



# IAAI Newsletter

**May 2017 — Ist Fortnight Issue**

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## IAAI News

### IAAI's Special Leave Petition for Reconstitution of APJC - India

IAAI's attempt to have a democratic set-up to monitor and regulate the working of the Airlines/Travel Agents Partnership in India is bearing fruit.

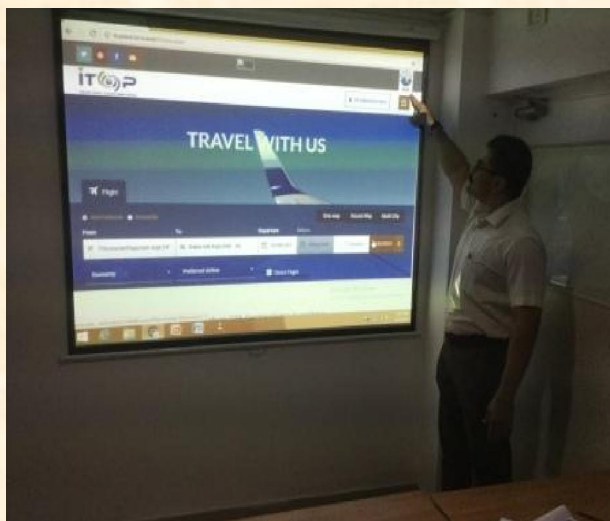
#### **Justice has prevailed!**

At the Hearing of the IAAI Special Leave Petition (SLP) on 9<sup>th</sup> May, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has set aside the judgment and order dated 29.09.2015 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana in Civil Revision Petition No. 3220/ 2015 filed by IATA against our request for the reconstitution of APJC-India.

The SLP had been filed by IAAI only for setting aside the above 'stay' Order so that APJC-India is reconstituted by IATA as per the new guidelines of January 2014 issued by the IATA Passenger Agency Conference (PACConf) under Appendix "F" of Res 818g with 18 Members (9 Airline & 9 Agent Representatives comprising 3 each from the National Travel Associations - TAAI, TAFI & IAAI) and the Chairman to be elected from the 18 Members.

## IAAI News

### IAAI preparing for soft launch of i-TOP



IAAI has completed all formalities and is now preparing for a soft launch of i-TOP ( Indian Travel Agents Own Portal ). A meeting to this effect was held at Cochin on the 12th May 2017 to assess system contents, features and functionalities. Besides IAAI National President Mr.Biji Eapen, it was also attended by the i-Top Committee Chairman Mr. Manish Synghal, i-Top Co-chairman Mr. Ganesh Vaderi, Maharashtra State Vice-President Mr. Devendra Ghule, Andhra Pradesh Ad-hoc Committee Chairman Mr. K. Madhava Reddy, and the IAAI Kerala State Executive Committee members headed by their President Mr. Manu T.G. Nair. A presentation was made by the i-TOP developers too and they readily agreed to improve on the few minor shortcomings pointed out by the attendees.

**The following areas were shortlisted for the soft launch :-**

- Insurance
- Domestic & International air ticketing
- Hotels
- Cruises

It was decided to offer preferential rates to IAAI members opting for i-TOP registration during the soft launch period, which would continue till ICON 2017, the IAAI National Convention to be held in Kerala in the month of August. A full fledged launch of i-TOP is proposed during ICON 2017. The details of the i-TOP registration and subsequent AMC charges will be provided in the next newsletter.

## Jet Airways strengthens domestic connectivity with 42 new weekly flights



Jet Airways, will add 42 weekly flights connecting three new city pairs as part of strengthening its domestic network to meet growing demand between metros and emerging cities. Introduction of additional frequencies and wide-body deployments between key metros will also boost capacity on existing sectors this summer as the airline bolsters its already extensive network to meet an expected surge in demand during the holiday season.

The carrier will commence operations between Nagpur and New Delhi, Lucknow and Kolkata, and Kozhikode and Bengaluru as part of its broader strategy of connecting India's emerging / Tier II cities with India's metros via direct flights. It will also introduce additional frequencies on the highly travelled Delhi - Amritsar and Mumbai - Kolkata sectors and boost capacity on the New Delhi - Bengaluru and New Delhi - Bhopal routes with the introduction of the wide-body Airbus A330 and Boeing 737 services, respectively. The changes are a part of Jet Airways' summer schedule which will see the airline operate upto 650 flights per day connecting 65 destinations in India and abroad.

## Air India to fly to six new destinations



National carrier Air India will unveil flights to three new destinations in the US as well as to Stockholm, Nairobi and Tel Aviv this year. Making it the fifth nonstop destination in the United States, a direct service would start to Washington from July 7, followed by a flight to Los Angeles from September 1 and then to Dallas. The airline will begin service to Stockholm from August 15. It would also start flights to Tel Aviv, Nairobi and Dallas this year.

## International status for Vijayawada airport



The Central government has granted international status to Vijayawada airport. It will provide wider choice of services at competitive costs to the air travellers and give a boost to domestic/international tourism and socio-economic development of Andhra Pradesh by bringing in international passengers and cargo traffic.



## Shirdi airport to operate only in the day for now, night landing facility to begin in 5 months



The Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited (MADC) has drawn up plans for the second phase of the Shirdi International Airport. The plans include an additional state-of-the-art terminal building, besides other facilities. Final touches are being given to the Shirdi International Airport before it becomes operational. The airport is spread over an area of 900 acre with the total cost of the project being pegged at approximately INR 350 crore. The airport will be a dawn-to-dusk' facility and night landing facility will start within five months.

## First China-made Passenger jet takes flight



The twin-engine plane C919 departed with five crew members on board but without any passengers. The "C" in the aircraft's name stands for both China and COMAC, while 9 symbolises "forever" in Chinese culture and 19 represents the maximum 190 seats capacity. With a standard range of 4,075 kilometres, the narrow-body jet is comparable with updated Airbus 320 and Boeing's new generation 737, signalling the country's entry into the global aviation market. China's first amphibious aircraft, stated to be the largest in the world, successfully conducted its first glide test on April 29 in Chinese city of Zhuhai and braced for its maiden flight. China began to develop its own jumbo passenger jets in the 1970s and the first one, the Y-10, had a successful test flight in 1980. But the project was abandoned later.

The plane passed expert technical appraisal this March. The aircraft was given the go-ahead in April to begin a series of high-speed taxiing tests, the final step before its maiden flight. More than 200,000 technicians worked on the project. The jet was designed and produced in China and made with resources from around the world. It is an achievement in global cooperation. The C919 incorporates parts from over 30 global suppliers such as Honeywell International Inc. Its engines were made by a joint venture between General Electric and Safran Aircraft Engines. By the end of 2016, 21 customers had placed orders for more than 500 C919 aircraft, and COMAC expects to sell at least 2,000.

## Indo-Pak border in Gujarat now open to tourists



Gujarat shares a long International border with Pakistan. So far it was out of bounds to civilians, not anymore. Gujarat Tourism in association with the Border Security Force is opening border-viewing post at Nadabet in Banaskantha district from afternoon to evening on Saturdays & Sundays. Beyond the

thrill of looking across the fence to another country from your homeland, the Nadabet “Seema Darshan” as it is named, will be an eye opener for the tourists about the life of villagers living at the border. It will also be an opportunity to see the brave soldiers who safeguard our territories during day & night.

A one-side drill will be performed at India’s side of the post. Tourists will have an opportunity to interact with the soldiers & also watch war weapons display & retreat ceremony. One can see Pakistani troops across the border, but no skirmishes take place in this area, which is peaceful & safe. There are peaceful villages across the border.

Nadabet, which hosts the venue of the “Seema Darshan” is a small village in the Suigam Taluka of Banaskantha district. The Nadeshwari Mata Temple here is a serene sanctum of spiritual & surreal tranquillity.

Attractions of “Seema Darshan” Program :-



**WEAPON DISPLAY**



**VISIT TO INDIA PAKISTAN BORDER**



**FUSION BAND BSF**



**CAMEL SHOW**



**RETREAT (PARADE) BY BSF**



**FILM ON BSF**

### HOW TO REACH NADABET

#### Nadabet by Road

Suigam	20 kms	Palanpur	145 kms
Vav	59 kms	Mehsana	166 Kms
Radhanpur	75 Kms	Gandhinagar	223 Kms
Bhildi	95 Kms	Ahmedabad	245 Kms
Deesa	118 Kms		

\* Distances mentioned above are approximate.

**Nearest Railheads:** Bhildi, Deesa and Palanpur

**Nearest Airport:** Ahmedabad

### IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

- Government recognised Photo ID is a must for Border Post visit
- The registration will close 48 hours prior to tour date
- Kindly carry water, medicines and eatables for the tour
- Only 600 entries are allowed for one tour date

## Sail from Asia to Europe in 20 days



The rapid melting of sea ice in the Arctic is set to open up new shipping routes between the North Atlantic and between the North Atlantic and east Asia, dramatically cutting journey times. The amount of sea ice covering the Arctic Ocean has declined sharply each decade since the 1980s, according to measurements taken each September when the ice is at its minimum. Older, thicker ice is disappearing as well. Scientists say global warming is largely responsible for the changes. Parts of the Arctic are warming twice as fast as elsewhere.

Scientists say the region could be almost entirely free of sea ice within the next few decades for the first time in about 100,000 years. The changing conditions offer an opening to shipping companies. Some researchers have, in fact, plotted a number of routes from Europe and North America over the top of the world to China and Japan, which are detailed in a paper in the journal 'Geophysical Research Letters'.

Two once impassable Arctic routes are already open -the Northwest Passage, through the Canadian archipelago from the United States east coast to Asia, and the Northern Sea Route, along Russia's northern coast. But shorter, more direct routes over the North Pole itself are expected to become available as the ice melts over the next few decades. Taking an Arctic route from Europe to China is up to 40% shorter than sailing through the Suez Canal. And that could mean journey times of 18 to 20 days from Rotterdam in the Netherlands to Yokohama in Japan, instead of at least 30 days through Suez.

## Luxury Train in Japan



A Japanese railway company has launched a new luxury sleeper train with sky views, bathtubs and dark wood interiors, joining the race for well-heeled tourists. The top suite on the 10-car "Train Suite Shiki-shima" sells for \$10,000 per person for a four-day trip from Tokyo to Hokkaido. The train, which left with 33 passengers on its maiden voyage from Tokyo recently, features traditional tatami rice straw mats and bathtubs made from hiroki cypress wood in its executive suites. Glass ceilings and walls are built into two observatory coaches at the front and rear of the train for the passengers to watch the scenery pass by. The journey includes stops in the northeast Tohoku region which was hit by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The train has 10 carriages featuring a dining car, lounge and 17 suites and allows up to 34 passengers on board at a time. The futuristic observation car lets you relax and sip champagne, while the Japanese countryside zips past. The food on board is prepared using seasonal ingredients from eastern Japan by a team of top chefs. The train is fully booked until March 2018.



## Kashmir Railway project speeds up



India is fast-tracking a project to connect Kashmir valley with the rest of the country by rail, which will enable trains to operate between New Delhi and Srinagar in 14 hours flat. The railway line, which could become functional in four years, is seen as a big development push by the Government in the valley. Costing over ₹10,000 crore, it will provide all-weather connectivity and be a cornerstone of the government's outreach programme in Jammu & Kashmir.

About two-thirds of the 326 km Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link is ready. The portion that needs to be completed is a 111 km stretch between Katra, the Hindu pilgrimage town near Jammu, and Banihal on the slopes of Kashmir valley, for which the railway ministry has already allocated funds and formed a special monitoring team. Banihal is connected to Baramulla via Srinagar, while Jammu is linked to Katra via Udhampur. The Katra-Banihal project is considered the toughest in the country's engineering history and involves the construction of 27 bridges, including the tallest rail bridge in the world, and 37 tunnels, one of which is the longest in Asia at more than 12 km. It will not only make passenger travel more convenient, which will give a push to tourism in the valley, but will also make movement of freight to and from the valley a lot easier and cheaper, leading to the creation of more jobs in the strife-torn state.

## Kedarnath Rail Project approved



Once completed in about five years, the 125.09-km rail link between Rishikesh and Karanprayag promises to be an engineering marvel. Touted as the dream project for the people of hilly and backward Uttarakhand, it will pass through treacherous terrains of the Himalayan range, connecting the Garhwal region to the rail network at Rishikesh.

Traversing through Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts, the alignment will facilitate more comfortable and faster travel between Rishikesh and Karanprayag besides easing the pressure on road traffic. It will allow pilgrims comfortable access to the Kedarnath and Badrinath shrines and provide connectivity to Devprayag, Rudraprayag and Karnprayag. The proposed line that would run parallel to the Ganges has to negotiate with several confluences of the river's tributaries like Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Mandakini. Rishikesh, Karnprayag, Srinagar, Rudraprayag and Devprayag will be the major stations on the route, according to the preliminary survey. Altogether, there will be 128 bridges — 45 major and 83 minor ones. A viaduct of 535 meters between Sakni and Devprayag will be the longest bridge. There will be 19 tunnels, with more than one-km length and the longest one is 4.475 km between Sakni and Devprayag. About 58.64 km, or 46.65% will be covered through 81 tunnels.

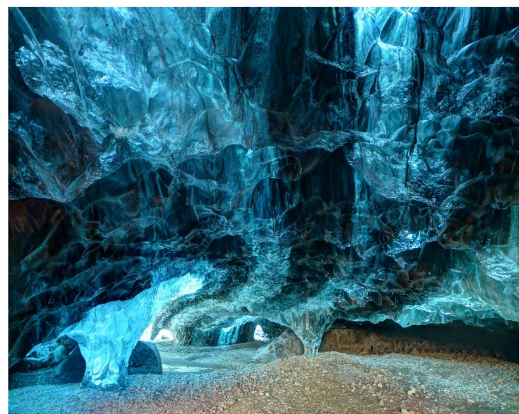
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## Vatnajökull Glacier Cave, Iceland

# PHOTO FEATURE



Vatnajökull, also known as the Vatna Glacier in English, is the largest and most voluminous ice cap in Iceland, and one of the largest in area in Europe. It is the second largest glacier in area after Austfonna on Svalbard in Norway but, nevertheless, larger by volume. It is located in the south-east of the island, covering more than 8 percent of the country. With an area of 8,100 km<sup>2</sup>, Vatnajökull is the largest ice cap in Europe by volume (3,100 km<sup>3</sup>).



## Lighter Moments

**Employer : We need someone for this Job, who is Responsible**

**Applicant : Sir, your search ends here, in my previous job, whenever anything went wrong, they said I am Responsible...**

## Thought for the Fortnight

**Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear & the blind can see.**

**— Hussain Abdul Kareem**

## 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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