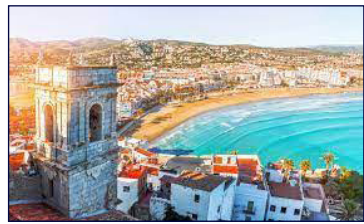


India's T&T sector to post annual growth of over 10% during 2019-28: IBEF

The travel and tourism industry's direct contribution to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to post an annual growth rate of 10.35 per cent between 2019 and 2028, according to a report by the Indian Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), an Indian government trust. In 2020, the travel and tourism industry's contribution to GDP was USD 121.9 billion; the figure is expected to reach USD 512 billion by 2028, said the report, which comes at a time the sector is bouncing back from a pandemic-induced downturn.



Air Canada to resume daily Mumbai-Toronto winter service on Oct 29

Air Canada will resume its daily seasonal service from Mumbai to Toronto, now operating via London Heathrow, starting October 31, 2022 until March 26, 2023. Mumbai is the airline's second destination in the strategic Indian market. The planned service between Mumbai and Toronto via London-Heathrow will be operated with Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft featuring three cabins of service for customers to choose from, including lie-flat seats in Signature Class, Premium Economy and Economy Class.



Vietjet opens four routes to India

Vietjet has officially launched four more services linking top destinations of India and Vietnam including Mumbai – Ho Chi Minh City/Hanoi routes and New Delhi/Mumbai – Phu Quoc services. The Mumbai – Phu Quoc route will operate four weekly flights on every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, starting September 9, 2022. The services between New Delhi and Phu Quoc will also commence on September 9, 2022 with three weekly flights on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The Ho Chi Minh City/Hanoi – Mumbai routes started operation this month.

Nguyen Thanh Son, Vietjet's Vice President said, "Vietjet's Vietnam-India's flight network expansion will boost and strengthen travel connectivity and trade ties between the two countries. We have been the first carrier operating direct services between Vietnam's capital city Hanoi and its largest city of Ho Chi Minh with India's capital city New Delhi."



Antara Luxury River Cruises announces world's longest river voyage of 51 days

Antara Luxury River Cruises has decided to go on the longest journey across the globe in December 2022. The 51-day journey aboard the company's Antara Ganga Vilas ship will cover 51 days and will pass through Ganges and the Brahmaputra.



The world's longest river journey, the ship will start from Uttar Pradesh's Kashi, while its last destination is Dibrugarh in Assam.

According to the company, the ship will sail through 27 smaller rivers, 5 states and 2 countries. Speaking about the itinerary, Raj Singh, Chairman of the company, said, "Each experience has been personally vetted and designed by me for fellow enthusiastic travellers. The historical route has been finalised with the support, assistance and cooperation of the governments of India and Bangladesh, which are working together to ensure seamless travel between the two countries."

TCS likely to launch chip-based e-passports by year end

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) expects to roll out chip-based e-passports by the end of the year. TCS is also setting up a new command and control centre with the Ministry of External Affairs and a new data centre to support the backend requirements of the project, Tej Bhatla, Head of TCS's Public Sector Business Unit, said. This is part of the second phase of the passport project the company bagged from the government recently.

"The Ministry is looking at a launch timeline within this year and we are working towards that. Once it is implemented, the new passports will be based on chips. Those which are currently in circulation will undergo the process of getting renewed with a new chip as and when they are up for renewal," Bhatla added.



Thailand to do away with Pass registration scheme from July 1

Thailand's Centre of COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has approved the removal of the Thailand Pass registration scheme and an USD 10,000 health insurance requirement for foreign visitors, effective July 1, 2022. Both requirements were initially removed for Thai nationals from June 1, 2022.

From July 1, 2022, foreign nationals are only required to show proof of either a certificate of vaccination or a negative RT-PCR or professional ATK test result within 72 hours of travel. These can be in a print or digital format. Random checks will be made on arrivals at Thailand's international airports or land border checkpoints (in 22 provinces). Unvaccinated/not fully vaccinated travellers who are random checked and who are unable to show proof of a pre-arrival negative test will be required to undergo a professional ATK test at the point of entry.

