



IAAI Newsletter

August 2016, IInd Fortnight Issue

Index

Topics	Page Nos.
IAAI News (i-TOP Advantages)	2
Aviation News	3 to 8
Advertisement Section	4
Hospitality News	9
Photo Feature (Pan Cake Rocks, New Zealand)	10
Lighter moments & Thought for the fortnight	11
IAAI Director Board	12

IAAI News

Further to the decision in the July IAAI(NMC) meet at Kochi to revive i-TOP, following are the advantages that members would benefit by using the same.

i-TOP Advantages

You are already aware of all the salient features of this Portal such as - using your own BSP capping, IATA validation and BSP reporting & payment systems and also the benefits of a Consolidator that you would enjoy with the collective productivity of all the Members bringing it an equal share of the incentive.

Here are a few of the other advantages of becoming a User of i-TOP with regular updates to follow :-

- **OWN YOUR OWN PORTAL**
- **Get access to competitive and cheaper fares**
- **Retain your own Agency name & identity while booking & ticketing**
- **Use your own IATA / BSP prevailing Financial Guarante**
- **Make your own BSP Sales transmittals**
- **Make your own weekly payments to BSP**
- **Process your own cancellations & refunds**
- **Avail the segment incentives of the GDS**
- **Login / access exclusively restricted to IATA Agents with IAAI membership.**
- **Each Member assigned with an individual login password**

For the kind attention of all those Members who had been Users of i-TOP8, please intimate your intention of participating in the revived i-TOP project by sending a mail to itop@iaai.in with a copy to tohdq@iaai.in

i-TOP PUTS YOU ON TOP-!

Aviation News

Vistara launches suite of ancillary products and services



Vistara India announced the launch of a suite of ancillary products and services designed to enhance the travel experience and offer more product options at attractive discounted prices. The airline is launching electronic coupon booklets or 'e-coupon books' that are available for purchase for all classes of travel. These e-booklets will offer substantial savings to regular fares, and can be customised to the travel sector, class of travel, validity period and flexibility level desired by customers.

Customers can purchase either confirmed or standby upgrades by 'Class Upgrade' to Business Class or Premium Economy in advance. While confirmed upgrades will assure a seat in the higher class cabin, standby upgrades offered at lower rates are on the basis of space availability.

Customers can now purchase access to Vistara's signature lounge at New Delhi's T3, and to partner lounges at other metro airports. Customers can also pre-purchase excess baggage at a 25% discount to rates payable at the airport. Excess baggage can be bought for 5/10/20/30 kg segments.

All of these products and services can be purchased online during the booking process, or added post-booking through the 'Manage My Booking' function.

Central Govt planning for new Airport models



Central Government is building a unique airport in which the airstrip would be used both as a runway as well as a highway. The airport is being built in Rajasthan. 'Once the road is closed', the highway can be used for planes to take off and land, adding that the government is planning to build more such airports. In hilly areas like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura and in border districts, Government will construct more such airports with help from defence authorities and have identified certain sites. The more airports country have, more convenient it will be for people, and will also increase tourism.

Aviation News

IndiGo introduces 'Flexible Fare' & 'Lite Fare'

IndiGo

Jet-setters often don't know where they'll be from one day to the next, which means their travel dates may change more than a few times. By choosing the new Flexible Fare by IndiGo, they can change to another flight at no extra charge. With the regular fare, this change costs INR 2250 per person per sector. Additionally, Flexible Fare offers them complimentary seat selection.

Corporate travellers take flights as often as some take taxis. For those that frequently make daily round trips with no check-in baggage, IndiGo has also introduced the Lite Fare. These significantly lower fares can be selected on bookings made at least 15 days before the date of travel. In case the traveller does land up having check-in baggage of up to 15 kgs, they can pay a fee of INR 200 at the airport.

Advertisement Section

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Aviation News

Round the clock services at Bhubaneswar Airport from Sept 1



In an endeavour to attract international flight operators, Bhubaneswar's Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) will remain open round the clock from September 1, 2016. BPIA authorities have decided to keep the airport in Bhubaneswar open round the clock. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has already given permission for day and night operation of the airport. However, it may be noted that international flight operators are yet to turn up to introduce flights from the BPIA.

Tigerair looking to offer enhanced connections with Value Alliance membership



Singapore-headquartered budget airline, Tigerair is looking at offering enhanced connections to Indian travellers through its membership with Value Alliance. Value Alliance is a pan-regional low-cost carrier alliance, which was formed on May 16 this year and comprises eight member airlines. With the combined strength of its members, Value Alliance offers connections to 160 destinations across Asia Pacific region.

Through a proprietary technology, Value Alliance will allow travellers to be able to view, select and book online the best-available airfares on the flights of any of the Value Alliance airlines in a single transaction, including the full suite of ancillary choices offered by all partner airlines. This accords customers of each airline more destinations, more routing options and more convenience. Value Alliance comprises Cebu Pacific, Jeju Air, Nok Air, NokScoot, Scoot, Tigerair Singapore, Tigerair Australia and Vanilla Air.

Currently, Scoot operates flights to 15 cities in India namely Bengaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Lucknow, Tiruchirapalli, Thiruvananthapuram, Kolkata, Vizag, Amritsar, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi. The SIA Group is the largest foreign airline in India in terms of reach as SIA, SilkAir, Tigerair and Scoot. This is the largest after Air India (in terms of offering direct international flights out of Indian cities). The Group's strategy is to develop a new destination by launching flights with SilkAir or Tigerair that operate narrow body planes. Tigerair's and Scoot's combined network covers 55 destinations in 18 countries across Asia Pacific. Indian travellers have the choice of onward connections from Singapore via Tigerair to Bali, Bangkok, Cebu, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila Ho Chi Minh City and Yangoon, while Scoot offers services to Sydney, Perth, Melbourne and Gold Coast.

Aviation News

AirAsia to connect Bengaluru to Hyderabad, Goa and Guwahati



AirAsia India announced its fleet and route expansions plan in its hub, Bengaluru. AirAsia India's seventh A320, 180 seater one class aircraft will be operational from September 22, 2016. As a part of its continued expansion, AirAsia India will connect Hyderabad (HYD), Bengaluru (BLR) and Goa (GOI) on a daily basis. Keeping in mind the Government of India's vision of improving regional connectivity and increasing the airlines footprint in the North East region, AirAsia India will also connect Bengaluru to Guwahati (GAU) with a daily service. Guests can book their flights on www.airasia.com and avail fares starting from INR 1499, INR 2499 and INR 5499 for flights from BLR – HYD, HYD – GOI and BLR – GAU respectively. With the addition of one more new sector, AirAsia India will fly to 11 destinations with its hubs in Bengaluru and New Delhi covering Chandigarh, Jaipur, Guwahati, Imphal, Goa, Pune, Vizag, Kochi and Hyderabad in its network of destinations.

Centre plans 50 new airports in three years to enhance connectivity



India, the fastest growing aviation market in the world, is set to get 50 new airports in the next three years as part of a plan to boost regional connectivity, and of these, at least 10 will become operational over the next one year. The Government, will support newer entrants in the aviation space by "light hand-holding". To give wings to the ambitious regional connectivity plan, the government will take up some of the so-called ghost airports through a yet-to-be-finalised viability gap funding plan. India has more than 30 non-operational airports and more than 400 airstrips dating back to World War II. As part of the plan, some of the existing non-functional airports owned by the Airports Authority of India Ltd in Maharashtra, including Solapur, Jalgaon, Akola, Nanded and Shirdi, will be developed into no-frills airports. The regional connectivity model will be based on viability gap funding, under which 80% of the cost will be borne by the state government and the rest by the centre. The subsidies will be doled out for a period of three years. The new civil aviation policy cleared by the Union cabinet on 15 June aims to take flying to the masses. The civil aviation ministry announced a complex regional connectivity policy that seeks to connect unconnected towns. This will be done by capping fares at about INR.2,500 for these routes and helping airlines with funding. The funds will be generated by charging a cess on other domestic flights.

Aviation News

IndiGo adds Port Blair as its 41st destination



IndiGo has announced the addition of Port Blair as its 41st overall and 36th domestic destination in its schedule. The new schedule sees introduction of new daily non-stop flights to Port Blair from Kolkata and Chennai effective September 28 and September 30, 2016 respectively. Port Blair will also be connected to Delhi (via Kolkata) and Hyderabad (via Chennai) also. Celebrating its 10th year in Indian skies, the airline will also launch additional frequencies with daily non-stop flight between Delhi and Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai and Hyderabad and Varanasi sectors.

IndiGo, in its commitment to providing maximum connectivity from across the country on its network by catering to various segments will see both corporate and leisure passengers travelling to and from Port Blair and will now have the opportunity to experience the hassle-free and on-time performance that IndiGo is synonymous with. These new flights will further consolidate IndiGo's position as the fastest growing airline in India, with 112 Airbus A320 aircraft - 6E will operates 846 daily flights, connecting 41 destinations w.e.f September 30, 2016. On the international sector, IndiGo in August launched first daily non-stop flight between Chandigarh - Dubai and second daily non-stop on Kochi - Dubai sector. On the domestic front, IndiGo also recently introduced additional frequencies in Agartala - Kolkata sector, 1st non-stop flight on the Kolkata-Visakhapatnam-Kolkata sector and 5th daily non-stop flight between Kolkata and Hyderabad.

To ensure a hassle-free and comfortable journey for its fliers, IndiGo serves a wide range of food and beverage items and also offers an attractive collection of desirable in-flight merchandise for sale at compelling prices. It also gives its passengers the freedom to pre-assign seats and choose seats with extra legroom and avoid check-in lines with the use of Q-busters. Additionally, IndiGo is the only Indian airline today with a 'boarding ramp'. With the recent launch of Fare Types i.e. 'Flexible Fare' and 'Lite Fare', IndiGo plans to strengthen its customer experience allowing passengers to avail much wider choices while travelling with IndiGo.

Scoot offers Low fares for Jaipur - Singapore flight



Scoot Airlines announced exciting offers and fares for its Jaipur - Singapore flight starting October 2, 2016 aiming to bring exceptional value and Scootitude to the guests. At this point, our focus in India is towards building guest awareness on our propositions - value, choices, innovation, and service with Scootitude - and getting them to experience why Scoot has been ranked Asia-Pacific's top LCC for two years running. With Jaipur, we take another step towards the target of steadily increasing our operations in India. The Singapore Airline Group will offer fares starting from INR 4,699 for the economy class from Jaipur to Singapore, and other destinations like Melbourne, Sydney, Hong Kong and Bangkok. The sale period will range from Sept 1 to 11.

Aviation News

Jet Airways starts Wireless Streaming Services on domestic flights

JET AIRWAYS 

"Mobile phone in airplane mode" took on a new meaning on Friday after Jet Airways became the first Indian carrier to offer wireless technology that will allow flyers to stream in-

flight entertainment content on to their personal electronic devices onboard domestic flights. Instead of seat-back screens, flyers onboard its Boeing 737 aircraft equipped with this software-driven technology can watch video and audio content such as movies, TV shorts, music and interactive games from the airline's pre-loaded library on their smartphones, tablets and laptops in airplane mode. The wireless streaming service allows access only to the airline's in-flight entertainment (IFE) content.

At present, six aircraft are equipped with the technology; Jet plans to cover all 75 aircraft that operate largely on the domestic route by March 2017. In a day then, about 50 Jet flights, mostly on routes between Mumbai and Delhi and then Lucknow, Bangkok, Coimbatore, Bengaluru will have the service available at 10,000ft and above. At the time of time booking though, it would not be possible to know whether the aircraft deployed on that particular day to operate that particular flight would offer this service.

The wireless streaming service was first introduced by US's Southwest Airlines on its domestic routes in 2005. The service is now offered by 36 airlines the world over. In the past, in-flight entertainment was offered largely only onboard international flights. In India, Kingfisher Airlines was a pioneer that had seat-back screens onboard its A320 to offer IFE on its domestic flights. Air India domestic passengers onboard its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft operating domestic flights and those onboard its other aircraft that operate flights that have an international and domestic leg clubbed together, like the London-Mumbai-Ahmedabad flight, could enjoy IFE on seat-back screens.

Source : The Times of India

Hospitality News

Dubai Parks & Resorts set for October opening



Dubai Parks & Resorts has announced that the region's largest theme park destination will open its gates to the public on October 31st, 2016. This unique destination will be comprised of three theme parks - Bollywood Parks Dubai, MOTIONGATE Dubai, and LEGOLAND Dubai, together with LEGOLAND Water Park. The destination will also include Riverland Dubai, a themed retail, dining, and entertainment experience, along with the Lapita Hotel, a Polynesian-themed family resort. Dubai Parks & Resorts will become the Middle East's largest multi-themed leisure and entertainment destination when it opens. Expected to open in late 2019, Six Flags Dubai will be the destination's fourth theme park and the regions first Six Flags-operated park. The large-scale AED 13.2 billion development is spread across 30.6 million square feet of land located on Sheikh Zayed Road opposite the Palm Jebel Ali in Dubai equidistant to Dubai and Abu Dhabi International Airports. Some 6.7 million ticketed visits are expected in 2017, the first full year of operation.

Source : www.breakingtravelnews.com

Sarovar Hotels plans expansion in Africa and smaller towns in India



Hotel management chain Sarovar Hotels & Resorts plans to expand its presence in Africa and in tier-II and III towns in India this year. The company will open its fifth hotel in Africa, The Lazizi Premiere, in Nairobi by November. Sarovar operates over 75 hotels currently across 50 destinations in India and Africa and is focusing on its three- and four star brand Portico in its expansion plans.

Besides Portico, the group operates through economy brand Hometel, four- and five-star brand Sarovar Premiere and brands like Radisson, Park Plaza and Park Inn under a franchise agreement with Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. Out of its upcoming 15 properties to be taken over by 2018, 11 would be under the brand Portico. Sarovar opened a hotel in Palampur in Himachal Pradesh this month and is looking at cities like Jaisalmer, Amritsar, and Bhavnagar in the coming months.

Besides other regions, Sarovar will also take over new properties in New Delhi and Bengaluru this year under its Sarovar Portico brand. The company said it expects to take over new properties in Raipur, Gorakhpur, Junagarh and Jalandhar in 2017.

PHOTO FEATURE

Pan Cake Rocks, Punakaiki, New Zealand



Located on New Zealand's South Island, Pancake Rocks sits on the western edge of Paparoa National Park. Layers of limestone and sandstone gathered on the ocean floor. The sandstone was softer than the limestone, and it began to erode. As this process occurred, rock outcroppings that resembled stacks of pancakes began to form. Of course, this did not happen overnight; the process began 30 million years ago.

Open Space

Lighter Moments

A friend asked a gentleman how is it that he never married?

Replied the gentleman, "Well, I guess I just never met the right woman ... I guess I've been looking for the perfect girl."

"Oh, come on now," said the friend, "Surely you have met at least one girl that you wanted to marry."

"Yes, there was one girl .. once. I guess she was the one perfect girl.

The only perfect girl I really ever met. She was just the right everything .. I really mean that she was the perfect girl for me."

"Well, why didn't you marry her," asked the friend.

"She was also looking for the perfect man," he said.

Thought for the Fortnight

All know the way but few actually walk it.

— Bodhidharma

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Full Page	Rs.15000/-	Rs.40000/-	Rs.75000/-	Rs.135000/-
Strips	Rs. 2000/-	Rs.5000/-	Rs.10000/-	Rs.18000/-

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