



IAAI Newsletter

September 2016 — Ist Fortnight Issue

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IAAI News

i-Top Working Group Formation

An IAAI Automation Core Committee Meeting held recently at Mumbai decided to revive and modify i-Top with advanced technologies to meet the BSP and NDC requirements and make it conducive to the Indian market conditions.

The IAAI Director Board had nominated Mr. Manish Synghal, Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (1052/WR), Mumbai (98215 45786 & email id: itop@iaai.in) as Chairman of the Working Group for the portal.

Supporting Mr. Synghal, the following IAAI Members would form the rest of the Working Group in charge of the revival and implementation of i-Top, the 'Indian Travel-Agents Own Portal'.

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IndiGo adds Port Blair as its 41st destination

IndiGo

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. 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 operate 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

Now, First Class and Business Class passengers can take advantage of the recently renovated Oman Air lounges at Muscat airport another premium service from the airline. With immediate effect the Media Box - an e-paper media library, developed by the experts at Media Carrier - will be available to them.

With this, customers can compile their own personal on-board reading material from a comprehensive portfolio of international magazines and an extensive range of daily newspapers. Thanks to collaboration with United Media Services LLC (UMS), a media and communication company in Oman and UAE, the Media Box range has been expanded to include local and Arabian media from the region, exclusively for guests of Oman Air.

The Media Box is a web-based platform that supports any internet-enabled device, smartphone or tablet. Passengers register in the lounge using the free Wi-Fi by entering their name and flight number and can then easily download their chosen reading material. After downloading, newspapers and magazines are presented unabridged and in the same layout used in print versions and can be browsed easily and intuitively.



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OMAN AIR

GoAir announces Hyderabad as its 23rd destination



GoAir announced the launch of its 23rd destination on its network. The airline will launch services from Hyderabad effective October 12, 2016. The new Hyderabad schedule introduces daily non-stop flights connecting Hyderabad to Chennai, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar and Kolkata.

Hyderabad will also be connected to Port Blair via Bangalore which will provide leisure travellers additional travel option. This latest addition to GoAir network reflects the airline's phase of growth with a focus on scaling up operations gradually in the coming weeks while strengthening the value proposition to suit customer's demand. With the new additions of aircraft in coming months, GoAir will operate up to 184 daily flights by the end of December from current 144 daily flights.

SpiceJet signs interline pact with Hahn Air



SpiceJet announced to have signed an interline pact with German scheduled operator and service distributor Hahn Air to spread its presence in the international markets, particularly European destinations. An interline arrangement refers to a pact to issue and accept tickets for flights that are operated by the partner airline.

When selling an interline ticket, the operating airline's own flight numbers are used. According to the release provided by SpiceJet, with this pact, it would be able to sell its flight tickets on Hahn Air's booking system, thereby giving the airline a direct access to the global platform while making passengers' travel worldwide easy. This is the second time the Gurgaon-based airline has entered into such a pact with an overseas airline. In 2013, SpiceJet, then owned by Kalanithi Maran, had tied up with Singapore's Tiger Air for a similar arrangement.

AirAsia India adds 8th aircraft to its fleet

AirAsia

AirAsia India announced the induction of its eighth aircraft. The airline will now operate daily flights connecting Hyderabad and Kochi from October 8, 2016. AirAsia India has also increased its frequencies of flights connecting Bengaluru - Hyderabad and Bengaluru - Kochi. To celebrate the induction of its new aircraft and the introduction of a new route, AirAsia India is offering limited promotional seats for INR 2,999 all-inclusive-fares from Hyderabad to Kochi and vice-e-verse.

IndiGo adds new flights to its domestic network

IndiGo

IndiGo announced the launch of many new flights on its network. Effective September 12, 2016, IndiGo will operate additional flights connecting New Delhi with major cities - Bhubaneswar, Vadodara, Chandigarh and Jammu. IndiGo will also introduce additional frequencies between New Delhi and Kolkata, New Delhi and Ranchi and Kolkata and Bhubaneswar sectors effective September 15, 2016.

IndiGo will continue to expand its network to meet the requirements of both business and leisure travellers wherever they demand it. It is Airline's constant endeavor to provide more flexibility of choice to our customers as IndiGo continues to offer them an

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feedback@frrforex.in

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Pune (Camp, Chinchwad), Gujarat Navsari

South: Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore

Gujrat Tourism to make Virtual Reality Videos to promote Tourism



Those who wonder what's there to see in Gujarat can soon take a sneak peak of what it would be like to walk around the Indus Valley ruins of Lothal and Dholavira, or climb down the intricate 11th century stepwell Rani-ki-vav in Patan alongside the Saraswati river, without actually going there.

Gujarat Tourism Opportunity, a joint venture between Tourism Corporation of Gujarat and development finance company Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), is making a 360-degree immersive live action virtual reality (VR) videos of these three locations, for use at tourism expos. The idea is to make people want to visit the destination so the videos will not be very long. If the pilots generate good response, then the state tourist board could look at commissioning more than 100 videos to showcase different tourist attractions.

While 360 degree videos are a huge improvement in how tourist sites have traditionally been promoted, giving the viewer a sense of the scale and depth of the actual location, experts said it remains too expensive to become a mass solution for tourism promotion.

Source : The Times of India

Blossoms peek out at Kas Plateau



With monsoon on the wane, travel beckons and the buds at Kas plateau might be taking a little while to flower, but officials assure a full bloom by September 15. So, plan your getaway accordingly. popularly known as Kas Pathar, is known for the vivid flora cover it hosts each year.

Spread across 1,000 hectares in Satara district, this plateau reopened to tourists on August 27, a small departure from its usual opening date. There was a slight delay this year, due to constant and heavy rainfall throughout last month. With the cloud cover, there was no sunlight to allow the flowers to start blooming. This time around, authority have started taking ticket bookings from August 26. Between 40% to 50% of the flowers have already bloomed by now. Since the opening, there has been lower rainfall, which has also increased the speed at which the flowers are blooming is taking place across the area. Usually, flowers achieve full bloom at Kas plateau only for three to four weeks and the flora cover changes colour every 10 days, as different flowers bloom. Kas is a UNESCO World Heritage site owing to some rare plant and flower species that are found only in this region.

Source : The Times of India

Delhi to get Water Taxis



The National Capital Region (NCR) would soon have a unique mode of transport to ferry passengers to their destinations. The Ministry of Shipping and Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) plan to launch a 'water taxi' project on the Yamuna, which would run from Delhi's Wazirabad barrage to Fatehpur Jat in Uttar Pradesh.

The 16-km distance is expected to be covered by the water taxi in about 45 minutes.

The central government would spend Rs 28 crore, including the cost of building terminals, dredging and also the cost of vessels. This would be a first-of-its-kind recreational project for the city's citizens and would also serve the purpose of transportation. Five potential terminal sites have been identified on the route.

China completes world's longest bullet train tracks



China's high-speed railway completed over 20,000 kms of track network in the country, becoming world's longest bullet train network. A high-speed railway linking Zhengzhou in China's central Henan Province with Xuzhou in eastern Jiangsu Province opened recently. The 360-km line connects high-speed railway in the west with two major north-south lines, helping cut travel time between the west and east. The travel time between Xi'an and Shanghai is cut to six hours from nearly 11 hours. The line has nine stations and trains run at a speed of up to 300 kph in the initial period. Construction of the line started in December 2012 and test operation started in April 2016.

Source : The Times of India

Access Driving License on your mobile



Soon, you will be able to take your car out without carrying the physical copies of your driving license and the car's registration certificate (RC) with you. The digital version of your important documents can now be stored in a cloud-based platform, DigiLocker, which can be accessed through your mobile phone. The DigiLocker platform, launched on July 1, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has 2.1 million registered users and 2.4 million documents have been uploaded. The government on Wednesday announced the integration of DigiLocker with driving licences and vehicle RCs. With the integration, around 190 million RCs and 90 million driving licences will be available on the platform.

DigiLocker can be used for on-the-spot verification by law enforcement authorities such as the traffic police. Besides being convenient for citizens, this will also ensure authenticity of documents. Road Transport & Highways Ministry stated that the integration would mean less hassle for people, as they won't have to worry about forgetting their driving licence at home. It would also make some people unhappy, he said, in an apparent jibe at policemen taking bribes from those not carrying documents while driving. People will also be able to share authentic digital certificates instead of paper copies of documents for identity and address proof.

The digital locker can be accessed via the DigiLocker mobile app. DigiLocker is a platform for issuance and verification of documents and certificates digitally. When a person signs up, he gets access to a dedicated cloud storage space for his important documents. The ministry of road transport and highways is digitising driving licences and RCs and pushing for maintaining a National Register System. With Wednesday's launch, this has got integrated with DigiLocker. Once data from all regional transport offices is updated in the National Register System, the digital copies of the driving licences and vehicle RCs would also be available via DigiLocker. These digitally signed documents will be treated at par with physical documents, according to the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

Source : Business Standard

Rear view sensor in cars to be mandatory soon



In yet another step towards road safety, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways would soon make it mandatory for all new vehicles to have a rear view sensor or backup camera. The move is aimed at reducing the risk to small children and pedestrians from reversing or rolling back motor vehicles. Over speeding caused around 50,000 fatal accidents a year in the country and, therefore, the central government was planning to make audible speed warnings mandatory in vehicles. Apart from rear view sensors and speed warnings, airbags are also likely to become mandatory.

For two-wheelers, which account for the highest share of accidents in the country, the government has made it compulsory to either have an anti-lock braking system (ABS) or a combined braking system (CBS) by April 2019. The government has also planned providing protection to those who help accident victims. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, which will be introduced in the coming winter session of Parliament, has made provisions for legal protection of good samaritans who help accident victims. The government has added a significant clause under which a good samaritan's affidavit will have the legal force of a statement.

India air travel rises, contrary to global trends



India continues to buck the global trend in domestic air travel with 26.2 per cent traffic growth in July, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Globally, domestic travel demand climbed 3.8 per cent in July, compared to the same month last year, its slowest pace in 19 months, IATA said, adding China and India are booming, while more mature markets are stuck in neutral, and Brazil and Russia are sliding backwards. Globally, domestic capacity climbed 3.7 per cent and load factor rose 0.1 percentage point to 84 per cent.

India outperformed all the other markets in both capacity (20.5 per cent year-on-year, or y-o-y, growth) and 26.2 per cent traffic growth, on the back of increase in flights and low fares. Indian airlines recorded 84.5 per cent load factor, with a 3.9 per cent y-o-y growth in occupancy. Airlines in the US and Russia however, fared better than their Indian counterparts in load factors. With annual growth of 18.8 per cent in 2015 (in a market of 80 million domestic passengers), India's performance, in terms of growth, surpassed Russia's (11.9 per cent growth, in a market of 47 million domestic passengers), China (9.7 per cent growth, in a market of 394 million domestic passengers) and the US (5.4 per cent growth, in a market of 708 million domestic passengers), IATA had said in July.

Source : Business Standard

Salar De Uyuni (Salt Flat), Bolivia



Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat at 10,582 square kilometers (4,086 sq mi). It is located in the Daniel Campos Province in Potosí in southwest Bolivia, near the crest of the Andes and is at an altitude of 3,656 meters (11,995 ft) above sea level. The Salar was formed as a result of transformations between several prehistoric lakes. It is covered by a few meters of salt crust, which has an extraordinary flatness with the average altitude variations within one meter over the entire area of the Salar. The salt is over 10 meters thick in the centre. In the dry season, the salt plains are a completely flat expanse of dry salt, but in the wet season, it is covered with a thin sheet of water that is still drivable. The standard tour heads south toward the southwest corner of Bolivia, by many fluorescent-coloured lakes that are created from a collection of different minerals from runoff from the surrounding mountains.

Lighter Moments

Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses.

He doesn't seem to be breathing and his eyes are glazed.

The other guy whips out his phone and calls the emergency services. He gasps, "My friend is dead! What can I do?"

The operator says, "Calm down. I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead."

There is a silence; then a gun shot is heard.

Back on the phone, the guy says, "OK, now what?"

Thought for the Fortnight

Nations are many, but Earth is one; Beings are many, but Breath is one; Stars are many, but Sky is one; Oceans are many, but Water is one; Jewels are many, but Gold is one; Appearances are many, but Realty is one.

— Sri Sathya Saibaba

IAAI Director Board

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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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