



IAAI Newsletter

March 2015, IInd Fortnight Issue

Aviation News

Emirates to commence daily flights to Orlando from Sept 2015

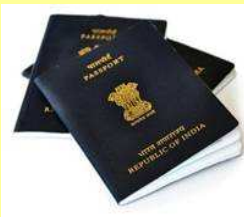


Emirates will commence a daily service to Orlando in Florida, USA from September 1, 2015. This flight will connect with select Emirates services from Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kozhikode, providing passengers from these cities a transit of around three hours in Dubai before continuing their journey.

Flight EK 219 will depart from Dubai International Terminal 3 (IATA code: DXB) at 0350 hours local time and arrive at Orlando International Airport (IATA code: MCO) Terminal B at 1140 hours local time. The return flight EK 220 will take off at 1420 hours and arrive at DXB at 1230 hrs the following day.

The route will be served by a Boeing 777-200LR with eight First Class suites, 42 Business Class lie-flat beds, and 216 Economy Class seats. Orlando will be the tenth US passenger destination Emirates serves, following on from Boston, which launched on March 10 and Chicago on August 5 last year.

Handwritten Indian Passports won't be acceptable after November 2015



Handwritten Indian Passport won't be acceptable for Foreign Travel after November 2015. Neither anyone can fly out if the Passport has a 20-year validity. This is in keeping with rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which has decided to do away with non-machine readable (handwritten) passports globally. India is part of the ICAO. This rule will come into effect from November 25, 2015. Countries under the ICAO will not issue visas to persons holding passports that are handwritten or for those valid for 20 years. Even passports valid beyond November 24, 2015, will not be accepted for visa. Technically, these passports, issued before 2001, will be worthless unless they are renewed.

Aviation News

Indian Carriers will have to pay higher compensation to fliers



Compensation to fliers using Indian carriers for loss of life or baggage and cargo is set to be revised, as the Government has cleared amendments to a law governing such liability. The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, which seeks to enhance Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to a passenger to 113,100 from the 100,00 in case of death. Similarly, in case of delay, a traveller would be entitled to receive a compensation of SDR 4,694, against SDR 4,150. The compensation for loss or destruction of baggage have also been raised to SDR 1,131 from 1,000 SDR currently.

The SDR is a mix of currency values established by the International Monetary Fund. Also, the airline would now have to pay a higher compensation to passengers in the case of damage, loss or delay in delivering the cargo. This limit has been enhanced to SDR 19, from the earlier limit of SDR 17.

The Government has also brought in an enabling clause in the amendment, giving the civil aviation ministry the right to determine these compensations on their own instead of seeking Cabinet approval as and when the revised limits are notified by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

New Airline-Air Pegasus, to take off from Bangalore



A new Airline—Air Pegasus, will take to the skies in March 2015, linking the southern cities with ATR turboprop aircraft. The low-cost carrier — keeping Bangalore as the hub — will fly 25 sectors daily with three 72-seater ATR aircraft initially, before ramping up the fleet to six aircraft by the year-end. Air Pegasus will initially connect Bangalore with Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Hubli, Mangalore, Goa, Tirupati and Vizag. The company will focus only on the south in the first year, but have plans to create similar hubs around Ahmedabad (for west) and Kolkata (for east) going forward. They would also move into north with a hub in Delhi ultimately.

IndiGo to operate flights on Kolkata-Dimapur-Delhi route from April 15, 2015



With a view to enhance connectivity to the North East region of India, IndiGo is set to add Dimapur as the 33rd domestic and 38th overall destination to its route network. The low-cost carrier will introduce daily non-stop flight between Kolkata and Dimapur from April 15, 2015. The same aircraft will further operate to Delhi. With this service, IndiGo will operate its ninth daily service between Delhi and Kolkata. Also, on the same day the carrier will start its fourth daily non-stop service between the national capital and Varanasi.

Aviation News

Spicejet to commence Direct Flight to Dubai from Pune



Spicejet have added new flights from Pune (PNQ)-Dubai(DXB)-Pune(PNQ) wef 15th April 2015.

Kindly find the schedule herewith :-

Flight No.	Sector	Dep.	Arr.	Operation	VIA	Effective Period
SG51	PNQ-DXB	20:15	21:45	Daily	-	15 th April 2015 – 24 th October 2015
SG52	DXB-PNQ	23:00	04:00+1	Monday to Saturday	-	15 th April 2015 – 24 th October 2015
SG52	DXB-PNQ	22:55	04:00+1	Sunday	-	15 th April 2015 – 24 th October 2015

India's first private Greenfield airport to be operational by next month at Durgapur, W. Bengal



The country's first private Greenfield airport at Durgapur, promoted by Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Ltd. (BAPL), is to be operational by April 14, 2015 & BAPL is expecting to get final DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) license in a month. In all probability, the airport, christened Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport, will be operational from April 14, the first day of Bengali calendar. Pinnacle Air, a non-scheduled airline, will begin its operations from here four days a week, connecting Bagdogra, Coochbehar, Durgapur, and Kolkata soon after getting license from DGCA. BAPL is in negotiations with IndiGo and GoAir for scheduled flights for connecting Delhi-Durgapur, including Air India and non-schedule airline Air Costa for connecting southern cities like Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Air Costa may connect these two South Indian cities for four days a week.

However, the final agreement will depend on concessions the Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport offers. The major concessions demanded by the scheduled airlines are waiver of landing and takeoff fees, underwriting minimum of seats, and 30 per cent surcharge waiver for ATF for a greater timeframe. The state government has already given a three-year waiver of surcharge on ATF for three years to Andal, Coochbehar, and Bagdogra airports.

Aviation News

Vistara to launch flights on Delhi-Pune route on April 9, 2015



vistara

Full-service carrier Vistara will expand its route network by launching services to Pune from its Delhi hub. The booking for these flights is now open. With the addition of Pune, Vistara now operates flights to seven destinations in India including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Goa, Hyderabad and Guwahati and Bagdogra.

After thorough deliberations on the various requests received from the airports, trade and consumers alike, inviting Vistara to operate to their cities, Pune has been added to our network, the airline said in a press release. Pune is a fast growing city of great promise and potential which has recently been ranked higher in the overall quality of life across categories of political, economic and social environment as well as housing and medical provisions, in comparison to some of the key metros, making it a next destination of choice to our existing network.

Vistara's A320 aircraft deployed on the route has a capacity of 148 seats and are configured with 16 Business Class seats, 36 Premium Economy seats and 96 Economy seats, which is 20 per cent less compared to many of the single aisle aircraft operators in order to provide greater comfort and personal space to its customers. By the end of this calendar year, Vistara's total fleet size will grow to nine aircraft enabling an organic expansion plan in both metros and non-metros.

Route	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival	Days of Ops
Delhi to Pune	UK 9191	1845	2100	Daily
Pune to Delhi	UK 9191	2140	2350	Daily



German airline airberlin has joined IATA's Billing & Settlement Plan (BSP) in India with effect from March 13, 2015. Participation in BSP enables all IATA-accredited travel agents in India to issue e-tickets on using their respective Global Distribution Systems (GDS) via AB-745 capping. AVIAREPS India, GSA for airberlin will manage all the capping requests.

Aviation News

New rules for startup airlines to fly abroad



New airlines will find it easier to start long-haul international operations and will have to wait for a longer period before launching flights to nearby countries. The Aviation ministry is proposing that startup airlines be allowed to start flights of over six-hour duration - including Europe, North America and Australia - once they set up a certain minimum domestic network.

Flights of under six-hour-duration - including Gulf, Southeast Asia and Saarc regions - will be allowed when startups double their domestic network over the minimum coverage. For a big startup like Vistara (a JV between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines), it could mean over a year of flying within the country to start US, Europe operations and over two years of domestic flying before mounting flights to nearby regions. Relatively smaller ones like Tata-AirAsia could take longer.

The move comes to pacify existing Indian carriers that fly abroad - Air India, Jet Airways, IndiGo and SpiceJet - which had objected to the government revoking 5/20 rule for the benefit of new players.

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Visa News

Govt. to extend Tourist Visa on Arrival facility to Chinese Nationals



The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is likely to include China in the list of 150 countries that would be extended tourist Visa-on-Arrival (TVoA) facility. The government is also planning to collect biometrics of people arriving in India on e-visas. The move to extend TVoA facility is expected to boost tourism. In 2013, tourists from China accounted for 2.51 per cent of all foreign tourists arriving in India, with 1.74 lakh people coming from Mainland China and 35,491 from

Republic of China (Taiwan).

Currently, 43 countries, including US, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Myanmar, and New Zealand are provided TVoA for single-entry visit to India for tourism purpose not exceeding 30 days.

Thailand to now offer VoA to Indians with passport validity of one month



In a move to encourage Indians to visit the South East Asian country, the Thai Immigration has reduced the requirement for passport validity to only one month before expiry date for Visas-on-Arrival (VoA). Earlier, for all Indian travellers wishing to visit Thailand, the validity of passport was required to be more than six months.

However, with the new rule, the passport validity requirement has been reduced to only one month before the expiry date for those applying for VoA. However, for Visas processed prior to travel, at the Consulate travelers are still required to show passports with six months validity.

Visa cost for over 6 Months stay in UK to shoot up.

From April 6, nationals from outside the European Economic Area (EEA), including those from India, coming to live in the UK for longer than six months will be required to pay a 'health surcharge' to gain access to the [National Health Service \(NHS\)](#).

So, Indians will have to pay an additional £200 per year (Rs 19,000) as health surcharge as a fresh fee. Students will have to pay £150 (Rs 14,000). The new fee is bound to hit the already dipping market of Indian students visiting Britain for higher education. Indians coming on an intra-company transfer (ICT Tier 2 visa) will, however, be exempt from the charge. Visa applicants will need to pay upfront for the total period of their UK visa. Till now, non-EEA nationals coming to work, study or join family members have received free medical treatment under the UK's NHS in the same way as a permanent resident. UK's visas and immigration department has made it clear that visas will not be granted to applicants if the health surcharge is not paid. When an application is refused, rejected or withdrawn, the charge will be refunded. The changes, however, will not affect visitors coming to the UK on a standard visit visa, regardless of its length.

Indians staying longer than six months will have to pay an additional £200 per year as health surcharge as a fresh fee.

Hospitality News

Carlson Rezidor Hotels opens Radisson Goa Candolim



The first Radisson Hotel in North Goa opened at Candolim-Calangute beach. The hotel boasts of 78 well-appointed rooms and suites, flexible meeting spaces including a 2,300 square-foot pillar-less ballroom, two restaurants, 24-hour in-room dining service, a spa and gym. All rooms feature free Wi-Fi internet access for guests to keep connected.

The hotel is closely located to North Goa's tourist areas including the historic Fort Aguada, the ancient churches of Old Goa and excellent shopping centers in Panjim. The hotel is located near the NH 17 & NH 4A highways, and is less than an hour's drive from the airport and half an hour from the railway station.

WelcomHeritage adds another Nature Resort in Kullu Valley



WelcomHeritage
PALACES, FORTS, HAVELIS, RESORTS, HOMES

WelcomHeritage Hotels has signed a new property in Kullu Valley in Manali, Himachal Pradesh under its Nature Collection. WelcomHeritage Urvashi's Retreat situated at an altitude of 6,750 feet in the Beas River Valley and offers a spectacular view of snow covered peaks, lush green valleys, mountain lakes and flowery gardens. The resort is located near the famous hanging bridge at Nehru Kund, five km on Manali-Leh National Highway. The resort will open in two phases. In the first phase the resort will have eight rooms divided into three cottages, a dining area that serves multi-cuisine, a bar lounge and landscaped gardens. In the second phase it will have eight more rooms and will extend facilities like Gym and spa complex, an art house café, Tennis court and a Conference room.

Sarovar Hotels signs new hotel in Mashobra Hills, Shimla



Sarovar Hotels, as part of their expansion into the leisure segment, has signed up a resort property in Mashobra Hills in Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. The 50-room and cottages running hotel will be rebranded as Sarovar Portico and launched by May 2015. Owned by AB Tools Pvt. Ltd., the hotel will be named as Marigold Sarovar Portico, Mashobra. The cottages at the resort are made of Himalayan Stone, which are a unique and specialised specimen of Shimla Architecture. Besides, the hotel will offer all modern facilities including all day dining restaurant, bar, swimming pool, gym and spa, meeting rooms, banqueting facilities, conferencing and destination weddings and other services required for a good 4-Star Hotel. Sarovar Hotels & Resorts is one of the fastest growing hotel management companies and chain of hotels in India with over 70 operational hotels in 48 destinations in India and overseas, under Sarovar Premiere, Sarovar Portico, Hometel, Radisson, Park Plaza and Park Inn brands.

IAAI Mumbai News

IAAI Supports TTO Syndicate

IATA Agents Association of India – (IAAI), has always supported Small and Medium Travel Agents and Tour Operators, in various ways, by providing Training, Information inputs, updates on Govt Policies etc. besides, providing a forum for networking and interaction.

Recent FAM Trip on 27.02.2015 by Travel and Tour Operator Syndicate(TTO Syndicate) to HOTEL DELTIN, Daman, provided one such opportunity where IAAI could partner to showcase its vision to this young and dynamic group of entrepreneurs, led by Mr. Siddharth Shah (Treasurer of IAAI, Maharashtra State Committee) and Mr. Bhavesh Thakker member of TTO Syndicate.

Mr. Shankar- Sales & Mr. Sudhanshu Bhide- Director of Sales, both are based in Hotel Deltin Mumbai office but were present at Daman with the agents and hosted the best of service with presentation of the hotel.



From left to right:

Ashok Gunjal-Gunjal Travels, Bhavesh Thakker- La Vena Travels, Hemant Shah- Neel Travels, Paras Gala- Metrohub Travels, Siddharth Shah- Primark Travel House & Treasurer- MH, Mukesh Bhansali- Anandi Travel Planet, Rakesh P- Jain Travels, Nakul Maniar, Bharat Shah- Suyog Travels & Rajesh Vira- Jash Tours.



Also Rushabh Parikh- Atithi Devo Bhava Holidays, Ashit Shah- Dev Tours, Viral Shah- Autostar Fleet were present and were part of the event.

Industry News

World's 10 Best Places to Holiday

Tripadvisor has announced its Traveller's Choice Awards for destinations in 2015, based on reviews on the travel site. Worldwide, Marrakesh was ranked the top destination while London is the best rated UK destination & number six worldwide.

1. Marrakesh, Morocco



2. Siem Reap, Cambodia



3. Istanbul, Turkey



4. Hanoi, Vietnam



5. Prague, Czech Republic



6. London



7. Rome, Italy



8. Buenos Aires, Argentina



9. Paris



10. Cape Town



Photo Feature

Valley of Flowers, Uttarakhand



Valley of Flowers National Park is an Indian national park, located in West Himalaya, in the state of Uttarakhand and is known for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and the variety of flora. This richly diverse area is also home to rare and endangered animals, including the Asiatic black bear, snow leopard, musk deer, brown bear, red fox, and blue sheep. Birds found in the park include Himalayan Monal Pheasant and other high altitude birds. At 3352 to 3658 meters above sea level, the gentle landscape of the Valley of Flowers National Park complements the rugged mountain wilderness of Nanda Devi National Park to the east. Together, they encompass a unique transition zone between the mountain ranges of the Zaskar and Great Himalaya. The park stretches over an expanse of 87.50 km² and it is about 8 km long and 2 km wide. Both parks are encompassed in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (223,674 ha) which is further surrounded by a buffer zone (5,148.57 km²). This Reserve is in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2004.

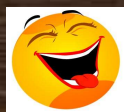


Open Space

LIGHTER MOMENTS

Murder of English

1. Pick up the paper & fall in the dustbin.
2. Both of you stand together separately.
3. Why are you looking at the monkeys outside when I am inside.
4. Will you hang the calendar or else I will hang myself.
5. I have 2 daughters & both are girls.
6. Give me a blue pen of any colour.
7. The Principal is revolving in the corridor.
8. All of you stand in a straight circle.
9. Open the window—Let the Airforce come in.



Thought for the Fortnight

An idea needs propagation as much as a plant needs watering, otherwise both will wither & die.

— Dr B R Ambedkar

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Newsletter Editor

Devendra Ghule

Asst Editor

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

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