



IAAI Newsletter



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IAAI participation at GPS Nagpur 2017



IAAI participated in the Global Panorama Showcase (GPS) held at Hotel Central Point, Nagpur between 19th January & 21st January 2017. Mr Devendra Ghule, Vice President & Mr Manish Syngal, Jt. Secretary of IAAI Maharashtra Chapter represented IAAI at GPS.

Several IATA & Non-IATA travel agents from Nagpur, Durg, Bilaspur & Gondia visited the IAAI stall & took keen interest in understanding the benefits of I-TOP which were explained in detail to them by IAAI team. Many agents expressed their desire to join IAAI. The IAAI team has started the follow up action required for completing the membership formalities of these agents.

IAAI News

WELCOME NEW IAAI MEMBERS

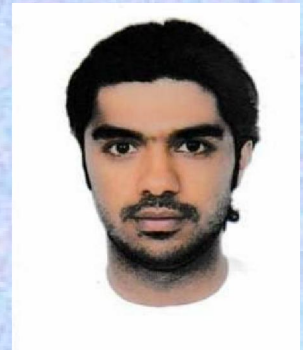
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Important features of Union Budget 2017

U N I O N B U D G E T 2 0 1 7

- No change in Service Tax rates.
- Small firms with turnover up to Rs 50 crore to pay 25% tax now, instead of 30%.
- 3500km new railway lines to be put up.
- Service charge on rail tickets booked through IRCTC to be withdrawn.
- Rail safety fund with corpus of Rs 100,000 crore will be created over a period of five years.
- 500 rail stations to be made differently abled-friendly by providing lifts and escalators .
- Raksha coach with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore for five years (for passenger safety).
- SMS-based "clean my coach service" is put in place.
- By 2019 all trains will have bio-toilets.
- The Income Tax Act to be amended to ensure that no transaction above Rs 3 lakh is permitted in cash.
- Existing Income tax rate of tax for individuals between Rs. 2.5- Rs 5 lakh is reduced to 5% from 10%.
- All other categories of tax payers in subsequent brackets will get a benefit of Rs 12,500.
- Simple one page return for people with an annual income of Rs. 5 lakh other than business income.

Air India –New routes & enhanced connectivity



Poised with the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) of the National Civil Aviation Policy, Air India is set to bid for connecting 23 routes with the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA). Some of its existing routes would also be brought under the ambit of the RCS. Additionally, to keep pace with the growing competition in the international airspace, by March 2020, the national carrier will be inducting 100 more aircraft, including few Boeing 787 in 2017, some Boeing 777 in Q1, 2018, 13 new wide-body planes in next two years and 12 A320 neo aircraft are expected in 2017, taking the total aircraft count from 132 to 232. As a member of Star Alliance, to be more competitive in the international airspace, the airline has a slew of measures planned. The carrier has come up with a tentative wish list of six new destinations to offer connections in 2017. These destinations are Washington (USA), Toronto (Canada), Tel Aviv (Israel), Stockholm (Sweden) or Copenhagen (Denmark), African region and Frankfurt (Germany).

Separately, to offer enhanced connectivity, flight frequencies will be increased to Madrid, Sydney and Melbourne. Going ahead in the year, the long neglected subsidiary Alliance Air will be given a push to post profits from the current financial year, and the reach of Air India Express will be expanded. 2018 will again see the addition of another six new destinations to the carrier's network.

For the RCS to gain ground, Air India would require 20 more ATRs and to service this influx of additional aircraft and new routes, the carrier would need 200 new pilots, Lohani said. Therefore, the recruitment process of pilots has been set in motion already, he revealed. In this regard, the fleet size will be expanded by 23 ATRs, taking the total count to 72 by December 2017.

Another development on the domestic front would be a garland flight starting from Kolkata in the morning and connecting Raipur, Indore, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Delhi, in that order, by month end. On the return leg next day, the flight will cover the entire route from Delhi. Besides, the newly inducted Dreamliner will be deployed on the proposed Delhi-Kochi-Dubai route, starting from February 1.

Emirates to launch daily service to Newark via Athens



Emirates announced it will launch a new daily service from Dubai to Newark Liberty International Airport, via the Greek capital city of Athens, starting on March 12, 2017. The new route complements Emirates' existing four daily flights between Dubai and New York's JFK airport, by offering global travellers with another convenient access point to the popular New York Metropolitan area. Emirates' new Dubai-Athens-Newark flight will also provide a year-round non-stop daily service between the United States and Greece – a service that does not exist as of now and has not existed since 2012. The airline will operate a wide-body Boeing 777-300ER powered by General Electric GE90 engines on the route, offering 8 seats in First, 42 seats in Business and 304 seats in Economy class.

Emirates to introduce daily flights to Croatia



Emirates has announced that it will further expand its European network with the introduction of a daily flight from Dubai to Zagreb (ZAG), the capital of Croatia from June 1, 2017. The new southeast European destination will be served by an Emirates Boeing 777-300 aircraft, the only wide-body service operating to/from Zagreb. The new Zagreb flight opens a whole new exciting region for Emirates' passengers to explore. The city itself is steeped in culture and history, with an abundance of charming pavement cafes and restaurants to be enjoyed during the spring and summer months. During the winter months, the ski resort of Sljeme on mountain Medvednica is just a twenty minute drive away and is a great alternative to the busy Alpine slopes.

Air India shifts to London Heathrow's Terminal 2



Air India, a member of Star Alliance, has moved all its operations from London Heathrow's Terminal 4 to Terminal 2, the home of Star Alliance. Air India operates up to eight daily flights in and out of Heathrow with either Boeing 777 or Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft and has been serving London for nearly 70 years. At present Air India offers two daily flights to Delhi, one daily flight to Mumbai, four weekly flights to Ahmedabad and three weekly flights to Newark (New York). Compared to Terminal 4, the check-in layout and concept in Terminal 2 allows customers to take greater control of their journey. This has been made possible through a combination of increased automation and common check-in. Travellers who have not checked in online can use any of 81 multi-airline check-in kiosks available throughout Terminal 2. These also print boarding passes and bag tags. Once checked-in, Air India passengers can drop off their bags at the shared counters in Zone D. Customers requiring additional support and assistance or travelling in First Class, Business Class or holding Star Alliance Gold status will also find the respective counters in Zone D. Air India customers travelling in either First or Business Class or holding Star Alliance Gold status can make use of any of the four lounges in Terminal 2 operated by fellow Star Alliance member airlines Air Canada, Lufthansa, Singapore Airlines and United.

Etihad Airways to operate 14 times a week on Abu Dhabi - Düsseldorf route



Etihad Airways announced its Abu Dhabi - Düsseldorf route will be operated 14 times a week with the addition of a new daily service, effective March 26, 2017. The double daily schedule will provide greater choice to local passengers travelling between Abu Dhabi and Düsseldorf, and further increase connectivity to and from Germany over the airline's Abu Dhabi hub. Etihad Airways will also increase international connections through codesharing with partner carrier airberlin via Düsseldorf. The extra daily frequency will

provide further connections to popular destinations including Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Sydney, Mumbai and Delhi. With the additional capacity, Etihad Airways' frequency between Abu Dhabi and its three German gateways of Düsseldorf, Frankfurt and Munich rises from 35 to 42 services a week, ensuring consistency of double daily flights to each city. Partner carrier airberlin also operates twice-daily flights between Abu Dhabi and Berlin.

airberlin, which operates a daily service between Düsseldorf and Abu Dhabi, has notified Etihad Airways of its decision to discontinue the route and redeploy the aircraft onto other markets from the beginning of the 2017 summer schedule. airberlin will continue to offer its Düsseldorf-based customers access to Abu Dhabi and beyond through codesharing on Etihad Airways' existing and new flights from the western German city. Passengers booked on airberlin flights from Düsseldorf to Abu Dhabi and beyond will be reprotected on services operated by Etihad Airways.

"Tri-Netra" to help trains beat fog delays



To beat delays due to fog in winter, the Indian Railways will soon introduce Tri-Netra (third eye) - the same technology used by air force pilots in rough weather - for train drivers. By the end of 2017, about 3,000 trains will have high-sensitive infrared video cameras and a radar-based terrain-mapping system to enhance visibility of locomotive pilots.

The system would comprise of two high-resolution optical video camera, high sensitivity infrared video camera and additionally, a radar-based terrain mapping system. It would combine the images captured by the three sub-systems and create a composite video image that will be displayed in front of the Loco Pilot on a computer monitor, enabling the pilot to see the terrain before the running locomotive reaches the point. The system once installed, will help in enhancing the vision of the locomotive drivers in difficult weather conditions, such as fog, heavy rains, during night time etc, so that they have enough time to apply brakes without hitting the objects/obstructions. It is based on technology, which the fighter aircrafts use to see through clouds and operate in pitch darkness. Tri-NETRA or the third eye also uses technology employed by naval ships to map the ocean floor and navigate in the night.

OYO launches OYO Townhouse brand



OYO, one of India's largest hotels Company, has announced the launch of OYO Townhouse, positioned as a friendly neighbourhood hotel. OYO's innovation in this all-new category of neighbourhood stays is targeted at youngsters, for whom price, convenience and a differentiated experience play an important role in determining choices. Based on the needs of the young traveller, OYO Townhouse breaks away from decades-old hotel industry templates. Brand new systems and services have replaced the older, wasteful conventions of the past. Every single element – from the breakfast menu to the booking process – has been reengineered to deliver higher quality and better value. Also, unlike the one-size-fits-all approach of traditional hotel chains, every Townhouse is designed to complement its neighbourhood. Guests will get the stellar features and dynamic service they expect from a Townhouse, with the added benefit of a hyper-local address, right in the middle of all the action. This reinvention has resulted in a new kind of hotel that's optimised for comfort, efficiency, convenience and affordability.

Hyatt announces opening of Andaz Delhi in Aerocity

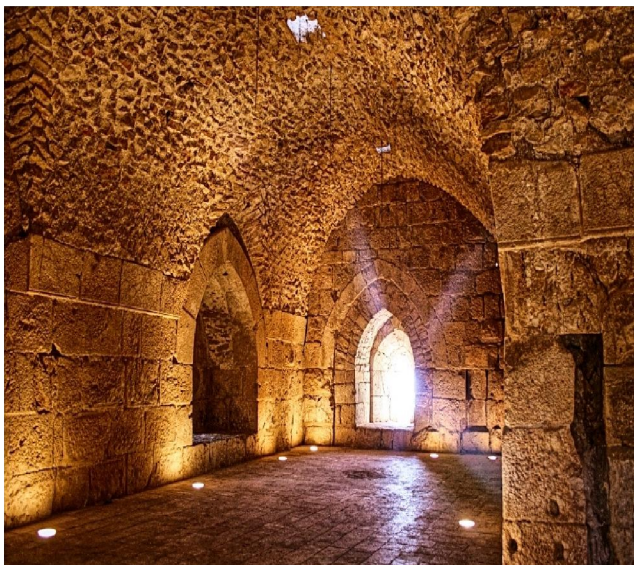


Hyatt Hotels Corporation has announced the opening of Andaz Delhi, marking the Andaz brand's first hotel in India and 16th worldwide. This luxury lifestyle brand of Hyatt celebrates local culture and the unique spirit of neighbourhoods and offers inspiring experiences through the neighbourhood's rich history and culture, helping guests get to know their surroundings more intimately and leave feeling like a local. Conveniently located in Aerocity, the hotel is within easy reach of downtown Delhi and the business hub of Gurgaon. Designed to capture the spirit of Delhi by renowned architect Bauer Latoza Studio from Chicago, and interior designer Virgile and Partners from London, the hotel integrates traditional Indian elements, colours and flavours into a modern design inspired by the unique craftsmanship of India. Andaz Delhi opens with a partial inventory of its residential-style 401 guestrooms, including 45 suites. The hotel will also offer 129 serviced apartments, expected to open next year.

Amazing Ancient Architecture

Petra, Jordan

PHOTO FEATURE



Petra, originally known to the Nabataeans as Raqmu, is a historical and archaeological city in southern Jordan. The city is famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. Another name for Petra is the Rose City due to the color of the stone out of which it is carved. Established possibly as early as 312 BC as the capital city of the Arab Nabataeans, it is a symbol of Jordan, as well as Jordan's most-visited tourist attraction. Petra has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985.

Lighter Moments

An older couple was asking for a room with king, queen or double bed. The clerk apologized & said that the only rooms available had twin beds.

Disappointed, the man remarked, "I don't know. We have been sharing the same bed for 44 years."

"Could you possibly put them close together?" the wife asked.

Several people nearby smiled, and someone commented, "How romantic."

Then the woman finished her request with, "Because if he snores, I want him close enough to be able to elbow him."

Thought for the Fortnight

Life is a garden. It is an opportunity. You can grow weeds, you can grow roses; it all depends on you.

— Osho

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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/-

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