves the youth of India, particularly, Kerala with 23 aviation courses. Winning the Premier Circle Member World Top 10 for the 7th consecutive year proves their quality contribution to the Aviation Industry internationally. With this rare recognition, the Academy expands the plethora of courses with three new ones, mainly (1) IATA Supply Chain & Transport Modes, (2) IATA Cargo Security Awareness and (3) Unit Load Devices - Handling Awareness.

The term "Dangerous Goods" seemed to have not received its importance until the 9/11 event that brought about a tornado of changes in the formation and implementation of the Dangerous Goods Regulations internationally. There are 12 categories of this regulations based on the type of dangerous materials. SpeedWings Aviation Academy is now an Accredited School to provide training in all the 12 categories of the Dangerous Good Regulations which means that the school can train employees of all categories that deal with dangerous goods and their certificates are recognized internationally.

The august presence of Kerala's youngest Hon. MLA Sri. Hiby Eaden and Hon. Mayor of Cochin, Sri Tony Chammany added glamour to the event.

Industry News

Ministry of External Affairs allows Passbooks of Private Banks as Address Proof

Passport applicants can now use passbooks of their accounts in private sector or regional rural banks as address as well as photo identity proof. **The passbooks should necessarily have the account holder's photographs** to be used as proof of identity in the passport application.

The ministry of external affairs has notified a list of 105 scheduled private sector and regional rural banks, reversing its last year's decision when it had issued a circular stating that account statements of only nationalized banks will be considered as proof of residence for fresh passport applications as well as those made for renewals, qualifying documents from only 26 public sector banks. Now, account statements and passbooks of 56 regional rural banks and 23 private sector banks will be accepted.

The revised list includes private sector banks such as ICICI Bank Ltd., Axis Bank Ltd., HDFC Bank Ltd., Yes Bank Ltd. and Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., and regional rural banks such as the Vidarbha Konkan Gramin Bank and Maharashtra Gramin Bank among others. The directive will be implemented over a period of one month to avoid inconvenience to applicants who do not currently have passbooks with their photographs on them.

First Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathu La Pass



External Affairs Ministry has announced the dates for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra for this year. Two routes will be operational this time, one traditional via Uttarakhand & the other through Sikkim. The Yatra-2015 will be conducted between June 8 & September 9 through two different routes—Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand & Nathu La in Sikkim.

As many as 18 batches of 60 members each with total duration of about 25 days per batch will cross via Uttarakhand & 5 batches of 50 members each with total duration of about 23 days per batch via Nathu La have been designed.

The first batch of 50 Indian pilgrims to take the new route via Nathu la in Sikkim to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibetan Autonomous Region will cross over on June 21. The 14,400 feet high Nathu La, the pass at the Indo-China border in east Sikkim, will be formally opened for the Yatra tentatively on June 20 & pilgrims would be allowed to move through it a day later. The Nathu La route is considered as easier route compared to the existing ones through Nepal & Uttarakhand which involve long treks in between being motorable.

Industry News

New measures from Kerala Tourism to attract more Global Tourists



Kerala Tourism has declared this year as "Visit Kerala Year", and as part of that they will be taking some fresh initiatives to attract more tourists and also make tourism much more sustainable in Kerala. While the efforts will be to maintain focus on traditional markets like Europe, Australia and the US, newer geographies will also be tapped. This will also allow the State to counter competition from near-by state of Sri Lanka.

Etihad & Emirate Airlines along with Jet Airways will soon launch direct flights to Kerala from Spain. This will allow better access to tourists coming from Europe. Their big focus will also be to take Kerala Tourism to regions like Ireland, Russia, Middle East, China and Japan. As part of this expansion, the State will also start training guides in Japanese and Dutch languages. The tourism department will also start road shows in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Kerala will also be promoted as a major wedding destination and also as a beach destination. Munnar is one of the cities that has been identified for this. Another aspect to be highlighted will be the Northern parts of the State which so far have not been showcased to tourists.

Kerala has a rich history and the Northern part of Kerala has a few forts that would be developed to showcase the historical richness that the State has. So far it is only Kovalam that many think of if one is looking for a beach destination in Kerala, but Kerala has other places too. Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod will be part of the North Kerala promotions.

Other than for its natural beauty, Kerala is also known for Ayurveda. With over 1,000 Ayurvedaclinics in the state, the tourism department will look at accrediting these outlets. This will also be assist in competing with Sri Lanka better, which has also started propagating Ayurveda.

Photo Feature

Fly Gyser

Washoe County, Nevada, USA



Fly Geyser, also known as Fly Ranch Geyser or the Green Geyser is a man-made small geothermal geyser located in Washoe County, Nevada approximately 20 miles (32 km) north of Gerlach. Fly Geyser is located near the edge of Fly Reservoir and is only about 5 feet (1.5 m) high, but 12 feet (3.7 m) wide, counting the mound on which it sits in. Fly Geyser is located on the private Fly Ranch in Hualapai Flat, about 0.3 miles (0.48 km) from State Route 34. The ranch is currently owned by Todd Jaksick. There is a high fence and a locked gate topped with spikes to exclude trespassers. The only access is a dirt road, but it is large enough to be seen from the road.

Open Space

LIGHTER MOMENTS

Funny Laws in our day-to-day life

LAW OF QUEUE:

If you change your queue, the one you have left will start to move faster than the one you are in now.

LAW OF TELEPHONE:

When you dial a wrong number, you never get an engaged one.

LAW OF MECHANICAL REPAIR:

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.

LAW OF WORKSHOP:

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

BATH THEOREM:

When the body is immersed in water, the telephone rings.

LAW OF ENCOUNTERS:

The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Thought for the Fortnight

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

— Benjamin Franklin

IAAI Director Board

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|---|---|---|
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