



IAAI Newsletter

February 2016, 1st Fortnight Issue

IAAI News

IAAI National Management Committee Meeting at Chennai

The National Management Committee Meeting will be held in Chennai to discuss critical issues. Spice Jet is the partner airline offering discounted air fare to the participants.

Date : 20 and 21 Feb 2016

Venue : Hotel Raindrops, Greams Road, Chennai

SATTE charts growth path for Indian Travel and Tourism Industry



UBM India launched the 23rd edition of South Asia's leading travel trade show SATTE (29th - 31st January) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Chief Guest, Dr Mahesh Sharma, Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, Govt. of India inaugurated the show and graced the occasion with his presence amongst other eminent personalities from participating countries and key people from travel and trade associations.

Highlights of SATTE 2016 :-

- Over 750 participants from over 35 countries and 28 Indian states
- 20000 travel trade attendees – an increase of 50% over last year
- Supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Incredible India, & UNWTO
- Over 30 international and 25 domestic tourism boards

IAAI was represented by National President Mr Biji Eapen alongwith Mr T U Shamsuddin from Kochi & Mr Devendra Ghule from Pune.

Aviation News

UAE to introduce Dubai International Departure tax of AED 35 at Dubai International Airport



The Government of UAE will introduce New Passenger Facilities charge at Dubai International Airport (DXB) under the ISO Code—AE. The new tax is effective for tickets issued on/after March 1, 2016 and for travel on/after July 1, 2016. This Dubai International Departure tax of AED 35 is to be collected at point of sale and would be shown separately on the ticket by

code F6. The tax is valid even for passengers taking onward connection without a stopover in Dubai. Infants under the age of 2 years (without a seat), and transiting on the same plane will be exempted from this charge. The new Tax code -F6 is only applicable to airport code DXB and not DWC (Dubai World Central).

Air India increases domestic ticket cancellation charges by INR 500



National carrier Air India has revised upward its domestic flight ticket cancellation charges by INR 500. After the proposed revised charges come into effect from coming Monday, the Government-run carrier would deduct as much as INR 2,000 in case of "no-

show" by a passenger at the time of a domestic flight departure. The move comes days after budget airline SpiceJet hiking its ticket cancellation charges to INR 1,899 from INR 1,800 earlier. Air India currently deducts INR 1,500 from the ticket cost if passengers decide not to undertake the pre-booked journey. However, it has decided to increase this amount by INR 500 from February 16. Among all the domestic airlines, budget carrier AirAsia India has so far the lowest ticket cancellation charges at INR 1,502.



US Aerospace technology company Windspeed has completed the conceptual design phase of a unique add-on feature on airplanes called the SkyDeck that aims to give passenger an even better view of the skies by seating them on the top of plane, inside a transparent bubble-style canopy. The design, which is patent pending, will have rotatable seats with seat-belts & GPS system which will be integrated in the design of the platform & seats to provide a viewer with real-time position & flight information.

Aviation News

Air India Express adds Delhi in its network



Air India Express (AIE) to introduce flight services to Dubai and Sharjah from New Delhi from May and also enhance connectivity to the Gulf region from Mumbai.

They are adding Ras-Al-Khaimah as its new destination in the Gulf region. This is the first time since its launch in 2005 that the Kochi-based airline, the international budget arm of national carrier Air India, will be spreading its wings to the national capital. The flights from Delhi are set to be launched from May 10 and are a part of the recently announced summer schedule of Air India Express. The two new routes will be serviced by one of the six brand new Boeing 737 leased aircraft, which are being inducted in the Air India Express fleet.

Air India Express will commence two new daily air services to Dubai and Sharjah from Mumbai from April 7 as part of its plan to increase connectivity to the Gulf from the commercial capital. AIE had last week announced that it was increasing its frequency between Kerala and Middle East to 119 flights from the present 96. The move was to be introduced in a phased manner, starting from March 28, as part of the summer schedule. Acknowledging Kozhikode as its largest revenue centre, the airline has also increased offered capacity to an all-time high of 11,718 seats per week from 8,184 seats.

In addition, Air India Express will also introduce two daily separate non-stop services between Kozhikode and Bahrain and Doha in the new schedule. Non-stop flights from Kochi to Dammam (Saudi Arabia), Thiruvananthapuram and Dubai, and increasing the seats from 930 to 1,116 on the route are part of the airline's new schedule. Ras-Al-Khaimah is being introduced as a new destination with a frequency of four flights per week from Kozhikode, it said. This flight will be shared with Al-Ain, thereby increasing the frequency of flights between Al-Ain and Kozhikode also to four flights per week from the current one flight per week.



The Air India management has agreed to accept corporate credit card from travel agents for booking tickets. An agreement was reached on this issue during a meeting of the travel agents associations with the national carrier management last week in New Delhi. The decision of the national carrier to allow trade agents to use corporate credit cards for booking tickets is a major relief "when getting credit is becoming tough" for agents.

Aviation News

8 more flights to operate to Patna from March 27



Four more flights will fly to and from the Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan International Airport from March 27, increasing the number of flights operating from the city airport from 40 to 48. Jet Airways would withdraw its aircraft flying on the Kolkata-Patna route from March 27. However, Go Air and IndiGo would operate one flight each to Bengaluru via Ranchi while IndiGo would introduce one flight each to Delhi and Kolkata from March 27. The break-up of the 24 flights include three each of Air India and Jet, five of Go Air and 13 of IndiGo. These flights would also return, making the number of flights being handled by the city airport 48. The airport till recently was handling only 32 flights, down by eight from the normal 40 due to the inclement weather.

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Aviation News

Emirates adds Auckland to its network



Emirates has announced their First non-stop service from Dubai to Auckland effective 1st March 2016, bringing many destinations and cities within just one-stop range to New Zealand through direct connections in Dubai.

The new service will be in addition to the award-winning airline's existing flights, meaning that Emirates will then have five services daily into New Zealand – three A380 double-decker services to Auckland via Australia, a daily Christchurch service with a Boeing 777-300ER, and the new non-stop service operated with a Boeing 777-200LR.

The new service will bring New Zealand much closer than at present, with an estimated flight time of just under 16 hours from Dubai to New Zealand and 17 hours, 15 minutes in the other direction, cutting journey times by almost three hours each way. With the introduction of the non-stop service, Emirates will then be flying more than 2,000 seats a day in each direction on New Zealand services.

Operating eastbound as flight EK 448, the service will depart Dubai at 10:05am and arrive in Auckland the following day at 11:00am (local summer time). Eastbound the new flight will offer short connections in Dubai from 24 of Emirates' destinations in Europe. On arrival in Auckland, passengers will be able to connect to a number of other points on codeshare partner Jetstar's domestic flights.

Operating westbound as flight EK 449, the non-stop service will depart Auckland each night (local summer time) at 9:30pm, arriving in Dubai the following morning at 5:45 am (local time), connecting with Emirates' flights to 38 Europe destinations, as well as other destinations in India, Africa and the Middle East.



Cathay Pacific Group's wholly owned sister airline Dragonair will be rebranded as Cathay Dragon. With this development, Cathay Pacific and Dragonair will remain as separate airlines, operating under their own licences. By more closely aligning the two brands, this rebranding will capitalise on Cathay Pacific's international brand recognition and leverage on Cathay Dragon's connectivity into Mainland China. The rebranding will see a new livery created for Cathay Dragon that features a Cathay-style brush wing logo. This livery will appear for the first time on one of Cathay Dragon's Airbus A330-300 aircraft in April and will be progressively introduced to the rest of the airline's fleet.

Hospitality News

OYO Rooms acquires rival ZO Rooms



Hotel accommodation aggregator OYO Rooms has acquired smaller rival ZO Rooms, setting the stage for more consolidation in the segment that has brought thousands of smaller hotels and service apartments online. ZO had been slowly laying off employees to cut costs in the six months prior to the sale. OYO recently claimed a million check-ins on its platform.

Pench-based Tathastu Resorts to open art centre for promoting Rural Tourism

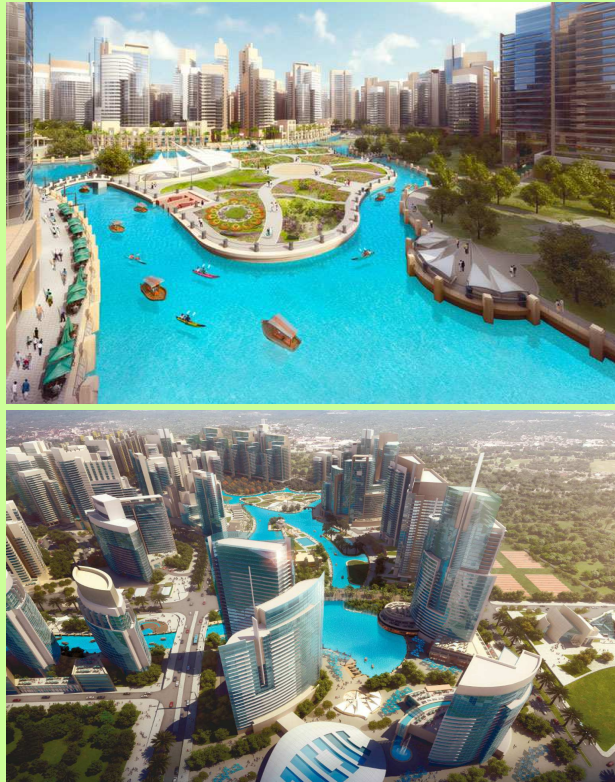


High-end luxury property, Tathastu Resorts, based in Pench, in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh are coming up with an art training centre, where they will be building mud houses for artisans to stay with their families to promote handicrafts. The construction work is underway and by October 1, 2016, the art centre with 8 rooms will be operational. This will be a unique feature of Tathastu Resorts. Guests can stay in a room in these mud houses, consume the food cooked by the artisans and learn the craft, thus promoting Rural Tourism. They will be supplying the kitchen raw material to ensure quality control. However, the taste of the food will be local. They will train the artisans to maintain hygiene. They have shortlisted wood, bamboo, iron, brass, performing arts, pottery, and painting for artisans to initially work on. Six artisans, 2 each for iron, brass & wood carving have already come and started work in make shift huts till their homes are made ready.

Last year, the Pench National Park was thrown open to public on October 1, 15-day earlier than usual. The park closes down on June 30 every year. Therefore tourists throng to the property during the remaining months of the year. Tathastu Resorts, spread over an area of 15 acres, offers services like jungle safari, jungle walk, sky gazing, indoor heated swimming pool, the only one in Central India, and a Spa & Wellness Centre of 8,000 sq ft. Besides, the resort also offers banqueting facility for birthday parties, small group weddings, seminars, conferences, indoor musical nights, etc. ensuring no outdoor sound or inconvenience to other tourists.

Hospitality News

Crystal Lagoons to build India's largest manmade lagoon



Crystal Lagoons, the current holder of two Guinness World Records and the patented technology developer of giant crystalline lagoons, is expanding its global presence with its first project in India with the launch of a 6.5-hectare lagoon in the state of Maharashtra. Located at the heart of the Dream City project, which is currently under phase one of development by leading Indian real estate company, the mixed-use community will feature a sparkling crystalline lagoon used for recreational activities and, due to the layout of the lagoon, a means of transport throughout the development via water taxis.

Entry into the Maharashtra state, home to 114 million people, marks Crystal Lagoons 12th MENASA project and takes the global tally to over 300. The one million square metre project will be home to eight thousand luxury residential units and 50,000 people when completed as well as a host of office buildings, targeting both NRIs, local buyers as well as investors. The development will also cater to a burgeoning tourism market and the city's four million inhabitants with a five star hotel, marine club, multiple restaurants, malls and multiplexes.

Health and well-being will also be a key feature of Dream City with a number of exotic gardens and ample green space set to provide a sense of tranquility and spirituality within a culturally rich lifestyle in the gated community. A partnership with English Premiership side, Liverpool Football Club, and over 30 other sports and games will ensure a platform for future champions is in place.

In addition to the many sports available on land, Crystal Lagoons will also incorporate a diverse range of experiences for keen water sports enthusiasts and families alike. Not only will the network of canals provide a means of transport they will also provide opportunities for kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing and swimming. A total of 100,000 cubic metres (310,600 gallons) of water will be required to fill the 6-hectare lagoon, which will be fringed by a range of recreational areas and estimated to be in the region of US\$200 million investment and will be one of the biggest Lagoons in Asia once completed.

Under a phased development over a decade-long period, the lagoon is scheduled to be operational upon completion of phase one of the project, which has a scheduled launch date of Q2 2016.

Just info...

Globe Trotter—Lapcare Travel Adapter



Lapcare recently launched its travel adapter, which is very easy to carry during travel. The name of adapter is Globe Trotter. This ingenious travel adapter features four of the most common plug configurations able to fit electrical outlets in over 150 countries including US, Canada, China, and most countries in Europe.

Apart from the plug points, the newly launched adapter is built in with dual USB ports with the maximum output of 5V/2.1A.5V/1A. Weighing just 124.9 gms, the ultra portable adapter is aided with LED indicator so as to indicate the charging. Adding to which, the adapter is also supported with built in fuse 6.3A which makes it safer to be used & is CE, ROHS & FCC approved.

Priced at Rs. 1,399/- the newly launched palm size adapter is compact cube designed, which increases Portability.

Its excellent rubber coating surface with flame retardant materials, protects both the charger & devices simultaneously.

Available in 3 different colours—Green, Red & Yellow, users are free to choose the shade that suits them best along with 12 Months warranty. The product is available at leading retails stores & e-commerce portals.

Visa Updates

- Wef 1st February 2016, The Government of Kenya has waived visa fees for all children aged 16 years & below who are accompanying their parents to Kenya.
- The Embassy of The Republic of Indonesia has made it mandatory for mentioning the names of all travelers on the invitation letter. For example, if wife & children are traveling along with the husband, who is going for business purpose, then the invitation letter should have the names & passport numbers of all the travelers ie husband, wife & children.
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- UAE Immigration Authorities have made it mandatory to submit colour copies of Passport (1st two pages, last two pages & observation page if any) wef 30th January 2016.

— Source : Travel Trade Journal (TTJ)

PHOTO FEATURE

Whales of Iceland

Whale museum, Reykjavik, Iceland



Whales of Iceland is the largest whale exhibition in Europe (and perhaps even the world), where guests can learn about the giants of the sea in a calm and modern environment. The permanent exhibition features whales like guests have never seen them before. The whales have a unique presence in the exhibition. Indeed, 23 of them live there, permanently. The exhibition opened on February 27th 2014. The idea was born out of increased interest in whales and their habitat in an era where tourism in Iceland is growing rapidly. Entrepreneur Hörður Bender teamed up with investors from Landsbréf – Icelandic Tourism Fund to realize his vision and develop plans for a state- of-the-art exhibition about the lives and stories of the whales found around Iceland. The purpose is to educate guests about the creatures so many are interested in. The exhibition's locale both functions as an additional venue to see whales, coupled with whale watching, as well as a place where novices and connoisseurs alike can experience marine life at its greatest. The team behind the exhibition has the utmost respect for whales and their habitat and believes that by informing guests this respect will grow, both in Iceland and abroad.

Open Space

Lighter Moments

A young man asked an old rich man how he made his money.

The old guy fingered his worsted wool vest & said, "Well, son, it was 1932. The depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing the apple and, at the end of the day, I sold the apple for ten cents."

"The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent the entire day polishing them & sold them for 20 cents. I continued this system for a month, by the end of which I had accumulated a fortune of \$ 1.37."

"Then my wife's father died & left us two million dollars."

Thought for the Fortnight

A tree is a soldier & a forest is an army. Let us all pray that all battles against this army are lost.

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|---|---|---|
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