

NEW AIRPORT | New system essential for guiding pilots during landing; it uses a series of lights perpendicular to the runway

AAI CONDUCTS CRUCIAL TEST AT NMIA RUNWAY

Bhalchandra Chorghade

NAVI MUMBAI

In a significant step towards the operational launch of Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), the Airports Authority of India (AAI) conducted Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) validation at the NMIA runway on Thursday. This marks a crucial advancement in ensuring the airport is ready by its scheduled date of March 31, 2025.

The PAPI system, essential for guiding pilots during landing, uses a series of lights perpendicular to the runway, emitting red and white signals to help pilots maintain the correct glide path.

"The Flight Inspection Unit of AAI conducted the validation to ensure the PAPI system functions correctly. This process is vital for pilot safety and minimising landing errors, involving trials and analyses in both day and night conditions," a source said.

On October 11, 2024, a significant milestone was achieved when the Indian Air Force's C295 aircraft successfully conducted a test landing at NMIA. This event has sparked excitement among millions of residents in the region, signifying a major step towards the airport's operational readiness.

Piloted by an expert IAF crew, the C295, a versatile transport aircraft, landed



precisely on the newly constructed runway. This successful test landing not only demonstrated the airport's capability to handle various types of aircraft but also underscored the collaborative efforts between the IAF and airport authorities to maintain high aviation safety and infrastructure standards.

The Navi Mumbai

International Airport is a crucial infrastructure project aimed at relieving congestion at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport. With Mumbai's growing population and increasing air traffic, NMIA is set to alleviate the pressure on CSMIA, promising a smoother travel experience for passengers.

Residents of Navi Mumbai

and nearby areas have long awaited the operationalisation of NMIA, which is expected to boost the local economy, create jobs and enhance connectivity. The successful test landing of the C295 further fuelled optimism, indicating the nearing completion of the project.

NMIA is one of the largest greenfield international airports under development in India, designed to handle 90 million passengers and 2.5 million tonnes of cargo annually. As the second international airport in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, it is planned to function as a major gateway to the country, operating in tandem with the existing CSMIA as part of an urban dual airport system.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

Udan Yatri Cafe scheme offers affordable refreshments at airports

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 DECEMBER

Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu on Friday announced 'Udaan Yatri Cafe' (air passenger cafe) scheme for providing affordable refreshments at airports while creating employment opportunities in the country.

He said a pilot project in this regard will be launched at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata on December 21 as part of its centenary celebrations and the eighth anniversary of the UDAN regional connectivity scheme. The initiative will later be implemented across the country.

"Passengers traveling under the UDAN scheme will benefit from the new Udaan Yatri Cafe. It is designed to cater specifically to these passengers, offering refreshments like tea, coffee, snacks, and water at affordable prices," the minister said at a press conference.

He said the government is working towards making the air passenger experience



more cost-effective and inclusive.

Initially, the scheme will be available at airports operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), and will later be taken to other airports in the country.

Naidu noted that the kiosks are also set to create employment opportunities at airports.

"Kiosks will be set up in the departure area of Kolkata Airport as part of the initiative, which will later be expanded to other airports managed by the Airports Authority of India. The aim is to make air travel more inclusive and accessible while addressing the growing concerns about overpriced food and beverages

at airports," he added.

The minister also highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of showcasing India's rich cultural heritage through airport architecture. He emphasized that efforts are underway to make airports more inclusive as the aviation sector in India experiences rapid growth and increased employment opportunities.

"We will host three months of celebrations so that the entire city of Kolkata and Bengal can join in the festivities. On December 21, we will commemorate the occasion by releasing a special stamp and coin to honor 100 years of the airport," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

13 DECEMBER 2024

Navi Mum airport completes PAPI flight calibration

Mumbai: The upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has completed the calibration of an equipment that gives visual guidance to pilots to help them descend and land aircraft safely onto the runway. Called PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator), it's a series of light that indicates to the pilot whether the aircraft is too high or too low when carrying out an approach to touchdown on the runway.

"Navi Mumbai International Airport, in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India (AAI), successfully completed flight calibration of the PAPI equipment of its South Runway 08/26. This calibration process will bring NMIA one step closer to performing flight trials," said NMIA in a press statement.

PAPI is an essential visual navigation aid and a critical component of the aeronautical ground lighting system which assists pilots in maintaining the correct glide slope during landing. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

13 DECEMBER 2024

Most passengers find food, beverages at airports 'excessively' priced

MUMBAI, Dec 12: A significant percentage of airline passengers said food and beverages that are sold at airports in the country are "excessively" priced, with some passengers paying more than 200 per cent than at organized retail and railway stations, according to a survey.

According to online social platform LocalCircles, 60 per cent of airline passengers surveyed say they were charged 100-200 per cent more for food and beverages at airports as compared to railway stations.

The survey conducted recently, received over 28,000 responses from airline passengers located in 309 districts of India. Of these, 61 per cent respondents were men and 39 per cent women. Around 43 per cent respondents were from Tier-1 cities in the country, 30 per cent from Tier-2 and remaining 27 per cent were from Tier-3, 4, 5 and rural districts.

Citing example of a *samosa* or patty that may cost more than Rs 200, or a *thali* above Rs 500, it said that the price of coffee or tea or a cold beverage may easily cost Rs 200-300, two to three times of what one would pay at a food outlet at the mall.

The pain of the passengers gets aggravated during times of delays due to fog or other reasons and they wait for many hours to board flights without any affordable food in sight, it said.

The scenario is unlike at the railway stations, particularly the big ones in Delhi and Mumbai where travellers have a choice between small food stalls /outlets, small vendors and big franchise outlets, it said.

Highly priced edibles being available at most airports is resulting in many passengers thinking twice before spending on food at airports and in some cases even carrying their own snacks or meals, though it is cumbersome with the security and weight restrictions along with the underlying risk of spillage.

With the government's ambition of making flying more affordable and 70 per cent of total traffic being on low-cost carriers, it is critical that lower cost food options are made available at airports. LocalCircles said, adding the price and volume equation needs to be re-worked such that food stalls run on higher volumes and lower prices instead of high prices and lower volumes. - PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

13 DECEMBER 2024

Cumulative capex of airports expected to grow 12% at ₹60K cr in 3 yrs: Report

PTI
MUMBAI

The cumulative capex (capital expenditure) of Indian airports is expected to grow 12 per cent at Rs 60,000 crore in the three years through FY27 from Rs 53,000 crore during 2022-2024, to add required infrastructure for about 65 million passengers per annum, ratings agency CRISIL said on Thursday.

CRISIL said 70 per cent of this capex is expected to be funded through debt.

The ratings agency said its projections are based on a study of 11 private airports in the country that account for 60 per cent of the total passenger traffic in FY24.

In addition to the expected



growth in passenger traffic, increase in tariffs and spending within the airport ecosystem will lift revenue of private Indian airports at an average growth rate of 17 per cent between FY25 and FY27, it said.

That, coupled with improved funding access and a predictable regulatory regime, will support the strong credit profiles of private airports.

"The number of passengers at Indian airports is expected to clock a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8-9 per cent over fiscals 2025-2027 from 376 million last fiscal. Growth in domestic traffic, which comprises over 80 per cent of overall volume, will ride on rising demand from the business and leisure segments and government push to increase penetration of air travel," said Manish Gupta, Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, CRISIL Ratings.

As of July 2024, the government had operationalised 84 airports and 579 routes under its regional connectivity UDAN scheme to increase regional penetration, CRISIL said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

‘कोलकाता हवाई अड्डा उड्डयन की विरासत’

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू ने कोलकाता स्थित नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के शताब्दी समारोह पर शुक्रवार को लोगो का अनावरण किया।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह भारतीय विमानन इतिहास में महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है। यह ऐतिहासिक हवाई अड्डा नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र की विरासत और प्रगति का प्रमाण भी है। उन्होंने कुंभ को लेकर प्रयागराज के लिए अतिरिक्त उड़ानें संचालित करने की योजना के बारे में जानकारी दी।

केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे ने करोड़ों यात्रियों को सेवा प्रदान की है।





Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

IGIA: Transnational fake passport rackets busted

23 agents, 19 foreign nationals arrested in operation

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: With multiple highly organised fake passport rackets disrobed, the IGI airport police have unearthed vast networks of transnational crimes. Operations against agents as well as foreign nationals engaged in forging and misusing Indian passports have arrested 23 agents as well as 19 foreign nationals.

The criminal syndicates exploited India's porous borders, allowing foreign nationals from neighbouring countries to enter illegally and obtain Indian passports through forged documents. These fraudulent identities facilitated unauthorised international travel and were linked to broader crimes such as human trafficking, terrorism, and financial fraud. The misuse of Indian passports not only compromised the nation's global reputation but also posed significant risks to international security and immigration systems.

DCP, IGI Airport, Usha

Rangnani, emphasised the gravity of the matter while stating, "The misuse of Indian passports undermines the trust placed in our nation's identity systems. Through meticulous investigations and sustained efforts, we are determined to dismantle these networks and ensure that those attempting to exploit our systems face the full force of the law.

One of the main successes was when, in March 2024, a Bangladeshi national, who was trying to go back from the UAE by using an Indian passport that was forged, was caught. During subsequent investigations, a well-knit syndicate operating out of West Bengal, fabricating identity documents for foreigners, was busted. This had resulted in the arrest of four agents and the recovery of 21 fake passports, along with blank government stamp papers and other forged material, Rangnani mentioned.

In another case in November 2024, a Bangladeshi national was caught while

attempting to travel to Russia with a forged Indian passport. This led to the arrest of a key agent in West Bengal and the exposure of a network that used fake voter IDs and ration cards to procure fraudulent passports. Similar operations throughout the year revealed a wide-ranging network that covered states such as Maharashtra, Delhi, and Rajasthan, with agents and accomplices creating forged documents to enable illegal international travel, Rangnani said.

Foreign nationals from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, and Afghanistan accessed gangs to obtain forged Indian passports using fake documents.

Investigations revealed officials unwittingly issued IDs based on falsified papers. The IGI Airport Police dismantled these syndicates through digital forensics, document verification, and suspect interrogations. Collaborations with passport offices and awareness programmes enhanced prevention efforts.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

जेवर एयरपोर्ट से मिलेगी पिक एंड ड्रॉप की सुविधा

महिंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी को बनाया पार्टनर, 17 अप्रैल 2025 से संचालित होगा हवाई अड्डा

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नोएडा

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ने महिंद्रा को कैब सेवा के लिए अपना पार्टनर बनाया है। इसके तहत एयरपोर्ट आने जाने वाले मुसाफिर को प्रीमियम पिक एंड ड्रॉप मिलेगा। यहां चलने वाली कैब 100 प्रतिशत इलेक्ट्रिक यानी जीरो कार्बन उत्सर्जन की होंगी। कैब की बुकिंग मोबाइल ऐप, वेबसाइट, कॉल सेंटर, एयरपोर्ट कियोस्क आदि माध्यम से की जा सकेगी। हालांकि पहले फेज में कितने कैब महिंद्रा चलाएगा इसका अनारंभमेत भी जल्द किया जाएगा। 9 दिसंबर को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर सफल लैंडिंग कराई गई। नोएडा स्थापना दिवस 17 अप्रैल को एयरपोर्ट पूरी तरह से कॉमर्शियल कर दिया जाएगा। पहले फेज की क्षमता 1.2 करोड़

की होगी। इसके लिए एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ने तैयारी का रही है। इसी के तहत महिंद्रा को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ने अपना पार्टनर बनाते हुए समझौता पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किए। ये सेवा एयरपोर्ट से 24 घंटे



सातों दिन मिलेगी। इसके लिए ऐप या वेबसाइट से सिर्फ कैब बुक करनी होगी। पेमेंट मोड ऑनलाइन होगा। इसके बाद ये

सेवा आपको एयरपोर्ट तक लेकर जाएगी और एयरपोर्ट से आपके घर तक ड्रॉप भी करेगी। इस कैब में सुरक्षा के सभी फीचर भी होंगे।

पहले फेज की क्षमता 1.2 करोड़ यात्री

अब तक करीब 8 हजार करोड़ रुपए खर्च हो चुके हैं। कॉमर्शियल फ्लाइट संचालन के लिए कंपनी डायरेक्टर ऑफ सिविल एविएशन को एअरोड्रोम लाइसेंस के लिए आवेदन करेंगे। 15 दिसंबर के बाद किया जाएगा। अधिकतम 90 दिनों में लाइसेंस मिल जाएगा। इस एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण स्विस कंपनी ज्यूरिख इंटरनेशनल कर रही है। कंपनी 40 साल तक इस एयरपोर्ट को रन करेगी। पहले फेज की क्षमता 1.2 करोड़ पैसंजर की है। 17 अप्रैल से रोजाना 65 फ्लाइट उड़ान भरेंगी। इसमें 62 फ्लाइट डोमेस्टिक होंगी। दो इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट होंगी और कार्गो फ्लाइट होंगी। पूरा बनने के बाद ये एशिया का चौथा सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट हो जाएगा।



नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन ने कहा, कि हमने प्रीमियम, पूर्णतः इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी सेवा देने के लिए महिंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी के साथ साझेदारी की है, ताकि हवाई अड्डे से सीधे आपके गंतव्य तक निर्बाध तथा पर्यावरण-अनुकूल यात्रा उपलब्ध कराई जा सके। 1334

हेक्टेयर में बन रहे इस एयरपोर्ट के पहले चरण का 85 प्रतिशत काम पूरा हो चुका है। हालांकि इस पूरे एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण 6 हजार 500 हेक्टेयर में चार फेज में किया जाएगा। जिसमें 29 हजार 650 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होने हैं। पहले फेज के निर्माण में 10056 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

13 DECEMBER 2024

Cumulative capex of airports expected to grow 12 per cent at ₹60,000 Crore in three years: Report



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The cumulative capex (capital expenditure) of Indian airports is expected to grow 12 per cent at Rs 60,000 crore in the three years through FY27 from Rs 53,000 crore during 2022-2024, to add required infrastructure for about 65 million passengers per annum, ratings agency CRISIL said on Thursday. CRISIL said 70 per cent of this capex is expected to be funded through debt.

The ratings agency said its projections are based on a study of 11 private airports in the country that account for 60 per cent of the total passenger traffic in FY24.

In addition to the expected growth in passenger traffic, increase in tariffs and spending within the airport ecosystem will lift revenue of private Indian airports at an

average growth rate of 17 per cent between FY25 and FY27, it said.

That, coupled with improved funding access and a predictable regulatory regime, will support the strong credit profiles of private airports.

“The number of passengers at Indian airports is expected to clock a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8-9 per cent over fiscals 2025-2027 from 376 million last fiscal. Growth in domestic traffic, which comprises over 80 per cent of overall volume, will ride on rising demand from the business and leisure segments and government push to increase penetration of air travel,” said Manish Gupta, Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, CRISIL Ratings, As of July 2024, the government had operationalised 84 airports

and 579 routes under its regional connectivity UDAN scheme to increase regional penetration, CRISIL said, adding that while the impact is small at present, with air traffic in these airports contributing around 2 per cent of domestic air traffic, these regional routes are important as they provide feeder traffic to the metro airports.

International traffic will also grow, driven by increased business travel, easing visa requirements, and improving connectivity with airlines adding new routes, it said.

To cater to this growth, airport operators are investing in aviation-related infrastructure such as terminal buildings and runways to create room for increased passenger flow.

Additionally, airports are developing non-aeronautical offerings such as lounge, car parking, food and beverage spaces and retail outlets, which will help increase revenue, too, the ratings agency said.

“Although around 70 per cent of capex is expected to be funded by debt, the credit profiles of private airports will remain strong over fiscals 2025-27 due to an average projected increase of 17 per cent in revenue of airports in the CRISIL Ratings study,” CRISIL Ratings Director Ankit Hakhu said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

13 DECEMBER 2024

CISF security personnel sanctioned for Noida and Navi Mumbai airports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Union government has sanctioned a combined strength of more than 2,800 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel to guard two soon-to-be operational international airports in Noida and in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai, official sources said Thursday.

The ministry of home affairs (MHA), under whose command the CISF works, had sanctioned 1,840 posts for the Navi Mumbai airport and 1,030 for the Noida International Airport (NIA) in Uttar Pradesh. The total CISF manpower sanctioned for providing a counter-terrorist cover to the two upcoming airports is 2,870.

The sanction of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) manpower is for the first phase of operationalisation of the two airports. The force's strength will be enhanced once these airports finish phase II, sources said.

The security units, to be headed by Deputy Inspector General rank officers, will take charge once the infrastructure to install security gadgets and other logistics get ready at both the facilities.

Being developed by the Adani

Group, the Navi Mumbai International Airport project will be completed in five phases and will have a total handling capacity of 9 crore passengers per annum. The first phase will have a capacity to handle 2 crore passengers per annum.

Commercial operations at this airport, second in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region after the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, are expected to begin by March-April, 2025.

The NIA greenfield facility is being built in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddh Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh, about 75 km from Delhi, and will be the national capital region's second international civil aviation facility after the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. It is also expected to get operational for passenger operations by April next year.

The CISF is the national civil aviation security force that guards 68 airports at present. It provides a counter-terrorist cover to these facilities, thronged by lakhs of domestic and international passengers every day. The force frisks passengers, checks their baggage and undertakes anti-sabotage, counter-terrorist and counter-hijack checks in coordination with other agencies.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

Noida airport all set to have own cab service

Shafaque.Alam
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Noida: Still exploring how best to connect Jewar with the rest of NCR, Noida International Airport (NIA) on Friday announced it will launch operations next year with a dedicated cab service.

For this, NIA concessionaire Yamuna Expressway International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL) – a subsidiary of Zurich AG – has tied up with Mahindra Logistics Mobility for an all-electric fleet of taxis that will ferry passengers to and from the airport. Officials said the cab service will be available “round-the-clock for passengers”.

There were no details of fleet size or fares, which sources said will be decided in the weeks to come. “Fleet size would depend on the footfall at

the airport,” a source told TOI.

Jewar, where the airport is coming up, is 60km from Noida and around 80km from Delhi’s IGI airport. The Delhi metro network and Noida metro’s Aqua Line can take passengers up to Pari Chowk in Greater Noida, which is still 40km from the airport.

UP govt has multiple connectivity options on the table, among them a metro line and rapid rail. But these are long-term plans. NIA aims to launch commercial operations in April 2025 and will have to build its connectivity plan around cabs and buses. There has been talk of a bus service as well. But the cab service is the first concrete connectivity measure to be announced by either NIA or UP govt that passengers can use as soon as the airport begins operations.

Village answers trunk calls, saves jumbos

Rajib Dutta | TNN

Dibrugarh: A trunk call is loaded with meaning—could be an admonitory don't-mess-with-me, or an SOS. Village headman Hem Chandra Borah froze mid-step around 6.10pm Wednesday as a piercing cry shattered the quiet at Khamjongia in Assam's Jorhat district — a sound both alien and sorrowful. There was no mistaking it: the elephants were in trouble.

Four wild elephants, including a calf, had strayed from their herd and found themselves trapped in a large, deep pond. The animals thrashed, their efforts to climb slippery slopes thwarted at every turn. With each failed attempt, their trumpeting grew more desperate, and the calf's distress struck a par-



TRUMPET TRIUMPH

ticularly harrowing chord.

"When we rushed to the site, we found the elephants struggling to climb out. The forest officials suggested waiting for an excavator, but we knew time was critical. Especially for the calf, which was visibly exhausted, waiting wasn't an option," Borah said.

Determined to save the animals, the villagers quick-

ly gathered tools such as hoes, shovels, and spades. Men, women, and even children worked tirelessly to dig a makeshift path along the pond's edge, forming a slope the elephants could use to escape.

Hour by hour, inch by inch, the slope took shape. The calf, shivering and drained, watched from the water's edge as if sensing the monu-

mental effort being made for its life. By 10.15pm, the young calf scrambled up the slope. The remaining elephants, one after another, followed.

"It was a moment of pure joy when they finally walked free," said Ujjal Baruah, a resident who participated in the rescue. "Though the elephants were limping, we were relieved to see them without major injuries. If we hadn't acted quickly, the calf might not have survived the night."

When the last giant heaved itself onto solid ground, an almost reverent silence fell over the crowd. The elephants, their mud-slicked bodies glistening in the pale light, lingered for a moment as if acknowledging their rescuers. Then, with slow, deliberate steps, they vanished into the dark embrace of the forest.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

13 DECEMBER 2024

Daily direct flight to Ahmedabad launched

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Dec 12: Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA), Guwahati, managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited, started a new daily direct flight service, connecting Guwahati with Ahmedabad.

“The inaugural flight was celebrated with a cake-cutting ceremony and engaging passenger activities. This new service, which commenced on December 10, marks a significant milestone in enhancing the connectivity and fostering economic growth. Notably, it is the longest flight route from Guwahati,” a statement said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

SpiceJet clears pending EPF dues of ₹160 cr

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Budget passenger carrier SpiceJet on Friday said that it

has cleared all pending employee provident fund (PF) dues amounting to ₹160.07 crore, spanning over two years.

The airlines said it has cleared all pending statutory liabilities, including Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), Goods and Services Tax (GST), and employee salary dues, over the past three months since raising ₹3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).

Notably, the airlines cited that being "current on its statutory dues, it is poised to

save significantly on interest payments". Since October, SpiceJet said that it has been utilising internal cash flows to meet its statutory obligations, including PF and TDS payments, reflecting improved financial health and operational discipline.

"We are pleased to announce the clearance of all pending employee PF dues. This marks a new chapter in SpiceJet's journey. By clearing all pending statutory dues and settling disputes with lessors and creditors, we are demonstrating our

unwavering commitment to operational excellence, financial prudence, and the welfare of our employees," said Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet. "With the successful implementation of our financial turnaround strategy, we are confident in our ability to continue delivering superior service to our customers and achieving sustainable growth."

SpiceJet has also resolved multiple outstanding disputes with aircraft lessors and other creditors.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

Christmas cheer for travellers as airfares rise only moderately

EASIER ON THE WALLET. Rising competition and increased capacity cited as reasons

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Airfares in the Christmas season will pinch less due to heightened competition and increased capacity on key domestic and international routes.

Demand for travel is high and airlines are reporting strong loads. While fares are higher compared to last year, there is no price surge.

In fact, on some routes, fares are even lower compared to last year as supply has grown faster than demand. While domestic flights in December have increased 7 per cent year-on-year, international flights to/from India have grown by 10 per cent.

“Christmas-New Year is a traditional peak travel season but ticket prices are fairly moderate this year,” said Indiver Rastogi, president and group head (global business travel), Thomas Cook India.

According to ixigo, average one-way airfares for popular destinations like Phuket and Singapore for travel between December 24 and 31 have risen by 2-14 per cent on a year-on-year basis. This is for tickets booked one month in advance.

The biggest hike is seen on flights between Mumbai-Bali (47 per cent) and Delhi-Bangkok (51 per cent). However, fares between Mumbai and Bangkok have dropped by 23 per cent in the same period with the introduction of two new flights in winter season. Ticket prices to London too are lower compared to last year, ixigo data show.

HOLIDAY PLANS

Typically, people plan long haul holidays three to six months in advance because of uncertainty over visas and to get better deals. Trips to short haul destinations are planned closer to date.

According to Rastogi, return economy class airfares to Europe (booked six

Average airfares for Christmas – New Year period

Origin	Destination	Average one-way fare for travel between Dec 24 - Jan 1		Increase/decrease (in %)
		2024	2025	
International				
Delhi	Bangkok	15,736	23,732	51%
Mumbai	Bali	18,748	27,697	47%
Mumbai	London	54,743	29,545	-46%
Mumbai	Bangkok	23,945	18,354	-23%
Domestic				
Delhi	Srinagar	6,584	7,782	18%
Delhi	Hyderabad	5,732	6,728	17%
Chennai	Kolkata	9,142	5,991	-34%
Delhi	Kolkata	8,287	5,811	-30%

Data covers routes seeing most increase/decrease. All figures in ₹
Booking period – 30 days before travel date

Source: ixigo

months in advance) for the Christmas season have risen by 20 per cent over last year.

“Australia and New Zealand are presenting an interesting trend with airfares remaining on par or marginally lower than last year offering value to Indian travellers,” Rastogi added.

It’s a mixed bag on domestic routes too as fares are lower by 3-34 per cent.

The sharpest drop is seen on routes from Kolkata to Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai. According to ixigo the biggest hike for Christmas season fare is between Delhi - Srinagar (18 per cent) and

Delhi - Hyderabad (17 per cent). “We are not seeing domestic fares peak on festive occasions but if you take an average for the entire month it is at the same level as last year,” said an airline executive.

While demand was subdued during Diwali there was a pick up in subsequent dates with domestic airlines carrying 5 lakh plus passengers on November 17 - a first for Indian skies.

The record was broken a week later with another 5 plus lakh traffic carriage. “Wedding season drove the traffic growth more than Diwali,” he quipped.

Another executive said that domestic air traffic growth between January-October is only 5.3 per cent which was slower than capacity addition.

“International demand is relatively healthier. While there is pressure on unit revenue and yields, fuel price is lower fuel and that is helping airlines,” he said.

At \$1.25 billion, exports of Boeing India's spares soar

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Global growth of civil aviation, along with high domestic demand, has led aerospace major Boeing to remain the largest exporter of aircraft parts and software from India.

Boeing India and South Asia President Salil Gupte told *businessline* that the aerospace major's annual sourcing from India had grown significantly over the past decade, rising from \$250 million to over \$1.25 billion annually. "This marks a substantial increase, driven by the expansion of the supplier network and advancements in manufacturing capabilities," Gupte said.

"It is also fair to say that this growth is remarkable considering that the production of the aeroplanes themselves on the civil side has been much lower than before the pandemic." Boeing remains confident about retaining its leadership as the largest foreign OEM with highest exports from India. "Boeing will continue to invest in local manufacturing, co-production, co-development, skill enhancement, and innovation initiatives to support the growth of the overall aerospace, defence,



and commercial aviation ecosystem," he said.

'1.5X' GROWTH

Besides, Boeing has been able to achieve a '1.5X' growth in its supplier network over the past decade. Currently, the aerospace major has over 300 suppliers.

This trend, Gupte said, reflects steady progress, with recent years showcasing advancements in technology adoption and manufacturing complexity. As per Gupte, having a robust supply chain in India is mutually beneficial for Boeing and India.

"A strong supply chain helps Boeing support the growth of India's manufacturing capabilities in aerospace and defence, empowering suppliers to compete on a global scale," he said. "It is crucial to continue building on this success, as growing a robust and diversified supply chain across strong manufacturing and

engineering bases such as India is key to building a resilient global supply chain." Gupte added that India has become the largest site for Boeing outside of the United States in terms of workforce.

"Maintaining a strong supply chain encourages cooperation and builds an environment conducive to the exchange of knowledge and the development of new technologies," he said.

"It is imperative to invest in supplier development activities since they improve the competencies and aptitudes of Indian suppliers and bring them into compliance with international standards." Additionally, he said that India's aerospace and defence sectors are experiencing a burgeoning growth that is bringing together a myriad of talent.

Boeing has a full order book from commercial and defence clients, including Air India, Air India Express, Akasa Air, SpiceJet, Blue Dart and Quikjet in the commercial aviation sector. On the defence side, India operates Boeing platforms such as the C-17 Globemaster, AH-64 Apache helicopters, CH-47 Chinooks, P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, VVIP aircraft, and Head of State aircraft, making India one of Boeing's largest defence markets.

टाटा की विमान कंपनियों की सीट क्षमता 20 फीसदी बढ़ी

सुरजीत दास गुप्ता
नई दिल्ली, 13 दिसंबर

टाटा समूह की विमानन कंपनियों की घरेलू एवं अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिचालन की एकीकृत सीट क्षमता में 20 फीसदी की शानदार वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। एयर इंडिया को नियंत्रित करने वाले समूह द्वारा साझा किए गए आंकड़ों के अनुसार, कुल सीट क्षमता वर्ष 2023 में करीब 6.40 करोड़ थी जो बढ़कर चालू वर्ष में करीब 7.67 करोड़ हो चुकी है। हाल में विस्तारा का एयर इंडिया में विलय हुआ है। टाटा समूह एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का भी परिचालन करता है जिसमें एयर एशिया इंडिया का विलय हुआ था।

टाटा समूह के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, घरेलू यात्री सेवा के तहत सीट क्षमता पिछले साल करीब 4.58 करोड़ सीटों की थी जो 19 फीसदी बढ़कर 2024 में 5.47 करोड़ सीटों तक पहुंच चुकी है। यह विमानन कंपनियों की कुल घरेलू सीट क्षमता का 28 फीसदी से अधिक है। पिछले साल यह सभी विमानन कंपनियों की कुल सीट क्षमता का 25 फीसदी रहा था।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिचालन में भी टाटा समूह की विमानन कंपनियों ने अपनी सीट क्षमता में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि दर्ज की है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए टाटा समूह की विमानन कंपनियों की सीट क्षमता 2023 में करीब 1.81 करोड़ सीटों की थी जो 21 फीसदी बढ़कर 2024 में 2.19 करोड़ सीटों की हो चुकी है।



क्षमता विस्तार

■ घरेलू के साथ अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिचालन में भी टाटा समूह की विमानन कंपनियों ने अपनी सीट क्षमता बढ़ाई

■ घरेलू बाजार में इंडिगो की आधी सीट क्षमता तक पहुंचने में टाटा समूह को अभी भी करना होगा लंबा सफर

मगर सच्चाई यह है कि घरेलू परिचालन की सीट क्षमता तेजी से बढ़ने के बावजूद टाटा समूह को बाजार में अपनी प्रमुख प्रतिस्पर्धी विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो की आधी सीट क्षमता तक पहुंचने में भी अभी लंबा सफर तय करना होगा। दुनिया के सबसे भरोसेमंद विमानन

विश्लेषण फर्म सिरियम के अनुसार, टाटा समूह मजबूत ग्राहक आधार के बावजूद 11.9 करोड़ सीटों के साथ चालू वर्ष को अलविदा करेगा जो पिछले साल के मुकाबले 9 फीसदी अधिक है।

अच्छी खबर यह है कि शुरुआती समस्याओं के बावजूद टाटा समूह की प्रमुख विमानन कंपनी एयर इंडिया की सीट क्षमता में जबरदस्त वृद्धि हुई है। सिरियम के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, एयर इंडिया की सीट क्षमता इस साल 39 फीसदी से अधिक बढ़कर 2.35 करोड़ सीटों की हो गई। इसमें विस्तारा को शामिल नहीं किया गया है क्योंकि उसकी गणना अलग से की गई है।

जाहिर तौर पर इंडिगो, टाटा समूह की विमानन कंपनियों और अकासा की सीट क्षमता में शानदार वृद्धि हुई है। नई विमानन कंपनी आकासा ने अपनी सीट क्षमता में पिछले साल के मुकाबले 20 फीसदी से अधिक की वृद्धि दर्ज की है। इन विमानन कंपनियों की सीट क्षमता बढ़ने से घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए भारत की सीट क्षमता एक साल पहले के मुकाबले 6.84 फीसदी बढ़कर 19.35 करोड़ सीटों तक पहुंच चुकी है। इस तथ्य के बावजूद सीट क्षमता में शानदार वृद्धि हुई है कि गो फर्स्ट ने कोई उड़ान नहीं भरी और स्पाइसजेट एवं अलायंस एयर जैसी विमानन कंपनियों ने अपनी सीट क्षमता कम कर दी थी।

समान अवधि में उड़ानों की संख्या 5.4 फीसदी बढ़कर 11.3 लाख तक पहुंच गई। इसके अलावा सभी विमानन कंपनियों की कुल उपलब्ध सीट किलोमीटर में चालू कैलेंडर वर्ष के दौरान 7.33 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई।

‘देश को शीर्ष विमानन केंद्र बनाने का लक्ष्य’

भाषा

नई दिल्ली, 13 दिसंबर

केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र में पिछले 10 साल में तीव्र वृद्धि हुई है और अब लक्ष्य देश को शीर्ष घरेलू विमानन केंद्र बनाना है। नायडू ने कहा कि भारत में नागर विमानन क्षेत्र ने पिछले दस वर्षों में तेज वृद्धि की है और अब हमारा लक्ष्य वैश्विक स्तर पर नंबर एक घरेलू केंद्र बनना होना चाहिए।

नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस

अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे कोलकाता के 100 साल पूरे होने पर शताब्दी समारोह का प्रतीक चिह्न (लोगो) पेश करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले 10 साल नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र के लिए गौरवशाली रहे हैं। इस दौरान कई हवाई अड्डों का विस्तार हुआ है और यात्रियों की संख्या में भारी वृद्धि हुई है। नायडू ने कहा, 'प्रधानमंत्री के नेतृत्व में हमने सारी सीमाएं लांघ दी हैं और अब हम पूरी दुनिया में तीसरे सबसे बड़े घरेलू नागर विमानन केंद्र बन गए हैं, और अब हमें इसे और आगे ले जाना है।'



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

SpiceJet clears all PF dues worth ₹160 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 13 December

SpiceJet on Friday said it has cleared all employee provident fund (PF) dues worth ₹160.07 crore that were pending for over two years.

The low-cost carrier, which has been facing multiple headwinds, recently raised ₹3,000 crore, following which it has been clearing statutory, GST (Goods and Services

Tax) and other dues.

Employee provident fund dues amounting to ₹160.07 crore, spanning over two years, have been cleared, the airline said in a release.

According to the release, since October, SpiceJet has been utilising its internal cash flows to meet its statutory obligations, including provident fund and TDS (Tax Deduction at Source) payments, the release said.

The airline has also resolved various disputes with aircraft lessors and other creditors.

In October, the Economic Offence Wing of the Delhi Police registered a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy against Spice Jet's managing director Ajay Singh and some other top officers of the company for failing to remit its share of Provident Fund of more than ₹65 crore.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

■ SpiceJet Settles PF Dues of ₹160 crore



NEW DELHI: SpiceJet said it has cleared all pending employee provident fund (PF) dues amounting to

₹160 crore, covering two years. In the past three months, since raising ₹3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), SpiceJet has cleared all statutory liabilities, including Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), Goods and Services Tax (GST), and pending employee salaries. By addressing these dues, the airline is set to reduce interest costs significantly. Since October, SpiceJet has been using its internal cash flows to meet statutory obligations and has also resolved multiple disputes with aircraft lessors and creditors. SpiceJet has laid off 716 permanent male employees and 618 females, along with 531 male and 30 female non-permanent staff in FY24. **Our Bureau**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

SpiceJet clears staff's pending PF dues

RAGHAVAGGARWAL
New Delhi, December 13

DOMESTIC CARRIER SPICEJET on Friday said it has cleared all the pending employee provident fund (PF) dues of its employees, amounting to ₹160.07 crore. With this, the airline has cleared all of its statutory liabilities, including tax deducted at source (TDS) and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

This comes less than three months after the airline raised ₹3,000 crore through a qualified institutional placement (QIP) from the likes of Goldman Sachs (Singapore), Morgan Stanley Asia, Tata Mutual Fund, and Discovery Global Opportunity.

The airline said that it is "poised to save significantly" on interest payments with these dues now clear.

"This marks a new chapter in SpiceJet's journey," said Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director, SpiceJet. In September, the airline said it cleared all its GST dues. In October, it cleared ₹310 crore worth of pending TDS dues for 2024-25.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

13 DECEMBER 2024



Direct flight service between Rajamahendravaram and Delhi launched

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

Direct flight services between Rajamahendravaram in East Godavari district and Delhi were officially inaugurated on Thursday with the landing of an Indigo flight at Madhurapudi Airport. The inaugural flight was welcomed with a ceremonial water cannon salute by the airport staff, marking the beginning of a significant enhancement in regional connectivity.

Aviation Minister, K Ram-mohan Naidu along with Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari and Kakinada MP Udaya Srinivas, were on board the historic inaugural flight. Upon arrival, Rammohan Naidu expressed optimism about the positive impact of the new route on the region's connectivity, stating that it would open up opportunities for both business and tourism by linking Rajamahendravaram with major cities across the country.

"This direct flight service will not only ease travel between Rajamahendravaram and the national capital but also improve access to other key destinations across India, fostering economic growth and regional development," Rammohan Naidu said in his

address.

Purandeswari, who has been a vocal advocate for improved air connectivity in the region, also spoke about future plans to expand flight services from Rajamahendravaram. She revealed that discussions were underway to introduce direct flights to popular pilgrimage destinations such as Tirupati, Shirdi, and Ayodhya, further boosting the city's connectivity for religious tourists.

In a statement, Indigo confirmed that the Delhi-Rajamahendravaram route would now be served with daily non-stop flights, providing greater convenience and flexibility for travelers. The airline expressed confidence that the new route would be well-received by passengers seeking easier and faster travel options between the two cities.

The commencement of direct flights is seen as a major milestone for Rajamahendravaram and surrounding areas, which have long been advocating for improved transportation links to major urban cities. With improved air travel options, local leaders and business representatives are hopeful that the new service will contribute to the region's economic and social development in the years to come.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

इंडिगो के 400 यात्री इस्तांबुल में फंसे

इस्तांबुल। नई दिल्ली-मुंबई और तुर्किये के बीच यात्रा करने वाले करीब 400 यात्री इस्तांबुल



हवाईअड्डे पर 24 घंटे तक फंसे रहे। जब परेशान यात्रियों ने सवाल करना शुरू किया तो एयरलाइन का

कहना था कि परिचालन संबंधी कारणों से उड़ान में देरी हुई। यात्रियों ने दावा किया कि उड़ान में पहले देरी हुई और फिर बिना किसी जानकारी के उसे रद्द कर दिया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024



SpiceJet 'clears' ₹160-crore pending provident fund dues

SpiceJet said it has cleared all employees' provident fund (EPF) dues worth ₹160.07 crore pending for over two years. The low-cost carrier, which had been facing multiple headwinds, recently raised ₹3,000 crore, following which it had been clearing statutory Goods and Services Tax, and other dues. According to a release, since October, SpiceJet had been utilising internal cash flows to meet statutory obligations, including EPF and taxes deducted at source.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

Cleared ₹160 cr worth pending employee PF dues: SpiceJet



New Delhi: SpiceJet on Friday said it has cleared all employee provident fund dues worth ₹160.07 crore that were pending for over two years. The low-cost carrier, which has been facing multiple headwinds, recently raised ₹3,000 crore, following which it has been clearing statutory, GST and other dues. Employee provident fund dues amounting to ₹160.07 crore, spanning over two years, have been cleared, the airline said.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

Aim is to make India world's top domestic aviation hub: Naidu

NEW DELHI: India's civil aviation sector has witnessed rapid growth over the last ten years and now the aim is to make the country the top global domestic aviation hub, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu said on Friday.

The civil aviation sector in India has witnessed rapid growth over the last ten years and the aim should be now to become the number one domestic hub globally, Naidu said.

Launching the centenary celebration logo on completion of 100 years of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport Kolkata, he noted that the last ten years have been glorious for the civil aviation sector with expansion of several airports and the way the number of passengers has expanded.



Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu

"Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, we have pushed all the boundaries, and now we are the third largest domestic country a civil aviation hub in the whole world itself, and now we need to take it forward," Naidu said.

"We need to break the barriers once again, level up the civil aviation sector in the country, and achieve to be the number one domestic hub in the whole world," he added.

Terming the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme as revolutionary, Naidu said crores of people have taken to the skies in over 600 flights in the last 8 years under the initiative.

"The civil aviation sector, we believe, is one of the growing sectors in the country, and the kind of effect it has on the economy, we have seen in the last 10 years," the minister said.

From the point of economic growth or job creation, it is a very important sector, he added.

"So we have the challenge of taking it to a new level in the next five years," Naidu said.

The minister unveiled the centenary celebrations logo of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata at Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan here.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

Cleared pending EPF dues of ₹160 cr: SpiceJet

NEW DELHI: SpiceJet on Friday said it has cleared all employee provident fund (EPF) dues worth Rs 160.07 crore that were pending for over two years.

The low-cost carrier, which has been facing multiple headwinds, recently raised Rs 3,000 crore, following which it has been clearing statutory, GST (Goods and Services Tax) and other dues.

Employee provident fund dues amounting to Rs 160.07 crore, spanning over two years, have been cleared, the airline said in a release.

According to the release,



since October, SpiceJet has been utilising its internal cash flows to meet its statutory obligations, including provident fund and TDS (Tax Deduction at Source) payments, the release said.

The airline has also resolved various disputes with aircraft lessors and other creditors.

PII



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

SpiceJet clears pending PF dues of ₹160 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

SPICEJET on Friday said it has cleared all pending employee provident fund (PF) dues of ₹160.07 crore, spanning over two years. Over the past three months, since raising ₹3,000 crore via a qualified institutional placement (QIP), the airline said it has cleared all pending statutory liabilities, including tax deducted at source (TDS), goods and services tax (GST), and employee salary dues.

"This marks a new chapter in SpiceJet's journey. By clearing statutory dues and settling disputes with lessors and creditors, we are demonstrating unwavering commitment to operational excellence, financial prudence and welfare of our employees," said Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet. He added, "With implementation of financial turnaround strategy, we are confident in our ability to continue delivering superior service to customers and achieving sustainable growth."

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

इंडिगो की उड़ान में फिर देरी, इस्तांबुल हवाई अड्डे पर फंसे भारतीय

मुम्बई, 13 दिसम्बर (एजेंसी):
मुम्बई और दिल्ली आने वाली उड़ानों
में विलंब के कारण विमानन कंपनी
इंडिगो के सैकड़ों यात्री इस्तांबुल
हवाई अड्डे पर फंस गए। विमानन
कंपनी ने इस असुविधा के लिए खेद
जताया है।

इंडिगो विमानन कंपनी रोजाना
दिल्ली और मुम्बई से इस्तांबुल के
लिए एक-एक उड़ान संचालित करती
है। कई यात्रियों ने सोशल मीडिया
पर 24 घंटे तक की देरी और हवाई
अड्डे पर सुविधाओं की कमी के बारे
में शिकायत की। प्रभावित यात्रियों में
से कई लोग बृहस्पतिवार से ही फंसे
हुए हैं। हालांकि, विशिष्ट विवरण का
खुलासा नहीं किया गया।

IndiGo Airlines apologises 'On-Time, Every Time'



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Days after being tagged as the worst airlines in the world, Indigo on Friday apologised to the passengers stranded in Istanbul airport for hours owing to delays in flights to New Delhi and Mumbai. The airliner apologised for the inconvenience and assured that the issue would be sorted at the earliest. Passengers took to social media to recount their terrible experience.

The trouble began when a flight from Istanbul to Delhi, scheduled to depart at 8.10 pm on December 12, was initially delayed to the next day at 1.30 pm. Passengers were left at the airport with little information or support from IndiGo staff.

Similarly, the flight from Istanbul to Mumbai, originally set to depart at 8.15 pm on December 12, was first pushed to 11.00 pm, then delayed again to the following morning at 10 am. IndiGo operates one flight each daily from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul with Boeing 777 aircraft. Many of them have been stranded since Thursday.

While the exact details of the impacted flights could not be immediately ascertained. Frustrated travellers took to social media to express their dissatisfaction, saying they

received no communication from IndiGo regarding the ongoing delays. Despite promises of lounge access as compensation, the lounge at Istanbul Airport was overcrowded and unable to accommodate all the stranded travellers, they claimed on social media.

"We are aware of the delays on the IndiGo flight connections to Istanbul. We accord the highest priority towards customer convenience and our teams are available at all contact points to assist customers," IndiGo said in a statement on Friday. The airline also apologised for the "inconvenience" caused to the passengers.

Some passengers also shared pictures of people stuck at the airport. In a post on X, a passenger said, "first time to India and stranded at the Istanbul Airport for the last 24 hours because the IndiGo flight keeps cancelling. No food. No clarity. No representative. No compensation. Pathetic treatment".

"Lot of people stranded at the airport due to pathetic services by @IndiGo6E and @TurkishAirlines operators. Never book flights with them as they don't value passengers time. You can never be on time with @IndiGo6E," another passenger said in a post on X.

Continued on page 2

IndiGo Airlines apologises 'On-Time, Every Time'

From page 1

Another passenger took to X on Friday at 3:50 AM (IST) to express his frustration about the delay, writing, "Hey @IndiGo6E, your handling of flight 6E0018 from Istanbul to Mumbai on Dec 12 has been a disaster. Scheduled to depart at 8:15 PM, it was delayed to 11 PM on the same day. Fine, we waited. Then it was shockingly pushed to 10 AM the next day. What's going on?"

He added, "To make matters worse, NO ONE from Indigo was present at the gate to explain the situation. The news came from Turkish Airlines crew, and there was no formal announcement, just complete chaos. We were told

we'd get lounge access at Istanbul airport as compensation. But the lounge was far too small to accommodate the huge number of stranded passengers. Many of us were left standing for hours without proper facilities. Seriously, @IndiGo6E?" IndiGo responded to his complaint, stating, "we sincerely apologise for the inconvenience and will connect with you."

Earlier this month, IndiGo was ranked among the "world's worst airlines" in the 2024 AirHelp Score report, securing 103rd place out of 109 with a score of 4.80. This low rating is attributed to poor customer satisfaction and the airline's handling of flight disruption claims.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

14 DECEMBER 2024

बोइंग इंडिया के निर्यात में वृद्धि

नागरिक उड़ान की वैश्विक वृद्धि और उच्च घरेलू मांग के कारण एयरोस्पेस प्रमुख बोइंग भारत से विमान के पुर्जों और सॉफ्टवेयर का सबसे बड़ा निर्यातक बना हुआ है। बोइंग इंडिया और दक्षिण एशिया के अध्यक्ष सलिल गुप्ते ने कहा कि पिछले एक दशक में भारत से एयरोस्पेस प्रमुख की वार्षिक सॉर्सिंग में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है, जो \$250 मिलियन से बढ़कर \$1.25 बिलियन से अधिक हो गई है।

गुप्ते ने बिजनेसलाइन को बताया, "आपूर्तिकर्ता नेटवर्क के विस्तार और विनिर्माण क्षमताओं में प्रगति के कारण यह एक महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि है।" यह कहना भी उचित है कि यह वृद्धि वास्तव में उल्लेखनीय है, यह देखते हुए कि नागरिक पक्ष पर हवाई जहाजों का उत्पादन महामारी से पहले की तुलना में बहुत कम रहा है। बोइंग भारत से सबसे अधिक निर्यात करने वाले सबसे बड़े विदेशी ओईएम के रूप में अपने नेतृत्व को बनाए रखने के बारे में आश्वस्त है।

भारत को दुनिया का शीर्ष विमानन केंद्र बनाने का लक्ष्य



■ प्रधानमंत्री के नेतृत्व में हमने सारी सीमाएं लांघ दी हैं और अब हम पूरी दुनिया में तीसरे सबसे बड़े घरेलू नागर विमानन केन्द्र बन गये हैं : नायडू

■ भारत में नागर विमानन क्षेत्र ने पिछले दस वर्षों में तेज वृद्धि की है और अब हमारा लक्ष्य विश्व में शीर्ष पर पहुंचना है

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र में पिछले 10 साल में तीव्र वृद्धि हुई है और अब लक्ष्य देश को शीर्ष घरेलू विमानन केंद्र बनाना है। नायडू ने कहा कि भारत में नागर विमानन क्षेत्र ने पिछले दस वर्षों में तेज वृद्धि की है और अब हमारा लक्ष्य वैश्विक स्तर पर नंबर एक घरेलू केंद्र बनना होना चाहिए।

नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे कोलकाता के 100 साल पूरे होने पर शताब्दी समारोह का प्रतीक चिह्न (लोगो) पेश करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले 10 साल नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र के लिए गौरवशाली रहे हैं। इस दौरान कई हवाई अड्डों का विस्तार हुआ है और यात्रियों की संख्या में भारी वृद्धि हुई है।

मंत्री ने यहां राजीव गांधी भवन में कोलकाता में नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के शताब्दी समारोह के प्रतीक चिह्न का अनावरण किया। नायडू ने कहा, "प्रधानमंत्री के नेतृत्व में हमने सारी सीमाएं लांघ दी हैं। ...और अब हम पूरी दुनिया में तीसरे सबसे बड़े घरेलू नागर विमानन केंद्र बन गए हैं, और अब हमें इसे और आगे ले जाना है।"

उन्होंने कहा, "हमें एक बार फिर बाधाओं को तोड़ना होगा, देश में नागर विमानन क्षेत्र को ऊपर उठाना होगा, तथा पूरे विश्व में नंबर एक घरेलू केंद्र बनना होगा।" उड़ान (उड़ें देश का आम नागरिक) योजना को क्रांतिकारी बताते हुए नायडू ने कहा कि इस पहल के तहत पिछले आठ साल में करोड़ों लोगों ने 600 से अधिक उड़ानों के माध्यम से हवाई यात्रा की है।