



IAAI Newsletter

December 2015, 1st Fortnight Issue

IAAI News

IAAI representation at China International Travel Mart 2015

China International Travel Mart is the largest travel mart in Asia. CITM 2015 was organised jointly by China National Tourism Administration, Civil Administration Aviation and Yunnan Provincial People's Government. The event was held from 13th November to 15th November 2015. Dr Mahesh Sharma (Union Minister of State of tourism and Culture) headed the Indian delegation.

The following members participated from IAAI :-

- 1. Mr R Churiwala, Survottam Travels, Kolkata**
- 2. Mrs Gladys Stephen , Taanya Travels, Chennai**
- 3. Mrs Aruna Shetty - Shimanthoor Travels, Mumbai**
- 4. Mr Anjani Dhanuka, Aircom Travels Pvt Ltd, Kolkata**
- 5. Mr Ravi Shaw , Safari Travels, Kolkata**



Aviation News

Qatar Airways starts non-stop daily connectivity to Nagpur



Qatar Airways, the national carrier of the State of Qatar, now offers non-stop flights to Nagpur from Doha, taking the airline's total weekly passenger flights from 95 to 102 across 13 key cities in India, with effect from December 1, 2015 onwards. Qatar Airways will operate an A320 daily between Doha and Nagpur with an average flight time of just over four hours. The aircraft will feature 144 seats in a two-class configuration of 12 seats in Business Class and 132 seats in Economy.

Doha—Nagpur daily schedule : QR 588 : 7.55 pm - 2.15 am (Next day)

Nagpur—Doha daily schedule : QR 589 : 3.45 am - 5.55 am

Tigerair commences direct flights from Singapore to Lucknow



Tigerair, the leading Singapore-based budget carrier's inaugural flight from Singapore-TR 2676 landed at Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport at 20:00 hours (local time) on December 3, 2015. The launch of the new service to Lucknow, the land of rich heritage and culture, becomes the airline's 6th destination in India. Tigerair will operate 3 weekly flights to the city. Tigerair now operates a total of 44 weekly flights to Singapore from six Indian destinations.

Aviation News

Jet becomes first Indian airline to receive CAT II authorisation for ATR fleet



Jet Airways (India) Ltd has received approvals from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for CAT II authorisation of its ATR 72 - 500/600 fleet for low visibility operations (LVO). The CAT II authorisation from the DGCA makes Jet Airways the first Indian airline to receive these approvals for turboprop aircraft operations. The DGCA authorisation is applicable on Low Visibility Take Off (LVTO) with a Runway Visual Range (RVR) of 125 meters and landing with RVR capability of 300 metres. This will give a major fillip to Jet Airways' ATR operations during the coming winter months, especially for operations from fog-affected airports in northern India. ATRs have been an integral part of Jet Airways' fleet and have enabled the airline to develop regional connectivity in India by putting smaller airports on the route map. Jet Airways currently operates ATR flights to 35 destinations across India, connecting metro cities to Tier II destinations such as Aizawl, Bhopal, Dehradun, Diu, Gorakhpur, Indore, Imphal, Madurai and Silchar.

Self service baggage drop kiosks at 13 airports across country



Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated the process to implement self service baggage drop kiosks to resolve baggage related issues at 13 airports namely Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Calicut, Goa, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Pune, Srinagar and Thiruvananthapuram. The process is scheduled to be completed in 2016-17.

Aviation News

Turkish Airlines to introduce B777 on Delhi-Istanbul route from January end



TURKISH AIRLINES

Turkish Airlines will deploy their higher capacity B777-300 aircraft on the Istanbul -Delhi route from January 26, 2016. The airline has been operating A-330's on the route so far. The two-cabin B777-300 will have 349 seats (300 Economy and 49 Business) in place of 234 (206 Economy and 28 Business) in A-330s. The airline is already operating B777's on Istanbul - Mumbai sector.

The airline is operating with load factors of 85 to 90% on both routes because of the limited capacity on offer on both sectors. The airline is keenly pushing for an additional frequency to both Mumbai and Delhi as well as six more destinations in India. These include Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Amritsar.

New Airport for Ahmedabad



The Government has given environment clearance for development of the Rs 1,378 crore greenfield international airport at Dholera in Ahmedabad. The new airport is expected to reduce air traffic load at the existing Ahmedabad airport, which has no space for expansion of terminal and construction of the second runway. The capacity of the existing Ahmedabad airport is 25 million passengers per annum, which is likely to saturate during 2024-25, according to the current traffic forecast.

Dholera airport, which would be developed in 3,525 acres owned by the state government, will have two runways and the terminal building will have a capacity for 1,200 domestic and international passengers.

Hospitality News

VITS to open 8 hotels by January 2016



VITS Luxury Hotels, as part of its expansion plans, will unveil properties in Mumbai, Chakan, Nanded, Surat, Dahej, Ahmedabad, Chandrapur and Mangaluru by January. All the new properties will be managed under the franchisee model. With the present expansion, VITS luxury hotels will add 400 new rooms.

The company also plans 15 properties primarily in tier II and III cities within the next three years. VITS launched 'The Club Orchid', a private club spread across 11 acres at its hotel near Balewadi in Pune. The 'members only' upscale club, will bring premium fitness, fine dining, adventure sports, wellness themes and hospitality experiences to guests who can choose from a host of recreational facilities that include snooker/pool, darts, gymnasium, swimming pool, spa, table tennis, carrom, chess and gaming machines. The club will be operational in a phased manner but members will have immediate access to some areas of the club. The privileges also include discounts at hotels and on restaurant menus in Orchid. The second phase of the Club will host a library and reading room, card room, indoor badminton court and health club (yoga and aerobics).

VITS Luxury Hotels presently operates 10 properties in Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Bhubaneswar, Nashik, Latur, Tirupur, Ankleshwar, Kundapur and Bellary. VITS is a luxury business brand (4-star category) of Kamat Hotels (India) Ltd. With four other brands in its portfolio- The Orchid An Ecotel Hotel (5-star segment), Gadh Hotels, Lotus Resorts and Vithal Kamat's family restaurant, KHIL had a turnover of INR139.31 cr in the last fiscal and expects a turnover of INR152 cr in FY-16.

VFS Global opens largest VAC in South Asia in Delhi's Connaught Place

VFS Global has officially thrown open its largest Visa Application Centre (VAC) in South Asia in Connaught Place, New Delhi. The official opening of the state-of-the-art centre in downtown Connaught Place located at the Shivaji Stadium Metro Station was attended by ambassadors, high commissioners and senior diplomats of various client governments. Dr Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Civil Aviation and MoS (I/C) Tourism and Culture, Government of India, also attended the inauguration of the VAC. The centre spread over an area of 67,000 sqft offers facilities including largest waiting area, kids' play area, café, premium lounges, etc. Out of the 35 client governments that VFS Global services in India, the new VAC will service applications of 31 governments. The 4 countries which will still be serviced from the other 3 centres in the city are USA, Thailand, China and Malaysia. The centre is equipped with 153 counters with capability to process over 12,000 applications per day. There are 35 biometric cabins at the VAC.

Hospitality News

Singapore's Changi to manage an Indian airports



The operator of Singapore's Changi Airport is set to become the first foreign company to manage an Indian airport, with the state-run Airports Authority of India signing an initial agreement with it to hand over the contracts for Ahmedabad and Jaipur. It was a government-to-government decision and there was no bidding for the contract. The tie-up shows increasing global interest in Indian airports, fast modernisation of which is crucial to sustain growth of air travel demand.

First Park Inn By Radisson opens in Amritsar



Park Inn By Radisson Amritsar Airport, has opened its doors to welcome international and domestic travellers to experience its warm and friendly hospitality. Park Inn By Radisson hotels are set apart by their Adding Color to LifeSM guest service, designed to make stays fun, comfortable and uncomplicated. New generation Park Inn By Radisson hotels feature a design concept that focuses on business and leisure travellers alike. From check-in to check-out, the hotel experience is delightful and hassle-free, with a good night's sleep on a comfortable bed. The location is a delight for business travellers as the hotel is conveniently located on Airport Road and less than fifteen minutes' drive from the city centre. Park Inn By Radisson Amritsar features 89 rooms, The Sky Lounge, RBG Restaurant, a swimming pool, fitness centre and 53 square meters of meeting space. The hotel has rooms under different categories such as Superior, Premium, Deluxe, Executive suite and Premier suite with well-appointed amenities. In addition, the Deluxe rooms, Executive suites and Premier suites have a separate kitchenette bound to be appreciated by extended stay guests and large families.

Hospitality News

Royal Caribbean International launches the Royal Suite Class experience



Royal Caribbean International recently announced the launch of the Royal Suite Class experience on its award-winning cruise line. The Royal Suite Class will be available for sailings beginning May 2016 aboard Royal Caribbean's Oasis- and Quantum-class ships, Anthem of the Seas, Quantum of the Seas, Allure of the Seas, and Oasis of the Seas, as well as Harmony of the Seas and Ovation of the Seas when they debut in spring 2016.

Designed for the most discerning guests, the Royal Suite Class promises an experience like no other, featuring a wide-range of benefits and amenities. The luxuriously-appointed accommodations, personalised services and the Royal Genie, together make up the most indulgent and exciting luxury cruise holiday ever!

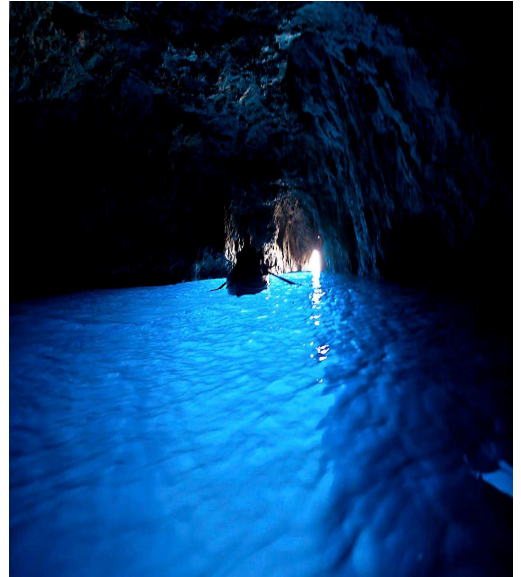
With 3 service levels – Star Class, Sky Class and Sea Class, cruisers can choose the amenities and special touches according to specific preferences. The premium features of the Royal Suite Class experience include a Royal Genie, certified by the British Butler Institute to meet the guests' every need; free Voom, the fastest internet at sea; complimentary specialty dining; an ultimate beverage package; inclusive of gratuities; preferred seating at select onboard venues, and upgraded room amenities.

Visa News

India to offer Visa on Arrival to Japan from March 1, 2016



India will offer Visa on Arrival to Japanese Tourists and Business Travellers from Japan, starting from March 1, 2016. The Visa on Arrival is beyond the Electronic Tourist Visa (ETV) that the country has extended to visitors from 113 countries.

PHOTO FEATURE**Blue Grotto, Capri, Italy**

The Blue Grotto is a sea cave on the coast of the island of Capri, southern Italy. Sunlight, passing through an underwater cavity and shining through the seawater, creates a blue reflection that illuminates the cavern. The cave extends some 50 metres into the cliff at the surface, and is about 150 metres deep, with a sandy bottom. The cave is 60 meters long and 25 meters wide. The cave mouth is two meters wide and roughly one meter high. For this reason, entrance into the grotto can only be achieved when tides are low and the sea is calm. Without calm seas and low tides, the grotto becomes inaccessible, as the 1-meter entrance is impossible to pass. To enter the grotto, visitors must lay flat on the bottom of a small 4-person rowboat. The oarsman then uses a metal chain attached to the cave walls to guide the boat inside the grotto. Swimming in the grotto is forbidden, both for safety reasons and to preserve water clarity.

Open Space

Lighter Moments

An old man decides to go into town one day for some household work.. On the way back, his wife calls him:

“Look out honey, I just saw on the news that there’s a car driving the wrong way on the interstate.”

“Not just one car, they all are !”

Thought for the Fortnight

Don't climb a mountain with an intention that the world should see you, climb the mountain with the intention to see the world.

IAAI Director Board

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2. Mr V L Jekannathan, National Gen. Secretary (Madurai) Pvt. Ltd., Chennai. : All India Travel Agency
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5. Mr Rajendra Churiwala, Director—ER Kolkata. : Survottam Travels (P) Ltd.,
6. Mr Naresh Rajkotia, Director—WR : Madhuras Travels & Tours, Mumbai.

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We welcome your suggestions to improve this newsletter.

The same may be forwarded to iaai.pune@iaai.in

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