

## Revue de presse 14-30 juin 2019

La compagnie indienne **IndiGo** a créé la surprise en se tournant vers CFM International pour lui commander des LEAP-1A qui viendront motoriser 280 Airbus A320neo et A321neo.

La compagnie indienne était pourtant cliente de lancement du PW1100G-JM de Pratt & Whitney dans le pays en 2016, avec 79 monocouloirs remotorisés d'Airbus en flotte aujourd'hui.

**La coentreprise de Safran Aircraft Engines et GE précise que ce contrat, qui comprend des moteurs en spare et un volet entretien à long terme, est estimé à plus de 20 milliards de dollars. Le premier A320neo motorisé par des LEAP est attendu par la compagnie indienne en 2020.**

IndiGo avait essayé les plâtres avec ses GTF, avec de nombreuses AOG liées aux moteurs ainsi que des limitations opérationnelles.

Le LEAP-1A équipe aujourd'hui les **monocouloirs remotorisés des compagnies indiennes Air India et Vistara.**

[Le Journal de l'Aviation 18/06/2019](#)

**Airbus a finalement confirmé lundi le lancement de l'A321XLR, version de l'A321neo au rayon d'action porté à 4700nm.** Le premier client annoncé est la société de leasing Air Lease Corp, qui en veut 27 sur une commande visant cent monocouloirs dont 50 A220-300 et 23 A321neo.

**Lancé ce 17 juin 2019 au premier jour du Salon du Bourget « à la suite des réactions très positives du marché », l'A321XLR offrira à partir de 2023 une autonomie « sans précédent et Xtra longue » pouvant atteindre 4700 nm, soit 15% de plus que l'A321LR et avec le « même rendement énergétique imbattable ».** Un rendement qu'Airbus affirme être « 30% inférieur en consommation de carburant par siège par rapport aux avions de la génération précédente » : l'A321XLR devient ainsi la prochaine évolution de la famille A321neo, « répondant aux besoins du marché en matière de rayon d'action encore plus étendu et créant plus de valeur pour les compagnies aériennes ».

**Côté technique, l'A321XLR a été conçu pour « maximiser les points communs » avec l'A321LR et le reste de la famille A320neo, tout en apportant les modifications minimales nécessaires pour doter l'avion d'un « Xtra Long Range » avec une charge utile accrue en termes de revenus.** Les changements incluent le nouveau réservoir arrière central permanent (RCT) pour plus de volume de carburant ; un train d'atterrissage modifié pour une augmentation de la masse maximale au décollage (MTOW) à 101 tonnes ; et une configuration optimisée des volets de bord de fuite d'aile « pour préserver les mêmes performances de décollage et les mêmes exigences de poussée du moteur que l'A321neo actuel ». En particulier, le nouveau RCT optimisé contient plus de carburant que plusieurs réservoirs centraux supplémentaires facultatifs (ACT) auparavant, tout en occupant moins de place dans la soute – libérant ainsi un volume sous plancher pour des cargaisons et des bagages supplémentaires sur des itinéraires à longue distance.

Grâce à cette autonomie supplémentaire, les compagnies aériennes pourront exploiter un avion monocouloir moins coûteux sur des liaisons plus longues et moins fréquentées – dont beaucoup ne peuvent désormais être desservies que par des avions gros porteurs moins performants. **Cela permettra aux opérateurs d'ouvrir de nouvelles liaisons mondiales telles que de l'Inde vers l'Europe ou de la Chine vers l'Australie, ainsi que d'étendre la portée de la famille sur des vols**

transatlantiques directs entre l'Europe continentale et les Amériques. Pour les passagers, la nouvelle cabine Airspace de l'A321XLR offrira « la meilleure expérience de voyage », tout en offrant des sièges dans toutes les classes « offrant le même confort que sur un avion long-courrier ».

**A321XLR\*** Xtending the A321neo success:  
Unbeatable fuel efficiency now flying Xtra Long Range

Up to **4,700 nm / 8,700 km**

+15% range A321neo A321LR A321XLR

180 - 220 Typical Seating 2-class

**AIRSPACE** cabin

A321neo unbeatable economics  
**-30%** fuel burn per seat\*

What is an A321XLR?  
MTOW 101t | Rear Centre Tank & optional Additional Centre Tank

**AIRBUS**

\*The previous generation compared against per seat

L'Airbus A220 (ex Bombardier CSeries) est « le seul avion conçu pour le marché des sièges de 100 à 150 personnes. Il offre un rendement énergétique imbattable et un confort passager large dans un avion monocouloir. L'A220 conjugue des caractéristiques aérodynamiques avancées, l'utilisation de matériaux novateurs ainsi que des moteurs de nouvelle génération PW1500G Geared Turbofan de Pratt & Whitney, qui permettent de réduire la consommation de carburant d'au moins 20 pour cent par siège par rapport aux appareils de la génération précédente ». Avec un carnet de commandes de 536 avions à la fin du mois de mai 2019, l'A220 a toutes les qualités requises pour gagner une grande part du marché des avions de 100 à 150 sièges, qui, d'après les estimations, devrait représenter 7 000 appareils dans les 20 prochaines années.

La famille A320neo est celle de l'avion monocouloir « le plus vendu au monde » avec plus de 6500 commandes passées par plus de 100 clients depuis son lancement en 2010. Elle intègre des moteurs de nouvelle génération et des dispositifs à bouts d'aile Sharklet, ainsi que d'autres améliorations qui, ensemble, permettent des économies de carburant à deux chiffres sur son prédécesseur, la famille A320ceo.

[Air Journal 17/06/2019](#)

**Indigo vient de passer aujourd'hui ce qui restera très sûrement la plus grosse commande de ce salon du Bourget, soit 20 milliards de dollars de CFMI Leap-1A pour motoriser 280 Airbus A320neo et A321neo.**

IndiGo a annoncé aujourd'hui 17 juin 2019 une commande de turboréacteurs CFM International LEAP-1A destinés à motoriser 280 Airbus A320neo et A321neo. Le contrat, qui inclut les moteurs de rechange, ainsi qu'un contrat de support maintenance. L'ensemble est évalué à un montant dépassant les 20 milliards de dollars prix catalogue.

Pour le support de ses nouveaux Leap-1A, IndiGo a également signé un contrat de service à long terme.

IndiGo est un client CFM depuis 2016 et opère actuellement une flotte de 17 A320ceo motorisés par des CFM56-5B sur une flotte totale de 215 A320/A321. La livraison du premier A320neo motorisé par des Leap-1A est prévue pour 2020.

Air & Cosmos 17/06/2019

**Deux mois après l'arrêt de ses opérations en Inde comme à l'international, la compagnie aérienne Jet Airways n'a pas trouvé de repreneur. Elle fait désormais face à une procédure de faillite.**

**Suite à l'arrêt des vols le 17 avril 2019 après des défauts de paiement auprès des loueurs d'avion et des fournisseurs de carburant, lésée par une dette de 1,2 milliard de dollars et faute d'avoir trouvé un repreneur, la compagnie privée autrefois première en Inde fait face à la justice. Le consortium de prêteurs indiens dirigé par la State Bank of India (SBI) ont annoncé le 17 juin « après des délibérations en bonne et due forme » le début de la procédure de faillite « en vertu du code indien de l'insolvabilité et de la faillite ». Leur communiqué précise qu'ils n'ont reçu qu'une seule « offre conditionnelle », qui proviendrait de l'actionnaire de Jet Airways Etihad Airways (24% du capital, réduit à 12% depuis le début de la crise). La SBI était devenue actionnaire majoritaire en mars dernier, était espérée obtenir de nouveaux fonds. Mais un emprunt provisoire d'environ 218 millions de dollars, qui aurait permis à Jet Airways de continuer à opérer, n'a jamais été finalisé.**

Face à une dette colossale, des salaires impayés depuis des mois pour certains employés et une flotte en constante réduction, Jet Airways avait dévoilé fin mars son plan de restructuration, avec la conversion des créances en capitaux propres via l'émission de 114 millions d'actions (au consortium dirigé par la SBI) mais aussi le départ de son fondateur et président Naresh Goyal. **La procédure de faillite permettra aux créanciers – si la cour l'autorise – de vendre les actifs de la compagnie privée, dont des avions, des créneaux d'aéroport, une activité de maintenance**

**La flotte de Jet Airways ne compterait plus que six ATR et un Boeing 737-800** contre un maximum de 123 décembre dernier. Elle employait autrefois plus de 16.000 personnes, mais la plupart de ses navigants ont rejoints les compagnies aériennes rivales, qui ont également récupéré ses créneaux dans les aéroports du pays (jusqu'au 15 juillet pour l'instant). La low cost AirAsia India et la compagnie régulière Vistara (toutes deux filiales du Tata Group) ont immédiatement sauté sur l'occasion, en particulier à l'aéroport de Mumbai. La cotation des actions de Jet Airways seront suspendues le 28 juin ; elles ont perdu 16% lundi et encore 15% ce matin, douzième jour consécutif de chute (-61% au total).

Air Journal 18/06/2019

(Bourget 2019) **AIRBUS HELICOPTERS** a signé un protocole d'accord avec l'opérateur indien **PAWAN HANS LIMITED** (PHL) visant à l'introduction de deux nouveaux types d'hélicoptères dans sa flotte : **les H145 et H225**. PHL est déjà le plus important opérateur de la famille Dauphin au monde, avec 37 exemplaires effectuant du transport offshore (Oil & Gaz) et du transport VIP. **Le nouvel accord, qui comprend d'ailleurs aussi un volet MRO pour ses AS365N, s'accompagne de training.**

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**Selon un nouveau rapport de la Cour des comptes européenne, la réglementation adoptée par l'UE a encouragé la modernisation de la gestion du trafic aérien. Les auditeurs affirment cependant que les financements octroyés par l'Union en faveur de projets étaient en grande partie inutiles et que leur gestion présentait des lacunes.**

En 2005, l'UE a lancé un programme intitulé SESAR qui visait à harmoniser et à moderniser les systèmes et procédures de gestion du trafic aérien (GTA) dans l'ensemble de l'Europe. Ces systèmes sont traditionnellement développés au niveau national. Entre 2005 et 2020, l'UE aura engagé en tout 3,8 milliards d'euros en faveur de SESAR, dont 2,5 milliards d'euros affectés au soutien du déploiement de ces systèmes et procédures.

Les auditeurs ont évalué si la Commission européenne a correctement géré le déploiement de SESAR et dans quelle mesure cela a permis de remplir les objectifs visés par la politique du ciel unique européen. Ils ont examiné si l'intervention de l'UE était conçue pour répondre aux besoins existants et futurs et si elle a apporté une valeur ajoutée à la gestion du trafic aérien en Europe.

«Avec une moyenne de 30 000 vols par jour, le trafic aérien en Europe nécessitait un système de gestion solide, harmonisé et moderne», a déclaré M. George Pufan, le Membre de la Cour des comptes européenne responsable du rapport. «Cependant, les avantages apportés par les fonds octroyés par l'UE en faveur du déploiement de SESAR sont loin d'être clairs».

Cour des comptes européenne 25/06/2019

**La**

Air India a dans un premier temps tweeté que le vol #AI191 Bombay-Newark avait été dérouté «en raison d'une menace à la bombe», avant d'effacer ce tweet. Un porte-parole d'Air India a ensuite indiqué que l'avion avait été dérouté suite à «une alerte de sécurité».

«L'avion est actuellement à l'aéroport. Tous les 327 passagers ont débarqué et se sont vus servir des snacks et des boissons», a déclaré un porte-parole de la compagnie aérienne, ajoutant que «tous les passagers se trouvent dans les locaux de l'aéroport».

L'avion avait atterri autour de 08H50 GMT à l'aéroport de Stansted, au nord de Londres, en raison «d'une alerte de sécurité», avait indiqué à l'AFP la police de l'Essex, où se situe l'aéroport.

De son côté, le ministère de la Défense avait précisé, dans un communiqué, que l'avion d'Air India avait été escorté dans le ciel britannique par deux avions de chasse Typhoon, autorisés à voler à la vitesse du son, présentant ses excuses pour la gêne occasionnée.

Selon l'aéroport de Stansted, l'avion, un Boeing 777, a été escorté vers une zone isolée de l'aéroport. Il a précisé dans la matinée que la piste d'atterrissage, fermée pour l'accueillir, avait été rouverte.

#### Route 1: Delhi – Toronto



#### Data

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Carrier                        |  |
| Aircraft                       | Boeing 777-300ER  |
| Frequency                      | Three-weekly  |
| Start date                     | 27 September 2019   |
| Distance                       | 11,637 km   |
| O&D traffic demand (2018)      | 436,327   |
| Growth % YOY                   | 28.0%   |
| Average one-way fare \$ (2018) | \$772.57  |

#### Insight

**Air India will start a non-stop service between Delhi and Toronto from September, one of a number of new international routes being launched by India's state-owned flag carrier. The service will operate three times per week using Boeing 777-300ER aircraft.**

The airline previously served this route between October 2010 and June 2012. Since 2015, Air Canada has been the sole carrier flying between Delhi and Toronto, operating daily using Boeing 787-9 equipment. However, the service is currently suspended due to the closure of Pakistan airspace.

**Star Alliance member Air India currently flies five routes to North America, linking Delhi with New York JFK, Chicago, Washington and San Francisco. It also operates daily service from Mumbai to Newark.**

**The only other carriers to serve the India - North America market non-stop are United and Air Canada. United flies Mumbai - Newark, while Air Canada operates Delhi - Vancouver. Both are daily. However, Delta Air Lines will serve Mumbai from New York JFK from December 2019 and United will begin a Delhi - San Francisco route during the same month.**

Routes Online 25/06/2019

Indian low-cost carrier **IndiGo from September 2019** is expanding service to Hong Kong, with the offering of **Kolkata – Hong Kong** route. From 04SEP19, Airbus A320 aircraft will operate this route once a day.

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6E1792 HKG0550 – 0740CCU 320 D

Routes Online 25/06/2019

**Air India has been allocated rights to operate nearly 20,000 weekly seats to Hong Kong, Dubai, Qatar, Singapore and the UK that were previously used by Jet Airways.**

Civil aviation minister of state Hardeep Singh Puri disclosed the rights awards to Air India and its Air India Express unit in a written question to India's Rajya Sabha, which are temporary until the end of the 2019 scheduling season.

Compared to existing schedules, Air India has the potential to significantly increase capacity on most routes, and for the first time will give it access to the Qatar market.

**The flag carrier was also awarded domestic slots to operate 22 services, mostly from Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru.**

No details on seat awards to other carriers were disclosed by Puri, however SpiceJet has previously been awarded a number of Jet's former routes, and had been expecting more in future.

IndiGo and Vistara are also expected to seek some of the former Jet allocations.

27/06/19 Ellis Taylor/Flight Global

**Noida: The upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) at Jewar will be a trans-shipment hub for the country once it starts operations in 2022-23, according to the development plan of the Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers.**

As per the report, the airport is expected to cater to 2.5 million tons of cargo in the next two decades. The first phase is expected to cater to 0.5 million tons of cargo, which is estimated to increase to 2.6 million tons by 2045 as 51 per cent of cargo traffic at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport is being generated in the primary hinterland of NIA. The primary hinterland for NIA includes Mathura, Agra, Aligarh, Palwal, Greater Noida, Noida, Meerut and Ghaziabad.

Speaking to The Morning Standard, Arun Vir Singh, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Noida International Airport Limited, the entity floated by the Uttar Pradesh government for implementing the airport project, said that 51 per cent of the current cargo traffic being handled by the IGI airport at Delhi is

from Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar districts, with an investment of Rs 1.20 lakh million. Other districts, including Gurugram, Jhajjar and Faridabad contribute about 30 per cent of the cargo to IGI. “The main commodities being handled include electronics, textiles, toys, pharma, handicrafts, leather, machine parts, etc. Once the NIA starts operations, we expect 55 per cent of air cargo to be generated from districts of Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar from day one,” he said.

Singh further said that besides being a major hub for air cargo, the NIA will also be a major centre for maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft.

27/06/19 Vandana Keelor/New Indian Express

**Jalandhar: National carrier Air India has been told by the New Delhi State Disputes Redressal Commission, presided by Justice Veena Birbal and member Salma Noor, to pay Rs 50,000 compensation to a Kapurthala-based resident, Manish Sharma, for the loss of his baggage.**

The complainant, Manish Sharma, in his complaint had stated that on December 30, 2010, after his wife travelled on a Air India flight from London to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, they collected their baggage and belongings from the baggage reclaim area (belt no.13) and went home. “After travelling some distance, we realised that one of our hand bag was missing,” the complainant said, adding that on the same evening they reached the airport and approached the enquiry desk of Air India, where they were suggested to check with the airlines office at Terminal 2 in the morning. Manish Sharma said he then approached the Lost Property (LP) office, managed by GMR/DIAL at T3 arrival. The matter was also reported to Delhi Police officials at Terminal 2 and he requested them to arrange the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) (CCTV) footage from cameras installed at the IGI Airport to locate the bag.

27/06/19 Avneet Kaur/Tribune

**In the aftermath of collapse of Jet Airways, the Ministry of Civil Aviation temporarily reallocated over 2,500 of the airline’s slots, including prime ones in airports such as Delhi and Mumbai. On the back of these new slots, a research report by securities firm Elara Capital said, the market share of low-cost carriers SpiceJet, IndiGo and GoAir are expected to go up by 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively.**

Owing to a financial crunch, Jet Airways suspended operations on April 17, and was admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal for bankruptcy proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code on June 20. The civil aviation ministry, in order to prevent a sudden crunch in capacity leading to a rise in fares, reallocated Jet’s slots to other airlines for three months. A senior government official had said that the slots would be returned to the airline in case it was able to get back up.

**The research report noted that about 43 per cent of the slots vacated by Jet Airways in Delhi and Mumbai were picked up by SpiceJet, while 32 per cent were allocated to IndiGo, followed by GoAir at 13 per cent, and Vistara and AirAsia India at 7 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.** “Given Delhi & Mumbai airports comprised 60 per cent of domestic passenger movement during FY19; we believe these two airports are proxy of all-India market share gain by carriers at the expense of Jet Airways,” the report pointed out, adding that the grounded airline used 24 per cent of the slots at the two largest airports in the country.

27/06/19 Pranav Mukul/Indian Express

**Budget carrier GoAir has added 50th aircraft to its fleet, doubling its fleet in a span of less than two years,** it said in a statement on Thursday. **The Wadia group airline has become the fastest growing carrier in the country,** it said. **However, it is still far behind rival SpiceJet and other airlines such as IndiGo, Air India, with less than half the fleet size.** Going ahead, GoAir looks to add at least one aircraft every month, on average, Jeh Wadia, Managing Director, GoAir, announced. Speaking about the company's plans of expanding further, he also said that the airline will add four more international destinations to its network.

**GoAir, which started its operations in 2005, had ordered 144 Airbus A320 aircraft in 2016, betting big on India's economic growth as well as the role that GoAir could play within the aviation sector.** "That year we doubled our aircraft order with a clear vision of accelerating growth and at the same time staying profitable," Jeh Wadia said.

**Rival airline SpiceJet had also recently added the 100th aircraft in May 2019 and with this, it had become the fourth airline to do so.** Announcing the same, Ajay Singh, CMD SpiceJet had said that nobody could have imagined that from the brink of closure in December 2014, SpiceJet would one day have a 100-aircraft fleet in 2019. India has eight domestic carriers viz Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia and Alliance and have over 500 aircraft in total.

**GoAir now operates 270 daily direct flights which connect 24 domestic and 4 international destinations.** With Airbus A320s aircraft, the airline serves various Indian cities including Ahmedabad, Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kochi, Kolkata, Kannur, Leh, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Ranchi and Srinagar, among others. Among GoAir's international destinations are Phuket, Malé, Muscat and Abu Dhabi.

27/06/19 Prachi Gupta/Financial Express

New Delhi: **If you have initiated a refund against your Jet Airways flight, you are unlikely to get it anytime soon. As the beleaguered airline ran out of funds, it shut down operations on April 17, and since then, several passengers are awaiting their ticket refunds.** Some, who had already booked their hotels, were forced to shell out more for alternative tickets.

For instance, a passenger Sabina Gomes even received a refund receipt number on April 24, but two months after, she is still awaiting her refund worth Rs 82,400, according to a Times of India report. **India's bankruptcy court, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on July 20 accepted an insolvency petition against Jet Airways filed by State Bank of India-led consortium of lenders. The insolvency process, which is expected to be wrapped up in 90 days, will allow the lenders to sell the airline as a whole or in parts to recover some of their dues.**

However, how much of this will be used for initiating refunds to customers? Jet's pilots and cabin crew are alone owed Rs 400 crore in unpaid salaries from January to May, according to Reuters. The travel agents who filed for refunds before April 17 have received 100 per cent refunds, according to TOI. Those who filed for refunds after that are unlikely to get it anytime soon. This is because on April 17, international airlines lobby IATA suspended Jet Airways from the membership of its clearing house system.

"Consequently, claims by and against Jet Airways will not be processed by the clearing house with effect from and period 02 of the April 2019 clearing month," the association said, adding that claims already submitted for clearance are excluded, according to Press Trust of India.

27/06/19 Business Standard



**A Bell 412 EP helicopter, bought during former Chief Minister Jayalithaa's tenure way back in 2006, has still not found any takers and remains grounded at the Chennai airport, awaiting a buyer.**

The State Trading Corporation (STC), a Government of India enterprise, has been tasked with auctioning the 11-seater.

A few months ago, an effort to auction it did not receive any favourable response.

Now, the STC has floated the tender yet again to dispose of the helicopter. A senior official entrusted with the task of supervising the proposed sale said advertisements had been issued by the government not only in local newspapers but also in journals specialising in aviation. Any individual or institution is free to take part in the auction, the official said.

**According to the STC, the chopper, parked at the Old Kingfisher Airlines Hangar at Chennai airport, had flown less than 2,500 flying hours and was last used in December 2018.**

27/06/19 Sunitha Sekar/T. Ramakrishnan/The Hindu

**RAF Typhoons were scrambled today to intercept an Air India flight after a reported bomb threat was made.**

**The plane was travelling from Mumbai to Newark in the US when it was forced to make what is being described as a "precautionary landing" at Stansted Airport.**

Air India said in a tweet that a **bomb threat** had prompted the landing, according to the BBC. But the tweet was later deleted and replaced with a post calling the incident a "security threat".

Essex Police said: "An aircraft was diverted to Stansted Airport at around 9.50am today following reports of a security alert. The plane is currently at the airport and officers are making enquiries."

The runway has now been reopened and the airport said in a statement: "Our runway is fully operational following a precautionary landing of Air India flight.

"We are sorry for any disruption caused by the incident and would like to thank you for your patience."

**An Air India official later confirmed the incident was a hoax and that the plane was once again airborne.**

A loud bang reported by several residents of Derby on social media has been linked to the unscheduled landing of the Air India Boeing 777 flight at Stansted.

The noise was believed to be a sonic boom caused by the two RAF jets escorting the plane into the airport.

Residents first reported hearing the noise just after 10am today.

27/06/19 Gareth Davies/The Telegraph

**New Delhi: Low-cost airline SpiceJet has bagged the most number of airport slots - 43 per cent in total - vacated by Jet Airways, according to a report by Elara Capital.** The debt-ridden Jet Airways formally stopped all its operation on April 17. Jet Airways owes more than Rs 8,000 crore to banks, and thousands of crores more in arrears to vendors, lessors and employees.

In May, civil aviation minister Suresh Prabhu sought a report on the allocation of airport slots vacated by Jet Airways to other airlines.

Jet Airways has more than 440 slots at Mumbai and Delhi airports.

According to Elara Capital report, SpiceJet has won 43 per cent of these slots in March-June period at Mumbai and Delhi airports. SpiceJet received 130 slots, with the maximum number at Mumbai airport at 68 out of the 214 vacated by Jet Airways, reported cnbc.tv.

**On the other hand, domestic airlines like IndiGo, GoAir, Vistara and AirAsia India have bagged 32**

**per cent combined, with 13 per cent, 7 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.**

SpiceJet's slots would now increase by 70 per cent from the current slots in the coming months (as compared to the previous winter schedule) while IndiGo's slots would increase by 14 per cent during the same period, the report said. Vistara and GoAir's airport slots would now increase by 10 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively.

As per aviation experts, Delhi and Mumbai airport slots are considered most significant since these two witness maximum passenger movement and allow airline to operate maximum flights.

27/06/19 Business Today

**Despite a complete moratorium of all claims, proceedings, cases and notices to Jet Airways as it has been admitted for insolvency by the National Company Law Tribunal, its employees were evicted out of major portion of its corporate headquarters at Siroya Centre in Mumbai on Tuesday night. The reason for the eviction was that the airline had failed to renew its lease agreement.**

The action could attract legal action if the carrier's interim resolution professional Ashish Chhawchharia files an application before the Mumbai bench of the NCLT. However, sources said that the IRP has reached a compromise with the owners on Wednesday wherein a small portion of the office would continue to be occupied by the Jet employees. Even the IRP is functioning from this office.

However, all six units of the property are up for lease on JLL's website, which acts as an intermediary between property owners and interested parties.

"On Tuesday night (June 25), some individuals came and tried to forcibly take possession of the office premises, but some semblance of normalcy has returned. Some employees, the IRP continue to work out of Siroya Centre," one of employee said.

Siroya Centre, located in Andheri (East), has been the corporate headquarters of Jet for around a decade.

27/06/19 Financial Express

**Calcutta: Air India did not conduct a proper market survey before announcing its flight between the city and Dubai,** airline sources and travel agents said on Wednesday.

The government-owned airline announced on Tuesday that it would operate a flight four days a week on the Calcutta-Dubai route, where Emirates airline operates.

The Telegraph reported on Wednesday that Air India's decision had prompted sources to convey to this newspaper that the national carrier had almost finalised plans a few months ago to introduce a direct flight between Calcutta and London.

But the Centre finally decided to give the route to Bangalore. The Bangalore-London flight, which sources have attributed to political reasons, was launched in November last year.

"No proper market survey was done to ascertain the viability of the Calcutta-Dubai flight. The decision came as a surprise even to us," an Air India official said.

Travel agents said the airline had not sought their opinion on the Dubai flight.

"Usually, any airline planning to operate on a new international route speaks to the tour operators' bodies about the market size and how to make it viable. But in case of Air India's Dubai flight, there was no such talk," said Anil Punjabi, chairman, east, Travel Agents Federation of India.

Air India officials refused to comment but said the Calcutta-Dubai route would be viable.

Sources in the aviation industry and officials at Calcutta airport said around 35 per cent of the passengers of the Emirates flight, on an average, end their journey in Dubai. The rest board

connecting flights to destinations in Europe, the US and other places.

“For the proposed Calcutta-London flight, there were lots of deliberations and the schedule was almost finalised. But suddenly the decision was changed,” an official said.

27/06/19 Sanjay Mandal/Telegraph

Surat: Having elected their representatives as the MPs, Surtis have now chalked out their list of expectations of the people.

**Surat’s We Work for a Working Airport (WWWAS), which has 85,000 members, has submitted a list of demands along with data to MP Darshana Jardosh regarding concerns about the city airport.**

**“Despite being an important hub of global trade, Surat is not a part of any bilaterals with other nations yet. India’s eight largest city needs to be made part of bilateral with the UAE, Thailand, the UK, China and Singapore.** In a recent meeting with Thailand Ambassador Sam Chutintorn, he

indicated the enthusiasm and intent that Royal Thai Airlines has to begin operations to Surat provided the city is made part of bilateral. Similar interest has been shown by Fly Dubai and Scoot Airways,” said textile businessman Tarun Chugh, who represents WWWAS as data expert.

Despite growing exponentially by 250% in the last two years and being a profitable sector for Air India for several years now, no flights have been added by the state-run carrier from and to Surat in the past two years. “Based on its travellers data, Surat requires direct international connectivity with cities like Dubai, Bangkok and Singapore. Air India with its excellent network and code share can easily provide onward connectivity,” added Sanjay Shah, who handles media communication for the popular aviation group.

**While Airport Authority of India (AAI) requires to upgrade infrastructure at the earliest at Surat airport and begin 24 hours operations, private airlines have demanded airport expansion.**

27/06/19 Ashleshaa Khurana/Times of India

**The airport infrastructure in India needs to be scaled up to meet the growing demand,** according to David Hodges, country head India of Virgin Atlantic (VA).

Speaking to BusinessLine, Hodges said, “India is a great growth market, we have seen a 20 per cent growth since we were here last time.”

According to Hodges, the Indian aviation market is likely to become the third largest in the next few years with airlines such as SpiceJet, IndiGo and Vistara rapidly expanding.

Talking about the roadblocks for the Indian aviation industry, he said, “Similar to London, the airport infrastructure in India too needs to be scaled up to meet the demand. That’s the enabler for us to grow, where there is infrastructure, the industry will grow for India.”

**Airports Authority of India manages a total of 125 airports, which include 11 international airports, 81 domestic airports and 25 civil enclaves at Defence airfields.**

**According to reports, between 2014 and 2018, the number of operational airports rose from 75 to 102 airports. The Modi 2.0 government plans to double the number by 2024. However, work of several airports like the Navi Mumbai airport have been stalled for quite some time.**

25/06/19 Forum Gandhi/Business Line

New Delhi: **Low cost carrier SpiceJet on Tuesday said it would launch eight new daily international flights from Mumbai and Delhi in July.**

"SpiceJet will service **Mumbai-Riyadh-Mumbai, Mumbai-Dhaka-Mumbai, Delhi-Dhaka-Delhi and Delhi-Jeddah-Delhi with daily non-stop flights,**" Gurugram-headquartered airline said in a filing to

the Bombay Stock Exchange.

**The airline will deploy its 168-seater Boeing 737-800 aircraft on all the routes.**

SpiceJet said that it is the first Indian LCC to connect Mumbai with Riyadh and Dhaka, and Delhi with Dhaka and Jeddah.

"Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia, earmarks SpiceJet's 10th international destination and the fourth station in the Middle Eastern market," the airline said.

The flights to Dhaka and Jeddah will begin from the last week of July, while the flight to Riyadh will commence on August 15, 2019.

"The airline is all set to commence operations on the Mumbai-Jeddah route from July 5, 2019," it said.

Commenting on the development, Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet said, "**We are delighted to add Riyadh as our tenth international destination and add more flights to Jeddah and Dhaka thus providing our passengers with multiple flight options.**"

25/06/19 Business Today

New Delhi: **National carrier Air India has a total debt of Rs 58,351 crore as on March 31 this year, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told the Rajya Sabha Wednesday.**

**Last year, the Centre had invited Expression of Interest for strategic disinvestment of Air India, including its shareholding in Air India Express and Air India Air Transport Services Limited.**

**However, it did not receive any bid till the last date on May 31, 2018.**

**Again this year the Centre is preparing to invite bids.**

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Puri said, "As per the provisional figures of FY 2018-19, the total debt of Air India Ltd as on March 31, 2019 is Rs 58,351.93 crore."

26/06/19 PTI/Economic Times

Ronojoy Dutta, the CEO of IndiGo, said that **IndiGo is interested in snapping up international operations of Air India but not keen on the national carrier's domestic operations.**

He also said that the airline is interested in flying long-haul international flights but will cautiously inch its way into the wide-body market.

"We would look at Air India if another buyer is willing to run the domestic business," he told CNBC-TV18.

He said that IndiGo would like to avoid the mistakes that Jet Airways and Air India made as they unsuccessfully took up these wide-body routes.

When asked about the ongoing disagreements between the promoters, Dutta said: "The difference is not an airline issue, it's an administrative issue."

Dutta explained that the issue between promoters has to do with related party transactions.

"The promoters are looking at different proposals for a resolution," he said, adding that there was no reason to believe that promoters will go separate ways on this issue.

When asked about why IndiGo changed their aircraft maker from Pratt & Whitney to CFM, Dutt said that the airline will go with whichever aircraft maker provides a better package.

On whether the company is interested in acquiring Air India, Dutt said: "We are not going to rush into it."

Dutt also mentioned that while access to a greater number of slots to Delhi, Mumbai, and the middle east looks attractive, other factors like the airline's huge debt, and buying the aircraft as the right price demand caution.

Dutta was also optimistic about the growth of the airline, and the aviation industry as a whole.  
[26/06/19 moneycontrol.com](http://26/06/19 moneycontrol.com)

**The employees of Jet Airways were evicted out of their corporate headquarters despite a moratorium order by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT),** as per a report in The Economic Times.

The report quoted a source saying that the eviction, which took place on the night of June 25, occurred as the airline did not renew its lease agreement with owners of Siroya Centre, located in Andheri (east) in Mumbai. After the eviction, the website of commercial real estate services firm JLL, also showed that the property was available on a commercial lease.

The report also noted that the distressed airline is undergoing insolvency proceedings, and the NCLT has ordered a moratorium on all its all claims, proceedings, cases and notices. This meant that the eviction may face legal consequences.

The Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP), Ashish Chhawchharia of Grant Thornton, and his team were also working from these offices and may get a court order or file a police complaint to stall the eviction.

[26/06/19 Moneycontrol](http://26/06/19 Moneycontrol)

**Bilateral flying rights with five countries, which were previously allocated to Jet Airways, have now been temporarily given to Air India till the end of the summer schedule of this year, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said** Wednesday.

As Jet Airways ran out of funds, it had shut down its operations on April 17 this year which leads to a sudden rise in domestic and international airfares.

As a result, the central government decided to temporarily allocate the domestic slots as well as international flying rights of Jet Airways to other airlines who could start new flights immediately and fill the supply gap.

"Bilateral rights of Jet Airways have been temporarily allocated to Air India/Air India Express till end of summer schedule 2019 for the sectors as follows - India-Dubai at 5,852 seats per week; India-Hong Kong at 1,792 seats per week; India-Qatar at 5,670 seats per week; India-Singapore at 1,620 seats per week; India-UK at 4,788 seats per week," Puri said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. The minister said the domestic slots for 22 flights, which were vacated by Jet Airways, have been allocated to Air India.

These domestic Air India flights are running on the routes such as Delhi-Bhopal, Bhopal-Pune, Delhi-Raipur, Delhi-Bengaluru, Delhi-Amritsar, Chennai-Bengaluru and Chennai-Ahmedabad, he said.

Before a country's airline can operate international flights to another country, the two have to negotiate and sign a "bilateral air services agreement", which decides how many total flights (or seats) per week can be allowed to fly from one nation to another.

Once such an agreement is signed, each country is free to allocate these flying rights to its respective airlines.

Even after such flying rights are allocated to an airline, it must have slots at both the airports in order to start flight operations.

[26/06/19 PTI/Business Today](http://26/06/19 PTI/Business Today)

Six months into 2019, Indian flyers are still waiting for their year to take off. But it may only nosedive.  
**The country's aviation sector faces a whole host of troubles, including rising fares, shortage of**

**flights, and increasing travel duration due to various reasons.**

**“The turbulence over the past few months is a result of various factors which have reduced the number of operational flights in Indian skies and, as a result, increased the price of air travel,”** said Balu Ramachandran, senior vice-president of the Mumbai-based travel portal Cleartrip.

Trouble began early in the year when over **20 flights per day were cancelled in February due to a shortage of pilots and bad weather.** Things spilled over into **March** when sector regulator directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA), along with counterparts in many countries, **grounded the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft due to safety concerns.**

Flyers also bore the brunt of an **incessant rise in fuel prices.**

However, the real nightmare came with the **shutdown of India’s oldest private airline, Jet Airways, in April.** Its decision to halt operations sparked panic and confusion among flyers, many of whom are still awaiting refunds and seeking help on social media.

Troubles to continue

There is no end in sight for travellers’ woes. So much so that, growth in air traffic has slowed down considerably.

**“The number of air travellers in India registered a year-on-year increase of 2.62% between January and May 2019, growing from 57 million to 58 million. This is a steep slowdown from the 15-20% growth in many previous quarters,”** said Ramachandran.

Now, there is fresh trouble on the horizon.

26/06/19 Niharika Sharma/Quartz

**An era in Indian aviation came to an end on June 16 when Air India flight 865 from Delhi landed in Mumbai that Sunday morning.**

**This was the Airbus 320-231 aircraft’s final revenue flight. The aircraft joined the Indian Airlines fleet in December 1994 and was the last of the 31 Airbus aircraft that Indian Airlines had ordered and operated over the decades.**

During its active life, the last aircraft to retire from the fleet, which bore the MSN or Manufacturer Serial Number 499, flew 61,600 hours and undertook 38,000 landings, which many consider remarkable for a civilian aircraft. With an average of 10 hours of daily flying, the recently retired aircraft would have flown with the state-owned Indian carrier for close to two decades since its induction.

The first such Airbus — VT EPB — was delivered in 1989 and the last in December 1994. This was also the aircraft series which was grounded by the VP Singh government following the crash of an aircraft in Bengaluru. The grounding led to financial losses for the airline.

These aircraft are called the Airbus A-320 Current Engine Option (CEO) aircraft. Airbus 320-231’s last flight also drew the curtains on what many have called the “warhorse” of Indian Airlines, the only airlines which had this variety of aircraft in the world in its fleet. What made these 31 aircraft special is that they had four bogeys or four sets of wheels which allowed the aircraft to land in almost all the airports in the country.

In perhaps what is a fitting send-off to what many considered the backbone of Indian Airlines’ fleet, some of these decommissioned aircraft are now being used to provide on-the-job training to aircraft engineers. Some other aircraft of this vintage have either been sold off as scrap or are being used by entrepreneurs as restaurants.

**“The aircraft (which flew on June 16) is still functional in all respects. However, it is not going to undertake any more flights as the Designed Life Limitation imposed by the manufacturer has been reached,”** said a senior Air India official. Designed Life Limitation takes into account a specific number

of flying hours and landings and take-offs that an aircraft is allowed to perform during its lifetime.  
25/06/19 Ashwini Phadnis/Business Line

**New Delhi: After nearly a year of demanding India revise its decade-old air services pact with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the country's Ambassador to India Ahmed Abdul Rahman AlBanna on Monday said he expected talks to start within the next two months.**

This will allow an increase in the number of flights between the two countries, which stand at 1,068 a week, with around 400 flights by UAE carriers and rest by Indian ones.

Emirates and Etihad Airways have over the past year continued to lobby India to allow them more flight slots, which won't be possible until the 2007 pact is revised.

Back in October last year, the government had decided not to allow this after domestic carriers objected, saying their international plans would be hit. But with the sudden grounding of Jet Airways, India's second-largest carrier, airlines from UAE, along with those from Singapore, Qatar, and China, have restarted lobbying for more flight slots.

"I've met Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and communicated the serious demand of UAE-based carriers to expand the pact, as we have spare capacity and are willing to grow. Both sides will meet very soon and revisit the agreement as well as the four sectoral agreements that are part of the main pact," said AlBanna.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a roadshow showcasing Dubai Startup Hub. Emirati airlines have significant capacities in cargo, and lack of a revised pact hampers growth in cargo shipments as well, he hinted.

Currently, under the main pact, four sectoral agreements covering flights to and from the four major cities of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, and Ras al Khaimah in the Emirates, also remain active. Currently, 168,000 seats are shared by airlines from both nations in a week. But sources in the know said Emirati airlines would not settle for anything less than an additional 50,000 seats on the Dubai route and 15,000 seats on the Sharjah route.

25/06/19 Subhayan Chakraborty/Business Standard

**India's largest airline IndiGo is looking at a 30 percent capacity growth and half of it will cater to the international market,** said the carrier's top official.

Besides this, **IndiGo is exploring wide-bodied aircraft for international expansion while admitting that despite being dangerous they are inevitable,** said a report in the CNBC TV18 quoting Ronojoy Dutta, the CEO of the no-frills carrier.

Saying that the country's domestic aviation market would continue to grow at around 14 percent, Dutta believes that IndiGo will not commit the mistakes that led to the decline of Jet Airways and said the budget carrier would take a cautious approach for its overseas expansion plan, the report said.

In May this year, the founders of the budget carrier — Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal — had locked horns over strategies and ambitions for IndiGo, the largest airline in the country by passengers carried and fleet size, with a 49.9 percent domestic market share.

Promoters hold about 75 percent stake in InterGlobe Aviation as per March quarter shareholding pattern on the BSE.

The reports of the spat between IndiGo's major promoters threw the employees of the airline into disarray besides pulling down the shares.

Later, Dutta had clarified that one of the co-founders of IndiGo had no plan to take control of the

carrier.

25/06/19 First Post

**A Guwahati-bound Indigo flight (6E-462) that left from Hyderabad was forced to make an emergency landing in Bhubaneswar on Sunday after a passenger tried to open the main door of the plane while it was airborne.** The incident took place early Monday morning and the passenger has been identified as 20-year-old Irshad Ali.

Following the ruckus, the flight, which had taken off from Hyderabad airport at 4.50 am, was diverted to Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar and the passenger was handed over to police, according to ANI. According to reports, Irshad has mental health issues.

“Ali attempted to open the aircraft door during the flight, creating a mid-air scare. With the help of a few passengers and his co-passenger Abdul Karim, he was somehow restrained. The flight was then diverted to Bhubaneswar, where it landed at 6:10 am,” airport director SC Hota told Hindustan Times.

Abdul Karim, who accompanying Irshad, also got off the plane voluntarily in Bhubaneswar. Irshad works at an ice-cream parlour in Hyderabad. He was going to Guwahati after his mother had passed away on Saturday.

Police did not file an FIR against Irshad as he did not misbehave with any of the cabin crew.

“We verified his history and also interrogated him as to why he resorted to unruly behaviour onboard. He didn't misbehave with any cabin crew members. He was only impatient and was showing anxiety. He broke flight's safety rule for which he was punished as he was deplaned. So, no FIR has been registered against him,” inspector-in-charge (airport police station) Umakanta Pradhan told Times of India.

Irshad was taken to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar as he showed signs of depression.

24/06/19 The News Minute

**New Delhi: In a boost to Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN, SpiceJet on Tuesday launched a daily direct flight service between Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (BOM) in Mumbai and Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport (RDP) in Durgapur, West Bengal. This was SpiceJet's 13th UDAN destination. The airline operates 45 daily flights under UDAN scheme.** This is for the first time Durgapur is connected by flights to the financial capital of India.

“Enhancing air connectivity to Durgapur and Asansol was a promise that we had made to the people and I am delighted to announce the commencement of daily non-stop flights connecting Durgapur (Andal) to Mumbai from June 25, 2019. The UDAN scheme, an excellent initiative of our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has helped provide air connectivity to the remotest parts of the country and I am elated that people from Asansol/Durgapur and the region around will have direct connectivity to the country's financial capital and easy onward connections to the rest of the country and abroad. It will enhance the ‘Ease of Living’ Doctrine of our Government by saving both time and money. I would like to congratulate and thank SpiceJet for honouring my request and making this flight possible,” Union Minister and MP from Asansol Babul Supriyo said.

“We are extremely delighted to launch our daily Durgapur-Mumbai flight. Known for its steel industries, Durgapur is an important destination for us in terms of enhancing connectivity for the state of West Bengal. The new flights will serve both the industrial cities of Durgapur and Asansol, hence, we see tremendous potential in this sector,” Debashis Saha, Associate Vice President –



Regulatory and Government Affairs, SpiceJet said.

SpiceJet flight schedule: SpiceJet flight number SG 6354 will depart from Mumbai at 7.50 am and will arrive at 10.05 am. SG 6355 will leave Durgapur at 10.45 am and reach Mumbai at 1.05 pm.

25/06/19 Debjit Sinha/Financial Express

**The latest May 2019 domestic passenger data shows that, private carriers SpiceJet, Indigo and GoAir have benefited from the shutdown of Jet Airways operations. In May month, the domestic PAX rose by 3%, while market leader IndiGo grew 23.2%, whereas SpiceJet (SJet) grew 23.6% and Go Air (GO) grew 31%. Interestingly, Ansuman Deb, Research Analyst at ICICI Securities said, "The impact would be even higher in the international segment." According to Deb, IndiGo would have higher total growth considering the several new routes it had launched in the international segment. Aggregate passenger load factor (PLF) improved significantly, with IndiGo, SJet and GO reporting 90.9%, 93.3% and 93.9% PLF, respectively, during May.**

**At present, the market share of Indigo stands at ~49%; while SpiceJet and Go Air witnessed market share increase to ~14.8%/ 11.1%, respectively.**

"Jet market share redistribution to best benefit IndiGo and SJet," said Deb.

What can we expect ahead?

Now that first quarter of FY20 is right around the corner, Deb says, "The effect of Jet shut down amidst seasonal strong demand should lead to strong earnings growth for IndiGo (combined effect of 30% capacity growth and 5% organic yield growth and additional systemic fare growth). The fare growth of Q4FY17 was 17% for IndiGo. With April and May being better than March, the fare momentum is expected to continue. SJet had limited window to sell the capacity received through Jet planes which should lead to limited fare growth."

While overall FY20 outlook is still in favor of Jet Airways rivals, but the challenge would be in airfares which has spiked since past few months.

24/06/19 ZeeBiz

**IndiGo continues to be interested in international operations of Air India at the right price and with right fleet size**, chief executive officer Ronojoy Dutta told CNBC-TV18 in an exclusive interview.

"At Air India, there are huge risks but also huge rewards. **I believe the preliminary information memorandum will come in July. Hypothetically, if someone would be taking the domestic operations, then we would be interested in the international segment at the right fleet and the right price,**" Dutta told CNBC-TV18.

After failing to divest its 76 percent stake in national carrier Air India last year, the government is looking at another attempt to sell Air India in order to meet its divestment receipts.

"The history of mergers in the airline industry is not very great. Kingfisher Airlines bought Air Deccan, Jet Airways bought Sahara Airlines, neither of those turned out to be good investments. So, we're not going to rush into this, frankly. There's a lot of things that give us pause. There's the huge debt, thousands of crores sitting there. Buying aircraft at the right price is very important. Did they buy all the fleet at the right price? Or will we be stuck with high-cost aircraft, is an issue. So, these are all things to look at," Dutta said.

"But at the same time, is it attractive to say they fly to Heathrow, they have slots there. You get more slots in Delhi and Mumbai. You get traffic rights to many cities including the Middle-East, that's all very attractive. So, I think there are some rewards but a huge amount of risk," he added.

IndiGo had shown interest in buying Air India last year as well but it had clearly stated that it is only

eyeing the international operations and was not keen to take over the domestic part.

25/06/19 Anu Sharma/CNBC TV18

**Gwalior: Civil aviation has a major role in the country's economy and the Indian Air Force (IAF) did not allow tensions with Pakistan to dictate it, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) B.S. Dhanoa said on Monday.**

"They have closed their airspace, that is their problem. Our economy is vibrant and air traffic is a very important part. You must have noticed that the Air Force did not stop civil air traffic." Only on February 27, the Srinagar airspace was closed for 2-3 hours. "We did not allow tensions with Pakistan to dictate our civil aviation..."

Following the IAF's air strike on Balakot on February 26, Pakistan closed its airspace for civil traffic. In March, it was partially opened but flights to India are still forced to take longer routes.

24/06/19 Dinakar Peri/The Hindu

**The HAL has concrete orders to manufacture Su30 MKI, Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Dornier, Advanced Light Helicopter, Chetak, Cheetal helicopters among others and defence services have paid the aerospace major Rs 8,140 crore in the last six months, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said June 24. Arrears of Rs 868.14 crore are outstanding with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for its contractors, he said.**

"The present capacity available in HAL is adequate to fulfil the existing orders, projects in hand. Currently, HAL has firm orders to manufacture platforms like Su-30 MKI, LCA, DO-228 (Dornier), ALH, Chetak and Cheetal helicopters," Singh in a written response to a question in the Rajya Sabha. He said that as and when required the HAL borrows from banks to meet its working capital requirements.

Just before the polls, the Congress had launched an offensive against the government alleging that Dassault Aviation, the makers of Rafale fighter jet, overlooked the PSU and gave the offset contract to another private company.

24/06/19 Moneycontrol.com

**SpiceJet has announced the launch of new flights on international routes.** The carrier announced eight direct daily overseas flights from Mumbai and Delhi, according to a press release shared by the private carrier. The new flights will be operational on Mumbai-Riyadh-Mumbai, Mumbai-Dhaka-Mumbai, Delhi-Dhaka-Delhi and Delhi-Jeddah-Delhi routes. The private airline has announced an introductory all-inclusive fare starting at Rs. 14,227 on Mumbai-Riyadh, Rs. 12,263 on Riyadh-Mumbai, Rs. 10,677 on Mumbai-Dhaka, Rs. 10,732 on Dhaka-Mumbai, Rs. 9,276 on Delhi-Dhaka, Rs. 10,432 on Dhaka-Delhi, Rs. 16,290 on Delhi-Jeddah and Rs. 15,263 on Jeddah-Delhi routes. The flights to Dhaka and Jeddah are effective from the last week of July while the flight to Riyadh will commence on August 15, 2019, noted SpiceJet.

"We are delighted to add Riyadh as our tenth international destination and add more flights to Jeddah and Dhaka thus providing our passengers with multiple flight options," said Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director, SpiceJet.

25/06/19 NDTV

**Mumbai: Flight Movement to and from Mumbai are not expected to witness substantial delays or major increase in fares after all Indian airlines decided to avoid the Iran air space following**

**geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran.**

According to Sharat Dhall, chief operating officer (B2C) of yatra.com, “Directorate General of Civil Aviation’s (DGCA) announcement, made after consultation with all Indian carriers, to avoid the affected part of Iranian air space is likely to have only a slight impact on both schedules and prices.” Dhall said Air India and Indigo flights to locations like Saudi Arabia, Europe and US, will have to take a slightly longer route. “However, this impact is limited and alternate routes are being decided,” he said.

William Boulter, chief operating officer of Indigo Airlines, told The Indian Express that **no diversion for any flight to and from Mumbai will be needed. “The only flight to be affected is the Istanbul-Delhi sector, so the impact on Indigo’s operation is very manageable,”** he said. He added fuel consumption will only increase if diversion is required. Air India’s Jeddah-Mumbai flight is expected to be delayed by 30 minutes, while SpiceJet will see no impact on its flights.

25/06/19 Indian Express

Rudrapur: **Barely three weeks after the Airport Authority of India (AAI) announced a daily flight service on the Delhi-Pantnagar-Dehradun route, the air service has been made a four-day per week service. The decision was taken due to the 'shorter than required' runway in Pantnagar,** officials said.

After the departure of the scheduled flight on Sunday, the air service returned to its old course of being operational on four weekdays including Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Shubham Tandon, Pantnagar station manager of Air India, told TOI, "We do not have the required runway length in Pantnagar. It is only 2,250 metres, much less than the stretch required for a big passenger flight. Further, the 72-seater plane operational here was getting a daily booking of only 50 passengers on an average. The company was facing economic losses and hence the management decided to cut-off the trips." Air India, the air service provider on this route had on June 1 announced that the flights will operate all seven days of the week. It was inaugurated by Ajay Bhatt, MP from Nainital, amidst much fanfare. Simultaneously, it was also announced that an Aviation Turbine Fuel System (ATFS) will be installed at the airport to enable the aircrafts to be fueled at Pantnagar.

25/06/19 Aakash Ahuja/Times of India

Travellers flying to Kerala have some important news waiting for them. **The Kochi airport is going to shut down from November 20, 2019, to March 28, 2020, for eight hours every day during the day. The flight operations will hence be regulated at the Kochi airport from 10 AM to 6 AM, and this is happening due to the mandatory runway re-carpeting work that takes place every 10 years. About 35 domestic flights would get rescheduled; however, it has been reported that this move will not affect international flights.**

It is expected that the Kochi airport shutdown during tourist season is going to cause a lot of trouble for flyers, as flight prices could now go up.

à destination de There is now a proposal that the affected flights could get diverted to the Calicut and Kannur airports. Last year in August, the Calicut airport handled additional flights due to the Kerala floods, for both domestic and international flights.

24/06/19 Times Travel

Pune: **The customs officials arrested a man attempting to smuggle foreign currency valued at Rs38.5 lakh to Dubai on Sunday.**

**The passenger — Vishal Vittal Gaikwad — was to fly on an Air India Express flight, when he was caught with the currency during the customs inspection.**

“The currency is in the form of Kuwaiti dinars, Omani riyals, UAE dirhams and Bahrain dinars,” a customs officer said.

“The currency was seized under the provisions of the Customs Act of 1962 and the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 2000,” the officer said.

“In a statement, the passenger admitted to the possession, carriage, concealment and recovery of the said currencies. If required, he will be further questioned,” Amjad Shaikh, the investigating officer, said.

In August 2017, two passengers, attempted to smuggle foreign currency — 1.73 lakh US dollars and 30,000 euros — by concealing it in hot cases containing food. The two men were en route to Dubai. The authorities had intercepted the man and inspected their luggage before seizing the currency.

25/06/19 Joy Sengupta/Times of India

**Chennai: Customs officials on Tuesday seized foreign currency worth Rs 99.5 lakh from a Sri Lankan transit passenger at Anna International terminal on Monday.** According to a press release from office of the Commissioner of Customs, Air Intelligence Unit (AIU), the passenger, on route to Dubai was intercepted at departure before security checks by AIU officials and was subjected to questioning.

"As he was giving evasive replies his (the passenger) personal search and as well as search of his hand baggage-one black coloured backpack was carried out. On examination of his backpack, assorted foreign currencies comprising of Euros, Kuwaiti Dinars, and UAE Dirhams in various denominations, totally valued at Rs 99.5 lakhs packed in plastic covers were found concealed in his personal effects", said AIU official at Anna international terminal said.

AIU also revealed that the passenger informed them that he had received the currency from an unknown person in the aerobridge area.

25/06/19 Hans India

**Bengaluru: The Kempegowda International Airport police nabbed three persons who flew down from Kuala Lumpur with fake visas.**

**Yaseen Mohammed (26) from Hyderabad, Patel Keyulkumar (29) from Ahmedabad and Gurpreet Singh (29) from Amritsar were arrested.**

The trio left India for Malaysia on tourist visas. Later, they approached touts in Malaysia and Indonesia to get the tourist visas converted to employment visas, which failed, the police said. Thereafter, they search for jobs and overstayed in Malaysia for some time before returning to India. Once again the three contacted a tout who managed to stamp their passports with Malaysian/Indonesian immigration seals.

At KIA immigration, officials checked their passports and found the fake visa stamps. They were booked under the Passports Act.

25/06/19 Bellie Thomas/Deccan Herald

**In the world's second populous nation, the obsession with sex toys shouldn't come as a surprise. What, however, does is the massive quantity of it being illegally brought into the country.** The toys are regularly detained by the Customs Department. A Right To Information query filed by activist Prithviraj Maske revealed that from 2017 to January 2019, the Airport Special Courier Cell of the

**Mumbai Customs Department had seized sex toys worth Rs 8 crore.**

The RTI filed by activist Prithviraj Maske revealed **how consignees have been importing sex toys in the disguise of Diwali gifts, electronic devices, unbreakable plastics tubes, air pumps, fans, footwear soles and uppers, hair cleaning liquid and plastic toys, etc.** Maske had read newspaper reports about Mumbai airport turning into a smuggling hub and hence decided to file an RTI to know what was the contraband coming into the county. "The information surprised me when I found details of sex toys being smuggled. Markets in south Mumbai have such toys on display. This means that the customs department fails to detain all consignments," he said.

25/06/19 Suraj Ojha and Faizan Khan/Mid Day

**New Delhi: A Canadian national was held at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on Sunday for allegedly carrying a live round in his baggage to Terminal-3, police said.**

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel deputed at the Pre-Embarkation Security Checks (PESCs) to clear people's luggage detected a **live bullet round of 9 mm calibre** at Security Hold Area of Terminal-3 through the X-BIS machine from hand baggage, officials said.

The baggage belonged to Fantu Baljit who was travelling to Bahrain on a Gulf Air flight scheduled to take off at 10:05 pm.

24/06/19 Jitender Sharma/ZeeNews

**Customs officials have seized gold worth Rs 34 lakh from a toilet at Delhi international airport,** an official statement issued on Monday said. A cleaner found a packet wrapped with white colour doctor tape while cleaning a toilet near the arrival gate on Thursday, the statement issued by the customs department said.

On unwrapping the packet, three pieces of gold bars weighing one kg and having a market value of around Rs 34 lakh, were seized, it added.

24/06/19 PTI/Financial Express

**Visakhapatnam: In June 2015, sleuths from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in Chennai and customs officials at Visakhapatnam airport seized around 62 kg gold bars valued over Rs 20 crore and detained 55 passengers coming from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Till date, it's the largest seizure of gold at the city airport since it started operating international flights. All the smugglers were from Tamil Nadu.**

In April last year, the air intelligence unit of customs at Visakhapatnam airport seized gold pieces weighing 410 grams and worth around Rs 13 lakh from a female Indian-origin passenger, who landed in the city from Bangkok via Kuala Lumpur.

In recent years, there have been many such cases.

**The city's proximity to South East Asian countries and direct connectivity with cities like Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore has made Vizag airport vulnerable to gold smuggling,** say officials. As most of these countries have good diplomatic relations with other nations, including India, security checks on flights originating from these countries are lenient, due to which gold smugglers are now targeting smaller airports like Visakhapatnam, they say. **"The level of security checks for international flights often depends on the diplomatic relationship of that country to the one the flight is flying to. There are other factors too. For example, security checks are high for flights flying from Dubai to Indian cities.**

**“But the checks are comparatively lenient for flights from South East Asian cities to Indian cities, and also for flights between Dubai and South East Asian cities. For gold smugglers, travelling from Dubai via South East Asia to India looks to be the safest option,”** said an DRI official.

In the last few years, acting on tip-offs and intelligence reports, customs and DRI officials have seized a huge amount of smuggled gold at the city airport. In 2018-19, customs seized 3.32 kg of gold valued at Rs 1.24 crore. “Gold smuggling at Vizag airport is on the rise. The smuggled gold mostly comes from Dubai via South East Asian countries, and most of these smugglers hail from Tamil Nadu,” said a customs officer.

25/06/19 Arpit Basu/Times of India

**The suspension of operations by Jet Airways, the country’s second-largest domestic airline, cast a shadow on the aviation sector’s performance in the last fiscal, with passenger traffic growth falling to a five-year low of 11.6% y-o-y in FY19. Passenger traffic had grown by 12.5-16.5% y-o-y in the 2014-18 period.**

Full-service carrier Jet, which had 119 aircraft in its fleet in December, 2018, suspended all operations on April 17 owing to a financial crisis. This has had a ripple effect on passenger footfall and shipment of cargo at airports—domestic air traffic fell by 4.5% y-o-y in April, breaking a growth streak of over 55 months.

The top two airports—in Delhi and Mumbai—are the hardest hit by Jet’s closure as the airline had sizeable capacity deployed on tier-I routes. The two airports handle more than one-third of the total footfall at airports—of the 344.6 m passengers that used India’s 102 airports in FY19, over 118 m flew through the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi and the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai in FY19.

While passenger traffic at the Delhi airport declined by 3% y-o-y in February, the Mumbai airport, the hub of Jet’s operations, has been reporting de-growth in passenger footfall since October last year. Traffic at airports in Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata has also been impacted. Apart from the Metro routes, Jet had won rights to operate on regional routes under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme, for which the Airports Authority of India has been developing airports across the country. The void created by Jet’s exit can be gauged from the fact that the carrier flew more than 50,000 passengers every day during calendar year 2018, operating 650 flights daily. It was also the largest Indian carrier flying international routes. According to ratings agency ICRA, Jet’s grounding has brought down industry capacity by 14%. Analysing the impact of Jet’s shutdown, Kinjal Shah, the agency’s vice-president and co-head, Corporate Sector Ratings, says, “overall, **the moderation in capacity starting February, 2019 has resulted in higher air fares—a 30-40% increase between September, 2018 and March, 2019 – and inconvenience to passengers. India being a highly price-sensitive market, it has also affected passenger traffic growth from October, 2018 onwards.**”

24/06/19 Arun Nayal/Financial Express

**Two months after India’s oldest private-sector airline grounded its last plane, and with even a water-bottling firm threatening to drag the carrier into bankruptcy, a consortium of lenders led by State Bank of India can finally stop pretending that a white knight is coming.**

With the insolvency tribunal taking Jet Airways India Ltd. under its wing on Thursday, there may be one more abortive attempt to sell it whole. But now that lessors have taken most of the fleet, employees have all but given up on back wages, and the country’s aviation market has moved on, liquidation is the most practical solution. Little will be recovered from financial and operational creditors’ claims, which may add up to more than 140 billion rupees (\$2 billion), according to local media reports.

Jet, as Monty Python might have observed, isn’t exactly a Norwegian blue, pining for the fjords. It’s a dead parrot. Banks killed it with kindness. If only they had seen that founder Naresh Goyal wasn’t able to cover costs, and was using borrowed money to keep the full-service airline afloat amid

intense competition with low-cost rivals.

One refusal from them to lend more without fresh equity from 51% owner Goyal, his 24% partner Etihad Airways PJSC, or the public, would have hastened the default that finally occurred in January. Even then, creditors could have produced a new controlling shareholder in an out-of-court process if they'd wrested control of the board from Goyal rather than waiting until late March. The airline could still have survived even if that had failed, with banks supplying working capital through an in-court bankruptcy process.

A new owner wouldn't have made creditors whole, but any offer would have been better than the chump change they will get from liquidation of a grounded carrier. So why didn't SBI and other creditors act earlier? They probably never believed Goyal, a survivor of several tight corners in the last 25 years, was going to crash land this time. After they did wake up to that possibility, they still dithered. Banks are already swamped by \$200 billion-plus of soured corporate debt.

Every exposure taken to the bankruptcy tribunal means more money to be set aside from profit, which has been in short supply at Indian lenders lately. Also, the 2016 law has already been so badly abused by owners trying to stall the sale of prized assets that banks are starting to treat in-court insolvency more like a mortuary than a hospital. However, if only basket cases come to the tribunal, or lenders start using the process as a cover for deals with people hiding from the law, they won't have a tool left to deal with the next downturn in the credit cycle. Prime Minister Narendra Modi can count the insolvency regime as among the more significant achievements of his first term, before the draconian cash ban of November 2016 derailed the economy. His government even empowered the central bank to resolve some of the most egregious cases of bad debt. That reform momentum has faded, though.

**When the Reserve Bank of India, on its own initiative, tried to get more soured loans more speedily into in-court insolvency, the judiciary said it was acting beyond its powers. Modi's second five-year term has just begun. He would send an encouraging signal to global investors by once again pushing taxpayer-funded banks to use the bankruptcy law, and well before errant borrowers start pushing up the daisies.**

24/06/19 Deal Street Asia

**Mumbai: The Resolution Professional (RP) for Jet Airways has invited claims from all creditors of the grounded airlines. Last week, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted Jet Airways for bankruptcy.**

**The airline owes over ₹8,500 crore to a consortium of 26 banks led by State Bank of India; over ₹13,000 crore to the tens of hundreds of vendors, and around 23,000 employees.**

"The creditors of Jet Airways are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before July 4, to the interim resolution professional. Financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only," resolution professional Ashish Chhawchharia of Grant Thornton said in a public notice.

All other creditors shall submit their claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means, it added.

The lenders had been owning the airline since March 25 with 51% stake. On June 17, they decided to take the airline, which stopped flying on April 17, to the NCLT as they could not find a buyer.

Even the only preliminary bid from the Etihad-Hinduja consortium reportedly wanted the banks to take 90-95% haircut and also exemptions from open offer norms, which would not have been possible for the lenders to commit.

24/06/19 PTI/The Hindu

**Thiruvananthapuram: Kannur International Airport Ltd. (KIAL), the fourth international airport of the State, has been able to use only 20% of the inbuilt facilities since commencing commercial flight operations from the ₹2,292-crore airport six months ago.**

**The problem is due to the inability to throw open the fourth international gateway of the State and north Malabar to the foreign carriers and rope in more domestic carriers.**

“Opening the doors to foreign carriers would have resulted in 40% use of the state-of-the-art facilities. One flight of a foreign airline would make the difference,” says managing director of KIAL V. Thulasidas.

In addition to the national carrier Air India and its low-cost arm, Air India Express (AIE), the aviation needs of Kannur are catered by IndiGo and GoAir. AIE has only been granted slots to operate to and from Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Doha in Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE to the Kannur airport.

The grounding of Jet Airways due to financial crisis and ban of the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Boeing 737 Max 8 on Indian airspace had come as setbacks.

“The first six months of flight operations had gone beyond our expectations. Going by the current rate, we will surpass the targeted 1.8 million travellers in the first year,” he told The Hindu.

The KIAL authorities are surprised by the demand for domestic flights from Kannur in the initial months. The air connectivity to Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Goa, Hubli, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram and the passengers from Mysuru and Kodagu depending on Kannur have resulted in the surge.

The Karnataka government has planned to commence more services to Kannur to cater to the needs of flyers from Mysuru and Kodagu. But, this needs the Kerala government’s nod.

23/06/19 S Anil Radhakrishnan/The Hindu

**New Delhi: Fliers in India and tourists and travellers from abroad to the country often seek opinions on which airline to trust. Before booking flight tickets, fliers look into key aspects such as quality of services offered by that airline and ticket fares. On-Time-Performance (OTP) is considered as pivotal for any airline when it comes to attracting fliers by assuring punctuality and convenience. GoAir has recorded the best OTP for the ninth consecutive month. GoAir recorded 91.8 per cent OTP and had the lowest cancellation rate of 0.33 per cent. Rankings were released by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for May 2019.**

GoAir said that it is pleased to offer a reliable travel service wherein travellers get to their destination in a timely manner. GoAir added that factors that are not necessarily in its control like airport congestion, taxi times from the runways, gate availability etc., they have tried to provide best services. Besides, the DGCA report also stated that GoAir had the second highest load factor of 93.3 % indicating the number of seats filled, the company said in a statement. “GoAir is India’s fastest growing airline and we will continue to step up our performance and invest in Operational Excellence across the board. We thank our customers as this milestone would not have been possible without their punctuality, loyalty and support of millions of guests who have flown with us,” a spokesperson said.

On-Time Performance is a comparison between the actual off-block time of an aircraft of an airline against the schedule time for that particular departing flight. This internationally accepted standard practice and comply with standard benchmark set by IATA (International Airlines Transport Association).

24/06/19 Debjit Sinha/Financial Express

**The restriction over Iran airspace will add to the flying time of flights from India to the US and Europe, and will make tickets a tad more expensive.**

**Air India, which is the only Indian airline now with substantial international service after Jet Airways suspended operations, will be the most impacted. One of IndiGo's flights, to Istanbul, will**



also see a change.

**On June 22, industry regulator DGCA had asked Indian airlines to avoid the Iranian airspace.**

"All Indian operators in consultation with DGCA have decided to avoid the affected part of Iranian Airspace to ensure safe travel for the passengers. They will re-route flights suitably," said the regulator.

The advisory followed rising tensions between Iran and the US after the latter's drone was shot down for allegedly violating Iranian airspace.

Noting that the DGCA's announcement has been made keeping in mind passenger safety, Sharat Dhall, COO (B2C), Yatra.com, said this will have a "slight impact" on schedules and prices.

"Carriers like Air India and IndiGo returning back from places like Saudi Arabia, Europe and the US, will have to take a slightly longer route. However, this impact is limited and alternate routes are being decided," he added.

Another senior executive talking to Moneycontrol added: "Depending on the destination, the flying time could increase by up to 60 minutes. The impact will be a little more crucial for flights to the US." [24/06/19 Prince Mathews Thomas/Moneycontrol.com](https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/24/06/19-Prince-Mathews-Thomas/Moneycontrol.com)

Renee Saklikar got up Sunday and ran her first five kilometre race in honour of her aunt Zeb and uncle Umar Jethwa — both doctors who died 34 years earlier in the Air India bombing.

And before she went to the starting line, she visited the Air India memorial in Stanley Park before returning Sunday evening to the same spot to meet dozens of others at a memorial service for the victims of Canada's worst terrorist attack.

"I dedicated that run to my auntie and uncle and to my cousin Irfan who was left behind when his mom and dad were murdered," Saklikar said. "This day really invites a lot of us who have lost loved ones in this terrorist attack to ask ourselves how do I want to live my life... It forces us to be better people and say hey, I want to make a life that is for the good, not for the bad."

Her husband and B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix organized the annual memorial event at the wall bearing the names of all the 331 victims of the June 23, 1985 attack.

**Dix reminded the mourners gathered that the perpetrators not only killed all 329 aboard Air India Flight 182, but they tried to bomb a second Air India plane. The bomb-laden suitcase instead exploded at Narita airport, killing two Japanese baggage handlers.**

"Those who perpetrated this violence wanted more violence, wanted there to be more victims and we should reflect on that today," Dix said.

"We shouldn't use exulted terms to describe people who are cowards, who murdered children, who left children orphans. We shouldn't treat them as anything more than criminal murderers not worthy of our thought or our consideration."

He noted that flags flew at half-mast across Canada, including at the B.C. legislature Sunday to commemorate all Canadian victims of terrorism.

Gurdial Sidhu, who lost her sister-in-law Sukhwinder, niece Parminder, 10, and nephew Kuldip, 9, said the tragedy is made more painful by the fact the terrorists behind the bombings are free.

**"Thirty-four years have passed and we didn't get any justice — victims left behind their loved ones, their brothers, sisters, children, parents are still suffering," Sidhu said. "They didn't get the justice and the criminals did not get punished yet."**

A B.C. Supreme Court judge and a public inquiry determined the bombings were carried out by the B.C. Babbar Khalsa, headed by former Burnaby mill worker Talwinder Singh Parmar. Parmar was killed by Indian police in 1992 before being charged in Canada.

Three of his associates, Ripudaman Singh Malik, Ajaib Singh Bagri and Inderjit Singh Reyat were charged in the bombing plot. Malik and Bagri were acquitted and Reyat pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the Air India bombing. He was earlier convicted in the Narita bombing.

Former Liberal MLA Dave Hayer said Sunday that he still hopes people with information about the Air India bombing come forward and help police.

23/06/19 Kim Bolan/Vancouver Sun

Mumbai: A day after the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), in consultation with Indian carriers, announced that flights will not be flying over Iranian airspace, government-run Air India said only one flight to Mumbai will be affected by the diversion in the city. Other private airlines are in process of chalking out their diversions.

"The Jeddah-Mumbai flight will be delayed by half-an-hour due to the diversion. No other flight from Mumbai will be affected. We faced more problems when Pakistan air space was shut, almost all our flights to the west had to be diverted," said Ashwani Lohani, Air India Chairman and managing director.

Air India, he added, flies to over 40 global destinations from Mumbai everyday. While no substantial effect will be noticed on flights to and from Mumbai, in Delhi a few inbound flights from Europe and USA will be delayed by 15-20 minutes.

On June 22, DGCA had announced that Indian carriers will avoid the Iranian airspace for passenger safety reasons after an RQ-4 Global Hawk drone, a US surveillance aircraft, was downed near Strait of Hormuz last week.

On June 20, the US Federation Aviation Administration released an emergency order barring American carriers to fly over Iran air space, including Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman.

24/06/19 Indian Express

**New Delhi: Researchers claim to have developed a smart system that can help prevent baggage theft and facilitate hassle free collection of luggage at airports by providing estimated time of arrival (ETA) at the conveyor belt for pickup.**

The novel solution developed by a team at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab restricts a person from taking away someone else's baggage at the exit gate of the airport.

The system also assists the passengers by reminding them in case they have forgotten to collect their baggage, researchers said.

They noted that despite having a tight security system at most of the airports, baggage loss or theft is a common issue among travellers.

While there is a strict process in place for luggage collection on departure, very little emphasis has been given to baggage collection and theft prevention process on arrival, they said.

Also, airports have not come up with any system to locate or track baggage, which forces the passengers to stand in queue and wait for several minutes for their luggage to arrive.

"During our research, we could not find any existing systems providing services similar to us. Our solution is helpful to resolve these problems that have not been addressed so far," Gurjot Singh Gaba, Assistant Professor at LPU, told PTI.

"Passengers who pay a huge amount as airfare would benefit from this technology. Their baggage loss would be prevented and also they would easily collect their luggage at the airports," Gaba said.

**According to a report by the aviation IT specialist, SITA, every minute 40 bags get mishandled worldwide.**

In 2018, that amounted to more than 24.8 million mishandled bags, costing the air transport industry \$2.4 billion, researchers said.

"Airport authorities receive baggage loss cases of million dollars every year which tarnishes their reputation. With our system, they could prevent losses of this kind. Hence, it will be beneficial for airport authorities as well," Gaba said.

Travellers face long queues at crowded airports, and have to spend a lot of time in queues for collecting the baggage.

The passengers have to stand around the conveyor belt until their respective baggage arrives.

The entrance of airport has high security but during exit there is no one to verify that the luggage is

taken away only by the rightful owner.

The proposed system provides the solution to overcome both of these issues.

24/06/19 PTI/Times of India

**Coimbatore: Owners of lands coming under block one, one of the 24 blocks identified for the acquisition of 627.89 acres for the expansion of the Coimbatore International Airport, recently petitioned District Collector alleging foul play in fixing compensation for the land under the two categories – agricultural and residential.**

The petition said that lands used by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) from 1947 are currently categorised as agricultural land though they were used for non-agricultural purposes.

The compensation fixed by the government was ₹ 1,500 per sq.ft. for residential areas and ₹ 900 per sq.ft. for agricultural plots.

“AAI is using the land since 1947 and they constructed compound wall around the area. The land is being used for the wireless station and other arrangements. While surveying the land for acquisition, we were assured that ₹ 1,500 per sqft will be given as compensation. Now officials say that the land is categorised as agricultural for the acquisition,” said a land owner. Block two has 18.11 acres of land.

According to petitioners, the wireless station of AAI alone is spread over 10,000 sq.ft.

23/06/19 The Hindu

**Thiruvananthapuram: The decision of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to hand over the management, operation and development of the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport to the Adani group has not gone down well with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. He has vehemently opposed the move, saying that no private player can manage the airport without the state government’s support. He seems to have made this a prestige issue and has started building resistance against the move.**

Private investment is not a matter of anathema for the communist chief minister as the communists have already changed their mindset towards it. Moreover, he is rolling out the red carpet for investors from across the globe, though not many have shown much interest yet. “No authority can take the airport and hand it over to a private party ignoring the opinion and demand of the state government. No private player can manage or develop the airport without the cooperation and support of the state government. We have raised the issue several times and I would personally apprise the issue and clarify the state government’s stand to Prime Minister Narendra Modi,” he told the state legislature. He took up the issue with Modi when he arrived in Delhi to attend a NITI Aayog meeting recently.

There is no reason to believe that the state government has developed a xenophobic attitude towards the Adani group; the latter already has operations in the state after winning the prestigious Vizhinjam International Sea Port project in Thiruvananthapuram. And in its effort to meet the target of completing the project in the stipulated timeframe, it is working hand in hand with the state government.

However, the chief minister’s warning that no force can operate or manage the airport without the cooperation of the state government has to be taken seriously. The communists have a track record of defeating entrepreneurs and warding off investors in the past several decades, causing the negative growth of industries in the state.

23/06/19 NV Ravindranathan Nair/India Legal

**On the 21st year celebration of Bird Academy, the education vertical of Bird Group reaffirms its position as a regional aviation-learning hub by becoming the first ever IATA Regional Training Partner. The first RTP course IATA’s ‘Safety Management System Course for Airlines’ received**

overwhelming response and has participants from all across the globe. Regarded as a benchmark in the aviation industry, this training course is being conducted for the first time in India by Bird Academy. **A five-day classroom course will be held in New Delhi from June 24th-June 28th, 2019 and will be imparted by an IATA instructor and will cover the full spectrum of Aviation Safety and Security.**

This course is highly recommended for Airline Operations Managers, Corporate and Operational Safety Managers, Analysts, Coordinators, Postholders and Quality Managers. The course will help in developing, managing and monitoring the Safety Management System (SMS) that fits within the scope of an airline's operations. It will help make improvement in the operations that will prevent costly accidents, incidents and injuries to the staff. The training will further benefit in understanding how to use the Safety Management System (SMS) as an effective management tool for safety performance and productivity along with understanding risk management tools to continually improve the safety performance.

Speaking on the same, Mrs. Radha Bhatia, Chairperson, Bird Group said, "Today the aviation sector supports 7.5 million jobs in India and we see huge potential for growth. We, at Bird Academy, have dedicated over 21 years to nurture highly skilled professionals and it is a testament to our hard work and commitment, that we have been chosen as IATA's Regional Training Partner (RTP). We are elated to introduce the RTP course on Safety Management System Course for Airlines' in the country, which is well-sought out by the aviation professionals, across the world. We will continue in our endeavor to support and build the aviation industry by nurturing the young minds with excellent educational trainings and courses. »

24/06/19 Silicon India

**Mumbai: The insolvency resolution professional appointed by India's bankruptcy court for Jet Airways has put the grounded airline's resolution process on fast track,** said two people in the know, following the court's tight deadline.

Ashish Chhawchharia, partner at Grant Thornton, took charge as RP and met the airline's management on Saturday to apprise them of the plan ahead.

All power of Jet's board (currently bereft of any member) and signing powers of all authorized signatories of the airline have been suspended. All communications will be under the RP's signature or someone delegated by him.

Chhawchharia also implemented a complete moratorium of all claims, proceedings, cases and notices to Jet.

No properties or assets of Jet either in custody or with the airline can be attached by any entity. There was an eviction notice from its office in Siroya Towers. That too has been stopped.

**The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Thursday admitted an insolvency plea by Jet's top lender State Bank of India. In their order, the judges halved the deadline for the resolution process to 90 days from the usual 180 days, saying this was a matter of "national importance". Jet stopped operations on April 17 running out of money to stay afloat. SBI took it to bankruptcy court over defaults on loan repayments after failing to find the airline a new investor through a bidding process.**

23/06/19 Aniorban Chowdhury/Maulik Vyas/Economic Times

**Insolvency proceedings have been initiated against debt-ridden Jet Airways, which formally stopped flying on April 17 and saw lenders voting for bankruptcy earlier this month.**

The cash-strapped company became the first domestic airliner to go into bankruptcy after the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted an insolvency petition filed by SBI on behalf of 26 lenders on June 20.

**"Pursuant to an order dated June 20, 2019 of NCLT Mumbai Bench, Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) has been initiated for Jet Airways (India) as per the provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016,"** Jet Airways said in a regulatory filing Sunday.

It further said that upon initiation of CIRP, the powers of the Board of Directors of the company have been suspended and shall be exercised by the Interim Resolution Professional.

**Jet Airways owes more than ₹ 8,000 crore to banks, and thousands of crores more in arrears to vendors, lessors and employees.**

**The airline formally stopped flying on April 17 and banks voted for bankruptcy on June 17.**

23/06/19 PTI/Business Line

**Mumbai: Jet Airways has officially entered bankruptcy proceedings after years of failing to beat low-cost rivals on price or to offer enough added value in its services to justify higher fares.**

But the Mumbai-based carrier's fall from grace is a sign of bigger problems in India's air travel industry, where cutthroat competition is squeezing airlines tighter despite a surge in passenger numbers.

**India's National Company Law Tribunal on Thursday admitted an insolvency petition filed by Jet Airways' creditors. It told the carrier to submit a rehabilitation plan within 90 days.**

"I feel sad and deeply distressed mainly for our loyal employees who have waited months, and were anxiously and hopefully awaiting a positive outcome to the Bank-Led Resolution Plan," said Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, who stepped down as chairman in March.

The airline is believed to face 84 billion rupees (\$1.21 billion) in debt. While companies are usually given 180 days to come up with a rehabilitation plan, the court pushed for a quicker timeline, calling the case a matter of "national importance."

The creditors, which took control of Jet Airways in March, had previously hoped to find a sponsor for the airline's turnaround. But no good candidates arose. They decided not to extend further lending when cash ran out, grounding all flights in mid-April.

**They now plan to sell either the company or its assets in order to recoup their losses. But there is not much left for them to unload, with thousands of pilots defecting to rivals and the majority of the 120-plane fleet having been repossessed.**

India is one of the world's fastest-growing markets for air travel. The number of passengers on domestic flights jumped 19% to 139 million in 2018, double what it was four years earlier. Yet Jet Airways still failed, due to an overambitious expansion plan and competition from low-cost carriers. Jet Airways launched in 1993 as India's first private-sector airline. It wrestled market share away from state-run players with its relatively new planes and on-time flights. It flew nearly 20% of all domestic passengers in 2015, becoming India's second-largest carrier over Air India.

But the company only booked a net profit twice in the 10 years through March 2018 as it invested heavily in new routes and more frequent service.

22/06/19 Nikkei Asian Review

**New Delhi: Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday inaugurated the Central Command Centre for Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) in Delhi and said it is an "absolute necessity" to ensure higher standards of safety.**

As major airports are facing capacity constraints, the central ATFM system is primarily meant to balance the "capacity against the demand to achieve optimum utilization" of "airport, airspace and aircraft", Airport Authority of India (AAI) said in a statement.

Post inauguration, the minister said, "This is a world class system where on one large screen you can see all the civil aviation infrastructure in the country. The planes on the ground, the planes which are in the air, those planes you are in touch with - all of it is integrated with the ATC (air traffic control)."

"It is an absolute necessity. It was a requirement. I am glad that this state of the art facility is now operational...But more than that, it will also help in ensuring higher standards of safety. That is most crucial," Mr Puri said.

**The minister said the defense forces will also use this system. "All platforms in the air, whether**

they are fixed wing or rotor craft, etc., are all part of this safety and integrated airflow management system," he added.

The central ATFM system integrates flight data from various subsystems like ATC Automation System, flight updates and flight update messages.

"The system also displays weather information along with static information about airports, airspaces and air routes. The system processes the demand and capacity information and provides decision-making tools to the ATFM Flow Manager for collaborative decision making and to ensure regulated flow of traffic at each airport in India," the AAI statement said.

22/06/19 PTI/NDTV

**The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has started a year-long study to analyse air traffic, slot distribution and infrastructure at six major airports – Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata – in order to improve the mechanism of slot allotment,** said its senior officials.

A slot is a specific date and time at which an airline can arrive or depart at an airport.

It is allocated by a committee that comprises officials from the respective airport, aviation ministry, AAI, airlines, aviation regular DGCA, etc. "After one year, the results of this year-long study will be presented back to the DGCA and the ministry to take a call on how to improve slot allotment in the next year...We will take help of the central ATFM (air traffic flow management) in this year-long study," a senior AAI official told PTI.

The AAI owns and manages more than 100 airports across the country. Recently, when Jet Airways temporarily shut down its operations on April 17, a tussle had erupted among the other airline companies in India to corner most of the Jet's vacated slots, especially the ones at congested airports of Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai.

The fight for slots had erupted as there is no written mechanism in India to allocate slots if an airline – in this case it was Jet Airways – temporarily shuts down its operations. Another senior AAI official told PTI, **"Six major airports – Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai – have been identified where the analysis needs to take place. This exercise has been started in the month of May this year, and it will continue till March 2020."**

23/06/19 PTI/Financial Express

**New Delhi: India on Saturday asked its airlines to avoid flying in the over-water area of Tehran (Iran) airspace with the Strait of Hormuz that connects Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman at its heart. Iran's territorial boundary extends up to 12 nautical miles (22.2 km) from its coastline to over-water and the shooting of a US military drone near the Strait of Hormuz has dramatically escalated tensions here.**

While the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) advisory does not bar Indian airlines from transiting Iran over-land, the latter are seeing if that also can be avoided. The impact on Indian carriers will be limited to some of Air India's flights on way back from the West (including Saudi Arabia, Europe and the US) to India and IndiGo's Doha-Istanbul-Doha. AI's west-bound flights will not be impacted.

"On the way back, they will need to reroute over Muscat, adding to flying time by 20-25 minutes. Similarly, Doha-Istanbul-Doha sector of IndiGo will be affected," said a source. Airlines have indicated to the regulator fares of affected flights could see a rise by Rs 500. The new detour comes on top of the already longer routes flights between the west and south Asia, with Delhi at its heart, are taking after Pakistan closed its airspace since February 27. While they may add to travel time, better safe than anything else.

23/06/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

**Shimla: The state government has demanded Rs 1,426 crore for upgrading three airports and asserted that Rs 2,500 crore would be required for the construction of a new greenfield airport, fit**

**for landing of a wide-bodied aircraft in Mandi district.**

**The state required Rs 500 crore each for the upgrade of Kullu and Kangra airports and Rs 426 crore for Shimla airport,** said Education Minister Suresh Bharadwaj, who represented the Chief Minister at state Finance Ministers and GST Council meeting in New Delhi today.

Referring to the proposed international airport in Mandi, Bharadwaj said this would lead to better connectivity within the state.

He also pleaded that the GST on components and materials used in construction of hydropower projects should be reduced and brought on a par with wind and solar power projects as hydel projects had also been classified as renewable energy.

Urging the Centre to expedite the proposed Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Manali-Leh rail line project and convert the Pathankot-Jogindernagar rail line to broad gauge, he said the Centre should bear 100 per cent cost of the projects, which were strategic from the defence point of view.

22/06/19 Tribune

**New Delhi: Air India will reroute flights to avoid Iranian air space, an official said Saturday, as tensions ratchet up following Tehran's downing of a US drone.**

A spokesman for the country's biggest state-run carrier said it was told to alter its flight paths by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) -- the aviation regulator.

"Air India has received the DGCA notice regarding operations in the Iranian airspace and we are monitoring the situation," Dhananjay Kumar told AFP.

"We will take appropriate actions whenever necessary to prevent inconvenience to passengers."

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the United States issued a notice Friday, prohibiting US-registered aircraft from operating over the Gulf and Gulf of Oman, following Thursday's strike on a reconnaissance drone near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Saturday's decision means Indian commercial and cargo flights towards middle-eastern and European countries, as well as the US, will have to take lengthy and costly detours.

22/06/19 Peninsula

Today the Hindi newspaper Dainik Bhaskar published an article **regarding increased cost the airlines are having to bear due to the continued closure of international airspace over Pakistan. In the headline, the article says that daily 70000 travellers are paying upto 5 times more airfare due to this. Although it is correct that Airlines are having to spend more due to the longer route they are having to take bypassing Pakistan, the numbers mentioned in the report are highly exaggerated and defy logic.**

The report by Dainik Bhaskar mentions that daily around 233 flights to and from India are affected due to the closure of Pakistani airspace, which carries around 70 thousand passengers. According to the report, passengers travelling to Europe and the US are paying 4 to 5 times more in ticket price due to this. But this is clearly an exaggeration, as airfare has not gone up by that much. A simple search on online ticketing portals show that the cost of flight tickets to European and American destinations remain the same as usual price, they have not gone up by any significant amount. Moreover, the flight time has gone up by 1-2 hours for most airlines due to avoiding Pakistani airspace, which would be around 20% increase for a 10-hour flight. So, there is no reason why the ticket price will go up by 5 times for that increase.

The article also mentions that Air India is spending Rs 6 crore extra for its flights to Europe and the US due to the change in route. The flight time has increased, and the non-stop flights to New York are having to halt for refuelling. This has added extra fuel and airport ground handling charges for the already loss-making airlines. But an earlier article in Business Standard has mentioned that Air India was losing Rs 3 crore daily due to this reason. So, this means the amount has doubled to Rs 6 crore in the Dainik Bhaskar report.

23/06/19 OpIndia

**Trichy: The air intelligence unit (AIU) of customs has seized foreign currencies and gold worth Rs 18 lakh in two different incidents at the Trichy International Airport** in the early hours of Saturday.

According to officials, they were engaged in routine checking process, when they grew suspicious over the activities of a passenger who arrived by an Air India Express flight from Sharjah flight at around 4.30am on Saturday.

During frisking, they found that he concealed the gold in his rectum in the form of a rubbery substance. The passenger was identified as Mohammed Ibrahim, 36, of Chennai. Customs officials recovered 522g of gold worth Rs 14.11 lakh from his body.

In another incident, customs officials seized foreign currency from a passenger who has been identified as Samsudeen, 47, of Karaikudi. He had concealed 23,000 Saudi Riyals which were equivalent to Rs 4.13 lakh.

23/06/19 Times of India

**New Delhi: Air India has suspended a senior pilot for allegedly stealing a wallet from a duty free shop at Sydney airport**, officials said Sunday.

**Rohit Bhasin**, the airline's regional director for East, was rostered as one of the commanders (pilots) of a flight that was set to depart at 10.45 am (local time) on June 22 from Sydney for Delhi.

"There is an initial report of one of its captains Mr Rohit Bhasin, who is also working as a regional director, picking up a wallet from a duty free shop in Sydney. Air India has instituted an enquiry into this incident and has placed the captain under suspension," said a spokesperson for Air India.

The suspension order issued by the airline on Saturday said: "It has been reported by regional manager Australasia that you allegedly committed an act of shoplifting from a duty free shop at Sydney airport before the departure of flight AI301 of 22nd June, 2019, from Sydney airport for which you were rostered as one of the Commander."

**"Without prejudice to any disciplinary action to be initiated against you and pending enquiry, you are hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect," the order stated.**

23/06/19 PTI/Business Standard

**Mumbai: A 60-year-old retired supervisor of Air India has registered an FIR against three people, including the director of a construction firm, for allegedly duping him to the tune of Rs 60 lakh.**

The accused, identified as E Murlidharan Iyer is an AI employee, Shailesh Joshi is a property dealer, and Dharmendra Thakur is the director of Gopi Estate and Infra Private Limited.

**Complainant Pramod Kaluwala has alleged that the accused lured him to invest money on some plots for a fake construction project promising him better returns.**

According to the police, before retirement in 2014 Kaluwala's colleague Iyer told him that he knows a builder in Aarey Colony who can help Kaluwala to earn good money. Later, along with Joshi, Kaluwala and Iyer visited Thakur's office in Goregaon's Royal Palms area. "Thakur showed him Kaluwala an open plot and claimed that he plans to build a commercial building on it. He also showed the floor plan of the building and asked Kaluwala to select offices in which he would like to invest. After selection of two, Kaluwala was assured that the construction shall be completed in 18 months and possession shall be given immediately. Kaluwala deposited Rs 43 lakh in Thakur's account," said a police officer.

23/06/19 Dhananjay Khatri/DNA

**Bhubaneswar: Hyderabad-Guwahati Indigo flight 6E462 was on Sunday diverted to Bhubaneswar after a passenger turned unruly**, airline sources said.

Irshad Ali, breached flight safety procedures by trying to open the door of the plane, they said. The passenger was deboarded after the aircraft landed at Bhubaneswar airport at 6.10 am and handed



over to police.

23/06/19 Asian Age

**New Delhi: Two Chinese nationals were arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi for allegedly using fake tickets to enter Terminal 3 in order to see off their female friend on Friday night, police said.**

The incident occurred around 11 pm when Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) duty personnel noticed two passengers roaming around suspiciously in the check-in area of Terminal 3 of the airport. On enquiry, the accused - Zhang Peng and Zuo Wei, revealed that they got access to the terminal by showing an edited itinerary of China Southern airline, whose flight was scheduled to take off at 11:30 pm. They informed that they were there to see off their female friend who was also travelling by the same flight bound to Guangzhou in China, police said.

Both the accused possessed Chinese passports and were later handed over to the Delhi police to initiate an inquiry. An FIR has been registered against the men and the investigation is underway.

23/06/19 Zee News

**Trichy: The air intelligence unit (AIU) of customs has seized foreign currencies and gold worth Rs 18 lakh in two different incidents at the Trichy International Airport in the early hours of Saturday. According to officials, they were engaged in routine checking process, when they grew suspicious over the activities of a passenger who arrived by an Air India Express flight from Sharjah flight at around 4.30am on Saturday.**

During frisking, they found that **he concealed the gold in his rectum in the form of a rubbery substance. The passenger was identified as Mohammed Ibrahim, 36, of Chennai. Customs officials recovered 522g of gold worth Rs 14.11 lakh from his body.**

**In another incident, customs officials seized foreign currency from a passenger who has been identified as Samsudeen, 47, of Karaikudi.** He had concealed 23,000 Saudi Riyals which were equivalent to Rs 4.13 lakh.

He was caught by the officials when he was about to board a Dubai-bound Air India Express flight at around 12.10am on Saturday. He had concealed the currency notes in his hand luggage. Further investigations are on, airport authorities.

23/06/19 Times of India

**Colombo: Six Indians have been arrested by the Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly attempting to smuggle gold worth Rs 30 lakhs to India, a media report said on Sunday.**

**The accused were arrested at the Bandaranaike International Airport here and had concealed the gold biscuits in their luggages, pockets of the trousers they were wearing and also their rectum, the Daily Mirror reported.**

"All the accused are aged between 36 and 53. They were trying to smuggle the gold to Chennai and now have been arrested," Customs Spokesman Deputy Director Sunil Jayaratne was quoted as saying in the report.

23/06/19 PTI/Times of India

New Delhi: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Saturday nabbed two Chinese passengers here after they entered the terminal building of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on a fake ticket.

Two foreign passengers, Zhang Peng, and Zuo Wei were intercepted by the CISF duty personnel of IGI airport after they were found roaming suspiciously in the check-in area of IGI airport Terminal-3, said an official release.

On further inquiry, it was revealed that both the passengers, to see-off their female friend, had gained access into the terminal building after showing an edited itinerary of a China Southern flight bound for Guangzhou.

Both the accused have been handed over to the Delhi Police for further legal action.

22/06/19 ANI/Yahoo!

**In a serious lapse of security at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, seven people reached the boarding gate without having gone through the mandatory frisking.**

The incident took place on Monday night at around 9pm. **Staff members of Indigo airlines took note of four women passengers at a boarding gate whose boarding passes had not been stamped by security personnel.** The women who were bound for Pune were later taken to the domestic security holding area and underwent security check before they were allowed to board the flight.

**Shortly after this incident, a second group consisting of two men and one woman boarded a flight to Nagpur. It was only after they had boarded that the staff members of the airline noticed their passes had not been stamped.**

The Additional Director General (airport sector) has reportedly asked for a thorough investigation into the incident and has written to the KIA personnel asking for a response.

Dated June 18, the letter has sought a proper explanation about the incident.

According to reports, the security booth was not manned at the time the passengers entered the security check premises. As a result, these passengers went through without any frisking or checking taking place.

22/06/19 News Minute

**Mumbai: IndiGo has changed routes of its West Asia flights while Air India is looking at alternative routes to Europe and the US in view of tensions in the region, after an Iranian surface-to-air missile shot down an American drone.**

United Airlines of the US has indefinitely suspended its Newark-Mumbai flight amid safety concerns.

European airlines, too, have announced that their flights will avoid parts of Iranian airspace.

“A few routes are affected by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) advisory. Alternative routes and adequate special safety measures and instructions to pilots have been implemented. The situation is constantly being monitored and measures will be taken if necessary. All IndiGo flights are operating on schedule,” IndiGo said in a statement. IndiGo flights to Doha and Dubai briefly cross Iranian airspace.

An Air India executive, on the other hand, said: “We are monitoring the situation. As of now, we continue to operate flights over Iran as there is no directive from the Indian government.” The national carrier is, however, studying alternative routes in case instructions are received from the government, the executive added.

Currently, Air India and United operate non-stop flights between India and the US. United had earlier cancelled Newark-Delhi flights due to the closure of Pakistan airspace. Air India continues to operate

its Europe and US flights as scheduled, but is taking longer routes due to the closure. Air India's flights to the US are taking a halt at Vienna or Stockholm.

22/06/19 Aneesh Phadnis/Business Standard

**Islamabad: The Imran Khan government will continue the closure of its eastern airspace for flights from and to India until there is a commitment from New Delhi that it will not repeat Balakot-like air strikes inside the Pakistani territory.**

Islamabad had shut the airspace on February 26 this year following the Indian airstrikes inside Pakistan, on a Jaish-e-Mohammad terror camp in Balakot, in retaliation to a suicide bombing that killed 44 Indian police personnel in Pulwama Kashmir on February 14.

Well-placed sources told TOI that though the ban has been extended till June 28, Pakistan is likely to keep the airspace shut for India until there is some assurance from New Delhi that there would be no repetition of Balakot like a strike.

On March 27, Pakistan opened its airspace for all flights except for New Delhi. Since May 15 the ban on eastern airspace has been extended three times. Earlier this week, Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had said the government will again review the matter on June 28 but avoided giving further details on the issue.

Sources said Islamabad was looking for an assurance from New Delhi that Balakot-like incident will not be repeated in future. The ban will remain in place until the issue is raised and resolved at the top level between Islamabad and New Delhi, sources said.

Stating that the closure was due to security and diplomatic reasons, a top CAA official said on the condition of anonymity that it was very surprising that no back-channel diplomacy has been used in the last four months to lift the ban, given the huge losses to flag carriers of both the countries.

Last month, Pakistan's foreign office spokesperson, Dr Muhammad Faisal, had said: **"We want de-escalation. If de-escalation takes place we would not like to have a ban on our airspace for India for a single day but for the purpose India will have to talk to us. India should show rational behaviour and must understand that issues will not be resolved through confrontation."**

21/06/19 Omar Farooq Khan/Times of India

Mumbai: The aggressive fleet induction by Indian airlines to fill the gap created by Jet Airways' closure is expected to lead to lower yields, said ICRA in a note.

**"With the capacity expansion planned by the various airlines, the industry is likely to start facing pressure on yields and thus profitability,"** said Kinjal Shah, vice-president and co-head, corporate sector ratings, ICRA.

**Providing an example of the planned capacity expansion, Ms. Shah said while Indigo had announced a 30% increase in its capacity in FY2020 (approximately half of which will be for the domestic operations), SpiceJet had announced an increase of about 80%.As the airlines would continue to expand their fleet, resulting in a gradual correction in the demand-supply imbalance, and it would lead to further moderation in airfares, she said.**

Ms. Shah said the domestic passenger traffic growth is expected to continue to increase in the coming period.

During May 2019, all the airlines reported a month-on-month improvement in their passenger load factors (PLFs) while on a Y-o-Y basis, only Air India and GoAir had reported improvement in their PLFs.

21/06/19 The Hindu

**Bengaluru: Passengers on board Bengaluru-New Delhi Air India flight AI 503 faced a harrowing time after a drop in cabin pressure in the aircraft forced pilots to make an emergency landing in Hyderabad.**

The flight, which left Bengaluru at 5pm and landed in Hyderabad around 7:30pm, was grounded for further inspection. All 148 passengers on board were accommodated on a different flight, AI 127, which left Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, for New Delhi around 11pm.

Air India officials pointed out that the flight was diverted to Hyderabad as a 'precautionary measure', keeping the safety of passengers in mind.

"The pilots on board the aircraft noticed a slight drop in cabin pressure around 7:30pm. As soon as the pressure went down, they diverted the flight to Hyderabad as a precautionary measure and as per Standard Operating Procedure... The aircraft was then grounded and is currently at the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at the Hyderabad airport. All passengers were later accommodated in flight AI 127 which departed from the around 11 pm," an Air India spokesperson told TOI, while pointing out that it was a 'routine' landing.

22/06/19 Times of India

Mumbai: National carrier Air India recruits sportspersons under the sports quota.

**After Air India hit an acute financial crisis, the employees of the national carrier have put forth a demand saying that sports section should be restricted till the company is out of its crisis as the sports section incurs expenditure running into crores which is a burden on the company.**

The employees said that given the financial crisis of Air India, the company should work judiciously; especially when essential facilities given to the staff are being stopped or curtailed.

The letter comes in the wake of the RTI revelations which have yet again started a heated debate if Air India is justified in these appointments and spending when it is going through a financial crisis. RTI reply by Air India Sports Promotional Board on August 8, 2018, reveals that there are a total 203 sportspersons employed with Air India from various games like hockey, cricket, football, kabaddi, badminton, chess, shooting, tennis, carom, judo, golf and swimming.

Air India employees say that they have, on numerous occasions, raised objections to this practice. They allege that the sports department in Air India has become an avenue for promotions.

"There are many sports persons who are indulging in private business. They take leave even for events. A kabaddi player takes leave for KPL. They even coach private teams at Air India's expense. They take sports leave at the drop of a hat for personal events. Even for cultural activities they don't report to work," an employee said on condition of anonymity.

India Today TV is now in the possession of a **letter written by the President of Federation of All India Service Engineers Association (AISEA) and Air India Employees Guild (AIEG) to the Secretary Civil Aviation and CMD Air India.**

**The letter complains on how the national carrier is spending on sportsmen and cultural activities despite huge losses to the company.**

22/06/19 Pankaj Upadhyay/India Today

**Kozhikode: The Ministry of Civil Aviation will consider a proposal to divert a few flights to Calicut and Kannur airports following the partial closure of Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) for four months from November.**

Flight operations will be regulated at the Kochi airport from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from November 20 to March 28, 2020 for the mandatory runway re-carpeting. The partial closure of the airport will not

affect international traffic as a majority of flights are operated from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. But around 35 domestic services will have to be re-scheduled, it is learnt.

For the record, the Calicut airport had proved its prowess when the Kochi airport was shut down for a fortnight owing to floods in August last year. It handled around 180 additional movements, both in international and domestic sectors, apart from the unscheduled rescue flights.

For the Kannur airport, which was commissioned in December last year, business is yet to pick up.

Many sense sluggish footfalls despite poaching passengers from Calicut and Mangaluru airports.

Following the flooding of the Kochi airport last year, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had rescheduled domestic flights from Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Mangaluru, and Coimbatore.

Meanwhile, Saudia will resume Haj flights with wide-bodied aircraft from the Calicut Airport from July 7. Air India will operate its jumbo flights to West Asia, while Emirates is awaiting approval from the Director General of Civil Aviation for operation of wide-bodied aircraft soon, officials said.

**At present, Indigo, Spicejet, and flydubai are operating international services at maximum occupancy rates.**

Given that the partial closure of the Kochi airport will affect daytime flights, CIAL does not want to lose revenue during the said period. Consequently, the company has requested airline companies to re-schedule their timings.

22/06/19 The Hindu

**India's Civil Aviation Regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has permitted two Bangalore Based Startups, SkyLark Drones and Throttle Aerospace Systems to manufacture drones under the New Digital Sky Policy.**

The government recently came up with Digital Sky Policy (December 2018) as a single-window platform for drone companies to take permissions and get quick approvals for flight operations, registration and management. This step is expected to benefit the services of enterprises running large fleets of drones for air surveys and food-delivery.

**For drone manufacturers, DGCA has put out the requirements relating to software identification of drones, the NPNT system, flight logs, and other criteria. However, the regulator is facing a challenge with creating a system to check the hardware and software capabilities of drones to certify them as airworthy.**

**While drones have emerged as the next phase of technology, safety and privacy issues have encouraged the government to regulate their use.**

**The two startups- SkyLark Drones and Throttle Aerospace Systems, have the first-ever certification by the DGCA. The operators have to get digital permission from the DGCA, and the drones will, after that, be allowed to take off.**

21/06/19 Logical Indian

By application of the standards of a modern airport and the associated facilities for the passengers, Jammu Airport is lagging far behind looking to the importance of the winter capital city in more than one forms right from the angle of connectivity between its regions and with rest of the country as also it being a prominent tourist spot of general, religious and adventurous categories. Some overall improvement additions and alterations have been made but they cannot be called as sufficient. The number of flights between Jammu and other cities, both exclusive and connected, have increased over the years numbering more than thirty on daily basis. It has been long felt that for landing and taking off of big aircraft, usually airbuses and of B-321 category etc, the runway is not adequate in length being only of 2042 metres.

Not that the authorities concerned were not seized of the matter but the project to have the runway of the standard size of 2438 x 45 metre faced hiccups and was held up due to environmental clearance. The project needs more land for the purpose, nearly 17 acres, which is learnt to be acquired from the Indian Air Force. However, it is heartening to note that Airports Authority of India (AAI) has succeeded in getting the environment clearance from the Expert Appraisal Committee of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest.

22/06/19 Daily Excelsior

**Tiruchirapalli: A 31-year-old passenger on Air Asia flight from Kuala Lumpur was found dead when the aircraft landed at the Tiruchirapalli international airport on Friday night.**

Ramachandran, hailing from Ramanathapuram district was found motionless on his seat, when the co-passengers began disembarking after the flight landed at the airport at 1000 PM, sources in the airport said.

The flight crew sought the help of airport medical team, which examined and declared him dead.

22/06/19 UNI

**Panaji: The high court of Bombay at Goa has allowed the defence ministry two weeks to file an affidavit on a petition filed by a local seeking direction to restrain the authorities from carrying out further development on the land requisitioned by the central government for expansion and improvement of Dabolim airport.**

Petitioner Andre Pereira has alleged that the central government invoked the provision of the Defence of India Act, 1962, to requisition the community land used for agricultural purpose for improvement and expansion of the existing civilian Dabolim airport.

The Central government failed to release the land as per law and now it continues to be in occupation of the government authority, Pereira said. He has filed the plea seeking direction to restrain the ministry, the flag officer commanding, INS Gomantak and Airport Authority of India from carrying out further development in the requisitioned land.

During the hearing, the division bench comprising Justice S C Gupte and Justice Prithviraj K Chavan, while viewing the delay in filing the affidavit, also directed the two respondents to pay an amount of Rs 10,000 to the petitioner towards the cost of the adjournment.

22/06/19 Times of India

**Azerbaijan Airlines is all set to connect New Delhi and Baku.** An Eastern country with a Western outlook, Baku is known as the "Pearl of the Caucasus". Combining history, culture and modernity, the vibrant city offers a safe and attractive setting along the Caspian Sea. From outdoor activities, phenomenal shopping experiences, luxury hotels, and beautiful venues and locations for weddings and honeymoons, Azerbaijan is a perfect destination for couples, families, and friends.

The new flight from the Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) will fly every Tuesday and Friday starting from June 25, arriving in Baku via Terminal 1 of the Heydar Aliyev International Airport.

Azerbaijan is one of the 41 countries in the world allowing Indians to receive a visa on arrival with a simplified electronic visa procedure. Azerbaijan's exquisite natural beauty, fascinating history, opulent spa experiences, and delicious food and lively entertainment are just some of the reasons to consider the country for your summer holiday.

21/06/19 T3

Chennai: **The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has begun a study to curb the menace of bird hits at Chennai airport.** A bird strike — an incident where a bird hits an aircraft either during landing or take-off — can be a big nuisance, as it can cause an aircraft to have an aborted take-off or even damage an aircraft, among other issues.

**Officials of the AAI said they had recently awarded the contract to a four-member team headed by Krishnamurthy Venkatraman, former director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.**

**In the study, that will go on for about two years, experts will study the types of birds in the neighbouring areas of Chennai airport, the pattern of bird strikes in the past, the reasons why they are attracted to the airport and how it can be reduced.**

Mr. Venkatraman, who has already done such studies at airports in Kolkata and Andaman, said: **“We plan to create several small pits and traps in the airport with worms and small reptiles to feed the birds and then catch them. The bird hits happen before 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m and can occur at an altitude of 500-2,000 m. We will carry out an elaborate study to find every minute detail and then propose solutions for the same.”** On many occasions, kites come into the path of flights at the Chennai airport, he added.

22/06/19 Sunitha Sekar/The Hindu

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the state-of-the-art Central Air Traffic Flow Management system (C-ATFM) in New Delhi on Saturday.

**In India, C-ATFM system came with an estimated cost of Rs. 107 Crore and has been already been implemented at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata airports.**

**With the growing air traffic flow in India, which is likely to expand in the near future, the requirement of ATFM or Air Traffic Flow Management has become the need of the hour.**

Hardeep Singh Puri, Civil Aviation Minister said, "I am glad that this state-of-the-art technology/facility is now operational and I think it will serve the needs of India's civil aviation, but more than that it will also help to ensure highest standards of safety, that is most crucial".

Helping to deliver optimum air traffic to airports with least average delay, this planning tool enables improved management of demand and capacity.

**In 2017, India became the seventh country in the world after USA, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Brazil and Japan to implement an advanced state-of-the-art Central ATFM system.**

22/06/19 ANI/Business Standard

Mumbai: **GVK group-backed Mumbai International Airport (MIAL) has postponed plans for its Rs 2,000-crore bond offering and also deferred refinancing of some of its loans. According to India Ratings (Ind-Ra), MIAL has deferred its bond issue owing to unfavourable market conditions.**

Ind-Ra has downgraded the rating assigned to term loans from 'AA-' to 'A+'. Officials with bond arrangers said the bond market has been volatile. It is a tad unfriendly on credit issuance (bonds and loans). People have apprehensions and there is no clarity on how the environment is likely to be in the coming months.

Many players in the infrastructure sector are over leveraged. There is difficulty in terms of getting investors' conviction in the environment where a lot of companies have not been able to meet their obligations.

The market is unfavourable so far as credit is concerned. This has impacted plans for investment grade companies also, they added. The company is in the infrastructure space. Ind-Ra said MIAL had

planned to refinance a portion of the loan to meet cash requirements for both capex and Navi Mumbai International Airport equity. This plan, too, has been deferred, leading to compressed liquidity and weakening of forward-looking coverage ratios.

Earlier this week, the rating agency had cut the rating for MIAL's term loans over erosion in built-up liquidity caused by factors like delays in real estate monetisation. The rating action also reflected higher-than-estimated capital expenditure and higher-than-projected equity injection in NMIAL.

MIAL is the promoter of the upcoming New Mumbai International Airport.

21/06/19 Abhijit Lele/Business Standard

**New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has offered to provide an air ambulance and a team of medical experts to bring back fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi from Antigua and provide him with all necessary treatment in India.**

**In a counter affidavit submitted before the high court, ED has termed as "a facade" an affidavit submitted earlier this week by Choksi in which he claimed that he is unable to return to India due to persistent health problems.**

"The medical reasons and conditions appear to be facades being erected merely to mislead the court in an obvious attempt to delay the lawful proceedings. We are ready to provide an expert medical team along with an AIR ambulance to bring him from Antigua to India under medical supervision," the ED stated in its counter affidavit.

**The central agency further stated that Choksi has never cooperated in the investigation into the Rs 13,000 crore PNB scam.**

22/06/19 ANI/Times of India

Two flights from Bengaluru to Belagavi have commenced under the Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAAN) or the Regional Air Connectivity scheme.

**The daily flights between Bengaluru and Belagavi has become operational** under the scheme. Flight SG 1027 operated by SpiceJet will leave Bengaluru at 10.45 am and arrive at Belagavi at 12.05 pm. The fares start from Rs 2,688. Similarly another flight SG 3741 will operate five days a week barring Wednesdays and depart at 4.45 pm from Bengaluru and arrive at Belagavi at 6.05 pm.

The airline will deploy the **90 seater Q400 Bombardier and also the 78 seater aircraft of the same variant**. With the commencement of the Bengaluru-Belagavi flights, three new flights have been added from KIA and all are under the UDAAN scheme.

Earlier this month, on June 7 Air India's subsidiary, **Alliance Air, started a flight service between Bengaluru and Mysuru**. The Civil Aviation Ministry in January had chosen four airports in the state- Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru and Kalaburgi have been chosen to operate flights under UADAN 3.0.

**From Bengaluru the routes which have chosen are Kalburgi, Agra, Thanjavur, Jamnagar, Gwalior and Mysuru.**

22/06/19 Bangalore Mirror

**SpiceXpress, the dedicated cargo airline of the Indian carrier SpiceJet is planning to introduce freighters from Mumbai to Dubai, effective August 1, 2019. The company will be taking delivery of three more freighters within a couple of months, making the overall freighters to five. By 2021, it has plans to add 20 freighters to its fleet which will consist of 777, 767 and 747.**

In an event held at Mumbai in association with the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL),



Sanjiv Gupta, CEO-Cargo, SpiceJet, stated, “SpiceXpress and MIAL’s alliance will benefit in creating efficient infrastructure for time and temperature controlled cargo. We are here to establish a hub for us for quick clearance of exim cargo and seamless ground handling.” In the next two months, the airline will launch a cargo app, roll out radio frequency identification (RFID) and will add 300 trucks through outsourcing to its existing 200.

MIAL cargo terminal has an annual capacity of 75,000 MT for export perishable cargo terminal, 1,50,000 MT capacity with 32 ULD storage positions in new agro terminal built in 2019, and 50,000 MT in export and import cold storage, among other facilities. The company has registered an exim growth of 1,95,666 MT in FY19 for both perishable and pharma.

Manjiv Singh, advisor to the chairman, SpiceJet, said, **“From Mumbai, our focus is on pharma, valuables, perishables and courier loads. The idea is not for us to just take it to Dubai, but we might have interline agreements to carry it onwards to Africa, Europe, and the Americas.”**

21/06/19 STAT Times

**Greater Noida: The proposed Jewar international airport is a project the UP government is eager to showcase as a symbol of the state’s economic growth. So, during his visit to Noida last week (June 14), chief minister Yogi Adityanath asked officials to explore expanding the number of runways planned at the airport to eight.**

The number of runways originally planned was four, for which PricewaterhouseCoopers carried out a survey, and the government had later sought another feasibility study to increase the number of runways to six. Delhi’s IGI airport currently has three runways.

In any case, Jewar will start operating with two runways in the first phase, for which the land acquisition process has just begun. Building the additional runways is a component of the subsequent phases, which will start after Phase 1 has been commissioned.

“Jewar airport will begin with two runways in the first phase. The civil aviation ministry had written for an expansion of four to six runways for which we had issued a letter to PwC on May 29 to conduct a feasibility report. In the meantime, the CM, who was in town on June 14 for a review meeting, directed that we look into the airport expansion to have eight terminals,” explained Shailendra Bhatia, additional CEO of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, which is piloting the airport project.

21/06/19 Meenakshi Sinha/Times of India

Belagavi: The much-awaited flight between Belagavi and Mumbai was finally launched by SpiceJet on Thursday under the Centre-sponsored UDAN scheme. For many industrialists and businessmen, air connectivity between the two cities is essential as they largely depend on Mumbai to run their units. On the first day of its operation, the flight received a good response with 55 passengers onboard the 92-seater aircraft. According to official sources, a regular flight to Mumbai has been introduced due to high demand.

In the last few weeks, flights under UDAN were introduced from Belagavi to Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai and Hyderabad, besides other flights between Belagavi and Bengaluru. UDAN will connect Belagavi to at least 13 destinations in the first phase.

Belagavi MLA Abhay Patil, who handed over boarding passes to the passengers, said efforts are on to have a Boeing service between Belagavi and Mumbai. According to him, another flight between

Belagavi and New Delhi is likely to be introduced soon.

Air connectivity from Belagavi to Mumbai will give a big boost to local industries and businesses, he said. A large section of people from north Indian states of Rajasthan and Gujarat, who have been staying in Belagavi, are also expected to benefit from the UDAN flights.

[21/06/19 Naushad Bijapur/New Indian Express](#)

**New Delhi: Nitin Singla and his wife reached Doha airport on Monday night almost four hours before their Qatar Airways QA flight QR 570 to Delhi was to depart. But the couple and four other passengers - all holding confirmed tickets for this flight - were denied boarding.** "...A QA executive told us... the flight was overbooked. According to the executive, all flights typically book 10% extra to hedge against the possibility of some passengers not showing up. Unfortunately for us everyone turned up for our flight," Singla said in a Facebook post. They finally took a Tuesday evening QA flight to Delhi.

The airline says there is a massive shortfall in capacity on India-Qatar route that has been compounded after Jet Airways, which had 28 weekly flights on this sector, shut down. While there may be a demand-supply mismatch, that does not justify such overbooking of existing flights that it leads to denied boarding of passengers holding confirmed tickets. The airline had last month sought temporary additional flying rights to India for this summer to tide over the gap. But that request has not been accepted so far.

[21/06/19 Times of India](#)

**Thiruvananthapuram: The Indian students, who were stranded at Sheremetyevo Moscow International Airport, will fly home on Friday (June 21). Around 25 Indian passengers, including five Keralites, got trapped at the Moscow Airport in Russia after they reported late for a flight.**

The Central government has started efforts to bring back the Indians trapped in Moscow Airport. As per reports, the passengers were not allowed to enter the Aeroflot flight, though they had completed the check-in procedures. The luggage of the passengers were taken into the flight. The passengers did not get food and water since morning, the reports said.

One of the students, who is a Keralite, called up Union minister V Muraleedharan, who promptly intervened in the issue and talked to officials with the Indian Embassy in Moscow. Later, officers from the Indian Embassy reached Moscow Airport and rescued the Indians.

Former Kerala BJP president V Muraleedharan was sworn in as a minister of state in the second Narendra Modi government on May 30.

[21/06/19 MyNation](#)

**New Delhi: Unauthorised drones humming over Indian airports may soon be tracked, stopped and even landed by enhanced mitigation systems.**

**The Ministry of Civil Aviation has roped in private companies from five countries, including Germany and Russia, to conduct field trials to demonstrate counter-drone technology that can halt unmanned aerial objects near airports. IITs have also been roped in for the project.**

**Once trials are over, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will submit a report to the civil aviation ministry following which the procurement process will start, ThePrint has learned.**

"The initiative is in compliance with the drone regulation policy put out by the Ministry of Civil Aviation last year. The idea is to counter drones or other unmanned aerial flying objects which can

prove to be a security threat and disrupt flight operations," said a source from the ministry, who did not wish to be named.

The DGCA had, in December 2018, issued a policy to permit use of remotely-piloted or unmanned aerial vehicles only for civilian commercial and personal use under stipulated conditions.

The demand for drones has increased in the past few years with interest in aerial photography and other commercial applications.

But the challenge still remains on ways to monitor these vehicles in sensitive areas since there is no way to communicate with or identify their operators.

21/06/19 ANanya Bhardwaj/The Print

**Visakhapatnam: The customs officers of the Airport Intelligence Unit (AIU) detained four passengers travelling from Dubai and Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam at the city airport on Thursday and seized 1295.83 grams of gold and two gold chains weighing 50.46 gms.**

**The estimated market value of the seized gold is around ₹45.06 lakh,** the officials said.

Acting on a tip-off, the officials questioned the passengers landed in the city by Air India flight (AI-952). They first claimed that they were not carrying any gold. During interrogation, three of the four passengers revealed that they had concealed the gold in their rectum. "One passenger who travelled from Dubai allegedly handed over the gold to three domestic passengers who boarded the flight in Hyderabad," Customs Principal Commissioner D.K. Srinivas said.

This was the third such case to be reported from the airport in the recent past. The officials seized 554.8 gms of gold from two passengers in May this year.

21/06/19 The Hindu

**Mumbai: Onboard flight run-ins between Air India pilots and flight pursers seem to be the order of the day. Earlier this month, an altercation broke out between a commander and a flight purser when the former did not get the tea he had ordered.**

The incident took place on board Air India Dubai-Chennai flight AI-906 on June 2. "The passengers had boarded and cabin crew were busy with pre-departure procedures when the commander called the flight purser and asked for a cup of tea to be served before the flight was to depart," said a source. "However, there was no hot water in the galley that day and so the purser couldn't brew the beverage. He went to inform the commander but the matter ended in an ugly manner with an altercation between the commander and the purser," the source added.

**"The captain physically pushed the purser in full view of passengers on board," the source added.**

**The flight departed around 30 minutes late** around 12am. A comment from Air India was awaited at the time of going to press.

20/06/19 Manju V/Times of India

**New Delhi: Air India on Wednesday asked cabin crew and pilots to finalise meal scheduling, basically what the latter want and when, before operating flights and limit visits by the former to cockpit during flight for this reason.** While restricting pilots from getting outside food, say a home-cooked meal, for consumption inflight is not possible, **AI is contemplating asking them not to seek crew help in any way like heating up the meal for consuming the same.** These moves come after a **spat between a pilot and flight purser reportedly on the issue of washing a tiffin box that the captain had got from home when he finished his meal.**

"Cabin crew is for the comfort and safety of passengers. We have asked for meal scheduling to be

decided before flight so that accordingly the same can be served to pilots inflight. Also the number of visits by cabin crew to cockpits should be as per laid down norms and not more than that. Calling crew members time and again to cockpit for some reason or the other comes in way of passenger service," said a senior official.

A senior cabin crew member said: "AI pilots often bring home tiffin boxes on board and ask crew to heat and serve that meal. There are often requests from pilots like asking crew to chop onion, roast almonds and cashews in honey and make cheese toasts and fruit salad. All this must stop as cabin crew are on board for passenger service and safety and are not personal cooks of pilots. On the other hand, pilots of private Indian airlines do not do this. Why so much drama in AI?"

20/06/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

**Giving permission to Indian carriers to fly abroad on routes that Jet Airways flew before it temporarily shut operations on April 17 has run into trouble with IndiGo expressing "dissatisfaction" with the allocations. The Delhi-based low-cost airline has said that proper procedures were not followed in allocating Jet's routes to the other airlines.**

**Sources said that IndiGo has written to the Ministry of Civil Aviation saying that the allocations have been done in an arbitrary manner.**

While many in the industry say that the allocation of Jet's international flying rights to other airlines has been done on the basis of how many flights an airline operates in the domestic skies and how many more aircraft it is planning to induct, IndiGo has contested this point. The government is clear that international flying rights for Indian carriers should not be at the cost of domestic air connectivity.

Meanwhile, Vistara will start its international operations in September-October. The airline has been given permission to operate 28 weekly flights, including a daily service from India to Bangkok and Dubai and 14 services a week from India to Singapore. IndiGo has been allowed to operate 84 additional international flights a week and is likely to launch additional flights linking Bangkok, Dubai, Doha, Dhaka and Kuwait.

20/06/19 Ashwini Phadnis/Business Line

**The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has admitted the insolvency plea by State Bank of India against Jet Airways on Thursday. The bankruptcy tribunal said the matter was of "national importance" and ordered a resolution as per the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act within three months.**

The SBI had filed an insolvency petition against Jet Airways before the Mumbai bench of NCLT on Tuesday earlier this week. The bank had also recommended Ashish Chhawchharia of Grant Thornton as Interim Resolution Professional (IRP).

Admitting the plea against Jet Airways, the NCLT asked the IRP take control of the carrier's assets. The tribunal also asked the IRP to submit a status report on the resolution process every fortnight.

**The first status report is to be submitted on July 5, 2019.**

Jet Airways had stopped operations in April earlier this year after lenders refused funds required to keep the airline afloat. The banks have been trying to salvage the company ever since.

The SBI-led consortium of banks that had extended loans to Jet Airways agreed to file insolvency proceedings against the airline after the bank-led resolution process failed to get any results. The consortium had been in control of the company's board since March after the exit of founder Naresh Goyal.

20/06/19 Business Today

New Delhi: **Airbus Thursday said it has signed an MoU with Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) in Paris for collaboration in introducing two new categories of its helicopters - H145 and H225 - in the latter's fleet sometime in the future.**

**The Airbus also said according to the MoU, signed on Wednesday evening, it would provide "predictive and scheduled maintenance" for the repair, maintenance and overhaul of PHL's existing fleet of AS365N Dauphin helicopters.**

Government-owned PHL is the largest customer in the world for Airbus Dauphin helicopters. It currently has 37 Dauphin units deployed for offshore oil and gas operations, VIP transportation and other utility duties.

"The MoU stipulates that Airbus Helicopters will support PHL in growing its onshore, offshore and inland travel markets by introducing the best-in-class H145 and H225 rotorcrafts (helicopters) into their fleet," Airbus said Thursday.

The H145 and H225 are multi-role helicopters, ideal for supporting PHL's wide range of missions across the country, Airbus said.

20/06/19 Times of India

**The Tata group is unlikely to bid for Air India due to legacy issues with the national carrier, which could cause legal hurdles in the acquisition process going forward,** reported Business Standard, citing sources.

**The group will instead grow and invest in its two joint venture airlines, Vistara and AirAsia India, said the sources mentioned in the report, adding that the fleet size could go up to 200 aircraft in the next few years.**

"The capital allocation for Vistara is already cleared, and the idea is to gain market share steadily," one of the sources was quoted as saying in the report. "With both airlines doing well, the group doesn't need a third," the source added.

**The government is preparing a fresh proposal for the national carrier's sale and is likely to relax bidding norms on possible reasons of failing to attract bidders for the national carrier.**

20/06/19 CNBC TV18

Kozhikode: **Air India has sought the permission of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to operate Boeing 747-400, a wide-bodied jet airliner, at the Calicut International Airport even as the national flag carrier is awaiting a final approval from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to recommence operations of aircraft under Code E.**

Officials sources said that Air India wanted to operate the jumbo jet in the Calicut- Jeddah sector. Its has also proposed that the direct flight be allowed to arrive in the morning and depart only in the evening. Further, it has sought a 12-hour parking at the airport.

The proposal on parking, an AAI source said, was delaying the DGCA decision to issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to Air India to resume the operation of wide-bodied aircraft. Air India had conducted a safety assessment and submitted a report in August. It had also rectified all anomalies pertaining to compatibility study in December.

Calicut Airport Director K. Srinivasa Rao told The Hindu on Wednesday that providing 12-hour parking throughout the day for Air India was impossible. The AAI had asked the airline authorities to revise the timings with arrival at 1 p.m. and departure by evening.

**He also said that Air India had not been given approval to operate the Haj flights from the Calicut**

**airport. Only Saudia (Saudi Arabian Airlines), which had already secured an NOC in December to operate wide-bodied aircraft, would conduct the Haj service from the Calicut airport. It will operate 35 flights from July 7 to August 20.**

19/06/19 The Hindu

**Top airlines of the country, including Air India, IndiGo, and Vistara, have announced new routes and several discount offers to fill the void created by the beleaguered Jet Airways in April.** Here are key announcements made by Air India, Vistara and IndiGo.

**Air India**

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said Air India will begin services on Mumbai-Patna-Amritsar and Mumbai-Nairobi routes from September 27. The minister added the national carrier will also launch its operation on Delhi-Chennai-Bali route from October 27. "I am delighted to announce that on the occasion of World Tourism Day on 27th Sept 2019, Air India will begin a direct Mumbai-Nairobi flight (4 days a week) to improve air connectivity between India & Kenya," he tweeted. Last Friday, he had announced a new flight on Amritsar-Delhi-Toronto route from September 27.

**Vistara**

The Vistara airline has announced 'The Grand Vistara Monsoon Sale' to celebrate the addition of 62 new flights. As per the announcement, the airline is offering ticket fares starting from 1,299 for these new routes. With this, the airline claims to have increased its network by 50 per cent, with 170 flights a day across 24 destinations. Vistara has started these new flights from Mumbai to 10 cities, adding Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Chennai and Varanasi. The airline has also announced 48-hour 'The Grand Vistara Monsoon Sale' (the sale ends on June 19 midnight) with all-in-fares starting at Rs 1,299 for economy class; Rs 1,999 for premium economy; and Rs 4,999 for business class. For more information, check Air Vistara's official website.

**IndiGo**

IndiGo has announced the launch of a Delhi-Chengdu flight from September 15. Chengdu will be IndiGo's 19th international destination once it officially enters the China market. "This will be the first non-stop service between Chengdu and India," said IndiGo in a statement. Earlier this month, the airline announced the addition of international flights on Mumbai to Dammam in Saudi Arabia and Chennai to Kuala Lumpur routes. The flights between Mumbai and Damman will be operational from July 5, while the flights between Chennai and Kuala Lumpur will start from July 15.

19/06/19 Business Today

**Qatar Airways has once again emerged as the world's best airline in the Skytrax World Airline Awards.** On Tuesday, airline leaders and top airline management from across the globe attended the 2019 World Airline Awards held at Paris Air Show to receive their accolades voted for by customers. Skytrax said in a release, "Qatar Airways scooped the top award being named the World's Best Airline, also winning awards for the World's Best Business Class, the World's Best Business Class Seat and the Best Airline in the Middle East."

**India's IndiGo has been awarded as the best low-cost airline in Central Asia/India.**

In the top10 list, Qatar Airways is followed by Singapore Airlines, which has also won top accolade as the World's Best Cabin Crew. Singapore Airline has been honoured with awards for the World's Best First Class, Best Airline in Asia and the World's Best First Class Seat.

Excited over the award, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: "We are thrilled to be globally recognised by our customers by winning these four prestigious awards. Becoming the first airline to be named as 'Airline of the Year' for the fifth time is a landmark achievement and,

combined with three other major Skytrax awards, it is testament to the tireless efforts of the entire Qatar Airways team.”

Top 10 airlines of the world:

1. Qatar Airways
2. Singapore Airlines
3. ANA All Nippon Airways
4. Cathay Pacific
5. Emirates
6. EVA Air
7. Hainan Airlines
8. Qantas Airways
9. Lufthansa
10. Thai Airways

20/06/19 ZeeBiz

Bengaluru/Paris/Singapore: **When Karan Mehrotra booked a flight from Delhi to Guwahati, he did not go to a travel agent or an airline website.**

**Instead, he turned to Amazon, the world’s biggest online retailer which now sells tickets to Indian customers and offers them an easy payment process and cash-back offers.**

“It was just a lot simpler,” Mehrotra said of booking a flight through Amazon. “They are integrating most of my lifestyle needs under a single platform.”

**Airlines are concerned that Amazon’s quiet launch of domestic plane ticket sales in India last month is only the start of a global trend and the beginning of a battle for control of valuable traveler data.**

For years, airlines have found it difficult to compete with online travel agencies like Expedia Group Inc. and corporate travel agents that control a large number of customers, Travelport Chief Executive Gordon Wilson said.

“They have nothing left if Google is in that position, or Amazon,” he said at a CAPA Center for Aviation conference this month. “I think the airlines are being very watchful over this.”

Some carriers, like AirAsia and Easyjet are building digital travel businesses to help boost profits and keep passengers loyal beyond flying.

AirAsia’s website and app offers an all-in-one travel and lifestyle marketplace selling flights, hotels, activities and retail products. It has launched a digital wallet business called BigPay.

“The volume that we generate from our ticket sales is huge — bigger than a lot of other travel agents would sell. So we might as well do it ourselves, and probably sell a lot more,” AirAsia Executive Chairman Kamarudin Meranun told Reuters at the Paris Airshow.

Europe’s easyJet is signing direct booking contracts with hotels to give it more flexibility in pricing packaged holidays on its website. The easyJet Holidays product should be available for summer 2020 bookings by the end of the year, the airline said in a results presentation last month.

But companies like Amazon and Alphabet’s Google have the upper hand because their broader knowledge of purchasing habits might give them an edge over airlines in presenting attractive offers, travel industry executives said.

20/06/19 Reuters/Arab News

**Vistara flight UK-926 on Tuesday night had a harrowing experience, with the flight delayed by more than three hours.** The flight was scheduled to depart Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport in Ahmedabad at 9.30pm.

**Heavy rain in the city prevented the aircraft meant to operate the flight from landing, thus delaying the departure.**

Passengers had not been informed of the delay in advance and thus ended up waiting four hours at the airport. "When I got a cab to the airport, it was raining heavily and it was a mad rush getting there through heavy traffic and waterlogged roads. When I got there, I learned that the flight was delayed," said Rohit Panchal, a passenger on the flight.

"Till 10.30pm I waited as the aircraft had not arrived. After that, the airline informed passengers that the incoming flight has been delayed due to bad weather. I got home after 3am," Panchal added.

20/06/19 Times of India

**Pune: Flyers from the city will get convenient access to destinations in the US, courtesy a codeshare agreement between Vistara and United Airlines.**

"The agreement enables United Airlines to codeshare on Vistara-operated Indian domestic flights and allows customers of both carriers to earn and redeem frequent flier miles. As per the agreement, United Airlines will add its 'UA' designator code to more than 20 Vistara-operated flights, opening up more than 20 destinations to United customers, including but not limited to Hyderabad, Kolkata and Ahmedabad. Ticket sales by the agreement will begin later this year," an airline spokesperson said.

A source said both the airlines had filed for codeshare for more than 20 destinations with Pune expected to be one of them. "Both the airlines together have filed for codeshare to many destinations from Vistara's network. However, the same is pending for approval with the government and the DGCA," the source pointed out.

20/06/19 Joy Sengupta/Times of India

**Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was on Wednesday appointed as India's representative in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a United Nations body.**

Juneja, a 1992 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre), is at present the Joint Secretary in Ministry of Civil Aviation.

She has been appointed to the post of Representative of India in the ICAO, Montreal, Canada, for a period of three years, an order issued by personnel Ministry said.

Juneja will replace senior IAS officer Alok Shekhar who was named for the post in October 2015.

The council, which is composed of 36 states, is **elected for a three-year term.**

19/06/19 CNBC TV18

**Kochi: The Customs air intelligence unit on Tuesday recorded the arrest of Alappuzha native Sreelakshmi Jayanti (27), a carrier for a gold smuggling racket, who reportedly dumped 2.5kg of gold in a women's lavatory at the Cochin international airport after getting nervous during a smuggling bid about three months ago.**

She was later let off on conditional bail after she promised to cooperate with the probe. "She told us that she brought the gold on her person from Dubai. After dumping the gold in the lavatory next to the arrival gate, she went to Alappuzha and then returned to Dubai. She came back following a demand from the department. Now, we are trying to track down other links in the racket," said customs commissioner Sumit Kumar.

20/06/19 Times of India



New Delhi: **Air India has de-rostered the Captain and a crew member of the Bengaluru-Delhi flight AI 772 for getting into a heated argument in public view on board the plane** on Monday.

The incident happened when the Captain allegedly asked the crew member to wash his tiffin box.

An Air India official confirmed the incident and said an investigation in this regard has already been launched. The airline has issued summons to the crew members for questioning.

The matter has been also been reported to the aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

[19/06/19 ANI/Economic Times](#)

Jet Airways crisis: Lenders consortium picks **Grant Thornton as resolution professional for cash-strapped airline Representational image**. "Grant Thornton will assist the RP in finding a prospective buyer for Jet Airways and recover the outstanding for the lenders," the report said, quoting a person in the know of the matter.

[19/06/19 First Post](#)

Fliers in India often face dilemma over choosing airlines while booking flights. While there are a number of functional airlines in India, travellers more than often remain apprehensive about the quality of services that they offer, including the on-time performances. **Skytrax has awarded airlines across the world based on the parameters pertaining to customer satisfaction. While IndiGo was awarded 'The Best Low-Cost Airline in Central Asia and India', Vistara received the 'Best Airline Staff in Central Asia and India' at the Skytrax World Airline Awards at the International Paris Air Show 2019. Vistara bagged the award for the second time in a row.**

The 'Best Airline Staff' award is given based on consistent service excellence across the entire spectrum of customer touch points. Customer satisfaction scoring matrices include the service efficiency of airline staff, friendliness and hospitality, overall quality consistency for both, language skills, the airport and on-board experience.

"Every single day, our effort is to delight our customers by making flying an experience one can always look forward to. We're happy to receive this esteemed award by Skytrax which reflects the trust of our customers and recognizes the dedication of all our customer-facing staff to consistently deliver an unparalleled flying experience to millions of travellers in India," Vistara Chief Executive Officer Leslie Thng said.

"It is an honor to receive this award for tenth year in a row. Right from the inception, we have been committed to delivering an affordable, on-time, courteous and hassle-free flying experience. This award reflects those values as it is a measure of the travelers' experience. I would like to dedicate this recognition to all the IndiGo employees who strive to deliver an exceptional, efficient and reliable service to our customers every day," IndiGo Chief Commercial Officer William Boulter.

**The Skytrax World's Best Airlines of 2019 award went to Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines and All Nippon Airways (ANA). Qatar Airways was named the World's Best Airline at the 2019 World Airline Awards followed by Singapore Airlines at 2nd and ANA of Japan in 3rd place.**

[19/06/19 Debjit Sinha/Financial Express](#)

New Delhi: **The Finance Ministry is preparing a fresh proposal for sale of Air India, incorporating issues like crude oil prices and exchange rate volatility**, flagged by EY last year on possible reasons of the government failing to attract bidders for the national carrier.

The ministry's proposal, to be placed before Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM), will

also include option of selling either 100 per cent or 76 per cent government stake in Air India.

**The AISAM, which is basically a Group of Ministers, have to be reconstituted as Arun Jaitley and Suresh Prabhu are no longer ministers in the new government.**

**They will be replaced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.** Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari is likely to continue in the panel when it is reconstituted.

The government last year invited bids to sell 76 per cent stake in Air India, along with transfer of management control. However, it did not attract any bidder. Following that transaction advisor EY prepared a report citing probable reasons that led to failure of the sale process.

The reasons cited include 24 per cent government stake and corresponding rights, high debt, volatile crude oil prices, fluctuations in exchange rate, changes in macro environment, profitability track record of bidders and restriction on bidding by individuals.

An official said that the EY report was discussed at the AISAM meeting in June last year following which it was decided that the Air India sale should be deferred.

19/06/19 PTI/Economic Times

**Chennai: Celebi Aviation plans to introduce Taxibots across Indian airports at an investment of about Euro 45 Million. The company, which recently deployed its offerings at Delhi International Airport, plans to introduce the technology at other key airports in the country. TaxiBots are used to tow narrow-bodied aircraft from the terminal gate to the take-off point, with the planes' engines turned off. The firm works in consortium with KSU Aviation, which has signed an exclusive sales deal with Israel Aerospace Industries.**

Celebi Aviation today announced its plans of introducing advanced taxiing solution – ‘Taxibots’, at key airports across the country. The semi-robotic Taxibots have been specially designed to ensure operational efficiency, in addition to reducing environmental damage, said the company.

Celebi has entered into a partnership with KSU Aviation, which signed an exclusive sales agreement with Israel Aerospace Industries & TLD to deploy these units across the country.

**The pilot-controlled semi-automatic Taxibots are designed to significantly reduce fuel consumption by 85 per cent and Foreign Object Damage (FOD) by 50 per cent, thereby ensuring safety and lesser congestion at the airports. Use of Taxibots will also bring down the emission of carbon dioxide and other noxious gases by 85 per cent, and check noise pollution at airports by 60 per cent, claims the company.**

**Celebi Aviation recently signed an agreement with Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), to provide commercially operational Taxibots for the next 10 years. Each of these units cost up to Euro 1.5 million.**

The company has invested around Euro 6.5 million into this business (in consortium with KSU Aviation). **The two Taxibots currently used at Delhi airport are responsible for towing narrow-bodied aircrafts from the terminal gate to the take-off point, with the aircrafts’ engines turned off. The company will bring in three more Taxibots units shortly, as a part of its agreement with DIAL.**

Delhi Airport is the first to initiate the deployment of Taxibots globally, said Murali Ramachandran, CEO-India, Celebi Aviation.

19/06/10 TE Narasimhan/Business Standard

A 19-year-old Chinese national was detained for questioning on Wednesday at the airport in Chennai after he was found allegedly possessing a fake air ticket, police said.

The man used the fake ticket to enter the airport to see off his Hong Kong-bound girlfriend in the morning and was nabbed by the CISF personnel who questioned him when he tried to exit, the police

said.

The foreigner reportedly told the personnel he had 'canceled' his trip but the officials checked his ticket and found it to be fake, they said.

[19/06/19 India TV](#)

**Mumbai: Customs officials last week arrested two persons, including the son of a Rajasthan-based senior official, in a case involving cannabis smuggling.**

Sources said Divyansh Gautam, a resident of Sanganer Bazaar in Jaipur, is the son of an official working in the Rajasthan education department. The second accused is Nityam Bhimani, a Vadodara resident.

The courier cell of the airport special commissionerate (APSC) unearthed the racket on May 19 after they found a courier containing 240gm cannabis. The drug used to be supplied across the country, including to students of a university in Gandhinagar, officials said.

On May 23, officials detained Devyani Joshi who had come to collect the parcel. She told officials that she had been sent by Hitesh Patel. Following his arrest, Patel, who had imported four consignments of the drug earlier, spilled the beans on Divyansh Gautam and one Abhishek.

Divyansh and Abhishek are said to have used bitcoins to place orders for cannabis on the dark net.

Divyansh, who arranged finances, has purportedly cut off ties with his family. Abhishek is on the run.

Divyansh led officials to Nityam Bhimani.

[19/06/19 S Ahmed Ali/Times of India](#)

**Chennai: Air Intelligence Unit sleuths from the Customs department foiled attempts to smuggle 1.35kg gold worth Rs 46 lakh at Chennai Airport and arrested one person.**

On Tuesday, Mahamad Hussain Shaik, 51, hailing from Kadappa, who had arrived from Riyadh via Bahrain by a Gulf Air flight, was intercepted by the officials on suspicion. **His baggage was checked, in which a fishing-line winder spooler was found. On further examination, four 10 tola gold bars with foreign markings and 28 gold cut bits were found. The total gold seized is worth 1 kg and valued at Rs 34 lakh. The passenger was arrested under Customs Act, 1962.**

In another case, Sheik Abdulla, 34, of Korukkpet, and Parthiban, 31, of Ramanathapuram, who had arrived from Colombo by Spicejet flight, were intercepted and a personal search resulted in **finding four bundles of rubbery spread concealed in rectum and one gold cut bit weighing 16.5 grams in pocket. On extraction, 334 grams of gold was recovered from rubbery spread. A total 351 grams gold worth Rs 12 lakh was seized.**

[19/06/19 New Indian Express](#)

**Bhopal: The state government is willing to reduce VAT on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) provided airlines come with a concrete proposal to connect new cities from Raja Bhoj Airport. Airlines have been demanding reduction in VAT on ATF from the existing 25%.**

The issue was discussed at a meeting of senior officials chaired by chief secretary SR Mohanty. The chief secretary assured that the tax reduction could be considered only if airlines also reciprocate by starting more operations from Bhopal. Presently, Air India, SpiceJet and IndiGo are operating from Bhopal.

In the meeting **is was decided to start cargo operations from state capital.** Mohanty is learnt to have asked Bhopal collector Tarun Kumar Pithode to identify about 50-acre land near the airport for

operating cargo services.

Commissioner, Bhopal division Kalpana Shrivastava said the chief secretary cargo services will start in next two months from Bhopal.

**High VAT on ATF at Bhopal has been an irritant for airlines operating from the city. ATF constitutes around 40% of overall cost of a flight and airlines have been requesting the state government to reduce VAT on an immediate basis.**

18/06/19 Ramendra Singh/Times of India

**Tata-Singapore Airlines joint venture Vistara on Monday announced the launch of 62 new flights to and from Mumbai and Delhi as part of its network expansion plans.**

With the addition of 62 new flights, the airline will now operate direct flights from Mumbai to 10 cities, adding Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Chennai and Varanasi to the six other cities it already flies to from Mumbai, namely Amritsar, Bengaluru, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad and Kolkata.

While frequencies on Mumbai-Goa, Delhi-Amritsar and Delhi-Guwahati routes are being scaled to two flights per day, the Mumbai-Kolkata, Mumbai-Hyderabad services will be operated three times a day, the airline said, adding that the services on Delhi-Kolkata route will be four times per day.

The airline also announced a 48-hour 'Grand Vistara Monsoon Sale' covering the entire network and all three classes of travel, with all-in fares starting at Rs.1,299 for Economy Class, Rs.1,999 for Premium Economy, and Rs. 4,999 for Business class.

The bookings for these flights will start from tomorrow, i.e., June 18 and will end on June 19, 2019 for for travel between July 3, 2019 and September 26, 2019.

17/06/19 CNBC TV18

**Airports are set to be the stage for one of India's largest infrastructure development and expansion initiatives.** This comes on the back of a dramatic rise in passenger traffic, which has been witnessing double-digit growths for record periods and is set to grow three-fold by 2037. Notably, a good part of the growth is being driven by tier-II cities. The causes of this upswing in traffic are manifold: India's fast-growing population, which is estimated to reach 1.7 billion by 2050, is projected to become the largest in the world. The United Nations estimates that over half of the total population in India will be living in urban areas by 2050.

Rising incomes mean that a larger share of the population has access to the aviation market. By 2036, India's per capita income is expected to increase five-fold compared to 2006 levels, and middle-class households are set to constitute 20% of all households.

The steep decline in airfares and an increase in the number of airlines have lowered the gap between air and rail fares.

**In the coming years, it is estimated that India may have around 190-200 operational airports – the top 31 cities may have two airports and New Delhi and Mumbai are expected to have three each. This would require a capital investment of around US\$40-50 billion. Many of these airports – greenfield or brownfield developments– will be done through private involvement in their development and/or operation and maintenance.**

18/06/19 Ashish Suman and Kartikeya GS/India Business Journal

The smile on the face of GE Aviation CEO David Joyce is hard to miss, especially at the Paris Air Show. The aircraft engine and parts supplier is on pace to book a record number of orders.

“We’re looking at \$35 Billion in new business, engines and services and I’m telling you that’s conservative,” Joyce told CNBC at the Paris Air Show. “If things go our way this week we could see ourselves going north of that by a reasonable number.”

**GE Aviation booked the largest engine and services deal ever when Indigo, a low cost carrier based in India, placed a \$20 Billion order for CFM International LEAP-1A engines to power 280 Airbus A320neo and A321neo airplanes. CFM International is the joint venture owned by GE Aviation and Safran, a major aviation company based in France.**

The deal is especially sweet for Joyce since Indigo is flipping its engine business from Pratt and Whitney, a United Technologies subsidiary, to CFM International. Indigo has a backlog of 430 aircraft orders, of which 150 will be powered by Pratt and Whitney engines, with the remainder carrying CFM LEAP engines.

Overall, aircraft orders at this year’s Paris Air Show are off to a slow start, with Boeing failing to record a single new order for one of its airplanes on the first day of the show.

Joyce is not worried about the quiet start to the show. He believes the airline business overall will remain robust. “If you look at the fundamentals, 5% demand growth, oil is stable, we’re adding a million three departures every year,” he said. “This really a positive show for us this week.”

18/06/19 Phil LeBeau/CNBC

**Greater Noida: Seven Indian companies have responded to the global bid document for Jewar airport that Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) floated on May 30. The bids will continue till October.**

The district administration also hopes to complete 80% of the land acquisition in the first phase by August 31. In the first phase, land is being acquired in six villages — Dayanatpur, Rohi, Kishorepur, Parohi, Ranehra and Banwariwas. So far, 30% of the land has been acquired at a cost of Rs 900 crore. District magistrate BN Singh said on Monday that 3,278 files pertaining to landowners have been cleared from these villages, with the maximum compensation amount being Rs 12 crore and the minimum Rs 5 lakh. The administration has also identified 50 hectares near Jewar-Banger along Aligarh road for relocating families whose land would be taken for the project. The plot is located 50-100m from the Yamuna Expressway.

“A total of 3,278 files has been cleared till June 17 from the six villages. This includes about 900 files that were cleared before I took over office on May 25,” said Rakesh Jayant, the Jewar tehsildar.

**Apart from Indian companies, government agencies of 36 countries can take part in the bidding process. The agency that would be selected would be responsible for building the airport.**

18/06/19 Meenakshi Sinha/Times of India

Much has been talked about the capacity in Indian aviation. First, it was all about overcapacity and post-suspension of Jet Airways on April 17, the conversation veered towards lack of capacity. In the melee for capacity addition, at the forefront was Mumbai – the most congested airport in the country.

**For years, Mumbai could release only limited slots for air traffic. With no room for growth, encroachments, intersecting runways and harsh monsoon – there is little that the airport operator could do to increase the capacity.** Along with Airports Authority of India (AAI), GVK, the operator of the **Mumbai airport**, reached peak levels of handling air traffic movements and became the **busiest single runway airport in the world, with more than 1,000 movements in a day.**

Against such a gloomy backdrop, it was obvious that airlines would clamour for slots at the airport the moment they were available after the collapse of Jet Airways. Data analysed by Network

Thoughts for the last 13 months shows that the departures have been back at a faster rate than anybody would have anticipated.

The domestic airlines from India together recorded 9,167 departures at Mumbai in May 2019, just 10 percent short of what they recorded a year ago – when Jet Airways was in operation and the airline had one-third of all departures at Mumbai. This shows the magnitude of how slots have been lapped up by airlines.

Last May, AirAsia India did not have any departures to Mumbai and Air Deccan operated two departures a day. While AirAsia India started Mumbai operations in January 2019, Air Deccan stopped its flights to Mumbai in September 2018.

Adjusted to daily levels, to factor in the different number of days per month, Mumbai saw 307 movements a day by domestic airlines between May 2018 and April 2019. The same number stood at 296 in May 2019 — a difference of 11 movements per day, indicating that the capacity is almost back to where it was last year.

18/06/19 Ameya Joshi/CNBC TV18

New Delhi: It could well be the seesaw of Indian aviation. **IndiGo, which now accounts for one of every two domestic flyers, is increasing its international capacity so rapidly that the rise in its foreign flyers this January-March quarter (5.2 lakh) was almost the same as the decline seen in number of by Jet Airways' foreign flyers (5.1 lakh). Air India Express chipped in with an impressive 19% rise in foreign flyers and the quarter did not see any fall in international travel to and from India. In fact it saw a 3.3% increase.**

Jet, which stopped flying on April 17, was having its aircraft repossessed by unpaid lessors since late last year leading to reduction of flights. While it did have a few flights to Europe and Toronto, the majority of its international operations were on single aisle Boeing 737s to neighbouring countries — mainly the Gulf.

IndiGo, AI Express and others added large number of flights to their single aisle-range destinations. To be sure, Jet's disappearance from the skies will be felt in international numbers in April-June and perhaps July-September quarters. But the expansion plans of other Indian airlines like SpiceJet, Vistara and GoAir could at least numerically in terms of number of international flyers fill Jet's void by the year-end. If Air India divestment is successful, that would further propel Indian aviation. IndiGo chief commercial officer Willy Boulter said: "We... now offer connectivity to over 1,300 city pairs... **While we remain focused on building our domestic network, we will also continue to connect international destinations to additional cities in India and also open up new international destinations.**"

**"Among 18 international destinations that IndiGo currently operates, 70 return flights are flying into the Middle East market.** Some of the recent additions in 2019 included daily nonstops between Mumbai and Dammam, Jeddah and Abu Dhabi; and Delhi- Abu Dhabi. **We also added flights between Kolkata-Hong Kong, Chennai-Kuala Lumpur and increased flights to our existing destinations of Bangkok, Singapore and Kathmandu,**" Boulter added while explaining the increase in international operations, adding, **"We plan to open flights to Chengdu shortly, following by Guangzhou, subject to obtaining more traffic rights, we will add more points in China."**

AI Express CEO K Shyam Sundar said the airline had 81 daily international flights last April and now that number is up to 90. While the number of destinations it serves abroad has remained at 13 in that period, this April it was flying to and from 20 Indian cities — up from 17 last April.

"AI Express board has cleared a proposal to induct 11 more aircraft on dry lease basis. The matter has been referred to the (aviation) ministry for government clearance in view of the prevailing circumstances (hinting at the proposed divestment). We have already drawn up a viable plan of

operations for the proposed fleet expansion. There has been tremendous growth in AI Express' load factor and revenues in the current fiscal. At the current rate, the airline's turnover should go well past Rs 5,000 crore in FY 19-20 against budgeted figure of Rs 4,700 crore. Revenue in FY 2018-19 was just a little over Rs 4,200 crore," Shyam Sundar told TOI.

18/06/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Paris: Describing itself as a "true partner", France on Tuesday said its aviation and defence industries have chosen India for investment and strengthening the strategic partnership which has "full political support".

**French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler said his country is looking forward to further exchanges with the new government in India to deepen the industrial relations in defence as well as civilian aerospace sectors.**

France is India's oldest strategic partner and a significant one for defence and aerospace equipment, "not just as a supplier but as a true partner", he said, addressing a seminar of French Aerospace Industries Association "Groupement des industries françaises aeronautiques et spatiales" (GIFAS) and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) here on the sidelines of the Paris Air Show.

**He said the "Make in India" programme has been a reality for the French industry, particularly for defence equipment such as helicopters, missiles, submarines, aircraft engines and others.**

**Almost 60 French aeronautical companies already have physical offices or facilities in India and the number is increasing every month,** the envoy said.

"There are of course **the big groups like Airbus, Dassault Aviation, Thales, Safran and MBDA, but also more and more of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)...** The French aviation and defence industries have chosen India and will invest in this goal," he added.

18/06/19 IANS/Business Standard

**Aircraft fleet of the future will be defined by 3D printing and meshless CAE and CAE data management: these were some of the insights shared at the 2019 Altair Technology Conference.**

**Computer-aided engineering (CAE) is vital to all stages of the aircraft development cycle.** CAE is optimised for fuel consumption, thermal efficiency and emission predictions. CAE is leveraged to address several flying conditions, including inclement weather such as ice accretion modeling and blockage prediction or dust and sand ingestion. In short, CAE is a game changer.

"As CAE is integrated into the development cycle, it generates millions of data points. Data-science algorithms can sift through the information and direct the aircraft designers towards the optimum path of design. This in turn will help improve operational efficiency," said Vikram Reddy, general manager, GE India, speaking at the conference.

New technologies are propelling the aviation industry forward. **The next generation of commercial and military aircraft will be powered by digital twins for scaling up fleet management. Simulated digital twins are fed with real-time data. This gives a comprehensive and predictive analysis of the condition of the aircraft. Maintenance costs will be lowered.** The aircraft will also have the ability to determine and predict engine failures. **It's not just aircrafts; airports of the future, too, will leverage digital twin technology.** That's because the technology is known for precision. This quality can be tapped for accurately predicting flight timings, thereby improving passenger experience.

A growing demand for production flexibility and improved performance has urged aircraft companies to upgrade the turboprop engines and components along with avionics. R&D teams constantly endeavour to achieve thinner fan blades and lighter engines. "Aviation parts are being designed,

made, tested and analysed. The cycle is repeated again and again. Thousands of our GE engineers are behind each product,” added Reddy.

Aircraft manufacturers follow certain parameters while conceptualising an aircraft - the most crucial one being safety. The frame, its design and composite materials have to ensure flying safety measures for better air-traffic management.

17/06/19 Kavitha Srinivasa/E&T

New Delhi: **The probe to find out the cause leading to the AN-32 plane crash may get delayed as its black box or flight data recorder is damaged.** The black box was brought from the crash site three days back and the investigators are trying to retrieve the data from the instrument. Meanwhile, operation is in full swing to recover the **mortal remains of all the 13 on board**. Scores of helicopters are flying sorties for this purpose.

**It is feared that the plane hit a mountain top leading to the crash.** However, the data from the black box and the court of inquiry will establish the cause of the mishap, sources said here on Monday. As regards the damage caused to the black box, they said the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) help will be sought for retrieving the data or may be sent to some other agency. It was also learnt that Eastern Command chief Air Marshal R K Mathur’s scheduled visit to Bangladesh was postponed as he is supervising the salvage operations.

**The plane had gone missing on June 3 while on a flight from Jorhat in Assam for Mechuka advanced landing ground in Arunachal Pradesh and the wreckage was spotted eight days later near the landing ground at a height of 12,000 feet amidst dense jungles atop a steep ridge.** Teams of IAF, Army and civilian mountaineers trekked in the rugged terrain to reach the spot to recover the black box and look for any survivors.

Given the nature of terrain and inclement weather, the search operation is facing a major challenge for the mountaineering team and the IAF has deployed more than eight helicopters for retrieval of mortal remains, sources said. They also said more than 200 sorties were carried out since the search and rescue effort commenced on June 3 over an area of 1,000 sq.km. The debris of the ill-fated plane was finally spotted by a MI-17 helicopter in Lipo.

18/06/19 Pioneer

New Delhi: **The government would soon reconstitute a group of ministers charged with Air India’s privatisation decisions, following which the Centre plans to start the process of taking another shot at selling the national carrier, by issuing a new expression of interest.**

In Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s first term, the **Air India-Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM)**, as the group of ministers is known, comprised then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Commerce and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu and Rail Minister Piyush Goyal.

With Jaitley and Prabhu no longer a part of Modi’s Cabinet, the AISAM will be reconstituted to include the current finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, and the civil aviation minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, Business Standard has learnt. Gadkari and Goyal are expected to stay on in the group. As the senior-most minister, Jaitley headed the AISAM since its formation in July 2017. If Gadkari continues to be part of the AISAM, he will be the senior-most minister. **“The AISAM will be reconstituted very soon. Its first job will be to give clearance to the new expression of interest (EoI) for potential bidders for Air India. The EoI is nearly ready and will be put out in public once the group gives its go-ahead,”** said a government official.

As reported earlier, the government is planning to liberalise the terms and conditions for the sale of



the national carrier. The changes would allow a potential buyer to go for a stake sale of the airline immediately after acquiring it. The revised norms would also enable merger or reverse merger of Air India with any existing business of the buyer.

**At least 95 per cent stake of Air India will be up for sale; 5 per cent will be retained for the employee stock option.**

**This is the first time the government will relax rules for strategic disinvestment, meant to prevent asset stripping. The relaxation of the rules was proposed by transaction advisor EY as multiple entities during the last sale process in 2017 had objected to them, saying they restricted the bidder from raising capital from the market and developing synergy with an existing business.**

18/06/19 Arup Roychoudhury/Business Standard

**New Delhi: Ms Bhuvana Rao, Air India Regional Manager, Americas, has been promoted as General Manager, Southern Region. She will be based in Chennai overseeing Air India's operations in the fast-growing Southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala as well as Sri Lanka and Maldives. She leaves for India on June 14 and will join her new posting on June 19.**

Ms Bhuvana Rao had joined the present position in New York on October 17, 2018, succeeding Ms Vandana Sharma

In a brief parting message to The Indian Panorama, Ms Rao said "During my brief stint in New York, I am happy to have had the privilege of meeting and associating with many diverse and brilliant minds in the business community and the vibrant Indian community in New York. I take with me wonderful memories of the warm interactions and learnings. I look forward to continuing the association in my new capacity in India, which I would be assuming from 19th June.

17/06/19 The Indian Panorama

**Former civil aviation minister and senior NCP leader Praful Patel was grilled for the third time by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday in connection with the Deepak Talwar case.**

**Praful Patel, who reached the probe agency headquarters around 11:45 am on Monday, was quizzed over his alleged association with aviation lobbyist Deepak Talwar.**

ED sources have told India Today that they are in possession of 'circumstantial evidence' implicating Praful Patel and he may be confronted with the documentary evidence which the agency gathered during its investigation.

**On Monday, Praful Patel was grilled for over six hours by the ED in connection with a probe into the irregular seat-sharing on Air India's profitable routes and airbus deal.**

**Last week, Praful Patel was quizzed twice for over 16 hours by the financial probe agency in connection with the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).**

**Praful is under scanner of ED over his alleged involvement in awarding favourable air traffic rights to foreign airlines that caused losses to Air India.**

17/06/19 India Today

**Pune: The customs department has seized gold biscuits worth nearly Rs 53 lakh from a SpiceJet flight that arrived from Dubai at the Pune International Airport.** The gold was reportedly hidden in the lavatory of the plane.

The seizure was made by the Air Intelligence Unit of the Pune customs department during the rummaging of the aircraft. The quantity of biscuits is said to be 14. The gold was kept behind the cavity of the wash basin in the lavatory.

"AIU officials of Pune Customs seized 14 gold biscuits weighing **1633 grams** valued at Rs 52.99 lakh from SpiceJet flight No SG-52 arrived from Dubai on June 16 at 4.30 am at Pune International Airport," ANI quoted from a press statement released by the Office of Commissioner of Customs. According to Deputy Commissioner of Pune Customs, police have begun the probe into the matter under the Customs Act, 1962. The report said that Superintendent Sudhanshu Khaire and Inspector J Ramachandran located the hidden yellow metal in the plane.

[18/06/19 Mirror Now News.com](#)

**Bengaluru: A woman smuggling drugs from Bengaluru to Doha was arrested at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) parking lot on Saturday (June 15) after she was caught with contraband concealed in sanitary napkins. She was scheduled to fly from Bengaluru to Qatar capital Doha the same day.**

She was accompanied by three others whose interrogation led the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) sleuths to two kingpins of the drug smuggling cartel.

Two among the three people who accompanied her, **Abu and Mohammad**, are in their mid-20s and hail from Kerala. **They had been running the India-Qatar drug smuggling racket. Reports stated that drugs including hashish and methamphetamine were recovered from their hideout in Bengaluru's Austin Town. The total value of the seizure is Rs 3 crore.**

Reports also said that a team led by Bruno A, the zonal director of NCB's Bengaluru unit, received specific information regarding a city-based drug cartel.

According to the information, they were looking to recruit drug carriers who can smuggle drugs from Bengaluru to Doha, reports said. The investigation began a few weeks ago, but it was on Saturday that the **NCB sleuths found the four-member gang in a Karnataka-registered car in KIA parking lot. Reports stated that the woman who got arrested had 510 gm of methamphetamine and 572 Lyrica (a sedative) capsules in her possession.** The woman was identified as a mule by the NCB agents and she was promised a good remuneration for smuggling drugs along with free travel.

[18/06/19 Asianet Newsable](#)

**Trichy: Air Intelligence Unit of customs officials seized foreign currencies equivalent to Indian Rs 19.82 lakh from a passenger, who was about to board a Kuala Lumpur-bound flight at Trichy International Airport on Monday.**

**In another incident, the officials recovered 1.1 kg of gold worth Rs 37 lakh in a rubbery form from four passengers at the airport on Monday.**

During their routine checking process, customs officials grew suspicious about a passenger, who arrived at the airport to board a flight.

**The passenger, who was identified as Ali Abbas, the resident of Chennai, was about to board a Kuala Lumpur bound Air Asia flight Number AK23 from Trichy airport.** When the officials checked his bag, the currencies were found concealed in a novel way.

According to airport sources, they seized foreign currencies from the passenger such as 53,000 Saudi Riyals (500 x 106), 5,700 Euro (100 x 57), 4 lakh Japan Yen (10,000 x 37; 5,000 x 1 and 1,000 x 15), 12,000 Malaysian Ringgits (100 x 120), 2,100 Australian Dollar (100 x 16; 50 x 10), 3,000 Qatar Riyal (500 x 6) and 600 Swiss Franc (100 x 6).

The **total value of the currencies has been valued at Rs 19.82 lakh**. The passenger had not been arrested since the value of the seized foreign currencies was less than Rs 20 lakh, a customs official said.

18/06/19 Times of India

**Kathmandu, Jun 18 A 50-year-old Indian national has been arrested from an international airport in western Nepal for carrying arms, police said Tuesday.**

Umesh Shukla, was arrested from the Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa along with a foreign made pistol and 16 rounds of bullets as well as two magazines, the police said.

**Shukla was arrested during an X-ray security check while he was about to board a domestic airline's flight to Pokhara.**

18/06/19 Outlook

**Mumbai: After Jet Airways and Spicejet, Air India Express has become the third airline operator to complete trials for using Taxibot at the Indira Gandhi International airport on Monday.**

The trials were carried out from 8 am to 10 am at the airport in the presence of senior officials of Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Delhi International Airport Ltd, the Air traffic Control and KSU Aviation Pvt Ltd, which brought taxibots to India earlier this year.

**The Air India Express Boeing 737-800 NG series aircraft taxied from Apron 3 towards Runway 29 and completed the pre-defined scenarios successfully and returned to the bay at the IGI Airport.**

**With Air India Express successfully completing trials, all the major Boeing operators in India will now be using taxibots as an alternate taxiing solution at airports where this service is available.**

Airbus has notified that it shall shortly be releasing a procedure-based use of the taxibot, which does not require any technical modification to the aircraft. Among Airbus operators, **Indigo airline, which has the largest fleet of Airbus aircraft, has completed taxibot trials in February, and Vistara and Air Asia are also scheduled to undergo trials.**

**"Each taxiing event of about 15 minutes with Taxibot attached saves about 200 litres of Aviation Turbine Fuel. In addition to this, it saves engine life plus emission of about 650 Kgs of CO2,"** said Sanjay Bahadur, Head Corporate Communication & Compliance, KSU Aviation Pvt Ltd.

18/06/19 Satish Nandagaonkar/Mumbai Mirror

**New Delhi: United Airlines has entered into a new alliance agreement with Vistara that will be effective from this winter. United, which currently operates a daily non-stop from Newark to Mumbai and Delhi (the daily non-stop from Delhi is suspended till July 2 due to closure of Pakistan airspace), expands its global route network to more than 20 destinations throughout India with Vistara's growing network.**

"United has served India from our New York/Newark hub for more than 14 years and in December of this year will begin operating new nonstop service between San Francisco and New Delhi. We are pleased to enter into this new alliance agreement with Vistara to offer our customers traveling between the United States and India seamless access to more destinations throughout India," United's senior VP (alliances) John Gebo.

Vistara's chief strategy and commercial officer Sanjiv Kapoor said: "We're very happy to take our partnership with United to the next level with this codeshare agreement. It helps us offer an

extended global network to our customers...”

United will start a seasonal non-stop between San Francisco and Delhi from December 5, 2019. This new flight will connect customers from more than 80 US cities to India with one stop in San Francisco during winter.

18/06/19 Saurbah Sinha/Times of India

**The higher margins enjoyed by the rivals of Jet Airways following the grounding of the airline are set to disappear as the shortage in capacity in Jet’s absence is expected to go in another three months.**

During the first quarter of this fiscal, players such as IndiGo, who saw a 12 per cent rise in their yields, reported a five-fold rise in their profits as Jet cut its capacity and then stopped its operations. Yields are a measure of airfares.

However, this benefit is set to wear off and observers point out the impact will be felt in the second quarter as fresh capacity is added by the existing players.

**“2.9 billion available seat kilometers (ASK) of the 4.5 billion ASK capacity vacated by Jet has already been added (in April) by other participants. We believe this gap may narrow further in the next 2-3 months as most of Jet’s fleet is absorbed by SpiceJet and Vistara and Indigo continues to add 30 per cent plus year-on-year capacity,”** Garima Mishra of Kotak Institutional Equities said in a note. She said the airlines would enjoy the dual benefits of a seasonally strong quarter as well the impact from the shrinking of Jet’s operations.

But this will normalise fairly quickly, and yields should correct from the second quarter.

She said the deficit can be fully reversed in the next 4-5 months or even earlier depending on when SpiceJet’s newly inducted aircraft start operations.

In April and May, SpiceJet had added 25 aircraft which resulted in its fleet rising to 100. For the current year, 35 planes more are expected to arrive, raising the total capacity by 80 per cent.

17/06/19 Telegraph

**New Delhi : Faced with crashes and other issues, the Indian Air Force had to shift to civilian aircraft for ferrying military personnel to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory due to the performance of the AN-32 planes.**

India has more than 90 of these planes which were imported during the Soviet era and several of them have been upgraded recently in a contract with Ukraine.

"Over the sea, the AN-32 flies at altitudes (18 - 20 thousand feet) that encounters heavy icing (Zero to minus Degrees Celsius outside air temperature). That is why we have shifted most of the passenger load from An 32 to Civil Airlines in the Andaman and Nicobar Sector," top IAF sources told ANI.

Sources said the Defence Ministry is also of the view that the AN-32 should be avoided being used in risk-prone areas in view of the crashes and other issues.

**The recent crash took place in Arunachal Pradesh where 13 personnel lost their lives in the accident over the mountainous terrain of the Northeastern state after taking off from Jorhat.**

16/06/19 New Kerala

Vijayawada: **After the frisking of former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu at Gannavaram airport sparked a war of words between TDP and YSRC leaders, a senior police officer has come out in support of the security personnel at the airport.**

**E Damodar, an inspector general (IG) rank official, who works as controller of legal metrology, issued a statement that everyone has to undergo security check other than those who were exempted by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) at all airports in the country.**

**He said having worked as an SP and overlooked VIP security for 3.5 years in undivided Andhra Pradesh, he wanted to clarify the rules on Aviation Security (AVSEC).**

**The Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) of Chicago Convention of International Civil**

**Aviation Organisation (ICAO) mandate adherence to the SARPS by all member states. India, as part of ICAO needs to conform to SARPS.**

17/06/19 Times of India

With rapid urbanisation and the projection of close to two-thirds of the world's population living in cities by 2050, congestion and productivity loss — both on the ground and in the air — are huge challenges. For India this is exacerbated.

The country will see the highest increase in urban population. By 2050, India will add more people to its cities than the number currently residing in them. And this is already being witnessed in cities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, which have grown rapidly.

Unfortunately, the expansion of these cities has not been met with a concurrent expansion of transport infrastructure. The result: extensive traffic delays and productivity loss (both time and money). **Congestion is reaching a point of contagion.**

**This issue is being exploited by firms leveraging vertical takeoff and landing technology (VTOL). The advent of VTOL is likely to redefine aviation as we know it.**

**VTOL technology enables aircraft to take off and land like a helicopter while cruising like airplanes. This enables access to otherwise constrained areas of the city besides saving time and money.**

Overall, the business case for VTOL aircraft is predicated on saving time by bypassing airports. The fact that one of the biggest challenges facing general aviation is the lack of airport capacity only furthers this business case. In the case of India, there are very few secondary airports, which cements this further. VTOL is hoping to fill this gap. And the technology has the potential to disrupt an entire market via its extension to larger jets (though that may be years away).

The added advantage of VTOL machines is that they can also engage in conventional takeoffs and landings (CTOL). In fact, CTOL operations help extend the range as the power required to get off the ground and back on-to it is much lower. What this effectively does is open up the aircraft to hundreds of existing airfields thereby providing an extremely flexible transportation solution.

17/06/19 CNBC TV18

**The Enforcement Directorate has alleged that a substantial jump in seat entitlements and Indian points-of-call (airports) for the operation of foreign airlines, due to bilateral agreements struck with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar between 2005 and 2009, resulted in huge losses to the national carriers.**

Being a signatory to the Convention of Civil Aviation, India has to comply with its principles. As part of the arrangement, two countries hold talks to decide routes and allocation/increase of seats on the basis of equality and reciprocity.

Under these agreements, traffic rights and capacity entitlements are exchanged based on market requirements. They specify the entitlements in terms of frequency of operations, number of seats and airport.

Between 2005 and 2009, India held bilateral meetings with the UAE and Qatar.

After each meeting, the ED alleges, a substantial increase in seat entitlements and airports was made, from which the airlines of both the countries allegedly gained more than the Indian carrier. In case of the UAE, the agreements were held separately for Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Ras-al-Khaima.

According to the data quoted by the agency, under the agreement with respect to Dubai, seat entitlements for the Emirates were 8,400 up to 2001. However, after three agreements in 2005, 2007 and 2008, they went up to 54,200. "Finally, the seats were increased to 54,200 and points of call to 10 during the meeting held on April 23, 2008," the ED says.

16/06/19 Devesh K Pandey/The Hindu

New Delhi: Raghav Paul intentionally chose Air India's AI 310 Delhi-Hong Kong flight — scheduled to depart on Saturday at 11.05pm — so that he could reach there early on Sunday, in time for the all-important India-Pakistan match. Otherwise, the Delhi boy studying in Hong Kong could have left his hometown 24 hours later. However, Paul and 235 other passengers were cooling their heels at Delhi airport till Sunday evening, waiting for an aircraft and crew that could take them to Hong Kong — after boarding two AI planes and, then, being asked to alight for different reasons. The flight eventually took off just before 5pm on Sunday, a delay of 18 hours.

**“First, we boarded an AI Boeing 787 at 10.30pm on Saturday. That aircraft developed a snag and we were told that engineers were trying to rectify it. Then, at about 1am on Sunday, the passengers were asked to alight from the Dreamliner. At 2am, we were asked to board another aircraft. Now, after waiting for over an hour, we were told that the pilots' maximum flight duty time was over and AI would arrange for another set of crew,”** Paul said.

**When perhaps that did not happen, the passengers were asked to alight from the second aircraft, too, at 4.30am on Sunday. They were sent to a hotel at nearby Aerocity from where a coach brought them back to IGI Airport's Terminal-III at 1pm on Sunday.**

17/06/19 Times of India

Jaipur: Three Pakistani nationals were detained with gold worth over Rs 23 lakh from Munabao railway station near the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Barmer district, Customs officials said on Sunday.

Five gold biscuits of 100 gram each, a gold bangle and three rings were seized from Kishor Kumar Maheshwari, Ramesh Patr and Kailash Mali on Saturday, they said. **The seized items weigh over 700 grams and are worth Rs 23,27,119,** the officials said, adding that they were allegedly **smuggling them into India from Pakistan.** They were passengers on the Thar-Link Express.

In another incident, gold and foreign currencies worth Rs 5.5 crore were seized at the Delhi airport in a single day.

**"Indira Gandhi International Airport customs intelligence and preventive have been maintaining a heightened alert posture to curb smuggling. In last 24 hours contraband worth over 5.5 crore was seized,"** said Manish Kumar, commissioner of customs department at the airport.

The department said a **Japanese man was intercepted after his arrival from Hong Kong** on Monday. A detailed personal and baggage search of the passenger resulted in the recovery of **four pieces of gold of cylindrical shape and eight gold bars, collectively weighing 7 kg,** it said. The market value of the gold, that has been seized, is assessed to be **Rs 2.22 crore,** the statement said, adding that the Japanese man was arrested. It is after a long time that a Japanese man has been arrested for gold smuggling.

16/06/19 Mid Day

Madurai: **A 48-year-old Sri Lankan national was arrested at Madurai airport on Saturday minutes before boarding a flight to Sri Lanka on a fake passport. He had obtained the passport by forging documents to show as if he was an Indian national.**

The accused was identified as S Jeyakanthan, 48, a Sri Lankan Tamil native of Jaffna. While immigration police led by inspector Victor detained him, Jeyakanthan was later handed over to the Perungudi police. Preliminary inquiries revealed that Jeyakanthan, in Sri Lanka, had married a woman from Karaikudi in Sivaganga district in 2003. After living one month in Sri Lanka, he came to Tamil Nadu along with his wife on spouse visa. While Jeyakanthan overstayed in India, the couple shifted to Tuticorin, where he was involved in poultry business. With his Sri Lankan passport being expired, he obtained fake documents like Aadhar and driving license. He later obtained passport using the documents.

17/06/19 Times of India

New Delhi: **Carrying gold in “paste form” is the new way adopted by smugglers to dodge metal detectors and X-ray machines installed at various international airports**, say sources in the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

A senior DRI official said several crime syndicates operating across India have taken to smuggling gold in the paste form.

**Over the past couple of months, more than 20 cases of gold paste smuggling have been registered at various international airports in the country.**

Last Thursday, a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) woman constable posted at Terminal-2 of the **Mumbai Airport caught an Indian woman passenger carrying 1.865-kg gold (worth Rs 43.2 lakh) concealed in her body in the paste form.**

**A passenger travelling on Oman Air from Muscat was arrested at Dabolim International Airport in Goa last Tuesday for carrying 1.63-kg gold paste worth Rs 48 lakh.** The yellow metal was concealed in his jeans and shoe soles.

**A few days ago, around 1.2-kg gold paste was seized at the IGI Airport from a passenger who arrived from Dubai.**

With the DRI heading the Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre (SCord), officials in the agency say all international airports in the country have been put on alert to check such cases.

16/06/19 Mukesh Ranjan/Tribune

Questioning of a 30-year-old Nepali citizen, who was on his way to Liberia on Saturday from the international airport at Mumbai, uncovered a Punjab based racket in forged government ID cards. Immigration authorities found a bogus Voter ID card, Aadhaar Card and PAN Card on the man and informed Sahar police.

The police then identified the Punjab-based man who helped the accused get the documents. The arrested man was identified as Prakash Karki, a native of Baglung in Nepal. According to the police, Karki was supposed to board a flight to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and from there fly to Liberia.

**“The immigration official at the airport checked Karki’s Nepali passport, e-visa papers, boarding pass and ticket and asked him the reason for visiting Liberia. Since Karki could not give any satisfactory reply, the official informed his senior. During a check of Karki’s baggage, officials found the bogus documents. The Voter ID had his name as Prakash Singh. During questioning Karki told the officials that he arrived in India in 2003 and had been working as a chef in a restaurant in Jalandhar, Punjab,”** said a police officer.

The officer added that in 2007, Karki came into contact with one Joga, alias Munshi, from Jalandhar, and with his help managed to get the forged documents.

17/06/19 Somendranath.Sharma/Mumbai Mirror

**Pakistan on Sunday extended the ban on its airspace for all Indian flights till June 28**, authorities have said.

Towards the end of May, Pakistan had extended for a fortnight the airspace closure for a fortnight which expired on June 14.

Pakistan had fully shut its airspace on the eastern border with India after an Indian Air Force carried out aerial airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Balakot on February 26.

The strikes were in response to the terror attack in Pulwama, in which about 40 CRPF personnel lost their lives on February 14.

In March, the country partially opened its airspace for all flights but not for Indian flights.

In mid-April, Pakistan also opened one of its 11 air routes for west-bound flights from India, and airlines such as Air India and Turkish Airlines have started using it.

Since then, foreign carriers using Indian airspace have been forced to take costly detours because

they cannot fly over Pakistan. **The closure mainly affects flights from Europe to Southeast Asia. Pakistan lies in the middle of a vital aviation corridor whereby the airspace restrictions, which have been continuing since a long time, impacts hundreds of commercial flights each day, extending flight timings for passengers, as well as fuel costs for airlines.**

16/06/19 ANI/DNA

**Kargil Airport will be developed into a full-fledged airport for commercial flight operations, Jammu and Kashmir Government** said on Saturday.

According to an official spokesperson, Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam Saturday held a meeting in New Delhi with Union Secretary, Civil Aviation and other Airport Authority of India (AAI) officials including Member Planning, AAI for **development of existing Kargil Airport for full operation of commercial flights including Boeing, Airbus, etc.**

To finalize the requirements of additional land and other technicalities, it has been decided that a **team of AAI officials will visit Kargil on Thursday, June 20. Subsequently, a Technical team of the AAI will visit Kargil from June 27 for 15 days to finalize all technical parameters.**

**The MoU with AAI is expected to be signed by July, 15, the spokesperson said. The foundation stone for the extension of the runway is expected to be laid by the end of August, which will kick start commencement of other works.**

16/06/19 Greater Kashmir

New Delhi: Two senior customs officials posted at Delhi airport have been suspended for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman from Uzbekistan who was visiting India for medical treatment of a relative, officials said.

The matter came to light last month when a complaint was lodged by a whistleblower to senior officials at the airport who then started the probe. Meanwhile, a pseudonymous complaint was also emailed to the office of Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey informing him about the incident. The complainant, citing a brief detail of the case, requested the Revenue Secretary that the matter be looked into with utmost priority. The top officer in the revenue department was also requested to bring the culprit to justice to set an example before other public servants, who the complaint described as "wolves in the skin of sheep".

The copy of the complaint was then forwarded to the officer concerned in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the top policy making body for the customs department. **Two Superintendents of customs officials posted at the airport were then suspended by the authorities for their alleged involvement in the sexual assault, the officials said.**

Giving details of the case, they said that one of the accused official stopped the Uzbek woman upon her arrival from Tashkent on May 3, for checking of her baggage for any suspected smuggled goods. He then took her to a room, which has no CCTV camera, and spent about half an hour there without being accompanied by any women officer, they said. **It is alleged that the Superintendent, who is in his early 50s, sexually assaulted the woman, who had come for treatment of her sister's child admitted at a private hospital in Delhi, the officials said.**

**The woman had lodged a complaint with the customs authorities but retracted later after she is alleged to have been threatened of being fabricated in a false case of smuggling, besides threat to her life by the accused officer, they said.**

**While enquiring into the allegations against the Superintendent, a role of another officer of the same-rank had come to the notice of the authorities. The duo were then suspended by the customs department pending a detailed probe.**

It is also alleged that the Uzbek woman, who can hardly speak English, is under tremendous strain and hesitant in reporting the assault in view of the alleged threats. "The incident depicts a horrific picture. No one knows how many women may have been assaulted by such officers on the pretext of baggage search for any suspected smuggling," a woman staffer posted at the airport said on



condition of anonymity.  
[16/06/19 PTI/News18.com](https://www.pti.com/News18.com)

**Imphal: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Saturday, nabbed two individuals with fake documents from Imphal airport in the sensitive northeastern part of India.**

At about 10 AM, during ticket checking of the passengers, the CISF personnel at the entry gate for departure at the departure entry gate of Imphal Airport, caught hold of a passenger who had reported with a forged e-ticket and an Aadhaar Card to gain access inside the terminal building. The accused, who was later identified as **Md Aslam Khan, was travelling to Delhi via Kolkata by Indigo flight No 6E-202 & 6E-2021.**

During checking of tickets and Aadhaar card, the CISF personnel noticed the suspicious activities of the passenger and reported the matter to the surveillance staff of the CISF. The passenger was taken to a separate place and was tactfully questioned by the CISF staff, after which he revealed that the ticket was booked in the name of Mocha and the Aadhaar Card was fabricated to match the identity.

In a statement issued by the CISF, it said, "On further enquiry, he disclosed that **his co-passenger Md Dilshat S/O Ms Ayub Khan has already entered inside the terminal building by showing e-ticket and fake Aadhaar card in the name of Mr Tomba.**"

[16/06/19 My Nation](https://www.mynation.com)

**Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has busted a gold smuggling racket from the porous Indo-Myanmar border and recovered 32.287 kg of the precious metal worth Rs 10.56 crore, an official said Sunday. Seven people have been arrested in this connection, he said. Twelve consignments had earlier arrived on Concor Air, which handles the domestic air cargo, he said.**

Acting on a specific tip-off, searches were carried out at the Concor Air's facility here on Friday when the racket came to light, the official said. The suspicious consignments were claimed to be of jewellery but an investigation revealed that they contained foreign-marked gold bars, he said. "The consignments were found to be containing foreign- marked gold bars, including gold bars smuggled through Indo- Myanmar border and unmarked melted gold bars of 999 purity," the official said. The seized yellow metal was valued at Rs 10.56 crore, he said, adding that seven people were arrested.

[16/06/19 PTI/Hans India](https://www.pti.com/Hans India)

**Trichy: Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of the customs department seized gold worth Rs 47.86 lakh and weighing 1.423 kg, which were in the forms of cut pieces, chains and paste, from four air passengers at the Trichy International Airport in two days.**

According to customs officials, they seized 810 grams of gold worth Rs 28 lakh from two air passengers, who arrived at the airport from Dubai by Air India Express flight IX 612 on Saturday morning.

The passengers have been identified as **Syed Abdul Rahim and Mohammed Ubaidullah**, natives of Ramanathapuram district. They were carrying the yellow metal in a powder form mixed with a rubbery material. **The passengers attempted to smuggle the big size capsule that contained the gold paste by concealing them in their rectum**, officials said. Further investigations are on.

**Meanwhile**, the officials recovered 148.5 grams of gold chain of 24 karat purity totally valued at Rs 4.86 lakh, which was left abandoned inside the aircraft of **Air Asia flight Number AK29** that arrived **from Kuala Lumpur at Trichy airport** on Friday.

**On the same day**, the AIU officials seized three gold cut pieces of 24 karat purity, totally weighing 465 grams and valued at **Rs 15.24 lakh** and one unfinished gold chain of 22 karat purity weighing 149 grams. The value of the chain has been estimated for **Rs 4.65 lakh.**

[16/06/19 Times of India](https://www.timesofindia.com)

New Delhi: India's new civil aviation minister said on Friday he is confident that airline capacity shortage problems following the grounding of Jet Airways Ltd will be solved, in the government's first comments about the issue since it was re-elected last month.

We are "very confident we can solve that problem," Hardeep Singh Puri said on the sidelines of a conference in New Delhi.

Massive debt and suffocating price competition forced what was once India's biggest private-sector airline to halt operations in April at the cost of thousands of jobs, and resulting in higher airfares across the industry. It has also resulted in capacity constraints across the industry.

**The airline and its lenders have been searching for new investors, while employee unions have been calling for government intervention. The government, however, has largely been quiet on the Jet issue since its election victory.**

**Puri has assumed office at a time of distress in areas of Indian aviation. Last year, the government unsuccessfully sought a buyer for money-losing state-owned carrier Air India Ltd.**

14/06/19 Reuters/Economic Times

**Air passengers may have a reason to heave a sigh of relief as the ticket prices may come down in the July-Sep quarter, said a report. Major carriers including SpiceJet, IndiGo and Vistara have expanded their capacity fast as the Jet Airways crisis left a void in the domestic aviation market. However, with the capacity expansion almost on the verge of completion and owing to a steep capacity increment recently, the "airlines price tickets cheap to attract customers and fill capacity on new routes,"** Kotak Institutional Equities said in a report. This impact is further intensified by the traditionally weak season which is 2QFY20. In fact, budget carriers IndiGo and Go Air have already announced discounts on travel periods in 2QFY20, however, for limited inventories only.

Major domestic carriers have reported healthy 1Q yields from the dual impact of Jet grounding and the peak travel season, however, "2Q yields may trend down on capacity addition as well as seasonally weak demand," the report added. The same wasn't good news for passengers who ended up paying much more than they usually paid amid all the helter-skelter caused by Jet Airways' temporary shutdown.

The ongoing capacity expansion spread by various airlines is expected to reverse the Jet Airways deficit within 4-5 months. This could be "even earlier depending on when Spicejet's newly inducted aircraft commence operations," the Kotak report said. Meanwhile, the Minister of Civil Aviation, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Friday that the turbulence in the sky will be resolved with the enabling environment that the government will provide, without mentioning Jet Airways. He was addressing a gathering at the National Council Meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry.

14/06/19 Prachi Gupta/Financial Express

**Vijayawada: Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister and now the leader of opposition N Chandrababu Naidu had to undergo frisking at Gannavaram Airport here late Friday.**

Chandrababu Naidu was also denied VIP access to the aircraft and had to travel in the bus along with common passengers.

A security guard was seen frisking Naidu at the security entrance. Naidu was given Z+ category security (with 24-hour protection by 23 armed security men and escort vehicles) after he was attacked by Maoists at Alipiri in Tirupati in 2003.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief was also not allowed to reach the aircraft in a VIP vehicle.

The incident drew strong reaction from TDP, which alleged that BJP and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) were resorting to witch-hunting.

**TDP leader and former state Home Minister Chinna Rajappa said the attitude of authorities was not only insulting but they also compromised on Naidu's security as he enjoys "Z plus" category**

security.

15/06/19 IANS/India Today

**New Delhi: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence here Saturday and expressed the state's reservation on the privatisation of Thiruvananthapuram international airport.**

The Adani group had, in February, won the bid to operate five out of six airports, including the one at Thiruvananthapuram, proposed for privatisation by the central government.

The state government had earlier appealed to the Centre to reconsider its decision to lease out Thiruvananthapuram aerodrome for operation, management and development under the public-private partnership (PPP).

"Without the co-operation of the state government, no private company can develop the airport properly," Vijayan told the state Assembly earlier this week.

In a letter to the prime minister in March, Vijayan had demanded that the airport's operation be handed over to the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Ltd (TIAL) floated by the government-run Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC).

The airport was established in 1932 on 258.06 acres of land owned by the princely state of Travancore, of which the state is the successor.

**The 258.06 acres of land had been entered into the revenue records as government land.**

**The Airports Authority of India has admitted that only 0.05756 hectares out of the total extent of 636.57 acres of land are under its ownership.**

**The state government claims it has the expertise in airport management and also creditworthiness, more than that of the private entity, which does not possess previous experience in such operations.**

15/06/19 Indian Express

New Delhi: The plan of private airport operators to hire staff from the grounded Jet Airways for security-related work has hit an air pocket with the Civil Aviation Ministry mulling the issue of a clarification to its March 2019 notification that reserves these functions only for airlines.

Hoping that the government would open up a new revenue stream, one of the private airport operators had planned to hire personnel from Jet Airways for creating a new business segment of aircraft security.

**"Some of the airport operators are misinterpreting the notification. It is clear that only airlines would carry out security functions related to an aircraft," a senior Civil Aviation Ministry official told IANS here.**

"If need be, we will issue a clarification," the official said.

**Aircraft (Security) Rules 2011 provide detailed guidelines for the security of aircraft flying in the country. The rules specify about the deployment of manpower at airports for security functions such as conducting a search before taking an aircraft to the restricted area.**

Rule 26, for instance, sets out the eligibility for security personnel and guidelines for their training and certification before being deployed by the aircraft operator.

**The March notification inserted a new provision which says that an aircraft operator will also perform security functions.**

14/06/19 IANS/Business Standard

**New Delhi: The Income Tax (IT) Department has summoned Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal for questioning in relation with an alleged case of tax invasion. This is the first time when an enforcement agency has summoned Goyal on charges of any financial irregularities in Jet Airways. The investigation wing of the I-T Department has found alleged irregularities in transactions between**

Jet Airways and its Dubai-based group firms to evade taxes worth Rs 650 crore, sources told sources told the Economic Times. The grounded airline reportedly paid commissions to its general sales agent in Dubai every year. Goyal will be asked to provide an explanation for these payments, they said. According to the investigation report, such payments were allegedly in excess of permissible business transactions under the Income Tax Act and will not be considered as allowable expenses.

"The survey was conducted at the time when Jet Airways was delaying the announcement of its June quarter result," an income tax official told ET.

**"These are excessive payments made with the intent to divert funds abroad, so as to evade taxes."**

"The assessment wing is now carrying out the inquiry, and based on the findings, had summoned Goyal to explain the case," another person said.

The documents were reportedly seized during searches at the Jet Airways' Mumbai offices in September last year, while the probe was completed in February.

15/06/19 Business Today

Amritsar: The extension of airspace ban by Pakistan along the eastern border with India till June 28 will continue to affect nearly six flights from Sri Guru Ramdas Jee International Airport.

Two international flights continue to remain cancelled and five are being flown on long routes after Pakistan completely shut its airspace on February 26 following the IAF's airstrikes in Balakot.

Air India's Delhi-Amritsar-Birmingham and Turkmenistan's Amritsar-Ashgabat-Birmingham flights continue to remain cancelled. Their termination is causing much inconvenience to passengers, majority of them are NRIs and their relatives.

**Uzbekistan's Amritsar-Tashkent and Qatar's Amritsar-Doha flights are being flown via Mumbai instead of shorter route via Lahore.**

15/06/19 Tribune

Visakhapatnam: Vice-president of Andhra Pradesh Air Travelers Association (APATA) O Naresh Kumar and independent director of Air India Limited Daggubati Purandeswari met Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Limited Ashwani Lohani and submitted a **request to add more flights to its fleet and reduce cargo charges of Air India flights from Visakhapatnam.**

Air India was charging Rs 40 per kg cargo from Visakhapatnam to Dubai till April 15. However, it has been increased to Rs 50 a kg from the next day. Air India has been charging Rs 40 a kg for cargo from Hyderabad since 2018.

Owing to increase in the freight and freight variation between Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad Airports, exporters and traders from Visakhapatnam were not able to continue exporting products to Dubai and other destinations.

14/06/19 Hans India

‘About ₹2,500 crore to ₹5,000 crore will be required to revive the debt-laden airline’

**London-based Adi Partners and some groups representing Jet Airways' employees said on Friday that they were entering into a partnership to bid for acquiring a 75% stake in the airline when the NCLT invites expression of interest (EoI) for the debt-laden airline.**

Last week, the SBI-led consortium of lenders decided to start bankruptcy proceedings against Jet Airways and referred the matter to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) after failing to find investors during a bidding process. Representatives of the airline's employees as well as Adi Partners had submitted separate bids to the lenders.

"We will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the employees to revive the airline. **Adi Partners will own 49% and employees will have 26% share in the partnership,**" said Sanjay Vishwanathan, chairman and managing partner, Adi Partners, at a joint press conference. **The employee groups and Adi**

**Partners said they had informed the Resolution Professional (RP) appointed by NCLT about their tie-up.**

**He added there was a possibility of a tie up with either Indian banks or foreign institutional lenders' groups for the remaining 25% stake in the company.**

Jet Airways owes almost ₹8,400 crore to domestic banks and ₹4,000 crore to foreign lenders. Mr. Vishwanathan said that he estimated that an initial investment of “₹2,500 crore–₹5,000 crore” would be required to revive the airline. Total liabilities were pegged at almost ₹25,000 crore, including dues of ₹8,000 crore–₹12,000 crore towards vendors and almost ₹600 crore for salaries to employees that had been pending for the last six months.

Staff funding

**No clear answers were available though on how the employees, who had not been paid salaries since January, could bring in ₹625 crore–₹1,000 crore to invest in the airline.** Both Adi Partners and the employee groups said that a request had been made to the NCLT to release some money towards salaries owed to the staff so that they don't leave the company and hamper bankruptcy proceedings. This money could be partially routed into the airline.

**There were also questions about whether the move had the support of all the employees with the pilots' union, the National Aviator's Guild, distancing itself from Friday's announcement.**

The employee groups present today included Society for Welfare of Indian Pilots, Jet Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Welfare Association, Jet Airways Cabin Crew Association, Save Jet Airways and All Indian Jet Airways Technician Association. It is estimated that there are nearly 10,000 employees left in the company.

The Hindu 29/06/2019