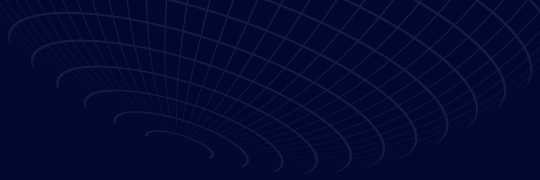
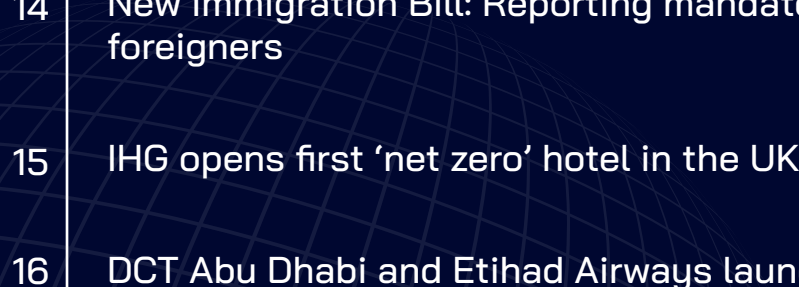


CORPORATE TRAVEL UPDATES MARCH 2025



Index

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- 
- 1 Air India welcomes its first retrofitted narrow-body aircraft with new seats and livery
 - 2 IndiGo expands global reach, announces inaugural long-haul flights to Amsterdam & Manchester
 - 3 Air France renews first-class suite in battle for high-rollers
 - 4 IndiGo Stretch is to be launched on Delhi-Chennai flights from 26th March 2025
 - 5 IndiGo launches direct flights to Seychelles
 - 6 Vietnam Airlines expands network with new direct flights from Bengaluru & Hyderabad to Hanoi
 - 7 Air India Express inducts 100th aircraft, doubles its fleet in 2 years
 - 8 Airlines ban power bank usage in-flight
 - 9 Delhi airport introduces virtual information display kiosks and T1 & T3
 - 10 Navi Mumbai airport to be inaugurated in June
 - 11 Kenya Airways to launch London Gatwick-Nairobi route
 - 12 Korean Air to introduce premium economy cabins
 - 13 Air Canada to launch new nonstop service Vancouver-Manila
 - 14 New Immigration Bill: Reporting mandatory by hotels for overstaying foreigners
 - 15 IHG opens first 'net zero' hotel in the UK
 - 16 DCT Abu Dhabi and Etihad Airways launch new Abu Dhabi Pass

Air India welcomes its first retrofitted narrow-body aircraft with new seats and livery

Air India has marked a significant milestone with the return of its first retrofitted narrow body aircraft, VT-EXN (A320neo), into service. This retrofitting is part of the airline's USD400 million program to upgrade its fleet, which includes 27 inherited A320neo aircraft. The upgrades feature a new three-class cabin configuration, improved amenities, and a refreshed livery, enhancing the passenger experience.



IndiGo expands global reach, announces inaugural long-haul flights to Amsterdam & Manchester

To support its long-haul ambitions, IndiGo has entered into a damp lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways for Boeing 787-9 aircraft. Manchester will become the only direct link from India to the north of the UK, while Amsterdam will serve as a gateway to the Netherlands and beyond. These destinations will be the latest additions to IndiGo's rapidly expanding international network, which already spans domestic India and Asia.

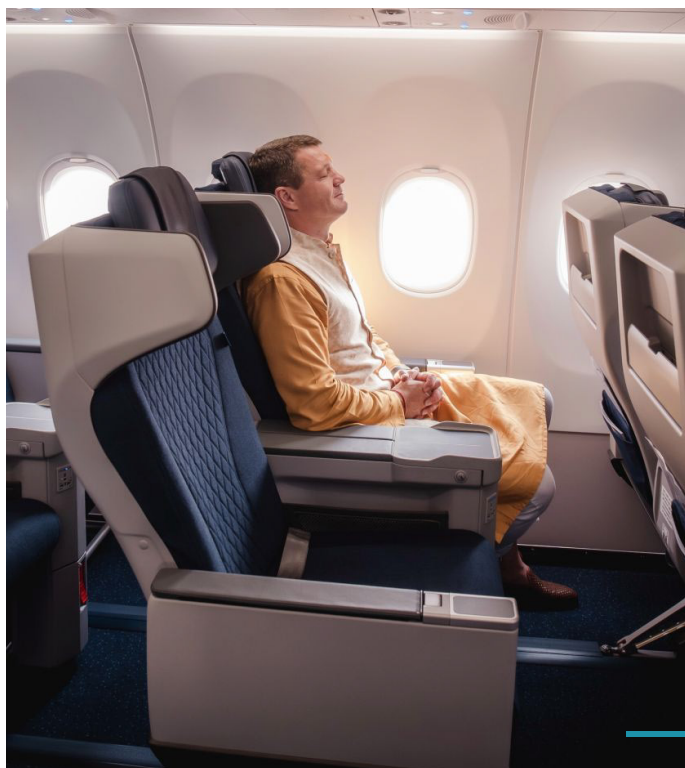


Air France renews first-class suite in battle for high-rollers

Air France revealed a new first-class suite to attract high-end travelers from business jets and enhance its luxury offerings. This initiative by CEO Ben Smith aims to position Air France at the pinnacle of European airline luxury, challenging British Airways and Lufthansa. The cabin features premium amenities and reflects France's luxury brand image, targeting an increase in profitable luxury travel.



IndiGo Stretch is to be launched on Delhi-Chennai flights from 26th March 2025



IndiGo on Tuesday announced the introduction of IndiGo Stretch, its tailor-made business product, on flights connecting Delhi and Chennai. Effective March 26, 2025, IndiGo Stretch will "elevate" the travel experience on this route. IndiGo already features IndiGo Stretch on all flights between Delhi and Mumbai, as well as Delhi and Bengaluru, on specially equipped aircraft.

IndiGo launches direct flights to Seychelles

IndiGo has launched direct flights between Mumbai and Seychelles, its 39th international destination. Operating four times a week, this new route enhances connectivity and offers affordable travel options to the island paradise. Seychelles, renowned for its pristine beaches, rich biodiversity, and vibrant culture, becomes more accessible to Indian travelers seeking both relaxation and adventure.



Vietnam Airlines expands network with new direct flights from Bengaluru & Hyderabad to Hanoi

Vietnam Airlines is expanding its India operations with new direct flights from Bengaluru and Hyderabad to Hanoi, starting in May 2025. The airline will operate four weekly flights from Bengaluru and three from Hyderabad using Airbus A321 aircraft. This expansion enhances connectivity between India and Vietnam, catering to both business and leisure travelers.



Air India Express inducts 100th aircraft, doubles its fleet in 2 years

Since joining the Tata Group in January 2022, Air India Express has undergone rapid growth, expanding its fleet from 54 aircraft to 100. The airline has added new destinations to its network, including Bangkok, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Hindon, Jammu, Patna, Phuket, and Port Blair. The airline aims to operate over 500 daily flights by month's end, marking significant growth since its privatization in 2022.



Airlines ban power bank usage in-flight



Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways, Cathay Pacific and other airlines following suit have issued a ban wherein travellers will not be allowed to charge portable power banks via the onboard USB ports or use power banks to charge their personal devices throughout the duration of the flight. Travelers can bring power banks with a capacity of up to 100Wh without special approval, while those between 100Wh and 160Wh require airline approval.

Delhi airport introduces virtual information display kiosks and T1 & T3

The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has launched India's first Virtual Information Display (VID) kiosks at Terminals 1 and 3 of Delhi Airport. These kiosks provide real-time flight updates, intuitive navigation, and 24/7 live video support, enhancing passenger convenience. The innovation aims to offer a smarter, more seamless travel experience, especially for first-time flyers.



Navi Mumbai airport to be inaugurated in June

The Navi Mumbai International Airport, set to open in June, will be India's new greenfield airport, reducing congestion at Mumbai's capacity-constrained airport. Developed by NMIAL, a joint venture between Adani Airport Holdings and CIDCO, the airport will cater to 90 million passengers annually.



Kenya Airways to launch London Gatwick-Nairobi route

Kenya Airways is to launch flights between London Gatwick and Nairobi this summer – its second route to the UK capital. The African carrier, which already operates daily flights between London Heathrow and Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, will introduce three weekly services to Gatwick from 2 July. Kenya Airways will operate the new Nairobi-Gatwick route on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, taking its total weekly flights from London up to 10. The airline, which is a member of the SkyTeam alliance, last year agreed to a codeshare deal with UK long-haul carrier Virgin Atlantic.



Korean Air to introduce premium economy cabins

Korean Air has announced plans to introduce premium economy seats to meet “growing market demand” for the product. The airline, which unveiled a new livery and logo last week following its acquisition of Asiana Airlines, said it would retrofit its new premium economy seats on 11 Boeing 777-300ER aircraft by removing existing first-class cabins. Korean Air said the first aircraft with premium economy will enter service in the second half of 2025 with three seating classes: Prestige (business class), premium economy, and economy. “Fleet modifications will continue through 2026 to expand premium economy availability across more routes,” added the carrier in a statement.

Air Canada to launch new nonstop service Vancouver-Manila

Air Canada has recently announced the strategic expansion of its international network by adding non-stop flights between its Pacific hub at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) and Manila Ninoy Aquino International Airport (MNL), beginning April 2. The announcement was made during the Government of Canada's Team Canada Trade Mission in the Philippines, commemorating 75 years of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Philippines. This new service to Manila is Air Canada's third South-East Asia destination launched in the last two years.



New Immigration Bill: Reporting mandatory by hotels for overstaying foreigners

Anyone using a forged passport or visa for entering, staying, or exiting India may face up to seven years in jail and fines up to INR 10 lakh if the new immigration bill is passed. The bill also mandates reporting information about foreigners by various institutions to track overstaying individuals.



IHG opens first ‘net zero’ hotel in the UK

IHG Hotels & Resorts has opened its first “net zero” branded property, which has been designed to operate entirely on renewable and solar energy. Plans for Voco Zeal Exeter Science Park in southwest England were first announced two years ago. The 142-room hotel has been developed through a partnership with Zeal Hotels and Valor Hospitality. The property has achieved an “outstanding” rating from sustainable building certification body BREEAM for initiatives such as using low-carbon concrete in its construction and installing reversible heat pumps to reduce energy use.



DCT Abu Dhabi and Etihad Airways launch new Abu Dhabi Pass



DCT Abu Dhabi and Etihad Airways have launched the Abu Dhabi Pass, a digital pass offering seamless access to the emirate’s transport and attractions. Available to Etihad passengers, it includes benefits such as unlimited bus travel, discounts at cultural venues, and access to Yas Island attractions. The initiative supports Abu Dhabi’s Tourism Strategy 2030.



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