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Derrière la nouvelle commande d'IndiGo, les motoristes CFM International et Pratt & Whitney se livrent une bataille commerciale sans merci pour emporter la propulsion des 300 Airbus A320neo.

Avec la nouvelle commande auprès d'**Airbus** pour 300 exemplaires de la famille **A320neo**, **IndiGo** devient le plus gros client de l'Histoire d'Airbus avec désormais un total de 830 appareils commandés, loin devant les loueurs Gecas (608) et ILFC (600), tous modèles confondus. Derrière cette commande record, les motoristes **CFM International** et **Pratt & Whitney** se livrent une bataille commerciale sans merci. Pour propulser ses premiers **Airbus A320neo** de contrats précédents, **IndiGo** avait choisi le PW1100G de **Pratt & Whitney**. Puis, au dernier Salon du Bourget, la compagnie aérienne indienne avait basculé en faveur du **CFM Leap-1A** pour équiper 280 autres **Airbus A320neo** et A321neo. Un contrat d'un montant de 20 Md\$, prix catalogue, en faveur du moteur conçu et développé par General Electric et Safran Aircraft Engines. Du coup, cette nouvelle tranche de 300 monocouloirs Airbus est vitale dans la bataille commerciale que se livrent les deux motoristes sur les moyen-courriers européens. **CFM International** a bien l'intention de pousser son avantage tandis que **Pratt & Whitney** veut reconquérir le terrain perdu. "Le choix du motoriste sera fait ultérieurement", a indiqué Riyaz Peermohamed, responsable des achats Avions et directeur financier d'**IndiGo**.

Air &Cosmos 02/11/2019

Le pire pic de pollution de l'année dans la capitale indienne a entraîné hier des dizaines d'annulations de vols et au moins 37 déroutements dans l'aéroport de Delhi-Indira Gandhi, avant une amélioration de la situation dans l'après-midi.

La matinée du 3 novembre 2019 dans l'aéroport de Delhi a été compliquée pour les passagers : un manque de visibilité dû à la pollution a entraîné de fortes perturbations, avec 20 décollages et 19 atterrissages annulés, soit près de 3% du programme de vol de dimanche, tandis que 37 vols à l'arrivée étaient selon la presse locale déroutés vers d'autres aéroports comme Jaipur, Mumbai, Amritsar ou Lucknow. La compagnie aérienne Air India a annulé 14 rotations, 12 vols vers la capitale étant déroutés et 14 autres reprogrammés. La low cost Indigo affichait 17 annulations et SpiceJet neuf hier selon Flightaware, tandis que Vistara annonçait plusieurs déroutements.

Les retards moyens au départ de Delhi étaient de 49 minutes dans la matinée d'hier, certains atteignant deux heures selon les passagers et trois quarts des vols programmés étant affectés selon Flightradar24 ; à l'arrivée, le retard moyen était de 24 minutes.

En milieu d'après-midi, l'aéroport de Delhi a annoncé une amélioration de la situation ; ce lundi matin, le trafic était à peu près normal. La capitale indienne connaît régulièrement des pics de pollution, attribués en général aux rejets industriels, à la circulation, aux fumées des brûlis agricoles dans la région – et en plus cette fois-ci aux feux d'artifices de Diwali. La pollution aux particules fines « a atteint des niveaux insupportables », reconnaissait hier le ministre en chef de Delhi Arvind Kejriwal. La circulation alternée est mise en place, et les écoles resteront fermées ce lundi.

Air Journal 04/11/2019

L'avionneur européen Airbus organise une tournée dans la région Asie-Pacifique pour présenter l'A220, le plus petit avion de ligne de sa famille.

L'appareil utilisé pour la tournée est un A220-300, exploité dans le cadre d'un contrat de leasing et appartenant à la compagnie lettone AirBaltic. Il ira vers neuf destinations et visitera sept pays. Puis trois escales sont prévues sur le vol retour vers l'Europe.

La première **escale** de la tournée aura lieu dans l'état insulaire de Vanuatu dans le Pacifique, pays d'origine d'Air Vanuatu, le client de lancement de l'A220 dans cette région. L'appareil se rendra ensuite en Australie (Sydney et Brisbane), en Nouvelle-Zélande (Auckland), en Nouvelle-Calédonie (Nouméa) et en Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée (Port Moresby), avant de faire escale au Cambodge (Phnom Penh) et **en Inde (Bangalore et New Delhi) sur le trajet retour vers l'Europe. Des expositions statiques sont prévues à chaque escale, ainsi que des vols de démonstration pour les dirigeants de compagnies et d'autres invités.**

Développé initialement par l'avionneur canadien Bombardier et connu alors sous le nom CSeries, **l'A220 est le seul appareil de conception nouvelle sur le marché des 100-150 places et bénéficie de technologies avancées et d'une conception innovante sur le plan aérodynamique. Ensemble, ces avancées se traduisent par une réduction de la consommation de carburant d'au moins 20 pour cent par rapport aux appareils concurrents de même capacité des générations précédentes.**

L'A220 offre également un rayon d'action pouvant atteindre 6 300 km (3 400 nm), ce qui en fait un appareil particulièrement adapté au type d'exploitation dans la région Pacifique, notamment pour les **vols court à moyen-courriers** entre les différents pays insulaires ainsi que les vols plus long-courriers à destination de l'Australie et de la Nouvelle-Zélande.

L'A220-300 d'AirBaltic peut accueillir 145 passagers dans un aménagement à classe unique. Comme sur tous les A220, l'aménagement comprend des rangées avec trois sièges d'un côté du couloir et deux de l'autre. Sa cabine est la plus grande de sa catégorie, avec des sièges plus larges en classe économique et des coffres à bagages spacieux.

L'A220 se décline en deux versions, l'A220-100, pouvant accueillir de 100 à 130 passagers, et l'A220-300, de plus grande capacité, de 130 à 160 passagers en configuration standard. Fin septembre 2019, des clients du monde entier avaient commandé au total 525 A220, dont 90 étaient déjà en service auprès de six compagnies aériennes.

A220 Demo Tour of the Pacific region and Asia
Purpose-built for efficiency

Only aircraft specifically designed for the 100-150 seat market

Clean sheet design

Step change in fuel efficiency with **20% lower fuel burn** (compared to previous world)

Flexibility to serve regional and long-range missions

Superior passenger comfort with wide economy seats, extra legroom, large overhead bins for quicker boarding

Extra usable cargo volume (cabin and underwing)

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The Tata Group, which founded Air India 87 years ago and was then forced to relinquish control, said it will look at bidding for the airline put up for sale by the government.

"I will ask the team to evaluate it," Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran told TOI in the course of an interview about his plans for the group as well as his recently-released book, Bridgital Nation.

"Ideally it should be a Vistara decision, not a Tata Sons decision," Chandrasekaran said before adding, "I'm not going to run a third airline (in addition to Vistara and AirAsia). Unless we merge. There are issues. I will never say yes or no. I don't know."

The government has in recent months indicated its willingness to exit Air India completely, as opposed to its earlier plan of retaining a minority 24%. It drew a blank in its earlier attempt last year to disinvest 76% in AI; the Tatas didn't show any interest because the terms were onerous, besides which the conglomerate was evaluating the purchase of Jet Airways.

Acquisition of Air India would help the Tatas scale their aviation business. The group has two joint ventures—one a full-service airline with Singapore Airlines (SIA) to operate Vistara, and a second with budget carrier AirAsia. Combined, they made a loss of over Rs 1,500 crore in fiscal 2019.

There is a sense that unlike Jet Airways, Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of Tata Sons and head of Tata Trusts, might be favourably disposed towards the acquisition of Air India, which his predecessor JRD Tata founded in 1932. **Air India would help Vistara grow internationally.** Currently, Vistara flies to just four international destinations. **Air India would also augment Vistara's domestic market share, which presently stands at 6%, with its 12% presence.**

If it acquires Air India, it will be 66 years after its nationalisation.

History will come full circle with the move, underlining not only the sorry fate of government-owned enterprises but also how India's indigenous business groups refused to fade out even after decades of socialist policies.

Tata Sons set up Tata Airlines in 1932. JRD Tata, the legendary entrepreneur, himself flew the first flight between Karachi and Bombay. In 1946, Tata Airlines became a public company and was renamed Air India.

04/11/19 Economic Times

Passengers taking IndiGo flights on Monday morning at airports all over India faced major hassle as the airline's server were down for around an hour across the entire network.

As servers were down, the check-in counters of the budget-carrier were unable to issue boarding passes to passengers, leading to long queues at airports.

With around 48.2 per cent share of the domestic air passenger market, IndiGo is India's largest airline.

"We regret the inconvenience caused to our passengers today in the morning due to system being down across airports for under an hour. Our flights and check-in systems are operating normally now," IndiGo said in a statement issued around 2 pm.

In a statement issued around 11.30 am, the airline said: "Our systems have been down across the network since morning. As a result, we are expecting our operations to be impacted across the airports. All efforts are being made to resolve the issue at the earliest."

"We regret the inconvenience caused to all our passengers. While we are pro-actively informing them about the situation, for assistance, we request all passengers to contact us on our social media handles or reach out to our customer care," it added.

04/11/19 PTI/Economic Times

Low visibility due to heavy smog disrupted flight operations at the Delhi airport on Sunday, with 37 flights diverted to other airports and more than 250 departures and 300 arrivals delayed, officials said.

An airport official said the visibility improved around 3.30 pm.

Due to low visibility at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), 37 flights were diverted between 9 am and 1 pm to places like Jaipur, Amritsar, Lucknow and Mumbai, the airport officials said.

A senior government official said more than 250 departures and 300-plus arrivals at the Delhi airport were delayed due to heavy smog.

While Air India said it had diverted 12 flights since 9 am, Vistara said it had diverted five flights after 10 am due to the smog.

IndiGo and AirAsia India told PTI that they diverted five and two flights, respectively.

03/11/19 India Today

New Delhi: **GoAir has started its first "city check-in counter" at the New Delhi metro station**, the airline announced on Monday.

GoAir passengers on certain international routes can check-in their luggage at this counter and collect their boarding passes, it added.

"GoAir international passengers travelling to Abu Dhabi, Phuket, Bangkok, Muscat and Malé can now avail the facility of checking-in their luggage at the New Delhi metro station up to 6 hours prior to their flight time," the airline said in a press release.

The passengers will be issued their boarding passes as soon as they check-in their luggage at the GoAir counter at the metro station, it added.

04/11/19 PTI/India TV

Guwahati: **A chartered accountant named Suresh Chandra Varma has filed a written complaint in Dibrugarh against all the Airlines operating in India.**

As per the complaint, the Airlines operating in India are not refunding the GST and the Tax amount to the passengers who have not availed the flight or his flights have been cancelled.

He has also alleged that Indigo Airlines is charging Rs 50 for printing the tickets at the airport counter without issuing any receipt resulting in total GST amount fraud.

It has been alleged in the FIR that this scam is of more than Rs 1000 crores.

04/11/19 Guwahati Plus

Mumbai: **The airport's main runway will be closed for re-carpeting from Monday onwards, eight hours a day, six days a week, for about five months.** During the closure, till March 28, 2020, flights will continue to land and take off from the secondary runway. To accommodate the closure, all airlines put together have cancelled 26 flights per day, said a source.

Despite the cancellations, flight delays, especially during the morning and evening peak hours, could be expected since the secondary runway isn't as effective as the main one. Though airfares haven't gone up on most sectors, Sunday bookings for evening flights between Delhi and Mumbai showed a spike. For example, the cheapest one-way Delhi-Mumbai Monday evening fare was Rs 11,000, though it was likely due to fog-related flight cancellations at Delhi airport.

The main runway, 09/27, will not be available for aircraft operations from 9.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Saturday. It will remain open throughout Sundays and public holidays, including December 25, January 15, February 19 & 21, and March 10 & 25.

"Re-carpeting will enhance the runway's life by 7 years. Runway 09/27 is prone to heavy wear and tear because it is in use most of the time," said a source. **The airport, which handles an average of 940 arrivals and departures a day, has a set of cross runways. Thus, unlike airports at Delhi,**

Hyderabad and Bangalore, which have parallel runways, with both operational simultaneously, in Mumbai, only one runway works at a time. Earlier, major work on the main runway was done in 2009-10.

04/11/19 Times of India

Trichy: **Madras Flying Club, one of the oldest flying clubs in the country, was to be shifted from Chennai to Tiruchy.** However, even senior airport officials are unsure when the club would start functioning from here, "We have provided office space and other facilities for the club at the Tiruchy airport. Our job is over. They can start functioning anytime," said Tiruchy Airport Director K Gunasekaran. Beyond this, he refused to divulge details as what was delaying the project. Sources said that the flying club is unlikely to get permission to shift to any other airport. "This club has to pay more than Rs 1.14 crores to the Chennai International Airport. This was agreed to be settled after starting operations in Tiruchy. So, we gave them permission. Apart from this, AAI (Airports Authority of India) has spent money on providing infrastructure for the club in Tiruchy. They are unlikely to get permission to start in any other city," a source said.

According to sources, the club has so far transferred only their flight stimulator (equipment used for pilot training purpose) to Tiruchy. **"Recently, they shifted the flight stimulator to Tiruchy. Their aircraft are still in Chennai. We don't know when they will shift,"** a source said.

The process has been delayed for almost a year. It was in November last that Gunasekaran along with MFC officials announced launch of operations from Tiruchy. A board of the Madras Flying Club was also placed at the entrance of the airport.

04/11/19 Jose K Joseph/New Indian Express

When IndiGo announced its Q2-FY20 results last week, it warned of sustained weakness in the market after the unusual fares in the strong month of October. The second quarter has long been traditionally weak and while airlines have reported profits in this period of the year in the past, those occasions were when capacity was much lower and so were the oil prices.

Last year, Jet Airways and IndiGo reported bumper losses in Q2 which set in motion the fall of Jet Airways – with the airline suspending operations in April this year. This led to a frenzy of activities by airlines to get slots which were suddenly available, especially at Mumbai and Delhi. In this melee, Spicejet and Vistara doubled their departures at Mumbai – the most congested airport in the country.

While data for September is not yet released by the regulator, the domestic departures for August 2019 are up 0.4 percent over the same month last year. **The capacity is back but it hasn't grown, which is also reflecting the near-flat growth in passenger traffic.**

However, this has led to one surprising factor – airfares which are touching new lows! In fact, ticket prices are so low than on certain sectors like Delhi–Lucknow, they are lower than fares on Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) routes of similar stage length and duration! The RCS-UDAN fares are subsidised and capped while the fares on all other routes are dynamic and largely driven by demand and capacity.

While there was a huge hue and cry over lower fares during Diwali days, traditionally the fares have been high only on the days leading up to Diwali and then post the festivities are over. The days of festivities sees lesser travel. The VFR (visiting friends and relatives) traffic travels before Diwali and returns post Diwali, whereas the holiday crowd leaves post Diwali to return about a week later.

Airfares also tend to be higher on Monday morning and Friday evenings – especially between the metro routes but a quick look at fares on the various portals shows that even those are very low post Diwali. A Monday morning flight between Mumbai and Delhi was selling at less than Rs 3,000.

Likewise, the cheapest flights between major metro cities were selling for less than Rs 4,000 for most days.

04/11/19 Ameya Joshi/CNBC TV18

Mumbai: Directorate General of Civil Aviation has red-flagged ground handling agencies after a countrywide inspection found unsecured containers and foreign object debris in apron area of airports.

In August, the civil aviation regulator had initiated an audit of ground handling companies and a safety checklist too was issued to prevent accidents.

Inspections carried out at Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, Lucknow and Thiruvananthapuram airports revealed that domestic airlines and their ground handlers are neglecting safety. One common observation at these airports was about the **presence of foreign object debris in the apron. Also, containers and baggage trolleys were found unsecured. In some cases, the brakes of trolleys were found unserviceable. Containers lying loose or foreign objects are a safety hazard and can cause injuries or damage.**

During one inspection in Delhi, trolleys were observed moving on fuel hydrants, which is not permitted. In another inspection, it was found that staff did not have pre-arrival checklists. In Lucknow, the inspectors found wing walkers were not available at the time of aircraft arrival. These are ground employees whose primary task is to see aircraft wingtips do not collide with other planes or vehicles. Also, the staff of the Airport Authority of India was found roaming without high-visibility jackets.

The audits covered operations of ground handlers such as Air India Air Transport Services Limited, Bhadra International, Bird Worldwide Flight Services and Celebi Aviation. Domestic airlines are allowed self-handling and their operations were checked too.

04/11/19 Aneesh Phadnis/Business Standard

Ahmedabad: As more people than ever take off, a huge number of items are flying out of forgetful passengers' hold at the airport.

Items that passengers forgot at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport in Ahmedabad include **credit and debit cards, documents, hair straighteners, irons, laptops, foreign currency, sport equipment, and tools.** From July to October, 1,358 items remained unclaimed by travellers, suggests data released by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Of these, personal belongings such as **belts, watches, and glasses** account for the maximum items. These are followed by **laptops, power banks, chargers, and adapters** among others.

04/11/19 Niyati Parikh/Times of India

North Lakhimpur: The Lilabari airport in Assam's North Lakhimpur will soon become an aviation hub.

The fourth aviation training centre of the country will be set up in the airport.

This is after after Prayagraj (Allahabad), Delhi and Hyderabad.

This was stated by Shivanand B Benal, Airport Director, Lilabari Airport during the Advisory Committee Meeting of the airport in Lilabari airport on Monday.

Benal said that the Airports Authority of India had requested for 25 acres of land for aviation manpower training academy at Lilabari airport and another 84 acre for expansion of runway and isolation bay.

To this Dr Jeevan B, deputy commissioner of Lakhimpur, who was present at the meeting, assured

that 18.5 acre out of the 25 acre had been earmarked for aviation training academy.

04/11/19 Farhana Ahmed/Northeast Now

Passengers and experts have questioned the decision by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to give IndiGo and GoAir time until January 31, 2020, to replace unmodified engines for its A320neo fleet.

On October 26, DGCA had taken note of engine failures reported on A320neo fleet on four consecutive days and directed both the airlines to replace engines in operation for more than 2,900 hours with a Low Pressure Turbine (LPT) modified engine.

The directive was to replace at least one of the two engines in 16 aircraft for Indigo and 13 for GoAir by November 19. On November 1, the regulator changed its directive and asked IndiGo to change both the engines to LPT modified engines in all its 97 A320neo aircraft by January 31, 2020.

GoAir has 36 A320neos in its fleet. "In case it's not done, such aircraft shall not be allowed to fly with unmodified engines. You may like to stagger or defer your future induction plan and procure sufficient number of modified engines to keep the existing fleet in operation," said the DGCA directive.

"If the A320neos are not safe, why is the DGCA not grounding these aircraft? It is like the DGCA telling passengers you have 90 days to die in a crash," said Ravi Nair, a 54-year-old consultant who had a frightening experience during a Cochin-Mumbai flight in 2018.

Aviation safety expert Capt Mohan Ranganathan said, "After a series of failures reported on IndiGo and Spicejet in July, DGCA had served them show-cause notices. With repeat episodes in October, what has the regulator been doing?" He said either **DGCA should ground the aircraft or engage pilots-in-command with not less than 2,000 hours.**

03/11/19 Satish Nandgaonkar/Mumbai Mirror

Qatar Airways plans a strategic partnership with IndiGo, a move that will funnel more traffic from the fast-growing Indian air-travel market to the Gulf carrier's network.

"It is not something about buying a stake, it's commercial," Chief Executive Officer Akbar Al Baker said in an interview in Kuwait on Tuesday, referring to an announcement planned for 7 November. The CEO said the strategic announcement planned with IndiGo on 7 November will concern a **code-share accord** rather than a deeper arrangement.

Qatar Airways has been looking to expand in the fast-growing Indian market, yet plans to start a new carrier there have been frustrated over rules surrounding foreign ownership. Instead, the airline has asked local authorities to temporarily allow it to add more seats on high-volume routes to fill the gap left by Jet Airways, a partner of rival Etihad Airways, which went bust in April.

Indigo has emerged as the biggest Indian airline following the collapse of Jet Airways. Last week, the carrier ordered 300 narrow-body jets from Airbus SE -- one of the European plane maker's biggest ever deals.

Qatar Airways could break even within the next two years, the CEO said, even after full-year losses increased by near ten-fold on higher fuel costs and a weaker regional economy. The carrier has also been affected by a tough operating environment caused by Saudi-led airspace closures.

"We are now back to our pre-blockade growth and we hope that we will come to profitability soon," Al Baker said.

Shares of InterGlobe Aviation on Tuesday rose 2% ahead of the strategic business announcement by the company along with Qatar Airways.

The scrip gained 1.77 per cent to close at ₹1,461.45 on the BSE. During the day, it rose 4.64 per cent to ₹1,502.70.

On the National Stock Exchange, it jumped 1.99 per cent to close at ₹1,465.

LiveMint Aviation 05/11/2019

New Delhi: Thick fog during winters has been forcing airlines to cancel and delay flights in Delhi for years, but alarmingly high level of air pollution has emerged as a new challenge for air-carriers and the airport operator.

As many as 37 flights were diverted on Sunday due to poor visibility caused by high concentration of smog in and around the Delhi airport.

The air quality and visibility have marginally improved on Monday, but aviation experts see flight diversion a major cause for concern as it inconveniences thousands of passengers in just a few hours.

"The poor visibility cannot be assigned entirely to pollution, but it is certainly a major contributor. The policy-makers need to do something about this on an urgent basis. Delay, diversion or cancellation of flights cause huge losses to airlines and inconvenience passengers," said Rajan Mehra, CEO of Club One Air and former India head of Qatar Airways.

Many experts maintain that the problem of **pollution in Delhi is largely man-made** and can be rectified. They blame **vehicular emission, large cluster of industries, stubble burning in the neighbouring states and burning of crackers during festive season.**

"It is not natural. It is completely man-made. The government should show strong will power to tackle the issue. Many times the government does not want to act given that farmers constitute a big vote bank and hence they are not stopped from burning stubble," an airline executive said wishing not to be named.

As per an executive working at the Delhi airport, visibility had fallen to 50 metres on Sunday leading to diversion of flights to nearby cities like Amritsar, Jaipur and Lucknow.

With the national capital fast becoming a hotspot of pollution, it has drawn international attention. The city is seen as one of the most polluted ones in the world with foreign tourists thinking twice before landing into the city.

Live Mint Aviation 05/11/2019

London: Etihad Airways and Air Arabia's plan for a new discount airline will focus on flights between India and Abu Dhabi following the collapse of Jet Airways.

The future carrier will take over most of the 100 slot pairs for the market held by Etihad after ally Jet failed this year, according to the plan originated by Air Arabia Chief Executive Officer Adel Ali, Deepa Rajesh, sales director at company's Cozmo holiday arm, said in an interview.

Air Arabia, the Middle East's biggest low-cost carrier, could deploy around 70% of the 100 short-haul jets it's planning to order at the new venture, Rajesh said at the World Travel Market tourism fair in London. Air Arabia Abu Dhabi may also serve Egypt, Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, she said.

Jet Airways, which was part-owned by Etihad, operated flights from nine Indian cities to Abu Dhabi before its demise, the executive said. Replacing those services will help feed vital traffic from the world's fastest-growing major travel market onto Etihad's long-haul planes as it works to halt losses that have totaled \$4.8 billion over three years.

Air Arabia rose 6% on October 17, when the Etihad venture was announced. The carrier has its main base in Sharjah and another in Ras Al Khaimah, two of the seven United Arab Emirates that also include Abu Dhabi and Dubai, as well units in Morocco, Egypt and Jordan.

Live Mint Aviation 06/11/2019

Fresh troubles have emerged for debt-laden Jet Airways and its founder Naresh Goyal. **The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) reportedly initiated an investigation into fund diversion allegedly by Goyal though general sales agents (GSA) model of Jet Airways**, said a report in Business Standard.

Goyal's GSA Jet Airways Travels reportedly was a front agency of Jet Airways in several companies and he allegedly used these firms to siphon off funds, the report said quoting investigative agencies. The money has been shown as outgoing payments to these sales agents but in many case, it was just a front for the company itself. **There are many irregularities under investigation**," a person in the know of the development was quoted as saying in the report.

In July this year, the government had ordered an investigation into the alleged mismanagement of funds at Jet Airways, which halted operations in April this year after running out of cash.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) had ordered SFIO to carry out the investigation, Reuters had reported citing a government order.

The order refers to alleged siphoning off of funds and unspecified financial irregularities at Jet Airways, which was once India's largest private airline, but did not include details on the allegations or name any individuals.

11/11/19 First Post

New Delhi: **The government will start roadshows for privatisation of ailing state-run Air India this week in Singapore with Disinvestment Secretary T.K. Pandey along with senior aviation ministry and Air India officials to brief the prospective buyers for complete stake sale in the airline.**

Sources said Pandey will be in Singapore this week along with senior aviation ministry and Air India officials to meet prospective bidders, address their concerns on Air India debt position, employee issues, and start the roadshows.

There are possibilities now for Air India Expression of Interest to be floated this month after this meeting. The national carrier has a debt of Rs 57,000 crore and the bids will be invited for 100 per cent stake.

Once the roadshows start, this will mark the start of privatisation of Air India at the ground level, sources said.

Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola and Air India management have been discussing with the trade unions assuring them of security even after privatisation. The unions are opposed to privatisation fearing job losses.

As part of efforts to clean up the balance sheet of Air India before stake sale, around Rs 30,000 crore of its debt is proposed to be repaid by way of proceeds from the issuance of bonds by its special

purpose vehicle, Air India Asset Holding Ltd (AIAHL).

11/10/19 IANS/Outlook

Mumbai: India and Saudi Arabia have revised their air services agreement, enabling an increase in flights between the two countries.

The weekly seat quota for the carriers of the two countries has been increased from 28,000 to 50,000 as part of the MoU signed in Riyadh on October 29. The increase in seats will take place in a phased manner.

According to the civil aviation ministry, the seat quota will rise to 36,000 in the first instance and then to 44,000 and 50,000 in the next two phases after certain conditions are met.

Indian carriers will continue to get unlimited access at Dammam airport, in the capital of Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province.

While India has turned down demands from West Asian states including Qatar and the UAE for an increase in seats — last month the government had declined the UAE's proposal for more flights — it made an exception for Saudi Arabia. As India-Saudi relations are on an upswing with co-operation in various areas, Indian carriers did not oppose the proposal to hike the quota. This is because of limited traffic through Saudi Arabia, with most of the passenger flow being point to point. This is unlike airports like Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Doha, or Muscat, which serve as hubs for Indians travelling to Africa, Europe, and the US.

10/11/19 Aneesh Phadnis/Business Standard

Bengaluru: Chaos prevailed at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Sunday morning after dense fog and low-visibility conditions, coupled with congestion at the holding point (taxiway), led to delays in departure and arrival of 129 flights.

While 66 flights scheduled for departure and 30 slated for arrival were delayed and four were diverted to Chennai due to bad weather, taxiway congestion disrupted the departure schedule of 33 additional flights.

According to sources, foggy weather persisted between 3am and 8.30am and the consequent delays had a cascading effect, resulting in congestion on the taxiway and causing further disruptions.

Although 96 flights were directly impacted by the weather, the delays lasted till evening, impacting more flights and derailing plans of thousands of travellers.

Several passengers missed their connecting flights, while the cascading effect delayed departures at other airports like Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai.

The delayed flights included SpiceJet's SG 3465 from Bengaluru to Coimbatore which departed at 1pm as against its scheduled 9.35am. Indigo's 6E 409 to Vishakapatnam, 6E 345 to Goa and Air India's AI 501 to New Delhi were among the other delayed flights.

The diverted flights included Indigo's 6E 2134 and 6E 2624 (both Delhi to Bengaluru), which were diverted to Chennai airport. Passengers on board the latter flight complained about having to sit inside the aircraft for nearly seven hours because of the diversion.

11/11/19 Swathy R Iyer/Times of India

True to its philosophy of promoting India tourism globally, Air India, the National Carrier of India, extended its support to SATTE, South Asia's largest travel and tourism exhibition. Air India has become the 'Airline Partner' for the 27th edition of the show. As an Airline Partner, Air India will support SATTE's Buyer Programme. Under the partnership, Air India has offered SATTE exclusive

fares to offer to its domestic as well as international buyers. The National Carrier will also support SATTE in buyer acquisition from its various overseas destinations.

Air India is the state-owned national carrier of India with its main hubs at Delhi and Mumbai airports. As per the latest available information, the airline operates international flights to over 45 cities of 31 countries and domestic flights to 55 cities. Its subsidiary Air India Express and Alliance Air also connects other destinations.

11/10/19 T3

Vistara has inaugurated service to Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) with a daily direct flight to and from Delhi. Customers from Thiruvananthapuram can also take convenient one-stop connections via Delhi to Amritsar, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Varanasi.

Vistara's Chief Strategy Officer, Vinod Kannan, said on the occasion, "Starting services to Thiruvananthapuram demonstrates our commitment to the growing Kerala market. We now fly to the state's two key cities – Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi - that are witnessing growth at a remarkable pace in multiple areas including infrastructure, business, tourism and trade. This makes a strong business case for a full-service carrier like Vistara. Besides, Thiruvananthapuram has today become a top choice for start-ups in setting up their headquarters, and a large number of our customers today are young entrepreneurs and SME owners as well. There is a clear need for a five-star airline like Vistara that provides world-class service to travellers in this market, and we're delighted to bring it to them."

11/11/19 News18.com

Dubai: Low-cost carrier, SpiceJet's, decision to make Ras Al Khaimah International Airport its first international hub outside of India marks a key turning point for the emirate, with experts noting that the move will bring about several long-term economic benefits across various sectors.

The Indian carrier recently signed a memorandum of understanding with RAK International Airport to start direct flights between the emirate and New Delhi from December 2019. The airline will operate five flights a week, with plans to gradually increase the frequency. In addition, SpiceJet has also announced plans to launch an airline which will be based at RAK International Airport.

"SpiceJet's decision to make Ras Al Khaimah International its hub will provide us with much needed thrust to penetrate deep into the Indian market, and will position us as an ideal hub to connect India with the rest of the world," said Sanjay Khanna, CEO at Ras Al Khaimah International Airport. "SpiceJet's operations from Ras Al Khaimah International Airport will also aid the major industries in Ras Al Khaimah by connecting them to Indian trade partners. We are very optimistic about this partnership and the future generally, and we see huge potential for Ras Al Khaimah International Airport to grow, in line with the emirate's ongoing positive development."

10/11/19 Rohma Sadaqat/Khaleej Times

Calcutta: The closure of the city airport for 12 hours from 6pm on Saturday left thousands of fliers stranded. While many stayed overnight at the airport, others headed to the hotels and guest houses.

An AirAsia flight to Hyderabad was the first to take off from Calcutta — at 6.17am — after the services resumed, officials said. An IndiGo flight from Singapore was the first to arrive, at 6.21am.

On Sunday morning, too, hundreds of passengers were seen lounging around in front of the terminal. Cellphone and laptop charging points were among the coveted spots.

Most of the stranded passengers spent their time sitting on chairs near the airline ticket counters at the departure level, getting up every now and then to enquire about the resumption of flights. Many spread bed-sheets on the floor and lay down, their eyes glued to the information boards.

11/11/19 Snehal Sengupta/Telegraph

NEW DELHI : Arvind Singh, a Maharashtra cadre officer of the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS), on Wednesday took over as the chief of Airports Authority of India (AAI), the company said in a statement.

Prior to the appointment at AAI, Singh was Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) with the Maharashtra government. He has also worked as chairman and managing director of Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Ltd. and the Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd. (MSETCL).

Singh will replace Anuj Aggarwal, who had earlier been with the additional charge of AAI chairman.

"In his new assignment as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India, Singh will lead efforts to achieve AAI's organizational goals of providing world-class airport infrastructure, top-of-the-line facilities and leading air navigation services in the world," AAI said in a statement.

Live Mint Aviation 06/11/2019

In the global aviation market, India is leading in the Asia-Pacific region's growth story with regard to the commercial aviation market, a recent report titled "Indian Commercial Market Outlook" released by Boeing on Wednesday in New Delhi has revealed.

India has over 60% of the share of private consumption in the GDP in terms of the global aviation market, while the Asia-Pacific region has about 55% of the share, according to the Boeing report. The report further states that the Indian aviation market which experienced a slump at the beginning of 2019, has already picked up pace and is forecast to grow at about 7.5% of the real GDP growth between 2020 to 2025.

The Asia-Pacific region's commercial aviation market is likely to grow at a little over 4% in terms of real GDP growth.

The airlines network has also been on the rise since the last 10 years and the commercial aviation market in India has witnessed a growth of 400% in the last 10 years. While in 2008, the weekly flights in India were just 1,118, it jumped to 4,501 weekly trips in 2018, according to the report.

Seeing this exponential growth in the Indian commercial aviation market, Boeing has forecast that air carriers in India will need 2,380 new commercial airplanes, valued at USD 330 billion, to handle the growing demand for air travel over the next 20 years and to operate and maintain the expanding fleet, operators are expected to spend \$440 billion on aviation services, including ground, station and

cargo operations, along with maintenance and engineering.

The last 10 years also witnessed a massive passenger growth in the Indian aviation market; since 2008, the domestic aviation passenger grew three times till 2018 and international passengers in India grew by 2.5 times and the Indian commercial aviation sector carried 184 million passengers in 2018 compared to 72 million in 2008.

09/11/19 Dibyendu Mondal/Sunday Guardian Live

A CISF driver-constable and six airside workers failed the aviation regulator **DGCA-mandated alcohol tests in the last two weeks**, according to an official statement issued on Saturday.

It also said **13 employees of different airlines and airports failed alcohol tests between September 16 and October 28.**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), in the statement, said that on November 2, a driver-constable of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), who was working at the Mumbai airport, tested positive in breath analyser examination.

Six other workers - one each of Casino Air Caterers and Flight Services, AMA Private Limited, Air India SATS, Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL), Global Airport and Ground Services and Mumbai Airport International Limited (MAIL) failed their alcohol tests, it said.

The aviation regulator on September 16 had issued rules for the tests to be conducted at all airports for airside workers, including those handling aircraft maintenance, air traffic control (ATC) and ground handling services.

09/11/19 PTI/IndiaTV

A 56-year-old man and a Tajik woman were arrested at Delhi airport in separate incidents for allegedly trying to smuggle in gold worth about Rs 50 lakh, according to a statement issued on Sunday. The man was intercepted after his arrival from Auckland to Delhi via Bangkok on Saturday, it said.

A detailed personal and baggage search of the passenger resulted in the recovery of different gold items, two diamond-studded gold rings, all were worn by him, and 12 **gold bars** concealed in a black handbag, the statement said. All these gold items weighing **627 grams** and having a market value of Rs 26.76 lakh were seized, and the **56-year-old man** was arrested, the statement issued by the customs department said.

On Friday, **a 44-year-old Tajikistan national who arrived from Istanbul to Delhi** was intercepted by the customs officials, it said. A detailed personal search of the passenger resulted in the recovery of gold items, weighing **650 grams**. The market value of the gold seized is assessed to be **Rs 24.49 lakh**, the statement said, adding that the woman was arrested.

10/11/19 PTI/Republic

New Delhi: A Goa-bound man was caught at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying 10 bullets in his baggage, an official said.

Passenger RP Mishra was going through security checks at the Indira Gandhi International Airport around 11 am on Friday when a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel detected "bullet-like objects" in his hand baggage, he said.

"Ten live bullets of .32 mm calibre were recovered from the man who was supposed to board a flight to Goa. He was handed over to police as he could not produce valid documents for carrying the

ammunition," the official said.

09/11/19 PTI/NDTV

Ahmedabad: The air intelligence unit (AIU) deployed at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport, nabbed a passenger carrying gold in the wee hours of Saturday morning. Well-placed sources privy to the development confirmed that close to **3kg of gold was seized from a male passenger**, who landed at the city airport early on Saturday. The passenger was immediately detained by officials of the AIU.

"The passenger **travelled from Bangkok in Thailand, to Ahmedabad via SpiceJet flight, SG-86**. Nearly 3kg of gold was found from the passenger, in the form of gold bars," confirmed the source.

Pure gold price in Ahmedabad stood at Rs 39,200 per 10 gram on Saturday. Based on this, the value of the gold seized from the passenger is estimated to be Rs 1.17 crore.

Queries to the airport customs department elicited no response. Incidents of gold smuggling in the form of jewellery, coins or bars, have gone up over the past few months, said sources.

10/11/19 Times of India

New Delhi: **An Air India flight (AI 670) winging its way from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai on Friday evening with over 180 people on board was diverted to Raipur following engine trouble.**

According to sources, a passenger reported seeing suspected fire on an engine of the Airbus A321. He informed the crew and then the pilot made a safe emergency landing at Raipur.

Passengers were safely evacuated using slides on the runway once the Airbus A321 stopped. The single-runway Raipur airport is closed and is expected to resume operations around 8.30 pm. The DGCA and AI are probing this incident.

According to preliminary information given to DGCA by AI, said an official, "Fire was reported by passenger to the cabin crew. The latter immediately informed the captain. The pilots carried out some checks and shut down engine number 1. They carried out a safe single engine landing in Raipur where passengers were evacuated using slides on the runway. The aircraft was towed from the runway."

AI spokesman Dhananjay Kumar said: "The flight made an emergency landing in Raipur due to tail (possibly meaning tailpipe fire, which occurs within the normal gas flow path of the engine) fire. There was only tail fire and no fire warning in the cockpit. However when cabin crew reported fire on the engine, captain discharged the fire extinguisher bottle. Tail fire could be due engine blades damage and incomplete combustion in the engine."

08/11/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Global aerospace giant Airbus on Monday conducted a demonstration tour of its new A220 on the Bengaluru-Delhi route, hoping to secure sizeable orders for the aircraft from Indian airline operators.

The A220, with the largest and quietest cabin in its class, offers a wide-body passenger comfort in a single-aisle aircraft, a press statement by Airbus said.

"It (A220) is the only aircraft purpose-built for the 100-150 seat market and offers extended range capability of up to 3,400 nautical miles making it particularly suitable for operations in India," it said.

A220 incorporates state-of-the-art technologies, the latest aerodynamic design and new generation

engines resulting in fuel savings of 20 per cent, the aircraft manufacturer added.

The tour, which comprised of static display of aircraft at Bengaluru airport and a demonstration flight to Delhi, was conducted on Thursday for airline executives, government officials and mediapersons.

During the demonstration flight, Connor Buott, the senior analyst, Single-Aisle Family Product Marketing, Airbus, said, **"When we look at Asia, over the next 20 years, we see the aviation demand tripling. In India specifically, we see demand for approximately 2,000 single-aisle aircraft, which includes the A220. We see quite a high demand in India for smaller single-aisle aircraft."**

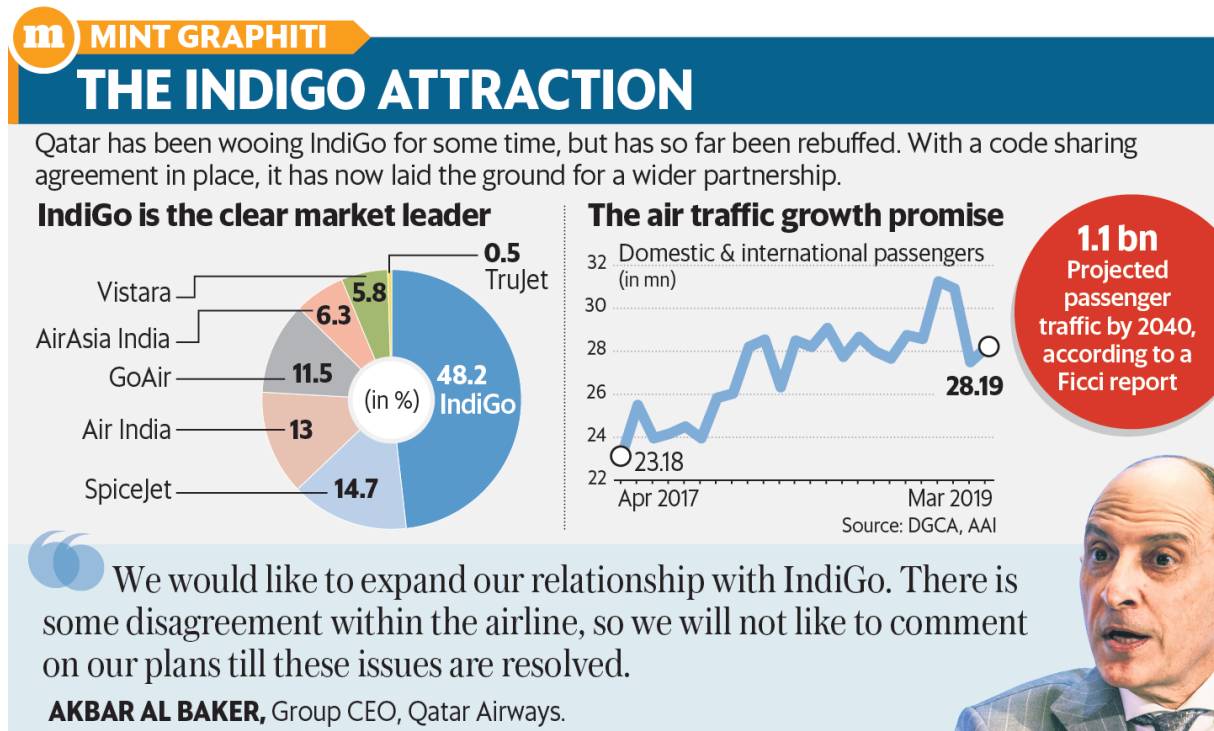
PTI, 11/11/2019

Qatar Airways on Thursday reiterated its interest in picking up a stake in InterGlobe Aviation Ltd-owned IndiGo, India's largest domestic airline, but said it does not want to take part in the privatization of flag carrier Air India Ltd.

Qatar Airways' plan will be a blow to the Indian government's renewed efforts to privatize debt-laden Air India. A similar effort in 2018 failed to attract even a single bidder.

"We are very keen to take a stake in IndiGo but I don't think this is the right time," Qatar Airways group chief executive Akbar Al Baker said at a news conference to announce a code-share agreement with IndiGo. "We would like to expand our relationship with IndiGo. There is some disagreement within the airline (promoter feud), so we will not like to comment on our future plans for IndiGo till these issues are resolved."

A spokesperson for IndiGo declined to comment on Qatar Airways' interest in taking a stake in the Gurugram-based airline. "Currently, we have just entered into a partnership with Qatar Airways," the spokesperson said.



Qatar's interest in IndiGo comes amid a battle between the promoters of InterGlobe Aviation that has reached US shores, with Rahul Bhatia-led InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) filing a lawsuit in Florida and Maryland courts in October to seek information from co-founder Rakesh Gangwal and independent director Anupam Khanna. Gangwal first complained to the Securities and Exchange Board of India in July that Bhatia's IGE group's outsized rights have helped it push through transactions and policy changes that violate corporate governance rules. Bhatia has denied the allegations.

The government plans to shortly invite bids to sell its entire stake in Air India, after potential buyers balked at an initial attempt to divest a partial stake in the airline with the government retaining a minority stake in it. The expression of interest document for the privatization process is likely to be finalized by November-end, government officials had earlier told Mint.

In the latest attempt, the government may ease rules, which currently allow foreign carriers to own only up to a 49% stake in an Indian airline.

Qatar Airways' interest in IndiGo comes amid a blockade imposed by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates on Qatar and its state-owned airline, since June 2017, that has restricted its flights, driven up costs and led to the airline reporting huge losses.

"We would be making \$700-800 million profit if the blockade was not there. The loss, however, was much less than what we had accounted for," said Al Baker.

Qatar Airways posted a loss of 2.3 billion Qatari riyals (\$639 million) for the year ended 31 March, as it grappled with the second year of an embargo by its neighbours.

On Thursday, Qatar Airways signed a one-way code share pact with IndiGo. Under the pact, Qatar Airways would be able to place its code on IndiGo flights between Doha and Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad.

"Code share between IndiGo and Qatar Airways are signs of a growing cooperation between the two airlines," said Al Baker.

Code sharing allows an airline to book its passengers on partner carriers and provide seamless travel to destinations where it has no presence.

The code-share agreement between Qatar Airways and IndiGo is expected to fuel the Indian carrier's overseas ambitions and improve traffic from the fast-growing Indian air travel market to the Gulf carrier's network.

This is the second code-share agreement for IndiGo after a similar pact with Turkish Airways.

"We are starting with baby steps, (like code-share), which will only grow (going forward)," IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta said. "IndiGo and Qatar (Airways) fit together well and we both have same track record for success." **He added that eventually IndiGo, through its code-share partnership, will take passengers from India to destinations beyond Doha such as Europe and the US.**

IndiGo's plan to start flights to Europe in the years ahead would remain unaffected by the pact with Qatar Airways, Dutta said.

"We want to go non-stop to Europe, which is why we have placed orders for A321XLR aircraft (with extended range)," Dutta said, adding that the pacts with Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines will instead supplement IndiGo's plan to fly to Europe.

Live Mint Aviation 08/11/2019

New Delhi: Airbus expects its new A220 aircraft, with a seating capacity of 100-150, to find takers among newer airlines seeking to operate under India's UDAN regional connectivity scheme, which is opening up markets with subsidised fares.

"There is a demand not only to replace regional aircraft and either supplement or complement the Airbus 320 family, but there is also a demand for new aircraft today," said Connor Buott, single-aisle product marketing senior analyst, customer affairs, at Airbus.

The European aircraft manufacturer expects existing airlines to look at this aircraft in the future as the country's aviation market expands.

"The reality is before the A220 came along, there was no such aircraft available.

There was no new design (size of this aircraft) over the last roughly 30 years in this space. At Airbus, we see huge market demand — 7,000 aircraft in the 100 to 150 seat space — including from India.

13/11/19 Economic Times

Mumbai: Air India flight attendants who fall sick now, get worried about availing sick leave as they fear termination. Two weeks ago, the airline issued termination letters to four cabin crew members, all of whom were rostered for duty on a Delhi-Mumbai flight, but called in sick.

Air India's problem with cabin crew scheduling began last month on Karva Chauth when a number of cabin crew members unexpectedly called in sick, said a source. "Most of them were those who had applied for leave, but were denied leave though AI has a surplus of crew," the source said. "The AI inflight department would call up the crew and enquire about their health, only to find that many were willing to report to duty," the person added.

But as the festive season progressed, so did the number of crew calling in sick on the day of their flight. "Then **on November 2 and 3, about 230 crew members called in sick,**" said the source. Among them were four members, all of them rostered for duty on Delhi-Mumbai flight AI-887. "The AI management decided to clamp down and issued show cause notice for termination to the four flight attendants," the source further said.

An AI spokesperson confirmed that termination letters were sent to the crew because on November 2 and 3 there was a sudden jump in the number of people who reported sick.

13/11/19 Manju V/Times of India

Trichy: A Dubai-bound Air India Express flight was grounded with 165 passengers at Trichy International Airport after it developed a technical snag just before the takeoff during the wee hours on Tuesday. Meanwhile, an alternate flight took off from Trichy carrying all the passengers on Tuesday morning.

According to airport sources, **flight IX612** arrived at the airport at 12.10 am on Tuesday and was supposed to leave for Dubai at 1 am. However, during the routine check, **the technical team detected a snag.** Later, it was announced that the flight was cancelled and all the 165 passengers were given proper accommodation.

The technical team was working to rectify the issue. In the meantime, an alternate flight, which arrived here from Thiruvananthapuram, took off with the 165 stranded passengers around 8.55 am.
13/11/19 Times of India

India will soon set up a cross-border framework for dealing with insolvency cases involving assets and creditors of insolvent companies spread across various geographies, a move which is expected to see faster resolution of cases such as Jet Airways and UAE-based subsidiaries of bankrupt IL&FS (Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd).

“Though foreign creditors and vendors can make claims for their loans and dues from Indian companies which are under insolvency under the newly enacted Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) law, the proposed cross-border framework will adopt a model law – in the lines of UNCITRAL Model Law – to provide added avenues for dealing with their claims,” a senior official of the Corporate Affairs Ministry, told Arabian Business.

“The proposed amendments to the IBC Act will also provide recognition of foreign insolvency proceedings, foster cooperation and communication between domestic and foreign courts and insolvency professionals,” the federal ministry official said.

The amendment bill to the IBC, which envisages cross-border framework to deal with insolvency cases, is expected to be introduced in the winter session of Indian Parliament, during its sitting from November 18 until December 13.

Insolvency cases such as the grounded Indian airline Jet Airways, which has Etihad as a foreign investor and several international companies as its aircraft leasing agencies and other vendors, have been stuck at India’s insolvency court, partly because of parallel legal proceedings for claims on its assets by foreign lenders and vendors in their respective countries.

Similarly, the bankrupt IL&FS group’s efforts to sell stake in the \$79 million robotic car parking project at Dubai Courts of Park Line LLC, a subsidiary of IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd (ITNL) and NextGen Parking (NGP), part of the Dubai-based KBW Investments, have also hit hurdles in the absence of cross-border framework to deal with foreign assets of insolvent Indian companies.

13/11/19 James Mathew/Arabian Business

Mumbai: Air India Engineering Services Ltd (AIESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India, has signed a Letter of Intent with GDC Technics – a US-based aerospace engineering company – to form a strategic partnership to pursue maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) and modification opportunities for Air India airplanes as well as other commercial aircraft throughout the region. Under the agreement, GDC will provide engineering and certification services, while AIESL will provide the labour, equipment and facilities required to perform MRO and modification services in accordance with FAA, EASA and DGCA regulations.

The growing Indian and Asia Pacific markets provide an opportunity for AIESL to expand its already elaborate MRO capabilities to aircraft beyond just the Air India fleet. This partnership comes at a time when Air India is facing stiff competition from other carriers such as Star Air launching new flights and international budget airlines like Jazeera Airways covering new routes.

A GDC Technics Reliability, Availability, Maintainability, and Safety (RAMS) team was recently dispatched to India to complete modification work at an AIESL facility.

13/11/19 Indus Dictum

Mumbai: The Air India A321 plane, which was diverted to Raipur mid-air due to 'tail fire' incident last week, will require engine replacement even as aircraft accident investigation body AAIB has taken over the probe into the incident, a source said on Tuesday.

The source also said that an Airbus A319 plane is expected to be flown to Raipur on Friday, and one of its engines will be removed and fitted into the grounded plane.

Last Friday, a city-bound Air India flight from Bhubaneswar, carrying 189 persons on board, had to make an emergency landing at Chhattisgarh's Raipur airport due to tail fire in one of the engines of the aircraft.

"The Air India Airbus A321, VT-PPT, remains grounded at the Raipur airport since November 9. One of the engines of the plane has suffered damages and will have to be changed. Till then it will remain out of operations," said the source close to the development.

An A319 aircraft will be routed to Raipur on Friday for an engine change, adding, "We will remove one of the engines of this aircraft and install it on the grounded aircraft (VT-PPT) and make it fit for operations."

Air India spokesperson was not available for comments. He also said that the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has taken over the probe into the incident.

The aircraft has been inspected both by a team of AAIB and Air India flight safety department along with airline's engineering wing, the source said.

Besides, a senior official from the airworthiness wing of the directorate general of civil aviation's Bhopal office has also inspected the aircraft, he added.

12/11/19 PTI/Business Standard

New Delhi: Boeing's announcement on Monday that it expects the grounded 737 MAX to resume commercial services in January, as it works to address questions from regulators over its documentation for revisions to the plane's software, has met with scepticism in Indian aviation circles.

India is unlikely to allow the 737 MAX aircraft to start flying in the Indian skies from January next year. "It is quite unlikely as we have a lot of ground to cover," a senior official of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

It remains to be seen whether the European aviation regulator will allow the aircraft to fly in its territory, merely based on a certification given by the US authorities. Earlier this year, the European Aviation Safety Agency had said that it would conduct its own tests before allowing the MAX to fly in its skies.

Even as the manufacturer is moving ahead with its plans, pilots in India have expressed their doubts about whether the MAX can be re-certified to fly within the next seven weeks.

According to some pilots, there was little information about the new design. While one of the pilots commented that Boeing had given itself a very short deadline, another said that they only had the manufacturer's claim that it had sorted out problems with the aircraft design. He, however, added that he would not be surprised if the process was completed in the first quarter of next year.

Captain P.P. Singh, Senior Vice-President, JetLite, pointed out that at first glance, it appeared that there was a gap between the timelines being projected by Boeing and its major US-based 737 Max customers, including Southwest Airlines. Whereas Boeing claims that it was possible for deliveries to commence by next month, Southwest and American Airlines had pushed the scheduled operation of their MAX aircraft to March 2020.

12/11/19 Ashwini Phadnis/Business Line

New Delhi: India's aviation regulator plans to monitor all passenger related complaints to ensure they are redressed efficiently and in a time-bound manner.

A senior official at the the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) told ET the move is aimed to empower the passengers at a time when air passenger ridership numbers are rising with many first-time fliers and carriers are adding new flights and routes to cater to the growing demand.

"We have a wing in the DGCA that monitors fares and it will now be tasked to check the closure of complaints filed with us or even on AirSewa, which is (the civil aviation) ministry's portal to resolve consumer complaints," the official said requesting anonymity.

The official said though the number of complaints are increasing not all of them are genuine. "Our intervention helps both ways—it ensures that the passenger complaint is addressed within time and also ensures the flier that they are being heard."



Sources said DGCA director general Arun Kumar is keen to focus attention on fliers. The DGCA has, under his leadership, announced several other measures to empower the fliers.

According to DGCA data, scheduled domestic airlines received 701 passenger-related complaints in September. The number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried in the month was 0.61.

But the DGCA official said the complaints received through other modes were much higher and that there were complaints against service at airports too.

The Airsewa portal of the civil aviation ministry receives several complaints but not all of them are addressed in a time-bound manner.

Officials believe intervention from the regulator will expedite the whole process.

Last month, the DGCA had asked airlines to resolve passenger complaints on social media, provide them updates on delays and cancellations, and ensure that ticket refunds are processed on time.

The Economic times of India 13/11/2019

The national carrier Nepal Airlines has six Chinese airplanes – four purchased through loan and two provided by China as gifts. The Executive Chairman of Nepal Airlines, Madan Kharel, told the press on 6 November, "We have been holding talks with the government to get rid of the Chinese planes." He said the airliner wants to revamp its domestic operations, "but that's not possible by flying the Chinese planes."

Nepal Airlines signed a commercial agreement with the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, a Chinese government undertaking, in November 2012, for six aircraft—two 56-seater MA60s and four 17-seater Y12es. As part of the deal, China provided one MA60 and one Y12e (worth Rs2.94 billion) as gifts in 2014. The other aircraft were bought for Rs3.72 billion with loan provided by the EXIM Bank of China.

From 2020, the Nepal Airlines will begin paying over Rs250 million every year as interest for the six Chinese aircraft bought in 2014, as the 7-year loan repayment grace period ends. The Government of Nepal is charged an annual interest rate of 1.5% and additional 0.4% as a service charge and management expenses on the loan, while it in turn charges 8% to the Nepal Airlines. The first 7 years is the grace period for repayment, and the payback period of the loan is 20 years.

Although the first two aircraft were delivered in 2014, Nepal Airlines refused to receive all the planes, citing their poor performance in Nepali skies and a lack of pilots trained specifically for the Chinese planes. The final two Y12e planes were finally delivered in February 2018. According to Chairman Kharel, other problems of the Chinese planes are: timely availability of the spare parts in time or in other countries or with vendors, and shortage of pilots to fly these planes.

Among the four Y12e, only one is currently in operation because Nepal Airlines has only two pilots trained to fly the Chinese planes. If the planes cannot be sold, especially because two were received as gifts, the airline plans to bring the rest of the aircraft into operation gradually by March 2020. One of the two MA60 is still grounded, and the airline plans to bring it into operation by mid-December 2019.

Chairman Kharel said that in order to retain pilots to fly the Chinese planes, older pilots will be hired because young pilots soon choose to fly bigger planes after completing the required minimum flying hours for the Chinese planes. Former Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), Sanjiv Gautam, said that the Y12e version was certified by the US Federal Aviation Administration in 2006. Therefore, rather than the plane, the problem is with the management in not planning well to produce and retain sufficient numbers of pilots. In his opinion, the Y12e does not perform up to par when flying to airports in high-altitude regions such as Manang and Dolpa, but it can fly reasonably well to airports in the hilly region.

The planes incur an annual loss of Rs600 million in insurance and operating costs. According to the annual (2017-18) report of the Office of the Auditor General, the MA60 aircraft made an income of Rs206 million, while its operating costs were Rs313 million and other indirect expenses were Rs212 million (total annual losses of Rs316.4 million). The Y12e earned Rs25 million, while its operating costs were Rs188.5 million and indirect expenditure Rs96.3 million (total annual losses of Rs289.7).

The Nepal Airlines is also paying Rs3 billion annually in interest to lenders for the purchase of four Airbus planes—two A320s and two A330s.

Nepal 14.11.2019 EEAS Delegations Press Review

Mumbai: **Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL), Fairfax India Holdings Corp., and GMR Infrastructure Ltd were among the four bidders who qualified for the ₹30,000-crore Jewar airport at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.**

The four companies met the technical and financial criteria set out by the state government to qualify for the bidding process for the Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) project, two people aware of the development said, requesting anonymity. **The airport, which is expected to be completed by 2040, will be the largest airfield in India with 4-6 runways.**

Mint could not confirm the identity of the fourth bidder. Around 20 companies, including government-run Airports Authority of India, Zurich airport operator Flughafen Zurich AG, and Anil Ambani-led ADAG group, had shown interest in the project.

Spokespersons for GMR, AEL and Fairfax did not respond to Mint's queries seeking comment.

The bidding process for NIAL will be run by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, the state-run implementation agency for the greenfield project.

The winning bid will be decided on the basis of the highest monthly per-passenger fee that the concessionaire will offer to the state government.

Jewar is one of the 18 greenfield airports that have been given in-principle approval by the central government.

Some others are Mopa (Goa); Navi Mumbai, Pune, Shirdi, and Sindhudurg (Maharashtra); Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hassan, and Shimoga (Karnataka), Kannur (Kerala); and Bhogapuram airport (Andhra Pradesh).

The airport will be built in four phases. Phase 1, which will have one runway and an annual passenger capacity of 12 million, is expected to be operational by 2023 at a cost of ₹4,588 crore. NIAL is designed to handle 70 million passengers a year by the end of phase 4.

The techno-economic feasibility report for NIAL by PwC expects that the project will require equity capital of ₹8,868 crore from its sponsors, while the remaining will be raised through external debt. At least three of the four bidders have investments in the airports sector in India. GMR Infrastructure, one of the first private airport operators in India, operates the Delhi, Hyderabad, and Philippines airports. Indian-origin Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa is a majority shareholder in Bengaluru International Airport Ltd, while Gautam Adani-led Adani Enterprises Ltd successfully bid for the six public airports that were recently privatised by the government.

"Delhi-NCR definitely needs a second airport, even after the capacity expansion at the Indira Gandhi International Airport," Vijay Agrawal, executive director, Equirus Capital, an infrastructure advisory firm, said in an interview.

"Jewar is situated at a prime location and will be accessible to passengers from Agra and Lucknow as well. The government has made a large land parcel available. We will have to see how much the bidders are willing to pay the government, taking into account the tariffs charged by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority," he said.

In October 2018, the Uttar Pradesh government had notified the acquisition of 1,239.14 hectares for the development of the Noida airport under Section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The administration had to acquire 1,239.14 hectares from 3,000 farmers for the first phase, in Gautam Buddh Nagar. The government requires 5,000 hectares for the entire project.

Since 2018, investments and private participation in the airport sector has taken off in India.

Given the rapid airline passenger growth in the country, the capacity in multiple airports is being breached. With a majority of India's population waiting to take to air-travel, growth opportunities are huge. **A 2018 estimate by the research arm of credit rating agency Crisil found that the airports sector requires an investment of \$45-50 billion by 2030.**

Budget carrier GoAir grounded the crew of its Nagpur-Bengaluru flight for overshooting the runway at Bengaluru airport on Monday, the airline said on Thursday.

"On November 11, our flight (G8 811) from Nagpur to Bengaluru carried out go around over the Bengaluru airport and was diverted to Hyderabad," said the airline in a statement to IANS.

Civil aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ordered an investigation into the incident, involving an Airbus A320, for overshooting the runway and then undertaking a risky take-off from a grass strip.

The aircraft with 180 passengers and crew took off and landed at the Hyderabad airport, after not being able to land at the city airport.

The Mumbai-based Wadia-group owned GoAir did not disclose the names of the pilots involved in the incident.

Live Mint Aviation 14/11/2019

The country's aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has suspended pilots of GoAir flight that landed outside the runway at the Bangalore airport on 11 November amidst poor weather conditions, a senior official of the agency said.

DGCA has also ordered an inquiry into the incident involving the Airbus A320 aircraft operated by the Wadia Group-owned no-frill airline.

Due to bad weather at the Bangalore airport, on 11 November, GoAir aircraft VT-WGR, plying between Nagpur and Bangalore, had to initiate a go-around, the DGCA official said, requesting anonymity.

A go-around is an aborted landing of an aircraft that is on final approach.

During the go-around process, one of the engines stalled, said the official, adding that the same engine stalled again during climb as the aircraft was diverted to Hyderabad.

"After landing at Hyderabad, mud deposit had been observed on left main landing gear, indicating that aircraft has rolled on to soft ground or unpaved surface," the official said.

"Aircraft has been grounded for detailed investigation at Hyderabad. DFDR (Digital Flight Data Recorder) data along with other recorder data is being analysed for further investigation," the official added.

"Pending the investigation by GoAir and the regulator, the flight crew have been kept off flying duty," GoAir said in a statement, adding, "Safety of our passengers and crew is of paramount importance to GoAir and the airline is committed to all aspects of safety."

According to Flightradar24, a Swedish commercial aircraft flight information website, the GoAir flight between Nagpur and Bangalore on 11 November was operated on an Airbus A320Neo aircraft.

Airlines like IndiGo and GoAir, which operate Airbus A320Neo planes powered by Pratt & Whitney (P&W) engines, have been facing snags with the engines.

Last month, the DGCA directed both IndiGo and GoAir to stop flying Airbus A320neo planes powered by Pratt and Whitney (P&W) 1100 series engines, which have operated more than 3,000 hours.

Live Mint Aviation 14/11/2019

NEW DELHI: InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, which runs India's largest airline IndiGo, plunged to a record quarterly loss of ₹1,062 crore in the recently concluded September quarter as higher maintenance and overhaul costs outweighed the increase in passenger traffic. IndiGo's chief executive officer Ronojoy Dutta said in an interview that the airline expects its unit revenue, or revenue per seat, to remain flattish during the ongoing quarter —after registering 5% growth each quarter during the past few quarters—due to the slowing economy and other factors. Edited excerpts:

IndiGo's costs rose sharply during the September quarter.

We have started following a new accounting standard from Q2 (September quarter). The new accounting standard looks at our total foreign liabilities. If dollar gets stronger, we take a hit. Apart from this, shop visits (**MRO visits**) and **pilot training led to a rise in costs during the quarter**. In 2016, we had a lot of A320neo planes which were supposed to be delivered but didn't get delivered. So, to make sure that we didn't have any capacity shortfall, we **extended leases of our A320ceo planes, about 100 of them, by four years**. Typically, we return the aircraft in six years, with shop visits taking place every four years. As a result, the leases of these aircraft were extended to 8-10 years. So, we had to take the aircraft for a second shop visit. We expect this cost to incur only till 2021-22.

What steps have you taken to mitigate your pilot shortage issue?

We were always tight on pilots, and it was sort of straight-jacketing us in many ways. Typically in a month, we used to train about 20-25 pilots. Right now, we are churning out 50 captains every month, for the last couple of months. So, this has temporarily led to a spike in costs, which is expected to go away by June next year.

What's the logic behind the recent codeshare agreement with Qatar Airways? Qatar Airways has also expressed interest to pick up stake in IndiGo in future.

We are looking at different points of focus around us. They are Istanbul, Doha, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, and these are places we will have lots of flights into. So, we would need flights, from these destinations to (places) beyond, so we need a code-share agreement with other airlines. As for Qatar Airways' interest to pick up stake in IndiGo, it's up to them to decide. We are just in there for a codeshare.

Do you expect a reconciliation between IndiGo promoters?

At a certain point of time, the company was in some way involved (with the promoters' spat). This was when we were looking at RPTs (related party transactions). Obviously, when we place orders, we needed to know about RPTs. However, the board has come up with a procedure to deal with RPTs, which all board members, and promoters, have agreed to. But, it (the promoter spat) currently has no impact whatsoever on the company. It's business as usual at IndiGo.

Do you plan to continue expanding aggressively internationally?

We want to go to all major cities around us, which is about six hours away, since our aircraft can fly that range. During the last few months, we have added flights to Kuala Lumpur, Kuwait, Doha, China, among others. Eventually, we want to create corridors of connectivity. For instance, We want to connect China and Africa via India, Middle East and Malaysia via India. Why can't I fly Chengdu-Mumbai-Nairobi? Why can't I fly Kuwait-New Delhi-Kuala Lumpur? These markets can be connected through narrow-body planes. But, something like Tokyo-India-London would need a wide body plane. We are seriously working on our wide-body aircraft plans. We eventually want to fly to London, and we can't do that with a narrow-body plane.

What are your domestic plans like?

We are not yet fully satisfied with the domestic market. There are still lots of room for growth with several new cities and towns yet to be connected to the (IndiGo) network. **For instance, we don't yet fly to Kanpur, Agra, and Leh, among others. We need to fly to all these cities.** We also want to provide a lot of access to smaller cities (in India). Going ahead, IndiGo will give customers a lot of choice, between non-stop and other flights, while travelling between two cities. Along with that, we aim to remain profitable.

Live Mint Aviation 14/11/2019

The Supreme Court's verdict on Thursday has dispelled a major cloud over the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets by the Indian Air Force (IAF) that has been looking forward to inducting the French-made planes to bolster its fast-depleting fleet. It caps a 12-year-long process to add the aircraft to the IAF and gives a massive fillip to the force's air deterrence capabilities vis-à-vis Pakistan and China.

Understandably, the IAF did not issue any statement on the verdict, but former air force chief Birender Singh Dhanoa hailed the apex court verdict. "I think we have been vindicated," Dhanoa was cited as saying by news agency ANI. "I hope the matter is now laid to rest. Raking up such issues to get political gains, putting the interest of your armed forces behind, I think is not right."

India is the fourth country after France, Egypt and Qatar to fly the Rafale produced by Dassault Aviation SA. Defence minister Rajnath Singh was in France last month for the official handover of the aircraft to the IAF.

Both Dhanoa and his successor, R.K.S. Bhadauria, have described the Rafale as a "game changer".

Most of the aircraft in the IAF's inventory, including the Dassault-made Mirage 2000 and the Russian-built Su-30MKI, are classified as either third- or fourth-generation fighters. The Rafale is categorized as fourth generation-plus fighter thanks to its radar-evading stealth capability, according to defence analysts.

Together with the S-400 anti-aircraft missile system that India has ordered from Russia, it tilts the conventional balance of power in the subcontinent towards the IAF.

The Rafale's strength lies in its advanced radar and an array of Meteor, Scalp and Mica missiles, besides 13 India-specific enhancements, the analysts said.

The Rafale's electronically scanned array radar allows for early detection and tracking of multiple air targets and generates three-dimensional maps of the terrain over which the jet is flying in real time. The Meteor is a next-generation beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) that can hit a wide range of targets with pinpoint accuracy. The Scalp is a long-range (300km), air-launched, stand-off attack missile aimed at stationary targets such as airbases, radar installations, communications hubs. The Mica is also a BVRAAM with unique stealth interception capability.

The India-specific enhancements include modifications in the fuel starter system that will enable the aircraft's engine to operate at optimum levels even at high-altitude air bases such as Leh.

With the cloud lifting over one of the most significant acquisitions for the IAF, it can now focus on other deals in the pipeline—two more Phalcon airborne warning and control systems from Israel, tankers from French manufacturer Airbus, and range of missiles from Israel and other countries.

The IAF has also issued a request for information (RFI) for 114 medium multi-role combat planes that are to be made in India through the strategic partnership route—i.e. between an Indian company partnering with a foreign original equipment manufacturer.

"The response to this RFI was received in July last year but further progress for issuance of request for proposal to kickstart the procurement process has not yet commenced," said Kishore Kumar Khera, a former IAF group captain. "One of the reasons could be this case in the Supreme Court about Rafale deal with all stakeholders awaiting the judgement. With Thursday's judgement, hopefully, all energies will be focused on equipping Indian Armed Forces with requisite hardware for them to be ready for present and future threats."

Live Mint Aviation 14/11/2019

New Delhi: Budget carrier GoAir on Sunday said its network planning head Samir Patel has resigned as he wants to go back to his family in the US.

Patel is a US citizen and has completed a year at GoAir.

"His family could not join him in India and hence Samir has decided to go back to his family," a GoAir spokesperson said.

17/11/19 PTI/Economic Times

New Delhi: With strong fundamentals, India's civil aviation sector is in its "golden age" and there is also healthy competition among domestic carriers, IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta has said.

Interestingly, the country's civil aviation sector has been experiencing lower growth in traffic compared to previous years and there has also been softness in fares in October, according to industry experts.

The traffic grew just 1.18 per cent in September, as per the latest available official data.

IndiGo, owned by InterGlobe Aviation, is the country's largest airline with a market share of 48.2 per cent in September.

While acknowledging that there are problems, including high taxes on jet fuel, Dutta said there are huge opportunities going forward.

"We are in the golden age of Indian aviation and there are huge opportunities going forward... There are always problems, there are always issues and economic cycles. (But) The fundamentals are

strong," he told PTI in an interview.

According to him, tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is 30 per cent higher than rest of the world.
Bringing ATF under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been a long pending demand of the airline industry.

"Then there are throughput charges for which we should be getting credit for taxes paid," he added. IndiGo has been aggressively expanding its operations and has started 11 overseas routes in the last one year. Recently, it placed an order for 300 more planes from Airbus and is also considering wide-body aircraft for long haul routes. On whether there is healthy competition among local carriers, Dutta replied in the affirmative.

"We have a commonality of interests. Airlines around the world have commonality (of interests). It extends to ATF taxes, infrastructure issues. In terms of who gets which rights and who flies where, it is all fierce competition," he noted.

17/11/19 PTI/India.com

Global aerospace major Boeing expects annual sourcing of key components from India to grow beyond the current level of \$1 billion, a senior company official has said.

At present, more than 160 suppliers provide the company with advanced components and subassemblies for commercial and defence aircraft as part of Boeing's integrated global supply chain.

These parts and assemblies cover critical components such as aerostructures, wire-harness, composites, forgings, avionics, mission systems and ground support equipment.

"Opportunity is a 'buzzword' with us and we are constantly looking at doing more here, with partners... Our annual sourcing from India stands at \$1 billion from over 160 suppliers, but this number will continue to grow," Boeing India President Salil Gupte told IANS.

17/11/19 IANS/CNBC TV18

New Delhi: A District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum here has directed Indigo Airlines to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹1.31 lakh after the passenger's luggage went missing during a flight from Dubai to Delhi.

The consumer panel also directed compensation of an additional amount of ₹20,000 towards the harassment caused to the complainant apart from the compensation towards the lost baggage.

The directions came when the consumer panel was hearing a plea moved by Dubai resident Smita Renwal, who contended that after reaching Delhi from Dubai, only one of her two luggage arrived. "On reaching the Delhi Airport she found that one baggage was untraceable which she handed over to the Indigo executives at the time of check-in. On advice of the [airline] executives, a written complaint was given by the complainant. It is stated that she visited India to attend the last rites of her grandfather," the consumer panel observed while noting the allegations made by the complainant.

17/11/19 The Hindu

Pune: A subsidiary of Air India, Alliance Air on Saturday, November 16, ferried its passengers from Nashik to Pune via road after the cancellation of the flight to Pune. The flight was cancelled after the NOTAM was issued at the Pune airport. The flight was coming from Hyderabad to Pune via Nashik and was supposed to land at Pune airport at 9:30 am on Saturday. After the cancellation, 18 out of 28 passengers were taken from Nashik to Pune by road.

A notice to airmen (NOTAM) is a notice filed with an aviation authority to alert aircraft pilots of potential hazards along a flight route or at a location that could affect the safety of the flight, or due to the security and maintenance of the airport facility. Apparently, the **NOTAM at Pune airport was issued in view of the closure of the runway for maintenance** on Saturday after 10.30 am, which is a weekly exercise. Every Saturday, the runway remains closed between 10.30 am and 5.30 pm for maintenance and airline operations are not allowed during this time. "Since runway was closed for maintenance and NOTAM was issued, we had to cancel the flight and out of 28 passengers around 18 passengers were given surface transport and they were brought to Pune by different cars safely," the official added.

17/11/19 Pritesh Kamath/Republic

New Delhi: The government is looking to wrap up the sale of state-run airline Air India and oil refiner and marketer Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) by March, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

"We are moving on both with the expectation that we can complete them this year. The ground realities will play out," she told TOI in an exclusive interview, while referring to **the strategic sale of the two state-run companies, a crucial part of the government's plan to raise over Rs 1 lakh crore in the current fiscal year.**

Sitharaman said there is a "lot of interest" among investors as evident in international road shows ahead of the sale of Air India. A year ago, the loss-making airline's sale had to be aborted due to tepid response from investors. The government is banking on receipts from disinvestment – comprising strategic sale and public offers – to shore up revenues in a year when tax collections are under pressure.

The minister also said the **government took measures to reverse the economic slowdown at the right time and several sectors are coming out of distress.** The finance minister also said industry captains had helped improve their balance sheet and many of them were planning fresh investments.

The FM, however, said she expected GST collections to revive on the back of an improvement in sales in some segments as also due to recent efforts to plug leakages. Sitharaman also said the Supreme Court judgement on Essar Steel had established constitutionality and legal strength of the IBC law and would have a huge impact on the balance sheets of banks in the next quarter.

17/11/19 Sidhartha/Surojit Gupta/Rajeev Deshpande/Times of India

Mumbai: The post-mortem of a 4-month-old infant who died en route from Surat to Mumbai on a flight on Friday has been 'inconclusive', said police sources.

The mother of the child, Rhia, had found her unresponsive and raised an alarm on SpiceJet's flight SG-2763 in the afternoon. A SpiceJet spokesperson told TOI that the air traffic control was requested for medical assistance as the aircraft was taxiing to the parking bay. "The infant was deplaned along

with her mother and grandparents and taken to a hospital," said the spokesperson. It is learnt that the post-mortem was "inconclusive". Doctors found no symptoms or marks of choking or aspiration, said a source at Cooper Hospital's post-mortem centre. "The cause of death has been reserved until the histopathology report is in," said the source. It is learnt that tissue samples of organs have been taken to check for any congenital anomaly.

17/11/19 Times of India

Kannur: In the last two days Customs officials seized unaccounted gold, saffron and Gutka from passengers at the Kannur International Airport.

Officers of the Air Customs here on Saturday seized ₹9 lakh worth gold and ₹4 lakh worth saffron and Gutka packets from a passenger, Kunhi Abdulla, a resident of Kasaragod, who arrived from Dubai by GoAir flight.

The gold was concealed in the form of foils kept between the layers of cardboard, sweet boxes and hanging wardrobes. This is the third case of seizure of saffron and gold foil in the airport in the last two days.

17/11/19 The Hindu

New Delhi: **An Afghan national was apprehended by CISF personnel at the Delhi airport on Sunday for allegedly carrying foreign currency worth Rs 16 lakh**, officials said.

Sarwar Baryily was intercepted around 6 am at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. He was going to take a flight to Kabul, they said.

USD 15,000, dirham 26, 500 and Afghan currency 3,880 worth about Rs 16 lakh were recovered from Baryily's bag, the officials said.

17/11/19 PTI/Outlook

Kathmandu: An Indian national has been arrested from Tribhuvan International Airport here for illegally possessing huge amount of foreign currency.

Satyanarayan Ramacharya, 35, was held when he was about to board a Dubai-bound Oman Air flight on Saturday. The police seized USD 25,000 from him.

The foreign currency, in 100 USD denomination notes, was found in Ramacharya's hand bag during security check.

17/11/19 Shirish B Pradhan/PTI/Outlook

The consortium of lenders to Jet Airways has ordered a second forensic audit into the airline's financials to trace the money trail associated with some of the company's dealings, sources told FE.

"For determining the value of the airline, lenders have been asked for financial statements of some deals made by the company, such as the sale of certain assets and the value of intangibles. Banks do not have all of these details," one of the people said.

Meanwhile, the Colombian Synergy Group, which was the only party interested in the beleaguered Jet Airways, has not yet put in a bid for the airline. The group, which had been given time till November 15, has sought time till February to evaluate their position, two people aware of the developments said.

Lenders are likely to accede to the request at the next meeting of the committee of creditors (CoC) on Tuesday. "At this point, the CoC is giving the extension as a hope against hope. Bankers are anyway in a situation of harakiri right now," the person said.

The CoC to Jet has once extended the deadline and given Synergy Group time till November 15 to present a resolution plan. However, the Synergy Group has not found an Indian partner, and is also doubtful about the recovery of slots that were earlier allotted to Jet Airways.

"The Synergy Group is keen on the London Heathrow airport slots that belonged to Jet, and there is no clarity on the fate of those," the person said.

16/11/19 Shritama Bose/Financial Express

South America's Synergy Group Corp has asked for a second extension to submit a final bid for Jet Airways, said Grant Thornton's Ashish Chhawchharia, the Resolution Professional for the airline. The Committee of Creditors (CoC) had earlier given Synergy an extension to submit a bid by November 15.

Synergy was the only company that had placed an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for the debt-strapped airline in August. Back then, the CoC had extended the last date to submit an Eoi because Synergy had shown the initial interest.

After the Eoi, the company signed a non-disclosure agreement which had given it the access to the data room for due diligence.

When BusinessLine asked the RP on Synergy's plan to place a bid, Chhawchharia said: "They have asked for an extension for about a month till December-end; however, it is subject to approval by the CoC."

The CoC is scheduled to meet again on November 19.

Another person in the know said that the South American conglomerate, which owns a majority stake in Avianca Airlines, is exploring various options and preparing a business plan as a part of which Synergy is considering a second hub for Jet Airways in South America. The company is also said to be in conversation with a few companies in South America.

15/11/19 Forum Gandhi/Business Line

The augmentation of flights from Mysuru – up from one to 7 – in the last six months has shored up air connectivity to Mysuru and is expected to give a boost to tourism and industrial development of the region in the long run.

TruJet introduced the Chennai-Mysuru-Chennai flight which was flagged off by Mysuru MP Pratap Simha on Friday and is the second flight to Chennai in view of the high originating air passenger traffic to that sector. With this, Mysuru has two flights to Chennai – a morning and an evening flight – apart from air services to Goa, Hyderabad, Kochi and Bengaluru.

Stakeholders are of the opinion that UDAN's regional connectivity scheme has helped put Mysuru on the air map of India and bring out the latent potential of the air passenger traffic. The introduction of the first non-UDAN flight is a reinforcement of the confidence of the latent air passenger traffic load which is now being tapped and the air services are here to stay for the long term, according to officials.

"There is no looking back now as flight operations have gained tremendous traction since the last few months and airline operators are convinced of the passenger potential", said R. Manjunath, Director, Mysuru Airport. He pointed out that passenger load factor was consistently high, which

gave confidence to the airline operators.

There are a few more air routes that are being explored and could be a reality by December and that include Mysuru-Tirupati and Mysuru-Belagavi-Shirdi.

Stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality sector aver that this will give a fillip to the travel industry, and Mysuru's economy to a large extent hinges on it. The city receives around 3.5 million tourists per year on a conservative estimate and almost 90 per cent are domestic travellers.

16/11/19 The Hindu

Vistara has been named the 'Regional Airline of the Year' at CAPA's 16th annual Asia Pacific Aviation Awards for Excellence held yesterday at the ongoing CAPA Asia Aviation Summit in Singapore. CAPA awards this title to an airline that has been the biggest standout strategically has established itself as a leader and demonstrated innovation in the regional aviation sector.

Vistara was selected for its substantial achievement and consistent growth in a highly competitive domestic market largely dominated by LCCs. Vistara's traffic grew by 30% in 2018 to more than five million passengers and its seat count is up by 40% in 2019. In the current financial year, Vistara has already grown its fleet and network by nearly 50% each and flown 4.5 million passengers in the last seven months.

Mr. Leslie Thng, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said: "Our vision is to establish Vistara as a global full service airline that India will be proud of. This recognition by CAPA reaffirms our confidence in realising this vision as we broaden our horizons and prepare to launch medium and long-haul international operations while bolstering our presence in India. Our effort continues to be to innovate and stay relevant in the dynamic aviation industry, to maintain the highest standards of operations and to focus on delivering consistent, world-class service to customers."

16/11/19 News18

Hyderabad: GMR Infrastructure Limited's consolidated net loss for the quarter ended September 30 widened to Rs 457 crore against Rs 334 crore in the July- September period last fiscal. The consolidated gross revenues for the quarter under discussion was Rs 2,018 crore. It was Rs 1,904 crore in Q2FY19, it said. Revenues from the Airports segment stood at Rs 1,494.

7 crore against Rs 1,315.5 crore in the second quarter of FY19, while the Power vertical garnered Rs 167.4 crore against Rs 178.2 crore in Q2FY19. Traffic at the Delhi Airport remained flat YoY at 17.3 million in Q2FY20 whereas grew by 10 per cent QoQ indicating the negative impact of Jet Airways is behind the company. The airport generated cash profit of Rs 135 crore in Q2FY20 vis a vis 88 crore in Q2FY19.

15/11/19 Hans India

The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport will soon sport a dedicated terminal for private jets by early next year, a senior company official has said.

The GMR Group's Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has "concessioned-out" the project to build the terminal and other facilities which are expected to be ready by January 2020.

DIAL is a consortium led by the GMR Group along with the Airports Authority of India. It has been mandated to operate and manage the IGIA.

"We are fast progressing with the development of new general aviation facilities, these comprise aircraft parking stands, hangar and a Fixed Based Operator (FBO) terminal facility," a senior DIAL

company official told IANS here.

"The construction of aircraft parking stands is nearing completion and these will be commissioned post the necessary approvals by early 2020."

Globally, FBO facilities aid in the expansion of general aviation services at busy airports around the world as they provide designated terminal for users of private jets and charter flights.

16/11/19 IANS/News18

Chandigarh: In perhaps the first public projection of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), also known as UDAN, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned to field a tableau on the scheme at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.

UDAN is a sobriquet for the RCS that stands for 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik'. The theme of the tableau is 'Airspace management, airport infrastructure development and regional connectivity scheme'.

Sources said the AAI was in the process of identifying a partner that could conceptualise, design and fabricate the tableau along with providing artistes, musical background and sound systems on a turnkey basis.

A senior AAI official said the tableau was envisioned to be a grand spectacle and a unique creation, so that it could catch the attention of the viewers and showcase the achievements of the AAI.

While the RCS has a potential to target 486 airports, out of which a large number are unserved or non-operational, it has so far connected 42 airports, including many which are underserved. The number of well served airports in India is limited.

15/11/19 Vijay Mohan/Tribune

A MiG-29K fighter aircraft crashed in South Goa's Dabolim on Saturday soon after it took off for a training mission, Indian Navy said.

Both the pilots have managed to eject safely. The aircraft involved in the crash was a trainer version of the fighter jet, the Indian Navy added. Navy Spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal tweeted, **"The MiG-29K trainer aircraft suffered an engine fire. The pilots Captain M Sheokhand and Lt Commander Deepak Yadav ejected safely."**

Sharing further details, Goa Airport sources said that the Navy aircraft crashed in South Goa at around 12 noon, shortly after the aircraft took off from the Dabolim International Airport.

MiG-29K trainer aircraft was flying from ashore in Goa. **During recovery, there was a bird hit and fire on the right engine was observed. The aircraft crashed in an open and safe area. No casualties reported, according to Indian Navy.**

16/11/19 ANI/Khaleej Times

Vishakhapatnam: As many as 90 Delhi-bound passengers were stranded as Port Blair to Delhi via Visakhapatnam flight was grounded at the city airport on Friday. Officials said the **AI flight no 488, which landed At Vizag airport from Port Blair, was grounded due to operational reasons.** They said the flight will now take off on Saturday. The transit passengers were accommodated in city hotels and their needs were taken care of, they said.

The A320 AI flight was scheduled to take off from Vizag airport at 5.28 pm and now it is likely to

depart at 9.25 am on Saturday—nearly 16 hours delay due to operational reasons. Those passengers, who wanted to cancel their journey, were allowed to do so. The officials said supporting staff will ready the flight for onward journey to Delhi on Saturday.

16/11/19 New Indian Express

Pune: As many as 150 passengers of a Delhi-bound Air India flight were stranded at Pune airport for nearly eight hours after their flight was delayed, reportedly due to a technical glitch in the aircraft.

The Air India flight AI 854 from Pune to Delhi was scheduled to depart at 10.15 pm on Thursday and arrive at 12.25 am at Delhi airport. It was rescheduled four times and finally departed at 6.15 am on Friday. The passengers had to board and deboard the plane four times.

"The flight was rescheduled four times. There was a problem with an engine. The passengers were informed that the spare parts were coming from another airport," said an airport official.

Many passengers, who had a connecting flight from Delhi to international destinations like New York, London and Frankfurt, missed their flights.

16/11/19 Indian Express

Madurai: Customs officials seized 1.1 kg gold that was smuggled in a handle of a stroller suitcase carried by a passenger from Singapore to Madurai on Thursday night.

The seizure was based on specific intelligence and the passenger was only engaged as a carrier, customs assistant commissioner A Venkatesh Babu said and added that they have got some leads on for whom he was carrying it. The passenger who has been identified as J Shahul Hameed, 31, of Arupukotai in Virudhunagar district flew from Singapore to Madurai in Air India Express around 10.30 pm on Thursday.

After a thorough search of the passenger's baggage, the officials found two 24 carat gold rods packed in the extendable handle of the suitcase. The rods measured 37 cms and 35 cms in length, respectively, and little less than a centimetre in thickness. The rods were found wrapped in black cellophane tape. The value of the seized gold was pegged at Rs 42,08,600.

16/11/19 Times of India

New Delhi: A team of Customs Department seized a large consignment of drones at Indira Gandhi International airport in New Delhi.

"A person was intercepted on Friday while he was crossing the Green Channel during the day after he reached Delhi from Hong Kong," a highly placed source in the Customs Department told IANS on condition of anonymity.

A large consignment of drone, mobile phones and memory cards were found from the luggage of the accused. During interrogation, the accused confessed that he had smuggled around 10,000 memory cards from Hong Kong earlier also.

The sources in the Customs Department said, "The value of the seized goods is around Rs 26 lakh. Around 10,000 memory cards, 5-6 mobile phones, four DJI drones and four MI drones have been seized."

16/11/19 IANS/India Today

New Delhi: During April-September of this year, customs officials at Indira Gandhi International airport (IGIA) have seized foreign currencies worth over Rs 9 crore. According to investigators, these currencies mostly were to be used for purchasing gold from other countries. As many as nine people including foreign nationals were arrested. The customs data accessed by Millennium Post revealed that during the aforementioned period, over 12 cases were reported in which five Indians and four foreigners were arrested for carrying a huge amount of foreign currencies. According to the Customs (Baggage Rules), a passenger must undertake a declaration from customs if he or she is carrying foreign currencies worth more than \$5000 or the equivalent.

During the same period last year, 39 cases were registered, under which 23 Indians and two foreign nationals were arrested and foreign currencies worth Rs 14.13 crore were seized by customs officials. These seized foreign currencies mainly include Dollar, Euro, and Dirham. According to customs officials, people from the economically weak background are used for the transportation of the foreign currency. "They are mostly aware about the money they are carrying. They get a commission for the illegal work," said an official.

15/11/19 Abhay Singh/MillenniumPost

An air traffic controller from the Civil Aviation Authority in Pakistan on Thursday saved a plane flying from the Indian city of Jaipur to Muscat by guiding it through air traffic during an emergency.

According to reports, the air plane, carrying 150 passengers, was flying over the Karachi region when it was caught in the middle of a weather pattern with lots of lightning that could have resulted in a catastrophe.

Following the lightning strikes, the plane dropped down from an altitude of 36,000 feet to 34,000 feet almost immediately. As a result, the pilot initiated emergency protocol and broadcast 'Mayday' to nearby stations.

The air traffic controller from Pakistan responded to the call of the captain of the plane and directed it through the dense air traffic in the vicinity for the remainder of the journey in Pakistani airspace.

Sources in the aviation authority said that the aircraft had encountered abnormal weather conditions near the Chor area of the southern province of Sindh.

15/11/19 Geo

The Indian government will defer the launch of the privatisation process of Air India (AI, Mumbai Int'l) to first further reduce the carrier's level of debt and plans to launch the sale in the first quarter of 2020, the Indian media have reported.

According to the Economic Times, in order to make the company more attractive, the government is planning to directly repay INR220 billion rupees (USD3.1 billion) owed by Air India to fuel suppliers, ground handlers, and airports. The government is also considering waiving the INR155 billion (USD2.2 billion) debt owed directly to the state by the airline.

"We are discussing ways to reduce these dues, which the airline owes to oil companies and various airport operators, among others," an unnamed government official said.

The airline's total debt stood at around INR600 billion (USD8.4 billion) before the government assumed INR294 billion (USD4.1 billion) through a special purpose vehicle Air India Asset Holding Ltd (AIAHL) earlier this year. AIAHL is now issuing bonds in tranches to repay this debt. On top of the remaining INR306 billion (USD4.3 billion) debt, Air India also has around INR220 billion (USD3.1 billion) in other liabilities.

Taking into account all planned moves, the total debt of Air India, including towards customers who purchased tickets, would be reduced to below INR200 billion (USD2.8 billion).

The government's stated goal is to reduce Air India's total debt to below the level of its annual revenues, which stood at nearly INR300 billion (USD3.1 billion) last year.

The carrier has also embarked on a real estate selling drive, hoping to earn around INR150 billion (USD2.1 billion) from the sale of properties in India and abroad. The proceeds would go towards the repayment of legacy debt.

14/11/19 ch-aviation

European aircraft maker Airbus on Thursday said India's aviation growth is in-line with international standards.

In an interview to CNBC-TV18's Anu Sharma, Grazia Vittadini, the global chief **technology officer**, said, "Demand for air travelling is projected to double every 15-20 years and that is an absolute success story for Airbus."

"However, it is a position of privilege which comes with great responsibilities because **twice as many aircraft means also twice as many emissions and noise. So, something we really are committed to mastering for the next aviation of aircraft**," she added.

15/11/19 CNBC TV18

New Delhi: Fair trade regulator CCI on Thursday approved Adani Properties' acquisition of 23.5 per cent stake in the country's second busiest aerodrome Mumbai International Airport.

Adani Properties has acquired the shares from Mauritius based Bid Services Division and ACSA Global Ltd.

As per the combination notice filed with CCI, the transaction involves acquisition of shares through two separate share purchase agreements.

While Adani is buying 13.5 per cent stake in Mumbai International Airport from Bid Services Division, the rest 10 per cent has been acquired from ACSA, as per the notice said.

In a separate tweet, Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it "approves merger of the BNP Paribas Mutual Fund and the Baroda Mutual Fund".

Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management in a joint statement in October had said they entered into binding agreements.

The strategic alliance would allow both companies to leverage each other's strengths to offer products specially designed for retail and institutional clients in India, they had said.

Baroda Asset Management is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, while BNP Paribas Asset Management India is an entity of BNP Paribas Asset Management Asia.

14/11/19 PTI/Times of India

New Delhi: Pursuing aggressive expansion plans, low-cost carrier IndiGo is actively considering operating wide-body planes with business class seats for long haul routes like London and Tokyo, a senior official said on Thursday.

IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta said the airline might also look at Boeing planes for long haul flights, those that are more than nine hours duration.

The airline, which started 11 new destinations in the last one year starting from October, recently placed a firm order for 300 aircraft from Airbus 320 neo family.

Currently, it has a fleet of around 245 planes.

"We are studying about wide-body (planes) but we have not made a decision. It is not imminent but it is on the drawing table. We are studying it actively," he told PTI in an interview.

As the airline goes into wide-body planes, he said it could look at Boeing or Airbus.

IndiGo's latest order with Airbus comprises A320neos, A321neos and A321XLRs.

Now, the carrier's total number of A320neo family aircraft order now stands at 730.

"In the last 12 months, from October to October, we grew our international operations 115 per cent. 11 new destinations. Clearly, international (operations) is very strong and we continue to grow. In the future, half the capacity will be domestic and half the capacity will be international. So, international is a big focus for us," Dutta said.

15/11/19 PTI/New Indian Express

A Chinese national was arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here on Thursday for carrying a banned satellite phone, the police said.

The Chinese national, Chang Wen Tang, was detained by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel at Terminal 2, from where he was to catch a flight to Raipur, after the Thuraya satellite phone was found in his luggage. He was later handed over to Delhi Police for further action.

15/11/19 IANS/India Today

Chennai: Customs officials seized 1.19kg of gold, worth Rs 43.7 lakh, and foreign currencies to the tune of Rs 45.4 lakh from passengers at Chennai airport on Wednesday.

Based on specific information, the officials intercepted Bunty Ashok Ramnani alias Dipen Ashok Suthar, 33, who arrived here from Mumbai in an Air India flight. When searched, six gold cut bars weighing 1.19kg were found concealed inside his pants pocket. The passenger was arrested.

Based on information, the officials intercepted Syed Ibrahim, 36, of Thiruvarur and Abdul Azeez, 51 of Virudhunagar who were bound for Kuala Lumpur in an AirAsia flight. During examination of their hand bags, it was found that the screws of the stroller portion were tampered with. The officials unscrewed the same and found assorted foreign currencies equivalent to Rs 45.4 lakh concealed in the bottom portions of the stroller bags. The passengers were arrested.

14/11/19 Siddharth Prabhakar/Times of India

A GoAir Airbus A320-200N, registration VT-WGR performing flight G8-811 from Nagpur to Bangalore (India) with 180 people on board, landed on Bangalore's runway 09 at 07:22L (01:52Z) in fog and low visibility however touched down at the left edge of the runway with the left main gear on soft

ground. The crew initiated a balked landing, went around and climbed to safety. After entering a hold at 8000 feet for about 30 minutes the crew decided to divert to Hyderabad (India), climbed the aircraft to FL280 and landed safely in Hyderabad about 90 minutes after the balked landing. After landing in Hyderabad the left main gear was found covered with mud.

India's DGCA rated the occurrence a serious incident and opened an investigation.

A number of (but not all) media in India claim an unnamed source associated with the DGCA reported the left hand engine (PW1127G) stalled during the go around. On social media one journalist even claims to quote a statement by DGCA (editorial note: showing a blank sheet of paper with text, but no letter head, signature or other indication of any official document, no such document is available on any of the DGCA outlets, callsign of the aircraft was GOW811, no D attached to the flight number, India's New Agency ANI does not mention any engine issue while confirming the runway excursion), that reads:

On 11.11.2019 Go Air A320 aircraft VT-WGR operated flight G8-811D(Nagpur-Bangalore). It was cleared for approach for R/W 09 at Bangalore. Due to bad weather at Bangalore aircraft initiated Go around. During the Go Around process No.1 engine stalled. The power on the effected engine was reduced to idle and Go around was continued. During climb No.1 Engine again stalled and power was again reduced to idle. The aircraft diverted Hyderabad with power on No.1 engine in climb detent.

After landing at Hyderabad mud deposit have been observed on left main landing gear, indicating that aircraft has rolled on to soft ground/ unpaved surface.

As per the crew aircraft has deviated to left during go around at Bangalore. Aircraft has been grounded for detailed investigation at Hyderabad.

DFDR data along with other recorder data is being analysed for further investigation.

14/11/19 Simon Hradecky/Aviation Herald

Mumbai: **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will review its earlier directive to IndiGo and GoAir to replace at least one of the two engines in 36 identified A320neos fitted with Pratt & Whitney engines, which have operated for over 2,900 hours. The civil aviation authority may give the airlines more time to comply with the directive.**

GoAir was given till November 13 and IndiGo till November 19 to replace at least one of the engines. Failing to comply with the order would result in the planes being grounded, the DGCA had said.

"The airlines have substantially done it (complied with the order) and therefore, we will grant them some more time to finish the task. GoAir has replaced an engine on eight of the 13 identified aircraft and for the rest, we are assessing the feasibility and will decide the fresh timeline by Friday. As of now, we do not intend to ground them (GoAir)," a DGCA official told FE. He added that the DGCA will also review the safety issues of the Airbus A320neos fitted with unmodified Pratt & Whitney engines. **Earlier this month, the DGCA had issued a directive asking IndiGo to replace both low-pressure-turbine (LPT) engines of the 97 Airbus A320neos fitted with Pratt & Whitney engines, which are currently in its fleet, by January 31, 2020.** The directive had followed four instances of flights turning back or engine shut-downs during the flight of IndiGo A320neo aircraft fitted with Pratt & Whitney engines in October. In one of the instances, the engine of the Pune-bound aircraft reportedly had stalled with a loud banging noise and experienced vibrations.

14/11/19 Anwesha Ganguly/Financial Express

Puducherry: The Puducherry government has proposed an international airport under public private partnership mode at Karasur here.

Chief minister V Narayanasamy told the media on Tuesday that revenue minister M O H F Shahjahan and Pdpic chairperson and DMK MLA R Siva mooted the proposal during an investors' meet in Singapore.

The chief minister said he made an appeal to executives of the Meinhardt group specialising in infrastructure development projects to invest in the expansion of the existing airport in Puducherry. He said the group has already developed airports in India, including in Delhi and Hyderabad. He expressed optimism that the proposed expansion of the existing airport and an international airport at Karasur will boost the economic growth of the Union territory.

14/11/19 Times of India

As the nation celebrates 'Children's Day', SpiceJet took undertook a special initiative – Sapnon ki Udaan (a flight of dreams) – a day-long carnival with 118 underprivileged children and adult patients battling cancer.

The initiative was supported by CanSupport, an NGO that runs India's largest free home-based palliative care programme for cancer patients and their families. This 'joy-flight' included children aged between six to 20 years. Most of them had never travelled by air before and wished to 'fly in a plane'.

A SpiceJet Boeing 737 aircraft was especially designated to take these patients on the 'joy-flight' which included 60 children and 58 adults. SpiceJet flew with the patients along with their guardians on a sortie from New Delhi airport. With a total of 146 passengers on-board, the aircraft flew over the city of Delhi for about an hour.

After landing at the Delhi airport, these patients were escorted to a hotel near Delhi Aerocity for a buffet dinner and fun activities for them to enjoy. The menu was especially curated taking into account all dietary restrictions.

14/11/19 Akanksha Maker/Business Traveller

Indian government has kicked off the process for privatising its debt-ridden national carrier Air India with a high level official team from the Department of Investment & Public Asset Management (DIPAM), civil aviation ministry and Air India conducting roadshows in Singapore this week, government sources have said.

The Indian government team is likely to visit London and Dubai also for discussions with prospective investors as a precursor to inviting expressions of interest (EOI).

"The team, headed by Secretary, DIPAM (T K Pandey), will make presentations and interact with prospective investors, including foreign airlines, investment funds and even HNIs (high net worth individuals) to gauge investor response and their feedback for the proposed divestment," a member of the secretary-level core group formed to deal with Air India privatisation, told Arabian Business.

Indian government plans to divest 100 percent of its stake in the national carrier. Global management consultancy EY is advising the Indian government on the Air India divestment transaction.

Foreign investors, including foreign airlines and airport operators, can, however, hold only up to 49 percent equity in Air India under the foreign direct investment (FDI) rules for the aviation sector.

"As of now, there is no move to change the FDI rule for aviation sector to allow foreign investors to hold majority stake in the airline," the senior government official said.

The core group member said the overseas road shows are mainly meant to woo foreign financial

investors - international funds, HNIs, etc – who may want to hold minority stakes in Air India, looking at the long-term prospective of the airline, post-privatisation.

14/11/19 James Mathew/Arabian Business