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**A French national was Sunday apprehended by the CISF at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying a satellite phone, which is banned under the law, in his luggage,** a senior official said.

Pierre L Bouihol was intercepted during frisking at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) at about 3 am as **he was about to take a flight to Leh in Jammu and Kashmir,** he said

The man was handed over to the Delhi Police by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as carrying a satellite phone is banned under law, the official said.

The communication gadget is allowed only for defence and other authorised category of people, he added.

Political times of india 02/06/2019

**IndiGo is close to a decision on engines that could mark a dramatic shift away from Pratt & Whitney towards its French-American rival CFM but a final decision is only expected later in June,** according to three people aware of the matter.

IndiGo has an order book of 430 Airbus planes of the A320 neo family, of which the first 150 aircraft were to be powered by engines from United Technologies Corp's Pratt & Whitney.

**The Indian airline is now running a bidding process in which Pratt and CFM, jointly owned by General Electric and Safran, are competing to provide engines for the remaining 280 planes,** two of the people said.

"The competition is going on ... nothing has been finalised yet. The anticipation is to get it done by the Paris air show but these things tend to go down to the wire," said one of the people, adding that Pratt will not let go easily and CFM is pushing very hard to woo the airline.

The air show is from June 17-23.

IndiGo declined to comment. Pratt did not respond to an email seeking comment.

A CFM spokeswoman said it would not comment on potential engine orders, but added that India is an important market.

Although the Pratt engines fitted on the A320 neo aircraft are more fuel-efficient than its rivals, there have consistently been issues with them since they entered into service in 2016, forcing IndiGo to ground its planes several times.

While Pratt has found a fix for some of the problems and some others are expected to be fixed later this year, the snags are causing "a brand and reputational issue for the airline", said another of the sources.

"With IndiGo now having ambitions to fly to Europe and expand overseas that becomes a bigger consideration, and it's not all about the edge on fuel," said this source.

The Economic Times of India 01/06/2019

**The Noida International Airport Limited Thursday floated a global tender inviting developers for the airport at Jewar, which will have a capacity of 70 million passengers, the NIAL said.**

**The airport, second in the national capital region after Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport, will be spread over 5,000 hectare and cost an estimated Rs 15,754 crore. It also has facilities for cargo operations,** said officials of the NIAL, an agency floated by the Uttar Pradesh government for implementing the mega project.

At present, the Delhi's IGI airport, with three runways, is the biggest in the country.

**The airport will be developed in four phases, with its first leg spread over 1,334 hectare underway and is expected to be completed by 2023,** a senior NIAL official said.

"The state cabinet had in a meeting in Lucknow on May 28 approved the bid document for development of the airport. Today, this bid is being opened by the NIAL and details are available on its website -- [www.nialjewar.com](http://www.nialjewar.com). **The entire project would cost Rs 15,754 crore and the first phase would be completed in an area of over 1,300 hectare with two runways,**" Chief Executive Officer, NIAL, Arun Vir Singh told reporters.

**The bidding will be made on the basis of per passenger. It will be completed in a single stage and the tender finalised on November 29 this year,** he said.

"Development work is likely to commence early in 2020 and the first phase expected to be completed by 2023," he said.

According to the NIAL, the first phase development of airport would cost Rs 4,086.54 crore. The cost includes Rs 2,848.35 crore for compensation over acquisition of private land, Rs 894.53 crore for resettlement and rehabilitation of families displaced due to the projects, Rs 318.66 crore as additional compensation and cost of assets, and Rs 25 crore in administrative expenses, it said.

"The money for the first phase is available and for use in the district collector's official account for expenditure," Singh said.

**He said the initial capacity of the airport is expected to be 12 million passengers and will go up to 70 million for the two runways.**

The state government has given a go ahead for conducting a study for developing the airport with six runways, the most in the country, by completion of the entire project which will be spread in an area of 5,000 hectares," he said.

He said the multinational consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has been appointed for carrying out a study on development of four more runways during the later stage of airport development.

About 1,333 hectare of land has been acquired from six villages for the first phase of the project, including 1,239.1416 hectare private land and 95 hectare government land, he said.

According to the NIAL, the design capacity for cargo during first phase would be 0.75 metric tonnes, which will go up to 2 metric tonnes by the fourth phase.

**The airport was first mulled in 2003 and finally got approved from the Centre and the state government in 2017, officials told.**

**According to the NIAL guidelines, in order to qualify for the bid a bidder should have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,250 crore at close of preceding financial year and needs to showcase experience of executing projects in airport sector, real estate sector core infrastructure sector, where core sector shall include infrastructure sub-sector set forth in the harmonised master list of infrastructure issued by the Department of Economic Affairs.**

**"The bidder should have executed projects worth cost of more than Rs 10,000 crore in the last 10 years," it said.**

In order to encourage investment, the NIAL bid document has removed the clause of discounting their experience in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, an intergovernmental economic organisation with 36 member countries including the US, the UK, France, Germany, Canada, Turkey, Switzerland.

**The concession period for NIAL is 40 years with a provision for 30 years of extension, the guidelines stated, adding that the NIAL will have veto rights in all decisions related to adding or reducing projects at the airport.**

According to the NIAL, Mathura, Agra, Aligarh, Palwal, Greater Noida, Noida, Meerut and Ghaziabad will be the primary Hinterland for the airport and impact adjoining areas in Rajasthan and Haryana also.

**The airport is being built by the Uttar Pradesh government in public-private partnership (PPP) model and the NIAL is the implementing body for the project.**

**The NIAL stakeholders include the UP government 37.5 per cent, Noida Authority 37.5 per cent, Greater Noida Authority and YEIDA - both 12.5 per cent each.**

The NIAL said the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi is currently growing at a rate of 11 per cent which is expected to reach 150 million passengers per year by 2030.

It added that 51 per cent of the cargo traffic at the IGIA comes from Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar

[The Economic times of India 31/05/2019](#)

**Former partners and rivals of Jet Airways Ltd are launching replacement routes and looking for new codeshare partners as they scramble to fill a lucrative gap left by the collapse of the India's once-largest international airline.**

Jet, which halted operations on April 17 after running out of cash, had a market share of around 12 percent on international flights to and from India in 2018, according to government statistics, outstripping even national carrier Air India.

**In Jet's absence, cash-strapped Air India is the only Indian carrier that operates widebody jets capable of non-stop flights to Europe and the United States, although the Vistara joint venture owned by Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines Ltd has 6 Boeing Co 787s on order due for delivery from next year.**

**With international airfares spiking by up to 36 percent in May and June according to data from travel portal Yatra.com, Jet's former partners, Virgin Atlantic and Delta Air Lines Inc, have been among the first to announce new Indian routes to replace ones previously flown by Jet.**

"People still want to travel. Foreign carriers are changing their networks and putting more into India if they can," Association of Asia Pacific Airlines Director General Andrew Herdman said on the sidelines of an airline industry conference in Seoul.

**KLM and sister carrier Air France will boost their capacity in India by 25 percent in the upcoming winter season through the use of bigger planes, higher frequencies and a new Bangalore-Amsterdam route from October.**

**In October, Virgin Atlantic will launch Mumbai-London, while Delta will fly from Mumbai to New York from December, in a sign it will take months to replace Jet's non-stop capacity.**

"I think you'll see in the next four or five months most of the (domestic) capacity will be taken up," SpiceJet Ltd Chairman Ajay Singh said in an interview. "As far as international is concerned, that may take a little longer as Jet was flying a significant number of widebody aircraft which are tougher for carriers in India to add at such a rapid pace."

Other airlines, like Emirates, Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines, will need India's newly re-elected Modi government to loosen bilateral restrictions that cap flights at current levels. Singh said that was unlikely due to India's policy of trying to develop its own hubs.

**The capacity gap in the Middle East means fares in that market are expected to remain higher for longer than on some domestic and other routes,** Indian low-cost carrier IndiGo's Chief Financial Officer Rohit Philip told analysts on May 27.

IndiGo has a codeshare agreement with Turkish, and days after Jet stopped flying, SpiceJet signed a codeshare agreement with Emirates. Neither Indian carrier has widebodies.

Airbus SE Chief Commercial Officer Christian Scherer said new technology, such as **a longer-range version of the A321neo, could help IndiGo launch non-stop flights to Europe without taking the costlier and riskier decision to add widebodies to its fleet.**

"I think you are going to see some widebody capacity going into India to replace Jet's and you are going to see some narrowbodies picking up that market," he told reporters.

**Other former Jet partners are in talks with carriers like IndiGo and SpiceJet about new codeshare relationships.**

**Qantas Airways Ltd does not fly to India itself but it had used Jet to boost its reach beyond Singapore to Indian destinations and wants a new partner for the large market,** CEO Alan Joyce said.

"They were a big partner and we were carrying a lot of traffic on them," he said. "We have been approached by just about every major Indian carrier because they know there is a lot of traffic that we can provide them. We have had dialogue in the last few days with four different carriers about possible agreements."

The Economic times of India 03/06/2019

**SpiceJet Ltd. has received several proposals to buy into the company, but the Indian budget carrier is only willing to evaluate an offer if it's strategic, its chairman and majority shareholder said.**

"SpiceJet has enough cash," Ajay Singh said in an interview, while attending an industry conference in Seoul. "We have to see if this serves SpiceJet's long-term interests, and when we come to that determination, we'll do something. These are typical in a situation when an airline is doing well and the market is as promising as India."

India will need 2,300 new aircraft worth \$320 billion in 20 years, Boeing forecast in February, as an emerging middle-class flies for the first time. Racing to extend its share of that market is SpiceJet, the country's second-biggest no-frills carrier, which had almost shut down in 2014 after running out of cash.

Singh, who started SpiceJet in 2004 and sold it six years later to a regional media baron, repurchased and revived the airline by renegotiating contracts with vendors and cutting unprofitable routes. Crashing oil prices also helped him embark on an ambitious expansion, eventually giving the airline a market value of \$1.3 billion.

**The collapse of debt-laden Jet Airways India Ltd. gave SpiceJet an advantage over bigger rival IndiGo, run by InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. SpiceJet flies the same Boeing 737 family of aircraft as Jet, making it easier for the company to take over those planes.**

**SpiceJet shares have jumped about 70% this year, hovering near their all-time high.**

This year, SpiceJet is due to receive cash by selling planes to leasing companies, Singh said. "Now is probably not the time for a sale of stake for cash," said Singh, who holds almost 60% of the airline. "We are always happy to hear what's on offer, but there's nothing imminent, nothing that we are doing right now."

The Economic Times of India 03/06/2019

**Spice Jet plans to hire up to 2 000 staff, including pilots and cabin crew, of the defunct Jet airways as the no-frills carrier continues to expand its operations.**

The airline has taken at least 22 planes that were earlier used by Jet Airways, which temporarily shuttered its operations due to cash crunch in April.

"We have taken significant number of people from Jet Airways. They were well qualified and professional people. We will continue to take more Jet staff in the times to come.

**"We have taken around 1,100 people so far. Expectation is that we will go up to 2,000 people. It will be pilots, cabin crew, (people) from airport services, security..."** SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh told PTI in an interview here.

**Currently, SpiceJet has around 14,000 staff and a fleet of 100 planes. It is the fourth airline after Air India, now defunct Jet Airways and IndiGo to have 100 aircraft.**

SpiceJet has Boeing 737s, Bombardier Q-400s and B737 freighters. It operates around 575 daily flights on an average to 62 destinations, including nine international ones, he said.

To a query on whether SpiceJet would look at operating wide-body aircraft that were earlier used by Jet Airways, Singh said the airline is right now focused on narrow-body fleet.

"Having said that we recognise that there are gaps which have been created. They need to be filled and in the longer term, if India is to be a global aviation hub, Indian carriers will have to fly long haul. It can't be only Air India which flies long haul. The models (of business) for us may be different... I am sure every carrier is trying to see what can be done," he said on Saturday.

On May 28, SpiceJet posted a 22 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 56.3 crore in the three months ended March as higher fares helped the airline amid a capacity crunch in the domestic aviation market.

**Singh said there is no plan to raise funds at the moment, adding that the airline is quite comfortably placed in terms of finances.**

**"We are going to expand 80 per cent capacity this year (fiscal). A lot of the capacity is being expanded through the leasing route. Therefore, it may not require huge amount of cash and this year we also expect to be significantly profitable. Also, get significant cash flow through sale and lease back. So, we think that we probably don't need to dilute any equity,"** he noted.

The airline is looking to have an 80 per cent capacity expansion in terms of Available Seat Kilometre (ASK), an indicator of seat capacity.

"We have very little debt in the company and the debt relates to Q400s we have on our books for the most part. We are in a healthy situation that we have a very low debt," Singh said.

In 2015, SpiceJet placed a USD 22 billion order for 205 aircraft with Boeing and had followed it up with a USD 1.7 billion order for 50 Bombardier Q400 planes.

[The Economic times of India 02/06/2019](#)

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**NEW DELHI: Delhi airport operator DIAL is working with stakeholders to further improve runway occupancy time which will help in dealing with capacity constraints at the country's busiest aerodrome.**

Generally, Runway Occupancy Time (ROT) is the time taken by a departing or arriving aircraft to turnoff from the runway.

An Airports Authority of India (AAI) official said the ROT at Delhi airport and other major aerodromes have improved.

**Through the Flight Operations Performance Committee, the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) is working with Air Traffic Control and airlines to improve various vital operational parameters, including ROT.**

A DIAL spokesperson said **various steps are being taken to improve ROT, and UK-based NATS, which is working for capacity enhancement project at the airport, is also providing their know-how for the same.**

**Besides, DIAL is conducting engagement sessions with pilots of airlines to create awareness on the issue.**

"Based on observations during operations, new Rapid Exit Taxiway (RET) are being constructed as part of master plan work undertaken by IGI Airport to improve ROT.

"One of the Taxiway (F) frequently used for exit from runway 10 has been commissioned as Rapid Exit Taxiway to improve ROT," the spokesperson said.

**Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital is the busiest in the country and handles about 1,400 flights every day. On an average, the aerodrome handles around 74 flight movement per hour, according to an official.**

**However, following the closure of the Pakistan airspace and suspension of operations by Jet Airways, the daily flight movements at the airport has come down to around 1,200 flights, the official added.**

"ROT is one of the main factors that affects operational throughput on an hourly basis at airports. There has been a lot of improvements in ROT at all airports," Vineet Gulati, Member (Air Navigation Services) at the AAI told PTI.

The spokesperson said the ROT is around 50 seconds for runway 11/29 and efforts are on to improve ROT of runway 10/28.

The airport has three runways, including 27/09.

[The Economic times of India 02/06/2019](#)

**Seoul: India and China are projected to account for nearly half of the air passenger growth worldwide over the next two decades, with travellers coming from all walks of life, according to global airlines' grouping IATA.**

With more number of people making air travel, India was one of the fastest growing domestic aviation markets in the world for nearly five years continuously. However, the growth turned negative in April mainly due to flight cancellations and subsequent grounding of full service carrier Jet Airways.

Brian Pearce, Chief Economist at the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Sunday said the negative growth in the Indian market was temporary and that the market would expand as Indians

want to travel more.

In his address at the annual general meeting here, IATA Director General and CEO Alexandre de Juniac said the developing markets are expected to provide the majority of additional passenger demand.

**"India and China alone are forecast to account for around 45 per cent of all additional passenger trips over the next two decades.** Even more than today, the travellers of the future will come from all walks of life and economic means," he said.

Talking about infrastructure issues, de Juniac said critically congested airports are spread the world over, and governments should take note that developing infrastructure, airports or air traffic management, lays an economic cornerstone.

According to him, careful planning, broad consultation with users, examination of funding options and a keen focus on affordability are the keys to making it successful.

02/06/19 PTI/Business Standard

Ahmedabad: **Air India flight, AI-172 from London to Ahmedabad was been delayed by more than 15 hours, due to a technical snag in the aircraft.** Airline sources said the aircraft, which was supposed to fly from Bengaluru to London and from London to Ahmedabad, was been grounded in London due to a technical snag developed in the aircraft.

As a result, the London-Ahmedabad flight will be delayed. The flight, AI-172, which was to depart from the Heathrow Airport in London, England, at 12.30pm British Summer Time (i.e. 5pm Indian Standard Time) on Saturday, will now take on Sunday morning, after a delay of more than 15 hours. Airline sources confirmed that the flight is expected to arrive at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport in Ahmedabad on Sunday evening.

02/06/19 Times of India

Bengaluru: **With Air India flight (AI 177), which was to fly to London from Bengaluru, developing a technical glitch on Saturday morning, 206 passengers on board were stranded at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) for more than 20 hours.**

The flight to London's Heathrow Airport was scheduled to depart from the KIA at 3.50am on Saturday. "Passengers were made to deboard due to a technical snag in the aircraft which needed to be inspected. Though the snag was rectified by Saturday, the flight couldn't take off due to a curfew at Heathrow during the night. It will now leave at 12:45am on Sunday. All 206 passengers were accommodated in a hotel close to the airport," an AI spokesperson told TOI.

02/06/19 Times of India

Gurugram: **Private airline SpiceJet on Sunday launched the Guwahati-Dhaka-Guwahati flight under the International Air Connectivity Scheme (IACS).**

Besides, the airline has launched 14 direct flights connecting metros and non-metros on its domestic network. All flights on the domestic network will commence operations from June 20, while the international flight is **effective July 1, this year.**

02/06/19 UNI



**State-run AAI has tied up with US aerospace major Boeing to develop a 10-year roadmap for modernizing ATM in India. The 18-month project is being undertaken with a grant from the USTDA and will focus on communication, navigation and ATM modernisation.**

US Ambassador to India, Kenneth I Juster, said : «India and the US have been strong partners in economic growth. This agreement is a significant step in furthering collaboration on aviation between the 2 countries. We look forward to such opportunities, where both countries can utilize their expertise and innovation to develop blueprints for cutting edge technologies for the future».

AAI Chairman, G. Mohapatra said : « The implementation of modern technologies and global practices will allow India to increase its airspace capacity significantly by improving communications, enabling FUA and allowing the safe processing of additional flights using air navigation infrastructure for smoother and more efficient skies in India ».

Boeing India President said : « India is experiencing unprecedented growth in civil aviation. With this kind of growth comes the need for safe and efficient operations, as well as improving the airport infrastructure. This is a proud moment for Boeing to be partnering with AAI to enable the continued growth of India's aerospace industry ».

**This agreement aims to develop a roadmap for AAI to modernise the Indian National Airspace System (NAS) based on global and local best practices to optimally utilise airspace capacity, enhance communications and invest in navigation, surveillance and ATM.**

Boeing will analyse current technologies and processes to identify efficiency improvements that can be implemented while maintaining a practical and safe airspace system. Boeing will also work closely with the DGCA, airlines operating in India, airport operators and other airspace stakeholders like the US-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP).

USTDA's Director (acting) Thomas R Hardy said : « **USTDA is proud to build on its longstanding relationship with India's aviation sector. We believe this project will play an important role in supporting India's rapidly growing aviation sector and connecting American industry with new export opportunities.** »

Times of India 04/06/2019

**New Delhi: Domestic carrier Vistara grounded its first Boeing aircraft Tuesday on account of engine issues, a day after joining the airline's fleet. Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, had on Monday inducted a Boeing 737 aircraft in its fleet. The plane was earlier used by Jet Airways.**

"There was an issue that required maintenance within a specified time period, we could have flown the aircraft perfectly fine for several more days. But decided to ground and take care of the issue while bookings were still low on the new flights than to defer," a source told the Livemint. **The aircraft flew between Amritsar and Delhi on June 3 (Monday) before being removed from services.**

A Vistara spokesperson further added that the airline is conducting a regular maintenance check on the Boeing aircraft according to the regulatory requirements as it wants to ensure safety in all aspects of operations. The plane is expected to be back in service by today (Wednesday).

Following Jet Airways' grounding which resulted in a significant capacity reduction in the domestic

market, Vistara and SpiceJet inducted a few of the airline's aircraft.  
05/06/19 Business Today

**Hyderabad: Uncertainty seldom has a positive streak. But it's doing exactly that for the grounded Jet Airways, which may ward off insolvency proceedings due to ambiguity surrounding the revised stressed assets restructuring framework.**

**According to the bank-led resolution plan, Jet Airways will be past its sell-by date this month. However, lenders seem to be in no hurry to consider insolvency proceedings in the absence of a time-bound resolution framework. "There's no time frame, though we want it as fast as possible... NCLT is always an option. Bankers will consider all options to maximise recoveries whether it takes six or nine months or if we should go to NCLT," a senior banker told Express.**

It may be noted that SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar in March sounded confident of finding a buyer or an investor by the end of May, much before the 180-day deadline was to lapse in June.

In fact, the resolution process itself was initiated based on the RBI's controversial February 12 circular, which mandates lenders to implement a plan within 180 days of first default (in Jet's case default occurred in December quarter). The SBI-led consortium opted for a creditor-in-saddle approach to convert debt into equity, besides opening up doors for a strategic investor or promoter. But as it nears the 180-day deadline, a revival plan remains elusive for the airline.

**As per the circular, which the Supreme Court ruled ultra vires, lenders have to refer all accounts with over Rs 2,000 crore loans to the NCLT if they fail to implement a resolution plan within 180 days of default. An insolvency application under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 must be filed within 15 days of completion of the deadline.**

05/06/19 Sunitha Natti/New Indian Express

**The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resumed where it left off in its previous stint and Air India privatization seems to be at the very top of its priorities.** The government may spice up the offer with 100 per cent divestment this time around to lure potential buyers as against the 74 per cent stake sale proposed in 2018. The sale then had to be put on hold after the authorities failed to get any worthwhile offer.

**The preliminary information memorandum (PIM) which seeks expressions of interest (Eoi) from potential buyers for the stake sale is expected soon and the two-stage bidding process could begin as early as July 7, media reports say.** "Besides offering 100 per cent stake to private investors, more loans of the airline would be transferred to the special purpose vehicle (SPV) in order to further sweeten the deal," an IANS report said quoting an unidentified senior official. The government has already transferred debt amounting Rs 29,464 crore along with other non-core assets to the SPV, Air India Assets Holding Ltd that was floated in February last year, to attract more bids for the carrier. "The transaction advisor (Ernst & Young) has proposed to raise the transferable debt amount," the report said.

The government last year initiated the process to sell the majority 74 per cent stake in the national carrier but the plan did not take off as no private investor responded. It then put the process on hold because of rising fuel price and weak investment climate dampened investor enthusiasm.

05/06/19 Prathapan Bhaskaran/IBTimes

**A United Arab Emirates-bound Air India flight was diverted to Trivandrum International Airport following an onboard medical emergency with a passenger on Tuesday.**

**The passenger was declared dead after landing, reported news agency ANI.**

Air India Flight AI967 took off from Trivandrum and was en route to Sharjah when the incident took place.

In February this year, a passenger onboard Bengaluru-Delhi Air India flight died after he complained of uneasiness mid-air. Sixty-year-old Jawahar Wali died on the way to a hospital in Bhopal on Tuesday. The flight made an emergency landing at Bhopal's Raja Bhoj Airport after the passenger complained of uneasiness on-board, reported news agency PTI.

05/06/19 Zee News

Kottayam: It was shock, followed by relief that A P Joy experienced when he received a phone call from his son Amal Joy early on Tuesday.

Kottayam resident Amal had left for San Francisco, US, from Delhi on Sunday, and he texted his father on Monday, informing his safe arrival at the US airport.

**But Tuesday's call was shocking. The Air India flight which flew Amal across the seas was detected with a 'cut' just below its door, something that could have put its 255 passengers in grave danger.**

The 'cut' was found when the aircraft was inspected before its return to Delhi.

Even though it is unsure whether the Boeing was carrying this 'cut' right from New Delhi, 21-year-old Amal is thanking the almighty for a safe journey.

"There was no hint of any such glitch during the journey and nobody told anything about it. Even after getting down from the flight I never realised that I just had a lucky escape," told Amal his father.

"Now after coming to know about the incident I am really horrified," said Amal who is to return to India in the same flight after two months.

Amal too like the other passengers in the flight came to know about the damage in the aircraft through the media.

05/06/19 Jaikrishnan Nair/Times of India

New Delhi: **The IndiGo flight operations centre at IGI Airport received a call on Monday-Tuesday midnight, just after the airline's Dubai-Delhi flight landed here via Pakistan airspace. This was the first flight by an Indian airline after the Telem entry point into India from Pakistan side, near Ahmedabad, was opened on Sunday evening.**

**The caller was director of Pakistan civil aviation authority (CAA). "Janaab, aap abhi tak jag rahein hain (Sir, you are still awake!), the IndiGo duty officer who received the CAA director's call told him. 'I was monitoring the flight. It has landed safely. Aapko zubaan di thi (We had given you a word). Eid Mubarak', the Pakistan CAA director said to our person," said a senior IndiGo official.**

All the 11 entry points through which aircraft overfly Pakistan airspace into Indian side and vice versa

were closed on February 27 – a day after India carried out airstrikes in Balakot -- after which flights between parts of south Asia, including Delhi, and the west are taking a longer route. **The first land point was opened on Sunday at Telem, from where aircraft fly in from Pakistan to India. The first aircraft to use this route was Etihad's Abu Dhabi-Delhi on Sunday at 5.34 pm (India time), four minutes after it was opened.**

05/06/19 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Mumbai: **Valuables, including jewellery, laptops, watches and mobiles should never be put in check-in bags, and they should always be carried within the safe confines of one's cabin baggage.** But some passengers pack expensive items into check-in bags as some handlers of these bags would know. **A CISF personnel caught the loader of a ground handling company with two gold bangles he had nicked from the check-in bag of a passenger bound for Dubai from Mumbai airport at 11.35pm last Thursday.**

CISF sub-inspector M K Choudhary noticed suspicious images of metallic items in baggage of a Celebi-NAS (ground-handling company) loader at Terminal 2. "He immediately stopped the conveyor belt and told the loader to open the bag for a physical check," said a CISF official. Two gold bangles, weighing about 40gm, were recovered. **"The loader revealed that he stole the bangles from the check-in luggage of a SpiceJet flight.** The airline, ground-handling company and police were informed. "Later, the Celebi-NAS staffer, along with the recovered bangles valued at about Rs 1.2 lakh, were handed over to Sahar police," the CISF said.

05/06/19 Times of India

New Delhi: **A man was apprehended by CISF personnel at the Delhi airport for allegedly possessing a fake passport to travel to Canada,** an official said.

Ahmedabad resident Jaimin Patel was intercepted May 28 night as he was roaming suspiciously in the Terminal-3 building of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), he said.

"He was looking nervous and he made a hasty retreat just before he was supposed to appear at the immigration window," the official said.

**An Aadhaar card in the name of Jaimin Patel and a fake passport in the name of Pradeep Kumar Agrawal were found from his bag, the official said, adding that the photograph on the passport was morphed.**

05/06/19 India Post

Seoul: **The failure of Jet Airways should be a "wake up call" for the aviation industry and at least part of the blame should be at the doorstep of the policymakers as the cost structure is high, SpiceJet chief Ajay Singh has said.**

Low-cost carrier SpiceJet is expanding its operations and is set to take on lease 30 planes that were flown by Jet Airways, which suspended operations in April due to cash crunch. SpiceJet has at least 100 aircraft in its fleet now.

Noting that the grounding of Jet Airways was "very sad", Singh said that internal factors and high costs were among the reasons for its failure. "Jet Airways grounding is something which is very sad and it should be a wake up for all of us in the aviation sector and the policymakers. I think Jet Airways was an iconic brand, and **at least part of the blame for its failure has to be at the door step of the policymakers.**

**"High cost structure which is being imposed on aviation has certainly led to its downfall and of course, internal factors. The fact that Jet had a cost structure which was probably uncompetitive and as airlines came, it became tough to get yield commensurate with cost structure,"** he told PTI in an interview. Jet Airways operated for nearly 26 years, with an extensive network of domestic and international flights.

Indian aviation sector has high growth potential, but airlines have been flagging concerns about high costs, especially for aviation turbine fuel (ATF) that accounts for over 40 per cent of an airline's operational expenses.

**Singh said high taxes on ATF, certain infrastructure charges as well as high import duty on aircraft parts and services are among the factors which make the domestic aviation sector "uncompetitive".** "To compete increasingly with global carriers, it is important that we find a cost structure which is competitive with them."

04/06/19 PTI/News18.com

New Delhi: In the first week of its taking charge, the new government has shown it is serious about divesting its stake in the state-owned Air India.

**On Monday, the government announced the setting up of a data room which will be up and running by July 1 and the appointment of two nodal officers from key departments to liaise with those dealing with the data room. The data room will provide a compilation of all data pertaining to Air India's operational and financial aspects. This will form the basis for the valuation of the airline in its present form. Setting up the data room should be an easy first step as accounts for 2018-19 have to be incorporated. Accounts till 2017-18 were updated and stored during the divestment process under the previous Modi government.**

With the data room becoming operational from July, the government will have enough time to go through the process without any pressure of hurrying through. This time **it is hoped that the process will be completed within 3 to 12 months.**

Among the various aspects that may work in favour of Air India's divestment are the Special Purpose Vehicle which was created to park the Maharaja's debt of over 29,000 crore. This means any potential investor in the airline will only have to pick up aircraft related and other sundry debt.

In addition, global oil prices are not very high and the rupee seems to have stabilised at about 69.25 to a dollar.

Then there are other advantages. Air India is the only Indian carrier operating non-stop services between India and San Francisco. Plans are afoot to start services to Bali and points in Africa. Air India will be the only international airline operating on these routes from and to India.

04/06/19 Ashwini Phadnis/Business Line

New Delhi: Air travel will become a bit costlier as the Ministry of Civil Aviation has decided to increase the aviation security fee (ASF) from Rs 130 to Rs 150 for each Indian passenger **from July 1 onwards**, according to an official document.

For international passengers, the ASF will be increased from 3.25 USD to 4.85 USD from next month,

the document stated.

**"The ASF for domestic passengers will be levied at the rate of Rs 150 per embarking passenger,"** said a Ministry of Civil Aviation order dated June 7.

**"The ASF for international passengers will be levied at the rate of USD 4.85 or equivalent Indian rupees per embarking passenger,"** the order added.

The ASF will be replacing the PSF (SC), which stands of passenger service fee (security component).  
08/06/19 PTI/Economic Times

**New Delhi: India's aviation market which was flying high is feeling some turbulence. The passenger growth which was in double digits till March this year has suddenly slipped into the negative zone.**

According to aviation regulator DGCA, during February this year domestic airlines carried nearly 113.49 lakh passengers and the number rose to 115.96 lakh in March this year.

However, in April the foot count went down to 109.35 lakh. The temporary suspension of the cash-starved Jet Airways is believed to be a key contributing factor to the slide.

**The month-on-month growth in April 2018 was over 26% as the number of passengers went up to 115.13 lakh from 91.34 lakh in April 2017.**

**However, in April 2019, the trend reversed as it took a negative turn registering a downslide of - 4.19%.**

Aircraft movement at the airports also experienced a dip. During April 2019, all operational airports handled 201.16 thousand aircraft movements and the corresponding number was 208.20 in April 2018 registering a decrease of nearly 3.4%.

09/06/19 Kumar Vikram/New Indian Express

**The initiation of insolvency proceedings against Jet Airways by a Dutch court has prompted the government to strengthen India's cross-border insolvency norms.** The insolvency law committee, which monitors the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and suggests changes, will meet on June 12 to deliberate upon the amendments to deal with cross-border insolvency, sources said. The aim is to introduce the amendments in the Budget session of Parliament, which begins from June 17.

Last month, the lenders and management of Jet Airways were in a fix over the legal implications of a Dutch court declaring the defunct airline bankrupt following pleas of two foreign lenders. No appeal on behalf of the grounded airline has been filed till date, as lenders and what remains of Jet's management are still "deliberating ways to control the damage", a person involved in the proceedings said.

**Cross-border insolvency proceedings enable foreign creditors to recover money lent to any insolvent Indian company and vice-versa.** The insolvency law committee had in October 2018 submitted a report suggesting amendments to the bankruptcy code for the same. The report suggested the adoption of a legal framework based on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law's model insolvency norms. The model norms focus on legal coordination among nation states to provide relief and assistance to creditors in cross-border insolvency cases. **Currently, India's insolvency laws are ill equipped to handle cross-border cases of insolvency. The IBC mentions it in two sections — 234 and 235. Section 234 of the code says the government may enter into an agreement with a foreign government to enforce insolvency provisions as per the**

**Indian Act, but does not elaborate on legal provisions for cross-border insolvency.**  
09/06/19 Financial Express

**Passengers on board an Air India flight to Calcutta from Delhi on Saturday went without the AC for more than three hours**, several passengers have tweeted.

The Air India flight, AI 20, which was scheduled to take off at 2pm on Saturday, took off at 3.45pm, according to passengers.

Airline officials said the flight had taken off at 3.26pm from Delhi.

A passenger tweeted: "BreastCancer patient undergoing #radiation #Harassed in #AirIndia".

"When we went inside it was very hot. You can imagine how hot Delhi is in summer. Passengers complained to the crew members who said the air conditioner would be switched on soon but it didn't happen," said industrialist Mayank Jalan who was on the plane.

"Members of the crew said a passenger seat needed repairs... once an engineer finished fixing it, the AC would be switched on. The plane remained parked till 3.45pm and despite assurances from the crew the AC wasn't switched on even after take-off."

09/06/18 Telegraph

**Shimla: Himachal Pradesh government plans to hire a twin engine helicopter with carrying capacity of minimum 15 passengers and a twin engine helicopter with carrying capacity of minimum five passengers for multipurpose use, including VIP duty, emergency evacuation and relief operations among others. It has already opened technical bids for both the categories of choppers.**

In Himachal, helicopter is not only used by the chief minister for his official travels, but is also used during winters to ferry people to remote snow bound areas of state beside in other VIP duties and emergency operations.

Government had invited bids for the fresh lease as the chopper provided by earlier company was grounded after a technical snag. It is looking for helicopter equipped with latest avionics system, IFR, air-conditioned cabin and luxury seats and other essential equipment installed as per applicable director general civil aviation and civil aviation requirements.

Sources said the government wants a helicopter with carrying capacity of minimum 15 passengers and technically fit for high altitude flights, with capacity to cross passes up to 15,000 feet height and capable of takeoff and landing in narrow valleys at altitudes up to 12,000 feet even in cloudy weather. While requirement for smaller helicopter is that it should be capable of landing and takeoff up to altitude of 7,000 feet with full capacity.

09/06/19 Anand Bodh/Times of India

**Sri Lanka will seek the services of the Indian Satellite Air Navigation System (Gagan) for the development of its three proposed regional airports – Palaly, Batticaloa and Ratmalana – senior officials said.**

The request will be made by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe during the visit of his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, which takes place today, a senior officer of the Prime Minister's office said.

He said that a request would be made to meet the expenses via an Indian credit line, or similar concessional scheme.

Discussions on the proposed request were held at Temple Trees on Friday when Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) H M C Nimalsiri met with the Prime Minister.

The request comes in the wake of plans to invest Rs10 billion for development of the Palaly, Batticaloa and Ratmalana airports.

Mr Nimalsiri told the Sunday Times that, under the proposed plan, the airports will be developed in three phases, of which the first phase will commence in Palaly and Batticaloa in August this year. **The Palaly airport will be expanded from the existing 2,300 sq metres to 3,200 sq metres, which will enable the landing of larger aircraft such as the A-320 and A-321. The Road Development Authority (RDA) has been awarded the contract costing Rs4.1 billion, under which, the runway, taxiway and terminal buildings will be developed.**

09/06/19 Sunday Times

A year after Qatar Airways boss' remark that a woman could not do his job drew scathing criticism, airline executives called out the industry for paying only "lip service" to diversity and not pushing to get more women out of cabins and into boardrooms.

While Akbar al-Baker had apologised for his remarks made at last year's International Air Transport Association (IATA) meeting in Sydney, saying they were intended as a joke and taken out of context, the controversy highlighted the lack of women in senior aviation roles.

His airline is now sponsoring three diversity and inclusion awards with \$25,000 prizes, each to be presented on Monday at this year's IATA meeting in Seoul.

But Air New Zealand Ltd CEO Christopher Luxon said more concrete action was needed, such as refusing to serve on all-male panel talks and creating women's support networks.

"Compared to other sectors and other business sectors that I'm part of around the world and in New Zealand, aviation and IATA's record is abysmal in terms of gender diversity and inclusion," he told Reuters on the sidelines of the meeting.

"We are just paying lip service to it at the moment and window dressing it and we are not even doing a very good job of that if we are really honest with ourselves."

The top of the airline industry remains male dominated, with only two women CEOs on the 27-member IATA Board of Governors currently chaired by al-Baker.

One of the two, FlyBe CEO Christine Ourmières-Widener, has said she will resign from her FlyBe role on July 15 after her airline is taken over by Connect Airways.

"It is clear that this industry has a good record in terms of employing women, broadly speaking on average. But at the senior position level, it is not the case," IATA director general Alexandre de Juniac said.

IATA is working with industry partners to share best practices and help form a strategy on gender diversity against which to measure progress, he added.

Kirstin Colvile, the CEO of the SkyTeam airlines alliance, said IATA could do more at the annual meeting, such as hosting a networking breakfast to promote women in aviation.

"Female networks and support groups are incredibly important to give you the confidence," she said.

"In order to move the needle — and you see that it hasn't moved much — I think we are going to have to take some steps, whether that is just targets or concerted efforts, we just have to drive more



women into leadership position.”  
02/06/19 Reuters/CNBC TV18

**Mumbai: Budget carrier AirAsia India Tuesday announced the launch of a cadet pilots training programme in partnership with New Zealand Airline Academy and Harrison Omniview Consulting to cater to the increasing demand.**

Under the programme, the company plans to **train 50 cadets in the first year** and the first batch of 15 pilots is expected to join AirAsia fleet by 2021, an airline spokesperson told PTI.

**According to AirAsia India, the country is expected to require up to 10,000 new pilots by 2030 to meet the industry’s demand amid the increasing number of air passengers every year.**

Moreover, as AirAsia India expands its network and fleet, the need for pilots is also set to increase proportionally, it said.

“With the rising demand for pilots in India, we are delighted to launch our cadet pilot program to welcome the next generation of pilots to our family of Allstars (AirAsia group employees). With the launch of this program, we are giving this platform to everyone who aspires to be a pilot,” Manish Uppal, head of operations, AirAsia India said.

**For selection in the 18-24 month long course, the candidate will have to go through a screening process with Harrison and, on getting it cleared the selected candidates will undergo a four months ground training in New Delhi, the spokesperson said.**

**Post the ground training, the students will go to New Zealand for flying training, the company said adding that they will also be provided a four months training for Airbus A320 type rating.**  
28/05/19 PTI/Business Standard

**New Delhi: Indians holding a foreign commercial pilot’s licence (CPL) would soon find it easier to get a flying permit in the country.**

**Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has decided to amend the existing clause in the Aircraft Rules to simplify the process.**

The rule requires a person seeking Indian flying permit to have satisfactorily completed training as a pilot of an aeroplane within a period of five years immediately preceding the date of application.

**“The DGCA is in the final stages of amending the rule under Section J of Schedule II in the Aircraft Rules, 1937. This will remove flying experience requirement in the preceding five years for issuance of a CPL,” a reliable source told IANS.**

The move is aimed at allowing Indian citizens with foreign CPL in other countries to get a licence here.

**A senior commander said that the proposed relaxation would help everyone as the current rule is very restrictive. Further, it will be aligned with the rules of other countries.**

Many Indians go to the US, Canada and New Zealand for pilot training as courses are shorter there and in many cases flying experience is better due to clear weather.

28/05/19 IANS/Business Standard

**Asserting that Indian aviation sector has terrific potential, SpiceJet chief Ajay Singh has said imbalances in regulatory and taxation structure need to be corrected for the sector, which can be a bright spot of the economy.**

Singh, who has helmed the turnaround of the once ailing low cost carrier, said big bold reforms and more out of the box thinking can be expected from the government.

"If there was any government which has will and political strength, then it is this government. Aviation can be one of the bright spots of the economy ... Some wonderful work has been done, if you see UDAN scheme and other initiatives," Singh told PTI in a recent interview on the sidelines of an IATA event.

Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) or regional air connectivity scheme was launched in the first term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government as part of efforts to make flying more affordable as well as connect unserved and under-served airports. Various other initiatives were also taken up during the first term to bolster the aviation sector.

After being one of the fastest growing domestic aviation markets in the world, passenger traffic growth turned negative in April, mainly due to crisis at Jet Airways. The full service carrier shuttered operations in April.

**"In aviation, we need to get our cost structure right, ATF under the GST, build India into a global aviation hub.** Aviation can be a great employer of people and has terrific potential. We need to think big.

**"We have the opportunity to be the service centre of the world for aviation. We need to correct the imbalances that exist in our regulatory and taxation structure,"** Singh said.

09/06/19 PTI/moneycontrol.com

**Seoul: To meet rising passenger demand, the civil aviation ministry is pursuing efforts to have a second airport in major cities and requesting state governments to reserve land for building the aerodromes,** according to a senior official.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra said second aerodromes are required in major Indian cities, considering the way the aviation sector is growing. State-owned AAI manages 125 airports, including 11 international aerodromes.

Noting that land acquisition is a problem in the country, Mohapatra said at least 2,000 acres of land is required for construction of an airport.

**"We have been writing to state governments from the ministry and the AAI to reserve land somewhere in the vicinity of the city for a second airport and use land restrictions so that structures do not come up,"** he told PTI in an interview.

While Mumbai and Delhi are set to have a second airport, Visakhapatnam might also have a second aerodrome.

"We are (also) trying for Kolkata, Chennai, Pune and other places," Mohapatra said while speaking on the sidelines of a conference here recently.

India has been one of the fastest growing domestic aviation markets in the world. However, passenger traffic growth turned negative in April in the wake of the crisis at full-service carrier Jet Airways, which subsequently suspended operations due to cash crunch.

09/06/19 PTI/News18

**New Delhi: The Indian government has requested Pakistan to open its airspace for PM Narendra Modi's flight to Kyrgyzstan next week where he will attend the SCO summit along with Pakistan PM Imran Khan, sources here confirmed.**

A large part of Pakistan's airspace has remained shut since India's Balakot air strikes which followed the Pulwama attack by Jaish-e-Muhammed.

India expects Pakistan to allow Air India One to use its airspace just as Islamabad granted permission last month for then foreign minister Sushma Swaraj's flight to Bishkek where she attended an SCO meet.

While neither side has proposed a dialogue between Modi and Khan, official sources have ruled out the possibility of a quick pull aside at the event. India has already said there is no formal or structured meeting planned between the two. Modi is scheduled to fly to Bishkek on June 13.

09/06/19 Times of India

**Kochi: Impressed by the fully solar-powered operations at the Cochin International Airport, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said it should be an inspiring model for energy guzzlers and suggested that stadiums can tap the natural resource for achieving power neutrality.**

During his brief stopover visit on Saturday, Modi hailed the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) for being the world's first fully solar-powered airport, a statement issued by the CIAL said here on Sunday.

During a discussion with CIAL Managing Director V J Kurian, the prime minister endorsed the effort in tapping green energy for operating the airport, which has won it the United Nations Champions of the Earth award in 2018, the statement said.

The CIAL model of solarisation should inspire all other high-energy consumers, Modi said, adding that the possibilities of laying solar panels at probable locations needed to be explored. He also suggested that the roof of the galleries of stadiums could be used for that.

"Achieving power neutrality for big energy consumers is important for our country," the CIAL statement quoted the prime minister as having said.

Modi also instructed the CIAL to render its expertise for a massive deployment of solar energy, in tune with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an organisation of 78 countries which was formed by his initiative.

09/06/19 PTI/Times of India

**The closure of Pakistan's airspace to commercial flights between Kabul and New Delhi has decreased Afghanistan's exports, including dry fruit, vegetables, fresh fruit, carpets, and handicrafts, to India by 30 per cent, officials said on Saturday.**

Tolo News confirmed that Afghan farmers and investors will have to face losses if the airspace remains closed during the vegetable and fruit harvesting season, after quoting Mir Zaman Popal, an official at the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI).

"Closure of Pakistan's airspace to Afghan flights is a serious matter and we know that the challenges

will increase if the situation prevails," Popal was quoted as saying.

Pakistan had fully closed its airspace to all commercial flights late in February after an Indian Air Force carried out aerial airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Balakot on February 26.

The strikes were in response to the terror attack in Pulwama, in which about 40 CRPF personnel lost their lives on February 14.

In March, the country partially opened its airspace for all flights but not for Indian flights.

The airspace was opened to some certain flights but it is yet to be opened for Afghan flights en route to India.

09/06/19 ANI/Business Standard

**Mangaluru: Customs sleuths have seized 764.3 grams of gold from two passengers who allegedly tried to smuggle it into the Mangaluru International Airport.**

According to tweets by Mangaluru Customs, the sleuths on Saturday seized 647 grams of foreign gold allegedly concealed by one passenger in his inner garments.

The passenger was checked following his arrival by an **Air India Express flight from Dubai** on Saturday. This foreign gold was worth ₹21.48 lakh. The passenger was arrested and produced before the Principal Senior Civil Judge.

On Friday, the sleuths seized 117.30 grams of gold that was concealed by a passenger in the form of foil strips inside the metal support frame of the check-in trolley suitcase.

09/06/19 The Hindu

**Chennai: Police on Friday arrested a man with a fake Indian passport, who was detained by the immigration officials at the city airport.** The arrested man has been remanded in judicial custody.

The man, identified as Sebastian, 40, a native of Dindigul, arrived from Malaysia. During the immigration formalities, officials found that he was carrying a fake passport.

The immigration officials informed the anti-passport wing of central crime branch.

Police questioned him if he had any contact with the fake passport rackets in Chennai or Malaysia.

During questioning, Sebastian told police that he got the passport with the help of some agents operating in Malaysia after paying them about Rs3 lakh. Police suspected that the agents might have colluded with someone in Chennai to prepare the fake passports.

A few weeks ago, two Bulgarian nationals, Peter Velikov, 47, and Ilianzdravkov Markov, 36, were arrested for cloning credit and debit cards at a hotel in Semmancherry. In November last year, two Romanians, George Sorici, 37, and Nicolai Ciumpileac, 35, were arrested in Madipakkam.

09/06/19 Times of India

**New Delhi: A Swiss national has been apprehended at the Delhi airport Saturday for allegedly carrying a live bullet round in his hand baggage,** a senior official said. A Central Industrial Security Force officer, deputed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) here to scan the baggage of commuters, detected the lone bullet on the X-ray monitor while checking the bag of **Jean Pierre Francoise Baiardi** around 3 AM in the terminal-III area, he said.

"A bullet of 9mm calibre was recovered from the passenger who was supposed to take a flight to Leh in Jammu and Kashmir," the official said.

08/06/19 PTI/Times of India

New Delhi: **Disinvestment of national carrier Air India is one of the top priorities of the Modi government, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation will soon come out with an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for this.**

Sources claim that the **government is in favour of 100 per cent stake sale to attract investors**, and Air India CMD Ashwani Lohani has written on the same lines in a national daily, arguing that government systems are not suited for running commercial organizations, particularly Air India. "It is a harsh reality that governmental systems are ill-suited for running commercial organisations in its fold, more so an airline business that is very high on competition, regulation and technology yet has very thin margins that have a propensity to vanish with the slightest flutter in fuel prices," Lohani wrote.

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), an RSS affiliate, termed Lohani's view unfortunate.

Ashwani Mahajan, national co-convenor of SJM, tweeted: "It's unfortunate that a man sent to revamp Air India a few months back is making this statement, not even once mentioning the political corruption of UPA. Need to look into corruption in aircraft procurement, routes, appointments. Why silent on real issues Mr Ashwani Lohani."

The SJM is of the view that the national carrier is the country's asset and a source of national pride and it can be revived given the fact that its performance indicators have improved in the last few years.

08/06/19 New Indian Express

The collapse of Jet Airways has created many gaps in air service that the market was unprepared to fill. **While passenger demand is high, airline capacity isn't at the right levels for international flights out of India. This has led to a bit of a capacity crunch as India now has an inadequate number of international flights. Mainly, the issue boils down to a lack of widebody aircraft and slow service additions or resumptions.**

The New Indian Express reports that airlines have applied for a significant number of international service that was once served by Jet Airways. Many of these are for short-haul routes to high demand cities. The most popular of these routes are to and from the Middle East and Singapore.

Of course, almost every airline in India is itching to add capacity to the Gulf. SpiceJet, with their new codeshare with Emirates, and IndiGo with their Turkish Airlines codeshare are some of the big players itching to add service. **IndiGo even wants to fly to points in Europe with A321neo aircraft.**

In addition, Reuters reports that other airlines who once partnered with Jet Airways are now itching to add additional partners in this lucrative market. Indian aviation authorities are reluctant and slow to grant additional rights to international carriers. However, domestic carriers are at an advantage.

As a result, other airlines are scrambling to find Indian partners. It also doesn't help that Air India is putting pressure on the Civil Aviation Ministry to avoid granting additional slots to Air India. Sify Finance reports that Air India alleges the foreign carriers are in a stronger competitive position and would be disastrous to Indian airlines.

That being said, foreign airlines have been able to announce new service to India. **KLM will increase capacity to India, including putting the 787-10 in service and add a new route between Bangalore and Amsterdam. Virgin Atlantic will commence new service from London to Mumbai. Moreover, Delta will launch service from New York to Mumbai. British Airways is also adding additional flights to India. Meanwhile, Qatar and American are considering additional flights to India.**

08/06/19 Jay Singh/Simple Flying

New Delhi: **The government is planning to liberalise the terms and conditions for the sale of state-owned carrier Air India. The changes would allow a potential buyer to go for a stake sale of the airline immediately after acquiring it. The revised norms would also enable merger or reverse merger of Air India with any existing business of the buyer.**

**At least 95 per cent stake of Air India will be up for sale while retaining 5 per cent for the employee**

**stock option (ESOP).**

This is the first time the government will relax rules for strategic disinvestment, meant to prevent asset stripping. The rules were framed to safeguard the government following the disinvestment of Centaur Hotel, Mumbai, where the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had pointed out irregularities in the sale process.

The relaxation of the rules was proposed by transaction advisor EY as multiple entities during the last sale process in 2017 had objected, saying it restricted the bidder from raising capital from the market and developing synergy with existing business.

**According to senior government officials involved in the sale process, there will be no restriction on change in shareholding by the selected bidder. Even in case the bidder is a consortium of multiple entities, it would be allowed to do a share sale. This will allow the new owner to raise capital by way of share sale.**

Last time, government had made it mandatory for a selected bidder to lock in its entire shareholding in Air India for a period of three years. Such restrictions on change in shareholding were also applicable when a particular investment was through a special purpose vehicle.

08/06/19 Arindam Majumder/Business Standard

**Lucknow: The Airports Authority of India (AAI), which is developing several airports in Uttar Pradesh, has urged the Adityanath government to remove roadblocks, which are hampering a smooth takeoff of these projects.**

AAI chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra on Friday held a meeting with UP chief secretary Anup Chandra Pandey to review progress and apprise the state government of issues being faced by the authority in the completion of these priority airstrips.

Currently, AAI is developing or upgrading airports in Ayodhya, Agra, Bareilly, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Kushinagar, Meerut, etc even as the Adityanath government has espoused the central government theme of facilitating cheaper air travel to people.

Pandey has directed officials to resolve roadblocks coming in the way of these projects, so that they meet their deadlines. For example, the Kanpur airport project is still awaiting a no objection certificate (NoC) from the state fire department.

AAI is seeking stamp duty exemption for the proposed Kushinagar airport, which would cater to the world famous Buddhist Tourism Circuit comprising parts of Eastern UP and adjoining places in Bihar and even Nepal. Pending issues at other airports pertain to water and power supply, land acquisition/availability etc, according to a state government press communique.

Meanwhile, the chief secretary has directed officials to resolve land acquisition issues being faced by two major airport projects in Lucknow and Kanpur at the earliest. He also issued directives to officials for arranging the required land for the prospective extension of the Varanasi airport runway by the AAI and to provide a net metering facility to the Authority for its solar power plant in the terminal.

08/06/19 Virendra Singh Rawat/Business Standard

**Panaji: The Goa Airport was shut down temporarily today after a naval fighter jet's fuel tank got detached while taking off and caused a fire on the runway, the spokesperson of the Indian Navy tweeted. Civilian flight operations resumed after one and half hours at the airport.**

The incident took place at around 1 pm today after a portion of the main runway of the airport caught fire. The external fuel tank of the aircraft got jettisoned inadvertently on the runway while the plane was taking off for an operational mission from Dabolim airfield, the Navy Spokesperson said. The fire erupted due to fuel spillage.

The MiG-29K fighter jet that dropped the fuel tank is safe. Fighter jets often carry fuel tanks that can be detached as per mission requirements.

Navy spokesperson Captain D K Sharma tweeted after the flight operations resumed. He also said emergency services were immediately pressed in to quickly re-operationalise the runway.

08/06/19 NDTV

Adani Enterprises, which had bid successfully to run six Indian airports, is likely to be formally awarded the contracts for doing so following the re-election of the Modi government. Cabinet approval for the move is likely next month, said aviation ministry officials.

"The award of projects happened during the end of the first term of the government," said one of the persons cited above. "The Cabinet did not take up the matter for approval as the government had completed its tenure then and the ministry's note was not accepted by the cabinet secretariat.

**We will again be sending the note and expect it to be cleared by July-end."**

**Transfer of all six assets to Adani Enterprises will start after this, he said.** Employees at the airports, currently being run by Airports Authority of India (AAI), will have the option of joining Adani Enterprises or staying with the state-owned organisation. Adani won the right to upgrade and operate airports in **Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangalore for 50 years** in auctions held late last year.

**AAI will earn about Rs 1,300 crore annually from the privatisation of the six airports, according to an internal estimate by the organisation that ET has seen.**

**Earnings to be Used to Develop Interior Airports.**

Adani Enterprises had bid aggressively for the airports, exceeding offers by GMR Group, the country's biggest airport manager, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

08/06/19 Mihir Mishra/Economic Times

**At a time when India is exploring the use of drones, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was used to successfully deliver a single unit of blood worth INR 10 Lakh from a remote primary health centre Lakh in Uttarakhand's Tehri district.**

According to a report by News18, Nikhil Upadhye, who founded Cdspace Robotics Limited had indigenously developed a drone at IIT Kanpur's incubation centre for carrying payloads. Similar projects may be undertaken to ensure the reliability of the drones.

Citing healthcare experts, the report said that the use of drones in healthcare may prove to be a game changer in states which are not easily geographically accessed.

**The Indian government has been increasingly exploring ways to use drones. These developments come at a time when the central government is looking to come out with new drone regulations.**

According to Upadhye, these drones can carry four blood units of 50 ml each with the supportive cold chain to keep blood and its by-products cool. The machine can fly easily in light wind conditions.

08/06/19 Shreya Ganguly/Inc42

**New Delhi: Worried over inadequate capacity on foreign routes following the suspension of Jet Airways' operations, the Aviation Ministry would soon allot the unused traffic rights of the grounded airline to rival private airlines.**

**The ministry has received capacity expansion plans of all the four major private carriers IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir and Vistara to finalize allocation of rights to these airlines.**

The four carriers together plan to add about 58 aircraft by July-end.

"Some of the foreign airlines are benefiting from Jet Airways' suspension of operations. On many routes the fare level is high compared to last season. The ministry would now soon take a call on re-allocation of traffic rights," an industry source said.

**The executive said that IndiGo would add about 18 more planes to its current fleet of 232 by July-**

**end. Its close rival SpiceJet would induct 20 more B737 aircraft in its current fleet of 102 jets in the next two months.**

**"Vistara and GoAir are expected to induct 10 each in the same period," he said.**

**While Vistara currently has a fleet of 24 aircraft, Wadia group-owned carrier GoAir has a total fleet size of 50 A320 planes.**

07/06/19 IANS/New Indian Express

After years of caution, India's Tata group is now expanding its two airlines in the country.

The salt-to-software conglomerate, which pioneered commercial flights in India in the 1930s, re-entered the sector in 2014 with **Air Asia India**, a joint venture (JV) with Malaysia's AirAsia Berhad. It now holds a 51% stake in this JV. Tata Sons, the group's holding company, also owns **Vistara**, a 51-49 JV with Singapore Airlines (SIA) launched in 2015.

**However, it is only now that the storied business group is thinking of a bigger role in Indian aviation, adding more aircraft and making overseas plans.**

In the January-March 2019 quarter, the domestic market share of AirAsia and Vistara stood at 5.5% and 4%, respectively, trailing IndiGo (44%), SpiceJet (13.6%), and even GoAir (9.2%), data from sector regulator, the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) show.

In AirAsia's case, some of the blame can be traced to an unstable top deck. Its first CEO, Mittu Chandilya, left the airline abruptly in 2016. Two years later, his successor Amar Abrol quit, returning to the Air Asia Group's headquarters in Malaysia.

Vistara, too, had turbulent initial years.

Analysts say the airline was not able to create a unique identity for itself. "Vistara does not have its own USP. Unlike IndiGo, which boasts of on-time schedules, or GoAir, which claims to provide extra legroom, Vistara isn't sure about what experience it needs to give to the flyers," Mark Martin, founder and CEO of the aviation firm Martin Consulting, told Quartz.

**There's also the fact that the Tatas haven't been aggressive on expansion. AirAsia has a modest fleet of only 21 aircraft, while Vistara has 22 planes.** "They aren't creating a lot of inventory, compared to rivals, as it may boomerang later," said Ashish Nainan, aviation analyst at CARE Ratings.

07/06/19 Niharika Sharma/Quartz

**In order to boost regional connectivity, the Centre may remove the 'landing charges' for aircraft having less than 80 seats at 15 defence airports in the country, government officials said Friday.**

'Landing charges' are paid by an airline to the airport as per the weight of the aircraft during each landing. Defence airports come under the control of Indian Air Force.

"An airline has requested the Civil Aviation Ministry to waive the landing charges on 15 defence airports for aircraft that have less than 80 seats. It has been decided that the Civil Aviation Secretary would formally take up this matter with the Ministry of Defence soon," a senior government official told.

Another senior government official told, "The aircraft, which have less than 80 seats, are helping in ensuring regional connectivity from the cities where these 15 defence airports are located.

Therefore, the (civil aviation) ministry thinks that landing charges should be waived by the Defence Ministry."

The Ministry of Defence has informally stated that this proposal of waiving landing charges is feasible. However, no formal communication has taken place between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Civil Aviation as yet, the official added.

07/06/19 PTI/Economic Times



Hinduja Group and Etihad Airways PJSC may not proceed with plans to resurrect Jet Airways (India) Ltd, dealing a severe blow to efforts aimed at rescuing the airline that has suspended flights for nearly two months.

London-based Hinduja Group has decided to halt negotiations to buy a stake in Jet Airways, while Etihad Airways of Abu Dhabi has put on hold a plan to add more investments in the Mumbai-based airline, said two people familiar with the matter, requesting anonymity.

"As far as bidding for Jet Airways is concerned, the Hinduja Group has taken a back seat now," said one of the two people cited above. "The promoters of the group feel that it's too risky for them to get involved (with Jet Airways) at the moment, due to ongoing government investigations and the recent insolvency pleas submitted by operational creditors at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)."

Two operational creditors of Jet Airways, Shaman Wheels Pvt. Ltd and Gaggar Enterprises Pvt. Ltd, filed separate insolvency pleas on Monday against Jet Airways at NCLT, Mumbai, for recovery of their dues.

Adjourning the matter to Thursday, the bankruptcy court asked the creditors to serve notices on the airline for their dues.

"The NCLT process (after admission of plea by operational creditors) does have merit as it could mean a third party may invest in the airline," the second person said. "There is still value in the brand and airline, though it looks a bit difficult to revive it right now."

Meanwhile, the income tax department is probing possible tax violations by Jet Airways, while the corporate affairs ministry has ordered a probe into the books of the airline after the Registrar of Companies had submitted a report to the ministry highlighting instances of violation of the Companies Act in the airline. Separately, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is trying to ascertain if certain foreign direct investment (FDI) norms were violated when Etihad took a stake in Jet Privilege Pvt. Ltd (JPPL), Jet Airways' frequent flyer programme, in 2014.

"The board of directors of Etihad Airways is also against investing further in Jet Airways. The Abu Dhabi-based airline was earlier keen to save their investment, but now their plan is on the back burner," said the first person cited earlier.

Etihad Airways had in May confirmed its interest to reinvest in a minority stake in Jet Airways, subject to conditions. The Economic Times had then reported that Etihad could invest only up to ₹1,700 crore in Jet Airways.

Queries sent to Etihad, Hinduja Group and State Bank of India (SBI) didn't elicit a response till the time of going to press.

Etihad had in 2013 acquired a 24% stake in Jet Airways for \$379 million (about ₹2,060 crore then). It had also picked up a 50.1% stake in JPPL for \$150 million (over ₹900 crore then) in 2014.

According to details available on the website of the corporate affairs ministry, Shaman Wheels is a motor dealership in Mumbai and Gaggar Enterprises a mineral water producer in Ahmedabad.

However, if Jet Airways is admitted to NCLT, under bankruptcy resolution lenders may recover only a fraction of the ₹8,400 crore the airline owes them. The total liabilities of the airline, including unpaid salaries and vendor dues, are nearly ₹15,000 crore.

A lawyer advising one of the stakeholders of Jet Airways said that under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, any admission of a plea by an operational creditor needs to meet the threshold criteria of good quality of services and undisputed dues.

"Operational creditors may not find it easy to meet the threshold criteria. But if they do meet the criteria, then the committee of creditors will be formed and a resolution professional will be appointed," the lawyer said, requesting anonymity.

"Etihad Airways, which is an equity shareholder, will perhaps be last in the queue in getting anything in lieu of its investment," the lawyer said. "Considering it is service industry, lenders may perhaps find value in brand valuation, aircraft and land."

Lenders to Jet Airways, led by SBI, have been trying to resolve the insolvency crisis at Jet Airways outside NCLT due to fear of little or no recovery. Under the bank-led resolution process, Etihad had earlier agreed to invest in the grounded airline, provided it remained a minority investor.

On 27 May, Mint reported that lenders would take a final decision on the fate of Jet Airways in the next two weeks as they sought a new domestic investor before taking up the last option of a bankruptcy filing.

Jet Airways hasn't flown since 17 April after it grounded all its operations due to an acute shortage of funds.

LiveMint Aviation 11/06/2019

IT major Wipro on Monday said it has rolled out Total Operations System (TOPS) CREW, a suite of solutions for global airlines.

Developed jointly by Wipro and Qatar Airways in an innovative co-investment model, TOPS is one of the most advanced products available in the aviation market, the company said in a statement.

"It helps in increasing the safety awareness, efficiency and profitability of airline operations...TOPS CREW helps airlines manage all major processes related to crew management such as leave bidding and planning, crew training and crew tracking," it added.

The product also provides a 'what-if' analysis tool, allowing airlines to prepare, review and compare various solutions to address business problems, it added.

"The airlines of the future want a holistic and integrated view of their operations spanning passengers, aircraft and crew...we see significant business opportunities in the global aviation sector and are confident that we can leverage these through innovative products such as TOPS," Wipro Vice President and Global Head - Travel, Hospitality and Public Sector vertical, Consumer Business Unit, Nitesh Jain said.

As a partner in the development, Qatar Airways is also the first customer to successfully implement the TOPS product suite across both flight operations and crew management, the statement said.

Live Mint Aviation 10/06/2019

Engine maker CFM International is poised to announce one of the world's largest jet engine orders with a deal for more than 600 engines from India's IndiGo industry sources said.

The French-U.S. engine maker, owned by General Electric and France's Safran, has been competing with the airline's existing engine supplier, Pratt & Whitney, to provide the power for 280 twin-engine A320-family jetliners already on order from Airbus by the Delhi-based budget carrier.

**The airline has selected CFM for the order, which is expected to rise above 600 engines including spares, the sources said.** It was unclear if this includes previous options.

**The two sides are putting finishing touches to the deal in time for an announcement at next week's Paris Airshow, they added. CFM International and IndiGo declined to comment.**

The Economic times of India 13/06/2019

**NEW DELHI: Flight operations at the Delhi International Airport were suspended for around 35 minutes as a severe dust storm hit the city Wednesday evening, airport officials said.**

"The dust storm hit the Delhi airport at 6.39 pm today. The last flight arrival at the Delhi airport was at 6.36 pm. The last departure at the airport was at 6.38 pm," the officials said.

Till 7.15 pm, total nine flights were diverted from the airport, they added.

"The airport resumed flight operations at 7.15 pm," they said.

A dust storm hit several parts of the national capital Wednesday evening, following which a thick haze was hanging over the city, affecting visibility.

The Economic Times of India 12/06/2019

NEW DELHI: The Airports Authority of India on Wednesday announced that flight operations will remain suspended at five airports in Gujarat for 24 hours from midnight Wednesday in order to minimise the damage to airport infrastructure and to avoid inconvenience to passengers due to Cyclone Vayu.

**As cyclone 'Vayu' advances towards the Gujarat coast, the state government launched a massive evacuation exercise to shift about three lakh people from low-lying areas of Saurashtra and Kutch regions, officials said.**

**Flight operations will remain suspended in Porbandar, Diu, Bhavnagar, Keshod and Kandla airports, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said.**

"Equipment and heavy machinery have been moved to safety at respective airports and the Airport Directors of AAI's Bhuj and Jamnagar airports have been asked to write to the Indian Air Force to suspend operations of civil flights from these two airports also," the AAI said in a statement.

The AAI owns and manages around 100 airports across the country.

The AAI said that "a decision in respect of suspending operations at AAI's Surat Airport will be taken after analysing the weather".

"Keeping safety in mind and in order to minimise damage to the airport infrastructure and to avoid inconvenience to any of stakeholders including passengers, the AAI has decided to suspend flight operations at AAI airports in Porbandar, Diu, Bhavnagar, Keshod and Kandla from 12 midnight IST today (12/06/2019) to 12 midnight IST tomorrow (13/06/2019)," the AAI added.

The Regional Executive Director (Western Region), the AAI and all Airport Directors in Gujarat have

been advised to be in readiness to handle any exigency occurring out of this natural calamity and to issue appropriate NOTAM (notice to airmen) action, the AAI said

The Economic times of India 12/06/2019