

## Revue de presse 12-31 juillet 2019

Vistara on Thursday announced the launch of its international operations from next month with flight services to Singapore from New Delhi and Mumbai.

**Vistara will operate two daily flights to Singapore, one each from New Delhi and Mumbai, starting August 6 and August 7 respectively,** the airline said in a release.

**The Delhi-based carrier currently operates to 23 domestic destinations.**

The international services to Singapore will be operated by a Boeing 737-800NG aircraft with a two-class cabin configuration -- business and economy -- it said.

"We are excited to start with Singapore as our first international destination, which we see as a very important market, given the opportunities it presents for corporate, business as well as leisure travel," Vistara's chief executive officer Leslie Thng said.

**After the launch of the services to Singapore, Vistara will expand its footprint to other international markets going forward,** the release said.

The Economic Times of India 11/07/2019

**The tiff between IndiGo's co-founders has spilled over into the public domain after Rakesh Gangwal complained to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) against co-promoter Rahul Bhatia. As the dispute intensified, InterGlobe Aviation Ltd shares tumbled nearly 20% on Wednesday morning. Although they recovered slightly, but analysts feel the worst is yet to come. Analysts aren't particularly worried about any immediate impact on the company's financials but concerns about governance lapses can affect valuation multiples.**

LiveMint Aviation 10/07/2019

**Securities and Exchange Board (Sebi) of India is probing whether InterGlobe Aviation Chief Executive Officer Ronojoy Dutta downplayed the tussle between the promoters of the country's largest carrier IndiGo, ET Now reported on Thursday, citing sources.**

The spat between co-founders and promoters Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia escalated after Gangwal on Tuesday alleged violations of corporate governance rules at the parent group and asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to intervene.

Responding to the allegations, SEBI had sought a reply from InterGlobe by July 19.

Both SEBI and IndiGo did not immediately respond to Reuters request for a comment on the ET Now story



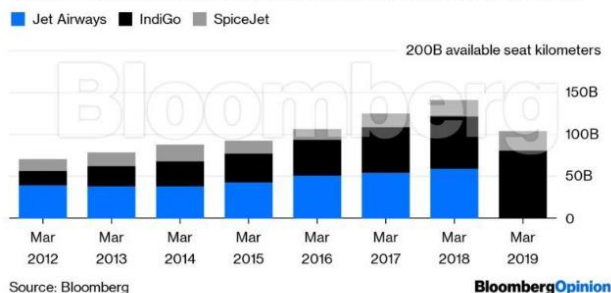
The Economic Times of India 11/07/2019

**The co-founders of India's No. 1 airline are engaged in a bitter feud. Their quarrel couldn't have come at a worse time for minority shareholders of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., the company that owns IndiGo.**

Investors were just starting to enjoy the fruits of a frenetic expansion that saw the no-frills carrier, Asia's largest, double its capacity in the three years through March. Full-cost rival Jet Airways India Ltd. tried to keep up, until it was forced to ground its last plane in April under a truckload of debt. Meanwhile, InterGlobe has put together a cash war chest — net of debt — of nearly \$2 billion.

#### IndiGo Made Them See Blue

Rapid capacity expansion by India's biggest airline has made it impossible for rivals to lift prices in line with last year's fuel-cost and exchange-rate pressures



**This is the time for IndiGo to be rewarding shareholders by consolidating its leadership position and filling the gap left by Jet, especially on overseas routes. Instead, the founders are busy picking fights.**

Rakesh Gangwal, a former CEO of U.S. Airways Group Inc., has dashed off a letter to the Indian stock-market regulator alleging corporate-governance lapses. He says partner Rahul Bhatia, who owns 1 percentage point more than U.S.-based Gangwal's 37% stake, is dragging IndiGo into transactions with his other businesses, which are mostly housed under InterGlobe Enterprises Ltd. (IGE Group), without adequate auditing. The airline pays rent to IGE's real-estate unit; the crew stays at hotels operated by Bhatia's joint venture with Accor SA; pilots are trained at IGE's flight simulator, a collaboration with Canada's CAE Inc.; a Bhatia firm has also acted as a sales agent for IndiGo. What amounted to \$22 million of related-party transactions, for a carrier that took in \$4 billion in annual revenue, doesn't exactly smack of a governance scandal. Not at an airline that thrives on keeping its costs under control. Bhatia, for his part, wants to know why Gangwal is questioning the arrangements now when he "did not raise for 13 years a whisper." The India-based partner says he took most of the economic risk when setting up the airline. Besides, Gangwal isn't denying entering into a shareholders' agreement that gives Bhatia control, including the power to nominate half of the six-member board and most of the top managers.

Gangwal's letter mentions whistleblowers. Unless those charges are serious and material, the battle looks more about monetizing a business that he never wanted any part of until a persistent Bhatia talked him into it.

**Today, the co-founders can be legitimately proud of IndiGo, a rare success story in global aviation, achieved in a brutally price-competitive and fast-growing market. The problem seems to be about dividing up that success fairly.**

It probably rankles billionaire Gangwal that his 37% stake is perhaps worth less than the market value of roughly \$3 billion, while his money-man (former) friend's 38% stake is worth much more. After all, any airline or a buyout firm willing to write that big a check would want a measure of influence over

the airline's future: That's something only Bhatia can give. If that's the real reason Gangwal is seeking to enlist the regulator's help "to make necessary changes to the unusual controlling rights available to the IGE Group," then it's a failure of mediation.

From the shareholders' perspective, it's a dangerous lapse. Indians' trust in business and business tycoons, finance and financiers, accounts and auditors has probably never been lower. Any suggestion of impropriety now can spiral out of control. No wonder the infighting dragged InterGlobe shares down nearly 11% on Wednesday, as investors braced themselves for a protracted and unpleasant legal and public-relations skirmish – much like the one that flared up at the Tata Group in 2016, after it fired then-Chairman Cyrus Mistry, who also happened to be a large shareholder. IndiGo became No. 1 by making flights take off and land on time more often than most other large global airlines. To investors' horror, the messiness the carrier so studiously avoided in its operations – by relying on a single type of aircraft (the narrow-bodied Airbus), deploying its fleet efficiently and growing it strategically – has finally come back to haunt it. Not at the tarmac, but in the boardroom.

The Economic times of India 11/07/2019

**Total 20 flights of Indian airline companies have been affected by the decision to avoid parts of Iranian airspace amid the ongoing tension between the west Asian country and the US,** the government informed Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on June 22 that **Indian airlines have decided to avoid the "affected part of the Iranian airspace" and reroute their flight "suitably"**. In response to a question, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said in Lok Sabha that nine flights each of Air India and Air India Express have been affected. Air India Express is a subsidiary of national carrier Air India.

He added that two flights of private low-cost carrier IndiGo have also been affected by the decision. "The said rerouting has resulted in increase in the operating cost of Air India Express by Rs 22 lakh (approximately) every day and that of IndiGo by Rs 2 lakhs (approximately) per day," Puri said. "This rerouting of Air India flights has resulted in an increase in the operating cost by Rs 13 lakh (approximately) per day as the flying time has increased by approximately 15 minutes," he said.

On June 20, American aviation regulator the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) prohibiting US-registered aircraft from operating "in the overwater area of the Tehran Flight Information Region until further notice, due to heightened military activities and increased political tensions".

The parts of Iranian airspace that have been affected are Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz.

The Economic times of India 11/07/2019

**Aviation regulator DGCA has suspended flying licences of two pilots of AirAsia India for violating procedures that caused damage to the wing sharklet of an aircraft, according to a senior official.**

The left hand wing sharklet of an A320 aircraft that was to fly to Bengaluru was damaged while negotiating a turn from the runway at Bagdogra airport on February 15.

A sharklet is a wing-tip device that helps improve aerodynamics of an aircraft as well as reduce fuel burn.

The official told that two pilots of AirAsia India -- **M Indra Gandhi and Vishal Agarwal** -- have been suspended for violating laid down procedures.

**The six-month suspension for the two pilots would be effective from February 15, the date of the incident,** the official added.

According to the official, the responses given by the pilots to the regulator's show cause notices were not satisfactory. Investigation found that the pilots violated "laid down procedures and initiated 180 degrees turn from the runway during backtracking and damaged LH (Left Hand) wing sharklet of the aircraft", the official added.

AirAsia India's response was awaited.

The Economic times of India 11/07/2019

**NEW DELHI: Perturbed by the partial closure of Mumbai airport for about four days after a SpiceJet aircraft overshot the runway into the mud, leading to the cancellation of hundreds of flights, the aviation regulator has asked airport operators to buy additional equipment to retrieve stuck aircraft.**

"We cannot be the world's third largest aviation market and not have the capability to retrieve an aircraft for 90 hours," said a senior Directorate General of Civil Aviation official who did not want to be identified. **"We will soon have such equipment at six airports to avoid a repeat of long closures."** The decision was taken on Tuesday at a meeting chaired by DGCA director general Arun Kumar and attended by airport operators and other stakeholders.

**Currently, the country has only one Disabled Aircraft Recovery Kit, or DARK, which is owned by national carrier Air India and is also used at airports in neighbouring countries.**

The aviation regulator has asked the airport operators of Bengaluru, New Delhi and Mumbai to buy one each and the Airports Authority of India to buy three them and station them at key airports.

"This will ensure that no airport is shut due to unavailability of equipment to take out the aircraft," said the official. The official added that the cost of the equipment is 6-8 crore and will have to be borne by the airport operators.

"The money spent will come under the airport operator's revenue asset base, which would mean that they can recover the cost of the equipment through charges. Airport operators have agreed to this arrangement," said the official.

On Monday, a SpiceJet aircraft overshot the runway in Mumbai in bad weather and got stuck, leading to the closure of the main runway. Hundreds of flights in and out of India's financial capital were cancelled and delayed, leading to a spike in fares too.

Mumbai airport has a cross runway and the secondary runway has the capacity to handle up to 35 aircraft movements per hour against up to 48 of the main runway.

**What's DARK?**  
Disabled aircraft recovery kit is the equipment to retrieve a stuck aircraft

At present, AI is the only airline in India with DARK

**₹6 cr to 8 cr**  
**Cost of DARK**

**Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and AAI to buy 6 DARK**

**7 – The proposed number of DARK to ensure that no runway remains shut for long**

**We cannot be world's third-largest aviation market and not have the capability to retrieve an aircraft for 90 hours**  
**SENIOR DGCA OFFICIAL**

The SpiceJet plane could be removed only on Friday due to the unavailability of DARK, which was in Mangalore retrieving an Air India Express aircraft that had veered off the runway.

**Bad weather resulted in various incidents of flights going off the runway after they landed – three in Surat, Mumbai and Kolkata involving Spice-Jet planes and one in Mangalore.**

The Economic Times of India 12/07/2019

**Indian civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday issued show cause notice to four senior officials at IndiGo and asked them to respond within 15 days, after a team of DGCA officials found several safety lapses at the airline during an unplanned surveillance carried out by the regulators on 8 July and 9 July, respectively.**

The show cause notice was issued to **Captain Sanjiv Bhalla, head of training, Captain Hemant Kumar, chief of flight safety, Captain Ashim Mitra, Vice President, flight operations, and Rakesh Srivastava who heads operational safety at the airline.**

A copy of the show cause notice issued by DGCA to IndiGo has been reviewed by Mint. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) carried out the audit at the IndiGo office in Gurgaon on 8 July and 9 July.

The show cause notice comes after the DGCA decided to conduct a special audit of all airlines and airports, which are in monsoon-affected areas in the wake of multiple landing incidents across the country.

Meanwhile, the Rahul Bhatia-owned InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) on Friday said that it condemns the 'misinformation' on corporate governance issues that has been raised by co-founder Rakesh Gangwal.

"Mr. Gangwal talks about unusual rights of IGE as a shareholder and promoter, but he fails to give even one instance where there has been any misuse of any such right," IGE Group said in a statement.

"Mr. Gangwal bases his allegations on 'whistleblowers' who chose not to use the whistleblower mechanisms and procedures established by IndiGo," it said adding that corporate governance is not about leveling baseless charges as it is about ensuring that both company and stakeholders' interests are protected and not harmed.

IndiGo's co-founders Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia are currently locked in a tussle with Gangwal questioning related party transactions of Rahul Bhatia-led InterGlobe Enterprises with InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo).

LiveMint Aviation 12/07/2019

**ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has told India that it will not open its airspace for commercial flights until New Delhi removes its fighter jets from forward IAF airbases,** Pakistan's Aviation Secretary Shahrukh Nusrat has informed a parliamentary committee.

Pakistan fully closed its airspace on February 26 after the Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter jets struck a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot following the Pulwama terror attack in Kashmir.

Aviation Secretary Nusrat, who is also the Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), on Thursday informed the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation that his department has intimated Indian officials that Pakistani airspace would remain unavailable for use by India until the country withdraws its fighter jets from forward positions, Dawn News reported.

**"The Indian government approached asking us to open the airspace. We conveyed our concerns that first India must withdraw its fighter planes placed forward,"** Nusrat told the committee.

This is probably the first time a senior Pakistani official has publicly stated Islamabad's precondition for reopening its airspace after the Balakot air strikes.

He further apprised the committee that Indian officials have contacted Pakistan requesting it to lift the airspace restrictions.

"However, Indian officials have been told that Indian airbases are still laden with fighter jets and Pakistan will not allow resumption of flight operations from India until their removal," said Nusrat.

Last month, the CAA had extended the airspace ban till July 12. It had earlier extended the airspace restriction until June 30.

After the restrictions, all the passenger flights are being diverted to alternative routes by India, The Express Tribune reported.

The CAA official also contested India's claim that Delhi had opened its airspace for Pakistan, the report said.

"Pakistani flights from Thailand have not been restored since the closure of the Indian airspace. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights for Malaysia also remain suspended," the CAA DG informed the committee.

Last month, Pakistan gave special permission to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's VVIP flight to use its airspace for his official trip to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

However Prime Minister Modi's VVIP aircraft avoided flying over Pakistan. Earlier, Pakistan had allowed India's former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to fly directly though Pakistani airspace to participate in the meeting of SCO foreign ministers in Bishkek on May 21.

India aviation industry has suffered huge losses due to the airspace ban by Pakistan.

**On Thursday, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told Parliament that due to the closure of Pakistan airspace, Air India had to spend an extra ₹430 crore on longer routes.**

**A disaster looms large at IndiGo, and for once, there is no government policy to blame, nor competitive market pressures as mitigating factors. Perhaps it's a clash of cultures between one promoter, who, despite his multi-billion dollar net worth, insists on every penny being accounted for, and another, who may see little wrong in the company doing the kind of "related party transactions" that are business as usual for several tycoon-led firms in India. Or, maybe, it's a battle for control of a company that aims to take its domestic success global as a 450-500-plane airline that boasts of a well-oiled low-cost structure like that of Ryanair.** Having maximized fleet utilization and crushed aircraft turnaround times for top-flight efficiency, IndiGo is a coveted asset with a hefty market share and healthy financials. It has come a long way since 2006, when Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia joined hands to enter India's aviation market on a wing and an ambition. US-based Gangwal was famous for having turned US Airways around, while Bhatia had valuable travel agency experience; the initial arrangement between them, it seems, was for the former to offer strategic direction and for the latter to deal with local aspects and regulatory issues. Though it was an equal-equity partnership more or less, Gangwal ceded operational control of the business to his local partner. In retrospect, this was perhaps naïve. Today, the two are at war.

Gangwal's immediate grouse appears to concern related-party transactions that he claims infringe corporate governance norms, but Bhatia insists were done in the ordinary course of business and on an arm's length basis. Under Section 188 of the Companies Act of 2013 and Clause 49 set by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), which govern such transactions, these do not require approval of the company or its board. But Gangwal also contends that he was not consulted over key decisions, including orders for engines. Other differences have been in the air too. Gangwal's vision was for IndiGo to use its domestic strength to power a global thrust, but IndiGo had begun to show signs of wear and tear, an inevitable outcome of searing growth. Something had to give. With Gangwal having lodged complaints with Sebi as well as other government agencies, the feud has only grown messier, of late. How it will end, nobody can predict.

The pity is that another casualty in the skies will be a big blow to India's aviation market, which has been on a roll. The world's third-largest, it recorded 18.6% growth in 2018, according to the International Air Transport Association, and is expected to double in size by 2023. With a proven low-cost model, IndiGo stands to be the biggest beneficiary of this boom. **Ronojoy Dutta, CEO,**



**InterGlobe Aviation, which operates IndiGo, has said the issues between the promoters have nothing to do with the airline and its functioning. Yet, the company can't hope to stay unscathed for long. For the sake of the airline, maybe one partner needs to sell his stake to the other and exit. The agreement between the two, odd as it is, may complicate this, but a reconciliation seems difficult at this stage.** With more aircraft on their way, IndiGo was set to go places. Its management practices have been the envy of other airlines. It would be a shame if its global dream is extinguished by friction at the top.

LiveMint Aviation 12/07/2019

**NEW DELHI: Asserting that the arrangement between the promoter groups has been transparent from inception at IndiGo, Rahul Bhatia group on Sunday claimed that Rakesh Gangwal always limited his financial risks and was making insidious efforts to create an unseemly controversy about corporate governance.**

In a reflection of the deep differences between the two promoter groups, InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) Group has now issued three statements in less than a week seeking to clarify issues and reject the allegations by Gangwal.

**Gangwal has sought markets watchdog Sebi's intervention to address the corporate governance issues at InterGlobe Aviation -- the parent of the country's largest carrier IndiGo -- where he holds around 37% stake while Bhatia group has about 38% shareholding.**

"Even more significantly, during the turbulent period of a fledgling airline, it was left to the IGE Group, as a responsible founder, to fend for IndiGo. Gangwal was missing in action at that time and there were stages where he wanted to de-risk and pushed for the business to be sold," the group said in a statement that also provided details about investments made by the two sides.

Noting that Gangwal has much to answer, the group wondered whether there is sanctity in agreements entered into by business people – freely and at their own will. "Do business ethics and morals permit a contracting party to walk away from its obligations at its convenience after it has enjoyed the benefits under an agreement and pretend to be a victim?," it said.

Referring to purchase of planes from Airbus, the statement said that the IGE Group and Gangwal gave a joint undertaking of support IndiGo in November 2005, wherein both sides undertook to invest in the airline at least \$50 million (which then was about ₹200 crore), and maintain that investment until the delivery of the last aircraft.

"As Gangwal was not going to take any further financial risk or obligation, IGE singly (though the undertaking to Airbus was a joint one ) took the obligation to further invest up to ₹110 crore in IndiGo so that taken together with the then existing investment of ₹99 crore, the conditions placed by Airbus could be met," the group claimed. According to the statement, IGE Group continued to support the startup (IndiGo) without diluting Gangwal's potential upside.

"Kapil Bhatia and Rahul Bhatia extended personal loans to IndiGo and personal guarantees to the banks for diverse financing needs of IndiGo such as pre-delivery payments, aircraft acquisition, and working capital requirements. "Starting from financial year 2005-06 at a level of ₹143 crore of personal guarantees by financial year 2009-10, the aggregate financial exposure of IGE, Kapil Bhatia and Rahul Bhatia was well over ₹1,100 crore... while Gangwal was in safe harbour with equity exposure of less than ₹15 crore," it noted. Further, the group said that there was a "risk ratio of almost 80:1 as between the IGE Group and Gangwal".

Personal guarantees of Kapil Bhatia and Rahul Bhatia continued to be in force until end of financial year 2012 and by that time IndiGo -- which Gangwal equates to a 'paan ki dukaan' (betel shop) -- had an adequate balance sheet to support itself, the statement claimed. Kapil Bhatia is the father of Rahul Bhatia. Gangwal has raised concerns about shareholders' agreement that provides more powers to Bhatia group and about various related party transactions.

"The rights and obligations as shareholders of IndiGo were enshrined in the shareholders agreement to reflect their agreement and understandings in relation to the governance, management and operation of IndiGo... the deal was struck between seasoned business people who made their own assessment of risks, their rights, and their obligations," the statement said.

A high-pitched boardroom tussle is unravelling at India's largest airline, IndiGo. Investors have been spooked by concerns that the company's management is losing focus and rivals may dent the airline's market share, which stood at 49% in May. While IndiGo's formidable lead in the market and fleet size may help it fend off competition, some slowdown is a given, say experts. "This has the makings of a situation that can spin out of control. It's to be seen now whether the airline will continue to grow and expand at a pace it has been growing in the past or not—as funding

will be a challenge,” said Amit Tandon, co-founder and managing director of Mumbai-based Institutional Investor Advisory Services.

**The feud between IndiGo’s promoters Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia became public on July 9. Gangwal had levelled serious charges of a lapse in governance. He said IndiGo had entered into various related-party transactions (RPT) with the IGE Group, an “affiliate” of Bhatia, without seeking audit committee approvals or competitive bids and sought intervention (pdf) from the market watchdog, securities and exchange board of India (Sebi).**

“If Sebi and other regulatory agencies start an investigation then this will be a distraction for the management and will slow down the airline’s growth,” said Tandon.

Given Gangwal’s role in the airline, the issues may create an environment of insecurity. “IndiGo has grown because of what Gangwal brought to the table. His backing helped the airline procure 100 aircraft from Airbus (in 2014). He holds a strong influence in the airline,” Harsh Vardhan, chairman of the Delhi-based aviation consultancy firm, Starair Consulting, told Quartz. “The lessors, third-party suppliers, and other stakeholders involved with IndiGo may rethink their ties to the carrier.”

12/07/19 Niharika Sharma/Quartz

**Air India has plans to sell 30 unutilised tracts of land in cities like Mumbai and Delhi to retire the debt transferred to special purpose vehicle Air India Asset Holding,** civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri told Parliament on Thursday.

**These land parcels include 1.7 lakh sq m and 14,326 sq m plots in Mumbai and New Delhi, respectively. Other cities where the national carrier holds unused land are Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai and Ahmedabad.**

The government transferred Air India’s debt worth Rs 29,464 crore, along with its non-core assets including land into AIAHL, to reduce the interest burden of the airline and improve its balance sheet before the disinvestment. The carrier had a total debt of Rs 58,351 crore at the end of March 31, 2019.

Puri said Air India has earned Rs 535 crore through sale of its non-core assets at various cities in India and abroad.

It has also received a rental income of Rs 314 crore from its assets, he told Lok Sabha.

The monetisation of assets is part of the turnaround plan of Air India devised in 2012. A lot of properties have been entangled in legal issues which has slowed down the sale process. The plan was to garner Rs 500 crore annually for a period of 10 years, starting 2013.

12/07/19 Financial Express

**New Delhi: Three airlines — Air India, Air India Express and IndiGo — are incurring a combined Rs 37 lakh every day in additional operational expenditure due to rerouting that avoids part of Iranian airspace, Minister of State for Civil Aviation (Independent Charge) Hardeep Singh Puri informed Parliament on Thursday. The rerouting primarily affects flights to destinations in West Asia, Europe, US, Turkey, etc.**

Following an advisory by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on June 20 prohibiting US-registered planes from flying over part of Iranian airspace, Indian carriers in consultation with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had decided to avoid flying in the affected portions of the airspace. On June 19, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard had shot down a US surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz that added to the tension between the two countries.

Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, Puri said nine flights a day each of Air India and Air India Express were rerouted as a result of the decision, adding Rs 13 lakh and Rs 22 lakh every day,

respectively to their operational expenditure. India's largest domestic carrier IndiGo has rerouted two flights a day adding Rs 2 lakh per day to its expenses.

Various global airlines that overfly the gulf region to fly either eastward or westward had also said they would reroute to avoid the tensed region. These include Malaysian Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa, KLM, British Airways, Qantas. Gulf-based carriers such as Abu Dhabi-based Etihad and Dubai-based Emirates also decided to reroute their flights to avoid possible areas of conflict.

12/07/19 Pranav Mukul/Indian Express

Dutch bankruptcy administrator on Friday moved the National company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on the Jet Airways matter, which has agreed to hear the case here.

A three-member NCLAT bench headed by Chairman Justice S J Mukhopadhyaya also asked the Dutch bankruptcy administrator to assist in the insolvency proceedings of Jet Airways going in India. Dutch insolvency court administrator has agreed before the NCLAT not to sell the confiscated assets of debt-ridden Jet Airways. NCLAT has also issued notice to the consortium of Jet Airways lenders directing them to file their reply within two weeks. It has directed to list the matter on August 21, for next hearing.

Earlier, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai, had rejected Dutch insolvency administrator's appeal to recognise their proceedings. **Jet Airways is facing Insolvency proceedings in the Netherlands and was declared bankrupt in response to a complaint filed by two European creditors.** In April, H Esser Finance Company and Wallenborn Transport had filed a petition citing unpaid claims worth around Rs 280 crore.

12/07/19 PTI/Business Line

**The Calicut International Airport in Karipur, one of the four international airports in Kerala, as well as the Chennai International Airport have been pulled up by the Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA) over safety concerns. Following an audit from July 2 to 5, both the airports received a show cause notice from the DGCA over unsafe airport maintenance.** The Airports Authority of India, which runs both airports have been given 15 days to respond to the notice.

Among the significant safety concerns highlighted by the DGCA in **Kozhikode airport are excessive rubber deposits on the runway**, which can reduce friction and lead to unsafe landings for aircrafts especially during the heavy rains that Kerala is witnessing now. The directorate also pointed to cracks and water stagnation of up to 1.5 m on parts of runway.

**On the notice, an AAI spokesperson from the Calicut airport told media that they were looking into the findings of the DGCA and taking corrective measures. According to the AAI spokesperson, runway friction at Calicut International Airport was maintained at a higher rate as per DGCA instructions.** Exclusive rubber deposit removal vehicles costing Rs 5.5 crore too have been procured by Calicut AAI to correct the issue. Runway slopes are maintained as per standards and drainage is cleared during pre-monsoon preparedness, the spokesperson added.

The AAI is currently looking for the rains to let up to correct the erosion and rain water stagnation on the runway.

**Some of the other findings of the DGCA include cracks found at aircraft stand number 5. A portion of the apron surface measuring 111 m was also found damaged. A downwards slope of 5 m depth was found after the apron behind airport stand number 1 which had to be levelled and graded.**

12/07/19 News Minute

**A SBI commissioned forensic audit of Jet Airways books has revealed misappropriation of funds related to provision of loans and fraudulent billing for JP Miles, according to 2 people with direct knowledge of the matter.**

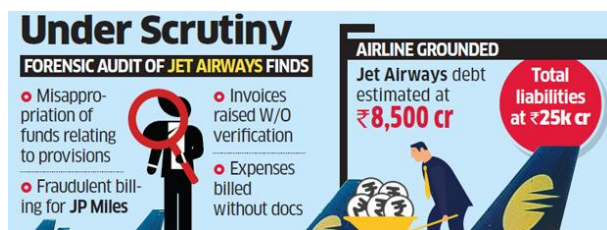
**The report also highlights that invoices raised were not verified leading to excess billing and fuel expenses were raised substantially for Jet even when they remained static for other airlines.**

Provision has been made for Rs 3,353-crore loan given to Jet Lite over four years. Board resolution, shareholder approval for making the provision was not made available to the auditors," the forensic audit conducted by EY says. ET has seen a copy of the report. "Loans were given to Jet Lite despite Jet Airways recording losses in fiscal year 2015 and declining profit over the years," the report added.

**The government had recently ordered a probe into Jet Airways for alleged siphoning off funds and for financial irregularities. The MCA ordered the SFIO probe under Section 212 (1) C of the Companies Act, based on its inspection report. The report indicated "prima facie" that the company was involved in "malpractices, mismanagement through siphoning off funds... preferential and related party transactions, prejudicial to public interest."**

**The forensic audit also says that invoices raised on Jet Privilege were not verified, resulting in excess billing of nearly 1crore during July- Sept 2015.**

Monthly invoice of Rs 15 crore was accounted for by Jet Airways for commercial activities without relevant documents supporting them. The report also says that the company was billed Rs 140 crore fraudulent JP miles leading to a loss of Rs 46 crore. Multiple other discrepancies were noted in the miles accrued versus what the company reported.



"There has been a systematic effort to siphon money from the company. In the limited analysis conducted it is clear that multiple methods were used to take out funds from Jet Airways," said a person aware of the development.

SBI did not respond to an ET query. An official spokesperson for EY India said, "We are bound by our client confidentiality obligations and are unable to comment."

The Economic times of india 15/07/2019

**The committee of creditors (CoC) for bankrupt airline Jet Airways is likely to finalise details to start the process to find it a new investor on Tuesday, said a person close to the development.**

The committee of over 25 creditors, including overseas FIs such as Mashreq, apart from Indian lenders, will have its first meeting on Tuesday with the interim resolution professional (RP), appointed by the bankruptcy court.

**Ashish Chhawchharia** of Grant Thornton was appointed as the RP. **"The court has asked the RP to fast track the resolution process. In line with that, he plans to call for expressions of interest by end of the upcoming week,"** the person told ET on Sunday

The Economic times of India 15/07/2019

**Canada's public sector pension investment board (PSP Investments) is joining forces with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Consortium to buy 49% of GVK Airport Holdings Ltd.** For about Rs. 6 000 crore, people directly involved in the deal said.

**The deal will ringfence the business from Gautam Adani's possible bid to take over GVK's crown jewel, MIAL and pare the group's leverage.**

Despite the economic interest, the investor consortium will become co-promoters or joint owners with equal representation on the board of GVK Airport Holdings, with equal rights and say in running the operations. These will be specified in the new shareholder agreement.

PSP Investments, ADIA, world's second-largest SWF, and India's sovereign wealth fund NIIF will hold equal stakes in the consortium.

**MIAL may be valued at Rs. 12 000 crore.**

This is the second partnership between NIIF and PSP after their road project alliance through PSP's wholly owned subsidiary ROADIS.

**NIIF and ADIA are likely to infuse funds through a combination of equity and debt, valuing MIAL at Rs. 12 000 crore as opposed to Adani's previous offer of Rs. 9 500 crore.**

GVK said in April it had entered into a non-binding agreement with NIIF- ADIA for its airports business to reduce debt of up to Rs. 5 750 crore. With PSP now on board, a final agreement is due to get signed this month.

PSP, through AviAlliance, owns marque airport assets across Europe and has had intermittent negotiations with the cash trapped Indian infrastructure conglomerate since 2015.

In 2017, PSP acquired a stake in Aerostar Airport Holdings, the operator of Luis Munoz Marin international airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The AviAlliance portfolio includes 5 airports of different sizes and structures in Athens Budapest, Düsseldorf, Hamburg and San Juan, according to its website. PSP Investments had net assets under management of \$168 billion as of March 31, 2019.

Mails sent to GVK and ADIA on Saturday did not generate a response till press time on Sunday. NIIF and PSP declined to comment on speculation.


**MIAL runs Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai. GVK owns a 50.5% stake in MIAL, while Bid Services Division (Mauritius) Ltd (Bidvest) and ACSA Global Ltd hold 13.5% and 10%, respectively. The remaining 26% is held by state-run Airports Authority of India.**

The GVK-led consortium has operated Mumbai airport since 2006 and is building one in Navi Mumbai for about Rs 16,000 crore. **MIAL owns 74% of the planned Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd., while the rest is held by local nodal body City and Industrial Development Corp.**

**GVK will use the proceeds to buy out partners Bidvest and ACSA from MIAL and cut debt taken from ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Yes Bank.** The Reddy family's entire MIAL shareholding is pledged with these banks in lieu of promoter loans they had undertaken. GVK's promoters took the loans to finance an Australia project and the Bengaluru airport venture. **The airports business has about Rs 8,000 crore debt, as per the latest financials.**

Last month, the Reddy family received high-cost structured debt funding of Rs 1,300 crore from a Goldman Sachs-led group of investors to tide over immediate debt repayment obligations.

However, within days, the Delhi High Court dismissed a plea to bar South Africa's Bidvest Group Ltd from selling its stake in MIAL to a third party, upsetting GVK's plan to strengthen its defenses against a hostile bid. Bidvest subsequently issued a notice to Airports Authority of India expressing its willingness to monetise its stake. As per the original agreement, AAI has a right of first refusal over the stake.



**Canada Calling**

**PSP among the largest pension fund managers of Canada**

Manages pension portfolio of Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Public Service, Reserve Force

**2018 AUM: \$168 BILLION**

Owens airports investment vehicle AviAlliance

AviAlliance owns airports in Düsseldorf, Brussels, Athens, Hamburg, Sydney

The court order allowed Bid Services Division (Mauritius) Ltd, a unit of the South African company, to sell its 13.5% shareholding on the grounds that GVK Power & Infrastructure, the parent company of GVK Airport Holdings, had failed to show any "readiness and willingness" to buy the stake despite having the first right to buy them.

The Adani group, which emerged as the top bidder to develop and operate all six state-run airports that were bid out earlier this year, had made a formal offer in April to buy out the stakes of some minority investors in MIAL.

"The clock is ticking. GVK needs to stitch up its funding or else they may end up losing their crown jewel," said a person involved on condition of anonymity.

ET reported in February that ADIA and PSP had separately submitted bids for investing in the business.

The GVK Group has been selling stakes in various subsidiaries over the past few years to reduce debt of about Rs 24,000 crore and fund upcoming projects such as the Navi Mumbai airport. It exited Bengaluru International Airport in 2017 by selling its residual 10% stake worth Rs 1,290 crore to Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa's Fairfax India Holdings. In May 2016, the developer had sold a 33% stake in BIAL to Fairfax for Rs 2,149 crore.

ADIA, active in several India-focused PE funds as a limited partner, has been investing directly in various infrastructure companies recently. Last week, ADIA and Singapore's sovereign wealth fund

GIC invested about \$329 million in Greenko Energy, a Hyderabad-based renewable energy company. In March, ADIA had committed \$500 million to a new distressed fund backed by Kotak Investment Advisors, the alternative investments arm of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

In 2017, ADIA said it planned to invest \$1 billion in NIIF and an agreement had been signed between NIIF Master Fund and a wholly owned subsidiary of ADIA.

The Economic Times of India 15/07/2019

**Lured by the prospects of the Indian market, many of Jet Airways partner airlines have decided to deploy their own capacity to the country.**

Till recently, Jet carried significant international traffic in and out of India. In over 20 years of existence, it had formed strategic alliances with some of the world's leading airlines such as Delta.

It not only flew passengers to the Gulf countries but also to Europe and through codeshare agreements across the globe.

However, since its grounding, the airline's partners were left with little choice but to go ahead and seize the India opportunity.

"We had a very successful codeshare partnership with Jet Airways that we planned to grow including our own presence in Mumbai. When the unfortunate situation with Jet arose, we decided it was important to continue our growth plans in India and give customers a greater choice of who to fly with to London", David Hodges, Country manager, Virgin Atlantic India, told IANS.

That why we acted quickly to launch a new service starting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October on our Dreamliner aircraft connecting Mumbai with London, and onwards to the US.

The demand for London from Mumbai has grown by 23% in the last 5 years.

"As air travel continues to grow in India it's important customers have a range of airlines to choose from. That's why we're back and are confident of the success of this new route," Hodges said.

Apart from **Virgin Atlantic**, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is also expanding its footprint in India. The airline will be increasing frequency between Mumbai and Amsterdam and expanding network with the launch of flight operations from Bengaluru to Amsterdam.

According to Jean-Noel Rault, General Manager Air France KLM, Indian Sub-Continent: "... Suspension of flights by Jet Airways has created a void in both the domestic and international market. Increasing our offer and capacity is a way to provide more travel solutions to our customers."

"**Air France-KLM** are increasing their Indian footprint with an increase in capacity and launch of new routes."

Besides, the US-based airline -- Delta -- will launch service connecting New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport with Mumbai beginning December 22.

**Delta** first offered service between the US and Mumbai beginning in 2006, but was forced to suspend



the service in 2009.

Nonetheless, healthy prospects of the Indian market has again put India on the map for these passenger carriers.

India's aviation market is one of the fastest growing markets. In fact, in the quarter leading up to the grounding (October-December 2018), international traffic had grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of nine per cent over the last two years, making it one of the most attractive markets," Anshuman Sinha, Principal, Transportation and Automotive at A.T. Kearney told IANS.

**"Moreover, Jet carried significant international traffic. Therefore, given the continued growth momentum, accompanied by a large void created by the grounding of Jet, overall makes a very attractive proposition for foreign airlines to deploy capacity.**

The Economic times of India 15/07/2019

**In a big respite for airlines as well as passengers flying toward the west of India, the Pakistani airspace is open for commercial airlines after a gap of about 5 months.**

Pakistan has cancelled the NOTAM for its airspace wef 0038 IST, consequential NOTAMS by India also cancelled. Airlines likely to resume normal routes through Pakistani airspace, a senior AAI official told ET.

The flights have resumed now, the official added.

Pakistan had, for the 5<sup>th</sup> time since February 26, 2019, extended the airspace closure to July, 26, 2019.

Pakistan, however, cancelled the order in a NOTAM issued early in the morning of Tuesday.

Pakistan fully closed its airspace on February 26, 2019 after the fighter jets of the IAF fighter struck a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot following the Pulwama terror attack in Kashmir killing CRPF personnel.

The airspace closure has led to huge losses for carriers flying to the west of India as well as other international carriers too that fly to the west of India.

The flight time due to the airspace closure has increased by 45 to 90 minutes depending on the aircraft type.

The Indian carriers have lost about Rs. 550 crore till the middle of June due to this airspace closure. A large of the losses – Rs. 491 crore – has been made by the national air carrier Air India, which has the largest international network among the Indian carriers.

The Economic Times of India 16/07/2019

**Interglobe Aviation Ltd. which operates the country's largest airline under the brand IndiGo has secured a credit facility of around ₹2,577.75 crore since April for meeting its working capital needs, while targeting an expansion of the carrier's fleet.**

**On 17 June, IndiGo signed a \$20 billion agreement with aircraft engine maker CFM International to buy CFM International LEAP-1A engines to power 280 Airbus A320neo and A321neo aircraft. The deal includes supply of spare engines and an engine overhaul support agreement.**

According to filings with the ministry of corporate affairs, on 6 May, the airline secured an amount of ₹660.32 crore from **Credit Agricole CIB** by creating an exclusive charge over a part of IndiGo's fixed deposits.

The credit facility of ₹2,577 crore availed by IndiGo during the April-June period is more than three times as compared to the corresponding quarter of last year. Last year, the airline secured credit facilities worth about ₹778.06 crore, which included a facility of ₹78.06 crore from **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and ₹700 crore from **HSBC** through a pledge of mutual fund investments and lien on fixed deposits owned by IndiGo.

Again, on 3 June, IndiGo secured a credit facility of ₹867.43 crore from **Deutsche Bank AG** by pledging the airline's investments in **three mutual fund schemes managed by Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund, ICICI Prudential Asset Management and SBI Mutual Fund.**

The airline previously had a credit facility of ₹458.35 crore from **Deutsche Bank** through a pledge of IndiGo's mutual fund investments.

Earlier, on 4 April, IndiGo secured a credit facility of ₹1,050 crore from **Standard Chartered Bank** by enabling a first and exclusive charge over IndiGo's mutual fund investments and by creation of a lien over IndiGo's fixed deposits worth ₹185 crore, including the interest over such deposit in favour of the bank and any renewals or rollovers of further deposits with the bank.

Interglobe Aviation is currently undergoing a scrutiny by the Securities and Exchange Board of India over allegations of corporate governance lapses with regards to related party transactions with its co-promoter Rahul Bhatia-led IGE Group. Also, IGE Group and IndiGo's other co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal are entangled in a public dispute as the Gangwal-led RG Group feels that powers to manage

businesses and appoint directors on the board of IndiGo are disproportionately in favour of the IGE Group.

Live Mint Aviation 15/07/2019

**Pakistan opened its airspace for all civilian traffic on Tuesday morning, sources said, effectively removing the ban on Indian flights that were not allowed to use majority of its airspace since the Balakot air strikes in February.**

**The move is expected to give a major relief to Air India, which suffered a huge financial loss of around Rs 491 crore as it had to re-route its various international flights due to the closure of the Pakistan airspace.**

"Pakistan has permitted all airlines to fly through its airspace from around 12.41 am today. Indian airline operators will start using normal routes through Pakistan airspace soon," the sources told PTI. Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority issued a notice to airmen (NOTAM) at around 12.41 am Indian Standard Time, stating that "with immediate effect Pakistan airspace is open for all type of civil traffic on published ATS (air traffic service) routes".

Pakistan had fully closed its airspace on February 26 after the Indian Air Force (IAF) struck a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot in retaliation to the Pulwama attack on February 14. Since then, the neighbouring country had only opened two routes, both of them passing through the southern region, of the total 11.

On its part, the IAF had announced on May 31 that all temporary restrictions imposed on the Indian airspace post the Balakot strike had been removed. However, it did not benefit most of the commercial airliners and they were waiting for Pakistan to fully open its airspace.

In India, the biggest pain was suffered by Air India that conducts various international flights from Delhi to Europe and the US.

The national carrier had lost Rs 491 crore till July 2 due to the closure of the Pakistan airspace.

Private airlines SpiceJet, IndiGo and GoAir lost Rs 30.73 crore, Rs 25.1 crore and Rs 2.1 crore, respectively, according to the data presented by Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in the Rajya Sabha on July 3.

Post the air strike, Air India had to re-route, merge or suspend many of its international flights that connect India with European and US cities.

IndiGo, India's largest airline by domestic market share, was unable to start direct flights from Delhi to Istanbul due to the closure of the Pakistan airspace.

The low-cost carrier started the Delhi-Istanbul flight in March. Till date, this IndiGo flight had to take the longer route over the Arabian Sea and make a stop at Doha in Qatar for refuelling.

Press Trust of India 16/07/2019

**New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday grounded a pilot who issued a 'Mayday' distress call due to low-fuel near Lucknow airport on Monday while operating a Mumbai-Delhi flight.**

A senior Vistara official confirmed to *PTI* that the pilot has been "de-rostered" as per the instructions of the regulator.

**"The pilot who was operating UK944 flight and issued a 'Mayday' call on Monday has been grounded by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)," a source said.**

**The source added that the regulator is trying to ascertain the facts regarding this matter and it would soon hold a meeting with the pilots - who were flying the UK944 flight - and the executives of the company.**

"The pilot made a 'Fuel Mayday' call, which is issued when aircraft starts tapping into its emergency fuel reserves," another source said.

A Vistara spokesperson said, "Flight UK944 operating Mumbai-Delhi on July 15, 2019, initiated a diversion to Lucknow due to bad weather over Delhi. However, over Lucknow, the visibility suddenly dropped and a safe landing was not possible. The crew then considered alternative airfields, including Kanpur and Prayagraj to land in comparatively better weather condition".

He said the Lucknow Air Traffic Control then informed the crew that the weather in Lucknow had improved significantly following which the crew decided to return to the city due to better passenger and aircraft support there.

"The unexpected drop in visibility at the destination alternate was the main reason why the aircraft ended up in a low-fuel situation despite carrying excess fuel over and above the required Flight Plan Fuel as per regulations. Safety of passengers and crew was kept at the highest priority throughout the flight," the spokesperson added.

[LiveMint Aviation 17/06/2019](#)

**New Delhi: The government may not have extended support to now-defunct Jet Airways, but it has promised to facilitate employment to job-less airline staff.**

The Civil Aviation Ministry is in touch with other private airlines such as SpiceJet and IndiGo to assist Jet staff get meaningful employment.

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said that a website would be launched listing staff of Jet Airways and help find employment in other private entities.

"We are also producing a website which is ready. I wish I had the capacity of telling you that the website is up. Every employee would be listed there and the prospects for their re-employment or employment will be facilitated by the government," Puri said while replying to Members in the Rajya Sabha on the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

The Minister, however, said that government can't assume responsibility for a business failure conducted by a private party.

Referring to Jet Airways, Puri said he was sensitive to (business) failure and willing to see what can be done within the governmental system to cushion that failure.

"But to suggest that a private sector entity goes belly up and the government has to take the responsibility I don't think that is correct," the Minister said.

Having run out of cash, Jet Airways suspended its entire operations on April 17. Subsequently, the government re-allocated its slots and foreign traffic rights to rival carriers. Lenders to the airline led by State Bank of India (SBI) have initiated bankruptcy proceedings against it after all attempts to rope in a buyer failed.

Before the airline suspended its operation, it had nearly 20,000 staff on its rolls. Several hundreds of them are learnt to have joined other carriers.

Replying to Members on the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019, he also countered a comment that airfares had gone up.

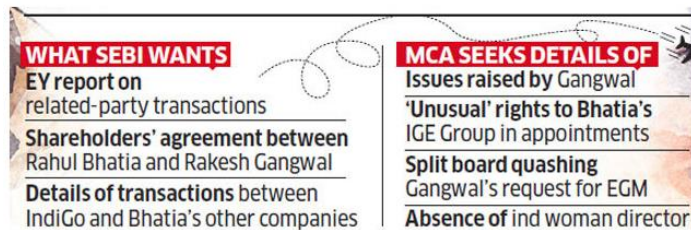
[Live Mint Aviation 17/07/2019](#)

**MUMBAI | NEW DELHI: Regulatory pressure has increased on Indi-Go to disclose details of the dispute between the promoters with the Securities and Exchange Board of India and the ministry of corporate affairs asking the airline to submit all documents, including the EY report that examined the issue of related-party transactions.**

While Sebi has specifically asked for the EY report, the MCA has asked IndiGo to respond point-by-point to the 10 issues raised by Rakesh Gangwal, one of the promoters. "When a promoter owning 37% stake raises an issue, that needs to be looked into," an MCA official said, without elaborating

**Apart from the EY report — submitted to IndiGo chairman M Damodaran in March — Sebi has also sought the shareholders' agreement.** The report, which has not been made public, was commissioned by Damodaran after he took charge in January. EY was asked to study related-party

transactions between IndiGo and firms affiliated to copromoter Rahul Bhatia's IGE Group in past five years.



Subsequently, a board committee was set up to examine some protocols suggested by the EY report, but they could not be implemented due to differences between the two promoters.

**The market regulator will also look at the role of directors to see if there has been any violation of securities laws.** In his letter dated June 12, Bhatia had alleged that when CEO Ronojoy Dutta sought the board's guidance in handling investor queries, Gangwal had advised him to say something on these lines, "As we are all aware, there has been a lot of speculation in the press about differences between the promoters. We have issued an extensive press release and are not planning to address any questions on this issue in this investor call."

Gangwal said he "wanted to put this thought out there for us to think about prior to our meeting".

This, Bhatia said, "as subsequent events" demonstrated was Gangwal's attempt that "other than only his version, no other version on the issue of RPTs (related-party transactions) should get conveyed."

**Sebi is also examining whether the company received shareholder approval for the special rights enjoyed by one of the promoters.**

Emails sent to the IGE Group and Sebi remained unanswered as of press time.

In 2015, when IndiGo was planning to go public, it had mentioned in its prospectus that one of the promoters would have some affirmative rights, such as appointing the chairman and some of the board members. Sebi had struck down these special rights then as rules didn't provide for such a dispensation, said people close to the situation. Following this, the promoters had to rework the shareholders' agreement and articles of association and delete the affirmative rights.

"As between the promoters, the rights of participation in the management are laid down in the SHA (shareholders' agreement)," Bhatia said in a letter to the IndiGo board on January 30. These have been incorporated in the AOA (articles of association), approved both by Sebi and the shareholders, and disclosed in the prospectus. The RG (Rakesh Gangwal) Group may recall that they signed the SHA and Mr Gangwal may recall that he signed the prospectus as a director

**Gangwal holds about 37% in IndiGo while copromoter-turnedrival Bhatia holds close to 38%. Bhatia has special rights, including the prerogative to appoint three out of six directors as well as the chairman of the board. Bhatia also has the right to name the managing director, the CEO and the president.**

"All the shares are same (pari passu), but sometimes promoters want these kind of affirmative rights to appoint the chairman or 2-3 board members. But it has to be ratified by shareholders after a company is listed," said a source close to the development.

The shareholder approval had to come through a special resolution, and Sebi is trying to find out if that happened.

“Sebi has asked for all documents from the company and is looking at whether it has got relevant approvals from shareholders for the special rights. All the issues raised in the complaint are being examined by Sebi,” said another person familiar with the development.

In his letter dated July 8, Gangwal has alleged that these controlling rights give the IGE Group significant influence over decisions at IndiGo.

The IGE Group had hit back saying that Gangwal was a signatory to the shareholders’ agreement and was present in all the meetings and had agreed to the conditions. It is only now that he is having a problem with these rights.

The MCA official quoted earlier said the Companies Act will prevail over any corporate agreement. “The legal position is that if there is an agreement or memorandum or articles of association or resolution or special resolution passed by the board, which is contrary to the Act, the Act shall prevail.”

“The question is, what sort of extra influence or control can you give? You can give extra influence and control, but it should not affect corporate governance norms,” the official added.

Damodaran had cited the EY report to inform the board on March 4 that **while there were no “substantive irregularities” in the related-party transactions, some “procedural irregularities” had been noticed. He had recommended setting up an internal committee to draft a set of protocols for such transactions.**

The committee, comprising CEO Dutta and CFO Rohit Philip, among others, submitted its report to the board on April 4. But the board couldn’t deliberate on it due to differences between Bhatia and Gangwal.

In his June 12 letter, Bhatia had opposed that Gangwal’s request for an extraordinary general meeting and said the shareholders’ agreement was signed on March 31, 2006, and amended and restated by an agreement dated April 23, 2015, and further amended on September 17, 2015.

“The terms of the SHA are duly incorporated in the articles of association. That governing structure under the SHA has been reiterated and endorsed by the RG Group in 2015, when the company floated its initial public offer,” Bhatia said.

He said the fact that the IGE Group would retain control was repeated in the prospectus for the IPO, and Gangwal had agreed to it.

The Economic Times of India 17/07/2019

**NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA Tuesday suspended flying licences of two SpiceJet pilots for six months after an aircraft operated by them damaged runway edge lights during landing at Kolkata airport, a senior official said.**

The incident happened on July 2 when the plane was operating Pune-Kolkata flight.

In recent weeks, the watchdog has been taking strict action against individuals and entities for various violations.

**The official told PTI that flying licenses of the two pilots of SpiceJet - Aarati Gunasekaran and Saurabh Gulia - have been suspended for six months.**

**The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) decision came after replies provided by them to the showcause notice were not satisfactory.**

Investigation into the incident found that the aircraft touched down approximately 1,300 feet from runway threshold point, the official said

This resulted in the plane "further veering to right of runway centerline and damaging runway edge lights," the official added.

**The six-month suspension of flying licences is effective from July 2, the date when the incident took place.**

A response from SpiceJet was awaited

The Economic times of India 16/07/2019

NEW DELHI: Taking serious note of a physical altercation inside an Air India aircraft, watchdog DGCA Tuesday suspended the authorisation of a crew member for six months, according to a senior official. On June 17, cabin crew member Rajat Verman was involved in a heated argument and physical altercation with a pilot when the plane was to depart from Bengaluru to Kolkata.

**The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has already suspended the flying licence of Milind M, who was involved in the incident.**

The official told that the **authorisation held by Verman has been suspended for six months from the date of the incident.**

**Investigation found that the two personnel were involved in a heated argument and thereafter physical altercation when the aircraft was on the ground and preparing for departure.**

An Air India spokesperson did not offer any comment.

**More than 20 pilots of various airlines have been temporarily taken off duty on the orders of the DGCA so far in July, an official said on Monday.**

The Economic Times of India 16/07/2019

**MUMBAI/LUCKNOW: A Vistara flight from Mumbai to Delhi with 153 passengers on board was airborne for close to four hours on Monday during which the aircraft circled over Delhi, diverted to Lucknow, then headed to Allahabad only to return to Lucknow where the pilots, who were trying to avoid a low-visibility landing, radioed a Mayday call and carried out a providential touchdown with almost empty fuel tanks.**

The weather gods and Lucknow air traffic controllers saved the day because the aircraft didn't have



enough fuel to fly the approximate 200-km distance from Lucknow to Prayagraj airport, Allahabad. Flightradar24 data showed that about seven minutes en route to Allahabad, the aircraft turned to Lucknow where it landed in 20 minutes. The pilots had returned after the Lucknow ATC informed them that weather over Lucknow had cleared. “When it touched down, the A320Neo had only 200kg or 5 minutes of flying time left. Allahabad runway is about 30 minutes away from Lucknow,” said a source.



The A320Neo aircraft, operating flight UK 944, departed Mumbai at 2.40pm with about 8,500kg of fuel, said a source.

The flying time between Mumbai and Delhi is less than two hours. Directorate General of Civil Aviation, which is probing the matter, has grounded the two pilots.

Said a senior pilot, requesting anonymity: “It’s a miracle they landed. The big question on everyone’s mind is: **Why did the pilots not opt to auto land (fully automated landing) in Lucknow after they diverted from Delhi? It’s the standard practice to follow in fuel emergency, low-visibility situation. To divert from Lucknow to Allahabad was sacrilegious.**

Vistara statement corroborated that the pilots had indeed decided to divert to Allahabad. “En route Prayagraj (Allahabad), Lucknow ATC (air traffic control) informed the crew that the weather in Lucknow had improved significantly following which the crew decided to return to Lucknow due to better passenger and aircraft support there.”

A source said: “The airline seems to have accounted for bad weather in Delhi as it carried extra fuel.” At Delhi, tail wind and low visibility had the aircraft circle for almost 75 minutes, after which the pilots diverted to Lucknow, the “destination alternate” listed in the flight plan. Destination alternate is the airport pilots divert to if it’s not possible to land at the scheduled destination. Every flight carries enough fuel to fly up to the destination, then to fly from destination to destination alternate airport, apart from fuel for holding, taxing etc.

“But diverting again from destination alternate after having circled over Delhi for more than an hour was a dangerous decision. The day was saved only because Vistara allowed its pilots to carry over and above the minimum flight plan fuel. The pilot-in-command was an experienced training Captain. This should be a lesson to other airlines that strictly upload only minimum fuel needed according to the flight plan,” the source said.

Vistara, in its statement, said: “Flight UK944 ... initiated a diversion to Lucknow due to bad weather over Delhi. However, over Lucknow, the visibility suddenly dropped and a safe landing was not

possible. The crew then considered alternative airfields, including Kanpur and Prayagraj, to land in comparatively better weather condition." The airline said the unexpected drop in visibility at Lucknow was the main reason why the aircraft ended up in a low-fuel situation despite carrying excess fuel over and above the required flight plan fuel as per regulations. "Safety of passengers and crew was kept at the highest priority throughout the flight," Vistara said. "The flight finally touched down safely in Delhi around 1.35am after refuelling at Amausi airport," said Rashmi Soni, PRO, Vistara Airlines.

Air safety expert Capt Mohan Ranganathan said: "This would have been similar to the Indian Airlines A300 aircraft in November 1993 that landed in a paddy field near Tirupati after it diverted from Hyderabad due to low-visibility and then ran out of fuel. **The aircraft should have carried out an auto land in Lucknow after diverting from Delhi.**"

The Economic times of India 17/07/2019

New Delhi: **Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday barred airline officials, including pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers, from travelling in the cockpit when they were off-duty or on leave. The regulator's directions came after an off-duty pilot of Air India tested positive in a pre-flight alcohol test on Saturday when he was scheduled to travel in the cockpit of a plane from Delhi to Bengaluru.**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked the national carrier to take strict action against the pilot.

This practice of off-duty or on leave officials is in violation of the Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) 3 of 1997, it said.

The DGCA also said this practice "provides cover to officials who are authorised to travel in the cockpit while on leave or off-duty and detected BA (breath-analyzer) positive."

In an order, the regulator said it has come to its notice that the Operations Manual Part-A of Air India permits travel of airline officials such as pilots and AMEs (aircraft maintenance engineers) in cockpit "even when they are on leave or have not been assigned any duty whatsoever prescribed in AIC 3 of 1997."

The regulator added, "The portion of the Operations Manual Part-A so far as it is in violation of AIC 3 of 1997, is void ab-initio and stands repudiated with immediate affect."

**"All airline operators are hereby directed to amend their Operations Manual Part-A to align with AIC 3 of 1997 with regard to travel in cockpit and submit to the DGCA for approval,"** it said.

16/07/19 PTI/NDTV

**Almost all airlines in India are bleeding, but some are losing much more money than the others, the government data showed.** State-run national carrier Air India had an operating loss bigger than that at all the private airlines put together in the last financial year 2018-19. Meanwhile, all airlines, except for AI Express and Blue Dart Aviation, had an operating loss in FY19, according to the data provided in the Rajya Sabha by Minister of Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri. What's more, this list of loss-making airlines doesn't include Jet Airways, JetLite and Zoom Air, which have already succumbed to losses.

Air India, Go Air and Vistara reported the highest operating losses in 2018-19. "Hike in pilot salary, rising fuel costs, fleet expansion, volatile lease rent due to payment in dollars are the main reason for

increased operating expenses of the airlines,” Pulak Sen, Founder Secretary General, MRO Association of India, said to Financial Express Online.

**Total operating loss of all the airlines in 2018-19 was at Rs 7,087 crore, with Air India alone losing Rs 4,330 crore.** Despite an increase in operating revenue, Air India’s higher operating cost have resulted in losses. While Air India’s operating revenue rose from Rs 21,859 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 25,484 crore in 2018-19, its operating expenses shot up from Rs 21,561 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 29,814 crore in 2018-19, resulting in the huge operating loss.

Among other prominent loss-making airlines were GoAir, SpiceJet and IndiGo. India’s largest domestic carrier IndiGo too faced the same problem as Air India, ie, a rise in operating revenue but a greater surge in operating expenses, leading to a loss.

In a reply to whether the Government has any scheme to help such civil aviation companies in the interest of passengers, minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, **“There is no specific scheme to provide financial assistance to loss-making private airlines, as the management of the company including its finance is the internal matter of civil aviation companies”.**

16/07/19 Samrat Sharma/Financial Express

Richard Branson once said, “If you want to be a millionaire, start with a billion dollars and launch a new airline.” This comment turned out to be prophetic for several Indian airlines beginning with Air India and ending with the most recent debacle of Jet Airways. The airline industry, by its very nature, is vulnerable to the slightest of shocks, which makes it a volatile business. In that context, IndiGo’s success is no small feat. It is one of the few low-cost carriers to have expanded in such a short period of time, and remain profitable for a large part of its existence. Most importantly, from a small set up, it now has about 50 percent market share in domestic travel, displacing well-entrenched players. So, as far as investors as concerned, the board has delivered.

For the company to remain focussed on its current path of growth, improvement in corporate governance standards is important. This will ensure that the business can function independent of the promoters and decision-making processes are more broad-based. This is not to say that promoters should be made redundant (in fact, investors like promoters that have their skin in the game) but the degree of dependence on them should reduce. Listed companies must be influenced and guided by their promoters, but should not be dependent upon them.

**IndiGo’s success has come despite a relatively small six-member board – Indian boards have a median size of 8 to 9 directors. Of this six-member board, three are promoters, one is a promoter nominee and the remaining two are independent directors. Under regulations, IndiGo is required to have one independent director who is a woman – the company is yet to comply with this requirement.** With four mandatory board committees to be formed, the membership of these committees itself could be construed as cause for conflict of interest – both the audit and the nomination and remuneration committees included either executive directors or promoters as members. It is only after M. Damodaran was inducted to the board in January 2019, that committee compositions changed – now both these committees comprise two independent directors and one promoter nominee.

16/07/19 Hetal Dalal/moneycontrol.com

Greater Noida: **Before the international airport project proposed at Jewar takes off, a conference at the India Expo Mart on Monday gave a preview into companies who are either in the fray to build the airport or are interested, and they include some of the biggest names from corporate India as**

well as the aviation league.

Monday's meeting, whose purpose was to discuss queries that the companies have before they take a decision on committing themselves to the project, saw **representatives from GMR group (developers of Delhi's IGI Airport), Adani Group, Reliance, MIAL (Mumbai International Airport Limited), BIAL (Bangalore International Airport Limited), Airports Authority of India (AAI), ADP Hong Kong, Zurich Airport, L&T, Global Infrastructure and Sterlite Power Grid, among others. So far, 15 companies have purchased the bid document**, and about seven more participated in Monday's meeting. Officials said these companies sought clarity on some issues before they decided to purchase the bid document. **Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL), the nodal company handling the airport project, has given one more week's time (till July 22) for all queries to be raised. The queries will be addressed by NIAL in a month's time (by Aug 31) and details uploaded on its website.**

The meeting was chaired by **state civil aviation minister Nand Gopal Nandi**. Others present included Suryapal Gangwar, special secretary (civil aviation), Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) chairman Alok Tandon, YEIDA CEO Arun Vir Singh and nodal officer Shailendra Bhatia. They also visited the airport site for a recce earlier in the day.

16/07/19 Meenakshi Sinha/Times of India

**Boeing Co.'s 737 Max may stay grounded until early 2020**, the Wall Street Journal reported, months later than the guidance the planemaker is privately providing customers for resolving a software issue that surfaced last month.

The plane is expected to start flying again in January 2020 "under the latest scenario," the Journal said, citing unidentified sources within the Federal Aviation Administration and pilot-union leaders. The situation is "fluid" and no firm timeline has been established, the daily said. On Sunday, American Airlines Group Inc said it would keep the jet off its schedule through November 2, the fifth time the airline has adjusted its flights to accommodate the Max's lengthening absence. United Airlines Holdings Inc. this week also removed the 737 Max from its schedule through early November.

16/07/19 Bloomberg/Times of India

New Delhi: India is considering inviting expressions of interest to sell Air India Ltd by the end of next month as the government aims to complete the transaction this year, people with knowledge of the matter said.

**"The government will conduct roadshows, as well as, be open to meet prospective buyers even before the expressions of interest are sought,"** the people said, declining to be identified as the discussions are private. "The process will likely allow the bidders to look at the accounts of the airline except for some portions that are confidential and also see the share purchase agreement," they said without providing details.

"The potential bidders will have the option to make suggestions for changes in the sale terms during the process of expressing their interest in the deal," the people said.

The government is looking to sell all its stake in the carrier, they said.

DS Malik, a spokesman of the Ministry of Finance, did not immediately answer two calls made to his mobile phone. Dhananjay Kumar, a spokesman of Air India, declined to comment.

The plan is being prepared after the government's attempt to partially exit the carrier failed to attract any bidder last year. In her budget presentation for the current financial year, **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the government will revive plans to sell Air India and the divestment would be part of the governments efforts to raise Rs 1,05,000 crore (\$15.3 billion) selling stakes in state-run companies.**

16/07/19 Bloomberg/Business Line

Indore: Madhya Pradesh's commercial capital Indore Monday made it to the international aviation map with national carrier Air India launching a flight service to Dubai from the international airport here.

Flight AI903 took wings from the Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar International Airport with 150 passengers after a traditional inaugural function, Air India (AI) said.

**From Indore, Air India is operating a 162-seater A320neo aircraft which will fly three times a week - Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays -- non-stop to Dubai.**

**This was the first international commercial flight from Madhya Pradesh.**

The flight was flagged off by Air India chairman Ashwani Lohani along with local Parliamentarian Shankar Lalwani in the presence of former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, among others.

If the new flights on the Indore-Dubai route get a good response, the state-run carrier will think about making it a daily service, said Lohani.

16/07/19 PTI/Business Today

**Pune: Customs officials at the Lohegaon airport recently caught a woman - suspected to be a part of an international syndicate - trying to smuggle half-a- kilogram of gold on-board a domestic flight.**

According to officials, the SpiceJet flight (SG517) flies from Bangkok to Kolkata before it turns into a domestic flight connecting Goa and Pune. A customs official said they believed that the gold was smuggled on-board the flight on its international leg and concealed inside a washroom in the front portion of the plane.

The person running the syndicate knew the flight schedule in depth and booked a ticket for the woman - a carrier for the syndicate - on the domestic leg from Goa to Pune, the official said.

**The woman, on Seat Number 32E, retrieved the four gold bars - totally weighing 557.64 grams and worth Rs18.9 lakh - and taped them to the soles of her black shoes. She used black adhesive tape to camouflage them.**

The customs officials received a tip-off and laid a trap for her at the airport. "This was an important

catch as there are no customs checks on domestic routes. In such cases, we can only act on tip-offs, as it is not possible to conduct searches on every domestic flight," the official said.

"This particular flight turns domestic after flying international. She collected the gold from the covered space below the wash basin in washroom," the official explained.

16/07/19 Joy Sengupta/Times of India

Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday asked Air India to take strict action, which may include termination from service, against a pilot who failed pre-flight alcohol test twice, the latest being on Saturday when he was off duty but was scheduled to travel in the cockpit of a plane as an additional crew member. **Previously, Captain Ajit Singh failed a pre-flight alcohol test on October 21, 2015, when he was scheduled to operate AI-660 from the Goa airport. The DGCA had then suspended his licence for three months, as per the rule.**

On Saturday, **Singh was not on duty but was scheduled to travel in the cockpit of flight AI-502 from Delhi to Bengaluru as an Additional Crew Member (ACM). However, the DGCA stated in the order Monday that he "was tested positive in pre-flight breath-analyzer (BA) test".**

**According to sources, the national carrier has already suspended Singh for three months over Saturday's incident.**

"Though in the instant manner, he was neither designated as Crew nor as Other Crew Member but being ACM (Additional Crew Member), he should have maintained the highest standards, which are required to be maintained as per the Operations Manual of the company," the DGCA said Monday in its order.

It added that such misconduct "reflects that he (the pilot) has not learnt anything from his previous violation and has not reformed himself" even though his licence was suspended for three months for the first violation.

15/07/19 PTI/Economic Times

Panaji: An Ahmedabad-bound IndiGo flight carrying around 180 passengers returned to the Goa airport Monday after taking-off as it developed a "technical glitch", a senior Airports Authority of India (AAI) said.

The flight landed safely at the Dabolim airport, around 40km from here, at around 4.45 pm, he said.

Airport director Gagan Malik told that the **IndiGo flight, which had taken off for Ahmedabad from the Dabolim airport, had to make a mid-air turn back due to a "technical glitch".**

He said there were around 180 passengers on board the aircraft and all were safe.

15/07/19 Economic Times

A fresh set of troubles have hit the bankrupt Jet Airways.

**Recent audits by the State Bank of India (SBI) show that it has misappropriated funds relating to provision of loans, and raised fraudulent bills,** as per an ET report The audit reveals that it did not verify invoices, which led to inflation of bills and fuel expenses for Jet Airways, though they remained static for other airlines.

A provision is when a company or a bank makes up for a loan which has gone bad or become

unrecoverable, by putting extra funds into the kitty. These loans were also given out to Jet Lite in spite of the fact parent Jet Airways was making losses.

15/07/19 Business Insider

**In a significant moment for the Indian aviation sector, country's first Airbus A320 neo full flight simulator has received EASA (European Union Aviation Safety Agency) approval.** Now, those Indian carriers with A320 neo fleet will no longer have to send their pilots abroad for getting the requisite training, thereby saving their valuable time and money.

**The Flight Simulation Technique Center (FSTC), will be India's 6th fully functional simulator and the 7th one which again will be for A320 neo is expected to be operational in a month's time.**

It is a universally recognized body and with this approval, the FSTC can target International Airlines as well as pilots who are looking to undergo their training on such a simulator.

India based FSTC is presently operating from two locations— Delhi and Hyderabad and have two B737 NG, 2 A320, 1 A320neo, and 1 Bombardier Dash8 Q400 simulator. With pilot training demand going up in the country, FSTC has established mutually beneficial partnerships with various SIM operators across the region. Countries including Thailand, Philippines, Middle East, and Europe are part of this initiative. To meet global standards of excellence these Centers have state of the art training infrastructure, classrooms, pilot lounge, MFTD/APT instruments.

15/07/19 Financial Express

**New Delhi: Canadian employed with IndiGo airline was allegedly robbed off over Rs 1 lakh by three men on a taxi he had boarded near Delhi Cantt area, police said Monday.**

The incident took place on the intervening night of July 12 and July 13 when Mohammad Mehdu Ghanzanfani, a captain with the airline, was waiting for his company cab, police said.

"Unable to trace his cab, the victim walked a few metres and arrived at gate number 2 of a metro station near Delhi Cantt area. While he was speaking to his cab driver over phone, a taxi driver approached him," Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Sanjay Bhatia said.

The victim requested the driver to drop him nearby, where his company cab was waiting, for a fare of Rs 100, the officer said.

When Ghanzanfani sat in the taxi, there were already two people besides the driver. After the vehicle crossed Mehram Nagar, they forcibly took his debit card, visa card and asked for their PIN codes, the officer added.

**They withdrew Rs 1 lakh using his debit card and took away \$302 (approximately Rs 20,500) and Rs 12,000 from his wallet, the DCP said.**

After robbing the victim, they dropped him on Mahipalpur flyover, the officer said.

15/07/19 PTI/India Today

Two Maldivian individuals who tried to smuggle 1 kg drugs were arrested at Chennai International Airport, India.

Indian's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) stated that the **two Maldivians attempted to smuggle drugs in shampoo bottles**. In relation to this case, a 22 year old Maldivian man Abdul Aiman and a 24 year old woman Shamsiyya Mohamed were arrested.

The two individuals arrived in 20 days ago. After initially saying in Trivandrum, they moved to a hotel in Chennai last week. NCB went undercover after being tipped off that these two individuals were buying drugs through a Chennai dealer and attempting to smuggle it in to the Maldives.

When the two individuals arrived at **Chennai** International Airport, the immigration officers stopped the duo and searched their luggage. Suspicion fell on the shampoo bottle as the bottle was full although unsealed. **The two individuals had stuffed hashish- filled foils in to unsealed shampoo bottles.**

15/07/19 Avas

Chennai: Customs officials seized **3kg of gold worth Rs 1.1 crore from 11 passengers at Chennai international airport on Sunday** and arrested two of them.

Customs officials intercepted Hameed Hufran Badusha, 23, Meera Hussain , 43, of Chennai, Mohamed Ibinu , 25, and Kalanther Seiyadhu Ali, 40, of Ramnathapuram, Bathusha, 24, of Mandapam, Mohamed Riyath, 25, of Kilakarai, Alla Pitchai, 24, of Vattanam, Syed Ismail, 32, of Madurai, Shahul Hameedu, 38, of SP Pattinam, Savukath Kamal ,49, and Sheik Abdulla, 34 , of Thondi who arrived here from Colombo in a SpiceJet flight.

**All of them were found to have concealed gold in rubbery paste in their rectums.** The officials also recovered gold cut bits from them.

On extraction, 3kg of gold of 24 K purity, worth at Rs. 1.1 crore, was recovered.

15/07/19 Siddharth Prabhakar/Times of India

New Delhi: Two Chinese men were arrested by the CISF at Delhi airport for allegedly smuggling out gold, moulded as mobile covers, worth Rs. 42 lakh, officials said on Monday.

Yinsheng Zhuang and Haipeng Chen were intercepted on Sunday night at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport before they could board their Air India flight to Hong Kong.

The **two passengers, both holding Chinese passports**, had moulded the gold into two mobile covers and had painted them black to escape the scanner of anti-smuggling authorities, they said.

**The two men, along with the 1.2-kg weighing gold mobile covers worth Rs. 42 lakh**, have been handed over to the Customs authorities by Central Industrial Security Force personnel, they added. **In a separate incident, the CISF caught two Indian men with 130 kgs of red sandalwood** which they were carrying in an alleged illegal manner.

Rahul Kumar and Mairajuddin were supposed to take a Thai Airways flight to Bangkok before they



were intercepted around 1:30 am on Monday.

15/07/19 NDTV

Capt GPS Grewal, chief of flight safety at SpiceJet, resigned from his post on Friday in the aftermath of a series of safety related incidents involving the airline, including three aircraft veering off the runway at Surat, Kolkata and Mumbai.

In an email to employees, GP Gupta, chief strategy officer, Spice-Jet announced the **resignation of Capt Grewal with effect from Friday night. He said Capt Mahinder Singh, a designated examiner of Boeing 737 aircraft with more than 10,500 hours of flying experience, has been appointed as chief of flight safety.**

**Capt Grewal was among the four top officials in operational roles who were issued show cause notices by the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation on July 4.**

A DGCA report on surprise safety audit conducted at SpiceJet on July 3 had found chief of flight safety, chief of operations, chief of training and accountable executive to be reportedly “breaching safety standards”. **Capt Vishal Sawhney, vice president, training, has also been moved and elevated as adviser to Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh.**

13/07/19 Satish Nandgaonkar/Mumbai Mirror

**Bengaluru: Operations on the lone runway at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) were suspended for 20 minutes when a FedEx cargo flight from Dubai made an emergency landing in Bengaluru after developing a technical snag on Thursday.**

The runway was closed from 8.34pm to 8.54pm on Thursday. Eight arrivals and seven departures were delayed due to the incident, while one flight was diverted to Chennai, said Bangalore International Airport Limited, operator of KIA.

The FedEx flight was originally supposed to land at the Bengaluru airport around 9pm. The freighter took off from Dubai at 3.43pm and was in the air for nearly three hours before the snag was noticed and pilots made an emergency landing around 8.50pm. Passengers scheduled to fly to Bengaluru were left stranded, while several others had to wait for their departing flights. The delayed flights included Vistara flight UK 866 to Mumbai, IndiGo 6E 149 to Hyderabad, Spice-Jet SG 198 to New Delhi, Air Asia I5 1328 to Goa, Emirates EK 567 to Dubai, Go Air G8 118 to Delhi, IndiGo 6E 73 to Singapore and Indi-Go 6E 316 to Kochi among others.

13/07/19 Times of India

Chaos erupted at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in **Mumbai** on Saturday, 13 July, as a number of passengers stopped SpiceJet flights from taking off.

**The tedious delay of the Durgapur-bound SpiceJet flight, which was cancelled after a 16-hour wait on Saturday morning ‘due to technical reasons’ prompted the ire of passengers.**

The flight was initially scheduled to take off at 7:50 am on Friday, 12 July, but was cancelled on Saturday morning. Later on the same day, passengers were called in again, however, much to their dismay, the flight was further delayed.

Around 130 Disgruntled Passengers Made to Wait.

Dhiraj Mishra, district governor of BJP IT Cell of Thane took to Twitter and said, “No explanation, no

specific reasons, no funds?"

Another passenger, Santanu Ghosh, went a step further and urged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to take immediate action against SpiceJet.

The official account of SpiceJet actively replied to the concerns of passengers on Twitter but to no avail as the notifications were sent a bit too late.

13/07/19 Aliza Noor/ Quint

Central Industrial Security Force personnel on Friday apprehended from the **Kannur** International airport a Doha-bound passenger who was allegedly carrying hashish estimated to be worth **Rs 7 lakh**.

The accused has been handed over to Narcotics Control Bureau for further legal action.

Upon frisking, the passenger, identified as Ajas Valiyaballath was discovered to have hidden a **210 grams of hashish in his pelvic area**.

Upon intensive screening a total of **690 grams of hashish was detected concealed in the sole of the passenger's slippers**.

A resident of Thayetheru, the passenger, Ajas Valiyaballath was travelling to Doha from Kannur. He was handed over by CISF to Narcotics Control Bureau along with the seized drugs.

13/07/19 ANI/India Today

New Delhi: **The Delhi airport saw some anxious moments on Saturday after a packet, containing a gold bar, kept unclaimed in a bathroom triggered a bomb scare**, officials said.

They said someone noticed a packet wrapped in black tape in the arrival area of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport's terminal 3 and alerted on-duty CISF officials around 3:30 am.

A bomb detection and disposal team, along with a dog squad, that arrived on the spot declared the packet safe and a **1 kg gold bar** was recovered from it.

The bar is estimated to be worth **Rs 35 lakh**, they said, adding it was later handed over to the Customs department for further probe.

13/07/19 PTI/News18

Hyderabad: Hyderabad-based Turbo Megha Airways, which owns and operates TruJet, has set the ball rolling for next three years. The four-year-old regional carrier, which is likely to break even this fiscal, hopes to achieve Rs 500-600 crore revenue by FY22 and go public after. In FY18, it turned in a net loss of Rs 84 crore on a revenue of Rs 165 crore, which the company attributed to being-in-the-growth phase.

It has a fleet of **five aircraft** that criss-cross 20 cities, most of which are registering operating profits, according to officials. The airline makes approximately 22 paise on every seat sold, given that its cost and revenue per Available Seat Kilometer (ASK) are currently at Rs 8 and Rs 8.22 respectively, they

added.

**TruJet will soon add 13 aircraft — five of which will come in six months — by FY21 and fly to six new destinations including the commercial and leisure cities of the North-East, besides adding frequency on four existing routes.** By FY22, it will add more routes to spread its presence across 40 cities or so. It will also try and mint money from non-ticket and ancillary services such as advertisements on boarding passes, and offering ground and security handling for other airlines. Currently, such non-core revenue is insignificant at 2-3 per cent but is expected to reach a respectable 20 per cent by FY22.

These revenue-raising measures should help TruJet grow its topline by 50-50-80 per cent in FY20, FY21 and FY22 respectively, according to the Rs 600 crore of topline,” he reasoned. If all goes as per the plan, the company will consider issuing an Initial Public Offer.

13/07/19 New Indian Express

New Delhi: A Zimbabwean woman has been nabbed by the CISF at the Delhi airport for allegedly smuggling narcotics worth Rs 21 lakh, a senior official said on Saturday.

The woman, Nastor Farirai Ziso, 34, was on her way to Ndola in Zambia via the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on Friday night, he said.

She was intercepted by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel and a search of her baggage led to the recovery of **multiple pouches of pseudoephedrine drugs weighing 20.8 kg.**

Pseudoephedrine, a stimulant drug, was concealed in numerous purses kept in her bag, the official said, adding that the cache is valued at about **Rs 21 lakh.**

The woman was handed over to the anti-narcotics authority, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), for registration of a criminal case against her and a detailed probe, he said.

In a similar incident at Kerala's Kannur International airport Friday, CISF personnel apprehended a man for carrying 910 g of hashish by hiding it in his slippers and inner wear.

13/07/19 PTI/IndiaTV

**Chennai: Customs officials on Friday seized 2.7 kg gold valued at Rs 96 lakhs from nine passengers who arrived from Colombo by an IndiGo airlines flight.**

A release from the office of the Commissioner of Customs here said based on information, nine passengers, Imamdeen Sathakathullah (26), Thazkar Nizam (33), Vanniyappan Kasinathan (58), Muzammir (26), Mohamed Azarudeen(21), Kalandar Hussain (26) Sathik Al,(32), all hailing from Ramanathapuram, Labeer Mujip Rahuman (25) from Pudukottai, one Haja Alavudheen (25) from Chennai, who arrived from Colombo were intercepted at the exit on suspicion of carrying gold on their person or in baggage.

On questioning they all gave evasive replies so their personal search was carried out. **On examination they were found to have concealed gold in the form of rubbery spread along with cut gold bits inside their rectum. On extraction through heating process totally nine gold ingots and seven gold cut bits totally weighing 2.7 kg, of 24 K purity, valued Rs 96 lakhs were recovered and**

**the same were seized under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962.** Further Investigation is under progress.

12/07/19 UNI

**NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA has conducted safety audits of Air India Express, SpiceJet, AirAsia, IndiGo and GoAir and it found the implementation of their safety management system "to be deficient",** the government informed Rajya Sabha Wednesday.

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the **audits also found that the flight crew rostering software was not upgraded and untrained staff were manning check-in counters.**

The "other staff" at check-in counters too did not have adequate knowledge to handle "dangerous goods" despite being trained in Dangerous Good Regulations, he said in a written response to a question in the upper house.

In a serious lapse, the regulator found, there was a delay in carrying out the corrective actions for the "FOQA exceedances", Puri said.

Flight Operations Quality Assurance (FOQA) is the process of obtaining and analyzing all kinds of data from flights to improve the safety and efficiency of flight operations.

Whenever a safety parameter limit is exceeded, it is called an "exceedance" or "event".

The DGCA regularly conducts safety audits of scheduled and non-scheduled airlines as per the Annual Surveillance Plan. The last five audits were of these five airlines, the minister said.

**During the audits, it was found that the "quantum of Digital Flight Data Recorder analysed under FOQA was not as per the Indian safety regulators requirement",** Puri said.

"Implementation of the safety management system was found to be deficient," he said.

The minister said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has directed the airlines to take corrective action regarding the deficiencies found during the audit.

Live Mint Aviation 19/07/2019

**New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday grounded a pilot who issued a 'Mayday' distress call due to low-fuel near Lucknow airport on Monday while operating a Mumbai-Delhi flight.**

A senior Vistara official confirmed to *PTI* that the pilot has been "de-rostered" as per the instructions of the regulator.

"The pilot who was operating UK944 flight and issued a 'Mayday' call on Monday has been grounded by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)," a source said.

The source added that the regulator is trying to ascertain the facts regarding this matter and it would soon hold a meeting with the pilots - who were flying the UK944 flight - and the executives of the company.

"The pilot made a 'Fuel Mayday' call, which is issued when aircraft starts tapping into its emergency fuel reserves," another source said.

A Vistara spokesperson said, "Flight UK944 operating Mumbai-Delhi on July 15, 2019, initiated a diversion to Lucknow due to bad weather over Delhi. However, over Lucknow, the visibility suddenly dropped and a safe landing was not possible. The crew then considered alternative airfields, including Kanpur and Prayagraj to land in comparatively better weather condition".

He said the Lucknow Air Traffic Control then informed the crew that the weather in Lucknow had improved significantly following which the crew decided to return to the city due to better passenger and aircraft support there.

"The unexpected drop in visibility at the destination alternate was the main reason why the aircraft ended up in a low-fuel situation despite carrying excess fuel over and above the required Flight Plan Fuel as per regulations. Safety of passengers and crew was kept at the highest priority throughout the flight," the spokesperson added.

LiveMint Aviation 17/07/2019

**NEW DELHI:** Twelve routes under regional connectivity scheme UDAN have recently become functional, taking the total number of operational routes to 186, the Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

The ministry had launched the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme on October 21, 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable to the masses.

"12 routes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN have recently become functional. This takes the **total operational routes under UDAN to 186** (including 8 Tourism RCS routes) of the total 706 sanctioned Routes," the statement said.

"Also, Durgapur airport is the 40th airport to become functional under the scheme," it added.

The 12 routes include **Kolkata-Allahabad, Allahabad-Kolkata, Allahabad-Raipur, Raipur-Allahabad, Gwalior-Bangalore, Bangalore-Gwalior and Kolkata-Gwalior.**

**Gwalior-Kolkata, Mumbai-Belgaum, Belgaum-Mumbai, Mumbai-Durgapur and Durgapur-Mumbai** are the other routes that have become functional recently under the UDAN scheme, the ministry said.

Live Mint Aviation 18/07/2019

Full service carrier **Vistara** has revealed that its first international flights will be to Singapore, filling a gap in the market left by Jet Airways.

**The Indian airline will launch a route from Delhi to Singapore on 6 August 2019, followed by Mumbai - Singapore a day later. Both will be daily using Boeing 737-800s.**

"We're excited to start with Singapore as our first international destination, which we see as a very important market given the opportunities it presents for corporate, business as well as leisure travel," Vistara chief executive Leslie Thng said in a statement.

Vistara, a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and Tata Sons, passed the Indian government's threshold for an airline to operate internationally in April 2018 after taking delivery of its 20th aircraft.

Domestic carriers need to maintain a minimum 20 aircraft in order to fly overseas under the National Civil Aviation Policy outlined in 2016.

Vistara currently has a fleet of 28 aircraft comprising 13 Airbus A320-200s, ten A320-200neos and five Boeing 737-800s. It has a further 37 A320-200neos and six Boeing 787-9s on order.

The carrier will compete with Air India and Singapore Airlines on both of the new routes to Singapore, according to OAG Schedules Analyser.

Air India currently operates Mumbai - Singapore daily using Airbus A321 aircraft and Delhi - Singapore daily using Boeing 787-8. Singapore Airlines has 18 flights per week between Mumbai and Singapore, while it operates 14 per week between Delhi and Singapore.

Until it suspended operations in April, Jet Airways had three daily flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Singapore.

Routes Online 14/07/2019

**New Delhi:** It is a busy day at Interglobe Aviation Ltd., the company that runs India's largest airline IndiGo. For the board of directors led by chairperson M Damodaran and co-founder and director Rahul Bhatia, the issues to address go well beyond finalising the June quarter results, which is expected to be robust on account of firmer airfare caused by the capacity reduction in the industry.

**For the leadership, analysing the risks arising from the ongoing bitter spat between Bhatia and his estranged partner Rakesh Gangwal and steering the airline through the turbulence is of top priority. If not settled quickly, the shareholder dispute could dent investor confidence, delay decision making on key issues and invite avoidable regulatory attention.** Already, the ministry of corporate affairs has asked the company for its comments on the charges of corporate governance lapse in the company raised by Gangwal in his letter earlier this month to capital market regulator Sebi. InterGlobe Aviation informed stock exchanges on Wednesday it will respond to the ministry's request for information within the prescribed time.

The Registrar of Companies (RoC) who is in charge of Companies Act compliance in the NCR region wants to assess whether the charges of governance lapses are true. For IndiGo, the biggest defence is the strong market leadership the airline has in the highly competitive air travel market which is not possible to have without sound management. The regulatory authorities, however, cannot ignore charges about lapses when it is a major shareholder who makes it. It is worth noting that the regulator is only trying to find the facts about the charges at this juncture rather than doing any probe.

The ministry is assessing whether the special rights that Bhatia's InterGlobe Enterprises Pvt. Ltd (IGE) enjoys in running the airline on account of the shareholder agreement has in anyway led to any kind of deviation from corporate governance standards, especially on independence of the audit committee. The shareholder agreement gives IGE the power to appoint three out of the six directors of IndiGo, nominate a chairman as well as appoint a managing director and chief executive. Gangwal and his associates hold about 37% in the company, while Bhatia and his associates hold 38%. The

agreement also forces Gangwal and his affiliates to vote alongside IGE Group on the appointment of directors, as per a letter that Gangwal sent to the capital markets regulator earlier this month.

It, however, has had some impact on the company's performance in the stock market. InterGlobe Aviation shares lost over 13% in value to 1354.85 a share after news came out about the shareholder dispute on 9 July. It however, partially recovered from the losses by Thursday to 1458.65. **Delays in settling the dispute risks derailing the company's strategic moves to further expand.**

The shareholder spat has come out at a time the company needs to focus attention on making gains in a market that has suffered the demise of another player, Jet Airways India Ltd., which is going through bankruptcy proceedings. All airlines including IndiGo have steadily been increasing their market share as Jet Airways wound down operations gradually before fully suspending service in April. If the leadership gets distracted due to infighting among shareholders, IndiGo could cede space to rivals. **Analysts say that as capacity increases in the airline industry, competition is set to increase further, bringing profits under pressure.**

Live Mint Aviation 19/07/2019

**New Delhi, Jul 24 (PTI) The Centre on Wednesday invited second round of bids from airline operators to run flight operations on routes connecting Guwahati with four international cities under the UDAN scheme,** according to an official document.

Through the scheme, the Centre wants to facilitate and stimulate regional air connectivity by taking measures such as reduced airport charges, viability gap funding and making air travel affordable.

In a 'notice inviting proposal', the Airports Authority of India (AAI) stated that on behalf of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Assam government, it is inviting **"interested bidders for submission of e-proposals for the International Air Connectivity (IAC) routes" between Guwahati and four cities of Yangon, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur and Kathmandu.**

In November last year, the AAI had conducted the first round of bidding under the UDAN international scheme for operation of international routes connecting Guwahati to Dhaka, Kuala Lumpur, Yangon, Kathmandu, Singapore, and Bangkok.

The bids were received from airline operators on only two routes, Guwahati-Bangkok and Guwahati-Dhaka, and these routes were subsequently awarded. In the interim, flight operations began on Guwahati-Singapore route too.

As per the AAI document, on Guwahati-Kathmandu and Guwahati-Kuala Lumpur routes, a maximum subsidy of Rs 2,745 per passenger and Rs 7,445 per passenger, respectively, can be provided to the selected airline operator by the Assam government.

The difference between the cost of airline operations on a route and the expected revenues from that route is provided by the state government as subsidy under UDAN scheme.

The AAI document on Wednesday stated that on the Guwahati-Yangon and Guwahati-Hanoi routes, the Assam government is ready to provide subsidy of up to Rs 4,831 per passenger and Rs 4,545 per passenger, respectively.



**From a fleet of over 120 aircraft, Jet Airways now has just 12 remaining. In the latest part of the bankruptcy process, Expressions of Interest have been sought from prospective investors. The EOI invitation included details of Jet's remaining assets, which as well as 12 planes, include landing slots which could be reallocated back to the carrier, as well as the valuable Jet Privilege loyalty program.**

Jet Airways was grounded on April 17th when they finally ran out of cash. Despite efforts to secure new investors and to raise funds for the airline, talks failed, and they could no longer fly. Although the airline is yet to formally declare itself bankrupt, creditors have invoked the process and filed an insolvency petition with India's National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

This means that the carrier is now undergoing formal disposal, which has seen many of its assets sold, repossessed or given away, ranging from airport slots to staff to aircraft. Now, the collective Jet Airways is nothing but a shell of its former self, with hopes of a last-minute rescue attempt looking increasingly unlikely.

At its height, Jet Airways operated 124 aircraft, with a further 227 on order. Today, what's left of that fleet is less than 10%, at just 12 aircraft. The remaining aircraft include three Boeing 737s, which are the only aircraft still owned by the carrier. The other nine are all leased, consisting of three A330s and six 777s.

23/07/19 Joanna Bailey/Simple Flying

**Etihad Airways PJSC, the national carrier of Abu Dhabi, is learnt to have initiated a fresh round of talks to bid for Jet Airways through the IBC process.**

Etihad had always been interested but wanted a favourable deal, according people familiar with the development.

**The foreign carrier, which has 24% stake in the grounded airline, is reportedly gearing up to submit a bid along with the Hinduja Group.**

A detailed email sent to Etihad Airways remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

Similarly, an email to the Hinduja Group seeking a confirmation yielded no response.

Negotiations are underway between the two parties, the people said, but they did not elaborate.

The Hinduja Group, which had thrown its hat in the ring, is likely to come in as a financial investor.

Commenting on the development, Ambareesh Baliga, independent equity analyst said. "Yes, people are interested because Jet Airways still has brand equity. They may benefit but the company will offer nothing for retail or other shareholders as their value has been completely eroded.

"It does not make any sense for strategic investors to provide any premium because the company's net worth is negative. Strategic investors will come at par and the dilution will be so huge that retail investors will be turned into micro minority. There will be nothing left for them," Mr. Baliga said.

23/07/19 Lalatendu Mishra/The Hindu

**Fading competitive intensity due to the departure of Jet Airways has led to meaningful improvement in yield within the industry and Interglobe Aviation (IndiGo), the leader in the space, has taken advantage of the same and reported the highest ever quarterly profit in Q1 FY20. Strong revenue growth coupled with higher operating profit helped company post strong profits.**

We continue to have positive outlook on the business and believe that the changing industry dynamics would help the company grow and cope up with the volatility in oil prices as yields are higher. We advise investors to accumulate the stock for the long term.

Net revenue from operations witnessed a significant growth of 44.7 percent on year-on-year (YoY) basis. The growth was driven by 30.2 percent YoY growth in revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) and improvement in yield, which grew 12.7 percent. Yield witnessed improvement due to the Jet Airways

fiasco that reduced competition from the industry. The management highlighted that the fares are higher in 0-15 days window as well.

With significant improvement in yield and increase in RPK, the company posted a YoY growth of 145.9 percent in earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation and rental (EBITDAR) and EBITDAR margin witnessed a YoY expansion of 1,214 bps in Q1 FY19.

Load factor remained largely same at 88.9 percent in Q1 FY20 and the company witnessed significant capacity addition of 30.9 percent YoY.

22/07/19 Nitin Agrawal/Moneycontrol.com

**New Delhi: The estranged co-founders of IndiGo — Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia — are believed to be working to put together a compromise formula to resolve the thorny issues, including serious corporate governance lapse in the company and related-party transactions.**

Gangwal and Bhatia are expected to agree on common terms that **every related party payment in InterGlobe Aviation Limited, the parent of IndiGo, would be examined by independent directors**, signalling a truce between the two squabbling co-founders of the budget carrier.

"The board of directors, at its meeting held on July 20, 2019, have decided to amend the Articles of Association of the company for expanding the board up to a maximum of 10, including 4 independent directors. The amendment will be subject to the approval of the shareholders at the upcoming annual general meeting," the company said in a BSE filing on Monday. Currently, Gangwal holds around 37 per cent while the Bhatia group has about 38 per cent shareholding in the airline firm.

A financial daily quoted an unnamed person familiar with the matter as saying that there has been no settlement reached yet. Both parties are, however, working towards reaching an agreement before Gangwal leaves for the US on Tuesday. Plus, both the co-founders of the airline are said to be separately meeting capital market regulator Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi.

23/07/19 ETNowNews.com

**Bengaluru: Bangalore airport announced on Tuesday the roll out of the Digi Yatra (digital processing of passengers at the aerodrome), which has been implemented for one particular flight of full-service carrier Vistara to begin with.**

BIAL (Bangalore International Airport Ltd) will gradually introduce biometric-based self-boarding solution to other flights and airlines, a release said.

All Vistara flights are expected to be integrated into the biometric boarding process at the Bangalore airport by October, it said.

An initiative of the civil aviation ministry and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the facility seeks to minimise paperwork for air travel under a digital system or e-boarding process for airport entry and boarding flights using documents such as a passenger's Aadhaar number and mobile phones, among others.

"Kempegowda International Airport on 22 June has successfully launched the fully biometric-based self-boarding solution for a seamless flow from registration to boarding," BIAL said.

Under the digital boarding process, the passengers can simply enroll their ID and biometric data, combined with their flight details, before entering the terminal.

As they travel through the airport, passengers can put their travel documents away, as they will be authenticated and verified at every touchpoint by the biometric technology, BIAL said.

"This process offers the highest degree of safety and security while ensuring stringent standards of

privacy. The biometric data is used only for authentication and verification of passengers to assist the boarding process and not for recognition. In addition, the passenger data is deleted within a few hours of flight completion," it said.

BIAL has partnered with Tata-SIA run joint venture airline Vistara to launch the vision-box developed and installed one-ID biometric platform technology that will enable passengers to breeze through the airport, it said.

"The first milestone of the programme will enable passengers travelling on Vistara flight UK864 from Bengaluru to Mumbai to utilise this process without presenting travel documents at every touch point," the release stated.

**After the completion of the final phase by early next year, it is expected to be the largest deployment of an end-to-end paperless biometric programme in Asia with over 350 passenger touchpoints at Bangalore airports Terminal 1, BIAL claimed in the release.**

23/07/19 PTI/First Post

**On July 1, under the Centre's Digi Yatra initiative, a Facial Recognition (FR) system was launched on a pilot basis at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad, a first in any Indian airport.** The technology allows passengers to merely look at a camera without a boarding pass and walk through the security gate. However, researchers on FR systems and open data say loopholes in the Digi Yatra policy may potentially lead to the FR data of passengers being misused for government surveillance or for commercial reasons.

The pilot project that is being tested in Hyderabad until July 31 allows passenger entry into the airport. The pilot system has a capacity to register 3000 individuals. Sources say due to high demand from frequent flyers they are close to achieving this target with just a week left for the pilot to end. A person can register with the FR system using any government ID at the airport. Their identity will also be physically reviewed by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officers at the airport. If the project is found successful it would be expanded to security gates before boarding and eventually to all major airports in the country.

At Hyderabad, the facial recognition data of the passengers who had opted to register with the FR system is maintained by the IT department of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL), the airport management firm that operates RGIA. As per the Centre's Digi Yatra policy, the private firm is expected to delete the FR data one hour after the passengers' departure. Furthermore, at the time of registration for FR, the private firm can enrol the passenger for 'value added services' - anything from an invite to a lounge to special offers. Experts suggest that this could be targeted advertising based on the data the firm has on the passenger.

However, the policy prescribes no "checks and balances" to ensure that these companies delete the passenger data after an hour, nor is there a definition of what constitutes a value-added service, point out researchers.

"How can one check if these private firms are deleting the FR data of their passengers? Who is checking if they do it or not? No one knows," says Srinivas Kodali an independent researcher on open data who obtained access to documents showing internal communications between various Central government agencies and the AAI over the course of 2018 via RTI. The documents paint a picture of the consultations between stakeholders that eventually led to the Digi Yatra policy in its present form.

"The FR data will be owned by airports that are run by private companies and as long as the person is in the airport they could be targeted with advertisements," says Srinivas, who raised concerns about the FR data in the hands of the government with little or no accountability.

The initial versions of the Digi Yatra draft that was under discussion showed that the FR data from airports was to be shared with intelligence agencies like the IB and RAW. The data was to also be

shared with the local police. But these details did not make it to version 5.2 of the final policy which is now public. Presently, the police and intelligence officials send out notices to airports for keeping tabs on wanted criminals fleeing the country and smugglers.

23/07/19 Mithun MK/News Minute

Thiruvananthapuram: **The validity of the bid for the Trivandrum airport is likely to be extended by 15 more days in order to facilitate a deal between Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) and the state government. They are expected to share the stakes of the airport.** According to sources close to Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Union Civil Aviation Ministry has decided to hold a high-level meeting to discuss matters related to Trivandrum Airport by the first week of August after the Parliament session. The meeting is expected to take a final call on the matter.

AEL had bid successfully to run the six airports that were put for lease by the Union government. The letter of approvals (LoA) for the three airports out of the six were given to the winning bidder. The Cabinet would give the permission to grant the letter of approval (LoA) for Guwahati and Jaipur airports shortly. The decision on Trivandrum airport will be taken after the meeting.

**According to reliable sources, the Ministry would give the letter of approval to manage and operate the Trivandrum international airport to Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL). However, the state government and the AEL will have a deal. As per the understanding between them, the state would be given stakes proportionate to the investment it has made in the Airport over the years. The state is then expected to float global tender inviting partners to the newly formed company for running the airport. Nevertheless, the majority stakes in the airport would be held by AEL.**

23/07/19 Dhinesh Kallungal/New Indian Express

New Delhi: **An Air India Express pilot's flying licence has been suspended for a year after a Dubai-Mangalore flight, which he was captaining overshot the runway while landing at the destination. The incident had taken place on June 30, 2019, when the airline's Boeing 737 (VT-AYA) operating as IX 384 suffered the runway excursion.**

"Investigation reveals that the (flight's) final approach was unstabilised and aircraft touched down with high speed at approximately 900 metres from runway threshold, which resulted in the excursion (overshooting). (The flight) was high on approaching touched down late with high speed... (there was) damage to the aircraft," an order issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) joint DG B S Rai on Tuesday is learnt to say.

The captain's flying licence has been suspended for a year from the date of incident.

23/07/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

New Delhi: **Defying order of central government to freeze promotions and fresh appointments as airline's stake sale process is going to begin soon, Air India on Monday promoted seven assistant general managers to Senior Assistant General Managers,** according to an official document.

An official "establishment order" passed by the national carrier on Monday stated that the appointments of seven AGMs as Sr AGMs "have been approved subject to applicable service regulations".

The seven AGMs who have been promoted on Monday to Sr AGMs are Satish Kr Meena, M Madhu, Shobha Moorthy, Vikas Gupta, E P D'souza, K Jayaraman and Y J Manuel.

"The above appointments will be effective from the date the incumbents assume charge of their new assignment," the order stated.

PTI has accessed the copy of this "establishment order".

**According to sources, earlier this month, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) had asked the national carrier to freeze all promotions and fresh appointments as it is planning to start airline's disinvestment process soon.**

On the aforementioned matter, Aviation Managers' Association (AMA) - which is a union of around 2000 of Air India's junior and middle level managers - on Tuesday wrote a letter to the national carrier's chief Ashwani Lohani stating they "are disheartened to note the development of favouring the higher cadres of management, ignoring the junior level managers".

The letter, which has also been marked to Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, "requested" that the airline should "sanction all impending promotions of junior level managers".

23/07/19 PTI/Business Standard

New Delhi: India's recent attempts to strengthen regulatory mechanism for safer civil aviation has won it applaud from United Nations' aviation arm, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). "It will be an honour to recognize your state by presenting the council president certificate to you at a special ceremony that will be held at ICAO HQ in Montreal during the 40th session of the Assembly (September 4-October 4, 2019)." ICAO Council president Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu said in a letter to aviation authorities on June 20.

**Aliu's letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said India has been selected to receive the prestigious council president certificate "in recognition of (its) progress in resolving its safety oversight deficiencies and improving the effective implementation (EI) of applicable ICAO standards and recommended practices... (This award) was established in support of the 'no country left behind' initiative."**

Following an audit of Indian aviation in 2017, ICAO had lowered India's EI from 65.82% to 57.44% against world average of 62% mainly on the issue of air traffic controllers' (ATCO) licensing. Later India took steps to do ATCO licensing, among other things. Then, last November ICAO again audited the DGCA to see if the shortcomings had been addressed to make flying safer here. It completed validation process of DGCA oversight system in areas of legislation, organisation, air navigation services, aerodromes and accident investigation. Before leaving, ICAO told the Indian authorities that the country's EI score could rise significantly.

23/07/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

**Air India is planning to bring all of its 17 aircraft, which have been grounded for a "prolonged" period, back into operation by October-end,** its chief Ashwani Lohani has said.

**These 17 aircraft have been grounded for time periods ranging from four months to one year due to lack of funds for their repair and maintenance.**

"We plan to retrieve all 17 prolonged grounded aircraft by the end of October," Air India Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Ashwani Lohani told PTI on Monday.

According to the plan, eight of the 17 aircraft would be put back into operation by the end of August itself. These eight aircraft include four from A320 family, one B747, one B777 and two B787s.

Remaining nine aircraft -- all of them belonging to A320 family -- would be retrieved by the end of the October if the national carrier receives the funds for maintenance in time.

"We are aiming for revenue maximisation. Therefore, we plan to put the retrieved aircraft back into operation as soon as possible," Lohani told PTI. Air India plans to use these aircraft on the new routes

where it will start flying soon, he added.

23/07/19 PTI/Times of India

**If there is one area in which both the public and private sectors think alike, it is how to help fliers carry excess baggage without paying huge amounts or facing the inconvenience of getting their heavy bags to the airport.**

Making welcome moves in this regard, the Airports Authority of India-operated Indore Airport and private company Carter X at Hyderabad airport have started unique services for flyers.

In June this year, Indore Airport tied up with DTDC to help passengers transport their excess baggage at a fraction of what it would cost as excess check-in bags on flights.

The idea of offering such a facility came up as the airport staff noticed that passengers often tried to check in bags that weighed more than the allowed limit. Passengers would often plead with the airline staff and sometimes fights also broke out. On average, domestic airlines allow 15 kg of check-in baggage and 7 kg hand luggage.

Aryama Sanyal, Indore's Airport Director, says the new facility is aimed at providing passenger convenience and to avoid the discomfort of paying a lot for excess baggage.

"The response is very good. Recently, the MP cricket board transported 500 kg sports gear through this counter to Bengaluru. Every day, four to five passengers use it," Sanyal says.

**Carter X has taken this service a step further in Hyderabad as it provides pick-up and delivery of your bags either from a hotel or your home to the airport and also in the return direction.**

23/07/19 Ashwini Phadnis/Business Line

**Air Canada on Tuesday (23) said it would resume its flights to India.**

The company announced it will resume its daily, **non-stop Toronto-Delhi flights on October 1, (eastbound) and October 3, 2019 (westbound).**

The latest move has come a week after Pakistan reopened its airspace for international civil aviation. The Toronto-Delhi flights will be operated initially with Boeing 787 Dreamliners and beginning October 27, additional capacity will be added to this route with 400-seat Boeing 777-300ER aircraft. Air Canada's seasonal Toronto-Mumbai flights will operate four times weekly from October 27, 2019, until March 28, 2020, with Boeing 777-200LR aircraft.

**Air Canada will have up to 18 weekly flights conveniently connecting a multitude of cities in North America to Delhi from both Toronto and Vancouver, and to Mumbai from Toronto, the company said.**

23/07/19 Eastern Eye

**Despite the grounding of Jet Airways, the competition to increase capacity among Indian carriers may end up hurting the already bleeding aviation sector, though it will help fliers with some cheaper tickets.** Also, the ongoing lean season is expected to make things more difficult for the airlines.

Ajay Singh-promoted SpiceJet, which made a dramatic turnaround a few years back, has gained market share by 80 basis points (month on month) to 15.6% in June, reveals the analysis by research firm IndiaNivesh. Market leader IndiGo, on the other hand, lost market share by 90 bps during the same time to 48%. Likewise, national carrier Air India, which is on the divestment block, has lost 60

bps to 13% while Vistara gained 60 bps at 5.4%. "We believe SpiceJet will get aggressive to gain market share. This could lead to a price war and add pressure in the 0-15 days booking period," said a report by analyst Mayur Milak of IndiaNivesh.

According to equity research firm Edelweiss, IndiGo's passenger growth continued to be in excess of 20% with a surge in international growth offsetting a slight slowdown in the domestic market.

"However, we estimate sharply lower yields quarter on quarter in the second quarter of this fiscal—a seasonally weak quarter and with Jet Airways' vacated capacity being filled by other airlines," a report by Edelweiss claims. According to research analyst Ansuman Deb of ICICI Securities, there is currently a trend of lower fares in the 0-15 day booking window and this is expected to add some pressure to unit revenues in the second quarter. The IndiGo management in its recent analyst call has admitted to feeling the pressure in the 0-15 day period and cautioned that yields have started moderating.

**The airlines have already made their intentions clear about capacity additions despite the apparent ongoing slowdown in the economy. For example, while IndiGo announced that it expected to increase capacity by 30% for this fiscal, rival SpiceJet is looking to add 80% more during the same period. Aviation consultancy firm CAPA in June said that the three carriers, SpiceJet, Air Vistara and AirAsia, are accelerating fleet expansion by 51-66 aircraft above their original plane addition for fiscal 2020, out of which SpiceJet alone accounts for 30-40.**

23/07/19 DNA

**Mumbai: Virgin Atlantic has expanded its partnership with Vistara and is targeting passenger feed from tier-II cities to drive growth on India-London routes. The UK carrier will resume its London-Mumbai service in October, six months after its partner Jet Airways shut operations.**

Virgin Atlantic flew to Mumbai between 2005 and 2009 and again from 2012-2015 before withdrawing from the route. The airline's India office believes the carrier will be lucky this time, given the high demand and the void caused by Jet Airways' collapse.

"There is significant growth in the market. Demand on the Mumbai-London route has grown 23 per cent the Past five years. We offer a strong service element and are confident of success," said David Hodges, Virgin Atlantic's country manager for India. The airline currently has a daily service between London-Delhi.

It has also expanded its interline agreement with Vistara ahead of Mumbai service launch. An interline agreement is a commercial arrangement between two airlines which allows them to sell on each others' network. The expanded agreement covers Vistara's domestic flights from Mumbai and will enable Virgin Atlantic to get passenger feed from other cities in India. He added the airline was also exploring partnerships with other Indian airlines.

Hodges said the airline is also focusing on sales efforts in cities including Pune and Ahmedabad which are large markets for airlines. To attract business travellers it will be offering free limousine service between Mumbai and Pune. "We are targeting high yield traffic. Our ambition is to grow in India," he said.

23/07/19 Aneesh Phadnis/Business Standard

**AirAsia India announced on Tuesday that it will start operating daily direct flight on the Delhi-Chandigarh route from August 1 onwards.**

The flight would leave from Delhi at 10.40 am every day and would arrive at the Chandigarh airport at 11.50 am.

The return flight would depart from Chandigarh every day at 12.50 pm and arrive at the Delhi airport at 1.55 pm, the low-cost carrier said.

Moreover, the airline said it will be introducing fourth additional flight on the New Delhi-Bengaluru route from August 5 onwards.

23/07/19 CNBC TV18

**Noida: Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) received 12 queries from interested companies for the Jewar International Airport project till Monday**, which was the last date for submissions.

Three of the 12 queries were received on the last day. The authority will now pass them on to the project monitoring and implementation committee that has time till August 31 to respond. So far, 16 bidders have bought the bid for the airport. October 30 is the last date for submitting applications. "We will get the committee's expert comments and submit the responses to the state government for approval. Once approved, these will be published online on our website. We have time till August 31 to respond," said Shailendra Bhatia, officer on special duty, YEIDA.

23/07/19 Times of India

**Madurai: The Perungudi police in Madurai district arrested a Chinese national on Monday when he tried to fly out of India using a fake passport.**

The accused has been identified as Zhou Hong Zhgn, 42, from a village near Jilang City. He tried to board a Sri Lanka-bound flight on Sunday.

Immigration officials, who grew suspicious about him, took him to a separate room and conducted an inquiry. They found that the passport he possessed was a fake one.

Zhou came to India a few years ago to do a business. His passport was confiscated following a criminal case registered against him by the Guntur district police in Andhra Pradesh for cheating a government agency.

Though he was freed sometime ago, Zhou could not leave the country as his passport had expired. Meanwhile, he prepared a fake passport with the help of an agent in Kolkata.

23/07/19 Devanathan Veerappan/Times of India

**Ranchi: A bomb hoax at Ranchi's Birsu Munda airport delayed a Delhi-bound Vistara flight (UK-754) on Monday evening.** The flight scheduled for departure at 8.25pm finally took off at 10.40pm.

Sources said the airport manager of Vistara (Tata SIA Airlines Limited) received a call from man who identified himself as Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) official Satish Kumar Singh and said that a bomb has been planted on the aircraft. Airport authorities immediately alerted the CISF and the state police and the flight was evacuated and checked by a bomb squad. No trace of any explosives was found on the aircraft.

Airport director Vinod Sharma said a man by the same name was also on the list of passengers, but had not checked in for the flight. "It could well be a case of a man trying to stop a flight because he was unable to reach the airport on time for his flight," he said.

Hatia DSP Prabhat Ranjan Barwar, who led the inspection team along with a bomb squad and dog squad of the state police, said that the entire process of conducting a through checking was completed in half an hour.

Police are yet to trace the whereabouts of the passenger with the same name as the caller as his mobile was switched off and he had not reached the airport. "We are going to lodge an FIR against



him for further investigation. As of now we only have his personal details that he submitted to Vistara as its passenger,” SP (City) Hari Lal Chouhan said.

23/07/19 Gaurav Pandey/Times of India

**The female employees of leading Airline, IndiGo, have complained to the top brass that they were facing sexual harassment by the senior staff at the Srinagar airport prompting the company to start an internal inquiry.**

Sources told Rising Kashmir that an Indigo airport manager at Srinagar has faced complaints of harassment by its employees. The company has found through an internal committee serious violations of “its code of conduct” after some employees brought to their notice that the Manager sought sexual favors for promotions and favorable transfers.

Replying to the query, Indigo said in its written reply to Rising Kashmir e-mail that the Company has already put the “staff involved” under suspension.

“We are aware of the misconduct on part of our colleague from Srinagar Airport team. This matter is currently under investigation. Concerning this, an internal committee has found serious violations of the company’s code of conduct. As part of the internal investigation, we are taking into account feedback from other colleagues from Srinagar. Currently, we have suspended the staff involved, pending further investigation,” Sakshi Batra, Associate Director, Corporate Communications, IndiGo said.

The company said that it was “committed to maintaining a positive and safe working environment, and has zero tolerance towards any form of sexual or gender-based harassment, and gross misconduct.”

**“As a responsible organization with 43 percent of women in our workforce, IndiGo firmly believes in governing our business with ethics, transparency and accountability, at all levels. We ensure our employees are sensitized regularly about company’s code of conduct and prevention of sexual harassment policy, which is in compliance with the law,”** it said.

23/07/19 Junaid Kathju/Rising Kashmir

**A total of 11 satellite phones have been seized by the Sahar police between January 2008 and March 2019.** This was revealed in a reply to an RTI application filed by DNA. The reply further revealed that four people arrested by the police were convicted after the charges against them were established in the court.

A senior rank officer from the Central Industrial Reserve Force (CISF) said that the number of seizures of satellite phones from the airports have come down significantly. The stringent laws regarding the possession of such phones have created an impact. “Firstly, the number of seizures is not evident on a daily basis as it happens occasionally but whenever these phones are recovered from the airport, lawbreakers turns out to be a foreign national. Indians are well aware of the law,” said the officer.

**The CISF first intercepts the phone and after questioning the carrier, the device is seized and the carrier is handed over to the local police where they book them under relevant sections of the Indian Wireless Act and the Indian Telegraph Act.**

Indian state-owned telecommunications company Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) who is providing Global Satellite Phone Service (GSPS) since 2017 in India have said in its website that the usage of satellite phones is suitable for persons working in disaster-affected areas, defence, border security organisations, disaster management bodies, trekkers and fishermen. Even the Department of Telecommunications have stated that satellite phones are permitted only with specific permission

or No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the body.

**"There are security-related threats associated with satellite phones. If caught without any authorisation, be ready to face action,"** added the CISF officer.

23/07/19 Dhananjay Khatri/DNA

New Delhi/Mumbai: **Air fare normalisation and additional capacity led to air passenger traffic growing in June**, sector experts said on Monday.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data has shown that air passenger traffic rose 6.19 per cent to 1.2 crore in June from 1.13 crore reported for the corresponding month of the previous fiscal.

In May, the air passenger traffic growth rate had inched up by 2.79 per cent to 1.21 crore on a year-on-year basis.

As per the data, January-June passenger traffic grew 3.21 per cent to 7.06 crore from 6.84 crore ferried during the corresponding period of the previous year.

"Airlines have introduced new aircraft to fill the reduction in air capacity on account of the shutdown of Jet Airways, leading to rationalisation of airfares on multiple routes," said Sharat Dhall, COO(B2C), Yatra.com.

"The sale announcement by airlines have further reduced fares leading to growth returning to the market and we expect this positive momentum to continue."

In terms of market share, the data showed that IndiGo led the industry with the highest market share of 48.1 per cent, followed by SpiceJet (15.6 per cent), Air India (12.9 per cent), and GoAir (11.1 per cent).

AirAsia India had a market share of 6.4 per cent, followed by Vistara (5.4 per cent) and Turbo Megha (0.5 per cent).

Jet Airways, which suspended its operations on April 17, had a market share of 0.8 per cent.

22/07/19 Outlook

Mumbai, **InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, has decided to expand its Board of Directors up to 10 members and the expanded board will have four independent directors.**

**The decision comes on the backdrop of the recent feud between co-promoters Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia, over issues of corporate governance.**

"The Board of Directors of the company, at its meeting held on July 20, 2019, have decided to amend the Articles of Association of the Company for expanding the board up to a maximum of 10, including 4 independent directors. The said amendment of the articles will be subject to approval of the shareholders at the forthcoming annual general meeting of the company," IndiGo said in a regulatory filing late on Sunday evening.

Currently, its board has six members, including the Chairman M. Damodaran, the former Sebi chief. On July 19, the company said its board has decided to seek shareholders' approval for expanding the board to enable the induction of an independent woman.

22/07/19 IANS/Business Insider

**A 49.9 percent stake in Jet Airways' frequent-flyer loyalty programme Jet Privilege (JPPL), is likely to be the key attraction for those bidding for the grounded airline, which was referred to a**

### **bankruptcy court in June.**

Lenders to Jet Airways expect an attractive valuation for JPPL, which has remained profitable for the past few years. This despite the cash crunch faced by Jet Airways that forced it to curtail flights for several months before halting operations in April, two people directly aware of the ongoing discussions said on the condition of anonymity.

Financial creditors, which includes banks, have claimed Rs 10,231 crore, while 2,400 operational creditors have claimed Rs 12,372 crore from Jet Airways.

"The shares held by Jet Airways in JPPL will be transferred to the successful bidder," said one of the two people cited above, adding that JPPL is likely to be an attractive asset for potential bidders of Jet Airways.

"Lenders expect bidders to play a significant premium for the JPPL stake in their overall bid for Jet Airways," the person added.

**JPPL, which is 50.1 percent owned by Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways PJSC, is a profitable entity, with about Rs 839 crore of cash in hand, at the end of 2018,** according to the document issued by the resolution professional on July 20, seeking expressions of interest (Eoi) from potential bidders. [22/07/19 Mint/Moneycontrol.com](https://www.mint.com/story/2019/07/22/jppl-50-1-percent-owned-by-abu-dhabi-based-etihad-airways-pjsc-is-a-profitable-entity-with-about-rs-839-crore-of-cash-in-hand-at-the-end-of-2018-according-to-the-document-issued-by-the-resolution-professional-on-july-20-seeking-expressions-of-interest-eoi-from-potential-bidders-22/07/19-mint/moneycontrol.com)

New Delhi: If all goes well with PM Modi's dream project of **DIGI Yatra**, passengers travelling by air will take only a couple of minutes to board a flight across India. The airports would boast of **hi-tech body scanners, facial recognition technology and cutting edge identity management system to simplify passenger processes at various check points in less than a minute.**

Instead of standing in long queues to be frisked for security check, the passenger would be required to pass through a body scanner which takes less than five seconds to process security clearance. The other key-security points at the airport would have a Metro station-type flap gates which would open automatically by reading facial biometric identity of passengers.

**The pilot project for DIGI Yatra has been done at a few select flights in Mumbai and Hyderabad beginning February this year. On Monday (July 22) the trial run was conducted on a Vistara flight UK 864 (to Mumbai) at Bangalore airport.**

"The reports of trial run in Mumbai and Hyderabad have been positive. **The facial recognition system has gone well with Pre Embarkation Security Check (PESC) to the last point of gate boarding. The passengers selected for trials were registered at the DIGI Yatra kiosk (at airport) where facial expression of passenger were captured. The facial biometrics enabled the passenger to swiftly clear security points,**" said an Inspector General-level officers of CISF, which guards country's 61 airports. According to him, the process would be much more swift once body scanners are installed at airports.

At present a passenger has to clear 5 security gates, starting from departure and ending at the boarding gate. On an average it takes more than an hour to clear the arduous security check procedure which includes long queues at check-in counters (for baggage) and for frisking of each passenger at the security check point before proceeding to the boarding gate.

"To facilitate passengers to a seamless flow for air travel, the face would now be your boarding card. After taking the consent of the passenger, a facial recognition identity would be created. The passenger would then have to pass through flap gates, which would open using facial biometric technology," said the senior CISF officer.

[22/07/19 IANS/Outlook](https://www.ians.org/story/2019/07/22/digi-yatra-pilot-project)

Thiruvananthapuram: **Though a direct flight between Tokyo and Thiruvananthapuram continues to be elusive, the chances are high for the state to get a connecting flight to Tokyo from the capital city, giving the investors from Far East especially, Japan, reasons to cheer. According to sources, the Union Civil Aviation Ministry has agreed to call a meeting exclusively to discuss the matters related to the Trivandrum International Airport in the first week of August possibly by August 3.**

The meeting will discuss the possibility of starting a connection flight to Tokyo via either Singapore or Bangkok, along with other matters related to the development of Trivandrum International airport. Earlier, Express had reported that officials of Nissan Motor of Japan, which has a digital innovation hub in Thiruvananthapuram, along with other companies from the region, were anxious over the decision of SilkAir to stop its service from the capital to Singapore and give the slot to its budget airline Scoot.

Since the company officials preferred business class to travel between the cities, the decision to hand over the service to Scoot had disappointed the investors from Far East like Fujitsu and Hitachi which have been looking to invest in Kerala. Following this, the state government had written to Air India managing director requesting to start a direct flight between Tokyo and Thiruvananthapuram. However, the chances of Air India starting a service to Tokyo from here is remote in the current scenario especially with the Centre looking to disinvest in the national carrier and its subsidiaries. But the state is seriously exploring ways to start a connection flight to Tokyo after consulting with Sri Lankan airlines which holds service to Colombo from here and it has business class seats.

22/07/19 Dhinesh Kallungal/New Indian Express

**With The Dholera International Airport Company Ltd (DIACL) deciding to fast-track it late last month, decks have been cleared for work on the Rs 2,000-crore greenfield airport project, which is a part of the Gujarat government's Dholera Special Investment Region (Dholera SIR), located 100 km south west of Ahmedabad.** The Dholera International Airport, with an annual capacity of 50 million passengers once fully operational, would decongest the saturated Ahmedabad airport, catering to the regions of Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Nadiad, Kheda and Anand in Gujarat. **Hurdles in the way of the project, delayed since 2012, were removed after reconstitution of DIACL's board that saw the Airports Authority of India (AAI) picking up a majority 51% stake in the company, with the Gujarat government owning 33% stake and the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) the remaining 16%—the Dholera SIR, a greenfield city being built over an area of 922 sq km, is the largest investment node on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).**

Says Jai Prakash Shivhare, managing director of the Dholera Industrial City Development Ltd (DICDL), a company formed by the state government to develop the Dholera SIR, "the first phase of the airport would become operational by 2024. The runway to be built in the first phase would have the capacity to handle up to 30 million passengers per annum. A second runway would be built later, as part of the second phase of the project, having a capacity of 20 mn passengers per annum."

The airport project at Dholera was conceived owing to congestion at the Ahmedabad airport, which has been handling 11 mn passengers per annum, as against its capacity of 7 mn passengers.

22/07/19 Nayan Dave/Financial Express

Vasco: **Goa customs officials apprehended three female passengers from Tajikistan carrying 1,787 gram of assorted gold jewellery, worth over Rs 56 lakh** at Dabolim airport on Sunday.

"The three female Tajikistan nationals arrived from Dushanbe, via Dubai, on an Air India flight," customs officials said. The gold items, concealed in their inner wear, hand luggage and purses, was

recovered and seized.

Officials said the gold has been seized under provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

22/07/19 Times of India

New Delhi: **Delhi Police have arrested three persons for allegedly robbing the Indigo pilot earlier this month near Indira Gandhi International Airport.**

According to the police, the trio -- Mehraj Salmani, Asif and Farman -- all belonging to Meerut had allegedly robbed a Canadian national Mehdi Ghanzanfani who worked as a pilot with Indigo airlines after he returned from Kolkata on the intervening night of July 11-12 and was looking out for his company cab.

He was offered a ride by the trio in their cab on the pretext of dropping him off to his cab in the airport's parking lot. They took him away and robbed him off his cash and took money out from his debit cards to the tune of Rs 1 lakh on knife point.

22/07/19 UNI

New Delhi: In yet another case of gold smuggling by a foreign national, a **South Korean national was arrested at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport for allegedly carrying gold bars worth Rs 2.5 cr.**

The woman's arrest came on Saturday after her flight landed at Delhi's IGI airport from the South Korean city of Incheon. The gold was hidden in the base of a microscope that she carried with her. According to a report, the woman was apprehended by customs officials after she crossed Green Channel. Additional Commissioner of Customs, Arivalideep Singh, said the thorough checking of the woman revealed the recovery of seven gold bars weighing around 7 kilogram.

The estimated value of the gold bars is **Rs 2.5 cr.** Customs officials, however, have refrained from revealing the identity of the accused.

22/07/19 MirrorNowNews.com

Après presque 5 mois de fermeture de l'espace aérien pakistanais, les autorités l'ont officiellement réouvert en juillet 2019. Cette fermeture de l'espace aérien du Pakistan a eu d'importantes répercussions sur les programmes de vols de nombreuses compagnies. L'espace aérien pakistanais est en effet fréquemment utilisé par les transporteurs exploitant des vols à destination et en provenance d'autres pays, en particulier les vols entre l'Europe et l'Asie. Cette interdiction de survol a notamment forcé Air Canada et United à suspendre certains de leurs vols à destination de l'Inde et avait également obligé Air India à ajouter des arrêts pour refaire le plein de carburant sur plusieurs de ses vols à destination des États-Unis.

Le ministre indien de l'aviation a déclaré que les **compagnies aériennes indiennes avaient perdu environ 80 millions de dollars** en raison de la fermeture de l'espace aérien pakistanais.

Déplacements Pro 16/07/2019

**North Eastern Region Vision 2020 document provides an overarching framework for the development of the North Eastern Region to bring it at par with other developed regions under which different Ministries, including Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region have undertaken various initiatives.**

The outlays by Central Ministries in the North Eastern Region have increased substantially. Mandatory earmarking of at least 10% of GBS of Central Ministries/Departments for North Eastern Region (NER) and creation of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) has augmented resource flow to the region. There has been a sharp rise in provisional expenditure (subject to final vetting by Ministry of Finance) by Central Ministries in NER by 83% from Rs.24819.18 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.45,518.14 crore in 2018-19. An allocation of Rs.59,369.90 crore (BE) during 2019-20 has been made for the North Eastern Region, including Ministry of DoNER.

**Strengthening infrastructure and connectivity is a major thrust area identified by the Vision document.** Several connectivity initiatives have been undertaken in the recent past. In the last five years under the schemes of Ministry of DoNER, road projects worth Rs.1711.19 crore were sanctioned and under schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC) Rs.1573.56 crore was released for development of infrastructure like roads and bridges, ISBT, airports, railway in North Eastern Region. Under the SARDP-NE including Arunachal Package of Roads and Highways, 1,514 km of road length worth Rs.20,065 crore has been completed in the last five years in the North East Region (NER). Under Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP) roads stretches aggregating to about 5,301 km in NER have been approved for improvement. Out of this, 3246 km road length has been approved for development of Economic Corridors in the North East. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), road length of 20,708 km has been constructed at a cost of Rs.9033.76 crore, thereby connecting 3,123 habitations in North Eastern Region. In respect of Rail Connectivity, during the last four years the entire North East Region has been converted to the Broad Gauge (BG) network. **In respect of Air Connectivity, modernization and development of Airports have been taken up. This includes construction of a new integrated terminal building at Guwahati, Imphal and Agartala Airports; Extension of Runway at Dibrugarh Airport; Strengthening of Runway, Taxiway at Dimapur Airport; and upgradation works at Tezu Airport. Moreover, Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN) has been launched to provide connectivity to unserved and underserved Airports within the country and to promote regional connectivity by making the airfare affordable through Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The North East has been kept as a priority area under RCS-UDAN.**

Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, projects worth Rs.1400.03 crore have been sanctioned for the North East Region in the last five years and Rs. 896.12 crore has been released for the same. Other major initiatives taken up in the North-East Region inter alia include Promotion of MSMEs in North Eastern Region and Sikkim, Comprehensive Telecom Development Project (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region, Comprehensive Scheme for strengthening of Transmission and Distribution Systems (CSST&DS), North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region scheme, North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), National Sports University at Imphal, Agartala-Akhaura Rail-Link to connect the existing Agartala station in Tripura to Akhaura Station of Bangladesh Railways, development of Brahmaputra and 19 new waterways including Barak.

**Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted 'Site Clearance' and 'In-principle' approval on 18.01.2019 for setting up a New Greenfield Airport at Holongi, Itanagar, for which Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already initiated preparation of bidding documents. The State Government of Nagaland has proposed to set up a Greenfield airport at Ciethu, Kohima. As per the feasibility study conducted by the multi-disciplinary team comprising officials from Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and AAI in August, 2018; though the project is technically feasible, the financial implication of site development is exorbitant making the project financially unviable. A Greenfield airport at Pakyong, Sikkim was inaugurated on 24.09.2018 and is now operational. Tura airport, in the State of Meghalaya, is a non-operational airport. AAI has projected a requirement of 50.50 acres of land to the State Government of Meghalaya for the development of the airport for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft.**

This information was provided by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.

Press Bureau of Information 25/07/2019

**A Finance Ministry recommendation not to award the same player more than two airports, out of a total of six to be privatised by the Centre, was among some of the key suggestions brushed aside by the government panel for public private partnerships — the PPP Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) — effectively leading to Adani Enterprises Limited emerging as the winning bidder for all airports.**

The Hindu 28/07/2019

**Mumbai: Gusty winds at Mumbai airport damaged an engine of Vistara airline flight on Saturday. The strong winds made an empty baggage container of another airline roll to one of Vistara's aircraft parked at the Mumbai airport.**

The incident damaged one of the engines of the Vistara aircraft. No one was hurt in the incident but the aircraft will be grounded for some time till it is fixed.

"Gusty wind led an empty baggage container of another airline accidentally roll to one of our aircraft parked at Mumbai airport early this morning, leaving a dent on the starboard side of one of the engines," Vistara spokesperson said.

"There were no passengers or crew on board. The aircraft will be grounded for some time for repair work and consequentially affect our schedule on some routes. Inconvenience caused to customers for any delay or cancellation is regretted," Vistara spokesperson added.

27/07/19 India Today

**Privatisation of state-run airports has decreased the capital expenditure requirements and borrowing needs for state-run airport operator, Airports Authority of India (AAI), and the organisation is now tweaking its borrowing roadmap taking into account the income from the newly privatised airports.**

**In an exclusive interaction, AAI chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra, who will take charge as secretary, Department for promoters of Industry and Internal Trade from August 1, said that more airports are in the pipeline for privatisation.**

Privatisation of six airports is seen as the most important development at Airports Authority of India in the recent past. Is the government looking at privatising more airports?

Privatisation has not been attempted for the first time. Earlier also, the airports of Delhi and Mumbai were privatised by the AAI and the ministry. But, this time the decision of the Union Cabinet was to go for disinvestment of six airports. So many Airports at one go and that too without losing any time was a big challenge for us. I am very happy that we did it in a record time, probably the fastest privatisation in independent India's history because of strong teamwork at AAI, strong support from ministry and Union Cabinet which endorsed those decisions.

It is a matter of happiness for us that the first privatisation where eight to nine bids were received and at quite good prices. Everything has been done on merit and there have been no controversies that are typical in this sort of massive exercise. It has been very satisfying.

For three airports, the Cabinet has approved the bids, letter of award has been given and their (Adani Group) acceptance has come. Now they have to obtain security clearance and there are a lot of processes thereafter. **Two more, Jaipur and Guwahati are under consideration of the ministry for Cabinet approval. Trivandrum is also under consideration of the ministry.**

27/07/19 Anu Sharma/CNBC TV18

**Mumbai: Boeing 747 - 400 aircraft will be able to land at Mundra in close proximity to India's biggest private port where big ships dock to load and unload cargo with the Adani Group planning to convert its private airstrip at the port complex into a full-fledged commercial airport with an**



**investment of Rs 1,400 crore.**

The expert appraisal committee (EAC) attached to the ministry of environment, forest and climate change has recommended the project – that includes a dedicated aerospace manufacturing facility- for environmental clearance, according to a document reviewed by Business Line.

The existing private airstrip at Mundra constructed over 45 hectares of land will be converted into a commercial airport spread over 522 hectares with the capability to serve the 747-400 aircraft and commissioned by 2022.

**The airport will be run by Mundra International Airport Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned unit of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), which runs India's biggest private port at Mundra in Gujarat's Kutch district.**

The existing private airstrip has a runway with length of 1,898 metres and width of 30 metres with a 400 sqm terminal facility. The proposed length of the runway after conversion will be 4000 metres with a width of 60 m. **Under the UDAN scheme, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has allowed conversion of the private airstrip into a commercial facility to improve air connectivity in the region.**

27/07/19 P Manoj/Business Line

**Hyderabad: Bursting at the seams thanks to soaring passenger traffic, the GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) has now chalked out plans to invest Rs 8500 crore in doubling the capacity of the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) at Shamshabad to 50 million passengers per annum (MPPA) from the ongoing approved capacity expansion of 25 million passengers per year.**

GHIAL had submitted an application to this effect to the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF) seeking environmental clearance for expanding the airport capacity to 50 MPPA and the matter also came up before the panel in its meeting on July 10.

The existing terminal T1 at RGIA, which was built with a capacity to handle 12 million passengers per year, ended up handling 21.4 million passengers in financial year 2018-19, a 17% jump from the 18.3 million passengers it handled in 2017-18, a recent investor presentation submitted to the bourses said. The presentation also projected that the airport can eventually be expanded up to 80MPPA. GHIAL's proposal to ECA said no additional land is required for the proposed expansion as it has 5,495 acres and that the project construction, which will take 5-6 years, is expected to generate direct employment of over 5,000 and double the number of indirect jobs.

28/07/19 Swati Bharadwaj/Times of India

**Kozhikode: A tough task awaits the Ministry of Civil Aviation that is planning to lease out the Calicut International Airport along with nine other airports managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in a phased manner.**

**Calicut is on the list of five airports chosen for expansion in the public-private partnership (PPP) mode this year.** The lease plan comes even as the Centre has not yet been able to finalise the privatisation of the Thiruvananthapuram airport as the State government has opposed its lease to the Adani Group. The State government has written to the Ministry not to privatise the Thiruvananthapuram airport where Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) has successfully bid to operate, manage and develop for a 50-year period.

In the case of Calicut, AAI sources said the airport was not viable for commercial exploitation by leasing out space to private companies. The airport required land from the government for development activities including expansion of the runway, building complexes or parking lots, they said.

However Calicut airport has been witnessing an upward trajectory despite the commissioning of the Kannur International Airport, the second greenfield airport built on PPP model in the State.

It handled 27,48,275 international and 6,12,579 domestic passengers during the 2018-19 fiscal. The passenger volume witnessed an increase of over 7% compared to the corresponding period in 2017-18. The total revenue of the airport stood at ₹250 crore, of which 50% was profit. At present, the airport has 240 employees.

27/07/19 The Hindu

**Mumbai/Panjim: The incessant rain hit flight operations at the city airport and caused water-logging in the apron area. These disruptions had a cascading effect on flight schedules across the country on Saturday.**

**Eleven flights, including seven departures, were cancelled, said a Mumbai International Airport Ltd (Mial) spokesperson. Besides, nine flights were diverted to other cities in the morning and pilots of eight arriving flights were forced to carry out a go-around. Arrivals and departures were delayed by an average of 30 minutes.**

Flight cancellations and delays hit flyers in other cities too. "The one-hour flight from Goa to Mumbai took over 3 hours due to delay but there was no announcement at the airport, which was frustrating," said Harish Rajaraman, a passenger stranded at the Goa airport.

In Mumbai, many were stranded at both terminals as airlines try to rebook flyers of cancelled flights. About 17-18 passengers from a tour company were among the worst hit. "We arrived at Mumbai airport on Friday night to board the 12.05am Saturday GoAir flight to Delhi," said Gopi Nair, who with his family was on a holiday to Nainital and Haridwar. "The flight was cancelled due to bad weather... We spent the day at the airport and were finally put on the 6.20pm flight," Nair said.

On Friday night, inside Sahar terminal 2, a pool of water gathered in an area near boarding gates in the departure area. An airport spokesperson said it was due to dislocation of a rainwater pipeline joint which gave way under the heavy inflow of rainwater.

28/07/19 Times of India

**Dubai: Dubai International Airport (DXB) has added a new airline to its family of 70 international carriers and expanded its connectivity to a new destination.**

**India's GoAir made its inaugural flight to DXB from Kannur in the South Indian state of Kerala on Thursday evening, said a statement issued by DXB on Sunday.**

The airline has launched daily direct flights between DXB Terminal 1 and Kannur International Airport, making Dubai its sixth international destination.

The fast-growing airline boasts a fleet of 51 Airbus A320s and operates some 285 flights daily to 24 destinations across India. Following the launch of GoAir's service, DXB is now served by five Indian carriers operating approximately 360 weekly flights to 21 destinations across India.

28/07/19 WAM/Gulf News

**New Delhi: The capital's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport will soon sport the country's most technologically advanced and highest Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower, which is expected to enhance the safety and the efficiency of air transport management services over the city's sky.**

**According to Airports Authority of India (AAI) Chairman, Guruprasad Mohapatra, the migration procedures have already commenced from the old ATC to the new tower and the process is expected to be completed before August 15.**

At present, AAI which has been mandated to handle the air traffic management services at the airport is running a parallel operation to test the automation and other systems in the new facility. The commissioning of the new tower is expected to enhance the efficiency of air traffic management services at the IGIA which is the busiest airport in India. On an average, Delhi Air Traffic Control handles more than one flight operation every minute throughout the day.

At least 1,200 landings and take-offs happen every day from Delhi airport along with overflying traffic of at least 250 planes. In all, more than 40,000 movements are handled in a month.

Besides, the new facility with its physical and technologically advanced equipment is expected to provide a more robust safety systems.

28/07/19 IANS/Economic Times

**After rapidly expanding its presence in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, India's largest air passenger carrier IndiGo plans to add destinations such as Hanoi and Chengdu to its flight schedule from September quarter onwards.**

IndiGo's Chief Commercial Officer William Boulter told IANS that the airline has received clearances from the Vietnamese authorities to commence operations from India to Hanoi.

The airline will soon "be putting the flight out for sale". Besides Hanoi, the airline plans to operate flights to Ho Chi Min City.

**The airline is also reviewing its strategy for Europe whilst making "full use" of its Turkish Airline codeshare agreement which allows passengers to fly through Istanbul on a '6E code'.**

The agreement between the two airlines allow for a seamless travel experience for passengers through an extended global network.

In 2019, IndiGo entered into its first codeshare agreement with Turkish Airlines, which provides passengers with extended **connectivity to 12 destinations in Europe.**

At present, the airline is rapidly expanding its international presence, it will deploy capacity to Chengdu in China, Singapore, Bangkok and Yangon. IndiGo will operate a daily non-stop flights between Delhi-Chengdu-Delhi effective September 15, 2019.

28/07/19 IANS/Economic Times

**Visakhapatnam: After the withdrawal of Alliance Air flights to Vijayawada and Tirupati from mid-July, other air carriers— SpiceJet and Indigo are looking to operate in these sectors.**

According to sources, while Indigo is planning to operate in the Visakhapatnam to Vijayawada sector, SpiceJet is planning to operate direct flights from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati. The SpiceJet flight might well begin its operations from next month, claim sources.

The loss of air connectivity to Vijayawada— the business hub and Tirupati, a hub of spiritual tourism had hurt regular commuters.

Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India was operating one of its flights from Visakhapatnam to Vijayawada and Tirupati and had proposed to change its base to Hyderabad to operate to other sectors.

Representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Air Travellers' Association (APATA) had met Air India officials in Delhi to request continuation of the flight service from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati via Vijayawada.  
28/07/19 Times of India

**An Indian Air Force (IAF) team in Maharashtra came to the rescue of nine people who were stranded atop a building in Kalyan on Saturday.**

The IAF team reached the spot with its Mi-17 helicopter and rescued the stranded people. After the people were rescued, they were safely dropped at Mumbai airport. The Indian Air Force posted a video of the rescue operation in Kalyan along with images of the IAF team and the nine people rescued.

27/07/19 India Today

Hyderabad: **An Indian-origin woman from Nairobi (Kenya), died onboard an air ambulance, while travelling to Ahmedabad via the city's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), late on Friday night.** According to sources, Roopal Dindeshkumar Sham, 46, was suffering from an acute respiratory problem – suspected to be pneumonia -- and was on her way to Ahmedabad for treatment. She died of a cardiac arrest.

"The aircraft took off from Nairobi and was scheduled to stopover at Mali and Hyderabad, for refuelling, before heading to Ahmedabad. In between Mali and Hyderabad, the woman took ill and complained of breathing problem," said an official from RGIA adding, "While the ATC here was immediately informed about the medical emergency, the passenger had died before touchdown. She is said to have suffered a cardiac arrest."

28/07/19 Times of India

**Bengaluru: A travel bag containing clothes, which was left unattended, sent security personnel and police into tizzy at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Saturday morning.**

Around 7.30am, a passenger who had landed from Mumbai left his bag on a metal chair and went to the restroom. "From the toilet, he headed to an eatery to buy coffee and breakfast. By then, another passenger grew suspicious and alerted a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, who in turn informed others," a source said. In no time, four CISF sleuths with handheld metal detectors arrived at the spot and checked the bag. Soon, the owner of the bag returned with a sandwich and coffee.

28/07/19 Times of India

Jaipur: **A Boeing 777 landed for the first time at the Jaipur International Airport on Friday afternoon.** It is the world's largest twin-jet engine aircraft which usually operates from Delhi and Mumbai.

The aircraft was piloted by Captain Parul Shekhawat, whose parents reside in Jaipur and who has been flying for last 14 years. The flight on Friday carried 340 Haj pilgrims.

"The landing of Boeing 777 was not possible before 2017 due to expansion of the runway at the Jaipur International Airport and this is the first scheduled flight which landed here for Haj pilgrims

since it has a very large capacity for passengers,” said an airport official. Previously, Haj passengers would usually fly in Boeing 747 which is also a part of the Air India fleet. Nearly 6,000 Haj passengers are flying in this season, with first flight to the holy passage taking off earlier this month.

28/07/19 Times of India

**Ahmedabad: The departures of some 10 flights to various destinations in India and abroad were delayed from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport in Ahmedabad on Saturday.**

According to well-placed sources, some six flights to Mumbai operated by different airlines were delayed by an hour, leaving passengers with little choice but to be held up at the city airport. Sources confirmed that bad weather in Mumbai triggered by heavy rainfall led to the delay in departure of these flights.

Poor weather conditions in Mumbai on Friday too had caused diversion of some Mumbai-bound flights from other destinations to Ahmedabad. Sources confirmed that the city airport handled some eight flight diversions. These include three IndiGo Airline flights going to Mumbai in addition to one Mumbai-bound flight each operated by GoAir, SpiceJet and Air India.

28/07/19 Times of India

**Even after several recent cases of customs officers being suspended for aiding and abetting in smuggling at the Air Cargo Complex at Mumbai, the organised corruption racket continues unabated at the Cargo Complex.**

In October 2015, a major smuggling racket in connivance with corrupt customs officers was busted at Sahar Air Cargo by the Air Preventive Unit (APU) wherein 100 kgs of Silver Jewellery and 20000 pieces of pen drives were seized. The value of the goods was more than Rs 2 crores. Sources inform that the vigilance action against the customs officers in this case has been aborted.

In another case in September 2018, the CBI trapped and arrested an Assistant Commissioner of Customs at Air Cargo Complex and booked another Appraiser in a case of demand and acceptance of a bribe of Rs 2,000 from the complainant for assessment of bills of entry and final assessment of his consignment.

Then, last year two Assistant Commissioners and several Appraisers and Examiners from Cargo Complex were suspended for involvement in separate cases in smuggling of guns as toys without police No Objection Certificate (NoC) and clearance of mobile covers and accessories at low values causing huge loss of import duty. The departmental vigilance cases against these officers are still pending while in the case of five examiners, chargesheets have been filed under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) by the CBI.

**Despite so many officers being caught for their involvement in aiding and abetting smuggling, corruption at Air Cargo Complex continues unabated.** In a well organised modus operandi, the officers, (mostly at the level of IRS Group A) utilise the services of trusted CHA boys, known as collectors, to receive bribes on their behalf for allowing imports at the lowest values or by overlooking conditions and restrictions imposed under the Tariff Act for their imports. The government loses a huge amount of revenue on this account while the importers and corrupt officers fill their pockets.

In recent cases, involvement of several Assistant and Deputy Commissioners posted at the Cargo Complex have been detected by the Air Cargo Vigilance Department including one case of huge financial transactions for purchase of benami property through a Customs Broker Jitendra Bajpayee

alias Jitu. The Deputy Commissioner is now posted at the Mumbai International Airport.  
28/07/19 Rajiv Singh/India Legal

**Mumbai/New Delhi: The warring founders of InterGlobe Aviation, the company that runs Indi-Go, could have the freedom to sell their shares to any suitor after the shareholders' agreement (SHA) between them expires in October.**

The shareholders' agreement between Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia — which is to remain valid for four years after the company's initial public offering (IPO) in 2015 — conferred on the founders the right of first refusal (RoFR) for each other's shares in case one of them wanted to sell. The agreement also contains a 'tag-along' clause, which stipulates that the other promoter has the right to join any share-sale transaction and sell his stake along with the one who is exiting.

The RoFR and 'tag-along' clause are also enshrined in the company's Articles of Association (AoA). However, the SHA says the provisions of the agreement will 'expire on the fourth anniversary of the (company's IPO)' except the clause that gives Bhatia controlling rights over the airline. This clause will survive in the AoA. Legal experts said the AoA will need to be amended to reflect the expiry of the shareholders' agreement.

A person close to Bhatia said no thought has been given to this matter yet. "Not aware of how it will work. The articles have specified clauses, but we will have to look into it," said the source, who did not want to be identified.

**Both the founders have, on many occasions, insisted that they have no plans to sell stakes. But after the SHA expires, they will have the option of selling stakes to a third party. The Bhatia family and Inter-Globe Enterprises (IGE) together own 38.23%, while Gangwal, his wife and a trust hold 36.65%.**

**Differences between the two promoters became public a while ago when Gangwal wrote to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), raising concerns over corporate governance issues at InterGlobe Aviation and related-party transactions between the company and Bhatia's IGE.**

**Subsequently, the company has decided to finalise a new policy to regulate related-party transactions and to expand its board.**

27/07/19 Satish John/Mihir Mishra/Economic Times

**Lack of training, unsupervised maintenance and non-adherence to basic maintenance practices by SpiceJet led to the fatal incident causing death of a technician, India's aviation regulator DGCA has noted, sources told CNBC-TV18.**

**"The report of the committee has been received, which has pointed out that the Trainee (Engineer) was not trained and was carrying out work on the aircraft without any supervision by a trained/licensed engineer. Further, the landing gear door pin was not installed, which may have prevented the landing gear door to retract due to pressurising of the Hydraulic System," a committee set by the regulator has noted in its report.**

On July 9, a SpiceJet aircraft VT-SUR, operating on Kolkata-Silchar sector had taxied out from apron at 1535 IST and returned to bay no. 32 at 1555 IST due to snag in Yaw Damper unit.

The aircraft was parked at the Kolkata airport for trouble-shooting and rectification but that could not be completed by licensed engineers (AMEs) during the day shift and the task was carried forward by the engineers during the night shift.

During this time, the engineer, while attending to another snag on the same aircraft, pressurised the aircraft hydraulic systems to check the movement of flaps and spoilers.

"On pressurisation of the Hydraulic System, the right hand (RH) landing gear door closed resulting in the trapping of the Trainee (Engineer) who was carrying out layover inspection inside the right hand (RH) main wheel aft door. The Trainee (Engineer) was taken out by cutting the doors and was declared dead by the attending doctor," DGCA report stated.

26/07/19 Anu Sharma/CNBC TV18

**While 46.4 million travelers flew in the Indian domestic sector between January and April of this year, a recent report by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) states that revenue per passenger mile on India's airlines actually fell 0.5% year-on-year.**

**The impact is reflected in the failure of Jet Airways, a large airline that suspended operations in April, causing 22,000 employees to lose their jobs. The company entered bankruptcy court in June.** "While the aviation potential of India is huge, it is a challenging market," says Albert Tjoeng, assistant director of corporate communications for APAC at the IATA, in a statement for the association.

**The last few decades have seen several Indian airlines rise and fall. The national carrier, Air India, is in debt to the tune of \$4.2 billion, running at a loss and set to be privatized. Most recently, Air Costa suspended operations in 2017. Prior to that, carriers such as Kingfisher Airlines (owned by business tycoon Vijay Mallya), Air Sahara, Air Deccan, and Air Pegasus all either merged or ceased operations.**

**Tjoeng points to high operating costs, noting that fuel eats up 34% of the operating costs of Indian carriers—compared to an industry average of about 24%. "Coupled with the depreciation of the Indian rupee," he notes, "it is a double whammy for the airlines."**

**He also points to excise duties and state taxes that can climb to as high as 30%. "These issues need to be addressed to strengthen the Indian airline industry," he says. Aviation in India supports 7.5 million jobs—including 390,000 directly and 6.2 million in tourism—and contributes some \$30 billion annually to GDP, according to IATA.**

26/07/19 Divya Nair/Global Finance

**Thiruvananthapuram: the Union Government decision to allot the slots vacated by the grounded Jet Airways to other airlines has proved costly for the state as no major airlines have come forward to take up the slots vacated by the defunct airline. Further, as if this was not enough, some of the other airlines which received the slots of Jet Airways from metro cities have withdrawn the aircraft from Kerala in order to cash in on the more economically viable routes from there.**

According to sources, around four flights from Kochi to various destinations have been hit after airlines such as Indigo and Spicejet withdrew their aircrafts from here to deploy them on other more economically viable routes during peak times. There were around 13 daily flights to various destinations including overseas destinations from Kochi for Jet Airways. None of the airlines, which were allotted the slots, have come forward to offer service on Jet Airways routes.

When Adoor Prakash, MP, pointed out in the Parliament, that various airlines were charging exorbitant rates on the Kerala-Gulf routes, Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that in the wake of drop in overseas services following the grounding of Jet Airways, the ministry has temporarily allocated those routes to other airlines even on international sectors including India - Gulf sector to facilitate the passenger movement.

Though Kerala-Gulf sector was a profitable route for many airlines, the slots vacated by Jet have no major takers till now in the international sector. There were three international flights for Jet to Gulf from Thiruvananthapuram international airport besides one Mumbai-Trivandrum domestic service.

**The three international routes are still vacant and the domestic route was taken over by Spicejet.**

In the case of Kozhikode Airport, there were three international and two domestic flights from there before Jet Airways was grounded. All those slots are now vacant, one of the airport officials said. As per the bilateral flying rights of Jet Airways with five countries, which were previously allocated to them have now been temporarily given to Air India and Air India Express till the end of the summer schedule this year. As per the bilateral rights, for instance, the Jet had 5,852 seats per week in the India-Dubai sector and 5,670 seats per week in India-Qatar sector. The Union government recently suspended giving 'point of call' for the foreign airlines companies in the airports here to support domestic companies. But even after this, there are no takers.

27/07/19 Dhinesh Kallungal/New Indian Express

**Airport Authority of India (AAI) Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra said "In the wake of privatisation effort, the role of AAI needs to be redefined. The government will take the final call AAI need not be there, where there is a private operator who can operate, but we certainly need to look up to those area where private sector will not come. Whatever money we get form the private sector disinvestment that we have done in the favour of the private sector is the money we need to plough back into these unviable places."**

27/07/19 ANI/Yahoo!

New Delhi: **Central government plans to lease out 20-25 more airports in the country**, a senior official said on Friday.

**According to Airports Authority of India Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra, these airports will have substantial passenger traffic of 1-1.5 million annually.**

Last year, the government approved a proposal to leasing out of six airports — Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru — for operation, management and development under the Public Private Partnership (PPP).

This was Mohapatra's last media interaction as AAI Chairman. He will assume his new responsibilities as Secretary of Department of Industry and Internal Trade from August 1.

27/07/19 IANS/Statesman

Kolkata: **For the first time, Kolkata airport authorities have commissioned remote registered baggage X-ray and check-in facilities in New Town for pilgrims travelling to Mecca in Saudi Arabia for Haj.** Such facilities are available in several cities abroad like Frankfurt and Kuala Lumpur, particularly in airport metro lines where check-in and luggage X-ray are done at the metro station in the city centre.

Till last year, a large shamiana was built in front of the old terminal where the Haj pilgrims would congregate before entering the airport. But this year, owing to a number of construction activities in the airport premises, the shamiana came up at New Town and half of the boarding process has been shifted there.

"Airports Authority of India has provided X-ray baggage inspection system (XBIS) and check-in facility at the Madinat-ul-Hajjaj, the Haj house in New Town so that Haj pilgrims can simply undergo security check at the airport and board the flight," airport director Kaushik Bhattacharya told TOI. With Kolkata airport being the embarkation point for Haj pilgrims from seven states, the airport has to



deal with a sharp rise in passenger movement during Haj. During a 10-day period between July 25 and August 5 this year, 11,831 pilgrims are scheduled to travel for Haj. Of them, 8,043 pilgrims are from Bengal and the rest from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, Manipur and Tripura.

“Once baggage X-ray and check-in are completed at the Haj centre in New Town, immigration and security check can be done in a coordinated manner at the airport. We are using the old domestic terminal exclusively for Haj pilgrims to ensure that they have a hassle-free experience. At the same time, it will prevent over-crowding of the integrated terminal,” an airport official said

27/07/19 Tamaghna Banerjee/Times of India

**Trichy: The new terminal for Trichy International Airport has made into the shortlist of the Leading European Architecture Forum (LEAF) Awards in category of best future building under construction project.** The designer of the terminal building Pascall+Watson group has shared the information on their site.

The Pascall+Watson (formerly Pascall+Watson Architects) which is an international architectural firm, founded in 1956 by Clive Pascall and Peter Watson, has designed the new terminal building of Trichy international airport.

**The ABB LEAF Awards is an annual international architectural prize.** It recognises innovative architectural design that sets the benchmark for the international architectural community of the next generation. The LEAF Awards program is operated by the Leading European Architects Forum (LEAF), founded in 2001.

As the design of the new terminal building fuses references from local heritage and culture with a contemporary architectural language, creating a sense of place and identity for arriving and departing passengers, the designer Pascall+Watson has sent the design to LEAF awards.

27/07/19 D Vincent Arokiaraj/Times of India

**Jammu: ‘Approved’ by the Central government around 18 months ago, a new airport of international standards exists only on paper as except BJP leaders’ verbal statements nothing has been done on the ground.**

Even senior government officers in **Samba**, where the new airport will come up, are not aware about the “dream” project because they have not received any official communiqué to identify the land for the project.

On December 21, 2017, the then Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh and BJP Lok Sabha member from Jammu-Poonch Jugal Kishore Sharma had announced that the Centre had given its nod for a new airport of international standards in the Jammu region. In all likelihood, the airport will be constructed in Samba district.

The BJP leaders had made the statement after meeting the then Civil Aviation Minister Gajapati Raju, who according to them, had agreed to the demand for the construction of a new airport in the Jammu region.

In December 2017, it was also announced that a team from the Civil Aviation Ministry would visit Jammu within days to finalise the land already identified by the state government in Samba district for the new airport.

26/07/19 Dinesh Manhotra/Tribune

Chennai: **The city airport will be able to handle around 100 more flights by the end of the year as two rapid exit taxiways, which are being constructed, are expected to be ready by then.** Currently, the airport handles around 400 flights per day. The taxiways will help planes exit the runways soon after landing and move to the taxiway so that air traffic controllers will be able to allow more planes to take off and land from the main and the second runway, thereby increasing the flight handling capacity of the airport.

Sources said the work, which is part of phase two expansion of the airport, is crucial to handle more aircraft. The airport's capacity will go up to 450 to 500 if the rapid exit taxiways are ready. As the airport does not have rapid exit taxiways, aircraft take around 10 minutes to vacate the runway. In the case of the second runway, it takes longer as planes that land on the second runway have to taxi down and cross the main runway to reach the terminals. "The rapid exit taxiways are planned so that planes that land on the main runway move out quickly and the distance between planes that approach the airport can be reduced. The work is currently underway and around 50% is complete. The rest will be ready by the end of the year. The work is progressing well to meet the deadline," an Airports Authority of India (AAI) official said.

As the main runway of the airport does not have a rapid exit taxiway, air traffic controllers have to allocate more space between planes so that there will be enough time for one aircraft to move out before the next lands. The rapid exit taxiways are linked from the main runway to the taxiway that runs parallel to the runway. The taxiways are designed in such a way that they may be used by small as well as larger planes.

27/07/19 Times of India

Mumbai: This week, an unemployed resident of Mumbai called up the Mumbai airport to inquire about job opportunities. The call was received by the airport's control room.

**During the call, the man asked, "Bombay airport hai?" [Is this the Bombay airport], using the city of Mumbai's British-era name. However, the person who received the call at the airport control room misheard that as, "Bomb hai airport pe" [There is a bomb at the airport].**

**The airport staff then raised a security alarm, sparking an alert that lasted for a couple of hours.**

The comical incident was reminiscent of a similar call from last year when the caller asked about a "BOM-DEL" [Bombay-Delhi] flight and the receiver apparently misheard that as "bomb hai".

However, the operator who picked up the call heard "bomb hai" and alerted the police, who placed the man under arrest. Airport authorities stood by their operator, who claimed that the man indeed had made a hoax bomb call.

26/07/19 India Today

New Delhi/Mumbai: **IndiGo has sounded out five prominent personalities to join the board as the airline's first independent woman director.**

The carrier has approached former PepsiCo chief Indra Nooyi, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations chairperson Isher Judge Ahluwalia, ex-MD of Britannia Vinita Bali, former HP India head Neelam Dhawan and ex-HSBC India head Naina Lal Kidwai.

"The airline board will decide on the candidate very soon," said a person familiar with the development, who did not want to be identified.

The appointment of an independent woman member on the airline's board is part of an agreement reached after co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal complained to the market regulator that IndiGo was not

following corporate governance norms.  
27/07/19 Satish John/Economic Times

**New Delhi: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed a contract with Aireon LLC for implementation of Aireon's air traffic surveillance service in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata's oceanic airspaces. These regions are located in the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean and represent over six million square kilometers. The goal is to deploy space-based Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) by the end of 2019.**

This landmark agreement will immediately provide AAI coverage of all ADS-B OUT 1090 MHz equipped oceanic air traffic, ensuring one of the densest oceanic airspaces in the world has access to the best tools to enhance safety and efficiency and accommodate unprecedented double-digit growth, year over year. Beyond those benefits, real-time air traffic surveillance over the busy routes between South East Asia, India, the Middle East and Europe and beyond will significantly increase efficiency and improve transitions between oceanic and domestic airspace.

'The decision to implement Aireon's technology is not only a major step in improving safety and enhancing capacity for our flying public, but also ensures that as one of the globe's fastest growing markets, we are planning for our continued growth,' said Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI. 'AAI will be the first Air Navigation Service Provider in the region to implement a technological initiative, on this scale, and offer enhanced air traffic surveillance services to its users.'

India has become the third largest aviation market in the world with a rate of sustained double-digit growth for the last 50 months. Forecasts suggest that the growth will continue, and Indian airspace is going to experience an imminent need for additional capacity.

26/07/19 PSU Connect

**Heavy rains in Mumbai affected air services leading to cancellation of 11 flights and diversion of nine incoming aircraft to nearby airports on July 27,** an official said. The operations at the city airport, however, are now normal, the official said.

The cancelled flights include seven departures and four arrivals.

"As many as 11 flights of various airlines are cancelled for today. These include seven departures and four arrivals. In addition to this, nine flights which were scheduled to arrive in Mumbai have been diverted to other nearby airports due to rains and other issues," the official said.

Of the seven departures, budget carrier IndiGo has cancelled five, while Air India and gulf carrier Emirates have cancelled one each.

27/07/19 PTI/Moneycontrol.com

**INS KADAMBA NAVAL BASE, KARWAR: A full-fledged naval air station which can be utilised for commercial operations will come up at INS Kadamba Naval Base in Karwar by 2025. This naval station will help in decongesting INS Hansa air station at Dabolim in Goa.**

The ongoing naval base expansion work — Seabird Phase II A — is expected to be completed by 2023. Once operational, it will be the largest naval base in Asia. As part of the expansion work, the naval air station will come up at Alageri village near Ankola and it is expected to start functioning in 2025.

According to sources, the naval air station will come up in 1,328 acres. There is no need for additional land as the required land is already available with the Navy.

The naval air station will accommodate Dornier-228 type aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and more. **INS Hansa is very congested owing to a large number of civilian flights**

**and naval flights, including training flights, using it. Once the Karwar naval air station starts functioning, several aircraft from INS Hansa can be diverted here,** said a naval officer.

In the proposed naval air station, the Navy is planning to construct an airstrip measuring 2,000 m for the landing of their aircraft. The state government, which has plans to construct a civilian airport in Uttara Kannada district, has initiated talks with the Defence Ministry to use the upcoming naval air station for civilian operations.

The Defence Ministry has agreed to this proposal and it has asked the government to add an extra 1,000 m to the planned 2,000 m runway.

26/07/19 Arunkumar Huralimath/New Indian Express

**Mumbai: Even as the Mumbai anti narcotics cell (ANC) recently registered three cases of high quality cocaine allegedly smuggled from foreign countries by air, the air intelligence unit (AIU) of the Mumbai Customs department has for the last three years been requesting the government to provide body scanners to screen arrivals at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.**

On July 15, the ANC arrested a Nigerian national with over 1 kg of superior quality cocaine, worth ₹6 crore in the illegal drug market. The accused had allegedly obtained the drugs from a Mozambique native, who smuggled it into India through the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi. The seizure was also linked to two other hauls, where the cocaine was smuggled by drug mules through Mumbai airport.

AIU officers said in light of the rising number of cases of smuggling, not only of drugs but also other contraband, they had requested the Central government to provide them with body scanners.

"With the sheer number of people coming into the country on a daily basis, it is challenging to intercept cases of smuggling based only on profiling and tip-offs. A body scanner would help detect the presence of foreign objects inside a human body and would go a long way in curbing smuggling of contraband through human couriers," an AIU officer said.

27/07/19 Gautam S. Mengle/The Hindu

**Singapore: A Singaporean man of Chinese origin was sentenced to four weeks in jail and fined 1,000 Singapore dollars for racist remarks insulting an Indian national working at the Changi airport.**

William Aw Chin Chai (47) had also stepped on and hurt a foot of a woman, who had held a lift door open for him, and had splashed noodles on two men at the Singtel Shop Comcentre in separate incidents, reported Channel News Asia.

He pleaded guilty to the charges of wounding racial feelings, using criminal force and voluntarily causing hurt on Friday.

A fourth charge for stealing four mineral water bottles from a food court was taken into consideration.

The court heard that Aw was jobless when he committed those offences on three different occasions last year.

On July 3, he was in a lift at Changi Airport Terminal 2 when the victim, 33-year-old Indian national Ramachandiran Umapathy, entered the lift.

The construction worker was at the airport to perform installation works for the MRT (metro) tunnel. When he entered the lift, Aw began uttering: "You f\*\*\*\*\* dirty people, go out", "F\*\*\* off" and "I don't like to take (lift) with Indians, you smelly".

Ramachandiran told Aw off for making such racist remarks, Assistant Public Prosecutor Lydia Goh told the court.

The Indian had also filmed the exchange and posted it on the Facebook page of the Singapore Police Force. The video was later picked up by other pages and went viral. Ramachandiran had also lodged a police report.

27/07/19 PTI/India Today

**Kochi: Customs officials at the Cochin international airport made an assortment of seizures, including gold and currencies, amounting to ₹17.71 crore in the week ending July 25.**

In a major operation, they scuttled an attempt to export Indian currency to the tune of ₹17.27 crore in violation of the Reserve Bank of India guidelines with the active connivance of a major forex company through its counter at the security hold area of the airport. A senior manager of the company was arrested and remanded in this connection.

A mix of US dollars and Indian currencies to the tune of ₹6.92 lakh was seized from a passenger on July 23. In two other separate incidents, ₹70,000 and ₹80,000 hidden in the baggage of passengers were seized.

Nearly 700 grams of gold valued at ₹19.13 lakh were also seized during the period. Besides, four packets of brown thick paste of suspected gold weighing nearly 900 grams was seized though it was yet to be valued. Three bottles of liquor valued at ₹5,500 were also seized during the week.

27/07/19 The Hindu

**Chennai: Customs officials have foiled bids to smuggle in gold, old laptops and cigarettes worth Rs 35.2 lakh at the airport here.** Mohamed Asmathullah Khan, 30, of Ramanathapuram, who arrived from Dubai via Bahrain by a Gulf Air flight on Friday, was interrogated at the exit and admitted to having concealed gold in the form of rubbery spread in his rectum.

On extraction, gold weighing 276 grams worth Rs 10 lakh was recovered. On examination of his luggage, 10 used old laptops along with 10 cartons of Gudang Garam cigarettes worth Rs 73,000 were also recovered.

In a different case, 20 camera lenses of Canon make and 20 Apple airpods worth Rs 6 lakh and a 58-gram gold cut bit worth Rs 2 lakh were recovered from Sunil Hariram of Ulashnagar (Maharashtra), who had arrived from Singapore by an Air India Express Airline flight.

In another incident, Mahariba Beevi (50) of Pudukkottai, who had arrived from Colombo by an Indigo Airlines flight, was found to have concealed four bundles of gold in rubbery form in her rectum.

On extraction, gold weighing 458 grams valued at Rs 16.5 lakh was recovered.

27/07/19 New Indian Express

**Hyderabad: The Air Cargo Complex of the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad has been selected out of 14 customs stations across the country to determine aggregate rankings in customs processing,** informed MRR Reddy, Principal Commissioner of Secunderabad GST zone, who until recently headed the Hyderabad customs commissionerate.

**He also said that there was a proposal to start an international courier terminal at the RGIA, which will be the fifth in the country after Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru. He added that it might become operational in the next two months.**

Reddy informed that the process for the customs rankings was recently initiated. The customs department, along with Air Cargo Complex, Shamshabad and KPMG which has been appointed as a consultant will study the processes at different customs stations for the rankings, an important part of which will be the Cargo Release Time.

Observations for the rankings would be completed by September 7 and it would most probably be out before the end of this year, said Reddy. He pointed out that this exercise would also help towards improving India's ranking internationally.

26/07/19 New Indian Express

**Dholera International Airport news: With the Dholera International Airport Company Limited (DIACL) deciding to fast-track the airport project late last month, decks have been cleared for work on the upcoming greenfield airport. The Dholera International Airport is a part of Dholera Special Investment Region (Dholera SIR) of Gujarat government, located at a distance of 100 kilometres south west of Ahmedabad. Once fully operational, the Dholera International Airport is likely to have an annual capacity of 50 million passengers. The project is being implemented with an aim to decongest the saturated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad.**

Dholera International Airport: Key facts about the project

- The Dholera Airport will be built on 1700 acres of land, 29 km from Dholera and 80 km from Ahmedabad. The Dholera International Airport project aims to decongest the Ahmedabad airport, which has been handling 11 million passengers per annum, as against its capacity of 7 million passengers.
- Besides decongesting Ahmedabad Airport, the upcoming airport in Dholera will also cater to other regions of Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Kheda, Nadiad and Anand in Gujarat. The first phase of the airport is likely to become operational by the year 2024.
- The airport is expected to have two huge runways on it. One of the runways to be built in the first phase with a capacity to handle up to 30 million passengers per annum. The second runway would be built under the project's second phase, having a capacity of 20 million passengers per annum.
- The airport will be well connected with city's transport systems. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has acquired a 120 metres wide strip extending from Dholera SIR (Special Investment Region) to Ahmedabad. 90 metres of this strip would be used for a six-lane highway and 30 metres for a Metro link.
- For the infrastructure development at Dholera SIR including the Dholera International Airport, the state government of Gujarat would be investing Rs 20,000 crore.

26/07/19 Devanjana Nag/Financial Express

**Noida: The Gautam Budh Nagar administration will start the takeover process of the property earmarked for Jewar international airport and complete the rehabilitation and resettlement process of 1,700 families within a week, officials said.**

Starting next week, the administration will start acquiring land in areas where people are not currently residing. The administration has already distributed around Rs 1,500 crore as compensation to landowners and another Rs 1,300 crore is yet to be disbursed.

"Over 50% compensation disbursement for the airport land is complete and the rest will be done soon. By next week, we will start taking possession of the land from owners. Our aim is to hand over the maximum land to the Authority by August 31," said B N Singh, district magistrate.

Singh explained that around 80% of the land is not occupied and does not have any habitation. **The administration will initially take over this portion of the property and hand it over to the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) that will hand it over to the contractor who will build the**

airport.

26/07/19 Times of India

**The demise of Jet Airways has opened up new international opportunities for India's remaining airlines, with most airlines grabbing the opportunity with both hands.** Before its slow descent towards its 17 April suspension of operations, around two-thirds of Jet's capacity was on international services, making it the second largest operator of seats from India after flag carrier Air India. Since the airline suspended operations, New Delhi has been scrambling to reallocate a number of bilateral rights and airport slots to other Indian operators. Some in the Indian media have questioned how the Ministry of Civil Aviation has been allocating those rights and slots, but indications are that most carriers have benefited from the process.

In recent weeks, IndiGo, SpiceJet and Vistara have announced new routes from Mumbai, most of which are directly replacing seats previously operated by Jet.

#### **New international routes announced since Jet Airways grounding**

<b>Carrier</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Start date</b>
IndiGo	Kolkata-Yangon	Daily	20-Sep
	Delhi-Dhaka	Daily	22-Aug
	Delhi-Jeddah	Daily	25-Jul
	Mumbai-Kuwait	Daily	5-Aug
	Delhi-Chengdu	Daily	15-Sep
	Kolkata-Hong Kong	Daily	20-Aug
	Mumbai-Dammam	Daily	5-Jul
	Chennai-Kuala Lumpur	Daily	15-Jul
	Mumbai-Jeddah	Daily	5-Jun
	Mumbai-Abu Dhabi	Daily	5-Jun
	Mumbai-Singapore	Daily	22-Aug
	Mumbai-Bangkok	Daily	22-Aug
SpiceJet	Mumbai-Hong Kong	Daily	31-Jul
Vistara	Delhi-Singapore	Daily	6-Aug
	Mumbai-Singapore	Daily	7-Aug

Source: Company announcements & Cirium schedules data

IndiGo has launched the most new routes, but not all of them are directly linked to Jet's demise. Prior to the collapse of its rival, the carrier had foreshadowed that around half of the 30% increase in capacity it has planned for the 2019/20 fiscal year would be on international routes.

A number of those include new links to destinations already connected to its network, such as Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok, albeit from new cities in India. That most routes have launched with a daily frequency may illustrate both the constrained demand and the simple operating principles that the carrier has.

Vistara's two routes to Singapore will be its first international operations when they start in early August. The carrier reached the all-important 20 aircraft fleet to gain international rights last year, and had been expected to launch Colombo as its first route.

Nonetheless, Singapore makes complete sense for Vistara, given it is the home port of 49% shareholder Singapore Airlines. Further expansion on long-haul routes will likely occur in 2020, when the carrier expects to receive its first Boeing 787-9.

At the other end of the scale, SpiceJet talked a big game in April with plans to launch flights from Mumbai to Colombo, Dhaka, Riyadh, Hong Kong and Kathmandu from late May. However, June schedules data shows that it has only launched one route – Mumbai-Hong Kong – perhaps signalling that it was not awarded the routes it was seeking.

More growth will come soon from Air India and its budget unit, Air India Express, which have been granted several route allocations and additional seats.

#### **Air India route awards**

<b>Route</b>	<b>Weekly Seats Awarded</b>	<b>Seats now operated</b>
Dubai	5,852	12,254
Hong Kong	1,792	1,792
Qatar*	5,670	4,650
Singapore	1,620	4,060
United Kingdom	4,788	8,538
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>19,722</b>	<b>31,294</b>

Source: Rayja Sabha & Cirium schedules data. \*Qatar routes operated by Air India Express

Officially, the international routes awarded to other carriers are only on a temporary basis. In theory, if Jet can secure a buyer through the bankruptcy resolution process, those could be returned to the airline. For now, though, the prospects of that seem unlikely, given the failure of the previous search for new investors.

#### **DOMESTIC GROWTH SLOWS**



On the domestic front, the capacity lost from Jet's exit appears to have already been filled, at least according to IndiGo chief executive Ronojoy Dutta.

"Domestically we just don't see a big change. Like we said, March was strong, April was strong, but by June the effect was almost zero," he told analysts during the airline's second quarter earnings call.

"The scramble now really is to replace most of [Jet's capacity], so this is not added capacity, it is Jet capacity that went down and is being replaced partially by us, partially by Spice, Vistara and so forth. So you don't see a net-net increase in capacity."

Dutta's assertions at the macro level are supported by Cirium schedules data for the third quarter showing that domestic ASMs are only set to rise by 3.9%, relative to the third quarter of 2018. By comparison, Q3 2017 against Q3 2018 showed ASM growth of 15.2%.

#### Indian domestic market comparison by airline - Q3 2019 vs Q3 2018

Airline	Q3 2019 v Q3 2018 Difference			% Difference		
	Flights	Seats	ASMs	Flights	Seats	ASMs
TrueJet	-690	45080	10292920	-16.6%	22.4%	23.2%
IndiGo	16948	2527202	1385346292	16.2%	14.0%	13.3%
Alliance Air	1015	83810	16248640	10.9%	13.3%	10.7%
Jet Airways	-38497	-5784302	-3295470044			
Air India	3009	567473	372475179	10.5%	12.4%	13.8%
GoAir	4399	791820	406083780	21.3%	21.3%	18.0%
AirAsia India	2828	509040	295479720	23.7%	23.7%	22.5%
Air India Express	142	26412	8304900	19.6%	19.6%	13.3%
JetLite	-4154	-656562	-320543858			
SpiceJet	12896	2243512	1646422078	37.9%	43.9%	59.7%
Vistara	4510	816308	452456946	44.8%	51.3%	39.8%
Zoom Air	-1210	-56870	-23254284			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1196</b>	<b>1112923</b>	<b>953842269</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>2.61%</b>	<b>3.89%</b>

Source: Cirium's schedules data

The third quarter is generally seen as the weakest one in India but recent talk of an economic slowdown in the country may also be causing some carriers to dial back growth plans.

Dutta says that IndiGo didn't see any evidence of that during the second quarter. However, booking trends for tickets up to 15 days prior to departure – where carriers usually drive up prices – were showing some signs of softening in the third quarter.

Despite talking down the impact of Jet on the market, IndiGo is planning to operate nearly 17,000 additional flights across its network in the quarter, making it one of the largest contributors to plugging the 42,000 flights lost from Jet and its JetLite unit, based on their schedule over the same period in 2018.

Relative to its network size in the previous corresponding quarter, SpiceJet added the most capacity by ASMs, up 60% as it added almost 13,000 new flights to its schedule. That largely reflects the addition of former Jet Airways aircraft into its fleet, most of which are being used on domestic trunk routes, such as Mumbai-Delhi.

In the full-service sphere, Vistara is continuing its ramp-up, with its capacity up 40% as it added over 4,500 new flights compared to the same period the year before. Air India's capacity will rise 14% with just over 3,000 new flights to be operated in the domestic market.

The other budget carriers are not standing still, with AirAsia India planning to up its ASMs by 23% as it adds just over 2,800 new flights to its schedule for the quarter. Go Air is also slated to operate 18% more capacity by adding around 4,400 flights to the market.

#### TURBULENCE AHEAD?

**The domestic numbers show that Jet's capacity has been replaced, but it is hard to tell if the relatively low capacity growth over the third quarter has bigger implications.**

Given IndiGo is by far the largest carrier in the market, comments that there is some softening in the 0-15 day market could be a sign of wider softening. Alternatively, it may just reflect the traditionally weaker season. Either way, it appears hard to call if there is a structural issue or just a blip.

**The domestic market aside, it is clear international will be a growing focus for India's carriers – at least as far as the country's bilaterals allow it. That may put pressure on New Delhi to seek more liberal arrangements with other countries to allow more than one or two carriers on a route. This in turn promises to open up a larger market for outbound Indian tourism.**

**For now, it is clear that the gap left by Jet's exit from the market has been plugged, and a new chapter is taking place in India's skies.**

Flight Global 26/07/2019

**Kochi: Small and even some big individual shareholders of Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) have demanded the airport to launch its initial public offerings (IPO), and are set to raise the issue during its annual general meeting (AGM) on September 29.**

Investors argue that the CIAL has been promising the IPO to unlock the share value after it first raised funds from individuals for the airport project in the 1994-99 period. Some of the big individual investors such as N V George (aka George V Nereparambil), founder of Geo Group of Companies, frustrated with holding on to the shares for over two decades, have sold a large chunk of his shares in private transactions.

A source close to George told Express that he has reduced his stake in CIAL from 16 per cent to 9.45 per cent last year. "In the private market, Cochin Airport's share is being transacted at `120-150/share. If CIAL is listed on the stock market after the IPO, the shares would easily command `250-500/share," said the source.

**The Kerala government, which holds nearly 32.42 per cent in CIAL, is the largest shareholder, while NRI billionaire Yusuffali M A has been acquiring stake quietly in recent years to become the second-biggest shareholder at 9.7318 per cent. Kochi-based Synthite Industries owns 6.53 per cent while central PSUs BPCL (3.43 per cent), Housing and Urban Development Corporation (3.285 per cent), Air India (3.267 per cent) and State Bank of India (3.267 per cent) are the other big investors.**

**There are other 18,000 small investors in CIAL, whose combined ownership is less than 10 per cent. CIAL, which pioneered the concept of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in airport infrastructure development, reported a net profit of `166.92 crore on a turnover of `650.34 crore during 2018-19. It has also been giving healthy dividend over 25 per cent over the past many years.**

26/07/19 Rajesh Abraham/New Indian Express

**Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has mooted strong partnership with Israel in UP defence corridor project and police modernisation programme.**

At a meeting with Israeli ambassador to India Ron Malka in Lucknow on Thursday night, the CM solicited Israel's co-operation in projects like the UP defence corridor and the **Jewar International Airport**.

Besides, Adityanath also sought Israel's co-operation in modernising the state police force and setting up ultra-modern police control rooms and command centres.

Observing that India and Israel share old ties, the CM said the state was looking to forge closer relationship with Israel to further cement the mutual bond between the two nations.

He said India-Israel relations had touched newer heights with their respective prime ministers - Narendra Modi and Benjamin Netanyahu - visiting each other's countries. On January 16, 2018, Adityanath had welcomed Netanyahu at Agra during the latter's visit to Taj Mahal.

26/07/19 Virendra Singh Rawat/Business Standard

**Guwahati: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has received a proposal to develop a new greenfield airport in Silchar, Union minister of state in charge of civil aviation, Hardeep Singh Puri, has informed the Lok Sabha. The minister said that AAI has requested the Assam government to share the land details for conducting a pre-feasibility study.**

**Puri added that the civil aviation department has also granted an 'in-principle approval' for setting up a new greenfield airport at Hollongi in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. "For Hollongi airport, AAI has started preparing the bidding documents," he stated.**

**The minister further said, "AAI has initiated action for the construction of a new terminal building at airports in Guwahati and Imphal, re-carpeting of the runway at Lilabari Airport, extension of runway and allied works at airports in Dibrugarh and Barapani, strengthening of runway at Dimapur Airport, construction of hangar and cargo building at Agartala Airport and the development of Rupsi and Tezu airports."**

The minister also added that development of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by AAI from time to time, depending on factors such as availability of land, commercial viability, socioeconomic considerations, traffic demand and willingness of airlines to operate to and from particular airports.

26/07/19 Times of India

**Patna: A 31-year-old man carrying an unlicensed country-made pistol in his luggage was detained by CISF personnel at the city airport on Thursday morning.** He was booked on a flight to New Delhi and was reportedly scheduled to fly to Dubai on Friday.

CISF sources said the pistol wrapped in a home-cooked food packet was found in his check-in baggage during security-check around 8.30am. The flyer, Mohammad Ijaaz, was set to board the 9.05am IndiGo flight 6E-6367 from Patna. Ijaz is from Nawada and currently resides in the city's Sabzibagh area where he works as an electrician. "He was caught at the security check-point with the pistol by CISF personnel. The gun was tucked in his food packet in his luggage. Ijaaz was about to board the flight which leaves at 9.05am for New Delhi," airline sources said. "The detained man was set to take an Air India flight to Dubai from New Delhi on Friday," the source added.

CISF officials said the police was alerted and Ijaz was whisked away from the crowded terminal.

**During questioning, he is said to have told the CISF personnel that he was not aware of any weapon in his luggage. Ijaz was then handed over to the airport police.**

26/07/19 Faryal Rumi/Times of India

Hyderabad: **In the last one year, 222 commercial pilots were grounded primarily for two reasons — reporting drunk or for in-flight incidents such as overshooting the runway and rough landings. Of these, 78 pilots were involved in breathalyser violations, and 144 were involved in other incidents.**

**Twelve pilots were issued show-cause notices for tail strikes — the tail of the aircraft striking the runway during take-off — and plane overshooting the runway.**

**In June and July this year six commercial flights were involved in serious incidents which could have turned deadly.**

June 30 was a nightmare for Indian aviation. A Spicejet Q400 aircraft from Bhopal to Surat overran the runway when landing in Surat. The same day an Air India Express B737 aircraft operating from Dubai to Mangaluru was involved in a runway related violation.

On July 1 and 2, three Spicejet flights and an Air India Express, all at different locations, overran the runway. The Spicejet flight from Pune to Kolkata damaged the runway lights.

Going by the data, 12 pilots were grounded in the two months of June and July from these two commercial airlines.

According to the mandated procedure, every pilot is supposed to walk into the safe room to give the breathalyser test. The pilot should write down personal details including his licence number beside the alcohol reading. It is the responsibility of the pilot to give the test. But since no one oversees this procedure, many give it a miss.

29/07/19 Coreena Suares/Deccan Chronicle

**Dubai: More than 200 passengers were holed up in a hotel for 33 hours on Sunday after their Air India flight from Dubai to Kochi was grounded due to engineering issues.**

Flight AI934 was meant to depart at 1.30pm from Dubai on Saturday but didn't leave until 10.30pm on Sunday. The Dreamliner aircraft eventually arrived in Kochi at 3.55am local time on Monday morning.

A spokesperson from Air India had told Gulf News: "There is an engineering issue we are trying to rectify. A full team of engineers has come in from India to rectify the issue. A revised departure time is subject to engineering clearance. All passengers have been taken to a hotel and are being taken care of," the spokesperson added.

Passengers had been given a tentative departure time of 7.30pm on Sunday, but that remained subject to clearance.

"I've been staying in Dubai over 20 years and this is the first time I've experienced such a thing," said one passenger Addhul Dafoor, who has missed his cousin's wedding due to the inconvenience.

28/07/19 Ashley Hammond/Gulf News

A Mumbai-Bound Air India Express flight returned to the terminal from the runway at Dubai international airport on Sunday evening as passengers on board complained of suffocation due to an air conditioning glitch in the aircraft.

Passengers on the flight that was supposed to take off at 6 pm from Dubai, "returned from the runway after a woman complained of suffocation," said Prakash Rohra, a passenger.

"No announcement was made when the flight returned from the runway though," said Rupesh Shah, another passenger. He also complained of non-cooperative in-flight staff.

"They were very rude. Passengers, who were clicking pictures and recording videos, were forced to delete them. The staff had no courtesy to inform us about their course of action. However, they were quick to threaten us saying they would call the police if we didn't delete the pictures and videos," said Shah in a telephonic conversation with mid-day.

29/07/19 Diwakar Sharma/Mid Day

While reiterating his interest in bidding for Jet Airways through the partnership with employee consortium, AdiGro Aviation Founder Sanjay Viswanathan aired his concerns on the 'unpredictability' of the insolvency process.

"AdiGroup remains interested in Jet Airways and through employee consortium. We have capital firepower, and appetite to co-invest and transform the airline," Viswanathan told Moneycontrol.

However, he aired concerns over the "unpredictability of the NCLT-led process." Viswanathan said, "One has to only look at the track record of resolutions in NCLT to realise that with best intentions of all stakeholders, cases are not resolved for a year or longer."

AdiGro Aviation has thus asked its partner, the Jet Airways employee consortium, to get confirmation from resolution professional (RP) and Committee of Creditors (CoC) to guarantee resolution in the 90-day window ending September 20. Jet Airways was admitted to NCLT on June 20.

**"If employee consortium can secure us this by end of the day, Tuesday, 30 July, we'll be happy to submit EoI by August," said Viswanathan.**

**August 3 is the deadline to submit the expression of interest.**

The two sides had joined hands on June 28, to jointly bid for Jet Airways.

29/07/19 Prince Mathews Thomas/Moneycontrol.com

New Delhi: Jet Airways' related party transactions (RPTs) have come under SFIO scanner, according to an ET NOW report. The SFIO is likely to probe into beleaguered airline's third-party contracts, as it suspects siphoning of funds by the airline via the RPTs, the report suggests.

SFIO would also probe RPTs between Jet Airways and its founder Naresh Goyal, whose firm used to handle various arms of Jet Airways.

SFIO probe would also involve checking whether the third party transactions (TPTs) were done at higher than market value.

**MCA had found siphoning of funds in its prima facie investigations.**

29/07/19 Economic Times