

BANGALORE

Pre-emptive BIAL



Five things to do at the Bangalore airport while waiting for your flight

By Jaideep Sen

1. Head to any of the airport's information centres and ask for the latest foreign exchange rates. Proceed to calculate exactly how much 130 billion euro (that's how much the eurozone bail-out package for Greece is, if you're interested) would convert to in as many different currencies as you possibly can, from the Afghan afghani and Angolan kwanza to the Cape Verdean escudo and Colombian peso.
2. Find the customer service booth (run by the company Nuance Group India) in the passenger terminal, and enquire if they have realised that the Facebook page of the Bangalore International Airport, as yet, shows only one check-in, absolutely nobody liking the page, and no "friend activity" whatsoever.
3. Head to the Crossword bookstore in the departure lounge, and ask for the McMillan-Knowlson hardcover edition of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. They aren't likely to have one – the edition has long been out of print – but at

least you'll have a story to tell your fellow passenger.

4. Step into the Ethos Swiss Watch Studio in the lounge, which stocks the products of such Swiss watchmakers as Balmain, Baume & Mercier, Carl F Bucherer and Rado, Raymond Weil and Tissot, and ask them to confirm if the models available are certified by the *Contrôle Officiel Suisse des Chronomètres*, the official Swiss institute that grades the accuracy of timepieces. Check, in particular, if the quartz watches meet the precision requirement of an average daily rate variation (at 23°C) of ± 0.07 seconds. If they wise up to your demands, and start bringing out the Breitlings (the only makers that gives you a COSC certificate with all of their watches), tell them you need more time to make a considered decision.
5. Seek out Rajashekar, the Additional Drug Controller and inspector for drug control at the Air India SATS Cargo Terminal, and ask for specifications about acetanilides, codeines, hydromorphones and propoxyphenes that you can gain approval of to consume during the prolonged delay until the departure of your flight.

MUMBAI

Iffy WiFi

Catching a WiFi wave in Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, is a matter of chance

By Sumant Srivathsan

As any reasonably frequent flyer will tell you, there are a few essentials that one has to get right when travelling out of any Indian airport; a web check-in, a full meal prior to arriving at the airport and a purge of your biological waste disposal systems. One of the most important, however, is an array of fully-charged electronics. Not only are power outlets some of the rarest items in any departure lounge – as any Kingfisher Airlines passenger these days will tell you – you never know when you'll need the phone, laptop and other devices to last you several hours.

If the airport of your destiny is the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai, you might want to add to that list a buffer hour to your commuting time. Just in case the Western Express Parking Lot fills up earlier than usual. Sometimes, as a conscientious traveller, you will make that adjustment, only to find yourself at the airport with two hours in hand and nothing to do with them. Time to put those fully-charged devices to use!

It would've worked like a charm: open up laptop, send a couple of emails, check in on Foursquare, do that Facebook thing and add to a meaningless hashtag on Twitter. All using that wonderful free WiFi access that the sign tells you is available everywhere in the airport. But wait! There are two tiny fictions in those signs. The first of these is the word "free". Like most other things in India, CSIA's WiFi access is "free", but with a caveat in print so fine, it's invisible. YOU Broadband, the providers of the service, require you to submit your mobile number on a web form, upon which they will (or not) send you a single-use-only

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