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FAITH urges Centre to open borders, extend e-visa & start overseas marketing

FAITH has urged the government for urgent reopening of India's borders to tourists and to permit all commercial flights to operate to full capacity to and from the country. Alongside, the umbrella industry association has requested for extension of the free e-visa from the currently announced 0.5 million for the whole duration of 2022-2024 till inbound travel recovers. A lot of countries have now opened or have announced opening up their borders to fully vaccinated travellers with the impact of Omicron subsiding. FAITH has requested MOT to take up with Ministry of Health, the same for India and announce the opening up of our borders and resumption of full commercial flights with zero quarantine to fully vaccinated travellers across all Indian ports.



Finance Minister to bring up issue of bringing ATF under GST ambit with states

With growing fuel prices globally, the Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman said she will bring up the issue of bringing Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime before the GST Council and the states. The decision to include ATF in GST, she pointed out, was not hers alone to make. "It is for the GST Council to decide. The next time we meet at the Council, I will put it on the table for them to discuss it," she said, adding that she will also discuss the aviation sector's concerns with banks.



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Time to remove the pre-departure testing requirement for fully vaccinated air travellers flying to the US: IATA



The International Air Transport Association (IATA), in partnership with Airlines for America (A4A) and 28 US and international aviation and travel and tourism stakeholder groups, urged the US government to remove the pre-departure testing requirement for fully vaccinated air travellers flying to the US. "The experience of Omicron has made it clear that travel restrictions have little to no impact in terms of preventing its spread. International travellers should face no additional screening requirements than what is applied to domestic travel," said Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA.

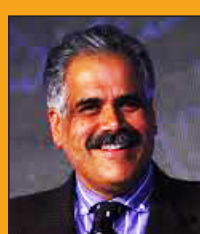
Australia to reopen borders for fully vaccinated tourists only



Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia has announced that the nation Down Under will open its borders to fully vaccinated tourists from February 21. This development comes after two years when the country shut its orders due to the outbreak of Covid-19. Australia had one of the toughest restrictions to curtail the spread of the pandemic, and the measures were in force for nearly two long years.

"It's almost two years since we took the decision to close the borders to Australia," Morrison said.

Rahul Bhatia takes over as Managing Director of IndiGo



The Board of Directors of InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo), at its meeting unanimously approved the appointment of its co-founder and Promoter, Rahul Bhatia, as its Managing Director with immediate effect, subject to the approval of the Members of the Company.

Meleveetil Damodaran, Chairman, IndiGo, said, "This will further strengthen the airline in the years ahead." He added that Bhatia would oversee all aspects of the airline, and actively lead the Management team.

Dream Cruises files application for winding up operations

In a major shock to the cruise segment in India, Dream Cruises, which was launched with much fanfare some years ago has filed application for winding up operations.



This is a result of its parent company Genting Hong Kong filing for winding up operations two weeks ago after having failed to secure funding to stay afloat following the insolvency of its German shipbuilding subsidiary.

In a statement on January 28, Genting Hong Kong's appointed joint provisional liquidators said Dream Cruises filed to wind up the company with the Bermuda courts on January 27.

Broadwick Soho London appoints One Rep Global as its India market representative

One Rep Global has been appointed the India Sales & Marketing representation office for Broadwick Soho London. Slated for launch in late 2022,



Broadwick Soho is a 57 room luxurious boutique hotel, home to a Sicilian inspired restaurant and terrace, rooftop lounge, intimate dining room and speakeasy bar. On this occasion, Hemant Mediratta, Founder One Rep Global said, "As part of our commitment to bring the best of the best to Indian consumers, we are excited on this latest addition to our portfolio."

Visa-free entry for Indian business travellers to Maldives comes into effect

Maldives has announced Visa-free entry for Indian business travellers to the island nation. In a statement, the Maldivian Foreign Ministry said, effective from February 1, it has commenced the process of granting Indian Nationals visa free entry for business purposes, for a period not exceeding the visa free period of 90 days. This is according to the agreement on the Facilitation of Visa Arrangements between both the governments, signed on the 17th of December, 2018.