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Centre extends visa, immigration modernisation scheme till 2026

With an aim to modernise and upgrade immigration and visa services, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved the continuation of the Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme till March 31, 2026, with a financial outlay of INR 1,364.88 crore.

According to an MHA statement, “The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme beyond March 31, 2021 for a period of five years from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with a financial outlay of INR 1,364.88 crore.”



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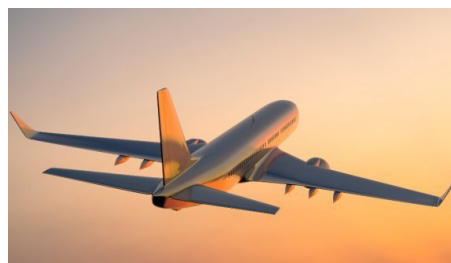
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Suspension of scheduled international passenger flights extended till further orders: DGCA



The suspension of scheduled international passenger flights in the country has been extended “till further orders”, aviation regulator DGCA said. On January 19, the suspension was extended till February 28.

In a circular, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) stated, “The competent authority has decided to extend the suspension of scheduled international commercial passenger services to/from India till further orders.” This restriction will not apply to international all-cargo operations and flight specifically approved by the DGCA, it mentioned.

Ilker Ayci declines role of Air India CEO

Turkey’s Ilker Ayci has declined to be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tata Group’s Air India, days after the announcement of his appointment led to opposition in India. Last month, Tata Sons, which recently took over debt-laden Air India, had announced the appointment of the former Chairman of Turkish Airlines Ayci as the CEO and MD of Air India.



IndiGo partners with MakeMyTrip for 6E holidays

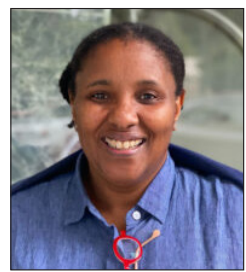
IndiGo is launching an Air & Land bundled package offering on its website and mobile app and has collaborated with MakeMyTrip, India’s leading online travel company, to power this platform.

Through this, IndiGo passengers will be offered a wide selection of Air & Land packages targeting various segments of travellers ranging from leisure, pilgrimage, adventure and business travellers.

The airline will use its extensive flights inventory across the network in conjunction with MakeMyTrip’s vast inventory of hotels and activities, to offer a rich collection of holiday packages under 6E Holidays.



SAT to conduct four-city physical roadshow in India from March 7-11



Neliswa Nkani

Building on its extensive recovery efforts in India, South African Tourism (SAT) is all set to host its biggest, independent travel trade initiative in India – their annual Roadshow. This in-person roadshow will be the first mega-event post-pandemic and will travel to the 4 Indian cities of Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai from March 7 to 11, 2022. Speaking about the 2022 edition of the Roadshow, Neliswa Nkani, Hub Head – MEISEA, South African Tourism says, “We are excited to showcase the best that South Africa has to offer and bring the destination alive for the Indian travel trade – our biggest endorsers in the market.”

Bali to allow international travellers without quarantine from March 14 on trial basis

The Government of Indonesia will conduct a trial on receiving international travellers without quarantine in the resort island of Bali beginning March 14 under certain conditions, a senior Minister said. If the trial in Bali is successful, the government will expand the policy across Indonesia.

The trial may be launched before March 14 if the government sees positive development in the next one week for the continued downward trend in the Covid-19 cases in Bali, Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs Luhut Binsar Panjaitan told a virtual press conference recently.



Italy permits entry to all non-EU travellers

Travellers from non-European countries can now enter Italy for travel purposes under facilitated rules as the pre-entry testing requirement, and the non-essential travel ban has been abolished. The news on the easing of the travel rules for third-country nationals was announced by the Minister of Health of Italy, Roberto Speranza, last week.

Since yesterday, travellers from non-EU countries are subject to the same entry rules as travellers from EU countries when reaching Italy, SchengenVisaInfo.com reports. This means that travellers from non-EU countries can enter Italy restriction-free, provided that they present a valid vaccination or recovery certificate or a negative COVID-19 test result.

Fly Big Airlines to start Indore-Gondia-Hyderabad flight from March 13

Fly Big Airlines is all set to commence flight operations on Indore-Gondia-Hyderabad route from this month., its CMD Sanjay Mandviya has said.

Sanjay Mandviya, CMD, FlyBig, said that all the formalities have been completed and the company is all set to commence the operations from March 13. The booking of tickets will start from March 1 and will be available both online and at window. The fare is also very affordable as the services will be run under UDAN – RCS (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik – Regional Connectivity Scheme). The fare will be just INR 1,999 for Indore – Gondia or Gondia – Hyderabad travel and the maximum fare would be around INR 2,600,” Mandviya said.



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