



IAAI Newsletter

October 2015, IInd Fortnight Issue

IAAI News

Airline liability or compensations

Based on the Warsaw Convention, the Montreal Convention held in 2009, allowed signatory countries to revise compensation limits for death, injury, delay, loss or damage of baggage and cargo by international airlines every five years. India, though a signatory to the Montreal Convention, not yet ratified the amendments and still continuing the age old compensation formula.

The liability or compensations are calculated in SDR (Special Drawing Rights), which can be easily translated into international currencies. In order to overcome currency fluctuations and to have better stability, the value of the SDR is based on market exchange rates of a basket of major currencies like USD, Euro, Japanese Yen and Pound Sterling. In India, currently, the value of SDR 1 is approximately equivalent to Rs 88.

Recently, ICAO has notified the Government of India to revise the compensation clauses based on the current inflation factor of 13.1 per cent. Accordingly, our Honorable Civil Aviation Minister, Sri Ashok Gajapathi Raju, is presenting the new amended version of the proposal in SDR in this Parliament session.

The enhanced value in compensation mandated by the Montreal Convention as appended below in SDR, is more beneficial to the passengers in relation to death, injury, delay, damage or loss of baggage or cargo:

Article 21 & 22 Paragraph - 1		Compensation in SDR	
		Present	Proposed
01	For damages sustained in case of death or bodily injury for a person	SDR 100000	SDR 113100
02	Damage caused by delay in carriage for each person	SDR 4150	SDR 4694
03	Destruction, loss, damage or delay with respect to baggage for each person	SDR 1000	SDR 1131
04	Destruction, loss, damage or delay in relation to the carriage of cargo	SDR 17	SDR 19

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IAAI News

It is a matter of great prestige to IAAI to have been invited to be the 2nd Panel Member in the Rajya Sabha TV discussion that took place on Saturday, 10th October, the only other Panel Member being Sri K.K. Rai, Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court.

On behalf of IAAI, Ms. Kuku Kumar, IAAI Director, took part in the TV discussions and presented the views and suggestions of IAAI - that India should abolish the differentiated policies for international and domestic carriers / operations, that ALL carriers, irrespective of whether LCC or Service Carrier, IATA or Non-IATA, operating in India on domestic or international, must be brought under the purview of ICAO's / India's new proposed compensation Act / Rules and must pay compensations accordingly without any discriminative policies.

At present, in India, the international carriers, LCCs and domestic carriers are all following-different liability /compensation policies and criteria.

True to its credo, IAAI totally supports the new SDR rate proposals as they will be beneficial to all our Indian Traveling Public in respect of delays or accidents causing loss of life/ personal injury or damage to baggage & cargo and wants to implement same by all airlines irrespective international or domestic and LCC or FSC.

Aviation News

Air India offers 4 Bonanza Schemes for its Executive Class passengers



India's National carrier, Air India has offered a super festival bonanza to its premium segment of Executive Class passengers flying the domestic sectors of Air India. Valid for travel from November 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, passengers have on offer 4 schemes under the umbrella of the 'Executive Class Bonanza'.

The highlight of the Executive Class Bonanza is that it gives the passenger the advantage of enjoying the benefits of all the schemes against the same ticket. Women flyers will get a special discount of 25% on Basic Fare.

- Under the Executive Vacation scheme, any passenger who travels on AI's domestic network, except between Bengaluru and Chennai, in Executive Class 4 times between November 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 will be entitled for 1 Executive Class One-Way ticket (One flight Coupon) and if he travels 6 times, he will get one Round Trip (2 flight coupons) ticket on AI's domestic network.
- The Lady Executive offers a discount of 25% on Basic Fare for lady executives and all women flyers, travelling in Executive Class on production of business card or copy of ID proof.
- As per the Maharaja Experience any passenger who flies 4 times in Economy Class on, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru network, except travel between Bengaluru and Chennai, within 7 consecutive days, will be entitled for one 'Executive Class Upgrade Voucher'. These vouchers may be used for upgrading at the time of check-in at AI counters, after having travelled 4 times, subject to the passenger holding a confirmed Economy Class paid ticket and seats being available in Executive Class.
- Under the Maharaja's Bounty all passengers who fly in Executive Class during this period can participate in weekly and a mega lucky draw. All business cards / fill in forms collected during the scheme will be compiled and a computerised draw will be held. The awards for the lucky draws will include return air tickets and holiday packages.

Air India Flight services have started from Mumbai to Diu from October 26, 2015. To raise and uplift the Diu District as a International Tourist destination, a connectivity to this aspect is going to be pushed. Air fare will be INR 5,500 and availability and capacity of seats will be 72.

Aviation News

Qatar Airways adds Adelaide to its network



Qatar Airways announced daily non-stop scheduled flights between Doha and Adelaide, due to commence on May 2, 2016. The national carrier of the State of Qatar has embarked on a major expansion in Australia, just recently announcing daily flights to Sydney from March 1, 2016.

Adelaide will also be the first destination in Australia to which Qatar Airways will fly its A350 aircraft, for which it is the Global Launch Customer. Flying a long-haul service to Adelaide, which is a key business and leisure destination in southern Australia, will enable Qatar Airways to maximise the A350's efficiency and performance and allow its Australia-bound passengers their first opportunity to experience the aircraft.

With the addition of Adelaide, Qatar Airways' Australian capacity will rise to 28 flights a week, spread across the four key cities including Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Travellers to and from Adelaide can benefit from a premium on-board experience on Qatar Airways' A350 aircraft.

The aircraft comprises of a two-class configuration with 36 seats in Business Class in a 1-2-1 configuration, featuring 80" fully-flat beds and 17" HD in-flight entertainment screens, and 247 seats in Economy Class, each 18-inches wide in a 3-3-3 configuration, with up to a 32-inch pitch. Each individual Economy seat features a 10.6" in-flight entertainment screen, and more space at shoulder level for passengers in window seats, thanks to a vertical side wall panel design.

AirAsia India increases frequency across Delhi, Guwahati and Goa

Low cost airline, AirAsia India recently announced the addition of frequency to its existing sectors Delhi, Goa and Guwahati. The airline will now operate 3 daily flights from Delhi to Goa and 2 daily flights from Delhi to Guwahati from November 17, 2015. With this increase in frequency,

AirAsia India will operate 38 flights connecting 10 destinations across India. Travelers can book from October 20, 2015 onwards for the travel period from November 17, 2015 to February 29, 2016. Reinforcing its commitment towards making air travel affordable in India, the increase in frequency of flights is designed to cater to business and leisure travelers who are constantly on the lookout for convenient and comfortable flying options.



Aviation News

Ethiopian Airlines offers discounted fares from Mumbai



In line with the commencement of double daily flights between Addis Ababa and Mumbai effective October 26, 2015, Ethiopian Airlines announced the introduction of special offers for travel from Mumbai to Addis Ababa and back on specified flights.

The offers include 50% companion fare, additional baggage allowance on business and economy classes, promotional fares for business and economy classes and double miles on tickets from Mumbai to Addis Ababa for ET Sheba Miles frequent flier program members.

The 50 % companion fare is applicable for travel between Mumbai (BOM) and Mombasa (MBA), Nairobi (NBO), Hargeisa (HGA), Djibouti (JIB), Juba (JUB), Khartoum (KRT), Entebbe (EBB) and Tel Aviv (TLV) for sales until October 30, 2015 and travel commencing from October 26, 2015 until December 31, 2015. Offer is valid for travel only on flights ET641 Mumbai- Addis Ababa (BOM-ADD) and ET640 Addis Ababa- Mumbai (ADD-BOM) and direct connecting flights. As per the offer, the special baggage allowance in the offer period, for business class is 4 pieces of 23 kgs each and for economy is 50 kgs between Mumbai (BOM) and Mombasa (MBA), Nairobi (NBO), Hargeisa (HGA), Djibouti (JIB), Juba (JUB), Khartoum (KRT), Entebbe (EBB), Tel Aviv (TLV) for sales until October 30, 2015 and travel commencing from October 26, 2015 until December 31, 2015. Offer is valid for travel only on ET641 Mumbai- Addis Ababa (BOM-ADD) and ET640 Addis Ababa- Mumbai (ADD-BOM) and direct connecting flights.

Economy promotional fares are valid for travel between Mumbai (BOM) and Mombasa (MBA), Nairobi (NBO), Hargeisa (HGA), Djibouti (JIB), Juba (JUB), Khartoum (KRT), Entebbe (EBB), Tel Aviv (TLV) for sales until October 30, 2015 and travel commencing from October 26, 2015 until further notice. Offer is valid for travel Mumbai to Addis Ababa (BOM-ADD) only on ET641 and direct connecting flights as mentioned in fare rules.

Aviation News

Singapore Airlines to resume non-stop US flights with new Airbus plane



Singapore Airlines will resume non-stop flights to the United States in 2018 after becoming the launch customer for a new ultra-long distance variant of the Airbus A350. SIA converted seven of the 63 A350-900s in its order book to the A350-900ULR variant for the services. It has also converted four purchase options for the A350 into firm orders, giving it a backlog of 67 of the latest widebody jet on the market.

Resuming non-stop US flights, popular with business travelers, will be an important landmark for SIA, which operated all-business class Airbus A340-500s to the United States until it retired the planes in 2013. While the four-engined A340s were the only planes with the range for the service, the high cost of operating them at a time when oil prices were more than double current levels made it hard to turn a profit on those flights.

It will start with services to Los Angeles and New York. The New York service, at around 19 hours, will be the longest in the world when it begins.

SIA has recently found it harder to make money on services between Singapore and Europe amid tepid economic growth in the continent and tough competition, leaving it dependent on intra-Asian traffic to a greater degree than its executives would have preferred, say sources familiar with the airline's thinking.

Hospitality News

Cox & Kings acquires LateRooms



Travel major Cox & Kings has acquired UK-based hotel booking website LateRooms.com for GBP 8.5 million (around Rs 85 crore). The acquisition fits Cox & Kings' plans to expand its global online and B2C leisure proposition.

Bringing the LateRooms brand and technology into the fold will provide a significant boost to Cox & Kings' growth trajectory and technology capabilities. The group plans to drive synergies from LateRooms' association with its short break packaged holiday specialist in the UK, SuperBreak Mini-Holidays.

LateRooms, a hotel booking specialist in the UK, claims to have 150,000 properties around the world on its portfolio, with a user base of 3.5 million. It had 93 million online visits in the financial year ending September 30, 2015 generating transaction volume of GBP 300 million (around Rs 2,982 crore) and net revenues of GBP 50 million (around Rs 497 crore). LateRooms also owns various brands and domain names including AsiaRooms.com.

Cox & Kings has presence in holidays and education travel segment with operations in 22 countries across four continents. Outside India, they operate through subsidiaries in UK, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, UAE, the United States, the Netherlands, Singapore and Canada. Cox & Kings has a German hotel arm Meininger Shared Services which currently operates 16 hotels with a total of 7,025 beds in 10 European cities. It also owns Holidaybreak, an education and activity travel group based in UK.

In India, Cox & Kings has presence in 149 cities and focus on corporate travel, education & activity travel, meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions (MICE), trade fairs, visa processing and foreign exchange.

Mobile app launched for Badrinath pilgrims

An android-based mobile application was launched by the Government to provide Badrinath pilgrims with yatra-related information like the availability of ATMs, petrol stations, hotels and public convenience on the most dangerous 44-km stretch between Joshimath and Badrinath. Named 'Shubh Badrinath Yatra', the mobile application, which provides information related to the Himalayan pilgrimage between Joshimath and Badrinath. 'Shubh Badrinath Yatra' app also tells yatri about the distance between their present location and Badrinath and phone numbers which could be very helpful in case of a crisis. It would tell pilgrims about alternative routes available in case of a landslide on the way and important villages and ration shops located nearby. Launched as a pilot project, the app can subsequently be extended with the help of experts to the remaining three Himalayan shrines — Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, and other major tourist destinations in the state.

Hospitality News

First InterContinental Resort in India opens in Chennai

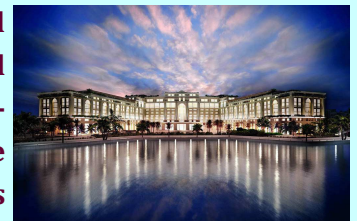


InterContinental Hotels Group

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), today announced the opening of the highly-anticipated InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort in India. The Resort will join InterContinental Mumbai Marine Drive to be the 2nd hotel under the company's luxury portfolio in India. IHG currently has 22 hotels operating across four brands in 14 cities in India with a further 47 hotels in the development pipeline. Located 30 kilometres from the Chennai International Airport, InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram offers 105 room resort offers a full range of facilities and amenities to guests, including an outdoor swimming pool, a fully-equipped health club and a spa that offers relaxing therapies including indigenous sea-inspired beauty treatments and yoga. The resorts expansive and versatile indoor and outdoor venues are ideal for conferences, meetings, and special occasions such as wedding celebrations. InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram offers three gourmet dining options which includes an The Melting Pot with three live kitchens that serves the best in European, South Asian and Peninsular Indian cuisine, a Chinese Specialty Restaurant, Tao Of Peng & Lounge Bar. To celebrate its launch, InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort is offering a special opening rates starting from INR 9900 per room, per night, inclusive of breakfast for two and a dine in credit of 2000 per day.

Palazzo Versace Dubai Hotel to officially open on Oct 25

Palazzo Versace Dubai Hotel, the world's second Versace-branded hotel and the first in UAE, is expected to be launched by October 25, 2015. Both owned and operated by the same brand, Palazzo Versace Dubai Hotel and Condominiums set in the heart of the city, is the crown jewel of the new Culture Village master development in Dubai. Surrounded by landscaped gardens and access to Dubai Creek pedestrian promenade, the hotel is a few minutes' drive from Dubai International Airport and less than 10 minutes away from Burj Khalifa and Downtown Dubai. Palazzo Versace Dubai comprises 215 ultra-luxury hotel rooms and suites, all with exclusively designed furniture and finishes by Versace. The development also consists of lavish condominiums at Palazzo Versace Dubai. The two wings, Al Destra and Ala Sinistra, offer 169 luxury condominiums ranging from 1-6 bedrooms. Furnished with the exclusive Versace Home Collection with color selections from Turquoise, Blue and Salmon, the hotel also features signature restaurants, a spa, a spectacular lobby and a grand ballroom with the seating capacity for 900 guests. The Palazzo Versace brand essence is a timeless combination of the heritage of Gianni Versace and the strong design presence of Donatella Versace.



Hospitality News

The Oberoi Group signs management agreement for two luxury hotels in Doha



Indian luxury hotel chain, The Oberoi Group, has announced signing of management agreement with Qatar General Insurance and Reinsurance Company (SAQ) for two new hotels in Doha. These include a 250-key luxury hotel being developed in the West Bay area of Doha, and a 148-key luxury serviced apartment in Lusail, Doha. Planning of both the above projects is under way and construction will commence early next year with completion of both projects in mid 2018. The proposed developments will reflect the same standards of luxury that Oberoi Hotels & Resorts are known for. With this signing, The Oberoi Group has strengthened their presence in the Middle East market. The Group has a luxury hotel operational in Dubai since 2013, and another luxury beach resort coming up in Ajman. The Ajman resort is expected to open in second quarter of 2016.

Starwood Hotels & Resorts' Four Points Brand signs three new hotels in India

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. recently announced that its Four Points brand will more than double its footprint in India over the next five years with the signing of three new hotels and landmark debuts in Bhopal, Vijayawada and Vembanad Lake in Kerala. Starwood currently operates nine Four Points Hotels across India, including properties in Agra, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Dehradun, Jaipur, Pune, Mumbai, New Delhi and Visakhapatnam. Seven other hotels are in the pipeline in Dahej, Gurgaon, Tirupati, Vadodara, Aurangabad, Hyderabad and Tiruchirappalli.



Vista Rooms plans to expand to 100+ cities by December 2015



Vista Rooms, an online branded accommodation aggregator headquartered in Mumbai, plans to expand its presence to 100 more cities, from the current 60 cities by end of the current calendar year. Their targets are standalone hotels up to 3-star and under the price bracket of Rs 1000-Rs 8000, where standardisation is required. On the other hand, Vista Rooms is also working as a partner with the affiliate hotels in improving their sales and operations.

Visa News

Finland to open VACs in 5 Indian cities next month

Finland is set to open Visa Application Centers (VACs) in Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai on November 2. The VACs in all the cities will be located in the VFS Global premises. The VACs will also provide services such as on-site photographing, Internet and courier delivery across India. Additionally, on November 2, the Schengen states, including Finland, will launch the Visa Information System (VIS) in India. The purpose of the global VIS process is to better protect applicants against identity theft and to prevent document fraud and so-called "visa shopping". Indian citizens requesting a Schengen visa will have to appear in person at the VAC to provide biometric data (fingerprints and digital photograph). The last date for submission of visa applications at the Embassy before the opening of the VACs is October 27.

France to resume biometrics for visas in India

Starting from November 2, 2015, France is set to restart the process of collecting biometric data for issuing all kinds of visas. Currently, France takes a turnaround time of 48 hours for processing visa applications. This, the office of the French Embassy in India will assure won't change with the introduction of biometrics. France has 14 VFS Global visa application centres pan India to ensure the best possible proximity to Indian end-users. There will be no change in the timeframe for visa issuance due to the implementation of biometrics. Visa application will still be processed on the same day by VFS and transferred to the Embassy the next day for issuance in 48 hours maximum, when the VFS centre is located in a city where a French Consulate is operating. For other cases, this may take up to 3 days. France had suspended biometric data collection on July 1, 2013 for all types of visas.

Indonesia offers 30-day visa-free entry to 75 nations, incl India

In order to boost arrivals into the country, Indonesia offers to grant special short-stay visa-free facilities for nationals of a total 75 countries, which includes India. With this development, Indians can avail 30-day visa-free entry to Indonesia for government duties, education, social-cultural purposes, tourism, business, family visits and transit purposes. The entry can be made only through the international airports of Jakarta, Bali, Batam, Surabaya and Medan, as well as through 4 seaports on the island of Batam namely: Sekupang, Batam Center, Nongsa Terminal Bahari, Marina Teluk Senimba and Citra Tri Tunas. The seaports are Nongsa, Sekupang, Batam Center, Harbor Bay, Marina Teluk Senimba, Batam; Bandar Bentan Telani, Bandar Seri Udana, and Tanjung Pinang on Bintan, Tg Balai Karimun; Dumai Riau; Teluk Nibung Tg. Balai Asahan; Bandar Sri Setia Raya Bengkalis; Belawan Medan; Kuala Langsa; Sibolga, Siak Seri Indrapura Riau; Padang; Bengkulu port; Benoa and Padang Bai Bali; Tg Priok Jakarta, Yos Sudarso Cirebon; Tg Mas Semarang, Surabaya, Makassar; Bitung port; Kupang Nunukan, Malundung Tarakan; Jayapura.

Photo Feature

Atlantic Ocean Road, Norway



The Atlantic Ocean Road or the Atlantic Road (Norwegian: Atlanterhavsveien) is a 8.3-kilometer (5.2 mi) long section of County Road 64 that runs through an archipelago in Eide and Averøy in Møre og Romsdal, Norway. It passes by Hustadvika, an unsheltered part of the Norwegian Sea, connecting the island of Averøy with the mainland and Romsdalshalvøya peninsula. It runs between the villages of Kårvåg on Averøy and Vevang in Eide. It is built on several small islands and skerries, which are connected by several causeways, viaducts and eight bridges—the most prominent being Storseisundet Bridge.

Open Space

Lighter Moments

A man walks into a bank and says he wants to borrow \$2,000 for three weeks.

The loan officer asks him what kind of collateral he has. The man says "I've got a Rolls Royce -- keep it until the loan is paid off -- here are the keys."

The loan officer promptly has the car driven into the bank's underground parking for safe keeping, and gives the man \$2,000.

Three weeks later the man comes into the bank, pays back the \$2,000 loan, plus \$10 interest, and regains possession of the Rolls Royce.

The loan officer asks him, "Sir, if I may ask, why would a man who drives a Rolls Royce need to borrow two thousand dollars?"

The man answers, "I had to go to Europe for three weeks, and where else could I park a Rolls Royce safely for that long for ten dollars?"



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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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