



IAAI Newsletter

May 2015, IInd Fortnight Issue

IAAI pays last respects to Prema Madam

A condolence meeting was held by IAAI on 29th May 2015 in Hotel Rain Drops, Chennai to pay homage to Mrs. Prema Radhakrishnan (Chairperson—PR Council—IAAI & Director, Emerald Airways, Chennai) who passed away on 14th May 2015.

Mr T. Kishore Kumar, Secretary - IAAI Tamil Nadu State Committee, Mrs. Prema Radhakrishnan's elder son Mr. Ajith and younger son Mr. Anand, IAAI National President Mr. Biji Eapen, IAAI General Secretary Mr. D.L. Jekannathan, IAAI National Treasurer Mr. S. Saldanha, Mr. V.K.T Balan, Mr. Govindarajan and Mr. K. Babu, Joint Secretary - IAAI Tamilnadu State Committee spoke at the meeting.



Aviation News

Airlines asked to reserve two window seats for disabled



The civil aviation ministry has ordered airlines to reserve two window seats for disabled persons, but not the ones next to the emergency exits, in a move that will make air travel for such people easier and hassle free. The airlines have been asked to block two window seats till 24 hours of the flight for disabled people, provided these seats are not next to the door of the emergency exit. It adds that the airlines have been asked to deliver check-in baggage to disabled passengers either at a ladder point or exit end of the escalator belt.

Airlines have also been asked to train ground handling staff to deal with disabled passengers and compensate passengers if any of their assistive equipment is damaged during flight.



Domestic travellers flying in and out of Delhi on Low-Cost Carriers (LCC) will have to drive all the way to Terminal III at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. Terminal 1D, the airport's terminal for domestic flights of LCCs, is now saturated and new budget airlines are being given place to operate flights from T3. AirAsia India Pvt. Ltd. (AAIPL), which will start domestic flights to and from Delhi, is the first Indian LCC to fly within the country from T3. Terminal 1D was opened in 2009 to help overcome serious capacity issues at Delhi airport, as T3 was going to be ready a year later in time for the Commonwealth Games. When T3 opened, DIAL decided to use 1D as the terminal for budget airlines.

Low-Cost Airport project on hold



The Central Government has decided to put on hold the previous Government's ambitious plan of developing low-cost airports in non-metro cities. However, of the 50 centres identified by the previous Government in 2013, work will continue on 5 low-cost airports—in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh & Odisha—where construction has already been sanctioned.

As per Government sources, the plan to develop the no-frills airports has been put on hold due to lack of commercial viability. Work has been processed for only (these) 5 airports. Now the five of airports are at Hubballi (earlier Hubali) & Belagavi (earlier Belgaum) in Karnataka; Kishangarh in Rajasthan, Jharsuguda in Odisha & Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh. The two in Karnataka were already operational & had been identified for upgrade.

Aviation News

Reduced runway utilization due to Airbus A380 tailwinds



Dubai has quickly become the world's busiest international airport. Key to that success has been Emirates' embrace of the 525-seat double-decker Airbus A380, the world's largest commercial aircraft. The airline, the biggest operator of the superjumbo, already flies 60 of the planes and intends to increase its fleet to 140.

However the same A380s that are behind Dubai's success also place constraints on how many additional flights its airport can handle each day. The planes are so big and their four engines so powerful that they leave potentially dangerous turbulence in their wake. So A380s need to land at least seven nautical miles ahead of smaller jets following behind.

The A380 is basically a flying weather system, with its 261-foot wings throwing off hurricane-strength winds. Under current international guidelines, even a Boeing 747 must maintain a six-nautical-mile gap with Airbus's 560-ton colossus on takeoff and landing. Smaller craft, such as the Boeing 737, need a seven-mile gap. Some congested US airports that handle mostly smaller jets can space planes as little as 2.5 miles apart—letting them handle lots more flights daily. At best, flying into a vortex will result in a bumpy landing for aircraft trailing A380s. At worst, it could contribute to an accident.

Helicopter service to soon commence from Madurai to Kanyakumari, Mandapam & Kodaikanal

Helicopter services will soon be introduced in Madurai covering three major tourist attractions in Southern Tamil Nadu to draw more foreign tourists and provide better transport facilities. Helicopter services will be introduced to Kanyakumari, Mandapam in Ramanathapuram, and to Kodaikanal from Madurai. To begin with, the service will be introduced in Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari. A four-acre site was identified in Kodaikanal for Helicopter Tourism. After constructing the helipad, helicopter service will be introduced to Kodaikanal. Such fast services will help foreign tourists visit these places in short time and make it a most-favoured destination.



Aviation News

Vistara's maiden Delhi-Lucknow flight takes off



Vistara's launches flight from New Delhi to Lucknow Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport. This is the ninth destination in the airline's network, which offers 239 weekly frequencies across metros and non-metros—Delhi, Lucknow, Pune, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Goa, Hyderabad, Guwahati, and Bagdogra.

While there will be one daily flight on the Delhi-Lucknow-Delhi route to begin with, Vistara will increase the frequency to double daily flights from June 16, 2015. The airline will also soon commence services to Bengaluru.

The flight UK970 takes off at 1200 hrs from Delhi, to land in Lucknow at 1305 hrs, and flight UK927 leaves for Lucknow from the national capital at 0730 hrs to reach at 0840 hrs. The Lucknow-Delhi flight UK933 takes off at 1355 hrs to land at 1510 hrs, while flight UK936 leaves from Lucknow at 0925 hrs to land in Delhi at 1040 hrs.

Singapore Airlines launches new Premium Economy Class

Singapore Airlines launched its new Premium Economy Class seats and the in-flight offerings when the new cabin class enters service in August. Premium Economy Class will be progressively introduced on 19 Airbus A380s, 19 Boeing 777-300ERs and the first 20 Airbus A350s. It will enter commercial service on August 9 to Sydney, before being introduced to other destinations such as Beijing, Delhi, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, London, Mumbai, New York, Shanghai, Tokyo and Zurich.



The new Premium Economy Class will welcome customers with a contemporary and stylish design. Each seat has a width of either 18.5 or 19.5 inches, depending on aircraft type, with an 8-inch recline and a seat pitch of 38 inches. Together with active noise-cancelling headphones and a sleek 13.3-inch full HD monitor, which is the largest in its class, customers can look forward to an enhanced in-flight entertainment experience.

Other features include a full leather finishing, calf-rest and foot-bar for every seat, individual in-seat power supply, two USB ports, personal in-seat reading light, cocktail table, and more storage space for personal items. Premium Economy Class will provide an extensive range of food and beverage offerings, which includes the Premium Economy Book, the Cook service, enabling advance ordering of a selection of main courses. Priority check-in and baggage handling, with a generous baggage allowance of 35kg, will be offered to customers. Members of the KrisFlyer frequent-flyer programme will also receive 10 per cent more miles when they fly in Premium Economy Class.

Hospitality News

St. Regis hotels to debut in India



ST REGIS

The iconic St. Regis is checking into India. The ultra-luxury brand of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide will dot the Mumbai skyline this August or September. The lodging company will fly the St. Regis flag over the 386-room Palladium Hotel, which would mark Starwood's fourth property in the city and 44th in the country.

St. Regis is entering a market with growing number of wealthy individuals but plenty of competition where an oversupply of rooms has depressed tariffs, especially in big cities. For the last few years. Starwood, which operates over 30 properties under St. Regis brand globally, plans to have a limited edition of the luxury label in the country. In Mumbai, St. Regis will be positioned against the Taj, Oberoi and Four Seasons, where average occupancy level is 65% and room rate is Rs 13,000. Mumbai, unlike other markets like Delhi, where an oversupply of rooms have put downward pressure on tariffs, has remained buoyant and resilient. Besides St. Regis, Starwood, one of the earliest foreign chains to enter the country, has a presence through Sheraton, Le Meridien, W, Westin and Four Points brands.

Concept Hospitality announces opening of T2 Beacon in Mumbai

THE
BEACON

Beacon Hotels, a budget category brand of Concept Hospitality, has announced the opening of yet another Beacon hotel in Mumbai. T2 Beacon is an economy category business hotel located in North Mumbai ideal for business travelers.

The hotel with 27 well appointed rooms, 1 multi-cuisine restaurant and a meeting room for 10 persons, is located 10 minutes from international airport and 20 minutes from domestic airport and is within walking distance from business district on Andheri -Kurla Road. Beacon Hotels are positioned as 'Smart & Efficient hotels', providing value for money to its guests. It offers limited services with the essential amenities for a comfortable stay. At present, there are three operational hotels - Ajmer, Bangalore and Mumbai - under the Beacon brand.

Le Meridien to open in Mahabaleshwar

Le MERIDIEN

US-based multinational hospitality chain Starwood Hotels and Resorts has signed a management contract for a five-star hotel in Mahabaleshwar to be branded as Le Meridien. The 122-room newly-built resort and spa is likely to be fully operational by July 2015. The Mahabaleshwar property is spread over 25 acres.

Railway News

Katra-Kalka train to start from June 2



Catering to the growing demand of pilgrims travelling to the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, Indian Railways will run a new bi-weekly train for Katra from Kalka from June 2.

The new train will have AC2, AC3, sleeper, and general second-class accommodation. Regular run of the train will start from June 2 from Kalka and June 3 from Katra. The train will depart from Kalka at 7 pm on every Tuesday and Friday to arrive at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station at 4.45 am the next day. From Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station, the train will depart at 9.30 pm on every Wednesday and Saturday to arrive at Kalka at 7.50 pm the next day. The train will travel to Katra en route Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Jammu, and Udhampur.

Other Industry News

Passport application rules relaxed for orphans



The ministry of external affairs (MEA) has decided to exempt orphaned and abandoned children born after January 26, 1989 from the mandatory rule of furnishing birth certificate while applying for a passport.

The decision comes after orphanages, NGOs, adoption centres and child-care homes approached the ministry regarding the problems faced in procuring the document.

According to a circular issued by the External Affairs Ministry, in the absence of a birth certificate of an orphaned/ abandoned child born after January 26, 1989, his or her passport application may, henceforth, be considered if it is accompanied by the matriculation certificate issued by a duly recognized/ affiliated educational institution clearly mentioning the date of birth along with the bonafide certificate duly sworn by the head of the orphanage/ childcare home (in case of minor) or by the applicant himself (in case of major) before the judicial magistrate first class/ executive magistrate categorically stating his/her date and place of birth or a declaratory court order issued by the court of competent jurisdiction.

Hospitality News

Transport corridors to connect Bangladesh-Bhutan-India & Nepal by road



A landmark initiative for road connectivity between India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal is to be launched during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden visit to Dhaka on June 6-7. The Prime Minister's upcoming visit will give shape to a mini-SAARC and help expand cooperation between Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN).

Once this agreement is inked, private, public and commercial vehicles of the four countries will be able to travel across the four countries and tourists will be allowed to travel on private transport between these countries. The idea of BBIN will ensure that sub-regional road connectivity is functional, bypassing Pakistan.

Another major agenda is a direct bus service between Kolkata and Agartala via Dhaka. This could be possible with Bangladesh allowing road transit to India, a longstanding Indian demand. Transit rights through Bangladesh will help closer integration between landlocked Northeastern states and mainland India and subsequently Southeast Asia.

Government to bring level playing field for Radio Cab & Taxi App companies

Taxi hailing apps such as Uber & Ola may have to soon confirm to the rules framed for Radio taxi operators. The Govt is in the process of finalizing a mechanism that will provide a level playing field to the two services. The mechanism will include setting up of call centres & permanent GPS in the Taxi app cars instead of a mobile phone device. The Govt is also devising a mechanism to control the maximum price to be charged by these operators. Radio taxis cannot work as per their old ways anymore & the e-business companies cannot have a free run either.



The Govt is also evaluating whether it should do away with the "minimum price" benchmark followed by radio taxis in some states. The taxi apps have been able to take advantage by offering cheaper fares & free rides, much often follow a minimum floor price.

Visa News

Compulsory biometrics for German visa from next season



After the current tourist season, there will be mandatory biometrics required for visa application to Germany as per information received from Consul General, Federal Republic of Germany, Mumbai. The biometrics can be submitted at any of the Visa Application Centres (VACs) in India, and once registered, the biometrics will be valid for 59 months. The service for visa processing for travel to Germany was outsourced to VFS Global last year, and VACs are open in Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Panjim,

Multiple entry visa for UAE

A 30-day multiple entry tourist visa (for all countries) and a 90-day multiple entry (long term) visa (only for India, Jordan, Pakistan, South Africa, UAE citizens) will help further drive tourists to the country. The UAE Government, for the first time ever, has launched two new multiple entry visas – a 30-day multiple entry tourist visa (for all countries) and a 90-day multiple entry (long term) visa (only for India, Jordan, Pakistan, South Africa, UAE citizens). It's been a long standing demand of travellers across the world for a multiple entry long term visa to the UAE. TT Services, the official worldwide visa partner of Etihad Airways, shall now process these visas to all guests of Etihad Airways, globally. TT Services has made the process one step simpler. Guest simply apply for a visa online and can get visas by email. The visas can benefit tourists who would like to break their journeys into parts – visiting the UAE in the first leg, going out of the region and returning to the UAE after a few days and – frequent flier corporate travellers.



Google Introduces Photo Service



Google introduced 'Google Photos' that will allow users to backup & store unlimited high-quality photos & videos for free. Google Photos—a standalone product that gives users a home for all their photos & videos—is aimed at helping users to organize, share & save what they think is important, the company revealed in a blog post. Google will maintain the original resolution up to 16MP for photos & 1080p high-definition for videos, and store compressed versions of the photos & videos in print-quality resolution.

Photo Feature

World's largest Hotel

The Venetian + The Palazzo, Las Vegas, USA



The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino is a five-diamond luxury hotel and casino resort situated between Harrah's and The Palazzo on the east side of the Las Vegas Strip in Paradise, Nevada, United States, on the site of the old Sands Hotel. The hotel tower contains 36 stories and rises 475 feet (145 m). Since the Palazzo opened in 2008, the Venetian resort complex is (together with the adjacent Sands Expo Convention Center and The Palazzo Hotel and Casino Resort) the world's largest hotel, with 4,049 rooms, 3068 suites, and a 120,000-square-foot (11,000 m²) casino.

The hotel uses Venice, Italy as its design inspiration and features architectural replicas of various Venetian landmarks, including the Palazzo Ducale, Piazza San Marco, Piazzetta di San Marco, the Lion of Venice Column and the Column of Saint Theodore, St Mark's Campanile, and the Rialto Bridge. The design architects for this project were The Stubbins Associates and WAT&G. Interior design was provided by Wilson Associates, And Dougall Associates for the Casino.

Open Space

Lighter Moments

A man was pulled over for driving too fast, even though he thought he was driving just fine.

Officer: You were speeding.

Man: No, I wasn't.

Officer: Yes, you were. I'm giving you a ticket.

Man: But I wasn't speeding.

Officer: Tell that to the judge! (The officer gives the ticket to the man.)

Man: Would I get another ticket if I called you a jerk?

Officer: Yes, you would.

Man: What if I just thought that you were?

Officer: I can't give you a ticket for what you think.

Man: Fine, I think you're a jerk!

Thought for the Fortnight

Destiny means there are opportunities to turn right or left but fate is a one-way street. We all have the choice as to whether we fulfill our destiny, but our fate is sealed.

— Paulo Coelho

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