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SriLankan Airlines' Webinar Series on  
 January 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 3 P.M. IST

**Omicron impact: IndiGo to cancel around 20% flights, waives change fees**

IndiGo on January 09 said it will cancel around 20 per cent of its flights because of the surge in Covid cases driven by the Omicron variant and waive change fees till March 31 in response to customer needs. Change fee is paid by a passenger to switch to a different flight date. In a press release, the airline stated that owing to the increasing number of infections, a large number of IndiGo customers are changing their travel plans. “In response to customer needs, IndiGo is waiving change fees and is offering free changes for all new and existing bookings made up to January 31, for flights up to March 31, 2022,” it mentioned. The budget carrier said with reduced demand it will also selectively withdraw some flights from service.



**India emerges as largest source market for Sri Lanka Tourism**

India topped Sri Lanka’s tourist arrivals in December and the entire year, according to data published by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA). For December, Sri Lanka recorded 89,506 tourist arrivals, of whom 23,566 or 26.3 % were from India, data showed, signalling that India had regained its spot as the largest source market in its tourism sector. From January 2021 to December 2021, 56,268 tourists — about 42 % of the visitors — arrived in Colombo from India, again the highest number from a country recorded last year, following Russia, the U.K. and Germany.



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**Thailand to charge foreign tourists an entry fee of \$9**



Thailand plans to start collecting a 300 baht (\$9) entry fee from foreign holidaymakers as the tourism-reliant nation predicts a recovery for the pandemic-hobbled travel industry once the current Covid wave eases. The fee will help fund the development of local tourist attractions and an insurance program for visitors, government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana, said in a statement. The levy will be added to air ticket prices from April, while the method of collections from entry by land has yet to be determined, he said.

**Travellers will have to pay higher fares to fly from Kolkata airport in 3 year’s time**

Travellers taking off from the Kolkata airport will be paying more in the next three years for their flights. The Airports Authority of India (AAI), has proposed hiking the aeronautical tariff of the airport until March 31, 2026. The airport’s User Development Fee (UDF) currently stands at INR 583 and INR 1402 respectively for domestic and international passengers. This could change to INR 1895 for domestic flights, and INR 4560 for international flights by April 2025. The AAI has already submitted proposal to the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), which will take a call on this matter.

**India Pavilion at Dubai Expo marks 100 days of hectic activities; woos over 7 lakh visitors**

The India Pavilion at EXPO 2020 Dubai marked its 100th-day on January 10, becoming one of the most popular enclosures at 7,40,356 footfalls, showcasing the country’s business potential as well as cultural and geographic diversity.



On the occasion, Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal tweeted, “100 glorious days of the India Pavilion shining bright at the @Expo2020Dubai. The world is witnessing #IndiaAtDubaiExpo as a hub of innovation, growth and opportunities. Visit the pavilion to experience the grand celebration of India’s growth story.”

**Domestic air passenger traffic at 111 lakh in April-December; 44% lower against April-December 2019**

Domestic air passenger traffic remained 44 per cent lower in the April-December 2021 to 111 lakh against the corresponding period of FY20, but saw a jump of 52 per cent compared to December 2021, according to rating agency ICRA. The total domestic passenger traffic had stood at 73 lakh in December 2020, according to a report by the rating agency. It also said that the emergence of new coronavirus variant and reactionary restrictions impacting air travel remain near term-challenges for the airline industry.

On a sequential basis, the growth in December was recorded at 5-6 per cent over November 2021 during which Indian carriers had flown 105 lakh passengers, ICRA said in a statement.

