



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

Faster immigration clearance to start soon at 7 more airports

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 18

With an aim to speed up the immigration process for pre-verified Indian nationals and overseas citizen of India (OCI) cardholders, the Union home ministry will soon launch a new scheme known as "Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)" in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and four other major airports in the country.

The FTI-TTP was first launched at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on June 22 and so far, 18,400 people (Indians and OCI card holders) have registered for the service.

Work is in progress to

start the FTI-TTP in seven more major airports — Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad — the official said, listing the initiatives taken by the Union home ministry in the first 100 days of the Modi 3.0 government.

The programme ensures faster immigration clearance and so far, 1,500 passengers have been granted the clearance through e-gates in Delhi.

The officials said that FTI-TTP aims to facilitate international mobility with faster, smoother, and more secure immigration clearance. It is designed for faster, smoother and safer immigration clearance for international

travellers. Eligible passengers can utilise e-gates and bypass regular immigration queues for a seamless journey.

In the initial phase, it has been started for Indian nationals and OCI card holders on a gratis basis, they said.

It will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, Indian citizens and OCI card holders will be covered and in the second, foreign travellers will be covered.

The FTI-TTP is similar to the global entry program offered by the United States that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travellers upon arrival in America at select airports, another official said.



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DESHBANDHU

DELHI

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नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के पास यूपी का पहला सेमीकंडक्टर पार्क होगा विकसित

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 18 सितम्बर (देशबन्धु)। देश में पहली बार सेमीकंडक्टर पॉलिसी लागू कर भारत को दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी आर्थिक शक्ति बनाने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही योगी सरकार ने इस दिशा में एक और बड़ी पहल की है। इस पहल के तहत योगी सरकार यूपी के यमुना प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र में स्थित जेवर में बन रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के पास अब उत्तर प्रदेश का पहला सेमी कंडक्टर पार्क स्थापित करने जा रही है। प्रदेश सरकार की ओर से यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अंतर्गत सेक्टर 10 और सेक्टर 28 में सेमीकंडक्टर पार्क को स्थापित किए जाने की योजना है।

इस पहल के माध्यम से देश और दुनिया की बड़ी चिप निर्माता कंपनियां उत्तर प्रदेश में अपने उद्यम लगाने के लिए आकर्षित होंगी। साथ ही, व्यापक पैमाने पर यूपी के युवाओं के लिए रोजगार का भी सृजन हो सकेगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में सेमीकंडक्टर इंडस्ट्री लगाने के लिए निवेशकों को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु योगी सरकार ने सेमीकंडक्टर पॉलिसी

- सेक्टर-10 व 28 में स्थापित किए जाएंगे दो सेमीकंडक्टर क्लस्टर
- सरकार की सेमीकंडक्टर पॉलिसी का लाभ उठा सकेंगे निवेशक
- यूपी को सेमीकंडक्टर इंडस्ट्री का हब बनाने की दिशा में सरकार ने उठाया कदम

लागू की है, जिसके जरिए बड़े पैमाने पर राहत प्रदान की जा रही है।

दो क्लस्टर किए जाएंगे स्थापित

सेमीकंडक्टर पार्क्स के साइलेंट फीचर्स की बात करें तो इसके तहत यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ने दो सेमीकंडक्टर क्लस्टर के लिए भूमि चिह्नित की है। पहली सेक्टर 10 में 200 एकड़, जबकि दूसरी सेक्टर 28 में 125 एकड़ भूमि शामिल है। इन दोनों क्लस्टर में योडा 8 एमएलडी का वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट स्थापित करेगी, जबकि 60 एमएलडी का सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) लगाया जाएगा। वहीं, क्लस्टर को विद्युत आपूर्ति

सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 400/200/132 केवी सबस्टेशन भी स्थापित किए जाने की योजना है। इसके अतिरिक्त सेमीकंडक्टर पार्क्स में निवेश करने वाले उद्यमियों को मल्टीमॉडल कनेक्टिविटी की सुविधा मिलेगी।

सेक्टर 10 और 28 में स्थापित होने वाले इन क्लस्टरों की नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से दूरी मात्र 4 किमी. की है, जिससे कॉर्पोरेट मिनटों में यहां पहुंच सकेगा और निवेशकों और विदेशी बायर्स को यहां आने-जाने में कोई समस्या नहीं होगी। इसके अलावा, यहां रैपिड रेल ट्रांजिट सिस्टम (आरआरटीएस) की भी सुविधा जल्द शुरू होगी। इसके लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से डीपीआर के अप्रुवल की प्रक्रिया पूरी हो चुकी है। वहीं, दिल्ली से वाराणसी के बीच हाई स्पीड रेल की योजना है, जिसका एक स्टेशन नोएडा एयरपोर्ट भी होगा। इसके अतिरिक्त यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे में दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे का इंटरचेंज भी बन चुका है।

'सेमीकंडक्टर नीति लागू कर उद्योगों को दिया जा रहा प्रोत्साहन'

उत्तर प्रदेश में सेमीकंडक्टर

मैन्युफैक्चरिंग की असोम संभावनाएं हैं। योगी सरकार ने निवेशकों को इस क्षेत्र में निवेश के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सेमीकंडक्टर इकोसिस्टम बनाने पर जोर दिया है। इसके लिए प्रदेश में पहली बार सेमीकंडक्टर पॉलिसी लागू की गई है। यूपी सेमीकंडक्टर नीति के तहत भारत सरकार द्वारा अनुमोदित कैपिटल सब्सिडी पर 50 प्रतिशत अतिरिक्त कैपिटल सब्सिडी का प्राविधान किया गया है। इसके अतिरिक्त पॉलिसी में कंपाउंड सेमीकॉन्डक्टर/सिलिकॉन फोटोनिक्स/सेंसर/एटीएमपी/ओएसएटी के लिए 75: की लैंड रिबेट भी प्रदान की गई है। वहीं ड्यूल ग्रिड नेटवर्क के साथ ही 10 वर्षों के लिए इलेक्ट्रिसिटी ड्यूटी में शत प्रतिशत की छूट प्रदान की जा रही है।

इसके अलावा, 25 वर्षों के लिए अंतर्राज्यीय बिजली खरीद, ट्रांसमिशन और व्हीलिंग शुल्क 50 प्रतिशत की छूट, स्टांप ड्यूटी और रजिस्ट्रेशन फीस पर 100 प्रतिशत छूट और प्रति वर्ष 5 प्रतिशत ब्याज सब्सिडी (अधिकतम 7 करोड़ रुपये) दिए जाने की भी व्यवस्था की गई है।

Chaos at Mumbai int'l airport, passengers stranded in queues



By Devashri Bhujbal

A chaos was seen at the Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Tuesday morning. Several passengers posted photos and videos on social media tagging Airport Authorities complaining about the situation.

Today, September 17 is a public holiday in Maharashtra on the occasion of Ganpati visarjan. Rush is seen at the airport. However, passengers were annoyed seeing the mismanaged crowd at the airport, including the long queues at the security check-up.

"Perhaps time to reassess

your operational processes to cater to higher demand in morning flights. At least 300 people standing in line for security, pretty sure 50% missing their flights," posted passenger Shlok Srivastav tagging CSMIA.

"Will never board a flight from TI Mumbai airport again," posted some users.

Amid the chaos, an official response from Airport Authorities is awaited.

Meanwhile, the CSMIA (Mumbai Airport) gave generic replied to the fliers complains of Tuesday saying, "We've taken note of your feedback & shared it with the concerned team for their attention. The safety, comfort & well-being of

our passengers is our topmost priority."

The incidents of passengers stranded at Mumbai airport are not new. It was mere two days ago, when the passengers at Mumbai International Airport were stranded for hours inside the aircraft, highlighting the major mismanagement from authorities.

In the wee hours of Sunday, September 15, when a IndiGo flight from Mumbai to Qatar faced major delays. Due to a technical issue with the plane, passengers were eventually asked to de-board and wait in a holding area at Mumbai airport, leaving the passengers furious.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

On Adani's proposal to lease Kenya's Nairobi airport

Why are there protests against a proposed takeover of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport?

G. Sampath

The story so far:

Kenyans are protesting a proposed takeover of Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) by India's Adani Group on a 30-year lease. Last week, airport workers went on a day-long strike, leading to flight cancellations that left hundreds of passengers stranded. The workers called it off when the government agreed to give them veto power on the final agreement.

What is the background?

The refurbishment and expansion of the Nairobi international airport has been in the works since 2013. The plans included building a new passenger terminal, another runway, and expanding the capacity to 20 million passengers a year. But for various reasons, the contract was cancelled in 2016, and the project was dormant until 2022. In June 2023, the

government announced it would publicly invite bids to revive the project. However, in July this year, a Kenyan whistle-blower posted on social media that the government had secretly signed a deal with the Adani group to manage the airport for 30 years. The news generated nationwide outrage, with local commentators criticising the move to "give away" control of a "strategic national asset" to a foreign company.

What are the terms of the deal?

According to media reports based on leaked documents, in March 2024, Adani Airport Holdings Ltd had submitted a Privately Initiated Proposal (PIP) to the Kenya Airport Authority (KAA) to refurbish the JKIA under a build-operate-transfer model with an investment of \$1.85 billion. Under the proposed deal, the Adanis would refurbish the airport, add a new runway, and possibly a terminal. They would fund this with their own investment and from

revenues generated from the airport, which they will control for 30 years. At the end of this period, the Adanis would get 18% equity in the airport. To protect their commercial interests from unforeseen competition, the Adani proposal included a stipulation that no airport shall be built within a 100km radius of the JKIA. It also projected a sharp hike in annual fees that would be transferred to airport users.

What are the Kenyans objecting to?

It has emerged that in February 2024, a consultancy firm hired by the KAA to advise on expanding the JKIA had recommended an open tender process for securing a public-private partnership (PPP). This is also the preferred method under Kenya's PPP Act. Kenyans are asking why the KAA and the government ignored the experts' recommendation as well as the country's PPP law to go ahead with the Adanis' PIP. Senator Richard Onyonka, an opposition politician, in an

interview to *The Hindu*, pointed out that Kenyans are concerned that the deal would give the Adanis a tax break for 10 years. He also claimed that the deal would allow the Adanis to fire all the employees currently on the rolls of the KAA – around 5,000 – and rehire them on terms that could violate their rights. "Why didn't the Adani team want to follow due diligence as laid out under the PPP Act, whereby there would have been three-four competitive bids, and Kenyans would have had a chance to interrogate the various offers and pick the best value-for-money option?" he asked. "It indicates that this is a corrupt deal and we believe money has exchanged hands" he alleged, echoing a growing sentiment among the Kenyan public.

What next?

The Law Society of Kenya and the Kenya Human Rights Commission have filed a joint application against the deal in the high court. The court has issued an order suspending further movement on the Adani proposal pending a judicial review. The Adanis hold that it is in Kenya's best interest to go for a PIP rather than open tendering, noting, "PIP allows the government to secure terms beyond purely financial considerations, ensuring the welfare of citizens," and that "competitive bidding" besides being time-consuming, "risks making the deal purely transactional, without room for mutual considerations."

THE GIST

▼ The refurbishment and expansion of the Nairobi international airport has been in the works since 2013.

▼ In July this year, a Kenyan whistle-blower posted on social media that the government had secretly signed a deal with the Adani group to manage the airport for 30 years.

▼ A consultancy firm hired by the KAA to advise on expanding the JKIA had recommended an open tender process for securing a public-private partnership (PPP). This is also the preferred method under Kenya's PPP Act. Kenyans are asking why the KAA and the government ignored the recommendation as well as the country's PPP law to go ahead with the Adanis' PIP.

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के पास विकसित होगा यूपी का पहला सेमीकंडक्टर पार्क

● देश और दुनिया की बड़ी चिप निर्माता कंपनियों को निवेश के लिए किया जाएगा आकर्षित, दी जाएंगी वर्ल्ड क्लास सुविधाएं

पावनियर समाचार सेवा। लखनऊ/ ग्रेटर नोएडा

देश में पहली बार सेमीकंडक्टर पॉलिसी लागू कर भारत को दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी आर्थिक शक्ति बनाने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही योगी सरकार ने इस दिशा में एक और बड़ी पहल की है। इस पहल के तहत योगी सरकार यूपी के ग्रेटर नोएडा स्थित जेवर में बन रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के पास अब उत्तर प्रदेश का पहला सेमी कंडक्टर पार्क स्थापित करने जा रही है। प्रदेश सरकार की ओर से यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) के अंतर्गत सेक्टर 10 और सेक्टर 28 में सेमीकंडक्टर पार्क को स्थापित किए जाने की योजना है।

इस पहल के माध्यम से देश और दुनिया की बड़ी चिप निर्माता कंपनियां उत्तर प्रदेश में अपने उद्यम लगाने के लिए आकर्षित होंगी। साथ ही, व्यापक पैमाने पर यूपी के युवाओं के लिए रोजगार का

भी सृजन हो सकेगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में सेमीकंडक्टर इंडस्ट्री लगाने के लिए निवेशकों को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु योगी सरकार ने सेमीकंडक्टर पॉलिसी लागू की है, जिसके जरिए बड़े पैमाने पर राहत प्रदान की जा रही है।

सेमीकंडक्टर पार्क के साइलेंट फीचर्स की बात करें तो इसके तहत यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ने दो सेमीकंडक्टर क्लस्टर के लिए भूमि चिह्नित की है। पहली सेक्टर 10 में 200 एकड़, जबकि दूसरी सेक्टर 28 में 125 एकड़ भूमि शामिल है। इन दोनों क्लस्टर में यीडा 8 एमएलडी का वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट स्थापित करेगी, जबकि 60 एमएलडी का सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) लगाया जाएगा। वहीं, क्लस्टर को विद्युत आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 400/200/132 केवी सबस्टेशन भी स्थापित किए जाने की योजना है। इसके अतिरिक्त सेमीकंडक्टर पार्क में निवेश करने वाले उद्यमियों को मल्टीमॉडल

कनेक्टिविटी की सुविधा मिलेगी।

सेक्टर 10 और 28 में स्थापित होने वाले इन क्लस्टर की नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से दूरी मात्र 4 किमी. की है, जिससे कॉर्पोरेट मिनटों में यहां पहुंच सकेगा और निवेशकों और विदेशी बायर्स को यहां आने-जाने में कोई समस्या नहीं होगी। इसके अलावा, यहां रैपिड रेल ट्रांजिट सिस्टम (आरआरटीएस) की भी सुविधा जल्द शुरू होगी। इसके लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से डीपीआर के अप्रूवल की प्रक्रिया पूरी हो चुकी है। वहीं, दिल्ली से वाराणसी के बीच हाई स्पीड रेल की योजना है, जिसका एक स्टेशन नोएडा एयरपोर्ट भी होगा। इसके अतिरिक्त यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे में दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे का इंटरचेंज भी बन चुका है, जो इन बड़े शहरों से भी कनेक्टिविटी को आसान बनाएगा।

उत्तर प्रदेश में सेमीकंडक्टर मैन्युफैक्चरिंग की असीम संभावनाएं हैं। योगी सरकार ने निवेशकों को इस क्षेत्र में

निवेश के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सेमीकंडक्टर इकोसिस्टम बनाने पर जोर दिया है। इसके लिए प्रदेश में पहली बार सेमीकंडक्टर पॉलिसी लागू की गई है। यूपी सेमीकंडक्टर नीति के तहत भारत सरकार द्वारा अनुमोदित कैपिटल सब्सिडी पर 50 प्रतिशत अतिरिक्त कैपिटल सब्सिडी का प्राविधान किया गया है। इसके अतिरिक्त पॉलिसी में कंपाउंड सेमीकॉन्डक्टर/सिलिकॉन फोटोनिक्स/ सेंसर/ एटीएमपी/ ओएसएटी के लिए 75% की लैंड रिवेट भी प्रदान की गई है। वहीं ड्यूल ग्रिड नेटवर्क के साथ ही 10 वर्षों के लिए इलेक्ट्रिसिटी ड्यूटी में शत प्रतिशत की छूट प्रदान की जा रही है। इसके अलावा, 25 वर्षों के लिए अंतर्राज्यीय बिजली खरीद, ट्रांसमिशन और व्हीलिंग शुल्क 50 प्रतिशत की छूट, स्टांप ड्यूटी और रजिस्ट्रेशन फीस पर 100 प्रतिशत छूट और प्रति वर्ष 5 प्रतिशत ब्याज सब्सिडी (अधिकतम 7 करोड़ रुपये) दिए जाने की भी व्यवस्था की गई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

SpiceJet gets good response for share sale

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

SpiceJet, which has statutory dues of more than ₹601 crore, has received a good response for its ₹3,000 crore worth sale of shares to qualified institutional buyers.

Operating with a reduced fleet and facing financial and legal headwinds, the carrier is looking to raise funds.

Sources on Wednesday said the qualified institutional placement has been oversubscribed, with participation from various investors, including family offices and institutional funds.

Some of the investors include family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhan-shali, Sanjay Dangi, Rohit Kothari, and Bandhan Bank, they said. There was no offi-



cial comment from the airline.

As per the preliminary placement document, SpiceJet has not made provident fund payments of over ₹135 crore from April 2020 to August 2023.

Its statutory dues totalled ₹601.5 crore as on September 15, and net proceeds from the placement will also be utilised towards clearing the dues.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

SpiceJet's share sale receives good response, oversubscribed

SpiceJet, which has statutory dues of more than ₹601 crore, received a good response for its ₹3,000 crore-worth sale of shares to qualified institutional buyers. The qualified institutional placement has been oversubscribed, with participation from various investors, including family offices and institutional funds, sources said. Some of the investors include family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangi, Rohit Kothari, and Bandhan Bank, the sources said. There was no official comment from the airline.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

तैयारी • फ्लाइट में प्रीमियम सुविधाएं बढ़ाने पर फोकस एअर इंडिया 3360 करोड़ खर्च कर 67 विमान अपग्रेड करेगी

बिजनेस संवाददाता | मुंबई

एअर इंडिया अपने 67 पुराने विमानों को अपग्रेड करने जा रही है। इसमें 3,360 करोड़ रुपए खर्च किए जाएंगे। सबसे पहले 27 एयरबस ए320नियो विमानों को अपग्रेड किया जाएगा। इसके बाद 40 बोइंग वाइड-बॉडी विमान अपग्रेड होंगे। इसके जरिये बिजनेस क्लास, प्रीमियम इकोनॉमी और इकोनॉमी क्लास में अतिरिक्त सुविधाएं जोड़ी जाएंगी।

रेनोवेशन प्रोग्राम में मॉडर्न केबिन लेआउट, अपडेटेड सीट्स और उड़ान के दौरान बेहतर सुविधाएं मुहैया कराना शामिल है। पहला अपग्रेडेड नैरोबॉडी विमान इसी

साल दिसंबर तक सर्विस में आने की उम्मीद है। अपग्रेडेशन प्रोग्राम की शुरुआत सोमवार को पहले नैरोबॉडी वीटी-ईएक्सएन ए320नियो विमान को हैंगर में भेजने के साथ हुई। इसके बाद हर महीने तीन से चार विमानों को रेट्रोफिट किया जाएगा। 2025 के मध्य तक सभी नैरोबॉडी विमानों का अपग्रेडेशन हो जाने की उम्मीद है। कंपनी ने एक बयान जारी करके बताया कि फ्लाइट में प्रीमियम इकोनॉमी, बिजनेस और इकोनॉमी क्लास में 15 हजार से ज्यादा नई पीढ़ी की सीटें लगाई जाएंगी। यह पूर्व सरकारी एयरलाइन को नए रूप में पेश करने की टाटा ग्रुप की योजना का हिस्सा है।

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate

पुणे फ्लाइट लगातार चौथे दिन रद्द, दुबई की 5 घंटे लेट, यात्रियों का हंगामा

एविएशन रिपोर्टर | जयपुर

एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को हवाई यात्रियों को जबरदस्त परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। जयपुर से पुणे जाने वाली स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट लगातार चौथे दिन रद्द रही, तो दुबई की फ्लाइट 5 घंटे देरी से रवाना हुई। एक यात्री की तबीयत खराब होने से शारजाह की फ्लाइट के इमरजेंसी ब्रेक लगाने पड़े।

जानकारी के अनुसार पुणे की फ्लाइट संख्या एसजी-1077 लगातार रद्द चल रही। ये जयपुर से 4 दिन पुणे और 3 दिन अहमदाबाद जाती है। सबसे पहले 14 सितंबर को अहमदाबाद के लिए रद्द की गई, फिर 15, 16 और 17 सितंबर को पुणे की रद्द हुई। फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 5:35 बजे पुणे/अहमदाबाद जाती है, लेकिन मंगलवार को भी रद्द होने से टिकट बुक कर चुके 88 यात्रियों को परेशान होना पड़ा।

यात्री की तबीयत बिगड़ी, शारजाह की फ्लाइट 2 घंटे देरी से रवाना हुई

दूसरा मामला मंगलवार सुबह 4:45 बजे शारजाह जा रही एयर अरबिया की फ्लाइट का है। फ्लाइट संख्या जी9-436 जयपुर से सुबह शारजाह के लिए रवाना हो रही थी, तभी एक यात्री का बीपी बढ़ने से तबीयत बिगड़ गई। इस पर तुरंत यात्री को विमान से उतारा गया और पास के निजी अस्पताल पहुंचाया गया। इसके चलते फ्लाइट करीब 2 घंटे की देरी से सुबह 7 बजे रवाना हुई। बता दें कि सोमवार को जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुई फ्लाइट की 48 मिनट बाद ही इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग हुई थी। उसमें एक बच्चे की तबीयत बिगड़ गई थी।

सुबह 9:20 बजे दुबई जानी थी फ्लाइट, पहले 12:40 बजे री-शेड्यूल की, फिर दोपहर ढाई बजे रवाना हुई



एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की कोलकाता की फ्लाइट आईएक्स-1756 जयपुर से सुबह 11:25 बजे कोलकाता जाती है, लेकिन मंगलवार फ्लाइट करीब 1:10 घंटे की देरी से दोपहर 12:35 बजे जयपुर से कोलकाता के लिए रवाना हुई। वहीं, स्पाइसजेट की इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट 5 घंटे देरी से रवाना हुई। दरअसल मामला स्पाइसजेट की दुबई की फ्लाइट संख्या एसजी-57 का है। फ्लाइट सुबह 9:20 बजे जयपुर से दुबई जाती है, लेकिन पहले इसको एयरलाईंस ने टेक्निकल कारणों के चलते री-शेड्यूल किया और कहा 12:40 बजे तक जाएगी, लेकिन इसके बाद फिर इसे एक घंटे री-शेड्यूल कर दिया। इस पर यात्रियों ने एयरलाइंस से दूसरी फ्लाइट की मांग की, लेकिन संतोषजनक जवाब नहीं दिया गया तो हंगामा शुरू कर दिया। बाद में सीआईएसएफ ने बीच बचाव किया और यात्रियों को शांत करवाया। हालांकि बाद में फ्लाइट करीब 5 घंटे बाद दोपहर 2:30 बजे दुबई के लिए रवाना हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

Air India to revamp aircraft interiors with \$400 mn

Mumbai, Sept. 17: Air India, owned by the Tata Group, said on Tuesday that it would spend \$400 million to refurbish the interiors of 67 planes, or more than half its fleet, as part of a multi-million dollar transformation of former state-run carrier.

Since taking control of the carrier in 2022, Tata has spent millions of dollars on ordering hundreds of new jets and changing the carrier's logo, branding and plane livery,

among other upgrades to the carrier's operations.

Now it is refitting the interiors of older planes -- 27 narrowbody Airbus A320neo and 40 widebody Boeing 787s and 777s -- in partnership with companies including Astronics, Thales and RTX's Collins Aerospace, it said.

Air India did not immediately respond to a request to clarify these companies' involvement in the programme and for a breakdown of its \$400-

● **TATA HAS** spent millions of dollars on ordering hundreds of new jets and changing the carrier's logo, branding and plane livery, among other upgrades to the carrier's operations.

million outlay.

The first narrowbody was sent for an upgrade on Monday and Air India plans to upgrade three

and four planes per month, it said.

Its total fleet currently stands at 128 aircraft, per its website.

The Air India group has ordered 470 jets from Airbus and Boeing.

The group includes low-cost carriers Air India Express and Air Asia India. From November, the Air India will also operate Vistara, a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and Tata Group. — Reuters

TheDailyGuardian

epaper.thedailyguardian.com
18 Sep 2024 - Page 9

INDIA'S AVIATION STRUGGLES: GROWTH MARRED BY ENGINE FAILURES

In 2024, GoFirst's engine failure and SpiceJet's financial struggles led to operational inefficiencies, raising concerns about aviation safety.

TDG EXPLAINER

India's aviation sector has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years. The number of operational airports has more than doubled, increasing from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024. This growth has been fueled by the government's commitment to expanding aviation infrastructure and initiatives like the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN, which has made air travel more accessible to people from various socio-economic backgrounds. However, despite this impressive expansion, the industry has been marred by operational challenges, including flight delays, engine failures, and staff shortages. These issues have significantly affected passenger confidence in the safety and reliability of air travel in India.

One of the major setbacks in 2024 was the engine failure faced by GoFirst, which led to the grounding of several flights. Similarly, SpiceJet has struggled with financial and legal obstacles, exacerbating operational inefficiencies. Despite IndiGo's market dominance with a 61.8% share and Air India's 25.1% share, these operational challenges have cast a shadow over the sector's performance. Even though domestic passenger traffic saw a 4% increase in the first half of 2024, incidents like IndiGo's emergency landing due to engine failure and SpiceJet's flight diversion due to similar issues have raised concerns about maintenance proto-

cols and the overall safety of air travel. The financial impact of these operational challenges is profound. Airlines face significant losses from canceled or delayed services due to engine problems, in addition to the costs of repairs and maintenance. For instance, the industry is expected to incur losses estimated at Rs 30-40 billion in FY25 due to these issues. This not only affects the airlines' bottom line but also erodes passenger confidence in the industry's ability to provide safe and reliable services. In August 2024 alone, IndiGo and other carriers spent approximately Rs 1.13 crore on compensation and facilities for 38,599 passengers affected by flight cancellations. The previous month, IndiGo reported that



(Source: Niti Aayog)

Addressing these concerns necessitates immediate action to improve maintenance protocols and ensure rigorous safety compliance. This would be crucial in restoring trust in the sector, ensuring that passengers feel confident and safe when choosing to fly.

Despite these challenges, the government's long-term vision for the aviation sector includes initiatives like the UDAN scheme, which aims to make air travel accessible to all Indians over a ten-year operational plan. Additionally, the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Policy 2021 has been introduced to support the industry by reducing taxes and encouraging local maintenance activities. For instance, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on domestic MRO services has been reduced from 18% to 5% to incentivize more local maintenance work, which is crucial for enhancing operational efficiency.

However, the implementation of these initiatives requires careful coordination and oversight. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is tasked with regulating safety standards, but achieving international recognition and acceptance of DGCA certifications remains a challenge. Additionally, environmental sustainability is a growing concern, with efforts being made to achieve carbon neutrality at major airports and adopt solar energy.

Maintenance, repair, and overhaul operations are vital for ensuring aircraft availability and safety. According to a report by Niti Aayog, airlines in India spend around 12-15% of their revenue on maintenance, second only to their revenue on fuel costs. Engine maintenance constitutes about 60% of the total MRO expenditure. The MRO market in India was valued at USD 1.7 billion in 2021 and is projected to reach USD 4.0 billion by 2031, indicating significant potential for growth. However, challenges such as increased Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) presence in the aftermarket control essential data and restrict independent MRO operators, affecting operational viability.

Supply chain issues also pose a significant challenge, particularly in sourcing replacement engines, potentially leading to further flight groundings. Analysts have warned that if these problems persist, the Indian aviation industry could face a decline in passenger numbers and market share.

Compiled by
Ruchira Talapatra

Cost Estimates for Various Maintenance Checks*

Unscheduled Checks	
Pre-flight Check	In-house Tariff of Airlines
Ramp Check	In-house Tariff of Airlines
Service Check	In-house Tariff of Airlines
Scheduled Checks	
A-level Check	: USD 50,000
B-level Check	: USD 75,000-100,000
C-level Check	: >USD 350,000
Engine Repair	: >USD 1 Million
Landing Gear	: USD 375,000
Intermediate Layover	: USD 300-600
D-level Check	: >USD 1 Million

*As per stakeholder interactions

(Source: Niti Aayog)

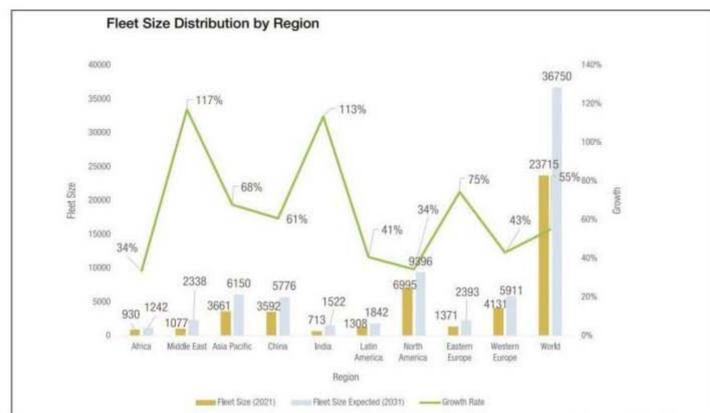
According to a report by Niti Aayog, airlines in India spend around 12-15% of their revenue on maintenance, second only to fuel costs. Engine maintenance constitutes about 60% of the total MRO expenditure.

1.66 lakh passengers experienced delays of over two hours. This trend of operational inefficiencies has led to growing skepticism among passengers regarding the reliability of air travel in India.

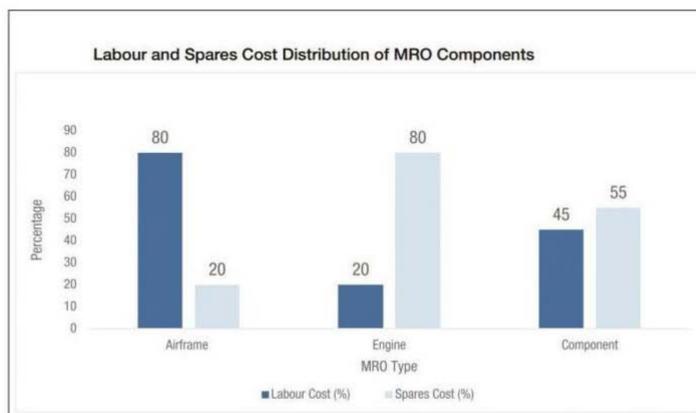
To mitigate some of these issues, airlines like IndiGo have introduced services such as Baggage Delayed and Lost Protection, offering compensation for delayed or lost

baggage. However, such measures only address the symptoms of a broader problem—the recurrent engine failures and operational inefficiencies that have shaken passenger confidence. For instance, IndiGo had an engine failure during a flight to Bengaluru, resulting in an emergency landing in Kolkata. In another case, SpiceJet had to divert a flight from Dharamshala to Delhi to Amritsar due to engine issues. These incidents have placed the industry's maintenance practices under intense scrutiny, with investigations into Air India Express revealing maintenance lapses that contributed to in-flight engine failures.

Supply chain issues also pose a significant challenge, particularly in sourcing replacement engines, potentially leading to further flight groundings. Analysts have warned that if these problems persist, the Indian aviation industry could face a decline in passenger numbers and market share.



(Source: Niti Aayog)



(Source: Niti Aayog)



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

Govt initiatives and industry response

In response to these challenges, the Indian government and regulatory bodies have introduced measures to enhance aviation safety. The DGCA has implemented stricter

Airlines are also taking steps to address these concerns. Some have begun investing in newer, more reliable aircraft models and enhancing their maintenance protocols. For exam-

The industry is expected to incur losses estimated at Rs 30-40 billion in FY25 due to these issues.

maintenance checks and mandatory reporting of all technical snags, including engine failures. Additionally, efforts are being made to improve air traffic management and reduce congestion, which contributes to delays.

plc, as of 2024, airlines in India have increased their fleet size, focusing on incorporating more fuel-efficient and technologically advanced aircraft. This shift aims to reduce the likelihood of engine malfunctions and improve operational efficiency.

INDIA'S AVIATION SECTOR: GROWTH AND PROGRESS		
Aspect	Data	
Operational Airports [2014]		74
Operational Airports [2024]		157
Target Operational Airports (2047)	350-400	
RCS-UDAN Routes		583
RCS-UDAN Airports Connected		86
RCS-UDAN Heliports		13
RCS-UDAN Water Aerodromes		2
RCS-UDAN Passengers Benefited	1.43 crore	
RCS-UDAN Flights Operated	2.8 lakh	
RCS-UDAN Funding Allocated (Crores)		4500
RCS-UDAN Funding Utilized (Crores)		3751
Total Air Passengers (FY24)	37.6 crore	
Domestic Air Passengers (FY24)	30.6 crore	
International Air Passengers (FY24)	7 crore	
Air Cargo Handled (FY24)	33.7 lakh tonnes	
Greenfield Airports Constructed (Since 2014)		12
Airports Using 100% Green Energy		73

Statistical overview of impact

Flight Delays: Industry data indicates that around 15-20% of flights in India face delays, with a portion attributed to technical issues.

Cancellations: Approximately 2-3% of flights are canceled annually, with technical faults, including engine failures, being a significant factor.

Passenger Perception: Surveys show that over 30% of passengers have concerns about flight safety due to reports of engine failures.

Airlines' Response: There has been an increase in fleet size with a focus on technologically advanced aircraft to improve safety and efficiency.



Air India to spend \$400 mn to revamp interiors of over half its fleet

REUTERS: Air India, owned by the Tata Group, said on Tuesday that it would spend \$400 million to refurbish the interiors of 67 planes, or more than half its fleet, as part of a multi-million dollar transformation of the former state-run carrier.

Since taking control of the carrier in 2022, Tata has spent millions of dollars on ordering hundreds of new jets and changing the carrier's logo, branding and plane livery, among other upgrades to the carrier's operations.

Now it is refitting the interiors of older planes -- 27 narrowbody Airbus A320neo and 40 widebody Boeing 787s and 777s -- in partnership with companies including Astronics, Thales and RTX's Collins Aerospace, it said.

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down of its \$400-million outlay.

The first narrowbody was sent for an upgrade on Monday and Air India plans to upgrade three and four planes per month, it said.

Its total fleet currently stands at 128 aircraft, per its website. The Air India group has ordered 470 jets from Airbus and Boeing.

The group includes low-cost carriers Air India Express and Air Asia India. From November, Air India will also operate planes of Vistara, a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and Tata Group.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

फ्लाइट में यात्री की तबीयत बिगड़ी, अस्पताल भेजा

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार सुबह एक यात्री की विमान में सवार होने के बाद तबीयत बिगड़ गई। इसके बाद यात्री को विमान से उतारकर अस्पताल भेजा गया।

मामला जयपुर से सुबह 4.45 बजे शरजाह जाने वाली एयर अरबिया की फ्लाइट का है। इस फ्लाइट से जाने वाले सभी यात्री सवार हो गए थे। इसी दौरान एक यात्री की अचानक तबीयत बिगड़ गई। इस पर यात्री को उतारकर एम्बुलेंस की सहायता से अस्पताल भेजा गया। इसके चलते विमान दो घंटे देरी से रवाना हुआ जिससे अन्य यात्रियों को असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

SpiceJet's ₹3,000 crore issue commences

PTI

NEW DELHI

SpiceJet has set a floor price of Rs 64.79 per share for the sale of securities to qualified institutional buyers through which the budget carrier aims to raise up to Rs 3,000 crore.

Last week, shareholders approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 3,000 crore.

According to the preliminary placement document, a copy of which has been submitted to the BSE, the floor price has been set at Rs 64.79 per share. "Our company may offer a discount of not more than 5 per cent on the floor price in accordance with the



approval of the shareholders by way of special resolution pursuant to postal ballot dated on September 13, 2024, and in terms of Regulation 176(i) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations," it said. The shares will be issued only to eligible QIBs.

The no-frills carrier -- which is grappling with multiple woes, including financial challenges, legal battles and grounding of aircraft -- is looking to raise money that will help it meet various obligations.

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

Air India begins \$400 million refit programme with VT-EXN

PTI

NEW DELHI

Air India on Tuesday said it expects to complete the upgradation of its 27 legacy A320 neo aircraft by mid-2025, following which all its narrow body planes will have the three-class configuration of business, premium economy and economy seats.

Under the USD 400 million refit programme that commenced on Monday, the Tata Group-owned airline will upgrade all the 67 legacy narrow body and wide body aircraft, including 40 Boeing



planes.

The upgradation has started with the single-aisle A320 neo aircraft and after prototyping and necessary regulatory approvals, the plane VT-EXN is expected to re-enter commercial service in December 2024.

"Following VT-EXN, between three and four aircraft per month will undergo retrofit, with upgradation of

the full narrow body fleet expected by the middle of 2025," the airline said in a release. The refit of the first wide body aircraft will commence in early 2025, subject to supply chains. The carrier's legacy wide body fleet comprises B787 and B777 planes.

The refit project will be coordinated by Air India's Engineering team with leading global OEMs such as Collins, Astronics and Thales. The exercise will see the installation of over 15,000 next generation seats across business, premium economy and economy class, the release said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

AIRFARE HIKE NOT LINKED TO RISE IN AIRPORT CHARGES: ACI

PTI
NEW DELHI

Airport charges are an important element of the commercial aviation ecosystem for infrastructure development and increase in airfares is not linked to a rise in the charges, according to the Airports Council International (ACI).

Against the backdrop of the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) flagging concerns over a steep rise in airport charges, ACI also said that the charges will remain a critical source of revenue for airports.

"Airport charges are an important element of the



commercial aviation ecosystem for infrastructure development. Failing to address the capital expenditure requirements to accommodate the projected growth could have serious socio-economic consequences," Stefano Baronci, Director General, ACI

Asia Pacific & Middle East, said. In a statement to PTI, he noted that airports are highly infrastructure-intensive businesses, with their cost structures dominated by significant fixed costs for the operation and upkeep of essential infrastructure such as runways,

taxiways, aprons, parking stands and terminal buildings.

As many as 133 airport operators, operating 624 airports from 47 countries/ territories are members of ACI in the APAC & Middle East. Indian airport operators and Airports Authority of India (AAI) are also part of the grouping.

Last week, IATA Director General Willie Walsh said that countries should be careful around airport charges and it has concerns about airport charges in a number of countries.

"India needs to be congratulated for the investment in infrastructure in recent years

which will pay dividends but only if costs are controlled. At the moment, we continue to be concerned around the very significant increase in airport charges in India..." he had said.

In India, tariffs for major airports are approved by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) and in recent times, charges at some airports have gone up.

IATA represents around 330 airlines, including Indian carriers, that account for over 80 per cent of the global air traffic. Meanwhile, ACI's Baronci said the increase in airfares is not linked to a rise in airport charges.

Airfare hike not linked to rise in airport charges: Airports Council International

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, Sep 17

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As many as 133 airport operators, operating 624 airports from 47 countries/territories are members of ACI in the APAC & Middle East. Indian airport opera-



The impact of airport charges on consumers (passengers) is very small to negligible. The full basket of airport charges collectively represents only 5.1 per cent of the base airfare and ancillary fees

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"The impact of airport charges on consumers (passengers) is very small to negligible. The full basket of airport charges collectively represents only 5.1 per cent of the base airfare and ancillary fees," he added.

As per ACI's long-term forecasts, air traffic in the Asia Pacific region is projected to reach 8 billion by 2042 from 3 billion today. Also, it is the fastest-growing region with a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 5.8 per cent, surpassing the global CAGR of 4.3 per cent.

Over the next two decades, 9 out of the top 10 fastest-growing aviation markets will be in the Asia Pacific region, with India being the second fastest-growing market, according to the grouping.

"Airports are highly infrastructure-intensive businesses, with their cost structures dominated by significant fixed costs for the operation and upkeep of essential infrastructure such as runways, taxiways, aprons, parking stands, and terminal buildings. As passenger numbers continue to grow, these fixed costs become even more critical to address," Baronci said.

India is one of the fastest-growing civil aviation markets in the world and has 157 operational airports, heliports and waterdromes.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

IndiGo plane hits runway on take-off, continues flight

In a major safety breach, a Bengaluru-bound IndiGo aircraft scraped the runway while taking off from Delhi, yet continued to fly to its destination instead of conducting an emergency landing. The DGCA has off-rostered the pilots as well as the cabin crew and is investigating the tail strike that occurred on September 9, involving an IndiGo flight that took off from Delhi at 3.50 p.m. and arrived in Bengaluru at 6.30 p.m.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

'Lady Don' held for murder of Air India crew member

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

KAJAL KHATRI aka 'Lady Don', wife of jailed gangster Kapil Mann, was arrested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch in connection with the murder of an Air India crew member in January.

On January 19, the airline member, Suraj Mann, was going to a gym near his residence in Noida when three persons on a bike opened fire at him. Suraj succumbed to injuries. His brother was Parvesh Mann, a key member of the Neeraj Bawania gang, lodged in jail in an MCOCA case.

Police found that Suraj did not have a criminal history and his murder was a fallout of rivalry between Parvesh and Kapil Mann, a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi-Cogi gang, which began in July 2018.

An officer said Parvesh Mann was behind the murder of Kapil Mann's father; in revenge, Kapil killed the former's brother.

Police said Kajal also suspected that Suraj used to help his jail brother financially.

Additional CP (Crime) Sanjay Bhatia said a team of the Crime Branch (Northern Range) was formed to trace Kajal, called 'Lady Don' by police.

The officer said, "Kajal Khatri is wanted in a murder case and there was a bounty of Rs 25,000 on her head. On January 19, Suraj, an airline crew staffer, was murdered in Noida; he was the brother of Parvesh Mann. Two people were arrested in the case and said they were directed to carry out the killing by Kapil."

Police said Kajal was part of the conspiracy as she was Kapil Mann's partner and had been on the run; both Noida and Delhi Police were on the lookout for her. "Kajal was handling Kapil's gang in his absence," said an officer.

How long before IndiGo can fly its grounded fleet?

BY MIHIR MISHRA

IndiGo's flight expansion plan is facing headwinds due to the grounding of over 70 aircraft on account of problems with its Pratt & Whitney engines. The grounding has implications for the aviation sector and air fares. Is there a resolution in sight? *Mint* explains.



1 Why were the planes grounded?
The key reason is problems with the combustion chamber of Pratt & Whitney's Gear Turbo Fan (GTF) engines. Detected in 2020, they impacted airlines across the world. Hot climate and dust in the atmosphere caused problems for the engines. Airlines in India and West Asia were, therefore, more impacted. This problem shortened the life cycle of an engine—every engine can run for a certain number of hours but Pratt & Whitney's engines didn't meet that benchmark. In a normal scenario, the engines would have been replaced quickly. But supply chain issues, post the covid-19 pandemic, impacted deliveries.

2 What is the situation today with IndiGo?
IndiGo already has over 70 aircraft grounded due to the unavailability of engines. That number has stabilized for some time now—this indicates that the situation may not worsen. The airline is still reporting engine failures in the range of 5-15 per month. For now, Pratt & Whitney has been supplying enough engines for the airline to be able to replace the failed ones. Other than the engine issue, IndiGo's grounding record is one of the lowest across the world. The airline practices 'predictive' maintenance. Apart from technical headwinds, planes can be grounded because of bird hits and challenges with airports.



3 When did the grounding peak and stabilize?
The airline's grounding peaked during the first quarter of this calendar year and the grounding numbers have not increased in the past four months. The airline does not see it going beyond the 70-plus number and the expansion of flights by the airline will continue with new aircraft joining its fleet. IndiGo also takes aircraft on short- and medium-term lease.

4 When will the planes be redeployed?
The airline may not be able to fly these planes for the next six months. However, IndiGo is hopeful of a way out, as the engine maker is working on India-specific solutions to ensure engine failures are kept to the minimum. One solution could be improving the coating of the combustion chamber, which could help reduce heating problems in the chamber. There is also optimism as new engines supplied by Pratt &

5 Is this impacting Indian aviation?
IndiGo, the largest carrier, made up 62.4% of the passengers flown in August. Due to its sheer size, any move by IndiGo impacts the market. While its capability to add flights was slightly impacted due to the grounding, it has overcome this by adding older aircraft on short- and medium-term leases and through the induction of their scheduled deliveries from its order book of about 950. The return of the stranded planes will help cool



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2024



Some investors include family offices of Madhu Kela, Sanjay Dangji, Bandhan Bank and others. AFP

SpiceJet's ₹3,000 cr QIP in demand

SpiceJet, which has statutory dues of more than ₹601 crore, has received a good response for its ₹3,000 crore-worth sale of shares to qualified institutional buyers.

Operating with a reduced fleet as well as facing financial and legal headwinds, the carrier is looking to raise funds.

People in the know on Wednesday said the qualified institutional placement (QIP) has been oversubscribed, with participation from various investors, including family offices and institutional funds.

Some of the investors include family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangji, Rohit Kothari and Bandhan Bank, the people said.

There was no official comment from the airline.

"Due to our financial constraints, our company has not been able to fulfil the statutory liabilities accruing on us on a month to month basis," the airline said in the preliminary placement document related to raising ₹3,000 crore.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

SpiceJet QIP gets huge response, overbooked

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

SPICEJET'S ₹3,000 crore qualified institutions placement (QIP) has received an overwhelming response and attracted investment from family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangi, and Rohit Kothari.

Further, investors in the placement includes big names such as Tata Mutual Fund, Bandhan Bank, Discovery Fund, Plutus, and Jupiter Fund Management. According to sources, the QIP was oversubscribed on Day 1 itself. "The total offers received exceed ₹3,000 crore, underscor-



ing the strong confidence and interest in the company's growth prospects," said a source aware with the development.

"Renowned investors, including family offices and institutional funds, have participated in the QIP, further solidifying the positive sentiment towards SpiceJet. Notable investors include family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangi, Rohit Kothari, as well as Discovery Fund, Plutus, Jupiter Fund Management, Think Investments, Tata Mutual Fund, and Bandhan Bank."

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

अभी ग्राउंडेड ही रहेंगे फ्लाइट के क्रू मेंबर

फ्लाइट का पिछला हिस्सा रनवे से टकराने के मामले में हुआ एक्शन

■ नवीन निश्चल, एयरपोर्ट

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से बेंगलुरु जाने वाली इंडिगो की फ्लाइट नंबर 6054 के टेक ऑफ के दौरान विमान का पिछला हिस्सा रनवे से टकरा गया, जिससे प्लेन के निचले हिस्से को नुकसान हुआ था। प्लेन में बैठे यात्री सुरक्षित रहे,

किसने की अनदेखी, शुरू हुई जांच

क्योंकि कोई बड़ा हादसा टल गया था। इस मामले को DGCA (डायरेक्टरेट जनरल ऑफ सिविल एविएशन) और दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने गंभीरता से लिया है। इस मामले की जांच की जा रही है। जब तक जांच की रिपोर्ट नहीं आ



निचले हिस्से का ऐसा हाल हो गया था जाती, तब तक प्लेन उड़ाने वाले क्रू मेंबर ग्राउंडेड ही रहेंगे।
उन्हें किसी भी उड़ान पर जाने की पाबंदी रहेगी। यह हादसा 9 सितंबर को हुआ था,

जब दिल्ली से बेंगलुरु के लिए इंडिगो की फ्लाइट टेक ऑफ कर रही थी। जैसे ही पायलट को इसके बारे में पता चला, उन्होंने तुरंत ट्रैफिक कंट्रोलर को सूचना दी। इसके बाद फ्लाइट को सुरक्षित रनवे पर लैंड कराया गया। सभी यात्री सुरक्षित थे और उन्हें बाद में दूसरी फ्लाइट से भेजा गया। इस मामले में इंडिगो का कहना है कि जिस फ्लाइट में यह गड़बड़ी हुई थी, उसे रिपेयर करने के लिए भेज दिया गया है और इस मामले में जांच की जा रही है। टेक ऑफ करते समय फ्लाइट का पिछला हिस्सा रनवे से टकराता है, तो इससे विमान को गंभीर नुकसान पहुंच सकता है। यह वही हिस्सा होता है जो फ्लाइट के केविन को प्रेशराइज रखता है।

Air India to upgrade its legacy A320 neo aircraft by mid-2025

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air India on Tuesday said it expects to complete the upgradation of its 27 legacy A320 neo aircraft by mid-2025, following which all its narrow body planes will have the three-class configuration of business, premium economy and economy seats. Under the USD 400 million refit programme that commenced on Monday, the Tata Group-owned airline will upgrade all the 67 legacy narrow body and wide body aircraft, including 40 Boeing planes.

The upgradation has started with the single-aisle A320 neo aircraft and after prototyping and necessary regulatory approvals, the plane VT-EXN

is expected to re-enter commercial service in December 2024.

"Following VT-EXN, between three and four aircraft per month will undergo retrofit, with upgradation of the full narrow body fleet expected by the middle of 2025," the airline said in a release.

The refit of the first wide body aircraft will commence in early 2025, subject to supply chains. The carrier's legacy wide body fleet comprises B787 and B777 planes.

The refit project will be coordinated by Air India's Engineering team with leading global OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) such as Collins, Astronics and Thales.



The exercise will see the installation of over 15,000 next generation seats across

business, premium economy and economy class, the release said.

Passengers have been complaining about some service issues with the airline's legacy fleet, including those related to inflight entertainment systems. According to the airline, the refitted A320 neo aircraft will feature 8 business class seats, 24 premium economy seats and 132 economy seats. Among other facilities, these planes will have portable electronic device holders and USB ports.

Air India said the final preparations continue for the full interior upgradation of the 40 legacy wide body aircraft.

"The commencement of interior refit of the narrow body fleet is an important step in our journey of

enhancing the flying experience of our customers. Over time, all the legacy wide body aircraft will also be refitted," Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said.

Currently, Air India has a fleet of 142 planes, including around 60 wide body aircraft. The fleet also includes 11 B 777 planes and 25 A320 family aircraft taken on lease. After taking over the loss-making Air India in January 2022, Tata Group has put in a place a transformation road map for the airline, which is now expanding its fleet as well as network. The carrier has also started operating wide body A350 planes on various routes.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

सुविधा इंडिगो की अहमदाबाद फ्लाइट 1 अक्टूबर से रोजाना

पत्रिका ब्यूरो @ रायपुर, स्वामी विवेकानंद एयरपोर्ट से अहमदाबाद के लिए इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट रोजाना उड़ान भरेगी। विमानन कंपनी की ओर से मंगलवार को इसका शेड्यूल जारी किया गया है। यह फ्लाइट 1 अक्टूबर को 2.15 बजे अहमदाबाद से उड़ान भरने के बाद 4.5 बजे रायपुर पहुंचेगी। इसके बाद 4.40 बजे रायपुर से उड़ान भरने के बाद 6.20 बजे अहमदाबाद पहुंचेगी। बत दें कि 180 सीटर फ्लाइट का इस समय सप्ताह में 3 दिन सोमवार, बुधवार और शुक्रवार को संचालित हो रही है। लेकिन, नए शेड्यूल के अनुसार रोजाना चलेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

अंबिकापुर: 72 सीटर विमान की ट्रायल लैंडिंग सफल



पत्रिका ब्यूरो @ अंबिकापुर. मां महामाया एयरपोर्ट दरिमा अंबिकापुर में मंगलवार को एलायंस एयर के 72 सीटर विमान की सफल ट्रायल लैंडिंग हुई। मंगलवार को दोपहर 2.50 बजे विमान की लैंडिंग हुई। कुछ देर रुकने के पश्चात दोपहर 3.10 बजे पुनः विमान का टेकऑफ हुआ। ट्रायल की सफलता को देखते हुए अंबिकापुर में उड़ान सेवा शुरू होने की संभावनाएं पकल रही हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

SpiceJet QIB offer at steep discount

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mumbai: Budget carrier SpiceJet has set a floor price of ₹64.79 per share for the sale of securities to qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) through which it plans to raise up to ₹3,000 crore.

The Ajay Singh-led airline said in a regulatory filing it may offer a discount of up to 5 per cent on the floor price in line with the approval from its shareholders through a special resolution and in terms of Regulation 176(1) of the Sebi ICDR Regulations.

Last week, its shareholders had given their approval to the QIP issue.

The floor price represents a discount of nearly 17 per cent to the closing price of the SpiceJet scrip on the BSE on Monday. Shares of the carrier on Tuesday ended with losses of 5.23 per cent at ₹73.72.

The QIP is crucial for SpiceJet which is facing multiple woes, including financial challenges and the grounding of aircraft.



In its preliminary placement document, SpiceJet has said that proceeds of the QIP will go towards the payment of statutory dues and the settlement or payment of certain outstanding liabilities.

Airport charges

Airport charges are an important element of the commercial aviation ecosystem for infrastructure development and increase in airfares is not linked to a rise in the charges, according to the Airports Council International (ACI), reports PTI.

Against the backdrop of the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) flagging concerns over a steep rise in airport charges, ACI said the charges will remain a critical source of revenue.

As many as 133 airport operators, including Indian airport operators and the Airports Authority of India, are part of the grouping.

Air India plans \$400m makeover

New Delhi: Air India, owned by the Tata group, said on Tuesday that it would spend \$400 million to refurbish the interiors of 67 planes, or more than half its fleet, as part of a multi-million dollar transformation of the former state-run carrier.

Since taking control of the carrier in 2022, the Tatas have spent millions of dollars on ordering hundreds of new jets and changing the carrier's logo, branding and plane livery, among other upgrades to the carrier's operations.

Now it is refitting the interiors of older planes — 27 narrowbody Airbus A320neo and 40 widebody Boeing 787s and 777s — in partnership with companies including Astronics, Thales and RTX's Collins



The interiors of Air India Airbus A350. Reuters file photo

Aerospace, it said.

The first narrowbody was sent for an upgrade on Monday and Air India plans to upgrade three and four planes per month, it said.

It expects to complete the upgradation of the legacy A320 neo aircraft by mid-2025, following which all its narrowbody planes will have three-class configuration.

The refit of the first wide body aircraft will commence in early 2025, subject to supply chains. The carrier's legacy wide body fleet comprises B787 and B777 planes.

Its total fleet currently stands at 128 aircraft, per its website. The Air India group has ordered 470 jets from Airbus and Boeing.

The group includes low-

cost carriers Air India Express and Air Asia India.

From November, Air India will also operate planes of Vistara, a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and Tata Group.

The exercise will see the installation of over 15,000 next generation seats across business, premium economy and economy class, Air India said.

Passengers have been complaining about some service issues with the airline's legacy fleet, including those related to inflight entertainment systems.

According to the airline, the refitted A320 neo aircraft will feature eight business class seats, 24 premium economy seats and 132 economy seats. Among other facilities, these

planes will have portable electronic device holders and USB ports.

"The commencement of interior refit of the narrow body fleet is an important step in our journey of enhancing the flying experience of our customers. Over time, all the legacy wide body aircraft will also be refitted," Air India chief executive officer and managing director Campbell Wilson said.

After taking over the loss-making Air India, Tata Group has put in a place a transformation road map for the airline, which is now expanding its fleet as well as network. The carrier has also started operating wide body A350 planes on various routes.

SpiceJet's ₹3,000-cr QIP oversubscribed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: SpiceJet is now looking at a lifeline with its crucial fundraising exercise learnt to be finding favour with investors. The airline's Rs 3,000-crore QIP has been oversubscribed, say sources. The likely investors include institutional funds like Tata Mutual Fund, Bandhan Bank, Discovery Fund, Plutus, Jupiter Fund Management and Think Investments. Family offices of ace investors Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangi and Rohit Kothari are also learnt to have subscribed to the QIP.

A Correction: SpiceJet's TDS and PF dues to employees are over Rs 350 crore and not Rs 3,500 crore as inadvertently reported on Wednesday. The error is regretted. The airline's preliminary placement document (PPD) says it has not paid about Rs 220 crore TDS that was deducted from employees' salary between April 2020 and Aug 2023 to tax authorities and also not paid over Rs 135.3 crore PF to staffers in the same period. The airline's PPD filed with BSE says about Rs 72 crore TDS for AY 2009-10 to 2013-14 is 'disputed'.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

SpiceJet admits not paying over ₹3,500cr in TDS & PF

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New Delhi: Struggling-to-survive SpiceJet has admitted not paying about Rs 2,200 crore TDS that was deducted from employees' salary between April 2020 and Aug 2023 to tax authorities and over Rs 1,353 crore PF to staffers in the same period.

The airline's preliminary placement document (PPD) filed with BSE says about Rs 720 crore TDS for AY 2009-10 to 2013-14 is disputed. The LCC has listed significant dues to customs, service tax and GST as "disputed". The airline is trying to raise Rs 3,000 crore by the month-end to remain afloat.

"Owing to our financial stress, we have been in alleged default under several of our aircraft lease agreements, leading to ground-



STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE

ing of substantial part of our fleet. Such alleged defaults have also led to our aircraft lessors and other vendors to initiate legal or enforcement proceedings against us, including proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, enforce bank guarantees, appropriate security deposits or repossess our aircraft, which has and may in the future adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations," the PPD says.

The airline has grounded more than half of its fleet. "As of June 30, 2024, of our total

fleet size of 64 aircraft, 36 aircraft (constituting to 56.3% of total fleet size) are grounded, owing primarily to alleged default in payment of dues to the aircraft lessors and lack of maintenance on such aircraft due to financial constraints and/or non-availability of components and spare parts. Due to the smaller size of our fleet after the pandemic, our traffic and market share have both declined," it says.

The airline plans to utilize "substantial portion of proposed capital raise" through this PPD for un-grounding fleet. "We believe that our prospects for servicing our existing debt and achieving future profitability depend in large part on our ability to attain critical mass in terms of fleet size, projected passenger volumes and projected yield levels.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

B'luru-bound flight suffers tailstrike

An IndiGo Delhi-Bengaluru flight had a tail strike during take off from IGI Airport on Sept 9. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has grounded the crew operating this flight 6E-6054 on Airbus A321neo (VT-IBI). The aircraft is learnt to have suffered the tail strike during take off, which left significant signs of damage. The same was discovered in Bengaluru when an engineer of the airline was inspecting the aircraft for its next flight. Data of this flight has been sent to Airbus for assessment, say sources. The DGCA is probing this incident.