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**CORPORATE
TRAVEL
UPDATES**

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TRAVEL MADE EASY WITH RBT

With the progress of technology in Riya Business Travel, corporate travel is now customizable, efficient and seamless. Use our platform to personalise your travel plans and manage it effortlessly.



API INTEGRATION

RBT is creating its own travel tool for easy booking. It is capable of sourcing third party contents through API integrations. This way clients can organize content as per their business needs and travel policy compliance and users can get access to multiple feeds making it easier to choose the right options.



VISA TRACKER

To enhance the user experience, RBT keeps upgrading itself with the latest technology. One such tool is the Visa Tracker. The tool provides real-time updates to the user about his or her visa status. Once the visa status is updated, the user will receive an auto-generated notification instantly.



WHEELS UP! CORPORATE INDIA IS FLYING AGAIN AS VACCINATION PICKS UP

Corporate journey is on the mend, as the second Covid-19 wave ebbs and the upper tempo of vaccinations carry renewed vigor to enterprise interactions and conferences.

Charter flights are on the rebound, with India Inc preferring these because of the security issue.

The recovery in corporate travel that took place in July–December after the first wave has happened between July and August (this year). Of course, it hasn't reached pre-pandemic levels, but it will.

For Indigo, the nation's largest provider by market share, company's journey has reached 35% of pre-pandemic ranges and can quickly contact 50%, stated an individual within the know.

Corporate journey had gathered steam in February, however, quickly plunged to 10% of 2019 ranges in the course of the second wave of the pandemic.

The impression of the second wave on companies has been milder than final 12 months, when a whole lockdown introduced many industries to a standstill and shrank the economic system.

- Aviation was notably impacted, with airways anticipated to submit over \$8 billion in mixed losses for FY21 and FY22.
- About 59% of these surveyed in a July ballot of 118 high firms by the Confederation of Indian Industry stated the impression of the second wave can be milder than the primary.
- Indigo and different carriers have been focussing on constitution flights, particularly to worldwide locations. It has been working constitution flights to international locations within the Commonwealth of Independent States area.
- The airline's short-term focus is on increasing the capacity deployed through air bubble arrangements and charters.
- Airlines cost Rs 4.75 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per hour for a 180-seater Airbus A320 or Boeing 737 flight. For the smaller ATR-72 turboprops and Q400 jets, they cost Rs 3 lakh to Rs 3.25 lakh per hour, a trade supply stated. Private operators with a plane seating capability of between 10 and 13 seats cost about Rs 3.65 lakh-Rs 3.75 lakh for an hour's flying time. All these charges are unique of GST.
- Charter bookings for these 12 months have been at an all-time excessive.
- Demand for personal jet operators is also at a record high. "We have recently flown private individuals travelling with their families and pets in business jets to avoid using the congested airline aircraft and airport terminals. We believe that this trend will continue as it is more of a safety concern than luxury to fly privately," stated Atiesh Mishra, the founder of personal aviation options firm AJM Jet Management.
- Dubai-based constitution operators have been in demand for India's wealthy and rich. Empire Aircraft Management Services has seen a 50% enhance in plane constitution bookings from Indian purchasers in 2021 in comparison with pre-Covid (2019) ranges, stated Nirav Kotak, the nation head of the Dubai-based firm, which is a part of the Empire Aviation Group.
- "We are very optimistic about the prospects for the business aviation market in India, especially as more companies expand their operations domestically and internationally, and India currently represents a significant and growing part of our charter business," he added.



HOTELS MORE ADAPTIVE TO CUSTOMER NEEDS WILL DO FAR BETTER

Abhinash Manghani, CEO, Welcome Heritage, has said that hotels, which are more adaptive to the customer will do far better at the end of this phase. Speaking at DDP Digital Conclave titled 'The Post Pandemic Reset', he said "I think the branded ones are doing it first and subsequently, others will follow. Since customers are not sure of what they expect, there is a clear shift towards branded hotels," he added.

IATO SEEKS CONTINUATION OF SEIS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS

Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) participated in a meeting called by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal to get input from the exporters on required measures to be taken on PM's call to increase exports to USD 400 billion this year and taking India to 5 trillion USD economy in the future, a number of suggestions were given.

Representing the tourism industry, Rajiv Mehra, President, IATO suggested the measures like Opening e-Tourist Visas, resuming normal international flight operations etc. Besides, Mehra informed the Minister about the precarious financial condition that the tour operators had undergone during the pandemic and how the release of long-overdue SEIS (Service Exports from India Scheme) for the financial year 2019-20 was vital for their survival. He also requested that SEIS should continue for the next 5 years and should be included in RoDTEP scheme in foreign trade policy being framed for 2021-26.

Mehra also informed the Minister that the tourism industry is a major foreign exchange earner and should be accorded the status of deemed exporter at par with service export earners. Such a move could enhance their competitiveness vis a vis with other neighbouring countries and thus can boost foreign tourist arrivals. Further, the Minister was requested for implementation of IGST act as per which the tourist leaving India is entitled to refund of IGST paid in India on goods being taken out of India under tax refund for tourists (TRT) scheme.

As per Mehra, "As per larger level, India has huge tourism potential but to reach that we need government support in terms of financial incentives as well as improved physical infrastructure. With the government focusing on improving India's attractiveness, I am sure we shall see a boom as we have never seen before."

SPICEJET UNVEILS IATA TRAVEL PASS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

As international travel picks up, SpiceJet has begun the trial of IATA (International Air Transport Association) Travel Pass mobile app for digital health verification.

The trial will be conducted on flights from Mumbai to Male effective 23 August.

The IATA Travel Pass will help passengers store and manage their verified certifications for Covid-19 tests or vaccinations. It will also manage their travel easily and securely in line with governments' health and border requirements.

IATA has confirmed SpiceHealth as a lab partner for the Travel Pass trial, which is a healthcare company founded by promoters of SpiceJet. SpiceHealth currently operates 21 labs and collection centers for RT-PCR and rapid antigen testing spread across eleven cities in India



"Passenger safety and comfort has always been our top priority and the introduction of the Travel Pass will make the verification process absolutely simple and hassle-free, boost both passenger and government confidence and make international travel more efficient and secure," said Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director in SpiceJet.



The airline had earlier introduced a COVID insurance cover including tests, medication and consultations upon testing positive for COVID-19. With the Travel Pass, the airline will provide accurate information to passengers on test requirements and verify if a passenger meets the requirements for travel.

"Adding SpiceJet to the growing list of airlines trialling IATA Travel Pass is another step towards demonstrating to governments how digital solutions can effectively manage both COVID-19 vaccine and test certificates for travel. IATA Travel Pass will simplify and enhance compliance with health requirements for SpiceJet's passengers, facilitating a more seamless experience," said Nick Careen, IATA's senior vice president for operations, safety and security.

More than 45 airlines across the world, including Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Etihad have partnered with IATA for carrying out a pilot for the travel pass.





'OPERATION DEVI SHAKTI': INDIA EVACUATES MORE THAN 800 PEOPLE FROM AFGHANISTAN

Thousands of Afghans had been crowding around the Kabul airport for nearly a week in a desperate attempt to flee the country fearing the Taliban's brutality. India had been carrying out the evacuation missions in coordination with the US and several other countries.

India gave a name to its operation to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called it 'Operation Devi Shakti' and saluted the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India.

In a tweet it mentioned, 78 people, including 25 Indian nationals, were brought to New Delhi from Tajikistan's Dushanbe in a special Air India flight on Tuesday. They were flown out of Taliban-controlled Kabul to Dushanbe in an aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) a day before.

Three copies (swaroop) of the Sikh sacred scripture Guru Granth Sahib were also brought back, which were received by Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri. He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for carrying out rescue operations from Afghanistan and said the government is in constant touch with the remaining people over there.

India has so far evacuated more than 800 people since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan. Nearly 200 more Afghan Sikhs and Hindus are still stranded in Afghanistan. These people have taken shelter at the Karte Parwan gurdwara in Kabul, which is close to the airport, according to Puneet Singh Chandhok, president of the Indian World Forum which has been coordinating the evacuation efforts with the Ministry of External Affairs and the IAF.



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