



IAAI Newsletter

June 2017 — Ist Fortnight Issue

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i-Top's soft launch

IAAI's promise of delivering a gift for 2017 has moved closer to realization with i-Top (Indian Travel Agents Own Portal) going live with the first ticket having been issued by M/s Forv Holidays and Travels Pvt. Ltd.!!

During the "test run", registered User Members of i-Top have started issuing tickets through this IAAI Portal and, in the first phase, the i-Top User Accounts have been enabled with the respective Galileo PCCs.

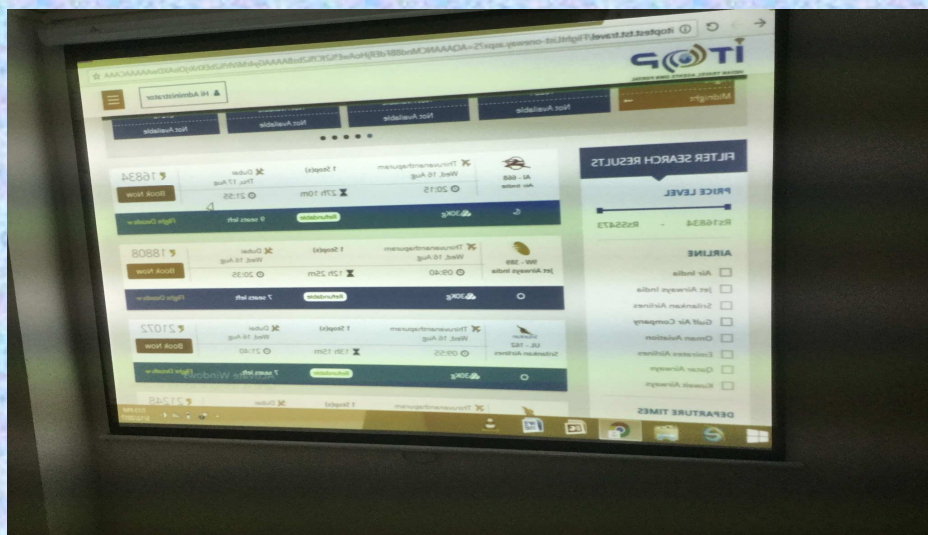


The IAAI Value-add Committee's meetings with the Airlines, GDS companies, Insurance providers and other tourism/aviation-related Suppliers have resulted in very favourable responses regarding their support for i-Top. One of the leading Overseas Medi-claim Insurance Companies will soon be integrating its products and services offering very exclusive rates for i-Top Users.

Advantages of i-Top :-

- It will allow a Member to function as an individual Agent using its own IATA validation, BSP capping, reporting & payment systems.
- In a scenario with or without any agency commission, i-Top will continue to bring in revenue for the Travel Agent by means of PLBs and Incentives from the Airlines based on the total productivity of all the i-Top Users regardless of the individual turn-overs.

If you are Travel Agent thinking about how to survive in the Aviation Industry of the Future, the OPPORTUNITY is literally HERE.....



If you are already inspired by i-Top,
if you are ready to get involved with i-Top,
NOW is the time to become a part of i-Top!

Air India to offer 3 rows of business class in all -economy flights



Air India has decided to offer business-class seats in its all-economy aircraft. The first three rows of economy aircraft will be makeshift business class seats. The middle seat would remain vacant, and the economy rows would be separated using curtains. The result will be that every aircraft of Air India will have business class seats. Of the 150 aircraft Air India has, about a dozen have only economy class seats. But the airline takes booking for business class passengers on routes that these aircraft ply. There will be no change in the structure of the seat or the layout. Usually, Members of Parliament book business class ticket and since they use open tickets, the date of travel is decided almost at the last moment, resulting in embarrassing situations.

GoAir strengthens connectivity on Delhi, Patna & Ahmedabad route



GoAir recently expanded its operations to Patna with the launch of their fourth daily flight between Delhi and Patna, with effect from June 11, 2017. The launch of this additional daily service between Patna and Delhi aims at strengthening GoAir's extensive network of flights to Patna and will also benefit the large number of passengers travelling from Patna to Delhi further bolstering the airline's already extensive network.

The carrier also announced the launch of three daily direct flights between Ahmedabad and Delhi on June 11. Business travellers will now get an effective same day connectivity between these two important cities with effect from June 11, 2017 and a third daily direct flight will also be operational with effect from June 16, 2017.

The new routes aim at connecting Ahmedabad directly to India's capital city thereby providing passengers an additional option in planning their travel with an added benefit of a same day return option. This service has been introduced in response to growing demand in this sector, particularly from business and corporate travelers. Passengers travelling from Ahmedabad will have better access to Delhi further bolstering the airline's already extensive domestic network.

Ministry of Civil Aviation launches DigiYatra for handling customer grievances



The Ministry of Civil Aviation is adding a Digital experience for Air Travelers through DigiYatra Platform. The 'DigiYatra' is an industry-led initiative co-ordinated by the Ministry in line with the Digital India's vision to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society. This follows Air Sewa which brings together all the stakeholders on a common platform for handling customer grievances and disseminating real-time data. 'DigiYatra' initiative will transform the flying experience for passengers and position Indian Aviation amongst the most innovative air networks in the world. 'DigiYatra' initiative aims to bring together entire industry to develop a digital ecosystem that will deliver Indian customers a seamless, consistent and paperless service experience at every touch point of their journey.

Jet Airways, Aeromexico MoU for code-share flights to MEXICO



Jet Airways (India) Ltd and Aeromexico, the flag carrier airline of Mexico have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the areas of enabling code-share flights and frequent flyer programmes. As part of the arrangement, both carriers will code on each other's services between India and Mexico via common gates in Europe (London Heathrow, Paris Charles De Gaulle and Amsterdam). To begin with, Jet Airways will place its marketing code '9W' on Aeromexico flights from London Heathrow to Mexico City. In turn, Aeromexico will place its marketing code on Jet Airways' direct services from London Heathrow to Mumbai and Delhi. The code-share partnership will offer guests enhanced connectivity and seamless access to the combined networks of both airlines, with convenient connections via Jet Airways' European gateways. This comprehensive MoU signed between the two carriers, also includes cooperation in the area of reciprocal frequent flyer benefits for members. The initial code-share flights via London Heathrow will open for sale as well as travel later this year, subject to Government approvals.

No departure card requirement for Indians flying abroad from 1 July



Indian flyers headed for foreign destinations will not be required to fill up departure cards starting from July 1, which means one fewer formality before boarding the aircraft. However, those travelling out of the country via rail, sea ports and land immigration check-posts will have to fill the embarkation card, according to an order issued by the home ministry.

The departure card contains passenger details such as name, date of birth, passport number, address in India, flight number and date of boarding. The same information (about the passengers) is available in the system from other sources. The requirement for Indians to fill up arrival cards upon their return from abroad was done away with in 2014. These steps are among several taken of late to facilitate both international and domestic travel. Last year, the customs department did away with the need for Indian passengers to fill up a declaration form while coming to India if they were not carrying dutiable goods. However, those carrying prohibited and dutiable goods are still required to fill up an 'Indian customs declaration form'. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), mandated to secure airports in the country, has also started doing away with the practice of tagging and stamping of domestic passengers' hand baggage. The practice has already been done away with at Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Ahmedabad.

SpiceJet launches operations under UDAN scheme



SpiceJet launched its operations under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme. The airline announced the launch of two new daily direct flights on the routes of Mumbai-Porbandar-Mumbai and Mumbai-Kandla-Mumbai effective July 10, 2017. SpiceJet was awarded six proposals and eleven routes under the first phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). Out of the six proposals, four will cater to unserved markets of Adampur, Kandla, Puducherry and Jaisalmer whereas two will be for underserved markets of Porbandar and Kanpur.

SpiceJet's Q-400 aircraft – SG 2873, operating on the Mumbai-Porbandar route, will depart from Mumbai for Porbandar at 09.30 AM, whereas SG 2874 will be operational on the Porbandar-Mumbai route departing at 11.05 am. However, the return Porbandar-Mumbai flight will be a non-RCS flight. The airline will also be operating a daily direct flight on the Mumbai-Kandla route departing from Mumbai at 1.05 pm, whereas the flight on the Kandla-Mumbai route will depart at 3.10 pm. Under the UDAN scheme, the airline will be operating the new flights on the Mumbai-Porbandar route with RCS seats at INR 2,250 (all in) whereas the fare on the Mumbai-Kandla and Kandla-Mumbai routes would be INR 2,500 (all in) for RCS seats.

Kerala's new Excise policy to allow bars in 3-star and above hotels



Kerala Government has approved the new liquor policy which would in effect allow all hotels above 3-star category to have bars and serve liquor. In total reversal of the previous Government's policy which confined bars only in 5-star hotels, the new policy will allow all types of hotels to have bar license. The new policy while invited wrath of the opposition parties in the state and that of anti liquor campaigners in the state, has been widely welcomed by the tourism industry which has been experiencing slump in growth and drop in business and MICE travel.

Lemon Tree Hotels operated Sandal Suites debuts near Noida Expressway



Carnation Hotels, the hotel management arm of Lemon Tree Hotels, recently announced the official launch of the upscale service apartment brand - Sandal Suites, the 11th property to be operated by Lemon Tree Hotels. Located in the Assotech Business Cresterra, the IT hub of Sector 135, near Noida Expressway, it currently features 100 keys, the all day dining Citrus Restaurant (130 covers) and 6500 sq ft of banqueting space. The second phase of expansion will witness the addition of 95 more keys including one Presidential Suite, a floor solely dedicated to female guests, Bitters Bar, a private club for in-house guests, Pomelo pool bar and increased MICE space.

StayWell Hospitality launches its 5th hotel in India - Leisure Inn Shrey, Jodhpur



StayWell Hospitality Group (SWHG) launched its fifth property in India - Leisure Inn Shrey, Jodhpur. A three-star mid-scale hotel located in the high-visibility city centre of Jodhpur, it plans to capitalise on its pillar-less banqueting space, the growing corporate travel to the city and the eating out culture among the locals. This newly constructed property has debuted with 51 rooms, vegetarian restaurant-Grand Chanakya, one coffee shop and 3000 sq ft of MICE space fit to accommodate up to 300 people. In the next six months, Leisure Inn Shrey, Jodhpur will also house a bar on the ground floor and a rooftop restaurant with live cooking counters offering North Indian grills and Teppanyaki cuisine. The property is suited to host medium-size social events and thus has already received two wedding bookings for early winters. The hotel might consider opening a spa, but at a later stage.

Uber's flying taxis to launch in Dubai by 2020



Uber Elevate, a fleet of flying cars will soon be transporting passengers around Dubai. Uber recently announced that it is set to launch Uber Elevate, a fleet of vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) flying cars that will be used to transport passengers within cities. Commuters will have access to this fleet of flying cars through the UberAir app, and can benefit from this fast and reliable innovation in the transportation industry. The company has partnered with the Dubai government aiming to conduct passenger flights during Expo 2020 Dubai. Manufactured in close partnership with Aurora Flight Science, Pipistrel Aircraft, Embraer, Mooney, and Bell Helicopter, Uber Elevate is poised to be more cost-effective and efficient. In true science fiction form, the innovation is set to come to life in a matter of three years, and is a positive move towards easing traffic in urban areas. VTOLs are designed to be a more sustainable form of transportation, as they run on electric propulsion systems and do not produce operational emissions.

Indian Railways to refurbish old coaches for better amenities and looks



Indian Railways launched one of the largest retro-fitment drives in the country to provide an enhanced customer safety and travel experience for passengers of Indian Railways. The railways are facing stiff competition from low-cost airlines and is looking to make a turnaround. Mission Retro-Fitment is an ambitious program to upgrade the level of furnishing and amenities in the coaches of Indian Railways.

Under this program Indian Railways is looking at a target of retrofitting some 40,000 coaches in the next five years. The target for the year 2017-18 has been set at retrofitting around a thousand coaches. The main focus of the retro-fitment drive, which is estimated to cost Rs 28 lakh per coach, is on enhancing passenger safety and comfort. In order to improve safety, the drive will focus on installing coupling systems similar to the ones used in the newer Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches.

The other focus will be on increased passenger comfort and better amenities. The proposed changes include installing LED lights, anti-graffiti paint coats, modular toilets, powered Venetian blinds and branded fittings. Keeping in mind passenger safety, state of the art fire and smoke detection systems, rounding off the edges of coach furniture (to decrease chances of impact injury) and AC coach doors that open either ways will be installed. The drive will also install charging points, improved passenger address and information systems, and braille signage in old railway coaches.

RAILWAY NEWS

Indian Railways to offer 20 stations to Malaysia for redevelopment



The Indian Railways is firming up plans to join hands with Malaysia to redevelop about 20 stations in Tier-II cities across the country. Aimed at attracting nearly Rs 1 lakh crore private investment, the station redevelopment project envisages infrastructure revamp at platforms and circulating areas. It also entails commercial exploitation of station areas for constructing hotels, eateries, multiplexes, shopping malls and office complex among others for the use of developers for a period of 45 years. While cities like Delhi and Mumbai are in Tier-I category, cities such as Faridabad, Cuttack, Amritsar, Jamshedpur, Kochi, Jammu, and Bikaner are considered Tier-II cities.

A long term partnership will be forged with Malaysia on a government-to-government basis for offering about 20 stations to the southeast country. In the first phase, 23 railway stations including the iconic Howrah station, Mumbai Central and Chennai Central have been selected for the project which aims to make the best use of the assets of the stations. Other stations being modernised in the first phase include Pune, Thane, Visakhapatnam, Kamakhya, Jammu Tawi, Udaipur City, Secunderabad, Vijaywada, Ranchi, Kozhikode, Yesvantpur, Bangalore Cantt, Bhopal, Bandra Terminus, Borivali and Indore. Bhopal station has already been awarded to a developer for redevelopment.

Ethiopia launches E-Visa facility for international visitors



The Ethiopian Immigration and Nationality Affairs main Department in collaboration with Ethiopian Airlines has launched the initial phase to commence an e-visa service for international visitors.

The e-visa is processed and issued online on a single web page where applicants apply, pay and secure their entry visa online. Once the online application is approved, applicants will receive an email authorising them to travel to Ethiopia and they will get their passport stamped with the visa upon arrival in Addis Ababa. International visitors can apply for the visa at www.evisa.gov.et.

This project is part of a new national initiative to transform the tourism sector in the country. The full commencement of the online visa application and issuance system will promote tourism, trade and investment to the country. It will save time, energy and cost for travelers to Ethiopia in addition to the simplicity and convenience that it facilitates.

VISA NEWS

Peru Government eases visa process for Indian nationals



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru has announced visa relaxation for Indian nationals. The exemption will apply to Indian citizens holding valid ordinary passports and proving that they will comply with at least one of the two conditions. Either Indian nationals should hold visas with a minimum validity of six (6) months of the United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom -Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia or any State belonging to the Schengen Area; or the Indian travellers should have a permanent residence in the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia or any State belonging to the Schengen Area. The document stipulates that Indian citizens will have a maximum period of stay that will be up to one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days, whether as a continuous visit or several consecutive visits, during the period of one year. Since March 27, it was decided to exempt, with some restrictions, the temporary tourist and business visa to the citizens of India who visit Peru.

VFS Global to launch five Georgia Visa Application Centres in India



Global visa processing service provider-VFS Global announced the launch of five new Georgia Visa Application Centres covering the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata. They plan to open six new Georgia Visa Application Centres pan India. The

Delhi centre will be operational from June 23 and the launch dates for rest of the centres are yet to be finalised. The Government of Georgia recently signed an Air Service Agreement with Ministry of Civil Aviation in India. Now on the Georgian Government will initiate talks with the airlines in India to launch flights from six Indian cities to any Georgian destination (as per open sky policy).

US revises visa norms; to include social media information



In the new visa screening process enforced by the US administration for foreign nationals including those from India under which applicants might be asked to share information of their social media accounts, emails, and telephone numbers. The State Department has started implementing the new changes from May 25. The Department issues visas to foreign nationals through diplomatic missions across the world. But these additional questions would be asked only in extreme circumstances. The additional questions apply to nationals of every country worldwide, including Indian nationals, but only when a consular officer determines that such information is required to confirm identity or conduct more rigorous national security vetting.

ADVERTISEMENT SECTION



CHANDIGARH

Jul 20 to 22

KOLKATA

Jul 27 to 29

KOCHI

Aug 3 to 5

PUNE

Aug 10 to 12

NAGPUR

Jan 18 to 20-2018

For more details log on to : <http://gps-india.com/>

Petra tou Romiou, Cyprus

PHOTO FEATURE



Petra tou Romiou (Rock of the Greek), also known as Aphrodite's Rock, is a sea stack in Pafos, Cyprus. It is located off the shore along the main road from Pafos to Limassol. The combination of the beauty of the area and its status in mythology as the birthplace of Aphrodite makes it a popular tourist location. The sea in this region is generally rough, persuading tourists not to swim there. It is not permitted to climb the rock. A restaurant, a tourist pavilion and the Aphrodite Hills resort are nearby.

Lighter Moments

A man was wandering around in a field, thinking about how good his wife had been to him and how fortunate he was to have her.

He asked God, "Why did you make her so kind-hearted?"

The Lord responded, "So you could love her, my son."

"Why did you make her so good-looking?"

"So you could love her, my son."

"Why did you make her such a good cook?"

"So you could love her, my son."

The man thought about this. Then he said, "I don't mean to seem ungrateful or anything, but ... why did you make her so stupid?"

"So she could love you, my son."

Thought for the Fortnight

To believe in something, & not to live it, is dishonesty.

— M K Gandhi

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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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