



IAAI Newsletter

December 2016 — Ist Fortnight Issue

Index

Content	Page No.
IAAI News	2 & 3
Aviation News	4 to 6
Hospitality News	7 & 8
Railway News	9
Photo Feature (Hogenakkal Falls, Tamil Nadu)	10
Open Space	11
IAAI Director Board	12

IAAI—Maharashtra AGM on 19th December

The AGM of Maharashtra State will be held on 19th Dec 2016 at Westend Hotel, Mumbai. A Presentation on the soon-to-be-launched i-Top (Indian Travel Agents' Own Portal) will be the highlight of the AGM. You will soon receive further update on i-Top. The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows for your kind information :-

1800 hrs	:	Welcome Speech by former President Mr. Rajiv Shroff
1810 hrs	:	Presidential Address by Ms. Aruna Shetty
1820 hrs	:	Speech by General Secretary Mr. Naresh Rajkotia
1830 hrs	:	Activity Report by Secretary Mr. Chetan Gandhi
1840 hrs	:	Financial Report by Treasurer Mr. Siddharth Shah
1850 hrs	:	Speech by National President Mr. Biji Eapen
1910 hrs	:	Any other Matters with the Permission of the Chair
1920 hrs	:	Presentation by the Sponsors
2020 hrs	:	Presentation on a new Agents' Revenue Model - i-Top (Indian Travel Agents Own Portal)
2100 hrs	:	Cocktails & Dinner
2230 hrs	:	Event Closure

IAAI News

An Update on BSP Link Charges

IATA Accredited Travel Agents must now be relieved that they have not been billed for the 'Enhanced User Account' through the BSP Link along with their Annual Agency Fee invoice.

However, all accredited Agents must still be anxious since there has been no further communication from IATA about the levying/withdrawal of the BSP link charges.

When IATA announced the BSP Link charges, true to its commitments to always stand for the benefits of Agents' Fraternity in India, IAAI had objected to the illegalities.

It is required under IATA Res. 818g, that any changes or new charges in BSP link or IATA fees in India should be listed through the agenda and is to be discussed, approved or recommended by APJC - India as per the IATA procedures. Unfortunately, this has not happened nor has any of the APJC members in India ever raised any objections against IATA for ignoring its own laid-down procedures.

IAAI had emphatically informed IATA that, even if the matter had been discussed and approved by the APJC - India, it shall be illegal and unacceptable as Res 818g requires that each Travel Agent must be represented in APJC - India. The present APJC-India comprises of TAAI & TAFI who represent only two-thirds of the travel agents by virtue of dual memberships and the rest one-third of travel agents represented through IAAI is still not yet a part of APJC-India which itself is a violation and contradiction of the IATA Resolutions.

The Basic BSP Link facilities offered under Rule 5.2 of the BSP Agents Manual of 2011 are the fundamental rights and only any additional facilities newly introduced over and above the existing facilities can be treated as enhancements.

Moreover, IATA must honour the PSA Agreement under Res. 824 (9) which mandates remuneration. In the absence of the Commission, additional payment for the BSP Link will force Agents to violate the National Law and collect Transaction fees.

As such, IAAI had first written to the IATA Regional Director and then to the DGCA along the above lines and also stated that the annual additional payment of Rs. 28980 per location CANNOT be justified as the majority of Airlines are on 'zero' commission.

Please rest assured, IAAI will not allow the unlawful imposition of BSP Link charges.

Jet Airways to launch Bengaluru-Colombo service



Jet Airways has announced the launch of a daily direct flight from Bengaluru to Colombo with effect from January 5, 2017. This new daily connection will provide travellers a convenient link between the Indian

IT hub and Sri Lankan capital. With the introduction of this new connection, Bengaluru will be the second Indian city after Mumbai to be linked to Colombo and Jet Airways' third daily service to the Sri Lankan capital.

Jet Airways flight 9W 278 will depart Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport at 0040 hrs and arrive in Colombo at 0210 hrs (Local Time). The flight 9W 277 will leave Colombo at 0310 hrs (LT) to arrive in Bengaluru at 0435 hrs (LT).

The airline will deploy a state-of-the-art Boeing 737-800 Next Generation (NG) aircraft on this route, offering Premiere and Economy guests the best in-flight product and services along with award-winning in-flight Entertainment (IFE), as also meals that are regional favorites.

GoAir launches seat selection at INR 99 onwards



GoAir announced the pre-booking of seats starting at an industry low price of INR 99. Commuters can now pre-book the seats of their choice for their journey across all sectors offered by GoAir at the lowest available rates across various blocks.

GoAir is currently the only airline to initiate this affordable seat selection offer. With this offering, passengers can now select their seats at rows of their convenience at the least available price from INR 99 onwards. This offers passengers the convenience of booking a seat of their choice and comfort at the lowest cost available in the industry. Commuters can avail this offer by visiting www.goair.com.

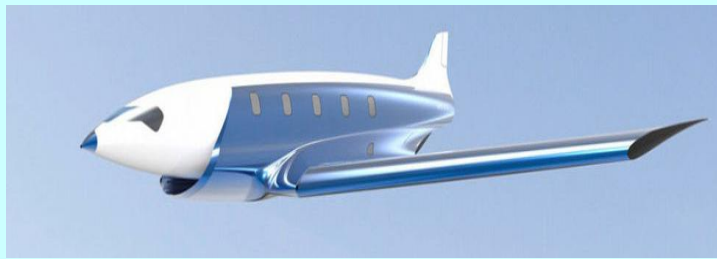
Jet Delta enter into an agreement



JetPrivilege, the frequent flyer programme of Jet Airways, has expanded its partnership with Delta Air Lines. Starting from December 15, 2016, Jet-

Privilege members would be able to earn and redeem JetPrivilege miles on Delta's entire network of 323 destinations in 57 countries across six continents. With over 15,000 daily flights networkwide, Delta has the US covered from its key hubs of Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis and New York (JFK) in the US and Amsterdam (Schiphol), Paris (Charles de Gaulle), and London (Heathrow) in Europe.

A Plane which Could Fly Delhi To Mumbai in 2.3 Minutes



A Canadian designer has invented 'Antipode' plane, which professes to be capable of transporting passengers from London to New York in twenty minutes. Well, if it lands in India it would take just 2.3 minutes to travel

from Delhi to Mumbai. The plane would travel at supersonic speeds after take off, which would probably feel more like blast off, and would ultimately reach an acceleration of a staggering 24 times the speed of sound. The brains behind the invention is Canadian designer Charles Bombardier. It would work using the concept 'long penetration mode' (get your mind out of the gutter) to channel air super speedily via a nozzle on its nose, meaning it could travel at 18,264 miles per hour. That's a casual ten times faster than the Concorde flew. Before you have images of being blasted into space, the jet only flies at 40,000 feet – not dissimilar to the current commercial planes we're used to.

While this sounds great and all, if it does ever make it to the mainstream market, it's going to be expensive. The aircraft will apparently only seat 10 people, so you can probably imagine how much one of those places would cost.

Korean Air launches Seoul Incheon - Delhi flights



Korean Air has launched flights between Incheon and Delhi's Indira Gandhi Airport. KE481 will depart Incheon at 12:45 and land in Delhi at 18:20. KE482 departs Delhi at 19:40 to land in Incheon at 05:50 next day.

Korean Air's Incheon-Delhi direct service will operate five days per week utilising Airbus A330-200 aircraft capable of seating 218. The aircraft is equipped with Korean Air's newest seats in both First and Prestige Class and cutting edge IFE system.

MAI Introduces Yangon – Kolkata route



Myanmar Airways International (MAI) launched its Kolkata new service from Yangon, Myanmar wef December 1st, 2016. MAI will operate two times weekly service between Yangon and Kolkata using Airbus A320 and A319 aircraft. MAI has code share agreement with Korean Air, Asiana Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Garuda. MAI currently flies between Yangon and Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Gaya, Guangzhou, and between Mandalay and Bangkok.

Alliance Air to connect Bathinda with first-ever flight from Delhi



To bolster the regional connectivity under its 'Connecting India' programme, Alliance Air, the wholly owned subsidiary of Air India is all set to commence operations with first ever flight to one of the oldest cities of Punjab, Bathinda from Delhi starting 11th December. The flight will be a boon for the city as currently there is no air connectivity offered to passengers from Bathinda. Connecting Bathinda with Delhi, Alliance Air with first ever flight 9I 621 shall operate thrice a week on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday with its 70-seater ATR-72.



AirAsia India announced an additional flight connecting the Bengaluru to Goa and Pune starting December 18, 2016. The airline currently operates one daily connection between Bengaluru and Pune, and with this additional flight, the airline will operate two daily flights connecting the two cities.



More Money for Your Money

Get in touch with us for all your Forex requirements

Foreign Currency Notes as per your destination



Prepaid Multi Currency Forex Cards are

Convenient, Safe and Easy to Carry

Special Offer:

Buy Back at the same rate for all your customers

To know more about us login at www.frrforex.in

For business queries please write to us at feedback@frrforex.in

Branches at:

North: Delhi (Connaught Place, Nehru Place), Gurgaon, Jaipur

West: Mumbai (Andheri, Thane, Nariman Pt, Powai),

Pune (Camp, Chinchwad), Gujarat Navsari

South: Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore

AccorHotels reaches 45 hotel milestone in India



AccorHotels announced that it has reached its 45 hotels and resorts milestone network growth across India. The recent openings of Hotel Formule1 in Nashik and Chennai marked the establishment of a widespread, multi-brand and segment of hotels operating in 18 cities with the portfolio depth ranging from luxury and mid-scale to in-demand economy brand segments.

10 of AccorHotels globally acclaimed brands have a presence in India, with ibis Styles making its debut earlier in 2016 with the opening of a 197-rooms hotel in Goa. AccorHotels will continue to accelerate its robust development pipeline in place for 2017 which will see an additional ten hotels bringing its network growth to over 55 properties.

The group now has an 8,000 room inventory across its ten brands, which include Fairmont, Sofitel, Pullman, Swissôtel, Grand Mercure, Novotel, Mercure, ibis, ibis Styles and Formule1. AccorHotels growth strategy in India is led by its focus on the mid-scale segment with the Novotel brand which celebrated its tenth-year anniversary presence in India this year and the popular in-demand economy brand, ibis. There are currently 28 hotels operating under the Novotel and Ibis brands across various key cities in India.

Royal Orchid adds 2 more hotels to its portfolio



Royal Orchid Hotels have opened two hotels under its brand 'Regenta Inn' in Vadodara and Kolkata slated to open on December 15, expanding to 40 hotels by the end of 2016. Kolkata has always been an important market for hoteliers in terms of both business and leisure segments. Whereas Gujarat tourism is already witnessing a boost.

While Regenta Inn Vadodara offers 94 rooms, Regenta Inn, Kolkata is a budget friendly hotel consisting of 45 room.

Bookings for Alila Fort Bishangarh – Jaipur to open Jan 2017



Alila Fort Bishangarh – Jaipur, a privately owned property located amid the Aravalli Hills in Rajasthan, is set to open its doors to guests on February 28 next year. The property will be managed by Denver - headquartered Two Roads Hospitality under its brand 'Alila'. This is the second Alila property in India after Alila Diwa in Goa, which opened four years ago. Bookings for Alila Fort Bishangarh will open on the GDS and OTA platforms by end of next month.

Alila Fort Bishangarh offers 59 keys (rooms and suites). The F&B options at Alila Fort Bishangarh include all-day dining restaurant Amarsar; Madhuveni bar, which will offer labeled wines from Bordeaux, Italy and Spain and specially curated single malts. The open terrace restaurant Nazara offers modern to traditional food, including sand cooked varieties. Banqueting facilities at the property include a ballroom-Darbar, which has a seating capacity of 160-180 pax in theatre style; the Haveli terrace can accommodate 80 pax whereas the Haveli Aravali Bar has a capacity of 400 pax.

Alila Fort Bishangarh is a 75-minute drive from the Jaipur Airport and 3-hour drive from Delhi. Goh and Krishnan believe that the property's strategic location on the Delhi-Jaipur-Agra Golden Triangle will be an advantage. They are expecting guests to spend an average of two nights at the property.

Foreign nationals can enter India through five ports on e-visa



Foreigners will be able to enter India through five seaports — Mumbai, Kochi, Chennai, Goa and Mangalore — with electronic visa (e-visa), in addition to 16 airports where the facility is available. As part of the new liberalised visa policy, the government has also decided that business visitors and those coming on medical emergency will be issued visa within 48 hours of application. Separate immigration counters will be set up in all 16 major airports and the five seaports for medical tourists coming to India on e-visa.

India will also allow tourists coming on e-visa to stay up to 60 days instead of the 30 days now. Tourists can also apply for the e-visa four months in advance instead of the 30 days now. It was also decided that the electronic tourist visa (eTV) will now be known as electronic visa and visitors could apply through the existing online portal.

Humsafar Express With Surging Fares To Be Launched on December 17



Equipped with many facilities, the much awaited Humsafar Express with dynamic fares will be launched on December 17 from New Delhi. The train will be flagged off the fully AC-3 service train between Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar from New Delhi.

However, passengers have to shell out 1.15 per cent more as base fare than the normal Mail/Express AC-3 rate since the train is equipped with coffee/tea/soup vending machine, hot and refrigerated pantry and other facilities in each cabin. Since manufacturing cost of these coaches with modern facilities is higher than the normal AC coaches there has to be special fares for these services.

According to the Humsafar fare structure, 50 per cent of the tickets will be made available for passengers on 1.15 per cent higher base fare and thereafter 10 per cent increase on every 10 per cent tickets sold on subsequent bookings. For example, the normal Mail/Express AC-3 base fare is Rs. 960 which will become Rs. 1104, an increase by 1.15 per cent. After 50 per cent sale of total tickets, the base fare will go up to Rs. 1214, an increase of 10 per cent for 10 per cent berths then it will again surge by another 10 per cent increase for subsequent 10 per cent bookings. Finally, the highest fare will be Rs. 1656, an increase of 1.5 per cent from the base fare for the last 10 per cent berths.

Other additional charges like reservation fee, superfast charges, service tax, will be levied separately. While the passengers have to pay for their meals if booked, separately, the bedroll is inclusive of fare. CCTV, GPS-based passenger information system, fire and smoke detection and suppression system, mobile and laptop charging points with every berth are some of the features on Humsafar trains. Besides, Humsafar will have improved aesthetics with new interior and exterior colour scheme presenting a futuristic look with the use of vinyl sheets similar to Maharaja Express coaches. It will also have integrated braille displays.

Hogenakkal Falls, Tamil Nadu



Hogenakkal Falls is a waterfall in South India on the Kaveri river in the Dharmapuri district of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is located 180 km (110 mi) from Bangalore and 46 km (29 mi) from Dharmapuri. Sometimes referred to as the "Niagara Falls of India," it is known for medicinal baths and hide boat rides, projecting itself as a major tourist attraction. Carbonatite rocks in this site are considered to be the oldest of its kind in South Asia and one of the oldest in the world. The Government of Tamil Nadu made a proposal to convert the falls into providing drinking water for the state.

Lighter Moments

Bus conductor : Why are taking two tickets?

Passenger : Because if I lose one that second ticket will save me.

Conductor : What if you lose both?

Passenger : Listen, I am not a fool. I already have my Pass with me.!!!

Thought for the Fortnight

If you want to shine like a Sun, first burn like a Sun.

— A P J Abdul Kalam

IAAI Director Board

1. Mr Biji Eapen, National President

: Speedwings Travel & Cargo Pvt. Ltd., Kochi

2. Mr H S Chawla, National Treasurer & Director—Northern Region

: Speed Air Travel Agents, New Delhi

3. Mr Naresh Rajkotia, National General Secretary & Director—Western Region

: Madhura Travels & Tours, Mumbai

4. Mr Faisal Sharhabeel, Director—Southern Region

: Magellan Travel Services (P) Ltd., Chennai

Advertising rates for IAAI Newsletter

Size	2 insertions (1 month)	6 insertions (3 months)	12 insertions (6 months)	24 insertions (one year)
Quarter Page	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 14,000/-	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 45,000/-
Half Page	Rs. 9,000/-	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 45,000/-	Rs. 80,000/-
Full Page	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 40,000/-	Rs. 75,000/-	Rs. 1,35,000/-
Strips	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 18,000/-

Newsletter Editor

Asst Editor

Devendra Ghule**Saras Deshpande****Sudin Travels & Forex Pvt Ltd., Pune**

We welcome your suggestions to improve this Newsletter.

The same may be forwarded to ***iaai.pune@iaai.in***

In case you do not receive any issue of Newsletter, the same can be viewed on the IAAI website : ***www.iaai.in***

**T
H
A
N
K

Y
O
U**