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Thursday, 15th December 2022 3 PM IST

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Vistara, Air India to merger by March 2024; SIA to invest USD 250mn

Singapore Airlines Ltd (SIA) has said it would emerge as a 25.1% owner of Air India as part of a deal that would merge its Vistara full-service airline joint venture with Tata Sons into India's national carrier.

SIA will invest USD 250 million into Air India as part of the transaction, the Singaporean carrier said in a statement, with the pair aiming to complete the merger by March 2024 subject to regulatory approvals.



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Capital A to merge AirAsia with AirAsia X

CEO Tony Fernandes said that Malaysia's Capital A will combine its AirAsia budget airline business with long-haul offshoot AirAsia X as part of a corporate restructuring designed to shed its status as a financially-distressed firm. Capital A, headed by Fernandes, will retain the digital, logistics and aviation services businesses, while AirAsia X will be renamed AirAsia Aviation and be led by long-time Executive Bo Lingam under the plan. Capital A hopes to submit to Bursa Malaysia Securities for approval in February.



WTTC Members expected to invest more than USD 10bn in Saudi Arabia over 5 years

WORLD TRAVEL & TOURISM COUNCIL

Addressing the press at its ongoing Global Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, WTTC President & CEO, announced over the next five years, WTTC Members are set to invest more than USD 10.5 billion in the Kingdom.

His Excellency Ahmed Al Khateeb, Minister of Tourism for Saudi Arabia, said, "The Kingdom is proud to welcome the 22nd WTTC Global Summit to Riyadh. With more government ministers and world leading CEOs than ever before, it will be a true display of the future we want to create. A future founded in public and private sector partnership, with sustainability and innovation at its core."

Thailand asks Indians to obtain visas before arrival to avoid long queues

Thailand's Ambassador to India, Pattarat Hongtong, advised Indians to get their visa from the embassy or consulate to save them from standing in the long queues at Bangkok airport.

"I think this is quite natural for any airport, not only in Thailand. When we open the borders, nobody can expect the actual number of incoming visitors or tourists. So that's why for Indians we advise them to get the visa from the Embassy or Consulate General before travelling to Thailand that can be helpful to things," the Thai Ambassador to India said.

Notably, the nation has dropped all the mandatory COVID requirements like vaccine certificates and test results for tourists. Since then, there has been a rise in the number of passengers at Bangkok airport resulting in long passenger queues.



IndiGo launches flights Portugal & Switzerland via code-share with Turkish Airlines



Vinay Malhotra

IndiGo has launched connecting flights via Turkey to Portugal and Switzerland, through its code-share partnership with Turkish Airlines. These new routes came into effect from November 23, 2022, offerings options and more capacity for customers exploring travel

between India and Europe.

Commenting on this, Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales, IndiGo said, "We have witnessed a huge demand for travel from India to Turkey, Switzerland, and Portugal. Keeping the customer demand in mind, we now offer 19 connecting flights through Istanbul to destinations like Geneva, Lisbon, Porto, and Basel. This will not only enhance international connectivity but also add capacity on these routes and make travel more affordable. We will strive to stay true to our promise of affordable fares, on-time performance, courteous and hassle-free service."



Telangana eyes 20-30% growth in FTAs

Telangana Tourism expects a 20 per cent increase in foreign tourist arrivals and 30 per cent growth in domestic tourist footfall by the end of next year, as compared to pre-COVID level, a senior government official said. Telangana Tourism expects a 20 per cent increase in foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) and 30 per cent growth in domestic tourist footfall by the end of next year, as compared to pre-COVID level, a senior government official said. "Our target is to increase international tourist arrivals by 20 per cent, and also domestic tourist arrivals by 30 per cent by 2023-end," Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC) Managing Director, B Manohar has said.