

India extends int'l travel ban till April 30

A Monitor Report

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सत्यमेव जयते

New Delhi : India has extended its international travel ban till April 30. Meaning all scheduled international passenger flights remain suspended, with cargo and special travel bubble flights continuing.

After banning all flights in late March 2020 to curb the spread of coronavirus, India initiated its Vande Bharat repatriation mission in early May which saw hundreds of thousands requests to return to India, forcing the government to ramp up flights quickly. Led by Air India, the mission flew to several unique destinations to rescue Indians, in addition to the most popular countries.

After 10 months, the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) has repatriated over six million residents in total (including by other transport). All Air India flights continue to be added as "repatriation" services and the mission shows no signs of ending soon for several reasons.

In July, India signed its first set of "travel bubbles" effectively with the UAE, followed quickly by the US and France. Since then, India has signed agreements with 27 countries to resume flights.