



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024



GMR AIRPORTS IN NEWSWEEK'S MOST TRUSTED COMPANIES

FC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 20

GMR Airports Limited, formerly GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited, has clinched the fifth position globally in the transport, logistics and packaging category in Newsweek's World's Most Trusted Companies survey 2024.

"Being recognised among the top 5 most trustworthy companies globally by Newsweek is a testament to our commitment to safety, innovation, and operational excellence. This achievement inspires us to continually elevate the standards of airport infrastructure and passenger experience," said GBS Raju, chairman of GMR Airports.

The ranking is derived from evaluations encompassing customer feedback, employee sentiment, investor confidence, and social media analysis, a release said.

Conducted in collaboration with Statista, a global data and business intelligence platform, the survey evaluated over 1,000 companies across 23 industries and 20 countries. Others in the list alongside include the likes of Singapore Airlines, United Parcel Service, Rolls-Royce, and Central Japan Railway Company.

"This list celebrates companies that have earned the trust of stakeholders through their consistent delivery of quality products, fair employment practices," said Nancy Cooper, Global Editor-in-Chief of Newsweek.



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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

Tummala bats for Bhadradri airport

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 19

Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday requested Union civil aviation minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu to set up a greenfield airport in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district. He also urged the Union minister to expedite the process of setting up airports in Warangal, Adilabad and Mahbubnagar.

Rao met several Union ministers in Delhi with a list of requests. Rao requested agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to establish a coconut board in state. He expressed gratitude for imposing a 28 per cent import duty on oil palm which, he said, would impetus to domestic culti-

vation of the crop. He appealed to the Centre to provide minimum support price for oil palm and requested the establishment of a centre of excellence in Aswaraopeta, Khammam. The minister who had toured flood-hit Khammam district recently is reported to have responded positively to requests for adequate financial assistance.

Rao took part in the World Food Summit being held at Bharat Mandapam where he held meetings with industry leaders such as Lulu Group chairman Yusuf Ali, Monin India MD Germain Araud, and BL Agro MD Navneet Ravikar. Rao highlighted the opportunities available in Telangana and invited them to set up food processing units in the state.



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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

RGIA CLARIFIES ON THE DEATH OF TWO PASSENGERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 19

Even as social media is agog with news that two Hyderabad-bound passengers had died on the same day, the RGIA authorities on Thursday clarified that the reports were baseless. Officials said that on September 16, a male passenger, who was coming from Goa on a flight, was found unconscious in the aircraft. As per the standard protocol, the airport medical centre (AMC) was informed and the passenger was taken to the unit where he was administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation. However, despite the best of efforts, the passenger could not be saved.

The next day, a wheelchair-bound female passenger travelling from Jeddah to Hyderabad fell unconscious upon arrival at the forecourt of the arrival area, near the ramp. She was immediately taken to the AMC where she was pronounced dead on arrival authorities said.

● **RGIA OFFICIALS** said on September 16, a male passenger, who was coming from Goa on a flight, was found unconscious in the aircraft.

SVPI Airport introduces free Wi-Fi coupons for passengers

FPJ News Service

AHMEDABAD

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA), managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of the globally diversified Adani Group, as part of process improvement recently introduced an innovative way for non-Indian SIM card holders to access Wi-Fi at the terminal.

Wi-Fi coupon dispensers, located at strategic passenger areas inside both terminals – T-1 and T-2 – will provide hassle-free access to free Wi-Fi to all the passengers traveling through Ahmedabad Airport, especially enabling passengers with non-Indian SIM cards.

The Process

Passengers with Non-Indian SIM cards can use this service by scanning their passports and boarding passes at the nearest Wi-Fi Coupon dispenser and accepting terms



and conditions. The dispenser will then generate a unique free Wi-Fi voucher code. On receipt of the code, passengers may connect to the Wi-Fi named 'AMD_FreeWiFi' and enter the code received from the Wi-Fi coupon dispensing kiosks. This will enable them to enjoy 120 minutes of free Wi-Fi at Ahmedabad Airport.

With the introduction of these new Wi-Fi coupon dis-

pensers, travelers at SVPI Airport will be able to access free Wi-Fi facility more conveniently.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport remains committed to innovative and technological advancements. It aims to cater to the evolving needs of its passengers and further solidify its position as a modern and technologically advanced travel hub.



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NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

दिल्ली और कोलकाता एयरपोर्ट के ऑडिट में मिली कमियां

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■ नई दिल्ली: संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एजेसी इंटरनेशनल सिविल एविएशन ऑर्गनाइजेशन (ICAO) ने भारत में दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट और कोलकाता के नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का ऑडिट किया। 2018 के बाद हुआ यह ऑडिट 11 दिनों तक चला। इसमें कुछ कमियां मिली हैं, लेकिन राहत की बात है कि हालात 2018 के मुकाबले बेहतर हुए हैं। ऑडिट रिपोर्ट को अभी सार्वजनिक नहीं किया गया है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि 27 अगस्त से 6 सितंबर तक चले इस ऑडिट में 10 देशों के ICAO ऑडिटर्स की टीम शामिल थी। उन्होंने 11 दिनों तक देश में दोनो इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर कई तरह की सर्विस का बारीकी से निरीक्षण किया। इनमें भारत के एविएशन सेक्टर में सुरक्षा मानकों पर ध्यान रखने वाला ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिक्योरिटी (BCAS) और एविएशन रेगुलेटर डीजीसीए द्वारा की जा रही मॉनिटरिंग और नियम तोड़ने वाली एयरलाइंस और एयरपोर्ट पर की गई कार्रवाई को भी देखा गया। इसके अलावा ऑडिट में एयरपोर्ट के लिए सिक्योरिटी का काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों की ट्रेनिंग, फ्लाइट सेफ्टी और सिक्योरिटी,

- संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एजेसी ICAO ने 2018 के बाद 11 दिनों तक किया ऑडिट
- रिपोर्ट अभी सार्वजनिक नहीं की गई, लेकिन 2018 से इस बार बेहतर रिजल्ट

क्वालिटी कंट्रोल, एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेशंस, लगेज की सुरक्षा, कार्गो हैंडलिंग प्रोसेस और अवैध हस्तक्षेप जैसे मुख्य बिंदुओं पर ऑडिट किया गया। ऑडिट में देखा गया कि भारतीय एयरलाइंस और एयरपोर्ट अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों का किस स्तर तक पालन कर रहे हैं। इसमें साइबर अटैक जैसे हमलों की स्थिति से निपटने की व्यवस्था को भी देखा गया। सूत्रों का कहना है कि ऑडिट की रिपोर्ट सार्वजनिक नहीं की गई है। लेकिन पता लगा है कि इसमें 2018 में आईसीएओ द्वारा भारत में किए गए ऑडिट से अच्छा रहा है। इसमें 2018 के मुकाबले दोनो एयरपोर्ट और एयरलाइंस में कमियां काफी कम मिली हैं। क्या इसका असर भारत की एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो जैसी एयरलाइंस की इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइटों को बढ़ाने की योजनाओं पर पड़ सकता है? सूत्रों ने बताया कि इस बारे में कुछ खुलासा नहीं किया जा सकता। ऑडिट ने कुछ जरूरी दिशा-निर्देश दिए हैं, जिन्हें पूरा करने के लिए काम शुरू कर दिया गया है।



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RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

एयरपोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क
patrika.com

भोपाल. राजाभोज एयरपोर्ट पर बम रखने की धमकी देने के मामले में पुलिस ने युवक की तलाश कर रही है। डायल 100 को फोन कर राजा भोज एयरपोर्ट पर बम रखने की धमकी दी। सूचना पर बीडी एंड डीएस की टीम ने एयरपोर्ट की सर्चिंग की, पर वहाँ कुछ नहीं मिला। एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ने गांधी नगर थाने में मामले की शिकायत दर्ज कराई। पुलिस ने आरोपी की पहचान दशरथ सिंह निवासी सुभाष कॉलोनी के रूप में की है। माता-पिता से विवाद के बाद उसने यह हरकत की।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

RGIA awarded for energy efficiency

Hyderabad: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport Limited (RGIA) was recognised as 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' at the 25th National Award Ceremony for Excellence in Energy Management organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) recently. "These awards underscore the airport's unwavering commitment to promoting energy efficiency and sustainability within its operations," said RGIA. TNN



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THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

SC upholds HC's order against SpiceJet on defaulting payment

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 20

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld an order of the Delhi high court that directed low-cost airline SpiceJet to ground three aircraft engines for defaulting on payments to lessors.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra dismissed the appeal filed by SpiceJet against the HC verdict on September 11.

The SC said, "We will not interfere. It's the correct order."



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

एअर इंडिया ने दो साल में की 9,000 भर्तियां

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया ने दो वर्षों में 9,000 कर्मचारियों की भर्ती की है। कंपनी के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी कैपबेल विल्सन ने बताया, इसमें 5,000 क्रू सदस्य हैं। कर्मचारियों की औसत उम्र 54 साल से घटकर 35 साल रह गई है। बाजार हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 27 फीसदी हो गई है। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Transformation efforts bearing fruit, says Air India CEO

Our Bureau
Mumbai

National carrier Air India's transformation plan is bearing fruit as the airline has expanded its network and managed to cut down its losses, Managing Director and CEO Campbell Wilson wrote in a staff email on Friday.

Air India's market share in domestic routes increased from 24 per cent to 27 per cent on a year on year basis in FY24.

Similarly the carrier's share on international routes rose from 21 per cent to 24 per cent in the same period on the back of network expansion and service improvements..

In the past two years, the airline launched 35 new routes and added eleven new destinations with induction of new aircraft and hiring of 9,000 personnel, Wilson said

SECOND YEAR

Air India announced completion of second year of transformation plan on Friday.

"When we consider the financial year in question covered only the early part of our transformation programme, most of the initiatives we have been working on were implemented at the time." "These early results should encourage us that the effort is bearing fruit. Work has of course continued apace in the six months since the financial year ended, and the strong momentum has continued," Wilson further wrote.



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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Air India hired 9K employees in two years: Wilson

Air India has hired 9,000 employees, including 5,000 crew members, in the last two years to meet the workforce requirement for its expanding fleet and network, the airline's Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson said on Friday. In a message to staff, he said the airline's domestic market share rose from 24 per cent in FY23 to 27 per cent in FY24 and the international market share climbed from 21 per cent to 24 per cent during the same period.

PTI

मुकेश अंबानी ने खरीदा 1,000 करोड़ रुपए का बोइंग 737 मैक्स 9 विमान

डिलीवरी से पहले फ्रांस, स्विट्जरलैंड में प्रीमियम फर्स्ट क्लास सीटें लगीं

बिजनेस संवाददाता | मुंबई

एशिया के सबसे अमीर व्यक्ति मुकेश अंबानी ने दुनिया के सबसे महंगे विमानों में से एक बोइंग बीबीजे 737 मैक्स 9 की डिलीवरी ली है। मूल रूप से यह विमान 220 यात्रियों की क्षमता वाला है। लेकिन इसे अंबानी परिवार के प्राइवेट जेट के रूप में मॉडिफाई किया गया है। जानकारी के मुताबिक, डिलीवरी से पहले, स्विट्जरलैंड और फ्रांस में इसमें एडवांस वीआईपी इंटीरियर, प्रीमियम फर्स्ट क्लास सीटें, शानदार इंटीरियर और कस्टमाइज फिटिंग्स



कराई गईं। इसकी मूल कीमत 11.85 करोड़ डॉलर (करीब 1,000 करोड़ रुपए) है। लेकिन इसमें मॉडिफिकेशन की लागत शामिल नहीं है। यह प्लेन एक बार में 11,770 किमी की उड़ान भर सकता है। इस नए जेट को व्हाइट और नेवी ब्लू कलर के साथ ही गोल्डन कलर दिया गया

है। इसकी टेल फिन में रिलायंस का लोगो बना है। भारत आने से पहले इसकी कई टेस्ट फ्लाइट हुईं। फिलहाल यह जेट दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर खड़ा है। इसे जल्द मुंबई लाया जाएगा। इस प्लेन के साथ ही अंबानी परिवार और रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज के पास 10 विमान हो गए हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

शीर्ष कोर्ट ने खारिज की स्पाइसजेट की याचिका

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शुक्रवार को दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट के उस आदेश को बरकरार रखा, जिसमें उसने किफायती एयरलाइन स्पाइसजेट को लीज दाताओं को धुगतान में चूक करने के कारण तीन इंजनों को सेवा से हटाने का निर्देश दिया था। कोर्ट ने स्पाइसजेट की याचिका खारिज कर दी।

सीजेआइ डीवाई चंद्रचूड़ की पीठ ने हाई कोर्ट के 11 सितंबर के फैसले के विरुद्ध दाखिल स्पाइस जेट की अपील खारिज कर दी। पीठ ने कहा, 'हम हस्तक्षेप नहीं करेंगे। यह सही आदेश है।'

LOSSES FALL BY 50% IN FY24

AI Domestic Mkt Share Rises to 27%, Intl 24%

Forum Gandhi

Mumbai: Air India has grown its market share in FY24 from a year earlier, increasing its domestic share to 27% from 24%, and international, to 24% from 21%, driven by network expansion and service enhancements.

Operating revenue rose by 25% while losses reduced by over 50% year-on-year, chief executive Campbell Wilson said in an internal message to employees, seen by ET. He added that the “strong momentum has continued,” in the first six months of FY25.

He also said, “the integration of cargo units into a single business entity with a state-of-the-art Cargo Management System” has begun.

ET had last month reported that the airline will integrate the cargo businesses from AIX Connect, Vistara, Air India Express and Air India into one.

Regarding FY25, he noted, “The initiatives we implemented are showing early results, encouraging us that our efforts are paying off.”

Further, “work has continued at pace since the FY ended,” and stressed that “strong momentum is crucial for being World Class and financially successful,” he said. He was addressing employees on the second anniversary of the 5-year Vihaan.AI transformation journey.

The airline has hired 9000 employees in two years, taking the count to 18000.



Air India CEO Campbell Wilson

The Air India Group comprises Air India, Vistara, Air India Express, and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India). In 2022, the Tata Group took over Air India and Air India Express from the Indian government. Tata Group’s Vistara, in which Singapore Airlines has a stake, is close to merging with Air India to create India’s sole full service carrier (FSC), while Air India Express and AIX Connect are merging into a larger low cost carrier (LCC). The group has ordered 470 aircraft, including 370 options.

Speaking about the company’s international expansion, Wilson said, it has started long-haul international operations of a brand-new Airbus A350 aircraft between Delhi and London Heathrow, and will introduce it to the US starting November 2024.

Grounding of 3 engines: No SC relief for SpiceJet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, September 20

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday upheld an order of the Delhi High Court which directed low-cost airline SpiceJet to ground three aircraft engines for defaulting on payments to lessors.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra dismissed the appeal filed by SpiceJet against the high court verdict of September 11. "We will not interfere. It's a correct order," the bench said.

After the apex court order, a SpiceJet spokesperson said the company is currently in discussions with the aircraft lessor to reach an amicable settlement.

"It is important to note that two of the three engines in question are already grounded, and our operations remain completely normal and unaffected. We remain committed to ensuring seamless operations," the SpiceJet spokesperson said.

A division bench of the Delhi High Court had held that the carrier had violated an agreed interim arrangement for payment of dues and upheld an order of a single-judge bench asking the low-cost airline to ground the three engines for defaulting on the payments.

The single-judge bench of the high court had on August 14 directed SpiceJet to ground three engines by August 16 and hand them over to their lessors — Team France 01 SAS and Sunbird France 02 SAS.

The division bench of the high court had refused to interfere with an August 14 order of the single-judge bench to ground the three aircraft engines and hand them over to the lessors, and disposed of SpiceJet's appeals against it.

SpiceJet had challenged the August 14 order of the single-judge bench. "The appeals are emblematic of the adage that fools create assets and wise men use them. The use of a lessor's assets without recompense, on agreed terms, by the lessee often leads to consequences which disrupt the interests of both sides," the high court had said.

The HC said the record revealed that SpiceJet was in default, and past and current outstanding dues remain unpaid. "At the risk of repetition, it must be stressed that SpiceJet has violated an agreed interim arrangement for payment of dues,



ROUGH WEATHER

- A single-judge bench of Delhi HC had ordered SpiceJet to ground 3 aircraft engines for defaulting on payments

- A division bench of the court had held that SpiceJet violated agreed interim arrangement for payment of dues

- An SC bench on Friday refused to interfere with the high court's order against the airline
- A spokesperson said the carrier is in talks with the lessor to reach an amicable settlement

which included a term that upon breach, it would ground the engines that Team France and Sunbird France could then repossess," it had said.

The HC had said the second condition also stood fulfilled as the engines being depreciable assets would be of little use to the lessors if they were used without recompense.

"The fact that the financial condition of SpiceJet is weak is evident from its conduct and the stand taken on its behalf in court, which is that it is attempting to infuse funds through loans and/or equity.

"The position in which SpiceJet is at this juncture, Team France and Sunbird France could well end up both without its engines or the monies due under the engine-lease agreements. Therefore, compensation in terms of money does not seem probable from the point of view of Team France and Sunbird France," it had said.



Air India's transformation bearing fruit, says Wilson

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, September 20

AIR INDIA WILL reconfigure its narrow- and wide-body planes to add new cabins and seats and offer upgraded services to its customers as it changes gears under its five-year transformation programme called Vihaan.AI.

On the occasion of the completion of two years of Vihaan.AI, Campbell Wilson, managing director and CEO, Air India, said in an email to employees on Friday, "In our just-published financial results, we reported that consolidated losses reduced by over 50% year-on-year, and consolidated operating revenues rose by 25% to the highest-ever level."

Air India more than halved its net loss to ₹4,444 crore during the reporting year, from ₹11,388 crore recorded in FY23, as per disclosures made in the annual report of Tata Sons. Its standalone revenues jumped 24% to ₹38,812 crore from ₹31,377 crore posted in FY23.

"When we consider that the year covered only the early part of our transformation programme, before most of the initiatives we have been working on were implemented, these early results should encourage us that the effort is bearing fruit," Wilson added.

The former government-owned carrier is aiming to retrofit three-



Campbell Wilson, managing director and CEO, Air India

FLIGHT PLAN

- Air India has more than halved its net loss to ₹4,444 crore from ₹11,388 crore recorded in FY23
- Standalone revenues jumped 24% to ₹38,812 crore from ₹31,377 crore in FY23
- The Tata Group-owned airline has completed two years of its five-year transformation programme called Vihaan.AI

four narrow-body aircraft each month before completing the entire exercise by the middle of 2025 totalling 67 aircraft.

Its 40 legacy widebody aircraft — Boeing 787 and Boeing 777 — will undergo retrofitting as soon as the seats are certified and delivered, the company said.

The first of the Airbus A350 widebodies was pressed into service on the Delhi-London route earlier this month, offering a customer experience unlike those seen on its legacy planes.

The Tata Group-owned airline also refreshed its domestic lounge in Delhi, featuring several enhancements including a relaxation zone, sleeping pods, private shower rooms, an upgraded food and bev-

erage menu, and a team of dedicated service assurance officers.

Its ground handling partner AISATS introduced new luxury coaches for premium passengers at Delhi airport, for occasions where the airline has to use remote bays rather than aerobridges. The first of these eco-friendly premium coaches are now in service.

"Our network continued to expand, with the inauguration of a daily non-stop flight between Delhi and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, our sixth Southeast Asian destination, while on the ground, we inaugurated Block D at our Vatika headquarters this week, the fourth and final block of the Air India campus, just in time to receive more colleagues from Vistara," Wilson said.

वित्त मंत्री ने मामले को गंभीरता से लेकर दिए जांच के निर्देश

छत्तीसगढ़ में टल गया बड़ा हादसा: रनवे पर लड़खड़ाया विमान राज्य के वित्त व स्वास्थ्य मंत्री समेत कई दिग्गज बचे बाल-बाल

हरिभूमि न्यूज | कोरबा

वर्ष सांसद स्वर्गीय डॉक्टर सीलाल महतो की धर्मपत्नी के शगात्र में शामिल होने छत्तीसगढ़ के वित्त मंत्री ओपी चौधरी और स्वास्थ्य मंत्री श्याम बिहारी रायसवाल प्रदेश के भाजपा अध्यक्ष छत्तीसगढ़ के सरकारी इमान से कोरबा आए। रूम गड़ा एयर स्ट्रिप पर विमान उतरा लेकिन कुशल नीचे उतरने से पहले इमान में बैठे भाजपा नेताओं की गैरी सांस अटक गई, क्योंकि विमान वाई पट्टी पर हिचकोले खाने लगा था। उचित देखभाल के अभाव में



हवाई पट्टी क्षतिग्रस्त हो गई थी बावजूद इसके विमान को यहां उतरने की अनुमति दे दी गई।

मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक वित्त मंत्री ओपी चौधरी ने इस मामले

को गंभीरता से लिया और उन्होंने संबंधित लोगों से कारण जानने और दोषी लोगों की जानकारी प्राप्त करने का निर्देश प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों को दिया। कोरबा कलेक्टर ने

बालको प्रबंधन और छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य विद्युत उत्पादन कंपनी को नोटिस जारी कर दिया है। बताया जाता है कि तीन दिन के भीतर जवाब तलब किया गया है। गौरतलब है कि अखंड मध्यप्रदेश के समय जब कोरबा में विद्युत संयंत्र की स्थापना का कार्य शुरू हुआ था उस समय तत्कालीन एमपी ईवी प्रबंधन ने रूमगड़ा में एयर स्ट्रिप का निर्माण कराया था। इस हवाई पट्टी पर राज्य सरकार के विमान उतरा करते थे। कालांतर में यह एयरस्ट्रिप बालको प्रबंधन को देखरेख के लिए सौंप दी गई। बालकों का निजी विमान इसी हवाई पट्टी पर उतरा

कोरबा की हवाई सुविधा की बातें केवल हवाहवाई

कोरबा को हवाई सुविधा प्राप्त हो और उच्चता के मार्ग पर तीव्र गति से यह शहर अक्सर हो इस दिशा में चर्चा तो खूब होती है लेकिन उस पर अमल नहीं होता। कोरबा को हवाई सुविधा दिलाने में का प्रयास प्रारंभ किया, लेकिन उदासीनता के कारण बात आगे नहीं बढ़ सकी। कलेक्टर अजीत वसंत ने बताया इस मामले के बाद बालको और सीएसईबी को शो काज नोटिस जारी किया गया है उनके जवाब आने के बाद आगे की कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित की जाएगी। वहीं इस घटना के बाद बालको प्रबंधन को और से बालकों के एयर स्ट्रिप पर टीम पहुंची।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Aircraft with damaged belly cleared for flight without inspection

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

An IndiGo Airbus A321 aircraft parked in Bengaluru since September 9, which is the subject of a Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) inquiry for scraping against the runway surface, may have arrived in the same condition at its previous stop at Delhi airport.

On September 17, after a purported photo of the damaged aircraft went viral, a senior DGCA official said that the regulatory body was investigating the IndiGo tail strike. The official said the digital flight data recorder had been sent to aircraft manufacturer Airbus for a technical analysis, which was awaited.

However, the latest information suggests that the aircraft registered as VT-IBI also arrived at Delhi airport on September 9 with a

damaged fuselage, which went unnoticed and the aircraft was cleared for the next flight to Bengaluru. According to messages exchanged on a WhatsApp group of IndiGo staffers and reviewed by *The Hindu*, the airline suspended an aircraft maintenance engineer at Delhi airport because he failed to conduct the mandatory walk-around or an external inspection of the aircraft, and issued a "certificate of release to service" for it.

Neither IndiGo nor the DGCA has disclosed where the tail strike occurred and how many flights the damaged aircraft operated before being grounded at Bengaluru after 6E-6054 landed on September 9. *The Hindu* sent a questionnaire to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers who replied, "The matter is under review by DGCA. Hence we can't go into any details."

SPICEJET FACES SETBACK AS SC BACKS ORDER TO GROUND ENGINES

Utkarsh Anand

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the Delhi high court's directive requiring SpiceJet to ground and return three aircraft engines leased from French companies due to non-payment of dues, dismissing the airline's appeal and suggesting it independently negotiate with the lessors.

A bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, observed that SpiceJet was free to engage in negotiations with the lessors, Team France 01 SAS and Sunbird France 02 SAS, over the weekend, but refused to interfere with the high court's September 11 order. The high court had directed the low-cost airline to ground three engines and return them within 15 days after SpiceJet failed to pay outstanding lease rentals.

"If you don't comply, then you have to return the engines," the bench, also comprising justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, warned the airline during the hearing.

In response, SpiceJet informed the court that it was already in discussions to settle the payments and was prepared to make payments immediately. The airline added that while two engines were already grounded, arranging a stand to return the engines would take at least a month, even though they were required to be handed over within 15 days.

But the bench refused to entertain the petition any further and affirmed the high court directive. It further observed that the airline was at liberty to approach the high court for modification of the deadline in appropriate proceedings.

The development follows a string of judicial decisions against SpiceJet. Earlier this month, a division bench of the Delhi high court had declined to overturn a single judge's August 14 order directing the grounding of the engines leased by the two France-based lessors.

‘Air India to upgrade its entire narrow-body fleet by mid-2025’

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Air India, which will soon have its sister airline Vistara merge into it, aims to upgrade all its narrow-body aircraft by mid-2025, chief executive officer Campbell Wilson said in an internal communication to staff on Friday.

Narrow-body aircraft are the mainstay of domestic airline operations for most airlines, with wide-body ones typically flown on long-haul routes.

“First, we commenced the refit of 67 narrow-body aircraft with new cabin configurations and seats. With three to four aircraft to be retrofitted each month, the entire narrow-body fleet should be upgraded by mid-2025,” his email read.

Work on upgrading Air India’s 40 legacy 787 and 777



Air India completed two years on September 15 since it embarked on a five-year Vihaan.AI transformation plan. REUTERS

aircraft—which are wide-body jets—on long-haul routes to the UK and US, will follow as soon as the seats, which have been selected, are certified and delivered, the mail added.

Air India completed two years on September 15 since it embarked on a five-year

Vihaan.AI transformation plan.

“In our just published financial results, we also reported that consolidated losses reduced by over 50% year-on-year, and consolidated operating revenues rose by 25% to the highest-ever level,” the CEO said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Air India hired 9,000 employees in two years, says CEO Wilson

MINT



New Delhi: Air India has hired 9,000 employees, including 5,000 crew members, in the last two years to meet the workforce requirement for its expanding fleet and network, the airline's chief Campbell Wilson said on Friday. In a message to staff, he said the airline's domestic market share rose from 24% in FY23 to 27% in FY24 and the international market share climbed from 21% to 24% during the same period, due to network expansion and service improvements. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

SC upholds grounding of SpiceJet engines

Krishna Yadav
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NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected SpiceJet's plea against a Delhi high court order that required the cash-strapped airline to ground three engines leased from Team France OISAS and Sunbird France O2 SAS over unpaid dues.

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud upheld the HC's orders, finding that SpiceJet violated a consent order with the lessors. The court said the HC judgement was correct and said it was reluctant to interfere.

The SC denied a request from SpiceJet's senior counsel Amit Sibal for more time to comply with the grounding order. Sibal said the airline had paid over \$8 million to the lessors and that discussions were on for a settlement. He requested relief until an agreement was reached, but the court refused to intervene.

Sibal also told the court that while two of the three engines had been grounded, SpiceJet needed special stands to ground the engines before returning them to the lessors, and requested more time. SC advised SpiceJet to explain its circumstances to HC.

Senior lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the lessors, argued that SpiceJet repeatedly violated the consent order, despite making 18 appearances in court and facing two high court orders while still using the engines.

The airline must now ground the engines, having exhausted its legal remedies to prevent this.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

SC asks SpiceJet to return three engines to lessors

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

IN a setback for SpiceJet, the Supreme Court on Friday in its order upheld the Delhi High Court's decision and directed SpiceJet to ground and return three aircraft engines to their lessors, following the airline's failure to comply with a previous order regarding payment.

SpiceJet is reported to owe about \$6.09 million to its lessors. Refusing to modify the HC's order, the apex court reiterated that the order explicitly outlines the consequences of non-payment, which includes grounding the aircraft. "We see no reason to interfere with the high court order," the Supreme Court's three-judge bench, led by CJI D Y Chandrachud, observed.

Earlier, the HC on September 11 held that the carrier had violated an agreed interim arrangement for payment of dues and upheld an order of a single-judge bench asking the low-cost airline to ground the three engines for defaulting on the payments. A SpiceJet spokesman said it is in talks with the aircraft lessor to reach an amicable settlement. "2 of the 3 engines in question are already grounded, and our operations remain completely normal and unaffected," it said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

स्पाइसजेट को सुप्रीम कोर्ट से भी नहीं मिली राहत

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के उस आदेश को शुक्रवार को बरकरार रखा, जिसमें स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइन को पड़दाताओं को भुगतान में चूक के कारण तीन विमान इंजन का उपयोग बंद करने का निर्देश दिया गया था। प्रधान न्यायाधीश डी वाई चंद्रचूड़ और न्यायमूर्ति जे बी पारदीवाला तथा न्यायमूर्ति मनोज मिश्रा की पीठ ने उच्च न्यायालय के 11 सितम्बर के निर्णय के खिलाफ विमानन कंपनी की अपील खारिज कर दी। पीठ ने कहा, हम हस्तक्षेप नहीं करेंगे। यह एक सही आदेश है।

शीर्ष अदालत के आदेश के बाद, स्पाइसजेट के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि कंपनी एक सौहार्दपूर्ण समझौते पर पहुंचने के लिए विमान पट्टे पर देने वालों के साथ फिलहाल चर्चा कर रही है। प्रवक्ता ने कहा, यह ध्यान रखना जरूरी है कि जिन तीन इंजन का उल्लेख किया गया है, उनमें से दो पहले ही बंद कर दिए गए हैं, और हमारा परिचालन पूरी तरह से सामान्य और अप्रभावित बना हुआ है। हम निर्बाध परिचालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।

Post 'worst 1st class' flight from US, AI refunds flyer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Air India has issued a refund to a passenger who had the "worst first class" experience on a Chicago-Delhi flight that cost him \$6,300 (Rs5.3lakh) for a one-way ride.

The seats and carpet were extremely dirty and had stain marks; its inflight entertainment (IFE) didn't work during the 15-hour flight; "30%" of the food options on the menu weren't available, according to Anip Patel. Founder of a Chicago-based VC firm CaPatel Investments, Patel shot a video of his harrowing experience and posted it on Instagram. The video went viral, garnering thousands of views.

Complaints like these have

AIRING GRIEVANCE

► 'AI first class was in poor condition—unclean, with leftover food and trash still in cabin and everything looked worn out or broken. (Meal service) was first come first served for 4 passengers'

► 'I did not file any complaint with AI but they saw this video. They called me & refunded my entire flight'
—Anip Patel, Chicago-Delhi flyer

been mounting, especially for passengers flying AI's old widebody aircraft that are still some years from a desperately-needed rejig. Reply awaited from AI till the time of going to press.

► 'Ripped & ruined', P 14

Everything was 'ripped, ruined' in first class on AI US flight: Patel

► Continued from P 1

On many international sectors, especially the US, AI is the only non-stop option for flyers who pay lakhs (up to Rs16 lakh for return first class fare) to fly these monopoly routes.

The Tatas-owned AI has been issuing refunds to passengers of some flights in recent months delayed by many hours or even days. Now it has started issuing refunds for broken seats too, as with this latest case.

"I recently endured a 15-hour non-stop flight from Chicago to Delhi, and it was far from pleasant. I had heard negative things about Air India in the past, but I was hoping the recent changes under new management would improve experience. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case.... IFE was down the entire flight. First class was in poor

condition—unclean, with leftover food and trash still in the cabin and everything looked worn out or broken. It was a pretty frustrating experience overall. Be aware if you're flying with them," Patel said on Instagram.

According to Patel, everything was "ripped, ruined". "Meal service was first come first served for the four passengers in first class. I understand regular wear and tear. But this was next level. I did not file any complaint with Air India but through social media they saw this video. They called me and refunded my entire flight (fare)... they did make it right and it's worth noting," Patel said.

Comments were sought from AI on this most recent refund and reply awaited till the time of going to press.

A passenger posted on X from handle @HumeraPathan on Sept 19 about another

poor experience. "Terrible experience on Air India Mumbai-Newark (New York) flight. Broken tray, reading lights continuously blinking and no entertainment system on a 16-hour (flight). All this when AI is charging the highest fare for this sector," @HumeraPathan wrote.

This Monday (Sept 16), AI finally started implementing its \$400-million revamp programme for 27 Airbus A320neos and 40 widebody Boeing (777 and 787s) aircraft. In a phased manner, first the Airbus and then the Boeing planes will get new seats, carpets, curtains, upholstery and modern cabins. Upgradation of the full narrowbody fleet is expected by mid-2025, followed by widebody aircraft.

This means passengers who fly long-hauls on AI's old planes, still have a long wait before they can be assured of a decent onboard experience.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

Singapore-bound AI Express flight delayed by hours again

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Chennai: An Air India Express flight from Chennai to Singapore was delayed by six hours on Thursday, a day after the same flight was delayed by nine hours. Around 170 passengers were made to wait at the airport with "no proper communication from the operator," fliers said.

The flight, which was supposed to reach Chennai from Singapore at 11.40pm on Wednesday and make the return journey at

1.40am on Thursday, landed here only at 6.30am and had a delayed departure at 8am. Passengers were made to wait in the lounge.

Though Air India Express representatives did not comment on the delay, sources said the delay was the ripple effect of the previous day and added that flight timings were altered till Friday. "The flight will stick to its original timings from Saturday," they said.

Priyanka, a passenger on Wednesday's flight which was delayed by nine hours, posted on

X that Air India Express ground staffers were rude and did not give any explanation for the delay. "Their lethargic attitude only added to the agony," she stated.

Sheik Mohamed, another passenger, said the lounge was too crowded and there was no place to sit. On Tuesday, the flight had a delayed departure by two hours. However, Air India Express apologised to the passengers on X and said the flight could not be scheduled due to operational reasons and for the safety of passengers.