



IAAI Newsletter

May 2016, 1st Fortnight Issue

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Aviation News

Air India launches self check-in facility at 26 domestic airports



Air India has made available self-check-in facility to its fliers at 26 domestic airports, including Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Hyderabad, which allows passengers to skip check-in queues and head to a dedicated baggage drop counter. The introduction of the self check-in kiosks also known as 'Common Use Self Service' (CUSS) from May 1, reduces significant amount of time for a flier at the airport. Air India is the first airline in the country to have this facility at such a large number of airports. Air India's domestic fliers can now procure boarding pass by using the facility near the check-in area at 26 airports. According to Air India, the kiosks help in extended service availability, reduce customer wait time, eliminate queues, expand service capacity with multiple kiosks, thereby speeding up the check-in experience.

The airports where the facility has been provided include Aurangabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Coimbatore, Cochin, Chennai, Goa, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Nagpur, New Delhi, Mumbai, Mangalore, Raipur, Rajkot, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Visakhapatnam and Varanasi. The self check-in kiosks will be in addition to the offline counters.

Flybe inks unilateral code-share agreement with Air India



Flybe has signed its tenth code-share partnership, this time with Star Alliance member Air India, enabling travellers using its multi-frequency Birmingham services from Belfast City, Edinburgh and Glasgow to book seamless flights onward to Delhi. Under the unilateral agreement, Air India (AI) will place its marketing code on these Flybe flights (BE). Seats will be available for booking via the Air India website at airindia.in or through local travel agents from May 10, 2016, with travel effective from June 1. Passengers who are members of Air India's Frequent Flier Programme will accrue mileage points for journeys taken on flights carrying the AI flight number. The new partnership offers numerous benefits to customers who will be able to use a single ticket to fly from their local airport to Delhi via a seamless connection through Birmingham Airport onto Air India's daily flights to New Delhi.

Aviation News

GoAir to commence daily evening operations between Delhi-Srinagar effective June 15



GoAir announced that it will become the first airline to offer direct daily evening flights connecting Delhi and Srinagar as part of airline's network development. GoAir will be the only airline with last arrival and departure in the valley.

Effective June 15, 2016 and as per its latest proposed schedule, the GoAir flight G8 229 will take off from Delhi at 16:50hrs and arrive in Srinagar at 18:10hrs while the return flight G8 228 will take off from Srinagar at 18:40 and arrive Delhi at 20:05hrs. Tickets for the flights are now open and can be booked. There was a long standing demand from local authorities, leisure travellers and various trade organisations for operating flights post 6 pm in the valley. This new schedule will help local traders and officials transiting between Srinagar and Delhi. The leisure travellers can now spend more time in the valley before heading back home.

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Aviation News

Alliance Air to launch two new routes from Bhopal on May 23



Air India is all set to give momentum to its 'Connect India' programme by launching its services on the two new routes. Air India's wholly owned subsidiary, Alliance Air will start flights on Bhopal-Jabalpur-Hyderabad and Bhopal-Raipur-Pune sectors from May 23, 2016. These services will fulfill a long standing demand of the students' community, IT, Industrial and defence sectors.

Alliance Air will operate a 72 seater ATR aircraft on these routes thus giving connectivity to smaller destinations within the country under the Government's scheme of connecting all cities in India. The commencement of these routes shall connect Bhopal with Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana and Pune, Maharashtra for the first time. Alliance Air currently operates flights to 31 domestic destinations, a number which will increase to 34 destinations after the launch of these flights.

Flight AI 9863 on Bhopal-Jabalpur-Hyderabad shall operate four days a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The flight will take-off from Bhopal at 0845 hrs. and reach Jabalpur at 0950 hrs. The flight will take-off from Jabalpur at 1020 hrs. for its onward journey and will reach Hyderabad at 1220 hrs. The return flight AI 9864 will take-off from Hyderabad at 1250 hrs. and will reach Jabalpur at 1450 hrs. The flight will leave Jabalpur at 1450 hrs. and will touch down at Bhopal at 1625 hrs. Alliance Air will commence another direct flight AI 9867/9868 between Bhopal and Jabalpur from 16th June 2016. The flight will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays thereby making the operation on this route a daily one. The flight AI 9865 on the second route - Bhopal-Raipur-Pune - will take off from Bhopal at 0845 hrs. and reach Raipur at 1015 hrs. The flight will leave Raipur at 1045 hrs. and will reach Pune at 1300 hrs. The return flight AI 9866 will leave Pune at 1330 hrs. and reach Raipur at 1545 hrs., depart Raipur at 1615 hrs. and will touch down at Bhopal at 1745 hrs. This flight shall operate thrice a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. With aircraft based in Bhopal, this will give a much required impetus and connectivity for and from the state.

The Government is set to allow airlines have a greater say while deciding locations for new no-frills airports. Under this plan, airlines will be asked to submit a detailed plan on the viability of the location, following which the ministry will consult the government of the state where the airport will be built. Airlines will be asked to furnish specific details like the capacity they want to deploy, type of aircraft they will fly and expected occupancy levels. New airports that will be built should be demand driven. Developing infrastructure without knowing its potential does not make any sense.

Aviation News

Air Canada adds non-stop flights from Vancouver to New Delhi



AIR CANADA

Air Canada is introducing non-stop flights from Vancouver to New Delhi, India beginning October 20, 2016. The seasonal, three-times weekly flights complement Air Canada's Toronto-Delhi non-stop service launched last fall. Customer response to Toronto-Delhi service has been extremely positive, and with this new seasonal Vancouver route, airline is strategically increasing its presence in the important Asia-Pacific market. New non-stop Dreamliner flights from our Vancouver hub will also offer the shortest elapsed flying time from Calgary, Edmonton, Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles to New Delhi.

Flights will operate three-times-weekly October 20, 2016 to April 8, 2017 with Air Canada's state-of-the-art Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft featuring 30 International Business Class lie-flat pod suites, 21 Premium Economy and 247 Economy Class seats with upgraded in-flight entertainment at every seat throughout the aircraft. Air Canada is the first North American carrier to offer Premium Economy services that feature priority boarding, check-in and baggage handling in addition to a separate, spacious cabin with premium meal and beverage services. All Air Canada flights provide for Aeroplan accumulation and redemption and, for eligible customers, priority check-in, Maple Leaf Lounge access, priority boarding and other benefits.

New Pune to Vijaywada route on Spicejet Airlines

Following connection from Pune - Vijayawada has been started by Spicejet Airlines with immediate effect till 28th October 2016.



Sector	:	Pune to Vijaywada via Hyderabad
Flight No.	:	SG 517 / SG 3309
Departure	:	3.50 pm
Arrival	:	7.40 pm
Connecting time	:	1 hr 10 min
Frequency	:	Daily except Saturday

Aviation News

BIAL launches third edition of Playport in Kempegowda International Airport



Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has announced the commencement of 'Playport', a fun customer engagement activity, designed specifically for the holiday passengers who pass through the airport in larger numbers during this time of the year. The concept revolves around turning Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB) into a playground where children have fun and experience the airport in a whole new way. Based on the theme of 'Then & Now' Playport strives to enhance the experience of travelers through a series of fun activities and visuals that showcases the games of yesteryears combined with the latest digital gadgets. Passengers can enjoy a life-size Hopscotch, Snakes & Ladders alongside PSP and Xbox games and even send a postcard to their loved ones right at the airport. Additionally, magic shows, balloon sculpturing, tattoo artists, upcycled goods workshop and other exciting activities will be a part of Playport. This on-ground activity will be on till May 15. This customer engagement is part of BIAL's ongoing endeavour to create a unique experience for its guests. BIAL organized the first edition of Playport in 2011, which was introduced to reach the young traveler and featured interesting activities and workshops.

IndiGo to introduce 10 flights across its network

IndiGo will launch ten new flights within India and Oman. Effective May 16, 2016, IndiGo will commence an additional flight connecting Delhi to Ranchi. With effect from June 21, 2016, the airline will introduce its first flight on the Kochi-Muscat route, while also launching its second flight connecting Hyderabad to Kochi. Furthermore, effective June 22, 2016, IndiGo will begin operations with its first flight between Hyderabad and Coimbatore & Hyderabad and Nagpur.

Flight	Origin	Destination	Dep	Arr	Frequency	Effective
6E 501	Delhi	Ranchi	18:10	19:55	2nd non-stop daily flight	16th May 2016
6E 504	Ranchi	Delhi	20:35	22:20	2nd non-stop daily flight	16th May 2016
6E 83	Kochi	Muscat	18:55	21:00	1st non-stop daily flight	21st June 2016
6E 84	Muscat	Kochi	22:00	03:05	1st non-stop daily flight	21st June 2016
6E 331	Hyderabad	Kochi	16:20	17:55	2nd non-stop daily flight	21st June 2016
6E 334	Kochi	Hyderabad	05:15	06:50	2nd non-stop daily flight	22nd June 2016
6E 405	Hyderabad	Coimbatore	07:20	08:40	1st non-stop daily flight	22nd June 2016
6E 409	Coimbatore	Hyderabad	09:10	10:40	1st non-stop daily flight	22nd June 2016
6E 434	Hyderabad	Nagpur	11:10	12:10	1st non-stop daily flight	22nd June 2016
6E 435	Nagpur	Hyderabad	12:40	13:40	1st non-stop daily flight	22nd June 2016

Aviation News

Kushinagar international airport project in UP to take wings



The proposed international airport at Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh, bordering Nepal and Bihar would be the first 'destination airport' in the region. The international airport project, which has been hanging fire for almost a decade over successive regimes, both at the Centre and the state, would be part of the 'Heritage Tourism Circuit' launched by the central government in December 2015. Lord Buddha is believed to have attained 'Nirvana' at Kushinagar and is thus a principal Buddhist tourism site. However, there is no direct air connectivity, which affects tourism. The popular Buddhist Tourism Circuit comprises several districts in Eastern UP and adjoining areas in Bihar, including Kushinagar, Sarnath (Varanasi), Kaushambi, Shravasti and Kapilvastu. The proposed airport is aimed at connecting the Circuit directly with countries accounting for maximum tourist arrivals viz. Japan, Myanmar, Korea, China, Thailand, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, besides domestic tourists. Kushinagar has an existing airstrip spanning 97 acres to handle small aircraft.

Hospitality News

Coming, holiday homes in Dubai



Home owners in Dubai will be able to rent their properties directly without having to go through an approved operator after the emirate's tourism agency updated regulations. Home owners in Dubai can now apply for a holiday home licence if they meet all criteria. They can rent only the full accommodation. Room rentals are prohibited. Tenants who rent a property can also lease their accommodation as a holiday home with a short-term permit, if they submit a no-objection certificate from their landlord and meet Dubai Tourism's requirements. The move could bring hundreds of rooms officially on to the market as the emirate aims to diversify its accommodation offerings to host an expected 20 million tourists in 2020.

Imagica introduces Snow Park in Khopoli, Maharashtra



Imagica has recently introduced Snow Park, which is located in Khopoli, off the Mumbai-Pune expressway in Maharashtra and built over an area of 30,000 sq. ft. The Snow Park offers activities for guests visiting in batches of 400 people at a time for a 45 minutes session. Starting from 10 am, guests need to arrive 30 minutes before the show time, where they will be geared up with snow boots, jackets and gloves. They can enjoy by playing basketball, sliding down the toboggans and rafts, climbing the rocky snowy mountains, having a snow-ball fight or just relaxing and sipping a cup of coffee at minus 5 degrees. Guests can also look forward to spending their time doing activities like snow hiking, snow rafting as well as dance on the snow dance floor or pose amidst the snow castle and one-of-its-kind ice sculptures. There are 3 Snow Cafés around the park, which serve tea, coffee, hot chocolate and snacks.

Hospitality / Rail News

Russia 'gunning' for tourists with Military Tourism



Firing Kalashnikovs, flying gunships, stomping about in tanks and sweating it out in army fatigues, that's Russia's cutting edge arsenal of ideas for attracting tourists. Amid the annexation of Crimea and the conflict with Ukraine, "military tourism" appears all set to boom in Russia.

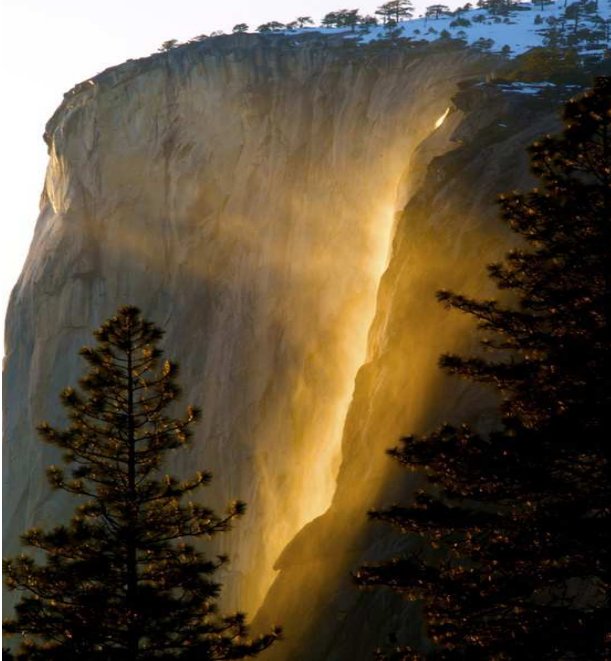
Inbound tour operators are offering tourists a quasi-combat experience, be it firing AK-47 assault rifles in underground firing ranges, roaring on in T-90 tanks or an edge-of-the-space flight in a MiG-29. And the tourists, who are willing to shell out upwards of 15,000-18,000 euros for a spin in the MiG-29, are relishing the opportunity. Next on the agenda is a zero gravity flight experience in a four-engine IL-76 at Nizhniy Novgorod in the Volga federal district. For those who would be reluctant to fly in a fighter jet and more at home close to land, there's Uralvagonzavod, one of the world's largest manufacturers of tanks located around 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from Moscow, which has been offering tourists a ride in the mighty T-90 from April this year, or a visit to the armour museum in the national capital, where tanks from the great war, armoury and other military equipment are on display. For those with vintage taste and World War buffs, Russian leader Joseph Stalin's bunker in Moscow is now a tourist attraction too.

If one wishes to have a live and feel about what's it to be like in the army, a new tourism circuit allows you to spend a day in a military training camp and train with soldiers in fatigues. The objects of war and the thrill of handling tanks and weapons is catching up as a tourism offering. Three years ago Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu even offered to organise a new sport-military show - a tank Biathlon for tourists, which involves a speed race through manoeuvres and taking precision shots from the tank's canon.

4 new trains launched in Kashmir



Almost eight years after a train was introduced in this land of the mountains, Northern Railways on Thursday launched four new DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) trains in the valley. The trains will ply on the Banihal to Baramulla and Baramulla to Budgam routes respectively. The limited stop DEMU trains are likely to bring about smiles on plenty of faces as travelling between these places will become easier for the local residents of the state. Besides, it opens up an opportunity for travellers to explore the state in a way they have never done before. Locals say they are already feeling excited and badly want to go on a trip just to board these trains. This comes across another pleasant travellers for all Indian train travellers. At the same time when Kashmir's new trains were introduced, Indian Railways also launched free Wi-Fi services at Vijayawada, Kacheguda and Raipur railway stations.

PHOTO FEATURE**Horsetail Fall, Yosemite National Park,
California, USA**

Horsetail Fall, located in Yosemite National Park in California, is a seasonal waterfall that flows in the winter and early spring. The fall occurs on the east side of El Capitan. If Horsetail Fall is flowing in February and the weather conditions are just right, the setting sun illuminates the waterfall, making it glow orange and red. This natural phenomenon is often referred to as the "Firefall", a name that pays homage to the manmade Firefall that once took place in Yosemite. This waterfall descends in two streams side by side, the eastern one being the larger but both quite small. The eastern one drops 1,540 feet (470 m), and the western one 1,570 feet (480 m), the highest fully airborne waterfall in Yosemite that runs at some point every year. The waters then gather and descend another 490 feet (150 m) on steep slabs, so the total height of these waterfalls is 2,030 ft (620 m) to 2,070 ft (630 m). The image shown here is taken during a brief time during the winter, near February 21 at sunset, made famous by Galen Rowell's photograph. The fall is best seen and photographed from a small clearing close to the picnic area on the north road leading out of Yosemite Valley east of El Capitan.

Open Space

Lighter Moments

An employee goes to see his supervisor in the front office.

“Boss,” he says, “we’re doing some heavy house-cleaning at home tomorrow, and my wife needs me to help with the attic and the garage, moving and hauling stuff.”

“We’re short-handed,” the boss replies. “I can’t give you the day off.”

“Thanks, boss,” says the employee “I knew I could count on you!”

Thought for the Fortnight

When I do good, I feel good.

When I do bad, I feel bad.

That’s my religion.

— Abraham Lincoln

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