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The Economic Times of India 22/10/2018

IndiGo has asked the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to remove restrictions on routes where its Pratt & Whitney engine-powered Airbus A320 Neo aircraft can fly and enable it to operate this plane on longer sectors.

DGCA has so far not allowed A320 Neos with PW engines to be flown on routes where they are more than an hour away from a nearest airport at any point during the journey, due to the snags in Pratt engines. The US and European aviation regulators have given their nod in the last two years.

As a result, the PW-powered A320 Neos with Indian carriers — **IndiGo and GoAir** — **do not have “extended diversion time operations” (EDTO) clearance.** “This clearance is required for aircraft with two or more engines to operate routes where the nearest suitable airport to make an emergency landing or divert to is more than an 60 minutes away at any point during the journey. The PW powered Neos in India have to fly on routes where an alternate landing airport is within 60 minutes away,” said a regulatory official.

According to PW, its A320 Neo engine “has been granted 180 minute ETOPS eligibility by the European Aviation Safety Agency.”

Now, IndiGo has sought EDTO clearance for the Neos as it prepares to make use of the extended range of these planes to fly them to farther places. IndiGo did not comment on this issue. It also did not say what all routes it would operate the Neos on once and if EDTO clearance is given to them.

IndiGo will start flying to Hong Kong and has got slots at London Gatwick where it may launch flights to next year. The world’s biggest customer for the A320 Neo aircraft, it currently has 180 A320s in its fleet.

The Economic times of India 22/10/2018

Credit-rating agency ICRA downgraded the long-term rating of InterGlobe Aviation’s Rs 8,000-crore bank facilities citing difficult macro-economic conditions facing India’s airline industry. InterGlobe Aviation operates India’s biggest airline, IndiGo.

ICRA downgraded the long-term rating to A+ from AA and reaffirmed the short-term rating of A1 on the loan facilities.

Instruments with AA ratings are considered to have high degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations. Such instruments carry very low credit risk.

A+ rating carries low credit risk, but is one notch below AA. The modifier + (plus) or – (minus) is appended to the rating symbols to indicate their relative position within the rating categories concerned. Thus, the rating of [ICRA] AA+ is one notch higher than [ICRA] AA, while [ICRA] AA- is one notch lower than [ICRA] AA. Instruments with A1 rating are considered to have very high degree of safety regarding timely payment of financial obligations.

“The outlook on the long term rating has been revised to Negative from Stable,” ICRA said in a recent statement.

Earlier this month, ICRA downgraded Jet's longterm borrowing programme, highlighting the financial crisis India's second biggest airline is facing.

The Economic times of India 19/10/2018

Two commercial flights with 350 people on board had come close to a mid-air collision over Kolkata on Monday before aircraft warning systems took over and pulled them away.

According to officials, an IndiGo plane that had taken off from Kolkata for Bagdogra was asked by ATC (air traffic control) to hold at 29,000 ft, while an AirAsia flight coming in from Bagdogra was asked to descend to the same level.

The aircraft were about 200 ft laterally of each other at about 11am in Kolkata airspace when their traffic collision avoidance systems got triggered, averting a mishap, the officials told ET, requesting not to be named.

A high-level inquiry has been ordered into the incident and two ATC officers — a radar controller and a procedure controller — have been taken off duty till the probe is completed, the officials said. "Both aircraft came about 200 feet close (sic) to each other, triggering the traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS), which diverted both aircraft and avoided a collision," one of the officials said. **IndiGo and AirAsia India confirmed the incident.**

"An inquiry has been ordered into the investigation and we are cooperating fully with the DGCA and ministry of civil aviation," AirAsia India said in a statement.

IndiGo issued a statement saying, "A traffic collision avoidance system resolution advisory was triggered on our aircraft flying from Kolkata to Bagdogra on October 15. Following normal procedures, this has been reported to the regulator."

TCAS initiates a manoeuvre by asking one aircraft to climb and avthe other to descend to ensure they don't hit each other. Computers on board the aircraft take over control from the pilots at this time.

An analyst ET spoke with said, "**Air traffic in India is growing but the aviation ecosystem is not growing enough to meet the demand. This looks like a case of an ATC error, which is most likely because the ATC officers are overworked due to shortage of staff. However, the pilots cannot be given a clean chit, as they could have acted before the resolution advisory was issued by the TCAS,**" said Shakti Lumba, a former pilot who headed operations department at IndiGo.

A resolution advisory is the second stage of warning from TCAS.

The Economic times of India 21/10/2018

A Pratt & Whitney engine-powered A320Neo plane of budget carrier GoAir was Saturday forced to return to Delhi after departing for Male due to a "component" issue while another Delhi-bound flight came back to Goa airport due to "faulty" alarm in the aircraft's cargo hold area, the airline said.

The airline, however, did not specify the number of passengers on board the two glitch-hit aircraft.

"GoAir Flight G8 174 from Delhi - Male suffered a technical glitch. As per the standard operating procedure, the captain decided to return to Delhi. **Post landing, the glitch was identified and rectified by changing a component.**

The aircraft is currently operational," GoAir said in a statement Sunday.

Significantly, the Wadia group-promoted no-frills airline had commenced flight services to Male from New Delhi and Mumbai only last week as part of its international operations.

The city-based airline made its foray into the international market on October 11 with the launch of its maiden flight to Phuket in Thailand.

As of now, its operating international services to these two destinations from New Delhi and Mumbai.

GoAir in a separate statement said that the Goa-Delhi service was forced to return to the originating airport as the pilot received a "faulty indication" on cargo hold.

"Flight G8 285, operating on Goa-Delhi route, made a precautionary landing due to a faulty indication on cargo hold," it said in the statement.

GoAir sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused to its passengers, it added.

The Economic times of India 23/10/2018

India plans to keep bilateral flying rights with Dubai, Singapore and Qatar unchanged after domestic carriers objected to an increase on the grounds that their international plans would be hit, an official said.

The move could, however, be against the interests of consumers and hurt one of India's newer airlines, analysts said. **Under the new civil aviation policy, any move to increase rights can only take place if Indian carriers utilise at least 80% of the entitlement on those routes.** All three had asked for an increase in rights as the destinations qualify on this count.

Indian carriers have used up rights to Dubai fully and those to Qatar by about 90%. With new Singapore flights having been started, utilisation on that route has breached the 80% mark. Emirates, Singapore Airlines and Qatar Airways carry a large percentage of onward traffic from India to Europe, the Americas and Africa through their home bases. The government decision comes as Indian carriers such as IndiGo and SpiceJet are aggressively expanding operations to international destinations

Off the Radar

Countries sought increase after Indian airlines used over **80%** of the quota


An unchanged limit may not be good news for airlines like Vistara that want to fly overseas

Analysts said the move wouldn't be in best interests of consumers

ED investigating foreign flying rights signed by UPA govt

New rights would have impacted international plans of Indian carriers

IndiGo has plans to launch one-stop flights to London while SpiceJet is considering long-haul flights. Both have also announced flights to Hong Kong



“The objection by Indian carriers has been on the grounds that these carriers carry a lot of sixth-freedom traffic through their hubs, thus taking away business from Indian carriers,” said the senior aviation ministry official cited above. **“We have accepted their concerns and would not be agreeing on any increase in foreign flying rights with these countries.”**

He also said that there was little support for the view that the government should increase rights marginally, as Indian carriers are closed to the limit.

'Against Concept of Free Market'

Sixth-freedom traffic refers to those who take flights beyond the home base of the airline, for instance a Singapore Airlines passenger who flies to the island city and then on to Los Angeles on the same carrier. IndiGo and SpiceJet, with newer planes in their fleets, are adding flights on international routes. IndiGo is said to have plans to launch one-stop flights to London, while SpiceJet is considering long-haul flights. Both airlines have also announced flights to Hong Kong.

While an unchanged limit may favour some carriers, it may not be good news for airlines like Vistara that have applied to the ministry to fly overseas and have sought rights to fly short-haul destinations that include Singapore, Male and others. Vistara is jointly owned by the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines. Analysts said the government should not limit rights as this wouldn't be in the best interests of consumers.

“This move would not only take away options from the consumer but also goes against the concept of free market,” said Mark Martin, CEO and founder of aviation advisory Martin Consulting. **“By blocking any more bilateral foreign flying rights, the government will be taking away options from consumers and forcing them to fly certain carriers —Indian carriers in this case.”** The government has been cautious about increasing bilateral flying rights following the stance of its predecessor that some domestic carriers have criticised as being overgenerous.

ET reported on October 4 that Enforcement Directorate was investigating bilateral air services agreements signed with West Asian countries between 2001 and 2012. The investigation will also look into the impact that the bilateral agreements had on the operations of debt-laden Air India.

The Economic times of india 23/10/2018

Taking an international flight from Hyderabad airport? Be sure to check with your airline about the departure as Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International airport is shifting its international flights to a new **interim International Departure Terminal (IIDT)** from today.

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has announced that all international flights will operate from the new terminal with effect from 10:30 am on October 23.

Here are all the details about the new terminal and things you should keep in mind while taking flight tomorrow:

- * The terminal is located adjacent to the Haj Terminal and can be accessed from both Shamshabad and Srisailem sides of the airport's main approach road via Rotary 1 (Cargo rotary).

- * A dedicated free shuttle service has been arranged between the existing terminal and the IIDT. This shuttle service will be available at the Arrivals Ramp. It takes close to 05 minutes to travel from the existing terminal to the new terminal.

- * Passengers of Air India International flights AI 127, AI 952, AI 978, AI 988, AI 966 & AI 051 and travelling to domestic destinations are advised to report at the new Terminal as per their scheduled departure times.

- * For any query, you can contact the helpline numbers: 040-66546370; 040-66606660 or write to the following email id: rgia.customersupport@gmrgroup.in.

Directional signs are placed all across the airport approach road and passengers are advised to follow directional signage to avoid any inconvenience.

- * Spread over one lakh sqft, the new international terminal has been built at a cost of Rs 50 crore and is equipped with a host of new technologies including India's first remote hand baggage screening facility.

- * It also has a new Automatic Tray Retrieval System hand baggage screening that can double the passenger throughput through security checkpoints.

It has all the modern day amenities including shopping, retail, food and beverages, and lounge access while waiting for boarding.

- * The airport also plans to offer a 'premium check-in' facility, where passengers traveling first or business class can experience a separate, personalised and assisted check-in process. It would also offer dedicated immigration and security counters to serve these passengers.

The Economic times of India 23/10/2018

Mukesh Sharma, diagnosed with mild conductive deafness, says his doctor has warned he may go permanently deaf; may move court.

One of the five passengers, who suffered ear and nosebleeds last month after the crew of a Mumbai-Jaipur flight forgot to turn on the switch that controls cabin pressure, fears he may never fully regain his aural abilities.

Mukesh Sharma, a PhD research scholar at the University of Aveiro in Portugal, was diagnosed with “mild conductive deafness” during treatment at Nanavati hospital on September 20. The condition should ideally dissipate in 10 days, but Sharma says his doctor at government-run SMS Hospital in Jaipur have given a dim prognosis.

“I have been told that damaged muscles/tissues in cases like this do not heal easily and chances of a full recovery are negligible,” he says. I was hoping that the condition would get resolved in a few weeks, but I have to now prepare for the long haul.”

Sharma says he was also told that advancing age would only worsen his condition.

Asked if his treating doctor had given this diagnosis in writing, he says, “No, he didn’t. But if a court asks for it, he can do so.”

The 31-year-old says his right ear in particular is more troubling. “It aches at times. I have been told that it still has blood clots. An audiometry test will have to be conducted, may be after Diwali.” The test ascertains a person’s ability to hear sounds.

Sharma says his condition has left him helpless. “As a research scholar, two things are key to my functioning—talking and listening. How can I respond if I have problems with hearing?”

He says he has spent over Rs 10,000 on medical treatment, including expenses for travel from Ajmer, where he resides, to Jaipur. “The airline should have borne the expenditure as it was due to their negligence that I have lost my hearing.” Sharma claims he has updated the airline’s representatives about his condition.

Sharma may approach court to seek compensation from Jet. “I’m in talks with a lawyer. If the audiometry test reveals that my ‘mild deafness’ will last forever, I will approach the consumer court.”

A Jet Airways spokesperson said all affected flyers were asked to share their medical reports with the airline to allow follow-ups on treatment and expenses.

“As the guest had not responded back to us on mail, our colleague dealing with the matter gave him a call and extended all support, and he was also asked to forward his medical documents to Jet Airways’ medical cell for review. The guest, however, stated that he would follow treatment with his doctors at Ajmer and would let us know. The guest apprised our guest relations team as recently as Monday that he is still under treatment; he has been informed once again to send his medical bills/treating doctors’ documents for review by the airline’s team, which is as per policy. He said he would forward the same to us soon (sic).”

Mumbai/Delhi: To avoid a default on loan payments, Jet Airways and SpiceJet have sought a moratorium on lease rent payment.

A weakened rupee, surge in crude oil prices and inability to raise fares have put pressure on all airlines, tightening their liquidity situation. In this backdrop, ratings agencies have downgraded the debt of all three listed airlines, including that of IndiGo, the market leader.

CRISIL has downgraded the rating of SpiceJet's Rs 14.45-billion debt, from the earlier BBB to one of BB-minus. ICRA has downgraded the rating for IndiGo's Rs 80-billion loan to A+ from the earlier AA. A SpiceJet spokesperson said the airline had secured a one-time relief of two to three months from a lessor. "The rating downgrade is an industry phenomenon and we continue to outperform the industry on financial metrics," the spokesperson added.

Jet Airways did not respond to a query but sources said it had sought discounts and easier payment terms, including 60-90 days of moratorium on its lease payments.

Jet has 124 aircraft in its fleet; 108 of these are on an operating lease (use for a specific period, without ownership transfer). In the case of SpiceJet, 47 of its 60 planes are on an operating lease.
22/10/18 Aneesh Phadnis & Arindam Majumdar/Business Standard

The Central Board of Investigation (CBI)-led probe into AirAsia India's money laundering case may put Vistara's plan to start international flights on the back burner, Mint reported.

The common denominator between the two airlines is Tata Sons. The conglomerate owns a 49 percent stake in Air Asia India, and runs Vistara in a joint venture with Singapore Airlines.

AirAsia India is being investigated by the investigative agency for allegedly lobbying the government to get licences to fly internationally by manipulating policies and violating foreign investment norms.

Meanwhile, Vistara in June this year applied for rights to start international flights, after it got its 20th aircraft delivered.

22/10/18 Moneycontrol.com

Mumbai: Jet Airways is said to be pruning its workforce and operations further as India's second biggest airline battles its worst financial crisis.

At least 15 people at manager or general manager level in departments such as engineering, security and sales have been asked to leave in October, said a person aware of the matter. "A few, but not all of them were aged. There was a lull in September but now the pink slips have begun again," he said. He reckoned **more exits are likely.**

The airline has grounded eight of its planes at the Chennai and Mumbai airports. They include an Airbus A330, a Boeing 777, two Boeing 737s and three ATR turboprops at Chennai airport besides one Airbus A330 in Mumbai.

The person cited above said engines have been dismantled from some of these planes, signifying that they may remain grounded for six months or more. **There has been speculation about Jet struggling with meeting lease payment obligations.**

22/10/18 Anirban Chowdhury/Economic Times

New Delhi: As it battles financial crisis, Jet Airways has decided to trim its workforce and operations further. Jet Airways asked 15 managerial level employees from departments such as engineering, security and sales to leave in October. A Jet Airways official said that there was a lull in September but the pink slips have begun again, as mentioned in a report in The Economic Times. Additionally,

the airline has also grounded eight of its planes at the Chennai and Mumbai airports.

The official said that engines have been dismantled from these planes. It essentially means that these planes may remain grounded for six months or more. There have also been **speculations that Jet is struggling to meet lease payment obligations**. The affected planes include an Airbus A330, a Boeing 777, two Boeing 737s and three ATR turboprops.

The airline, however, told the daily that it regularly evaluated fleet requirements. Jet Airways said that they regularly review its network to address its capacity exposure to routes, markets and airports. It did not comment on the workforce pruning. Jet Airways said that external factors such as crude price, rupee devaluation and pricing environment necessitate change in the airline's operations. It said that they are also rightsizing the ATR network to align capacity and demand. According to the daily, 8 to 10 planes undergo regular maintenance every day, which means that at any given point, **16 planes are out of service, adding that it may increase to more than 20**. Currently Jet Airways has 124 planes, as mentioned on its website.

22/10/18 Business Today

The taxpayer's money being misused to keep Air India afloat is no news. But the government has done the unthinkable to bail out the failed carrier.

In a highly questionable move, **the Maharaja has been granted Rs 1,000 crore from the National Savings Fund to meet operational expenses of the lossmaking carrier**. The corpus of NSSF comprises contributions to various small savings like the Public Provident Fund, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and the Kisan Vikas Patra.

What is even strange is the government's move to provide a **fresh sovereign guarantee to Air India for raising loans worth Rs 500 crore**.

Strangely, these moves come at a time when the airline's debt and operational losses are mounting, raising questions on the rationale behind providing fresh funds from the taxpayer's kitty.

Reports suggest that the government is proposing to make some big tweaks to the divestment plan to woo bidders. When the centre put the airline on the block last year, there were no takers with prospective bidders backing out citing some of the contentious bid terms.

22/10/18 Economic Times

Mumbai: Premium carrier Vistara's annual net loss shrunk to Rs 431 crore in FY18 from Rs 518 crore a year ago on improved performance but the airline is some distance from profitability, and macroeconomic pressures building for India's aviation industry do not sound promising.

The airline, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, posted a 54% rise in revenues to Rs 2,137 crore during the year, according to numbers from Tata Sons' annual accounts filed with the Registrar of Companies under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The numbers show a marked improvement in performance. In FY17, Vistara's net loss widened to Rs 518 crore from Rs 400 crore in FY16. Its revenue doubled to Rs 1,390 crore.

During FY18, the airline added 6 planes to make it a fleet of 19 A320s. Currently, Vistara operates 22 aircraft. Its total number of flights grew to 104 from 76 as of March 2018. Now, it operates 112 flights. It flew 4.4 million passengers during the year.

22/10/18 Anirban Chowdhury, Sagar Malviya/Economic Times

Thiruvananthapuram: Despite three aircraft mishaps in around one year which normally create network disturbance, the Air India Express, the services of which were severely affected during the August flood as it is the largest operator from the state, posted a record on-time performance in the post-flood and expanded its fleet size from 23 to 25. As per the OAG, an air travel intelligence company based in the United Kingdom, **Air India Express (AIE) ranked first in the country and 14th in Asia Pacific for its on-time performance.**

Further, the **AIE is set to become the first Indian carrier to start daily flights to Singapore from Kochi from October 29.** According to AIE sources, the AIE has been holding Singapore services from Kochi thrice in a week via Madurai. Now, the company has decided to add four more Singapore services via Bengaluru to the existing three services via Madurai. With this, Kochi-Singapore becomes a daily service. **This service will exclusively be for Singapore pax** and no domestic leg of journey between Kochi-Madurai and Kochi-Bengaluru will be entertained.

The AIE had faced network disturbances during the time of aircraft mishaps. When the Cochin International airport was closed down after it was submerged in flood water, the airline company had to halt its Kochi-Singapore service via Madurai for about two weeks after the aircraft that was pressed into the service in this route, got marooned in flood-hit CIAL.

Similarly, last year, an aircraft sustained damages after its wheels got stuck in the storm water drain on the side of the taxiway opposite the international terminal while entering the bay from the taxiway at the Cochin airport. The airline company had to deroster its pilots following an investigation. In another mishap, an AIE plane suffered a tear in its belly after hitting a boundary wall at Tiruchi airport. This time, the airline company could send a relief aircraft to avoid network disturbance.

"We will be the first airline company which starts international services to Middle East destinations from Kannur and we will announce our schedules and destinations once the airport formally announces its opening date," said AIE sources.

[22/10/18 Dhinesh Kallungal/New Indian Express](#)

SpiceJet had taken a one-time relief of two to three months towards payment of one lessor in September, as the airline - like its peers - faced liquidity crunch because of rising fuel costs and depreciating rupee.

Last week, rating agency CRISIL had downgraded the bank facilities of SpiceJet from stable to negative, reflecting the pressure airline is facing due to **"significant increase in the operating cost and limited ability to pass on the increased cost to customers due to intense competition."**

The airline although issued a statement saying that the downgrade is an industry phenomenon.

"The downgrade is an industry phenomenon and we continue to outperform the industry on financial metrics. However, with regards to one single lessor mentioned in the CRISIL report we had taken a one-time relief of 2-3 months to better manage cash flows during the lean month of September 2018," SpiceJet said in a statement.

SpiceJet's peers Jet Airways and IndiGo are also facing strong challenges in a market that is marked by huge demand but constrained by poor infrastructure and intense competition keeping fares low.

[22/10/18 Prince Mathews Thomas/Moneycontrol.com](#)

Mumbai: Beleaguered carrier Jet Airways' plans to lease up to seven of its regional jets to TruJet has hit air pocket due to regulatory issues and pilots' problems, a source has said.

The two carriers had attempted to stitch a deal on ATR planes earlier last year as well, but even

after months of bak and forth, Jet Airways failed to phase them out.

The Naresh Goyal-owned private carrier, partially owned by Etihad Airways of Abu Dhabi, has been battling cash crunch following two quarterly back-to-back losses.

"The **plan** to wet lease up to seven ATRs from Jet Airways is **on hold as of now**. If it comes back to the negotiation tables at all, **it will be only next year**," an industry source told PTI.

Jet Airways has called off the proposed agreement with a regional carrier as the terms were not met within stipulated timelines, the airline spokesperson said.

Currently, Jet Airways has 15 ATRs in its fleet.

TruJet, which operates its services on regional and Udan routes from Hyderabad to various destinations, has **an all-ATR fleet**.

22/10/18 PTI/Business Standard

Recently, the Airports Authority of India, on behalf of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Centre and the Assam government invited proposals from bidders for selection under a new International Air Connectivity Scheme. The last date for submission of bids is November 22. This international air connectivity scheme is being referred to as International UDAN or Overseas UDAN.

International UDAN is an extension of the domestic UDAN scheme that rolled out last year. Udaan means flight in Hindi and UDAN in this context is 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik'. That is, let the common citizen of the country fly. **UDAN in its domestic avatar seeks to boost air connectivity by linking up un-served and under-served airports in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities with the big cities and also with each other. This is done by offering cheap tickets to passengers and the Central and State governments paying a subsidy to the airlines to enable them to offer cheap tickets. Two rounds of bidding have happened under domestic UDAN and many flights have commenced, with some routes doing well and others not so much.**

Under International UDAN, the plan is to connect India's smaller cities directly to some key foreign destinations in the neighbourhood. Such direct air connectivity, it is hoped, would promote the development of the city and the State by wooing tourists and businesspeople to travel via smaller towns, instead of their flying through the metros. **The scheme seeks to make use of the open skies policy that India has with other Asian countries that allows direct and unlimited flights to and from these nations to 18 Indian destinations.** Now, these routes are untested, and airlines could be understandably reluctant to ply them. To encourage them to participate, the **government offers a subsidy in the form of pre-decided payout per seat. Airlines are required to bid on the number of passenger seats per flight for which such support is required.**

22/10/18 Anand Kalyanaraman/Business Line

New Delhi: The Civil Aviation Ministry plans to allow aircraft operators to deploy employees of aerodrome operators and domestic airlines for security duties.

According to the draft Aircraft Security Amendment Rules, a domestic aircraft operator can carry out search of his plane or of other airlines provided the operator has a contract for security service with the entity concerned.

The security search can be done before taking the aircraft to security restricted area and before boarding of passengers after disembarkation.

Further, the ministry has suggested that an aircraft operator shall engage only those personnel for security duties who are "whole time direct employees of aerodrome operator and domestic airlines operator" with whom there is a contract in place for security services.

Such people should have been employed after proper training, selection procedure and

certification in accordance with national civil aviation security programme.

'Security' refers to a means a combination of measures, human and material resources intended to be used to safeguard civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference, as per the ministry.

Another amendment proposed relates to aerodrome perimeter.

"Every aerodrome operator shall provide perimeter wall or other structures as prescribed by ICAO from time to time around the aerodrome," the draft norms said.

[22/10/18 PTI/Times of India](#)

<http://bcasindia.nic.in/law/Draft%20Rules231018.pdf>

Pune: Flyers' inconveniences while security check-ins at the Lohegan airport may soon reduce as the facility is set to get two more x-ray scanning machines and additional manpower.

"The rush at the airport is mainly from 9pm till midnight. Two more x-ray machines will be installed. With the help of additional manpower, we should be able to control the situation. We are taking steps to resolve the issue within a week," airport director Ajay Kumar told TOI.

The airport currently has **two entry gates on the city-side**. "The number will be increased to **three**," he said.

Serpentine queues in security hold areas at night has become an ordeal for several flyers. One of the prime reasons is bunching of many flights in evening and late evening hours. Jaideep Malaviya, who travelled from the airport in the morning on October 4 along with a German delegate, said he and his client had a tough time.

[22/10/18 Joy Sengupta/Times of India](#)

Agra: It's ironical that Agra which receives the highest number of tourists in the country has seen the lowest air traffic during April-August this year. With the iconic Taj Mahal still remaining the top draw among tourist destinations in the country, the **city sees over a crore tourists every year**. Its **airport**, nonetheless, just saw **4,217 visitors in the above-mentioned period**.

According to available figures provided by Airport Authority of India (AAI), **traffic at Agra airport was the lowest in comparison to 10 other tourist cities**, including Jaipur (19.19 lakh), followed by Lucknow (19.12 lakh), Varanasi (10.02 lakh), Udaipur (4.92 lakh), Jodhpur (1.65 lakh), Allahabad (33,473), Bikaner (23,594), Jaisalmer (18,126), Khajuraho (12,232) and Gwalior (10,745) during the same period.

However, the number of passengers at Agra airport have increased by 156% as compared to the last year. About 1,642 passengers travelled to Agra by air from April to August in 2017-18 and this number has gone up to 4,217 during the same period in 2018-19. This was disclosed in an RTI reply sought by KC Jain, a local resident.

At present, **only two flights operate from the city. Air India and Alliance Air fly from Agra to Kahjuraho and Agra to Jaipur.**

In the first five months of the current financial year (April to August), the aircraft movement was only 194 times in Agra. However, in Jaipur, it was 91.47 % higher as 17,747 times movement was recorded and second highest was in the state capital, Lucknow (15,346) times.

[22/10/18 Anuja Jaiswal/Times of India](#)

New Delhi: Singapore is now linked to 16 Indian cities with Bhutan's Drukair Royal Airlines starting flights to the prosperous island nation from Guwahati. This is the first direct flight between Northeast India and Singapore.

Drukair has started twice-weekly flights from Guwahati to Singapore **from September 29**. This **direct service will reduce travel time from almost 10 hours, including transfers, to 4 hours and 30 minutes.**

Changi Airport Group air hub development MD Lim Ching Kiat said: "We are pleased to launch the first non-stop service between Northeast India and Singapore with our valued partner Drukair. India

is the third largest tourism source market for Singapore and one of Changi Airport's key growth markets. This new route further enhances connectivity between Singapore and India, bringing the city links to a total of 16. We look forward to welcoming more travellers from **Guwahati**, who can tap **Changi's** extensive network to destinations in Asia such as Australia, China, Indonesia, and Japan." India is Changi's sixth largest market, registering more than 45 lakh passenger movements in the past 12 months, growing at 14% year-on-year. "Last month, **IndiGo** launched daily services from **Kolkata and Tiruchirapalli**, operating the airline's first services from the two cities **to Singapore**. **Air India Express** will also be launching additional four-times weekly services **from Bangalore**, starting from October 29. With the additional services, **Changi Airport will be connected to 16 cities in India by some 280 weekly one-way services,**" Changi Airport said in a statement.

22/10/18 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

New Delhi: As more Indians take to foreign skies, their profiles have changed too – from corporate, business travellers, the average Indian travelling abroad is now more likely to be young, flying alone and holidaying. And very likely a woman. International air traffic from India has grown six times over the last two decades – from 1.07 million in 1997-98 to 6.06 million in 2017-18.

German airline Lufthansa now sees, among its Indian customers, more couples and women travelling in groups, compared to the mainly corporate passengers 20 years ago. British Airways says 47 per cent of their Indian women passengers now travel alone. Oman Air now carries more holidaymakers, honeymooners and corporate travellers from India to Oman than the migrant labourers the airline ferried five to six years ago.

Lubaina Sheerazi, India representative of Oman's Ministry of Tourism, says the number of Indians arriving in Oman has gone up – from 1,87,322 in 2013 to 3,21,161 in 2017.

"In 2010, when Oman's tourism ministry opened office in India, Oman Air had a low profile. Most of the traffic on Oman Air then was of people travelling for employment. That has changed now.

Families with grown-up children, honeymooners and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions) form a very important segment for us. Bachelorettes are now a trend – I was surprised to hear from tour operators of organised groups of 40 women travelling. They are not necessarily friends, probably people who have come together as part of group travels," she says.

22/10/18 Pranav Mukul/Indian Express

Déplacements pro 23/10/2018

On savait la compagnie **Jet Airways** en difficulté, elle est désormais **au bord de la faillite. Elle a cloué au sol certains de ses avions et réexamine son réseau, prévoyant de mettre à pied les salariés non essentiels et plaidant auprès de ses créanciers pour obtenir un moratoire afin de soulager sa trésorerie.** Le détail est à lire sous la plume du correspondant de l'agence Bloomberg à Delhi.

Dans un communiqué ce mercredi 24 octobre, la compagnie précise que « **La stratégie de redressement approuvée par le Conseil d'Administration est en cours de mise en œuvre.** La stratégie englobe diverses initiatives de réduction des coûts et d'amélioration des revenus, notamment la restructuration de notre bilan par la réduction de la dette, la rationalisation des flux de trésorerie, l'optimisation de la masse salariale, l'exploration d'options de financement telles que l'injection de capital, la monétisation de la participation de la compagnie dans son programme de fidélisation, et plusieurs autres mesures visant à accroître la productivité et l'efficacité opérationnelle.

La compagnie fera les annonces nécessaires concernant des mesures spécifiques une fois finalisées. La compagnie évalue en permanence la viabilité commerciale de son réseau. »

Air Journal 24/10/2018

Vistara a signé avec la société de leasing GECAS pour 7 A320 neo, qui viendront rejoindre fin 2019 les 9 déjà existants. Les 8 monocouloirs remotorisés rejoindront la flotte après livraison des Airbus entre fin 2019 et 2020. Vistara opère actuellement 9 A320 neo (pris en leasing chez BOC), aux côtés de 13 A320, tous configurés pour accueillir 8 pax en classe affaires, 24 en premium et 126 en économie.

Ce contrat intervient dans le cadre du renouvellement de la flotte révélé par Vistara en juillet dernier, avec deux lettres d'intention : chez Airbus, 13 A320neo (sans préciser si des A321neo sont envisagés) et 13 A320, tous équipés du LEAP 1A. Vistara a également 7 options pour des A320 neo et louera 37 exemplaires supplémentaires, dont les 7 annoncés hier. Tous ces monocouloirs sont attendus entre 2019 et 2023.

Numériques 24/10/2018

Le portail web AlphaTango vient d'ouvrir ses portes, donnant accès à l'inscription des pilotes, à l'enregistrement de leurs drones et à la formation en ligne obligatoire. Les propriétaires de drones tenus d'enregistrer leurs appareils.

Mis en place par la DGAC (direction générale de l'aviation civile), ce portail était un outil fort attendu par les pilotes de drones, depuis la promulgation en 2016 de la loi les concernant. Cette dernière rend en effet obligatoire la déclaration des aéronefs télépilotes de plus de 800 g. AlphaTango permet donc désormais aux propriétaires de drones de déclarer leurs appareils de masse supérieure à 800 g, mais aussi ceux plus légers. Plusieurs modèles sont reconnus automatiquement par l'outil, mais il est aussi possible de décrire son drone s'il s'agit d'un modèle inconnu, fabriqué soi-même par exemple. Une fois l'enregistrement effectué, on récupère une **attestation au format PDF, valable 5 ans**, à présenter en cas de contrôle. Il faut également que le **numéro d'enregistrement soit affiché sur le drone**, bien que l'on ne sache pas encore sous quelle forme il doit l'être, aucun texte ne le précisant encore.

Une formation pour s'assurer que les règles élémentaires sont bien connues

Autre obligation, celle de **suivre la formation en ligne Fox AlphaTango avant de pouvoir valider un questionnaire pour obtenir une attestation**. Celle-ci prouve que l'on a bien assimilé les règles principales à suivre lorsque l'on fait voler un drone. Une fois inscrit sur le portail, on peut alors suivre la formation, dispensée sous forme de vidéos courtes et bien expliquées. Une fois le visionnage terminé, on passe au questionnaire. Ce n'est que lorsque toutes les réponses sont exactes que l'on peut obtenir le précieux sésame attestant que l'on a validé la formation. Les télépilotes ayant déjà suivi une formation équivalente auprès des fédérations FAAM/UFOLEP peuvent bien sûr récupérer leur attestation plus rapidement, même si un petit rappel des règles ne fait jamais de mal.

Les professionnels, pour leur part, ont la **possibilité de signaler leur activité et de réaliser des démarches en ligne pour notamment déclarer leurs vols "au ministère des Armées ou à la préfecture territorialement compétente"**.

Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines have pumped Rs 20 billion into Vistara as the airline charts its expansion plan.

This is the largest single dose of equity infusion into the joint venture (JV) since its launch in January 2015. It will **help Vistara finance its \$3.1 billion (around Rs 220 billion) aircraft order.**

The airline's board passed a resolution for issuing capital in August. Fresh shares were issued to the two promoters earlier this month, filings with the corporate affairs ministry show.

The investment signals the Tata group's ambition to propel its aviation business. This comes amid firming of its control in AirAsia India and talks with Jet Airways to buy a stake in the latter.

24/10/18 Aneesh Phadnis/Business Standard

New Delhi: Another mid-air collision was averted in the Kolkata airspace last Tuesday, this time involving a Saudia Boeing 777 aircraft and a Boeing 747 plane owned by global logistics company UPS, raising questions over the safety of Indian skies.

The planes came within about 300 feet of each other but a collision was averted after the traffic alert and collision avoidance system or **TCAS** on both the aircraft was triggered automatically enabling the planes to be diverted in two different directions.

Last Tuesday, the Saudia flight from Riyadh to Manila came close to the UPS' Boeing 747 plane that was Mumbai-bound from Bangkok. The incident happened when the UPS aircraft was asked by the controller to climb from 32,000 feet to 34,000 feet.

While climbing, the UPS aircraft was vertically about 300 feet away, when it reached an altitude of 32,700 feet, as the Saudia aircraft was flying at an altitude of 33,000 feet.

A radar controller has been grounded, pending the inquiry into the incident.

The incident is the second within two days over the Kolkata airspace, raising alarm bells in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

24/10/18 Mihir Mishra/Economic Times

New Delhi: **Come November 8 and Indian carriers will have to track their aircraft throughout their journey.** India had decided on this move after the mysterious disappearance of Malaysia Airlines' MH 370 on March 8, 2014, when flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing and is now going to implement that.

The Boeing 777 that operating as as MH 370 is yet to be located. **"Operator (airlines) shall establish an aircraft tracking capability to track aeroplanes throughout its area of operations. The operator should track the position of an aeroplane through automated reporting at least every 15 minutes... track the position of an aeroplane through automated reporting at least every 15 minutes for the portion(s) of the inflight operation(s) that is planned in an oceanic area (s),"** says a Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) civil aviation requirement titled **"operation of commercial air transport" effective from October 18, 2018.**

Under this, **"aircraft tracking is applicable on and after November 8, 2018."** Among Indian carriers, Air India has the longest distance flights that operate over vast oceans like the Atlantic and Pacific (to and from the US) and the Indian Ocean (to and from Australia). A senior AI official said airlines will do this using "aircraft communications, addressing and reporting system" (**ACARS**) and "automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast" (**ADS-B**).

24/10/18 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

CAR Series O Part II Issue I, 8th July 2011, Rev 9 effective 18th october 2018 article 3.5 Aircraft tracking applicable on and after 8 November 2018

<http://www.dgca.nic.in/rules/safety-ind.htm>

Mumbai/New Delhi: **At a time when airlines are facing liquidity problems, banks are reluctant to extend fresh loans to aviation companies as some of them are already on the watchlist in the wake of signs of stress.** Some of the top banks, including SBI, have asked airlines including Jet Airways to come out with concrete revival plans and enough collateral for fresh exposure, a banking source said. Another person, anonymously, said that Jet has sought moratorium from its lenders on its loans while seeking additional financing to meet its immediate capital requirements.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was earlier in favour of loan recast for airline firms **has scrapped all loan recast schemes last year. If any borrower defaults, the banks will have come out with a resolution plan and bankruptcy proceedings.** RBI's February 12 circular on restructuring of bad loans had mandated banks to take loan accounts, which remain unresolved for over 180 days, to the National Company Law Tribunal.

After the Kingfisher Airlines episode and bankruptcy proceedings against many steel and textile firms, banks have turned cautious while lending to aviation and telecom sectors, the source said. SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar had earlier indicated that **Jet Airways is in the watchlist** of special mention accounts (SMA) 1 and 2. In SMA 1 accounts, loans are overdue for 31-60 days and in SMA-2, loans are overdue for 61 to 90 days. "When there are signs of stress, we ask for concrete revival plan and collateral. We asked IL&FS also but they were unable to come up with anything," said an official of a PSU bank. Jet had made a Rs 1,363-crore loss in June quarter.

The decision to have Jet Airways' loan repayments deferred comes at a time when the Naresh Goyal-promoted airline is working on various cost-reduction measures that include restructuring of its balance sheets and optimisation of its payrolls.

24/10/18 Indian Express

Guwahati: **Singapore Airlines on Tuesday said it was looking forward to welcoming more travellers from Guwahati, who can tap Changi Airport's extensive network to destinations in Asia such as Australia, China, Indonesia and Japan.**

Changi Airport in Singapore has announced the launch of its 16th city link to India with the introduction of a new non-stop service between Guwahati and Singapore, operated by **Drukair Royal Bhutan Airlines.**

This new route marks the first direct connection between the Northeast and Singapore.

From September 29, Drukair has commenced two weekly flights from Guwahati to Singapore. The introduction of this new service is expected to reduce travel time from almost 10 hours, including transfers, to four and a half hours.

Lim Ching Kiat, the managing director of Air Hub Development, Changi Airport Group, said in a statement on Tuesday, "We are pleased to launch the first non-stop service between Northeast India and Singapore with our valued partner Drukair. India is the third largest tourism source market for Singapore and one of Changi Airport's key growth markets. **This new route enhances connectivity between Singapore and India, bringing the city links to 16.** We look forward to welcoming more travellers from Guwahati, who can tap Changi Airport's extensive network to destinations in Asia

such as Australia, China, Indonesia and Japan.”

He said the **new link is expected to strengthen not only cultural and socio-political ties between the countries but also facilitate opportunities to enhance travel and trade practices.**

24/10/18 Telegraph

Patna: The state health department has stepped up surveillance in the wake of spread of dengue, chikungunya, zika and H1N1 (influenza A) virus cases in other states and the possibility of the outbreak of the diseases due to migration of people in the ongoing festive season. The department has asked **authorities of Patna and Gaya airport apart from major railway stations and Inland Water Ways Authority of India to inform travellers about the symptoms of these diseases and ask them to get themselves checked at the isolation room or health check-up counter to be created at those facilities if they exhibit any of the four viral diseases’ symptoms.**

The airport, railway station and waterways authorities have been asked to provide space for setting up of an isolation room or health counter at their facilities.

Sanjay Kumar, principal health secretary and chief executive officer of the State Health Society, issued the notification on this on Monday.

“The notification says that in-flight announcement has to be done for the passengers for self-reporting — if they have fever — to the health counter to be set up at the airport and prepare a list of all fever cases with special emphasis on pregnant women,” said an official of the health department’s Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).

The official, who spoke under cover of anonymity, said that the **department would provide a three-to four member team at each airport and station consisting of a medical officer, a nurse and a technician who would conduct rapid diagnostic test on the passengers to check whether they are suffering from dengue or chikungunya.**

24/10/18 Shuchismita Chakraborty/Telegraph

India’s turbulent aviation sector may be entering a long-pending phase of consolidation.

On Oct. 18, media reports suggested that cash-strapped private airline **Jet Airways may soon be rescued by the Tata Group**, India’s storied salt-to-software conglomerate.

“If this (the Tata-Jet deal) happens, then it will consolidate two to three large players,” said Peeyush Pandey, a partner at Deloitte.

However, the reports also suggested that the discussions have failed to make much headway as the question of Jet’s management control is a sticking point. The deal’s success will depend on whether chairman Naresh Goyal, who owns a 51% stake in the company, is willing to relinquish control 25 years after founding the company.

Jet Airways has denied the reports as “highly speculative” to the Times of India. Mails sent to the two companies from Quartz failed to elicit responses.

Jet’s rumoured talks with the Tatas are taking place at a crucial juncture.

The Tata Group’s obsession with aviation predates the country’s Independence. Now the conglomerate is looking to consolidate its position in the Indian skies.

Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group, **already owns 51%** in domestic full-service carrier **Vistara**, a joint venture (JV) with Singapore Airlines, and **49%** in budget airline **AirAsia India**, its JV with Malaysia-based AirAsia. With rivals reeling from high aviation fuel prices and a weak rupee, this might just be the moment for the group to scale up.

Jet, too, has been struggling for some time now. It has been under pressure to service its huge pile of debt, which, as of June this year, stood at Rs8,620 crore (\$1.18 billion).

23/10/18 Kamalika Ghosh/Quartz

Credit rating agencies Icra and Crisil have **downgraded various loan facilities** of the three listed airlines - **IndiGo, SpiceJet and Jet Airways**. **This has come as a combination of airline market compulsions in India, rising oil prices and falling rupee in the past several weeks.**

IndiGo, SpiceJet and Jet Airways have seen this downgrading of credit rating assigned to some of their loan facilities at a time when they grapple with rising expenses and limited room to hike fares amid intense competition.

India has one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world but local carriers are facing tough business conditions thanks to surging oil prices and depreciation of the rupee. The airliners constantly look to woo more passengers with cheaper competitive fares, they have not been fully able to increase ticket prices.

Against this backdrop, Icra cut the long-term rating on outstanding Rs 8,000 crore worth bank facilities of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd on October 17 even as it re-affirmed the short-term rating.

"The rating action takes into consideration expected adverse impact of the significant increase in operating costs of airlines, including IndiGo, and their limited flexibility to effect price hikes to offset cost pressures," Icra said in a report.

"Over the last nine months, the Indian rupee has witnessed significant depreciation against the USD, which coupled with sharp rise in global crude oil prices has led to 34 per cent year-on-year increase in domestic Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices and other operating costs of airline companies during H1 FY 2019," Icra said.

23/10/18 India Today

New Delhi: A Vistara airlines flight from Kochi missed its landing -- twice -- at the Delhi airport due to a dead bird that was present on the runway.

The pilots of the flight -- an Airbus A320 -- were warned by Air Traffic Control (ATC) officials about the presence of the dead bird.

And so, they decided to initiate a go-around, aviation parlance for aborting a landing at the last moment.

The flight then tried once again to land on the same runway. However, this time as well the pilots apparently decided to perform a go-around.

The specifics of the second attempted landing aren't very clear.

According to the flight path (provided by aviation tracker Flightradar24.com), **Vistara UK 866** approached the Delhi airport's southernmost runway (the airport has three runways).

The path shows Vistara UK 866 making a sharp left turn halfway down the runway -- the plane was flying at this moment and was over not ON the runway.

After making the left turn, Vistara UK 866 circles back to the same runway after flying over Gurgaon and Fardiabad.

This time as well the flight doesn't land. However, this time around, Vistara UK 866 flies the entire length of the runway before pulling left.

23/10/18 India Today

New Delhi: India's largest airline IndiGo has dropped the plan to outright purchase aircraft, and will continue with the sale-and-leaseback model, in a bid to conserve cash for the near future.

This is part of the plan to negotiate the volatile environment for the industry, when airlines cannot spike ticket prices even as they face the twin challenges of costly fuel and fluctuating exchanging

rates.

"This (model) makes more sense in the current business environment. When the cost environment improves, we will re-evaluate the strategy," said a source.

Last year, changing its strategy, IndiGo had said it would own aircraft rather than use the sale-and-leaseback model. This could help reform the cost structure, as the airline would acquire and own for longer periods the fuel-saving new-generation A320neos.

However, the sale-and-leaseback model would help IndiGo boost income at a time when a fare war might hurt its numbers.

23/10/18 Arindam Majumder/Business Standard

Nagpur: As a woman passenger on board a Kolkata-bound GoAir flight died, the flight had to make an emergency landing at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport on Monday morning.

Dipansha Jitendra Gangwani (43) was travelling with her husband from Ahmedabad to Kolkata by GoAir flight.

She complained of some health problems in mid air. Suddenly, her condition started deteriorating. Her husband informed the crew. The Flight Captain informed air traffic control (ATC) at Nagpur airport and sought permission to land on emergency grounds.

After ATC granted permission, the airport staff contacted Care Hospital seeking medical assistance immediately at the airport. A team of medical experts from Care Hospital rushed to the airport. The flight landed at 8.20 am.

Dipansha was rushed to the reception lounge where the team of doctors was waiting. After examining Deepansha, the doctors declared her dead. After receiving the information about the incident, Sonegaon Police registered an accidental death case.

23/10/18 Nagpur Today

Mumbai: Icelandic long-haul budget carrier Wow Air, which is set to commence its flight services to India from December, said Wednesday it plans to fly to Vancouver in Canada from New Delhi, starting June next year.

The proposed flights on the New Delhi-Vancouver routes will be operated thrice a week on **Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays**, a release said.

Wow Air has also announced **inaugural fares starting Rs 21,999 for an economy class and Rs 63,610 for the business class travel on the New Delhi-Vancouver flight.**

The transatlantic airline in May announced services from New Delhi to multiple destinations in North America and Europe through its Reykjavik hub in Iceland from December.

"We are happy to announce the new flight to Vancouver from New Delhi. This new addition will definitely give a boost to the response from the Indian market. We are eagerly waiting for the operations to begin from New Delhi in December," said Skuli Mogensen, founder and chief executive officer, Wow Air.

23/10/18 Economic Times

Chennai: The Airports Authority of India plans to build an additional air traffic control tower at Chennai airport that will be a virtual air traffic control facility to help manage landings and take-offs at airports in smaller cities.

The AAI, which plans to have similar facilities at Bengaluru and Hyderabad, has already announced it will build a new tower at Kolkata airport.

The new tower will offer more space and manpower given that Chennai Flight Information Region

(FIR), which covers around 1,600km including the entire southern region and the oceanic area till Port Blair, has seen new developments and improvement including air traffic control automation, harmonisation of upper airspace for better handling of intercontinental overflying aircraft above 25,000feet.

A senior AAI official said the tower will be used as a back-up or standby. “It will have the same facilities as the existing one and will also have the proposed virtual air traffic control or remote air traffic control for airports in another cities,” he added.

23/10/18 Times of India