



RAJASTHAN THE GOLDEN DESERT

RNI : RAJENG/2013/50996

Weekly on Travel, Tourism, Hotel & Heritage of Rajasthan

Year 11 | Issue 49 | Pages 4 | 08 July 2024

Price: ₹ 5 | www.rtgd.in | rtgdmail@gmail.com

“NEW FLYING SCHOOLS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN KISHANGARH”



• Jaipur, July 02

Rajasthan State Cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma gave a nod to several important decisions for development of infrastructure in aviation and energy sectors. In a meeting convened at the CM Office on Tuesday, the Cabinet proposed amendments in certain state government policies and rules including the decision to abolish the Gandhi Vatika Trust, an agency authorised to manage the Mahatma Gandhi Museum at Jaipur.

Deputy Chief Minister and Higher Education Minister Dr. Premchand Bairwa, Industries and Commerce

Minister Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel briefed the media about the decisions taken by the Cabinet in a press conference at the State Secretariat.

Dr. Bairwa told that the Cabinet approved the proposals to name three government colleges in Churu, Barmar and Bikaner districts in the names of donors, who donated the buildings to these newly established institutes of learning. As per the decision, government colleges would be named as Smt. Mohani Devi Chachan Government College, Sahwa, Churu; Shanti Devi Udayraj Gandhi Government College, Dhorimanna, Barmar; and Government Sadu Devi Parakh Girls' (Continued on page 7)

AIR INDIA TO SET UP SOUTH ASIA'S LARGEST FLYING TRAINING ORGANISATION AT AMRAVATI

TO GRADUATE 180 COMMERCIAL PILOTS EVERY YEAR

• Gurugram, July 01

Air India, India's leading global airline, is setting up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati in Maharashtra as part of an initiative by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC). This FTO will service the ambitions of the airline as it moves ahead in its transformation journey and strengthen the available pilot training capacity in India.

The DGCA-licensed FTO at Amravati's Belora airport will be operational by Q1 FY26 and will target to graduate 180 commercial pilots every year. The Air India FTO, the first by any Indian airline in the country, will have 31 single-engine aircraft and 3 twin-engine aircraft for training.

Air India has been awarded a tender by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) to establish and operate this DGCA-licensed FTO in Amravati for a period of 30 years.

Campbell Wilson, MD & CEO, Air India, said: "The FTO at Amravati will be a significant step towards making Indian aviation more self-reliant and offering more opportunities to the youth in India to fulfill their ambitions of flying as pilots. The young pilots coming out of this FTO will fuel Air India's ambition of becoming a world-class airline, as it moves ahead in its transformation journey."

"The FTO will be operational by Q1 FY26 and offer aspiring pilots an opportunity to undergo training with world-class curricula at par with best-in-class global schools. We are delighted to be playing a part in building the aviation infrastructure India needs as one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets and to support the government's vision for an Atmanirbhar Bharat," said Sunil Bhaskaran, Director, Aviation Academy, Air India.

"This collaborative initiative between MADC and Air India will not only boost the economy of Maharashtra by focusing on over 3,000 new employment opportunities within the aviation sector, but also create employment in multifarious allied activities in skilling, technical and small entrepreneurial ventures culminating in an impressive contribution of over Rs 1,000 crore to the state's GDP over the next decade. The establishment of South Asia's largest FTO will certainly encourage students in Maharashtra to pursue careers in aviation which would further instill a deep sense of inspiration and pride for the state of Maharashtra and the Indian citizenry," said Swati Pandey, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Maharashtra Airport Development Company. (Continued on page 7)



Two days' Global INDIAai Summit 2024

• New Delhi, July 03

The two days' Global INDIAai Summit 2024 kickstarted today at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi and the opening ceremony was graced by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Railways, and Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Vice Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, Hiroshi Yoshida, Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, and Commerce & Industry, Government

and officials from Central and State Governments.

Addressing the gathering, Ashwini Vaishnaw emphasized on the intent and approach of Government of India to democratize the technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and make it accessible to all, leaving no one behind. He shared that the government intends to invest in AI focused common use public platforms, which can be used by one and all to innovate, develop and deliver the products and services in a competitive and collaborative manner.

He also touched on the develop-



of India, Jitin Prasada, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), S Krishnan, President, NASSCOM, Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Vice President, OpenAI, Srinivas Narayanan and Additional Secretary, MeitY, Abhishek Singh.

The event saw the participation of Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) experts, delegates, industry and startup veterans, AI practitioners, academicians, students,

ment in AI space by Japan, European Union, USA, and UN. He cautioned on the risks posed by AI, which can be a threat to democratic communities, and called for responsible & human centered AI.

Hiroshi Yoshida complimented the Government of India and stated that hosting GPAI shows India's strong commitment for responsible AI. He supported India as the Chair of GPAI on the global south. He shared that Japan has (Continued on page 7)

AIR INDIA SELECTS IBS SOFTWARE'S ICARGO PLATFORM TO UNDERPIN MAJOR EXPANSION IN AIR CARGO OPERATIONS

Air cargo is one of the key drivers of our roadmap for future growth, and technology will be at the core of it

• Gurugram, July 02

Air India, India's leading global airline, has selected IBS Software, a worldwide leader in SaaS solutions for the travel industry to digitally transform its expanding air cargo operations.

Air India has chosen IBS Software's iCargo solution to support its growth plan and commitment to the airline's ongoing digital transformation. IBS Software's fully integrated iCargo solution will enable Air India to digitise end-to-end cargo management, allowing seamless integration of various cargo operations, from sales to billing within a single, integrated platform. This will empower Air India to streamline processes and enhance decision-making capabilities.

This partnership comes at a time when Air India has embarked on a significant digital transformation of its core businesses across passenger services, fleet, and cargo operations.

Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial and Transformation Officer at Air India, said: "Air India is on a transformation journey to not only reaffirm its position as a global leader in aviation, but to also establish foundations for future growth. Air cargo is one of the key drivers of our roadmap for future growth, and technology will be at the core of it."

Somit Goyal, Chief Executive Officer at IBS Software, shared similar sentiments, stating: "As one of the most iconic airlines in the world, partnering with Air India is a proud moment for IBS Software. The Indian aviation market is on a major upswing, and we are excited to be partnered with a company that is dedicated to driving this growth. We are proud that our market-leading digital platform for the air cargo industry will support the ambitious transformation goals of Air India's cargo offering and take it from strength to strength."

The first end-to-end implementation of iCargo is slated for delivery within nine months from the project's start, promising immediate business benefits to Air India. Subsequent phases will introduce incremental value-added capabilities, further enhancing Air India's cargo capabilities as it endeavours to meet India's ambitious target of handling ten million tonnes of air cargo per year by 2030.



Smart Cities Mission extended

• New Delhi, July 03

The Smart Cities Mission is a novel experiment in India's urban development. Since its inception in June 2015, the Mission has attempted several innovative ideas, e.g., competition among cities for selection of 100 smart cities, stakeholder driven project selection, formation of smart city Special Purpose Vehicles for implementation, deployment of technology and digital solutions for improving urban governance, third-party impact evaluation by premier academic and professional institutes etc.

Each of the 100 Cities have developed a diverse set of projects, many of which very unique and being implemented for the first time, thus improving the Cities' capability

and experience and achieving larger transformational goals at the city level. More than 8,000+ multi-sectoral projects are being developed by the 100 Cities amounting to around ₹1.6 lakh crore.



As on 03rd July 2024, the 100 Cities have completed 7,188 projects (90% of total projects) amounting to ₹ 1,44,237 crore as part of the Mission. The balance 830 projects amounting to ₹ 19,926 crore are also in advanced stages of completion. On the financial (➔Continued on page 7)

Advisory for Zika virus

• New Delhi, July 03

In view of some reported cases of Zika virus from Maharashtra, Dr Atul Goel, Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued an advisory to States highlighting the need for maintaining a state of constant vigil over the Zika virus situation in the country.

As Zika is associated with microcephaly and neurological consequences in the foetus of the affected pregnant lady, States have been advised to alert the clinicians for close monitoring. States are urged to instruct the health facilities in the affected areas or those catering cases from affected areas to screen the pregnant women for Zika virus infection, monitor the growth of the fetus of expecting mothers who have tested positive for Zika and act as per Central Government Guidelines.



AIR INDIA'S FLAGSHIP A350 TO FLY TWICE DAILY ON DELHI-LONDON

14 of 17 weekly Delhi-London Heathrow flights to be operated by Air India's A350-900

• PR News, Gurugram/London, June 27

Air India is set to transform the on board experience for its guests on twice-daily flights between Delhi and London Heathrow with the deployment of its brand-new Airbus A350-900 aircraft. Starting from 1 September 2024, this route will mark the long-haul international debut of Air India's flagship product.

The A350-900 will replace the currently deployed Boeing 777-300ER and Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner on 14 of 17 weekly flights. As a result, an additional 336 seats will be available on the Delhi-London Heathrow route each week.

With the deployment of the A350-900 to London Heathrow in September, Air India will have upgraded 90% of all its flights to London Heathrow. From April 2024, Air India started deploying its recently inducted Boeing 777-300ERs with elevated cabin interiors on all flights across its Mumbai-London Heathrow route to provide upgraded cabin interiors and inflight

entertainment systems, while bringing First class back on the London Heathrow-Mumbai route. This makes Air India the only carrier to offer the choice of First class travel between the two cities as well as between the UK and India.

Introducing Premium Economy and an all-new Air India experience across cabins: Air India will introduce its Premium Economy class experience for the first time on the Delhi-London Heathrow route with A350-900. It will offer guests the choice of 24 wide seats arranged in a 2-4-2 configuration in a dedicated, upscale cabin.

Air India's A350 flights will also feature new soft products and award-winning guest enhancements unveiled earlier this year. These enhancements include new chinaware, new tableware and glassware, new bedding, and updated amenity kits for Business and Premium Economy guests, exclusively designed by Ferragamo and TUMI, respectively.

Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India, said: "The deployment of our flagship A350s and the B777s with upgraded cabin interiors to London

SCHEDULE OF A350 FLIGHTS ON DELHI-LONDON HEATHROW ROUTE (FROM 1 Sep 2024)

Flight	Days of Operation	Sector	Departure	Arrival
AI161	Daily	Delhi – London Heathrow	0245 Hrs	0730 Hrs
AI162	Daily	London Heathrow – Delhi	0945 Hrs	2250 Hrs
AI111	Daily	Delhi – London Heathrow	0645 Hrs	1130 Hrs
AI112	Daily	London Heathrow – Delhi	1315 Hrs	0205Hrs (+1)

SCHEDULE OF B777-300ER FLIGHTS WITH UPGRADED INTERIORS ON MUMBAI-LONDON HEATHROW ROUTE

Flight No.	Days of Operation	Sector	Departure	Arrival
AI129	Daily	Mumbai-London Heathrow	0515 Hrs	1015 Hrs
AI128	Daily	London Heathrow-Mumbai	1230 Hrs	0145 Hrs (+1)
AI131	Daily	Mumbai-London Heathrow	1400 Hrs	1900 Hrs
AI130	Daily	London Heathrow Mumbai	2130 Hrs	1050 Hrs

(+1) denotes next day arrival

Heathrow marks a significant milestone for Air India. It demonstrates our commitment to elevating the travel experience of our guests to truly world-class standards and to going beyond just meeting customer expectations as we continue to renew our fleet."

"With our industry-leading cabin products on the A350 including a new Premium Economy experience and a host of new on board enhance-

ments rolling out, we are confident that these daily flights between India and London Heathrow will soon be the preferred choice for travellers," Wilson added.

Booking Air India A350 flights to London Heathrow: The A350 seats on the Delhi-London Heathrow route are now available to reserve on Air India's website and mobile app or via travel agents.

Conference on 'Port of the Future'

• Mumbai, July 03

Mormugao Port Authority and Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, are organizing a one-day conference on the theme "Port of the Future" at International Centre Goa, Dona Paula, North Goa, on 05th July 2024.

One of the key objectives of the conference is to deliberate on the transformation of major ports into 'Port 4.0,' leveraging advanced technologies to digitally transmute key business processes, improve security, increase operational efficiency, enhance port sustainability, and enable seamless navigation and real-time

data transmission within and among the major ports.

The conference aims to prepare a roadmap for Indian ports to move towards the implementation of 5G technology, and to improving navigation, security, and efficiency through the use of advanced Vessel Traffic Management Systems and introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Vessel Traffic Services.

The conference will also discuss the 5G communication networks implemented in global ports and how the application of information technologies such as AI, Block Chain, Internet of Things etc. have been used as means to improve the core competitiveness of those ports.

The event will bring together industry experts, researchers, pro-



professionals, port administrators and executives, and policy makers from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways to discuss the latest advance-

ments and applications of 5G technology and Vessel Traffic Management Systems in the context of seaports and maritime operations.



Reddy Inaugurates DMF Gallery

• New Delhi, July 02

Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated DMF gallery in Shastri Bhawan today. Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey was also present. The DMF gallery will showcase products of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under District Mineral Foundation/Pradan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna & SHGs supported by Mining companies under their Corporate Social Responsibility, in the premises of Shastri Bhawan.

The Ministers interacted with SHGs and appreciated their products prepared by SHGs of DMF Keonjhar and Koraput from Odisha and applauded the commendable efforts of Hindustan Copper Limited & HINDALCO for supporting SHGs in different

districts of the country.

Krishna Self Help Group funded by DMF Keonjhar is showcasing Millet food items, seeds & Tasar Silk products and Mahima Self Help Group funded by DMF Koraput is showcasing Lemongrass, Japanese Mint Oil products, this week. 25 SHGs supported by Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) will showcase their products in the DMF gallery on rotation basis.

In accordance to Sustainable Mining Charter Mandate, HINDALCO is supporting several SHGs in which more than 3000 artisans are directly benefited where Kosala - rejuvenating Chhattisgarh Kosa weaves, Trina an initiative for kashi grass woven art, Jirhul - novel gel sanitary napkin, Vamshala - bamboo and kashi grass craft, Kathautia and Viartana - Lantana weed to bio-composite artefacts among other products are produced.

Railways earns Rs 14798.11 Crore from Freight

• New Delhi, July 02

During the month of June 2024, originating freight loading of 135.46MT has been achieved against loading of 123.06MT in June 2023, which is

an improvement of approx 10.07% over the last year. Freight revenue of Rs. 14,798.11 Crores has been achieved in June 2024 against Rs 13,316.81 Cr. freight earnings in June 2023, thereby showing an improvement of about 11.12% over the last year.



IR achieved loading of 60.27 MT in Coal (excluding imported coal), 8.82MT in imported coal, 15.07 MT in Iron Ore, 5.36 MT in Pig Iron and Finished Steel, 7.56 MT in Cement (Excl. Clinker), 5.28 MT in Clinker, 4.21 MT in Foodgrains, 5.30 MT in Fertilizers, 4.18 MT in Mineral Oil, 6.97 MT in Containers and 10.06 MT in Balance Other Goods during June, 2024.

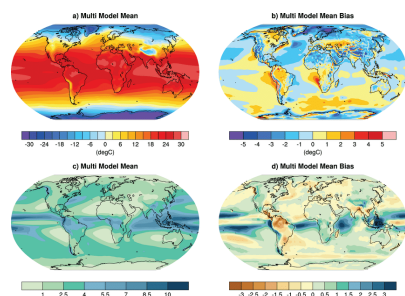
Monthly Outlook for Rainfall and Temperature for July

• New Delhi, July 01

Rainfall over India - Monthly rainfall over the country as a whole during July 2024 is most likely to be above normal (>106 % of LPA). During July, normal to above normal rainfall is most likely over most parts of the country except many parts of northeast India and some parts of northwest, east and southeast peninsular India where below normal rainfall is likely.

Surface Air Temperature over India - During July 2024, monthly minimum temperatures are most likely to be above-normal over many parts of the country except some parts of north-

west and adjoining areas of central India and some pockets of south-eastern peninsular India where normal to below normal minimum temperatures



are likely. The maximum temperature is likely to be normal to below normal

over many parts of the Northwest India and south peninsular India except West coast. Above normal maximum temperatures are likely over many parts of central India, east and north-east India and along west coast.

Sea Surface Temperature (SST) - Currently El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions are observed over the equatorial Pacific. The sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average in the equatorial western and central Pacific Ocean, and below-average over the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. The latest Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFS) indicates that the La Nina conditions are likely to develop during second half of the monsoon season.

At present, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over the Indian Ocean. The latest climate model forecasts indicate neutral IOD conditions are likely to continue during the monsoon season.

IMD will issue the forecast for the rainfall during the second half of the season (August + September 2024) and for the month of August towards the end of July 2024.

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Global Conclave on Plastic Recycling and Sustainability

• PR News, July 04

The four-day Global Conclave on Plastic Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS) got off to a robust start today at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, with Chief Guest Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma, Secretary, Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurating the conference. Smt. Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, attended the session as the Guest of Honor. Among other notable attendees were AIPMA President Manish Dedhia, CPMA President Kamal Nanavati, AIPMA Governing Council Chairman Arvind Mehta, GCPRS 2024 Chairman Hiten Bheda, Pranav Kumar (CPMA), Prof. (Dr.) Shishir Sinha (Plastindia Foundation), Ravish Kamath (Plastindia).

In her inaugural address, Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma commended the efforts of the AIPMA and the CPMA for organizing a conclave on

a topic of paramount relevance, at a time when only ten percent of the total plastic waste generated globally was recycled. She said “be that as it may, and despite transitioning from a material of wonder to a victim of its own success, the plastic industry remains one of the leading contributors



to the economy and in providing employment to millions globally”. She reminded stakeholders that a concerted and collaborative effort across various sectors is necessary.

Smt. Nivedita further told that the government, in a bid to curb plastic pollution, had introduced the Plastic Waste Management Rules in 2016, which mandated extended producer responsibility, enforced stricter recycling package & banned specific single use plastic, and various amendments have also been made to the rules over the years to widen its ambit.



World Bank Representatives Conferred with Chief Minister

• Jaipur, July 01

A delegation from the World Bank convened with Chief Minister Shri Bhajanlal Sharma at his residence on Monday. Discussions centered around state infrastructure including roads, water, electricity, urban development, and transportation. The Chief Minister engaged in detailed talks with the delegation members, exploring the potential role of the World Bank in advancing the state’s development goals.

Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma shared with the members of the delegation information about the future vision including the ongoing projects in the state and the development works being done in various sectors. This 6-member delegation included Mrs. Bhavana Bhatia, Arnab Bandyopadhyay, Mrs. Reenu Aneja, Tushar Arora, Rajagopal and Harsh.

Four-day Brainstorming Session for the upcoming Largest Museum in the world

• Jaipur, June 29

Ministry of Culture organised a four-day inter-ministerial stakeholder consultation and capacity building workshop for upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum, slated to be built in the North and South Block as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project. The workshop was held from 26th to 29th June 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The final day of the deliberation was attended by the Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and senior Ministry officials such as the Secretary, Govind Mohan as well as Dr. Thierry Mathou, French Ambassador to India.

The consultation engaged individuals from the museum ecosystem, both private and government to discuss the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat (The timeless and eternal India) Museum. The Capacity Building was spearheaded by a team of experts from France Muséums, an international museum consultancy.

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on the concluding day of the four-day Capacity Building Workshop said “This museum will stand as a testament to India’s rich heritage and its unwavering spirit of progress, as it draws inspiration from its past as a blueprint. The Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum will transcend the traditional museum experience, embodying the spirit of inclusivity. It will be a museum of the people, centring community narratives – a testament to India’s legacy as the mother of Democracy.”

The new National Museum of India is set to come up at North and South Block as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project that seeks to revamp India’s central administrative area located near Raisina Hill, New Delhi. The museum will be spread over 1,54,000 sqm, making it the largest mu-

Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum

seum in the world. The video walk through for the museum was first unveiled by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the first International Museum Expo organized by the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) Division of the Ministry of Culture on 18.05.2023 and was



reiterated during the inauguration of the Bharat Mandapam in July 2023.



The Museum will be developed through Adaptive Reuse, in collaboration with France owing to their expertise in similar projects such as the Lou-

vre, which too housed the French Ministry of Finance. The French are partners for this project owing to the long-standing friendship between the two countries, which had contributed to a Letter of Intent being signed between both governments in 2020 that emphasised Museum & Heritage Co-operation.

Pursuant to this, the GLAM Division spearheaded a series of capacity building workshops that aimed to foster critical objectives: alignment amongst stakeholders and generation of synergy for a unified vision. The first of these was a brainstorming session held on the 14th of June, bringing together other ministries and departments of the Government of India. This not only fosters interdepartmental coordination but also ensures the project resonates with various facets of Indian society.

Following this, an intensive four-day brainstorming session was held at Bharat Mandapam from 26th to 29th June, amongst stakeholders of the museum ecosystem such as high-level management from government museums, private experts such as conservation architects, scenographers, exhibition designers, publishers, conservationists, educators and many others.

The intensive brainstorming session and workshops held over the past few days have provided invaluable insights into the core operational elements of a world-class museum.

This museum will stand as a testament to India’s rich heritage and its unwavering spirit of progress, as it draws inspiration from its past as a blueprint



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IATA and ASF to Develop Standard Cabin Waste Composition Audit Program

• PR News, Geneva, July 05

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is collaborating with the Aviation Sustainability Forum (ASF) to launch a standardized Cabin Waste Composition Audit (CWCA), with the ASF Cabin Waste Composition Auditing Platform to be launched in September 2024.

CWCA audits have already been trialed in two waves, covering 25 flights (short, medium, and long-haul) at Singapore's Changi Airport in November 2023 and April 2024. ASF conducted the audits based on a methodology developed by IATA. Preliminary results indicate that the sector is generating over 3.6 million metric tonnes of cabin and catering waste

annually, with 65% being food and beverage waste. Untouched meals account for 18% of all waste.

Audit data will guide the airline industry and policy makers in their efforts to reduce the levels of waste produced and improve circularity by identifying opportunities for re-use and recycling. Previous IATA research identified the lack of a standardized methodology with respect to conducting cabin waste audits and, as a result, harmonized data is not available to underpin decision-making by policymakers, airlines, and caterers regarding waste-related issues. A standardized audit will help solve these issues and enable the sector to demonstrate progress towards waste reduction and improved circularity.

"Managing and reducing waste is an important component

Better data will also help policymakers to harmonize regulations, which in turn can help optimize the industry's capability to sort, re-cycle and safely re-use waste that cannot be avoided.

Marie Owens Thomsen

IATA's Senior Vice President Sustainability and Chief Economist

of aviation's overall sustainability. Obtaining standardized and comparable data regarding the composition and quantity of waste from flights will help the industry to reduce the waste it generates. Better data will also help policymakers to harmonize regulations, which in turn can help optimize the industry's capability to sort, re-cycle and safely re-use waste that cannot be avoided. Working with ASF in developing this audit program is a significant step forward in improving the circularity of the sector," said Marie Owens Thomsen, IATA's Senior Vice President Sustainability and

Chief Economist.

"The ASF's mission is to help the aviation sector reduce the levels of cabin waste generated and achieve higher levels of waste recovery and circularity. Working with IATA to develop a cabin waste composition auditing standard for the sector is a significant step forward. Effectively managing cabin waste is a challenge that can be solved with the backing of data. It is the responsibility of the sector and its regulators to come together, understand the problem and align on the needed solutions," said Matt Crane, ASF's Founder.

Passenger Demand Up 10.7% in May

• PR News, Geneva, July 05

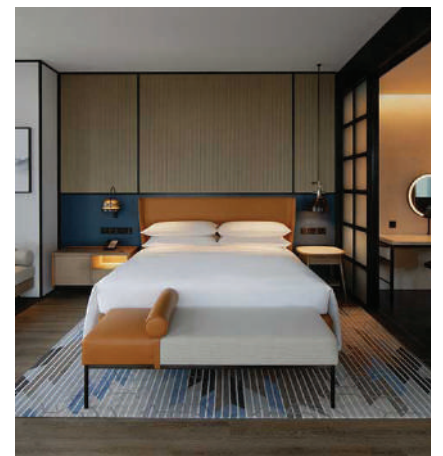
Geneva - The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for May 2024 global passenger demand with the following highlights:

Total demand, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs), was up 10.7% compared to May 2023. Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 8.5% year-on-year. The May load factor was 83.4% (+1.7ppt compared to May 2023), a record high for May.

International demand rose 14.6% compared to May 2023. Capacity was up 14.1% year-on-year and the load factor improved to 82.8% (+0.3ppt on May 2023).

Domestic demand rose 4.7% compared to May 2023; capacity was up 0.1% year-on-year and the load factor was 84.5% (+3.8ppt compared to May 2023).

"Strong demand for travel continues with airlines posting a 10.7% year-on-year increase in travel for May. Airlines filled 83.4% of their seats, a record for the month. With May ticket sales for early peak-season travel up nearly 6%, the growth trend shows no signs of abating. Airlines are doing everything they can to ensure smooth journeys for all travelers over the peak northern summer period. But our expectations of air navigation service providers (ANSPs) are already being tested. With 5.2 million minutes of air traffic control delays racked up in Europe even before the peak season begins, it is clear that Europe's ANSPs have unresolved challenges. And the 32,000 flight delays over the Memorial Day weekend in May show that challenges persist in the US too. Airlines are accountable to their customers; ANSPs must be as well. ANSP performance matters to their airline customers and to millions of travelers. We all need them to do their job efficiently," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.



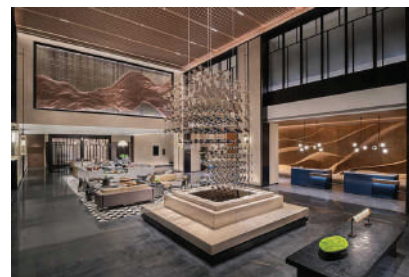
Sheraton Celebrates the Opening of its 100th Hotel in Greater China

• PR News, MinLanzhou, China, July 01

Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, part of Marriott Bonvoy's global portfolio of more than 30 hotel brands, today announced the opening of Sheraton Lanzhou Anning in Lanzhou of Gansu province. The opening also marks the 100th Sheraton Hotel in Greater China, where the brand made its market debut 50 years ago. Located in the heart of Lanzhou's Anning District, the new hotel draws on the brand's roots as a gathering place for both locals and guests in communities around the world, which continues to evolve through Sheraton's new design vision of creating intuitive and holistic experiences through spaces to connect, be productive, and enjoy a sense of belonging.

"We are delighted to welcome the 100th hotel for Sheraton brand in China in Lanzhou of Gansu province," said Betty Tian, Vice President, Marketing, Communications, Premium & Select Brands, Greater China, "Throughout the 86-year brand de-

velopment globally, Sheraton has been committed to innovation, establishing the industry's first computerized central reservation system in 1958. With the opening of the Sheraton Sanya Resort in 2003, the concept of leisure destination resorts was introduced to China. Over the past 50 years of development with China's tour-



ism industry, Sheraton has become a symbol of premium hotel brand in the country. The brand's new vision of transformation journey that began in 2018 aims to introduce the brand spirit of 'The World's Gathering Place' to more travel destinations favored by guests. In the future, we will continue to focus on guests, innovate, and enhance the vitality of the brand."

Sheraton Lanzhou Anning marks the debut of the Sheraton brand in Lanzhou of Gansu province. The new hotel provides a scenic setting on the bank of the Yellow River and near Lanzhou's bustling industrial and educational center, the Anning District. The new hotel boast a prime location with convenient transportation access. It 's approximately 55 kilometers from Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport and about 6 kilometers from Lanzhou West Railway Station. Guests can easily visit historical and cultural attractions such as the Gansu Provincial Museum and the Zhongshan Bridge during their stay.

At the heart of the new experience at Sheraton Lanzhou Anning is the lobby, which was designed as a holistic and open space that invites people to connect or be alone amongst others, creating a sense of energy and belonging. A destination steeped in heritage and history, the property called upon The Yellow River culture, Silk Road culture, and ecological culture as sources of inspiration for its interior design.

Tips and tricks for families to fly better with Emirates



• PR News, Dubai, July 04

As Emirates flags a significant peak travel period starting on Saturday 6 July as many families leave for summer holidays, customers are advised to take note of key timings at the airport, grab a complimentary Emirates ice-cream and enjoy the many options for families to fly better.

Emirates is a family-friendly airline that flies more than one million children around the world every year and offers multiple bespoke services for families. This peak travel period, customers departing Dubai with Emirates are advised to plan for extra traffic on the roads approaching the airport, more people at the airport going through Immigration, and the time it may take to travel between Concourses and reach Boarding Gates.

Stick to these handy timelines for stress-free family travel:

- In peak travel times, arrive to the Airport: 3 hours before departure
- Ensure you pass through Immigration: 1.5 hours before departure
- Ensure you reach your correct Boarding Gate: 1 hour before departure

Quicker Ways for Families to Check In:

Check in at home - Emirates customers can opt to use the Emirates Home Check In service in Dubai and Sharjah. Agents complete the check-in process at the customers' home, hotel, or office, and take the bags on to the flight so that they can arrive a later time with hand luggage. The service needs to be booked at least 24 hours before a flight. The Home Check-In service is complimentary for First Class passengers and Platinum Skywards members.

Use the app or website - Download the Emirates app to book and change flights, download a digital boarding pass for most destinations, get notifications about your flight and even check the menu for your flight. Customers can also purchase preferred seats and an excess baggage allowance in advance, book a chauffeur drive service and pre-select movies to watch via inflight entertainment. Customers can also check in on Emirates.com. Online check-in and app check-in are both open 48 hours ahead of flight departure time.

Drop off luggage early - Emirates customers can drop off luggage at the airport the night before travel at no charge. Passengers who are departing from Dubai can check-in early and drop off their bags 24 hours before departure, or 12 hours before departure if flying to the US. Then closer to departure time, customers can proceed directly to the immigration area in the airport.

Check in at Emirates City Check In's: DIFC - Save time at airport and check in at the Emirates City Check in and Travel Store in ICD Brookfield Place, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) instead. Conveniently located in the heart of the business district, Emirates customers can check in and drop off luggage as early as 24 hours and up to 4 hours before a flight. Custom-



ers can check in anytime from 8:00am to 10:00pm daily.

Ajman - If you are travelling from the northern Emirates, you can also check-in at Ajman Central Bus Terminal from 24 hours up to 4 hours before your flight. Customers can check in anytime, 24 hours a day.

Pre-order Duty-Free shopping - Customers who wish to save even more time can pre-order Duty-Free Shopping on EmiratesRED.com and get access to exclusive Duty-Free products, which are then delivered to their seat in the air. The pre-order service is available on most flights, and customers can shop from 21 days up to 40 hours before their flight, providing their flight details during checkout. Emirates cabin crew then deliver the order directly to the customer's seat inflight.

Enjoy the Emirates Experience for Families at the Airport

Free Ice-cream - Grab a free ice-cream for the whole family until 28 July. Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday between 12pm and 6pm, cus-



tomers can visit Emirates red and white striped ice cream carts in Terminal 3 and choose from a range of flavours including vanilla, chocolate, dulce de leche, mango sorbet and lemon sorbet.

Complimentary Strollers - In Dubai Airport, Emirates provides free baby strollers for infants and younger kids, providing comfort for tired little legs.

Dubai Airport Buggies - Also called Dubai Taxi, are available for all types of customers free of charge, with priority extended to the elderly, families with children and People of Determination.

Kids Play Areas - In the First and Business Class Lounges in Dubai Airport, Concourse A and B, the kids play areas have arcade quality games and Sony PlayStation terminals for gamers. The lounges are also equipped with mother and baby care rooms, comfortable feeding areas and baby changing facilities.

Unaccompanied Minors - Emirates offers a complimentary Unaccompanied Minors service to children aged 5-11 years who are travelling alone, whereby children are accompanied and supervised by specialist Emirates ground staff and cabin crew for every step of their journey. There is a dedicated lounge with video games, free Wi Fi, comfortable sofas, and children's bathrooms.



Emirates customers savour more than 45 million luxury chocolates every year

• PR News, Dubai, July 03

Celebrating World Chocolate Day on 7 July, Emirates is taking note of customer consumption of the decadent delight - with 45 million pieces of luxury chocolate consumed onboard last year by customers in all classes, as well as an array of delectable desserts.

Sweetening the 'fly better' experience, Emirates serves artisan chocolate as part of the signature meal service in all classes, to 140 destinations around the world. Over the last year, Economy Class customers have consumed 36.3 million chocolates, while customers in the newly launched Premium Economy Class have enjoyed 322,000 chocolates. In Business Class, customers have indulged in 8.2 million chocolates - while First Class customers, who have access to unlimited chocolates and are invited to take away some of their favourite flavours, have relished 122,000 large gourmet chocolate boxes.

Featured Chocolate currently onboard - Valrhona: Emirates collaborates closely with connoisseur chocolatiers from around the globe and rotates the chocolate onboard every 3 months to delight frequent flyers. Currently onboard is elite French chocolatier - Valrhona.

Recognized worldwide as the choice of prestigious chefs and chocolate gourmards, Valrhona was established in France in 1922 by pastry maker and confectioner, Albéric Guironnet. With over 100 years of passionate and meticulous craftsmanship for exceptional chocolates, Valrhona is renowned for its dedication to excellence and innovation in the art of chocolate making, as well as its commitment to ethical sourcing and environmental responsibility, holding a B Corp certification which recognises the world's most committed companies.



Emirates partnered with Valrhona to create a bespoke luxury chocolate box for First Class customers, which are offered after meals onboard. Zeyneb Larabi, Global Travel Retail Director of Valrhona remarked;

'Partnering with Emirates underscores our shared values of excellence, attention to detail and a commitment to creating unforgettable experiences. This collaboration goes beyond offering a delightful product, it creates lasting memories for customers enjoying the Emirates experience.'

Savour a world of chocolate with Emirates: As part of the regular rotation for Emirates customers, chocolates are selected from the most renowned producers globally including Bateel, Coco Jalila and Forrey & Galland from the UAE, Butlers from Ireland, Godiva, Canonica and Neuhaus from Belgium, Pacari from Ecuador, and Hotel Chocolat from the UK.

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New Flying...

College, Sridungargarh, Bikaner. Industries and Commerce Minister Colonel Rathore stated that the Cabinet members deliberated on development of infrastructure projects in detail. He said that the state government was continuously working to make Rajasthan self-reliant in power generation sector. To achieve this aim the state government had already signed MoUs worth Rs. 2.25 crore in the energy sector. Moving ahead in this direction, the cabinet further approved proposal for amending the Renewable Energy Policy, 2023 and Rajasthan Land Revenue (Allotment for Renewable Energy Projects) Rules, 2007 making them relevant to the present day requirements, he added. These decisions would enhance possibilities of investment worth additional Rs. 2 lakh crore in the state. As per the proposals, for establishing solar power generation plants lands could now be allotted at 7.5 percent of the DLC rates. These decisions would result in increased revenue collection as well as creation of jobs, Colonel Rathore said. Industries Minister Colonel Rathore said that to ease regional air travel connectivity and promote tourism in Rajasthan, the State Cabinet also approved Civil Aviation Policy,

2024. This policy focuses on expansion of training and maintenance facilities for aviation sectors aerospace activities. As per the proposed policy, three new flying schools would be set up in Kishangarh, Jhalawar and Bhilwara alongwith with developing Greenfield Airport in Kota. Also, an Aerocity would be developed in Jaipur. As per this decision, new hotels, restaurants and other related infrastructure projects would be developed near Jaipur airport. Rathore said that several airports in the state would now provide cargo services and old airstrips would also be revamped to make them operational for flying.

AIR INDIA TO...

At the FTO in Amravati, Air India will develop a state-of-the-art training institute over 10 acres, with digitally enabled classrooms, hostels at par with global academies, a digitized operations center, and its own maintenance facility to elevate operational efficiency. The FTO is curated to deliver the highest safety standards and best-in-class training.

As part of its commitment to invest in aviation training, Air India earlier this year announced its new Training Academy, spread over 600,000 sq

ft, the largest in South Asia, in Gurgaon. This new FTO in Amravati will complement Air India's commitment to power India's aviation ecosystem in the coming years.

Two days' Global...

established Tokyo Centre of GPAI and stated that Horishma AI process Friends Group has increased to 53 countries and India was one of the first nations to join it.

Jitin Prasada stated that India stands ready at the forefront of global AI innovation. Our commitment is to promote an inclusive and robust AI ecosystem. It is evident from highest AI skill penetration attained by India globally and substantial investments made in nurturing AI startups in the country. He stressed on the vision of INDIAai mission that is to make AI in India and AI work for India. He emphasized on the need to work collaboratively to develop solutions for AI to solve problems and challenges in key sectors like health care, agriculture, education. He expressed that India's DPI are sought after by the other nations for replications. India's AI solutions are envisaged to have the same future.

S Krishnan stated that a

multi-stakeholder approach is essential for AI adoption at population scale. He stressed on the benefits of AI to the community at large and prevent user harm in all scenarios. He emphasized that AI will be one of the cornerstones for attaining Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Srinivas Narayanan thanked the Government of India for organizing the global summit on AI and stated that OpenAI would like to partner with INDIAai and contribute with value addition. He shared various use-cases of AI solutions especially Digital Green (in Agriculture), Bhashini (in Indian Language), physics wallah (in Education), etc.

Abhishek Singh in the opening ceremony welcomed the dignitaries, GPAI experts, and delegates from research & academia, industry, startups and government in the opening ceremony. He briefly explained the INDIAai Mission and shared that 12 sessions are planned over two days to cover in depth the 7 pillars of the mission and idea is to deliberate on the issues and discuss the way forward from multidimensional perspectives. He also apprised that India, as the chair of GPAI, is working closely with GPAI member States, OECD and the global south for coming up with the future vision of GPAI.

Qatar Airways, Welcomes Fifth Destination in Germany with Launch of Hamburg Flights

The route will strengthen global economic and trade ties, with the potential to grow Hamburg's cargo sector

• PR News, HAMBURG, Germany, July 03

Qatar Airways' first flight to Hamburg Airport (HAM) in Germany has landed today, marking the launch of daily non-stop flights from Hamad International Airport (DOH) in Doha, Qatar, voted this year's Best Airport and Retail in the World by Skytrax.

Hamburg becomes Qatar Airways' fifth destination in Germany, in addition to Berlin, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt and Munich, helping to meet strong demand in the market. The World's Best Airline (Skytrax 2024) saw a 62 per cent growth in outbound passengers from Germany in 2023 compared with the previous year.

The new connection further adds to the airline's route network of more than 170 destinations worldwide, seamlessly connecting travellers from northern Germany to Doha and beyond, while also making the metropolis of Hamburg even more accessible for people from around the world.

The route also supports economic and trade relations between northern Germany, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The flights are expected to offer up to 11 per cent growth in Hamburg's cargo sector compared to last year.

The first flight was welcomed on the ground by Dr. Peter Tschentscher, First Mayor of Hamburg, Mr. Ali Al-Boainian, Charge de Affair of the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Berlin, Mr. Thierry Antinori, Chief Commercial Officer Qatar Airways, Eng. Abdulaziz Ali Al-Mawlawi, CEO Visit Qatar, H.E. Lothar Freischlader, German Ambassador to the State of Qatar, Christian Kunsch, Hamburg Airport CEO, and Dr. Malte Heyne, CEO of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce. Hamburg Airport is the oldest commercial airport in the world and the city is a key hub for global trade and business travel.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, said: "Qatar

Airways extends a warm welcome to the beautiful city of Hamburg as the latest destination to join its expansive route network, and its fifth gateway in Germany, a key market for the airline. As Qatar and Germany's bilateral relations continue to strengthen,



we are pleased to begin this route which will further reinforce important economic and trade ties between the two countries. With our centrally-located hub in Doha, we are well positioned to be able to facilitate exports from East to West and vice versa, and we look forward to seeing the growth of this route over the coming years from the World's Best Airport and with the World's Best Airline."



First Mayor of Hamburg, Peter Tschentscher, said: "Hamburg is an international city with centuries-old trade relations with all continents. Good flight connections via Hamburg Airport Helmut Schmidt are important for the economy, science and culture of the Hanseatic city. Qatar Airways is one of the best and most modern airlines and is now adding Hamburg to its network of over 170 destinations with daily flights to Doha. I would like to thank everyone involved in the cooperation between our airport and Qatar Airways and wish them every success with the new flight connections from Hamburg to the rest of the world."

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer, Thierry Antinori, said: "As the World's Best Airline, we are always striving to offer our passengers access to the award-winning Qatar Airways service and in-flight product via Hamad International Airport, voted the World's Best Airport and Airport Retail by Skytrax in 2024, and our new route between Doha and Hamburg is evidence of this commitment. We are proud to offer our customers from northern Germany one of the most modern and comfortable aircraft choices in the world to travel to some of their favourite destinations, whether for business or leisure."

Visit Qatar Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Abdulaziz Ali Al-Mawlawi, said: "We at Visit Qatar are pleased to participate in yet another significant milestone for Qatar Airways and Qatar's thriving tourism sector. This expansion will bolster Qatar's global connectivity and underscore our commitment to becoming a leading tourist destination. The visitor experience in Qatar is distinguished by exceptional service, diverse offerings, and immersive activities. By welcoming German visitors, we foster cultural exchange and enrich the tourism landscape."

Hamburg Airport Chief Executive Officer, Christian Kunsch, said: "We warmly welcome Qatar Airways to Hamburg Airport. As the commercial airport of northern Germany's largest city, it is our aim to be well connected internationally."

NHAI Takes Proactive Steps for flood preparedness

• New Delhi, July 03

In order to address the issue of water logging on National Highways during the monsoon season, NHAI has taken various measures for flood preparedness and provide emergency response on the National Highways across the country.

Taking a multi-pronged approach to provide effective solution in both hilly and plain regions, NHAI is working in close coordination with the other executing agencies, local authorities and administration to quickly mobilize machinery and manpower to the flood/land slide affected locations. In addition, to ensure availability of resources for effective disaster preparedness, NHAI is mapping the availability of key machineries for timely deployment.

To avoid water logging or flood like situation on National Highways, NHAI along with state irrigation department is undertaking joint inspections to ensure that flow of any running channel/stream is not hindered by a newly constructed highway. Recently, on Delhi-Karta Expressway and other projects, special drive was conducted in consultation with irrigation department.

Also, on National Highways passing through



urban areas, adequate pumping arrangements will be made on sections wherever there are chances of water logging. Leveraging technology, Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), along with Rajmaargyatra app shall be used to disseminate information regarding any hindrance on the stretch to National Highway users.

In Hilly regions, dedicated Emergency Response Team equipped with sufficient Manpower and Machinery has been mobilized at each landslide prone site in close coordination with District Administration. This will help to immediately

clear the muck from the National Highway to enable 24x7 connectivity and provide safe & smooth movement of traffic. Temporary barriers and warning signs have been installed at each landslide prone area to facilitate safe traffic movement.

For the implementation of preventive measures, vulnerable locations are identified that are likely to be severely affected like flood / landslide / rock fall prone areas, sinking zones etc. NHAI officials are also inspecting various structures which have a history of flooding to identify damage on abutments/ piers of the bridges. Warning signs will be installed at vulnerable locations to caution road users.

At locations where National Highway may get blocked for traffic movement due to huge landslide, an alternative diversion plan has been chalked out with the District Administration. Also, Geotechnical Instrumentation including real time monitoring at few vulnerable slopes and tunnels is implemented as pilot.

With the advancement of monsoon across India, NHAI has initiated multiple proactive steps to ensure flood preparedness and enable emergency response. These measures will go a long way to provide seamless travel experience to National Highway users during the monsoon season.



539 Newly Elected Members took Oath/Affirmation

• New Delhi, July 03

After general elections for the 18th Lok Sabha, the First Session of Lok Sabha and 264th Session of Rajya Sabha were called from 24th and 27th June, respectively. Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die yesterday, on 2nd July, 2024 while Rajya Sabha has been adjourned sine die today, 3rd July, 2024.

Addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi today, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju gave the details of proceedings of this session of the Parliament. First two days in Lok Sabha were devoted exclusively for the purpose of Oath/Affirmation of newly elected Members of 18th Lok Sabha. During the Session in total 539 out of 542 Members took Oath/Affirmation.

For facilitation of Oath/Affirmation, the President of India appointed Bhartruhari Mehtab as Speaker Protem under Article 95(1) of the Constitu-

tion and Suresh Kodikunnil, Radha Mohan Singh, Faggan Singh Kulaste, T. R. Baalu and Sudip Bandyopadhyay, persons before whom Members may make and subscribe Oath/Affirmation under Article 99 of the Constitution.

On 26th June, 2024, election of Speaker, Lok Sabha was held and Om Birla, Member of Lok Sabha was elected as the Speaker through voice vote. On the same day, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced his Council of Ministers to the Lok Sabha.

On 27th June, 2024, the President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together under Article 87 of the Constitution giving details of past achievements of the government and also detailing out roadmap for future development of the nation.

On 27th June, 2024, the Prime Minister introduced his Council of Ministers to the Rajya Sabha.

Discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's address was scheduled to commence on 28th June, 2024 in both the Houses.

Alerted on fake and fraudulent e-mails

• New Delhi, July 04

Ministry of Finance told today that It has come to notice that several fake and fraudulent e-mails have been circulated by fraudsters to defraud many people. Such fake emails have

a letter as attachment which bear the names and signatures of Sandeep Khirwar, ADG, Cyber Crime and Economic Offence, Delhi Police Headquarters, New Delhi and that of Anupam Prakash, Joint Secretary (COFEPOSA), Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), together with stamps and logos of CEIB, Intelligence Bureau and Cyber Cell, New Delhi.



They said, letter makes allegations of child pornography, pedophilia, cyber pornography, sexual explicit exhibit, grooming etc. levelled against the receivers of the said e-mails. Police authorities have been alerted for taking necessary action in the matter. They informed to the general public that any such e-mails with the attachment should not be responded to and such cases may be reported to the nearest police station/cyber police station.



RAJASTHAN THE GOLDEN DESERT

Weekly on Travel, Tourism, Hotel & Heritage of Rajasthan

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