



IAAI Newsletter

March 2015, 1st Fortnight Issue

Aviation News

New Service Tax rates on Air Tickets

The following changes have been made in this year's budget:

At present Airlines are collecting JN Tax of 4.944% (60% Abatement) on 40% of the value of the Air transport of Passenger for Economy, Business & First class. Now the abatement for Business and First Class has been reduced from 60% to 40%. Consequently, Service Tax would be payable on 60% of the value of fare for Business/First class with effect from 1st April 2015.

In addition to this the new service tax rate will come into effect from a date to be notified by the government. The New rate will be 14% from 12.36%. The table is Just a calculation to understand the changes and the other sum beyond 01.04.15 is subject to further notification from Service tax department.

Service Tax - Air Transport of Passengers (JN-Tax)

Class of booking	Effective Cur- rent Rate	w.e.f 01.04.15	w.e.f date to be notified
Economy	4.944%	4.944%	5.60%
Business/First	4.944%	7.416%	8.40%

— Contributed by Mr Joseph Ravi

Oman Air to launch flights to Goa, Singapore & Dhaka this year




Oman Air will start offerings services to three new destinations this year. The national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman will fly from Muscat to Singapore and Goa from the March 29, and to Dhaka from August 2015.

The new service, operated using spacious Boeing 737 aircraft, will offer four flights per week between Muscat International Airport and Goa International Airport. Tickets are available for purchase and can be booked now from OMR 161.3 return per person, including taxes and charges.

Aviation News

Jet Airways to commence new domestic flights

JET AIRWAYS  Jet Airways has announced new domestic flights from Pune wef 29th March 2015.

Pune—Delhi—Pune :

Convenient onward connections to :-

Flight No.	Freq.	From	To	Dep.	Arr.
9W 364	Daily	Pune	Delhi	5.25 am	7.35 am
9W 363	Daily	Delhi	Pune	9.05 pm	11.10 pm

Domestic :- Amritsar, Bagdogra, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jammu, Jodhpur, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Patna, Varanasi, Srinagar.

International :- Dhaka, Dubai, London, Singapore.

Pune—Mumbai—Pune :-

Flight No.	Freq.	From	To	Dep.	Arr.
9W 7057	Daily	Pune	Mumbai	11.00 pm	11.50 pm
9W 7050	Daily	Mumbai	Pune	4.40 am	5.30 am

Convenient onward connections to :-

Domestic :- Ahmedabad, Kolkata

International :- Brussels, Colombo, Hong Kong, London, Newark.

Pune—Chennai—Pune :-

Flight No.	Freq.	From	To	Dep.	Arr.
9W 494	Tue, Fri, Sun	Pune	Chennai	5.35 am	7.20 am
9W 2492	Ex. Sat (existing)	Pune	Chennai	3.45 pm	7.30 pm
9W 496	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	Pune	Chennai	11.45 pm	1.30 am*
9W 2491	Ex. Sat (existing)	Chennai	Pune	9.45 am	11.25 am
9W 493	Daily	Chennai	Pune	5.40 pm	7.20 pm

Convenient onward connections to :-

Domestic :- Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirapally

Aviation News

Spicejet to start New Flights Ex. Pune



Spicejet Airlines has announced new domestic flights from Pune wef 29th March 2015.

FLT NO	FRM	TO	DEP	ARR	FREQ	Effective Date
SG 518	Bangalore	Pune	10:05	11:25	Ex. Sat	29 Mar - 24 Oct
SG 518	Pune	Ahmedabad	12:15	13:30	Ex. Sat	29 Mar - 24 Oct
SG 517	Ahmedabad	Pune	15:00	16:15	EX D6	29 Mar - 24 Oct
SG 517	Pune	Bangalore	16:45	18:15	EX D6	29 Mar - 24 Oct

Jet Airways becomes first Indian carrier to provide fares & flight status on Twitter



Jet Airways (India) Ltd. has unveiled #JetInstant, a first-of-its-kind online feature that enables guests to access information on fares and flight status in real time through Twitter. The customer-centric initiative is part of the airline's strategy to simplify travel experience and engage with guests on a real-time basis. Guests will first need to follow the official Jet Airways Twitter account @jetairways to avail of the facility. To get the flight status, guests can Tweet '@jetairways fltstatus <Flight No> <Departure Date in DDMM format>'. Within seconds, the update will be sent as a Direct Message (DM) to their Twitter account.

Aviation News

Vistara to commence daily flights to Guwahati & Bagdogra in April

Also launches double daily flights between New Delhi and Hyderabad



vistara

Vistara will commence flights to Guwahati (Assam) and Bagdogra (West Bengal) from April 2, 2015 onwards. The airline will operate daily on the Delhi-Guwahati-Bagdogra route, and bookings for the flights have already commenced.

Route	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival	Days of Ops
Delhi to Guwahati	UK717	1225	1440	Daily
Guwahati to Bagdogra	UK717	1520	1620	Daily
Bagdogra to Delhi	UK717	1655	1910	Daily

Vistara launched its flight from Hyderabad to New Delhi. Having started its operations on January 9, 2015 with 68 frequencies weekly, Vistara has scaled up and now operates 164 frequencies a week. With Goa as its recent addition on February 20, the airline has now introduced double daily return flights between Delhi and Hyderabad.

Route	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival	Days of Ops
Delhi to Hyderabad	UK 829	0640	0850	Ex. Sat, Sun
	UK 819	0845	1055	Sat & Sun
	UK 879	1715	1920	Daily
Hyderabad to Delhi	UK 830	0930	1140	Ex. Sat, Sun
	UK 824	1135	1345	Sat & Sun
	UK 870	2000	2215	Daily

Aviation News

Ethiopian Airlines to start double-daily flights to New Delhi also



With the announcement of double-daily flights to Mumbai from March 29 this year, Ethiopian Airlines plans to start double-daily flights to New Delhi soon. Both daily flights to Mumbai will be operated with the ultra-modern B787 Dreamliner aircraft, and the service is meant to provide optimal connectivity from India to 49 destinations in Africa. Currently, Ethiopian Airlines provides three per cent commission to travel agents. In Asia, China and India are important markets. The traffic from India is predominantly business and labour. Ethiopian has been providing scheduled operations to Mumbai for over 43 years and to New Delhi for over 49 years. The airline currently has daily flights to Mumbai and New Delhi. The Africa-India traffic is witnessing a significant increase owing to economic growth in the two regions and increasing trade, investment, and tourism ties, in addition to travel demand of the large Indian community in various African countries.

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Visa News

UAE Visa Update



As per UAE immigration new rules and regulations with regards to the Tourist Visas, all clients are allowed to stay in the country for 30 days only. There is NO grace period allowed even for a few hours. Clients who exceed 30 days will automatically on the UAE Immigration black list and will be fined at the airport.

On the back end, the visa card will be blocked without any intimation and the defaulter will be fined AED 2000 for the overstay / blacklist. They will not be able to post any visas.

Hence the agents need to inform the clients to leave the country on time to avoid any overstay issues which will affect our business into UAE.

7 more VFS Global Visa Application Centres of South Africa now operational in India



VFS Global has launched seven Visa Application Centres (VACs) for South Africa in India, which will be operational from today. These centres are located in Jaipur, Gurgaon, Kolkata, Goa, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Bengaluru. VFS Global now has nine South Africa VACs in India—the other two being in Mumbai and New Delhi—and 18 across seven countries globally. With the opening of centres in new locations in India, VFS offer an enhanced network and access to all travellers across the country.

Visa News

US to permit spouses H1B visa holders to work

(Indians to benefit most)



The US Government will allow spouses of certain foreign workers to apply for work permits, an accommodation designed to make things easier for families awaiting Green Card for long. The regulation of spouses of H-1B visa holders, first proposed last year & finalized as part of President Barack Obama's package of executive actions on immigration, will come into effect on May 26 this year. This move will provide more economic stability & better quality of life for the affected families. Australia & Canada have made similar offers to spouses of temporary, high-skilled workers in recent years.

Not all H-4 visa holders will qualify for work authorization, USCIS has clarified. The immediate beneficiaries will be spouses of those H-1B visa holders who have applied for Green Cards through their employer & have received an approved Form I-140 (called Immigration of Petition for Alien Worker), and spouses of those have extended H-1B status beyond six years.

Under the new rule, eligible H-4 dependent spouses must file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with supporting evidence & the \$380 fee in order to obtain employment authorization & receive a Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD). USCIS will begin accepting applications on May 26 & application sent before that will be disregarded. Once USCIS approves the Form I-765 & the H-4 dependent spouse gets an EAD, he or she may begin working in US.

Hospitality News

Amari Group outlines Indian expansion plans



Leading Asian hospitality provider, Onyx Hospitality Group has announced its plan to operate at least ten properties in India by 2022. Three key developments will form the strategy for the Onyx India expansion.

Firstly, the first full service Amari hotel has been confirmed in the National Capital Region. Amari Noida will be a part of the World Trade Centre Noida project and feature 120 rooms, with an additional 30 branded residences, three restaurants, meeting and convention space, pool, fitness centre and a Breeze Spa. The project will begin in 2016 and is due to be operational by 2019.

The second project will be in the World Trade Centre development in Gujarat's new central business district, GIFT city. The Amari Residences GIFT City in Ahmedabad will feature 120 serviced apartments, restaurant, pool and fitness centre. The project will begin in 2016 and be operational by 2018.

Onyx Hospitality Group manages 54 properties in ten countries, 38 of which are operational, equating to over 6,000 rooms.

Centre submits revised list of monuments & sites for inclusion in UNESCO World Heritage Site



India has submitted a revised tentative list of 46 famous monuments/sites for inclusion in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Site. The original list was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in April 2014.

Ancient Buddhist Site (Sarnath, Varanasi), Chilika Lake, Kangchendzonga National Park, Dholavira: A Harappan City, Mountain Railways of India (Extension), Silk Road Sites in India, Sri Harimandir Sahib (Amritsar, Punjab), and Mughal Gardens in Kashmir are some of the sites out of the total 46 sites that have been included in the list. Due to the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the monuments of Golconda Fort and Charminar fall in Telengana.

Industry News

Kathmandu-Varanasi bus service flagged off



Nepal and India launched a direct bus service between Kathmandu and Varanasi on 4th March from Kathmandu, linking the two prominent cities - home to Pashu- patinath and Kashi Vishwanath temples. This will be the second direct bus service between Nepal & India after the Kathmandu—Delhi service launched last year.

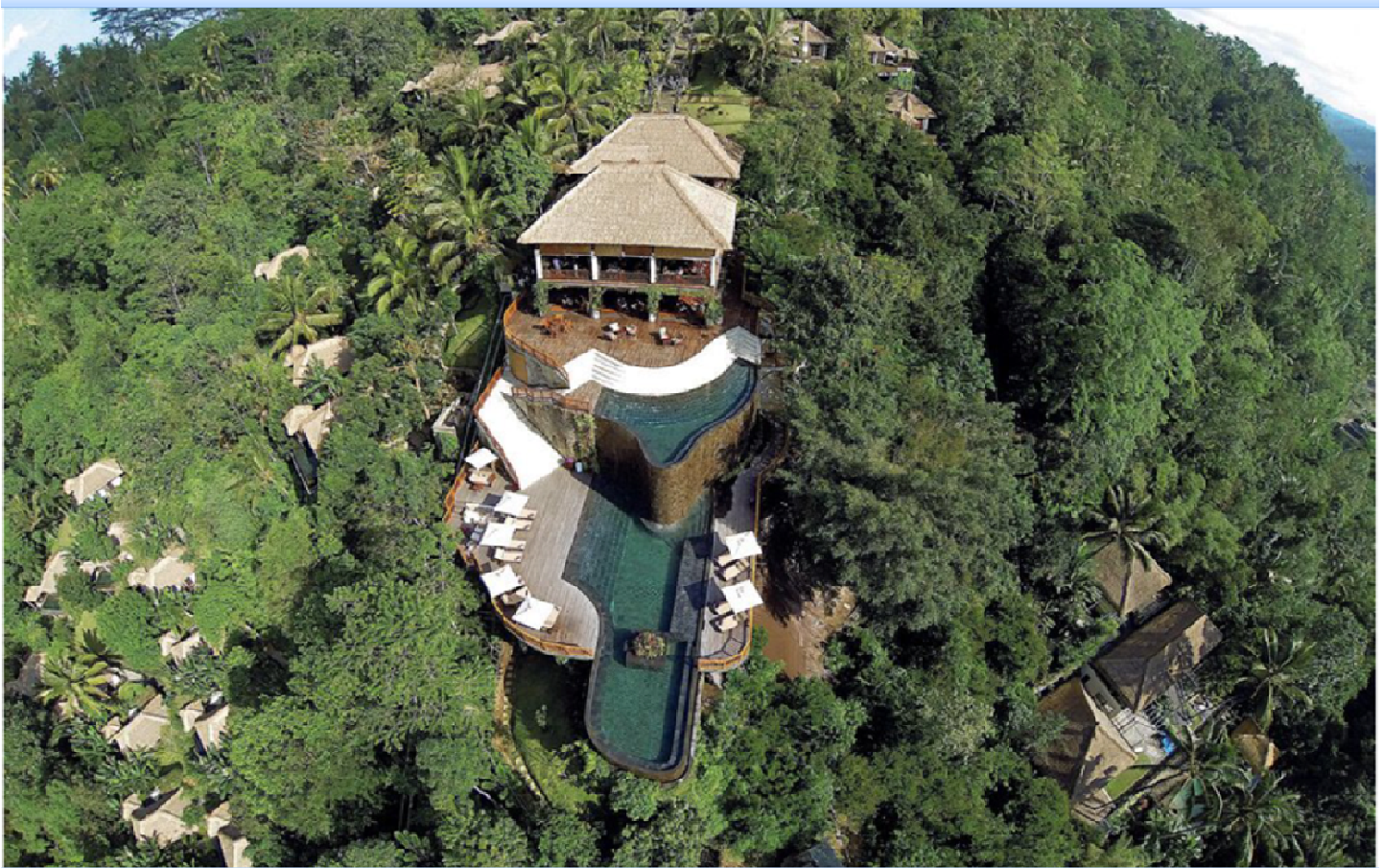
The regular Kathmandu-Varanasi-Kathmandu bus service was flagged off from near Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu and would cover about 600 kilometres distance

during its journey of about 12 hours.

The Nepalese registered ceremonial bus will follow the route Kathmandu-Bhairahawa-Sunauli-Azamgarh-Varanasi. The bus service is expected to enhance people to people contact and further strengthen ties between people of India and Nepal. It is also likely to have a positive impact on the tourism industry as both Kathmandu and Varanasi are popular tourist destinations.

Photo Feature

Ubud Hanging Gardens Resort & Spa, Bali



As the name suggests, this hotel, known for its terraced tree villas, literally hangs over the Indonesian rain forests. Part boutique hotel, part legendary infinity pool over the Ayung gorge, part Payangan jungle & part architectural epiphany, this spectacular cocktail of a resort is special.

This five star hotel, set on 3.2 hectares, has 38 private villas & suites, each having its very own granite infinity pool, rippling into the jungle below. Each villa is designed with traditional Alang Alang thatched roofs in consonance with its natural environment.

The hotel, with its twin level cascading pools, overlooks the lush foliage of the rainforests below where monkeys chatter in the coconut palms & the gurgling current of the Ayung river are wake up sounds you could get accustomed to. Not only does the hotel face splendid waterfalls, but also the Hindu Dalem Segara Temple that rises loftily across the plunging gorge.

Open Space

LIGHTER MOMENTS

A Nice Catch

The rain was pouring and there was a big puddle in front of the pub. A ragged old man was standing there with a rod and hanging a string into the puddle. A good looking, curious gentleman came over to him and asked what he was doing.

'Fishing,' the old man said simply.

'Poor old fool,' the gentleman thought and he invited the ragged old man to a drink in the pub. As he felt he should start some conversation while they were sipping their whisky, the gentleman asked,

'And how many have you caught?'

'You're the eighth,' the old man answered.



Thought for the Fortnight

The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fail.

— Nelson Mandela

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