

*** IATA: RHC = FS implementation is now deferred to 4th July 2022**



IATA issued a circular on **25th March 2022** with regard to **RHC = FS**, coming into effect from **3rd May 2022**. This would have led to Agents increasing/decreasing their Financial Securities to meet their business commitments, by 3rd May 2022. and would have been valid till 30th June 2022. **TAFI** requested IATA to defer the implementation date to July 2022, giving IATA Agents ample time to decide on their Financial Security requirements for the coming year 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023. In an emergency APJC meeting held on 11 Apr 22, it has been unanimously agreed to defer the implementation date to 4th July 2022. The calculation of RHC, for Agents who are under the Annual Financial Review, will remain as earlier, till July 2022.

***Lufthansa Group Resumes Regular Flights Between India And Switzerland, Germany**



The Lufthansa Group, in a trade circular, announced the resumption of regular commercial flight operations between India and Switzerland, Germany effective April 2022. The announcement follows India's resumption of scheduled international flights on March 27 after two-year suspensions due to coronavirus. According to the airline group, SWISS and Lufthansa have begun scheduled services connecting Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru with Zurich, Munich, and Frankfurt. Swiss International Air Lines, the flag carrier of Switzerland has started operating scheduled services between Zurich and two Indian cities viz. Delhi and Mumbai. The flight will be available four days a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays; while the return flight from Zurich to Mumbai will be operated every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. The airline has also started its operation with three weekly services from Zurich to Delhi every Tue, Thu, Sat and Munich to Delhi every Tue, Thu and Sun. Lufthansa, Germany's flag carrier and largest airline, has also started scheduled flights between India and Germany. According to the airline's announcement, it will connect Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru with Munich and Frankfurt. The Lufthansa Group further advised its passengers to follow the rules and regulations, as well as to check transit regulations for Switzerland and Germany, if applicable.

***Booster doses allowed for all adults from April 10 in private centers: Govt**



India on Sunday began administering precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years, who have completed nine months since the administration of their second dose, at private vaccination centres. The Centre has told all states and UTs that the precaution dose will be of the same Covid-19 vaccine which has been used for administration of the first and second dose and that private vaccination centres can charge up to a maximum of Rs 150 per dose as service charge over and above the cost of the vaccine. Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan, who held an orientation meeting of all health secretaries of states and UTs on Saturday, also informed that no fresh registrations would be required for precaution dose as all due beneficiaries are already registered on CoWIN. All vaccinations will mandatorily be recorded on CoWIN platform and both the options of 'Online appointment' and 'Walk-in' registration and vaccination will be available at private Covid vaccination centres (CVCs)

***Indian Carriers want Fare Cap Removed to Offset Rising Fuel Costs**

Some Indian Carriers feel that the fare caps, which were introduced in the interest of the airlines, are now blocking a proper recovery of the sector. Indigo and Vistara are the most vocal against these regulations and have requested the Government to consider removing the limitations altogether. The airlines are also arguing that with Covid cases dropping, passenger demand is back, and in light of rising fuel prices induced by war in Ukraine, fare caps no longer serve the purpose. They see a huge potential in bringing the traffic up to the pre-pandemic mark of 400,00 per day, but at the moment, it is hovering around 300 to 350k. But the airlines with weaker financials, such as SpiceJet and GoFirst are not thrilled with the idea of letting go the fare cap entirely. A lot depends on the government's steps in the coming few weeks. But where exactly does the government stand on this at the moment?

***Alliance Air takes delivery of first made-in-India Dornier 228 plane**



Alliance Air said it took delivery of the first made-in-India Dornier 228 plane on Thursday, 7th Apr, to facilitate connectivity within the north-eastern states. Centre-run Alliance Air had in February signed an agreement with government-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to lease two 17-seater Dornier 228 aircraft. The airline said on Thursday on Twitter, "Alliance Air takes delivery of its first Made in India Dornier 228. The 17-seater non-pressurized Dornier 228 with an AC cabin capable of day and night operations." The light transport aircraft will facilitate regional connectivity in north-eastern states, it added. To date, Dornier planes were being used by the armed forces only.

***Emirates ramps up global operations with restart of services to four destinations, going to twice-daily A380 flights to Mauritius:**



Emirates has announced it will ramp up its global operations with the restart of services to four destinations, including: Bali (May 1), London Stansted (August 1), Rio de Janeiro (November 2), & Buenos Aires (November 2). The airline has also announced it will boost services to Nigeria, Mauritius and Singapore to serve market demand. In line with the easing of travel restrictions worldwide, Emirates continues to rebuild and expand its global network to meet travel demand. Emirates

is ramping up its services to **Lagos** with 11 weekly flights, starting from July 1, 2022. The airline will ramp up its operations to the Nigerian city to offer a double daily service starting from September 1, 2022 – taking the airline's services to pre-pandemic levels. Emirates will also increase its services to Nigeria's capital city, **Abuja**, to offer 5 weekly flights starting May 1, 2022 and then a daily service from September 1, 2022. In line with rising demand, the airline will be scaling up flights to **Mauritius** from daily to nine weekly flights between April 9, 2022 and the end of June 2022, and then moving up to double daily flights from July 2022. Emirates' second daily flight will provide an important boost to tourism to the Indian Ocean destination which has now relaxed entry restrictions for travelers. Under the codeshare agreement with Air Mauritius, customers of both airlines can enjoy greater access and seamless connectivity to and from the island-nation. The airline will also increase passenger services to **Singapore** from seven weekly flights, to 14 weekly flights, starting from June 23, 2022.

[*AirAsia resumes flights between India and Malaysia, Thailand](#)



Air Asia had said it is resuming flights connecting India with Malaysia and Thailand from this month. After two years of coronavirus-induced suspension, India resumed regular international flights on March 27. In a press release, Malaysian carrier AirAsia said flights will gradually resume on six routes between India and Malaysia. While the flights on Bengaluru-Kuala Lumpur and Chennai-Kuala Lumpur routes began on April 1, the flight on the Tiruchirappalli-Kuala Lumpur route began on April 5, it mentioned. The flights on Kochi-Kuala Lumpur, Kolkata-Kuala Lumpur and Hyderabad-Kuala Lumpur routes will commence from April 18, April 23 and May 1, respectively, it noted. The Malaysian carrier said flights on five India-Thailand routes will begin in May. The flights on Bengaluru-Bangkok, Chennai-Bangkok, Kolkata-Bangkok, Kochi-Bangkok and Jaipur **Bangkok** will commence on May 4, May 4, May 2, May 1 and May 1, respectively, it mentioned. AirAsia is different from AirAsia India airline, which is based out of India and owned by the Tata group.

[*Wheels set in motion for Air India's tech upgrade](#)



The revamped board of Air India headed by chairman N Chandrasekaran is bringing business accountability to the airline that's undergoing a system overhaul under Tata ownership to save costs and improve efficiency, top officials close to the exercise told ET. Air India's passenger services system (PSS) that includes a wide range of functions, including flight scheduling, ticket reservations, ecommerce and loyalty, has been moved to leading travel-technology company Amadeus as the existing agreement with SITA ends in June. The move is expected to help the beleaguered airline log in savings of an estimated ₹900 crore over the next few years, officials said. Tata Sons declined to comment on these queries. "There are significant cost-savings and efficiencies that will be done through technology, both by TCS and external entities," an official said.

[*First phase of Hyderabad airport expansion to complete soon; bigger terminal & a tunnel for vehicles ready](#)

The first phase of 's expansion will soon be complete, paving the way for the annual passenger handling capacity of this hub to increase from the original (in 2008 when it first opened) to over 3.4 crore. The additional built-up area at GMR Ltd (GHIAL) will be integrated with the existing integrated terminal building, providing more infrastructure at both airside and landside. The airport had seen over 20% growth in footfalls from FY 15 to FY 19, just before the pandemic struck. "The revamped integrated passenger terminal will increase the area to over 3.8 lakh square meters. It will have 149 check-in counters, 26 security screening machines, 44 emigration counters and 44 immigration counters. The expanded domestic and international pier buildings will have more lounges, retail, and food and beverage outlets... there will be 44 contact gates, 28 remote departure gates and 9 remote arrival gates available for smooth operations," GHIAL said in a statement. "A new tunnel has been built to minimize time during crisscross movement of ground service equipment (GSE) vehicles and aircraft. The 264-metre-long GSE tunnel connects the 42 remote aircraft stands (24 new and 18 existing) on the east side of the airport and the head of stand road, also leading to



remote gates area of the expanding passenger terminal,” the statement added. “The GSE tunnel will minimize time loss during crisscross movement of airlines and GSE operations vehicles, equipment, passenger coaches required for turnaround of flights, resulting in fuel saving... The annual savings of the carbon emission with this newly built GSE tunnel would be about 7000 tons per annum,” GHIAL says.

*Rakesh Gangwal ropes in 4 investment banks to manage his stake sale in IndiGo



Rakesh Gangwal, cofounder of **IndiGo**, has asked Citigroup, **Goldman Sachs**, **Morgan Stanley** and **JP Morgan** to manage the planned sale of his shares in the airline, banking sources, informed. He may sell at least 5-7% of his family's shareholding in India's biggest air carrier this year, they added. Gangwal, his wife Shobha and their family trust together hold 36.6% stake in InterGlobe Aviation, the parent entity of IndiGo, whose market capitalization touched ₹76,767 crore as of market close on

Tuesday. Their combined stake could be worth as much as ₹28,097 crore. Late last year, IndiGo's shareholders approved a change in the company's Articles of Association, enabling Gangwal to sell his holding without co-founder **Rahul Bhatia's** approval. Gangwal and Bhatia had been locked in a bitter legal feud for the past several years over allegations of misuse of power and related-party transactions. Gangwal, once a hands-on promoter, had refused to participate in key purchase decisions in 2018 and subsequently took a backseat on all operational aspects, till he stepped down in February. Bhatia took over as managing director the same month. Since then, there has been a management churn at the airline. IndiGo announced the appointment of former bureaucrat **RK Singh** as principal advisor to the managing director. Singh was a joint secretary in the ministry of civil aviation and has served on the boards of Air India, Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, and Air India Charters Ltd (Air India Express). IndiGo's chief commercial officer Willy Boulter will also leave in July, marking the second top-level exit this year after chief financial officer **Jiten Chopra** was replaced by senior vice president **Gaurav Negi** last Wednesday. IndiGo shares ended about 1% lower at ₹1,992.65 apiece on the BSE.

*Mumbai Airport Launches Dedicated Transfer Facility at T2 For Flyers With Connecting Domestic Flights :



Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Monday launches India's first dedicated transfer facility for domestic passengers with connecting flights. With the introduction of this new service, passengers who have a domestic layover at Mumbai Airport T2 can now conveniently transfer with less congestion and transit time. Now, CSMIA is the country's first airport to build and operate a



dedicated domestic-to-domestic passenger and crew member transfer facility within Terminal-2 (T2). This new designated facility has the appropriate security screening infrastructure, as well as pre-embarkation security procedures performed by the CISF. This transit area will significantly reduce the Minimum Connection Time (MCT) for transfer passengers and crew members, allowing passengers to board with a reduced time gap between connecting flights. Furthermore, it will give airline operators more flexibility in planning their flight schedules and crew rostering because they will now be able to accommodate travelers with shorter time intervals between connecting flights. This improvement will, in turn,

help to decongest the airport, as passengers who would previously exit and re-enter the terminal and wait for their subsequent flight would now be able to board without having to go through the process of re-entering the terminal building. With domestic travel on the rise and summer travel bookings on the rise, this dedicated space would help travelers by allowing them to travel faster, more smoothly, and more conveniently than ever before.

***IndiGo Increase the Change Fee For Domestic, International Flights From April 1:**

IndiGo, has increased its change/rescheduling fees for both domestic and international flights from Friday, April 01 2022. As per the details shared by the airline, Domestic flight change/rescheduling fees have been increased by ₹250. Previously, the change fees for 0-3 days before departure were ₹3000, and for 4 days or more before departure, they were ₹2500. These rates have now been increased to ₹3250 and ₹2750, respectively. For domestic bookings, customers can make any changes or cancellations free of charge within 24 hours of booking, if booked at least 7 days before the travel dates. For international flights from India to South East, the Middle East and the Rest of Asia destinations are now ₹4250 for changes/rescheduling done between 0-3 days and ₹3750 for changes before 4 days and above before departure. Moreover, for Istanbul and codeshare flights to Europe, the same has been ₹5000 and ₹4500.

***Mumbai-US direct connectivity falls: 21 weekly on 3 airlines to just 3 now only on Air India**

From 21 weekly nonstops to just three now, Mumbai's direct connectivity with the US has taken a severe hit over pre-pandemic times even after the resumption of regular international flights. The mega city used to have a daily to Newark (EWR) on Air India and United each, apart from a daily Delta to New York (JFK Airport). While Delta suspended this route in March 2020, United did so after Russia's war on Ukraine. Air India now has a thrice weekly to Newark — which is the only nonstop as of now between Mumbai and the US. So, despite the huge demand for direct travel created by the pandemic, a vast majority of travelers between Mumbai and the US have to take one-stops via hubs like those in Gulf/Europe or Singapore (for those heading to the west coast). Asked if AI plans to increase frequency of Mumbai-New York flights or have nonstops to some other US destinations from here, the airline spokesperson said. Vistara has for months been evaluating leasing aircraft for direct flights to the US. But high fuel prices and a weak rupee have meant that a decision on launching the same remains elusive. American Airlines had last October started a daily on Delhi-JFK and was looking at Mumbai with considerable interest a direct to the US. This summer, AI will be operating 44 weekly nonstops to North America — 34 to US and 10 to Canada. The airline will be able to add flights when it inducts more long haul aircraft in its fleet. It is likely to place an order for wide body aircraft soon

***US Visa Interview waiver application can be drop off at any Visa application Centers eff,4 Apr**

Effective 4th Apr 2022, applicants may submit their application free of cost at any of the Visa Applications Centers (VAC) where the Embassy or Consulate is located like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata. If the applicant wish to submit at any other locations other than the above may do so at a nominal fee of Rs 650/- per passport will be charged in cash at the time of submission. Other locations are Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Ahmedabad, Pune Bengaluru and Kochi.

*Rs 2430 crore collected from air travelers for CISF security services



Over Rs 2,430 crore has been collected from air travelers in the past two years as fee for security services being provided by the **CISF**, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The minister said the payment for services rendered by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at **airports** is made from the charges collected on air travel tickets in the form of Aviation Security Fee (ASF) deposited in National Aviation Security Fee Trust (NASFT). A total of Rs

2430.48 crore has been collected as ASF from April 2020 to December 2021 out of which Rs 1885.74 crore has been disbursed, he said in a written reply to a question. Rai said at present, the CISF is providing security cover at 65 airports with sanctioned strength of 30,996.

Air India suspends Russia nonstops; no direct air connectivity between the 2 countries.



India and Russia no longer have direct air connectivity. Air India had to suspend its twice-weekly Delhi-Moscow nonstop from April 1, 2022, as the airline's renewed insurance contract in force from that day prohibits its aircraft from landing in and taking off from Russia and Ukraine, say people in the know. AI can, however, continue to overfly Russian airspace under the renewed insurance contracts with 5 to 6 different companies, including Tata-

AGI, for its aircraft, they add. Due to this clause, the last Delhi-Moscow-Delhi flight was operated on March 31, 2022, and the plan to introduce Mumbai-Moscow has been shelved for now. The flights will now be resumed once the war in Ukraine ends and international insurance companies resume covering aircraft going to Russia. Russian carrier Aeroflot, which also had a twice-weekly to Delhi, had last month stopped all international flights due to concerns that its planes may be seized by lessors. As of now, people will need to travel between India and Russia through hubs in Tashkent, Istanbul and in the Gulf like Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Sources say AI's earlier insurance contract was lapsing on March 31, 2022, and the new one had come into effect from April 1. "Dear fellow citizens. We draw your attention that the Indian airline Air India has stopped selling tickets on the Delhi-Moscow-Delhi route, the prospects for resuming flights of this airline to Russia are uncertain at the moment. According to Air India office, passengers are entitled to the full refund for the cancelled flights," the Russian embassy said in a statement on its Telegram channel, according to state-run news agency TASS. However, the Russian embassy said that it was still possible to fly to Moscow from Delhi using transit routes through Tashkent, Istanbul, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha and other destinations.

*Qantas to fly non-stop between Sydney & Bengaluru from Sept 14, codeshare with Indigo



In its first direct flight connection to South India, Australian flag-carrier **Qantas** has announced that it will operate non-stop flights week between tech-hub Bengaluru and Sydney later this year. **Starting September 14**, Qantas will operate four weekly return flights between the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru and Sydney's Kingsford Smith International Airport with its widebody Airbus A330 aircraft. These are the first direct flights between Australia and southern India by any airline, cutting almost three

hours off the current fastest trip between Bengaluru and Sydney. The new flights are subject to government and regulatory approval. Qantas will continue to operate up to five flights a week between Melbourne and Delhi, making it the only airline offering direct flights between both northern and southern India and Australia. The Bengaluru community has strong connections with Australia for both business travel and social visits. Famous for its beautiful beaches and iconic landmarks the Sydney Harbor Bridge and Opera House, Sydney is one of the world's most iconic cities. In another development, the Aussie airline is also set to sign a codeshare agreement with major Indian budget carrier IndiGo. Once finalized, the partnership will help travelers from Sydney to have access to more than 50 Indian cities via convenient connections. It will also enable seamless domestic flights and connections via Bengaluru, Delhi, or Singapore into Australia's largest capital cities. As part of the proposed agreement, customers who join the Qantas Frequent Flyer program will be able to earn and redeem points on connecting IndiGo flights (QF code only) and IndiGo will recognize Qantas Frequent Flyer benefits for tiered members (Silver, Gold, Platinum and Platinum One) including priority check-in, additional baggage allowance and priority baggage. Sydney-Bengaluru flights go on sale today starting from INR 78,380 for a return flight.

*Jetstar and IndiGo announce virtual interline partnership



The **Jetstar** Group and **IndiGo** confirmed a new Low-Cost Carrier (LCC) interline partnership that will enable Jetstar customers to book connections and flights on IndiGo services through its Jetstar Connect platform. Launching at the end of April, the virtual interline partnership between the two LCCs is made possible by technology company and flight search engine, **Dohop**. The integrated booking engine allows

customers to select flights and purchase both bundled and unbundled ancillary products, with customers connecting between international flights provided with seamless passenger and baggage transfer. **William Boulter**, Chief Commercial Officer, IndiGo, said, "We are pleased to announce the partnership with Jetstar. This strategic agreement will enable both airlines to tap into the rising demand for international travel, especially during this summer holiday season." "The partnership will enable customers to book interline flights between the two leading carriers and enjoy access to a wide variety of destinations across Asia Pacific. Jetstar's Chief Customer and Commercial Officer, **Alan McIntyre**, welcomed the partnership and said that as the world reopens it was great to offer Jetstar customers in Asia and Australia opportunities to travel to exciting new destinations in India through its partnership with IndiGo. "The ability to partner with other LCCs through Dohop has opened-up a new world of possibilities, helping customers enjoy more seamless connectivity throughout the region. "This new partnership enables Jetstar to offer our customers more destinations, more frequency and better connectivity, by combining our expanding network with IndiGo's, all at the click of a button, fulfilling our vision to make more travel affordable," McIntyre said. "This partnership opens up new services to Jetstar customers to incredible destinations such as Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi through Jetstar's hub in Singapore," he stated.

Alliance Air to connect Assam's Dibrugarh with five Arunachal towns



Regional carrier Alliance Air said on Monday that it will soon launch flight services connecting Assam's Dibrugarh with five towns in Arunachal Pradesh. In the first phase, flight services will be started on Dibrugarh-Pasighat, Dibrugarh-Tezu and Dibrugarh-Ziro routes, Alliance Air's Dibrugarh station manager Narsing Rao Meesala said. Services on Dibrugarh-Tuting and Dibrugarh-Mechuka

routes will be started in the next phase depending on the availability of planes, he said. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an agreement with Alliance Air to lease out two 17-seater Dornier DO-228 aircraft for operations under the Centre's regional connectivity scheme UDAAN. The inaugural flight with Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on board is being planned for April 12. It will fly on the Dibrugarh–Lilabari–Pasighat–Guwahati route, the official said.

*Record 1.8 lakh tourists visited Kashmir in March, first time in past 10 years



For the first time in the past decade, around 1.8 lakh tourists visited Kashmir in the month of March alone, according to the figures available with the Kashmir tourism department. The tourism department is expecting further increase in the tourist footfall in the next two months, when temperatures would soar across India. Besides, the annual Amarnath Yatra, which was suspended for two years due to the pandemic, will also begin on June 30 for a period of 43 days. Tourism director **G N Itoo** said that in the month of March 2022, **1,79,970** tourists visited Kashmir, which is a record in the past 10 years. “This is a record

number and we are expecting further increase in it. The credit for the record number of tourist arrivals goes to collective efforts of all the stakeholders,” he said.

*Jet Airways coming back with premium and no-frills hybrid model



Jet Airways India Ltd., which is undergoing a court-monitored restructuring, plans to return with a hybrid of premium and no-frills services that would allow the former top local airline to claw back market share while managing costs in the fiercely competitive Indian aviation market. The economy class will, however, be modelled similar to low-cost carriers where flyers pay for meals and other services, he said. “It’s very difficult in the domestic Indian market to take on the cost of the food and everything else in economy class, where the customer in India chooses primarily on the basis of fares,” said

Kapoor, an aviation veteran who took charge of the defunct airline this week. “Let’s just accept that and let’s not burden ourselves with extra cost. The new owners -- Dubai-based, Indian-origin businessman Murari Lal Jalan and Florian Fritsch, the chairman of London-based financial advisory and alternative asset manager Kalrock Capital Management Ltd. - have pledged to make investments of as much as \$120 million, Kapoor said. Kapoor himself is not new to navigating carriers through turbulent skies. He spearheaded SpiceJet Ltd. as its chief operating officer in 2014, helping it through a time when the low-cost carrier was severely cash strapped. He was also the chief strategy and commercial officer for Tata Group-led airline, Vistara. The Jalan-Kalrock consortium is currently in court seeking another extension of 90 days to implement the rescue plan it proposed for the bankrupt airline. The successful bidder had proposed to make payments worth USD 180 million, out of which USD 47 million would be paid in the first 180 days, failing which the plan could be scrapped, according to court documents. The consortium infused USD 6.7 million into Jet Airways 2.0, as it is dubbed by the new owners, in January, and lenders have said they don’t object to an extension of 60 days. A court decision on the deadline extension request is awaited.

***Tripura to host India-Bangladesh Tourism Festival from April 17**



The three-day second India-Bangladesh Tourism Festival is scheduled to begin next week here at Agartala Ujjayanta palace to boost tourism in Tripura and Bangladesh as well. The tour operators, hotel owners and tourism officials along with others from both the countries will attend the festival being organized by Tripura Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) and interact with each other to draw tourists from

Southeast Asian countries, officials said here on Saturday. The leading cultural organizations, tour operators from other northeastern states and West Bengal have also been invited. Featuring the prominent artistes of both the countries, a mega cultural programme will be held in the inaugural session of the festival on April 17. To sample the delicious indigenous cuisine of Tripura, an event on traditional food at the main entrance of the palace was also included in the event. The stake holders of the two countries will meet on April 19 at the auditorium of Gitanjali Tourist Residence to prepare the roadmap for developing a tourist circuit in the region, the officials added. "With the expansion of railway connectivity in Tripura and shorter road link with Bangladesh, the state got an exclusive opportunity to offer a unique experience of diversity to the tourists. Besides, splendid hills, rivers, archeological sites, Hindu and Buddhist temples, the tourists can reach beautiful sea beaches of Southern Bangladesh by driving down only 120 km from here crossing the bridge over river Feni," said Pranajit Singha Roy.

***Travel insurance demand up as skies open**



The boom in travel insurance bookings has enthused insurers, who are looking at strong growth, two years after Covid hit the overseas travel insurance vertical due to lockdowns and international travel restrictions. The US, Canada, the UK, the UAE and Schengen countries have emerged as the top destinations for Indians travelling for leisure, corporate and education.

Online insurance platform Policy bazaar said there is a 25 per cent increase in bookings in the week starting from March 27 as compared to the previous week. This number is expected to grow in the coming months when air ticket prices stabilize and holiday season kicks in. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance anticipates the travel insurance penetration will go past 35 per cent, in terms of insurance taken to the total number of travelers, from around 18 per cent in the pre-pandemic period. ICICI Lombard General Insurance sees increased demand for travel insurance in leisure and business segments, with the leisure segment witnessing a boom due to revenge travel. But tourism sector experts have a word of caution for travel insurance post-Covid. Sanjiv Agarwal, chairman & CEO, Fairfest Media, said that foreign countries have just started opening up for tourism. So, it is important for every traveler to do due diligence and take an overseas travel policy that covers this risk (quarantine) also, he added. Subramanyam Brahmajosyula, head (reinsurance & product development), SBI General Insurance, said that there is a heightened need for travelers to safeguard themselves against any unforeseen circumstances now.

***IndiGo becomes sixth largest airline in world by passengers: Official Airline Guide**

India's low-cost airline IndiGo has emerged as the world's sixth largest carrier by passenger volume for March, according to UK-based Official Airline Guide (OAG). The airline carried more than 2.02 million passengers in the month, the most by any Asian carrier, according to statistics collected till March 28. IndiGo was also named the world's fastest growing airline by OAG, with a 41.3 percent growth in frequency in March. The airline also ranked among the top 10 airlines in the world by seat capacity for March.

***Vistara announces Daily Flight between Delhi and London Heathrow from May 1**



India's reopening of its international borders has increased travel demand despite fears that the closure of Russian airspace would negatively affect Asia-Europe aviation. In response to this growing travel demand, Vistara, a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and the Tata Group, has announced a revision of its Delhi-Heathrow flight schedule. From the 1st of May, daily flights will be operated between the two cities. There will be a flight to London leaving at 22:05 IST, with a return flight scheduled for 14:40 GMT. A representative of Vistara stated that demand has been strong across the entire network, especially on long-haul routes, and that they are seeking ways to serve their customers better by adding new flights. Vinod Kannan, the company's chief executive officer, plans to increase foreign flights from 25 percent to 35 percent within two years. Currently, Vistara flies to over 45 destinations, with foreign flights making up nearly a 1/4th of its capacity. Vistara is presently awaiting the delivery of four Boeing 787 Dreamliner. According to the source, Tata is in talks with Airbus for a major purchase of the A350 aircraft, however, it's unclear whether it'll be part of Vistara's intentions to extend their fleet to 70 planes or Air India's modernization plan.

Snippets

- **Air Canada** suspends flights between Delhi and Vancouver till early September because of Russia and Ukraine War
- **Peru** declared a state of emergency in its critical tourism industry, which has been crushed by Covid.
- The **Singapore** government has earmarked nearly SGD 500 million (USD 367 million) million) to boost the recovery of its tourism industry, said Alvin Tan, Minister of State for Trade and Industry.
- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** said tourism is the backbone of the state's economy and called for a collective effort to boost it. "Tourism promotion was at the root of Uttarakhand's movement for statehood.
- **Chhattisgarh** government's ambitious project '**Ram Van Gaman tourism circuit**' is expected to complete its first phase by the end of this year or by mid of 2023
- The number of tourist arrivals in **Israel** during the first quarter of 2022 has jumped by 98.2 per cent year on year, according to data issued by the country's Central Bureau of Statistics.
- **The European Commission** has added **21 Russian airlines** to a list of carriers banned from operating in the 27- nation bloc because they do not meet international safety standards, the EU executive arm said.

Quotes for thoughts

- Life is a Life, is a compromise between your Feelings & Reality. At every stage you have to quit your Feelings & accept the Reality.
- Things will happen. You can't stop them from happening but you can control your reaction from making things worse. REACT POSITIVELY.
- Don't go where you are tolerated; instead go where you are celebrated



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