



# IAAI Newsletter



15-17 February 2017  
Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

**February 2017 — Ist Fortnight Issue**

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## IAAI Kochi Region elects new Regional Committee and first-of-its-kind Tourism Committee

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February, the Members of IAAI in the Kochi Region had a Regional Meeting at Hotel Gokulam Park, Kaloor, Kochi and elected a new Committee for the next two years.

Mr. Babu Paul of M/s. Speedwings Travel & Cargo Pvt. Ltd. has been re-elected as the Chairman.

In a first, a Tourism Committee has been formed under the auspice of IAAI including Representatives of different stakeholders including Airlines.

The Members of the Committee are :

- Mr. T.U. Shamsuddin, Speedwings Travel & Cargo Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Sujith Kumar M, UAE Exchange Travel Services
- Mr. Lenin Peter Varghese, Yoko Leisure Tours
- Mr. Jayakrishna Bhaskaran, Oman Air
- Mr. Joemon Mani, Gulf Air
- Mr. A.M. Naushad, Hotel Anchor House
- Mr. Balaji Ramgopal, Al Arif Sons Travel
- Mr. Riyad Alungal, Ahlan Holidays

The Tourism Committee will initiate steps to tap the enormous tourism potential of the State.



## New Committee to head the IAAI Kozhikode Region

The IAAI Members in Kozhikode Region met at The Raviz Calicut on 9<sup>th</sup> February and elected a new team for the next two years.

- Chairman – Mr. M.P.M Mubashir, Air Travel Enterprises
- Secretary – Mr. Thajudheen, Star of Asia, Kannur
- Treasurer – Mr. Rakesh R, UAE Exchange Travel Services
- The other Committee Members are Mr. Ahmed Kutty, Mr. Shahul Hameed and Mr. Vijesh.





## New IAAI Members

### Strategic Partners :

- M/s. Anchor House Hotel, Kochi, represented by its Managing Director Mr. A.M. Naushad



- M/s. E Visa Link India LLP, Mumbai, represented by its Director Mr. Sanjit Paul



### Trade Partners :

- M/s. Santosh Travels, Durg, represented by its Proprietor Mr. Vinayak Duchakke



- M/s. Vayudoot Tours & Travels, Durg, represented by its Proprietor Mr. V. Rajesh



## IndiGo launches 20 new flights



IndiGo announced the expansion of its network by adding 20 new flights to cities with high demand and expanding potential. With growing demand from the Southern India region, IndiGo has reoriented its focus by introducing additional to and fro flights connecting Hyderabad and Chandigarh; Chennai and Chandigarh; Chennai and Hyderabad; and Chennai and Kochi effective February 20. Offering increased flexibility to business and leisure travellers, IndiGo will also add a second daily flight on its Chennai-Singapore route beginning March 5, 2017. On Eastern India frontier, IndiGo will enhance operations from Delhi and Kolkata to Bagdogra with 4 additional flights to strengthen connectivity between metro cities and remote routes.

## New INDIGO flights to Muscat from March 20



IndiGo, has announced Sharjah as its 6th international and 20th overall destination in its schedule. It also introduces new flights to the existing Muscat network. The new schedule sees introduction of new daily non-stop flights on Sharjah-Kozhikode, Muscat-Kozhikode effective March 20, 2017 and Sharjah Thiruvananthapuram effective April 8, 2017. With 126 Airbus A320 aircraft, 6E will operate 857 daily flights, connecting 43 destinations from March 2017.

## Zoom Air commences scheduled operations



Zexus Air Services Pvt. Ltd., a private airline company promoted jointly by Indian and NRI investors, has launched Zoom Air, a full-service scheduled airline in the domestic aviation sector in India. The airline company has firm plans to connect the metro airports with Tier-II and III airports which are currently underserved. The airline has commenced scheduled operations from February 15 on the Delhi-Kolkata-Durgapur-Delhi sector with a 50-seater CRJ-200LR Jet. Starting with a single aircraft, the company will be adding four more similar aircraft in the next couple of months with the aim to deploy the entire fleet on scheduled operations in the summer months.

After the remaining aircraft join the fleet, the company plans to start scheduled operations from Delhi and Kolkata to Tirupati, Vijayawada, Mumbai, Shillong, Aizawl, Pasighat, Zero, Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Indore, Bhopal, etc. According to airline will touch about 16 stations a day with about 32 to 35 scheduled departures a day by this summer.

## DGCA to go for automatic system for airline punctuality



Directorate  
General of  
Civil  
Aviation

DGCA (Director General of Civil Aviation) is in discussion with domestic airlines to implement a fully automatic system for recording on-time performance (OTP) at four private airports for data accuracy. The move comes after DGCA came across some instances of data being fudged during random sampling following a complaint by a budget carrier airline in this matter.

At present Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore airports submit OTP data of each airline to the DGCA which after scrutiny puts out this data for all airlines on a monthly basis. OTP is one of the several measures to determine an airline's operational efficiency. It indicates whether an airline is operating its flights on time or not. At present there are a total of 375 stands (boarding areas) across the four private airports. Of these, only 115, or 36%, are automatic ones and records the exact time of departure or arrival of an aircraft with the help of visual docking guidance system. However, in the rest of the areas, this is done manually.

While airbus aircraft have a system where this time captured and relayed electronically to the airport operator, all Boeing planes do not have this facility. The regulator has already studied the model for recording airline's OTP in countries such as the US, which has 100% automatic system.

## Issue Eurostar Tickets on Hahn Air



**Hahn Air**

Hahn Air is expanding its network of over 300 air, rail and shuttle partners with high-speed rail operator Eurostar (9F). The UK-based train services are now available to travel agents worldwide for ticketing on Hahn Air's HR-169 document. To issue tickets for Eurostar, travel agents can use the standard ticketing process in all major GDSs.

A scheduled IATA airline based in Dreieich, Germany, Hahn Air has specialised in providing distribution services for air, rail and shuttle companies.



## Ethiopian Airlines to begin operations to Chennai in 2017



Ethiopian Airlines is working for expanding its reach in India by launching a thrice-weekly flight to Chennai in 2017. However, the dates of the launch were not disclosed. In the last year, the airline recorded a growth of 12-15% as compared to 2015 from the Indian market

in terms of passengers. India has emerged as the second largest source market for Ethiopian Airlines after China with passenger load factor recorded as more than 80% from Mumbai and 65% from New Delhi. The airline presently flies 10 times a week to Mumbai and New Delhi serving Airbus A350, Boeing 787 and 777. It has code-share agreement with the national carrier of India, Air India which helps its passengers connect easily to other cities of India.

## Jet Airways increases frequency to Abu Dhabi



Jet Airways, one of India's full-service, premier international airlines has announced the introduction of a second daily flight between New Delhi and Abu Dhabi.

The new service – designated as flight 9W 212, is conveniently timed to depart for Abu Dhabi from New Delhi, in the evening at 1745 hrs IST. It arrives in Abu Dhabi at a comfortable time of 2010 hrs (local time). The return flight, 9W 211, departs Abu Dhabi at 0845 hrs local time, arriving in New Delhi the same afternoon at 1335 hrs IST.

The burgeoning ties between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have opened up significant opportunities for enhanced cooperation in the areas of trade and business, aside from encouraging tourism and leisure travel between the two countries. The UAE is already a major investor in India, engaged in projects relating to infrastructure development, energy, metallurgical industries, services as well as computer software and hardware.

## First UDAN flight to take off in Feb



The government's ambitious Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Regional Connectivity Scheme has attracted a total of 43 initial proposals from 11 bidders to cover 190 routes. The flight services will get started sometime in late Feb and early March.

The UDAN scheme will accommodate a wide variety of aircraft including small aircraft of 19-20 seaters, to 72 or 80 seaters, as well as jets. Once the bid has been awarded after the counter bidding process, that operator will have a three-year exclusivity to fly that route. That is intended to ensure that it is economically attractive and profitable for those operators, while enabling us to provide lower subsidies. The Regional Connectivity Fund that the government has put for regional connectivity has not seen participation from many airlines as yet.

## Northeast Frontier Railway to plans to start train to Tawang



Aiming to take railway services in the region to new heights, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has planned to bring trains to Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang. Tawang is located at a height of 10,000 feet on the border with China. Three strategic lines connecting Bhalukpung to Tawang, Murkongselek (Assam) to Pasighat in Arunachal and Silapathar (Assam) to Bane in Arunachal are in the pipeline. The estimated cost of the project is INR 50,000 crore to INR 70,000 crore. The Bhalukpung-Tawang line would be the most challenging as it would pass through terrain with altitudes ranging from 500 feet to 9,000 feet. Naharlagun, 10km from Itanagar, was the first in Arunachal to get rail connectivity in 2014.



## ITC plans to set up multi-specialty hospitals to promote medical tourism



ITC, the Kolkata-based cigarettes-to-hotels business conglomerate, has sought approval from its shareholders to foray into specialised healthcare by setting up multi-specialty hospitals and to promote health tourism. With this venture, ITC will be in line for competition with leading private healthcare groups like Apollo Hospitals and Fortis.

The “initiative would leverage the company’s” expertise in the hospitality and tourism sector to promote medical tourism for the country. Informing that the plan was to set up world-class multi-specialty facilities, the ITC Board believed that “world-class medical facilities providing patient-centric best practices that would be valued and trusted by society will drive reform in healthcare in India.

Besides hospitals and medical tourism, ITC would also set up a plethora of related facilities, including “healthcare centres, mobile health centres, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, dispensaries, pharmacies, clinics, laboratories, polyclinics, drug and medical accessories stores, nutrition and dietetic counselling centres, medical colleges, nursing colleges, medical research centres, facilities for training, development and skilling of related manpower.

## AccorHotels & Qatar Airways announce partnership



AccorHotels, a travel and lifestyle group, and Qatar Airways, the national carrier of the State of Qatar, have joined forces to offer members of their respective loyalty programmes Le Club AccorHotels and Qatar Airways Privilege Club, an even more generous travel experience.

Members of Qatar Airways’ loyalty programme Privilege Club can now convert their Qmiles into Le Club AccorHotels points at the conversion rate of 4,500 Qmiles for 1,000 LCAH points. This will allow them to purchase free nights and discounts on their next stay in over 3,400 hotels, from luxury to economy, and to access the multiple rewards – Elite Experiences, Dream Stays, La Collection e-boutique, etc - offered by the Le Club AccorHotels loyalty programme.

The more than 30 million Le Club AccorHotels loyalty programme members who have already notched up 2,000 points can convert them into Qmiles and access a network of over 150 destinations. They simply log in to their Le Club AccorHotels account either from a PC or directly via the AccorHotels app, provide their Privilege Club membership number and choose how many points they would like to convert.

## Belarus introduces 5-day Visa-Free Policy for India



The UNWTO has welcomed the Government of Belarus' decision to launch a 5-day visa-free policy that will be applicable to travellers from 80 countries including India. The measure is designed at attracting more visitors, particularly those on business trips.

Visa-free is now available at Minsk National Airport and visa-free stay in Belarus for up to five days for the citizens of 80 states. Among those, there are 39 countries of Europe, including the entire European Union, India, Brazil, Indonesia, the USA and Japan.

The promotion of seamless travel is one of UNWTO's priorities, considering the proven capacity of visa facilitation to stimulate economic growth and job creation through tourism. Belarus started policies to simplify the visa process in April 2016.

## Huacachina Oasis, Peru

# PHOTO FEATURE



Huacachina is a village in southwestern Peru, built around a small oasis surrounded by sand dunes. Huacachina is built around a small natural lake in the desert. Called the "oasis of America," it serves as a resort for local families from the nearby city of Ica, and increasingly as an attraction for tourists drawn by the sports of sandboarding on sand dunes that stretch several hundred feet high. According to local legends the water and mud of the area is supposed to have curative powers and both locals and tourists often bath in the waters or plaster themselves with the mud in an attempt to cure ailments such as arthritis, rheumatism, asthma and bronchitis.



## Lighter Moments

**A Soldier Rushes To His Captain & Says: “One enemy ship is approaching us”.**

**Captain Replies “David, Go Bring My Red Shirt”**

**Soldier Gets Shirt For His Captain. Enemy Ship Comes In, Heavy Rounds Of Fire Are Exchanged.**

**Finally The Captain Wins.**

**Soldier Asks: “Congrats Sir, But Why The Red Shirt?”**

**Captain Replies: “If I Got Injured Then My Blood Shouldn’t Be Seen As I Don’t Want My Soldiers To Lose Hope”**

**Suddenly The Soldier Replied: “Sir, 20 Enemy Ships Are Coming”**

**Captain Replied:  
“David, Go And Bring My Yellow Trouser”**

## Thought for the Fortnight

**Men are not prisoners of fate, but prisoners of their own minds.**

**— Franklin Roosevelt**

## 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

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<b>Half Page</b>	Rs. 9,000/-	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 45,000/-	Rs. 80,000/-
<b>Full Page</b>	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 40,000/-	Rs. 75,000/-	Rs. 1,35,000/-
<b>Strips</b>	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 18,000/-

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Newsletter Editor

**Devendra Ghule**

Asst Editor

**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***

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