

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 29 OCTOBER 2021

### **1. 27 flights heading to Thailand next week**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) said on Friday that 27 international flights are set to land in Thailand from November 1 to 5. The country is reopening on Monday to three types of tourists, namely double jabbed visitors from 46 countries and territories, fully jabbed tourists allowed to travel in the 17-province “blue zone” and tourists who agree to undergo a 14-day quarantine. CAAT said the 27 flights are scheduled to land in both Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi Airport and Phuket International Airport and will deliver 15,230 passengers. The airlines include Korean Air, Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airways, Emirates, All Nippon Airways, Singapore Airlines, KLM, Air India, Edelweiss Air, Lufthansa, Air France, Etihad Airways among others.

### **2. Transport Ministry to embark on 40 mega projects worth Bt1.4 trillion in 2022**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

Transport Ministry has revealed its plan of handling mega projects in fiscal year 2022 in a seminar “Thailand Opportunity for Sustainable Economic Growth” organized virtually on Thursday (October 28). The Ministry is planning to start and continue 40 projects in 2022 with combined investment value of Bt1.4 trillion,” said Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob. “Of these, Bt516 billion worth of investment will be in projects that we already signed the contracts, while Bt974 billion will be an investment in new projects.” Saksayam further added that among the 13 projects that already signed the contract, one will involve building road infrastructure (worth Bt32.22 billion), one is about land transport (Bt2.86 billion), seven will be of rail transport (Bt476.15 billion), and four will involve air travel (Bt5.71 billion).

### **3. Thailand Pass will be a boon to tourism industry, promises minister**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

The Thailand Pass, which will replace the COE (Certificate of Entry) system, will boost the number of arrivals significantly when the country reopens on November 1, Tourism and Sports minister Pipat Ratchakitprakan said on Tuesday. Hotel bookings under the Phuket Sandbox scheme for November went up considerably after October 21, when the list of 46 low-risk countries from where double-jabbed tourists can arrive without having to quarantine was released,” Pipat said. “We expect the number of rooms reserved for November to surpass all other months since the sandbox scheme started in July. “With the introduction of the Thailand Pass, the number of foreign travellers will likely rise from November until yearend,

especially among those who had to suspend trips they had planned earlier,” he added. “This will help revive Thailand’s tourism industry, which has been suffering from the impact of the Covid-19 crisis for almost two years now.”

#### **4. Govt urged to include Indians**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

The Indian community in Thailand is urging the government to allow Indians to visit the kingdom when it reopens to tourists on Nov 1, noting Indian couples and merchants can contribute to the economy. Last week, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announced Thailand will open the country to visitors considered at low risk of spreading Covid-19 from 46 countries, such as the United Kingdom, Malaysia and Sweden, starting Nov 1. Under this plan, fully vaccinated visitors from these countries will not have to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. However, visitors from India are not on the list. Satish Sehgal, chairman of the India-Thai businessmen association, has expressed concern over India's exclusion from the list. He said the current quarantine measures which Indian travellers would have to endure when visiting the kingdom would drive them away to other destinations that do not require isolation.

#### **5. Call for travel bubbles**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

Tourism operators have called for reciprocity on Thailand's reopening scheme, urging the government to launch travel bubbles with other countries to completely remove quarantine on both sides. Suthiphong Pheunphiphop, president of the Thai Travel Agents Association (TTAA), said the Nov 1 reopening scheme without quarantine and area restrictions for 46 countries will also enable Thai tourists to take outbound trips to those countries and face no mandatory quarantine on their return to Bangkok for the first time in almost two years. He said outbound tour operators are eager to resume overseas package sales as the association has held virtual meetings with national tourism organisations (NTO) to see the potential of overseas trips.