



IAAI Newsletter

July 2015, IInd Fortnight Issue

From The President's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

The IAAI Case against IATA Representative in the Court of the Civil Judge in Gurgaon, Haryana (India), came up for hearing on 15th July, 2015.

After hearing the arguments and examining the documents submitted, the Cases have been posted for Hearing on 14th August, 2015.

Once again, to clear the apprehensions about the Case filed by IAAI - the Case is solely against IATA only and not against any Associations or their activities.

For the greater good of the Fraternity and for the survival of the ordinary Travel Agents, IAAI had approached the Delhi Court to only stop all activities of the present APJC and seek the re-constitution of APJC-India under Appendix 'F' – of PAConf New Guidelines in January 2014, and also, under CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure), for presenting as evidence to the Court a copy of IATA's letter, dated 27th October 2014, addressed to IAAI, that was traced to be the duplicated, forged copy of the IATA letter dated 19th July 2010.

IAAI made it very clear to the Hon Court that we do not have any objections to the Joint Bank Guarantee scheme, which is optional, proposed by the other Associations.

At the same time, IAAI urges the Fraternity to support its Default Insurance Program (DIP) which does not need bank guarantee, collateral security, financial security, cash deposit or advance in premiums as they have to pay only a very minimal amount of around one dollar after sale of tickets on whatever tickets sold, which is being fully endorsed and supported by the major carriers like Jet Airways, Emirates, Singapore Airlines and Etihad.

IAAI sincerely seeks your wholehearted support.



Aviation News

Air India to start direct flights from New Delhi to San Francisco & Toronto



Air India Ltd is going to launch direct flight services from New Delhi to San Francisco and Toronto this winter following removal of restrictions on Indian carriers to expand their operations in the US after safety upgrade by the FAA (Federal Aviation Authority). The state-run airline also plans to re-configure its Boeing 777-200 LR planes to cater to these proposed services. At present, Air India operates flights to New York and Chicago. The airline proposes to fly three weekly flights each to San Francisco and Toronto from New Delhi with a B777-200 LR aircraft, which is likely to be reconfigured for more seating capacity.

Telangana-based Turbo Megha Airways commences operations from July 12

Turbo Megha Airways, operating under "Trujet" brand which is promoted by Hyderabad-based aviation entrepreneur Umesh Vankayalapati and Telugu movie actor Ram Charan Teja, secured its air operating permit from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The airline has two 72-seater ATR-72 tur-



boprop aircraft on lease and plans to induct five planes by next March-end. It will compete with regional carriers Air Costa and Air Pegasus for a pie of air traffic from Tier-II and III cities in South India. The airlines have launched services from July 12 and will have their initial schedule till July 26.

The airline has started operating special flights on Chennai-Rajahmundry route for the ongoing Pushakaram Mela and is planning to start regular flights from July 25. It will also start flights from Chennai to Aurangabad to cater to passengers headed to Shirdi. Trujet will pioneer a road-air connectivity model by offering to air connectivity from metros to tier II cities and from there by road to smaller towns. Smaller towns around Coimbatore and Salem will also be connected in similar fashion when Trujet starts flights to these airports. The airline, which has got only a regional permit will also operate flights to Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

Strict psychometric test norms coming for Pilots

Those aspiring to be commercial pilots may now have to undergo a psychometric test even before securing admission into a flying training institute. And, psychometric tests will be conducted before the candidate is inducted as a pilot into an airline. What's more, the candidate will be repeatedly assessed at various stages of one's career, through psychological screening. A round of tests will follow in case aberrations are observed while a pilot is on duty. These recommendations, by a three-member committee of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), come in the wake of a Germanwings crash in March in which a co-pilot had deliberately crashed the plane into the French Alps, killing all 150 on board.

Aviation News

Delhi to be inaugural route for British Airways' Boeing 787-900 aircraft in India



British Airways has announced that its new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, complete with a new First class cabin, will start flying to Delhi from October 25, 2015. With this development, Delhi will become the first route for BA globally to benefit from the brand new aircraft.

To commemorate the launch, British Airways has launched a special offer of over 50 per cent off for customers travelling from New Delhi to London-Heathrow on the new aircraft in World Traveller (economy). The sale is open till July 16 for travel period October 25 to December 31, 2015.

The 787-9, the first of which is due to arrive with British Airways in September, is 20 feet longer than its 787-8 predecessor (of which the airline has eight), so as well as offering World Traveller (economy), World Traveller Plus (premium economy) and Club World (business class), there's also room for a new First class cabin – a first for the airline's 787 fleet. The First cabin has just eight seats in comparison to the 14 seats available on other British Airways long-haul aircraft. The new First suites have been designed based on feedback from customers. The suites now include four new storage areas. A new ottoman next to the adjustable footstool has enough room for shoes, handbags and personal items, while the personal suiter for jackets and coats is now accessible without the customer having to move from their seat. A new locker is positioned at eye-level for smaller personal effects such as tablets, spectacles, passport and wash-bags. A handy mirror has also been fitted to the inside of the locker door for personal grooming.

AirAsia India introduces Red Carpet service



AirAsia India has introduced the 'Red Carpet' service, to offer more convenience and comfort to its passengers. Guests travelling on AirAsia India flights from Bengaluru and Delhi airports either pre-book (available up to four hours prior to the scheduled time of departure) at Rs 800, on the airline's website or via the call centre of AirAsia, or purchased at the airport for Rs 1,000. Facilities of the Red Carpet service include a text message giving the contact number for the porter service and the AirAsia drop-off location at the airport for pre-booked passengers; porter service from the AirAsia drop-off location to the dedicated check-in counter; priority check-in with a dedicated counter; access to the lounge with unlimited meals and soft beverages; priority boarding when escorted by staff; and priority baggage on arrival.

Aviation News

SpiceJet launches 'Hand Baggage Only' fares



SpiceJet Ltd. has introduced 'Hand Baggage Only' fares, offering a discount for those passengers who carry hand-baggage only. With this, SpiceJet is helping lower fuel consumption and emissions as well. The Hand Baggage Only fare will be available on most direct domestic flights (including via flights), with minimum 30 days advance purchase. International and connecting flights are not included. Travellers with check-in baggage can still check in their 15-kg baggage for free using the SpiceSaver and other fares. The airline has made it clear that it is not charging for checked baggage for those who select the normal fares that exist today. Under the new fare, passengers with hand baggage only and who book at least 30 days in advance, will pay Rs 200 less than the normal SpiceSaver fare per one-way flight. While for round trip, the discount can be as high as Rs 1,000. Hand-baggage allowance remains the same as before - one handbag up to seven kg per passenger, plus a standard-sized shoulder laptop bag or ladies purse. For those who book these fares, but later decide to check in luggage, a fee of Rs 500 for up to 10 kg, and Rs 750 for up to 15 kg, will be payable at the airport during check-in, as per the table below:

Check-in luggage (Kg)	Price (Rs)
Up to 10 Kg	500 flat fee
11 Kg - 15 Kg	750 flat fee (inclusive of the Rs 500 fee for the first 10 kg)
Above 15 Kg	750 flat fee for first 15 kg + 250 kg for each additional kg

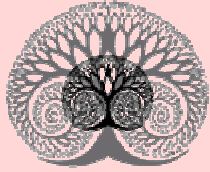
Qatar Airways announces increase in frequency to 12 destinations

Qatar Airways has announced network frequency increases to multiple destinations across its global network. The national airline will add frequencies to Dubai (UAE), Peshawar (Pakistan), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Belgrade (Serbia), Sofia (Bulgaria), Asmara (Eritrea), Djibouti (Djibouti), Najaf (Iraq), Luxor (Egypt), Salalah (Oman), and Zanzibar (Tanzania) over the coming months. From July 16, Qatar Airways will increase its frequency on the Doha-Dubai route with an additional daily flight, taking its capacity up to 15 services a day to Dubai International Airport (DXB), which also takes the total frequency to DXB and DWC to 19 flights a day. Dubai has the highest frequency in the airline's route network and the emirate is served 126 times a week.



Hospitality News

Tree of Life adds a Binsar-based heritage property to its portfolio



TREE OF LIFE
Resorts & Hotels

Since July 1, 2015, the Tree of Life Resorts and Hotels have taken over the management of a fourth property under its brand name – Tree of Life Grand Oak Manor, Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, earlier known as Grand Oak Manor, Binsar. Located at 7500 feet in the Himalayas on top of the Jhandi Dhar hills, it is about 25 kms (50 minutes) from Almora in Uttarakhand. This is the first heritage property under the Tree of Life brand placed inside the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary and spread in 40 acres of private estate surrounded by forest greens and snow clad mountains. Positioned 380 kms (nine hours) from Delhi, the nearest railway head to Tree of Life Grand Oak Manor, Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is Kathgodam Railway Station and Pant Nagar Airport 150 kms (4:30 hrs), the closest airbase. Guests are required to register their entry into the Sanctuary and pay an entry fee of INR 150 per person (Indian national) and INR 600 per person (foreign national) along with INR 250 for the vehicle, valid for three days.

The Royal Atlantis Resort and Residences to open at Palm Islands Dubai by end of 2017



Kerzner International—which owns and manages Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai—and Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD) plan to launch the 46-storey The Royal Atlantis Resort and Residences by the end of 2017. To be located on the crescent of the Palm Islands, next to Atlantis, The Royal Atlantis Resort and Residences will feature 800 guest rooms and suites (approx.) and 250 luxury residences.

Henn na Hotel, Robot run hotel opens in Japan



The English-speaking receptionist is a vicious-looking dinosaur, and the one speaking Japanese is a female humanoid with blinking lashes. "If you want to check in, push one," the dinosaur says. The visitor still has to punch a button on the desk, and type in information on a touch panel screen. From the front desk to the porter that's an automated trolley taking luggage up to the room, this hotel in southwestern Japan, called Weird Hotel, is "manned" almost totally by robots to save labour costs. The hotel as part of an amusement park, insists using robots is not a gimmick, but a serious effort to utilize technology and achieve efficiency. Henn na Hotel, as it is called in Japanese, complete with robot demonstrations, ahead of its opening to the public. Another feature of the hotel is the use of facial recognition technology, instead of the standard electronic keys, by registering the digital image of the guest's face during check-in. A giant robotic arm, usually seen in manufacturing, is encased in glass quarters in the corner of the lobby. It lifts one of the boxes stacked into the wall and puts it out through a space in the glass, where a guest can place an item in it, to use as a locker. The arm will put the box back into the wall, until the guest wants it again. The system is called "robot cloak room". Staying at Henn na Hotel starts at 9,000 yen (\$80), where a stay in one of the nicer hotels can easily cost twice or three times that much. The concierge is a doll-like hairless robot with voice recognition that prattles breakfast and event information.

Source : The Times of India

Visa News

South Africa to issue 3-year multiple-entry visa for frequent travellers



In a move to ease travel to the rainbow nation, the Ministry of Home Affairs of South Africa is to issue three-year multiple-entry visas to frequent travellers from its top 20 source markets. Three-year multiple-entry visa will be issued to tourists from the top 20 countries from where South Africa receives the highest number of tourists. India is the 15th source market. South Africa has established 11 centres to make the visa process convenient for travellers. A new visa facilitation centre will be opened in Delhi as part of the Ministry's efforts to promote and encourage travel to South Africa. Apart from this, the South African government also intends to issue e-visas to its top 20 countries.

Rail News

Premium trains to now run as “Suvidha Express”



In a revamp of its passenger fare framework, Indian Railways will step ahead on concession-less service with the launch of Suvidha trains, the rechristened premium trains run on dynamic fare system, from July 15. The idea is to cater to the premium passengers, including short-notice travellers, in order to give them better service and assured tickets, and earn additional revenue in the process.

The introduction of the new service will also make waitlisted tickets a thing of the past. While concessions will continue in all other trains as at present, there will be no concessions for Suvidha service. These trains, which will cater to the peak demand observed during winter and summer rush, and festivals like Dussehra and Holi and run on select routes, are being currently identified.

The railways will issue only confirmed and reservation against cancellation (RAC) tickets for Suvidha trains. Since the trains are meant to serve passengers travelling at short notice, the advanced reservation period (ARP) has been cut down to a maximum of 30 days and a minimum of 10 days. No concession will be applicable on these trains and full adult fare will be charged for all passengers, irrespective of age. Also, free or complimentary passes will not be permitted in these trains. Further, only general quota bookings will be applicable and there will also be no first AC, first class, executive class, general class, 2nd sitting (2S) coach in the composition of Suvidha trains. Suvidha trains will completely replace premium trains, which are already being run on select 50-odd routes, but with a modified fare framework.

Under the changed structure, railways will run three types of Suvidha trains: full AC trains without stops charging Rajdhani base fare and Tatkal charges; mixed service with no stops charging Duronto base fare and Tatkal charges; and mixed service with some stops charging base fare of mail and express trains, and Tatkal charges.

Passengers would have to pay the cost of base fare and Tatkal charges for the first 20 per cent seats; one-and-a-half times the cost of base fare and Tatkal for the next 20 per cent seats; two times the cost of base fare and Tatkal charges for the next 20 per cent. Similarly, for the last two slabs of seat availability, passengers would pay two-and-a-half to three times the cost of base fare and Tatkal charges respectively.

Rail News

Changes in Tatkal booking procedure, no need to carry Photo ID card while reservation

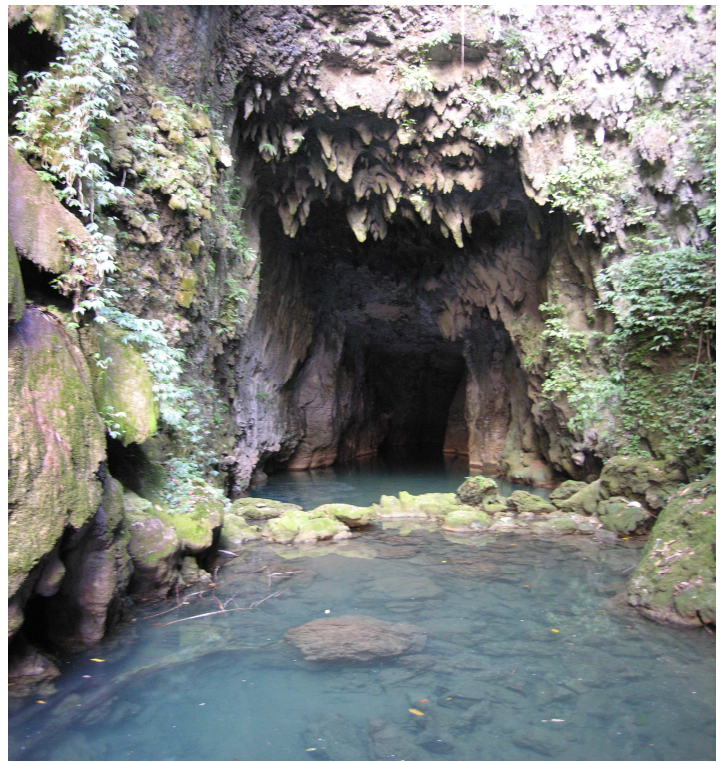
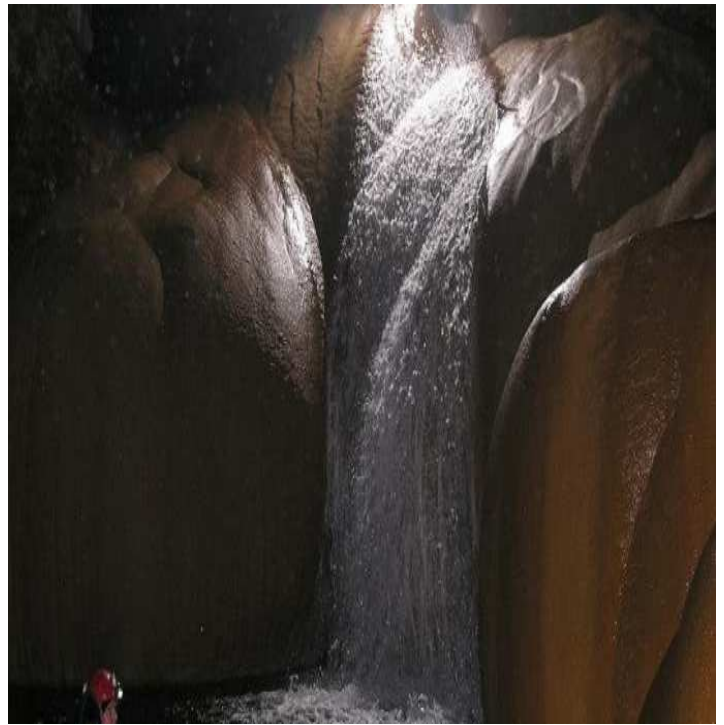


Indian Railways has made changes in the procedure of booking Tatkal train tickets & made it easy for the commuters. Wef September 1st, passengers need not to carry photocopy of Photo ID card while booking the ticket on reservation counter. Those who book online tickets ,they will not have to provide Photo ID number while booking. The train commuters need to carry any one of the following 10 prescribed proofs of identity in original) during the journey :-

Voter Photo identity card issued by Election Commission of India, Passport, PAN Card issued by Income Tax Department, Driving Licence issued by RTO, Photo identity card having serial number issued by Central/State Government , Student Identity Card with photograph issued by recognized School/College for their students, Nationalized Bank Passbok with photograph, Credit cards issued by banks with laminated photograph, Unique Identification Card "Aadhaar", Photo identity cards having serial number issued by Public Sector Undertaking of State/Central Government, District Administration, Municipal bodies and Penchant Administration.

Photo Feature

Krem Liat Prah Cave, Meghalaya



Krem Liat Prah is the longest natural cave in India. Liat Prah (*Krem* is the Khasi word for "cave") is one of approximately 150 known caves in the Shnongrim Ridge of the Jaintia Hills district in the state of Meghalaya, northeast India. Explored and surveyed as part of the ongoing Abode of the Clouds Expedition project, its current length of about 25 kilometers will likely be increased as nearby caves continue to be connected. Liat Prah's dominant feature is its enormous trunk passage similar to an Aircraft Hangar.

Open Space

Lighter Moments

A guy was driving when a Policeman pulled him over.

He rolled down his window & said to the officer, "Is there a problem, Officer?"

"No problem at all. I just observed your safe driving & am pleased to award you a \$5000 Safe Driver Award. Congrats.

What do you think you're going to do with the money?"

He thought for a minute & said, "Well, I guess I'll go get that driver's license."

The lady sitting in the passenger seat said to the Policeman, "Oh, don't pay attention to him, he's smart when he's drunk & stoned."

The guy from the back seat said, "I told you guys we wouldn't get far in a stolen car !"

At that moment, there was a knock from the truck & muffled voice said, "Are we over the border yet?".

Thought for the Fortnight

Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it earns it, he who doesn't, pays it.

— Albert Einstein

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
Delhi. | : | Travelmate India Pvt Ltd., New
Delhi. |
| 5. Mr Rajendra Churiwala, Director—ER
Kolkata. | : | Survottam Travels (P) Ltd.,
Kolkata. |
| 6. Mr Naresh Rajkotia, Director—WR | : | Madhuram Travels & Tours,
Mumbai. |

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

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