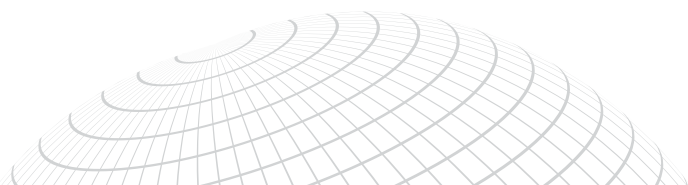


CORPORATE TRAVEL UPDATES MAY 2026



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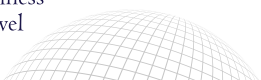
Akasa Air to launch Mumbai–Hanoi flights, expands network to seventh international destination

Akasa Air will commence four weekly direct flights between Mumbai and Hanoi from September 2026, marking its entry into Vietnam and expansion into Southeast Asia. The move strengthens the airline’s international network and supports growing travel demand between India and Vietnam.



Akasa Air launches direct Delhi–Gwalior flights

Akasa Air has commenced direct flight operations between Delhi and Gwalior, strengthening regional connectivity. The inaugural flight was virtually flagged off by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia. The new route is expected to improve accessibility, support regional mobility, and enhance travel options between the national capital and Madhya Pradesh.



IndiGo, Digi Yatra and Bengaluru Airport conduct contactless international travel trials with IATA

IndiGo, in collaboration with Digi Yatra Foundation, Bangalore International Airport Limited and International Air Transport Association, has successfully conducted technical trials of a biometric-enabled, contactless international travel system at Bengaluru Airport, marking a key step towards scalable digital identity-based passenger journeys.



Air India to cut nearly 100 domestic and international flights till July

Air India is slashing nearly 100 flights through July due to soaring jet fuel costs and airspace restrictions, making international routes unprofitable. This move deepens the crisis for the airline, which already faces significant losses. The situation is exacerbated by global oil price shocks impacting India's oil marketing companies, with fuel prices surging dramatically.



Emirates restores 96% of global network, reinforces Dubai hub connectivity



Emirates has restored 96 per cent of its global network, operating to 137 destinations across 72 countries. The airline is ramping up frequencies and capacity while strengthening Dubai's position as a global hub. Enhanced connectivity, flexible booking options, and Skywards benefits are expected to support growing international travel demand, including strong operations across Indian cities.

Ryanair cuts Berlin flights amid rising airport fees and taxes

Ryanair will reduce its capacity to and from Berlin this winter, with plans to close its base at Berlin Airport from October. The budget carrier said it will reduce capacity to and from the German capital by 50 per cent this winter and will close its base at Berlin Airport on 24 October due to rising operational costs. All seven of the carrier's aircraft currently based in Berlin will be reallocated to "lower cost airports" across the EU, including to airports in Sweden, Slovakia, Albania and Italy.



Virgin Atlantic to offer free Starlink WiFi onboard

Virgin Atlantic is accelerating the rollout of Starlink connectivity, with Airbus A350 aircraft leading installations from May 2026. The airline plans to extend the service to Boeing 787 and Airbus A330neo fleets, targeting two-thirds fleet connectivity by end-2026 and full coverage by 2027, offering free high-speed WiFi to Flying Club members.



Delhi Airport launches multilingual 'Your Terminal Companion' to enhance passenger experience

Delhi International Airport Limited has introduced 'Your Terminal Companion', a multilingual video series under its #DELCares initiative, aimed at improving passenger navigation and accessibility. The initiative offers step-by-step guidance across key travel stages and processes, supporting diverse passenger segments and reducing dependency on real-time assistance at the airport.



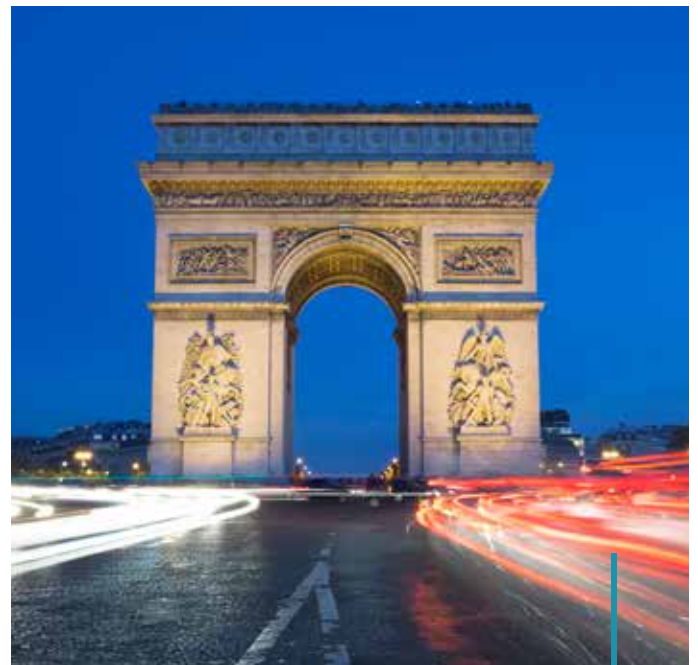
Frankfurt Airport opens new Terminal 3

Frankfurt Airport on Thursday opened its new €4 billion Terminal 3 on Thursday (23 April), with a total of 12 flight arrivals and departures scheduled for its first day of operation. Flight CZ8021 from Shenyang, operated by China Southern Airlines, was the first flight to arrive at the terminal at 5:25am this morning. Frankfurt Airport's operator Fraport said that 57 airlines currently using Terminal 2 will move to the new terminal in four phases up to 9 June. Germany's second largest airline, Condor, is scheduled to move its operations to Terminal 3 in summer 2027.



France waives airport transit visa requirement for Indian nationals

France has removed the airport transit visa requirement for Indian nationals holding ordinary passports, effective 10 April 2026. The move follows an earlier commitment by French President Emmanuel Macron to ease travel for Indian travellers. The change applies to passengers transiting through the international zones of French airports en route to third countries, improving connectivity and travel convenience.



VFS Global opens visa application centre in Bhubaneswar, expands eastern India footprint



VFS Global has launched a new visa application centre in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, to improve access for regional travellers. The facility will initially serve 10 countries and aims to reduce dependence on Kolkata for visa submissions, supporting growing outbound travel demand

IHG adds 11 new hotels across Europe

IHG Hotels & Resorts will add 11 conversion properties to its portfolio across Germany, Belgium and France via new long-term franchise agreements, the company announced on Wednesday (22 April). The hotels will be flagged under IHG's upper midscale Holiday Inn, upscale Voco and midscale Garner brands. Of the 11 properties, six will be located in Germany in such markets as Leipzig, Bremen and Wiesbaden; four in Belgium with hotels at Brussels Airport and Brussels city centre; and one in France at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.



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