



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

4 MAY 2026

Passenger from Sharjah detained after he opens emergency exit door, runs on tarmac after landing

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A passenger arriving in Chennai from the United Arab Emirates caused a flutter when he opened the emergency exit door and ran on the tarmac on Sunday. As a result, an international flight reaching the city was diverted to Bengaluru.

Uses evacuation slide

An Air Arabia international flight from Sharjah landed at the Chennai airport around 3.45 a.m. As the aircraft was taxiing, the passenger opened the emergency exit door, came out



Freak incident: It took nearly an hour to close the slide. The aircraft was brought to the bay around 4.45 a.m. and the passengers disembarked. IMAGE USED FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY.

through the evacuation slide, and ran on the tarmac towards gate no. 102, airport sources said.

Air Traffic Control offi-

cials, who noticed the incident, raised an alert. Personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) rushed to the spot

and caught the passenger. He was handed over to the police. It took nearly an hour for the aircraft team to close the evacuation slide. Around 4.45 a.m., the aircraft was brought to the bay, and the passengers disembarked, airport sources said.

Probe launched

Officials of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said they had begun an investigation.

As the flight was held up on the runway for nearly an hour, an international flight arriving from London was diverted to Bengaluru.

The Greater Chennai Police identified the passenger as Mohamed Najmudeen Sherif, a native of Pudukkottai district. He said he was travelling with a group of eight persons, and he had opened the emergency exit door to escape, as he feared someone was plotting to attack him. He was detained at the airport. Officials questioned the passenger as well as those who had travelled with him.

Later in the day, the police said the passenger was found to be under mental stress, and was admitted to a hospital for evaluation and treatment.



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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

4 MAY 2026

Chennai airport sees exit breach

Chennai, May 3: Tension prevailed briefly at Chennai International Airport on Sunday after a passenger opened an emergency exit door while an aircraft was taxiing. An Air Arabia flight from Sharjah with 231 passengers had landed and was moving along the taxiway when the incident occurred.

A 34-year-old passenger from Pudukkottai opened one of the emergency exit doors, prompting the pilot to halt the aircraft.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

4 MAY 2026

Passenger opens emergency exit, jumps off moving plane at Chennai airport

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Passengers on board a Sharjah-Chennai Air Arabia flight experienced harrowing moments on Sunday morning when a 34-year-old man opened the emergency exit door and jumped off the aircraft while it was taxiing after

landing at the Chennai International Airport.

Sources in the airport told *DH* that the passenger, who hails from Pudukkottai district in central Tamil Nadu, is believed to have been unwell and vomited twice during the journey. As the aircraft landed at the airport and was moving slowly along a taxiway, not the

main runway, before coming to a complete halt, the passenger hurriedly opened the emergency exit and jumped off the flight.

The pilot immediately brought the aircraft to a halt and alerted the authorities, who arrived at the scene immediately. The passenger was apprehended by security per-

sonnel after a brief chase on the taxiway.

"He sustained minor abrasions while jumping," a police officer said, adding that the passenger was given first aid before he was taken to a secure location within the airport for questioning.

Police said they have gathered that he complained of a

vomiting sensation and is believed to have vomited twice on board. "We are interrogating him," the officer added.

Airport officials said the incident briefly disrupted operations. Authorities have launched an investigation into the breach of aviation safety protocol. The aircraft is believed to have been grounded.

Passenger jumps from moving flight at Chennai airport

Main Runway Shut For Some Time; Incident Causes Diversion

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Chennai: A 29-year-old man opened the emergency exit and jumped from an Air Arabia flight that was taxiing after landing at Chennai airport early on Sunday, leading to closure of the main runway and diversions and delays of subsequent flights.

CISF personnel chased and caught the passenger, Mohamed Sherif Mohamed Najumudeen, who told them he felt uncomfortable and nauseated and that's why he



TURN OF EVENTS: 1) Mohamed Sherif Mohamed Najumudeen complains of nausea 2) He opens the emergency exit and jumps

opened the emergency exit. The crew of the flight, which had 240 passengers, told investigators that the man had twice complained that he felt like vomiting and asked to be seated near the emergency exit.

it. Customs officials checked the baggage of the man to see if he was carrying any contraband.

► Quizzed for 3hrs, P 3

Man questioned for three hours, handed over to cops

► From P 1

Airport authorities questioned him for three hours before handing him over to the city police who said they will register a case against him under the Aircraft Act for violating safety norms.

The flight from Sharjah had just landed around 3.20am and was taxiing to the apron when the passenger, Mohamed Sherif Mohamed Najumudeen, suddenly opened the emergency window and jumped from the aircraft. The pilot immediately alerted air traffic control and the flight was disabled. CISF personnel too were alerted and they chased the flyer down, as he attempted to flee.

Since the flight was disabled on the taxiway, a British Airways flight that was to land in the city was diverted to Bengaluru, as the wings of the two aircraft might have come in contact.

Airport authorities closed the main runway for an hour from 3.23am to 4.25am, and as a result four arrivals and one departure were carried out on the secondary runway.

A pilot working for another airlines said, on condition of anonymity, that no passenger in the right state of mind would attempt to open the emergency window as it is a punishable offence. "In other countries, he would have been jailed by now. But here, law usually takes a lenient stand on such issues. The pilot has no control over such inadvertent acts, except stalling the flight," the pilot said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

4 MAY 2026

Theft at Navi Mum airport

Navi Mumbai:Thieves breached a high-security zone at Navi Mumbai International Airport on Friday, stealing a mobile handset and CCTV storage device worth Rs 1.29 lakh from a ramp office. The complaint was filed by an IndiGo loader. Police have questioned workers but found no leads yet. Six offences were reported at the airport between Feb and March.

— Umesh K Parida

Air India board meeting on May 7

Cost-saving steps, CEO selection likely on agenda

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, May 3: As headwinds persist for the loss-making Air India, its board is expected to discuss cost-saving plans, selection of the next CEO, financials, and other issues during the meeting scheduled for May 7, according to sources.

Headwinds for the Air India Group, which is projected to have incurred more than Rs 22,000 crore loss in the financial year ended March 2026, have multiplied with the West Asia conflict.

In the midst of an ambitious transformation plan, the Tata Group-owned airline is also scouting for a new CEO as incumbent and Singapore Airlines Group veteran Campbell Wilson will be stepping down later this year.

The sources said the board, chaired by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, will meet in Mumbai on May 7.

Various cost-saving measures, CEO succession plans, financials for 2025-26 fiscal year as well as other issues are expected to be discussed during the meeting, the sources said.

Tata Sons and Air India did not offer comments.

As part of stringent measures to save costs amid spi-



alling jet fuel prices, Air India is mulling unbundling meals from tickets as well as lounge access for business class travellers.

With the unbundling plan, the airline will be able to offer a different fare category where passengers do not prefer to have meals. Similarly, the business class passengers will have the option to choose lounge access, the sources said.

They also stressed that these measures are only being mulled and a final decision has not been taken on whether to go ahead with it.

Airspace restrictions in the wake of the West Asia conflict have forced the airline to take longer routes for many international destinations, which is also resulting in increased fuel burn.

The board is also expected to discuss the selection of the next CEO for the airline, in which Singapore Airlines has a 25.1 per cent stake.

Various names, including that of Air India and Singapore Airlines executives as well as possible European candidates, are doing the rounds for the next CEO position.

One of the sources indicated that there could even be the possibility of having a joint MD or CEO.

Apart from Chandrasekaran and Wilson, Singapore Airlines CEO Goh Choon Phong and four others - Sanjiv Mehta, Alice Vaidyan, PR Ramesh, and PB Balaji - are members of the Air India board.

On May 1, Wilson told staff that the airspace and jet fuel price situation remains extremely challenging.

"... massive rise in jet fuel prices which, together with airspace closures and longer flying routes, has caused many of our international flights to become unprofitable to operate," he had said in a message.

While cuts in international flights happened in April and

is continuing in May, Wilson had also said the situation leaves the airline with no choice "but to further trim schedules for June and July".

"We very much regret the disruption to our customers' plans and our crew's rosters, and hope that the Middle East situation settles - and the Strait of Hormuz opens - soon so that we can get back to a more normal state," he had said.

According to him, the profitability of domestic flights has also been significantly affected, but to a lower degree due to the government's limitation of the domestic fuel price rise to 25 per cent.

"To partially compensate for the huge spike in costs, we have increased airfares and imposed fuel surcharges but, understandably, these higher airfares impact customer demand, so we can only raise fares so far before people decide to stay home," he had said.

On April 26, Air India, IndiGo, and SpiceJet told the government that the country's airline industry is under extreme stress and on the verge of "stopping operations", as they sought revision in jet fuel pricing and financial support. - PTI



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 MAY 2026

Foreign airlines trim India flights as fuel costs rise

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

International airlines, including those from Australia and Thailand, are reducing their flights to India amid soaring jet fuel prices.

While Australia's Qantas is temporarily suspending flights between Sydney and Bengaluru between August and October-end, Thai AirAsia is cutting flights to multiple Indian cities.

Qantas said it continues to take action to mitigate the impact of the conflict in West Asia that has increased fuel costs.

While it has redeployed capacity to Europe to cater to the travel demand, the airline has reduced flights to India. Qantas has also reduced frequency on domestic and New Zealand routes.

AirAsia Thailand is sus-



ROUTE RESET. While Australia's Qantas is temporarily suspending flights between Sydney and Bengaluru, Thai AirAsia is cutting flights to multiple Indian cities

pending flights from Phuket to Chennai and Kochi, besides cancelling flights to other Indian cities.

Overall, Thai AirAsia has cut capacity by 30 per cent. On the international side, the cuts primarily impact India, where elevated prices have reduced its ability to offer low fares, the airline said.

Domestic and international carriers have introduced or hiked fuel surcharges to cover up the increase in fuel prices.

While the price hike for scheduled domestic flights is limited to 25 per cent, jet fuel for international flights now costs double of the March level.

As such travel demand too is uncertain and popular South-East Asian routes haven't seen a pickup. This has resulted in Air India Express reducing flights to Thailand in May.

"Demand for international leisure travel has slowed down, and customers

are thinking twice before booking trips," said Anil Kalsi, Vice-President of the Travel Agents Federation of India.

AIRCUTS FREQUENCY

Air India is reducing frequency on some Europe and North America sectors by 10-12 per cent to mitigate the challenge.

On the East Asia side, reduction is planned on the upcoming Mumbai-Tokyo route in July.

In a staff email on Friday, Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said the airline had cut flights in April and May as rising fuel costs made the operations unprofitable.

"The airspace and jet-fuel price situation remains extremely challenging, leaving us with no choice but to further trim schedules for June and July," Wilson said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

HC nixes SpiceJet's review petition over payment to Marans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 4 May

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed pleas by SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh seeking a review of an earlier order to deposit ₹144 crore in connection with its legal dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways.

Justice Subramonium Prasad also imposed cost of ₹50,000 on the airline and Singh.

"Dismissed with cost of ₹50,000," the judge said while pronouncing the verdict.

On January 19, the court

had directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit ₹144 crore with the registry within six weeks against an admitted liability of ₹194 crore. On March 18, time to make the deposit was extended by four weeks.

Singh and his budget airline sought reconsideration of the March 18 direction on several counts, including financial distress amid the ongoing war in West Asia.

SpiceJet instead offered a commercial property in Gurugram as security and informed the court that the Centre was willing to offer it some assistance.



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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

IndiGo's head of global sales Vinay Malhotra resigns

IndiGo's Head of Global Sales Vinay Malhotra on Monday resigned to pursue opportunities outside the airline. Malhotra will step down from his position and be relieved of his duties effective at the close of business hours on July 3, IndiGo said in a regulatory filing. He is part of the leadership team at the country's largest airline, which has seen top deck changes in recent times. "After careful reflection on my career and my next professional and personal phase, and further to our discussions, I have decided to step down from the position of Head of Global Sales," Malhotra said in his resignation letter addressed to IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

लखनऊ: इंडिगो लैंडिंग 3 बार फेल, दोनों डिप्टी सीएम बैठे थे

लखनऊ | दिल्ली से लखनऊ आ रही इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई-6476 सोमवार सुबह खराब मौसम में फंस गई। इसमें यूपी के दोनों डिप्टी सीएम केशव प्रसाद मौर्य और ब्रजेश पाठक सवार थे। फ्लाइट सुबह 8:02 बजे दिल्ली से रवाना हुई और करीब 9:10 बजे लखनऊ के आसमान में पहुंची। उस समय शहर में करीब 80 किमी प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से तूफान चल रहा था। बारिश भी हो रही थी और घनी बौछारों से विजिबिलिटी काफी कम हो गई थी। फ्लाइट लखनऊ

एयरपोर्ट के ऊपर काफी देर तक चक्कर काटती रही। इस दौरान तीन बार लैंडिंग की कोशिश हुई, लेकिन हर बार प्रयास फेल रहा। इसके बाद विमान को भोपाल डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। दोनों डिप्टी सीएम भोपाल में सुरक्षित उतरे। बाद में फ्लाइट भोपाल से फिर लखनऊ आई और दोपहर 12:27 बजे लैंड हो पाई। यह फ्लाइट रोजाना सुबह 7:20 बजे दिल्ली से रवाना होती है और 8:30 बजे लखनऊ लैंड होती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

अप्रैल में भारत के हवाई यातायात में आई गिरावट

नई दिल्ली, 4 मई (एजेंसियां)। नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, मार्च की तुलना में अप्रैल में भारत के हवाई यातायात (एयर ट्रैफिक) में गिरावट दर्ज की गई है। यह गिरावट घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय, दोनों तरह के यात्रियों में देखने को मिली है। यह गिरावट मुख्य रूप से मिडिल ईस्ट में जारी संघर्षों के कारण आई है, जिसकी वजह से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों की संख्या में तेज कमी देखने को मिली।

घरेलू हवाई यातायात में यात्रियों की संख्या अप्रैल में 140.8 लाख रही, जो साल-दर-साल और महीने-दर-महीने करीब 4 प्रतिशत की गिरावट दर्शाता है। वहीं, अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई यातायात में और ज्यादा गिरावट देखी गई, जहां अप्रैल में यात्रियों की संख्या घटकर 28.3 लाख रह गई, जो मार्च के मुकाबले करीब 20 प्रतिशत कम है।

इस बीच, यूएई के जनरल सिविल एविएशन अथॉरिटी ने शनिवार को घोषणा की कि यूएई के एयरस्पेस में सामान्य उड़ान संचालन पूरी तरह बहाल कर दिया गया है और अस्थायी एहतियाती प्रतिबंध हटा दिए



■ घरेलू व अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों तरह के यात्रियों में देखने को मिली गिरावट

गए हैं। विदेश मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी एक बयान के अनुसार, इसके परिणामस्वरूप, भारतीय और यूएई की एयरलाइंस ने भारत के विभिन्न शहरों के लिए उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ानी शुरू कर दी है। पश्चिम एशिया में कुल मिलाकर उड़ानों की स्थिति अब धीरे-धीरे सुधर रही है और इस क्षेत्र से भारत के विभिन्न गंतव्यों के लिए अतिरिक्त उड़ानें संचालित की जा रही हैं। सकूदी अरब और ओमान के विभिन्न एयरपोर्ट्स से भारत के लिए उड़ानें जारी हैं। कतर का एयरस्पेस आंशिक रूप से खुला हुआ है और वहां से एयर इंडिया, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, इंडिगो और कतर एयरवेज भारत

मध्य पूर्व में तनाव से दुबई एयरपोर्ट का यात्री ट्रैफिक मार्च में 66 प्रतिशत गिरा

नई दिल्ली। मध्य पूर्व में जारी तनाव के कारण दुबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर मार्च में यात्री ट्रैफिक में 60 प्रतिशत से अधिक की बड़ी गिरावट देखने को मिली है। यह जानकारी रिपोर्ट्स में दी गई। रिपोर्ट्स में बताया गया कि अमेरिका-ईरान युद्ध के चलते यात्रियों की संख्या में 66 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। इस भारी गिरावट के चलते पहली तिमाही में यात्रियों की संख्या घटकर 25 लाख रह गई, जो पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि की तुलना में 21 लाख कम है। मध्य पूर्व में तनाव के कारण दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे में से एक को कई परिचालन संबंधी बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ा है, जिनमें संघर्ष के दौरान आसपास के क्षेत्रों में ड्रोन से संबंधित घटनाओं के कारण अस्थायी बंद भी शामिल हैं। इन घटनाओं के चलते पश्चिम एशिया में व्यापक उड़ानें बाधित हुईं और इस महीने यात्रा की मांग में कमी आई। हालांकि, पूरे वर्ष के लिए कोई पूर्वानुमान जारी नहीं किया गया है, लेकिन अधिकारियों ने संकेत दिया है कि हवाई यात्रा की मांग मजबूत बनी हुई है। मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी पॉल ग्रिफिथ्स ने कथित तौर पर कहा कि हवाई अड्डा धीरे-धीरे क्षमता बहाल होने के साथ यातायात में सुधार को संभालने के लिए अच्छी स्थिति में है।



के लिए उड़ानें संचालित कर रही हैं। कुवैत एयरवेज तथा कुवैत एयरवेज भारत के लिए का एयरस्पेस पूरी तरह खुला है और जजीरा उड़ानें चला रही हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

इंडिगो के वैश्विक बिक्री प्रमुख ने दिया इस्तीफा

नई दिल्ली। निजी विमान सेवा कंपनी इंडिगो के वैश्विक बिक्री प्रमुख विनय मल्लोत्रा ने सोमवार को अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया। एयरलाइंस ने शेयर बाजार को बताया कि उन्हें 3 जुलाई की शाम उनकी जिम्मेदारियों से मुक्त कर दिया जाएगा। कंपनी के प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया को संबोधित अपने त्यागपत्र में श्री मल्लोत्रा ने लिखा है कि वह विमानन उद्योग से बाहर सलाहकार की भूमिका में अपना करियर तलाश रहे हैं। उन्होंने पिछले चार साल में अपने करियर के दौरान इंडिगो परिवार के साथ काम करने का मौका देने के लिए श्री भाटिया को धन्यवाद दिया और कहा कि वह 3 जुलाई तक नोटिस पीरियड में काम करते रहेंगे। पिछले साल दिसंबर के पहले सप्ताह में इंडिगो के परिचालन में बड़े पैमाने पर व्यवधान के बाद कंपनी के उच्च प्रबंधन में यह दूसरा इस्तीफा है। इससे पहले, इंडिगो के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी पीटर एल्बर्स ने मार्च में 'निजी कारणों से' अपने पद से तत्काल प्रभाव से इस्तीफा दे दिया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

4 MAY 2026

Passenger jumps off taxiing plane in Chennai

**T.SUDHEESH AND
P.AJEBARAJ | DC**
CHENNAI, MAY 3

Creating a panic situation, a passenger jumped off an Air Arabia flight which arrived in the Chennai airport from Sharjah early Sunday morning and was taxiing from the runway toward Bay 25, where it was scheduled to park. The

aircraft landed around 3:25 am with 217 passengers. Suddenly, a passenger identified as Mohamed Nizamudeen Sherif (30), a native of Pudukkottai, opened the emergency exit door and jumped out.

This caused panic both inside the aircraft and across the airport premises. An emergency alert was immediately sounded

in the runway area. Security personnel rushed to the scene and swiftly surrounded and apprehended the passenger. Due to the incident, the aircraft was halted on the taxiway instead of reaching its designated parking bay. Meanwhile, a British Airways flight from London with 284 passengers could not land in

Chennai as the taxiway was occupied by the stationary aircraft and was diverted to Bengaluru. It returned to Chennai later and its scheduled departure to London at 5:35 am was postponed to 9 am. Senior airport officials, security personnel, and central intelligence authorities rushed to the spot.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

4 MAY 2026

Air India to hold board meeting on May 7

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, PTI

As headwinds persist for the loss-making Air India, its board is expected to discuss cost-saving plans, selection of the next CEO, financials, and other issues during the meeting scheduled for May 7, according to sources.

Headwinds for the Air India Group, which is projected to have incurred more than Rs 22,000 crore loss in the financial year ended March 2026, have multiplied with the West Asia conflict.

In the midst of an ambitious trans-

formation plan, the Tata Group-owned airline is also scouting for a new CEO as incumbent and Singapore Airlines Group veteran Campbell Wilson will be stepping down later this year.

The sources said the board, chaired by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, will meet in Mumbai on May 7.

Various cost-saving measures, CEO succession plans, financials for 2025-26 fiscal year as well as other issues are expected to be discussed during the meeting, the sources said.

Tata Sons and Air India did not offer comments.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

स्पाइसजेट की समीक्षा अर्जी खारिज, अदालत ने लगाया जुर्माना

जागरण संवाददाता नई दिल्ली: केएल एयरवेज और उसके प्रमोटर कलानिधि मारन के साथ चल रहे कानूनी विवाद में 144 करोड़ रुपये जमा करने के आदेश की समीक्षा की स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइन की मांग को दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने सेमवार को ठुकरा दिया। न्यायमूर्ति सुब्रमण्यम प्रसाद की पीठ ने स्पाइसजेट और इसके प्रमोटर अजय सिंह पर 50 हजार रुपये के जुर्माने के साथ याचिका खारिज कर दी। 19 जनवरी को हाई कोर्ट ने स्पाइसजेट और अजय सिंह को निर्देश दिया था कि वे 194 करोड़ रुपये की स्वीकार की गई देनदारी के बदले 144 करोड़ रुपये छह सप्ताह के भीतर रजिस्ट्री में जमा करें। 18 मार्च को जमा करने की समय-सीमा चार सप्ताह के लिए बढ़ा दी गई थी। अजय सिंह और उनकी एयरलाइन ने 18 मार्च के निर्देश पर कई आधारों पर पुनर्विचार की मांग की।

स्पाइसजेट ने गुरुग्राम में एक कमर्शियल संपत्ति को सिक्योरिटी के तौर पर पेश किया और कोर्ट को बताया कि केंद्र सरकार उसे कुछ मदद देने को तैयार है। मारन और केएल एयरवेज ने समीक्षा याचिकाओं का विरोध करते हुए कहा कि वित्तीय संकट से जुड़े मुद्दों पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहले ही विचार कर चुका है और उन्हें खारिज कर चुका है। यह मामला स्पाइसजेट के कंट्रोलिंग शेयरहोल्डर अजय सिंह को मालिकाना हक ट्रांसफर होने के बाद, मारन के पक्ष में वारंट जारी न किए जाने से जुड़े विवाद से जुड़ा है। यह विवाद तब शुरू हुआ था जब फरवरी 2015 में एयरलाइन में वित्तीय संकट के बीच सिंह ने स्पाइसजेट का कंट्रोल वापस अपने हाथों में ले लिया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

IndiGo Ropes in Former Airbus Exec for AI Push

Arindam Majumder &
Prachi Verma

New Delhi: IndiGo has hired Jochen Hoesch, a former head of artificial intelligence at Airbus, to lead AI, data and analytics operations at India's largest airline.

Hoesch's appointment comes at a time when the domestic aviation industry is sharpening its focus on AI to enhance efficiency amid pressure on operating costs especially high jet fuel prices.

Underlining the importance of the senior executive hiring, IndiGo, which has about 60% share of India's domestic market, said the airline is strengthening its data, analytics, and AI infrastructure.

The airline's management in its commentary had repeatedly mentioned using its cash reserves to build digital infrastructure for becoming future ready.

"As we move forward in our growth journey, we continue to invest in building a robust data hub and deploy AI-driven technologies, to enhance efficiency across all areas of operations and deliver a more seamless experience to our customers," said an IndiGo spokesperson.

India's aviation industry has been increasingly using AI to support business growth. Airlines and airports are working to develop new AI capabilities that could make flying easier for passengers. Carriers are also using the technology to reduce costs and streamline operations, including saving fuel.

Although most of the airlines are developing their independent programs, a successful innovation by any carrier could possibly become an industry standard.

Experts said search mandates in this sector for AI specialists have risen in the last few months.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

Financial losses, legal setbacks and lease exits deepen operational strain

SpiceJet falls behind Akasa as fleet shrinks amid crises

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, May 4

SPICEJET'S COMEBACK IS hitting fresh turbulence, with the low-cost carrier now slipping behind newer rival Akasa Air in fleet size after a sharp contraction driven by aircraft returns, mounting financial stress and legal disputes — highlighting how deeply its operational challenges continue to weigh on recovery.

SpiceJet is currently operating just 21 aircraft, down from 33 in December, and well below Akasa's 38 aircraft. The decline reflects a steady erosion of capacity as lease agree-

HEADWINDS INTENSIFY

■ SpiceJet is now operating just **21 aircraft**, down from 33 in December, and well below Akasa's **38 aircraft**

■ SpiceJet has cut flight frequencies across major metro routes

■ The airline has described the network adjustments as temporary and says it is targeting a fleet of **55-60** by the winter schedule

■ Its accumulated losses are estimated at over **₹8,600 crore**, while current liabilities exceed assets



ments expire and aircraft are returned, exposing the airline's dependence on short-term wet leasing to sustain operations.

The immediate trigger has

been the return of multiple leased aircraft. Over the past few weeks, the airline has redelivered several Boeing 737-800s taken on wet lease from

foreign operators and returned three Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft leased from Ascend Airways following the lessor's shutdown. Its wet-leased fleet

has reduced from 13 aircraft to seven, sharply limiting available capacity.

Behind the fleet contraction lies a prolonged period of financial strain. The airline has reported widening losses in recent quarters, including a net loss of about ₹621 crore in July-September alongside a decline in revenue. Its accumulated losses are estimated at over ₹8,600 crore, while current liabilities exceed assets, prompting auditors in the past to flag concerns over its ability to continue as a going concern. These constraints have limited its ability to secure long-term leases, forcing reliance on cost-

lier and less stable wet-lease arrangements.

Legal disputes have added to the strain. The airline has faced multiple proceedings from aircraft and engine lessors over unpaid dues, at times resulting in grounding of planes. It has also been involved in a long-running dispute with former promoter Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways, alongside overseas rulings requiring payments to lessors. These cases have periodically disrupted operations and affected lessor confidence.

Continued on Page 7

SpiceJet falls behind Akasa as fleet shrinks

OPERATIONALLY, THE IMPACT is visible across the network. SpiceJet has cut flight frequencies across major metro routes. The airline had earlier shut operations at several stations, including Ayodhya, Port Blair, Bangkok, Phuket and Udaipur. International operations have been scaled back to Dubai and Sharjah, while domestic connectivity continues with fewer departures.

When contacted, a SpiceJet spokesperson said some aircraft had been returned following the completion of lease terms and that the airline remains in discussions with existing and



prospective lessors for fresh inductions. The spokesperson added that a recent fundraise has strengthened liquidity and supports efforts to stabilise

operations, with another capital raise under consideration.

Industry executives said the airline is now focused on aligning capacity with available air-

craft and maintaining schedule reliability. SpiceJet has described the network adjustments as calibrated and temporary and is targeting a fleet of 55-60 aircraft by the winter schedule through fresh inductions and the revival of grounded planes.

Whether that recovery materialises will depend on its ability to secure capital, resolve disputes and rebuild lessor confidence. For now, the shrinkage in fleet, which places it below a newer rival, reflects how financial and legal pressures have translated into operational contraction.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

4 MAY 2026

Air India board to review costs, CEO search

The board of Air India, chaired by N Chandrasekaran, will convene on May 7 to deliberate on key strategic issues, including cost-saving initiatives, CEO selection and financial results for FY26, sources said.

The Tata Group-owned carrier is estimated to have incurred losses exceeding ₹22,000 crore in the financial year ended March 2026. The situation has been aggravated by the ongoing West Asia con-



flict, which has led to airspace restrictions and longer flight routes, increasing fuel consumption and operating costs.

To counter spiralling expenses, Air India is exploring measures such as unbund-

Names from Air India, Singapore Airlines, and Europe emerge as contenders for the next CEO role

ling meals from tickets and offering optional lounge access for business class passengers. These steps could introduce flexible fare categories, though sources clarified that no final decision has

been taken. Higher aviation turbine fuel prices—up over 5% for international flights in the latest revision—have further strained operations. The airline has already increased fares and imposed fuel surcharges, but rising ticket prices risk dampening demand.

The board is also expected to discuss succession planning, with current CEO Campbell Wilson set to step down later this year.

— PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

4 MAY 2026

UAE flight curbs easing lifts Kerala travel hopes

HD Bureau
KOCHI

Blurb: Restored air navigation could widen Gulf links and ease fares for Kerala's large expatriate workforce. UAE airspace has returned to normal operations after temporary aviation restrictions were lifted, raising hopes of smoother Gulf travel, fuller airline schedules and possible relief from high fares on Kerala routes. The General Civil Aviation Authority announced the full resumption of normal air navigation across UAE airspace after a review of operational and security conditions. The move ends precautionary measures



For passengers travelling between the UAE and Kerala, the decision is significant

that had disrupted route planning, constrained capacity and forced airlines to adjust schedules during a period of regional instability linked to the Iran conflict. For passengers travelling between the UAE and Kerala,

the decision is significant. Kochi, Kozhikode, Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram depend heavily on Gulf traffic, with thousands of expatriate workers, families, students and business travellers using these routes each

week. Any restriction on UAE airspace or airport access quickly affects fares, seat availability and onward connections. The restoration of normal air navigation does not mean every suspended or reduced service will return overnight. Airlines will still need to rebuild schedules, secure slots, reposition aircraft and crew, and manage passenger backlogs. Even so, the lifting of restrictions gives carriers the operational basis to restore capacity on routes that had been limited for weeks. India-based carriers had been among the most affected because of their heavy exposure to Dubai and other UAE destinations. Air India

Express, IndiGo and SpiceJet had planned substantial summer operations into Dubai before restrictions reduced access. Dubai had earlier limited foreign airlines to one daily service to its airports, creating concern among carriers that had already sold seats or planned aircraft deployment around a busier schedule. The pressure was felt sharply in Kerala, where Gulf connectivity is not merely a commercial aviation issue but a core part of the state's social and economic life. Remittances, family visits, medical travel and employment movement all rely on predictable air links.



Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

4 MAY 2026

Air India board meeting on May 7; cost-saving steps, CEO selection likely on agenda

Press Trust of India

New Delhi/ Mumbai, May 3

As headwinds persist for the loss-making Air India, its board is expected to discuss cost-saving plans, selection of the next CEO, financials, and other issues during the meeting scheduled for May 7, according to sources.

Headwinds for the Air India Group, which is projected to have incurred more than Rs 22,000 crore loss in the financial year ended March 2026, have multiplied with the West Asia conflict.

In the midst of an ambitious transformation plan, the Tata Group-owned airline is also scouting for a new CEO as incumbent and Singapore Airlines Group veteran Campbell Wilson will be stepping down later this year.

The sources said the board, chaired by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, will meet in Mumbai on May 7.

Various cost-saving measures, CEO succession plans, financials for 2025-26 fiscal year as well as other issues



are expected to be discussed during the meeting, the sources said.

Tata Sons and Air India did not offer comments.

As part of stringent measures to save costs amid spiralling jet fuel prices, Air India is mulling unbundling meals from tickets as well as lounge access for business class travellers.

With the unbundling plan, the airline will be able to offer a different fare category where passengers do not prefer to have meals. Similarly, the business class passengers will have the option to choose lounge access, the sources said.

They also stressed that these measures are only

being mulled and a final decision has not been taken on whether to go ahead with it.

Airspace restrictions in the wake of the West Asia conflict have forced the airline to take longer routes for many international destinations, which is also resulting in increased fuel burn.

The board is also expected to discuss the selection of the next CEO for the airline, in which Singapore Airlines has a 25.1 per cent stake.

Various names, including that of Air India and Singapore Airlines executives as well as possible European candidates, are doing the rounds for the next CEO position.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

हाईकोर्ट ने अकासा एयर से जुड़े फैसले पर रोक लगाई

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने हाल ही में एक जिला अदालत के फैसले पर रोक लगा दी। इसमें अकासा एयर को एक ट्रेवल एजेंट को 1.08 करोड़ देने का निर्देश दिया गया था। एयरलाइन ने यह चिंता जताई थी कि जिला अदालत के जज ने शायद फैसला लिखने के लिए आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई) का इस्तेमाल किया है। न्यायमूर्ति प्रतिभा एम. सिंह और न्यायमूर्ति मधु जैन की पीठ ने कहा कि पहली नजर में जिस तरह से जिला अदालत का फैसला लिखा गया है, उससे लगता है कि उसमें एआई का इस्तेमाल हुआ है।

हालांकि, पीठ ने यह भी कहा कि ऐसे किसी नतीजे पर पहुंचने से पहले इस मामले की और ज्यादा विस्तार से जांच करनी होगी। इस मामले में अगली सुनवाई 20 अगस्त को होगी। यह मामला दिल्ली के एक टूर ऑपरेटर एबीएस टूर एंड ट्रेवल्स की ओर से अकासा की मूल कंपनी, एसवीएन एविएशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के खिलाफ दायर किए गए एक मुकदमे से जुड़ा है।

जिला अदालत ने एक आदेश जारी करते हुए एयरलाइन को टूर ऑपरेटर को मुनाफे के नुकसान के तौर पर 1.08 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान करने का निर्देश दिया था। अकासा ने इस फैसले को उच्च न्यायालय ने एआई का इस्तेमाल का हवाला देते हुए चुनौती दी है। हाईकोर्ट ने इस मामले में दोनों पक्षों की दलील सुनने के बाद यह फैसला लिया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

स्पाइसजेट की याचिका खारिज

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने सोमवार को कलानिधि मारन और केएएल एयरवेज के साथ कानूनी विवाद के संबंध में 144 करोड़ रुपये जमा करने के आदेश की समीक्षा के लिए स्पाइसजेट और उसके प्रवर्तक अजय सिंह की याचिका खारिज कर दी। न्यायमूर्ति सुब्रमण्यम प्रसाद की पीठ ने एयरलाइन और अजय सिंह पर 50 हजार रुपये का जुर्माना भी लगाया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर उड़ान संचालन में कटौती

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। गर्मी की छुट्टियों के बीच विदेश घूमने जाने की सोच रहे लोगों को हवाई टिकट खासा महंगा पड़ने वाला है। कुछ मार्गों पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान की टिकट बीते वर्ष के मुकाबले दोगुना दामों पर मिल रही है। इसका कारण उड़ानों की कटौती है।

पश्चिमी एशिया संकट के चलते दुनियाभर में विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में

भारी बढ़ोतरी हुई है। भारत ने भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए इस ईंधन की कीमतों में बीते महीने 115 प्रतिशत तक की वृद्धि की थी, जिसका असर अब उड़ानों पर दिखाई दे रहा है। इसके बाद विमान कंपनियां अपने खर्चों में कटौती करने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर सीमित उड़ानों का संचालन कर रही है। बीते साल के मुकाबले करीब 20-25% कम संचालन हो रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

4 MAY 2026

AIR INDIA SET TO REVIEW COSTS, CEO PLAN ON MAY 7

Press Trust of India

feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI: As headwinds persist for the loss-making Air India, its board is expected to discuss cost-saving plans, selection of the next CEO, financials, and other issues during the meeting scheduled for May 7, according to sources.

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Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

HC dismisses SpiceJet review in ₹144 cr row

Shruti Kakkar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday dismissed review petitions filed by low-cost carrier SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh against its earlier order directing payment of ₹144 crore to Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways in an ongoing arbitration dispute.

A bench of justice Subramanian Prasad observed that SpiceJet, in its plea seeking review of the March 18 order, was attempting to take advantage of the outbreak of hostilities in West Asia, which occurred more than two years after the Supreme Court's July 2023 direction making the 2018 arbitral award executable.

The court further observed that SpiceJet had been consistently disobeying Supreme Court's orders and that its claims of deteriorating financial health had remained unchanged since the July 2023 order. It held that the alleged change in circumstances due to the outbreak of hostilities could not be a valid ground for seeking review and found merit in Maran's submissions that the petitions were a complete abuse of the process of law.

On March 18, the high court directed SpiceJet to deposit ₹144.5 crore within four weeks to Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways, rejecting its request to substitute the amount with immovable property in Gurgaon, an order the airline later sought to review. This direction was issued in an application seeking modification of an ear-



The court called the review plea a complete abuse of the process of law. **MINT**

lier January 19 order, under which the court had required the airline and Ajay Singh to deposit ₹144.5 crore within six weeks.

Justice Prasad in his 32-page verdict directed the airline and its promoter to take immediate steps for depositing the amount.

"At the very outset, this Court cannot lose sight that the break-out of hostilities in West Asia is an event that has occurred in February, 2026, while the Apex Court had directed the Arbitral Award to become executable way back on 07.07.2023. Admittedly, more than two years have gone by after passing of the Order dated 07.07.2023. In this view, this Court is of the opinion that the Review Petitioners are now attempting to take advantage of an event that has taken place more than two years after the passing of the Order by the Apex Court directing the Arbitral Award to become executable, which cannot be permitted in any manner whatsoever," the court said in the order.

MINT

DELHI

5 MAY 2026



SpiceJet's fleet shrinks, puts global operations at risk

With just 21 jets, the airline risks falling below the regulatory threshold for global operations

Abhishek Law & Dipali Banka
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

SpiceJet's operational fleet has shrunk from 33 aircraft at the end of December to about 21 in early May, bringing the airline close to the minimum threshold required to operate international flights under Indian aviation rules. Fleet count fell due to returns to lessors and grounding for maintenance.

The slide in SpiceJet's fleet comes as the airline has also lost ground in the domestic market, slipping to fourth place with a 3.9% share in March. Rival Akasa Air, with about 38 aircraft, has around 5% share, while IndiGo dominates with 63.3% and a fleet of over 440 aircraft. The Air India Group follows with about 26.5% market share and around 290 aircraft, according to data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

With just 21 planes, SpiceJet risks falling below the regulatory threshold for international operations, which requires airlines to have at least 20 aircraft or deploy 20% of capacity on domestic routes, whichever is higher.

The Gurugram-based airline, promoted

by Ajay Singh, now operates 18 Boeing planes and three smaller turbo-props, according to two industry executives. Most of the Boeing aircraft are wet or damp-leased, while 39 aircraft remain grounded.

A wet lease involves leasing an aircraft with crew, maintenance, and insurance provided by the owner, usually for short-term capacity. In a damp lease, the lessor provides the aircraft, flight crew, and maintenance, but the lessee (airline) provides their own cabin crew.

"SpiceJet meets all applicable regulatory requirements for international operations. The airline has 54 aircraft on its Air Operator Permit (AOP)," a company spokesperson told *Mint*. The DGCA records show that the airline had 53 aircraft as of 2024-25.

"Our focus remains on steadily strengthening our operational fleet. We are actively working with MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) partners, OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) and lessors to bring grounded aircraft back into service," the spokesperson said.

SpiceJet's operational fleet has hovered around 21-25 aircraft over the past year.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

No financial support planned for retailers' fuel & ATF losses

Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum and HPCL are incurring substantial losses on sale of petrol and diesel

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The government has no plans to extend financial support to state-owned fuel retailers for the losses they are incurring on selling petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) below cost, an official said on Monday.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are incurring substantial losses on sale of petrol and diesel after they extended a four-year freeze on revision in retail rates despite input crude oil prices shooting up since the start of West Asia conflict over two months back. They have also, for the first time in more than two decades, begun posting losses on jet fuel (ATF) since last month, as they passed on only a part of the desired increase in prices needed to bring rates at par with cost.

"There is no proposal before the government to support oil marketing companies (for their losses)," said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

While ATF prices for domestic airlines last month increased by 25 per cent - a fourth of the desired increase - there was no change in rates this month, even though the prices for foreign airlines were hiked by over 5 per cent. Simi-



larly, despite under-recoveries of Rs 25-28 a litre, there has been no increase in petrol and diesel prices.

Domestic LPG prices were hiked by Rs 60 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 7, but that was not enough to cover all the increased cost, and oil companies are booking under-recoveries or losses. The government has, in the past, covered for the under-recoveries on LPG through budgetary subsidy support.

Sharma said there is no increase in retail prices of petrol and diesel, as well as domestic LPG, even though supplies have been disrupted due to the war in West Asia. Only rates of bulk or industrial diesel, as also commercial LPG - the one used by hotels and restaurants - have been increased.

The bulk diesel and commercial LPG make up for only 10 per cent of the fuel, she said. "Every effort has been made to protect the consumers (by not raising retail prices). Consumer interest has been kept in mind

when deciding on the revision," she said.

At the last monthly revision in rates on May 1, the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price for international airlines was hiked by \$76.55 per kilolitre, or 5.33 per cent, to \$1,511.86 per kl. This came on top of a more than doubling of prices for them on April 1 to \$1,435.31 per kl.

Alongside, prices of commercial LPG - the one used in hotels and restaurants - were hiked by Rs 993 to a record high of Rs 3,071.50 per 19-kg cylinder. The rates for 5-kg FTL or market-priced LPG cylinders were hiked from Rs 549 to Rs 810.50 per bottle.

The 5-kg FTL cylinder now costs just a shade lower than the Rs 913 rate for a 14.2-kg cylinder used in household kitchens (called domestic LPG).

Also, prices of bulk diesel, used by industrial users like telecom signal towers, were increased from about Rs 137 per litre to over Rs 149 a litre. These rates compare to the Rs 87.62 a litre price of diesel available at petrol pumps.

The ATF for domestic airlines will continue to be priced at Rs 1,04,927.18 per kl as state-owned oil companies have decided to absorb the rise in global fuel prices to protect airlines and consumers.

Sharma said the actions of oil marketing companies have been to check inflation.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

4 MAY 2026

Air India board meet on May 7, cost-saving steps & CEO selection likely on agenda

Headwinds for the Air India Group, which is projected to have incurred more than Rs 22,000 crore loss in FY26, have multiplied with West Asia conflict

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI: As headwinds persist for the loss-making Air India, its board is expected to discuss cost-saving plans, selection of the next CEO, financials, and other issues during the meeting scheduled for May 7, according to sources.

Headwinds for the Air India Group, which is projected to have incurred more than Rs 22,000 crore loss in the financial year ended March 2026, have multiplied with the West Asia conflict.

In the midst of an ambitious transformation plan, the Tata Group-owned airline is also scouting for a new CEO as

incumbent and Singapore Airlines Group veteran Campbell Wilson will be stepping down later this year. The sources said the board, chaired by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, will meet in Mumbai on May 7.

Various cost-saving measures, CEO succession plans, financials for 2025-26 fiscal year as well as other issues are expected to be discussed during the meeting, the sources said.

As part of stringent measures to save costs amid spiralling jet fuel prices, Air India is mulling unbundling meals from tickets as well as lounge access for business class travellers.



With the unbundling plan, the airline will be able to offer a different fare category where passengers do not prefer to have meals. Similarly, the business class passengers will have the option to choose lounge access, the sources said.

CLOSER LOOK

- » As part of costs saving measures, Air India is mulling unbundling meals from tickets & biz class lounge access
- » With the plan, airline will be able to offer different fare category where passengers do not prefer to have meals
- » Similarly, the business class passengers will have the option to choose lounge access, the sources said

They also stressed that these measures are only being mulled and a final decision has not been taken on whether to go ahead with it.

Airspace restrictions in the wake of the West Asia conflict have forced the airline to take

longer routes for many international destinations, which is also resulting in increased fuel burn.

The board is also expected to discuss the selection of the next CEO for the airline, in which Singapore Airlines has a 25.1 per cent stake. Various names,

including that of Air India and Singapore Airlines executives as well as possible European candidates, are doing the rounds for the next CEO position.

One of the sources indicated that there could even be the possibility of having a joint MD or CEO.

Apart from Chandrasekaran and Wilson, Singapore Airlines CEO Goh Choon Phong and four others — Sanjiv Mehta, Alice Vaidyan, P R Ramesh, and P B Balaji — are members of the Air India board. On May 1, Wilson told staff that the airspace and jet fuel price situation remains extremely challenging.

“... massive rise in jet fuel prices which, together with airspace closures and longer flying routes, has caused many of our international flights to become unprofitable to operate,” he had said in a message.

While cuts in international flights happened in April and is continuing in May, Wilson had also said the situation leaves the airline with no choice “but to further trim schedules for June and July”.

“We very much regret the disruption to our customers’ plans and our crew’s rosters, and hope that the Middle East situation settles -- and the Strait of

Hormuz opens -- soon so that we can get back to a more normal state,” he had said.

According to him, the profitability of domestic flights has also been significantly affected, but to a lower degree due to the government’s limitation of the domestic fuel price rise to 25 per cent.

“To partially compensate for the huge spike in costs, we have increased airfares and imposed fuel surcharges but, understandably, these higher airfares impact customer demand, so we can only raise fares so far before people decide to stay home,” he had said.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

स्पाइसजेट को नहीं मिली कोर्ट से राहत

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने सोमवार को स्पाइसजेट और उसके प्रमोटर अजय सिंह की ओर से दायर पुनर्विचार याचिकाओं को खारिज कर दिया, जो कलानिधि मारन और Kal Airways के साथ चल रही कानूनी लड़ाई के संबंध में, 144 करोड़ रुपये जमा करने के पहले के आदेश के खिलाफ दायर की गई थी।

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

स्पाइसजेट को दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट से नहीं मिली राहत

नई दिल्ली, 4 मई (एजेंसी): दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने सोमवार को स्पाइसजेट और उसके प्रवर्तक अजय सिंह की उस याचिका को खारिज कर दिया जिसमें मोडिया क्षेत्र से जुड़े दिग्गज कारोबारी कलानिधि मारन एवं कल एयरवेज के साथ कानूनी विवाद के संबंध में 144 करोड़ रुपये जमा करने के पूर्व आदेश की समीक्षा का अनुरोध किया गया था। न्यायमूर्ति सुब्रमण्यम प्रसाद ने एयरलाइन और सिंह पर 50,000 रुपये का जुर्माना भी लगाया।

अदालत ने 19 जनवरी को स्पाइसजेट और अजय सिंह को 194 करोड़ रुपये की स्वीकृत

■ 144 करोड़ रुपये
जमा कराने के
आदेश का मामला



देनदारी के मुकाबले 6 सप्ताह के भीतर रजिस्ट्री में 144 करोड़ रुपये जमा करने का निर्देश दिया था। राशि जमा करने की समय सीमा 18 मार्च को चार सप्ताह के लिए बढ़ा दी गई। अजय और उनकी किफायती एयरलाइन ने पश्चिम एशिया में जारी युद्ध के बीच वित्तीय संकट सहित कई आधारों पर 18 मार्च के निर्देश पर पुनर्विचार का अनुरोध किया था।

स्पाइसजेट ने इसकी बजाय गुरुग्राम में एक व्यावसायिक संपत्ति को सुरक्षा (गारंटी) के रूप में देने का प्रस्ताव रखा और अदालत को बताया कि केंद्र सरकार उन्हें कुछ सहायता देने के लिए तैयार है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

HC junks SpiceJet's plea to review ₹144 cr payment order in dispute with Maran

PIONEER NEW SERVICE

■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed pleas by SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh seeking a review of an earlier order to deposit ₹144 crore in connection with its legal dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways.

Justice Subramonium Prasad also imposed cost of ₹50,000 on the airline and Singh. "Dismissed with cost of ₹50,000," the judge said while pronouncing the verdict.

On January 19, the court had directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit ₹144 crore with the registry within six weeks



against an admitted liability of ₹194 crore. On March 18, time to make the deposit was extended by four weeks.

Singh and his budget airline sought reconsideration of the March 18 direction on several counts, including financial distress amid the ongoing

war in West Asia. SpiceJet instead offered a commercial property in Gurugram as security and informed the court that the Centre was willing to offer it some assistance.

Maran and Kal Airways opposed the review petitions,

saying the issues arising from financial distress had already been considered and rejected by the Supreme Court.

The matter arises from a dispute regarding the non-issuance of warrants in favour of Maran after the transfer of ownership to Singh, the controlling shareholder of SpiceJet.

The dispute started after Singh took back control of SpiceJet in February 2015 amid a financial crisis at the airline.

Maran and Kal Airways had transferred their entire 35.04 crore equity shares, amounting to a 58.46 per cent stake, in SpiceJet, to its co-founder, Singh, in February 2015 for just ₹2.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

Air India SATS inks pact to fast-track Samsung Data Systems shipments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Mumbai

Gateway and cargo service operator Air India SATS Airport Services (AISATS) has signed an agreement with Samsung Data Systems India to fast-track shipments of the latter's products from the multi-modal cargo hub at the Noida International Airport.

Samsung has a manufacturing facility at Noida in Uttar Pradesh, one of the world's largest mobile manufacturing clusters, producing smartphones, tablets, laptops, and other devices.

This partnership will significantly enhance cargo efficiency, providing a streamlined export pathway for high-value electronics shipments, further strengthening India's position as a leading



electronics exporter with Samsung SDS playing a pivotal role in logistics digital transformation, AISATS said.

The strategic proximity to Samsung's manufacturing unit will enable faster cargo throughput, reduced transit time, and improved access to export markets, driving profitability, it said.

The cargo hub at Noida airport is spread across 87 acres and designed as an integrated logistics platform, with a 30-acre Integrated Cargo Terminal (ICT) and a

57-acre Integrated Warehousing and Logistics Zone to cater to various sectors, including pharmaceuticals, electronics, engineering goods, and e-commerce. The facility has an annual handling capacity of approximately 255,000 metric tonnes of cargo in phase I at its ICT.

"India's role as a global manufacturing hub, particularly in electronics, requires logistics infrastructure that is agile, reliable, and at par with international standards. Our partnership with Samsung SDS is a significant step in enabling high-value, time-sensitive cargo to move seamlessly through a globally benchmarked cargo ecosystem," said Ramanathan Rajamani, CEO, AISATS.

Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने स्पाइसजेट की याचिका खारिज की, 50 हजार का जुर्माना लगाया

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने स्पाइसजेट और उसके मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर तरफ से दायर एक रिव्यू पिटीशन को खारिज कर दिया है। यह पिटीशन उस आदेश के खिलाफ दायर की गई थी जिसमें एयरलाइन को कलानिधि मारन और कल एयरवेज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के साथ चल रहे आर्बिट्रेशन विवाद में 144 करोड़ रुपये जमा करने का निर्देश दिया गया था। रिव्यू पिटीशन खारिज करते हुए कोर्ट ने 50,000 रुपये का जुर्माना भी लगाया है। जस्टिस सुब्रमण्यम प्रसाद की बेंच ने स्पाइसजेट की उस गुजारिश को ठुकरा दिया जिसमें उसने 144 करोड़ रुपये की नकद जमा राशि के बदले गुरुग्राम में अजय सिंह की किसी अचल संपत्ति को जमा करने की पेशकश की थी। सुनवाई के दौरान, स्पाइसजेट की तरफ से पेश हुए सीनियर वकील मुकुल रोहतगी और



अमित सिब्बल ने दलील दी कि एयरलाइन इस समय आर्थिक तंगी से जूझ रही है और ऐसे में 144 करोड़ रुपये जमा करना उसके लिए मुश्किल होगा। उन्होंने प्रस्ताव दिया कि गुरुग्राम में स्थित उस संपत्ति को जमा के तौर पर स्वीकार किया जा सकता है, जो उनके मुताबिक किसी भी तरह के कानूनी विवाद या देनदारी से मुक्त है। उन्होंने यह भी तर्क दिया कि पिछले आदेश में कुछ गलतियां थीं, जिनमें यह टिप्पणी भी शामिल थी कि इसी तरह के आधार पहले भी सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सामने उठाए जा चुके हैं, और यह साबित करने के लिए कोई सबूत नहीं था कि वह संपत्ति किसी भी तरह के कानूनी विवाद या देनदारी से मुक्त है। कल एयरवेज और कलानिधि मारन की तरफ से पेश हुए सीनियर वकील जयंत मेहता ने इस याचिका का विरोध किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

भारत के हवाई यातायात में आई गिरावट, घटी यात्रियों की संख्या

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, मार्च की तुलना में अप्रैल में भारत के हवाई यातायात (एयर ट्रैफिक) में गिरावट दर्ज की गई है। यह गिरावट घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय, दोनों तरह के यात्रियों में देखने को मिली है।

यह गिरावट मुख्य रूप से मिडिल ईस्ट में जारी संघर्षों के कारण आई है, जिसकी वजह से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों की संख्या में तेज कमी देखने को मिली। घरेलू हवाई यातायात में यात्रियों की संख्या अप्रैल में 140.8 लाख रही, जो साल-दर-साल और

● अंतराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में करीब 20 प्रतिशत कमी : महंगे फ्यूल के चलते कई एयरलाइंस नहीं कर पा रही

महीने-दर-महीने करीब 4 प्रतिशत की गिरावट दर्शाता है। वहीं, अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई यातायात में और ज्यादा गिरावट देखी गई, जहां अप्रैल में यात्रियों की संख्या घटकर 28.3 लाख रह गई, जो मार्च के मुकाबले करीब 20 प्रतिशत कम है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

4 MAY 2026

चलती फ्लाइट से कूदा यात्री, हादसा टला

चेन्नई। रविवार तड़के चेन्नई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उस वक्त भारी दहशत फैल गई, जब एक यात्री ने चलती फ्लाइट का आपातकालीन दरवाजा अचानक खोल दिया और बाहर छलांग लगा दी। शारजाह से चेन्नई पहुंची एअर अरेबिया की इस फ्लाइट में 231 यात्री सवार थे। इस दुस्साहसिक और खतरनाक हस्तक के कारण विमान में बैठे बाकी यात्रियों की जान हलक में आ गई। घटना के तुरंत बाद सुरक्षाबलों ने मोर्चा संभाला और एक बड़ा हादसा होने से बाल-बाल टल गया। यह खौफनाक घटना तब घटी जब विमान लैंडिंग के बाद मुख्य रनवे से हटकर टैक्सीवे (रनवे और टर्मिनल को जोड़ने वाला रास्ता) पर धीमी गति से आगे बढ़ रहा था। तभी अचानक 34 साल के एक पुरुष यात्री ने इमरजेंसी गेट खोला और चलती फ्लाइट से नीचे कूद गया।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

5 MAY 2026

HC junks SpiceJet plea for review of order to deposit ₹144 crore

New Delhi: Rejecting an attempt by SpiceJet and its promoter **Ajay Singh** to cite the ongoing West Asia crisis as a ground to seek review of an earlier court order to deposit Rs144 crore in connection with its legal dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways, Delhi high court Monday dismissed the plea.

The Delhi HC also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the airline and Singh for disobeying orders of the Supreme Court to



deposit the amount. Justice Subramonium Prasad noted that "At the very outset, this Court cannot lose sight that the breakout of hostilities in West Asia is an event that has occurred

in Feb 2026, while the apex court directed the arbitral award to become executable way back on 07.07.2023.....this Court is of the opinion that the Review Petitioners are now attempting to take advantage of an event that has taken place more than two years after the passing of the SC order... which cannot be permitted in any manner whatsoever. The Review Petitioners are constantly disobeying the orders of the apex court."

SpiceJet and Singh had argued due to the West Asia conflict all flights stood suspended and that the airline is optimistic about obtaining financial support from Indian govt in view of the unprecedented hardship being faced by aviation sector.

— **Abhinav Garg**