



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

Plan to connect Ahmedabad airport with metro rail awaits Centre's nod

Avinash Nair
Ahmedabad

The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, which handles over 35,000 passengers daily, will soon be connected to Ahmedabad Metro. A ₹1,800-crore plan for the new metro route has been sent to the Centre for approval.

The Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC), which is working on both the Ahmedabad and Surat metro projects, has prepared a detailed project report (DPR) for the new route that will connect the airport to Ahmedabad Metro.

"Under Phase-2B, we have

proposed to link the Ahmedabad airport with Ahmedabad Metro. A final proposal has been sent to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and a sanction is pending. The project is around six-km long and will cost an estimated ₹1,800 crore," a senior official of GMRC told *businessline*.

FOUR STATIONS

This six-km long stretch will have four metro stations. Three of these stations will be elevated while the airport metro station will be underground. "We do not wish to disturb the skyline at the airport and so about one km of this route near the airport will be constructed under-

ground," a senior GMRC official added. The new route will branch off from Motera, near Narendra Modi stadium, and will directly connect the airport via Koteshwar and Koba.

The Phase-I of the Ahmedabad Metro costing ₹12,700 crore is already functional since September 2022, except for a 1.4-kilometer under-construction route between Thaltej and Thaltej Gam. Phase II of the project costing ₹5,384 crore was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2024. However, only 21 of the 28-km-long Phase-II section is currently operational. The rest is under construction.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

15 नवंबर से नोएडा हवाई अड्डे पर परीक्षण उड़ान

एशिया के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डे नोएडा इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट पर दो दिन बाद परीक्षण उड़ान शुरू हो जाएगी। 15 नवंबर से शुरू होने वाला यह परीक्षण करीब एक माह तक चलेगा और इस दौरान विमानों के उतरने और उड़ान भरने का सिलसिला जारी रहेगा। सूत्रों ने मंगलवार को बताया कि हवाई अड्डे पर एयरक्राफ्ट बीच किंग एयर 360 ईआर के जरिये 10 से 14 अक्टूबर तक इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग प्रणाली की जांच की गई थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

{ DEALING WITH WHEELCHAIR USERS }

SC issues mandatory guidelines for airports

Abraham Thomas

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday laid down guidelines for airports across the country on how to deal with wheelchair-bound passengers, laying emphasis on training airport staff to be compassionate towards the needs of such people, who may either have disabilities or be the elderly needing assistance.

A bench headed by justice JB Pardiwala passed the directions while considering a petition filed by Arushi Singh, a wheelchair dependant person who went through a traumatic experience at the Kolkata airport in February this year, when a staff at the airport asked her to stand up during security clearance.

Based on suggestions received from the ministry of civil aviation and airport authority of India, jointly represented by solicitor general Tushar Mehta and additional solicitor general (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, the bench directed those suggestions to be treated as “mandatory guidelines” by airports across the country.

The bench, also comprising justice Pankaj Mithal said, “We dispose the petition laying more stress on sensitising the staff at the airport to be more compas-

THE SUPREME COURT STRESSED ON SENSITISING AIRPORT STAFF TO BE MORE COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS NEEDS OF PEOPLE USING WHEELCHAIRS

sionate towards physically disabled passengers.”

The suggestions by the Centre stated that airport staff should be given regular sensitisation training in addition to their regular security training. While staff, who is required to interact regularly with individuals with disabilities should be trained every three months, other staff serving at the airport should undergo the training once or twice a year. The training, according to Centre, should introduce the staff to various forms of disabilities and their consequences for the afflicted individuals.

The bench said, “The suggestions which have been noted above shall be treated as mandatory guidelines and should not be limited only to wheelchair users, i.e., persons with disabilities but may be extended to elderly people also who may need wheelchair facility.”



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

खाली विमानों के उतरने का सिलसिला एक माह तक जारी रहेगा

तैयारी

30 नवंबर को यात्रियों से भरा विमान उतारने की है योजना

नोएडा हवाईअड्डे पर 15 नवंबर से शुरू होगा उड़ानों का परीक्षण

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
ग्रेटर नोएडा, 12 नवंबर।

गौतमबुद्ध नगर के जेवर स्थित अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर 15 नवंबर से उड़ानों का परीक्षण शुरू हो जाएगा। करीब एक माह तक इस परीक्षण के जारी रहने की संभावना है। इस दौरान हवाईअड्डे के रनवे पर कई विमानन कंपनियों के खाली विमान उतरेंगे और उड़ान भरेंगे।

30 नवंबर को तीन तरह के विमान रनवे पर परीक्षण के लिए उतारे जाएंगे, जिनमें यात्री और कू मेंबर भी मौजूद रहेंगे। यात्रियों के साथ विमानों को उतारने के लिए पांच दिन पहले तक ही डीजीसीए से अनुमति लेनी जरूरी होगी।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि जेवर हवाईअड्डे पर कैट-1 और कैट-3 उपकरण स्थापित किए जा चुके हैं, जो धुंध या कोहरे के दौरान विमान की ऊंचाई और दृश्यता की

सूत्रों ने बताया कि जेवर हवाईअड्डे पर कैट-1 और कैट-3 उपकरण स्थापित किए जा चुके हैं, जो धुंध या कोहरे के दौरान विमान की ऊंचाई और दृश्यता की जानकारी प्रदान करते हैं।

नोएडा के जेवर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर अप्रैल 2025 से व्यावसायिक उड़ानें शुरू कराने की योजना है।



फाइल फोटो

जानकारी प्रदान करते हैं। हवाईअड्डे पर इंस्ट्रुमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम (आइएलएस) भी स्थापित किया गया है, जिसकी अक्टूबर में जांच की गई थी। आइएलएस प्रणाली पायलटों को खराब मौसम और कम दृश्यता में सुरक्षित उतरने में

मदद करती है।

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के सीईओ अरुणवीर सिंह ने बताया कि जेवर हवाईअड्डे पर उड़ान के लिए जरूरी लाइसेंस के आवेदन की प्रक्रिया और

रनवे का परीक्षण 15 नवंबर से शुरू हो जाएगा। इस दौरान हवाईअड्डे पर कई एअरलाइंस के विमानों को उतारा जाएगा।

पहले दिन सिंगापुर और दुबई के लिए उड़ानों को लेकर करार

नोएडा के जेवर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर अप्रैल 2025 से व्यावसायिक उड़ानें शुरू कराने की योजना है। पहले दिन में कुल 30 उड़ानें संचालित की जाएंगी। जिसमें 25 घरेलू, तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय और दो कार्गो उड़ानें शामिल होंगी। पहले विमान सिंगापुर और दुबई के लिए उड़ान भरेंगे।

इन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए लुप्तहांसा और सिंगापुर एअरलाइन के साथ करार (एग्रीमेंट) तय हो चुका है। नोएडा हवाईअड्डा 17 अप्रैल 2025 से अपनी पहली उड़ान शुरू करेगा। हवाईअड्डा संचालन के शुरू होने के 90 दिन पहले से टिकटों की बुकिंग शुरू होगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

नोएडा हवाई अड्डे पर 15 नवंबर से परीक्षण उड़ानों का संचालन

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य

एशिया के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर दो दिन बाद परीक्षण उड़ान शुरू हो जाएगी। 15 नवंबर से शुरू होने वाला यह परीक्षण करीब एक माह तक चलेगा और इस दौरान विमानों के उतरने और उड़ान भरने का सिलसिला जारी रहेगा।

सूत्रों ने मंगलवार को बताया कि जेवर में बने हवाई अड्डे पर एयरक्राफ्ट बीच किंग एयर 360 ईआर के जरिए 10 से 14 अक्टूबर तक इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग प्रणाली की जांच



की गई थी। वहीं हवाई अड्डे पर कैट-वन और कैट-3 उपकरण भी स्थापित किए जा चुके हैं, जो कोहरे में विमान की ऊंचाई और दृश्यता की जानकारी देते हैं।

मिली जानकारी के अनुसार नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने उपकरणों का निरीक्षण भी किया है। उड़ान के लिए

जरूरी लाइसेंस का आवेदन और रनवे का परीक्षण 15 नवंबर से शुरू हो जाएगी। इसे लेकर तैयारियां शुरू कर दी गई हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि 15 नवंबर से 15 दिसंबर तक परीक्षण के लिए विभिन्न एयरलाइंस के खाली विमान पूरे महीने रनवे पर उतारे जाएंगे।

पूर्व रेलवे

मंडल रेल प्रबंधक, पूर्व रेलवे, हावड़ा, डीआरएम



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

Runway testing at Noida Airport this week

DIPIKA KIROLA

GREATER NOIDA: The Runway testing at the Noida International Airport in Jewar, is set to commence this week from November 15, said Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) Officials on Tuesday.

According to a officials, the Noida Airport has been equipped with CAT-1 and CAT-3 systems for monitoring aircraft height and visibility during foggy conditions.

Initial int'l routes will connect to Dubai and Singapore

Following DGCA inspection, the Instrument Landing System (ILS) underwent testing from October 10 to 14 using a Beech King Air 360 ER aircraft. The ILS provides crucial radio navigation guidance to pilots during approach and landing, particularly in poor visibility. It also ensures safe landings

during challenging weather conditions, including fog and rain. "All the processes are being completed at the airport as per the scheduled date. From November 15, planes will land for testing the runway and necessary arrangements are currently underway," said CEO, YEIDA, Arun Vir Singh.

Empty aircraft landing trials at Noida International Airport will take place from November 15 to December 15, with full crew and passenger tests on November

30. The airport must secure DGCA approval by November 25 for safety compliance. Commercial operations are scheduled for April 17, 2025, with 30 flights on the first day, including 25 domestic, 3 international, and 2 cargo. Initial international routes will connect to Dubai and Singapore, in collaboration with Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines. Ticket bookings will open in January 2025. The airport is expected to boost regional economic growth and tourism.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

12 NOVEMBER 2024

Fog at KIA: 15 flights delayed, one diverted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Dense fog disrupted flight schedules at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) early Monday morning, with visibility dropping to as low as 50 metres. The foggy conditions, lasting from 4.30am to 7.30am, delayed over 15 flights and prompted one IndiGo flight from Kolkata to be diverted to Chennai.

Passengers at KIA expressed frustration as they faced longer waiting time due to the delays. The IndiGo flight from Kolkata, originally scheduled to land in Bengaluru, was rerouted to Chennai, leaving passengers scrambling for alternative travel arrangements to reach their destination.

Airport officials said heavy fog, common during this season, resulted in low visibility in some areas, complicating landings and take-offs. "We urge passengers to stay updated with their airlines for the latest flight schedules," said an official.

"With early-morning fog expected over the next two days, travellers are advised to prepare for possible disruptions and monitor real-time updates," said another airport official.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

12 NOVEMBER 2024

3 detained at RGIA for bid to fly with just flight itinerary

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Three persons were detained by CISF personnel at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport when they arrived for a security check without authorised flight tickets on Monday.

The 'papers' they were carrying indicated they were supposed to fly from Hyderabad to Abu Dhabi. Upon investigation, police discovered that the trio had paid for the tickets through an agent, but since the payment was not processed, the tickets were never issued. Unaware of the situation, they arrived at the airport with just a copy of itinerary and were subsequently questioned.

According to police, the three young men, all in their 20s, arrived late Sunday night. Around 1:30 am on Monday, they entered the check-in area through the departure gates and asked Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel about the exit procedures.

The CISF officers noticed the paper displayed travel itinerary without the PNR number and contacted



NO PNR NUMBER

the airline, confirming that the 'tickets' were unauthorised. The trio was taken into custody for questioning and later handed over to local police officials for further investigation.

Police confirmed that the individuals, all from different parts of Hyderabad, held valid Indian passports and had intended to travel abroad for work. However, due to the unprocessed payments, their tickets were never issued. Unfamiliar with the process, they arrived at the airport anyway. "A General Diary entry was made, and after an enquiry and counselling, they were let off. No formal case was filed," said a police official.

Photo for representation



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी, मामला दर्ज

लखनऊ। अकासा एयरलाइंस के 11 विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी देने वाले एक्स अकाउंट हैंडलर के खिलाफ एयरलाइंस के एजीक्यूटिव सिक्योरिटी अफसर अचलेंद्र प्रताप सिंह की शिकायत पर सरोजनीनगर थाने में सोमवार को रिपोर्ट दर्ज हुई है। एक अक्टूबर को मिली धमकी के बाद एयरलाइंस ने जांच में पाया कि विमानों में बम नहीं था। संवाद

Merger with Vistara will result in AI expanding its global footprint

THE IMPACT. Presence on long-haul routes will be strengthened

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Tata Group promoted Air India will be able to boast of an expanded international presence as a result of its merger with Vistara.

The merger will strengthen the airline's presence on critical long-haul routes and open new destinations like Bali and Mauritius.

Speaking to *businessline*, airline representatives said that post-merger Air India will have a presence in over 40 overseas destinations.

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

At present, Air India operates to 35 international destinations while Vistara flies in and out of 18 overseas airports.

Excluding the operations to the same destinations, the combined entity will operate to just over 40 ports of call, ranging from the continental United States to Australia. Besides, Air India will dom-



inate on certain flight routes to the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, and Australia.

HIGH DEMAND ROUTES

Notably, Air India's substantial presence on these high-demand routes will offer enhanced connectivity between Indian cities and metropolises like London, Frankfurt, Paris and New York. Last year, Air India ferried over 10 million international passengers, and Vistara carried nearly three million to and from overseas destinations.

The combined network will also enable Air India to offer more direct flights and convenient connections, making it the carrier of choice for both business and leisure travellers.

Further, by adjusting fre-

quencies to these major cities, the airline will be able to open routes to several global destinations over the next few months.

Among the new cities that are likely to see Air India flights are Manila, Jakarta, Los Angeles, Dallas and Seattle.

Flights to these cities, said an airline official, are subject to aircraft and airport slot availability.

WIDEBODY AIRCRAFT

Air India will get its hands on some widebody aircraft that are in service with Vistara, such as the 787 and A321neo. Presently, Air India has 60 widebody aircraft, such as the Airbus A350, Boeing 777s, and Boeing 787s. On its part, Vistara has seven widebody, medium- to long-range planes.

In addition, the induction of Vistara's aircraft assumes significance in maintaining Air India's current global network as the airline will begin to retrofit its Boeing 777s.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

एयर इंडिया-विस्तारा का विलय पूरा हुआ

एयर इंडिया समूह ने मंगलवार को एयर इंडिया और विस्तारा का विलय पूरा कर लिया। एकीकृत इकाई में सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस की हिस्सेदारी 25.1 फीसदी होगी। विस्तारा टाटा समूह और सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस की संयुक्त उपक्रम थी जिसमें टाटा की 51 फीसदी और सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस की 49 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी थी। टाटा समूह ने इससे पहले अक्टूबर में एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और एआईएक्स कनेक्ट (पूर्व नाम एयर एशिया इंडिया) का एकीकरण किया था। एयर इंडिया समूह अब 300 विमानों के बेड़ों के साथ एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का संचालन करेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

A-I-Vistara merger done; SIA to hold 25% in merged entity

The Air India Group on Tuesday completed the operational and legal merger between Air India and Vistara enabling Singapore Airlines (SIA) to hold a 25.1 per cent stake in the merged entity. Vistara was a 51:49 joint venture between the Tata group and Singapore Airlines. The merger follows consolidation of the Tata Group of airlines' low cost carriers Air India Express and AIX Connect in October. The Air India Group, which includes carriers such as the full-service airline Air India and low-cost carrier Air India Express, would operate a combined fleet of 300 aircraft covering 55 domestic and 48 international destinations.

BS REPORTER



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

IndiGo working with govt to extend lease of Boeing 777s

IndiGo is working with the civil aviation ministry to explore the possibility of extending the wet lease of wide-body Boeing 777 planes from Turkish Airlines, as the existing lease period is ending this week. Currently, IndiGo is operating two wet-leased Boeing 777 planes for flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul.

These are also the only two wide-body aircraft that are in the fleet of the airline, which is India's largest carrier with a domestic market share of over 62 per cent. PTI





Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

No more business class in Air India Express from 2025

Air India Express plans to start reconfiguration of planes having business class seats from April 2025, as the airline focuses on operating narrow-body planes with only economy class seats, according to a senior official. The Tata Group-owned airline that merged AIX Connect with itself on October 1, has rationalised its network and currently has an operational fleet of 90 planes, including over 30 aircraft with dual-class seats.

PTI

बदलाव • दो कंपनियों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ने से किराए में कमी के आसार मर्जर से एअर इंडिया का ऑपरेशन सुधरेगा, इंडिगो भी आक्रामक विस्तार की नीति पर

बिजनेस संवादाता | नई दिल्ली

विस्तार के मर्जर से एअर इंडिया को अपनी फ्लीट सुचारू रूप से चलाने में मदद मिलेगी। दरअसल टाटा सन्स की होल्डिंग वाली ये दोनों एयरलाइंस देश-विदेश के प्रमुख मार्गों पर एक-दूसरे के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा में थीं। इस मर्जर के बाद टाटा समूह ने एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के साथ स्पष्ट रणनीति बनाई है, ताकि समूह नेटवर्क का अधिक से अधिक इस्तेमाल कर सके और आपस में प्रतिस्पर्धी न बने। एविएशन एक्सपर्ट्स का मानना है कि ऐसे में आने वाले समय में एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो के बीच वचस्व की लड़ाई शुरू हो सकती है। इससे ग्राहकों को न सिर्फ ज्यादा विकल्प मिलेंगे, बल्कि किराए में भी कमी आ सकती है, क्योंकि दोनों एयरलाइंस एक-दूसरे के ग्राहकों को लुभाने की कोशिश करेंगी।

एअर इंडिया को 5 साल में मुनाफे में लाने का लक्ष्य: टाटा समूह की विमान.एआई योजना का लक्ष्य अगले 5 वर्षों में एअर इंडिया को पुनर्जीवित करना है। 140 वाइड-बॉडी विमानों सहित 470 नए विमानों के ऑर्डर दिए हैं। यह बेड़े को आधुनिक और क्षमता

एअर इंडिया बड़े हब, एक्सप्रेस छोटे शहरों पर फोकस करेगा

टाटा समूह ने अपनी दोनों एयरलाइंस के लिए अलग-अलग भूमिकाएं तय की हैं। इसके तहत देश की एकमात्र फुल सर्विस कैरियर एअर इंडिया देश-दुनिया के प्रमुख मार्गों पर फोकस करेगी। वहीं, उसकी लो कॉस्ट कैरियर एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस टियर2 और टियर3 को जोड़ने वाले मार्गों पर ध्यान देगी। खासकर मेट्रो-से-गैर-मेट्रो मार्गों और छोटी दूरी के अंतरराष्ट्रीय कनेक्शन के रूप में टियर2 और 3 शहरों से लेकर मध्य पूर्व और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया तक होगा। दुनियाभर की तमाम बड़ी एयरलाइंस इस मॉडल पर काम करती हैं।

	300 विमान 30 हजार कर्मी		214 विमान 20 हजार कर्मी		90 विमान 3,200 कर्मी
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विस्तार की दिशा में बड़ा कदम है। एअर इंडिया में 25% हिस्सेदारी वाली सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस की भागीदारी से अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवा में सुधार व विस्तार करने में मदद मिलेगी। वित्त वर्ष 2024 में टाटा एविएशन की आय 24% बढ़ी थी। घाटा कम होकर 9,077 करोड़ रह गया था।

इंडिगो के बिजनेस मॉडल को चुनौती देना आसान नहीं: मौजूदा वक्त में इंडिगो की भारतीय मार्केट में 62% हिस्सेदारी है। इंडिगो का बिजनेस मॉडल परिचालन दक्षता, कम किराया और विशाल नेटवर्क पर टिका है, जिसे चुनौती देना आसान नहीं है। देश में इंडिगो जैसे लो कॉस्ट

कैरियर की हिस्सेदारी 79% है। इंडिगो की आक्रामक अंतरराष्ट्रीय विस्तार योजनाएं और बिजनेस क्लास सर्विस में उतरने से एअर इंडिया को बड़ी चुनौती मिली है। कंपनी ने 1000 नए विमानों का ऑर्डर दिया है। साथ ही, अकासा एयर जैसे अन्य खिलाड़ियों के प्रवेश और स्पाइसजेट के संभावित रिवाइवल से भी प्रतिस्पर्धा तेज होगी। **भारत दुनिया का तीसरा बड़ा घरेलू एविएशन मार्केट:** भारत इसी साल मई में दुनिया का तीसरा बड़ा घरेलू एविएशन मार्केट बना है। घरेलू सीटों की संख्या 6.9% वार्षिक दर से बढ़ रही है, जो फिलहाल दुनिया में सबसे तेज ग्रोथ है।

Vistara merges with Air India, consolidation in Indian skies

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

Indian aviation space will be left with one full-service carrier after Vistara's merger with Air India gets completed on Tuesday. With the merger, 90 per cent share of the sector will be held by two players.

Vistara's merger with Air India was announced on November 29, 2022, and was set to be completed on November 11, 2024. With the completion of the process, Air India group owned by the Tatas, will comprise Air India, AIX Connect and Vistara.

Full-service carrier Vistara, which started flying on January 9, 2015, was a joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines.

Singapore Airlines will hold 25.1 per cent equity interest in the Air India Group. It held a 49 per cent share in Vistara earlier. Tata had also bought out the shares of Air Asia in its joint venture in Air Asia India and renamed the carrier as AIX Connect.

Meanwhile, the concerns among a section of Air India pilots over the



disparity in retirement age limits between Air India and Vistara seems to remain unresolved. The retirement age for pilots and other employees at Air India is 58 years, while it is 60 years at Vistara.

After the merger of Vistara, there will be only one full-service airline left in the market — Air India. There were five full-service carriers in the past decade. Budget airlines Indigo had earlier announced that it will be adding a few premium seats in its select flights.

While the aviation traf-

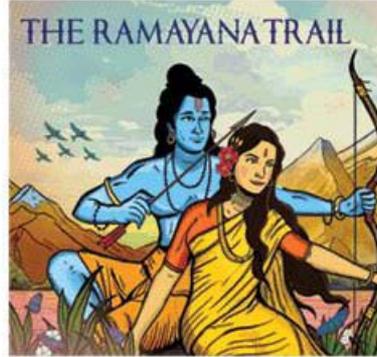
fic is growing at around 15 per cent and new airports are getting added, the sector has witnessed increased consolidation.

In the last few years, three Indian airlines — Kingfisher, Jet Airways and Go First went bankrupt. Even for Vistara, except for one quarter, profits remained elusive in almost a decade of operations. Except for Indigo, the aviation sector is running on heavy losses and holds huge debt. Over 90 per cent of the market share is now held by Indigo and Air India.

रामकथा के जरिये बेड़ा पार करेगी श्रीलंका की एयरलाइंस

जेएनएन, नई दिल्ली : जीवन के झंझावाती भवसागर को पार करने के लिए हम सभी राम कथा को सुनते-सुनाते हैं। अब इसका मर्म समझते हुए श्रीलंका की एयरलाइंस अपनी कमाई बढ़ाने और पर्यटकों को लुभाने के लिए राम नाम का अनुकरण कर रही है। कंपनी के विज्ञापन में राम कथा की अमृतवाणी भारतीयों के मन-मस्तिष्क में गहरा असर भी छोड़ रही है। प्राचीन संस्कृति का इतना सुंदर, भावपूर्ण और मनमोहक चित्रण शायद ही पहले कभी किसी कंपनी ने किया हो। मात्र पांच मिनट में सारी दुनिया को विश्वास दिला दिया गया कि रामायण कोई कथा नहीं बल्कि भारतीय व श्रीलंकाई इतिहास का प्रामाणिक दस्तावेज है जो श्रीलंका यानी लंका की मनोरम यात्रा के लिए प्रेरित करता है।

इस अद्भुत विज्ञापन ने भारतीयों ही नहीं बल्कि विश्व भर के पर्यटकों के मन में कम से कम एक बार श्रीलंका जाकर इतिहास के इन दुर्लभ पन्नों को पलटने की ललक जगा दी



स्रोत • श्रीलंकन एयरलाइंस वेबसाइट

- विज्ञापन में लंका के रामायणकालीन स्थलों को दर्शाकर सबको मोह लिया
- दादी-पोते के जरिये हिंदू धर्म ग्रंथ की प्रामाणिकता समझाई, इंटरनेट पर हिट



हैं। इंटरनेट पर इस विज्ञापन को मिले करोड़ों हिट इसके साक्ष्य हैं। एक्स पर साझा किए गए इस वीडियो में एक भारतीय दादी मां अपने पोते को कहानी की एक किताब से रामायण के बारे में बताती हैं। वह बताती हैं कि श्रीलंका में आज भी वह स्थान मौजूद हैं जो रामायण में बताए गए हैं। वह यह भी बताती हैं कि माता सीता का अपहरण कर राक्षस राजा रावण उन्हें लंका में कहां ले गया था। कहानी सुनाते हुए एनिमेशन की

सहायता ली गई है जो कुछ ही क्षणों में लंका के मूल स्थान में बदल जाते हैं। मनोरम दृश्यों वाली इस यात्रा में इला के निकट स्थित रावण की गुफा को भी दिखाया गया है जहां रावण सीता को अशोक वाटिका ले जाने से पहले ले गया था। प्रसिद्ध तीर्थ सीता अम्मन मंदिर दिखाया गया है। फिर दादी मां बताती हैं कि कैसे भगवान राम की वानर और भालुओं की सेना ने भारत को लंका से जोड़ने वाला राम सेतु बनाया था

जो आज भी भारत में रामेश्वरम से श्रीलंकाई समुद्र तक देखा जा सकता है। विज्ञापन में यह भी बताया गया है कि लक्ष्मण के जीवन की रक्षा के लिए हनुमान जी संजीवनी बूटी लाने के लिए पूरा पहाड़ उठा लाए थे।

इंटरनेट पर अंग्रेजी भाषा के इस विज्ञापन के वीडियो को दुनिया भर में लोगों ने सराहा है। एक यूजर ने कमेंट में कहा कि वह अगले साल अपने दोस्तों के साथ जापान जाने की योजना बना रहे थे, लेकिन अब वह सब श्रीलंका जाएंगे। एक अन्य व्यक्ति ने कहा कि वह नहीं जानते थे कि श्रीलंकाई लोगों ने अब तक रामायणकालीन स्थानों को इतना संजो कर रखा है। इस विज्ञापन में इन ऐतिहासिक स्थलों को खूबसूरत अंदाज में दिखाया गया है। एक अन्य ने कहा कि इस शानदार विज्ञापन ने बचपन की राम कथा की यादों को फिर से ताजा कर दिया। श्रीलंकाई एयरलाइंस ने अपने विज्ञापन के जरिये प्राचीन हिंदू ग्रंथ रामायण को लोगों के दिलों में जीवंत कर दिया।

'Vistara Merger Completes Air India's Restructuring Phase'

Transition of people, assets, operations & customers 'seamless,' says AI chief; S'pore Air to invest more funds in entity

Our Bureau

Mumbai: The Tata Group on Tuesday said it completed the merger of Air India and Vistara, creating a unified full-service airline under the Air India brand. Singapore Airlines (SIA), previously a 49% stakeholder in Vistara, now holds a 25.1% stake in the expanded Air India group, and will invest more capital in the entity. The merger culminates the "consolidation and restructuring phase" of the Air India Group's transformation after the Tata Group acquired it from the government in January 2022, Air India chief executive Campbell Wilson said in a news release. The group has already merged its low-cost brands Air India Express and AirAsia India. "Over the past two years, teams across the four airlines have worked closely together and with

other stakeholders to ensure that the transition of people, assets, operations and, most importantly, customers, was as seamless as possible," he said. In a separate statement, Singapore Airlines emphasised its commitment to India's aviation sector, highlighting its direct stake in the growing market. "This merger reinforces SIA's multi-hub strategy and underscores its long-standing

commitment to India," it said. The merged entity operates more than 5,600 weekly flights to 90 domestic and international destinations, using a fleet of 208 aircraft. Together with low-cost Air India Express, the group flies more than 8,300 weekly flights on 312 routes with a fleet of 300 aircraft. The consolidated group will handle over 120,000 passengers daily, with extended connectivity

to over 800 global destinations through 75 codeshare and inter-line agreements. More than 6,000 Vistara employees joined Air India's organisation, alongside the consolidation of over 4,000 vendor contracts. Additionally, 4.5 million Club Vistara loyalty accounts have been transferred to the newly revamped Air India frequent flyer programme, Maharaja Club,

enhancing the airline's customer loyalty offerings. Wilson explained the complexity of the merger, citing the transfer of 270,000 customer bookings and extensive collaboration between teams to streamline operations. "The merger of Air India and Vistara completes the consolidation and restructuring phase of the Air India Group's post-privatisation transformation journey and is thus a significant milestone," he added.

As part of its operational restructuring, Vistara flights now operate under Air India's 'AI' code, with four-digit numbers beginning with '2' (e.g., UK 955 is now AI 2955). The unified brand aims to provide a seamless booking experience for customers while retaining some familiarity with former Vistara flight codes, the airline said.



Bigger, Stronger

<p>Merged entity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 5,600 weekly flights 90 domestic and international destinations Fleet of 208 aircraft 	<p>Larger Air India group (including Air India and Air India Express)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 8,300 weekly flights 312 routes Fleet of 300 aircraft
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Consolidated group will handle over 120,000 passengers daily

Up, Up Offerings in Air Travel and Away

The future, and money, lie in premiumisation

On Tuesday, Vistara merged into Air India to create India's only full-service airline. This signals a direction that more airlines in India should follow: premium travel. The growth of Indian aviation has been fuelled by budget airlines that reduce competition parameters mainly to on-time performance. Not only does this narrow service differentiation, but it also affects the market dynamics by an excessive reliance on pricing power. Left to itself, this causes unusual market concentration and limits the industry's ability to grow and build capacity. India has been a low-cost aviation market for far too long where a string of airlines offering fancier services struggled to survive. Fortunately, its two dominant airlines, IndiGo and Air India, are working to bulk up their business class offerings that yield higher margins. Both are eyeing bigger slices of the international traffic from India while catering to growing demand for full-service within the country.



Apart from the complementary nature of demand in domestic and international travel — which helps airlines to kit their fleets accordingly — there's a distinct advantage to refuelling abroad where jet fuel is cheaper. Airlines also acquire more wiggle room over pricing in low-yielding domestic routes. The industry derives benefits of airlines diversifying into catering and hospitality segments. Impact of non-aeronautical revenue on direct and indirect employment is substantial. These services involve relatively lower investment in capacity-building. Widening consumer choice over destinations and services adds considerably to industry robustness.

India needs this muscle. Indians are the fastest-growing group of international travellers. Indian airlines could help shift aviation hubs in West and East Asia within the country if they carve out significant shares of outbound travel. A more proactive policy orientation for inbound travel, both leisure and business, will help India's airlines to make bigger inroads in the international aviation market.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

IndiGo explores extending wet lease of Boeing 777 planes



INDIGO IS WORKING with the civil aviation ministry to explore the possibility of extending the wet lease of wide-body Boeing 777 planes from Turkish Airlines, as the existing lease period is ending this week. Currently, it is operating two wet-leased Boeing 777s for flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul. These are also the only two wide-body aircraft that are in the fleet of the airline, which is India's largest with over 62% share. — PTI



Employees wave at a Vistara aircraft on the last day of the airline's operation before its integration with Air India, in Ahmedabad on Monday. PTI

Singapore Airlines now owns 25.1% stake in Air India

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, November 12

FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION of the merger between Vistara and Air India on Monday, Singapore Airlines (SIA), a long-time partner of the Tata group on Tuesday said it now holds 25.1% in Air India.

Singapore Airlines' stake in the Tata Sons-controlled Air India is a result of its 49% stake in Vistara's holding company Tata SIA Airlines. Vistara was officially absorbed into Air India on November 11, marking the end of its nearly decade-long operations. "The board is pleased to announce that the proposed merger has been completed today. All conditions precedent for completion have been fulfilled, satisfied, and/or waived pursuant to the terms of the implementation agreement," SIA said.

With the merger completion, Air India is now classified as an associated company of SIA, while Vistara ceases to hold this designation.

In November 2022, SIA had said that it will make an additional capital injection of up to ₹5,020 crore into the

expanded Air India, with the exact amount subject to various conditions. On November 8, SIA revised this additional capital injection to approximately ₹3,194 crore.

The unified Air India Group, including AI Express, now operates over 8,300 weekly flights on 312 routes, connecting more

The Air India Group now operates over 8,300 weekly flights, connecting over 100 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 300 aircraft

than 100 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 300 aircraft.

The new full-service entity Air India operates over 5,600 weekly flights and connects over 90 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 208 aircraft. It will now be flying over 120,000 passengers a day and offers an extended worldwide connectivity to over 800 destinations through more than 75 code-share and interline partners.

AI Express to reconfigure planes from April 2025

Air India Express plans to start reconfiguration of planes having business class seats from April 2025, as the airline focuses on operating narrow-body planes with only economy class seats, according to a senior official. —PTI





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

12 NOVEMBER 2024

'UK' code to fly into history; AI-Vistara merger to be reality from Nov 12

PTI

NEW DELHI

The nearly 10-year-old Vistara is set to bid adieu to the skies as the well-regarded full service carrier will operate its last domestic and international flights as an independent airline late on Monday night.

Vistara flight UK 986 will fly from Mumbai to Delhi and UK 115 will fly from Delhi to Singapore. It will be the last time that the flight code 'UK' will be dotting the firmament and from Tuesday onwards, Vistara flights will have the new code 'AI2XXX'.



Interestingly, when the airline commenced operations on January 9, 2015, it was the other way around as the maiden flight of Vistara operated from Delhi to Mumbai.

An official on Monday said Vistara's last flights on domestic and international routes are scheduled to be UK 986 and UK 115, respectively. UK 986 is to depart at

around 2250 hours from Mumbai to Delhi and UK 115 is to leave Delhi for Singapore at about 2345 hours.

"Thank you for being part of this unforgettable journey and showering us with your #VistaraLove. We will forever cherish these memories. Please follow @airindia for all the latest updates," Vistara said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

A joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore, Vistara will be merged with Air India, following which Singapore Airlines will have a 25.1 per cent stake in the enlarged entity.

Vistara flies for the last time before Air India merger

Neha LM Tripathi

neha.tripathi@htlvt.com

NEW DELHI: Vistara operated its final flights on Monday night, marking the end of a nine-year journey that redefined premium air travel in a market dominated by low-cost airlines.

The airline's Mumbai-Delhi service (UK 986) and Delhi-Singapore route (UK 115) were its last flights under the Vistara brand before its operational merger with Air India on November 12, marking the end of a significant chapter. "It's a mixed feeling. We at Vistara are excited to be a part of Air India but Vistara was our identity and will always remain our pride," a Vistara official said, capturing the bittersweet sentiment surrounding the merger.

Launched in January 2015 as a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, Vistara quickly established itself as a premium carrier, notably becoming the first domestic airline to introduce Premium Economy class — a

move that helped cement its position in the market vacated by the collapse of Jet Airways.

The merger also completes the second major wave of consolidation in the sector that has already taken place. Once Vistara comes under the Air India banner, India will have only one full service carrier in the market, with the Tata Group running what were previously Air India (now the sole brand), Vistara and Air India express.

In 2006-07, then Indian Airlines merged with Air India and Air Sahara merged with Jet Airways. During the same period, Air Deccan amalgamated with Kingfisher Airlines.

Today, Air India will keep the company of IndiGo, SpiceJet and Akasa Air as the only nationwide service providers.

The merger, however, will keep Vistara alive — albeit not in name — until at least the next summer. Starting Tuesday, all Vistara flights will operate under Air India's code, with Vistara flight numbers being prefixed with "2" — for exam-

How to still choose a Vistara flight

Officials said beginning Tuesday, the switch over — of Vistara flights becoming AI2XXX flights will be complete

Flyers can then look up these numbers during booking. If they are used to flying a particular Vistara route, the same Vistara flight will continue to show up under the new nomenclature

Bookings will happen on AirIndia.com. Customers going to Vistara.com will be redirected to AirIndia.com



ple, UK 955 will become AI 2955. Air India has confirmed that approximately 115,000 customers who purchased pre-merger Vistara tickets will fly on the unified carrier in the first month.

To ensure a smooth transition, Air India has implemented several measures, including deploying additional staff at airports wearing distinctive Air India and Vistara branded

t-shirts with "How may I assist you?" messaging.

For international airports, "directions and information for customers will be placed near check-in desks, customers calling the Vistara contact centre will be automatically directed to Air India representatives, who will ensure a seamless experience during this transition", the official added.

"Air India is undertaking

multiple steps to ensure a smooth on-ground experience for customers as Vistara merges with Air India on November 12, 2024," an Air India official said.

The merger's impact extends beyond operations — over 4.5 million members of Vistara's loyalty programme will be migrated to Air India's Flying Returns, which will be rebranded as 'Maharaja Club'.

The combined entity will serve over 90 domestic and international destinations, with access to more than 800 additional destinations through codeshare partnerships.

While the Vistara brand will fade away, its distinctive livery is expected to remain visible in the skies until May 2025, preserving a temporary reminder of what was once India's premier private full-service carrier.

But, over time, the Air India official added, Vistara airport ticketing offices will slowly become Air India offices and Vistara check-in terminals will become Air India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

12 NOVEMBER 2024

Vistara to fly last flights today before Air India merger

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: The passengers flying Vistara's Mumbai -Delhi 10.50 pm flight and international passengers flying to Singapore from Delhi at 11.45 pm will be the last ones to fly on the Vistara flights as the airline operationally merges with Air India today.

"As per schedule, UK 986 from Mumbai to Delhi and in international sector; UK 115 from Delhi to Singapore will be the last flights to operate as Vistara," a Vistara official said adding, "It's a mixed feeling. We at Vistara are excited to be a part of Air India but Vistara was our identity and will always remain our pride."

The airline that commenced its operations on January 9, 2015, quickly rose to be a preferred airline for many Indian

passengers.

Vistara was India's last airline to launch as a full-service carrier, and experts believe that over the past nine and a half years, it did an incredible job positioning itself as a premium carrier. It was also the first domestic airline to introduce "Premium Economy" class, a move that helped the airline to be a preferred one.

On the other hand, a day before Vistara operationally merges with Air India, the officials said they are ensuring that the Vistara passengers are not inconvenienced Tuesday onwards.

An Air India official said, "Air India is undertaking multiple steps to ensure a smooth on-ground experience for customers as Vistara merges with Air India on November 12, 2024."

The preparations, however, began months ago when Air



The airline commenced its operations on Jan 9, 2015.

India announced that starting September 3, passengers would not be able to book Vistara tickets for dates on or after November 12.

"In the first month after the merger, nearly 115,000 customers who had purchased Vistara tickets pre-merger are expected to fly on unified Air India," a second airline official said.

To be sure, post the merger,

Vistara aircraft will be operated by Air India and will be identified by a special four-digit Air India code beginning with the digit "2". For instance, UK 955 will become AI 2955, helping customers identify the Vistara flight or aircraft.

Air India has maintained that as of now the routes, flight schedule and crew operated by Vistara will continue to be the same, alongside the Vistara in-flight experience that includes the product and services.

Officials close to the merger say that the Vistara livery is expected to continue at least till May 2025. Asked about the airline's preparation for handling passengers on the first day of the merged Air India, the first official mentioned above said, "Air India has deployed additional resources across touchpoints in India and has also worked with airport staff and security agen-

cies to undertake a few steps to help the passengers."

This, he said, include help desk kiosks at the curbside, before terminal building's entry at airports, deploy customer support staff wearing 'How may I assist you?'

"This staff will be wearing an Air India and Vistara branded t-shirts for support so that passengers in need of help are easily able to identify them," he said.

Another official agreed that there were chances of passengers not knowing about the merged airline arriving at the airports. "We have worked with airport security to guide passengers with old Vistara tickets to the nearest help desk or to Air India customer support staff," he said. He also stated that, progressively, Vistara airport ticketing offices will become Air India offices and Vistara check-in terminals will become Air India.

Seaplane lands in Mattupetty dam, raises ecological concerns in Idukki

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

Raising new tourism prospects, the trial run of the Kerala's first seaplane service was held on Monday.

According to officials, the plane took off from Kochi and landed at the Mattupetty dam reservoir in Idukki district around 11 a.m. after a 30-minute flight. An official team led by Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine welcomed the aircraft at Mattupetty, where it halted for over 30 minutes before returning to Kochi.

District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) secretary Jitheesh Jose said the seaplane service would be a game changer for the tourism sector in Idukki, especially Munnar hill station. "Hours of travel and the absence of rail and air connectivity are the major hurdles to attracting premium tourists to Munnar. The seaplane service will help attract from around the globe to Munnar," he said.

A 3.5-kilometre reservoir area and the adequate water storage throughout the reservoir are the main advantages of the seaplane landing facility in Mattupetty. A large number of tourists and tourism stakeholders witnessed the



The seaplane, which took off Kochi, lands at the Mattupetty reservoir near Munnar in Idukki on Monday. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

landing of the seaplane.

Meanwhile, as the State government moves forward with the project, the Forest Department has recommended a mitigation plan to address potential impact of the project on local wildlife if the service was to continue.

'Eco-sensitive zone'

In a letter submitted to Idukki Collector V. Vigneshwari on Sunday, Munnar Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Job J. Neriampampil emphasised the ecological significance of the Mattupetty area. He noted that the reservoir is surrounded by sensitive forest landscapes, including the Anamudi Shola National Park to the north (just 3.5 km away), as well as Pampadum Shola National Park and Kurinjima-

la Sanctuary to the east, both with designated eco-sensitive zones. The Kanan Devan Hills Reserve Forest also extends into the area, providing a habitat for endangered wildlife such as wild elephants, a Schedule I protected species under Indian law.

The letter highlights that wild elephants frequently use the reservoir's catchment area and often move between the national parks through submerged sections of the reservoir. The ACF also expressed concerns that seaplane operations could disturb these animals and escalate human-wildlife conflicts. He stressed that a mitigation plan, approved by the National Board for Wildlife, is essential to manage potential impacts on local wildlife.

Forest Department sources suggest that a carefully implemented mitigation plan could allow the seaplane service to operate with minimal disruption to wildlife. "Wild elephants regularly graze in grasslands near Mattupetty dam and often cross the reservoir at certain points. By keeping these areas off-limits for seaplane landings and tourism activities, we could significantly reduce disturbances," said a Forest Department official. The official added that if a mitigation plan is called for, it would submit a comprehensive proposal.

On Monday, Forest Department sources reported seeing four female elephants about 700 metres from the seaplane's landing site at Mattupetty. "The landing caused noticeable disturbance to the animals, which lingered near the same spot," said a source.

Plea to halt project

During a joint inspection held on November 5, the department voiced its concerns regarding the project's impact on the Mattupetty ecosystem.

Additionally, Idukki-based environmentalist M.N. Jayachandran called for a halt to the seaplane project at Mattupetty dam.

Plan set in motion in 2022, Air India completes merger with Vistara

SUKALP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 12

TATA GROUP'S flagship airline Air India on Tuesday announced the completion of the operational integration and legal merger between itself and Vistara, which was a joint venture between the Tata group and Singapore Airlines. The wheels for the merger were set in motion in 2022 after the Tata group acquired Air India from the government.

With the merger, Singapore Airlines now holds 25.1 per cent stake in the expanded Air India, the Singapore carrier announced separately. It held 49 per cent stake in Vistara. According to Air India, the merger with Vistara has created a full-service carrier of scale and marks a significant milestone in Air India's post-privatisation transformation journey. This merger follows the merger of the group's low-cost airlines Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly Air Asia India), which took effect on October 1.

"The consolidation of the four Tata-owned airlines into one Group operating one full-service and one low-cost airline is part of the ongoing five-year transformation program, Vihaan.AI, which is focussed on establishing Air India Group as a world-class global avi-



Employees wave at a Vistara aircraft on the last day of the airline's operation before its integration with Air India, in Ahmedabad, on Monday.

PTI

ation company with an Indian heart," Air India said. The unified Air India group now operates over 8,300 weekly flights on 312 routes, connecting more than 100 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 300 aircraft.

With the Vistara-Air India merger taking effect, the expanded full-service airline now operates over 5,600 weekly flights and connects more than 90 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 208 aircraft.

"The airline will now be flying over 120,000 passengers every day and offers an extended worldwide connectivity to over 800 destinations through more than 75

codeshare and interline partners," Air India said. Preparation for the merger started over two years ago and has seen the induction of more than 6,000 staff from Vistara into a new organisation structure. The merger preparation also involved harmonisation of operating procedures across the four airlines, and alignment of over 140 IT systems. The merger also involved consolidation of more than 4,000 vendor contracts, migration of 2.7 customer bookings, and transfer of 45 lakh million Club Vistara frequent flyer accounts inducted to Air India's recently-redesigned frequent flyer programme—Maharaja Club.





Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

एअर इंडिया-विस्तारा के विलय की प्रक्रिया पूरी

विस्तारा की आखिरी उड़ान दिल्ली से सिंगापुर

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 12 नवंबर।

तेजी से बढ़ते भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र में एक अहम एकीकरण के तहत एअर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को विस्तारा के साथ विलय को पूरा कर लिया। विलय के बाद अस्तित्व में आई एकीकृत एअरलाइन का आंशिक स्वामित्व (25.1 फीसद) सिंगापुर एअरलाइंस के पास रहेगा। विमानन सेवाओं के 10 साल पूरा होने के बाद विस्तारा ने दिल्ली से सिंगापुर के लिए आखिरी उड़ान ('यूके15') भरी, जो इस कोड की आखिरी उड़ान थी।

उधर, मुंबई से दिल्ली के लिए 'यूके 986' भी इस एअरलाइन की आखिरी घरेलू उड़ान थी। विलय की प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद दोहा से मुंबई



एअर इंडिया ने दोहा-मुंबई उड़ान के साथ की नए सफर की शुरुआत।

एकीकृत इकाई में 3,195 करोड़ रुपए का अतिरिक्त निवेश करेगी सिंगापुर एअरलाइंस। विस्तारित एअरलाइन रोजाना 90 से अधिक गंतव्यों को जोड़ते हुए 1,20,000 से अधिक यात्रियों को अपनी सेवाएं देगी।

के लिए 'एआइ 2286' कोड के साथ विस्तारित एअर इंडिया ने अपनी पहली उड़ान के परिचालन के साथ नए अध्याय की शुरुआत की।

विस्तारित एअरलाइन रोजाना 90 से अधिक गंतव्यों को जोड़ते हुए 1,20,000 से अधिक

यात्रियों को अपनी सेवाएं देगी। विलय की घोषणा नवंबर, 2022 में की गई थी। यह विलय एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और एआइएक्स कनेक्ट के एकीकरण के छह सप्ताह के भीतर पूरा हो गया है। ये दोनों विलय टाटा समूह के लिए एक पूर्ण सेवा

एअरलाइन और एक किफायती एअरलाइन लेकर आए हैं। इससे पहले करीब 10 साल पुरानी एअरलाइन विस्तारा (टाटा और सिंगापुर एअरलाइंस का संयुक्त उद्यम) बंद हो गई। विलय के तहत सिंगापुर एअरलाइंस (एसआइए) विस्तारित इकाई में अतिरिक्त 3,194.5 करोड़ रुपए का निवेश करेगी।

एअर इंडिया के बचान के अनुसार, विस्तारित एअर इंडिया 210 विमानों के बेड़े के साथ 90 से अधिक घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय गंतव्यों को जोड़ते हुए 5,600 से अधिक साप्ताहिक उड़ानें संचालित करेगी। नई एअरलाइन रोजाना 1,20,000 से अधिक यात्रियों को सेवाएं देगी और यह अब देश की सबसे बड़ी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एअरलाइन के साथ साथ दूसरी सबसे बड़ी घरेलू विमानन कंपनी बन गई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024



The airline is focusing on operating narrow-body planes with only economy class seats.

Air India Express to reconfigure planes

Air India Express plans to start reconfiguration of planes having business class seats from April 2025, as the airline focuses on operating narrow-body planes with only economy class seats, according to a senior official.

The Tata Group-owned airline that merged AIX Connect with itself on 1 October, has rationalised its network and currently has an operational fleet of 90 planes, including over 30 aircraft with dual-class seats.

Amid supply chain woes impacting fresh aircraft deliveries, the airline has, so far, inducted 35 white-tail Boeing 737-8 planes. Their count will rise to 50 in the coming months. Many of these white-tail aircraft have varying numbers of business-class seats. Generally, white-tail planes are those that were originally manufactured for a particular airline and later taken by another airline.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

SIA TO INVEST ADDITIONAL RS 3,195 CR IN INTEGRATED ENTITY

Tatas dreams: Air India-Vistara merger creates integrated airline

Enlarged Air India will operate over 5,600 weekly flights, connecting more than 90 domestic & int'l destinations with a fleet of 210 aircraft

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Marking a significant consolidation in the fast-growing Indian aviation space, Air India on Tuesday completed the Vistara merger to create an integrated airline, partly owned by Singapore Airlines, that will be flying over 1,20,000 passengers daily and connect more than 90 destinations.

The completion of the much-awaited amalgamation, which was announced in November 2022, comes within six weeks of the integration of Air India Express and AIX Connect. The two mergers have created a full service carrier and a low-cost carrier of scale for the Tata Group, which is seeking to establish a "world class global aviation company with an Indian heart".

Earlier in the day, the nearly 10-year-old Vistara — a joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines — flew into the sunset and its last flight was from Delhi to Singapore.

As part of the merger, Singapore Airlines (SIA) will invest an additional Rs 3,194.5 crore in the enlarged entity.



The new entity will fly over 1,20,000 passengers every day and offers connectivity to over 800 destinations through more than 75 codeshare and interline partners

The enlarged Air India will operate over 5,600 weekly flights, connecting more than 90 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 210 aircraft, according to an Air India release.

Also, the new entity will fly over 1,20,000 passengers every day and offers an extended worldwide connectivity to over 800 destinations through more

Highlights

- ▶ Air India is now the country's largest international carrier and the second-largest domestic carrier
- ▶ Post-merger, Air India Group operates a combined fleet of 300 planes covering 48 international & 55 domestic destinations, with 312 routes and 8,300 flights per week*
- ▶ The collective staff strength stands at over 30,000*, the release said

than 75 codeshare and interline partners.

It is now the country's largest international carrier and the second-largest domestic carrier.

*Post-merger, Air India Group operates a combined fleet of 300 aircraft covering 55 domestic and 48 international destinations, with 312 routes and 8,300 flights per week. The collective staff strength stands

at over 30,000," the release said.

While the Vistara flight code 'UK' has faded away, the airline's flights will have the code starting with the prefix 'AI2' to help customers choose at the time of booking as Vistara was well regarded for its services whereas Air India, which is in the transformation phase, has been grappling with some service issues.

"The merger of Air India and Vistara completes the consolidation and restructuring phase of the Air India Group's post-privatisation transformation journey, and is thus a significant milestone. Over the past two years, teams across the four airlines have worked closely together and with other stakeholders to ensure that the transition of people, assets, operations and, most importantly, customers, was as seamless as possible," Air India Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson said.

The iconic 'Maharaja', once synonymous with Air India for a long time, will remain in a different form in the merged entity. Around 4.5 million Club Vistara frequent flyer accounts have been transferred to Air India's flying returns programme,

which has been renamed as 'Maharaja Club'.

Amongst many other aspects, Air India said more than 4,000 vendor contracts have been consolidated and 2,70,000 customer bookings migrated. UK115 flight from Delhi to Singapore was the last flight of Vistara with the code 'UK' while UK986 from Mumbai to Delhi was the carrier's last domestic flight.

Starting a new chapter, the merged entity operated its first flight with the code 'AI2286' from Doha to Mumbai.

In the domestic sector, the integrated entity's first flight AI2984 took off from Mumbai to Delhi. All the four flights landed at their respective destinations early in the morning on Tuesday.

The Air India-Vistara merger also marks the second major airline industry consolidation in the country after 2006-2007. Now, Air India is the lone full service Indian carrier.

In 2006-07, Indian Airlines merged with Air India and Air Sahara merged with Jet Airways. During the same period, Air Deccan was amalgamated with Kingfisher Airlines.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

AI Express to reconfigure planes with business class seats from April 2025

NEW DELHI: Air India Express plans to start reconfiguration of planes having business class seats from April 2025, as the airline focuses on operating narrow-body planes with only economy class seats, according to a senior official.

The Tata Group-owned airline that merged AIX Connect with itself on October 1, has rationalised its network and currently has an operational fleet of 90 planes, including over 30 aircraft with dual-class seats.

Amid supply chain woes impacting fresh aircraft deliveries, the airline has, so far, inducted 35 white-tail Boeing 737-8 planes. Their count will rise to 50 in the coming months.

Many of these white-tail aircraft have varying numbers of business-class seats.



Generally, white-tail planes are those that were originally manufactured for a particular airline and later taken by another airline.

The senior airline official said it will start reconfiguration of the aircraft having business class from April onwards.

The carrier wants to offer only economy class seats, the official added.

Currently, the carrier offers economy and business class seats.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

12 NOVEMBER 2024

AIR INDIA-VISTARA MERGER TO BE REALITY FROM NOV 12

From 'UK' to 'AI': Vistara flies into history

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI: After nearly a decade of redefining Indian aviation, Vistara bid farewell as an independent airline. Late Monday night, the well-regarded full-service carrier operated its last domestic and international flights under the iconic flight code 'UK'. From Tuesday, Vistara flights will operate under Air India's new code, 'AI2XXX', marking the end of an era.

The airline's last domestic flight, UK 986, departed from Mumbai to Delhi at 10:50 pm. Meanwhile, the final international service, UK 115, left Delhi for Singapore at 11:45 pm. The routes symbolise a full-circle moment, as Vistara's inau-



CLOSER LOOK

- » Air India CEO assures continuity of Vistara's in-flight experience
- » Club Vistara members transferred to Air India's 'Maharaja Club'
- » SIA invests Rs 3,194 crore, holds 25.1% stake in Air India
- » Merger integrates 2.7 lakh bookings, 45 lakh loyalty members
- » Expanded Air India fleet to operate 174 domestic, international routes
- » 6,500 Vistara employees transition seamlessly to Air India

gural flight on January 9, 2015, connected Delhi to Mumbai.

"Thank you for being part of this unforgettable journey and showering us with your #VistaraLove. We will forever cherish these memories," Vistara said

in a heartfelt message on social media, urging followers to stay updated via Air India's channels.

Vistara is a joint venture between the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines (SIA). Following its merger with Air India,

SIA will hold a 25.1 per cent stake in the expanded entity. This consolidation is part of a broader strategy by Tata Group, which acquired Air India from government ownership in January 2022. **Continued on P6**

Continued from Page 1

The merger represents the second major wave of consolidation in India's aviation sector since 2006-07. Back then, Indian Airlines merged with Air India, while Air Sahara was absorbed by Jet Airways, and Air Deccan integrated with Kingfisher Airlines. Post-merger, Air India will be the sole full-service Indian carrier, boasting an enlarged fleet of 208 aircraft.

The airline will operate on 103 domestic and 71 international routes, covering 49 domestic and 42 international destinations. More aircraft, including wide-body jets, are expected to join the fleet in the

coming months.

This merger follows Tata's earlier consolidation of AirAsia India (now AIX Connect) with Air India Express, creating a unified low-cost airline.

Concerns have been raised about whether Vistara's exceptional service standards will persist under Air India, which is undergoing a transformation phase.

However, both airlines have assured customers that the "Vistara in-flight experience" will remain intact.

In a message to Vistara customers, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson emphasised continuity: "With the merger on the horizon, we assure you

that your Vistara in-flight experience is not going away. You can continue to enjoy the same world-class fleet, exceptional service, and familiar faces under the new code AI2XXX."

The merger involves a massive operational and technological integration. Over 2.7 lakh passenger reservations and more than 45 lakh loyalty program members have already been migrated to Air India's digital systems. Nearly 140 systems, including IT contracts and supply chains, have been harmonised to ensure seamless operations.

Vistara's 70 aircraft, 320 daily flights, and over 3,300 crew members are now part

of Air India's ecosystem. Additionally, around 6,500 Vistara employees have transitioned to Air India.

The merger will also integrate loyalty programs. Club Vistara members will be automatically enrolled in Air India's Flying Returns program, which will be rebranded as the 'Maharaja Club'.

Singapore Airlines views the merger as a strategic move to strengthen its presence in India's fast-growing aviation market. The airline recently announced an additional investment of Rs 3,194.5 crore in Air India.

Post-merger, SIA's consideration includes a 49 per

cent stake in Vistara and Rs 2,058.5 crore in cash, culminating in a 25.1 per cent equity stake in the enlarged Air India. Future capital injections will depend on Air India's growth requirements.

Despite the extensive groundwork, certain issues remain unresolved. Notably, there is discontent among some Air India pilots regarding differences in retirement age.

Air India's retirement age is currently 58, while Vistara's is 60. Concerns have also been raised about pilot seniority post-merger.

However, the leadership remains optimistic. Last month, Vistara Chairman

Bhaskar Bhat remarked that the integration would combine the best practices of both airlines. The iconic Vistara livery will remain visible for some time, maintaining a visual link to the brand's rich legacy.

As Vistara embarks on its final flights tonight, its legacy will live on in the newly integrated Air India.

The merger symbolizes a new chapter in Indian aviation, one that seeks to compete on a global scale.

For passengers, it's the end of one journey and the beginning of another. And for Indian aviation, it marks a bold step toward consolidation and excellence.

From 'UK' to 'Air India': Vistara flies into history



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

Vistara-AI to operate 5.6k weekly flights

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @NewDelhi

AIR India Group has completed the operational integration and legal merger between Air India and Vistara, creating a full-service carrier.

The new full-service carrier will operate over 5,600 weekly flights and connect more than 90 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 208 aircraft.

The airline will now be flying over 120,000 passengers every day and offers an extended worldwide connectivity to over 800 destinations through more than 75 code share and inter-line partners, Air India said in a press statement on Tuesday.



The merger of Air India and Vistara completes the consolidation and restructuring phase of the Air India Group's post-privatisation transformation journey — Campbell Wilson, MD and CEO, Air India



Preparation for the full-service merger commenced more than two years ago, and has seen the induction of more than 6,000 staff from Vistara into a new organisation structure, harmonisation of operating procedures across the four airlines, and alignment of over

140 IT systems.

More than 4,000 vendor contracts have been consolidated, 270,000 customer bookings migrated and 4.5 million Club Vistara frequent flyer accounts inducted to Air India's recently-redesigned frequent flyer program, Maharaja Club. Consequent to the merger of Vistara and Air India, Singapore Airlines, which held a 49% share in Vistara, becomes a 25.1% shareholder in the resultant Air India group. The merger of Air India and Vistara follows the merger of the Group's

low-cost airlines Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly Air Asia India) on 1 October 2024. The unified Air India Group now operates over 8,300 weekly flights on 312 routes, connecting more than 100 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 300 aircraft. In a press statement, the company said that the consolidation of the four Tata-owned airlines into one Group operating one full-service and one low-cost airline is part of the ongoing, five-year transformation program, Vihaan.AI, which is focused on establishing Air India Group as a world-class global aviation company with an Indian heart.



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NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

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कल से इंडिगो में भी बिज़नेस क्लास

AI Image

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■ नई दिल्ली : देश के एविएशन सेक्टर में विस्तार एयरलाइंस के एयर इंडिया में विलय के बाद अब एक नई प्रतिस्पर्धा शुरू होने वाली है। इसे बिजनेस क्लास रन' कहा जा रहा है। इसकी शुरुआत 14 नवंबर से देश की सबसे बड़ी बजट एयरलाइन, इंडिगो द्वारा दिल्ली-मुंबई रूट की फ्लाइट में 12 बिजनेस क्लास सीट से हो रही है। देश में अब तक बिजनेस



क्लास का सबसे बड़ा नेटवर्क एयर इंडिया और मजूर से पहले विस्तार के पास था। अब इंडिगो इस क्षेत्र में कदम रखकर प्रतिस्पर्धा को और तेज करने के

लिए तैयार है। इसका ऐलान 5 अगस्त को एयरलाइंस की 18वीं वर्षगांठ पर इंडिगो के एमडी राहुल भाटिया और सीईओ पीटर एल्बर्स ने किया था। अब इसे लागू करने का समय आ गया है। 14 नवंबर से इस योजना को शुरुआत हो रही है। इंडिगो ने घोषणा की थी कि उनके बिजनेस क्लास में यात्रियों को वर्ल्ड क्लास आरामदायक सीटें और सुविधाएं मिलेंगी। इसमें एक्स्ट्रा लगेज क्वैरी करने की सुविधा के साथ ही, किराया भी बहुत अधिक नहीं होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

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इंडिगो बोइंग 777 विमानों की 'वेट लीज' अवधि बढ़ाने के लिए नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के साथ कर रही है काम

नई दिल्ली, 12 नवम्बर (एजेंसी): विमानन कंपनी 'इंडिगो' नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर टर्किश एयरलाइंस से पट्टे पर लिए 'वाइड-बॉडी' बोइंग 777 विमानों की अवधि बढ़ाने की संभावना तलाश रही है, क्योंकि मौजूदा अवधि इस सप्ताह समाप्त हो रही है।



इंडिगो वर्तमान में दिल्ली और मुंबई से इस्तांबुल तक की उड़ानों के लिए 'वेट-लीज' पर लिए दो बोइंग 777 विमानों का संचालन कर रही है। उसके बड़े में ये दो ही 'वाइड-बॉडी' विमान हैं। इंडिगो भारत की सबसे बड़ी विमानन कंपनी है जिसकी घरेलू बाजार में हिस्सेदारी 62 प्रतिशत से अधिक है।

मामले से जुड़े सूत्रों ने बताया कि कंपनी को विमान पट्टे पर दिए जाने की अवधि का विस्तार नहीं मिल पा रहा है। संपर्क करने पर इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि एयरलाइन 'वेट लीज' को बढ़ाने के वास्ते समाधान तलाशने के लिए मंत्रालय के साथ काम कर रही है। हमारी ए.ओ.जी. (एयरक्राफ्ट ऑन ग्राउंड) से संबंधित क्षमता संबंधी बाधाओं में सुधार हो रहा है लेकिन यह पूरी तरह से खत्म नहीं हुई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

Vistara flies final journey as it merges with Air India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After operating for nearly 10 years, full service carrier Vistara flew into the sunset on Tuesday early morning operating its last flight from the national capital to Singapore.

Vistara a joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines has now merged with Air India, creating an enlarged entity that is now the country's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic carrier.

UK115 flight from Delhi to Singapore was the last flight of Vistara with the code 'UK' while UK986 from Mumbai to Delhi was the carrier's last domestic flight.

Starting a new chapter in India's fast-growing civil aviation space, the merged entity operated its first flight with the code 'AI2286' from



Doha to Mumbai.

In the domestic sector, the integrated entity's first flight AI2984 took off from Mumbai to Delhi.

All the four flights landed at their respective destinations early in the morning on Tuesday, according to information available on the flight tracking website

Flightradar24.Com.

According to an official, the two airlines have been merged, passengers are being issued Air India boarding passes and check-in counters of Vistara at airports have become that of Air India.

The code 'AI2XXX' is being used for Vistara flights that are being operated by Air

India post the merger to help passengers identify the Vistara flight at the time of booking.

On Monday, an official said the integrated entity will be operating services on 103 domestic and 71 international routes. With the merger, first announced in November 2022, Singapore

Airlines will have a 25.1 per cent stake in the integrated entity, which will operate more than 5,500 weekly flights on local and international routes.

A formal announcement about the merger is expected later in the day.

ata Group has led the consolidation wave in Indian aviation with two major mergers in less than two months AIX Connect was integrated with Air India Express on October 1 and now the merger of Vistara with Air India.

Air India, Vistara and AIX Connect together had a domestic market share of little over 29 per cent in September, as per latest official data. Together, the Air India group has an operational fleet of 298 aircraft around 208 with Air India and about 90 with Air India Express.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

13 NOVEMBER 2024

IndiGo seeks extension of Boeing 777 lease amid rising international demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister
IndiGo is working with the civil aviation ministry to explore the possibility of extending the wet lease of wide-body Boeing 777 planes from Turkish Airlines, as the existing lease period is ending this week.

Currently, IndiGo is operating two wet-leased Boeing 777 planes for flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul. These are also the only two wide-body aircraft that are in the fleet of the airline, which is India's largest carrier with a domestic market share of over 62 per cent.

These aircraft were wet-leased to cater to the rising demand for international travel from

India.

IndiGo started operating its first wide-body Boeing 777 aircraft on the Delhi-Istanbul route from February 1, 2023, and began operating the Boeing 777 plane on the Mumbai-Istanbul route from May 17, 2023.

Sources in the know said the airline has not received an extension for continuing with the wet lease of the aircraft.

When contacted, an IndiGo spokesperson on Monday told PTI that the airline is "working with the ministry to explore solutions to extend the wet lease as our AOG (Aircraft On Ground) related capacity constraints, while improving, are not entirely behind us".

The two Boeing 777 planes will be operated by IndiGo till



November 14 for the flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul.

From November 15, the airline will be deploying A321 aircraft for operating these flights, according to information available on

flight tracking website Flightradar24.Com.

Wet lease of an aircraft by an Indian carrier involves the leasing of foreign aircraft, along with crew, maintenance and insurance.

The plane is also under the

operational control of the foreign operator (lessor) and subject to regulatory requirements of the foreign civil aviation authority concerned.

The safety oversight of such operations is also under the purview of the foreign authority concerned, and the role of Indian carriers is limited to commercial aspects of operations.

While announcing the induction of the second Boeing 777 plane into its fleet in May 2023, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said the new aircraft will not only increase capacity on the route but also help keep the fares affordable. The Boeing 777 aircraft has a seating capacity of 400 passengers in a dual-class configuration with 24

business and 376 economy class seats, the airline said.

In the wake of Pratt & Whitney engine issues, the airline has grounded many aircraft, impacting its capacity.

Last month, IndiGo, which also became India's first airline to have more than 400 aircraft, said the number of grounded aircraft has reduced to the high 60s from the mid-70s and will further come down to the sub-60 level by the year-end.

At the end of September, the carrier had a fleet of 410 planes.

As part of expanding its international network to long-haul destinations, IndiGo, in May this year, placed a firm order for 30 Airbus A350-900 aircraft.

एयर इंडिया-विस्तारा का विलय पूरा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): तेजी से बढ़ते भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण एकीकरण के तहत एयर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को विस्तारा के साथ विलय को पूरा कर लिया। अस्तित्व में आई इस एकीकृत एयरलाइन का आंशिक स्वामित्व सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस (एसआईए) के पास रहेगा। यह एयरलाइन प्रतिदिन 1,20,000 से अधिक यात्रियों को सेवाएं देगी और 90 से अधिक गंतव्यों को जोड़ेगी।

विलय की घोषणा नवंबर, 2022 में की गई थी। यह विलय एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और एआईएक्स कनेक्ट के एकीकरण के छह सप्ताह के भीतर पूरा हो गया है। ये दोनों विलय टाटा समूह के लिए एक पूर्ण सेवा एयरलाइन और एक किफायती एयरलाइन लेकर आए हैं।

इससे पहले करीब 10 साल पुरानी एयरलाइन विस्तारा (टाटा और सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस का संयुक्त उद्यम) बंद हो गई और इसकी आखिरी उड़ान दिल्ली से सिंगापुर के लिए थी। विलय के तहत सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस (एसआईए) विस्तारित इकाई में अतिरिक्त 3,194.5 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करेगी। एयर इंडिया



- इस एकीकृत एयरलाइन का आंशिक स्वामित्व सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस के पास रहेगा
- अतिरिक्त 3,194.5 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश भी करेगी सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस

के बयान के अनुसार, विस्तारित एयर इंडिया 210 विमानों के बेड़े के साथ 90 से अधिक घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय गंतव्यों को जोड़ते हुए 5,600 से अधिक साप्ताहिक उड़ानें संचालित करेगी।

इसके अलावा, नई इकाई हर दिन 1,20,000 से अधिक यात्रियों को सेवाएं देगी और 75 से अधिक कोडशेयर और इंटरलाइन भागीदारों के माध्यम से 800 से अधिक गंतव्यों

तक विस्तारित विश्वव्यापी संपर्क प्रदान करेगी। यह अब देश की सबसे बड़ी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरलाइन और दूसरी सबसे बड़ी घरेलू विमानन कंपनी है। बयान के अनुसार, "विलय के बाद, एयर इंडिया समूह में 300 विमानों का संयुक्त बेड़ा हो गया है, जो 55 घरेलू और 48 अंतरराष्ट्रीय गंतव्यों को जोड़ता है। इसमें 312 मार्ग और प्रति सप्ताह 8,300 उड़ानें शामिल हैं।



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

12 NOVEMBER 2024

विस्तारा एयरलाइन ने भरी अंतिम उड़ान

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका एयरलाइन कंपनी 'विस्तारा' ने सोमवार को आखिरी उड़ान संचालित की। कंपनी नौ साल से भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र में सेवाएं दे रही थी। इसका विलय टाटा ग्रुप के स्वामित्व वाली एयर इंडिया में होने जा रहा है। विलय के बाद विस्तारा का परिचालन एयर इंडिया करेगी। कुछ महीनों से विस्तारा की मौजूदा बुकिंग और लॉयल्टी प्रोग्राम वाले यात्रियों को एयर इंडिया में स्थानांतरित करने की प्रक्रिया चल रही थी।

एयर इंडिया-विस्तारा का विलय पूरा

■ हर हफ्ते 5600 उड़ानें संचालित करेगी कंपनी ■ 90 से ज्यादा गंतव्यों को उड़ान भरेगी नई इकाई

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र में एक बड़ा एकीकरण पूरा करते हुए एयर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को कहा कि पूर्ण सेवा एयरलाइन कंपनी विस्तारा का उसके साथ विलय पूरा हो गया है। विलय के बाद अस्तित्व में आई यह इकाई 90 से अधिक गंतव्यों को जोड़ते हुए सप्ताह में 5,600 से अधिक उड़ानों का परिचालन करेगी। विलय के साथ विस्तारित एयर इंडिया में सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस की

हिस्सेदारी 25.1 प्रतिशत हो जाएगी।

एक बयान के अनुसार, 'एयर इंडिया समूह ने एयर इंडिया और विस्तारा के बीच परिचालन एकीकरण और कानूनी विलय को पूरा कर लिया है, जिससे और बड़ी एक पूर्ण-सेवा एयरलाइन अस्तित्व में आई है। इससे पहले एक अक्टूबर, 2024 को समूह की किफायती एयरलाइन- एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और एआईएक्स कनेक्ट (पूर्व में एयर एशिया इंडिया) का विलय हुआ था।' विस्तारा टाटा समूह और सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस का संयुक्त उद्यम था।

एयर इंडिया के प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) और मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) कैम्बेल विल्सन ने कहा कि यह विलय एयर इंडिया समूह की निजीकरण के बाद की बदलाव यात्रा के एकीकरण और पुनर्गठन के चरण को पूरा करता है।

उन्होंने कहा, 'पिछले दो वर्षों में चारों एयरलाइन कंपनियों की टीम ने साथ और अन्य हितधारकों के साथ मिलकर काम किया है।' टाटा समूह ने जनवरी, 2022 में घाटे में चल रही एयर इंडिया का सरकार से अधिग्रहण किया था।

एयर इंडिया के पास 300 विमानों का बेड़ा

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। एयर इंडिया समूह के बेड़े में 300 विमान हैं और वह इनसे 312 घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर एक सप्ताह में लगभग 8,500 उड़ानों का परिचालन करती है। एयरलाइन सूत्रों ने यह जानकारी दी है। फिलहाल, टाटा समूह के स्वामित्व वाली एयर इंडिया के पास कुल 67 बड़े विमान हैं, जिनमें विस्तारा के सात विमान शामिल हैं। एयर इंडिया ने पूर्ण सेवा एयरलाइन कंपनी विस्तारा का अपने साथ विलय कर लिया है। एयर इंडिया और विस्तारा की एकीकृत इकाई भारत की सबसे बड़ी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरलाइन और दूसरी सबसे बड़ी घरेलू एयरलाइन है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि अस्तित्व में आई नई इकाई के पास 210 विमान हैं जो 91 गंतव्यों और 174 मार्गों पर उड़ान भरते हैं और इनकी साप्ताहिक उड़ानें लगभग 5,600 हैं। टाटा समूह एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का भी मालिक है, जिसने एक अक्टूबर को एआईएक्स कनेक्ट का अपने साथ विलय पूरा कर लिया। एयर इंडिया के पास 80 छोटे और 60 बड़े विमानों का बेड़ा है, जबकि विस्तारा के पास 63 छोटे और सात बड़े विमान हैं। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के पास 90 छोटे विमान हैं। एयर इंडिया समूह के पास कुल मिलाकर 300 विमान हैं और यह 55 घरेलू और 48 अंतरराष्ट्रीय समेत कुल 103 गंतव्यों पर सेवाएं दे रही है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि फिलहाल एयरलाइन 312 मार्गों पर उड़ान भर रही है, जिसमें 160 घरेलू और 152 विदेशी मार्ग शामिल हैं।





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

12 NOVEMBER 2024

Dogfight to erupt as Vistara folds

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: The battle for the skies heats up this week as Vistara undertakes its final flight on Monday before its merger with Air India, while rival IndiGo prepares to launch its business class service on Thursday.

Vistara's last domestic service, Flight UK986, will depart from Mumbai to Delhi at 10:50pm, while its final international flight, UK115, will leave New Delhi for Singapore at 11:45pm, both on November 11.

"Thank you for being part of this unforgettable journey and showering us with your #VistaraLove. We will forever cherish these memories. Please follow @airindia for all the latest updates," Vistara said in a post on X.

Founded in 2015, Vistara

quickly rose to prominence in India's premium travel segment, filling a gap left by Jet Airways' 2019 collapse.

Backed by Singapore Airlines, the carrier introduced flatbed seats and premium economy cabins, setting new standards for service and earning a loyal following among business travelers.

Its discontinuation has left flyers disheartened despite assurances from Air India that it will maintain Vistara's service quality.

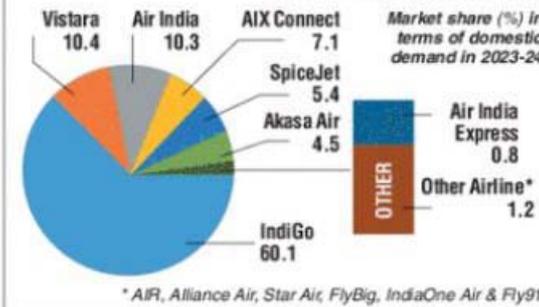
In the first month after the merger, Air India expects to accommodate 115,000 pre-booked Vistara passengers.

Some 270,000 Vistara customers have already transitioned to Air India's booking system, while 4.5 million members of Vistara's Club are being moved to Air India's newly rebranded 'Maharaja Club.'

INDIGO TO LAUNCH BUSINESS CLASS

Airline	Fleet	FY24 revenue in ₹ crore
IndiGo	382	68904
Vistara	70	15191
Air India*	230	51365

*Includes Air India Express 90 aircraft



* AIF, Alliance Air, Star Air, FlyBig, IndiaOne Air & Fly91

Vistara's existing routes, schedules, in-flight products, services and crew members remain unchanged, maintain-

ing service continuity for passengers.

Air India has outlined detailed integration plans, in-

cluding renumbering Vistara flights with new four-digit codes starting with "2," integrating airport ticketing services and implementing customer support kiosks across major airports to ensure continuity and service ease. The merger also grants Singapore Airlines a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India.

Air India's CEO Campbell Wilson said Vistara's premium offerings will persist under Air India's management, highlighting collaborative efforts to ensure "seamless transition" for passengers and staff.

Meanwhile, IndiGo is set to roll out its business class, branded IndiGoStretch, on select Delhi-Mumbai routes starting Thursday, with plans to expand to 12 destinations.

Ticket prices will be approximately 30 per cent lower than Air India's business class, making a Delhi-Mumbai

journey cost around ₹26,000. IndiGoStretch will offer coupe-style seating, premium meals curated by Oberoi Flight Services and features such as a six-way adjustable headrest, a 38-inch seat pitch and additional baggage allowances.

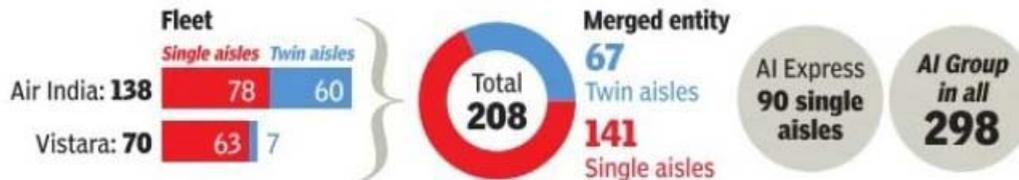
IndiGo's move has been met with scepticism from some aviation analysts, who argue the product may not meet expectations for a premium service.

"IndiGoStretch is best described as 'budget-elite' rather than premium," said analyst Mark Martin, suggesting the airline's efforts to position itself in the premium market might prove challenging.

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said all Delhi-Mumbai flights will operate on IndiGoStretch by January 2025, with the service expanded to Bengaluru and Chennai by March.

MAKING OF A MEGA AIR INDIA: VISTARA MERGES INTO AI TODAY

Tata Group's Vistara will on Tuesday merge into Air India to create the country's only full-service carrier, over a month after forming a big low-cost airline when AirAsia India merged into Air India Express. Here's what Air India, which will be part-owned by Singapore Airlines for the first-time ever, will mean in numbers and how together with AI Express, Tatas plan to become a force to reckon with...



Network

Destinations for AI & Vistara



For AI Express



With AI Express, Tata Group to have **55 domestic & 48 international destinations**

Tata Group has placed firm order for 555 planes – 475 narrow body & 85 wide bodies

Text: Saurabh Sinha

Flight per week

3,200 AI + 2,400 Vistara = 5,600



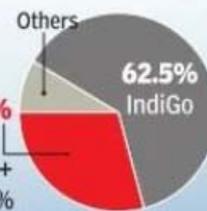
AI Express has **2,700 flights per week**

Routes

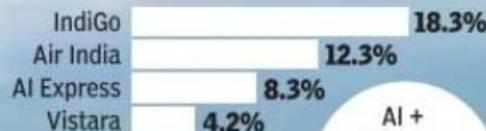
138 for AI
85 for Vistara
174 for merged entity
176 for AI Express
312 for AI Group

Domestic market share (Sept 2024)

AI Grp: **29.1%**
AI 14.7% + Vistara 10.1% + AI Express 4.3%



Mkt share for travel in & out of India (April-June 2024)



AI + Vistara to have over **23,000 employees**

