

# Corporate Travel Updates July 2024

All the latest developments in the  
Travel & Tourism Industry



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# Riya The Travel Expert is now present in Abu Dhabi

In our commitment to mark our footprint worldwide, we are thrilled to share that we have officially unveiled our new office in Abu Dhabi. Inaugurated on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, we believe this new endeavour will strengthen our foothold in the UAE and the Middle East.



## **Riya Group and Air India Express partner for easy visa applications**

Riya Group and Air India Express have partnered to simplify travel booking for international flyers by integrating comprehensive visa services on the airline's website. Travelers can now browse flights, apply for visas and streamline their travel planning all in one place. This marks a significant step forward in convenience and ease for international travellers.

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## **Air India Becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian airline to offer Premium Economy cabins on narrow-body aircraft**

From 01st July Air India has started offering Premium Economy on select domestic routes. The new A320neo aircraft will accommodate 8 seats in Business, 24 in Premium Economy, and 132 in Economy. Another Tata Group airline Vistara was the first Indian airline to introduce a Premium Economy cabin on domestic routes.





## Akasa Air expands international reach, adds Abu Dhabi to network

Akasa Air operates daily direct flights between Mumbai and Abu Dhabi from July 11, 2024, enhancing travel connectivity between India and the UAE. Having launched its international operations with flights to Doha in March 2024, followed by Jeddah and Riyadh, Akasa Air's expansion to Abu Dhabi strengthens its presence in the Gulf region.



## IndiGo expands international capacity to Central Asia, enhances connectivity to Tashkent, Almaty & Tbilisi

After launching operations in Tashkent, Almaty, and Tbilisi in 2023, IndiGo's expansion reflects its commitment to enhancing capacity on international routes. This strategic move will bolster trade, tourism, and mobility between India and Central Asia, offering customers more travel options to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Georgia. With these additions, IndiGo now provides daily flights to all four Central Asian destinations: Tashkent, Almaty, Tbilisi, and Baku.



## **Etihad launches new route to Jaipur, more connectivity between Abu Dhabi & Northwest India**

Passengers flying from Jaipur to destinations in the United States will benefit from the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility at Abu Dhabi, ensuring a hassle-free immigration process. The new route is expected to attract more visitors to the UAE, allowing them to experience the exceptional facilities at Zayed International Airport's Terminal A, Etihad's new home.



## **Virgin Atlantic returns to Canada, announces first route to the country in more than a decade**

This new route is designed to cater to the needs of business travellers, especially those in the banking and stock market sectors, providing seamless connectivity between Toronto and London. Additionally, the service will enhance travel options for Canadians heading to India, with convenient connections to Mumbai and Delhi through London's Heathrow, which offers an average layover time of just 1 hour and 20 minutes.





# Delhi Airport introduces **India's first quick drop solution for self-service bag drop**

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited, today announces the launch of its state-of-the-art Self-Service Bag Drop (SSBD) Quick Drop Solution at Delhi Airport. With this, Delhi Airport becomes the first airport in India and the second in the world after Toronto, Canada to implement this cutting-edge technology.

With approximately 50 Self Service Bag Drop units now operational across Terminal 1 and Terminal 3, passengers can enjoy a seamless and efficient check-in experience.

The conventional SSBD units enable travellers to bypass check-in desks, allowing them to print their boarding passes and baggage tags at Common Use Self-Service kiosks. Upon reaching the SSBD unit, passengers have to scan their boarding passes or face through biometric cameras and proceed to drop their bags on the conveyor belt, with the entire process taking around a minute.



## **BLS International opens new visa application centre in Mumbai**

Located at Nariman Point, the new Centre spans 5,200 square feet and is designed to process approximately 1,000 visa applications per day. While prioritizing visa applications for Spain, the Centre will also handle visa services for Slovakia, Egypt, Gambia, Morocco, and South Korea, catering to both short-term and long-term travel needs.



## **Radisson debuts in West Bengal with its first hotel in Siliguri**

This 150-room property, which is expected to be operational by Q2 2028, marks a strategic expansion for the Group, aiming to bring international hospitality standards to diverse and emerging markets in India. Siliguri, known for its importance as a commercial, transportation, and educational hub, also serves as a gateway to Northeast India – a key focus market for the group.





## Marriott Hotels launches new **152-key property** in **Navi Mumbai**

Navi Mumbai's Marriott Hotel is situated 26 km from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and only 12 km from the upcoming DB Patil International Airport, making it accessible for both domestic and international travellers. The hotel features 152 rooms, including 45 Club Rooms with panoramic views and a President Suite spread across 140 sq. meters.



## Emirates adds **SAF** on flights from **Singapore**

Emirates has begun using sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to power flights departing from Singapore Changi Airport following an agreement with specialist supplier Neste. According to the carrier, approximately 3.3 million litres of blended SAF have been integrated into Changi airport's fuelling system over the last few weeks. The move follows recent deals with Neste to supply SAF to the carrier in Amsterdam and London. The airline, in a statement, added that it is "tracking the delivery of SAF into the fuelling systems, accounting for and assigning its environmental benefits through widely used and accepted industry methodologies".



# Aviation industry calls for more funding for synthetic green fuel

Biofuel-based sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), made from materials like used cooking oil or wood chips, could reduce aviation emissions by up to 80 per cent. According to government and industry officials, it is seen as the key green solution for the sector. However, there is a shortage of feedstocks to produce enough fuel from organic materials. Investment into pricier synthetic fuels made out of hydrogen or carbon capture, known as e-SAFs, is needed to ensure Europe can meet its green goals.







PHONE

022 - 67772300



EMAIL

[rbt.newsletter@riya.travel](mailto:rbt.newsletter@riya.travel)



WEBSITE

[www.riyabusinesstravel.com](http://www.riyabusinesstravel.com)

