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### ◀ PULLMAN DEBUTS IN INDIA

India's national carrier plans to become cash positive by 2018... [READ MORE](#)



### ◀ AVIATION SAFETY STANDARDS

IATA reveals initiatives for pilot training and ground handling operations... [READ MORE](#)



### ◀ EYE ON MIDDLEEAST

flydubai launches Sana'a service, Abu Dhabi witnesses 17% growth... [READ MORE](#)



## Mumbai airport sees drop in flight delays

The number of flights frequently delayed at Mumbai airport dropped drastically last month. According to the data released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), March witnessed 218 frequently delayed flights as compared to the monthly average of 324 flights.

"Since Kingfisher Airlines has cut down flights from its schedule, the congestion out of the airport has reduced. Arriving flights had also shown improvement because all major airports were strictly following the stick to the slot rule," a senior MoCA official told the *Hindustan Times*.

## Indian F1 driver may endorse Incredible India

The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) is in talks with India's Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan to become the brand ambassador for Incredible India. Speaking to the *Economic Times*, Subodh Kant Sahai, India's Tourism Minister said; "India needs a brand ambassador to promote Incredible India in the overseas market. A world-renowned sportsperson would be ideal choice for this."

Bollywood actor Aamir Khan has been spreading the social message of cleanliness and MoT's 'Atithi Devo Bhava' campaign in India. The ministry stated that it now needs a global brand ambassador.

## Pullman debuts in India

The Pullman Gurgaon Central Park to tap the growing business and MICE markets in India...



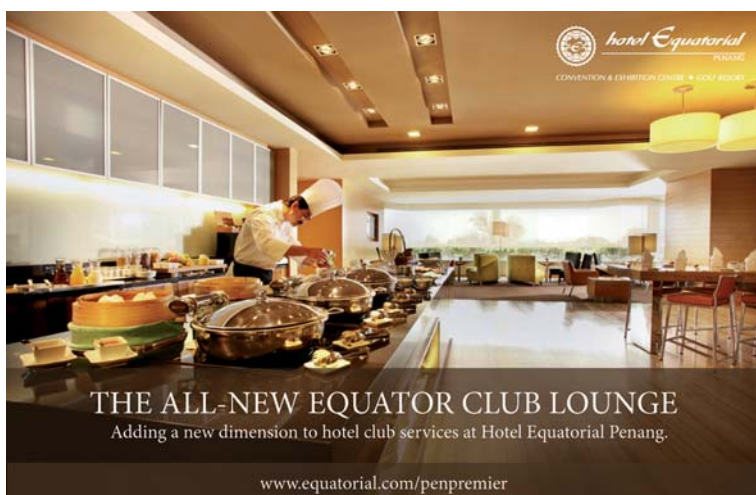
Accor has launched India's first Pullman in New Delhi. The Pullman Gurgaon Central Park features 285 rooms with other amenities like the SENSES all-day dining restaurant, La Riviera fine dine restaurant, and the signature Pullman Co-meeting Concept targeting MICE guests. Additional facilities include the Mandara Spa, an outdoor heated swimming pool,

international hair salon, free high speed Internet at the property as well as a night program which enables guests to customise aspects of their sleep experience. By the end of this year, the hotel will open a rooftop restaurant, Pondicherry, offering south Indian cuisine.

"We are very excited with the launch of Pullman brand in India, as it will further strengthen our portfolio

in the upscale market. We believe Pullman Hotels will enable Accor to participate in the fast paced growth being experienced in the business and MICE segment in India," said Jean-Michel Cassé, Senior Vice President of Operations at Accor India.

The French hotel group plans to operate 90 hotels by the end of 2015 under six various brands in India.



### THE ALL-NEW EQUATOR CLUB LOUNGE

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## IRCTC mulls special train to Nepal

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is mulling a special train from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, to Nepal. This special train will facilitate visits to the famous Pashupatinath temple. The train will begin journey from Indore and halt at Raxaul in Bihar from where the passengers will be taken by road to Kathmandu by private operators.

"The special train to Nepal would be flagged off from Indore tentatively around Independence Day. From Raxaul, which is about 100km from

Kathmandu, private bus operators would take care of the passengers till Kathmandu," IRCTC's Regional Manager, Achyut Singh was quoted as saying by the *Times of India*.



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## IATA to boost aviation safety standards

Industry body revealed initiatives for pilot training and ground handling operations...

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has outlined a new plan to develop safety standards across the aviation industry. Following a recent meeting of the IATA Operations Committee (OPC), the industry body has outlined a series of safety initiatives to be adopted in the next 12 months.

Key to the strategy will be pilot and engineer training. In light of a recent call by Boeing's Chief test Pilot to overhaul training methods to focus on more practical rather than classroom-based training, IATA has vowed to focus its Quality and Training Initiative (ITQI) on competency-based training for pilots and engineers.

The ITQI will adopt aptitude testing, multi-crew pilot licensing, evidence-based training and instructor qualification.

In terms of ground operations, IATA has set about developing a new standard set of ground handling instructions, which it says



will aim to reduce the US\$4 billion (INR2,134 crore) cost of ground damage.

Finally, the association has urged governments to focus on the implementation of safety measures instead of, as IATA said, "adding costly and cumbersome regulations

that do little to improve safety". Over the next months, IATA will submit three priority areas for industry to work with.

The OPC took place alongside the IATA Ops Conference, which was held in Rio de Janeiro from 16-18 April. [Click here for full story.](#)

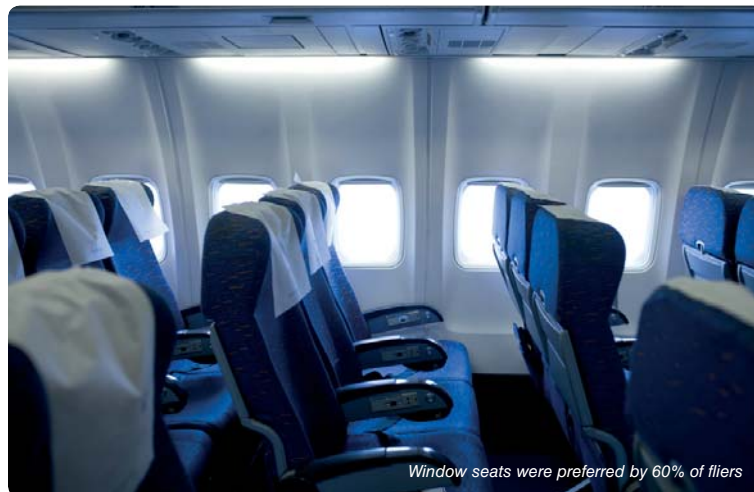
## Kingfisher shares sink to record low

Kingfisher Airlines shares hit a new record low of INR14.25, as the carrier headed for a fifth consecutive loss-making quarter. Shares in the ailing airline dropped 3% yesterday, following a 10.4% plunge on Monday.

## AAI to move flying club from Chennai airport

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has asked The Madras Flying Club (MFC) to vacate its office and aircraft hanger at the Anna International Airport in Chennai. The AAI is considering giving MFC an alternative facility in some other location in the city. "The decision to ask the club to vacate was because of the risks it posed at a busy airport," VP Agarwal, Chairman of AAI was quoted saying by the *Times of India*.

## 6A revealed as "perfect airline seat"



A new poll by travel site Skyscanner has revealed the most popular airline seat.

The poll of more than 1,000 airline passengers asked for information on their preferences (aside from extra legroom seats), including which section and whether they chose window, middle or aisle seats. The results found that the most sought after seat on a standard aircraft is seat 6A.

The survey supports previous studies which have found that the front six rows of the plane are the most popular, taking 45% of the

vote. Window seats were preferred by 60%, compared to just 39% who opt for the aisle. Just 1% of people like the middle seat.

At the other end of the scale, the survey found that the most unpopular seat was 31E, a middle seat towards the back of the aircraft.

Skyscanner's Travel Editor, Sam Baldwin noted that window seats seems popular choice with those looking to sleep, especially on long-haul flights, while tall passengers looking to stretch their legs like aisle seats.

## OAG launches aviation route mapper

OAG, the aviation data company, has unveiled its new aviation analysis mapping tool, OAG Mapper. The new web-based tool combines a global flight schedule query with advanced mapping software technology to quickly plot route network maps, based on data drawn from OAG's schedules database of 1,000 airlines and 3,500 airports. It is intended for those in commercial, marketing and strategic planning roles across the airlines, airports, tourism, consulting and network planning sectors.

## Air India to lease premises

The ailing national carrier Air India has invited applications from property consultants for leasing its premises in Mumbai and New Delhi. The airline will offer prospective tenants space at the Air India building at Nariman Point, Mumbai, and at its office at Gurudwara Rakabganj Road, New Delhi.

"This is part of the monetisation of properties as per the turnaround plan for the carrier," an Air India executive told the *Live Mint*.



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## eRevMax opens Bengaluru office

eRevMax International has opened its new office in Bengaluru. The company, which provides revenue management tools for the hospitality industry, said the new office would enable it to develop products and better serve its local partners.

Udai Singh Solanki, eRevMax's Chief Technological Officer and Managing Director for India said, "We chose Bengaluru, the silicon valley of India, for its highly skilled

resources, developed infrastructure and global connectivity. The new team complements the R&D efforts of its Kolkata development centre and I foresee its evolution into a multi-faceted team," said Udai Singh Solanki, eRevMax's Chief Technology Officer & Managing Director for India.

The Bengaluru team will now make further developments to its shopping tools, RTShopper and RTCorp.



## EYEON MIDDLE EAST

### flydubai launches Sana'a service



flydubai has inaugurated its new service to Sana'a. The new route, which the airline said will boost business opportunities in Yemen, will operate four times a week. flydubai's total operational network now stands at 29 countries across the GCC, Middle East, Africa,

Indian subcontinent, Asia and the fringes of Europe. The airline's CEO, Ghaith Al Ghaith said; "We hope this new service will play a significant role in developing business opportunities and open the door to more exports between the two nations."

### Egypt sees 2.5 million tourists in Q1



The Egyptian government has said 2.5 million tourists are estimated to have visited the country during the first quarter of 2012, compared with 1.89 million visits during the same period in 2011. "The highest number of tourists came from Russia, followed by England, Italy, Germany and

then Poland," Deputy Head of Tourism Vitalisation Office, Sami Mahmoud was quoted as saying by *Ahram*. Despite the increase, the total is 30% less than the same quarter of 2010, he said.

### Abu Dhabi witnesses 17% growth



Abu Dhabi has seen double-digit growth in both hotel guests and guest nights in the first quarter of this year compared to last. According to Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority figures 594,918 guests stayed in the emirate's 130 hotels and hotel apartments from January to March end this year – a 17% increase as compared to first quarter of 2011. Guest nights over the same three-month period rose 10% year-on-year to stand at 1.72 million.

### Dubai Airports gets high tech



Dubai Airports recently launched new way-finding technology to help passengers navigate their way through the airport. The new technology includes integrated Information Zones, sleek new maps of the airport and 40-inch LCD touch screens that provide real-time directions to boarding gates,

restaurants and other facilities at Dubai International. Dubai International's traditional information desks are will now be replaced by the Information Zones.



### Account Manager / Revenue Manager - Based in Mumbai :-

ResNet World provides **Online Presence** and **E-Distribution** services to partner over 250 hotels in the Middle East, Africa, India and South East Asia regions. In today's economic climate is critical for hotel operators to maximise their global visibility and to take advantage of booking channels that fill empty rooms. With its headquarters based in Dubai, ResNet World offers the local knowledge and local support that is necessary to successfully drive this powerful electronic sales and marketing machine. For further details visit : [www.resnetworld.com](http://www.resnetworld.com)

#### Role :-

- Reporting to Director of operations and Managing Director of Resnet Services JLT.
- Provide customer service to assigned hotel clients, provide system training and to do yield management analysis
- To do Manual analysis of rate comparison based on properties competitive set.
- To coordinate with the designated hotel and keep a watch on the rates, inventory, booking status and billing of the hotel.
- Visiting the hotel site atleast twice a year and participating in the sales meet in order to discuss GDS strategy moving forward with hotel staff.
- To coordinate with the hotel on the RFP strategy and implementation.

#### Requirements :-

- Good command over English
- Experience of minimum 1 year from hospitality industry or travel trade
- Knowledge of GDS will be a value add
- Salary - at par with the industry.

### Support Executive based in Mumbai :-

#### Role :-

- To provide on site Training and support to the designated hotel.
- Provide loading of property in backend.
- Managing rates & inventory of the designated property.
- Coordinate with the hotels on day to day basis for operational issues.

#### Requirements :-

- Good command over English
- Experience of minimum 06 months from hospitality industry or travel trade
- Knowledge of GDS will be a value add
- Salary - at par with the industry.

## IATA calls on government to support sustainable aviation

IATA has called upon governments to work together and with the aviation industry to maximise the industry's ability to become sustainable and drive global economic growth. At the recent ICAO International Air Transport Symposium, IATA's Director-General & CEO, Tony Tyler, highlighted the need for coordinated policies to strengthen the industry's ability to become sustainable.

"Sustainability depends not only on what airlines do for themselves but also the policies adopted by governments," Tyler said. "Regulation that is neither coordinated nor mutually recognised brings a high cost of compliance without corresponding benefits." He also asked for government cooperation to achieve the industry's goals of cutting net emissions in half by 2050 compared to 2005.



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## BIZ BRIEFS

### Oil price increases

Oil prices were higher in Asian trade Wednesday, buoyed by a shutdown of Britain's largest oil field as talk of war pervaded the crude-producing Sudanese region, analysts said. New York's main contract, light sweet crude was up US\$0.13 to US\$103.68 (INR5,423), while Brent North Sea crude gained to US\$118.25. *Channel NewsAsia*

### World stocks rise ahead of Federal Reserve meet

World stock markets rose modestly yesterday following sharp losses on Monday as investors looked to the Federal Reserve for new steps to help the US economy. The two-day Federal Reserve meeting will discuss the economy and monetary policy. *Economic Times*

### E-eye to tab Corbett tigers

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has launched a pilot project in Uttarakhand's Jim Corbett National Park for round-the-clock surveillance of the park using high definition cameras. The project E-eye is a software-based system where 10 high-resolution thermal and infra-red cameras mounted on a tower are spread across the area of the park. "It is for the first time in the world that a surveillance system of this type is being used in any national park. The project was launched some five-six months back to check poaching of tigers in the park," SP Yadav, Deputy Inspector General of Forests and Joint Director of NTCA was quoted saying by the *Times of India*.

### BirdRes ties up with Matrix

BirdRes, the B2B distribution channel of Bird Group, has tied up with Matrix to provide international sim cards to Indian customers. The new partnership will allow travel agents registered with BirdRes to sell Matrix sim cards without any documentation or paper work. Commenting on the partnership, Ankur Bhatia, Executive Director of Bird Group said; "This partnership will offer BirdRes customers an easy access to book Matrix sim cards for their clients through a simple and hassle free payment process. It will further offer Matrix a large platform to offer their products and services to wide range of travel agents all over India."

## THE DAY IN NUMBERS

2

[eRevMax International opened its second development office in India at Bengaluru](#)

10

[Jim Corbett National Park will target tiger poachers with 10 high resolution thermal and infrared cameras](#)

14.25

[Kingfisher Airlines shares hit a new record low of INR14.25 yesterday](#)

218

[Mumbai airport registered 218 frequently delayed flights last month](#)

285

[Pullman has debuted in India with a new 285-room hotel](#)

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"We believe Pullman Hotels will enable Accor to participate in the fast paced growth being experienced in the business and MICE segment in India."*

Jean-Michel Cassé, Senior Vice President of Operations at Accor India.

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