



Corporate Travel Updates **May 2021**

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Covid Effect: Airlines Demand Assistance Package, Capacity Reduction



In an important meeting of airline companies with the Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), most flight operators demanded financial assistance package from the government to deal with the second Covid wave.

As the second wave of Covid-19 hit India and public movement is being restricted across states, airline companies are once again demanding financial assistance package from the central government.

In an important meeting of airline companies with the Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), most flight operators demanded financial assistance package from the government to deal with the second Covid wave.

"Senior executives of all the airlines met with MoCA secretary and presented the precarious situation of the aviation sector and asked for financial assistance to come out with the situation, as the second wave of covid reported," said an airline's official.

Last year, airline companies sought financial help from the government, but the government had refused.

The Covid-19 pandemic is having an enormous impact on the Indian aviation industry, affecting passenger load factor, cargo

demand, airport workforce, and revenues.

In the meeting, airlines also expressed their concern about the fare cap, which was imposed by the regulator.

"Strict enforcement by the DGCA of the lower fare limit fixed by the government was also discussed as there are many instances of tickets being sold at much cheaper fares," a source said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on airline companies due to travel restrictions and a decrease in demand among travellers.

"Reducing capacity from 80 per cent to 60 per cent as bookings have fallen by as much as 50 per cent. No airline was in favour of increasing capacity from 80 per cent to 100 per cent in the pandemic," a private airline company said.

One low-cost airline has asked the govt. to acknowledge the old demand for reduction in Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) and excise tax at least during the pandemic. The government has not yet reached any concrete decision on the said demands.

The Pandemic Effect: An Increased Desire To Travel More Sustainably

Earth Day 2021 will be a moment of reflection for travellers around the world. Instead of reminiscing about the trips they have taken in the past 12 months, it will be a milestone moment for many to reflect on how their future travels can have a more positive impact, both on the environment and on local communities.

Following the halt that the pandemic has put on travellers' plans, people's eyes to their own impact on the environment and local communities have no doubt been opened. Over half of global travellers (53%) admitted that because of Coronavirus they want to travel more sustainably, with travellers in Colombia (74%), Brazil (71%) and India (70%) being especially committed to this.

From having an amped awareness on the need for sustainable travel, travellers have been re-evaluating what steps to take, whether small or large, to ensure they are playing their part in helping to protect the planet. 63% of travellers intend to stay away from crowded tourist attractions, half (51%) of global travellers will avoid traveling during peak season and a further 48% of travellers will visit alternative destinations to prevent overcrowding.

This eco-conscious determination is having an impact on travellers' behaviours even once they arrive at their destination, as global travellers are pledging to continue to act with sustainability in mind.



Hospitality Industry In Mumbai Holds Silent Protest Against Covid Curbs



Hotel associations like FHRAI, HRAWI, NRAI, AHAR and other local associations held silent protests under the banner of United Hospitality Forum of Maharashtra. Under the campaign #MissionRoziRoti to highlight the hospitality industry's desperate bid for survival, lakhs of restaurant owners and staffers stood outside their establishments holding placards.

"The hospitality industry demands fair play and justice. We request the government to either allow us to continue regular operations with mandated SOPs or permanently shut us down, rather than keep us half alive and in a state of misery. Whenever there is a rise in cases, the hospitality industry is targeted and victimised," said Sherry Bhatia, president of Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI).

The First Billion Covid Vaccinations Have Been Given

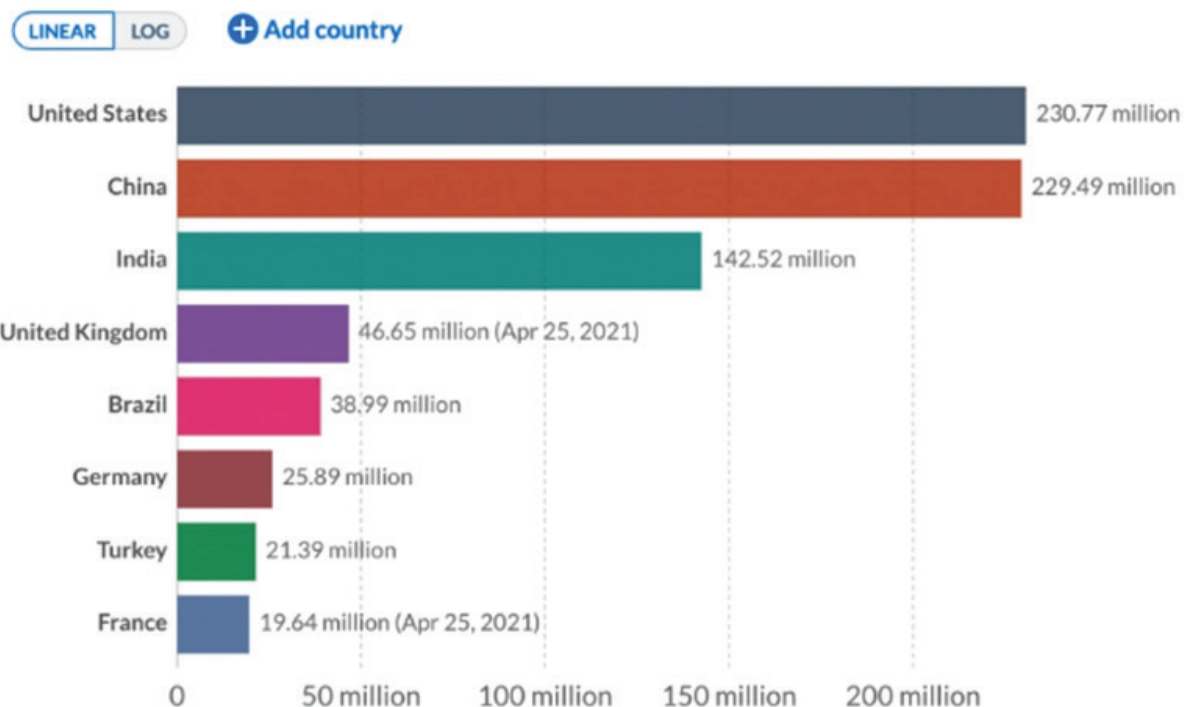
The world has reached the milestone of administering one billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines, just four months after the World Health Organization (WHO) approved the first vaccine for emergency use, and roll-outs began in countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom. The speed at which they have been administered is remarkable, but unequal distribution of the vaccinations highlights global disparities, say researchers. As of 27 April, 1.06 billion doses had been given to 570 million people, which means that about 7.3% of the world's population of 7.79 billion have received at least one dose.

But scientists say that more than 75% of the world's population will need to be vaccinated to bring the pandemic under control.

Global vaccine manufacturers are scaling up production to meet demand, but this might take another 6–12 months to achieve, he says. Nevertheless, we are likely to hit the two-billion mark much faster than we hit the first billion.

COVID-19 vaccine doses administered, Apr 26, 2021

Total number of vaccination doses administered. This is counted as a single dose, and may not equal the total number of people vaccinated, depending on the specific dose regime (e.g. people receive multiple doses).



Vaccinations Seem To Hold The Key To Revive Outbound Travel



The correlation between vaccination rates and outbound travel is strong, as consumers gain confidence. Bookings to Europe from Israel, which has vaccinated over 60 per cent of its population, are currently at 63 per cent of 2019 levels and bookings from the UK, which has vaccinated over 52 per cent, are at 32 per cent of 2019 levels.

Vaccinations appear to hold the key to reviving international travel. The latest research from ForwardKeys reveals that Greece, and Iceland, the two destinations, which had announced that they would welcome vaccinated visitors this summer have seen inbound flight bookings pick up dramatically from the moment of their announcements.


Three origin markets, Israel, the US and the UK, where vaccination campaigns are particularly well advanced, have seen outbound flight bookings climb more steeply than elsewhere.

Greece, whose economy is highly dependent on tourism, has led the way in announcing a willingness to welcome visitors who have been vaccinated, passed a Covid-19 test or recovered from the disease.

That public position has been rewarded in flight bookings from major outbound markets such as the US and the UK. For example, it tops the list of most popular destinations for British travellers this summer; so much so that confirmed tickets for travel between July and September are currently 12 per cent ahead of where they were at the equivalent moment in 2019.

Furthermore, analysis of the most resilient destinations in Europe this summer reveals that seven of the top ten cities are Greek, with the island of Mykonos leading the list, with summer bookings currently standing at 54.9 per cent of what they were at the equivalent point, pre-pandemic.

It is followed by the Spanish island, Ibiza, where bookings are at 49.2 per cent. The next eight destinations in order of resilience are Chania (Greece) 48.9 per cent, Thira (Greece) 48.1 per cent, Kerkyra (Greece) 47.5 per cent, Thessaloniki (Greece) 43.7 per cent, Palma de Mallorca (Spain) 41.2 per cent, Heraklion (Greece) 36.6 per cent, Athens (Greece) 33.2 per cent and Faro (Portugal) 32.8 per cent.



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The correlation between the announcement of relaxed travel restrictions and bookings is also dramatically demonstrated by flight tickets issued from the USA to Iceland. On March 26, the Irish government announced that all vaccinated travellers would be exempt from entry restrictions and the level of issued tickets soared to 158 per cent of what they were during the equivalent week in 2019.

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Olivier Ponti, VP Insights, ForwardKeys commented, **“Vaccinations appear to hold the key to reviving international travel, as countries that make clear promises to welcome vaccinated travellers are being rewarded by strong surges in flight bookings. We are seeing a revival of confidence in outbound travel from countries where there has been a successful rollout of COVID-19 vaccines too.”**

“From a commercial perspective, the outlook is likely to be a little better than the numbers portray because travellers are booking longer durations. Furthermore, if restrictions are eased in both origin markets and destinations, there are grounds for further optimism because there is strong pent-up demand and, during the pandemic, people have shown themselves willing to make bookings at significantly shorter notice than they used to.”

Self Care to Cope with the Pandemic Stress



Take a break
from news &
social media



Get plenty
of sleep



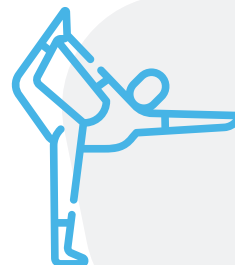
Take deep
breaths, stretch
or meditate



Eat healthy,
well- balanced
meals



Make time
to unwind



Exercise
regularly
& Keep busy



Connect
with others



Get vaccinated
with a COVID-19
vaccine when
available

Speak to mental health professional

KIRAN Helpline: 1800-599-0019



24x7 Toll-Free
Support Number



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Generate the 'perfect trip experience' for the traveler and exceed the company's travel program goals through service excellence and value based solutions.



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