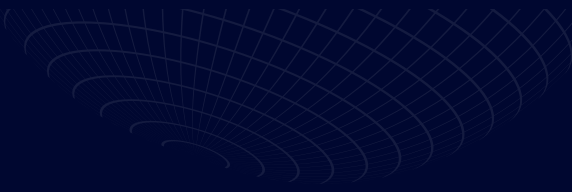


Corporate Travel Updates October 2026

All the latest developments
in the travel & tourism industry



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7 Years. 7 Victories. India's Leading Travel Agency 2026.

Riya Travel & Tours has once again made its mark at the World Travel Awards 2026, securing its seventh consecutive win as India's Leading Travel Agency. The recognition reflects Riya's continued commitment to excellence, innovation and evolving with the needs of travellers and travel partners.

The World Travel Awards recognises leading names in travel and tourism for setting benchmarks in service and innovation. This seventh consecutive win adds another milestone to Riya's long-standing legacy in the travel industry.



Air India, Singapore Airlines expand partnership with wider India–Singapore travel options

Air India and Singapore Airlines will expand their commercial partnership from 15 October 2026, giving customers greater booking flexibility across 126 weekly flights between Singapore and eight Indian cities. From the second quarter of 2027, Maharaja Club and KrisFlyer members will also receive enhanced reciprocal benefits, including priority services and additional baggage allowances on eligible routes.



Air India to resume direct Delhi–Tel Aviv flights from 1 December

Air India will resume direct Delhi–Tel Aviv flights from 1 December, restoring non-stop air connectivity between India and Israel after a period of suspension. The airline will operate five weekly Boeing 777 services, while the Israel Ministry of Tourism is looking to leverage the restored connection to expand leisure, family, MICE, luxury and experiential travel from India.



KLM marks 70 years of Delhi flights, raises India services to 27 weekly

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is marking 70 years of flying from Delhi, its first direct India–Amsterdam route. The airline now connects Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad with more than 160 destinations via Amsterdam. KLM will operate up to 27 weekly flights to and from India this winter, including up to 10 weekly services from Delhi, alongside sustainability initiatives.



flyadeal launches Mumbai–Riyadh service, expands India–Saudi connectivity



Saudi low-cost carrier flyadeal has launched a non-stop Mumbai–Riyadh service, its second destination in India after Hyderabad. Operating five times a week from 3 October, the new route adds more than 7,400 seats a month between the two cities and provides onward connectivity to destinations across Saudi Arabia through Riyadh.

Emirates launches daily Dubai–Helsinki service

Emirates commenced a new daily service between Dubai and Helsinki on 1 October. The route, first announced in January, is the only direct, year-round service between Finland and the UAE, according to Emirates. Flights depart Dubai at 8:15 am and arrive at Helsinki Airport at 2:30 pm local time. The return service departs Helsinki at 4:20 pm and arrives in Dubai at 12:20 am the following day.



Philippine Airlines to launch Delhi, Mumbai–Manila services from December

Philippine Airlines plans to launch three weekly nonstop Delhi–Manila flights and four weekly Mumbai–Manila services from December 2026, subject to Indian government approval. The new routes will provide direct connectivity to the Philippines and onward connections through Manila to Southeast Asia, North Asia, North America and Australia, using Airbus A321neo aircraft.



India records 52% SAF readiness as Boeing–RSB report outlines adoption roadmap

India has achieved an overall Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) readiness score of 52%, according to a report by Boeing and the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB). The assessment identifies moderate but advancing readiness across feedstock, production, policy, logistics, demand, financing, technology and infrastructure as India works towards higher SAF blending levels through 2030.



VFS Global expands South Korea visa services to six centres across South Asia

VFS Global has expanded South Korea visa services to six application centres across India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, with a new centre inaugurated in New Delhi. The company, which has handled Korean visa processing services in India since 2011, now operates centres in New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Dhaka and Colombo.



Thailand sets out requirements for Indian tourists using visa exemption

From 15 September 2026, Indian passport holders can enjoy visa-free travel to Thailand for tourism. To be eligible, tourists need a passport valid for at least six months, return tickets, and must complete the Thailand Digital Arrival Card in advance. Additionally, each traveller must carry at least THB 20,000 in cash. This exemption is strictly for tourists; job seekers should use alternative visa options.



IHCL opens Taj Hessischer Hof Frankfurt, marking Taj's debut in continental Europe



Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) has opened Taj Hessischer Hof Frankfurt in Germany's trade fair district, marking the Taj brand's debut in continental Europe. The opening expands IHCL's European presence and brings the Taj brand to a new market, while retaining the heritage of the former Grandhotel Hessischer Hof alongside Taj's hospitality offering.

Accor expands Sri Lanka portfolio with two new Pullman hotels

Accor has strengthened its presence in Sri Lanka with the opening of Pullman Colombo City Centre and Pullman Bentota Resort & Spa. Located in the heart of Colombo, Pullman Colombo City Centre offers convenient access to key business districts, along with modern meeting and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) facilities, making it a potential addition to 2027 corporate hotel RFPs. Pullman Bentota Resort & Spa brings the brand to Sri Lanka's southern coast with a 165-room resort focused on leisure, wellness and experiential travel.





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