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|   **Emirates A380 says “Namaste Mumbai”*****Airline marks first A380 service connecting Dubai and India*****Dubai, U.A.E. - 22 July 2014;** Emirates, a global connector of people and places, has commenced its first scheduled Airbus A380 service to India with a daily flight between Dubai and Mumbai. EK500 took off from Dubai International airport at 21:55 hours on 21st July, arriving at Chhatrapati Shivaji International airport in Mumbai at 02:30, covering the approximate 2,222kms at an average cruising speed of 822kms per hour. The return flight EK501 took off from Terminal 2 in Mumbai at 04:30hrs and arrived back at Emirates Terminal 3 in Dubai, the airline’s home and hub for its specially designed A380 terminal - Concourse A, at 06.00 hours.Emirates’ Ahmed Khoory, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations, West Asia and Indian Ocean said: “Mumbai was one of the first destinations on our route network when we launched in 1985. Dubai and Mumbai share a rich tapestry of partnerships, business and culture. In the past 29 years, we have flown over 42 million passengers between India and the UAE and so it is quite fitting that the city becomes our 29th A380 destination. Now our customers on the route can experience the luxury, the quietness and the outstanding service onboard an Emirates A380, in addition to the other four daily services we will continue to operate to the city.”Mr Naveen Chawla, Vice President – Aero marketing, Mumbai International Airport Private Limited said, “We are delighted to welcome the arrival of Emirates’ first A380 to India in Mumbai. We are glad that passengers flying from Mumbai’s Terminal 2 to Dubai will now be able to enjoy the premium services of Emirates’ state-of-the-art Airbus A380. This is a momentous occasion for us as Chhatrapati Shivaji International airport (CSIA) Mumbai is now the only airport in India to handle A380 aircraft operations for more than one international airline. This is yet another milestone event to our continuous endeavour to enhance the comfort and convenience of passengers travelling through CSIA and justifies our operational capabilities to handle bigger aircraft at T2.”To mark these first flights passengers on board EK500 and EK501 from Dubai and Mumbai were given a special commemorative certificate and gift. A specially commissioned piece of artwork, a traditional Indian “[Rangoli](http://youtu.be/5VZAekR963s)” was created by local Mumbai artists. Emirates now has 50 A380s in its fleet of 224 wide-bodied aircraft and is the largest operator in the world of the double-decker with 90 more on order. Mumbai is the newest destination on its A380 network, and follows closely on the heels of Kuwait, which started on 16th July. The A380 offers passengers travelling to and from Mumbai a choice of 14 First Class Suites, 76 lie-flat Business Class seats on the upper deck and 399 comfortable Economy Class seats in four sections on the main deck.Every seat on board is connected to *ice*, which has just been voted the world’s best inflight entertainment system for the 10th year in a row by Skytrax, the world’s largest airline passenger satisfaction survey of over 18 million passengers worldwide. *ice* Digital widescreen offers passengers up to 1,800 channels of multi-lingual entertainment including the latest movies, television programmes and podcasts, international music collections including the ability for passengers to build their own playlists for the journey, and in seat wi-fi to allow for a connected as well as entertaining flight. Passengers in all cabins can enjoy Emirates’ recently launched Indian menu which features regionally themed dishes from across India, served by multilingual cabin crew.A unique feature on the Emirates A380 is the onboard Shower Spas which allow First Class passengers to arrive revitalised and refreshed. Another is the onboard lounge where First Class and Business Class passengers can relax and connect over a range of specially selected beverages and hot and cold canapés, creating an exclusive social experience at 40,000 feet.For more information about Emirates’ services to India, to book flights or to have a virtual tour of an [Emirates A380](http://www.emirates.com/in/english/flying/our_fleet/emirates_a380/emirates_a380.aspx), please visit, [www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com/) -Ends-  **For Media Enquiries:** Anna Ghosh, Emirates Corporate Communications, Marketing and BrandTel: (+971) (04) 708 3363, Mob: (+971) (0)56 676 8186;anna.ghosh@emirates.com |
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