

Revue de presse du 29 aout au 13 septembre 2019

Mumbai: Aviation regulator DGCA on Saturday suspended a first officer of SpiceJet for three months for mishearing an Air Traffic Control clearance, due to which he gave incorrect direction to the pilot-in-command (PIC), causing runway incursion at Mumbai airport, said a source.

"DGCA probe found that Atul Yadav, who was first officer on Surat-Mumbai flight on July 5, told the PIC that their plane was cleared by ATC to cross runway 14. The truth is the clearance was given to the IndiGo plane that was ahead of his plane," the source told PTI.

The SpiceJet plane had the call sign SEJ2763.

When the regulator issued a show-cause notice to Yadav on August 19, he responded by admitting his mistake and stating the incursion happened on July 5 because another plane with a similar call sign which was ahead of their plane had received the ATC clearance to cross runway 14, the source said.

The aircraft ahead of the SpiceJet plane was of IndiGo and it had a call sign IGO063, the source said.
31/08/19 PTI/Business Today

New Delhi: In the last 2.5 years, IndiGo Airbus A320 Neos have on an average seen one faulty Pratt & Whitney (PW) engines powering these planes being changed every week. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has in a RTI reply said 126 PW engines on IndiGo Neos have been replaced from 2016 to June 30, 2019. The almost once-a-week average of faulty engine replacement comes with 46 engines being replaced in calendar years 2017, 2018 each and 27 in the first six months of this year (remaining 7 in 2016). The reply details how some engines had to be taken off wings for replacement after flying for as less as 37, 59 and 69 hours.

With 430 A320/21 Neos on order, IndiGo is the world's largest customer for this aircraft. The airline inducted its first PW-powered A320 Neo on March 11, 2016, and at present has 92 of these planes. GoAir, which has 144 A320 Neos on order, currently has 35 PW-powered Neos. The DGCA RTI reply is for IndiGo Pratt engine replacements alone and does not include figures for GoAir.

The PW engines for A320 Neos have been snag-ridden from 2016 itself. Possibly for this reason IndiGo recently opted for engines from PW competitor, CFM, for 280 Neos. Recurring snags along with the fact that India is home to the largest customer airline for the Neo — IndiGo — meant that DGCA had to prescribe more stringent checks of these engines to ensure safety.

"The high number of engine replacement is due to India's prescribing thorough (boroscopic) checks of Neos' PW engines. It is not all these 126 engines were replaced after developing snags inflight or when preparing for a flight. Many snags that led to engine replacement were revealed during checks on ground," said a senior DGCA official. **The regulator says in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (up to August), IndiGo and GoAir have seen 19 PW engine snags like in-flight shut down, air turn back, rejected take off on their Neos caused by faulty main gear box and low pressure turbine.**

31/08/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Mumbai: A dead bird on the runway of the city's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj international airport on Saturday forced an AirAsia India flight to do a go-around and an IndiGo aircraft to discontinue the approach, an MIAL spokesperson said.

The presence of the dead bird on the runway was reported to the ATC by the pilot of a GoAir flight landing from Delhi, the Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) said.

"The pilot of G8-338 informed ATC of a dead bird on the runway. During the removal of the foreign

objective debris (FOD), I5-304 was asked to go-around and 6E224 was asked to discontinue approach," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Both flights have since landed after operations on the runway resumed, she added.

31/08/19 PTI/NDTV

Pune: The Air India's jet fuel crisis, which has affected six airports including Pune, has caused flight diversions, delays and passengers' luggage being offloaded.

On August 23, state-owned oil marketing firms had stopped the supply of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) at six airports — Pune, Ranchi, Visakhapatnam, Mohali, Patna and Kochi. Air India sources insisted that they were managing the situation without inconveniencing passengers. "The situation is unchanged — Air India flights are still not getting fuel at Pune airport. However, flight operations are almost normal," an Air India official told TOI.

On Wednesday, however, passengers on-board an Air India flight from Hyderabad to Pune were affected — the departure was delayed and, when it landed in Pune, passengers were informed their luggage had been left behind. "Horrible experience with Air India flight from Hyderabad to Pune. Flight departed almost 90 minutes late and on arrival in Pune, all passengers were informed that no luggage was loaded on the flight in Hyderabad," Harsh, a passenger, had tweeted.

Air India denied that this was connected to the fuel crisis. "There was a payload issue with the Hyderabad-Pune flight, but that is not related to the current situation," an AI source in Pune said. AI sources said their flights were dealing with the situation by carrying an extra load of fuel for the return trip. For instance, a flight from Delhi to Pune carried enough fuel to allow it to return to Delhi. According to an official in the know, when aircraft carry extra fuel, it will impact the payload, heightening the chances of passengers' luggage or cargo being offloaded.

In many cases, there were diversions. An Air India flight, AI-814 from Pune to Chandigarh, which flies on certain days of the week, was diverted to Mumbai on August 23, 26 and 28. "Fuel was the reason for these diversions," another airlines official confirmed.

31/08/19 Joy Sengupta/Times of India

New Delhi: Israel wants to add additional layers to its air-security and has requested India to allow trained Israeli personnel to put flyers to Tel Aviv through a behaviour analysis.

India, which usually gives its nod to such security measures from friendly countries on a reciprocal basis, is considering the request. "India is sensitive to security concerns of other countries and we usually allow specific requests on a reciprocal basis," said a source.

Air India (Delhi-Tel Aviv) and Israel's El Al (Mumbai-Tel Aviv) operate direct flights between the two countries. Israel wants its personnel on El Al to conduct a behaviour analysis of flyers on its flights from Mumbai.

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) official — responsible for airport security — said Israel had conducted a training programme for its personnel for behaviour profiling in 2010. "Since then we have been providing training in this field and using it. Almost all drug and cash recoveries are made by observing passenger behaviour," the official said.

31/08/19 Saurabh Sinha/Economic Times

Chandigarh: The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Chandigarh airport claimed on Friday that several flights of Air India were being delayed due to "air-fuel issues".

"It has been observed that several Air India flights are being delayed daily due to air-fuel issues. We have not received any official statement from Air India regarding this," read a statement put out by the PRO.

In the statement, the official added that any inconveniences being faced by the passengers were related to the airline and its officials could be contacted by the aggrieved passengers.

"We submit that no inconvenience is being faced by passengers at Chandigarh Airport, rather than issues related to the airline only. Certain or correct information pertains to Air India only and its officials may be contacted for detailed reasons," the statement added.

[31/08/19 ANI/India Today](#)

New Delhi: Passengers booked on Air India may not be able to complete their flights with oil companies threatening to expand their fuel supply ban on the national carrier to two more airports.

Sources said that the oil companies have written to the airline saying that they will expand their fuel supply ban to Raipur and Hyderabad airports too from September 5.

The oil companies are not supplying fuel to Air India at six airports that are Patna, Ranchi, Pune, Mohali, Vizag and Kochi.

"We are going to cancel our flights out of Vizag because it is becoming unsustainable for us to continue with our flights with the ban," said a senior Air India official, who did not want to be identified.

He added that Air India is on cash and carry with oil companies and is paying RS 18 crore to them everyday.

[31/08/19 Mihir Mishra/Economic Times](#)

In a major cheer for Modi-led BJP government's 'Make in India 'campaign, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's (HAL)-made Dornier 228 can now be utilised for commercial regional flights across Europe. European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has accepted DGCA certification for this plane that is being manufactured at HAL's manufacturing facility in Kanpur. Notably, this is the first instance where an Indian manufactured aircraft will be used for commercial flights across Europe.

As per a report in the Times of India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has given type certification (TC) for HAL manufactured Dornier 228 allowing the multi-purpose light transport aircraft to be used for civil flights by regional operators in India. DGCA chief Arun Kumar said, "Now the Dornier can be used for commercial use in Europe also. This is a big achievement for our make in India program." Here's all you need to know about India's Dornier 228.

The aircraft is being used for commuter transport, third level services and air-taxi operations, India navy and coast guard duties and maritime surveillance. Dornier's maritime surveillance and patrolling variants have been modified by HAL to cater to larger demand by the Navy, including surveillance radar, forward-looking infrared, electronic support measure, satellite communications, data links and Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) among other things. The aircraft was also supposed to be used heavily under the ude desh ka aam nagrik (UDAN) scheme but due to multiple issues, the aircraft had limited success in India.

[31/08/19 Ashish Shukla/IBTimes](#)

Air India passengers flying from Shanghai to New Delhi in flight number AI346 took to the social media to vent out their anger after their flight failed to take off from Shanghai International

Airport due to technical issues in the plane. According to the angry passengers, the flight is stuck at the airport for the past four hours and even the air conditioning system is not working inside the plane.

Several angry passengers posted their messages on the Twitter saying that the AC inside the plane is not working and they have been forced to sit inside the plane for the past four hours.

One of the passenger even complained that the Air India staff has shut down the washrooms and even not serving water to the passengers.

It was reported that the plane suffered a technical fault but the passengers complained that they were not informed about the reason for the delay.

31/08/19 Economic Times

Calcutta: The city airport is set to be friendlier towards fliers with reduced mobility with the authorities planning to set up dedicated terminal entry gates and baggage and security check-in counters for them.

Officials said a path from the entrance to the terminal till the boarding area would be delineated for the passengers to ensure they travel the minimum distance.

One gate in each of the two sections of the terminal (domestic and international) will be earmarked for fliers with restricted mobility.

The check-in island closest to the gate in each section will have a counter from where boarding passes of all airlines will be issued to the passengers. From there the fliers will proceed towards the nearest security check-in counter.

“We hope to implement the plan in eight months. Some of the technicalities are being discussed with the airlines,” airport director Kaushik Bhattacharya said on Friday.

As for the counters from where boarding passes of all airlines will be issued, Bhattacharya said: “The airlines have to prepare a roster for this. The counters will have a common user facility.”

Calcutta airport lacks some basic facilities for passengers with reduced mobility. Passengers in need of wheelchairs often allege that they have to wait for long after getting off their cars in front of the terminal building before the airline concerned sends a wheelchair.

There are phones at every gate in the departure area where a list of numbers of the airline help desks is displayed. But passengers often say calls to many of the numbers go unanswered.

The airport also lacks facilitation counters and adequate signage for passengers with reduced mobility.

An airport official said a counter would be set up at each of the two entry gates to help the passengers.

31/08/19 Telegraph

Hyderabad: GVK’s step down subsidiary, Navi Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (NMIAPL) has awarded Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract for the greenfield Navi Mumbai International Airport to the Transportation Infrastructure and Buildings & Factories businesses of L&T Construction.

The key development spectrum covers cut and fill works, terminal works including departure and arrival forecourts, airfield development works (a 3,700 m long south runway, apron systems, taxiway systems, airfield ground lighting & other facilities), landside facilities (roads, multilevel car parking), utilities & support facilities.

The passenger terminal building that has been designed by Zaha Hadid Architects is being developed to initially handle a capacity of 10 million passengers per annum (MPA). The project will subsequently be enhanced to handle 20 MPA.

GVK Reddy, Founder and Chairman, GVK: “With the commissioning of the iconic Terminal 2 at Mumbai airport and designing the under construction GardenTerminal 2 at Bengaluru airport, GVK had set new benchmarks in the Indian airports’ sector. Now for the Navi Mumbai International Airport, we have to raise the bar over and above what we have achieved at Mumbai and Bengaluru airports. For this, we are happy to partner with L&T yet again, as their team is very much in sync with our philosophy of delivering world-class quality and creating landmarks for others to follow. Am confident that with the high standards of excellence that L&T brings to the table, we will deliver yet another world-class airport that will be the pride of India”.

31/08/19 V Rishi Kumar/Business Line

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., which runs India's largest airline IndiGo Friday announced the appointment of GE-Healthcare official Aditya Pande as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The announcement follows the resignation of the airline's current CFO Rohit Philip, who leaves IndiGo on 16th September.

"We are delighted at Aditya's decision to join the IndiGo team and welcome him to the Company," IndiGo chief executive officer Ronojoy Dutta said in a statement.

"His enormous and varied experience and understanding of the complexities of the various businesses he has worked will be invaluable to our future plans," Dutta added.

Pande who is a qualified chartered accountant comes with an over 27 years of experience in finance leadership. He was with GE since 1998 and is currently serving as the CFO of GE Healthcare (India, Africa, ASEAN and Asia-Pacific).

Prior to this, Pande was GE Healthcare's Group CFO for its South Asia division

IndiGo earlier this year had signed a \$20 billion contract for aircraft engines with CFM International for the 280 Airbus A320neo and A321neo planes it operates. CFM International is a 50:50 joint venture (JV) between the US' General Electric (GE) and French engine maker Safran.

Philip who had joined IndiGo in July 2016 as its CFO was brought to the company at co-founder Rakesh Gangwal's behest. Philip had around a three-decade experience with United Airlines which was also the former employer of Gangwal.

31/08/19 Business Today

DSNA Services change de nom pour devenir **FRANCE AVIATION CIVILE SERVICES** et se doter d'un nom correspondant mieux à ses activités et évitant la confusion avec DSNA. Celles-ci ne se cantonnent plus en effet à la navigation aérienne mais se sont étendues à l'ensemble des domaines de l'aviation civile. L'institution propose ses services dans le monde pour soutenir le développement de l'aviation civile (réglementation, de la supervision de la sécurité et de la navigation aérienne).

AlertAvia 29/08/2019

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was on Saturday informed that 30 additional daily flights would be introduced from the four airports in the state in the next three months.

The assurance in this regard was made by the Union Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola at a meeting of CEOs of various airline companies called by the chief minister here in the backdrop of airline companies reducing flights from the Thiruvananthapuram airport.

The additional flights would be introduced during the next winter schedule of airlines companies, a

release quoting the Chief Minister's office (CMO) said. Five more flights would be introduced from Thiruvananthapuram to Delhi, Kharola said.

The Civil Aviation secretary had held an informal meeting with airline companies prior to the meeting, on the basis of which it was decided that 30 more flights would be introduced to the state during the winter schedules, the release said.

In the last meeting of CEOs of airlines companies, there was a demand for reducing excise duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and it had the support of the Civil Aviation secretary.

Vijayan pointed out that Kerala had reduced excise duty on ATF from 25 per cent to five per cent in 3 airports--Kozhikode, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram, while in Kannur airport it was brought down to 1 per cent.

However, not only was there no positive response from the airlines companies, but the services from Thiruvananthapuram airport had been considerably reduced, the chief minister pointed out at the meeting.

31/08/19 PTI/News18.com

GVK led Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) will witness unification of operations at terminal 1 and 2 starting October 1, 2019 for domestic flights of IndiGo, SpiceJet and GoAir.

This will ensure convenience to passengers travelling through Mumbai International Airport, thereby benefitting both airlines and passengers at large.

Starting October 1, IndiGo and GoAir will operate all their domestic flights from T1 and international from T2, while SpiceJet is to shift full operation to T2. The structural streamline of airlines initiated for the greater benefit and convenience of the passengers.

Having catered to over 48 million passengers in 2018-2019, CSMIA is always abuzz with travellers.

Being one of the busiest airports in India, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport has allocated Terminal 1 with terminal boarding bridges for all airlines.

While the Terminal 2 of the airport operates both domestic as well as international flight, the airport currently operates 50 international and nine domestic airlines.

31/08/19 Free Press Journal

Mumbai: A Vistara aircraft flying to Hyderabad on Friday was safely landed back in Mumbai after a technical snag was detected after take-off. The Hyderabad-bound flight number was UK869.

"Our Hyderabad-bound flight UK869 returned to Mumbai due to a technical snag detected after take-off," Vistara spokesperson said. Soon after the aircraft was safely landed back in Mumbai, the airline arranged another aircraft for the passengers.

The airline has said that it regrets the "inconvenience caused to customers." "We regret the inconvenience caused to customers, but the flight crew's decision was entirely in the interest of passenger safety which is always our first priority," the spokesperson added.

31/08/19 Sanchita Jain/ZeeNews

New Delhi: Server problems in the check-in-system of IndiGo triggered chaos in the early hours at Indira Gandhi International Airport as flights were delayed by 30-40 minutes. Long queues were witnessed at Terminal-2 in particular, after passengers were made to wait, some even for two-three hours.

"Woke up on the wrong side of the bed, did we IndiGo? Your systems are down but you've managed

to make everything else a mess too. 3 hours at the Delhi airport and counting (sic)" tweeted iKritica. Another twitter user, Gagan Gugnani said while his Delhi to Mumbai flight was supposed to take off at 6.40am, passengers were still waiting till 8.55am at the airport.

DIAL, the airport operator, however, stated that flight operations were normal during the period.

"The check-in system of IndiGo Airlines was affected early today. This has been fully restored now. During this period all other flight operations were normal. We regret any inconvenience caused. For any further information, please get in touch with the airline concerned," said the airport operator on twitter.

31/08/19 Times of India

Adilabad: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) seems to be positive about feasibility of an airport in Adilabad as it has found all the relevant conditions and parameters such as temperatures and rainfall satisfactory. The only hitch, according to sources, is the high probability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) denying use of the old aerodrome, which is under its control, for the purpose.

"The AAI has sought coordinates of lands surrounding the aerodrome, located on the outskirts of Adilabad town, to assess feasibility of establishing the facility in those lands in such an eventuality," revealed Adilabad R&B Superintending Engineer Md. Nazeer Ahmed. This nearly 1,600 acres of land stretch in Khanapur, Anukunta, Kachkanti and Thantoli villages was identified in 2014 for the purpose of acquisition for setting up a full fledged Air Force Station (AFS).

An AAI team had inspected the existing 369 acres of the World War II aerodrome as part of its feasibility survey besides identifying about 50 acres of adjoining land for acquisition in case they would have to extend the length of the runway. The AAI has apparently thought it proper to also assess the feasibility in the lands in question and has collected coordinates so as to keep alive the prospect of setting up of an airport.

Sources pointed out that the AAI has rated the chances of setting up airport in Adilabad much higher when compared to Basantnagar in Peddapalli district and Jakranpalli in Nizamabad district. Besides other constraints, there is no logic in establishing an airport at a distance of 150 km from the State's capital, Hyderabad, sources added.

31/08/19 S. Harpal Singh/The Hindu

Kolkata: Airport authorities have suspended at least three trolley retrievers for a month and threatened the agency manning the trolley handlers to sack anyone if found trying to fleece flyers by posing as assistance personnel.

The decision was taken after TOI on Friday reported on how a section of contractual staffers, sporting ID cards to give the illusion that they are authorized porters, stands at the base of escalators leading to baggage carousals in both domestic and international wings with trolleys to "assist" passengers.

They target senior citizens and foreigners, and then fleece them, demanding Rs 500 from domestic fliers and \$10 from international passengers.

"We have taken up the issue very seriously. There is a section of trolley handlers who are known for such mischievous activities for past several years. No matter how much we try and contain them, they play the union card and get away. But this time, we will take strict action against them. We have asked the agency that manages them to find out the culprits and deal with them on an immediate basis. We are also in the process of lodging an official complaint against the trolley touts," said Kaushik Bhattacharjee, the airport director.

Since Friday morning, senior officials of the airport held a meeting over the issue and called all the handlers working at the airport for a test identification parade kind of check to find out the men who

were accused of the crime. "We have suspended three men and have already asked the contractor to submit the passes of those involved," said another official.

The three men who were spotted in the photograph carried in TOI on Friday are senior handlers who have been working at the airport for at least seven years, an official said.

Taking advantage of the absence of official porter service at the airport, a section of trolley retrievers under the contractor appointed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and contractual workers often pose as porters to earn the extra buck. Attempts by airport officials to curb the practice has met with limited success as the touts become active after 8pm when most officials retire for the day.

31/08/19 Tamaghna Banerjee/Times of India

A couple was on Thursday arrested by customs officials at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in the national capital for allegedly smuggling gold worth more than Rs 24 lakh. The passengers were arrested at Terminal 3 of the IGI airport after they arrived from Dubai.

A release by the Office of the Commissioner of Customs (Airport & General) IGI airport said, "On the basis of suspicion, the officers of Customs Preventive, IGI Airport, New Delhi intercepted one male passenger and one female passenger, who had arrived at Terminal-3, IGI Airport, New Delhi on 29.08.2019 by flight No- SG012 dated 28.08.2019 from Dubai, after they had crossed the Green Channel."

"A detailed search of their baggage and personal search resulted in the recovery of assorted Gold jewellery i.e., 04(Four) Gold Bangles, One (01) Gold Kada and Onc(01) Gold Chain," the release further said.

Assorted gold jewellery weighing approximately 700 grams was found in their possession. The total estimate of the recovered gold was Rs 24,24,218.

31/08/19 Jitender Sharma/Zee News

The DRI has arrested five Hong Kong-bound foreign nationals at the Delhi airport for allegedly trying to smuggle out of India nearly half-a-million USD, officials said on Saturday.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), the enforcement arm of the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC), on Wednesday intercepted the five passengers, all from Taiwan, at the Terminal 3 of IGI Airport, they said.

The five were about to depart for Hong Kong.

An examinations of their examination of their checked-in baggage resulted in the recovery of \$ 4,49,600 equivalent to ₹3,25,51,040 which they were attempting to smuggle out of India, the officials said.

The foreigners, who arrived at New Delhi from Hong Kong on August 25, confessed to be a part of a larger syndicate involved in smuggling of foreign origin gold into India and smuggling out of sale proceeds (foreign currency) out of India, they said.

The recovered foreign currency was seized and the five were arrested under the provisions of the Customs Act.

The accused were on Thursday produced by the DRI before a court which sent them to judicial custody for 14 days, the officials said.

31/08/19 PTI/The Hindu

New Delhi: A 37-year-old man was arrested from the IGI airport here for allegedly cheating by impersonation, police said on Saturday. The accused was identified as Rajesh Kapoor, a resident of

Paharganj. He was arrested on Friday, they said.

"On Thursday, Sayantan Ghosh, Duty Manager of Vistara Airlines, lodged a complaint, alleging that Kapoor travelled by the Vistara flight from Delhi to Srinagar and returned to the national capital by impersonating one Sachin Gupta. He was caught based on his suspicious activities at the IGI Airport," said Sanjay Bhatia, Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport).

A case under Indian Penal Code sections 417 (cheating), 447 (criminal trespass) and 419 (cheating by personation) was registered against Kapoor at the IGI Airport police station, they said.

Interrogation revealed that Kapoor was previously involved in several theft cases at railway stations and IGI airport, he said.

Different airlines have blacklisted Kapoor and barred him from flying, police said.

He impersonated Gupta using an Aadhaar card and booked a flight from New Delhi to Srinagar and returned in the same airlines on Thursday, police said.

31/08/19 PTI/Times of India

Chandigarh: At least 70 Delhi-bound passengers of an Air India flight from Chandigarh to New Delhi had a harrowing experience on Thursday evening, when they were told not to board the plane, citing "low fuel" issues. High drama took place at the Chandigarh International Airport for nearly four hours as the passengers complained of harassment and protested against the airline staff. The flight (AI-9832) that was to depart from Chandigarh Airport for New Delhi at 7.50 pm eventually took off around 10.10 pm. One of the passengers booked on the flight told Chandigarh Newline that the pilot refused to fly the airplane citing "fuel shortage".

"We were informed that the flight's pilot has said that there was no money to buy fuel for the flight and thus she could not fly it back to New Delhi. We were shocked to hear this. Despite repeated requests, no alternative arrangement was made. Many passengers who had connecting flights left in a huff, searching for alternative modes of transport to Delhi," said Ankit Gupta, a resident of Sector 28.

"There are some ongoing issues between Air India and Indian Oil company. The airport authority is cooperating with the passengers," a spokesman of Chandigarh International Airport told Chandigarh Newline late in the evening.

By 6.30 pm, the passengers who were booked on the flight AI-9832 had arrived at the airport, but they were informed that the flight would not be able to take off.

"First, we were informed that the flight was delayed. Then, the Air India staff told us that the flight will take off at 8.20 pm. But a few minutes later, we were told that the woman pilot of the plane has refused to take off citing there was no fuel in the plane," another passenger told Newline.

"We were left stunned when informed about the fuel shortage in the plane. Ideally, Delhi is the fuel station of flights and this Air India flight takes the fuel from Delhi airport before it comes to Chandigarh and then goes back to New Delhi late in the evening. It is surprising how a flight could take off from Delhi without adequate fuel to return to the base," Gupta said.

30/08/19 Indian Express

New Delhi: Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday that people are very interested in acquiring national carrier Air India and he has been receiving calls from all over the world in this regard. He also said it was clear that there should be total privatisation of the national airline and "we have to get the best possible deal" in the shortest time available.

This is a second attempt by the Modi government to privatise the cash-strapped Air India. Its efforts to sell 76 per cent stake failed in 2018. "Are people interested in acquiring Air India? I would say yes.

Very much so. Why are they keen on acquiring it?... (Because) it is a first rate airline, and whoever acquires it will be very fortunate and well...he will be (able to) run it according to private sector principles," the minister told a press conference here after a media workshop for civil aviation correspondents.

After analysing the Air India's disinvestment process of 2018, the then transaction adviser 'EY' in its report cited the government retaining 24 per cent stake and corresponding rights and high debt as reasons for the failure of the disinvestment process. The minister said on Thursday, "The interest has to be expressed in a formal manner after the Expression of Interest has been released. A lot of people come to Pradeep (Kharola), they come to Ashwini (Lohani), they come and speak to me, and I get calls from all over the world."

Pradeep Singh Kharola is Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Ashwani Lohani is the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for Air India. **The Central government is expected to release the Expression of Interest by October to invite formal bids.**

30/08/19 PTI/Business Today

Dharamsala: **Union minister of state for finance Anurag Thakur today said that Gaggal airport in Kangra district would be expanded by year end.** "You will receive good news regarding Gaggal airport by year end," said Anurag Thakur while responding to queries of newsmen at Gaggal airport today morning.

Anurag was on his maiden visit to Kangra district after taking over as union minister of state for finance. He was welcomed by hundreds of BJP workers at Gaggal airport.

Anurag said that facilities at the Gaggal port were expanded after the Dharamsala international cricket stadium came up. During international cricket matches chartered flights landed here. Now the airport would be expanded so that bigger flights can land here. It would give boost to tourism in Kangra region and also bring down prices of airfares.

30/08/19 Tribune

New Delhi: **The government has extended by three months the bid validity deadline for three airports for which Adani Enterprises Ltd had emerged as the highest bidder,** a senior Airports Authority of India official told Cogencis.

In February, Adani Enterprises had emerged as the highest bidder to operate, manage and develop airports in Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangaluru, and Guwahati on the basis of per-passenger fee payable to the Airports Authority of India.

On Jul 3, the Union Cabinet approved the bids for airports in Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru, but not for Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram.

While approvals for the Guwahati and Jaipur airports are pending with the respective state governments due to legal and land issues, the Kerala government has challenged in court the decision to hand over the Thiruvananthapuram airport to a private player.

The statutory body's request for proposal document stated the validity of the bids at Jul 31, before which a Cabinet approval to hand over control would have had to take place.

30/08/19 Dev Kachari/Cogencis

Jammu: **The suspension of air traffic from October 1 to October 15 at the Jammu Airport for the re-carpeting of runway will affect the implementation of Union Territory in Jammu and Kashmir, as Jammu will remain cut off from Delhi and Srinagar for a fortnight.**

As the rules of the Union Territory are scheduled to be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir from October 31, for which the preparations are being done by all agencies concerned, the air connectivity will create problems for the working of the Central Government in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to sources, the Civil Secretariat of Jammu will be opened quite early this time as the Union Territory will start working from the Secretariat in Jammu from October 31.

As the preparations are in full swing to finalise the guidelines for the Union Territory, officials and ministers from Delhi have to travel to Jammu to review the work. But the air traffic, which is scheduled to remain suspended from October 1 to October 15, according to sources, will cut off the air connectivity from Jammu to Srinagar and Delhi.

"All flights will remain suspended for a period of 15 days at the Jammu airport, not even the charter or private planes can operate from Jammu Airport," a source in the Airport Authority of India (AAI) said.

As the Jammu Airport is a defence airport, it is being used by the Indian Air Force, state aircraft and some other jets. However, the operation of choppers and helicopters will remain unaffected.

The AAI, Jammu, had started the expansion of the runway up to 8,000 feet from the existing 6,700 feet in July last year and the deadline set for the completion is March 2020.

30/08/19 Amit Khajuria/Tribune

Staff at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru responded quickly to a major leak that occurred on Thursday night after rainwater began seeping through the ceiling in one part of the airport. Staff were forced to cordon off the area and began clearing the water away.

While the city has witnessed similar scenes in metro stations, this appears to be the first time such an incident has occurred at the airport.

In an official statement, Bangalore International Airport Limited said, "Due to excessive rains in the Bengaluru Airport area, some water percolated through the external wall into the terminal building. The breach was identified and the area has subsequently been repaired and cleaned."

A short viral video of Thursday's incident shows water pouring from the ceiling and two men mopping the area. Visuals suggest that the waiting area near Boarding Gate 9 had been affected.

In the last 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Friday, the weather station in the Kempegowda International Airport received 60.6 mm rainfall. However, the seasonal cumulative difference was only recorded at a 2% deficit till date.

30/08/19 News Minute

New Delhi: **Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday cautioned against mixing up the planned removal of Pratt and Whitney (PW) engines for maintenance with incidents of failure of the engines, and said merging the two to create panic is "evil and must be eschewed".**

It said combining the two separate issues is like "mixing chalk and cheese".

The warning came in response to media stories that mixed up the planned removal of PW engines from A320neo planes with incidents of failure of the engines.

PW engine-powered A320neo planes of GoAir and IndiGo have been facing glitches both mid-air and on-ground since their induction in 2016. This has led to grounding of some of these planes.

At present, IndiGo and GoAir have 92 and 35 A320neo aircraft powered by PW engines in India. A total of 436 such aircraft are operating globally.

The aviation regulator said it is keeping a tab on the issues and resolutions related to PW engines in Airbus A320neo planes and it shall act when warranted.

In a statement on Twitter, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said, "We have only one 'agenda'

and that is 'safety'. We reiterate our 'assurance'. We are keeping a close watch and shall act when warranted. We also submit that we are responsible and accountable to 'risk assessment' and are open to all scrutiny and action."

"The difference between the "Planned Removal" of engine on account of maintenance on ground particularly on the instruction of DGCA for "Boroscopic Inspection" and because of "Failure of the engine - inflight or on takeoff roll or landing roll" is to be understood. Combining the two is like mixing chalk and cheese," the regulator said.

30/08/19 PTI/Economic Times

Mumbai: South America's Synergy Group Corp is planning to pick up 49 per cent stake in Jet Airways. It will discuss co-investment options with its lenders and infrastructure companies, the group's advisor told Business Standard. Synergy Group Corp, which owns majority stake in Avianca Airlines, South America's second-largest airline, submitted an expression of interest last week to revive the grounded airline.

Its Bolivian born founder German Efromovich will visit India next month to discuss investment options with Jet's lenders and Indian infrastructure companies. Government norms mandate that substantial ownership and effective control of an airline must rest with Indian citizens.

"We intend to structure the acquisition as a foreign company with 49 per cent stake. Jet Airways is publicly listed and we hope lenders would be willing to convert their debt into equity. We will also discuss partnerships with Indian infrastructure companies. We have several options," said Antonio Guizzetti, president of consultancy G&A, which is advising the Synergy Group regarding the stake buy.

Jet Airways, which shut down in April following a cash crunch, had a debt of around Rs 8,500 crore. Ashish Chhawchharia, the resolution professional handling the airline's insolvency, has received creditor claims of over Rs 30,000 crore and admitted claims of around Rs 12,000 crore.

"The amount of investment by the Synergy Group will depend on discussions and negotiations with banks and other creditors. In insolvency cases, it is common to negotiate for discount on debt," he said.

Efromovich purchased Avianca, which went through bankruptcy in 2004. Since then, he has transformed it into the second largest airline in South America.

However, Efromovich is facing a crisis and had to step down from the chairman's post of Avianca Holdings following a loan default. He is now waging a legal battle to retain control of his majority stake in Avianca after a loan default.

28/08/19 Aneesh Phadnis & Subrata Panda/Business Standard

Pune: Security checks at the city airport may take longer following the prohibition on specific models of the Apple MacBook Pro laptops.

Sources in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) said they were ready for the required checks.

"We don't expect any problems. But security checks may take slightly longer. No flyers were found to be carrying the device on Tuesday. If any flyers have the device, we are required to conduct proper checks before allowing it on the aircraft," a source at the Pune airport told TOI.

The prohibition on some models of the Apple MacBook Pro laptops was imposed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) amid concerns of defective batteries catching fire. A source at the airport said information on the restriction was being circulated among flyers, announced during security checks and notices regarding the same had been put up.

On Monday, a passenger flying from Pune to Chennai on a GoAir flight took to the social media for answers. "If my MacBook Pro laptop is safe as per the serial check on Apple's website link, can I still carry it? If needed, serial numbers can be double-checked by the airport authorities. I have tried

calling their customer care centre and regional office ... They are not responding," the passenger posted with an image of the eligibility criteria on the website.

29/08/19 Joy Sengupta/Times of India

Anil Agarwal, chairman and founder of metals and mining major Vedanta Resources Limited, said he was willing to take a small stake in the now-defunct Jet Airways to "give support".

"I can be of help to them in whatever manner because everybody is ready to revive (the airline) and the government is also keen. Therefore, I just wanted to know what went wrong but never thought that we will be looking at diverting ourselves into airline business," Agarwal told CNBC-TV18 in an interview.

In April, Jet Airways suspended all its operation due to severe cash crunch. The airline has a debt of Rs 8,500 crore.

Earlier this month, Agarwal's family trust, Volcan Investments, had withdrawn its expression of interest for Jet, a day after showing its interest in the grounded airline.

"The EoI for Jet by Volcan was exploratory in nature. On further evaluation and considering other priorities, we intend to not pursue this further," Agarwal then said.

Speaking about owning an aviation company, he said, "I understand India, if they want me to take small equity, I will take it through my holding company just to give them a support. I am just looking hypothetically because in comparison to the world India has not done anything."

29/08/19 CNBC TV18

New Delhi: **The government will look at completely exiting Air India (AI) when the divestment process of the debt-ridden carrier kicks off shortly.** Aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday that the aim is to have total privatisation, "best possible deal in shortest (possible) time." He added that there are many who are very interested in the airline and the one "who gets it is very fortunate".

"AI is a first class airline. The Maharaja has over the years come to represent India's soft power. You may then ask why then sell off the airline? I believe the government should not be in the business of running airlines and that AI must be run in the private sector," Puri said.

AI has a debt burden of about Rs 60,000 crore. The attempt last year to sell off the Maharaja had come a cropper and privately-run Jet Airways, which shut down this April, has also so far failed to find a buyer. Asked in this backdrop does the government have a Plan B if the second attempt to privatise AI is also unsuccessful, Puri said: "Once you go down a route and encounter obstacles, there are lessons to be learnt. We will analyse (the experience of last time). This time we will succeed. There is interest among buyers."

Among the factors that kept bidders away from AI last time round were the partial (74%) divestment the government had opted for and the debt burden the potential buyers were expected to keep. So this time the government may go in for complete sell off, barring 1-2% for being offered to employees. While no decision on debt has been taken yet, that could be significantly reduced too.

"This government is not even 100 days old. **Our determination to privatise AI is a given. The alternate mechanism (or group of ministers) for AI divestment has been formed under home minister Amit Shah. Before the issue is taken up that that level, a meeting at cabinet secretary level has taken place. We will get the best possible deal in shortest time available,**" the minister said.

29/08/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

New Delhi: **Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said that 10-15 aircraft are being added per month to deal with the increasing passenger traffic.**

"Today we have in air 690 aircraft. We are adding 10-15 aircraft per month. We are looking forward to a scenario when we will have 2000 registered aircraft flying," said Puri while addressing a press conference here.

He said that Delhi Airport alone deals with 70 million passengers per annum and both Delhi and Mumbai Airport put together roughly deal with 34 per cent of passengers in the country.

"In 1975, when I went on my first posting to Tokyo, Palam then used to deal with 1.9 million passengers per annum. Today Delhi Airport deals with 70 million passengers per annum. Both the private Airports, Delhi and Mumbai when put together deal roughly with 34 per cent of overall passengers in the country," said the Minister.

"When Jet Airways ceased operation we had 540 aircraft in the sky but a false narrative was floated that Indian skies will be adversely affected. We are adding new aircraft to maintain fleet as per the traffic requirement," said Puri.

29/08/19 ANI/Asian Age

New Delhi: India's aviation watchdog Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in media workshop for civil aviation correspondents on Thursday said that around 23 air incidents have been reported on daily basis.

"We have reported around 20-23 incident on a daily basis which could be due to bird hit, dust, storm, bad weather and technical reasons in the aircraft," said DGCA Arun Kumar.

India witnesses about 8,000 flight movements daily including by all foreign airlines and around 3,500 of them are domestic flights.

DGCA Arun Kumar also said that the aviation regulator has recently announced a plan to do breath analyser tests on ATC officers and ground handling staff. The regulator earlier used to conduct B.A. tests only on pilots and cabin crew.

29/08/19 ANI/Economic Times

Chennai: **In the wake of regional connectivity scheme, airlines started around 30 new flights from Chennai to small towns in the past five years but they have gradually withdrawn around 11 flights and have cut down on the frequency of the rest.**

However, ministry of civil aviation has listed the 30 flights as new flights started from Chennai in the past five years in an information given in Lok Sabha last month to stress on growth in connectivity to small towns. The direct flights were started by Indi-Go, SpiceJet, GoAir, Truejet and Air India. SpiceJet has cancelled five of the 11 flights it started from Chennai while IndiGo has cancelled two of the eight flights.

GoAir has cancelled two of the five flights and Truejet cancelled one flight. Air India has cancelled its Varanasi flight, which was shown as the only new service the airline started from Chennai during the period. Direct flights were pulled out from Hubli, Mangaluru, Belagavi, Rajahmundry, Bangkok, Raipur, Udaipur, Kolkata, Kochi, Vijayawada and Varanasi. Air fares are high to Udaipur, Belagavi, Hubli, Raipur and Varanasi as passengers have to fly via another airport. The fares for travel next week are between Rs 5,000 and Rs 8,000.

29/08/19 V Ayyappan/Times of India

Grounded Jet Airways, which is undergoing insolvency proceedings, failed to attract any new bidders during the extended deadline period for submission of initial bids, according to a source. The third deadline for submission of Expression of Interest (EoI) ended on August 31. With no new bidders emerging during this period, there are only three entities that had put in their initial bids earlier.

Russian Fund Treasury RA Partners, Panama-based investment firm Avantulo Group and South American conglomerate Synergy Group Corp had submitted the EoIs.

"No new EoIs have been received," a source close to the development told.

"Now, the deadline is unlikely to be extended further. The plan will be to go ahead with the three entities that had submitted their EoIs," another source said.

On August 26, Jet Airways' Committee of Creditors (CoC) extended the deadline for submission of EoIs.

It was the third time that lenders extended the deadline after the ones on August 3 and 10.

02/09/19 PTI/Economic Times

New Delhi: Hindon Airport in Delhi-NCR to begin commercial operations from Oct; fly at affordable fares to these cities

Hindon airport (VIDX) in **Ghaziabad** is likely to begin commercial flight operations from October! Flyers from Noida, Ghaziabad, and East Delhi may finally get to board flights from the newly-inaugurated Hindon airport in the first half of October. **This comes after the Ministry of Defence has given its nod,** an Airports Authority of India (AAI) official was quoted saying by PTI. Financial Express Online had earlier reported that there have been delays in commencement of domestic commercial flight operations at the airport.

Once the operations begin, flyers will be able to travel to tier-3 cities across India such as Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand, Nasik in Maharashtra, Hubli in Karnataka, Kannur in Kerala, Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh, Kalaburgi (Gulbarga) in Karnataka, Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. Earlier, several airlines like Heritage Aviation, Ghodawat Airlines, IndiGo Airlines, and TurboAirlines bagged routes connecting from Hindon.

Flyers will be able to book flight tickets at affordable rates for tier-2 and tier-3 cities as airlines need to cap flight ticket prices at Rs 2,500 per hour of flight under norms laid down by the RCS-UDAN scheme.

02/09/19 Debjit Sinha/Financial Express

The state-run national carrier Air India's divestment plans may spell success this time as the airline is likely to break even or run with small loss at the net level in FY20, for the first time in over a decade. If the government addresses issues related to treatment of debt and labour flexibility, the airline may become lucrative for prospective bidders, according to a recent report by aviation consultancy firm CAPA India. Also, while other airlines are expected to report record profits, the cash-strapped airline is expected to start making money. "The favourable market conditions represent a unique opportunity for a structural re-set of the national carrier, which Air India must take advantage," CAPA said. The airline could leverage opportunities in the international sector as the domestic market will remain competitive, CAPA added.

Air India has long been on the government radar for privatization and it breaking even could also act as a positive foundation for its disinvestment. Also, Jet Airways grounding could serve as a catalyst in Air India divestment considering the better market dynamics after the Naresh Goyal-founded airline's grounding in April 2019. Recently, an Air India spokesperson had also said that the airline is

inching towards better profit. “Our financial performance, however, this fiscal is very good and we are moving towards a healthy operating profit. The airline despite its legacy issues is performing very well,” news agency PTI quoted the person as saying, earlier in August.

Recently, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri reaffirmed the government’s plan of Air India divestment and said that the “government is determined to privatise Air India”. The minister reiterated that it is not the government’s business to run airlines. The Maharaja must go to a private player, he added.

02/09/19 Prachi Gupta/Financial Express

New Delhi: Air India on Monday said it is still a market leader among Indian airlines when it comes to flying on international routes as its capacity deployment on such routes is currently almost double than that of the number-two position holder IndiGo.

The national carrier’s response came after a consultancy firm, Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA), released a report on August 31 stating that IndiGo “now has the largest share of international seats to/from India”.

Air India on Monday wrote an e-mail to CAPA stating that according to its “comparative scheduled capacity analysis on international routes”, the national carrier has 16.7 per cent share in September when measured in terms of available seat kilometres (ASKMs).

Under ASKMs, the total passenger capacity of an airline is measured and it is calculated by multiplying the total number of available seats for passengers with total number of kilometres flown by those seats.

“The analysis done in your (CAPA) report to showcase IndiGo as largest carrier on international routes is flawed and misleading. This, of course, has been done by replacing ASKMs which is a true measure of capacity deployment with seats offered,” Air India said.

According to aviation regulator DGCA, IndiGo had around 47 per cent share of the domestic passenger market in July this year, making it the market leader in domestic segment.

02/09/19 PTI/Indian Express

New Delhi: A disability rights activist, who is visually and hearing impaired, was made to deboard an AirAsia flight at Pune airport Friday following the airline’s opinion that the passenger was incapable of travelling alone — even as the activist insisted otherwise and showed relevant documents to back his claim.

The incident happened on August 30 evening when Zamir Dhale, 44, was on his way to Delhi from Pune to catch a flight to Geneva where he had to address a meeting of disability experts organised by the United Nations (UN). Dhale is the founder of the Society for Empowerment of the Deaf-Blind, and almost always uses public transport without any assistance.

While AirAsia India sent him in another flight to Delhi that was two hours later and he managed to catch the flight to Geneva, it did not happen before the activist made a call to a friend who alerted various disability activists.

“The irony of the incident is not lost on me. I was on my way to advocate for the rights of the disabled at the UN while I was myself being discriminated against. But then this was nothing new. I felt sad and helpless. However, I am not deterred. I have to continue to fight not only for myself but all such deaf-blind people like me,” told Dhale in an email to indianexpress.com from Geneva.

Dhale added: “Apparently, many phone calls were made (to the airline) and a lot of communication happened. That is when it was decided to accommodate me in another flight. I reached Delhi alright but I was delayed by two hours. Add to it the harassment and indignity I was subjected to. All this

when I was carrying requisite documents validating that I can travel by myself.”

While Dhale was stranded at the airport, Dr Satendra Singh, another disability rights activist who teaches at University College of Medical Sciences, raised the issue with the airline. To which, AirAsia India replied: We sincerely regret the inconvenience and 2-hour delay in arriving at his destination caused by us re-accommodating Mr. Dhale on our next flight with necessary precautions.”

02/09/19 Saba Rahman/Indian Express

Pune: Ahmedabad- and Chennai-bound passengers were stranded for several hours, from Saturday evening to the early hours of Sunday at the airport here.

A SpiceJet flight from Pune to Ahmedabad was delayed by more than six hours, while GoAir flight bound for Chennai faced a four-hour delay, frustrating flyers to no end.

“SpiceJet’s flight is delayed for six hours ... surprised to see such an arrogant behaviour from the airline staff. Worst possible service by any airlines,” Sankalp Dubey, a passenger, vented his frustration on social media.

“The flight was set to take off from Pune at 9pm. We received no notification about any delay and reached the airport around 7pm to check in,” another passenger, who chose to remain anonymous, said. “Suddenly they announced that the flight has been delayed and gave no further information. This kept happening, and many passengers lost their cool with the airlines staff, who would make an announcement and disappear,” the flyer said.

The flight finally took off at 3.30am on Sunday. “I was stuck at the airport for eight-and-a-half hours with no clue about what was going on,” the passenger added.

“I received the first message about the delay only at 9.40pm,” one passenger said, while others said they received text message alerts at 9pm.

TOI sent a detailed questionnaire on the delay to SpiceJet on Sunday morning. However, the airline did not respond till the time of going to print.

02/09/19 Joy Sengupta/Times of India

All flights run by Air India between Pune and Hyderabad are likely to soon get affected, as fuel supply to Hyderabad is set to stop for this airline.

The move is in lieu of the ongoing crisis being experienced by the staterun carrier — and having received further notices that fuel supply will be halted to Hyderabad and Raipur, the matter is set to worsen. **Air India owes some Rs 4,300 crore in dues to the three oil marketing companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd and Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd.**

The OMCs have been up in arms over non-payment of dues since August 22 this year and have already stopped fuel supply to six airports — Pune, Kochi, Mohali, Ranchi, Patna and Visakhapatnam. With Hyderabad and Raipur added to the list, eight destinations out of 72 where Air India has fuelling stations will experience a clampdown on fuel supply. Air India operates a daily Pune-Hyderabad flight, and company officials have claimed that this air route may be shut down entirely if the situation worsens for them. In the past few days, a number of passengers have already been facing delays, as also seeing their luggage not being uploaded into the aircraft due to payload restrictions.

02/09/19 Himanshu Nitnaware/Pune Mirror

Raipur: **A local consumer disputes redressal forum in Durg district has slapped a penalty on Air India for deficiency in services. The forum has ordered the airlines to pay Rs 31,056 to a Durg-based couple.**

The fine is related to an incident from February 2017 when the couple had missed their connecting flight from New Delhi to Amritsar due to a delay in their journey from Raipur.

The couple was supposed to board a plane to Amritsar from New Delhi, which they missed, as the Air India flight from Raipur to New Delhi had taken off after a delay of two hours.

The complainants, Gunjeet Singh and his wife Manpreet Kaur, said they had to spend extra money to purchase tickets from another airline and held Air India responsible for the delay. The Durg-based couple then approached the district consumer forum who asked Air India to pay Rs31,056 as compensation. After the submissions, **the forum asked Air India to pay Rs 14,056 to the couple for the additional tickets purchased, Rs 15,000 for mental harassment them and Rs 2,000 litigation cost.**

02/09/19 Times of India

New Delhi: Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated a new Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower for Delhi international airport on Monday and later stressed that besides having the latest technology and equipment it is equally important that expert people man such apparatus. **Compared to the old ATC tower, the new one has additional 21 Controller Positions at level 26 and 12, and Ground Controller Positions at level 25.**

The total cost of establishing the tower and its facilities were more than Rs 350 crore, Airports Authority of India (AAI) Chairman Anuj Agrawal said.

"ATC automated systems installed in technical blocks will have additional ATC controller positions, and this will result in the reduction in the number of flights handled by a single controller enhancing their efficiency and the overall security," he said.

The new tower is capable of handling more than 1,200 flights per day, and it has a peak hour handling capacity of 75 flights, he added.

The AAI said in a statement, "These positions enable the new ATC Tower to be future ready for the big expansion planned at the Delhi airport, which includes a fourth runway and many new parking stands/taxiways, which will enable additional capacity and slots for the airline industry."

02/09/19 PTI/Economic Times

New Delhi: Delhi Airport (DEL) gets India's tallest ATC tower! In a bid to enhance the safety and boost the efficiency of air transport management services at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, state-of-the-art and the country's most technologically advanced air traffic control (ATC) tower was inaugurated today. Union Minister for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the new "Aerodrome Control Tower".

The ATC tower which is 102-metres tall has provisions for 33 Tower as well as Ground Controllers position at Level 26 and 25. Delhi Airport, which is touted as the busiest in India, is expected to handle about 100 million passengers per annum, a jump from the existing capacity of 70 million. Puri said that with the inauguration of the ATC tower at IGI Airport, air traffic systems embark on a new journey. He said that the growth of the country's economy reflects in the ever-increasing passenger and cargo traffic at airports. During the last 5 years, the number has consistently registered double-digit growth, Puri said. It has become pertinent to scale up the service and systems to efficiently deal with this growth, the Union Minister tweeted.

According to reports, so far Air Traffic Control system at Delhi Airport used to handle over one flight per minute throughout 24 hours. Around 1,200 takeoffs and landings take place every day. There is overflying traffic of at least 250 aircraft. In total, around 40,000 movements are handled per month at Delhi's IGI Airport. This new ATC Tower will provide a better and robust safety system and better

visibility of the apron area, three runways, and taxiways. **The new ATC tower comprises equipment worth Rs 60 crore.** The building is earth-quake resistant and has the capability to withstand quake with an intensity up to Richter scale 8. The old tower was 60 metres tall.

02/09/19 Debjit Sinha/Financial Express

Mumbai: Thousands of AAI employees and officers under a joint forum on Monday held demonstrations at the AAI's headquarters in New Delhi and at airports across India to protest handing over of six airports to Adani Group.

The hour-long "peaceful" demonstrations were held during lunch time without disruption in work, said an official of the Joint Forum of AAI (Airports Authority of India) Unions and Associations. Last year, the government decided to privatise airports in Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati for operations, management and development through the public-private partnership (PPP) model. In February, Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) won the rights to run these six airports after competitive bidding.

02/09/19 PTI/Economic Times

New Delhi: IndiGo and SpiceJet are set to commence their partial domestic operations from Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi from September 5, GMR-led Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said today.

While Indigo would shift a portion of its operations from T2 to T3, SpiceJet would shift all of its domestic flights, operating from T2 to T3.

Post the shift, the SpiceJet flights -- SG 8000 to SG 8999 and IndiGo flights -- 6E 5000 to 6E 5999 - would operate out of T3. IndiGo flights 6E 2000 to 6E 2999 will operate from T2.

The GMR said that operations of SpiceJet and IndiGo at Terminal 1 will continue as before. The DIAL said that various steps are being taken to ensure smooth movement of passengers to the respective terminals, including placement of adequate bilingual directional and informative signage at all strategic locations in and around three terminals and deployment of dedicated staff members. DIAL will update about the necessary changes of flight movement on its website and IndiGo and SpiceJet airlines will keep their passengers informed through SMS, telephonic calls and e-mails.

02/09/19 ANI/NDTV

The Indian Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has announced that all major airports in the country will deploy body scanners within a year.

The regulator has also made it compulsory for other, smaller airports to install body scanners over the next two years.

This move is aimed at accelerating passenger clearance processes and ending manual frisking, without compromising airport security.

New body scanners will enable airport authorities to deal with the threat of non-metallic, plastic explosives and terrorism tools, including chemical, biological and radiation (CBR).

Common metal detectors are often unable to discover these materials.

BCAS joint director general Jyoti Narayan said: **"Since the nature of threat is changing, a lot of technological upgrade is happening in terms of aviation security.**

"We have ordered installations of body scanners as normal scanners cannot detect trace of plastic explosives and other threat material."

02/09/19 Airport Technology

Chennai: Before the onset of monsoon, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has started training its engineers on rainwater harvesting techniques, including rooftop harvesting and through recharge wells, in a bid to improve water availability at Chennai airport and its surroundings.

The idea is to harvest rainwater from stormwater drains that criss-cross the 1,301.28 acre compound of the airport. These drains carry rainwater from nearby residential areas to Adyar river.

The Central Ground Water Board, which is conducting the training, will carry out a study on the groundwater scene and aquifers in the substrata of operational area of the airport and will come up with solutions to recharge groundwater. The report will be submitted in 10 days.

Airport director S Sree Kumar said, "The aim is to increase the quality and yield of groundwater not only for the airport but also for surrounding neighbourhoods. It will also increase water table and will reduce the hardness of water."

He said, "A study was required because the drains are in the operational area where runways and taxiways are located and also because we have to install harvesting system which will be installed based on the study."

AAI is also planning to install a filtering system to improve quality of water fed into the recharge wells.

The groundwater mostly tapped from seven to eight borewells inside the airport is hard water.

However, the open wells inside the airport has good quality water.

The airport uses approximately 10 lakh to 12 lakh litres of water per day. The water is sourced from borewells, open wells, sewage treatment plant and supply from the government. The water sourced from borewells is hard water and is treated in an RO plant before it is used. Around 50% of the requirement of water is met through supply from the government.

02/09/19 Times of India

New Delhi: A Doha-bound passenger was apprehended at Kerala's Kozhikode airport by CISF personnel on Monday with drugs worth Rs. 2.5 crore hidden in a secret compartment of his bag, officials said.

Jabir Mullali, a resident of Kannur district of the state, was caught at about 3:30 am with 530 grams of drugs concealed in a false bottom of his bag, they said.

The seized drug is **methamphetamine**, a powerful stimulant, the officials said. The passenger and the narcotics, estimated to be worth Rs. 2.5 crore, have been handed over to anti-narcotics authorities.

02/09/19 PTI/NDTV

Police officials from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport have arrested a 29-year-old man for smoking on board a flight.

Santhosh Kumar, a native of Kannatur near Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, had taken an AirAsia flight from Bagdogra to Bengaluru on Saturday. He reportedly went inside the flight's washroom and began smoking. Upon noticing the smoke which was emitting from the washroom, the airlines' cabin crew approached him and asked him to put out the cigarette, which he refused to do.

Even after being repeatedly warned by the cabin crew, who also informed him that smoking on a flight was illegal, Santhosh refused to budge. Following this, the crew had issued a written warning to him and also informed the security chief.

This led to a tussle between the cabin crew and Santhosh, with crew members warning him of the consequences and reminding him that it was illegal to smoke aboard a flight. Several passengers on

the flight grew visibly panicked.

Upon reaching Bengaluru, the cabin crew filed a complaint with the airport police, who apprehended Santhosh. According to reports, a case has been filed under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 336 (partaking in an act endangering life or personal safety of others). He had also allegedly claimed that no action could be taken against him and refused to divulge information about his profession.

02/09/19 News Minute

Panaji: Flight operations at Goa's Dabolim international airport were affected on Sunday due to stray dogs roaming on the runway with an Air Asia flight having to abort its take-off, the Indian Navy said. The Airport Authority of India, however, denied any such incident.

Air Asia flight 778 from Goa to Delhi had to abort take-off after Air Traffic Control officials spotted stray dogs on the runway, an Indian Navy spokesperson said.

"The pilot was immediately informed, after which the take-off was aborted. The aircraft took off on a subsequent attempt," the spokesperson said.

Goa's only airport, at in Dabolim in South Goa, operates from the INS Hansa naval base.

Airport manager Gagan Malik however insisted, that there was no report of stray dogs affecting take-offs or landing of aircraft on Sunday. "No such incident has been reported to us," he said.

01/09/19 IANS/New Indian Express

New Delhi: An Air India plane carrying BJP Member of Parliament Ravi Kishan had to make an emergency landing at Gwalior airport, according to Republic Bharat.

The popular Bhojpuri actor-singer turned politician was reportedly coming to Delhi.

The plane had to make an **emergency landing due to some technical reasons.**

The BJP MP from Gorakhpur Ravi Kishan said, he was saved at the right moment. Bhole Baba saved me. The technical fault came to be noticed at the right time before something dangerous could happen, he further added.

Ravi Kishan went to Gwalior to participate in a program. The politician now has left for Lucknow.

01/09/19 Devdiscourse

Domestic air traffic growth in FY20 so far has been the slowest in the past five years. The passenger traffic, which witnessed high double-digit growth since 2014-15, has expanded at just 1.9% year-on-year in the first four months of FY20, largely due to closure of Jet Airways. As per analysts this muted growth is expected to continue till at least January next year.

"The low traffic growth in July 2019 is largely on account of lower capacity as Jet remains grounded. Additionally, full ramp-up of sales of Jet tickets, which moved to SpiceJet fleet, will take some time," analysts at ICICI securities noted. Aviation consultancy firm CAPA India has projected less than 5% y-o-y growth for the domestic market in FY20. However, airlines executives expect traffic growth to increase during the festival season. "July-September is a weak quarter for airlines. The July growth was mainly due to less capacity and fares being higher," said an executive at a low-cost carrier.

Jet commanded 15% of the domestic market share before the full-service carrier shut down due to liquidity crunch on April 17. Since then, SpiceJet and Vistara have inducted more than 40 aircraft which were earlier operated by Jet. The average domestic fares in FY20 are up 8% y-o-y, according to travel booking portal Cleartrip.

Travel industry executives point out that airlines have added more capacities, measured in terms of available seat kilometres (ASKs) on the international routes, which face less competition as

compared to domestic sectors. “The passenger traffic growth requires steady increase in capacities by airlines. **The traffic was increasing by 19% in 2018 when overall capacities grew at 21%. In this current financial year, the capacity has grown by only 3% y-o-y.**

01/09/19 Financial Express

Gwalior: A disaster was averted when the pilot of a chartered plane, carrying Bhojpuri film actor and Gorakhpur parliamentarian Ravindra Shyamnarayan Shukla, detected engine trouble and aborted take-off from this divisional headquarters.

Mr Shukla eventually left for the Maharashtra capital by the regular Air India (AI) flight.

01/09/19 UNI

New Delhi: Jet fuel price on Sunday was cut by about 1 per cent to a four-month low on softening international oil prices, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

Market-priced or non-subsidised cooking gas (LPG) price was however raised by Rs 15.5 per cylinder, oil firms said in a price notification.

Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price in Delhi was cut by Rs 596.62 per kilolitre or 0.9 per cent, to Rs 62,698.86 per kl. This is the third straight monthly price reduction.

Jet fuel prices were last cut by 5.8 per cent or Rs 3,806.44 per kl on August 1.

State-owned fuel marketing companies revise ATF prices on the 1st of every month based on average of benchmark international oil price in the previous month.

In Mumbai, home to the country's busiest airport, ATF price was cut to Rs 62,712.17 per kl from Rs 61,199.79 per kl.

Reduction in ATF rates will bring relief to cash strapped airlines.

01/09/19 PTI/Times of India

Karachi: Pakistan's 11 air traffic routes continue to remain open for Indian flights contrary to media reports that three of them via Karachi had been closed.

The confusion arose when the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued a Notam (notice to airmen) about three alternate routes for Karachi.

Under the CAA's standard operating procedure, whenever an unusual decision regarding the closure of route is made, it immediately informs all the airlines around the world about it through a notam so that they could reorganise their routes and issue a new schedule accordingly for their arrival and departure.

Since the Notam came soon after Pakistan announcement that it was considering a complete airspace closure to India in the wake of a spike in tensions over the developments in occupied Kashmir, some sections of the media erroneously reported that Islamabad had shut down three air routes for Indian flights.

The international media also reported the closure of the routes citing the incorrect local reports.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi later clarified that the decision on airspace closure to India would be taken by the prime minister.

Several Indian flights use Pakistani airspace to travel west, mostly towards destinations in Europe and the US. Therefore, India suffers greater losses in comparison with those of Pakistan.

01/09/19 Tufail Ahmed/Express Tribune

New Delhi: Keeping in view the new emerging threats from terrorists, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security is working on joint training modules with America's Transport Security Administration. The two sides recently met in Goa to work out their new training modules for their personnel in aviation sector, behaviour detection, preventing "insider" hand, are some of the anti sabotage areas they are focusing on.

It is learnt the training programmes include higher use of canines, assessing latest threats and using latest technology in dealing with these threats. Based on the training modules of their European and American counterparts, the BCAS has already started doing the background check of all airlines employees working in the sterile area of airports to prevent any "insider" hand in terror attacks at airports and flights. For behavioural analysis and predictive screening, through both softwares and human, will be used.

This will help the security and airlines staff easily pick up signs from suspicious passenger through their behaviour and assess at their own level before making a contact with the passenger. With body scanners in coming days, it is felt that the security personnel can be trained to detect trouble makers at airports and airplane.

01/09/19 Vineeta Pandey/Asian Age

Srinagar: A Kashmiri rights activist was stopped by authorities at the Delhi airport and barred from flying abroad, official sources said on Sunday.

Gowhar Geelani was stopped from travelling to Germany at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport on Saturday, they said.

Geelani was travelling for a programme with German broadcaster Deutsche Welle in Bonn.

Immigration authorities at Indira Gandhi International Airport Delhi stopped him, saying he can't leave the country.

The authorities stopped Geelani from flying abroad due to restrictions imposed on his travel, the sources said.

Geelani says that the immigration officer told him that they have clear instructions to not allow him to fly out because of the "prevailing situation in Kashmir". He wasn't given any written order on why he has been stopped.

01/09/19 Shuja-ul-Haq/India Today

Rajahmundry: D Muralitharan, general manager, cargo, southern region, Chennai, on Thursday inspected cargo facilities at the Rajahmundry airport, including x-ray machines, door frame metal detectors, hand-held metal detectors and explosive trace detectors.

D Muralitharan and airport director M Raja Kishore took part in a stakeholders' meeting at the airport in which it was identified that agro, marine, fish, soft crab and pharmacy shrimp would be the main cargo.

With the start of airbus operations, belly cargo can carry goods to the tune of three to four tonnes per trip, said the airport director.

The committee has recommended cargo operations for the airport and the Airport Authority of India has given operational clearance.

It is expected that security clearance from Bureau of Civil Aviation will be secured in the next few months leading to the beginning of cargo service in another four months.

01/09/19 Samson Raj/Times of India

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday allowed off-duty pilots and off-duty cabin crew members to travel in the jump seat of plane's cockpit, according to an official order.

On July 15, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had barred airline officials, including pilots, cabin crew and aircraft maintenance engineers, from travelling in the cockpit when they are off-duty or on leave.

The order had come after an off-duty pilot of Air India tested positive in a pre-flight alcohol test on July 13 when he was scheduled to travel in the jump seat of the plane's cockpit from Delhi to Bengaluru.

The Tuesday order issued by the DGCA stated that "for the purpose of security of aircraft operations", no person "shall enter the cockpit and occupy the jump seat" during flight time unless "he or she is any flight crew member of the aircraft operator, who has been authorised by the aircraft operator and has the permission of the pilot in command, whose presence in the cockpit shall be beneficial for the overall safety of operations".

Flight crew members include the cockpit crew (pilots) and cabin crew members (flight attendants).

A DGCA official clarified that while Tuesday's order does permit off-duty pilots and off-duty cabin crew members to travel in the cockpit's jump seat, they will have to still undergo pre-flight alcohol test just like the pilots flying the plane.

The order said that an employee of the airline - apart from flight crew staff - "whose duties are such that his or her entry to the cockpit is necessary for safe operation of aircraft" can also travel in cockpit's jump seat with the approval of pilot-in-command.

It also allowed any "officer of the Civil Aviation Department or India Meteorological Department, authorized by the DGCA to perform official duties" to travel in the cockpit's jump seat.

The order also said that officials of the airline, who have been deputed for familiarization of flight for better practical understanding of cockpit instruments, can travel in jump seat if they have the approval of pilot-in-command.

The order said that any "representative of manufacturer of aircraft", who has to observe pilots and instruments, can travel in the jump seat with the approval of pilot-in-command.

It also said that any other person authorised by the DGCA can travel in the cockpit's jump seat too.

The Economic times of India 03/09/2019

BENGALURU: India's civil aviation authority has certified a drone built by Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) for being compliant with the country's 'no permission, no take-off' (NP-NT) protocol, a necessity for any commercial drone flights in the country.

Bengaluru-based AUS is the first company that has been granted certification for a drone in the 'small' category. The three previous certifications granted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have been for 'micro' drones, which are much smaller.

The DGCA defines drones based on their weight, with a small drone weighing 2-25 kg. For micro drones, the weight should be under 2 kg, including of the payload. "We're already in talks with several clients who were waiting for us to get the DGCA certification in order to use our serv

Julienices legally,” said AUS CEO Vipul Singh. “They will now be able to use a made in India and for India drone that can help them realise their business potential.”

Small drones are far more capable than micro drones given their ability to carry higher quality sensors and larger payloads. These capabilities are more in line with what large industries seek, in terms of accuracy and flight times, the company said. AUS works with large mining, infrastructure, power and survey companies, including with several state-run agencies.

It offers an end-to-end solution to these corporations, where it deploys its drones to gather information from the air and deliver insights such as on volume of stockpiles and progress of projects.

The Economic times of India 04/09/2019

Aviation civile – Le marché bangladais, qui a doublé en seulement sept ans, reste difficile pour les compagnies internationales et locales

La compagnie singapourienne Scoot a récemment annoncé opérer son dernier vol depuis Dhaka le 29 avril 2019. La desserte du Bangladesh est un marché difficile pour les compagnies aériennes étrangères et de nombreux acteurs, notamment de British Airways et KLM, ont renoncé à desservir l’aéroport de Dhaka. En 2018, Fly Dubai et Etihad Airways ont également pris la décision d’y cesser leurs activités. Les compagnies aériennes font face à de nombreux problèmes : un prix du kérosène important, des frais de prise en charge au sol exorbitant (3000\$ par avion, au lieu d’environ 600\$ à Bangkok) et une mauvaise organisation des services sur place (sécurité, manque de passerelle aéroportuaire, etc.).

Ces problèmes touchent aussi les compagnies locales : quatre sociétés se partagent le marché des vols intérieurs, desservant 8 aéroports locaux. Biman Airlines, la compagnie nationale opérant depuis 1972 a été rejointe dans les années 2010 par Regent Airways (2010), Novoair (2013) puis US-Bangla Airlines (2014). Faisant face à des problèmes financiers depuis près de deux ans, Regent Airways a annoncé cette semaine la réduction de sa flotte de Boeing 737 de 6 appareils à 4. La compagnie doit notamment 1,9 Mds Tk (20 M€) aux autorités locales, pour des charges impayées. Les compagnies souffrent notamment d’un marché intérieur très concurrentiel qui tire les prix vers le bas et pousse les acteurs à s’internationaliser en desservant l’Asie du Sud et le Moyen-Orient. Dans ce contexte, US-Bangla Airlines a réceptionné fin mars 2019 un ATR 72-600 neuf afin d’agrandir sa flotte. La livraison de 3 ATR supplémentaires est également prévue.

Regent Airways est détenu à 100% par le conglomérat bangladais Habib Group (<http://habibgroupbd.com/>). Novoair est une filiale du groupe Tusuka, principalement implanté dans le secteur textile (<https://www.tusuka.com/>). Enfin, US-Bangla Airlines est une filiale de US-Bangla Group (<https://us-bangla.com/>) dont les activités se tournent principalement vers l’immobilier.

Malgré ces obstacles, le trafic international a doublé en 7 ans, passant de 5,56 M de passagers en 2010 à 11 M de passagers en 2017. Ce trafic est notamment absorbé par l’aéroport international Hazrat Shahjalal de Dhaka, qui a accueilli 7,5 M de passagers en 2017. Les experts s’attendent à ce qu’il accueille environ 12 millions de passagers d’ici 2022 et jusqu’à 22 millions d’ici 2035. L’aéroport a actuellement une capacité d’accueil annuelle de 8 millions de passagers et de 200 000 tonnes de marchandises. Un projet d’expansion en cours est prévu pour 2022 (ouverture d’un 3ème terminal dont le marché est en cours d’attribution) et portera la capacité à 20 millions de passagers et 500 000 tonnes.

Julien Deur SE DG Tresor Bangladesh 05/09/2019

New Delhi: A GoAir flight, with 120 persons on board, was forced to make an emergency landing at Kolkata airport Thursday after the pilot detected smoke post taking off.

Delhi-bound GoAir flight G8 -102 departed from Kolkata's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport at 2:20 pm. Immediately after take off, the pilot noticed smoke emitted from the aircraft and contacted the Air traffic control (ATC). The pilot maneuvered the aircraft safely and made an emergency landing around 2:30 PM.

All the 120 persons on board are safe.

05/09/19 Zee Media

In a major relief to the national carrier, oil companies have agreed to continue the supply of aviation fuel (ATF) to Air India, after the Centre intervened. An arrangement was arrived at after a couple of meetings were held by the Aviation secretary with representatives from the concerned oil companies recently, say sources.

The Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) were assured that their dues would be cleared soon, in two to three tranches. Air India owes approximately Rs 4,300 crore to three oil companies, viz, Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum.

Since April, the airline has been defaulting on its cash-and-carry arrangement, where it pays Rs 18 crore, per day, to these companies for tanking up.

05/09/19 Sameer Dixit/DNA

With the areas around Santacruz receiving more than 200 mm of rain through the day, domestic and international passengers faced cascading delays, which increased from 25 minutes on Wednesday morning to 60 minutes by early evening.

There was fluctuating visibility and waterlogging in the operational area around the cross runway. While average delays ranged from 15 to 25 minutes in the morning, heavy rains led to visibility fluctuating below 500 metres on the runway between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm.

A video shot by a ground handling staff also showed water flowing in the parking bays. Mumbai Rains: Traffic moves slowly on the waterlogged Western Express Highway in Kalanagar. According to data from flightradar24.com, a global air traffic monitoring website, the delays began increasing gradually from 25 minutes to 45 minutes, and by 6 pm, the delays peaked at 61 minutes for departing flights. Several arriving flights were also delayed by more than an hour when visibility was low.

Air India's flight 646 arriving from Jodhpur touched down at 6.01 pm instead of 1.35 pm. Its flight 680 from Mangalore arrived at 4.21 pm instead of 2.25 pm. Jaipur-Mumbai flight 612 landed at 6.03 pm instead of 3.50 pm, while Visakhapatnam-Mumbai flight 651 was late by 90 minutes.

According to the website, 96 arrivals were delayed and five flights were cancelled, and 240 departures were delayed and eight were cancelled. Seven of these cancelled services were Indigo flights to Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Coimbatore between 4.10 pm and 7.20 pm. Air India also cancelled its 6 pm departure to Delhi. Several passengers faced a harrowing time reaching the airport.

Gopilal Kumawat, a 31-year-old sweetshop owner from Mankhurd, left by train at noon to board a 2.30 pm Air India flight to Udaipur, but waterlogging at Kurla railway station and heavy traffic jams on the Western Express Highway from Bandra onwards ensured that he could reach only around 3.30 pm.

"It was horrible. First, no autos or cabbies were ready to come to the airport from Kurla station.

Then one auto driver agreed to take me for Rs 400, but he dropped me at Bandra and refused to go

any further due to jams and waterlogging. I managed to get a cab at 1.30 pm. It took me two hours to cover 2.5 km,” said Kumawat, who managed to catch his flight as Air India rescheduled AI 643 to Udaipur for 6.40 pm.

04/09/19 Satish Nandgaonkar/Mumbai Mirror

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is trying to verify if 19 of grounded Jet Airways Group’s entities violated the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) over the last 10 years, sources told Mirror. Five of the entities under scanner are based abroad.

The official said the entities are suspected to have siphoned off foreign exchange. The agency will also ask the Group to furnish details related to certain overseas bank accounts holding sizeable deposits. The agency had initiated a FEMA investigation against the Group last month and conducted searches at 12 of its official and residential premises in Mumbai and Delhi.

The probe is based on several complaints and intelligence inputs about the alleged irregularities in the Group’s forex transactions. According to sources, apart from the 19 firms, the ED is also investigating certain firms located in international tax havens that were allegedly indirectly controlled by the Group.

“We are probing allegations that the Jet Group had structured various tax-evasion schemes with the help of its domestic and overseas firms, thereby siphoning off huge amounts to foreign jurisdictions through dubious, fictitious transactions,” said an ED source. **“Inflated payments were seemingly made to some of the overseas entities under overheads like airline lease agreements, aircraft maintenance agreements,”** the source said.

05/09/19 Abhishek Sharan/Mumbai Mirror

New Delhi: The Delhi International Airport is all set to begin trials of its facial recognition system from September 6. The system will be rolled out on a trial-basis in collaboration with Vistara airlines.

The facility will be tried at Delhi airport's Terminal 3 (T3). After the trials are completed, the biometric system will be officially rolled out across all terminals of Delhi airport.

With this technology, passengers' entry will be processed automatically. It will be based on the facial recognition system at all check-points including the airport entry, entry into security-checks as well as the aircraft boarding.

Passengers can enroll for facial recognition using valid flight tickets and government ID proofs at registration kiosks at T3.

After that, the camera will capture the passengers' facial details. The CISF personnel, present at the kiosks, will also physically verify the passenger's documents and confirm the same on the system. Then, the passengers can move towards the departure gates, which will be fitted with the facial recognition system and automatically open upon clearance.

Following that, the passengers can proceed towards the check-in counters to drop off their bags. In case the passengers are not carrying luggage, then they can move forward to the security-check gates, which are again fitted with facial recognition systems.

After security screening, the passengers can head straight for the boarding gates that will open automatically, again upon facial recognition.

05/09/19 Poulomi Saha/India Today

Chennai: Two months after issuing a show-cause notice that critical areas at Chennai airport were not being maintained as per standards, Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials will conduct a detailed audit of the airport on Thursday.

For the first time, the DGCA will look at the implementation of a new regulation wherein the staff entering the tarmac will be checked to ensure they are not under the influence of alcohol.

Officials of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said the audit will essentially focus on checking the friction level of the runway and other issues involved with the safety of the tarmac.

The DGCA authorities will hold a meeting with AAI on the procedures to follow in case of an emergency or crisis. “For instance, recently in Mumbai, a SpiceJet aircraft skidded off the main runway, putting hundreds of lives at risk. After that, the DGCA wants an airport operator (like AAI) to see how such a situation can be handled, how the aircraft should be removed from the runway and other safety procedures,” an official said.

“The audit comes following a show-cause notice that was issued two months ago to Chennai airport by DGCA when they observed that some of the critical areas were not being maintained as per standards,” another official said.

05/09/19 The Hindu

Kolkata: Airport Authority of India (AAI) has identified Building Information Modeling (BIM) as the design and planning platform for construction of the New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati of Assam.

The new 90,000 square-metre terminal, will have 64 check-in counters, 20 self-check-in desks, eight Immigration counters, eight custom counters, six arrival carousels, 10 escalators, 25 elevators, 16 self-baggage drop counters and 20 aircraft parking bays.

Architecture Firm: Design Forum International (DFI) and AECOM, a fully integrated global infrastructure firm have leveraged Autodesk BIM solution, Revit to design the NITB of the airport.

Autodesk Revit will help to enhance collaboration of the entire project team– from design, fabrication, and construction to operations and maintenance – to make informed decisions from a common point of understanding. The cloud-based Collaboration for Revit service provides centralized access to Revit models, and let project team members at multiple sites co-author Revit models regardless of their physical location. This cloud-enabled work-sharing also let team members see each other’s work and communicate with one another in real time.

DFI has taken inspiration from the mythological figure, Icarus to create the unique design of this new terminal, ensuring seamless and state of the art infrastructure for generations to come. DFI has designed the NITB with a 4-Star GRIHA rating parameter. The focus on sustainability was imbibed right at the design inception stage by inter-weaving the built form with the outdoor environment. The indoor forest is a physical manifestation of this approach –it is separated by a glass wall from the more massive outdoor forest, fitting into a groove with the terminal building and becoming an integral part of the overall built structure. The car park structures are designed to be covered with photovoltaic panels that generate almost 500 KW of solar energy.

05/09/19 Rajib Chowdhury/Asian Age

Pune: Divisional commissioner Dipak Mhaisekar on Wednesday told the civic body to immediately start acquiring land of private parties to be given to the Airports Authority of India for the expansion of the Lohegaon Airport.

Mhaisekar, the Pune divisional commissioner, told TOI that there were just two private landowners and they had given their consent for the acquisition. “But the letter of consent needs to be signed by

them. We hope to finish the process within a week's time. In total, around 27 acres of land will be acquired. Until now, no land has been acquired," he said.

Another official in the know of developments said, "The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) informed us that the acquisition process had begun. According to the instructions given, the process should not be delayed. The interested private landowners should be given compensation as per the market rate of land and a consent letter should be taken from them."

Recently, Pune's deputy mayor Siddharth Dhende had told TOI that a meeting was convened by the PMC commissioner, Saurabh Rao, in the presence of Pune airport director Ajay Kumar. Rao had directed his officials in the meeting to hold talks with the private landowners regarding the land acquisition.

05/09/19 Joy Sengupta/Times of India

Chennai: After a couple of years, the monkey menace is back at Chennai airport. For a few days now, a monkey has been giving officials of the Airports Authority of India and Forest Department a tough time.

But, so far, it hasn't troubled or caused any harm to any of the passengers, sources said.

"The Forest Department personnel have placed a few cages with some eggs and other food items inside them. It has been quite difficult to catch the simian because all of a sudden it goes into hiding and comes out once in a while. We should be able to catch it soon," an official said.

Two weeks ago, a monkey came into the terminal and was later caught with the assistance of the Forest Department, he added.

Airports Authority of India officials said they haven't been able to find out how and from where these monkeys get into the terminal.

"Some say they jump off from the inter-state trucks passing through GST Road and enter the airport. But we are not sure of it," he added.

Chennai airport has been dealing with pigeons flying around the terminal. Officials said they have caught about 10 so far and are in the process of closing all the openings from which these birds enter. Passengers said, these birds are feeding the leftovers and continue to remain near the security check area.

05/09/19 Sunita Sekar/The Hindu

Noida : The Gautam Buddh Nagar administration acquired and transferred 83 hectares of land from two villages to the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) on Thursday for the proposed Jewar airport, officials said.

As much as 81.5 hectares was acquired from Rohi village, while 1.5 hectares from Banwaribans village, taking the total acquisition to 707 hectares, the first phase development of the international greenfield airport, they said.

According to District Magistrate B N Singh, 1,235 hectares will be acquired for the first phase of the airport and the administration expects to hand over 80 per cent of the land to YEIDA by September 15.

Deputy Collector and airport project in charge Abhay Singh said so far 125 hectares from Dyanatpur, 306.5 hectares from Rohi, 75 hectares from Parohi, 94 hectares from Ranhera, 100 hectares from Kishorepur and 5.5 hectares from Banwaribans have been acquired.

The first phase of the airport would be spread over 1,334 hectares and is expected to be completed by 2023, according to officials.

05/09/19 Outlook

Mumbai: Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) today announced a strategic technology partnership with Datamatics Global Services Ltd. (DGSL), a global IT and BPM company to transform BIAL into a future-ready digital organization. This involves automating and digitizing more than 170 processes across the organization.

BIAL operates the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport), the third busiest airport in India. The collaboration aims to strengthen and streamline BIAL's core processes by digitizing its assets and setting up integrated workflows for seamless flow of information across multiple stakeholders and departments. Datamatics will deliver a comprehensive suite of digital solutions and services enabling the client to set-up a paperless digital office.

Datamatics will implement the Integrated Document Management System (DMS) and Business Process Management (BPM) as a cloud-based solution. This will also help in digitally capturing various data points that could be used in the larger digital transformation initiatives of BIAL.

05/09/19 IT News Online

Bhubaneshwar : Bhubaneshwar residents are changing the way they take calls on vacation destination, duration and overall planning – be it minications, excursions or long family-vacations. GoAir, India’s fastest growing airline, has captured these changing trends to usher in the new decade 2020 with fanfare. On the anvil are voyages to your favorite destinations from 14 January 2020 to 31 July 2020 across the GoAir network that spans 24 domestic cities. So tighten your seat belts and get ready for an exciting and well deserved annual break or an exciting getaway to unwind – just pick and choose from an array of options that can be booked between 3 – 8 September 2019 with fares starting from Rs 1420 onwards.

The 2020 initiative is a manifestation of GoAir’s endeavors to make air travel affordable with a strong message to customers to book early so as to FlySmart. Ever since GoAir was launched in 2005, the airline has been educating customers that the best time to buy a flight ticket is ‘today’, simply because the fares are not going to be cheaper ‘tomorrow’. **To celebrate 2020, GoAir has launched fares across sectors that will end with “20” as the last two digits.** Innovation is never a single event, but rather the confluence of efforts undertaken by multiple individuals and organizations – in the case of 2020, GoAir is just pivoting this role.

05/09/19 Orissa Diary

AirAsia India has for the first time in its short history recorded a positive operating profit or earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) in the quarter gone by. The joint venture airline between AirAsia Berhad and Tata Sons reached the milestone in the June quarter of 2019.

The airline, which began its India operations in 2014, posted an EBITDA of Rs 112 crore compared to a negative EBITDA of Rs 48.4 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

AirAsia India posted a revenue of Rs 904 crore in the June quarter, a 39 percent increase year-on-year.

"The increase in revenue was mainly due to a 25 percent increase in number of passengers carried.

Average fare and unit passenger revenue increased by eight percent and seven percent, respectively," the airline's parent said in a recent statement.

The strong earnings helped the airline narrow down its losses by 74 percent to Rs 15.1 crore in the June quarter. Its domestic market share increased by one percentage point to seven percent in these three months.

05/09/19 Prince Mathews Thomas/Moneycontrol.com

Mumbai: Air India passengers can soon avail "Namaskar Sewa", a meet and greet service wherein dedicated personnel will receive the customers at airport entry gate and assist them till being seated in the aircraft.

The disinvestment-bound national carrier, which is already providing similar services to first class passengers, would be rolling out the initiative on a pilot basis at the Delhi airport this month, according to an airline official.

The airline flew more than 81 lakh domestic passengers and over 35 lakh international passengers during the April-June period.

Namaskar Sewa would be offered to the passengers for a nominal fee, the official told .

The initiative also comes at a time when the airline is grappling with stiff competition and complaints about services from passengers.

"We have already been providing such services to our first class customers. There is a feedback that at times, business and economy class passengers faced some issues at airports and did not have a pleasant experience.

"With Namaskar Sewa, we are aiming to address those issues," the official said.

According to him, the initiative would focus more on international passengers, particularly those in transit, as they have to hop on from one terminal to another.

The airline would have a dedicated team of up to three personnel to help passengers who register for the services through the web link "namaskarsewa.in".

05/09/19 PTI/Outlook

Officers from the Denpasar Police arrested two Indian nationals at a hotel in South Kuta earlier this week, allegedly seizing around 3 kg of shabu (crystal methamphetamine) from the duo.

At a press conference yesterday, Denpasar Police Chief Commissioner Ruddi Setiawan said that the suspects – identified as Manjet Singh and Harvinder Singh – flew to Bali from Jakarta and hid the drugs in "special plastic" to fool airport authorities.

"The two suspects confessed that they acquired the drugs from someone in Jakarta and brought them to Bali by airplane," Ruddi said, as quoted in a statement.

According to a report from Detik, Ruddi said he suspected that the two were **part of an India-Bali narcotics trafficking network.**

Police say that both Manjet and Harvinder confessed to this being their third time smuggling drugs to Bali and that they were paid around IDR 10 million (USD 706) each time, as reported by Merdeka.

05/09/19 Coconuts Bali

New Delhi: A man, who arrived at Delhi airport from Dubai, has been arrested for allegedly smuggling Rs 22 lakh worth of gold in paste form concealed in the jeans the person was wearing, a Customs official said on Thursday.

The passenger, who arrived at the Terminal 3 of the IGI Airport on Tuesday from Dubai by an Air India flight, was intercepted by Customs officials after crossing the Green Channel.

A personal and baggage search of the person resulted in the recovery of gold in paste form weighing approximately 1,200 gm concealed in the jeans worn by the person.

After extraction, 567 gm of gold with a market value of Rs 22,49,856 was recovered.

The gold has been seized and the passenger arrested under relevant provisions of the Customs Act.

05/09/19 Outlook

While the earlier update on the ailing airline company Jet Airways was that the South American business group Synergy Group Corp is in the race to take over with some conditions, a fresh report claims there is another entity in the fray. This report by the business news channel CNBC-TV18 claims it has accessed documents to indicate that the Synergy Group Corp and Treasury RA Creator from Russia have since been shortlisted by the resolution professional or RP.

In the revised scheme of things in dealing with debt-ridden companies seeking insolvency or where the cases get referred to the National Company Law Tribunal, a Committee of Creditors (CoC) is formed. The lender having maximum exposure in the troubled firm will normally head the Committee and a Resolution Professional (RP) is appointed to coordinate between the various stakeholders in resolving the issue. It is the RP, the small creditors approach, to have their issues resolved. It is the RP who holds discussions with prospective suitors for taking over the sick unit. These talks are held within the mandate given by the CoC.

Ultimately, each lender is interested in recovering as much of the funds they had sunk in the company as they can. The investor wanting to take over will try and avoid paying back the old debts and will want to invest in turning the company around. This tug-of-war will happen all the time. Coming back to the Jet Airways case, the RP will be holding meetings with the South American company as well as the Russian party. As reported earlier, German Effromovich, the founder of the Synergy Group is likely to be in India and will meet the RP and possibly the State Bank of India officials, on September 15. It is not known if the date for the meeting with the Russian entity, Treasury RA Creator, has been fixed.

04/09/19 S. Mahadevan/News Minute

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday directed the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) of Jet Airways and the administrator of Dutch insolvency court, which has declared the airline insolvent, to coordinate with each other. Both the parties will file terms of their agreement within the next two weeks, a three-member bench headed by Chairperson Justice S J Mukhopadhaya said. The appellate tribunal will next hear the matter on September 20.

“The IRP has to collate the claims of the all financial creditors and operational creditors, domestic or internationally,” said NCLAT.

During the last hearing on August 21, the NCLAT had asked the Committee of Creditors (CoC) of Jet if they would coordinate with the Dutch court appointed administrator and accord other equally situated foreign lenders, who were also pursuing insolvency proceedings against the debt-laden airline, the same status as they would to the secured and unsecured financial creditors in India. During the proceedings on Wednesday, though the CoC told the appellate tribunal that they were ready to cooperate with the Dutch court administrator, the NCLAT observed that the lenders could only make observations.

The observation by the three-member bench came after the Dutch court administrator submitted that while he had no problem working with the IRP, the CoC could not give directions to him.

04/09/19 Aashish Aryan/Business Standard

Mumbai: Creditors of India’s bankrupt Jet Airways are likely to recover less than 10% of the carrier’s total outstanding dues in a liquidation scenario if no suitor succeeds in buying the airline, two sources told Reuters.

The airline’s financial and operational creditors, who are owed nearly 300 billion Indian rupees (\$4.20 billion) are likely to recover only \$300-\$400 million from the sale of Jet’s assets, the sources, who

have direct knowledge of the matter, said.

“The expected recovery on owned planes and real estate is \$300-400 million after repaying debt tied specifically to those assets,” said one of the sources.

The sources, who asked not to be named as they have not been cleared to discuss the matter with media, said **Jet currently has some four to six Boeing and Airbus aircraft, and some real estate assets in India, on which there are some outstanding dues.**

The airline, less than a year ago, was operating a fleet of more than 120 planes that flew to dozens of domestic destinations and international hubs such as Singapore, London and Dubai.

Once India’s biggest private carrier, Jet stopped flying in April after running out of cash, leaving thousands without jobs and pushing up air fares across the country. It was admitted to bankruptcy court in June after its lenders, led by State Bank of India, failed to agree on a revival plan.

04/09/19 Nupur Anand/Reuters

New Delhi: "Munnabhai" may have gotten away with using a mobile phone to top his MBBS exams in the movie but doing so in real life has cost two wannabe pilots dearly.

After spending lakhs of their parents’ hard-earned money to train as pilots, they allegedly used/tried to use unfair means — read cell phones — during exams conducted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for award of commercial pilot licence (CPL).

While one wannabe candidate has been grounded for life by being barred permanently from appearing in this exam, the other will be able to do so only after two years.

The regulator’s orders issued in both cases on Tuesday. The more serious case is of July 26, 2019, when a wannabe pilot from Thane in Mumbai was appearing for “air regulation” subject exam to get his CPL.

“During examination you used unfair means and were in possession of two smart phones (including an iPhone), one smart watch and one connecting device. Whereas these electronic gadgets are not allowed to be carried during the conduct of examination,” says the order.

The regulator had issued a show-cause on this candidate and its reply was not found satisfactory.

Accordingly, the DGCA has barred this person permanently "for life" for pilot licence exam.

The second case is of a Guntur-based candidate who appeared for a CPL subject paper exam in Hyderabad on July 24 and “was found in possession of a mobile phone” despite the fact that electronic gadgets are not allowed to be with examinees at that time.

04/09/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

New Delhi: **Passengers on a three-hour-long Kolkata-Mumbai flight were barred from using washrooms recently for a long stretch, leaving them in a desperate situation.**

The bizarre incident happened on a SpiceJet aircraft, which was flying from Kolkata in West Bengal to Mumbai in Maharashtra, after the flight attendants refused to let the flyers use the washrooms.

According to the Times of India, **the reason why the attendants on flight SG 6422 refused their flyers to use toilets was because the seat belt sign was on almost throughout the journey.**

Reportedly, the seat belt sign was switched off only for a brief period of time after take-off. The flight took off at 11.55am, after which the seat belt sign was switched off for about 30-35 minutes. But then it was switched on again as the plane experienced turbulence.

This happened before the crew began their service onboard.

"There were intermittent periods of turbulence but there were also lengthy periods of relative calm.

We had expected the sign to be switched off but it wasn't," a passenger told the daily.

04/09/19 India Today

Mumbai: Air India has called back its senior pilot, Capt Atul Chandra, who was deputed to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), where he holds the post of chief flight operations inspector. The airline has initiated a departmental inquiry into salary payouts it made to Chandra when he was employed with DGCA.

A letter asking DGCA to relieve Chandra so that he can return to AI, was sent to the regulator last week. "Capt Chandra needs to return to AI for the investigation to progress. We expect DGCA to not obstruct the investigation," said an AI official. An AI spokesperson confirmed that the airline had written to DGCA seeking Chandra's return. "We are working on a zero-tolerance policy," the spokesperson said with reference to the departmental inquiry and decision to call the senior pilot back.

Chandra had been getting salaries from two government organisations, one from his current employer, DGCA, and the other from Air India (Top DGCA official also drew a salary from Air India, TOI, January 11). Following the report, Chandra paid back Rs 80 lakh to Air India in two parts on January 11 and 14.

04/09/19 Manu V/Times of India

Days after the deadline to submit the EoI (expression of interest) ended, Jet Airways' resolution professional Ashish Chhawchharia is hoping for the best. "There's hope that they [creditors] will get a good resolution plan but we will get to know that once they start interacting and reviewing documents. Today, we have to believe that there's a good chance," says Chhawchharia in an interaction with Business Today.

Chhawchharia said that they will issue a final list of eligible applicants in the next few days. According to the EoI document released on July 20, there will be a nine-stage process before applicants submit the resolution plan with all relevant documents to the resolution professional. The deadline to submit interest in Jet was extended twice due to weak response in the first two rounds.

Three entities have expressed interest. That includes **Russian Fund Treasury RA Partners, Panama-based investment firm Avantulo Group and South American conglomerate Synergy Group Corp.** Synergy owns a majority stake in Colombian carrier Avianca Holdings that has a codeshare agreement with Air India.

04/09/19 Manu Kaushik/Business Today

The Indian government is keen on selling its stake in Air India and the process may kick off by October.

Yet, suitors are not lining up for the debt-ridden airline even as government uncharacteristically relinquishing 100% of its control.

Amidst hectic parleys in the corridors of power, Emirates, owned by the government in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has ruled out the possibility of a bid for Air India.

"We are not looking at it. We are more focussed on seeing how we can grow better organically," Essa Sulaiman Ahmad, the Vice President of India and Nepal, said in a conversation with Business Insider.

There are heated debates underway in many forums on whether Air India should be fully privatised. Should the buyer for the national carrier should be Indian or foreign? A few sections of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government seem keen to find the best possible price for the ailing Air India, but the BJP's ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has a clear stand against selling the airline to a foreign peer.

Cashing out of Air India is important for the Narendra Modi government looking to garner enough money to invest in more productive ventures that may speed up the economic growth, which recently hit a six-year low of 5% between April and June 2019. The fact that the debt-ridden airline—Rs 55 000 crore at last count-- may reportedly clock a profit, for the first time in a decade, may have helped the sale after many failed attempts in the past. However, the sale of Air India has been a political and an emotional issue, which the Emirates has steered clear of.

04/09/19 Sriram Iyer/Business Insider

New Delhi: **A Delhi-bound Indigo flight with several passengers on board was stranded at the Mumbai airport runway on Wednesday for more than seven hours.** Passengers in the aircraft took to Twitter to complain that they were neither allowed to deboard nor given water or refreshments. Flight 6E-6097 was scheduled to leave Mumbai at 3:15 pm and reach Delhi at 5.30 pm. According to FlightAware website, the plane finally departed at 9:55 pm. The city on Wednesday received torrential rainfall, which partially crippled flight operations at the airport.

“Passengers of Indigo Mumbai-Delhi flight, suffering from past 6 hours on Mumbai airport. Flight is not taking off nor passengers are allowed to go out. What the hell is happening here?,” Twitter user Pooja Rathi asked.

“People don't have even water to drink, some people are unconscious in flight,” another user Ravinder Sharma tweeted.

Another user asked the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to cancel the licence of the "pathetic" airline.

The passengers stranded in the flight tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Mumbai Police and the DGCA on Twitter describing their plight.

According to the DGCA policy, passengers are entitled to meals and refreshments at the airport if a flight is delayed for less than 24 hours and should be provided hotel accommodation if it is delayed by more than 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Indigo in a statement said that many of their crew and ground support staff were not able to reach at the airport due to the heavy rains in the city.

04/09/19 News18

Aviation

Why India badly needs multi-airport systems

Till date, the capacity expansion at Indian airports has mostly focused on the terminals.

As the demand continues to grow, the current commercial fleet of 500-plus aircraft is likely to double within the next 7-10 years.

India will see the highest increase in its urbanisation with its existing urban population doubling by 2050. We already see this trend in all the major Indian cities. The city of Delhi has become the National Capital Region as Gurugram and Noida have become integral parts of the megapolis. The cities of Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai are similarly expanding and dispersing populations across large geographical areas.

This rapid expansion needs long-term planning and demands new airport capacity to be built within the coming decade. Sadly this has not been the case.

Till date, the capacity expansion at Indian airports has mostly focused on the terminals. Ask any Indian airport operator for capacity details and they will promptly recite their terminal capacity

numbers along with glossy photographs of their latest construction. **Missing is the total capacity of the airport which includes land-side capacity (catering, cargo, office, and crew facilities, car parking, drop-off and pick-up areas etc.), the airside capacity (runway, taxiway, parking bay capacity), in addition to the terminal capacity.**

For a truly comprehensive picture, one must also include the capacity of the airspace around the airport to ensure planes can arrive, hold, land, depart and exit in an efficient manner.

Contrary to popular claims, it is the airside and airspace capacity that is most critical. And our slot-constrained airports reflect the lack of focus on this crucial aspect.

Furthermore, **most airports across the country are single-runway operations.** Consequently they provide no resiliency in the event of an emergency. Indeed, with amazing regularity we see a complete disruption of our national air transportation system if even one runway at a major airport is shut-down.

One of the ways that this needs to be addressed is via a determined effort towards encouraging airport competition (read more here).

Catchment areas are large but only catered to by single airports

Catchment areas -- the areas from which an airport gets traffic -- are large enough to justify multiple airport systems. Yet, in a testament to lobbies and vested interests multiple airports have not come up. This situation is not sustainable. **Failing the development of multiple airports, expanded airport monopolies will continue to impact affordability.** This will impact demand and impede growth.

For instance, Bengaluru's catchment covers Chikaballapura to the North, Hosur to the South, Ramanagara to the Southwest and everything in between. A total population in excess of 12 million plus and growing. Served by only one airport. Ironically, the government agreed to close HAL airport to commercial operation thereby limiting competition and impacting passenger convenience. The current Kempegowda airport will saturate by 2031-2032. Even the existing airport operator agrees the state must start planning for a second airport. To achieve the government's goal of de-congesting Bengaluru, and develop industry in the Mysuru and Hassan areas, the airport should be ideally located somewhere around the towns of Ramanagara and Channapatna. But this is not even being discussed let alone being planned for.

This challenge is not limited to Bengaluru. **Most metro cities including Mumbai and Delhi also need secondary and tertiary airports to come up. Mumbai has already seen the commissioning of Navi-Mumbai airport but with the same developer for both airports it is simply an extension of the airport monopoly. One only hopes that the same situation does not play out with Jewar airport.**

Airports are economic multipliers, multi-airports ensure benefits are distributed

Airports are economic multipliers. In fact, the very presence of an airport leads to growth in the immediate area. Thus, multi-airport systems will provide for growth that is not concentrated to one area of the city. Once again using Bengaluru and Delhi as examples it is evident that the airport clearly benefits residents of certain parts of the city while making for "uneasy-connectivity" for other parts. When layered with hotel capacity growth and other numbers like housing, safety and spending -- there is a clear and visible impact.

Snapshot of second airports coming up across key cities

Some cities have plans for a second airport. Jewar airport in Noida if planned judiciously can compete with Delhi airport; Navi Mumbai ideally should compete with the existing Mumbai airport (though unlikely); and Bengaluru certainly should start planning for a second airfield in addition to pushing for the reopening of HAL. Cities like Kolkata, Chennai and Pune are wanting for airport capacity and additional delays will only hamper the growth prospects for the cities.

AIRPORT	EXPANSION AT CURRENT AIRPORT	NEW AIRPORT AND ISSUES
DELHI (DIAL)	4TH RUNWAY BY 2021	JEWAR AIRPORT – IN UTTAR PRADESH. BID DOCUMENT WAS APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION ON MAY 6TH, 2019
MUMBAI (MIAL)	NOT POSSIBLE	NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT – UNDERWAY. CHALLENGES REMAIN. LIKELY COMPLETION 2024. NAVI MUMBAI AWARDED TO EXISTING AIRPORT OPERATOR – THUS WILL NOT LEAD TO ADDITIONAL COMPETITION
BANGALORE (BIAL)	2ND RUNWAY BY END 2019	NONE PLANNED. SHOULD BE EVALUATED INCLUDING OPENING UP HAL AIRFIELD WHICH IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS PER OMDA WITH AIRPORT OPERATOR
KOLKATA	EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY	EXTREME CHALLENGES WITH LAND IDENTIFICATION (AND ACQUISITION) FOR A SECOND AIRPORT
HYDERABAD (GHIAL)	2ND RUNWAY TO BE COMMISSIONED. DATE NOT DETERMINED	EXISTING SECOND AIRPORT NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS PER OMDA WITH AIRPORT OPERATOR
CHENNAI	NOT POSSIBLE IN CURRENT SCENARIO	2 SITES IDENTIFIED. CONSULTANTS TO BE APPOINTED. COMPLETION DATE IN 5 – 7 YEARS
PUNE	NOT POSSIBLE IN CURRENT SCENARIO	SITE IDENTIFIED IN PURANDAR, NO CLARITY ON LAND ACQUISITION AND TIMELINES
AHMEDABAD	NOT POSSIBLE IN CURRENT SCENARIO	SECOND AIRPORT TO COME UP IN DHOLERA WITH A TARGET COMPLETION DATE OF 2022
GOA	2ND AIRPORT BY 2020	NEW AIRPORT AT MOPA AWARDED TO GMR

How soon will we see multi-airport systems?

As the demand continues to grow the current commercial fleet of 500-plus aircraft is likely to double within the next 7-10 years. As such, a focus on building multi-airport systems is critical. Multi-airport systems is the way to make airports compete. For demand, for airlines and against each other – thereby driving choice, convenience and affordability.

Single airport systems will not only hamper growth but will have other impacts that flow through to the cities they serve.

It is time for the country to embrace multi-airport systems. They are needed and needed fast. For growth. For affordability. For connectivity.

An Analysis by : **Devesh Agarwal** (President of the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce - BCIC) & **Satyendra Pandey** (former head of strategy at a fast-growing airline and previously, with the Centre for Aviation –CAPA- where he led the advisory and research teams. Satyendra has been involved in restructuring, scaling and turnarounds) ; The views expressed are personal.

04/09/2019

Mumbai: Even as flight operations continued at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Wednesday, 24 IndiGo flights were grounded after the airline's staff failed to reach the airport on time owing to heavy rain and traffic disruption in the city.

IndiGo, in a statement, said that due to the unprecedented rain in Mumbai, 24 flights have been grounded.

“Close to 24 flights held up on ground until 23:30 hours. With all ongoing collective efforts, five of our flights have departed between 22:30 and 23:10 hours. As of now, all passengers who have arrived have disembarked from the aircraft and baggage delivery is still in progress.”

“Some flights coming into Mumbai have been held back to stabilise the situation. Since the entire airport operation and agencies have been affected, it will take a while for the situation to be completely normal,” it added.

“As a result of flooding and waterlogging on roads and the subsequent traffic jam, many of our ground support staff, crew and captains have not been able to reach the airport on time...,” the airline said.

Flight operations were affected amid bad weather and visibility dropping to around 500 m in the afternoon.

While an average delay of 65 minutes for departures has been reported, official data regarding delays and cancellations was not issued by the Mumbai International Airport Limited until late Wednesday.

IndiGo announced a waiver of cancellation fees on all their flights in and out of Mumbai until September 5, while Vistara and Air India waived charges for September 4. Sources said passengers had to wait for up to two hours for their baggage at conveyer belts.

04/09/19 Parth Khatau/Indian Express

India’s Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is confident that technical issues with Pratt & Whitney PW1100G-JM geared turbofans are being adequately addressed but will not hesitate to take drastic actions—including grounding aircraft—if the growing number of incidents related to two issues does not subside as fixes are rolled out, the agency said.

A series of issues have plagued the geared turbofan variant—which is an option on the Airbus A320neo family—since it entered service in January 2016. India has been hit particularly hard, in part because of the country’s harsh environmental operating conditions, and because Go Air and IndiGo combined have about 30% of the 862-engine PW1100G-JM in-service fleet.

Problems with combustion-chamber distress as well as failures of knife-edge seals and no. 3 bearings that contributed to significant fleet-wide operational and new-production disruptions have largely been addressed. The current issues involve failures of the accessory—or main—gearbox (MGB) and low-pressure turbine (LPT) stage 3 blades, as well as “engine vibration.”

Figures released by DGCA show that through July 2019 the global fleet experienced 11 MGB failures that led to inflight shutdowns, turn-backs, or rejected takeoffs. Two of these involved Indian carriers. Comparable figures for all of 2018 were seven and two, respectively.

LPT-related issues are also on the rise, DGCA said. Global LPT failures leading to operational disruptions in 2019 totaled 17 through July, including seven involving Indian carriers. Last year’s totals were six and five, respectively.

04/09/19 Sean Broderick/MRO Network

Domestic carrier IndiGo Airlines has tied up with SonyLiv to offer flyers in-flight entertainment options for just Rs 25.

The airline said, "This offer will be valid on all domestic flights, accessible at IndiGo’s check-in, booking area and more."

Flyers will have access to SonyLiv's full library for a week with this video subscription.

William Boulter, IndiGo's chief commercial officer, said, “We are pleased to offer entertainment to our customers whilst at the airport or onboard an IndiGo flight. **Passengers can download the SonyLiv app on their mobile phones or tablets to access our entertainment experience and catch up on latest shows and movies at SonyLIV (for) Rs 25.**”

04/09/19 CNBC TV18

Mumbai: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has declared 20 more airports single-use plastic free. As many as 55 Indian airports are single-use plastic free now.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day speech, had urged citizens to avoid using plastic bags and rid themselves of the habit of using single-use plastic bags by October 2, 2019. Acting upon the PM Modi's clarion call and as per the directions issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to beat plastic pollution, 35 AAI airports namely Agartala, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bagdogra, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Goa, Guwahati, Imphal, Indore, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Patna, Port Blair, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Srinagar, Tiruchirappalli, Tirupati, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Vadodara, Varanasi, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam had been declared 'Single-Use Plastic Free Airport Terminals' in Phase I.

As part of the initiatives towards environment protection, a commitment was made by the AAI for making 20 additional AAI Airports as 'Single Use Plastic Free Airport Terminals' within 100 days after formation of the new government.

On the basis of third-party assessment carried out by the Quality Council of India, 20 more AAI airports namely Allahabad, Aurangabad, Belgaum, Bhuj, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Gaya, Gorakhpur, Jabalpur, Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Jorhat, Kangra, Khajuraho, Leh, Rajahmundry, Rajkot, Silchar, Surat and Tuticorin in Phase II have been declared 'Single-Use Plastic Free Airport Terminals' on August 30, 2019.

04/09/19 Pankaj Upadhyay/India Today

The Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) Code F compliant runway may be ready for flight operations by December, opening the doors for the Airbus A380 to start operations to Bengaluru. However, airlines operating A 380 do not seem to be very enthusiastic at the moment to bring the world's largest passenger aircraft to Bengaluru with some stating that they have no immediate announcements to make while other preferring to operate A350-900 on the international routes.

Singapore Airline, which from September 1 introduced the A380R from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport for daily flights between Mumbai and Singapore, said that they do not have any immediate announcements to make about introducing the aircraft from Bengaluru.

"We do not have any immediate announcements to make. Singapore Airlines constantly reviews market factors and available resources on each route, to mount the most suitable aircraft type," a Singapore Airlines Ltd spokesperson told Bangalore Mirror.

The airlines A380 R offers luxurious first-class suite cabin experience for its passengers with six suites. The Lufthansa, the other airline, which operates the A 380 in India along with the Singapore Airlines and Emirates, will be operating the A350-900 when it introduces the Bengaluru-Munich route next year.

The German carrier, which currently operates the A 380 on the Delhi Frankfurt route, will operate the A350- 900 when it starts operating direct flights five times a week between Bengaluru and Munich from March 31 next year.

4/09/19 Hemanth CS/Bangalore Mirror

New Delhi: GVK and Adani are both big names in infrastructure. Both symbolise entrepreneurship spawned by the post-1991 economic liberalisation. Yet, both are distinctly different. One broke the mould as developer of the Mumbai International Airport, and turned it into one of the best in the world but is cash-strapped now and has been forced to restrain any expansion. The other is also deep in debt and although new to the airport business, is driven by an unmistakable ambition to make it big in the business. Other than a big-bang entry early this year into this space by winning bids to operate six airports, the Adani Group also seems keen to have a say in the running of the Mumbai International Airport (MIAL) in which GVK has a 50.5 per cent stake.

The Adani Group has been in the news for its private offer to South Africa's Bidvest Group, which holds a 13.5 per cent stake and a board seat in MIAL, and is seeking to buy Bidvest's stake at Rs 77 per share for around Rs 1,200 crore. But GVK is fighting tooth and nail - after all, the airport business

revenue of around Rs 3,700 crore, largely from this airport, accounts for nearly 90 per cent revenue of its listed entity, GVK Power & Infrastructure. The group has moved court for exercising its right of first refusal for the Bidvest stake and is arranging funds to back its offer.

Adani's move comes on the back of it emerging as the successful bidder early this year for upgrading and operating six airports - Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Mangalore and Thiruvananthapuram. Sources say the group is keen to become the largest player in the country. Mumbai is an important pit stop in this journey.

The Adani Group's spokesperson refused to comment on the offer to Bidvest and the group's plans for the Mumbai airport.

What is the attraction of the Mumbai airport? First is the volumes - 48.5 million passengers in 2017/18. This is more than the total passengers at all the six airports that Adani bid for last year. India's current total capacity is 317 million. CAPA estimates that India will require a \$36-45 billion investment in around 55 airports by 2030 to create an additional 500-600 million capacity. It is this growth that Adani is betting on.

04/09/19 E Kumar Sharma/Business Today

Bengaluru: Airbus is planning to double the work it does in-house from its new information management centre in Bengaluru, as the passenger aircraft maker looks to consolidate core digital work within the company, top executives told ET.

Currently, the European multinational company does only 20% of its IT work in-house and the internal target is to double that.

"To get from 20% to 40%, we can't do it from one footprint (in Europe) alone and one of the ways is leveraging our presence in India," Airbus Group India chief information officer Carlo K Nizam told ET, without disclosing a timeline.

Airbus has over 1,400 people at its Information Management unit in Europe and around 300 in Bengaluru, which will increase to 500 this year. The company, which also makes helicopters, military aircraft and rockets, has an engineering hub that employs over 1,000 people in the same unit.

"We wouldn't outsource the architecture of the aircraft. In the past, we were heavily outsourcing our neural networks (and) IT systems. Part of what we are insourcing (is) what we consider as roles such as architecture and (in) new skills," he said.

04/09/19 Raghu Krishnan/Economic Times

Chennai: Long queues and chaos for security check at Chennai airport are likely to ease in three months as Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning to introduce biometric entry system for airline staff and other employees. This will free up at least three to four Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel for passenger duty.

The personnel now deployed at the gate and security check for staff can be deployed after two or three additional counters for passengers are opened. There have been complaints about long queues for security check.

A senior AAI official said, **"We are going to make entry of staff through biometric system as per revised guideline of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). Trials have been going on.** This will free up some personnel who are deployed to man the entry and exit gates used by airline staff, airport staff, employees engaged by retail and food and beverages units and other services at the terminals."

He said this would be ready in three months. "The biometric system will make staff entry faster. They have to just swipe their fingerprint and walk by. The need to check identity cards will not be there. The CISF may have to post only one constable for supervision."

AAI installed a few kiosks and conducted trials a couple of months ago. The system is being installed based on the feedback from the trial. The system will have to be uplinked to the servers for processing the staff data.

04/09/19 Times of India

CAE announced at the Asia Pacific Airline Training Summit (APATS) that it's expanding its training capacity in Asia with a brand-new training center in Bangkok, Thailand, to support Thai AirAsia's growth in the region. In addition, CAE will open a brand-new training center in Gurugram, National Capital Region (NCR) to support pilot training needs in India.

"These new training centres will provide local training solutions to meet the growing needs of our customers in Asia," said Nick Leontidis, CAE's group president, civil aviation training solutions. "Asia is set to have the strongest demand for pilots over the next two decades, and CAE will be there to support growth in the region with the most comprehensive training solutions."

As part of CAE's existing long-term agreement with Thai AirAsia, the brand-new CAE Bangkok training center will be located minutes away from Don Mueang International Airport and will provide a local solution to Thai AirAsia and support third party regional airline operators. CAE will begin with the deployment of two new CAE 7000XR Series Airbus A320 full-flight simulators, equipped with the innovative CAE Tropos 6000XR visual system. This new training centre in Bangkok will have a training capacity of up to six full-flight simulators and will be operational in 2020, subject to regulatory approvals. CAE has been providing training to Thai AirAsia at CAE Kuala Lumpur for more than 10 years.

03/09/19 AviationPros

Gangtok: Pakyong Airport, the only airport in Sikkim, is likely to resume operations from October 27 after which it is likely to re-link the state with the national aviation map.

The only operating flight from the airport, SpiceJet, suspended its Pakyong-Kolkata service owing to low visibility on June 1 this year. Services will resume and flights will be re-launched from October 27 for which the company has opened ticket bookings.

Earlier, the budget carrier had suspended flight operations for four months till September 21 by putting up a notice at the airport counter. **Flight services were suspended due to unpredictable weather in Pakyong which results in very low visibility, thus hampering flight operations, especially during monsoon, it said.**

Pakyong Airport, situated at 4,500 above sea level is dependent on Visual Flight Rules (VFR) and needs at least 5 km visibility to land. The visibility is expected to improve after rainy season.

04/09/19 Dichen Ongmu/East Mojo

Kolkata: India's leading airline, IndiGo on Wednesday announced the extension of its learning academy, ifly to Bangalore reinforcing its commitment to augment the learning and development footprint.

It will facilitate trainings for its employees starting September 6. ifly has over 100 instructors who regularly conduct workshops for over 27,000 IndiGo employees.

It has been instrumental in extending training to IndiGo employees.

ifly specializes in facilitating specific trainings throughout the year which include, customer services, ramp and marshalling training, communication and leadership training, departure control system, safety and emergency procedures, and e-learning amongst other training modules.

Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, President and Chief Operating Officer and Raj Raghavan, Senior Vice President - Human Resources, IndiGo said, "This launch is in line with our endeavour to make IndiGo India's best company to work for. In the last one year, we have had 114 batches of cabin crew (2400 cabin attendants) and 27 batches of JFO's (500 pilots) graduate. In addition, we have had 300 engineers, 1330 Airport operations and Customer services (AOCS) and 1500 Security colleagues graduate out of various programs at ifly. ifly truly has been instrumental in nurturing the culture of the company and with this extension we will continue to strive to provide more conducive working culture for 6E employees."

04/09/19 Asian Age

Hyderabad: **The Cyber police in Hyderabad have arrested a youth for sending hoax bomb threat email to the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport of Hyderabad** on Tuesday.

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on Tuesday received an email on the airport's customer support department, in which an unknown individual claimed that he wanted to blast a bomb there on Wednesday.

A search operation was immediately launched after receiving the mail. However, they found nothing and the mail was declared as Non specific.

The mail, which was sent from ID: 'sairamkaleru@live.com' at 2:31 pm on Tuesday, read, "I want to blast bomb in airport tomorrow [Wednesday]."

Further, a police complaint was lodged for further investigation on the threat.

Following an investigation, it was revealed that a man, who had been jealous of his friend going to Canada for further studies, had sent the threat to stall his visit.

The 24-year-old accused hatched the plan for a "bomb blast" email as he was jealous that while he was still jobless, his childhood friend had got a Canadian visa.

The accused has been identified as Katraju Shahshikanth, a resident of Warangal. He stays at a boys hotel in Hyderabad and is friends with Sairam Kaleru, a resident of Uppal Hyderabad.

Recently, Sairam received the Canada visa as he was planning to go for further studies. This led to jealousy as Shahshikanth was not able to even find a job.

At first, he wrote a fake email to Canadian immigration to cancel Sairam's visa all to no avail.

On Tuesday, after learning that Sairam was flying abroad for higher studies, jealous Shashikanth used his friend's email to send a bomb threat to the Hyderabad airport.

04/09/19 Ashish Pandey/India Today

New Delhi: **Three people have been apprehended by CISF personnel at Delhi's IGI airport for allegedly trying to smuggle in about a lakh micro-SD cards worth a few crores without paying customs duty**, officials said on Wednesday.

During pre-embarkation security check of hand baggage at Transfer SHA (Security Hold Area) of terminal-3, IGI Airport, Assistant Sub-Inspector Abhishek Raja detected a large number of Micro-SD memory cards in one of the hand bags of a transfer passenger.

The passenger, identified as Abhishek Bhavan Bhai Ranpariya, arrived from Hong Kong by flight No AI-315/STA-21:20 hours and onward bound for Mumbai by the same flight at 00:30 hours.

The micro-SD card cache, used in mobile phones and other electronic gadgets to store photos and videos, is estimated to be worth anywhere between Rs 3-6 crore, officials said.

Ranpariya was intercepted by the Central Industrial Security Force officials for carrying such a huge number of micro-SD cards in his bag and Customs authorities were intimated, an official said.

During verification, the passenger told the Customs officials that he will declare the cards cache at the Mumbai Customs, and he was allowed to leave after an intimation was made by officials to their counterparts in Mumbai.

However, a CISF personnel of the intelligence wing later found that the passenger had changed his clothes and shoes, handed over the cards to two others and was seeking assistance of the airlines to abort his Mumbai journey.

It was also observed that he was not carrying the handbag containing Micro-SD cards which were detected at the SHA.

Constable Mukesh Sharma, immediately informed the matter to his superior officers and on the basis of manual and electronic surveillance, it was observed that the said passenger handed over his bag containing Micro-SD Cards to two other passengers at the boarding gate area of SHA.

It was also noticed that the passengers to whom the bag containing Micro-SD Cards was handed, also offloaded themselves.

However, before they could escape, CISF personnel nabbed them and handed them over to the Customs officials. The handbag carrying the Micro SD- Memory Cards (approx 1 lakh) were also recovered. The value of the SD cards is estimated about Rs 3-6 crore.

04/09/19 Anuj Mishra/India Today

Mumbai: Emirates Airbus 380 aircraft has operated over 3,600 departures and flown over 15 lakh passengers in the past five years on its flights connecting Dubai and Mumbai, said the airline on Tuesday.

Emirates had launched Dubai-Mumbai A380 operations on July 21, 2014, two months after Singapore Airlines became the first airline to fly the double-deck aircraft into India with flights to Mumbai and Delhi on May 30.

As of August 25, the Emirates A380 has flown 69 lakh kilometres between Mumbai and Dubai in the past five years, carrying 15,81,857 passengers.

03/09/19 Manju V/Times of India

Bareilly: Union minister of state (independent charge) for civil aviation, Hardeep Puri, while responding to a letter by local MP and Union minister Santosh Gangwar, categorically mentioned in his letter that Bareilly would have to wait for at least two more months before air services to begin, as the service provider — Turbo Aviation — will start its services only after civil enclave terminals in five other cities are completed. These terminals are being built or upgraded under the Centre’s regional connectivity UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.

Gangwar had inaugurated Bareilly’s newly built commercial terminal earlier this year on March 10, minutes before the model code of conduct for the 17th Lok Sabha elections came into effect. At that time, it was announced that flights between Lucknow and Delhi would commence from Bareilly within a month.

On June 17, Ganwar had written to Puri, seeking reasons why flights from Bareilly couldn’t begin, despite the announcement made during the inauguration of the Bareilly airport by UP civil aviation minister Nand Gopal Nandi and then Union civil aviation minister Suresh Prabhu that flights from Bareilly would start from April 15, 2019.

In the interim, cash-strapped aviation major Jet Airways, which had won the initial tender, missed its deadline, after which, on April 18, a team of Turbo Aviation arrived to examine preparations at Bareilly airport. Satisfied with arrangements, Turbo Aviation head of operations, P V Ravi Shankar said they would start service soon.

03/09/19 Pankul Sharma/Times of India

Bluebox Aviation Systems and Vistara, the Indian joint-venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, are marking the 1st anniversary of the launch of Vistara World by going app-free.

Vistara World is the airline’s free wireless streaming in-flight entertainment (IFE) service which streams content from the Bluebox Wow portable wireless IFE platform to passenger devices.

Since launching last year, Vistara World has been progressively rolled out to Vistara’s entire fleet of 31 aircraft, including Airbus A320 and the recently inducted Boeing 737-800NG aircraft.

“At Vistara we continue to invest in enhancing our service offerings to stay ahead of the curve. In the last year we have flown over 5 million customers who have consumed a variety of engaging content on ‘Vistara World’ and enjoyed the Vistara experience even more. The Bluebox platform’s convenience, robust capabilities and flexibility will now take this experience a notch higher,” Sanjiv Kapoor, chief commercial officer, Vistara, said.

03/09/19 Brand Equity

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma along with Home Minister James K. Sangma and Airport Authority of India (AAI) officials inspected the Baljek Airport in West Garo Hills district on Tuesday. **The Chief Minister discussed with the AAI and Transport department officials over measures to speed up intervention to make the airport operational.**

“The objective is to make Baljek Airport operationalises and there is a process of handing over the airport to the AAI,” the Chief Minister said.

The advisor to the Chief Minister, Thomas A. Sangma, was also present during the visit.

“We hope that chopper service will be operationalized and extension of runway will follow to

allow more aircraft to land in future," he added.

AAI regional executive director Sanjeev Jindal said Garo Hills has a lot of potential in terms of agriculture and tourism.

"If the airport is given to us, we will take over and work out how we can first develop for chopper service, and then for Dornier or may be ATR aircraft under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)," Jindal said.

The defunct Baljek Airport is about 33 km from Tura, the district headquarters of West Garo Hills district and 310 km from Shillong.

03/09/19 Shillong Times

Air India on Monday said it is still a market leader among Indian airlines when it comes to flying on international routes as its capacity deployment on such routes is currently almost double than that of the number-two position holder IndiGo.

The national carrier's response came after a consultancy firm, Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA), released a report on August 31 stating that IndiGo "now has the largest share of international seats to/from India".

Air India on Monday wrote an e-mail to CAPA stating that according to its "comparative scheduled capacity analysis on international routes", the national carrier has 16.7 per cent share in September when measured in terms of available seat kilometres (ASKMs).

Under ASKMs, the total passenger capacity of an airline is measured and it is calculated by multiplying the total number of available seats for passengers with total number of kilometres flown by those seats.

"The analysis done in your (CAPA) report to showcase IndiGo as largest carrier on international routes is flawed and misleading. This, of course, has been done by replacing ASKMs which is a true measure of capacity deployment with seats offered," Air India said.

According to aviation regulator DGCA, IndiGo had around 47 per cent share of the domestic passenger market in July this year, making it the market leader in domestic segment.

The CAPA report had stated on August 31 that in the week commencing from August 26, IndiGo had 11.8 per cent share of total international seat capacity to or from India.

02/09/19 PTI/Moneycontrol.com

Mumbai: The Adani Group has dragged the shareholders of the GVK Group-run Mumbai airport (MIAL) and the aviation ministry to the Bombay High Court, seeking a direction to them to allow buying out the minority stake held by South African firm Bidvest in the airport.

The South African firm Bid Services Division Mauritius or **Bidvest owns 13.5 per cent** in the country's second busiest airport.

Other shareholders are **ACSA Global** (Airports Company of South Africa) which owns **10 per cent**, **Airports Authority of India (26 percent)** and **GVK Airport Holdings, which is the majority owner with a 50.5 per cent ownership.**

The petition filed last Wednesday names these shareholders along with the aviation ministry as respondents.

Bidvest had entered into an agreement with Adanis to sell its entire stake in the airport for a consideration of Rs 1,248 crore or Rs 77 a share.

The Adanis had also offered to buy out ACSA at the similar price.

The Adanis, which has won the bid to run six other AAI-run airports last February, had offered around Rs 950 crore to ACSA, valuing the world's busiest single-runway airport that handles an around 1,000 flight movements a day, at Rs 9,500 crore.

Adani in its suit filed on September 4 has claimed that its share purchase agreement dated March 5, 2019 with Bidvest, held through its Mauritian arm, is valid, subsisting and binding.

The present suit is being filed seeking specific performance of the agreement executed between the plaintiff and Bidvest for purchasing its entire shareholding of 1,62,000,000 shares representing 13.5 per cent of the fully paid-up share capital of MIAL, the suit said.

It has also sought a direction to the South African company and the other shareholders in MIAL to do everything necessary to give effect to the agreement and pending final hearing of the suit direct the company to not create any third-party rights in respect of the process.

As per the petition, GVK had exercised its right of first refusal before the 30-day mandated time frame on April 4.

According to the suit, this April, Bidvest had given a notice to GVK and ACSA Global along with a copy to the AAI stating it was prepared to transfer the sale shares.

It appears since then GVK purportedly exercised its right under clause 3.7 of the shareholders agreement (rights of first refusal) to purchase the shares.

However, GVK failed to purchase the same within the time period prescribed in the agreement, the plea said.

Instead, GVK moved the Delhi High Court seeking an injunction against Bidvest from offering or selling its shares to any person other than GVK, Adani said in its suit.

08/09/19 PTI/Times of India

New Delhi/Mumbai: State-owned oil marketing companies on Saturday resumed fuel supplies to the loss-making Air India at six airports, weeks after it was suspended for mounting dues.

The fuel supply was restored following government-mediated talks earlier this week between the parties under which the airline has "committed" to pay Rs 100 crore per month to clear the outstanding dues of Rs 4,300 crore, official sources said.

"Supplies to Air India resumed from Saturday evening," an OMC spokesperson said without divulging details.

The spokesperson, however, said Air India has agreed to payment terms for future supplies.

Last month, IndianOil along with Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum had stopped supplies to the state-run carrier in Pune, Vizag, Cochin, Patna, Ranchi and Mohali citing mounting dues.

Meanwhile, an Air India official said the fuel supplies were restored after it agreed to pay the oil firms Rs 100 crore per month to clear the dues.

07/09/19 PTI/India Today

New Delhi: Fresh trouble seems to be brewing for P. Chidambaram as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is preparing to seek permission from the competent court to examine the former finance minister in connection with a money laundering probe related to losses suffered by Air India as part of an alleged multi-crore aviation scam.

According to sources, since Mr Chidambaram is in judicial custody in the INX Media case, the ED cannot examine him in a different case without taking permission from the competent court. "Prior to his arrest in the INX Media case, the ED had summoned Mr Chidambaram for questioning in connection with aviation scam. But he could not be examined by the ED in this case as he was arrested by the CBI in the INX Media case. Now, the Enforcement Directorate is preparing to seek permission from the trial court for his questioning in the aviation scam", sources said.

The case pertains to the purchase of 48 aircrafts from Airbus and 68 from Boeing for around Rs 70,000 crore in 2007. In December 2005, the then Manmohan Singh Cabinet had approved the deal for 68 aircrafts from Boeing Co. by Air India.

08/09/19 Deccan Chronicle

When Benjamin Augustus Dodd wanted to learn flying, he first had to persuade his parents to let him take an uncharted path, that too an expensive hobby. This was three years ago, when he just finished his schooling.

"Though flying was a passion in my family for three generations, it was a foreign idea," says Rodney, his elder brother, who was able to pursue his passion only after acquiring a degree in Biomedical

Engineering.

Earlier this year, the brothers took turns to fly their parents on Pipistrel, the latest generation Light Sport Trainer Aircraft (LSA) over the airfields and the rolling countryside around Christchurch in New Zealand. It was a beautiful moment for the entire family. "We made a wonderful memory together though we had to slog to achieve our dream of conquering the skies," says Rodney.

A State tennis player-turned consultant and mentor, 28-year-old Rodney has rolled his love for sports, travel and flying into one to help others with opportunities to experience what they might be just dreaming about. In 2013, he established Tie-Upp, a global sports/education networking organisation to identify and nurture talent through its Train-Gain-Shine (TGS) initiative. Under this Tie-Upp Aviation was launched as a company in 2017 to make the process of flying simple, accessible and affordable to people awed by aviation.

They were in Madurai last month offering an aviation camp to interested students. They visited schools to explain how children can now assess their aptitude before joining a professional flying school.

A family holiday in New Zealand in 2011 sparked the idea in the brothers. They wanted to fly high. "I loved the idea of getting away on a fast mode of transportation," says 21-year-old Benjamin who earned his flying instructor and pilot's license two years ago.

Impressed by the Rangiora airfield, five kilometres north of Christchurch with 90 private hangars and 200 aircrafts of different types and sizes parked at any given time, the duo rented out a hangar and made it their home. Initially, they flew the Italian Tecnam to give a hands-on experience in flying to locals and tourists.

"In New Zealand, flying is a hobby as common taking dance classes," says Benjamin, "And the Rangiora air field is always buzzing with amateurs and professionals." Inspired by the enthusiasm of people who come for weekend joy rides, honeymoon rides, and to learn flying, the brothers started their own aviation packages as part of promoting New Zealand tourism. And in doing so, they created a record too by inducting the first LSA registered Pipistrel Alpha trainer in New Zealand's aviation history on August 15 last year.

The Slovenia built single engine two-seater aircraft has stickers from Madurai on it and the boys are elated for getting the TGS registration number matching with the name of their initiative. For the past eight months, the brothers have been using their aircraft for recreational and professional flying. "It has been an amazing journey," says Rodney. During the period, Benjamin has taken various people, including a 13-year-old boy and a 92-year-old trained pilot into the skies. "If you can reach, the controls you are allowed to fly," he says and shares the excitement of the teenager whose parents thought he would be scared to fly. "But he discovered the joy in learning to fly and now perhaps dreams of becoming a pilot," he adds.

07/09/19 Soma Basu/The Hindu

Mumbai: Gautam Adani-led Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) has incorporated a company — Adani Lucknow International Airport Limited — on September 6, 2019 to operate, maintain, develop, design, construct, upgrade modernise and manage the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow.

This is after the company received Letter of Award from Airports Authority of India (AAI) on July 15, 2019 for operations, management and development of Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport.

"Adani Lucknow International Airport Limited is incorporated in India with authorized share capital of ₹one lakh and paid up share capital of ₹one lakh and is registered with the Registrar of Companies, Gujarat at Ahmedabad on September 6, 2019 and is yet commence its business operations," said AEL in a filing to the exchanges.

In July, the Union Cabinet had approved the proposal for leasing out of three airports in Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru of AAI through public private partnership.

These airports are part of the six airports, including Trivandrum, Guwahati and Jaipur — all the six airports were won by Adani Enterprise for a period of 50 years in a bid process that saw participation

from GMR, NIIF, Cochin International Airport, AMP Capital, among others.
[07/09/19 The Hindu](#)

With a strong focus on innovation and use of advanced technology, Airport Authority of India (AAI) – has identified BIM (Building Information Modeling) as the design and planning platform for construction of the New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati.

For uninitiated, Building Information Modeling (BIM) is an intelligent 3D model-based process that gives architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) professionals the insight and tools to more efficiently plan, design, construct, and manage buildings and infrastructure.

The new 90,000 Sqmts terminal, will have 64 check-in counters, 20 self-check-in desks, eight Immigration counters, eight custom counters, six arrival carousels, 10 escalators, 25 elevators, 16 self-baggage drop counters and 20 aircraft parking bays.

Architecture Firm, Design Forum International (DFI) and AECOM, a premier, fully integrated global infrastructure firm have leveraged Autodesk BIM solution, Revit to design the NITB of the airport. Autodesk Revit will help to enhance collaboration of the entire project team- from design, fabrication, and construction to operations and maintenance – to make informed decisions from a common point of understanding. The cloud-based Collaboration for Revit service provides centralized access to Revit models, and let project team members at multiple sites co-author Revit models regardless of their physical location. This cloud-enabled work-sharing also let team members see each other's work and communicate with one another in real time.

DFI has taken inspiration from the mythological figure, Icarus to create the unique design of this new terminal, ensuring seamless and state-of-the-art infrastructure for generations to come. DFI has designed the NITB with a 4-Star GRIHA rating parameter. The focus on sustainability was imbibed right at the design inception stage by inter-weaving the built form with the outdoor environment. The indoor forest is a physical manifestation of this approach -it is separated by a glass wall from the more massive outdoor forest, fitting into a groove with the terminal building and becoming an integral part of the overall built structure. The car park structures are designed to be covered with photovoltaic panels that generate almost 500 KW of solar energy.

[07/09/19 PTI/Indian Web2](#)

The Palaly International Airport will come into operation from October 16, with the start of flights between Jaffna and India, a senior Civil Aviation Authority official said.

CAA Director General H.M.C. Nimalasiri told the Sunday Times all arrangements had been finalised to begin operations.

He said flights would operate to Cochin, Mumbai and New Delhi.

According to the Transport and Aviation Ministry, two Indian airline operators—Alliance Air and Indigo—were having talks to operate flights to and from Jaffna. Other regional flights are set to operate from Jaffna thereafter.

[08/09/19 PTI/Sunday Times](#)

Itanagar: The inordinate delay in shifting the 156 Chakma families who are to be moved from the proposed site of the greenfield airport here in Papum Pare district is creating a hurdle in starting the airport's construction.

The issue came to light when local MLA Tana Hali Tara along with several officers visited the project site on Saturday to review the progress of work.

Rehabilitation of the displaced families has now become a prime concern as the work cannot start until they are properly rehabilitated. It was brought to the notice of the visiting team that the estimated cost for the relief and rehabilitation (R&R) plan has already been submitted to the state government by the Papum Pare deputy commissioner, through the land management secretary, a

week ago. The families are to be relocated within Hollongi, but in an area away from the vicinity of the airport site.

“The district administration is waiting for the fund to implement the R&R infrastructure and other provisions necessary for shifting the 156 Chakma families from the airport site,” a DA official informed.

Earlier, the families had lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against arbitrary expulsion of Chakma people from their temporary settlement area without any rehabilitation packages in the project. Later, the state government deposed before the commission that the families would be first rehabilitated, with all the provisions of R&R in place, before the commencement of the construction of the airport. Based on this, the NHRC closed the case.

On Saturday, the Chakma Rehabilitation & Resettlement Committee submitted a memorandum to the DC and the local MLA. They have appealed to the state government to rehabilitate them at the earliest, so that work on the airport may start sooner. Also, land acquisition for the four-lane approach road to the airport has not been taken up as the PWD (highway) division is yet to submit the approved strip alignment plan to the district administration.

07/09/19 Taba Ajum/Arunachal Times

Guwahati: Hundreds of employees of the Airport Authority of India (AAI) at the LGBI Airport in Guwahati staged protest on Saturday against the Centre’s move to privatise six profit-making airports including the LGBI airport.

The AAI employees under the banner of Joint Forum of Unions and Associations of AAI staged protest by shouting slogans and showing flags outside the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) airport on Friday.

The agitators termed the decision to hand over the six profit-making airports —Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Mangalore and Guwahati airport – to the M/S Adani Group as unilateral and arbitrary.

“The hasty decision to privatise the airports have raised many questions as the stakeholders were not taken into confidence and nothing was decided on future of these employees,” said Pradip Das, secretary of the organization here.

07/09/19 Anup Sharma/North East Now

Dehradun: Aviation firms offering helicopter services at places identified under the UDAN scheme will get additional subsidy from the Uttarakhand government, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said on Saturday.

Announcing the incentive at the country's first Helicopter Summit here, Rawat said Uttarakhand has great potential for expansion of heli services.

"Companies which offer heli services in areas identified under the UDAN Yojana will get subsidy from the state government in addition to the subsidy given by the Centre," he said.

The first-of-its-kind summit based on the theme of expanding connectivity through helicopters was organised here jointly by the Civil Aviation Ministry, the state government and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI).

Considering the geographical situation of Uttarakhand, heli services are very important for the state as it may take upto 20 hours to reach the border areas, Rawat said.

Noting that the border areas of Uttarakhand were endowed with great scenic beauty, he said these services will also make it easier for filmmakers to shoot their films in picturesque locations of the state, which has emerged as one of the country's finest film shooting destinations in recent years.

07/09/19 Outlook

There are many interesting tidbits in the aviation world. A while back, someone got a little curious about the landing gear on an Air India A320. Indeed, **some of Air India’s Airbus A320 aircraft have a**

little special addition to their landing gear. You may not notice it at first, but some of Air India's Airbus A320s have extra wheels.

These additional wheels do serve a purpose. As this user on Stack Exchange found out, this is **because of an infrastructure-related issue at some Indian airports**. However, these are not common across A320s and only affect a small number of Airbus A320 aircraft in service.

Obviously, the aircraft gear serves a critical role. The A320 is not the heaviest aircraft in the world. However, the aircraft still has a substantial weight. During landing, taxi, or takeoff, this can cause stress on the runway pavement. As it turns out, some of India's pavement has a lower classification number. The classification number gives details relating to the strength of the pavement and the amount of weight it can handle. Due to this lower classification number, the load of the aircraft has to be distributed across multiple wheels. **Thus, some of Air India's A320s have an additional set of wheels.**

08/09/19 Jay Singh/Simple Flying

New Delhi: **Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has underlined its growing capability to design and develop fixed-wing aircraft by steering its home grown Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) basic trainer to the brink of final flight clearance.**

In flight-testing on Saturday in Bengaluru, HAL's test pilots threw the HTT-40 into multiple spins and, each time, the trainer returned to level flight smoothly. In so doing, the HTT-40 cleared the so-called "six-turn spin test", regarded as the ultimate and most difficult test for a trainer aircraft.

The HTT-40 has already met and, in many aspects of flight performance, surpassed the so-called "Air Staff Qualitative Requirements" (ASQRs), which lists out the flight performance — speed, turn, ceiling, etc. — that the IAF demands from an aircraft.

Since 2012, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has consistently opposed the HTT-40, first pressuring the Ministry of Defence (MoD) into importing 75 Pilatus PC-7 Mark II basic trainers from Switzerland, and then demanding more imports because HAL would allegedly never be able to steer the HTT-40 through all its tests.

"There is no need for [the HTT-40 trainer]", then IAF boss, Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, had dismissively stated at the Aero India show in 2013. "We have the Pilatus PC-7. It's a proven aircraft. The project HAL plans is from scratch. Our indications are that the cost will be too high. There is no need for all this." Each successive IAF chief followed the same line, criticizing the HTT-40, while demanding more Pilatus imports.

07/09/19 Ajai Shukla/Business Standard

Bhubaneswar: **A Kolkata-bound SpiceJet flight on Sunday made an emergency landing at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar after a 48-year-old passenger complained of breathing problem.**

The 623 SpiceJet flight made the emergency landing at 11: 15 am. Though the passenger, Ashok Kumar Sharma, was rushed to the medical room at Terminal 1 of the airport at 11:35 am, he was **declared brought dead by the doctor**. Meanwhile, the body has been sent to Capital Hospital.

08/09/19 Odishatv.in

In an attempt to garner more interest for Air India, the government may hive off more debt from the balance sheet of the airline, sources aware of the development said.

It is important to note that **the government has already decided to transfer Rs 29,464 crore of Air India's debt into a special purpose vehicle**. While the formalities are not yet completed, the decision has been taken.

"The fresh round of discussion is to examine whether additional debt, over and above this figure (Rs 29,464 crore) can be removed and to what extent can the debt be hived off," the sources 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

While a meeting on the divestment process has already taken place at the cabinet secretary level, the divestment document, which will put up to Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) for approval, is yet to be finalised. A date for the meeting of AISAM has also not been decided yet.

AISAM is a panel which was formed last year to oversee the disinvestment of the national carrier. Under the newly formed government, the panel will be led by Home Minister Amit Shah. Earlier, it was headed by the finance minister.

06/09/19 CNBC TV18

Mumbai: Indicating that there is enough firepower left among Indian entrepreneurs to fuel their aviation dreams, the promoters of Kolhapur-based Sanjay Ghodawat Group (SGG) have committed to be a stable and long-term player in the airline business by adopting a calibrated approach.

Having witnessed the collapse of big Indian airlines like Kingfisher Airlines and Jet Airways, **SGG, which is into agri products, education, consumer products, textiles, software, mining and real estate business, had earlier this year ventured into the airline business through Star Air.** It is now planning to move step by step by limiting the cash burn that is evident in this sector. Star Air commenced operations on January 25, 2019, as a regional airline and has permission to operate flights under the UDAN scheme in 22 routes. The startup airline has operations in six routes and by December 2019, plans to cover all 22 routes with 44 flights a day.

On Friday, it announced the operation of **UDAN** flights connecting Mumbai to Belagavi (earlier Belgaum) in Karnataka. Currently, it has **two Embraer 145 regional jets in its fleet and will get three more by November 2019. Unlike other airlines leasing aircraft, Star Air is purchasing them to keep the cost under control.**

“We decided to buy the aircraft. Most airlines worldwide failed because of lease and fuel cost. While the fuel cost is not under our control, the lease is something we can manage. So we opted for the regional jet model, which is very successful in the U.S. It is the same strategy that we are bringing to India,” said Shrenik Ghodawat, managing director, Star Air.

To ensure a sustainable business, the company has adopted a cautious approach. “The first thing we wanted to do is to start small. Which is why we choose the UDAN scheme. We have been planning for past five years, but were waiting for the right opportunity and sectors,” he said. “Through UDAN, the government has given us the right opportunity to connect tier-III and tier-IV cities as well as be sustainable to a large extent. Once the routes mature, we will slowly get out of the subsidy scheme and still be economically viable,” he said.

07/09/19 Lalatendu Mishra/The Hindu

New Delhi: Pakistan has denied permission to President Ram Nath Kovind's Air India One plane to use its airspace next week for his flight to Iceland.

The Boeing 747 will now take the longer route when the President leaves on Monday (September 9) for Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia.

Similarly, on return from his three-nation tour on September 17, the VVIP flight will again have to take the longer path back home.

According to the Pakistani media, the country's foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Saturday told state broadcaster PTV that the decision “was approved by Prime Minister Imran Khan.”

“Schedule flights' flight plan is cleared in advance by all countries they fly over. For special flights and charters (which are not schedule flights), permission is sought via diplomatic channels from various countries on the flight path. For the President's Europe trip, Pakistan did not give clearance to use its airspace,” said sources.

07/09/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Aizawl: Low-cost airline GoAir is likely to start its operations on the Aizawl-Guwahati sector from October 4 this year, an official said on Thursday.

According to the official, GoAir deputy manager (airports) Sumit Bhandari recently arrived in Aizawl to discuss the proposed air service with Mizoram officials.

Bhandari discussed with the state officials about the various requirements for functioning of the airline service and expressed hope that the airline will start operations on the Aizawl-Guwahati sector by next month.

Meanwhile, sources from GoAir informed that it will operate Airbus-A320 daily. As per schedules announced by GoAir for the new flight service, the departure time of the aircraft from Guwahati is fixed at 6.50 am and it will arrive at Lengpui airport at 7.50 am, while departure from Aizawl is fixed at 8:40 am and arrival at Guwahati airport at 9:50 am.

06/09/19 Henry L Khojol/East Mojo

New Delhi: SpiceJet has said it is incurring various costs related to the grounded Boeing 737 MAX aircraft and that uncertainty continues over the timing of return of these planes to operations.

The no-frills airline has grounded 13 MAX aircraft. Globally, these planes have been grounded since March this year following regulatory directives in the wake of two crashes involving the aircraft.

"The company's fleet of thirteen MAX aircraft continues to be grounded and despite its inability to undertake revenue operations, the company continues to incur various costs with respect to MAX aircraft," SpiceJet said in its annual report for 2018-19.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other civil aviation authorities decided to suspend operations of MAX aircraft after the crashes involving the planes of Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines in October 2018 and March 2019, respectively.

"There continues to be uncertainty in the timing of the return to operations of MAX aircraft and the company continues to work with the aircraft manufacturer to address the above, including seeking reimbursement of ascertained costs and losses based on its assessment," the report said.

In 2016-17, the airline placed an order for up to 205 MAX aircraft, including firm order for 155 such planes.

Last fiscal, the airline inducted 18 new planes, including 13 Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft and five 90-seater Q400s. In April and May 2019, the carrier inducted 26 new aircraft, including 22 Boeing 737 and 4 Q400s, according to the report.

06/09/19 PTI/Times of India

New Delhi: The Delhi airport on Thursday stated that it will start a three-month trial of biometric facial recognition entry system for domestic passengers of Vistara airline at Terminal 3 from September 6.

"With this technology, passengers' entry would be automatically processed based on facial recognition system at all check points, including airport entry, entry into security checks, and aircraft boarding," the GMR-led Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said on Thursday.

After successful completion of the trial, the DIAL said this facial recognition facility would be officially launched at Terminal 3, and subsequently at other terminals of Delhi airport.

"The enrolment process for passengers with valid flight tickets and government ID proofs will start at the registration kiosk," the airport operator said.

Post this, their facial details will be captured by a camera. Simultaneously, the documents provided by a passenger will be validated by a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel present at the kiosk.

"He will physically check the applicant's ID proof and confirm on the system. Subsequently, the passenger can approach the dedicated departure e-gate, which is fitted with facial recognition cameras," the DIAL stated.

07/09/19 PTI/Asian Age

Mumbai/New Delhi: State-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) is said to be planning a surprise bid for the stake held by two overseas investors in Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), a top official told ET.

The stakes are held by Bidvest and ACSA, both of South Africa, which are seeking to exit the company.

Their combined 23.5% holding is at the centre of a tussle between the GVK Group, which runs the facility and wants to retain control, and the Adani Group, which is seeking to acquire the stakes.

“Both ACSA and Bidvest are ready to sell and we plan to bid for it,” said the AAI official cited above. “We have sought an approval from the aviation ministry on this.” AAI can comfortably fund the purchase, he said.

AAI has decided to bid as part of a bigger plan to get involved in public private partnership (PPP) projects through special purpose vehicles (SPVs) and also bid for greenfield PPP projects.

A GVK source said AAI hadn’t exercised its RoFR in time and there was no question of the state-owned company entering the fray.

The GVK Group won the right to develop Mumbai airport through a bidding process in 2006.

GVK airport holds a 50.50% stake in Mumbai International Airport Private Ltd (MIAL) that operates the airport in the financial capital. The consortium has invested about Rs 12, 000 crore in the project and is widely considered to have built a world-class airport- about Rs 6,000 crore came from GVK.

More importantly, GVK derives 90% of their group revenues from MIAL.

07/09/19 Mihir Mishra/Arjit Barman/Economic Times

New Delhi: **Air India has clamped down on the practice of staff -- travelling either on holiday or on duty -- from going to the cockpit to meet operating crew of the flight. The airline’s director (operations), Captain Amitabh Singh, on Thursday ordered that this practice be ended “with immediate effect”.**

“It has been observed that many crew members follow the practice of entering flight deck before commencement of flight, to introduce themselves to the operating crew while travelling as staff on duty/leave (SOD/SOL). On termination of the flight, crew members again enter the flight deck to thank the operating crew. This apart from causing inconvenience to the passengers, also poses safety hazard,” Captain Singh’s order says.

“Crew travelling as SOD/SOL shall not enter the flight deck unless they are rostered as additional crew member/supernumerary crew... as this may be misconstrued preferential treatment by other fare paying passengers,” the order says.

From now on, pilots travelling as SOD/SOL will inform the cabin crew in charge (CCIC) of the flight. They will write their name and seat number to the CCIC, who in turn will give the same to pilots operating the flight once boarding is complete.

“This information to operating crew will be useful in case of pilot incapacitation or other emergencies. On completion of the flight, the SOD/SOL crew will deplane along with passengers and not enter the flight deck,” the order adds.

07/09/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Coimbatore: **The revenue intelligence department detained two men for smuggling around 1kg of gold worth Rs 42 lakh** into the city on Wednesday. The two men who arrived via an Air Arabia flight from Sharjah had mixed the gold with a compound creating a paste and had concealed it in a pair of jeans and in their rectum. However, they were detained and the gold was recovered.

The DRI unit received a tip-off about Ziaul Huq, 23, of Ilayangudi, and Ameer Suhail, 23, of Malappuram, smuggling gold into the city. The gold weighed 1,081g with 24 carat purity.

Meanwhile, based on information provided by the detained people, four other men were detained in Trichy. Mohameed Arif and Nagoor Meeran who flew into Trichy from Kuala Lumpur and Mohamed Hussain and Mohamed Sarbudeen who flew into Trichy from Dubai via Colombo, were the ones detained. All are from Chennai. They were found **carrying gold in the form of chains, tola bars, cut pieces and in a paste form in their rectum.** Around 3,200g of 24 karat gold worth Rs 1.31 crore was recovered.

07/09/19 Times of India

New Delhi: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Thursday detected **three lakh Saudi Riyals, concealed in a false bottom of a hand bag of a passenger at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Mumbai**, an official statement released here said on Friday.

Around 1640 hrs on September 5 during Pre Embarkation Security Checks through scanning machine at CSMI domestic terminal, a CISF personnel noticed some suspicious image in the hand baggage of a passenger identified as Kamlesh B who was supposed to fly to Delhi by a schedule flight.

The bag was picked up for thorough and physical check and on physical checking no suspicious items were found inside the bag but the empty bag was found unusually heavy.

06/09/19 UNI

Amritsar: **Customs (preventive) officials have confiscated around 1,500 euros worth Rs 1.16 lakh from a passenger at Sri Guru Ramdass Jee International Airport** here on Thursday. He was boarding a flight for Dubai when nabbed by sleuths. Customs Commissioner Dipak Kumar Gupta said the accused was arrested and 8,450 pound sterling in different denominations to the tune of Rs 7.10 lakh were seized. He had hidden the same in specially created cavities in his bag. During his interrogation, another 1,500 euros (Rs 1.16 lakh) were found from his possession.

07/09/19 Tribune

Mumbai: **A man was arrested at Mumbai airport for allegedly carrying Saudi riyals worth approximately Rs 57 lakh concealed inside the false bottom of his bag**, CISF officials said on Friday. Kamlesh B was to fly to Delhi by SpiceJet on Thursday evening, they said.

During the pre-embarkation security check at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, sub-inspector Narendra Kumar noticed images of suspicious things in his hand baggage, they said. During a check, no suspicious items were found inside but the empty bag was unusually heavy, the officials said.

When screened again, it showed something was hidden between layers of the bag material, they said.

The false bottom of the bag was cut opened and the riyals wrapped with a black plastic sheet were found, the officials said, adding that he could not produce a valid document.

07/09/19 PTI/Times of India

Tiruchi: **Officials of the Customs Air Intelligence Unit on Friday seized gold totally weighing 732 grams smuggled** by an air passenger at the international airport here on Friday.

The passenger Anvar Khan, 29, of S.P. Pattinam in Ramanathapuram district arrived here from Sharjah by an Air India Express flight when the Customs Air Intelligence Unit officials on suspicion detained him.

Airport sources said **the passenger had concealed 552 grams of gold of 24 carat purity in the rectum and an unfinished gold chain weighing 180 grams in his innerwear. The value of the seized gold was put at ₹ 28.23 lakh.** Anvar Khan was arrested.

06/09/19 The Hindu

New Delhi: **Aviation regulator DGCA on Thursday suspended two IndiGo pilots for two months for flying a Hyderabad-Vijaywada flight on July 24 with the tail support attached even though they were informed about it by the Air Traffic Control (ATC) immediately after take-off**, an official said. **The period of suspension would be from July 24.**

During loading or unloading of any kind of cargo in an aircraft, the tail support or 'tail prop' is used to prevent the plane from tipping over backwards.

"The pilots -- Captain **Amit Bansal** and Captain **Bharat Saini** -- were informed by the Air Traffic Control (ATC) immediately after take-off that their tail prop is still attached to their **ATR-72** aircraft. However, the pilots decided to keep flying towards Vijaywada instead of returning," the official of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

"This could have caused structural damage to the ATR72 aircraft during the flight," the official added. The regulator had issued a show-cause notice to the two pilots on August 27, asking them to explain as to why action should not be taken against them.

05/09/19 PTI/India Today

New Delhi: Flying licences of two Air India captains operating a Haj charter from Ahmedabad to Medina have been suspended for skipping pre-flight breath analyser (BA) tests which are conducted to ensure that only perfectly sober crew operate flights. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken this action for AI 5731 operated this Monday. Crew members skipping this test are construed to have failed the same - meaning they are considered to be tipsy and are punished accordingly.

"...flight crew is required to undergo pre-flight medical examination for detection of consumption of alcohol... (Two pilots, both captains) belonging to AI missed pre-flight BA examination on September 2 at Ahmedabad and operated flight AI 5731 (Ahmedabad-Medina) which is (against rules)... hereby **suspend** in public interest the **licence** held by (both) **for a period of three months from Wednesday (September 4), the date from which they were off-rostered from flying duties,**" says the order issued by DGCA on Thursday.

A senior DGCA official said the first six months of this year have seen 30 pilots and as many as 93 cabin crew fail the breath analyser test. All pilots operating domestic flights have to undergo pre-flight alcohol tests to ensure only sober ones get inside cockpits and then safely fly. On international flights, pilots have to undergo post-flight checks as liquor is available on board those flights. A pilot is grounded for three months, three years and forever after failing pre-flight BA test for the first, second and third time, respectively. Those failing the breath analyser tests in post-flight checks get a year added to these groundings.

Incidentally, alcohol is banned in both the origin and designation of this flight - Ahmedabad in Gujarat and Saudi Arabia. Airlines are not even allowed to serve liquor in Saudi airspace.

06/09/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Mumbai: A day after a Delhi-bound flight of IndiGo Airlines was delayed by more than seven hours at Mumbai airport amid rain and waterlogging in the city on Wednesday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said it would launch a probe into the incident.

Meanwhile, belated accounts said hundreds of passengers had to spend the night outside the airport as they were not allowed inside, as their flights were delayed or had been cancelled.

Several passengers were made to wait for hours at the Mumbai airport, with many stuck inside aircraft, as heavy rains lashed Mumbai continuously on Wednesday, disrupting life.

Stranded flyers then took to social media to voice their woes over the delays and cancellations.

Passengers complained but it appeared that the airline staff were ill-prepared to handle such a situation at one of the busiest airports in the country.

Many passengers were stranded at the terminal. Some complained that the airlines didn't provide any update on their flights.

06/09/19 Free Press Journal

Mumbai: Due to the continuous rainfall, Indian Railways, as well as airport services, have been affected. A huge number of delays and cancellations of trains and flights have left passengers stranded. Indian Railways has been cancelling trains since September 4th and trains that departed from other destinations for Mumbai could not be operated till the city as there was rainwater on the tracks. Same is the case with flight services. **Flight services at Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) got hit for the second straight day on September 5th due to the cancellation of 30 flights and another 118 flights getting delayed.**

When contacted, airport officials informed that Mumbai-bound flight services got affected from 1:20 PM on September 4 and it continued till yesterday evening. Prior to the beginning of the rainfall on September afternoon, to and fro flight services from Mumbai were business as usual. The airport

official went on to inform that 5 Air India flights, 11 IndiGo flights, two SpiceJet and two Vistara flights have been delayed respectively since September 4th noon. On September 5th, nine arrivals and four departures were delayed by more than an hour that created a hell lot of problems for the Mumbai air passengers. The airport official advised air travellers to check-in at the airport after checking the status of their flights. The aviation companies are also advising the same to its passengers.

06/09/19 ZeeBiz

Chennai: The domestic and international freight at the Chennai Airport recorded a negative growth this month, compared to last year as international and domestic air freight have fallen by 15.3 per cent, according to data accessed from the Airport Authority of India.

Interestingly, Chennai is not the only airport where domestic and international freight have recorded negative growth. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents some 290 airlines comprising 82 per cent of global air traffic, the pinch is being felt across the globe.

The fall in freight traffic is attributed to weak global trade and the intensifying trade dispute between the US and China, according to the IATA.

Interestingly, all major Indian airports including Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi have recorded negative growth in freight handled from April to July, compared to the same period last year. According to the data released by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for global air freight markets, which is measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTKs), the global air freight market contracted by 3.2 per cent in July, compared to the same period in 2018.

This marks the ninth consecutive month of year-on-year decline in freight volumes. The Chennai airport, which handled 37,870 tonnes of international and domestic freight during July, 2018, handled 31,909 tonnes this year, showing a negative growth of -15.3 per cent.

Similarly, in April-July, 2019, the Chennai airport handled 1,25,225 tonnes of freight when compared to 1,44,276 tonnes handled during the same period last year highlighting a negative growth of 13.2 per cent.

06/09/19 C Shivakumar/New Indian Express

Bengaluru: In a major boost to Indian defence aviation the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) built Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) successfully demonstrated high altitude capability in hot and high weather conditions in the Himalayas.

According to a Press release issued here by the HAL, the trials were carried out by the test pilots from HAL, IAF and the Army from August 24 to September 2, 2019.

R Madhavan HAL chairman and MD has said Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) has complied with all the requirements of the users and with the completion of hot and high altitude testing, it is close to operational clearance certification.

According to HAL, comprehensive test plan was executed at Leh (3300m) in temperatures upto International Standard Atmosphere (ISA) +32 degree C which included envelope expansion, performance and flying qualities. The LUH then lifted off from Leh and demonstrated its hot and high hover performance at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) at 5000m followed by another forward helipad (5500m at ISA +27degree C). While these extreme weather conditions imposed flight restrictions on all other civil and military aircraft, LUH flights were unhindered as it is designed for such operations.

The helicopter embarked on a 3000km flight from Bengaluru to Leh over a period of three days traversing many civil and military airfields. During the course of ferrying and trials at high altitude, the chopper revealed high reliability without any service support. The composite trials team included designers, flight test crew of HAL, the Indian Air Force and Indian Army. Representatives of CEMILAC and ORDAQA witnessed the trials for military and civil certification requirements respectively.

06/09/19 Pioneer

Two Doha-bound passengers, including a woman, were arrested on Thursday at Mumbai airport for allegedly carrying nearly **two kilograms of hashish worth Rs 20 lakh**. The drug was concealed inside the false bottom of their bags, CISF officials said.

Mohammad Tarique Irfan Inayatullah Mansoori and Zahira Mohammed Tarique Irfan Mansoori were scheduled to travel to Doha in the morning, they said. During the security check at Terminal-2 of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Central Industrial Security Force personnel found suspicious items in their handbags.

On suspicion, all the items of both the bags were removed and the bags were again passed through the X-BIS machine and some suspicious images were noticed again, they said. The bottom of the bags was torn apart and four packets containing hashish, two packets in each bag were wrapped with carbon foil weighing about 2 kgs, the officials said. The man told the officials that one of his friends had handed over the bags to them. Both passengers, were handed over to Narcotics Control Bureau officials.

06/09/19 DNA

Gorakhpur bound IndiGo Airbus 320 Neo aircraft made an **emergency landing at Varanasi Airport today, due to technical glitch in the aircraft**. The flight was flying from Hyderabad to Gorakhpur
The Economic Times of India 08/09/2018

Jet had the permission for 28 services from India to London of which 14 has already been awarded to Air India. The aviation ministry has initiated the process of distributing the rest of the long-haul international rights of Jet between Vistara and IndiGo

While **Vistara** has informed us that it will be able to **launch flights to London early next year**, **IndiGo** says it will be able to **launch flights by the middle of next year**. They are seeking Jet Airways' rights, which may be awarded with a condition that these can be taken back if Jet starts flying back again.



London Dream

Vistara plans to start flights to London early next year, IndiGo by middle 2020

Air India operates 21 flights a week to London, but has rights for 42 flights per week

Analysts say London route is lucrative for full service carriers, but may not be as profitable for low-cost carriers

Jet's rights for destinations such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Dubai, China, Qatar have been already distributed

IndiGo got the largest number of rights at 84 flights a week, followed by SpiceJet (77), GoAir (35) & Vistara (28)

From Jet's international flying rights, IndiGo got the largest number of rights at 84 flights a week, followed by SpiceJet at 77 flights per week. GoAir got rights for 35 flights per week while Vistara has been allowed to fly 28 flights a week. These rights are to operate flights to destinations in Singapore, Thailand, Dubai, China and Qatar among others.

The Economic times of India 09/09/2019

Greater Noida: Nearly 5,000 hectares of land around the upcoming Jewar airport is set to be developed along the lines of an aerotropolis — a fully integrated city with infrastructure, land use and economy built around an airport.

For this purpose, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has hired consultant Ernst & Young (E&Y) to study the best practices at top international airports and

prepare a feasibility report by the end of September.

“Right now the plan is at an initial stage where we are getting the feasibility report prepared by E&Y. It is expected by the end of this month,” Meena Bhargava, general manager (planning), YEIDA, said, adding that the final decision will be based on the report.

An aerotropolis is a model consisting of an airport city, outlying corridors and clusters of aviation-linked businesses and residential hubs that feed off each other and their accessibility to the airport. The concept was originally championed by John Kasarda, director of the Centre for Air Commerce at the University of North Carolina and author of *Aerotropolis: The Way We’ll Live Next*. Among prominent examples are Amsterdam’s Zuidas and South Korea’s Songdo International Business District.

In Jewar airport’s case, YEIDA is planning to develop parks, universities, vocational institutes, malls, convention centres, golf course, warehouse godowns and wholesale markets, among others, in the region. A planetarium and a national memorial are also in the pipeline.

10/09/19 Meenakshi Sinha/Times of India

Chennai: The city airport may be the fourth largest in the country, but it does not have aircraft recovery kit to extract an aircraft if it gets stranded off the runway. After being pointed out by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that the airport operator should have an equipment to remove stranded aircraft, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning to import such machines.

“A tender will be floated for purchase of the equipment for all major AAI airports by headquarters in Delhi. Major airports do not own the machine because so far it was the responsibility of the airline. The issue came to light after a plane veered off the runway in Mumbai and the runway had to be closed. It took time because they (airlines) too did not have the equipment,” said a senior AAI official.

The official said airlines do not buy such equipment because it was expensive. The equipment is crucial for Chennai because a majority of the flights is handled on the main runway and if it is closed, especially during the evening peak hour, there will be many diversions.

A few years ago, the main runway had to be shut when a small business jet got stranded. The airport was shut for a day. In February 2018, the main runway had to be closed after tyres of a SpiceJet aircraft burst throwing flight operations out of gear.

10/09/19 V Ayyappan/Times of India

Air India Director of Operations Amitabh Singh allegedly failed to file a mandatory report on low fuel situation during a flight operated by him from Delhi to Sydney last week and the incident has come under the scanner of both Indian and Australian aviation regulators, a source said on Monday.

Under Indian regulations, a pilot concerned is required to compulsorily report certain incidents, including low fuel situation during a flight, to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

“Though Singh filed a voluntary report about the incident with the airline, he did not file it online with the DGCA within the stipulated 24 hours time,” an airline source told PTI.

The incident happened on flight AIC 302 on September 7.

When contacted, a senior DGCA official said, “we are aware and it is being investigated”.

Separately, **Australian aviation authorities have asked Air India to probe the incident as Singh also did not declare “fuel emergency” on board his flight to the Sydney Air Traffic Control while seeking priority landing and instead declared that there was minimum fuel,** said the source.

An Air India spokesperson refused to comment on the incident.

According to a report from Australian aviation authorities, the flight AIC 302 was "advised" of a ten-minute delay for its arrival at Sydney but the Pilot-In-Command (PIC) told that he only had six minutes of fuel left.

"He was told by the controller of his delay and landing time that the decision to hold or divert was for him to take. After two minutes, the PIC said that delay was acceptable," as per the report accessed by PTI.

The two pilots were given their holding instructions but just when they were approaching the hold, the PIC advised that they could not hold and the plane needed priority landing, it said.

"The controller advised that without declaring a phase (cruising, descend or landing), the flight can't be accorded priority. The PIC called back with we are declaring Pan-Pan due to minimum fuel," it said. A Pan-Pan call is a distress call.

"Due to the apparent urgency of the situation, the aircraft was prioritised despite minimum fuel call instead of declaring fuel emergency on board," the report said.

09/09/19 PTI/NDTV

Jet Airways' hopes of getting its wings back may end up pinned on only one potential buyer. Of the three entities that had expressed interest, Synergy Group Corp, Treasury RA Partners and Avantulo Group, the last one was dropped from the final list of bidder companies last week as it failed to submit eligibility documents. And now Treasury RA Creator, a Russia-based international financial organisation, is likely to get disqualified.

The Russian fund did not provide enough information about itself to Jet Airways' insolvency resolution professional nor did it deposit the mandatory amount required to seek access to the airline's data, making it ineligible to bid, Mint reported, citing a person in the know. "Though the committee of creditors of Jet Airways is yet to take a call on whether to disqualify Treasury RA Creator, the company's interest in Jet Airways, as things stand, is as good as being rejected," the source added.

As per the requirement set by Jet Airways' creditors, an eligible bidder must have a net worth of Rs 1,000 crore. However, for financial investors, the eligibility limit is Rs 2,000 crore. **The shortlisted final bidders have to submit their final resolution plan by October 14.**

Meanwhile, the committee of creditors is still conducting due diligence on Synergy Group Corp. The South American conglomerate owns a majority stake in Colombian carrier Avianca Holdings, the second-largest airline in South America, which has a codeshare agreement with Air India.

"We are consulting lawyers and exploring (whether) Synergy Aerospace as a financial investor can take a majority stake in Jet Airways," Antonio Guizzetti, president of Washington-based Guizzetti & Associates, legal adviser to Synergy Group on the Jet Airways acquisition told the daily last week. **He added that the South American company is willing to pick up a 51 per cent stake in the grounded airline, as long as the lenders consent to take a deep haircut and convert their debt to equity.**

However, as per the government norms, a foreign carrier can neither hold over 49 per cent stake in a domestic airline nor effectively control it. Even though financial investors can own a higher stake, the effective control of an airline stays with the Indian investors. This, of course, may change if the government takes a decision to ease restrictions on foreign direct investment (FDI) in aviation, as was proposed in the Budget. In the meantime, **Synergy Group is yet to approach an Indian entity to partner with.**

10/09/19 Business Today

With a focus on further strengthening India's regional connectivity scheme — UDAN, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport managed by GVK Mumbai International Airport Limited (**MIAL**) **has added a new airline to its existing flight operation between Mumbai and Belgaum.**

The service is facilitated by Star Air, which flies on this route four days a week — Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

In addition to enhancing connectivity, the addition of this new service is aimed at boosting economic growth through trade and tourism. As per an official release, GVK MIAL believes that "the new airline plying between the two cities will offer greater opportunities for first time travellers to explore places beyond their hometown.

09/09/19 Business Traveller

Mumbai: Naresh Goyal's son Nivaan Goyal has founded a travel technology company, seeking a fresh path out of family's troubles as his parents face government probes and their grounded airline Jet Airways awaits an investor.

The Goyal family scion, with his cousin Nikhil Raghavan, also a former executive at Jet, started Digital Blinc Technologies, according to documents filed with the Registrar of Companies under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The company is registered in Maharashtra and was formed in June with an initial share capital of Rs 10 lakh, the documents showed. They listed Goyal and Raghavan as the first directors.

Raghavan announced the formation of the company in a Facebook post in August.

"I'm glad to announce that I have co-founded a tech startup called 'Blinc Technologies'. Our first product is a really exciting play in the B2C (business-to-customer) travel space and is set to go live in 2020," he said on the social network.

The company website lists Raghavan, the former head of innovation and technology at Jet, as Blinc's co-founder and president. It lists services including online ticketing solutions, a cab-ride sharing application, a loyalty platform for earning and burning points and a digital payment system.

Jet, India's oldest private carrier, stopped operating on April 17 after running out of cash to stay afloat and failing to raise money. In June, India's bankruptcy court admitted an insolvency plea from its biggest lender, State Bank of India, after the airline repeatedly defaulted on loan repayments. A resolution professional appointed by the court is now trying to find a new investor for the airline.

10/09/19 Anirban Chowdhury/Economic Times

Delhi: Jayesh Patel, an Ahmedabad resident, had gone to great lengths to fly to the United States where he was hoping to find a job and a shot at a better life. His American dream came crashing down on Sunday at the Delhi airport when he was caught by security officers just before he was to catch a flight to New York.

Mr Patel, 32, disguised himself as an 81-year-old man by getting his hair and beard dyed grey and got a fake name - Amrik Singh. He also managed to get a passport, the police said. At the Delhi airport, he managed to get past the initial security check as well as the immigration officials.

"A man named Jayesh Patel reached Terminal-3 of IGI (Indira Gandhi International Airport) airport on Sunday on a wheelchair posing as an elderly man. He even tricked the initial security check and got his immigration cleared," said Hemendra Singh, the spokesperson of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) told news agency IANS.

Jayesh Patel was put through detailed checks, following which his original identity was revealed.

"CISF was suspicious about him as his voice didn't match his age. Despite grey hair, his skin seemed to be quite young as there were hardly any wrinkles on his face," the CISF spokesperson said.

Jayesh Patel had hired an agent called Bharat who promised him that he will get the required documents ready and send him to the US. The two had also made a deal that when he reaches the US, Mr Patel will send the agent Rs. 30 lakh.

The agent put Jayesh Patel in touch with his Delhi-based aide. The US aspirant was taken to a hotel in Delhi where a make-up artiste was brought in. **The 32-year-old was made to look like an 81-year-old man in the hotel room.**

"He was planning to go to the US for a job. But his profile was such that he would not have gotten a visa easily. With a fake name - Amrik Singh, a fake address, he managed to get a passport and a US visa," senior police officer Sanjay Bhatia told NDTV.

10/09/19 Mukesh Singh Sengar/IANS/NDTV

Grounded and heavily indebted Jet Airways, which handled 10 to 15% of cargo emanating from India, again extended a deadline to land a new investor.

The carrier operated about 106 departure and arrival slots daily at Mumbai. In New Delhi, Jet operated with about 79 daily slots. All movements were achieved with passenger aircraft, with all cargo being carried as belly hold.

Jet, in which Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways owns 24%, shut down operations on April 18 after lengthy talks with the carrier's founder, external investors and Etihad were unsuccessful.

Etihad acquired its holding in Jet in 2013, at a time when the carrier needed financial support. Etihad, which has been a reluctant participant in talks to resolve Jet's financial woes, had offered to sell its entire stake in Jet for about \$58 million.

Following Jet's shutdown, India's central government temporarily allocated domestic slots and international rights to other carriers to fill a supply gap. If Jet is able to recover and return to operating the same number of aircraft as before the shutdown, those slots would be returned. If Jet cannot be revived, those carriers operating the carrier's former slots, will be given preference in permanent slot reallocation.

On Aug. 31, the third deadline for submission of expressions of interest (EOIs), three entities emerged as possible contenders, although one potential suitor has been eliminated.

The sole requirement for qualification as a potential bidder for Jet is a net worth of \$140 million. Current shortlisted entities are South America conglomerate Synergy Group and Russian economic development fund RA Treasury. Panama-based investment firm Avantulo Group's EOI failed to make the list.

The two shortlisted entities are required to sign nondisclosure agreements before gaining access to the bankrupt carrier's financials as part of the due-diligence process. The shortlisted entities have until Oct. 14 to submit final offers for Jet.

09/09/19 FreightWaves/Benzinga/Yahoo!

New Delhi: Shifting of IndiGo and SpiceJet's operations to Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport in the wake of ongoing revamp of Terminal 2 caused chaos at the airport on Monday with long queues for boarding and travellers missing their flights.

The low-cost carriers, however, denied any hindrance in operations. While SpiceJet has shifted its base from T2 to T3 entirely, IndiGo partially moved its operations to T3 on September 5.

Officials claimed the shift will pave way for the infrastructure enhancement of T2, after which its capacity will increase from 15 million passengers per annum (MPPA) to 18 MPPA. Currently, GoAir runs its entire fleet from T2 while IndiGo has partial operations at IGI's old international terminal, which was mothballed in 2010.

Under T2's enhancement initiatives, the security hold area, bus gate hold area, new arrivals area and passenger waiting area will be expanded while pre-embarkation security check area will be relocated and an automated tray retrieval system will be installed.

10/09/19 Times of India

New Delhi: Vistara will be the launch customer for Panasonic Avionics Corp's new Arc Inflight Map Platform — a personalized 3D inflight map application and solution for Panasonic's inflight entertainment and connectivity (IFEC) systems. The global inflight entertainment major has said Arc will be installed on Vistara's fleet of Boeing 787-9 and Airbus A321 Neo from next year.

A number of new features on the Arc have been developed in collaboration with FlightAware. The partnership will further explore new features based on FlightAware's predictive technology, giving passengers precise runway and gate arrival times as well as proactive information about connecting flight delays.

"Arc's innovations include personalized maps capability, new map-as-a-service technology that enables the development of applications utilising the map engine and feature set, premium destination and point-of-interest content, monetisation opportunities for airlines through Panasonic's Marketplace e-commerce platform, and the ability to integrate with airline advertising and promotions," Panasonic said in a statement issued Tuesday in Lake Forest, California.

10/09/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Indian carrier Vistara is set to launch its daily direct service on Udaipur-Mumbai, Udaipur-Delhi, Mumbai-Jodhpur and Delhi-Jodhpur routes.

Following the launch, the airline will add Rajasthan as its 29th destination.

Looks like Vistara is aggressively expanding its domestic network. In April 2019, Business Traveller India reported the airline's announcement on starting 14 new domestic flights.

Introductory economy fares on Udaipur-Mumbai sector is ₹4,599; Udaipur-Delhi starts at ₹4,399 and Mumbai-Jodhpur route is ₹6,499 and ₹4,099 for Delhi-Jodhpur.

10/09/10 Nisha Shroff/Business Traveller

Kannur: The North Malabar Chamber of Commerce (NMCC) has said that big infrastructure created at the Kannur International Airport remains underutilised at present because of the shortage of international flights from here.

Flights operating from the airport had shown good passenger load due to the large catchment area covering North Malabar and neighbouring Kodagu district in Karnataka, said NMCC president K. Vinod Narayanan.

"We hope that the Central government will give permission for foreign airline companies to operate international services from the Kannur airport at the earliest," he said, exuding hope that the operation of services by foreign airlines would be a big boon for the NRI population and the tourism industry of North Malabar.

While the Kannur airport was awaiting permission from the Central government for foreign airlines to begin operations, there were misleading reports suggesting that neighbouring airports were ignored to promote Kannur airport, said Mr. Narayanan in a press release.

While an earlier meeting of airlines held in January focused on Kannur airport as it was newly commissioned at the time, the meeting of officials of airlines and airports convened by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and presided over by the Chief Minister of Kerala on August 31 was primarily to

discuss the need for increasing flights from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in view of the recent reduction in flights from there, he said, adding that flights from other airports in the State were also discussed.

Mr. Narayanan said the number of additional flights from Kerala to be operated by airlines from the next winter schedule was primarily from Thiruvananthapuram airport. Kochi and Kannur airports would also get a few additional domestic flights, he said, adding that Air India's flight from Kannur and Kozhikode to New Delhi would become a daily flight in place of five flights a week at present. IndiGo and SpiceJet had not shifted operations from Kozhikode airport to Kannur airport as had been reported in a section of the media, he said.

09/09/19 The Hindu

Hyderabad: GMR led Hyderabad International Airport has deployed a cloud based Central Irrigation Control System to control Irrigation System across the 80 acres of landscape spread along the 8.4 km stretch of the airport spine road.

A first of its kind in India, the control of irrigation system is precise, enabling the airport to save water up to 35% over the conventional mode of irrigation.

SGK Kishore, CEO, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd., said, "While the airport is striving towards becoming water neutral, the implementation of a cloud based technology for our automatic irrigation system is a strategic move to further conserve water. The new system empowers us to effectively control the usage of water, while also making it effortless to use for our workforce as it can be controlled through any internet enabled data device."

10/09/19 V Rishi Kumar/Business Line

Air India teams up with Be.artsy, India's premier social awareness enterprise, to raise awareness among its cabin crew on workplace sexual harassment and its prevention. "We do not take any sexual harassment case lightly. We treat every case seriously. Which is why I have personally attended the recent Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) training programme conducted by Be.artsy. I believe this is not just any subject, it a subject that is close to my heart," says Ashwani Lohani, CMD, Air India.

Air India's training and awareness drive follows a training programme conceptualised and delivered by Be.artsy on August 6-7, 2019, in New Delhi for ICC members of Air India Ltd and its Subsidiaries: Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL), Alliance Air, and Air India Express. The programme empowered all ICC members with advanced knowledge of India's 2013 law on the prevention of sexual harassment of women at the workplace, and the skills to investigate sexual harassment cases without biases or delays.

Be.artsy specialises in developing and executing customised, multilingual communication programmes to raise awareness and sensitise individuals on workplace sexual harassment, with focus on prevention of the issue.

09/09/19 T3

Dehradun: Plans are afoot to start a direct flight between Kathmandu and Dehradun, according to a member of the Nepalese delegation who was in Dehradun on Monday to meet representatives of tourism department of Uttarakhand and discuss opportunities to explore tourism and promote adventure sports activities in India and Nepal.

Representatives of the two countries met at the Himalayan Tourism Samman Awards jointly

organised by the Uttarakhand tourism department and PHD Chamber of Commerce.

During the meeting, both sides also discussed ways to promote tourism in the hill state and Nepal with the help of travel agents. While director of Nepal Tourism Board Mani Raj Lamichhane led the delegation of the neighbouring country, the Indian state's team was headed by director extension Narendra Singh Kawiriyal.

Both sides discussed ways to promote adventure sports such as mountain biking, trekking and rafting along with religious pilgrimage and cultural tourism avenues.

10/09/19 Times of India

Kozhikode: The Calicut Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said it would launch an agitation demanding that the steps to privatise the Calicut International Airport be fast-tracked.

In a release, Subair Kolakkadan, president, and K. Moidu, chairman of the chamber's airport committee, said on Monday that some "invisible forces" were blocking the development of the airport.

The State government had not been able to acquire 136 acres of land sought by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and another 15 acres near the city for vehicle parking. Many of the flights to Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad from the Calicut airport were cancelled and launched from Kannur airport.

The authorities were not taking any steps for the landing of Code 'E' wide-bodied aircraft even after the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation and the AAI gave permission for big aircraft to land here.

The fuel tariff concession under the regional airport connectivity scheme UDAN was given for all the services from Kannur initially. For Calicut airport, this was pegged at 29%, but reduced to 5% after widespread protests. The recent proposal to raise it by another 4% is applicable only to Calicut.

10/09/19 The Hindu

New Delhi: Eight people including a woman were arrested at Delhi airport last week for their alleged involvement in separate incidents of smuggling gold and other items worth crores of rupees, Customs officials said on Monday.

In the first incident, two Indians landed in the net upon their arrival from the UAE for allegedly smuggling gold bars worth over Rs 24 lakh, they said.

The two were intercepted by Customs officials after they had crossed the Green Channel post their arrival at the Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport from Abu Dhabi by an Etihad Airways flight.

A personal and baggage search of the passengers resulted in recovery of five gold bars and one cut piece of gold bar, weighing 676 gms having a tariff value of Rs 24,18,786, the officials said.

The gold has been seized and the two passengers arrested under relevant provisions of the Customs Act, they said.

During questioning, they admitted to have smuggled out Saudi Riyal 53,000 and USD 50,000 in their previous visits, they said.

The passengers also admitted they smuggled 1.2 kgs of gold and commercial goods worth Rs 28,74,000 in their previous visits, making the total value of the smuggled goods to Rs 1,41,34,348, the officials said.

In the second incident, two Indians, who arrived at Delhi airport from Saudi Arabia's Jeddah via Abu Dhabi on September 5, were arrested for allegedly smuggling five gold cut pieces weighing 648 grams worth Rs 23,09,316, they said.

The passengers admitted to have smuggled gold, commercial goods and currency with a total value of Rs 1,77,40,102 in their previous visits, the officials said.

In the third incident, an Indian, who arrived from Hong Kong and two more Indians scheduled to go to Mumbai were intercepted by the Customs officers who seized mobile phones, laptop batteries and memory cards worth Rs 4,03,64,328, the officials said.

The recovered items were seized and the three arrested under relevant provisions of the Customs Act, they said.

They admitted to have smuggled memory cards worth Rs 4,50,15,000 in their past four visits, the officials said.

09/09/19 PTI/Outlook

New Delhi: A Malaysian female passenger was arrested at Chennai's international airport for trying to smuggle gold worth RM133,000.

The woman, aged 40, arrived from Malaysia on Monday and was carrying a 582g of pure gold valued around **2.3 million Indian rupees (RM133,700)**, according to India's Air Intelligence Unit (AIU).

She has been released on bail and police are conducting an investigation.

10/09/19 Bernama/New Straits Times

The Indian Air Force has withdrawn its order of closing down the Jammu airport for all flights from October 1 to 15. This comes as a major relief for commuters and various airlines that had earlier stopped booking for these 15 days.

The resurfacing work of the runway was supposed to be undertaken for two weeks from October 1 but as per reports, the intervention by Ministry of Defence has helped in reviewing the decision.

The State administration and Airport Authority of India (AAI) had forwarded a request to look into the matter considering the upcoming holiday season in October. The decision was thus taken to continue the **resurfacing of the Jammu Airport runway during the night hours to avoid any inconvenience in the smooth operations of the airlines.**

Around 24 commercial flights of various air carriers operate on an average from Jammu Airport. Thus, the suspension for 2 weeks would have incurred losses.

09/09/19 Northlines

Indian airline IndiGo has picked Heavyweight Air Express (HAE) as its general sales agent (GSA) for the Gulf region, as part of its move to aggressively grow its cargo business between the Middle East and India.

"We are now focusing on growing our cargo business and Middle East is a very important region for us in this drive. We have recently changed our GSA in the region and picked HAE as our new GSA for the region," Willy Boulter, chief commercial officer of IndiGo, told Arabian Business.

Aviation industry analysts said IndiGo's decision to go with HAE to boost its cargo business in the Middle East region is likely to be lucrative given the latter's extensive knowledge of the Middle East market and its comprehensive network in the region.

Cargo business currently accounts for 4-5 percent of the Indian budget carrier's overall revenue.

"We want to increase the share of the cargo business in our overall revenue significantly in the coming years," Boulter said, without giving any specific target or timeline for the proposed growth plans.

Aviation industry experts said cargo is a highly profitable business for airlines in terms of revenue per ASMs (available seat miles).

Boulter said IndiGo's focus is on achieving higher revenue per available seat per kilometres (ASKs) rather than achieving higher passenger load factor (PLF).

Though IndiGo tops the list among Indian carriers in terms of market share (47.8 percent in July '19), it's third in terms of PLFs at 86.2 percent (July), below SpiceJet (92.4 percent) and Go Air (90.4 percent).

08/09/19 James Mathew/Arabian Business

An IndiGo flight bound for Gorakhpur on Sunday had to make an emergency landing at airport in Varanasi due to a technical snag.

The IndiGo flight **6E 6316 was flying from Hyderabad to Gorakhpur when the incident took place.**

The aircraft landed at LBS International Airport in Varanasi after a malfunction in the engine was detected.

The aircraft was carrying 144 passengers.

The pilot immediately contacted the Air Traffic Control (ATC) located at the Varanasi airport. The aircraft made an emergency landing in the afternoon with ATC's permission.

08/09/19 India Today

New Delhi: Two people, including a British national, were apprehended in separate incidents by CISF personnel at the Delhi airport for allegedly using fake tickets to enter the terminal area, an official said on Sunday.

The two were apprehended on Saturday.

In the first incident, Raj Dhonota was apprehended when he was leaving Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, the official said.

According to the official, Dhonota was carrying a passport of the United Kingdom. He told officials that he used a cancelled ticket to London for entering the terminal to see off his wife and son.

In the second incident, Ubaid Lal was apprehended for the same offence.

Lal used a cancelled ticket to Srinagar to enter the terminal and drop his mother, the official said.

08/09/19 PTI/India Today

Mumbai: The Adani Group has dragged the shareholders of the GVK Group-run Mumbai airport (MIAL) and the aviation ministry to the Bombay High Court, seeking a direction to them to allow buying out the minority stake held by South African firm Bidvest in the airport.

The South African firm Bid Services Division Mauritius or Bidvest owns 13.5 per cent in the country's second busiest airport.

Other shareholders are ACSA Global (Airports Company of South Africa) which owns 10 per cent, Airports Authority of India (26 percent) and GVK Airport Holdings, which is the majority owner with a 50.5 per cent ownership.

The petition filed last Wednesday names these shareholders along with the aviation ministry as respondents.

Bidvest had entered into an agreement with Adanis to sell its entire stake in the airport for a consideration of Rs 1,248 crore or Rs 77 a share.

The Adanis had also offered to buy out ACSA at the similar price.

The Adanis, which has won the bid to run six other AAI-run airports last February, had offered around Rs 950 crore to ACSA, valuing the world's busiest single-runway airport that handles an around 1,000

flight movements a day, at Rs 9,500 crore.

Adani in its suit filed on September 4 has claimed that its share purchase agreement dated March 5, 2019 with Bidvest, held through its Mauritian arm, is valid, subsisting and binding.

The present suit is being filed seeking specific performance of the agreement executed between the plaintiff and Bidvest for purchasing its entire shareholding of 1,62,000,000 shares representing 13.5 per cent of the fully paid-up share capital of MIAL, the suit said.

It has also sought a direction to the South African company and the other shareholders in MIAL to do everything necessary to give effect to the agreement and pending final hearing of the suit direct the company to not create any third-party rights in respect of the process.

As per the petition, GVK had exercised its right of first refusal before the 30-day mandated time frame on April 4.

According to the suit, this April, Bidvest had given a notice to GVK and ACSA Global along with a copy to the AAI stating it was prepared to transfer the sale shares.

It appears since then GVK purportedly exercised its right under clause 3.7 of the shareholders agreement (rights of first refusal) to purchase the shares.

However, GVK failed to purchase the same within the time period prescribed in the agreement, the plea said.

Instead, GVK moved the Delhi High Court seeking an injunction against Bidvest from offering or selling its shares to any person other than GVK, Adani said in its suit.

08/09/19 PTI/Times of India

For a growing economy like India, privatisation and modernisation of airports is non-negotiable and India's decision to privatise its metro airports in the past has delivered significant results

The civil aviation industry in India has been growing at the rate of 20 per cent for the past four years making it the fastest growing aviation market in the world. According to reports generally available, India is set to become the world's third largest aviation market in terms of passenger throughput, much before the predicted timeline of 2024.

Over the next few years, the improving economic growth in India along with encouraging demographic factors such as higher middle class disposable income are expected to result in higher spending on travel as well as increased trade. The growth story is here to remain and rapid development of infrastructure, including that of airports, will only fuel the growth further.

Privatisation of airports has been a debateable yet growing trend across the globe. While higher efficiencies, increased competition, improved customer base, and deployment of modern technologies continues to support the debate for privatisation, concerns around expensive financing, difficulty in monitoring performance and reduced government sight catches up and continues to cast doubts. In the Indian context as well, the story has not altered much from the day India's airport modernisation programme commenced with the award of greenfield PPP concessions for Bengaluru and Hyderabad and the award of brownfield PPP concessions for Delhi and Mumbai.

For a growing economy like India, privatisation and modernisation of airports is non-negotiable and India's decision to privatise its metro airports in the past has delivered significant results. It has not only transformed the passenger experience but has also delivered a substantial dividend to the government, including the Airport Authority of India (AAI).

Although, capabilities of the AAI in airport development and operations are not being doubted, the modernisation of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports in the last decade have established that privatisation has delivered results far in excess of what would have been achieved otherwise. Modernisation of our airports has traditionally been crippled by the government's

inability to adequately leverage aeronautical and non-aeronautical opportunities, a position which dramatically altered with induction of private capital in the airport sector.

Privatisation plans for airports in India, while pleasing to some, have also ruffled feathers of a few in the past.

Privatisation of airports continue to face tough challenge at the hands of trade unions who echo concerns on job stability and airlines who fear that it will only augment their financial woes with operational costs rocketing upwards. What however remains unnoticed is that 'life is not a bed of roses' for the private sector as well. Privatisation of airports is a daunting task as the civil aviation sector in India is extremely regulated and is under the constant supervision of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority

The private sector continues to endure challenges on account of delays in tariff determination resulting in revenue mismatch during the control period, disallowance of expenditure in tariff determination, growth of other transport modes, reduction of flight operations and poor financial health of airlines, macroeconomic events such as change in fuel prices and currency exchange rates, enhanced security measures, change in governments, long-drawn and expensive disputes with the AAI on computation of revenues sharing, and issues of conflict of interest on account of the AAI being a stakeholder in the airport as well as a competitor operating other airports.

While, the problems facing the successful privatisation of airports in India continue, the government seems to be committed and is introducing policies and initiatives for the longer term benefit of the aviation sector. The launch of 'Aviation Policy 2016' with the aim of making flying affordable for the masses, followed by announcement of the regional connectivity scheme 'UDAN' in 2016 and the international air connectivity scheme 'International UDAN' in 2018, to improve the overall regional as well as international connectivity, establishes the Centre's resolve to back and improve India's aviation sector.

Privatisation of traditionally government-controlled sectors has never been an easy task and the airport sector is no exception, especially owing to the number of stakeholders involved and larger interest of the public. It has its 'pros' and 'cons' and it will always be up to the stakeholders to collaborate and implement effective and rational choices that enhance the civil aviation industry, including the quality of airports in India.

In essence, the trade-offs, on the whole, would have to be beneficial to all stakeholders and ensure that no single stakeholder is put to a disadvantageous position, including the private sector.

Money Control 10/09/2019

Mumbai: Air passengers are likely to shell out the highest fares for domestic travel this fiscal with the ticket prices expected to spike 7-9 per cent during the period because of limited capacity additions since the grounding of Jet Airways, rating agency Crisil Research said on Wednesday. Crisil also forecast domestic passengers traffic to grow 6-8 per cent in FY20, as against a healthy 19 per cent growth registered in the year ended March 2019, on account of non-revival of Jet Airways, which ceased all operations in April due to liquidity crisis and is now under insolvency proceedings. The 7-9 per cent expected the rise in airfares will be the highest since fiscal 2013, which had seen then Kingfisher Airlines going bust, it said.

"This is way below the 14 per cent growth logged in fiscal 2019 and the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18 per cent was seen in the last five years. Nevertheless, is higher than our earlier estimate of 2 per cent growth and factors an upward revision in capacity addition plans of low cost

carriers (LCCs)," Crisil added.

Even if Boeing 737 Max aircraft, which have been grounded globally since March following two fatal crashes, resumes operations post H1FY20, the domestic passenger traffic growth for the industry could grow faster by about 80-100 bps at best to 7-9 per cent it said.

11/09/19 PTI/Business Standard

New Delhi: The pilot of a GoAir flight sent a 'Pan-Pan' (distress) call seeking an urgent landing to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) before its touchdown at its destination Kannur in Kerala on Tuesday.

The GoAir flight **G8-056** Airbus Neo took off from Muscat in Oman and was destined to Kannur.

"The captain of the GoAir flight 056 from Muscat to Kannur yesterday transmitted an urgent call to the ATC as safety or precautionary measure owing to a **minor problem** while on its descent approach path to Kannur airport," a GoAir spokesperson said in a statement on Wednesday.

However, the call was overruled by the ATC.

"At GoAir, the safety of our passengers and crew is of paramount importance. The airline regrets any inconvenience caused to its passengers." the statement said.

The flight later landed safely with all 135 passengers on board.

Former Defence Pilot and Aviation Expert Vipul Saxena said that a PAN call is given by a pilot to the ATC when he is facing a situation requiring a priority landing at the nearest airfield or destination airfield.

11/09/19 New Indian Express

100 Days of Civil Aviation Ministry: India's tallest air traffic control tower inaugurated

India's tallest Air Traffic Control tower was inaugurated earlier this month at the Indira Gandhi International Airport

The Ministry of Civil aviation has undertaken several initiatives in the first 100 days of governance under Modi government 2.0 to boost growth in the aviation sector and enable affordable flying.

Following are some of the key initiatives:

India's tallest Air Traffic Control tower inaugurated: The tallest Air Traffic Control tower was inaugurated in India earlier this month at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The tower will ensure up-to-date services and systems for efficient, smooth and uninterrupted air traffic management.

Airports awarded on PPP to harness investments in Public Sector: Three Indian airports, Ahmedabad, Mangaluru and Lucknow were awarded to a private concessionaire through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to bring efficiency in delivery, expertise, enterprise and professionalism and also to harness investments in the public sector.

Online jobs portal launched for aviation sector: The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched a unique web-based portal called 'Aviation Jobs'. The portal seeks to bring together prospective employers and job seekers in the civil aviation sector. It will not only enable candidates to register their job interests across various sub-sectors but also facilitate the sourcing of information about candidates available in the market by prospective employers to improve prospects for employment.

34 RCS routes operationalised: The Aviation Ministry operationalised 34 routes under round one, two and three of Tourism 'Regional Connectivity Scheme'(RCS). The 34 RCS routes will provide connectivity to 4 unserved airports- Mysore, Jharsuguda, Kolhapur and Jalgaon and 4 underserved airports- Gwalior, Belgaum, Durgapur and Shillong connecting 10 served airports- Raipur,

Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Goa, Kochi, Rajahmundry and Vizag under the scheme.

Digital Initiatives of Aviation Ministry:

eDGCA project: The eDGCA project has been conceptualized to completely automate the processes and functions of DGCA and its constituent directorates and provide a strong base for IT infrastructure and service delivery framework. The work on the development of various modules including licensing of pilots is currently under progress.

DigiSky: The Ministry has operationalised DigiSky, which is an online portal that has been designed to regulate all activities relating to governance and operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) and Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs)/drones. Besides ensuring safety and security in drone operations, the portal will also help in the promotion of drone technologies.

Esahaj- The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Esahaj online portal, which will provide all security clearances pertaining to the Aviation sector. The portal is operational for granting clearances in 24 categories. <https://esahaj.gov.in/>

DigiYatra: The Civil Aviation Ministry has already begun the trial rollout of the DigiYatra initiative at Bangalore and Hyderabad airports. The initiative aims to ensure a seamless and hassle-free passenger travel by using biometric technologies to improve the passenger experience. The initiative will remove redundancies at checkpoints and enhance resource utilization. It will reduce queue waiting time as passengers can walk through e-gates by using advanced security solutions.

Aviation Security Fee: The Aviation Security Fee, which is collected as a part of passenger fare and collected by the airlines, has been rationalized and a National Trust has been created to pool all the ASF collections across airports. The trust will be managed by AAI. The collection of ASF in a single pool account will help in cross-subsidizing of the smaller airports of AAI with low ASF collection thus bridging the funding gap.

India would also be receiving the **Council President Certificate** from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for its progress in resolving its safety oversight deficiencies and improving the Effective Implementation (EI). The certificate will be presented to India during a special ceremony at ICAO headquarters, Montreal during the 40th Session of the Assembly

Jagranjosh.com 12/09/2019

Arunachal Pradesh is the second global Bermuda Triangle, which was amply proved by the crash of an AN-32 aircraft, a workhorse of Indian Air Force (IAF), on June 3 this year, killing all 13 on board. This was third crash of the Russian-made AN-32 in the Himalayan state, earlier known as North East Frontier Agency (NEFA). The following day, Union defence minister Rajnath Singh told Rajya Sabha that the IAF's AN-32 was completely airworthy and such accidents in the country have come down from 1.04 in 1999 to 0.33 currently per 10,000 flying hours. Claiming that the accident was unfortunate, while responding to supplementary queries during question hour, he had noted that there was "no issue regarding the airworthiness of the aircraft".

Chopper crashes :

October 6, 2017: An **Mi-17** helicopter of the IAF crashed near Tawang **killing all seven** - 5 IAF personnel - two pilots and two army men - on board. The chopper had taken off from Khirmu helipad near Tawang to drop off kerosene jerry cans at Yangste Army camp.

July 4, 2017: An IAF **ALH**, deployed for airlifting people stranded on Sagalee-Itanagar route blocked by flood had crashed at Saglee in Papum Pare district **killing all four**, including two pilots, on board.

August 4, 2015: A twin-engine **Dauphin N3** helicopter of Pawan Hans, flown by **two pilots and young Tirap DC Kamlesh Kumar Joshi** on board took up from Khonsa and crashed minutes later **killing all**.

April 30, 2011: Pawan Hans **AS 350 B-3** chopper, carrying the then **chief minister Dorjee Khandu and four others crashed, killing all**. The mortal remains were found five days later near Luguthang in Tawang district.

April 19, 2011: A Pawan Hans **Mi-17** flight from Guwahati to Tawang, trying to land at Tawang helipad, crashed in a gorge catching fire. Of the 23 passengers, mostly tourists, on board, **17 were killed. Two more succumbed to burn injuries later**.

November 19, 2011: AIF's **MI-17**, a multi-utility helicopter, blasted into flames midair 5 minutes after take-off from Tawang helipad, **killing 12 defence personnel**, including three pilots.

August 6, 2010: 24-seater **MI-172** Pawan Hans helicopter **cabin crew Dhananjoy Roy fell to his death while trying to shut the unfastened chopper door that had flung open midair when on its way from Namsai to Tezu**.

May 8, 2001: A Pawan Hans chopper piloted by DGM **Capt VK Dhir and co-pilot Col. RP Singh** carrying state education minister **Dera Natung**, education secretary **Sange Lhaden**, union HRD ministry's **Dy secretary SK Jain**, **Times of India deputy managing director Nandita Judge** and **another person crashed** into a high hill near Sessa in West Kameng district due to poor visibility, **killing all on board**.

February 26, 2001: IAF's **MI-8** chopper while returning from Tali after a ration sortie crashed near Ziro, **killing all six crew members**, including two pilots.

November 14, 1997: **Union MoS for defence NVN Somu and three top officials**, including Maj Gen Ramesh Nagpal **died** when their four-seater **Cheetah** hit a 1300-ft peak, 40 km off Tawang.

June 6, 1995: IAF's **MI 8** chopper crashed near Bello village in West Siang district **killing all seven on board**.

Su-30MKI aircrafts crashes: Two squadrons Su-30MKI aircrafts (one squadron comprising of 12 to 16 aircrafts) are stationed at Tezpur Air Force Station (AFS) of Salonibari in Assam. There are **10 Su-30MKI aircraft crashes** of so far including three after taking off from Tezpur AFS.

May 19, 2015: One crashed at Laokhowa in Assam's Nagoan district when pilot and co-pilot had ejected safely.

May 23, 2017: Crashed at about 60 km from Tezpur AFS when both **crew members** parachuted but **got killed**.

July 11, 2018: Crashed in dense jungle on Arunachal Pradesh when **both pilots were killed**.

Interestingly, Union civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri during a video conferencing with chief secretary Naresh Kumar on August 19 announced that the much desired **Itanagar Greenfield airport at Hollongi will be completed by March 31, 2022** to put Arunachal on the air map of India.

Moreover, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plan to develop seven more airports, including three Greenfield airports and two water aerodromes in the NE region, though 12 airports are operational in NE states currently as reported on July 7, this year.

AAI regional executive director Sanjeev Jindal on the sidelines of the two-day conference-cum-international buyer-seller meet in Imphal had said the **water aerodromes will be developed in Brahmaputra and greenfield airports at Rupsi in Assam and Hollongi in Arunachal Pradesh**. "We're also exploring another around Silchar," he had said, adding that they are planning to appraise the higher ups to review the cargo charges of some perishable items of Northeast to encourage trade.

Rupsi Airport, located about 15-km from Dhubri town in Assam was said to be built by the British during World War II to supply arms, manpower and ammunition to the allied forces while Hollongi Airport located about 25-km from Itanagar will boast some state-of-art infrastructure. **The remaining two airports will be developed in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.** “We’re also exploring for more air connectivity in the region,” Jindal had said.

In fact, improving IAF capability in Arunachal Pradesh is pivotal for national security as the frontier state shares 4,057 km Line of Actual Control with China.

Eastmojo.com 12/12/2019

Bengaluru: Toulouse-based Latécoère, a company that manufactures aerostructures such as fuselage sections and doors, and interconnection systems, including onboard wiring, electrical harnesses, and avionics bays for major international aircraft manufacturers, has set up a manufacturing plant in Belagavi.

To start with, the 4,400-sq. m plant would manufacture radio navigation harnesses for Falcon 2000. In the future, it would also manufacture harnesses and avionics harnesses for aircraft such as Boeing B777, B737, and Airbus A320 and for airlines such as Emirates, British Airways, and Qatar Airways. Yannick Assouad, CEO of Latécoère, said, “I am proud to open a new chapter for Latécoère’s development in India, alongside two prestigious names in aerospace, Dassault Aviation and Thales. Latécoère continues to evolve in line with the ‘Transformation 2020’ plan and actively pursue its strategy to optimise its industrial infrastructure and ensure operational excellence and quality for all customers.”

At the inception, the manufacturing plant will employ 70 people while it will have a workforce of over 300 people by 2022.

[12/09/19 The Hindu](http://TheHindu.com)

The aviation industry worldwide is all about safety and security and often has zero tolerance for lapses. As compared to other countries, India is far stricter in its aviation rules and medical clearances. And yet, the lapses are far too many and too often, endangering the lives of thousands of passengers. While the lapses that come most to light are those of the highest paid community in the aviation sector, the pilots, those of others will soon be on the radar too.

The most common misdemeanour is that of drinking. While breath analyser (BA) tests are carried out on pilots and cabin crew and even off-duty pilots who are in the cockpit as additional crew members, many are found slipping these high standards. **According to media reports, in the first six months of 2019, 123 pilots and cabin crews failed the BA test. In 2018, the total numbers of crew members who failed the test was a whopping 256.**

In fact, Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 5 which deals with Air Safety (Series F Part III) for flight crew says that “the level of blood alcohol compatible with safe flying is ‘Zero’, which is also recommended by ICAO. It is equally important to intensify the educational programme for crew members regarding the inherent dangers of flying after consumption of alcohol”.

The CAR also explains: “Alcohol also interferes with the enzymatic cellular process or oxidation, causes hypoxia and reduces individual’s tolerance with increase in altitude. It is known that a low alcohol blood level between 30 mg% to 50 mg% disturbs the sensor-motor, visual and cortical reaction. Consumption of alcohol results in significant deterioration of psychomotor performance and decreases the amount of mental capacity available to deal with many essential tasks involved in the conduct of safe flight. Should an emergency occur in-flight, the crew member under the influence of alcohol is not capable of dealing with the problem.”

While such strictness is valued and expected from flight crew, the DGCA has gone a step further and will now include aircraft maintenance engineers, flight dispatchers, air traffic controllers, machine operators and vehicle drivers working at airports under BA tests. All these personnel are

important cogs that move the wheels of aviation and keep them well-oiled. Every minor and major job done by these backroom boys is critically important at the airport and for the safety of planes and passengers. Though these are the support staff for the flight crew, any failure on their part can jeopardise flight operations. How often have we read about drunk drivers hitting stationary planes and damaging parts worth crores. Or freak accidents caused at airports due to airport personnel not being fully alert.

11/09/19 Shobha John/India Legal

Dehradun: The **Uttarakhand** cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposal to **develop Jolly Grant airport as an international airport**, demarcating areas under jurisdiction of development authorities of Pauri, Dehradun and Haridwar, and merger of Gangotri Special Area Authority with Uttarkashi Development Authority.

“We’ve decided to develop Jolly Grant airport as an international airport. A presentation was made before the state cabinet, which gave its nod for the project. Concerned authorities will now look for land to expand the airport, and other related works,” Kaushik said, adding that work to fulfill all necessary formalities would begin immediately.

12/09/19 Kautilya Singh/Times of India

New Delhi: **The Narendra Modi government is set to continue in its second term the policy of not increasing foreign flying rights with countries in West Asia and Southeast Asia, as their allocation has been controversial in the past and was flagged by Indian audit and investigation agencies.**

In a recent meeting at the civil aviation ministry, a request from airlines to increase bilateral foreign flying rights with certain countries was not entertained and the airlines were asked to look at other available routes, according to people aware of the matter.

“Suggestions were made to start flights to long-haul destinations like London and Canada and also to Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries,” said one person, who did not wish to be identified. Airlines are allowed to launch unlimited flights to Asean countries from a few destinations in the country.

The government’s response came after airlines sought an increase in foreign flying rights to short-haul international destinations, as both existing and new airlines are planning to expand to overseas destinations. Countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Singapore are also seeking an increase in foreign flying rights after the existing rights have been exhausted from both sides.

The number of flights between two countries is guided by a bilateral foreign flying rights regime which specifies the number of flights airlines can operate to the other country. India has signed such bilateral agreements with 109 countries.

Aviation analysts said that restricting foreign flying rights on routes where both sides have exhausted the quota is anti-consumerist as it would keep fares firm.

The demand from Indian carriers was met to an extent after the grounding of Jet Airways, whose foreign flying rights for destinations such as Dubai, Singapore, Qatar, China and Hong Kong were allocated to other domestic carriers. Airlines are, however, demanding a further increase to boost their expansion plans, as Vistara and AirAsia India also plan to expand internationally.

12/09/19 Mihir Mishra/Economic Times

New Delhi: **Low-cost airlines like SpiceJet, IndiGo and Air Asia (India) are set to see their earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation and lease rentals (EBITAR) to grow to 24-25 per cent this fiscal compared to 15-16 per cent in the last fiscal on the back of firmer fares and strong**

passengers loads, Crisil said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to Crisil, the improvement in the EBITAR margin and the operating cash flows are expected to touch a decadal high of ₹4,700-5,200 crore this fiscal. Unlike fiscal 2019, a majority of the LCCs are expected to post positive operating cash flows.

The statement added that **fares are expected to rise because of limited capacity additions in the industry since Jet Airways temporarily ceased operations in April.**

Crisil estimates domestic fares to jump 7-9 per cent on-year, the highest rise since fiscal 2013, when Kingfisher ceased operations. It expects domestic passenger load factor (PLF) for the industry to remain flat at around 86 per cent in fiscal 2020.

Benign fuel costs, coupled with expected lower foreign exchange losses and a rise in the share of fuel-efficient aircraft such as A320 neo and A321 neo from 23 per cent in fiscal 2019 to about 27-30 per cent in fiscal 2020, is expected to aid contraction in operating costs (excluding rentals) in fiscal 2020.

11/09/19 Business Line

The price-sensitive Indian air passenger will have to shell out more this fiscal year as fares are expected to rise due to limited capacity addition and the grounding of full service carrier Jet Airways with its fleet of 119 aircraft.

Rating agency Crisil Research says ticket prices are expected to rise 7-9% during the period, the highest since 2013, when another popular airline, Kingfisher, was grounded, Press Trust of India reports.

The agency has forecast that the growth of air passenger traffic within the country will be subdued, at 6-8% in this fiscal year, as against a robust 19% in the year ended March 2019.

In addition to the Jet Airways crisis, the global grounding of Boeing 737 Max aircraft since March, following two fatal crashes, has also hampered aircraft availability. Budget carrier SpiceJet was badly hit as it had 12 Boeing 737 Max aircraft in its fleet.

If Boeing 737 Max planes are allowed to fly later in the year it may help increase the air passenger growth by up to 1%, the agency opined.

As for capacity addition, the rating agency said it will be brought in mainly by low-cost carriers such as SpiceJet and IndiGo. The two airlines are expected to post strong double-digit growth of 25-30% in passenger traffic for fiscal year 2020, the agency added.

12/09/19 KS Kumar/Asia Times

Chennai: Customs officers posted at the city airport detected four cases of smuggling of gold and seized 1.5 kilograms of gold. One person was arrested.

Sources said AIU officers intercepted Vijayaragavan (33) of Tiruchy who arrived from Singapore to Chennai by an Indigo Airlines flight on Tuesday. On examination of his hand baggage, three gold bars with foreign markings "Valcambi Sui-sse", weighing 300 grams valued at Rs 12 lakh were found concealed among his personal effects, and were seized.

In another case on the same day, Nur Lina Binti Abdullah (40) of Negeri Sembilan Malaysia who arrived by an Air Asia flight was intercepted on suspicion of carrying gold. On her personal search, she was found to have concealed gold in rubbery spread form in the waist of her jeans and in a sanitary pad worn by her. After extraction one gold ingot weighing 582 gms valued at `23 lakh was recovered. She was arrested.

In two other cases, Mohamed Haroon Rasheed (46) and Rizwan Fazulhag (33) both of Chennai arrived from Kuala Lumpur were checked and 669 grams gold valued at Rs 26.6 lakhs recovered from

them.

12/09/19 Deccan Chronicle

Mumbai: South American conglomerate the Synergy Group has signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with the resolution professional of Jet Airways. This is the first formal step to acquire the Indian airline and is an indication that the company is a serious bidder for Jet's assets. The Synergy Group is the first company to sign an NDA so far.

Signing an NDA is mandatory for any company to get access to the data room. A data room essentially has all the important documents related to the company on the block, including contracts for aircraft, agreements with vendors, information relating to employees and other financial data. Synergy will be given some time to examine the books of the airline as part of the due diligence. Once the company completes the exercise, it will place a financial bid for acquiring the assets. The South American company had submitted an expression of interest (EoI) a fortnight ago to buy Jet. "the Resolution Professional of Jet Airways Ashish Chhawchharia of Grant Thornton had floated the NDA in the first week of September. Earlier this week, Synergy signed the NDA," said a source. Synergy owns a majority stake in Avianca Airlines, the second largest airline in South America. It also has a code-share partnership with Air India. However, Avianca is yet to deposit the mandatory access fee. According to a source, "In some cases, it is necessary for the potential bidder to submit the fee to get access to the data room. In situations like that of Jet, which has very few prospects, the lenders can waive off the deposit fee," said a source.

The person added: "The fact that Synergy has signed the NDA itself is an indication that it is serious about bidding."

11/09/19 Forum Gandhi/Business Line

Efforts to revive the grounded Indian carrier Jet Airways has hit another air pocket, with one of the two bidders in the fray – Treasury RA Creator, a Russian investment fund –understood to have failed to deposit the mandatory deposit required to access the airline's data.

Failure to deposit the mandatory deposit could lead to disqualification of the Russian investment fund, aviation industry sources said.

"Treasury RA Creator did not provide enough information about itself to Jet Airways' Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP) nor did it deposit the mandatory amount required to seek access to the airline's data, making it ineligible to bid," Mint reported, quoting undisclosed sources.

Treasury RA Creator - the Treasury of the Creator RA, the name according to its website - is an international financial organisation designed to promote economic growth, expand trade and economic relations between countries and develop integration processes through investment activities, according to the information provided on the Russian fund's website.

Aviation industry analysts said the bid by the South American conglomerate Synergy Group Corp – the other bidder for Jet Airways - did not seem to be serious as the company is yet to approach any company or investor group in India for forming a partnership.

As per India's foreign direct investment (FDI) policy for the aviation sector, no foreign airline is allowed to hold more than 49 percent equity stake or have controlling right of any Indian carrier.

11/09/19 James Mathew/Arabian Business

New Delhi: Going whole hog to sell Air India this time after the Modi 1.0 government's failed bid, the group of ministers (GoM) led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to decide the

reserve price of the national carrier and dealing with its large debt.

Among other issues are golden handshake to staff reaching a certain age and extending medical facilities to those who have already retired or would retire in years to come.

Official sources said that the government is nearly decided over a complete exit and making necessary change in eligibility criteria and other terms to align it with the needs of the potential investors.

"Major decisions left are fixing the fair price of Air India and handling the debt. Then contours of the disinvestment and retaining employees are other issues," said an official.

The meeting schedule of the group of ministers is yet to be decided but is expected shortly. Apart from Mr Shah, the ministerial panel has Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri as the members.

The previous Modi government had dropped the disinvestment plan citing adverse operating environment with global crude prices rising and rupee weakening against the dollar. The investor sentiment was also tepid. Above all, an impending general election did not make political sense to go for disinvestment of Air India which is generally associated with the country's pride and sometimes termed as "jewel of the nation".

10/09/19 IANS/NDTV

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority is gearing up to operate commercial flights from the island's northern city of Jaffna to select Indian cities. Preparations are on to commence flights from mid-October, according to officials.

Flights would run from Palaly airport in Jaffna Peninsula, to Kochi, Mumbai and New Delhi. "We are working according to the directive from the Transport and Civil Aviation Ministry," a senior official from the Civil Aviation Authority told The Hindu.

A "technical team" from India is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka next week to study the facilities in the airport, according to Colombo-based official sources.

The development of the Palaly airport, some 20 km north of Jaffna town, has been on the cards for some years now. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has, on multiple occasions, spoken of proposals to upgrade the facility into an international airport, by expanding its current run way to accommodate large passenger aircrafts. An upgraded airport is expected to boost investment prospects in the war-battered Northern Province, in addition to facilitating greater trade activity. Though possible grant assistance from India, for the "joint development" of the airport, was discussed in the past, no official agreement or document has so far been signed in this regard. In September 2018, then Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation Nimal Siripala De Silva told Parliament that India had no role in the project, contradicting earlier messages that came out both from Colombo and New Delhi.

10/09/19 Meera Srinivasan/The Hindu

Passengers traveling with Singapore Airlines (SIA), Silkair and Vistara will have more international flight options as the Singaporean flag carrier and its regional arm, Silkair, signed an agreement with Indian carrier Vistara to expand codesharing to international routes.

Under the expansion of an existing codeshare agreement which covers Indian domestic flights, SIA and Silkair will add nine new codeshare destinations within India on Vistara-operated flights. **The following destinations will be added: Chandigarh, Dibrugarh, Jammu, Leh, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Siliguri and Srinagar.** SIA will add its 'SQ' designator code to Vistara's new international flights.

Vistara will add its 'UK' designator code to SIA and Silkair-operated flights between Singapore and eight destinations in India, including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Cochin, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi. As part of the arrangement, **Vistara will codeshare on services to more than 40 destinations from Singapore to Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan and the US.**

11/09/19 Casper Courier

Ahmedabad: A Kolkata-bound flight suffered a bird-hit minutes after it took off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport in Ahmedabad, early on Tuesday.

Well-placed sources confirmed that the flight, G8-532 operated by GoAir, was forced to return to the airport minutes after its scheduled take-off at 6.10am.

After landing, the aircraft was grounded, the sources said.

Passengers aboard the flight had a harrowing experience because many of them were stranded at the airport till alternative arrangements were made. Some even took to social media to vent their frustration. "A fully packed GoAir aircraft has been stranded at Ahmedabad airport for four hours. The airline has not provided a glass of water or any food to passengers," tweeted Dipta Ghosh at around 10.37am.

The airline spokesperson said, "The aircraft landed safely with 137 passengers. The airline regrets any inconvenience caused to its passengers."

11/09/19 Niyati Parikh/Times of India

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is eyeing to assemble the famed Russian Ilyushin IL-114 aircraft in India and offer it in the 70-seater turboprop category to airlines here for regional commercial flights. The PSU has tied up with Public Joint Stock Company (PJSC, or Ilyushin) and is planning to start offering maintenance service for this aircraft in India and later move over to assembling the same here.

"PJSC is working on civil certification of this aircraft, that is likely to come by 2021. After that they get European (aviation regulator) certification also for using this aircraft in civilian space. We signed a non-disclosure agreement with Ilyushin for doing maintenance of this aircraft in India for its customers from India and near-by countries," HAL chairman R Madhavan told TOI.

"This aircraft is an ideal replacement of a (popular turboprop used by airlines in India for regional routes). It comes at three-fourth of that price. The Ilyushin IL-114-300 has engines of Pratt & Whitney, contemporary interiors and avionics from the west. While we plan to begin with maintenance of this aircraft, we plan to make it here if it gets a good market. We will know that (if it gets orders from Indian carriers for Udan or regional flights) in 3 to 4 years," Madhavan said.

11/09/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Panaji: The Navy has decided to shut Goa's Dabolim airport for six hours every Saturday from November 2 for the maintenance of its runway which is in a deteriorating condition following heavy rains, an official said on Wednesday.

The Dabolim Airport is part of the naval airbase of INS Hansa and also doubles up as a civilian facility.

The closure will not affect the airport's civilian operations as they would be carried out during the time allotted for naval sorties, a Navy spokesperson said.

"The Navy held a meeting with the Airports Authority of India and all airline operators, including

chartered flight operators, on August 1 to discuss the winter flight schedule on weekends in order to facilitate periodic maintenance of the Goa airport's runway," he said.

"The excessively heavy rains this monsoon season have adversely affected the runway surface," he added.

After extensive discussions, all stakeholders agreed upon the requirement of runway maintenance slot of six hours - from 6.30 am to 12.30 pm every Saturday, he said.

11/09/19 PTI/India Today

Officers of the Mumbai Crime Branch have arrested three men who were allegedly smuggling prohibited red sandalwood worth Rs 7.5 crore.

Those accused trio have been identified as Asgar Ismail Shaikh (49), Ali Shantaram Shaikh (32) and Wajid Abbas Ansari (32) and the police believe that the accused were smuggling the costly wood from south India to Mumbai.

According to the police, a tip-off given by one of the informers stating that a temp loaded with red sandalwood which is also known as red sanders would reach Santacruz West on Tuesday from south India.

After intercepting this alerting input, unit 9 of the crime branch prepared teams and stopped the vehicle which resulted in the seizure of total 1,556 kilograms of Sandalwood worth Rs 7.5 crore. Speaking about the seizure, a police officer said, "In this operation, the cops were also accompanied by officials of the forest department. Prima facie is that the sandalwood was smuggled to Mumbai so that it is further transported abroad in the black market for more money. A case has been transferred to Santacruz police station for further investigation and the accused trio has been booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Indian Forest Act,"

11/09/19 DNA

Bengaluru: A 27-year-old man from Jharkhand was held at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Monday night for possessing two live bullets in his hand baggage before boarding an IndiGo flight to New Delhi. Arnav Kumar has also been booked for his aggressive behaviour towards security personnel screening him.

According to airport police, Kumar, a native of Ranchi, was supposed to board flight No 6E 2716 with a scheduled departure time of 8 pm. "Around 7.35 pm, the screening of his luggage revealed the presence of two bullets.

11/09/19 New Indian Express

Mumbai: An African national was apprehended at the Mumbai airport here on Tuesday for allegedly carrying 17 kg sandalwood, the CISF said.

Alzain Mustafa Alzain Salim, a Sudanese national, was supposed to fly to Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa by an Ethiopian Airways flight on late Tuesday night, they said.

During the screening of his luggage near the departure gate number two of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport's Terminal-2, the officials noticed some images showing suspicious objects.

On physical checking, 17 kg sandalwood in plastic packets was found in the bag, the officials said. The passenger neither produced valid documents nor gave satisfactory answers about the huge quantity of sandalwood, they said.

10/09/19 PTI/Outlook