



# IAAI Newsletter

April 2016, IInd Fortnight Issue

## Index

Topics	Page Nos.
IATA 2016 Premier Circle Member Worldwide Award to Speedwings	2
Aviation News	3 to 6
Visa News (Malaysia)	7
Hospitality News	7 to 10
Railway News	10
Photo Feature (Krishna's Butter Ball, Mahabalipuram, India)	11
Lighter moment & thought	12
IAAI Director Board	13

## IATA 2016 Premier Circle Member Worldwide Award presented to Speedwings

IATA 2016 Premier Circle Member Worldwide award being presented to Speedwings, the only ATC(Authorized Training Center) and ATS (Accredited Training School) in India, by Mr. Gurjit Gill (Manager, Training Partnership & Business Development) and received by Mrs Mala Prasad (Head - Admin & HR, Speedwings). Ms. Sonali *Chakrabarty* (Local Coordinator - Air India), Mr. Alope Mukherjee (Head- Training & Publications, IATA) and Mr. Lokesh Matta (Regional Manager, South Asia, IATA) and Ms. Jane Johny (Head - Placements, Speedwings) are also seen.



## Aviation News

### Vistara to operate additional services from Delhi to Bengaluru & Goa from May 12



Vistara is set to operate additional frequencies between Delhi and Bengaluru, and Delhi and Goa from May 12, 2016. With this development, Vistara will offer three flights a day between Delhi and Bengaluru in both directions, and two flights a day between Delhi and Goa and thrice daily on weekends. Additionally, the new flights will also now provide same aircraft service between Bengaluru and Srinagar, and also offer a convenient new connection between Srinagar and Goa.

Flight No.	Days of Operation	Route			
867	Daily	Delhi	1445 hrs	Goa	1720 hrs
848	Daily	Goa	1755 hrs	Delhi	2025 hrs
811	Daily	Delhi	0740 hrs	Bangalore	1030 hrs
797	Daily	Bangalore	1110 hrs	Delhi	1350 hrs

### Airlines to refund Delhi Airport development fee charged for journeys after April 30



Directorate  
General of  
Civil  
Aviation

The aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked the airlines to refund the development fee that was charged from the passengers flying out of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on tickets booked for journeys after April 30. At present, the domestic passenger disembarking from Delhi airport shells out INR 100 per flight towards Development Fee (DF) while it is INR 600 for international passengers. The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) had on February 3 directed Delhi International Airport, a joint venture between GMR group, Airports Authority of India and Fraport, to discontinue levying of the development fee from May 1.

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## Aviation News

### Air India to connect Mumbai & Bhavnagar with four weekly flights



Air India Ltd commences flight services to Bhavnagar from Mumbai wef 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016. The new flight, to be operated by the national carrier's regional arm Alliance Air, will be a huge relief to frequent flyers between the two cities and operate four days a week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Air India is commencing operations to the trade city of Saurashtra region in Gujarat to enhance regional connectivity as a part of its 'Connect India' programme, it said. Air India will serve the route with a 70-seater ATR-72.

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South: Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore

## Aviation News

### Club One Air to connect 200 airports by 2020



Club One Air, an Indian luxury jet charter operator is betting big on regional connectivity in the country. The company has become the largest charter owner to have connectivity over 100 airports/ airstrips across nation. The company has also chalked out plans to increase its charter connectivity to nearly 200 airports/ airstrips pan India over next 3-4 years. Recently, COA has achieved 100% remote connectivity in Rajasthan wherever jets can land in the region. The company at present operates to 17 airstrips which are operational and fit for Jet aircraft landings and take-offs, giving a major tourism boost for the state. There are currently nearly 127 airports in India and government is willing to open or restart more airports taking the tally over 430 airports in India which is a good sign however, the need of infrastructure and skilled professionals will play a major role when it comes to developing regional connectivity.

### Air India, Jet to automate check-in process at Mumbai airport for domestic flights



From two self-service kiosks at Terminal 2 (T2) of Mumbai airport that issue boarding passes and checked-in baggage tags on a couple of Air India routes, this service will soon be operational on the entire domestic network of the national carrier and Jet Airways, which collectively cater to more than one-third of domestic fliers in India. Jet Airways already have six counters for domestic fliers and three for international fliers dedicated for web check-in, kiosks check-in and baggage drop services. They will soon introduce baggage tag printing. On April 1, two self-check-in booths installed by the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) began issuing automated boarding cards and baggage tags. The Common-Use Self (check-in) Service (CUSS), set up at T2, the airport's new integrated terminal, will also generate tags for checked-in bags. Fliers using the service can skip the check-in queues and head to a self-bag-drop counter where an airline staffer will verify the tag and complete the check-in process faster.

### flydubai unveils new look of its in-flight entertainment system

Dubai-based flydubai announced its latest onboard services as part of its ongoing commitment to providing an enjoyable overall travel experience. WiFi connectivity, live television streaming and a new seatback inflight entertainment interface mark another milestone in the carrier's cabin product enhancement series.



## Aviation News

### Scoot Airlines starts operations in India



Singapore Airlines' no-frills brand Scoot announced the launch of its service from Singapore to Chennai, Amritsar, and Jaipur. Scoot, which began operations in 2012, becomes Singapore Airlines' fourth brand to operate flights to India. While flights to Chennai and Amritsar will begin from May 24, the flight to Jaipur will commence from October 2.

The airline will have daily flights to Chennai and four weekly flights to Jaipur and Amritsar. The airline is offering limited one-way economy class seats to Singapore and Sydney at a promotional all-inclusive fare of Rs 4,255 and Rs 12,567, respectively, from all the three cities. Business-class fares to Singapore and Sydney are Rs 11,902 and Rs 30,520, respectively.

At present, Singapore Airlines and its two other brands — SilkAir and Tigerair — fly to India. Scoot's entry is resulting in some capacity adjustments and Scoot is taking over Tigerair's flight between Singapore and Chennai. The addition of flights to Amritsar and Jaipur takes the number of destinations served by the Singapore Airlines group's carriers to 15. This makes Singapore Airlines group the largest among foreign airlines in India on the basis of destinations.

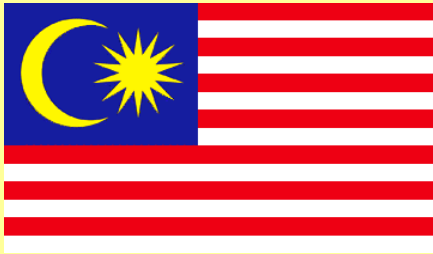
Scoot flies wide-body Boeing 787 planes with 335 seats and will be the second low-cost airline after AirAsia X to operate wide-body aircraft to India. Scoot offers business-class seating but charges economy-class passengers for meals and luggage.

Jaipur is a new destination for the Singapore Airlines group and Scoot hopes the flight will attract foreign tourists visiting the city. Singapore Airlines flew to Amritsar for four years till 2008 but withdrew as it felt there was less demand for a full-service airline on the route. Both Amritsar and Jaipur are not linked to Singapore by any carrier at present.

However, Scoot passengers from Chennai will be able travel onward over Singapore only on Scoot and Tigerair network. This is being done to ensure that Scoot does not eat into Singapore Airlines's business in Chennai market.

## Visa News

### Malaysia introduces e-visa for Indian tourists



The Malaysian government recently introduced the Electronic Travel Authorization Visa (e-visa) for a short visit to the country. At this point in time, the e-visa facility is available to Indians residing in India only and is valid for a single journey stay of maximum 30 days in Malaysia for tourism purposes. The Malaysia e-visa will cost INR 2,710 and can be obtained within 24-48 hours with a validity of 3 months. Tourism Malaysia is an

agency under Malaysia Tourism and Culture Ministry. India is a significant contributor to the tourism economy of Malaysia and ranks sixth as a source market globally.

## Hospitality News

### Brigade Group and AccorHotels announce opening of Grand Mercure Mysuru



GRAND MERCURE

Bengaluru-based Brigade Group and AccorHotels have jointly announced the opening of Grand Mercure Hotel in Mysuru in Karnataka. Set in the historical city's heartland, north of the majestic Mysore Palace, the hotel has 146 spacious and well-appointed contemporary rooms and suites and is located within close proximity of all major tourist attractions as well as the central business district. The Grand Mercure Mysuru is situated on the legendary new Sayaji Rao Road that witnesses the world-famous Dasara procession. The sixth floor of the hotel features an exquisite viewing gallery overlooking the Dasara processional pathway, allowing guests to enjoy an exclusive view of the magnificent festivities the city is globally renowned for.

### AccorHotels opens Mercure Hyderabad KCP



AccorHotels has opened Mercure Hyderabad KCP, marking the group's fourth property and its first mid-scale brand hotel in the city. The property is a short drive from the Hyderabad airport and within close proximity to several tourist attractions, with shopping malls such as GVK, City Center, Hyderabad Central and Banjara Hills just a short walking distance away. The property features 128 well-appointed rooms, three food and beverage outlets and five contemporary meeting and banquet spaces, equipped to cater business and leisure travellers.

## Hospitality News

### MTDC hosts a Selfie Competition across Maharashtra resorts



Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) announced their 'Selfie Contest' across all their resorts in Maharashtra from April 1 to May 31, 2016. The contest will give a chance to its loyal guests, eligible for the contest after officially staying at the MTDC Resorts across Maharashtra between April 1 to May 31, 2016, to win exciting stays and souvenirs from MTDC. Guests staying at MTDC resorts during the contest period will have to click a 'Selfie' in its vicinity to be

visible enough and upload the picture on MTDC's active social media handles like Facebook and Twitter. MTDC is also promoting the 'Selfie Awareness' programme which focuses on safety measurements to be taken while clicking a Selfie.

### Lords Hotels & Resorts signs luxury Boutique Resort in Thrissur, Kerala



Lords Hotel & Resorts, a prominent mid hotel chain announced the signing of luxury boutique resort at Cheruthuruthy Eco Garden in Thrissur, Kerala. Situated on the banks of Bharathapuzha, second largest river in Kerala, the scenic resort offers guests a blissful experience while staying in abundant natural beauty. Spread in 20 acres and situated at a distance of 30 kms from Thrissur town, the 57-room luxury resort offers a stunning view of the river. Underlying its luxury quotient, the property boasts of butterfly farms, two swimming pools and specially built Couple Spa. Perfectly positioned against the large expanse of rubber plantation and nature trails, it can be a perfect abode for anyone looking for a break from their busy life. The tree house and the honeymoon cottage by the pond is another USP of property. Besides, for larger families wishing to stay together the resort offers a separate Villa consisting of four bedrooms. The resort offers something for everyone, be it All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) for the adventure enthusiasts, pool tables and air hockey along with other board games in gaming zone, tree house and games for kids or boating and waterfall arrangements for nature lovers. The rain forest by the pond adds to the mystic atmosphere where guests can enjoy rain in any weather of the year. With an aim to seamlessly blend business with pleasure; the resort also has a large banquet with a capacity of 1400 pax meeting all the requirements of the corporate & social functions.



## Hospitality News

### Airbnb, Times Group in strategic partnership



Airbnb, the world's leading communitydriven hospitality company , has announced a strategic partnership with the Times Group. The tie-up is part of Airbnb's plans to focus on developing the Indian travel market. The Times Group will drive awareness of Airbnb accommodations, and help the San Francisco-based company create a localized presence for India, leveraging the group's vast network of media and operational resources. This is a key partnership for Times Global Partners, an initiative from the Times Group, that supports the launch and

expansion of emerging global digital companies in India. Previously, Times Global Partners has partnered with The Huffington Post, Coursera, as well as other digital companies.

### Conrad Hotels & Resorts announces debut of Conrad Pune



The smart luxury and intuitive service of the Conrad Hotels & Resorts brand debuts in India with the opening of Conrad Pune. Located in the heart of the central business district near Koregaon Park, the iconic Art Décor inspired Conrad Pune is the epitome of curated experience, services and sophisticated style. The hotel is managed by Hilton Worldwide and owned by Palm Grove Beach Hotels Pvt. Ltd., a wholly

owned subsidiary of the K Raheja Constructions Group.

### India's 1st Pod taxis in Gurgaon soon



Pod taxis, an idea with which Indian states have flirted for years, will finally debut in Gurgaon. The National Highways Authority of India has laid the groundwork to roll out India's first personal rapid transit (PRT) network and will invite global bids for the project within the next fortnight. The pilot project will span a 13km stretch from the Gurgaon-Delhi border to Badshapur Mod on Sohna Road.

A project called the Metrino (in pic) -a PRT system in which pods are suspended from an overhead rail -has been under consideration for a while. Every pod can take up to five passengers. For the pilot project route, 16 stations have been planned, starting near Ambience Mall. A personal rapid transit (PRT) network is made up of small automated vehicles running at close intervals on a guideway with docking stations for passengers to get on and get off. While a pod can accommodate up to five people, there is

also an option to hire an entire pod that will take a passenger straight to the destination, skipping the scheduled stops. The average speed of the pods is 60kmph.

## Hospitality News

### Western Coalfields starts Eco mine tourism near Nagpur



In a first of its kind initiative in India, Coal India has embarked on a project to showcase the minimal environmental impact and the eco-friendliness of mining operations by premiering mine tourism for the public. Under this project, the company's subsidiary, Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) has created an eco-park on 15 acres of land which lies between the Saoner and Gondgaon mines near Nagpur in Maharashtra and is offering a free conducted tour of two coal mines for the public.

Christened Eco Mine Tourism, the tour, open for the public on weekdays as well as weekends, include a peek into how mining operations are carried in an opencast as well as underground mine besides spending time in the eco-park. While people are allowed to see the Gondgaon opencast mine from a viewpoint, one needs a medical clearance to enter the underground mine at Saoner to get a feel about a miner's work-day. The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has also approached the Miniratna company to include mine tourism in their circuit. The "paid" MTDC tour will commence later this month. The eco-park, which lies in the catchment area of the mines & has been conceived, planned and built with in-house material at an Rs 60,00,000 investment has already been pulling crowds.

Showcasing of real mines to the public and such ecological endeavors are common in Australia, USA, Canada, Finland, Germany, Norway, Japan, Chile, Bolivia and several other countries but new in India.

## Railway News

### Now cancel PRS Railway tickets through phone or IRCTC website



Railways has announced two new ways to cancel a confirmed train ticket to make sure passengers don't have to run to the station within a stipulated period of time to do so. Railway passengers can now conveniently cancel their confirmed ticket by dialing 139 through their phones.

The passenger has to follow a few easy steps :-

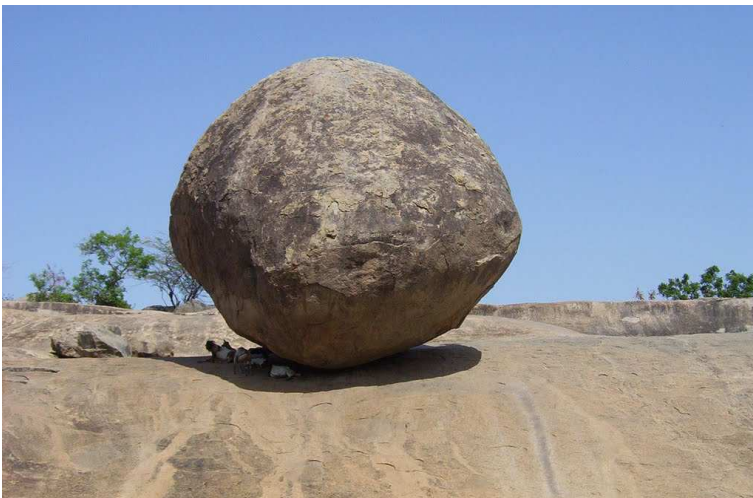
- Dial 139 or log into IRCTC website and give details of the ticket that you wish to cancel.
- You will get a one-time-password (OTP).
- To get the refund, you will only have to provide the OTP at the Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter.

Apart from this, confirmed tickets can now also be cancelled using the IRCTC website. Both the services have been made available from April 29, 2016. The move was an attempt to provide relief to passengers for cancellation of tickets and that both of the services were something the Railway Budget 2016-17 had promised. After the change in refund rules, a lot of passengers were finding it difficult to reach counters to cancel the reserved tickets within the stipulated time and as a result, they were losing money.

## PHOTO FEATURE

### Krishna's Butter Ball

**A balancing rock at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India**



Krishna's Butterball is a curious tourist attraction in Mahabalipuram, a town about 60 km south of Chennai famous for its stone carvings. The "butterball" is a giant balancing rock, 5 meters in diameter, perched on a smooth slope, seemingly defying all laws of physics. In Hindu mythology Lord Krishna had an insatiable appetite for butter, and as a child, would often sneak a handful from his mother's butter jar. Situated on a hill slope near the Ganesh Ratha this massive natural rock boulder is attributed to a bolus of butter the young Krishna would steal. The rock's awkward position makes it quite popular with locals and tourists alike as it makes for an interesting backdrop for some whacky photographs. It's a common sight to see visitors placing hands under the stone posing for pictures, which looks as though they are holding it up. The rock provides welcome shade if you dare to sit underneath it, and local kids have discovered that the slippery nearby hillside also makes a great natural slide. Mahabalipuram is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



## Open Space

### Lighter Moments

**Boy To Gym Coach: “I Wanna Impress Cute Girl, I’m Gonna Meet  
In 3 Days Which Machine Should I Use?”**

**Coach: “Use The ATM Machine Outside The Gym”**

### *Thought for the Fortnight*

**Stand up for what you believe in, even if it means standing  
alone .**

**— Yogi Cameron**

## IAAI Director Board

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