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Kannur: The long wait is over, and the dream has come true. **Finally, Kannur International Airport (KIAL) has taken wings with the maiden flight by Air India Express to Abu Dhabi. Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and union minister for civil aviation Suresh Prabhu flagged off the first aircraft at 10.06 am on Sunday, carrying 185 passengers, thus crossing yet another milestone in the aviation history of the nation, by commissioning the fourth international airport in the state.**

Later, addressing a public meeting, Pinarayi Vijayan, who formally inaugurated the facility, said when the idea of the airport evolved way back in 1990s, there was apprehension whether it would be practical to have an airport here. But now the airport has been materialized and it has the potential to become one of the most important 4-5 airports in the country.

He also said **the Kerala government is ready to take over Thiruvananthapuram airport, since the central government has decided to privatise it.** In the case of Kozhikode airport also the government has the same stand, as it has experience in managing airports, said the chief minister.

Union minister **Suresh Prabhu**, who was the chief guest on the occasion, **said this airport is a very good model of development with the central and state governments having stake in it. Observing that connectivity is a pre-requisite for development, the minister also said Kerala has the highest potential for growth.**

Though Air India Express and Go Air have started operation in the beginning, more companies would start operations in the coming days, said the officials. Flights under the Udan scheme would also operate from here.

09/12/18 P Sudhakaran/Times of India

Kannur: **When Kannur International Airport becomes operational on Sunday, the air traffic control will be safe in the hands of people from Kannur. When the first flight from the airport takes off on Sunday, it will be controlled by three Kannur natives and interestingly, one among them is a woman.**

Airports Authority of India (AAI) air traffic control Deputy GM G Pradeep Kumar, Assistant GM Sreelesh Sreedharan, and Junior Executive P V Hridya are excited over the opportunity to control the first commercial flight taking off from the airport in their hometown.

“No doubt, it will be a proud and emotional moment,” said Pradeep Kumar, who is also heading the overall operations of air traffic services at Kannur Airport. **A native of Peravoor near Iritty, Pradeep Kumar joined AAI in 1988 and has served at Mumbai, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode and Coimbatore airports.**

Pradeep has been stationed in Kannur for the past two years after AAI entrusted him with the responsibility of setting up Air traffic-related facilities at the airport. According to Pradeep, he has an emotional bond with the airport as he was unofficially involved in the feasibility study carried out by the AAI in the late 1990s for the airport. Pradeep is experienced in air side operations and terminal management also. Air Traffic Control assistant GM Sreelesh Sreedharan is a native of Pattiam. Sreelesh was previously serving at Mangalore airport. Besides Mangaluru, he has served at Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram ATCs. He had also been an instructor at Mangaluru. In Kannur he does role of instructor-cum-controller.

Junior air traffic control executive P V Hridya from Dharmasala is the woman presence among the ‘Kannur team’. She joined AAI in 2016 and has served at Thiruvananthapuram and Bengaluru airports.

09/12/18 New Indian Express

With the Kannur international airport becoming a reality, it is an opportunity for the 30-year-old Calicut international airport to buckle up and improve amenities for passengers from Malabar. The commissioning of the fourth international airport in the State, managed by a public-private consortium, is expected to give tough competition to airports in Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Calicut, all operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The Calicut airport will be directly impacted as Kannur is eyeing to boost the domestic and international connectivity of north Malabar.

Sources said the impact would be known only after six months or so when the Kannur airport commences full-fledged domestic and international operations. Possibly, Kannur will get a large slice of passengers in Kannur district, rural Kozhikode, and Wayanad who have till now been relying on the Calicut airport. Besides, the Kannur airport will be catering to regions in Kasaragod and Coorg. It is expected to handle around 15 lakh passengers a year. Unquestionably, Kannur will provide modern and advanced facilities to travellers. For now, only mid-sized aircraft under Code C will operate through the airport which has parking bays for 14 Code E and 20 Code C aircraft.

Nevertheless, Calicut, despite the ban on operation of wide-bodied aircraft for three years, handled 32 lakh passengers last year. Now, the ban has been lifted with Saudia (Saudi Arabian Airlines) recommencing daily operations. Further, the Ministry of Minorities Affairs has restored the embarkation point for Haj pilgrims.

Also, it is expected that the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will give approval for Dubai-based Emirates and Air India to operate big flights assigned under Code E.

09/12/18 The Hindu

Hyderabad will no longer host the biennial civil aviation expo, considered one of the largest in the country. A Defence Ministry spokesman made the announcement in New Delhi on Friday. The civil aviation expo will be part of the Aero India 2019 show in Bengaluru, set to be hosted on five days from February 20-24, 2019.

The official used the word 'subsuming' for taking away the premier event from Hyderabad. No reasons have been given for merging the defence-oriented aero show hosted in Bengaluru since 1996, and the civilian aero exhibition which began in 2008.

In March this year, at the International Exhibition and Conference on Civil Aviation in Hyderabad, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha had scotched rumours about the merger.

The Hyderabad aero show has become part of MICE calendar as India is emerging a big shopper for civilian aircraft.

The domestic aviation market has expanded rapidly over the past few years aided by industry-friendly policies including subsidies for air connectivity to smaller places and the north east.

A recent study released by International Air Transport Association estimated that in 2010, 79 million people travelled to/from/or within India. This number doubled to 158 million in 2017 and is expected to treble by 2037.

08/12/18 Serish Nanisetti/The Hindu

New Delhi/Kohima: Of all the multi-pronged developmental projects being undertaken by his government, **the Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has decided to give a major momentum to the initiatives for creating the second airport in the state.**

"The proposed new airport near state capital Kohima with potential of 4.2 to 4.5 km runway will change the face of Nagaland," Mr Rio told UNI during an interaction.

09/12/18 Nirendra Dev/UNI

Patna: Jayaprakash Narayan International Airport on Saturday made operational 420m of approach lighting system that will help pilots land their aircraft even if visibility falls to below 1,000m.

It will be a boon for passengers and airlines during foggy weather that envelops the Patna sky and leads to inordinate delays of flights, making flying in and out of Patna a troublesome affair.

“We have made operational 420m of approach lights towards the eastern side of the runway today (December 8) at noon. We got the approval last (Friday) evening on International Civil Aviation Day. Pilots can use it to land at the airport in a visibility of 1,000m,” said Patna airport director Rajender Singh Lahauria.

Lahauria claimed it as a major achievement as **it will cut delays due to inclement weather conditions in winter.** “At present, flights can land at Patna airport in a minimum visibility of 1,200m. Reducing the criteria by 200m will be a shot in the arm towards maintaining the flight schedule,” Lahauria added.

The Telegraph had reported in September that the Patna airport was installing approach lighting system (ALS) to ensure that flights land on time in foggy weather and are not diverted to other airports outside the state.

ALS extends from the approach end of airstrips. It helps pilots in visual identification of landing environment and in aligning the aircraft with the runway on arriving at a prescribed point while approaching it. It significantly enhances the safety of aircraft operations, particularly in conditions of reduced visibility like foggy or rainy conditions.

09/12/18 Dev Raj/Telegraph

Mumbai: After five people were killed in a plane crash in Ghatkopar this June, the Indian civil aviation regulator undertook an audit of Indamer Aviation Pvt Ltd, the company that had carried out repairs and maintenance of the ill-fated aircraft.

Citing a list of malpractices that the audit unearthed, **the regulator has now ordered suspension of aircraft maintenance and repair work carried out by Indamer at its Ahmedabad base, and partially curtailed the work it undertakes at its Mumbai base.**

The audit findings do not pertain to the June 28 King Air C-90 Ghatkopar crash.

But soon after the crash, on July 2, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation issued an order to audit Indamer, and the eight-day inspection carried out in July and September covered the work it undertook on other aircraft parked at its bases in Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Pune.

“Evidence of aircraft being released for flights without recording or rectifying known defects were found,” said the letter sent recently by Pawan Kumar, director of airworthiness, DGCA, to Indamer. **It listed 11 audit findings of a “significant” nature.**

“As a sample, 19 cases of non-recording of defects encountered by maintenance/operational personnel were evidenced,” it said.

The malpractices include carrying out major aircraft inspection checks without necessary tools and equipment, illegal cannibalisation of spare parts, use of locally-fabricated tools that haven’t been subjected to appropriate inspection or certification to carry out critical inspection of B200 aircraft and AgustaA109 helicopters.

“There are (a) number of findings, related to inadequate facilities, lack of procedures, inadequate infrastructure, non-availability of required technical manpower, nonadherence to standard procedures wherein the organisation did not satisfactorily demonstrate compliance to the applicable regulations,” the audit findings said.

09/12/18 Manju V/Times of India

Kannur: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Sunday appealed to the Centre not to lease out the Thiruvananthapuram airport under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and requested it to entrust the aerodrome's management with the state government.

The Union Cabinet has recently approved a proposal to manage Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Mangaluru besides Thiruvananthapuram airports under PPP mode.

At the inauguration of the Kannur International airport, Vijayan said, "**We can set up a special purpose vehicle (SPV) and manage the airport in a remarkable way. We are ready to take over the management of the Karipur International airport (Calicut) also if the Centre has any similar plans in future.**"

09/12/18 Outlook

Mysuru: A 69-year-old doctor from Mysuru, who saved the life of an elderly person travelling on board an Air France flight from Paris and Bengaluru last month, has received a special thanks and a gift voucher from the airline.

Prabhulingaswamy Sanganalmath, a retired government physician, who runs a family clinic at Kuvempunagar here, was on the Air France flight to Bengaluru from Paris on November 13, when his professional services were needed to save a life.

An European senior citizen on the flight collapsed and Dr. Sanganalmath responded to the cabin crew's request for medical assistance. "I was perhaps the only doctor travelling. There was a nurse in the flight who assisted me," recalled Dr. Sanganalmath.

"There was no pulse and he was not breathing," said the doctor.

He did a cardiac massage, followed by a resuscitation process, with the support of the nurse.

"The air hostesses brought the emergency health kit and oxygen tank. The oxygen supplemented resuscitation was carried out," the doctor said. The patient started speaking and drank juice after a couple of hours. "The patient was under observation until the flight landed in Bengaluru and was then taken to the airport clinic for further examination," he said.

"The flight captain came to me and expressed his gratitude for my help. Next day I got a message from Vincent Feuillie of Air France Passenger Medical Service thanking me for the medical assistance. Now, **the airline has offered me a voucher worth 100 Euros as a token of appreciation,**" said the **doctor**, adding that he had done no more than his duty.

08/12/18 Shankar Bennur/The Hindu

Hyderabad: A district consumer forum here directed IndiGo airlines to refund Rs 9,729 and pay Rs 25, 000 as compensation to a customer for stopping him from boarding the plane without a valid reason.

Kumar P, the complainant, said he had purchased a ticket from an agent of IndiGo to travel to Chennai from Hyderabad by paying a sum of Rs 3,016. Kumar said, that on August 19, 2016, the day of travel, despite clearing all security checks, he was not allowed to board the flight. He said his ticket was endorsed as 'cancelled'.

He submitted that this caused him great trauma, as he was travelling to Chennai to attend his father's death anniversary that morning. Since, the Indigo staff at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport did not help him or refund ticket amount, he was forced to buy a ticket of another airlines by spending an amount of Rs 6,712.

He said he contacted customer care of IndiGo, and sent emails to several officials, including the one from Civil Aviation for the refund, but did not receive any positive reply.

The representatives from IndiGo, in their written version, submitted that the case is liable to be dismissed as it is filed against IndiGo, but not under its registered corporate name InterGlobe Aviation. They claimed that Kumar took his boarding pass only 25 minutes prior to departure, and that he had arrived at the boarding gate only after the closure of the gates. They said they were

compelled to treat Kumar as a 'Gate No Show'.

09/12/18 Nirupa Vatyam/Times of India

Mumbai: The capacity-constrained Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) Saturday handled a record 1,007 aircraft movements in a day, bettering its earlier record of 1,003 flight movements in 24-hours in June this year.

Sources said the feat was achieved in the wake of the pre-wedding bash of Isha Ambani, daughter of industrialist and India's richest person Mukesh Ambani, in Udaipur in Rajasthan.

They said a host of politicians, corporate honchos and Bollywood stars flew in private jets from Mumbai to attend the celebrations that started on Friday.

A Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) spokesperson confirmed that the airport handled a record 1007 arrivals and departures on Saturday but did not divulge the factors leading to the surge in traffic movement.

"Mumbai airport handled a record 1,007 flights in a single day on Saturday. The earlier best for the airport was 1,003 arrivals and departures which was achieved on June 6," the source said.

According to the source, the airport witnessed increased charter aircraft operations on Saturday due to the pre-marriage celebrations of Isha Ambani, who is set to marry Piramal scion Anand Piramal on Wednesday at Antilia, the residence of the Mukesh Ambani family in south Mumbai.

09/12/18 PTI/Economic Times

Pune: The recently launched direct Pune-Singapore flight may have carried 500kg sweets from the city, but the overall response to the airport's international cargo export facilities has been underwhelming.

The facility was set up in July 2017, and at that time, the airport authorities had set their annual international cargo export expectations at 40,600 metric tonnes. The numbers achieved till September 2018 — 64 metric tonnes — reveal that the facility has fallen woefully short of those expectations. The availability of transshipment facility, which started in January this year, too has not made much of a difference.

From Pune, apart from perishable items like fruits and vegetables, machine parts are exported. A bulk of it is sent out via the Mumbai airport. In fact, **almost 40% of the international cargo handled at the Mumbai airport originates from Pune or other places in western Maharashtra.**

Earlier this year, the airport officials invited the representatives of cargo companies like Blue Dart and DHL to start their cargo operations from Pune and offered them slots of their choice. But talks are still going on. "It will take some more time for things to materialize," an airport official told TOI.

Anant Sardeshmukh, the former director-general of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, spoke about infrastructural constraints. "All major exporters have large volumes and have well-established export-import operations from major ports like Nhava Sheva. **At the Pune airport, there are space and infrastructure constraints, especially for machines and machinery.**

Flights and direct connectivity are also issues," he said.

Aviation analyst and expert Dhairyashil Vandekar agreed. **"One needs infrastructure — like cold storage — which isn't available here. Also, where is the cargo import facility? How can there be only exports but no imports? There is also a lack of will,"** he said.

09/12/18 Joy Sengupta/Times of India

Mumbai: Loss-making national carrier Air India is looking to start a flight service to Iraqi city of Najaf from Lucknow in UP via New Delhi, starting early next year.

Najaf is considered sacred by Shia Muslims. Notably, Lucknow has a sizable Shia population. The airline is discussing modalities of the proposed flight and a final decision is expected to be taken on Monday, an airline source said.

"Air India plans to start services to Najaf from Lucknow, connecting New Delhi. But there are several issues which need to be sorted out before announcing the new flight. A meeting has been called on Monday to discuss all the issues around the flight. A final decision about the launch will be taken at this meeting," the source said.

According to the source, the stay arrangements for the flight crew is one of the key issues as it can't stay in Najaf due to certain reasons.

08/12/18 PTI/Economic Times

On the international civil aviation day, two European carriers - Air Italy and WOW air - started their inaugural flights to India. Full-service carrier Air Italy started New Delhi-to-Milan and Mumbai-to-Milan non-stop flights on an Airbus 330-200 offering a configuration of 24 business class and 228 economy class seats. Low-cost carrier WOW air, on the other hand, launched Delhi-to-Reykjavik direct flight.

Citing the reasons behind the expansion, Air Italy's COO Rossen Dimitrov said that **Italy is the second-most visited European destination for Indian tourists, and the airline, which is 49 per cent owned by Qatar Airways, is planning to have code-share agreement with Tata Group-owned Vistara to connect its passengers to more Indian cities. WOW air boasts about launching first-ever direct flight between Iceland and India, and giving one-stop connectivity to its Indian passengers to 13 north American destinations.**

The launch of these flights is coming at a time when domestic carrier IndiGo is mulling over introducing flights to Western European destinations with Airbus A321LR. Also, Kuwait's budget airline Jazeera Airways has recently announced that it would add Delhi as its fifth destination in India.

In a dampened global aviation market, what's prompting foreign airlines to plan their expansions in India. The biggest pull factor remains the **high passenger growth that India offers to the international carriers.** For instance, in each month, the growth in the international passenger traffic (outbound and inbound combined) for nine months in 2018 exceeded the growth for the corresponding nine months of the last year. In September, the international passenger growth stood at 4.9 per cent, one of the lowest in the current year, as per DGCA.

07/12/18 Manu Kaushik/Business Today

New Delhi: The solution suggested by India's aviation regulator to avoid a situation similar to the one that likely led to the fatal crash of a Lion Air Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft is unimplementable as of now, veteran aviators said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) wants airlines to train pilots operating the 737 Max 8 model plane on a simulator by replicating the circumstances that are suspected to have led to the crash off Jakarta in October, which killed all 189 people on board.

The former pilots, one of them a certified instructor, said the **DGCA's recommendation could not be implemented as of now in India as there was neither a simulator for this variant of the 737 aircraft, nor could the set of conditions — that investigators suspect led to the Lion Air crash — be simulated on the available simulator.**

“There is no simulator for Boeing 737 Max,” said Captain Shakti Lumba, an independent aviation analyst. “Pilots [in India] are trained on a Boeing 737 NG simulator which doesn’t have the module, or the auto-stab function, present in the Max variant,” he added.

Jet Airways and SpiceJet currently operate five 737 Max planes each.

The DGCA has developed a set of protocols to be followed in case of a problem with the aircraft’s Manoeuvring Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS). These include diverting the plane to the nearest airport in case of an issue with the device, reporting any problem with it to the DGCA and carrying out a verification flight if the device is repaired following a glitch. The MCAS is an addition to the 737 Max 8 planes to prevent the plane’s nose from getting too high and causing a stall or drop in speed. In the Lion Air crash, the MCAS is suspected of having forced the nose down because of incorrect information it received from sensors on the fuselage.

An examiner for pilots flying 737 planes, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that **the aviation watchdog had issued instructions without detailed guidelines.**

07/12/18 Jagriti Chandra/The Hindu

Noida: The construction of the Noida International Airport at Jewar will be done on a public-private-partnership (PPP) mode, Uttar Pradesh authorities said on Saturday.

A government order has been issued by the Civil Aviation Department after a nod from the state cabinet.

At a cabinet meeting held earlier this week, it was decided that **acquired land will be given on a 90-year lease to the Noida International Airport Limited (NAIL) and that it be vested the powers of selecting the developer.**

Six villages -- Bajauta Rajawaha, Rajwaha, Dayanatpur Rajawah, Kishrepur Alpika and Pathvaya Nala -- are likely to be shifted for the purpose. The irrigation department will oversee and facilitate the shifting process, an official told IANS.

The state government has also ratified the financial and administrative clearance of Rs 4,500 crore required for acquisition of 1,239.14 hectares of land at a price of Rs 2,300 per square metres.

The government land that comes in the ambit of the airport will, however, be transferred free of cost to the airport.

08/12/18 Hans India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday sought response of the Centre and aviation regulator DGCA on a plea alleging that under the new Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on Flight Duty Time Limit (FDTL), rest period of cabin crew has been reduced as compared to pilots.

Justice Vibhu Bakhru issued notice to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) seeking their response to the petition by an association which has sought that cabin crew be treated at par with pilots while laying down the flight duty periods (FDPs).

The All India Cabin Crew Association (AICCA) has in its plea challenged the DGCA's current CAR I on FDTL, which was notified on November 1, and the subsequent draft CAR the regulator is in the process of finalising, saying these regulations are "prejudicial to the safety of the passengers".

The petition, filed through advocates Sanjoy Ghose and Urvi Mohan, contends that the actions of DGCA "do not adequately consider the impact of fatigue on (cabin) crew alertness".

DGCA said that AICCA can participate in the process and submit their comments on the draft CAR.

07/12/18 PTI/Outlook

Kolkata: **Security was enhanced at the city airport from Tuesday afternoon after the airport director's office reportedly received an email from an unknown account with a short message: "Airport is highjake".**

Following the receipt of the mail, a high-level meeting was held and security was instantly beefed up. However, studying the nature of the mail with the word "hijack" misspelt as "highjake", the officials categorised the threat mail as a non-specific threat and lodged a complaint with the local police station to probe into the issue.

"The airport director's office received the mail around 11am on November 13 on the official Airports Authority of India email id of the director. The nature of the words suggests it may be a prank. However, the officials decided to beef up the security," said a senior official at the airport.

07/12/18 Moveefy

New Delhi: **Women in Aviation International, India Chapter and Lockheed Martin India in association with Airports Authority of India (AAI) today celebrated Girls in Aviation Day on the occasion of International Civil Aviation Day.** The purpose of International Civil Aviation Day is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation towards the social and economic development. **With the vision to encourage girls to take up STEM subjects and explore career opportunities in related industries, Girls in Aviation Day is aimed at showcasing opportunities in the aviation and aerospace sectors. This initiative also aligns with the Government of India's 'Skill India' initiative.**

As part of the program, Women in Aviation International (India Chapter) invited 90 students from various schools for an informative session in New Delhi. Visiting students were given an opportunity to hear industry experts speak on the 'Future of STEM in India'. **The session stressed upon the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics and how these subjects can lead to fulfilling careers in aviation. Additionally, Women in Aviation gave out 10 IATA sponsored course kits to underprivileged girls to empower them to kick start a career in aviation.** Speaking on the occasion, Mrs. Radha Bhatia, President, Women in Aviation International, India Chapter shared, "This is the third year that the WAI India Chapter is celebrating 'Girls in Aviation Day' and we are delighted to host the same in the capital. This day is celebrated for the young girls to encourage them to choose aviation as a viable career opportunity. **World over India has the maximum number of female pilots but there are many other avenues that are still unknown. With this celebration our aim is to see girls from New Delhi explore exciting careers available to them as engineers, air traffic controllers and dozens of other jobs within the aviation.**

"We will continue our endeavour to introduce young girls to role models and educate them in a fun and supportive atmosphere. **We are very fortunate to be able to partner with Airport Authority of India for this initiative.** Their efforts in leading youth into STEM careers is truly commendable." added Mrs. Bhatia.

Speaking about Lockheed Martin's commitment to this initiative, Mr. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India Private Limited said, "**Lockheed Martin is delighted to support the Girls in Aviation Day initiative and see it grow from strength to strength.** We are passionate about encouraging young ladies to broaden their horizons and consider pursuing an education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and consequently, careers in aerospace and technology. Lockheed Martin views education as a crucial investment for both business and society and looks forward to helping develop the next generation of engineers, explorers and scientists in India.

Post the session the students were delighted to receive abundant information about the industry and its intricacies. Also, Mr. Ashwini Lohani- Chairman Railway Board, Chief Guest of the celebration gave

away 10 IATA sponsored kits to girls from underprivileged background to kickstart a career in aviation.

07/12/18 PRESS RELEASE

Thiruvananthapuram Corporation has passed a resolution presented by LDF's K Sreekumar against the proposed privatisation of airport. It was one of the six airports of Airport Authority of India (AAI) which was given an in-principle union cabinet approval for privatisation in November.

The operation, management and development will be leased out under Public Private Partnership (PPP) through Public Private Appraisal Committee (PPAC). The state government has requested the centre to try out the CIAL model. They would rather have a public-private partnership company with state having a major stake, just like CIAL.

Thiruvananthapuram airport was bringing in a lot of profit and there was no need for privatisation, said Sreekumar. He said that even as Airport Authority of India would reassign around 500 employees it has employed, the move is going to affect the jobs of 1000 other people who have been working as contract employees.

BJP demanded that the resolution should be passed only after an all-party meeting. BJP councillors Nemom Gopan and V.G. Girikumar said that it was a resolution which was not included in the agenda. They, despite a Press Information Bureau release suggesting otherwise, said that there is no official government order regarding the privatisation of airports and so the privatisation is not happening.

Mayor V.K. Prasanth ruled against their demand that the resolution can be presented in the next council.

08/12/18 Deccan Chronicle

Chennai: There were 69 incidents of glass panel breakage at the steel and glass terminals at Chennai airport since the domestic and international terminals were commissioned in 2013. Of this 35 incidents were because of presence impurities - nickel sulphide in the glass. The particles of the chemical makes the glass to shatter when there is change in temperature.

The data was released by AAI after a glass panel shattered at the domestic terminal after a tiny metal part which flew off some passing vehicle hit it on Friday.

The statistics showed that almost equal number of panels have shattered due to chemical impurities in the glass and due to mishandling of glass by people especially staff. Nine panels have broken this year so far of which five broken because of human error and four broken because of impurities.

The maximum number of breakage, 19 incidents, happened in 2015. Of the 19, human error caused 15 breakages. However, the 14 incidents of glass shattering that took place in 2013, the year the terminals were opened, were only because of impurities and not human error.

08/12/18 Outlook

Air India subsidiary Alliance Air on Friday started the Ranchi-Raipur flight as part of the Centre's regional connectivity scheme from the Birsas Airport here.

The inaugural flight was flagged off by Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das and Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha.

Today we flagged off the Ranchi-Raipur flight. The Ranchi-Kolkata flight will leave in the night, Sinha told a press conference after the inaugural flight.

On Saturday, Alliance Air will commence flight operations between Ranchi and Bhubaneswar. Around 40 passengers boarded the inaugural Ranchi-Raipur flight while 60 passengers will board the Ranchi-Kolkata flight in the night, Sinha said.

"Three important cities are being connected with Ranchi by Raipur, Kolkata and Bhubaneswar. There is a flight to Kolkata earlier too, but this flight will be convenient to the passengers as it will land in Ranchi from Kolkata in the morning and the passengers can return to Kolkata in the evening, Sinha said.

He said that the **fares for these flights are almost the same as train fares**, Sinha said.

One way fare from Ranchi to Kolkata and Raipur is Rs 1,999 while it is Rs 1,666 to Bhubaneswar. During the last four years, the number of people travelling to these routes have grown rapidly, he said.

08/12/18 PTI/ZeeBiz

Port Blair: In an another initiative to increase frequency of flights and have more competitive and lower air-fare on the Island-Mainland Sector, the A&N Administration has decided to reimburse the VAT component on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) paid on those incremental flights (over and above existing number of flights), which are introduced on Port Blair Sector during the period upto March 31, 2019.

"This will be applicable from prospective effect. The reimbursement of VAT component on the incremental flights will encourage the Airlines to introduce additional flights on the Island-Mainland Sector which will facilitate more competitive and low air-fare on the sector," an official release of Andaman and Nicobar Administration said here today.

A suitable mechanism for reimbursement of the VAT component to the airline operator is being devised by the Commissioner, VAT, A&N Administration. **High airfare is always considered as a major hindrance in the growth of tourism industry in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and this step will certainly help in lowering airfare upto a certain extent.**

07/12/18 UNI

India plans to form a global drone alliance, similar to the International Solar Alliance, to harmonise norms for the use of drones across the world and promote the growth of this nascent sector.

"We are looking to form a drone alliance on the lines of Solar Alliance wherein other countries will accept the regulations made collectively," said Shefali Juneja, joint secretary at the civil aviation ministry. She was speaking at the Global Venture Capital Summit here.

India, she said, is reaching out to Israel and the European Union for their support to form the alliance.

The ministry plans to use the upcoming Global Aviation Summit to brainstorm further on the idea.

The summit is scheduled for January 15-16 next year in Mumbai.

Flying drones or remotely-piloted aircraft (RPA) have become legal in India starting December 1 with the National Drones Policy coming into effect. The policy defines and classifies drones, puts in place a permitting process for operators, and outlines flight restrictions.

They mandate RPAs to have a Unique Identification Number and Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit.

07/12/18 Kirtika Suneja/Economic Times

New car, caviar, four star daydream.... Any “cool” kid who grew up in the 1970s and 1980s will recognise that line from Pink Floyd’s ‘Money’, from the hit album Dark Side of the Moon. It’s also a song that you’re likely to hear played on any Vistara flight. That one line alone seems to describe what Vistara wants to be—the four-star dream airline. But more on Vistara’s ambition later. For now, let’s listen to the music.

“We play blues, jazz, and soft rock as our boarding and landing music on our A320neos. Together with the mood lighting, this creates a warm and welcoming club-like atmosphere that appeals to our target segment. This is a place they can relax and feel like they belong, with comfort music from their school and college days in India or abroad,” explains Sanjiv Kapoor, chief strategy and commercial officer, Vistara. The younger fliers, he adds, who may not have grown up on Pink Floyd or even Louis Armstrong, seem to enjoy the music, and the airline has got positive feedback on its playlists.

The club-like atmosphere Kapoor speaks about is something Vistara is trying to recreate, not just through its choice of music, but also through the menus it offers, and the overall ambience. “Vistara has maintained a distinct identity for itself,” says Harish Bijoor, brand expert and founder, Harish Bijoor Consults. **He compares Vistara to “what Jet Airways used to be in the old days”.**

As one of the youngest airlines in an increasingly crowded space, Vistara, which was launched in 2015, has managed to stand out by refusing to be seen as a low-cost carrier. Its focus on premium offerings has led to inevitable comparisons with that other premium airline, Kingfisher. Of course, Kingfisher came to a bad end, but that was not because its premium positioning did not work. Vistara doesn’t have the same financial baggage that Kingfisher had to contend with; as a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, its lineage is spotless.

In the three years that it has been in business, Vistara’s positioning has worked in its favour. There have been people more than happy to pay more to get more—more legroom, more food choices, more perks. It hasn’t translated into a healthy bottom line yet, but that’s something nobody is very concerned about just yet. Airlines generally take at least five years to show a profit, and that depends a lot on global fuel price movements as well.

Vistara is now looking at the international market as a way to turn in a profit. “Without international it is very difficult for an airline to make money,” explains Dhiraj Mathur, partner, leader-aerospace & defence at PwC India. That’s why every domestic airline in India today has global ambitions; recently, even a company as small as GoAir has announced its plans to foray abroad.

08/11/18 Arnika Thakur, Purba Das/Fortune India

For most of the Indians, visiting Singapore will surely be a part of their bucket list. Whether it is destination wedding, business tours or for leisure, Singapore manages to find a place in every Indian’s mind. Here’s the great news for all those Singapore lovers. **From the first day of the December, Jet Airways will provide daily service from Pune to Singapore becoming the biggest airline company to connect India with the spectacular country.** Even without having direct service from Pune, Singapore witnessed the largest crowd in the year 2017 from the vibrant city. Now Jet Airways providing non- stop facility between these two places, it will be a great relief for the travellers staying near Pune who aspire to visit the island country for their vacations.

Singapore having a sea of option in **tourist attraction and tourist activities** throughout the year finds its streets filled with visitors from around the world. Explore the beautiful beaches, spend time walking through the splendid city or try the night safari. You will never run out of options to keep yourselves engaged and entertained in Singapore.

With the healthy trade relation between both the countries, it will be a boon for the exporters and the importers from both sides. The service can create an economic boost for both the countries. The

flight from Pune will depart at 5:10hrs. Jet Airways has also announced special introductory offers on ticket fares on the flights to celebrate their new achievement.

[08/11/18 Outlook](#)

Mumbai Credit rating agency Icra Friday downgraded cash-strapped Jet Airway's long-term ratings from 'B' to 'C', the second such action by it since October.

The short-term ratings have, however, been reaffirmed to 'A4'.

The rating downgrade considers delays in the implementation of the proposed liquidity initiatives by the management, further aggravating its liquidity, as reflected in the delays in employee salary payments and lease rental payments to the aircraft lessors, the agency said.

Significantly, the Naresh Goyal-promoted full service carrier has been in the red since the March quarter of the previous fiscal. Facing severe liquidity crunch, the airline has been defaulting on payment of salaries to its senior staff, including pilots and engineers since August as well as to some of the vendors

Jet Airways in a regulatory filing also confirmed the rating downgrade by Icra.

Instruments with 'C' rating are considered to have very high risk of default regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, as per the agency.

[07/12/18 PTI/News18.com](#)

Hyderabad: Massive chaos unfolded at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport on Friday morning after an Air India flight, AI 966, from Jeddah skipped its halt at the city's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) and headed straight for its final destination, Mumbai.

While airline authorities attributed this to poor weather conditions in Hyderabad, it failed to pacify fliers — many of whom were travelling to the city to cast their vote in Telangana assembly elections. In fact, in a video that went viral on social media, several passengers are seen engaging in a heated argument with the airline crew demanding an explanation for being de-planed at Mumbai airport. They are also repeatedly heard complaining about missing the polls.

“AI 966 Jeddah to Hyderabad landed in Mumbai instead of arriving at Hyderabad at 7:10am on December 7. Most passengers wanted to cast their vote in Telangana. Air India authorities said due to bad weather flight landed in Mumbai but same time Saudi Airline flight arrived in Hyderabad from Jeddah,” tweeted Shahbaz Ahmed Khan, a social activist, seeking justice for passengers who couldn't vote due to the chaos. Another passenger questioned why the initial decision to land the aircraft in Hyderabad was revised later. “Why was the decision changed?,” the passenger is heard asking the airline staff in the video, with several others screaming in the background insisting that the crew arrange for the earliest flight to Hyderabad.

[08/12/18 Preeti Biswas & Sudipta Sengupta/Times of India](#)

Hyderabad: Air India flight AI 966 from Jeddah, carrying 229 passengers, landed in Mumbai on Friday instead of its scheduled arrival in Hyderabad at 7.10 am after the airline decided to fly directly to its final destination. Several city-based passengers on the flight said they were looking forward to casting their votes on arrival in Hyderabad, while a few others were visiting the city to attend funerals.

The Air India authorities in Mumbai told the passengers that the plane had to be flown directly to Mumbai due to bad weather in Hyderabad. However, the passengers countered, saying that Saudi Airlines flight SVA 754 from Jeddah landed in Hyderabad at its scheduled time of 11.10 am.

When this newspaper contacted sources in Hyderabad airport, they said no other take off or landing was affected by bad weather on Friday morning. They said British Airways flight 276 took off from the city airport at 7:39 am on Friday.

A video of the chaos at Mumbai airport where the passengers demanded proper explanation from the airline officials and arrangement of another flight to ferry them back to Hyderabad has been circulating on the social media on Friday.

08/12/18 Rajeswari Parasa/Deccan Chronicle

For the first time, the country's civil aviation exhibition will be subsumed into the upcoming edition of Aero India to be held from February 20 to 24, 2019, a defence official said on Friday. So far, Aero India has been defence-oriented while a separate civil aviation exhibition is held in Hyderabad.

"The 12th edition of the Aero India at Bengaluru next year will feature theme-based activities. On Day 2, there will be a drone competition for start-ups and Day 4 will be women's day. Indian origin U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams is scheduled to attend the show on Day 4. Other women achievers will also be present," the official said about the event highlights.

The biennial Aero India began in 1996, and has emerged as the largest aerospace exhibition in Asia. It attracts all major aerospace manufacturers around the globe given India's large armed forces looking at major modernisation and huge imports. Yelahanka Air Force station in Bengaluru has hosted all the 11 editions so far.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the show and a vintage aircraft rally will be held on one of the days.

The tag line of Aero India 2019 is "Runway for a billion opportunities." The logo is inspired by the indigenous light combat aircraft Tejas.

08/12/18 Dinakar Peri/The Hindu

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the 12th edition of "Aero India 2019" which will commence from February 20 and will host a number of spectacular events out of which some are going to be held for the very first time. Indian American astronaut Sunita Williams will also attend the aerospace event. "The five-day event which is going to be held in Bengaluru is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Ministry of Defence spokesperson Colonel Aman Anand told media here.

On an inaugural day, there will be CEOs' roundtable to be attended by 15-20 major CEOs, adding that the entire event would be overseen by a Joint Secretary level officer, he said. With a tagline 'Runway to a Billion Opportunities', the mega event will for the first time provide a platform to students to display their projects pertaining to the aviation industry, Anand said. Besides this, on the second day, there will be a special startup on drone Olympics. "The women's day will be held on the fourth day in which Indian American astronaut Sunita Williams will attend. It will also witness participation of more women achievers in the aviation field," said Anand.

08/12/18 ANI/Sify

Kochi: A domestic flight had to be rolled back after an anxious passenger opened one of the emergency doors of an aircraft. The aircraft belongs to India's largest airlines, **IndiGo**. Reportedly, one of the passengers in the flight Ashiq Naushad seemed to have gone into a panicky mode after noticing flashes of lights in the aircraft.

Once the emergency door detaches, the aircraft cannot fly before fixing the door back to normalcy. The pilot hence had to bring back the plane to the parking. Later, the 61 passengers from the flight were boarded on other planes.

The Hubballi destined flight took off from Kochi at 4 pm after which the incident took place. **An inquiry has been ordered by the Director General of Civil Aviation.**

08/12/18 Newsd

Kochi: Jet Airways promoter Naresh Goyal is learned to have approached Abu Dhabi-based NRI billionaire MA Yusuffali for investing in his struggling-to-survive airline. Goyal is also in talks with Abu Dhabi's Etihad to get the latter to raise its stake in Jet from 24% to anywhere up to 49%. Jet's founder needs a partner to meet the norms that a domestic carrier's substantial ownership and effective control (SOEC) must remain with Indian entities. Yusuffali, the richest Indian billionaire in the Arab world, also known for his proximity to the Abu Dhabi royals, may board Jet Airways only in tandem with Etihad.

"This would be a deal between Etihad and Yusuffali to take charge of the Indian carrier. It must be seen in the context of Etihad's deal with Goyal," said a person familiar with the matter.

Etihad has had frosty ties with Goyal after investing \$380 million in Jet Airways five years ago.

Etihad doesn't want the airline to be grounded especially after India's largest conglomerate Tata, which had evinced interest in a takeover, slowed down negotiations.

On its part, Jet said it "does not comment on speculation". Yusuffali said: "I have no interest in buying an airline. My focus will be on my core areas of retailing and hospitality, where I will continue to invest."

However, a person privy to this development said: "Goyal had called up Yusuffali 10 days ago and discussed his buying a strategic share in the airline. They had a detailed conversation. But **Yusuffali is apprehensive about investing in an industry that loses so much money.**"

07/12/18 Shenoy Karun/Times of India

Cash crunched Jet Airways has sought a soft financing of USD 350 million from its investment partner Etihad Airways, as it continues to hold discussions with the latter to offload additional stake in the carrier, an airline source said Thursday.

The Abu Dhabi-based Etihad had come to the rescue of the Naresh Goyal-controlled airline during the earlier downturn too.

In 2013, it had acquired 24 per cent stake in Jet Airways for Rs 2,060 crore, besides extending low-interest loan of USD 150 million as well as purchasing 50.1 per cent stake in its loyalty programme JetPrivilege.

"Jet Airways has sought USD 350 million soft loan from Etihad even as its discussions with the the Gulf carrier continue for selling additional stake," the source privy to development told PTI.

The Middle-Eastern airline has, however, offered to finance as much as USD 200 million, the source said.

"A final decision on the proposal is yet to be taken," the source added.

When contacted, both Jet Airways and Etihad refused to comment on the deal.

"Etihad does not comment on rumour or speculation," an Etihad Airways spokesperson said in an e-mail response to PTI.

06/12/18 PTI/Business Today

New Delhi: This October was the 50th month in a row of India posting double-digit growth on a month-on-month basis, according to International Air Transport Association (IATA). October 2018 saw 15 per cent more air travellers in India than same month in previous year. While this was a slowdown from 19.6 per cent in September, the strong upward trend in traffic remains in place, the global agency, it said.

"This is being supported by structural changes, including ongoing rises in living standards, as well

as large increases in the number of airport connections within the country,” the trade association representing the world's 290 airlines accounting for 82 per cent of total air traffic said in a statement Thursday.

“Domestic demand climbed 6.4 per cent in October compared to October 2017, unchanged from September, while capacity rose 6.7 per cent... China, India and Russia led all markets with double digit growth, it said.

06/12/18 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

Here’s everything you need to know about Nepal Airlines’ Airbus deal: The country’s national flag carrier, Nepal Airlines, has been involved in a “series of corruption cases” involving aircraft sale and lease in previous years. One recent trend that has garnered widespread media attention is the procurement of two wide-body Airbus A330 jets. The corporation purchased two A330-200 Airbus aircraft from the US-based AAR Corp for \$209.6 million, the largest ever aircraft purchase deal in Nepal’s aviation history. First of the two wide-body aircraft—Annapurna—arrived at the Tribhuvan International Airport in June. The second named, Makalu, arrived a month later.

Two parliamentary committees—Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and International Relations Committee—are currently conducting an “investigation into the controversy”. There are many conflicting claims: the Ministry of Tourism claimed the jet purchase deal was transparent as all due process has been followed, while the audit report from the Auditor General’s office claims that the corporation breached its own financial bylaw during the procurement process. Some publications have reported that the corporation doesn’t possess the ownership certificates of the planes and that the plane was leased, not fully procured.

Kathmandu Post 06/12/2018

La Commission Européenne a maintenu les compagnies aériennes népalaises sur sa liste noire. Cette décision, qui maintient l’interdiction de vol des compagnies népalaises vers le territoire européen en vigueur depuis désormais plus de cinq ans, a été motivée par l’absence de progrès significatifs sur les 43 points d’alerte soulevés auprès des autorités népalaises. La Commission, qui a identifié au moins quatre accidents significatifs depuis le début d’année, aurait récemment rejeté la requête de la CAAN népalaise (équivalent de la DGAC/DSAC) en vue de la réalisation d’une évaluation sur site, qu’elle jugerait encore prématurée à ce stade de la procédure.

Debt-laden Air India is gearing up for another round of “financial assistance” from the government as Centre warms up to revive the state carrier, Moneycontrol has learnt.

In an exclusive conversation with Moneycontrol, Pradeep Kharola, chairman and managing director, Air India, said that the government has initiated discussions regarding the same.

“They will give us some financial assistance... The quantum is being discussed as of now,” Kharola said.

Cash starved Air India has been under severe financial stress due to high air turbine fuel (ATF) prices and falling market share. The airline has been bleeding for over a decade and has received support from the government “from time to time”.

Aviation secretary RN Choubey had recently told reporters that the airline was being provided financial assistance “by way of equity and guarantee by the government from time to time”.

“Close to Rs 1,600 crore of equity infusion has been done in the airline so far,” Kharola said.

The government has geared up to revive the airline that sits on accumulated losses of Rs 30,000

crore and has unpaid debt of over Rs 55,000 crore.
06/12/18 Nikita Vashisht/Moneycontrol.com

Debt-laden Air India has generated around Rs 162 crore by selling 26 units in the latest land monetisation drive, said sources familiar with the matter.

The airline had invited bids for over 85 real estate items including residential, commercial land and flats across 16 cities such as Pune, Chennai, Lonavala, Mumbai among others. The advertisement was floated on November 13 and the date for bid closure was December 4.

Air India management has been trying to pare its debt burden by monetising non-core real estate properties.

The national carrier is also likely to invite bids this month for the iconic Air India building at Nariman Point in Mumbai, sources told CNBC-TV18, requesting anonymity.

The property, which currently fetches an annual rental income of around Rs 110 crore for Air India, was earlier being eyed by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust but the discussions did not materialise. In fact, as per senior government officials, the plan to sell was put on hold and discussions on renting out some more floors of the building were under consideration.

However, now with a lot of parties interested in buying the building, Air India has roped in Cushman and Wakefield as its realty consultant and bids are expected to be invited this month.

07/12/18 CNBC TV18

Indian investigators have determined that a Boeing 737-800 crew did not allow the aircraft's engines to stabilise their thrust before the twinjet suffered a runway excursion during take-off from Goa.

The aircraft, operated by Jet Airways and bound for Mumbai, had lined up on runway 26 after backtracking and performing a 180° turn.

India's accident inquiry committee states that the crew advanced the thrust levers to the 40% setting.

But while the left-hand engine was running at 40% of N1, the right-hand one had only reached 28% when the captain commanded full take-off thrust.

This failure to allow the CFM International CFM56 engines to stabilise led to a thrust imbalance as the aircraft accelerated.

"As soon as [full thrust was commanded] the aircraft started drifting towards [the] right," says the inquiry into the 27 December 2016 event.

Within 10-12s the aircraft departed the paved surface and the crew attempted to brake and use rudder and nose-wheel steering to correct its course.

The jet left the runway and turned in a wide right-hand arc, eventually coming to rest facing the opposite direction and 219m from the edge of the runway.

It collided with a path-indicator lamp as well as a 2.3m pillar during the excursion, and the aircraft suffered substantial engine, undercarriage and fuselage damage.

Sixteen of the 145 occupants, all passengers, suffered minor injuries, notably during the evacuation.

07/12/18 David Kaminski-Morrow/FlightGlobal

Air India will start a new nonstop flight from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to Mumbai on December 7. The thrice-a-week direct flight will fly on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. The flight will depart JFK at 11:05 am and arrive in Mumbai the next day at 12:10 pm.

A cake cutting ceremony for the inaugural AI105 was held at the Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai on Thursday. The cake was cut by Mukesh Bhatia, the Western Region Director of Air India.

The New York-New Jersey area has the largest Indian American population in the nation.

The airline will use Boeing 777-300ER, which can carry more than 340 passengers, in the sector.
06/12/18 American Bazaar

Chennai: **GoAir on Thursday announced launch flight operations to its 24th domestic destination, Kannur.**

The airline will operate services from Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru to Kannur starting December 9, 2018, coinciding with the launch of the newly commissioned International Airport in Kannur.

There will be direct daily flights connecting Bengaluru six times weekly, Hyderabad four times weekly and Chennai three times weekly.

The airline plans to also commence its international operations from Kannur shortly post regulatory approvals.

On the occasion of the launch, GoAir will operate a special flight between Delhi and Kannur to facilitate guest movement.

Cornelis Vrieswijk, CEO, GoAir, said, **“Kannur is a key market and a significant base for business and tourism in the region.** Adding Kannur with its ideal geographical location, we reinforce our commitment towards enhancing connectivity across the country. It is our constant endeavour to provide flexibility of choice to our customers along with on time, convenient and affordable flying experience.”

06/12/18 V Ayyappan/Times of India

While Jet Airways is undergoing tough times, one thing I got to hand to them is the fact that they’ve still been in business for over 25 years. Roughly first fifteen years on their own terms, and then on others’ terms though.

Jet Airways 1.0 was the original Jet Airways which became the talk of the town for all the right reasons. Launched by Naresh Goyal himself, it went on to set a high bar of hospitality and got people to switch from Air India (Indian Airlines then).

Jet Airways 2.0 existed roughly between 2006 and 2009, where Jet Airways acquired Air Sahara, turned it into JetLite, and launched JetKonnnect. There were three variants of Jet Airways in the air, and you got some features on some aircraft and some others on flights. They even code-shared with arch-rival Kingfisher Airlines for a while. Passenger amenities such as meals on board were cut as well.

Jet Airways 3.0 was the carrier selling a part of their equity and majority of the JetPrivilege programme to Etihad and participating in Etihad Airways Partners (EAP). They launched a slew of flights to Abu Dhabi, which would transfer passengers on Etihad. Eventually, EAP fizzled out, so much so that they quietly removed all the Etihad branding from all of Jet Airways marketing collateral. The multitude of flights to Abu Dhabi waned too.

Jet Airways 4.0 was the airline coming back on their feet to claim their position as a full-service network carrier. Domestically, they launched a lot of new flights to new stations, refreshed their in-flight offering, brought in new aircraft (the 737 MAX), focused on the passenger experience with new in-flight entertainment system and so on.

Internationally, the airline moved their European hub from Brussels to Amsterdam. They also got into a deep partnership with KLM/Air France/Delta/Virgin Atlantic to bring people from India to the US and other parts of Europe and America.

Jet Airways 5.0 is in the making right now. And it is not much different from Jet Airways 2.0. Jet Airways is progressively restructuring their network, which means a lot of flights are being cut down and a lot of stations being closed for the moment. Point to point flights to the Middle-East are being reworked for hub operations via Mumbai and Delhi.

A huge cut has been made on passenger amenities too for economy class passengers. Meals are

being taken away from most of the economy passengers. Come January, you would only get a meal in economy class on a domestic flight if you are flying the highest fare family tickets or a corporate fare, or a JetPrivilege Gold or Platinum member. Most economy class passengers are also going to miss lounge access which was a given as a perk for their frequent business with the airline.

Essentially, from being a full-service network carrier, which meant you could connect on flights with joined tickets, interline between airlines and expect to earn miles and meals on your flights, Jet Airways is now going to be just a network carrier. You can still access their network of airline partners and use them to travel abroad or domestically and earn miles, but a lot of the onus has shifted on you, the passenger, to take care of yourself.

07/12/18 Ajay Awtaney/CNBC TV18

New Delhi: On Wednesday, fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya posted a flurry of tweets reiterating that he has been offering to repay the entire loan since 2016. Mallya who owes money to the tune of Rs 9,000 crore to various banks defended himself by asking why does he not get fair treatment and why doesn't his comprehensive settlement offer hear the same "loud noise".

Mallya, who appeared rather on edge, carried on the tirade on Twitter the next day as well. Mallya has been retweeting posts by media houses and has been repeating that he only wants to repay the loan and that he never stole money.

Quoting one such tweet, **Mallya said, "With respect where have I defrauded Banks? I did not borrow a single rupee. The borrower was Kingfisher Airlines. Money was lost due to a genuine and sad business failure. Being held as guarantor is not fraud (sic)."**

Mallya also stressed that his extradition has nothing to do with his loan. "Respectfully to all commentators, I cannot understand how my extradition decision or the recent extradition from Dubai and my settlement offer are linked in any way. Wherever I am physically, my appeal is "Please take the money". I want to stop the narrative that I stole money (sic)," he said.

"Sadly the media creates its own narrative. I have been making settlement offers since 2016 which were rejected without any dialogue as requested in mid 2018 I finally made an offer before the Karnataka High Court. Unconnected to extradition," Mallya added.

07/12/18 Business Today

India's initiative to connect Tier 2 and 3 airports under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) appears likely to provide a boost to the fledgling maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) industry in India. The RCS, which offers incentives to airlines flying to underserved and remote destinations, has expanded with flights connecting 49 airports and 31 helipads in its first two phases. The RCS has opened 325 routes to 15 airlines and helicopter operators to include 23 new airports and 31 helipads.

According to the MRO Association of India, **75 percent of domestic carriers' MRO work happens abroad.** Now, with the RCS opening international routes to neighboring countries, further opportunities will open for international carriers for MRO as well, said Ministry of Civil Aviation economic advisor Vandana Aggarwal at the AeroMRO summit held in Delhi on December 5 and 6. **As growing domestic traffic congests larger Indian airports, up-and-coming airports will provide a haven for MRO facilities once the RCS results in more traffic,** Vishok Mansingh, director of Mumbai-based consultancy CAV Aero, told AIN. **"Meanwhile, line maintenance services also will be enhanced as private third-party providers set up shop at the smaller airports,"** he said. "This will save airlines cost as trained personnel sign off flights." Presently, an engineer accompanies an aircraft or has to travel by road to smaller airports for line maintenance, particularly for ATRs and smaller aircraft. That squanders time and a paying seat on the aircraft, he added. Mansingh said as aircraft movements to smaller airports increase, he could visualize heavier maintenance and component facilities opening thanks to better availability and more compelling economics than at metropolitan airports.

06/12/18 Neelam Mathews/AINonline

Panaji: The state government has notified the international greenfield airport at Mopa as a prohibited area. A government official explained that the notification of an airport area as a restricted zone was mandatory as per civil aviation guidelines.

“The government of Goa hereby declares the Mopa airport area, as defined in Clause (e) of Section 2 of the Goa (Mopa Airport Development Authority) Act, 2018 (Goa Act No. 10 of 2018) to be a prohibited place for the purposes of the said act, **for a period of two years,**” the notification issued by home department under-secretary Neetal Amonkar, stated.

Phase I of the airport project is expected to be completed soon, including the airport terminal building. Sources said **the special purpose vehicle, GMR Goa International Airport Ltd, has already submitted design inputs to Engineers India limited (EIL), a government of India undertaking, for its comments and approval.**

07/12/18 Times of India

Greater Noida: The district administration has issued a two-day schedule for ‘jan sunvai’ of 570 complaints received from farmers over land acquisition for Jewar airport.

The hearing will be held on December 10 and 11 in the office of the additional district magistrate (land acquisition) in Greater Noida.

Balram Singh, ADM (land acquisition) said as per the Land Acquisition Act 2013, hearing of farm owners’ complaints and feedback is mandatory before the acquisition starts.

“**The farmers have given suggestions and objections on three topics: area and suitability of land proposed to be acquired, justification offered, and findings of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) report.** We have categorised the complaints and called the land owners on two days. The complaints of farm owners from Dayanatpur village will be resolved on December 10. The complaints from other five villages – Kishorepur, Rohi, Parohi, Ranhera and Banwaribas – will be addressed on the second day,” he said.

The meetings’ outcome will be incorporated in the final report for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) scheme. The administration has completed door-to-door survey of households in six villages and they are in the process to prepare R&R report.

B N Singh, district magistrate, said the administration has cleared most technical formalities and there are no hurdles in the project. “The government had notified the earmarked land and the farm owners were given two months’ time to submit their objections and feedback. The work is progressing smoothly and land will be acquired soon as per law,” he said.

07/12/18 Shafaque Alam/Times of India

Six of the many charter planes that would be flying guests for the high octane pre-wedding celebrations of Isha Ambani and Anand Piralal in Udaipur will be parked at Ahmedabad airport, owing to the space crunch at Udaipur airport. The Ahmedabad Airports Authority at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport will be accommodating six charters for two days (December 8 and 9).

Confirming the same, officials at the airport said, “We had received a request of accommodating charters here. Six charters will be parked at Ahmedabad airport for two days.”

The city airport has a total of 33 aircraft parking stands out of which 13 are reserved for scheduled flights and the rest for non-scheduled flights. While the request to accommodate more charters was made, sources at the airport said that even six slots are difficult to manage.

Nearly 200 charter planes are expected to arrive at Udaipur airport for the pre-wedding celebrations and since Udaipur airport can only accommodate 22 charters, it has sought help from Jaipur and Ahmedabad airports.

07/12/18 Tanushree Bhatia/DNA

To ensure transparency in its upgrade policy, Air India has devised a new mechanism. Under the scheme, if economy class passengers wish to upgrade to business class, they need to offer a bid to fly as business category passengers. The national carrier has decided to auction business class seats under the 'preferred seat option' on its website. Under this option, economy class seats can now be upgraded to the business class without a minimum payout.

The full-service carrier rolled out the model this week on domestic and international flights originating from Delhi.

For instance, a passenger who has booked an economy seat between Delhi and Mumbai can offer any sum to access business class facilities provided. He/she would be upgraded if it turns out to be the highest bid. After the check-in roster is prepared, the airport manager can allocate vacant business class seats at the time of boarding depending on top bids.

Earlier, the airline used to upgrade seats against a fixed charge ranging between Rs 4,500 and Rs 6,000 for domestic flights and \$200-1000 on international flights depending on countries. This system did not yield desired results as premium seats still went unsold.

The measure will help the cash-strapped airline fill vacant business class seats for additional revenue. On an average, 30-40% seats in the business class category of the airline go vacant causing significant loss of revenue.

07/12/18 Arun Nayal/Financial Express

Crisis-hit Jet Airways will pay salaries to its senior staff, including pilots, in instalments till April, sources said.

The full service carrier, which has been grappling with financial woes, would give this month 75 percent of the October salary, of which 25 percent is expected to be credited on December 6, they added.

The sources said the payment schedule was discussed with pilots during their meeting with Jet Airways CEO Vinay Dube.

As per the latest schedule, salaries would become current from April 2019 and 100 percent of March salary would be paid in April itself, they added.

06/12/18 PTI/moneycontrol.com

New Delhi: Women have been making their presence felt in the Indian skies and an inordinately high number of women pilot commercial aircraft in the Indian skies compared to other sectors, but now, one is being groomed for a larger role of taking over operational reins from current promoters.

SpiceJet chairman Ajay Singh's daughter Avani Singh is being trained to step into senior Singh's shoes. Avani is currently pursuing her Masters from Stanford University and training in the US to be a pilot. Avani has been attending monthly meetings held by the aviation secretary for the past six months and is undergoing training under department heads of commercial and operations.

"If Avani joins SpiceJet, she will have to learn the business from the ground up. Aviation is a very exciting business with terrific potential, but it needs special skills and a lot of domain knowledge," the senior Singh told ET about the flight path he is charting for his daughter.

India has the highest proportion of female commercial pilots in the world at 12% — much higher than the global average of less than 5%. In contrast, the board rooms have been male dominated with an exception of Jet Airways, where Anita Goyal, wife of chairman Naresh Goyal and a director on the board, has been part of airline's management since inception.

Avani, who has been interning at SpiceJet since July this year, has a Bachelors degree from Stanford University and is currently pursuing Master of Public Policy from the same university. She is also undergoing pilot training, which would make her eligible to become a commercial pilot in the future if she wishes to choose that role.

07/12/18 Mihir Mishra/Economic Times

New Delhi: **The next time you meet a police officer at IGI Airport, you may be greeted by a namaste or even offered a glass of water as you ask for information or help. These are some of the 'behavioural' and communication skills that city's police are being imparted with the help of IndiGo airlines. Such a workshop was organised on Thursday.**

Called the "behavioural high fives" programme, police officers are being taught how to interact with passengers on a daily basis and improve their body language. "A lot of stress has been put on body language and how you interact with people. A positive and humble gesture by the police staff reflects positively on the general public around. We plan to do a post-training assessment as well to see if the learnings are being implemented well from this plan," said DCP (IGI airport) Sanjay Bhatia.

The programme by IndiGo also focuses on self-realisation and to give service from the heart. **The 'high fives' include welcoming passengers – ideally with a namaste, offering people seats, offering a glass of water, using open palm gestures to direct and providing any information to people they may require.**

07/12/18 Times of India

Raipur: **Residents of Bilaspur will now have air-connectivity from the city as the city's Airport has been offered permission to operate commercial flights.**

Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued the letter to the Government of Chhattisgarh and Airport Authority of India in this regard.

Confirming the receipt of letter, Rakesh S Sahay, Airport Director, Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur said, "On Thursday we had received the letter. The airport is ready for use now. **The flights of 90-seaters can land in the airport. Now, the private players can commence the commercial flights from Bilaspur.**"

Now, in Chhattisgarh after Raipur and Jagdalpur, Bilaspur has become the third airport to have the license to operate commercial flights.

DGCA officials have inspected the airport in last week of October this year and had given direction for necessary changes. After all the directives were implemented with necessary changes, the license has been issued.

07/12/18 Pioneer

Mandi: **A four-member team of Airports Authority of India is conducting an Obstruction Limitation Surface (OLS) survey to access the feasibility of the proposed international airport at Balh in Mandi district. The team will stay here till December 15.**

The team will analyse the feasibility of landing of aircraft and the likely obstacles in the way before preparing a detailed report which will be submitted to the Civil Aviation Ministry. Chief Minister Jai Ram is also expected to visit Mandi on Friday to conduct aerial survey for the proposed site with the Central team.

Deputy Commissioner Mandi Rugved Thakur today deputed officials of the revenue department to accompany the team for assistance relating to revenue record.

An international airport is the dream project of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who is keen on having it in Mandi district for use of civil aviation as well as for defence point of view. Himachal boundary is close to China in the tribal districts of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur.

07/12/18 Tribune

India's major cities have consistently been ranked as the most congested in the world. **To mitigate that issue, there's finally going to be on-demand helicopter service available to those who would like to buy some time. US-based "digitally powered-aviation company" BLADE is coming to India to launch the app-based helicopter and small-planes services from Mumbai starting March 2019.**

There are two active heliports in the city already: **Mahalaxmi and Juhu; and initially BLADE will provide connectivity from there to Pune and the temple-town of Shirdi. It feels like the time for help-taxis in India is ripe – HeliiTaxi started chopper shuttles between Bengaluru’s Kempegowda International Airport and the city; there’s a helicopter taxi service between Chandigarh and Shimla; and in Mumbai itself, multiple operators provide helicopter charters and scheduled services to Shirdi and industrial towns such as Vapi and Tarapur. Uber too has set its sights on India, and has announced plans to launch UberAir sometime soon.**

BLADE India will expand its helicopter services with time to connect more cities with sites of pilgrimage and weekend getaways. It aims to eventually offer services on intracity routes as well. It also plans to implement modern technology such as electric vertical take-off and landing in the country. This may turn into a lucrative affair; because **a single successful helicopter route in India has the potential to outperform the revenue BLADE generates from its operations in the US in a year.**

[06/12/18 Charu Chowdhary/India.com](https://www.india.com/news/06/12/18-Charu-Chowdhary-India-com)

New Delhi: **Air India has derostered two pilots after their aircraft “descended rapidly and deviated significantly from the normal glide path” while approaching to land in Hong Kong on October 20. According to a “serious accident bulletin” issued by Hong Kong’s Transport and Housing Bureau (THB), this triggered “a ground proximity warning system alert. The crew recovered the aircraft at about 200 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) before performing a go around.”**

A senior AI official said, “The pilots were derostered (taken off flying duties) and investigation was started immediately.” The incident happened when the Boeing 787 (VT-ANE) Dreamliner was approaching to land at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) with 197 passengers and 10 crew members at 6.14 am (local time) on October 20, 2018. The flight AI 314 had originated at Delhi. “Before the approach to VHHH (HKIA), the crew had received cautionary information from the Hong Kong arrival Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS) regarding the possibility of Instrument Landing System (ILS) glideslope fluctuation. At 06:08:17 hours, the Air Traffic Control (ATC) further advised the crew of the possible glide path signal fluctuation. At 06:11:00 hours, ATC cleared the aircraft for the instrument landing system (ILS) approach for Runway 07R,”the preliminary report by THB says.

“During the approach, the aircraft descended rapidly, triggering a Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS) alert on board the aircraft. The crew recovered the aircraft at about 200 feet above mean sea level, approximately 2.6 nautical miles from Runway 07R before performing a go around. The aircraft landed uneventfully on Runway 07R on the second approach,” it adds.

[06/12/18 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India](https://www.timesofindia.com/news/06/12/18-Saurabh-Sinha-Times-of-India)

An Air India Boeing 787-8 descended to 200ft above sea level around 2.6nm before the runway while attempting to land at Hong Kong International airport on 20 October.

A preliminary report from Hong Kong’s Air Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) states that the aircraft’s ground proximity warning system triggered an alert to the crew following a rapid descent and deviation from the normal glide path while it was on approach to land at runway 07 right.

After the alert, the crew initiated a go-around and landed safely on the same runway. There were 197 passengers and 10 crew on-board the jet, which is registered VT-ANE.

The report notes that the air traffic information service and air traffic controllers had alerted the crew of potential signal fluctuations from the instrument landing system.

Indications are that there was a 12kt wind at 80 degrees while visibility was 10km.

The AAIA has collected statements from the pilots involved, as well as air traffic control recordings, radar and meteorological data.

[06/12/18 FLightGlobal](https://www.flightglobal.com/news/06/12/18-FlightGlobal)

New Delhi: **In what could further bump up India's effective implementation score in the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) safety audit parameters, the government is planning amending the Aircraft Act to empower the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), or a committee under the regulator, so it can impose penalties on airlines and airport operators for violations of regulations and deficiency in services.**

ICAO, a United Nations body, conducted a safety audit of India's aviation sector in November 2017. The global regulator scored India's legislative and organisational parameters at 90.4 per cent and 77 per cent, respectively. These were higher than the scores given during its 2015 audit.

"One of the concerns by ICAO is that the organisation Directorate General of Civil Aviation is not mentioned in the (Aircraft) Act, only the Director General is... another issue pertains to our penalty system, which right now is a complicated route. The government is working on making it on the lines of road transport system," a senior government official said.

"The plan is that either the Director General or a committee is able to penalise the violators – whether individual or organisation... for example, when airline was ferrying its passengers to the aircraft, the passengers were beaten up. The inquiry clearly showed that the airline was at fault. If there was a provision for penalty, we could have immediately imposed a penalty on them. In the current scenario, the regulator can only issue a warning and ask them to avoid such instances," the official added.

However, the official noted that the government was still in the preliminary stages of working on the amendments and said it would be premature to comment any further on the outline of the proposal pertaining to penal powers.

06/12/18 Indian Express

The three main publicly listed airlines in the country — IndiGo, SpiceJet and Jet Airways — slipped from profitability to steep losses in the first nine months of the current calendar year. These airlines together account for 70% of the domestic market share.

With crude oil prices having risen over the past year and a half, the cost of **Aviation Turbine Fuel saw a 40% rise**. Fuel accounts for the biggest expenditure for an airline — anywhere between 30 and 40% of the total expenditure incurred. **At the same time, the rupee has seen a consistent fall and even breached 74 to a dollar in early October**, though it has stabilised to a degree now. **This meant that fuel costs apart, airlines were spending more on payments made in foreign currency for engine lease rentals, and maintenance and purchase of spare parts. Despite this rise in operational costs, the airlines have been unable to raise fares because of stiff competition among them.** In fact, the lean months of July, August and September saw carriers wooing passengers with attractive offers in an attempt to fill up seats, as is the norm during this season every year.

As a result, **by the end of September, market-leader IndiGo posted a loss of ₹6,52.1 crore — its first loss since being listed. The airline saw a nearly 60% rise in its expenses to ₹7,502.2 crore compared to the previous year. Of this, fuel expenses at ₹3,035.4 crore accounted for an almost 50% increase and the remainder was because of rupee depreciation and an inability to raise fares. Importantly, the cost incurred on fuel in the second quarter was double that in the same period last year.**

To make matters worse, as airlines embark on a massive fleet expansion, there are more seats to fill than ever before, as many of these airplanes are pressed into service on the already popular routes. All domestic airlines have among them more than 570 airplanes as of now. IndiGo alone has climbed up from 77 aircraft in March 2014 to 198 until December 2018, growing 2.5 times in the past four years. A third of this capacity addition by IndiGo happened during the current calendar year. Altogether, domestic airlines will be adding over 1,000 planes in the next seven-eight years.

06/12/18 Jagriti Chandra/The Hindu

New Delhi: **IndiGo on Thursday became the first Indian carrier to have 200 aircraft in its fleet with a brand new Airbus A320 Neo (VT-IZI) flying into Delhi from Toulouse, France, to join the low cost**

carrier. The airline, which started operations on 4 August 4, 2006 with a Delhi-Impal flight, has so far placed orders for 530 Airbus A320 family planes and 50 ATRs. It is yet to receive about 220 A320 Neos, 150 A321 neos and over 40 ATRs from the orders placed earlier.

According to DGCA data, in October, 2018, **IndiGo had almost 43% share of domestic air travel market. When it flew over 50 lakh domestic passengers in October, it became the first Indian airline to reach that scale of monthly travel figure.**

The airline announced its first ever quarterly loss since listing three years ago, of Rs 652.1 crore for the July-September, 2018, period versus a profit of Rs 551.6 crore in same time last year. A combination of high oil prices, weak rupee and fares that do not reflect the higher costs made India's only profitable airline fly into red.

The attempts to increase ancillary revenue like its recent decision to charge for all seats during web check-in ran into turbulence with both its passengers and the government. The airline's massive size has also led to complaints from flyers and parliamentary panel, with the main grouse that some of the airline's burgeoning staff being arrogant. The LCC is trying to address these issues. Non-availability of "real" hot food, as opposed to put-hot-water-in-noodle-cups, for purchase on board is another issue that bugs IndiGo's frequent flyers.

06/12/18 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

The Central government worried with increasing reports of airports and airlines breaking norms, delivering poor services has planned to tighten its rules. The government is looking to empower DGCA so that it can levy heavy fines on errant airports and airlines, according to Zee Business sources.

The new rules will be notified soon which will give airline regulator DGCA more teeth to effectively clip wings of those who fail to toe the accepted line. Government is mulling heavy fines on airlines and aircrafts for misbehaving with passengers, giving poor services and for blatant violation of norms.

At present, DGCA has the power to even suspend license but it hasn't taken any extreme steps.

Even in the much talked about case of an Indigo staffer poorly behaving with a passenger, DGCA had essentially let them get off with a warning. Hence **harsh fines as a deterrent are now being thought of.** The exact amount is yet to be sorted out but it can start from Rs 5 lakhs for the first violation and be double and more for subsequent transgressions.

06/12/18 Sameer Dixit/DNA

New Delhi: India has allowed French airlines to operate flights to 29 destinations across the country through code share with Indian carriers, up from four at present, a move that will primarily benefit cash-strapped Jet Airways.

"Jet Airways and Air India had favoured this expansion from the Indian side and said that they would get passengers from flights of French carriers," said a person aware of the matter, who did not wish to be identified.

This will help Jet Airways garner extra passengers and revenue since it has an enhanced cooperation agreement with Air France-KLM. French carriers are currently allowed to operate code-share flights to Ahmedabad, Goa, Amritsar and Kochi. **Following the government's go-ahead, the number of destinations will increase to 19 in the first phase and another 10 in the second phase,** the person said.

Allowing code-share flights would enable Air France-KLM to sell tickets up to destinations in India where the French carrier does not fly but its Indian code-share partner flies. The pact between Jet Airways and Air France-KLM, signed in November 2017, gave the Mumbai-based carrier wider access to Europe and North America. The partnership significantly boosted Air France-KLM's access to the Indian market, which is among the world's fastest-growing.

KLM CEO Pieter Elbers had in September said that the airline was looking at expanding its alliance

with Jet Airways to “the next level in terms of customer interface”. As part of the agreement, Indian carriers will get routing flexibility at French airports. **“Routing flexibility would allow Indian carriers to transfer their passengers to a partner airline for onward flights beyond the airports in France, which may include those in the US and Canada,”** said the person cited earlier.

If this happens, Jet Airways stands to gain as it can use the network of the US carrier Delta Air Lines to transfer its passengers to onward flights to the US. **However, the French authorities rejected the Indian government’s request for “open skies” with India. Such an arrangement would have allowed French carriers to add unlimited number of flights to six key destinations in India.**

06/12/18 Mihir Mishra/Economic Times

Amadeus and Vistara have renewed a multi-year distribution agreement that guarantees Vistara’s travel agency partners continued access to the airline’s full range of fares and prices through Amadeus.

Vistara is the first full service carrier in India to have launched branded fares - packaged combinations of fares, services and flexibility that makes it easier for travelers to pick what best suits their needs. Amadeus Airline Fare Families supports Vistara in making its branded fares, called Vistara Freedom Fares, available through the Amadeus distribution channel.

Amadeus Fare Families will empower travel agents with clear, structured information they need to advise their customers and proactively upsell from one fare family to the other based on each traveler’s needs and preferences. Vistara will also be looking at integrating ancillary services in the future as part of their product offerings.

This partnership will enable Vistara to further grow its customer base by continuing to connect to travelers globally through the world’s largest community of travel sellers and buyers. By connecting to Amadeus’ innovative travel platform, Vistara is able to define and deliver enhanced offers, including rich content, to travel agents and travelers. The airline is also now able to differentiate its travel offers beyond just price, while ensuring that agencies and travelers have all the information at hand in order to make the right purchasing decisions.

Sanjiv Kapoor, Chief Strategy & Commercial Officer, Vistara, commented, **“We are pleased to continue our successful partnership with Amadeus.** Travel agencies are a key part of our strategy to serve our customers through the channel of their choice, both in India and internationally. **With the new agreement, we will have access to Amadeus’ global travel agency network which has the widest reach of travellers globally and this is a significant agreement in our growth strategy.”**

Cyril Tetaz, Executive Vice President, Airlines, Amadeus, Asia Pacific said, “We’re very proud to be able to support Vistara’s growth ever since the start of their operations. With our partnership now including Amadeus Airline Fare Families capabilities, Vistara will be able to differentiate its offers, enabling travel agencies to become better advisors, and empower travelers with the transparency and customization they deserve. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Vistara joins 440+ airlines, including 110+ LCCs and Hybrids, whose fares and merchandising content are bookable in Amadeus. Vistara is one of 66 carriers deploying Amadeus Fare Families in the world’s largest and most diverse travel community, with a total of 80 airlines to have signed up to the solution as of November 2018. Worldwide, 166 airlines have contracted Amadeus’ results-driven merchandising solutions that has been delivering real value to travelers, airlines and travel agents around the globe.

05/12/18 PRESS RELEASE

Airlines are under pressure to provide separate women's seating to combat the lecherous spread of male passengers over the dividing armrests, amid a surge in midair sexual assaults.

Writing for the South China Morning Post, columnist Kate Whitehead described her experiences with "manspreading" and urged airlines to introduce women-only rows.

"Nine times out of 10 – based on my extensive experience flying 'cattle class' – if a man is seated

beside a woman he will claim the armrest. Not only that, but his elbow will protrude slightly into the woman's seat space.

"Unless you are prepared to press your arm against the man's – which will allow you to feel the rise and fall of his breath and is, I feel, too intimate a connection with a stranger – then you have lost two inches of your seat."

"I hope that in the wake of the #MeToo movement, people will come to realise that **the airline armrest is a gender political issue**. The first airline to establish "pink rows" will have my custom."

In response to disturbing incidents where women were groped on planes, two Indian airlines have introduced policies to keep female passengers safe.

Air India, India's national carrier, **introduced female-only rows in 2017**, following two incidents in a month of men allegedly groping cabin staff or other passengers.

In December of that year, a business class passenger flying from Mumbai to Newark moved to an empty seat next to a woman in economy and allegedly groped her as she slept.

Another Indian carrier, **Vistara introduced a "Woman Flyer" service, which promised preferred seating to female passengers travelling alone**. Even if a woman hasn't pre-selected a seat before her flight, the airline says it will ensure only a window or aisle seat is assigned at check-in.

06/12/18 NZ Herald

Once the 'king of good times', **Vijay Mallya**, has spoken openly about Indian airlines ongoing distress. Mallya has tweeted about the financial distress in aviation industry and blamed it all squarely on higher aviation turbine fuel (ATF) fuel prices. Currently, the Indian airlines are burning through massive amounts of money, which has resulted in a weak September 2018 quarterly results. There are three airlines that have major market share in India namely, Indigo, Jet Airways and SpiceJet. Other known airlines are GoAir, Vistara and Air India. Boiling crude oil prices have given sleepless nights to these airlines, as their fuel purchase has taken a chunk out of their profits.

Even though Indigo is better placed compared to other two Jet Airways and SpiceJet, yet fuel cost has been a major cause of concern. While the story of Jet Airways is travelling in continuous mayday as the airline faces cash crunch due to hefty fuel expenses, rental leases and debt maturing this year. While the other ones have also blamed ATF cost for their low profit this year.

Mallya tweeted saying, "**Airlines struggling financially partly becoz of high ATF prices.**"

While talking about the ATF cost, Mallya did not shy away in boasting about his ex-Kingfisher Airlines and the feud with banks.

Mally says, "**Kingfisher was a fab airline that faced the highest ever crude prices of \$ 140/barrel. Losses mounted and that's where Banks money went. I have offered to repay 100 % of the Principal amount to them.**"

Adding he says, "For three decades running India's largest alcoholic beverage group, we contributed thousands of crores to the State exchequers. Kingfisher Airlines also contributed handsomely to the States. **Sad loss of the finest Airline but still I offer to pay Banks so no loss. Please take it.**"

06/12/18 ZeeBiz

Ahmedabad: **To curb the menace of animal and bird incursions in the airport premises and vicinity, a high-level meeting of the Airport Environment Management Committee (AEMC) was held in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. Maintaining cleanliness** within the campus of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport and in the surrounding areas was one of the key issues discussed during the meeting, which was chaired by Dr Rajiv Kumar Gupta, additional chief secretary – Environment and Forests, government of Gujarat.

Sharing more details, airport director, Manoj Gangal, said, "**The chairman of the committee advised to keep the areas in the vicinity of the airport clean so that it does not attract birds in the operational area of the airport. The forum deliberated upon ways by which animal and bird activity can be curbed and kept under control at the SVPI airport.**"

Officials from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), department of environment and forest, police and airlines attended the multi-stakeholder meeting along with the collector of Ahmedabad and the airport director.

“It was discussed that a detailed survey of each household in the residential areas surrounding the airport should be carried out. This is not just to ensure security, but to also ensure responsible waste disposal to keep the birds at bay,” said Vikrant Pande, Ahmedabad collector.

06/12/18 Times of India

Kochi: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the domestic operations at the renovated Terminal-1 of the Cochin International Airport and enhancement of the solar power production capacity at the airport to 40 MWp on December 12.

As there was a steady growth in the number of domestic passengers, the renovation work at Terminal-1 which was earlier handling international operations, was started one-and-a-half years ago, after the commissioning of the international Terminal 3.

The Terminal-1, which was re-constructed as per global standards with Kerala architectural design, will be opened to passengers by third week of December. CIAL managing director, Mr

V.J.Kurian said the domestic aviation market in India has been witnessing a stupendous growth.

“India became world’s largest domestic aviation market in 2017. The national YOY growth in this sector is 18 per cent whereas CIAL has been experiencing 24 per cent. Already airlines companies registered in India operate 559 aircraft. This is going to be doubled in next five years.

Airport operators need to address this growth. CIAL has handled nearly 5 million domestic passengers in 2017-18. The domestic traffic will touch 10 million in another five years. All these factors are taken into consideration during each stage of renovation at Terminal-1,” Kurian said.

06/12/18 Deccan Chronicle

New Delhi: In the wake of Lion Air's Boeing 737 MAX crash shortly after take-off on October 29, India's aviation regulator has issued advisories to private air carriers Jet Airways and SpiceJet. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has told the two airlines to land Boeing 737 MAX planes at nearest airports if the aircraft encounter any problem with their on-board MCAS or manoeuvring characteristics augmentation system.

The Indonesian budget carrier's Boeing 737 MAX had crashed into ocean shortly after take-off from capital Jakarta on October 29, killing all 189 passengers and crew on board. Investigators looking into the Indonesian plane crash have stated that MCAS found no mention in flight manual of Lion Air.

MCAS, a software, is aimed to help the pilots prevent the plane from stalling mid-air; however, there have been concerns regarding lack of awareness about the same.

In India, 10 Boeing 737 MAX are in operation. Five of them are operated by Jet Airways while the rest are operated by SpiceJet.

DGCA said it is keeping a close watch on a daily basis on the performance of Boeing 737 MAX in view of the crash of a same plane in Indonesia in October.

The aviation regulator has also asked the two airlines to immediately report any "abnormal" issues faced by the plane with regard to MCAS.

06/12/18 TimesNowNews.com

Trichy: The Madurai bench of Madras High Court has issued a summons to the customs commissioner and Trichy airport director to appear before it on December 6 after they failed to implement a notification issued for international courier operations at the airport.

The court has issued the order, based on a case filed by an association of courier operators. As repeated warnings made from the court were not seriously taken by the customs authorities and the airport authorities in Trichy, the court took the issue seriously and summoned the senior officials of

both the department to appear before it.

The contempt petition was filed by express courier operators' association which had complained of inaction on part of the authorities. They had earlier filed a writ petition in 2017 before the court in this regard, said S A Sayeed, president of the association.

The court had earlier sent out warning to the customs authorities on this and directed them to issue trade notification so that courier operation would come into effect before November 30, 2018, he said.

06/12/18 Times of India

Vijayawada: Bhoomi puja ceremony of a new airport in Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada took place on December 4. Present at the event were Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha, Minister of Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu among others.

The Government of India declared Vijayawada Airport as an International Airport on 3rd May, 2017. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages over 100 Airports in India and has been taking crucial initiatives to improve air connectivity and enhance infrastructure at the airports by providing world class facilities to passengers.

06/12/18 ANI/Business Standard

Bhubaneswar: With little scope to relax norms relating to bilateral rights for foreign airlines, the State Government's plan to connect Bhubaneswar with Colombo, Singapore and Dubai will face hurdle, feel senior officials.

Odisha along with several other State Governments are **requesting the Union Government to relax norms for the international airlines to run their services from the cities in the countries.**

Accordingly, the State Government has urged Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) to relax the norms relating to bilateral rights for foreign airlines, so that they can operate direct flights to Dubai from Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA).

There is huge scope for direct international flight from BPIA to Srilanka, Singapore and Dubai as these destinations of South Asian and Arabian countries are attracting tourists.

With Air Asia started flight from Kuala Lumpur to Bhubaneswar and Bangkok to Bhubaneswar the capital city is connected to about 21 destinations abroad. So tourists from all over the world are showing interest in the State as a major tourist destination.

Looking at the bright prospects for foreign tourist inflow, the State Government had urged MoCA to relax norms for foreign airlines.

06/12/18 Pioneer

New Delhi: Domestic air travellers might at last be able to get the long-anticipated in-flight connectivity. The proposal is likely to come through by early next year. Telecom minister Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said the Telecom Ministry is currently awaiting views of the Law Ministry on in-flight connectivity rules and is hopeful of notifying the norms as soon as it comes.

"We have sought **permission of the Law Ministry**, once that comes through... I believe that it will come in a week or 10 days... **then we can start it,**" Sinha said. When asked if the ministry expects to notify the rules by the start of the New Year, the minister said that he is hopeful that will be the case. The Telecom Commission had on May 1 cleared a proposal that allowed making calls and surfing Internet during flight journey in the Indian airspace. **The ministry had wanted to implement the services by September-October this year, but it got delayed for want of permission from multiple ministries.**

The in-flight connectivity norms will also cover maritime transport. On the issue of whether the coverage should extend to territorial waters or Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a senior official aware of the ongoing discussions said that the Communications Ministry is of the view that the

international best practices should be followed.

06/12/18 New Indian Express

Kolkata: Seventy-odd Air India contractual ground-handling staff at the Kolkata airport face uncertainty as the airline authorities are allegedly refusing to facilitate the process of issuing fresh entry passes to the employees, almost all of which expire by this month-end.

According to the affected employees, the airport officials have to provide them airport entry permit application forms and another form issued by the district intelligence bureau to conduct police verification of character and antecedents for the employees, a mandatory system before the passes can be issued to allow them entry inside airport terminals.

"A few of our employees have been benched from the first week of this month. By the end of this month, the entry passes for almost all of us will expire," said an employee.

The affected casual staff alleged that to facilitate this revival strategy, the company has been asking them to take re-employment with Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL), a subsidiary company of the airline that manages ground handling. "Air India has been asking us to take re-employment with AIATSL, which comes with a three-year contract. But that means our gratuity and provident fund money for all these past several years is gone," said another casual staff.

06/12/18 Tamaghna Banerjee/Times of India

Chennai: The city airport, which has not seen new routes on international sector in the past few years, have started to get requests from foreign airlines for flights to new destinations.

A senior official of AAI said three airlines — **All Nippon Airways (Japan), Alitalia (Italy) and Finnair (Finland)** — had enquired about possibility of starting flights to the respective countries from Chennai.

"Representatives from Finnair were at the airport and held discussions about starting the service recently while the other two airlines had approached sometime ago," said the official.

All Nippon wanted to start a direct flight to **Tokyo** while the Italian airlines wanted to start flights to **Rome**.

Sources said the airlines saw a potential in cargo and passenger traffic from Chennai. Direct flights to Europe are few. Now, there is a direct Jet Airways flight to Paris, another Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt and a British Airways flight to London.

"There is a good trade connection between Japan and Chennai which must be the reason the airline wanted to start a flight. There is potential for business and leisure travel to the fareast including Hong Kong," said an airline official.

06/12/18 Times of India

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is expected to summon ministers from the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in connection with an alleged scam involving a purchase contract of Airbus aircraft for Air India, News 18 has reported.

Names of the ministers to be summoned by ED have not been disclosed yet. The ministers are under ED's lens over the **purchase of 43 aircraft by Air India from aerospace giant Airbus.**

During the investigation, ED found out that Airbus did not deliver on some of its contract obligations. **According to the report, while the 43 aircraft were delivered to Air India, Airbus did not open the Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) and training centre as mandated by the contract, and**

got an undue benefit of \$175 million.

06/12/18 Moneycontrol News

New Delhi: **Was it merely a coincidence that Rajiv Tyagi, cousin of former Air Force Chief SP Tyagi and Sonya Mehra, director in Christian Michel firm, boarded the same Air India flight Number AI 332 on 15 May, 2012? What were the business dealings that prompted another key figure Gautam Khaitan to make 52 trips to Dubai, base of Christian Michel, between 2004 to 2013? How did he manage to procure confidential documents related to Indian defence deals?**

These, among many others, are the **three are vital questions for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to establish the linkages of now arrested British middleman along with other players in the VVIP chopper scam.** According to sources, Michel would soon be confronted with documentary evidence to unearth deep rooted conspiracy and to identify his accomplices including the Indian Air Force officials, bureaucrats and politicians who allegedly influenced the deal in favor of AgustaWestland.

Although Tyagi, who has been charged by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the case, had publicly denied any relationship with Michel immediately after the scam surfaced in 2012. Informed government sources said Michel will also be confronted with another document that was signed jointly by him and another middleman Guido Haschke detailing alleged payoffs in India.

The CBI has claimed that Michel was pursuing the VVIP chopper deal at different levels with the help of a wide network in India and abroad. The agency also claimed that Michel was giving misleading information in media to divert attention from his role in the scam. Although, he had admitted of having a working relationship with Haschke, Michel had claimed the relationship went sour in 2008 over some payment issue. The evidence, sources claimed, however suggests that Michel and Haschke were in Delhi together after the deal was signed with AgustaWestland to buy 12 AW-101 helicopters. They would also like to confront Michel with evidence that links Michel associate Christine Spliid with Tyagi brothers. Sources said they have certain documents to prove that they were working together.

06/12/18 Yatish Yadav/First Post

New Delhi: **Aviation watchdog DGCA is monitoring on a daily basis the performance of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft apart from putting in place various measures to ensure there are no safety issues with these planes being operated in India,** a senior official said Wednesday.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been keeping a close watch on Boeing 737 MAX aircraft -- operated by Jet Airways and SpiceJet -- in the wake of such a plane crashing in Indonesia in October.

Currently, there are 10 Boeing 737 MAX planes that are operating in the country.

Apart from daily monitoring, the airlines have been asked to immediately report any "abnormal" issues related to the plane's Manoeuvring Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), the regulatory official said.

MCAS is a kind of stall-recovery system that is used in Boeing 737 MAX aircraft and generally alerts the pilot in case there is stalling of the plane or fall in speed, among others.

The official also made it clear that so far there has been no issues with these planes operating in the country.

05/12/18 PTI/Devdiscourse

Loss-making Air India, which is looking at ways to cut costs and boost revenues, Wednesday said it expects to save Rs 3,000 crore over the next six years by migrating to a single ticket sale and distribution platform, a senior airline official said.

In October, **UK-based firm Travelport bagged the contract for Air India's domestic ticket distribution services replacing Amadeus.**

Following Travelport coming into the play, **the national carrier removed its inventory from the Amadeus network Tuesday.**

"Migrating to a single global distribution system will help us save as much as Rs 3,000 crore over the next six years, which will be a substantial saving for us," the official said.

Air India's domestic and international flights will continue to be sold through Travelport, and other GDS providers like Sabre and Abacus.

However, from January 1, 2020, domestic flights will be exclusively distributed through Travelport.

Significantly, Travelport is the business partner of a leading domestic budget carrier.

Earlier last month, travel industry bodies TAAI and TAFI had urged the Air India management not to discontinue the inventory from other existing GDS providers and had even written to civil aviation minister Suresh Prabhu on the issue.

05/12/18 PTI/Economic Times

Jet Airways would bring on board a new investor in two-three months to help fund the airline, the company told its pilots at a meeting last week. Top officials of Jet Airways, led by chief executive Vinay Dube, offered the assurance on November 26, 2018 meeting with the pilots' union, National Aviator's Guild. The meeting was held to ease the nerves of pilots about various issues including salary delays.

Vinay Dube, who represented the management at the meeting, told the Jet Airways pilots that the airline will get an investor on board soon, likely within the next two-three months, as per the media sources. Dube also assured that salary delays are temporary and should be addressed in the next 45-60 days, and probably before the new investor comes on board.

Jet Airways, which had a ~13% share of the domestic aviation market in October, needs to urgently raise funds to stay afloat, as costly fuel and a weak rupee have hurt its financial health. The airline has delayed payment of salaries to a section of its staff, including pilots and senior employees.

Jet had a net debt of ₹8,052cr as of end-September. In August, the airline's board approved a turnaround plan, which includes cutting costs by over ₹2,000cr over two years, leveraging its stake in loyalty programme Jet Privilege, improving pricing and capital infusion. Jet Airways had hired Goldman Sachs Group and Boston Consulting Group as advisers to achieve the above goals.

05/12/18 India Infoline

New Delhi: **There is a rising incidence of planes getting too close for comfort in the crowded skies of India. The number of serious nature of near misses or 'airprox' has already touched seven by October this year, up from five in all of 2017, according to DGCA data released on Wednesday.** In 2015 and 2016, the incidents of serious air misses stood at seven and eight respectively.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has classified **airprox into four categories: A is the highest level with a serious risk of aircraft involved in the nearness colliding.** It is followed by B level, where **the safety of aircraft may have been compromised.** These two are the most serious airprox. Then come level C and D, which denote **no risk of collision** and **risk not determined**, respectively.

"The combined number of level A and B airprox this year up to October is seven. In all of 2017, 2016

and 2015, the number of A and B level airprox was five, eight and seven, respectively. All the authorities and agencies concerned are taking the required steps to keep our skies safe,” said a senior official of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Similarly, **DGCA data released on Wednesday shows that serious incidents measured in terms of le per 10,000 departures has risen in 2018 (till October) as compared to all of last five years except 2015.** This **number of serious incidents per 10,000 departures** in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 was 0.11, 0.14, 0.06, 0.12 and 0.12. However, in **January-October 2018** this number touched **0.15**. **Similarly, the “wildlife strike rate per 10,000 (aircraft) movement” in January-October 2018 was 4.84.** From 2013 to 2017, this figure was at 5.64, 4.98, 4.72, 4.56 and 4.71 respectively. “Regular joint inspection of area around airports is carried out by joint of officials of DGCA, airlines and other stakeholders. Issue is regularly taken up with chief secretaries of states,” said the official. **Apart from rising incidence of serious airprox and serious incidents per 10,000 departures, DGCA data shows some aviation risks abating. For instance, “India’s accident rate per million departures” had been higher than global average from 2014 to mid-2016. Since 2017 and in the January-October 2018 period it is below the world average.** The “**incident per 10,000 departure**” has been **falling** constantly since 2013, a trend which has continued in January-October 2018 as well.

In January-October 2018, the “**Breath Analyzer violations per 10,000 (flight) departures**” was **2.01**. In 2015-2017, the figure was 2.57, 2.44 and 2.46, respectively.

05/12/18 Saurabh Sihna/Times of India

Wide-body bought without tender call: Regulator: **The purchase of 2 A330s continue to garner negative press coverage with hints of corruption.** REP carries a front page article and how the Public Procurement Monitoring Office (PPMO) has “found that **the purchase of two wide-body aircraft by Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC) was made without any tender calls**”, and there was “**no open competition**”. This was a **massive breach of procurement law**. The procurement regulator, which submitted its report on Monday, said that NAC decided the deal worth billions of rupees only on the basis of a request for proposals (RFP). This, according to PPMO, is in no way a tender call, which is a must for the purchase of goods and services under the Public Procurement Act. “NAC has calculated the price based on annual cost increments since eight years ago when NAC had invited tender bids for narrow-body planes,” said a source at Public Accounts Committee (PAC). **PAC has “alleged the embezzlement” of Rs 6 billion in the wide-body aircraft purchase.**

My Republica 11/12/2018

THT publishes an interview with the Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Mr Krishna Devkota in which he talks about the NAC/A330 affair.

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/house-committees-probes-will-give-clear-picture-on-nacs-wide-body-issue/>

The board project appraisal committee has approved Drukair’s project to buy an ATR aircraft worth almost USD 13 million as the first project under the economic sector. The project would be considered at the board meeting on December 19.

The **SAARC Development Fund (SDF)** chief executive officer, Dr Sunil Motiwal said the **fund is also considering Drukair’s project to procure an Airbus and has also received a funding request for**

aircraft from Bhutan Airlines“ I think Bhutan is going to derive maximum benefit from the SDF,” Dr Motiwal said. Bhutan is also one of the largest recipients of grant from SDF in the social sector.

“The SDF will also fund country-specific projects mainly micro, small and medium enterprises from January next year,” he said.

Social sector committed more than USD 74 million and has disbursed USD 47 million for projects in the South Asian countries.

As of today, SDF has committed more than USD 100 million for projects in infrastructure and economic sectors.

To commemorate the 34th SAARC Charter Day, SDF team also joined government officials in Thimphu to lit 1,000 butter lamps at the Kuenray, of the Tashichhodzong.

Addressing a gathering at the programme to observe the day, Dr Sunil Motiwal said, **“SDF, as an umbrella financial institution for SAARC project and programmes is fully committed to promote regional cooperation and integration through project funding and collaboration.”**

A drama presentation on “Victory of the Spirit of South Asia” and a musical celebration of the SAARC member states were also performed.

The fund serves as the umbrella financial institution for SAARC projects and programmes which are in fulfillment of the objectives of the SAARC and SDF Charter. It is aimed to contribute to “Regional Cooperation and Integration through Project Funding and Collaboration”.

SDF Charter promotes the welfare of the people of SAARC Region, improving the quality of life and accelerating economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the SAARC Region through financing and implementation of development projects.

SAARC Heads of State or Government signed the Charter establishing SAARC on December 8 in 1985 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In April 2010, the SDF Secretariat was established in Thimphu.

Kuensel 10/12/2018

Un **A320 Neo de la compagnie IndiGo, équipé de moteur PW1127G**, a dû effectuer un atterrissage d’urgence quand de la fumée a envahi sa cabine. L’aéronef **VT-ITR** effectuait un vol entre Jaipur et Kolkatta le 10 décembre et a fait un **atterrissage d’urgence**. Les 136 passagers ont été débarqués sains et saufs. <https://youtu.be/C6uYQDbcOog>

Le monde du **financement d'avions commerciaux** est au **beau fixe**. Sociétés de Leasing, marchés des capitaux, banques commerciales, fonds d'investissement privés, tous les voyants sont au vert pour venir contribuer à **financer l'augmentation attendue de la flotte mondiale**.

Comme le souligne d'ailleurs une récente étude de Boeing*, **le financement d'appareils continuera progressivement à croître ces cinq prochaines années pour atteindre plus de 180 milliards de dollars à horizon 2023, contre près de 126 milliards aujourd'hui**. Autre constat, **la part des loueurs d'avions n'a d'ailleurs cessé de se renforcer ces dernières années**, soit par des **commandes directes**, soit par des opérations de **cessions-bails** avec les clients originaux, pour atteindre **41% de la flotte**

mondiale aujourd'hui, un nouveau record.

Mieux, si le transport aérien a doublé de taille ces 20 dernières années, la flotte opérée en crédit-bail à quant à elle été multipliée par quatre sur la même période et la tendance n'est pas encore près de s'infléchir, les coûts de financement des sociétés de leasing atteignant aussi leur plus bas niveau historique.

Mais le succès des sociétés de crédit-bail n'est pas passé inaperçu et l'on assiste aussi à une **très nette fragmentation du marché ces dernières années, les dix plus gros loueurs ne représentant plus que 40% de la flotte en leasing, contre les deux tiers il y a dix ans**. Ceci s'explique bien sûr par le **renforcement logique des loueurs asiatiques**, mais aussi par **l'émergence de nouveaux entrants sur le marché**. Ainsi, pas moins d'une dizaine de nouvelles sociétés de leasing sont apparues en 2018.

Évidemment, si une consolidation au niveau des grands loueurs d'avions n'est sans doute pas d'actualité au regard de la bonne santé du secteur, cette fragmentation du marché pourrait très certainement pousser d'autres acteurs à fusionner pour atteindre une taille critique et réduire leurs risques dans les tout prochains mois.

Le Journal de l'aviation 11/12/2018

Loss-making **Air India**, which is looking at ways to cut costs and boost revenues, Wednesday said it **expects to save Rs 3,000 crore over the next six years by migrating to a single ticket sale and distribution platform**, a senior airline official said.

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Significantly, Travelport is the business partner of a leading domestic budget carrier.

Earlier last month, travel industry bodies TAAI and TAFI had urged the Air India management not to discontinue the inventory from other existing GDS providers and had even written to civil aviation minister Suresh Prabhu on the issue.

"Easy access to Air India's inventory and its availability, by the agencies in India and overseas, is extremely important to enable the sale of airline inventory. Due to this recent initiative of Air India, this will now be limited and this will negatively impact airlines sales," the associations had said in the letter.

"...the GDS cost is not as important as a seat sale. To lose out on the sale of a seat implies huge losses compared to the the saving on GDS distribution," it had said.

The Air Passengers Association of India (APAI) had also opposed the move.

The Air India official, however, defended the move saying, "The airline has taken all necessary steps in migrating to another GDS. We have transferred the passenger name records (PNRs) as per the

applicability."

Sitting on a debt pile of Rs 55,000 crore, Air India is staying afloat on a bailout package extended by the previous UPA regime in 2012.

The Economic times of india 05/12/2018

MUMBAI: State-run Air India's regional arm, Alliance Air, is planning to induct two ATR planes in its fleet on long-term lease by the third quarter of the next fiscal year, a source said Wednesday.

The carrier currently has 18 ATRs in its fleet, of which two will be going back to the lessors after completion of the lease period in March next year.

However, at the same time, it will be inducting another two such planes by the first quarter of FY20.

"Alliance Air is interested in dry leasing of two new ATR 42-600 aircraft. These planes are to be inducted in a phased manner between July-December period next year," the source said.

The source also indicated that the airline may be open to early deliveries of these planes as well.

In a dry lease arrangement, the lessor gives out only aircraft to a lessee airline or operator as against a wet lease in which the aircraft comes with its complete crew, maintenance and insurance.

The carrier intends to dry lease these planes for eight years, as per the source.

Alliance Air operates over 101 flights per day to 51 destinations with its all-ATR fleet, some of which are 70-seaters, while a few are 48-seaters as well

The Economic times of India 12/12/2018

GENEVA: India's air connectivity has grown the fastest in the last five years and there is "strong growth" ahead in terms of domestic passenger numbers though there are infrastructure challenges, according to global airlines' body IATA.

India is the fastest growing domestic aviation market in the world, IATA's Chief Economist Brian Pearce said. The country registered double-digit growth in domestic aviation market for the 50th consecutive month in October.

An analysis by the International Airport Transport Association (IATA) showed that air connectivity grew the fastest at 114 per cent in the five-year period from 2013-2018.

"Many of the markets where connectivity has grown fastest, unsurprisingly are in Asia -- India (114 per cent), China and Indonesia...," the grouping said in a presentation during the Global Media Day here.

As per the IATA, which is a grouping of around 290 airlines, connectivity is the "extent to which a country is integrated into the global air transport network".

In recent years, many foreign as well as Indian carriers have commenced flights to and from various Indian cities. About domestic passenger growth, Pearce told PTI that there is strong growth ahead but the challenge is with infrastructure and that airports are crowded

"We need more terminals and runway capacities... We have seen concession (agreements) for many airports leading to large rises in airport charges," he noted.

On steps being taken in India to address the infrastructure issues, he said **additional capacity is being put in place and some very good modern airports being built** which is a "real positive".

Noting that the cost of using those airports is high, Pearce said it is because the **"economic regulations have not been strong as we would have hoped because concession agreements were made with very large royalties"**.

The lesson for the future is to provide good infrastructure because more is needed but at an affordable rate, he noted.

IATA's Director (Global Airport Infrastructure and Fuel) Hemant Mistry said historically airport concessions have suffered from "unduly long and arbitrary concession lengths -- these can be for the benefit of the government (higher concession fee) and the concessionaire (longer term returns)? "We have seen many examples of very high concession fees where a large proportion of the gross revenue of the airport is diverted to the government and not necessarily re-invested back into aviation," he added.

According to him, there are also examples where concessions are negotiated with fixed pricing over the concession term, which risks a situation where charges are not reflective of the service or infrastructure provided to the airlines and passengers

The Economic times of India 12/12/2018

NEW DELHI: **After failing to sell a stake in Air India, the government is now working on a four-pronged strategy, including a financial package and a brand-refreshing exercise, to revive the national carrier and make it globally competitive,** aviation minister Jayant Sinha told ET.

"What we are working on now is a robust revival plan for Air India that will position it well for being a strong competitor in the future," Sinha said.

The plan has four elements — a **financial package**, a **refresh strategy** (Maharajah Direct), a **series of organisational and governance reforms** and a **plan to strengthen the workforce and motivate them further**, the minister said.

"This will enable Air India to become a globally competitive airline," Sinha said.



The decision to revive the national carrier was taken after the government's failed attempt to divest a 76% stake in Air India in May.

Sinha said there **were two likely reasons for the airline not getting bids – investors were waiting for favourable industry conditions and airlines wanting to become global longhaul carriers not deciding whether they should go ahead on their own or buy out Air India.**

"In businesses, there is a decision to be made on make versus buy," said Sinha.

As part of the revival strategy, the government has already announced that it will **transfer loans of Rs 29,000 crore from Air India's balance sheet to help reduce its interest burden by about Rs 2,700 crore from Rs 4,400 crore per annum.** The financial package also has a **fresh equity component**, for which approval will be sought as part of a **supplementary grant** in the current session of Parliament.

The Maharajah Direct strategy is an attempt to **make Air India the country's global long-haul carrier supported by a domestic network.** The plan is to get "long-haul planes, slots and trained people to run the airline because we have removed the non-core assets from Air India and are left with only the core assets," Sinha added.

The government plans to hire people from outside to run the airline professionally. The ministry is talking to the Department of Public Enterprise and the finance ministry to secure **approvals to allow the airline to hire outsiders in management positions.**

The government may still divest its stake in Air India, although for now, that plan has been put on hold as it seeks to strengthen the airline with the revival strategy.

The Economic times of India 13/12/2018

Air India's union representing narrow body pilots Wednesday alleged a majority of its members were defaulting on bank EMIs due to the salary delays which was also putting them under a lot of "stress".

In a letter to AI chairman and managing director Pradeep Singh Kharola, the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) also claimed the loss-making carrier had only partially paid the pilots for October as they were yet to receive the **flying allowance, which constitutes 80 per cent of their total monthly salary.**

Notably, the flying allowance to the pilots at state- run airline is disbursed after 60 days.

"There is already a backlog of one month flying allowance. This unspecified delay has impaired our financial planning, especially (pilots are) defaulting on loan EMI... majority of us have defaulted on bank loans and credit card payments while the rest had to arrange funds by taking further loans," ICPA said in the letter. Air India spokesperson was, however, not available for comments on the issue.

Stating that despite several requests in the past not to bifurcate salary and flying allowance for pilots, the ICPA said, "It (our request) is being ignored. **We are awaiting flying Allowance for the work done in the month of October.**"

This financial problem has made it extremely difficult for the pilots to work "stress free", it added.

"Stress jeopardises decision-making relevance and cognitive functioning which is fatal to flight safety," the ICPA said in the letter.

The Economic times of India 13/12/2018

A Jaipur-Kolkata IndiGo flight with 136 passengers on board made an emergency landing in Kolkata after smoke engulfed the plane mid-air, prompting the government to order a probe, an official said Tuesday. However, no passengers were injured in the incident that happened on Monday, a senior DGCA official said. The pilot had to issue a 'May Day' call, made to seek help in times of distress, and the the Pratt & Whitney-powered Airbus A320 Neo plane landed at the Kolkata airport under full emergency conditions, a source said.

On landing, some of the passengers were evacuated using emergency chutes, the source said. "The IndiGo aircraft VT ITR was about 45 miles off Kolkata when the smoke engulfed the aircraft. Amid the passengers' safety in danger, the pilot issued May Day and sought an emergency landing at the Kolkata airport," the source said. IndiGo confirmed the incident but said the aircraft did not face any technical issue in the past. **"An IndiGo flight (A320 aircraft) 6E-237 operating on Jaipur-Kolkata route made an emergency landing as a precaution at Kolkata due to suspected smoke in cabin,"** the airline said in a statement

There was no report earlier of any malfunctioning in the aircraft, it said. The flight landed safely at Kolkata, it said, adding that on reaching the bay, a few passengers were evacuated via the "aft exit deployed slides" while most passengers deplaned via the front step ladder. The Airbus A320 Neo planes with Pratt & Whitney engines, which are being operated by budget carriers IndiGo and GoAir, have been frequently facing serious glitches mid-air and on ground since their induction. The senior official of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the **"flight made an emergency landing at Kolkata due to smoke in cockpit and cabin"**.

11/12/18 Hans India

New Delhi: **A Jet Airways aircraft rolled back after reaching its parking stand at IGI on Friday afternoon just when passengers had unbuckled their seat belts and were getting up to alight from the Boeing 737.** A stepladder was being aligned to the B737, which had flown in from Jodhpur, when the plane rolled back, possibly due to chocks not having been put in front of and behind the wheels to prevent any accidental movement. **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has grounded both the pilots of flight 9W 732 pending a probe to find out whether this was caused due to human error or a parking brake malfunction.**

This rare episode took place when the B737 (VT-JBU) came to its allocated parking stand at 2.21pm. "Passengers got up from their seats to leave the plane. However, chocks — triangular-shaped wedges kept closely against wheels to prevent accidental movement — were possibly not placed behind wheels and the aircraft rolled back about 10 feet. When this happened, passengers were asked to be seated again," a source said.

The aircraft's emergency chute got deployed. Once the plane was parked with the chocks in place and the inflated chute removed, passengers alighted from the aircraft using the stepladder.

11/12/18 Saurabh Sinha/Times of India

A senior official of the civil aviation watchdog, DGCA, cleared two pilots of an aircraft charter company to be designated as examiners last week after a flight check that threw all norms out of the cockpit window. Seated in the passenger cabin with the director of a charter company— whose pilots were being tested — and his wife were the deputy chief flight operations inspector's wife and his sister-in-law, holding bottles of wine.

The blatant nexus between DGCA officials and aircraft operators was soon on show as the wife of the charter company's director subsequently posted photographs of the joyride on her private Instagram account.

The highly irregular flight check was carried out by Capt Pankaj Anand, DGCA deputy chief flight operations inspector (Dy CFI), on December 4, on the Delhi-Amritsar-Delhi route. The flight was operated by two pilots of Delhi-based Air Charter Services Pvt Ltd (ACS) on board the company's Pilatus PC12 aircraft.

This paper has a copy of the passenger manifest, which shows that on board the same flight was Capt Anand's wife Priti and his sister-in-law Sharika Anand along with an unidentified woman. The other passengers on board were Semoun Jolly, director of ACS, and his wife Dipti. Photographs with TOI show that on landing in Amritsar, the passengers visited the Golden Temple; they posed with bottles of wine on the return flight.

Capt Anand had carried out what in aviation parlance is called an "examiner release check" for two pilots employed with ACS. It's a test taken by pilots before they can be designated as examiners by the DGCA.

[11/12/18 Manju V/Times of India](#)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious regional connectivity scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik **(UDAN) - has helped the government achieve a major landmark.** Ministry of Civil Aviation has said that the UDAN scheme has brought **all states on the aerial connectivity map.** The ministry also listed out as many as **34 un-served and under-served airports, which have received regular flight connectivity under the scheme.**

There are 21 un-served airports in the list - Bhatinda, Nanded, Shimla, Kandla, Ludhiana, Mysore, Vidyanagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jalgaon, Ozar, Mundra, Salem, Pathankot, Kolhapur, Adampur, Jagdalpur, Kanpur, Jharsuguda, Pakyong, and Kishangarh. However, 13 airports were in the underserved category. These are Kadapa, Gwalior, Porbandar, Pondicherry, Agra, Jamnagar, Diu, Tezpur, Shillong, Bhavnagar, Hubli, Allahabad, and Jorhat.

Air Odisha had received the license to operate flights from Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha. However, its licenses were cancelled following the airline's inability to operate a flight from the airport despite repeated notices.

"Jharsuguda is already a full-fledged operational airport. Due to the default of an airline connectivity, unfortunately, got adversely affected. **We are very hopeful that this potential airport will soon be connected in the ongoing UDAN 3 bidding round,**" Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, had said.

The regional connectivity scheme covers a route length between 200 to 800 km with no lower limit

set for hilly, remote, island and security sensitive regions.

Since the launch of UDAN Scheme, 13 states have got more than 4 airports, before UDAN it was 7 states. Kerala has become the first state with four international airports after Kannur International Airport's inauguration on December 9.

11/12/18 ZeeBiz

Delhi: As part of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, his image will soon be painted on Air India aircrafts. Many experts see this as a fitting tribute, truly appropriate as an amplification of his glorious role in our history. From the lens of Experiential Branding, however, such a move is grossly incorrect, even bordering on disrespectful, for a global icon.

Let me start, most simplistically, on why the Air India aircraft is an avoidable medium, from the filter of **servicing non-vegetarian food and alcohol**. Whether we agree or not, the Great Man was an avowed vegan, meat and liquor definingly inconsistent with his revered worldview, on the foundation of 'Ahimsa'. The airline business, in international sectors, cannot adhere to such principles for business imperatives, given category codes and basic customer expectations. It is well known that the Birla empire did not enter the hospitality or aviation business for this very reason, notwithstanding the many possibilities. As Marshall McLuhan had stated many decades ago, the medium is indeed the message and however literal it may seem, the Dreamliner must deliver indulgences sharply disagreeable to the Mahatma's values, thus making the two an experiential mismatch.

The second and more pragmatic reason why this is a very bad idea is the business stature of Air India, reeling in losses and surviving on sheer entitlement. **Our greatest human brand cannot be riding on a disastrous corporate brand, a poor ambassador of New India in every possible dimension.** In terms of operational efficiency and overall performance, not comparable to most competent global peers. Unlike say the IT majors as well as manufacturing or multi-dimensional stalwarts, where the story of India comes to life in a compelling and sustainable fashion, a deserving embodiment of the nation envisaged by the founding fathers. Thus, experientially once again, this is a poor fit, the greatest citizen of the land incompatible with a mediocre citizen of the air.

Instead of mere graphic imagery, what the great Mahatma's legacy truly deserves is its intelligent dissemination across the world, in an actionable and scalable format, aided by the digital evolution. It is well and truly a no-brainer that the entire planet earnestly needs that dosage of calm, no more credible spokesperson of this approach than Gandhiji. This becomes a great opportunity for Brand India to enhance its 'Soft Power' on the world at large, an emotional influence that has an overwhelming influence in other geographies. Thus, creating a position in the global map, which can complement our impressive credentials as a 'Hard Power', 70 years after freedom.

11/12/18 Shivaji Dasgupta/Best Media Info

Mumbai: The Air India management will be commissioning a new workshop by 2019 for testing and overhauling GE engines which are used in Boeing 777 and Boeing 787 passenger planes. The workshop will come up at the recently established MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) unit at Mihan in Nagpur.

The MRO unit was established by Boeing and later handed over to Air India as a part of the mega purchase of 112 aircraft. The unit also carries out maintenance work for third-party aircraft.

A senior Air India official told BusinessLine that ₹400 crore has already been invested at the Mihan facility. The facility is carrying out airframe and other critical tests such as C-checks. But the aircraft are sent to GE's global facilities in Europe or Singapore for other crucial tests involving the engines and for overhaul.

At Mihan, service personnel are currently being recruited. Such workshops will further sweeten the deal in the event of the sale of Air India, the official said.

The MRO facility at the Mihan SEZ is built over 50 acres. It was set up as a joint initiative between Air India and Boeing in June 2010.

10/12/18 Rahul Wadke/Business Line

An extensive codeshare partnership designed to improve connectivity between major Indian and Saudi Arabian cities has been signed by Jet Airways and Flynas.

As part of the deal, Jet Airways will place its 9W code on Fynas' flights between of Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh. It will also place its code the Saudi Arabia budget carrier's services from the three cities to Medina, Gizan, Gassim, Taif and Abha.

In turn, Flynas will put its XY code on Jet Airways' international flights connecting Jeddah to Mumbai, Riyadh to Mumbai and Delhi as well as Dammam to Mumbai and Delhi.

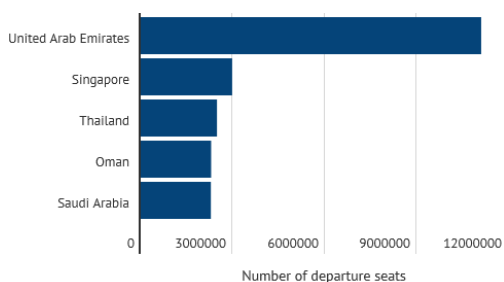
In addition, it will place its code on some domestic flights in India via Mumbai to Delhi, Kochi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Lucknow as well as via Delhi to Bengaluru, Lucknow, Chennai, and Kochi.

"Our codeshare agreement with Flynas reflects our continuing commitment to offer our guests the best possible connections to more and more destinations around the world," said Marnix Fruitema, the executive vice president of commercial at Jet Airways.

Flynas' chief executive Bander Al-Mohanna added: "This partnership is an important step in-line with Flynas' expansion and development strategy.

"Through such agreements we aim to offer a continually improved service to our passengers by adding more travel routes and expanding our reach regionally and internationally, in particular to key markets such as India."

Saudi Arabia is a popular outbound market from India thanks to religious tourism and business, as well as leisure. According to figures from OAG Schedules Analyser, the country is the fifth largest international market from India by the number of available departure seats in 2018.

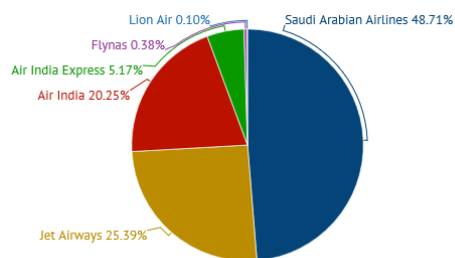


However, capacity growth between India and Saudi Arabia has slowed in recent years. In 2018, the total number of two-way seats is expected to be 4,586,983, up 0.4 percent on the figure in 2017. Over the past three years growth has been 9.5 percent.

Between India and the United Arab Emirates, India's largest outbound market, two way capacity has increased to 22,252,342 available seats in 2018, a rise of 11.6 percent on three years earlier.

And capacity growth between India and Saudi neighbour Oman is up 58.3 percent to 4,598,589 over the same three-year period. India-Qatar capacity, meanwhile, has risen by 38.5 percent and India-Kuwait capacity is up by 52.3 percent.

Airlines operating India-Saudi Arabia scheduled routes in 2018 by scheduled capacity share:



Routes Online 12/12/2018

Air passenger traffic between India and the GCC region remained almost static during the July-September quarter despite several new flights being added by Indian carriers.

Total air passenger traffic from GCC region to India has registered a marginal decline of 1.22 percent in the third quarter of 2018 at 3.71 million, as against 3.75 million passengers in the same period of last year.

The cumulative passenger traffic from India to the GCC region in Q3 of 2018, on the other hand, saw a shade improvement to 4.05 million, up by 0.38 percent from 4.03 million during July-September 2017, according to the latest data available with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Indian aviation regulator.

The declining number of Indian expats working in the Gulf region countries now compared to till 3-4 years ago seems to be one of the reasons for the declining trend of air traffic growth between India and GCC.

This is, however, compensated by a growing number of tourists and business travelers between the two regions, which is helping both Indian and the gulf airlines to keep up air traffic volumes between various cities in India and Gulf countries from seeing any significant fall, according to officials at travel industry firms here.

Indian carriers Jet Airways and IndiGo have recently announced cancellation of some of their direct flights from select Indian and Gulf cities, citing economic unviability as the main reason.

12/12/18 James Mathew/Arabian Business

Chennai: Airports Authority of India (AAI) has set up a mobile air traffic control (ATC) tower at Vellore airport, the first-of-its-kind facility at an airport in south India.

The tower, mounted on a trailer-truck, has been positioned on a concrete platform in an open space near the airport. The air-conditioned cabin, which will house controllers and equipment for

communication, navigation, surveillance and automated weather observation can be elevated up to eight metres. The cabin has windows with 360 view and is made of blast-proof glass. It can accommodate four to five people.

S Sreekumar, AAI regional executive director, southern region, said, "The tower has arrived and has been put in position. It will be tested for two to three days before it is made operational."

The mobile tower is one of the eight such equipment imported by AAI. **"In the future, there are plans to control flights at Vellore and other small airports from Chennai. A virtual or remote air traffic control tower will be set up in Chennai for the purpose. So, it has been decided not to have permanent ATC towers at small airports. The mobile tower will be used to handle flights till the remote tower for Vellore is ready at Chennai airport,"** he added.

[12/12/18 V Ayyappan/Times of India](#)

The 'international' in the Chandigarh International Airport might disappear soon as two airlines have decided to shut operations from the airport, temporarily. IndiGo has announced that it will suspend operations of its flights from Chandigarh to Dubai and vice-versa with effect from December 15 to February 15.

The reason that is being cited pertains to the **absence of advanced instrument landing system**, Times of India reported. **Poor visibility and bad weather conditions due to severe winters are hampering the smooth functioning of its operations**, it indicated.

Deepesh Joshi, Chandigarh International Airport Limited's spokesperson said, "We have received confirmation from IndiGo about the temporary suspension of Dubai flight during the winter season: A senior official in IndiGo said that the flight would start from February 16."

In the same way, the second international airline that wants to suspend operations from Chandigarh airport to Sharjah, is Air India Express. It wants to temporarily suspend or alter the flight's timings. Air India has already suspended its Chandigarh to Bangkok flights about three months back due to non-viability factor.

[12/12/18 ZeeBiz](#)

Bengaluru: As threat perceptions of cybercrime increase in the aviation sector, airports across the world are gearing up to tackle them, given that they sit on large sets of data and are heavily dependent on computer systems for daily operations.

In line with the global trend, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), is also in the process of acquiring and implementing new tools that prevent data theft and leakage, apart from restricting access to outsiders.

KIA handles a whopping 1TB of data every day, including personal information of passengers and critical information of airlines. Given the high dependence on computerised automated systems to run daily operations, outsiders gaining access to servers could cripple the airport within minutes.

So far, there has been no data leakage or intrusion reported at KIA, but Arvind Mathur, chief technology officer, BIAL, said: **"We are implementing data leakage prevention (DLP) solution,**

distributed denial of service (DDoS) solution, privileged identity/access management and advanced endpoint security solution, which will strengthen the cyber safety mechanism.”

12/12/18 Times of India

Mumbai: In a bid to drive better cost efficiencies, Jet Airways will withdraw services from nine airports in India and Gulf by February 2019.

According to a Jet Airways spokesperson, the operations have been shut in Jorhat, Silchar, Imphal, Aizawl, Raipur, Sharjah Muscat, Madurai and Vizag.

The Naresh Goyal-led airlines in a letter to the Travel Agents Association of India said, **“The airline has undertaken comprehensive review of its network, whereby it will move capacity from uneconomical routes to more profitable ones, to more closely align the capacity offered with the demand characteristics of specific markets.”**

Stating that the airline will redeploy aircraft to other profitable hubs, the letter said, **“Effective December 2018, the airline has introduced 65 additional weekly frequencies on its international and domestic routes thus, further strengthening its network over its hubs of Mumbai and Delhi. We recently introduced our first daily direct service from Pune to Singapore and effective December 5, 2018 added a host of enhanced frequencies between Delhi-Singapore, Mumbai-Singapore, Delhi-Bangkok, Mumbai-Doha, Dehi-Doha, Mumbai-Dubai and Delhi-Kathamandu.”**

11/12/18 Forum Gandhi/Business Line

Chennai: GoAir has announced the launch of flight operations from its 24th domestic destination, Kannur effective this month that coincides with the launch of the newly commissioned International Airport there.

The Kannur schedule introduces direct daily flights connecting Bengaluru six times weekly, Hyderabad four times weekly and Chennai three times weekly.

A statement from the airlines owned by the Wadia group stated that the recent addition to GoAir network reflects the airline’s phase of growth with a focus on scaling up domestic and international operations progressively in the coming weeks while strengthening the value proposition to suit customer’s interest.

With this launch, GoAir will now operate more than 1,600 weekly flights by the end of December. The airline plans to also commence its international operations from Kannur shortly post regulatory approvals.

11/12/18 News Today

Low-cost airlines IndiGo and SpiceJet have petitioned the Supreme Court, challenging an ultimatum by the Meghalaya High Court directing them and authorities to decide on the date of launch flights from Shillong by holding a meeting within December 15.

The High Court had ordered the aviation regulator DGCA, aviation ministry and the airlines such as

IndiGo, Jet Airways, GoAir and Vistara to finalise plans to begin operations. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the petition by the airlines on Thursday.

The Meghalaya High Court took up the matter suo moto; there was no petition filed to this effect. The case has been taken up by a two-judge bench led by Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court Mohammad Yaqoob Mir.

The court has been nudging airlines through the aviation ministry since January to launch flights to the Umroi airport in Shillong. "It was found desirable" to put the airlines on notice because "it appears that the airlines have taken the matter very lightly and not bothered to advance the public cause."

Though such an order is unusual — airlines decide flight routes based on business viability, with the exception being remote destinations classified by the government — the order is not without precedent.

In April 2016, the Supreme Court itself gave a similar ultimatum to authorities to launch flights to Shimla. The court was ostensibly perturbed by the lack of air connectivity to the Himachal Pradesh capital and gave May 4 as the deadline to begin operations. Government-owned Air India, which is struggling to stay aloft, now flies to Shimla.

The Meghalaya High Court is using the route dispersal guidelines, which force them to deploy flights to remote areas — routes to Shillong and other parts of the North East are classified as Category II A — to push them to launch operations.

[12/12/18 Ashmit Kumar/Anu Sharma/CNBC TV18](#)

Mumbai: On December 10, 1918, the first ever aeroplane landed in India from England.

The Hindu had, at the time, tracked the historic journey through over a dozen reports from the run-up to the flight's arrival in Karachi on December 10 and its eventual departure from Kolkata (Calcutta) on January 13.

As we reported: "At exactly two minutes past two today [December 10], the 1st aeroplane to fly to India from Europe touched Indian soil (at Karachi) amid cheers and applause of a large crowd of spectators numbering well over ten thousand. The great Handley Page biplane was first sighted at 1.45 at a height of about 7,500 feet, approaching at a rate of about sixty miles an hour. A faultless landing was made; the huge machine was then taken along the ground close in front of the lines of spectators before turning to proceed in the direction of the tents where it came to rest."

The flight had Major-General Salmond, commanding the Air Force in the Middle East, Brigadier-General A.E. Barton, commanding the Palestine Brigade of the Royal Air Force, Captain Ross Smith of the Australian Flying Corps, and two air mechanics on board.

The Handley Page biplane, one of 63 ever built, was fashioned out of wood. It had been used as a bomber during the First World War and was later used to carry out a bombing raid on Kabul during the Third Anglo-Afghan War.

A news brief published in The Hindu on November 30, 1918, suggests the flight to India had already been discussed with arrangements being made to receive the aviators. The Hindu tracked the flight's journey from Cairo, from where it left on November 13. A report published on December 9

announced its impending arrival at Karachi and Delhi. As landing strips weren't in place, different locations were chosen at these cities for the flight to land. A new aerodrome had been built specifically in the "south west end of the New Cantonment" in Delhi.

After landing in front of the Allahabad Fort on December 16, the plane landed at the Calcutta Race Course. In each city, huge crowds had gathered to witness the historic journey.

"..Almost the whole Calcutta" had assembled at the race course to welcome the flight. The reports described the moment the flight was sighted at each city and even the way it landed. "It sailed due south and when over the maidan it circled several times. After coming directly above the crowds for half and an hour it performed evolutions," said The Hindu's report of the flight's arrival at Calcutta.

The flight started its return journey from Calcutta on January 13. On its way back, it had to make a forced landing while en-route to Allahabad. A report on January 17, highlighting this incident, stated that the plane had developed a snag as dust had entered the engine after being left in the open at the Calcutta Race Course "instead of being properly housed."

12/12/18 The Hindu

Mumbai: A senior DGCA official allegedly allowed unauthorised persons including his wife and sister-in-law to travel on a flight meant for testing of two pilots who were to be designated as examiners, a source said. The incident which took place last week has prompted the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to launch an inquiry.

The DGCA official was conducting "examiner release check" for two pilots of Delhi-based Air Charter Services (ACS) Pvt Ltd, a DGCA source said.

As per the rules, such flights are not supposed to have any unauthorised person on board.

"It is under investigation," Director General of Civil Aviation B S Bhullar told PTI Tuesday when asked about the action taken against the official.

According to the source, the official, working as a deputy chief flight operations inspector at DGCA headquarters in New Delhi, in a "blatant violation" of the norms allowed his wife and sister-in-law as well as the director of the ACS Pvt Ltd, his wife and two other women on board the aircraft.

The aircraft was conducting the "check" flight on Amritsar-Delhi route.

11/12/18 PTI/NDTV

Jet Airways plans to wet lease seven planes to to cut down on costs. Under a wet lease, a lessor provides pilots, maintenance, cabin crew and aircraft to a lessee.

While the two firms have been in discussions since last year, the two sides agreed in principle on a wet recently. **Since the ATRs are not owned by Jet, getting a nod from the original lessor was also needed for the sublease arrangement. A formal agreement is expected to be signed later this month. Jet has 121 planes including 18 ATR-72s.**

According to sources, Jet will begin wet leasing from September. These will stay in TruJet's fleet for 18-24 months by when the original lease terms will end. "We are in a quiet season and unable to respond to your query," a Jet spokesperson said in an email response.

11/12/18 Canton Caller

Gregory Taylor, the CEO-designate at IndiGo Airlines, may be on his way out, three people aware of the development told FE.

The move dovetails with the appointment of Ronojoy Dutta, an industry veteran as a principal consultant earlier this month to develop a five-year business plan for the aggressively growing budget carrier.

Gregory Taylor was appointed senior adviser reporting to co-founder Rahul Bhatia directly in April this year after the much-hyped and surprise exit of IndiGo president Aditya Ghosh.

In a media release issued in April, IndiGo had said: "In coming months, the board will consider the appointment of Greg as president and CEO of the company, subject to receiving the necessary regulatory approvals and paperwork." That appointment hasn't happened till now.

Dutta and Taylor had worked together at the American carrier United Airlines — Taylor in a junior position and Dutta a board member.

[12/12/18 Manisha Singhal/Financial Express](#)

Mangaluru: A high level meeting will be convened within a week at New Delhi to take a final decision on things like introducing flights on six new routes, change of Air India Express flight timings between the city and Abu Dhabi and steps aimed at improving the international airport here. This was stated by union minister for civil aviation, Suresh Prabhu, during his visit to the city on Tuesday December 11.

On his arrival at the airport here on Tuesday December 11 morning, Prabhu exchanged information with the officials of the airport about the current situation of the airport and flight services. On this occasion, MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, who also happens to be the chairman of the airport advisory committee here, requested the minister to meet certain supplementary demands for developing this airport.

The minister, who went through the petition, said that he has already received a memorandum from Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry and that he will initiate suitable steps in the matter.

After the meeting, Nalin said that decisions on introducing flights on new routes, changing of flight to Abu Dhabi etc can be taken only after holding discussions with the respective flight operators.

Therefore, the minister has called for a meeting at New Delhi, he reasoned. He said that all details about the steps needed to further improve facilities at the airport here have been furnished to the minister, and he has been urged to begin Indigo Airlines flights from here to Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, and to start new Air India services between the city and Delhi, Pune, Goa and Bengaluru.

[12/12/18 daijiworld](#)

Pushed to the brink due to a skewed tax policy, domestic aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) players are aggressively lobbying with the government to create a level playing field for them against their foreign counterparts.

Bharat Malkani, president, MRO Association of India (MAOI), told DNA Money that India was

losing close to 90% or \$1.4 billion (FY18) of MRO business to overseas players due to discriminatory levies.

According to him, while there was a goods and services tax (GST) of 18% on domestic MRO services, the customs duty on imported MRO was just 5%. He said such a discriminatory tax regime was making domestic MRO companies less competitive against their foreign rivals.

"Indian MRO companies are shutting down because they are not able to fairly compete with overseas players because of discriminatory taxes, which has put them at a cost disadvantage. We are paying 18% GST on sale price while overseas players are paying 5% at cost price. So, the gap is effectively around 21-22%," he said.

Malkani said the difference in levies between domestic imported MRO services was roughly 13%. This made it more cost-effective for local airlines to send their aircraft to markets like Singapore, Sri Lanka, Dubai, Malaysia, Middle East, Germany and other countries for maintenance checks.

"We (MAOI) don't want concession or subsidies. We want a level playing field. If 18% is my GST, you (government) put an 18-20% duty on imports. (US President Donald) Trump is imposing a tariff for protecting domestic industry. Here, we are trying to protect a foreign industry by giving it a subsidy of 13%," he lamented.

12/12/18 Praveena Sharma/DNA

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath cabinet today cleared the proposal to do away with certain clauses in the standard bidding terms, which purportedly accorded more weight to the Indian infra companies in comparison to their foreign counterparts.

UP health minister and government spokesperson Sidharth Nath Singh said following the cabinet nod, the global players would now be treated at par Indian companies during the bidding process. He informed the technical and financial bidding viz. RfQ and RfP would be completed within six months.

He noted the government had tweaked bidding terms to create a level playing field so that the proposed international airport matched up to the best global standards in class.

Last month, Adityanath had pitched Jewar International Airport as a future aviation hub for entire North India. He had also underlined its utility UP and the neighbouring states of Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Haryana.

To be developed under public-private partnership (PPP) model, the project had been hanging fire over the last 18 years after it was first conceived in 2000 owing to regulatory and clearances hurdles.

As per the techno-economic feasibility report, the airport would comprise two runways and handle 70 million passengers and 3 million tonnes cargo annually when fully developed. Although the project needs about 5,000 hectares, the airport alone would require more than 1,300 hectares in the first phase to become operational by 2022-23.

11/12/18 Virendra Singh Rawat/Business Standard

Working as the number two in Airport Authority of India's (AAI) cargo department and being the airport director of three airports in India, how much would PS Nair, who quit his government job in 2006 to join the GMR Group, have seen and experienced?

A lot. In fact, interesting and challenging things started happening to Nair very early in his career when he joined Air India as a management trainee in 1977. Born and brought up in Calicut, he also studied there before joining Air India. For the four years that he spent with the Maharaja, Nair worked mainly in the cargo section. And then he moved to the Airports Authority of India but not for very long. Soon, the late Dr V Kurien sought his services for helping out with 'Operation Flood-2 white revolution'.

That was the time when India was working on improving its milk supply and Kurien, at the helm of affairs, needed someone who had "logistical experience." His responsibilities included the nationwide distribution of dairy products (for making re-combined milk) donated by the European Economic Community countries.

Nair was requisitioned from AAI and made in-charge of port operations for Operation Flood-2. "The call (from a trusted lieutenant of Kurien) came as a bolt from the blue. Like me, Kurien was from Calicut but I did not know him personally. My job was to ensure the unloading of milk at the port, getting it on to 400 trucks and ensuring that it reached every nook and corner of the country so that milk fights did not break out the next morning. How we managed it I do not know. If I faulted even for one day, the result was milk riots," he now laughs. While Nair had no clue on how this had to be done and also had a skeletal staff, he did do everything right as he eventually spent four years working with Operation Flood-2.

Nair then returned to AAI as number two in the cargo department in Delhi. He rose to the no.1 position in the cargo department in 1987. Among his many responsibilities here was contributing to the development and operationalisation of the integrated cargo terminals at the metro airports.

But soon enough Nair was back in the thick of action — this time as Airport Director of Thiruvananthapuram where six porters' unions were cornering the trolleys meant to be used by passengers. The porters would fleece passengers and successive airport directors had been able to do little as the 203 porters had political backing.

Nair's decision to take these porters head-on did not go down well with those working with him so he decided to follow a divide and rule policy and use all his contacts to curb the menace of porters. He also took the then chief minister of the State, K Karunakaran, to the airport, to show him how the porters were scaring away tourists who were keen to come to Kerala.

[12/12/18 Ashwini Phadnis/Business Line](#)

Coimbatore: Coimbatore International Airport created history by transporting machinery weighing 15,000 kilogram to Guwahati on Sunday. A giant IL-76 aircraft was brought in from a Gulf country specifically to handle this transport.

The airport's cargo officials said, "An industry from Coimbatore sent a request for the transport of a big mechanical gear box weighing 15,000 kilograms to Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (a Government of India entity) at Guwhati. Given the weight of the machinery, it needed special handling.

Hence, with the help of an international service provider, an IL-76 was brought in from a Gulf

country.” The flight landed in the Coimbatore airport at 12 pm on Sunday. After due approvals were received, the machinery was loaded into the flight, which departed at 7 pm. Officials pointed out that this was the first time cargo was being sent with the IL-76 type aircraft.

Air cargo officials note that in spite of various issues such as lack of international flight services, delay in expanding the runway, etc. the airport continued to witness a steady growth. **Cargo movement in domestic sector increased from 4,361 tonne in 2017 to 5,275 tonne in 2018; in the international sector, it increased from 1,546 tonne in 2017 to 2,180 tonne this year. This marked a 20.95 per cent and 41 per cent growth, respectively.**

[12/12/18 L Rajagopal/New Indian Express](#)

Chennai: Customs officials on Tuesday detected three cases of smuggling at Chennai international airport from passengers. Gold worth Rs 27.3 lakh, imported cigarettes, Iranian saffron and laptops worth Rs 6.34 lakh were seized in the process.

In the first case, upon examining the check-in baggage of Ahamed Basha Shaik, 46, a passenger from Riyadh via Muscat by Oman Air flight WY- 0251, a door handle was found in which 12 gold cut bits weighing 580gm worth Rs 19 lakh were concealed. It was seized under the Customs Act 1962.

In the second case, Fathima Asmiya Mohamed Asmi, 36, who arrived from Colombo by Srilankan Airlines Flight UL-125, was apprehended. As she was evasive in her replies she was thoroughly examined. She accepted that she had concealed four gold cut bits in her rectum which were forcefully ejected out. The gold weighing 200gm was valued at Rs 6.5 lakh. It was seized under the Customs Act 1962.

[12/12/18 Times of India](#)

A 38-year-old man from India has been charged with conspiring to smuggle six of his countrymen into the United States on commercial flights that landed at Newark Liberty International Airport.

Bhavin Patel was arrested at the airport Friday and charged with one count of conspiracy and six counts of smuggling foreign nationals into the United States for private financial gain, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for New Jersey said in a statement. He is due in federal court in Newark on Dec. 18. Patel was the ringleader of a group that smuggled at least six citizens of India into the U.S. by paying an unspecified undercover law enforcement agent hundreds of thousands of dollars over a two-year period beginning the fall of 2013, according to court papers.

Patel first arranged for his clients to travel from India to Thailand, where they boarded flights bound for New Jersey, officials said. The six people illegally entered the United States in pairs on Dec. 13, 2013; April 10, 2014; and Oct. 2, 2014, authorities said.

[11/12/18 nj.com](#)

The immigration officers arrested a 64-year-old man possessing a fake passport, from the Sardar Patel International Airport on Monday.

Investigation revealed that the accused had made the fake passport after his original passport was seized by a bank in Oman for not paying a due loan amount.

The accused has been identified as Roman Francis, 64, a resident of Mumbai. According to a police officer, Francis boarded a SpiceJet flight from Oman and landed at the Ahmedabad International Airport.

During the security check, he was nabbed by an immigration officer after he was found travelling with a fake passport. He was later handed over to the Airport Police Station for interrogation.

Francis was running a business in Oman which faced huge losses. He had secured a loan from a local bank, which he couldn't pay. The bank then seized his original passport, which he could only get back once his dues were paid.

12/12/18 DNA

Mumbai: A Colombo-bound Jet Airways flight returned to the Mumbai airport due to some technical reasons on Tuesday, the airline said.

"The commander of the flight 9W 252, which departed from Mumbai for Colombo on Tuesday executed a turn back and landed safely in Mumbai," Jet Airways said in a statement.

It was necessitated due to technical reasons for which investigation was being carried out, it added. Jet Airways has arranged for an alternative aircraft with a revised departure time for the passengers to travel to Colombo, it said.

11/12/18 PTI/NDTV

International capacity to/from India is continuing to grow. From 2009 to 2018, the number of two-way seats available on international services grew by 76%. In 2018, 80.63 million two-way international seats were scheduled on flights serving India, a 5.6% increase on the previous year. In the past week alone, more notable international routes have been introduced, including Air Italy and WOW air beginning services to Delhi from Milan Malpensa and Reykjavik/Keflavik respectively, plus Air India restoring a non-stop link between Mumbai and New York JFK. IndiGo also launched a new link between Vijayawada and Singapore. With this in mind, anna.aero thought it was high time to take a look at India's international route developments trends over the past 10 years.

Jet Airways offers the most scheduled seats on international flights from India in 2018, with 9.97 million, ahead of Air India on 8.63 million. Air India Express is treated as a separate carrier, since it operates under its own IATA code. If Air India's capacity was combined with the 5.03 million non-domestic seats flown by Air India Express, then that joint entity would be the largest provider of international capacity serving India in 2018. IndiGo is the fourth largest provider of international capacity to/from India, but the LCC was the airline with the best net growth in international seats in 2018. It increased its two-way international seat count by 1.67 million in 2018 representing a 49% increase in IndiGo's international offering versus 2017. According to OAG Schedules Analyser, IndiGo will offer scheduled seats on 28 new international routes in 2018. Eight new international destinations have been added to the LCC's network this year, namely Abu Dhabi, Colombo, Dhaka, Hong Kong, Phuket, Kuala Lumpur, Kuwait City and Male.

12/12/18 anna.aero

India's largest airline IndiGo is in need of a full-time CEO but its founder Rahul Bhatia says the carrier is not going to rush through the decision.

"We want to make a considered decision," Bhatia told Moneycontrol in an interaction.

He also denied reports that he and co-founder Rakesh Gangwal were not agreeing on the choice of the new candidate. "How can we have [differences] when we haven't appointed a CEO?" he said.

Reports had emerged that Ronojoy Dutta, who had joined the airline as Principal Consultant earlier this month, was tipped to be the airline's next Chief Executive Officer. The position has been vacant since the exit of then President Aditya Ghosh early this year.

Since Ghosh's exit, Bhatia has taken over the role of interim CEO.

There has also been speculation on the exit of Greg Taylor, a senior advisor who was earlier expected to take over the chief executive role.

Bhatia declined to comment on both, except to say that Taylor was not brought in for a specific role and a period. "We always knew it's not going to be for a very long time. He is very good at what he does, exceedingly good in his specialised area. But we need someone who has a broader understanding of the industry."

Greg Taylor had come back to IndiGo after an earlier year-long stint till 2017, when he was Executive Vice President of Revenue Management and Network Planning.

[13/12/18 Prince Mathews Thomas/moneycontrol.com](https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/13/12/18-Prince-Mathews-Thomas/moneycontrol.com)

Kolkata: An IndiGo aircraft which made an emergency landing at the Kolkata airport after smoke filled its cabin mid-air has been grounded, airline officials said Wednesday.

The incident took place Monday and the aircraft is on ground (AOG) at the NSCBI airport in Kolkata at present, the spokesperson said.

The aircraft will require engine replacement and it will be done in Kolkata, a senior official of the airline said.

The Jaipur-Kolkata IndiGo flight with 136 passengers on board made an emergency landing in Kolkata after smoke incident, prompting the government to order a probe.

Officials of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), India, have already reached Kolkata to carry out a detailed investigation and prepare a report on what happened on Monday, a DGCA official told PTI.

The AAIB will submit its report to the ministry directly, he added.

The AAIB is a division of the Ministry of Civil Aviation which investigates aircraft accidents and incidents in the country.

According to a top IndiGo official, the smoke development occurred in the aircraft's cabin due to an oil leakage going through the air system.

Oil leakage in engine is a common phenomenon in all engines from time to time, the official said, adding that the point to note is that there was no fire on board.

No passenger was injured in the incident, a senior DGCA official said.

The pilot had to issue a May Day call, made to seek help in times of distress, and the Pratt & Whitney-powered Airbus A320 Neo plane landed at the Kolkata airport under full emergency conditions, a source said.

On landing, some of the passengers were evacuated using emergency chutes, the source said.

The IndiGo aircraft VT ITR was about 45 miles off Kolkata when smoke engulfed the aircraft, following which the pilot issued the May Day call, the source said.

12/12/18 Press Trust of India/Business Standard

Airport Authority of India (AAI), the custodian of 129 civil aviation airports in India, is roping in merchant/foreign bankers for raising long-term loans for expansion and development of its airports. The national airport operator is planning to invest over Rs 17,500 crore for the next five years. The development is significant as India looks to add 100 new airports for 1 billion fliers by 2035.

AAI sources said that the development of airports requires massive capital investment and therefore commercial and foreign banks, investment and merchant bankers are being roped in to assess the various options available to raise long-term capital and identify the best available route for the same. "We are seeking the most efficient way to raise long-term loans for our future expansion plans" said a senior AAI executive.

As of now, capital expenditure plans to the tune of Rs 65,000 crore have been finalised by AAI (Rs 17,500 crore for the next five years) and around Rs 22,000 crore for brownfield expansion in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru by private operators, and around Rs 21,000 crore for greenfield airports.

AAI manages a total of 129 Airports and also provides Air Traffic Management Services (ATMS) over entire Indian Air Space and adjoining oceanic areas.

The country's aviation sector has invested around Rs 52,000 crore over the last decade at various airports and the projected investment requirement is more than four times the amount.

As per a report prepared by rating agency Icria last year, the aviation segment in India will need a mammoth Rs 2.4 lakh crore investment over the next decade to meet the rising passenger traffic which has been clipping in high double digit growth all through the year, making the country the fastest-growing market.

13/12/18 Shahkar Abidi/DNA

There has been a double-digit growth in the Indian air passenger traffic for the past several years and the country is projected to become the third largest aviation market by 2022 after the US and China. The growth in air traffic has led major aircraft manufacturers such as Boeing and Airbus, global aviation bodies like the International Air Transport Association and the Airports Council International and other agencies, to project heightened demand for aeroplanes, airports and related infrastructure in India. Rating agencies estimate that Indian airlines will increase their capacity by 15-17 per cent in this fiscal alone. These growth projections are being tom-tommed as great achievements of the Indian aviation sector. In a recent report, rating agency ICRA said: "The key driver for the industry capacity growth continues to be the sizeable order backlog – approximately 1,033 aircraft of various sizes and configurations are on order by Indian airlines." Airbus and Boeing have also made similar projections. However, some basic common-sense questions arise: Where will these additional planes be parked? How will airspace congestion be managed? How or where will these growing number of aircraft be repaired or serviced? Will they operate to remote regions or Tier-II or Tier-III cities?

On the other hand, the existing number of aircraft operated by Indian airlines in the domestic airspace are experiencing very high passenger load factors. This ranges between 80-95 per cent, which normally speaking would deliver a high rate of revenue per passenger flown every kilometre to the Indian carriers. Instead, IndiGo reported a loss of Rs 652 crore in the quarter ended September 2018, compared with a profit of Rs 551 crore a year ago, while its competitor SpiceJet has reported a loss of Rs 389 crore during the same quarter. Troubled Jet Airways reported a loss of Rs 1.297 crore and accumulated losses of nearly Rs 2,500 crore in the first half of the current fiscal. Hit by the mounting losses, the Naresh Goyal-promoted airline is struggling for survival and has been in talks with several investors. On the Air India front, the government, after putting off its divestment, is in the process of finding ways to take care of its huge debt.

While the financial mess in the airlines has been much debated, the massive crisis in the field of airport infrastructure has not been in focus. Civil Aviation Ministry data shows that many airports owned and operated by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are running in deficit. Only 15 airports located in the major cities are in profits. It is a matter of relief for the government that the profits earned by these 15 airports are more than the total losses of the remaining 92 airports. There are a total of 126 airports in the country. Of these, the airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad are operated under private-public partnership (PPP).

The Airports Authority of India operates the remaining 123 airports. Of these, only 15 airports including those in Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Lucknow are among those which are making profits. The remaining 92 airports even at major cities like Indore, Bhopal, Mangalore and Raipur are in deficit. The highest profit of Rs 455.4 crore in 2017-18 was made by the Chennai airport. However, this profit is less than 25 per cent from last year's profit. Kolkata airport is in the second in terms of profits. Mangalore airport has faced the biggest loss of Rs 74 crore in the last fiscal followed by Safdarjung airport of Delhi at second place with a loss of Rs 71 crore.

[12/12/18 Amitabha Roychowdhury/Millennium Post](#)