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Visa applications in India set to surpass 2019 record

The number of visa applications filed in India this calendar year is all set to cross pre-pandemic 2019 levels. This despite the continuing crunch for two major destinations, the US and Schengen states, which have long interview wait times and appointment count capping, respectively, and sky-high airfares.

“We are expecting to surpass pre-pandemic visa application volumes by the end of this calendar year. There has been a robust rebound in outbound travel sentiments. Despite initial scepticism, the level of bounce-back has resulted in a demand-supply gap,” said Prabuddha Sen, VFS Global COO (South Asia).



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China relaxes biometric data requirement for Indian travellers

The Chinese Embassy in India has implemented temporary changes to visa regulations, granting Indian travellers some much-needed ease and flexibility. These adjustments will remain in effect until December 31, 2023.

As per the new guidelines, eligible applicants seeking visas for various purposes, including tourism, business, short-term family visits, transit, will now no longer be required to provide biometric data. This means that Indian travellers can complete their visa applications without the added step of fingerprinting, making the process smoother and more convenient.



Vistara to start non-stop flights between Delhi & Hong Kong from Oct 29

Vistara will start daily non-stop flights between Delhi and Hong Kong, starting October 29, 2023. The airline will operate its A321neo aircraft featuring a three-class configuration on this route. Bookings for the flights are being progressively opened on all channels, including Vistara’s website, mobile app, and through travel agents. The airline is offering all-inclusive return fares start at INR 26,499 for Economy, INR 64,999 for Premium Economy, and INR 99,999 for Business Class.



VietJet, Carlye Aviation sign USD 550mn agreement for 200 B737 Max

Vietjet and Carlye Aviation Partners, a U.S.-based aviation finance and asset management company, have solidified their partnership by signing a landmark aircraft finance agreement valued at USD 550 million. This occurred during the official visit of the President of the United States, Joe Biden, to Vietnam.

Carlye Aviation Partners, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Carlyle Group, will provide financing for Vietjet’s order of 200 Boeing 737 Max aircraft. This substantial aircraft order represents one of the largest commercial contracts to date and greatly contributes to the trade balance between Vietnam and the United States.

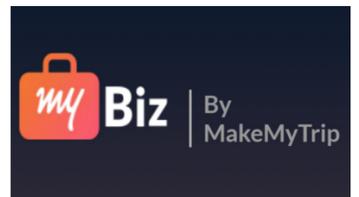


BBC StoryWorks, Brand USA partner for USA Through Film campaign to drive inbound

BBC Story Works, the content studio of BBC Studios, and Brand USA, the destination marketing organisation for the United States, have joined forces for the newest chapter of the USA Through Film campaign aimed at driving tourism to the United States. Produced by BBC StoryWorks, the multi-platform media campaign will capture the sights, sounds, and spirit of diverse U.S.A. cities via the personal stories and experiences as told by Jane Krakowski, Common, Mary Steenburgen, Yaya DaCosta, to name a few.

Corporate Travel Platform MyBiz By MakeMyTrip Partners With Darwinbox

myBiz, a corporate travel solutions brand from MakeMyTrip, and cloud based integrated Human



Resource (HR) platform, Darwinbox, announced their strategic alliance aimed at seamlessly integrating travel solutions and HR processes for corporates. This partnership will create an automated throughline across travel reservations, HR protocol compliance, expense management, and GST resolution on a single self-serve platform.

“We attempt to automate the travel booking experience to make it seamless for business travel users. We are excited to partner with Darwinbox to further simplify new technology uptake for enterprises country-wide,” said Raj Rishi Singh, Chief Marketing Officer and Chief Business Officer – Corporate at MakeMyTrip.