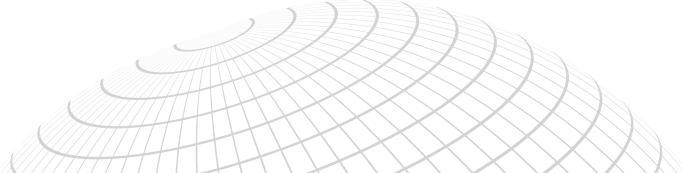
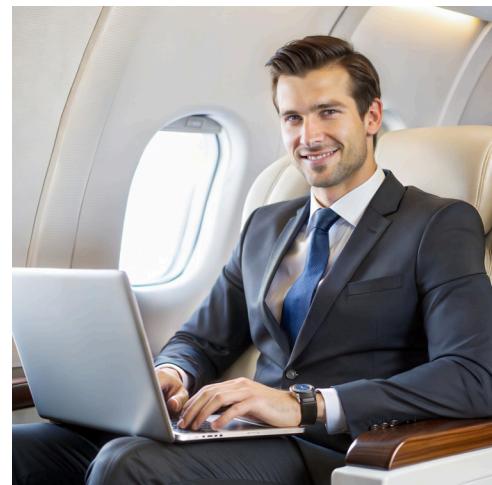


# CORPORATE TRAVEL UPDATES JANUARY 2026

ALL THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE TRAVEL & TOURISM INDUSTRY



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## Air India to resume non-stop Delhi–Rome flights from March 2026

Air India will resume direct services between Delhi and Rome from 25 March 2026, operating four flights a week. The move marks the airline's return to the Italian capital after nearly six years, strengthening India–Europe connectivity and providing seamless links from Italy to destinations across the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia via Delhi.



## IndiGo gets India's first Airbus A321XLR aircraft, plans deployment on Athens, Istanbul & Bali

IndiGo has become India's first airline to induct the Airbus A321XLR into its fleet, advancing its international expansion strategy. The aircraft will operate non-stop services from Mumbai and Delhi to Athens from late January 2026, opening a new era of long-range, fuel-efficient, and passenger-comfort-oriented operations for the carrier.



## IndiGo to launch Delhi–London Heathrow direct flights from February 2026

IndiGo will commence direct flights between Delhi and London Heathrow from 2 February 2026, expanding its UK footprint to 12 weekly services. Operated with Boeing 787 aircraft under a damp lease from Norse Atlantic Airways, the new route underscores IndiGo's growing international network and long-haul ambitions.



## Emirates extends premium economy rollout to 10 new cities



Emirates is expanding the deployment of its new premium economy cabin to 10 additional cities and increasing service frequency on existing routes. The Dubai-based carrier said its latest premium cabin interiors will be available on more than 84 routes by 1 July, featured across retrofitted A380 and Boeing 777 aircraft as well as its new A350 fleet. This includes the introduction of premium economy on flights from Dubai to Barcelona from 1 February, with the daily linked Barcelona–Mexico City service operating a retrofitted three-class Boeing 777-200LR from 15 February.

## Virgin Atlantic to operate 11 weekly flights on London Heathrow–Bengaluru route from January 2026

Virgin Atlantic will increase its London Heathrow–Bengaluru services from seven to eleven flights per week between January and March 2026, enhancing connectivity between the UK, India, and North America. The move reflects strong passenger demand and reinforces India's position as Virgin Atlantic's fastest-growing international market outside the US.



## Vietjet reintroduces business and SkyBoss, elevating premium travel from India to Vietnam

Vietjet has relaunched its premium Business and SkyBoss fare classes, offering Indian travellers a refined experience across routes linking India and Vietnam. With one-way fares from INR 24,400 for SkyBoss and INR 27,200 for Business, the airline aims to deliver comfort, efficiency, and personalised service for business and leisure passengers alike.



## **Etihad for Business offers carbon offsets**

Etihad Airways now allows corporate clients to redeem Etihad for Business credits for carbon offsets through the Etihad for Business platform, the carrier announced on Thursday. The offsets have been added to other credit offerings – including upgrades, priority services, lounge access and excess baggage – and are available in collaboration with CarbonClick which calculates flight emissions using the Travel Impact Model. Etihad relaunched its corporate program in May. This enhancement provides our corporate clients with a practical tool to assist in achieving their voluntary environmental commitment.



## **Sindhudurg Airport secures DGCA approval for 24x7 all-weather operations**

IRB Sindhudurg Airport has received DGCA approval for 24x7 day-and-night operations under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), enabling all-weather flight operations. The milestone enhances safety, reliability, and connectivity for the Konkan region as the airport crosses 11,000 passengers in December 2025.



## DGCA bans use of power banks for charging devices during flights

New Delhi aviation regulator DGCA has banned power bank use on flights. This is due to serious safety concerns with lithium batteries. Incidents of overheating and fires have prompted this strict measure. Power banks are now forbidden for charging devices during flights. Airlines will enforce stronger safety protocols and inform passengers of the new rules.



## Schengen joint visa centre relocates in Delhi; Austria visa centre shifts address in Mumbai

For missions including Croatia, Denmark, Malta, Finland, Iceland, Slovenia, Norway and Sweden, the last date of operations at Shivaji Stadium in Delhi will be January 9, 2026. Another group of Schengen missions – Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Malta (MES) and the Netherlands – will cease operations at Shivaji Stadium on January 16, 2026.



## Four Seasons to return to Germany with Berlin property

Four Seasons has announced plans to return to Germany by renovating the existing Hotel de Rome in central Berlin. The Canada-based luxury hotel brand said it would work with European hotel developer Gruppo Statuto on a major renovation of the property in Berlin's Mette district. It will be renamed as Four Seasons Hotel Berlin when it reopens in late 2027. Four Seasons and Gruppo Statuto are taking over the management of the hotel, which was previously part of Rocco Forte Hotels. The move will see Four Seasons return to the German capital after an absence of more than 20 years.



## First Vande Bharat sleeper train to start running between Guwahati & Howrah in January

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on Thursday that the first-ever Vande Bharat sleeper train will operate between Guwahati in Assam and Howrah in West Bengal. The train will have 16 coaches, including 11 three-tier AC coaches, 4 two-tier AC coaches, and 1 first-class AC coach, with a total capacity of around 823 passengers.





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