



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

17 DECEMBER 2024

Delhi airport now connects 150 destinations

NEW DELHI, Dec 16: Delhi airport operator DIAL on Monday said the airport now provides connectivity to 150 destinations. On Sunday, Thai AirAsia X launched direct flights between Delhi and Bangkok-Don Mueang (DMK), marking the 150th destination connected to Delhi airport, according to a release. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) also said it has become the first airport in the country to connect 150 destinations.

“Of all the long-haul destinations from India, 88 per cent of destinations are connected from Delhi and 56 per cent of all long-haul weekly flights departing from India, operate from Delhi. Almost 50 per cent (42 per cent to be precise) of long-haul passengers from India chose Delhi airport as their gateway,” it said. The airport handles around 1,400 flight movements daily. – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

iDeCK to submit report on 2nd airport for Bengaluru within a week: MB Patil

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

The Infrastructure Development Corporation of (Karnataka) Ltd (iDeCK) report on a second airport for Bengaluru will be released within a week, confirmed MB Patil, Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries.

Responding to a question in the Assembly, he stated that once the report is received, a proposal will be submitted to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to finalise the location of the airport.

Land acquisition will commence following the AAI's approval of a location, he added.

Patil previously confirmed five potential locations including Dabaspeta, Nelamangala, Bidadi, and

Harohalli. Earlier this year, the minister highlighted the necessity for a second airport in Bengaluru.

Last year, the existing airport handled 37.5 million passengers and over 400,000 tonnes of cargo. The airport is expected to reach its peak passenger capacity by 2033 and its maximum cargo capacity by 2040.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

17 DECEMBER 2024

रिकॉर्ड: दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से 150 जगह की फ्लाइट

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली का आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट 150 स्थलों से जुड़ा देश का पहला एयरपोर्ट बन गया है। देश की लंबी दूरी की सभी जगहों में से 88% जगहें दिल्ली से जुड़ी हुई हैं। इनकी साप्ताहिक उड़ानों में 56% यहाँ से परिचालित होती हैं। सालाना 40 लाख यात्री विदेश जाते हैं।

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट 150 गंतव्यों को जोड़ने वाला देश का पहला हवाई अड्डा बना

नई दिल्ली, 17 दिसम्बर (एजेंसियां)। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट 150 गंतव्यों को जोड़ने वाला भारत का पहला एयरपोर्ट बन गया है। इसी के साथ दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ने वैश्विक विमानन केंद्र के रूप में अपनी स्थिति मजबूत कर ली है। हाल ही में थाई एयरएशिया एक्स ने दिल्ली और बैंकॉक-डॉन मुआंग (डीएमके) के बीच सीधी उड़ानों का उदघाटन किया। एयरबस ए330 विमान द्वारा संचालित यह मार्ग शुरू में सप्ताह में दो बार चलेगा। जनवरी 2025 के मध्य तक इसकी फ्रीक्वेंसी को हफ्ते में चार बार बढ़ाने की योजना है। इस उपलब्धि पर डीआईएएल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने कहा, 150 गंतव्यों को जोड़ने का यह मील का पत्थर वैश्विक संपर्क बढ़ाने और विश्व स्तरीय यात्रा अनुभव प्रदान करने के लिए हमारी अटूट प्रतिबद्धता का प्रमाण है। हमें भारत को विमानन के एक नए युग में ले जाने पर गर्व है।



■ दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ने वैश्विक विमानन केंद्र के रूप में अपनी स्थिति मजबूत कर ली

और हम दुनिया भर के यात्रियों के लिए पसंदीदा केंद्र बनने के लिए समर्पित हैं।'

दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डीआईएएल) ने ग्लोबल कनेक्टिविटी का विस्तार करने के लिए अपने निरंतर प्रयासों पर जोर

■ थाई एयरएशिया एक्स ने दिल्ली और बैंकॉक-डॉन मुआंग के बीच सीधी उड़ानों का उदघाटन किया

दिया। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में, एयरपोर्ट ने 20 से ज्यादा एक्सक्लूसिव इंटरनेशनल डेस्टिनेशन को शामिल किया है। इनमें नोम पेन्ह, बाली डेनपसार, कैलगरी, मॉन्ट्रियल, वैंकूवर, वाशिंगटन डेलेस, शिकागो ओ'हारे और टोक्यो हनेडा शामिल हैं।

एयरपोर्ट की ओर से यह सुविधा महाद्वीपों की यात्रा करने वालों के लिए यात्रा विकल्पों को बढ़ाने से जुड़ी है। इसके अलावा, हाल ही में केंद्रीय वित्त राज्य मंत्री पंकज चौधरी द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार, देश में बीते 10 वर्षों में चालू एयरपोर्ट की संख्या दोगुनी से अधिक हो गई है। 2014 में 74 एयरपोर्ट से उड़ानें संचालित होती थीं जबकि 2024 में देश के 158 एयरपोर्ट से हवाई सेवाएं संचालित हो रही हैं। इसी के साथ उड़ान योजना के तहत 613 मार्गों पर सफलतापूर्वक हवाई सेवाएं शुरू की गई हैं। 87 एयरपोर्ट को जोड़ा गया है और क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ावा दिया गया है। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने जानकारी दी थी कि संपर्क रहित और निर्बाध यात्रा संभव हो रही है। 24 हवाई अड्डों पर चेहरे की पहचान प्रौद्योगिकी (एफआरटी) लागू की गई है। इसके साथ ही भारत वैश्विक स्तर पर तीसरा सबसे बड़ा घरेलू विमानन बाजार बनकर उभरा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

Delhi Airport connects to 150 destinations, highest in the country

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Airport has become the first airport in the country that connects to 150 destinations.

On Sunday, Thai AirAsia X launched direct flights between Delhi and Bangkok-Don Mueang (DMK), marking the 150th destination connected to Delhi Airport.

The new route will operate with Airbus A330 aircraft twice a week, with plans to increase the frequency to four times a week by mid-January 2025.

In a statement, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) highlighted that over the years, Delhi Airport has added more than 20 exclusive international destinations, including Phnom Penh, Bali Denpasar, Calgary, Montreal, Vancouver, Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, and Tokyo Haneda, among others.



On Sunday, Thai AirAsia X launched direct flights between Delhi and Bangkok-Don Mueang (DMK), marking the 150th destination connected to Delhi Airport.

In the past decade, the airport has experienced a 100 per cent increase in transfer passengers, further solidifying its position as a leading transit hub in South Asia.

Out of all the long-haul destinations from India, 88 per cent of destinations are connected from Delhi and 56 per cent of all long-haul weekly flights departing from India, operate from the Delhi airport. Almost 50 per cent (42 per cent, to be exact) of long-

haul passengers from India choose Delhi as their gateway.

Delhi Airport enables seamless connections for four million domestic passengers annually to international destinations. The ongoing introduction of wide-body aircraft by Indian carriers is poised to transform Delhi Airport into a super-connector hub, reinforcing its position as a leading choice for international and long-haul travel.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

17 DECEMBER 2024

11 हवाई अड्डों पर होगी विमानों की पार्किंग

जागरण संवाददाता, महाकुंभ नगर : महाकुंभ में दुनियाभर से श्रद्धालु आएंगे। प्रोटोकाल के बीच वीवीआईपी, विदेशी मेहमानों के 200 से अधिक चार्टर्ड विमान या विशेष विमान उतरेंगे। लेकिन, इतने विमानों के उतरने की जगह प्रयागराज एयरपोर्ट पर नहीं है। यहां अभी एक साथ सिर्फ 15 बड़े विमान खड़े हो सकते हैं। पार्किंग के लिए पट्टी विकसित की जा रही है।

कुंभ के दौरान विमानन कंपनियों की उड़ानों की संख्या भी बढ़ जाएगी। जिन एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों को पार्क किया जाएगा, इसमें लखनऊ, कानपुर, चित्रकूट, वाराणसी, कुशीनगर, गोरखपुर, गया, खजुराहो, जबलपुर, भोपाल, देवघर एयरपोर्ट शामिल हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

MIAL moves NCLT seeking clarity on sale of Jet aircraft to Ace

Krishna Yadav

krishna.yadav@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), owned by the Adani group, has approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in Mumbai seeking clarification on the validity of selling Jet Airways' three grounded aircraft to buyer Ace Aviation.

The NCLT has agreed to hear MIAL's application and has scheduled the hearing for 14 January to determine

whether the sale can proceed post-liquidation. Additionally, the NCLT has directed the involved parties to formalize the necessary documentation pertaining to the sale.

MIAL contends that following the Supreme Court's judgment, there is uncertainty regarding the survival of the sale agreement for the aircraft as no resolution exists, and has urged the NCLT to provide clarity on this matter.

However, the lenders argue that the sale of the aircraft is independent of the resolution plan and remains valid. They

have asked the NCLT to direct MIAL to grant them access to the parked aircraft.

In response, Ace Aviation has informed the court that the sale is progressing, with a letter of possession already issued.

The company asserts that MIAL has no grounds to obstruct the sale, as the proceeds will be distributed to creditors according to the established waterfall mechanism, ensuring

MIAL receives its share.

On 7 October, the NCLT ruled that MIAL could not enforce its lien over the three grounded aircraft, as the sale process was being conducted under an approved resolution plan involving the successful bidder, the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC).

However, circumstances changed when the Supreme Court on 7 November, exercising its special pow-

MIAL contends that following the Supreme Court verdict, there is uncertainty about the aircraft sale agreement

ers under Article 142 of the Constitution, ordered Jet Airways into liquidation after finding that JKC failed to comply with the conditions of the resolution plan, including the payment of airport dues.

Following this, MIAL approached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to seek clarity on its dues. On 4 December, the NCLAT directed the NCLT Mumbai to hear MIAL's plea.

The three aircraft, parked at Mumbai international airport since 2018, have been embroiled in a legal dispute

over unpaid dues.

In 2022, Ace Aviation secured the bid to purchase these aircraft for ₹400 crore. However, the sale was halted in November 2022 due to a deadlock within the monitoring committee.

Ace Aviation approached the NCLT to resolve the impasse. In October 2023, the NCLT directed the committee to restart and finalize the sale process, recognizing Ace Aviation as an eligible bidder. In 2024, the Supreme Court instructed the monitoring committee to complete the sale.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

17 DECEMBER 2024

Historic milestone: Delhi airport first in India to connect 150 destinations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Airport has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first airport in India to connect 150 destinations and a preferred gateway for passengers. Thai AirAsia X has launched direct flights between Delhi and Bangkok-Don Mueang (DMK), marking the 150th destination connected to Delhi Airport. The route will operate with Airbus A330 aircraft at a 2x weekly frequency, increasing to 4x weekly by mid-January 2025. In a statement, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said it has become the first airport in the country to connect 150 destinations. Over the years, Delhi Airport has added more than 20 exclusive international destinations, including Phnom Penh, Bali Denpasar, Calgary, Montreal, Vancouver, Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, Tokyo Haneda, etc. "Of all the long-haul destinations from India, 88 per cent of destinations are connected from Delhi and 56 per cent of



all long-haul weekly flights departing from India, operate from Delhi. "Almost 50 per cent (42 per cent to be precise) of long-haul passengers from India chose Delhi airport as their gateway," it said. The airport handles around 1,400 flight movements daily. "In the last decade, the airport has experienced a 100 per cent increase in transfer passengers, solidifying its position as

a leading transit hub in South Asia. Of all the long-haul destinations from India, 88 per cent of destinations are connected from Delhi & 56 per cent of all long-haul weekly flights departing from India, operate from Delhi. Almost 50 per cent (42 per cent to be precise) of long-haul passengers from India chose Delhi airport as their gateway," it added.

"This milestone of connecting 150 destinations is a testament to our unwavering commitment to enhancing global connectivity and providing world-class travel experiences. We are proud to lead India into a new era of aviation and remain dedicated to being a hub of choice for travelers worldwide," said Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO, Delhi International Airport Limited.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से 150 गंतव्यों को जोड़ा गया

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट 150 गंतव्यों को जोड़ने वाला भारत का पहला एयरपोर्ट बन गया है। इसी के साथ दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ने वैश्विक विमानन केंद्र के रूप में अपनी स्थिति मजबूत कर ली है। हाल ही में थाई एयरएशिया एक्स ने दिल्ली और बैंकॉक-डॉन मुआंग के बीच सीधी उड़ानों का उद्घाटन किया। एयरबस ए330 विमान द्वारा संचालित यह मार्ग शुरू में सप्ताह में दो बार चलेगा।

जनवरी 2025 के मध्य तक इसकी फ्रीक्वेंसी को हफ्ते में चार बार बढ़ाने की योजना है। इस उपलब्धि पर डीआईएएल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने कहा, 150 गंतव्यों को जोड़ने का यह मील का पत्थर वैश्विक संपर्क बढ़ाने और विश्व स्तरीय यात्रा अनुभव प्रदान करने के लिए हमारी अटूट प्रतिबद्धता का प्रमाण है। हमें भारत को विमानन के एक नए युग में ले जाने पर गर्व है और हम दुनिया भर के यात्रियों के लिए पसंदीदा केंद्र बनने के लिए

● वैश्विक विमानन केंद्र के रूप में अपनी स्थिति मजबूत की

समर्पित हैं। दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डीआईएएल) ने ग्लोबल कनेक्टिविटी का विस्तार करने के लिए अपने निरंतर प्रयासों पर जोर दिया। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में, एयरपोर्ट ने 20 से ज्यादा एक्सक्लूसिव इंटरनेशनल डेस्टिनेशन को शामिल किया है। इनमें नोम पेन्ड, बाली डेनपसार, कैलागरी, मॉन्ट्रियल, वैंकूवर, वाशिंगटन डेलेस, शिकागो ओ'हारे और टोक्यो हनेडा शामिल हैं। एयरपोर्ट की ओर से यह सुविधा महाद्वीपों की यात्रा करने वालों के लिए यात्रा विकल्पों को बढ़ाने से जुड़ी है। इसके अलावा, हाल ही में केंद्रीय वित्त राज्य मंत्री पंकज चौधरी द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार, देश में बीते 10 वर्षों में चालू एयरपोर्ट की संख्या दोगुनी से अधिक हो गई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

17 DECEMBER 2024

Guj to get 11 greenfield airports, including in Vadnagar, Dwarka

Kapil Dave@timesofindia.com

Gandhinagar: Soon, tourists and pilgrims will be able to touch down directly at Gujarat's popular destinations of Dwarka and Vadnagar.

The Gujarat govt has fast-tracked the process to develop greenfield airports for these destinations, with a sizeable allocation from the 2025-26 budget. Top govt sources say greenfield airports are also being considered at Ankleshwar, Morbi, Rajpipla, Botad, Dhordo, Rajula, Dahod, Dholavira, and Palitana.

The Vadnagar project is being planned to cater to both



Greenfield airports are also being considered at Ankleshwar, Morbi, Rajpipla, Botad, Dhordo, Rajula, Dahod, Dholavira, and Palitana

Vadnagar's growing popularity as a historically important town and the high pilgrim footfall at Ambaji temple. Work on these prioritised projects is set to commence soon.

"Preliminary feasibility studies for the greenfield airports at Dwarka and near Vadnagar are complete. Efforts are underway to finalise land

near Vadnagar and Ambaji to serve north Gujarat's local population and tourists visiting key destinations. Land acquisition will commence in the forthcoming months," the sources said.

Govt officials said preliminary feasibility studies will also be commissioned soon for the nine other greenfield airports at Ankleshwar. "Sizeable budgetary allocations will be made for these proposed projects in future budgets," they said.

Officials also indicated the expansion of Surat, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, and Porbandar airports. "The govt is preparing comprehensive expansion plans for all airports located within municipal corporations."

► Continued on P 4

Govt expected to introduce new civil aviation policy soon

► Continued from P1

Acquisition of new land adjacent to the Surat airport is being pursued due to an exponential increase in demand and the necessity for facility upgrades. Vadodara, Bhavnagar and Porbandar airport facilities also remained unchanged for many years and are scheduled for expansion and modernisation within two years," officials said.

The govt is expected to introduce a new civil aviation policy focused on strengthening regional connectivity within Gujarat, establishing efficient, economical and reliable air services linking various cities and towns across regions to bolster tourism.

The state civil aviation department and other authorities concerned have begun drafting a policy for this.

Besides infrastructure assessment, the govt is weighing



the possibility of offering incentives to airlines to expand air connectivity in Gujarat. Additionally, authorities are examining the viability of introducing helicopter services connecting Guja-

rat's cities, for which successful implementation of such models in other states is being studied. Currently, Gujarat does not have significant inter-city helicopter services.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

17 DECEMBER 2024

Air India crew member caught with smuggled gold at Chennai airport

Chennai: A cabin crew member of an Air India flight was among two persons arrested at Chennai airport for smuggling 1.7 kg gold worth over Rs 1 crore from Dubai.

Based on inputs shared by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), the air intelligence unit of Customs intercepted the cabin crew member of the flight that landed early Sunday. He was found hiding gold in paste form in his attire. During interrogation, he admitted that it was handed over to him by a passenger on the same flight. Based on his information, customs officers also arrested the passenger.

The flyer handed over the gold to the crew member, who was supposed to deliver it to a receiver outside the airport. This modus operandi was adopted to avoid the suspicion of CISF personnel and customs officers, said an official. Though the cabin crew member claimed he was caught on his first attempt, agencies doubt it could be otherwise. THE

Flight crew member caught with smuggled gold at airport

Venkadesan.S
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: A cabin crew member of an Air India flight from Dubai was arrested on Sunday by Customs officials on charges of receiving gold from a passenger onboard to smuggle it outside the airport. Customs officials refused to reveal the names of the crew member and the passenger, who too was arrested.

The air intelligence unit of Customs intercepted the cabin crew member on the flight immediately after it landed from Dubai early on Sunday. He was found hiding the gold in paste form on his person. The tip-off came to Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

During interrogation, the arrested crew member said a passenger on the same flight had handed him the gold, which weighed 1.7 kg and was worth more than ₹1 crore. The passenger too was arrested.

"The modus operandi is



Only last week, DRI busted smugglers playing catch with gold by throwing it over the glass partition between arrival and departure areas at the international terminal to hoodwink CISF personnel on duty

that the passenger will hand over the gold to the crew member on the flight, and the latter is supposed to deliver it to a receiver outside the airport," said a Customs official.

After the crackdown on airport ground staff in league with smuggling cartels, cabin crew are being lured to keep the business running, investigators said. Though the cabin crew member claimed this was his first attempt, investigators said only further investigation would reveal the truth.

Only last week, DRI busted smugglers playing catch with gold by throwing it over the glass partition between

arrival and departure areas at the international terminal to hoodwink CISF personnel on duty.

As the difference in market value of gold in Dubai and India has shrunk from ₹6 lakh per kg earlier this year to ₹3.5 lakh now, the enforcement agencies are puzzled by the continued attempts at smuggling. "It cannot be just for the value of gold. The role of hawala operators is suspected," said an official.

Gold smuggling, which came down in Aug and Sept due to the crackdown on the Sri Lankan transit route, has now regained momentum in new forms, officials said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

अकासा एयर को कारण बताओ नोटिस

नई दिल्ली। विमानों के संचालन से जुड़े नियमों के उल्लंघन मामले में विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने अकासा एयर को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया है। कंपनी ने कहा, नियामक ने कुछ स्पष्टीकरण मांगे हैं। इस महीने में कंपनी को अब तक दो नोटिस मिल चुके हैं। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

Airfares in CCI ambit: Govt in RS

KR Srivats
New Delhi

In a response to concerns over rising airfares and oligopolistic practices in the aviation sector, the government clarified in the Rajya Sabha on Monday that airfares are 'governed' by the Competition Act, 2002.

It said anti-competitive practices in fixing airfares are monitored by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

The clarification came in response to an unstarred question posed by John Brittas. He questioned the government on oligopolistic practices, excessive airfares, and punctuality issues in airline operations.

The query specifically addressed whether Rule 135(4) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, empowers the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to intervene in such cases.

Responding to the question, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar



Mohol highlighted that airfares are determined by market demand, supply, seasonality and operational considerations.

While the government refrains from regulating airfares to maintain competitiveness, the CCI keeps anti-competitive practices, such as cartelisation, in check.

PEAK SEASON FARES

Airlines have been sensitised to ensure fare reasonability, especially during peak seasons, the Minister said.

The DGCA has set up a Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) to monitor predatory or excessive pricing by

airlines, ensuring compliance with Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, he noted.

The Minister further emphasised that while the government does not regulate airfares directly, it ensures the market remains competitive and passenger interests are safeguarded.

In instances of exorbitant pricing, government intervention includes shifting capacity to high-demand sectors to stabilise fares, he added.

IMPRESSIVE GROWTH

The aviation sector in the country, with 830 aircraft and 12 scheduled commuter operators, has seen impressive growth in domestic passenger traffic in the recent years.

The government remains committed to facilitating a robust and competitive aviation ecosystem while keeping a vigilant eye on anti-competitive practices through the CCI and DGCA mechanisms, according to Mohol.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

Hoax callers disrupting flights will face ₹1 lakh-1 crore fine, travel ban

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Miscreants making hoax calls about bomb threats to airlines and airports will now be put on a no fly list and shall face a ₹1 lakh fine.

In case an organisation is held responsible for hoax threats, the fine could stretch up to ₹1 crore.

The Civil Aviation Ministry has amended the Aircraft (Security) Rules, 2023, to provide for the penalty following a spate of hoax calls in October.

TWO NEW RULES

Two new rules have been added post the amendment.

The first modification empowers the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to issue written instructions to airlines to refuse admission to passengers in the interest of security.

Previously, the rule lim-



CALLS PEAK. Domestic airlines received nearly 1,000 threat calls this year and 680 calls in October alone SRI NATH M

ited a person's entry into an airport on grounds of security.

The second amendment bans communication of false information to jeopardise safety of aircraft or airports, cause panic among passengers and disrupt flights.

Violation will attract fines ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore, depending on whether the offender is an individual or an organisation.

Domestic airlines received nearly 1,000 threat calls this

year; nearly 680 calls were received in October 2024 alone.

This resulted in diversion of flights and disruption to schedules, prompting the government to revise its rule.

"Safety and security are our highest priorities and we are committed to taking strictest action against those behind these malicious acts," Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu had said in October.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

DGCA issues second show-cause notice in a month to Akasa Air

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday issued another show-cause notice to Akasa Air, stating that its Director of Flight Operations did not revise the operations manual within the mandatory six-month period, officials stated on Tuesday. This is the second show cause notice issued by the DGCA to Akasa Air this month.

BS REPORTER

एयर फेयर ट्रेंड • पर्यटन स्थलों के लिए बुकिंग 146% और धार्मिक स्थलों के लिए 669% तक बढ़ी विंटर हॉलिडे: मेट्रो रूट्स पर हवाई किराया 28% तक घटा, छोटे रूट्स पर 18% तक बढ़ा

विज्ञान संवाददाता | मुंबई

देश में क्रिसमस और ईयर-एंड वेकेेशन के चलते हवाई सेवाओं की मांग तेजी से बढ़ी है। दिलचस्प बात यह है कि बीते साल दिसंबर की तुलना में इस बार मेट्रो रूट्स पर किराया 9-28% तक सस्ता है। वहीं, मेट्रो और छोटे शहरों के बीच किराये में 3-18% की तेजी दिख रही है। इसकी वजह है कि मेट्रो टू मेट्रो की तुलना में पर्यटन और धार्मिक स्थलों के लिए बुकिंग 669% तक बढ़ी है। टिकट बुकिंग पोर्टल्स ईजीमाईट्रिप के एनालिसिस के मुताबिक मेट्रो शहरों और पर्यटन/धार्मिक स्थलों के बीच भी किराये में बढ़ोतरी देखी जा रही है। इस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक मेट्रो रूट्स पर सबसे अधिक 28% की गिरावट चेन्नई-कोलकाता रूट पर

देखी गई है। करीब 27% की गिरावट के साथ कोलकाता-बेंगलुरु दूसरे स्थान पर है। इसके बाद हैदराबाद, चेन्नई से नई दिल्ली और नई दिल्ली से अहमदाबाद रूट्स पर सालाना आधार पर 20% या उससे अधिक की गिरावट है। ट्रेवल पोर्टल इक्सगो के मुताबिक मेट्रो शहरों और छोटे शहरों के बीच हवाई किराये में 3-18% बढ़ोतरी हुई है। 24 दिसंबर और 1 जनवरी 2025 के बीच नई दिल्ली से श्रीनगर के बीच टिकट की कीमतें 18% बढ़ी हैं। मुंबई-देहरादून रूट पर किराया 13% और बेंगलुरु-जयपुर रूट पर किराया 11% बढ़ा है। मेट्रो-टू-मेट्रो रूट्स पर हवाई किराये में कमी इसलिए आई है क्योंकि त्योहारी सीजन के बाद से ही हवाई किराए बहुत अधिक थे।

वाराणसी, जयपुर के लिए

सबसे ज्यादा बढ़ी बुकिंग

शहर	बुकिंग बढ़ी
जयपुर	146%
उदयपुर	126%
श्रीनगर	66%
गोवा	52%
लेह	30%
वाराणसी	669%
तिरुपति	67%
अमृतसर	58%
शिरडी	22%

अवधि: 20 दिसंबर 2024 और 2 जनवरी 2025 के बीच (स्रोत: इक्सगो)

• रेटिंग एजेंसी इका के मुताबिक देश में घरेलू हवाई यात्रा 7-10% की रफ्तार से बढ़ रही है। मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष 2025 में यात्री 17 करोड़ का बेंचमार्क छू सकते हैं।

5 मेट्रो रूट्स पर किराया

20% से अधिक सस्ता

मेट्रो-टू-मेट्रो रूट	किराये में कमी
चेन्नई-कोलकाता	-28%
कोलकाता-बेंगलुरु	-27%
हैदराबाद-नई दिल्ली	-21%
नई दिल्ली-चेन्नई	-21%
नई दिल्ली-अहमदाबाद	-20%
नई दिल्ली-कोलकाता	-17%
बेंगलुरु-कोलकाता	-16%
नई दिल्ली-हैदराबाद	-15%
नई दिल्ली-मुंबई	-12%
नई दिल्ली-बेंगलुरु	-9%

किराये में कमी सालाना आधार पर (स्रोत: ईजीमाईट्रिप)

किराये में रिकॉर्ड इजाफा

देश में घरेलू एयर फेयर 5 साल में 43% बढ़ा

देश में घरेलू हवाई किराये में 2019 के मुकाबले 2024 की पहली छमाही में 43% बढ़ा है। इस मामले में भारत एशिया-प्रशांत (एपीएसी) और पश्चिम एशियाई क्षेत्र में वियतनाम (63%) के बाद दूसरे स्थान पर है। वहीं, समान अवधि में अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई किराये में 16% बढ़ोतरी के साथ भारत, यूएई (22%) और मलेशिया (21%) के बाद तीसरे स्थान पर है। 2024 में जनवरी से अक्टूबर के बीच 13.2 करोड़ लोग हवाई यात्रा कर चुके हैं। वर्ष 2023 में रिकॉर्ड 15.2 करोड़ लोगों ने हवाई यात्रा की थी।

FAKE THREATS FACE HIJACK-LEVEL CONSEQUENCES

Airline Hoaxers to Face a Hard Landing as New Law Takes Off

Govt amends aircraft safety rules amid rise in hoax bomb threats

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: The government has amended a law governing passenger aircraft safety under which a person making hoax bomb threats can be placed on a no-fly list or deboarded from the plane. The concerned individual will also be booked under the law dealing with the most serious category of aviation security violations such as attempting to hijack an aircraft, introducing explosives onboard or taking hostages.

The latest amendment to the Aircraft Security Rules follows a spate of hoax bomb threats to Indian airlines in November, causing prolonged delays and flight diversions. In two cases, fighter jets were scrambled to escort planes of Indian carriers during landing following bomb threats.

As many as 1,143 hoax bomb threats were made to domestic airlines between August 2022 and November 13, 2024, with a sharp increase

Taking Action

Offenders can be deboarded, put on a no-fly list, and booked

1,143
Hoax threats
between
August 2022
and November
13, 2024

New law covers threats on ground and at airports

BHAVIN G

this year, according to government data. Of these, 994 hoax threats were reported in 2024 alone, the civil aviation ministry informed the Parliament last month. The amendment became necessary since the Safety of Civil Aviation Act (SUA-SCA), in its original form, was limited to offences committed when an aircraft is mid-air. "We want to take strict action against people who are

behind this when there is a fake or hoax threat that they are trying to do; we have to cover the act on the ground and the airport also," civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said recently. The Centre had also made changes to the practice of responding to bomb threats after it found a pattern of anonymous social media handles giving out threats, which were later deleted.

Earlier, the response procedure stipulated that any message or call with a flight number is considered a specific threat. As per the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) protocol, an aircraft facing a

threat was required to land

at the nearest possible airport, after which it was inspected. This changed to where once a particular threat is found to be a hoax, similar messages from that account need not be treated as specific and the aircraft is allowed to fly to its destination. This was done to minimise diversions causing financial loss and passenger inconvenience. If a threat is found to be substantial, the air traffic control subsequently informs the airport which mobilises various resources including fire brigade, bomb disposal squads, sniffer dogs, and in some cases, emergency evacuation systems.

TOTAL 5 FIRMS CHOSEN FOR PILOT PROJECTS SO FAR

DHL, 2 more shortlisted for e-comm export hubs

● Initial centres will come up in Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, December 17

THE GOVERNMENT HAS shortlisted three more companies, including DHL, to run pilots of e-commerce export hubs (ECEH) from five more applications, a senior official said.

The other two shortlisted companies are Go Glocal and Lexship. With this, the number of companies that have been selected to run pilots for these hubs has risen to five.

Last month, logistics enabler for e-commerce Shiprocket and air cargo handling company Cargo Service Centre (CSC) were selected.

Go Glocal and Lexship enable companies to sell on the global e-commerce marketplace by offering logistics solutions.

The new hubs will be coming up in Mumbai and Bengaluru. The two companies that were selected last month will set up facilities around the Delhi airport.

The ECEH will have facilities for expedited customs and security clearance in house. Provision for quality and certifying agency will happen with the hub which will also have the provision of easy reimport policy. Reimport policy will enable the return of e-commerce consignments and rejects without payment of import duty.

Based on the feedback received on running of these pilots, the gov-

DIGITAL PUSH TO CROSS-BORDER TRADE

■ The country's e-commerce exports estimated to grow to over **\$100 billion** by 2030

■ Global e-commerce exports expected to touch **\$2 trillion** in 2030, from \$800 bn now



■ India's e-commerce exports is only about **\$5 billion** compared to China's \$250 billion annually



China's e-comm exports were 6.4% of total merchandise exports in 2023 compared to India's 1.14%

Design of ECEH

These hubs will have two segregated areas:

1. Fulfilment area for packing, labelling, storing after pre-screening and till a buyer is found
2. Customs station where the goods will be customs-cleared after a buyer is found, ready for dispatch

ernment will come out with detailed guidelines for setting up more such hubs across the country. The guidelines may require policy or regulatory tweaks in different departments, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BACS) and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

According to government estimates, e-commerce exports have the potential to grow to \$100 billion-plus by 2030 and then further to \$200-250 billion.

Global e-commerce exports are expected to touch \$2 trillion in 2030 from \$800 billion now. India's exports through this medium is only about \$5 billion compared to China's \$250 billion annually.

China, which is a leader in e-commerce exports, is also a pioneer

in export hubs for e-commerce. China's exports through this route were 6.4% of its total merchandise exports in 2023, while for India this figure stood at 1.14%.

The ECEH will be a key element in furthering exports through e-commerce and allowing exporters from the hinterland to send a diverse basket of goods. The products that are most amenable for exports through e-commerce are pharma goods, textiles, home textiles, apparel, jewellery, ayush, and beauty products.

In the Foreign Trade Policy of 2023, the intent and road map for setting up e-commerce export hubs were outlined. The applications for setting up these hubs for running pilots were called in late August.



Safety is priority, says Akasa Air CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 17

ASSERTING THAT AKASA

Air is an employee-centric organisation, its CEO Vinay Dube has said the airline always works on improving its very high safety standards, amid some pilots flagging concerns about alleged training and safety issues.

The little over two-and-a-half year-old carrier, which operates a fleet of 26 planes, has around 4,300 employees, including about 800 pilots.

"Safety is Akasa's priority, world class safety... We always look at ways in which we can continue to improve ourselves... this is a continuous procedure. We look at our processes, procedures, training, structures, reporting," Dube told PTI.

Last week, some pilots had raised concerns about alleged training and safety issues at Akasa Air, and the airline had rejected them as baseless and untrue.

Dube, the airline's founder and CEO, said the situation for the airline, which is "genuinely employee-centric", is that there are high levels of employee satisfaction.

VINAY DUBE,
FOUNDER & CEO,
AKASA AIR

"Safety is Akasa's priority, world class safety... We always look at ways in which we can continue to improve ourselves"



"We continue to look at how we can build from the high levels of satisfaction without being complacent at all... our pilots have given extremely good feedback, our pilots are extremely satisfied and we continue to find ways to make sure that we are not complacent," he said.

Akasa Air, which flies to 27 destinations, including five international cities, had a domestic market share of 4.5% in October.

According to Dube, the airline is not hiring more pilots now as there are "sufficient number of pilots for our foreseeable expansion".

Airline gets DGCA show-cause notice

AVIATION REGULATOR DGCA has issued a show cause notice to Akasa Air for violation of norms related to the airline's operations manual, according to sources.

When contacted, an Akasa Air spokesperson said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has raised certain findings for which they have issued a notice for clarification from the air-

lines flight operations team.

So far this month, at least two show-cause notices issued by the regulator to the airline, which started flying in August 2022.

Sources told PTI that the watchdog has found a violation with respect to the operations manual, which is required to be revised every six months.

—PTI



VISION 2030 DRIVES DEMAND

The world's busiest airline routes in 2024 are largely in Asia

● Leisure continues to outshine corporate trips

LEBAWIT LILY GIRMA
December 17

AN ANNUAL REPORT from aviation data provider OAG reveals that seven of the world's 10 busiest international airline routes this year connect destinations within the wider Asia-Pacific region, a sign of a long-awaited travel comeback for Asia.

Two more connect cities in West Asia.

And one doesn't even feature a business travel hub at all, proving that leisure continues to outshine corporate trips four years after the pandemic brought it all to a standstill.

To determine the busiest international and domestic flight routes, OAG analysed the volume of scheduled airline seats from January to December 2024.

The routes listed reflect round trip flights rather than one-ways in a single direction.

"With the Asia Pacific region very close to a full recovery, the busiest routes are concentrated in the familiar major hubs of Hong Kong, Seoul Incheon and Singapore," said John Grant, chief analyst at OAG, in a release.

The Hong Kong to Taipei route is once again the world's busiest international flight route — a title it last claimed in 2019.

This year, that single two-hour trip represented a total of 6.8 million available seats.

Following in second place is Cairo to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which has had a 62% increase over 2019 levels.

In third place is Seoul to Tokyo Narita, which counts

TRAVEL COMEBACK

Top 10 busiest international flight routes of 2024



Rank	Route	Seats (million)
1	Hong Kong International Airport - Taiwan Taoyuan Int'l Airport, Taipei	6.8
2	Cairo International Airport - King Abdulaziz Int'l Airport, Jeddah	5.47
3	Incheon International Airport, Seoul - Narita International Airport, Tokyo	5.4
4	Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Kuala Lumpur - Changi Airport, Singapore	5.38
5	Incheon International Airport, Seoul - Kansai International Airport, Osaka	4.98
6	Dubai International Airport - King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh	4.3
7	Suvarnabhumi Int'l Airport, Bangkok - Hong Kong International Airport	4.2
8	Soekarno-Hatta Int'l Airport, Jakarta - Changi Airport, Singapore	4.07
9	Suvarnabhumi Int'l Airport, Bangkok - Changi Airport, Singapore	4.03
10	John F. Kennedy Int'l Airport, New York - Heathrow Airport, London	4.01

5.4 million scheduled seats or a 69% increase over pre-pandemic numbers, according to the report.

Dubai to Riyadh is the sixth-busiest flight route.

"One of the most interesting developments is the growth in regional West Asian markets with a particular emphasis on Saudi Arabia where the Vision 2030 project continues to drive both business and leisure demand," added Grant.

Yet, it isn't businesspeople flying between corporate hubs like Riyadh and Dubai

driving the region's largest flight volumes at OAG's No. 2 spot; it's travelers heading between Jeddah and Cairo, a route that seems to point mostly to leisure vacations.

Rounding out the list is a longtime high-ranking route: New York JFK to London Heathrow. It's the only transatlantic trip to rank among the top 10 busiest flights, with four million scheduled seats—a 5% increase over 2019 levels—and the only listed route with points in either Europe or North America.

—BLOOMBERG





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

17 DECEMBER 2024

AI TO FLY INTO 2025 WITH BETTER GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY



Aim

To improve East-West intercontinental travel

Offer greater flexibility to international travellers

Delhi, Mumbai

Hubs chosen for optimised schedule

North America, Europe, Australia, Southeast Asia

Destinations getting more flights

A350, B777

Flagship aircraft to be deployed on Southeast Asia routes

Vistara A321neo, B787-9

Aircraft to serve Mumbai to Frankfurt, Singapore routes

Retrofitted A320neo

Aircraft to serve Delhi-Bangkok route from Jan 16

Jan 1

Fourth daily service from Delhi to Bangkok to start

Seamless travel for those flying to Bangkok from US, UK, France

Flight add-ons

Latest cabin interiors

Fully flat beds in business class

Wi-Fi connectivity



Travellers from London, Paris and Frankfurt can now easily take one-stop connections to Sydney and Melbourne in Australia and to points like Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Ho Chi Minh City via Delhi

—Official

Activate



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

अकासा एयर को नोटिस जारी किया

मुंबई। डीजीसीए ने अकासा एयर के संचालन मैनुअल से संबंधित मानदंडों के उल्लंघन पर एयरलाइन को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया है। कंपनी ने कहा कि डीजीसीए ने कुछ तथ्यों का जिक्र करते हुए एयरलाइन की उड़ान संचालन टीम से स्पष्टीकरण के लिए नोटिस जारी किया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

Government says it generally refrains from regulating airline fares but remains vigilant

NEW DELHI: The government on Monday said it generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness but remains vigilant and intervenes to shift capacity from one sector to another to prevent exorbitant pricing.

Amid concerns in certain quarters that air ticket prices are on the rise and there is a need to make them more affordable, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told the Rajya Sabha that airfares have moderated in 2024, relative to 2023.

"With the enhancement of capacity by induction of more aircraft fleet, modernisation of



airports and development of new airports, domestic passenger traffic has increased to 153,674,310 in 2023-24 as compared to 136,028,656 in the year 2022-23.

"Even in the current financial year 2024-25, as of October, domestic passenger traffic has reached 93,002,510, surpassing the corresponding figure of 87,995,187 for the fiscal

year 2023-24, thereby reflecting an impressive growth rate of 5.7 per cent," Mohol said in a written reply.

Responding to queries from CPI-M member from Kerala John Brittas, the minister also said that given the complex dynamics of the Indian aviation industry, the government is playing the role of a facilitator by way of creating enabling environment to support the growth of the sector.

"Airfares are not subject to regulation by the government and airlines have the flexibility to determine their airfares based on their operational needs, while adhering to Rule

135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

"While the government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it remains vigilant, and the government intervenes to shift capacity from one sector to another to prevent exorbitant pricing to ensure passenger comfort and welfare," the minister said.

According to him, airlines have been sensitised to ensure reasonability while fixing the airfares and to keep passengers' interests in mind, and notably, during festival seasons, a decrease in airfares was observed in various sectors. **PII**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

2nd showcase notice by DGCA to Akasa Air in Dec

New Delhi: The DGCA has issued a showcase notice to Akasa Air for violation of norms related to the airline's operations manual.

This is the second notice by the DGCA to the airline this month.

An Akasa spokesperson said the DGCA has raised findings for which they have issued a notice for clarification on flight operations team. *ENS*



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

फ्लाइट को बम से उड़ाने की झूठी कॉल, तो 1 लाख का जुर्माना

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने हवाई जहाजों को बम से उड़ाने की झूठी कॉल, मेसेज या अन्य तरह से अप्रवाह फैलाने वाले के खिलाफ सख्त कदम उठाया है। इसके तहत एक लाख रुपए का जुर्माना लगेगा। ऐसे आरोपी शख्स को नए फ्लाई लिस्ट में भी डाला जाएगा। यह



जुर्माना बीएसए और अन्य कानून के तहत की जाने वाली कार्रवाई के अलावा

विमानन मंत्रालय का कदम, नो फ्लाई लिस्ट में भी नाम

होगी। मंत्रालय ने इस मामले में 9 दिसंबर को दो सख्त कदम उठाते हुए अधिसूचना जारी की। च्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिन्क्योरिटी (BCAS) को और अधिक अधिकार देते हुए यह भी

अधिसूचना जारी की गई है कि बीसीएएस इस तरह की हरकत करने वाले किसी शख्स या लोगों के ग्रुप को फ्लाइट में एंटी करने से भी रोक सकता है। बीसीएएस ऐसे किसी शख्स और लोगों के समूह को एयरपोर्ट छोड़ने का भी आदेश दे सकता है। अधिसूचना में बताया गया है कि सरकार ने वायुयान (सुरक्षा) नियम, 2023 में संशोधन किया है। इन नियमों

को वायुयान (सुरक्षा) संशोधन नियम, 2024 कहा जाएगा। इसे नियम-29 के तहत शामिल किया गया है। नियमों में लेवल-1 से लेकर लेवल-6 तक जुर्माने का प्रावधान किया गया है। लेवल-1 में 10 हजार रुपये की पेनल्टी लगाने का प्रावधान है। लेवल-6 तक बढ़कर एक लाख रुपए तक के जुर्माने के रूप में शामिल किया गया है।



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NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

स्पाइसजेट के सीईओ व सीओओ को पेश होने का निर्देश

नई दिल्ली, 17 दिसम्बर (नवोदय टाइम्स): दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के जस्टिस मनमोहन प्रीतम अरोड़ा की बेंच ने स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस में लगे इंजन की कंपनियों को 6 लाख डॉलर नहीं चुकाने पर स्पाइसजेट के सीईओ और

**6 लाख
डॉलर के
भुगतान
का मामला**

चीफ ऑपरेटिंग अधिकारी को तलब किया है। अदालत ने स्पाइसजेट के दोनों अधिकारियों को वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिये 16 जनवरी 2025 को पेश होने का निर्देश दिया है।

एयरलाइंस इंजन कंपनियों टीम फ्रांस 01 एसएस और सनबर्ड फ्रांस 02 एसएस, ने याचिका दायर कर 29 मई के दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के सिंगल बेंच के आदेश के अनुपालन की मांग की है।



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

18 DECEMBER 2024

Up to ₹1cr fine for flight bomb hoax calls

New Delhi: After around 1,000 flights received hoax threats this year, which cost airlines dearly and caused extreme inconvenience to passengers, aviation ministry has notified new rules to curb this menace.

Noted aviation lawyer Nitin Sarin says punishment for issuing hoax threats falls in highest level of contravention and penalties that provides for a fine of Rs1 lakh for an individual; Rs 50 lakh for a small organisation; Rs 75 lakh for a medium organisation and Rs 1 crore for a large organisation.

Under the new rules, govt has also granted BCAS the authority to deny boarding or remove flyers from aircraft "in interest of security". The notification, issued on Dec 9, provides for two actions by amending Aircraft (Security) Rules, and is in effect now. TNN