



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIME OF INDIA AHMEDBAD 22 MAR 2024

## Expanded taxiway lets SVPI airport handle more aircraft

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**Ahmedabad:** The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport in Ahmedabad operationalized a 395-metre-long taxiway on Thursday to improve runway efficiency. Work on extension of the taxiway was ongoing for the past 18 months. The earlier size of the taxiway was about 1,500 metres, which has now been expanded. Completion of this taxiway marks the end of the first phase of the runway expansion project at the airport.

“The additional space added to the taxiway parallel to the runway will enhance the operational efficiency of the runway. More space will keep fewer aircraft on the active runway, ensuring smoother take-offs and landings. This will also enable the runway to handle about 15% more take-off and landing movements,”



said a top source privy to the development.

Once the construction is over, the taxiways will be connected to the runway from three points. As a result, take-off and landing operations can go on smoothly. At present, it takes about 10 minutes between a landing and a take-off, according to a source.

The airport operates 250 flights a day, including departures to and arrivals from domestic and international destinations. Every day, around 37,000 incoming and outbo-

und passengers are handled by the SVPI airport operator.

Sources said that construction work is underway for an additional taxiway near Runway 05. This will expand the apron area of the airport. Sources confirmed that work is expected to be completed in two months.

The SVPI airport plans to come up with five additional aircraft parking stands at the newly expanded apron area. This will take the total number of aircraft parking stands to 48 from the existing 43.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## एअर इंडिया पर 80 लाख का जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने उड़ान ढूँढी समयसीमा और उड़ान चालक दल की थकान प्रबंधन प्रणाली से जुड़े मानदंडों के उल्लंघन पर एअर इंडिया पर 80 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है। डीजीसीए ने जनवरी में एअर इंडिया का मौके पर ऑडिट किया था। इस दौरान जुटाए सबूतों के आधार पर यह फैसला किया गया।

डीजीसीए ने कहा कि रिपोर्टों और सबूतों के विश्लेषण से पता चला, एअर इंडिया ने कुछ मामलों में 60 साल से अधिक उम्र के दोनों चालक दल के सदस्यों के साथ उड़ान भरी थी। एयरलाइन ने चालक दल को पर्याप्त साप्ताहिक आराम तथा लंबी उड़ानों से पहले व बाद में उचित आराम देने में کوتाही बरती। डीजीसीए ने एअर इंडिया को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया था। संतोषजनक जवाब नहीं मिलने के बाद एअर इंडिया पर यह कार्रवाई की गई। ब्यूरो

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

## Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS STANDARD DELHI 23 MAR 2024

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### Air India fined ₹80 lakh by DGCA for safety breaches



**Mumbai:** The DGCA has fined Air India ₹80 lakh for violating rules related to pilot duty hours. The fine was imposed following a spot audit of the airline in January. The audit revealed that the airline had rostered two pilots of over 60 years for certain flights, which is a violation of existing rules. A show cause notice was issued to Air India on March 1 and the fine was imposed as its response was not satisfactory, DGCA said. [OUR BUREAU](#)



## Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD DELHI 23 MAR 2024

### IndiGo to add 10 more destinations in FY25

Our Bureau  
Mumbai

IndiGo will induct more than one aircraft every week and add around 10 destinations in FY25, the airline said in its investor presentation on Friday. Currently, it has 366 aircraft and flies to 121 destinations.

The airline also aims to grow its capacity and passenger volume in "early double digits," it added. This would be slower than the targeted 22 per cent capacity growth in FY24 and indicates ongoing challenges with the grounding of aircraft.

#### CHALLENGES

The new duty time norms for pilots, which come into effect from June 1, are also an issue of concern for airlines seeking a deferral of the June 1 deadline for implementation.

IndiGo said it has achieved its guidance for FY24 by fly-



The airline aims to grow its capacity and passenger volume in double digits

ing over 100 million passengers in the year. Capacity growth too has been accomplished with the airline extending leases of aircraft and taking new aircraft on a wet lease basis.

In FY25, the airline will add 5,500-6,000 employees, it said.

IndiGo said it has regained positive net worth in the December quarter following five successive profitable quarters.

# विमानन में बढ़ेगी सीट क्षमता

कैलेंडर वर्ष 2024 की जून तिमाही के दौरान देश में 10.5 प्रतिशत सीट वृद्धि का अनुमान



सुरजीत दास गुप्ता  
नई दिल्ली, 22 मार्च

**दे**श में कैलेंडर वर्ष 24 की दूसरी तिमाही के दौरान विमानों की सीट क्षमता में पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि के मुकाबले 10.5 प्रतिशत वृद्धि दिख सकती है और सीट क्षमता बढ़कर 5.88 करोड़ हो सकती है। इससे भारत अमेरिका (31 करोड़ सीट) और चीन (24.2 करोड़ सीट) के बाद वैश्विक स्तर पर तीसरे स्थान पर पहुंच जाएगा। ओएजी के नवीनतम आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी मिली है।

साल 2024 की दूसरी तिमाही में भारत की अनुमानित सीट क्षमता जापान, स्पेन, ब्रिटेन, इटली, जर्मनी, इंडोनेशिया और तुर्की की तुलना में कहीं ज्यादा है।

सीट क्षमता के लिहाज से देश में साल 2019 की दूसरी तिमाही में महामारी से पहले और साल 2024

की दूसरी तिमाही में ओएजी की अनुमानित सीट क्षमता के बीच 16.8 प्रतिशत वृद्धि के साथ दूसरा सबसे ज्यादा इजाफा नजर आया है। इस मामले केवल चीन ही आगे है, जिसमें 18.7 प्रतिशत तक की तेजी से बढ़ने की उम्मीद है।

इसके अलावा भारत की प्रमुख विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो एयरलाइंस पिछले साल की दूसरी तिमाही के मुकाबले साल 2024 की इसी अवधि में 9.7 प्रतिशत तक की वृद्धि के साथ 3.264 करोड़ सीट क्षमता तक पहुंच सकती है। ओएजी के अनुसार सीट क्षमता के मामले में इंडिगो दुनिया में आठवें स्थान पर है।

कोविड से पहले साल 2019 की दूसरी तिमाही और साल 2024 की दूसरी तिमाही की अवधि में इंडिगो शीर्ष 10 विमानन कंपनियों में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाली कंपनी साबित हो रही है। साल 2019 की दूसरी तिमाही में इसकी सीट क्षमता 2.17 करोड़ सीट थी।

## स्पाइसजेट ने चुकाया पूरा बकाया : क्रेडिट सुइस

भाविनी मिश्रा  
नई दिल्ली, 22 मार्च

स्विस फर्म क्रेडिट सुइस ने शुक्रवार को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को बताया कि स्पाइसजेट के चेयरमैन व प्रबंध निदेशक अजय सिंह ने 2.4 करोड़ डॉलर के भुगतान विवाद में पूरे बकाए का भुगतान कर दिया है। अदालत ने इस प्रगति के बाद मामले की सुनवाई जुलाई के लिए सूचीबद्ध कर दी ताकि सुनिश्चित हो कि स्पाइसजेट भुगतान में और चूक नहीं करे।

अदालत ने कहा कि मामला तीन माह बाद सुनवाई के लिए आएगा तकि सुनिश्चित हो कि वे पहगले की तरह और चूक नहीं करे। क्रेडिट सुइस और स्पाइसजेट साल 2015 से करीब 2.4 करोड़ डॉलर के बकाया कर्ज को लेकर कानूनी लड़ाई लड़ रही थीं। सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने पिछले महीने विमानन कंपनी से कहा था कि वह मासिक भुगतान के अलावा 15 मार्च तक 12.5 लाख डॉलर का भुगतान और करे।

पिछले साल सितंबर में अदालत ने स्पाइसजेट को बकाए के निपटान के लिए स्विस फर्म को अतिरिक्त 30 लाख डॉलर का भुगतान छह महीने में करने की अनुमति दी थी। स्पाइसजेट पहले से ही हर महीने क्रेडिट सुइस को 5 लाख डॉलर का भुगतान कर रही थी और अदालत ने उसे छह महीने 5-5 लाख डॉलर के अतिरिक्त भुगतान का निर्देश दिया था।

# एयर इंडिया पर 80 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगा

दीपक पटेल

नई दिल्ली, 22 मार्च

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने शुक्रवार को एयर इंडिया पर 80 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया। फ्लाइट ड्यूटी टाइम लिमिटेशन (एफडीटीएल) से जुड़े नियमों के उल्लंघन की वजह से एयरलाइन पर यह जुर्माना लगाया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि काम पर थकान के कारण होने वाली किसी भी घटना को रोकने के लिए पायलटों को पर्याप्त आराम मिले।

पिछले दो वर्षों में ऐसे कई मामले सामने आए जब टाटा समूह-संचालित एयरलाइन को नियामक के गुस्से का सामना करना पड़ा। उदाहरण के लिए, फरवरी में एक बुजुर्ग यात्री को दिल का दौरा पड़ने के बाद एयर इंडिया को डीजीसीए द्वारा लगाया गया 30 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना भरना पड़ा। एयर इंडिया के व्हीलचेयर मुहैया न कराने पर बुजुर्ग यात्री को विमान से टर्मिनल तक पैदल ही जाना पड़ा जिसके कुछ मिनट बाद यह दुखद घटना हुई थी।

शुक्रवार को नियामक ने कहा कि उसने यह पता लगाने के लिए जनवरी में एयर इंडिया का ऑडिट कराया था कि क्या एयरलाइन एफडीटीएल और फटींग मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम (एफएमएस) से जुड़े नियमों का पालन कर रही है या नहीं। नियामक ने कई साक्ष्य जुटाए और बेड़े-वार रिपोर्टों का विश्लेषण किया।

नियामक ने कहा, 'रिपोर्टों के विश्लेषण



■ एफडीटीएल नियमों के उल्लंघन की वजह से डीजीसीए ने लगाया है जुर्माना

■ फरवरी में एक बुजुर्ग यात्री को दिल का दौरा पड़ने के बाद एयर इंडिया को डीजीसीए द्वारा लगाया गया 30 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना भरना पड़ा था

और साक्ष्यों से खुलासा हुआ कि एयर इंडिया ने 60 साल से अधिक उम्र के चालकों के साथ उड़ानें संचालित कीं, जो एयरक्राफ्ट रूल्स, 1937 के रूल 28ए के सब रूल (2) का उल्लंघन है। सब रूल (2) के अनुसार, एक उड़ान में दो पायलटों में से सिर्फ एक की उम्र ही 60 साल से ज्यादा हो सकती है।

डीजीसीए ने कहा, 'एयर इंडिया को पर्याप्त साप्ताहिक आराम मुहैया नहीं कराने, लंबी दूरी वाली (यूलआर) उड़ानों से पहले और बाद में पर्याप्त आराम नहीं देने का भी दोषी पाया गया था। यह एफडीटीएल से जुड़े सिविल एविएशन रिकवायरमेंट्स (सीएआर) के प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन है।'

# विमानों में हरित ऊर्जा पर जोर देने की पहल जरूरी

विमानों को स्वच्छ ऊर्जा से लैस करने का एक तरीका हरित जेट ईंधन का उपयोग करना है जिसे सतत विमानन ईंधन (एसएएफ) के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। हालांकि इसकी कीमत पारंपरिक ईंधन से दो से तीन गुना अधिक है लेकिन इसके बावजूद विमानन कंपनियां इसकी ज्यादा मात्रा हासिल करने में लगी हुई हैं।

करीब 40 से अधिक विमानन कंपनियों ने एसएएफ अपनाने के लिए लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए हैं। ज्यादातर कंपनियों का लक्ष्य है कि वर्ष 2030 तक इनकी ईंधन खपत का 10 प्रतिशत हिस्सा एसएएफ से पूरा हो। लताम एयरलाइंस और सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस का लक्ष्य 2030 तक 5 प्रतिशत एसएएफ का उपयोग करना है जबकि मालवाहक कंपनियों, डीएचएल और फेडेक्स ने इसी वर्ष तक 30 प्रतिशत एसएएफ के इस्तेमाल का लक्ष्य रखा था। यूनाइटेड एयरलाइंस स्वच्छ ईंधन की सबसे बड़ी खरीदार के रूप में उभरी है, जिसने खरीद समझौतों और निवेश के माध्यम से 2.9 अरब गैलन एसएएफ हासिल किया है। इसकी डिलिवरी अलग-अलग समयसीमा में दी जाएगी।

मांग में तेजी आने से उत्पादन में भी उछाल आई है। ब्लूमबर्गएनईएफ के अक्षय ऊर्जा ईंधन विश्लेषक जेड पैटरसन कहते हैं, 'परियोजनाएं अगर समय पर शुरू हों और उत्पादक यह सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि उनके पास उत्पादन के लिए पर्याप्त कच्चा माल है तब इस दशक के अंत तक वैश्विक एसएएफ उत्पादन क्षमता में 10 गुना वृद्धि होने की उम्मीद है।' इससे वर्ष 2030 तक जेट ईंधन की मांग का 5 प्रतिशत से अधिक पूरा किया जाएगा।

नेस्ते, फिलिप्स 66 और शेल जैसे मौजूदा रिफाइनर अगले कुछ वर्षों में कई परियोजनाओं पर

काम शुरू कर देंगे। एक अमेरिकी कंपनी गोवो एसएएफ का उत्पादन करने के लिए एक नया संयंत्र बना रही है और इसके मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी, क्रिस रेयान ने कहा, 'विमानन कंपनियां वास्तव में एसएएफ चाहती हैं। सवाल यह है कि कि आप इसे कैसे किफायती बना सकते हैं।' नेट-जीरो 1 नाम का यह कारखाना 2026 तक चालू होने की संभावना है।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय वायु परिवहन संघ (आईएटीए) वैश्विक हवाई यातायात के 83 प्रतिशत का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाली 300 से अधिक विमानन कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है और यह संगठन 2050 तक शुद्ध-शून्य कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड (सीओ2) उत्सर्जन के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। कार्बन रहित ईंधन तक पहुंचने का एक रास्ता एसएएफ पर निर्भर करता है जो उत्सर्जन में लगभग दो-तिहाई कटौती कर सकता है, बाकी का प्रबंधन कार्बन कैप्चर, ऑफसेट, नई तकनीकों जैसे इलेक्ट्रिक या हाइड्रोजन और परिचालन क्षमता के माध्यम से किया जा सकता है।

हालांकि एसएएफ की गति तेज है लेकिन फीडस्टॉक (इसके लिए जरूरी कच्चा माल) की कमी और उच्च लागत एक चुनौती बनी हुई है। कंपनियां नए फीडस्टॉक या वैकल्पिक उत्पादन मार्ग तैयार करने पर काम कर रही हैं।

## तेल, गैस कंपनियां और ऊर्जा परिवर्तन

पिछले कुछ वर्षों में तेल एवं गैस कंपनियों द्वारा ऊर्जा

परिवर्तन निवेश में तेजी आई थी। लेकिन अब दिशा बदल गई है। लगातार पांच साल की वृद्धि के बाद, पिछले साल पहली बार ऊर्जा परिवर्तन पर खर्च कम हो गया। तेल एवं गैस क्षेत्र ने 2023 में कम कार्बन परिसंपत्तियों में लगभग 27 अरब डॉलर का निवेश किया जो 2022 की तुलना में 17 प्रतिशत कम है।

बीएनईएफ ने पूरे क्षेत्र में 41 कंपनियों का विश्लेषण किया। उनका ऊर्जा परिवर्तन खर्च, क्षेत्र के कुल पूंजीगत व्यय का 6.5 प्रतिशत था जो 2020 के बाद सबसे कम है। आधे से अधिक कंपनियों ने वर्ष 2023 में पूंजीगत व्यय के हिस्से के रूप में कम कार्बन से जुड़े निवेश को घटा दिया।

निवेश का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा अक्षय ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में गया जो 10 अरब डॉलर था और इसमें सौर ऊर्जा का दबदबा रहा। कार्बन कैप्चर और

भंडारण (सीसीएस) का निवेश 2023 में बढ़कर 7.4 अरब डॉलर हो गया, जो पिछले साल के कुल ऊर्जा परिवर्तन निवेश के एक-चौथाई से अधिक है। निवेश के अन्य प्रमुख क्षेत्र में अक्षय ऊर्जा ईंधन, उन्नत सामग्री, उन्नत परिवहन और हाइड्रोजन शामिल थे।

## भारत में सौर ऊर्जा

भारत में सौर ऊर्जा की गतिविधियां सुखद आश्चर्य पैदा कर रही हैं। पिछले साल 16 गीगावॉट से अधिक स्टैंडअलोन सौर ऊर्जा क्षमता की नीलामी हुई, जो पिछले दो वर्षों की संयुक्त मात्रा से भी ज्यादा थी। इन नीलामियों में सरकारी कंपनियों की भागीदारी बढ़ रही

है। बीएनईएफ के सौर विश्लेषक रोहित गादरे ने कहा, 'राज्य सरकारों के स्वामित्व वाली कंपनियों का योगदान, पिछले साल की नई सौर क्षमता की नीलामी में कुल बोलियों का 31 प्रतिशत रहा जो 2019 के 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक है।'

साथ ही, 'जटिल' परियोजनाओं की संख्या में भी वृद्धि हुई है जिसमें सौर ऊर्जा को पवन ऊर्जा/या भंडारण के साथ जोड़ा जाता है। संचयी क्षमता के आधार पर भारत, जापान को पछाड़कर दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा सौर बाजार बन गया है और इसके ऊपर सिर्फ अमेरिका और चीन हैं। बीएनईएफ के अनुसार, दशक के अंत तक शीर्ष तीन देशों की रैंकिंग में बदलाव आने की संभावना नहीं है।

दुनिया की सबसे अधिक आबादी वाला देश, सौर ऊर्जा तंत्र का तेजी से विकास करने के दौर में प्रवेश कर रहा है। बीएनईएफ को उम्मीद है कि इस साल रिकॉर्ड 13 गीगावॉट की नई सौर क्षमता चालू हो जाएगी जो अगले महीने शुरू होने वाले आम चुनावों के चलते नीतिगत गतिविधियों के बंद होने के बावजूद जारी रहेगी। इसमें रिकॉर्ड मात्रा में छोटे पैमाने के सौर संयंत्र शामिल हैं। आने वाले कुछ वर्षों में वार्षिक स्तर पर सौर ऊर्जा पैनल लगाने की रफ्तार में तेजी देखी जा रही है।

सरकार ने वर्ष 2030 तक गैर-जीवाश्म स्रोतों से 500 गीगावॉट की विद्युत क्षमता स्थापित करने का लक्ष्य रखा है और सालाना 50 गीगावॉट अक्षय ऊर्जा क्षमता की बोली लगाने के लिए तेज गतिविधियों की आवश्यकता होगी। इस सालाना बोली में कम से कम 10 गीगावॉट, पवन ऊर्जा के लिए होना चाहिए।

भारत में पवन ऊर्जा संयंत्रों में भी इस साल तेजी देखी जाएगी और नए संयंत्र लगभग 4 गीगावॉट के स्तर तक पहुंच जाएंगे। वर्ष 2027 तक वार्षिक आधार पर लगाए गए तंत्र की क्षमता 5 गीगावॉट से अधिक हो जाएगी।

(लेखिका न्यूयॉर्क में ब्लूमबर्गएनईएफ की वरिष्ठ संपादक, वैश्विक नीति हैं)



## ऊर्जा शक्ति

वंदना गोंबर

# होली और गुड फ्राइडे से पहले हवाई और होटल किराये बढ़े

अक्षरा श्रीवास्तव और अजिंक्य कावले

मार्च महीने के खत्म होते-होते लगातार दो लंबे सप्ताहांत शुरू होने वाले हैं। होली और गुड फ्राइडे की छुट्टियों से प्रमुख मार्गों पर होटल और हवाई किराये में वृद्धि हो गई है। ट्रेवल प्लेटफॉर्म किलयरट्रिप के अनुसार, होली सप्ताहांत के मौके पर होटलों की बुकिंग में 3.5 गुना वृद्धि हुई है जबकि गुड फ्राइडे के सप्ताहांत पर 3.7 गुना बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

किलयरट्रिप के मुख्य कारोबार अधिकारी प्रह्लाद कृष्णमूर्ति ने कहा, 'अधिकतर लोग दो रात रुकना चाह रहे हैं और कुल बुकिंग में बजट होटलों की हिस्सेदारी ज्यादा है।'

भारतीय पर्यटन उद्योग में लगातार उछाल देखा जा रहा है। उद्योग के हितधारक इसे लोगों की मानसिकता में बदलाव कहते हैं जो घूमने का कोई मौका नहीं छोड़ना चाहते हैं। बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी, खर्च योग्य आय में वृद्धि और बढ़ती आकांक्षाओं के कारण इसमें और तेजी आई है।

यात्रा ऑनलाइन के मुताबिक, पर्यटक गोवा, जयपुर, पुदुच्चेरी, ऊटी, श्रीनगर, महाबलेश्वर, कांबेट और वायनाड जैसी जगहों पर जा रहे हैं। इसके साथ ही कारोबारी हॉटस्पॉट में भी पर्यटकों की



गतिविधियां बढ़ रही है।

यात्रा ऑनलाइन की सह-संस्थापक और मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी सबीना चोपड़ा कहती हैं, 'होटल बुकिंग में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है। इसमें 30 से 35 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई है और होटल के कमरों की औसत कीमत में भी 18 से 22 फीसदी का इजाफा हुआ है।'

गोवा के कैरावेला बीच रिसॉर्ट में आने वाले दोनों लंबे सप्ताहांतों के लिए बुकिंग बढ़ गई है। रिसॉर्ट के महाप्रबंधक सौरभ पंचानन ने कहा, 'भारतीय पर्यटक पूरे साल छुट्टियों की योजना का लाभ उठाते रहते हैं। ग्राहकों की कमरों से जुड़ी पूछताछ बढ़ी है। एक साल पहले की तुलना में आगामी सप्ताहांत में 90 फीसदी

बुकिंग पूरी हो गई है और प्रति कमरा राजस्व में 12 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई है।' उन्होंने कहा, 'दक्षिणी गोवा के शांत समुद्र तट हमेशा से पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करते हैं और हमारी बुकिंग मजबूत रहती है। आगामी लंबे सप्ताहांत के दौरान पर्यटकों ने औसतन चार रातों के लिए बुकिंग की है और सप्ताह के दौरान दो से तीन रातों की बुकिंग की है।'

इस बीच होली के सप्ताहांत के मौके पर हवाई किराये में 20 से 80 फीसदी का इजाफा हुआ है। इकिजगो के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, होली सप्ताहांत के लिए यात्रा से 48 घंटे पहले दिल्ली से मुंबई एक तरफ का हवाई किराया 6,400 रुपये के करीब है। इसी उड़ान का 15 दिन पहले का किराया 5,200 रुपये था। होली सप्ताहांत के लिए दिल्ली-गोवा मार्ग पर एक तरफ का हवाई किराया 10,934 रुपये पर पहुंच गया है जबकि 15 दिन पहले यह 6,096 रुपये था।

गुड फ्राइडे के लंबे सप्ताहांत के दौरान हवाई किराये में 15 से 80 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई है। मुंबई-श्रीनगर मार्ग पर सर्वाधिक 78 फीसदी का इजाफा हुआ है। 8 दिन पहले मुंबई-श्रीनगर का एक तरफ का हवाई किराया 18,288 रुपये हो गया। इसी उड़ान का 15 दिन पहले का किराया करीब 10,240 रुपये था।

# India may glide to third spot in airline seat count

OAG data places India just behind the US and China in Q2 of 2024

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA  
New Delhi, 22 March

With around 58.8 million seats, India is projected to see a growth of 10.5 per cent in airline seat capacity during the second quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in the previous year.

This will place it in the third spot globally after the US (with 310 million seats) and China (242 million seats), according to the latest data by OAG.

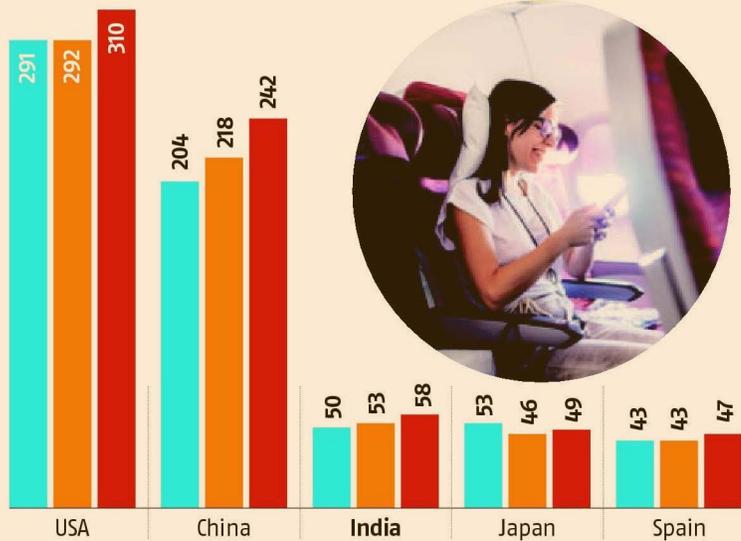
India's projected capacity in Q2 of 2024 is far higher than that of Japan, Spain, UK, Italy, Germany, Indonesia and Turkey. The country has also seen the second-highest growth in terms of seat capacity between pre-pandemic Q2 of 2019 and OAG projected Q2 of 2024. The growth is seen at 16.8 per cent, only behind China, which is expected to grow faster by 18.7 per cent.

Also, IndiGo, which is at number eight in terms of seat capacity in the world, according to OAG, is projected to grow in Q2 of 2024 by 9.7 per cent. It is set to touch 32.64 million seats. The airline may see a heady growth of 50.3 per cent between pre-Covid Q2 of 2019 and the projected Q2 of 2024.

That would make IndiGo the

## SEATING PLAN

SEAT CAPACITY (in millions) ■ Q2 2019 ■ Q2 2023 ■ Q2 2024-projected



SOURCE: OAG



fastest-growing airline among the top 10 in this period in the world. In Q2 of 2019, its seat capacity was 21.7 million seats. Its growth between Q2 of 2019 and the projected Q2 of 2024 is set to be far higher than Ryan Air (38.5 per cent) China Air (32.8 per cent) and China South Airlines (19.4 per cent).

At a global level, OAG projects that in the second quarter of 2024, airlines will touch 1.5 billion seats, up 8 per

cent in the same period from the previous year. There are regions which still have not reached their pre-pandemic seating capacity. This includes Southeast Asia (projected to be down by 11.3 per cent in Q2 of 2024 over Q2 of 2019), Eastern and Central Europe (due to the Ukraine war), South Africa (the old South African Airways network needs a revamp) and Southwest Pacific.

# DGCA imposes ₹80L fine on Air India

**DEEPAK PATEL**

New Delhi, 22 March

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday imposed a fine of ₹80 lakh on Air India for violating rules regarding flight duty time limitation (FDTL), which aims to ensure sufficient rest for pilots.

The regulator said on Friday that it had conducted an audit of Air India in January to see if the airline is complying with regulations related to FDTL and fatigue management system (FMS). The regulator collected a substantial amount of evidence and analysed random fleet-wise reports.

“The analysis of reports and evidence revealed that Air India operated flight(s) with both flight crew aged above 60 years flying together in a few instances, which is a violation of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 28 A of the Aircraft

Rules, 1937,” the regulator stated. According to Sub Rule (2), only one of the two pilots in a flight can be more than 60 years of age.

The DGCA noted, “The operator was also found deficient in providing adequate weekly rest, adequate rest before and after ultra-long range (ULR) flights and adequate rest on layover to flight crew, which violates the extant provisions of the civil aviation requirements (CARs) pertaining to FDTL. “Moreover, the instances of exceeding duty periods, wrongly marked training records, overlapping duties etc. were also observed during the audit,” it added.

After all this, the regulator had on March 1 issued a showcause notice to the airline. “Pursuant to the non-satisfactory response submitted by the operator, a fine of ₹80 lakh has been imposed on the operator,” it added.

**The airline was charged for violating rules regarding flight duty time limitation**



## **Corporate Communications Directorate**

BUSINESS STANDARD DELHI 23 MAR 2024

# **IndiGo exploring purchase of widebody aircraft**

IndiGo is exploring the purchase of widebody aircraft, according to people familiar with the matter, a move that would give Asia's biggest budget carrier a greater international radius and intensify competition with Air India. The airline is still considering several options, with an order for about 30 Airbus SE A350s emerging as the most likely choice, said the people, who asked not to be identified. A decision could be announced in the next few weeks, the people said, cautioning that IndiGo could still change its mind about timing and the number of planes. IndiGo has repeatedly toyed with the idea of introducing long-haul services to tap the growing pool of affluent Indians flying further afield to places such as the UK and Europe. The low-cost carrier currently operates two Boeing Co. 777s leased from Turkish Airlines to Istanbul and has otherwise built its fleet around single-aisle jets made up almost entirely of Airbus planes.

**BLOOMBERG**



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR JAIPUR 22 MAR 2024

### इस साल गर्मियों में 6% ज्यादा घरेलू उड़ानें, जयपुर से अयोध्या, अमृतसर समेत 5 शहरों के लिए उड़ानें बढ़ेंगी

नई दिल्ली | भारतीय विमानन कंपनियां इस साल गर्मियों में कुल 24,275 साप्ताहिक घरेलू उड़ानों का परिचालन करेंगी। यह पिछले साल से 6% ज्यादा है। डीजीसीए के अनुसार, ग्रीष्मकालीन कार्यक्रम 31 मार्च से 26 अक्टूबर तक होगा।

फ्लिहाल शीतकालीन कार्यक्रम के तहत 23,732 साप्ताहिक उड़ानों का परिचालन हो रहा है। इसकी तुलना में गर्मियों में 125 हवाईअड्डों से 2.30% उड़ानें अधिक होंगी। दूसरी ओर, जयपुर से अमृतसर, अयोध्या, वडोदरा, लखनऊ और चंडीगढ़

के लिए नई उड़ानें शुरू होंगी। विमानन नियामक ने गुरुवार को बताया कि इन 125 हवाईअड्डों में से आजमगढ़, अलीगढ़, चित्रकूट, गोंदिया, जलगांव, मुरादाबाद और पिथौरागढ़ एयरलाइनों की ओर से प्रस्तावित नए हवाई अड्डे हैं।

## Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR JAIPUR 22 MAR 2024

### भास्कर खास • विंटर में हर सप्ताह कुल 398 घरेलू फ्लाइट थीं, अब समर शेड्यूल में 450 हो सकती हैं गर्मियों में बढ़ेंगी उड़ानें; अयोध्या, अमृतसर सहित 6 शहरों के लिए शुरू होगी फ्लाइट, अभी टिकट बुकिंग शुरू नहीं

एविएशन रिपोर्टर | जयपुर

जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर 31 मार्च से फ्लाइट्स का समर शेड्यूल लागू होगा। एयरलाइंस ने समर शेड्यूल में फ्लाइट संचालन बढ़ाने को लेकर प्रस्ताव दिए हैं। जिसके अनुसार अब अमृतसर, अयोध्या, वड़ोदरा, लखनऊ, चंडीगढ़ के लिए नई फ्लाइट शुरू करने की तैयारी है। हालांकि अब भी इन शहरों के लिए नई फ्लाइट संचालन को लेकर असमंजस है, क्योंकि यहां के लिए पर्याप्त यात्रीभार कम है।

हर वर्ष समर शेड्यूल में फ्लाइट की संख्या कम होती थी, लेकिन इस बार इसके उलट है। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर समर शेड्यूल में फ्लाइट्स की संख्या रोज औसतन 70 होने का अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है, जबकि अभी औसतन 64 फ्लाइट संचालित हैं। इस तरह करीब 6 फ्लाइट बढ़ने की बात की जा रही है।



#### इन इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स को शुरू करने का है प्रस्ताव

- एयर एशिया बरहद कुआलालंपुर के लिए 4 दिन रवि, सोम, बुध, शक्रवार को फ्लाइट चलाएगी।
- एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस बैंकॉक के लिए मंगल, गुरु और शनिवार को तीन दिन फ्लाइट चलाएगी।
- एतिहाद एयरवेज 16 जून से अबू धाबी के लिए योजना फ्लाइट।
- सलाम एयर मस्कट और स्पाइसजेट दुबई के लिए संचालन दिवस बढ़ाएगी।
- पहले हर सप्ताह 23 इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट थीं, अब 34 संचालित होंगी।

#### इन फ्लाइट्स के शुरू करने के प्रस्ताव दिए

- इंडिगो की अमृतसर के लिए फ्लाइट्स के लिए टिकट बुकिंग योजना फ्लाइट शुरू होगी।
- इंडिगो की सोम, मंगल, गुरु और शक्रवार को अयोध्या की फ्लाइट चलेगी।
- इंडिगो वड़ोदरा के लिए योजना की फ्लाइट शुरू करेगी।
- एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस गुवाहाटी के लिए नई फ्लाइट शुरू करेगी।
- हालांकि अभी इन प्रस्तावित फ्लाइट्स के लिए टिकट बुकिंग शुरू नहीं हुई है।
- लखनऊ के लिए एक के बजाय रोज 2 फ्लाइट चलेंगी।
- अलायंस एयर जयपुर से चंडीगढ़ और दिल्ली को एक-एक फ्लाइट बढ़ाएगी।
- एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस बंगलुरु और कोलकाता के लिए फ्लाइट बढ़ाएगी।

#### जयपुर से अयोध्या के लिए औसतन 2 फ्लाइट मिलेगी

जयपुर से अलग-अलग शहरों के लिए नई फ्लाइट शुरू करने के प्रस्ताव दिए गए हैं। हालांकि प्रस्तावित शेड्यूल के अनुसार अभी जयपुर से आगरा, जैसलमेर, गुवाहाटी और अयोध्या के लिए एयर कनेक्टिविटी बंद होने जा रही है। इसके अलावा अहमदाबाद, चेन्नई और मुंबई के लिए फ्लाइट्स की संख्या कम होगी। एयरपोर्ट के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि अब बनाए गए नए शेड्यूल के अनुसार जयपुर से अयोध्या के लिए औसतन 2 फ्लाइट मिल सकेंगी। एयरलाइंस के प्रस्ताव में कहा है कि अयोध्या के लिए स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट चलती रहेगी, वहीं इंडिगो एयरलाइन अयोध्या के लिए एक नई फ्लाइट और शुरू करेगी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN KANPUR 22 MAR 2024

## गर्मियों में हर सप्ताह 24,275 उड़ानों का होगा संचालन

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों 31 मार्च से शुरू होने वाले ग्रीष्मकालीन कार्यक्रम के दौरान कुल 24,275 साप्ताहिक घरेलू उड़ानों का परिचालन करेंगी। यह आंकड़ा पिछले साल से लगभग छह प्रतिशत अधिक है।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के अनुसार, मौजूदा शीतकालीन कार्यक्रम में अनुसूचित कंपनियों द्वारा कुल 23,732 साप्ताहिक उड़ानों का परिचालन किया जा रहा है। इस साल ग्रीष्मकालीन कार्यक्रम 31 मार्च से 26 अक्टूबर तक चलेगा। यह उड़ानें 125 एयरपोर्ट से या तो रवाना होंगी या फिर वहां आएंगी। देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ग्रीष्मकालीन शेड्यूल में 13.82 प्रतिशत अधिक उड़ानें (13,050) संचालित करेगी, जबकि एयर इंडिया अपनी साप्ताहिक उड़ान 4.59 प्रतिशत बढ़ाकर 2,278 करेगी।

ECONOMICS TIME DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## DGCA Imposes ₹80L Fine on AI for Violating Pilot Rest Rule

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** Civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a fine of ₹80 lakh on Air India for violation of its pilot rest period rules.

DGCA said it had conducted an audit of Air India in January for checking if it was complying to regulations on Flight Duty Time Limit (FDTL) and it found that the airline was not providing adequate weekly rest to pilots before and after ultra-long-range flights and during layover.

The auditors also found that Air India had operated flights with both pilots aged above 60 years in a few instances, which is a violation of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, the aviation regulator said in a statement. They also found instances of wrongly marked training records and overlapping duties.

A show cause notice was issued to Air India on March 1 for submitting responses to the observed violations.

The fine was imposed after the carrier's response to an earlier show-cause notice was deemed non-satisfactory.

"Air India's response was not found satisfactory. Pursuant to the non-satisfactory response submitted by the operator, a fine of ₹80 lakh has been imposed on the operator," the regulator said.

"DGCA is committed to maintaining the highest levels of safety in the civil aviation sector in India and this enforcement action is in line with its commitment," it said.



**Regulator found the airline was not providing adequate weekly rest to pilots before & after ultra-long-range flights**

ECONOMICS TIME DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## SpiceJet Cleared all its Dues, No Longer in Default: Credit Suisse to SC



ISTOCK

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**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday took note of Swiss financial services firm Credit Suisse submission that SpiceJet has cleared its outstanding dues and is no longer in default as on date.

A Bench led by Justice Hima Kohli while posting the matter for further hearing in July noted the submissions made by senior counsel Liz Matthews, appearing for Credit Suisse, that “matter should be taken up after three months to ensure that they (SpiceJet) don’t default as they have been doing in the past,”

The court was hearing a contempt petition filed by Credit Suisse against Singh over the non-payment of dues despite a court-approved commercial settlement arrived at between the Swiss firm and the low-cost airline in 2021. The dispute arises from SpiceJet’s alleged failure to honour invoices raised by Credit Suisse.

The apex court had last month asked SpiceJet to clear its outstanding dues of \$1.25 million by March 15 in addition to the monthly instalments to Credit Suisse.

“We’re giving you a long rope, don’t take any risks in this matter. There is no scope of any belated payment in this case. The respondent (SpiceJet) is not justified in saying so. The very fact that the respondent is in default is apparent from the dateline given,” the Bench had then cautioned Singh.

On September 22, the SC had given six months to SpiceJet to clear arrears to Swiss financial services firm. For the next six months, the airline was required to pay Credit Suisse \$500,000 a month towards the arrears, in addition to the scheduled monthly payment of \$500,000 that SpiceJet was already making.

**SC bench says that matter should be taken up after three months to ensure that SpiceJet doesn’t default again**

● EYES 'EARLY DOUBLE DIGIT GROWTH' IN FY25

# IndiGo lowers fleet addition guidance

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR  
Mumbai, March 22

**INDIGO, THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST** airline, is expecting growth in aircraft addition to its fleet to be lower in FY25 as compared to FY24, reckoning more than one aircraft inclusion every week.

The low-cost carrier, with a market share of more than 60% of the domestic market, said in a presentation on Friday that the growth in capacity for FY25 is expected to be in 'early double digits'. For FY24 this guidance was 'north of mid-teens'.

In February 2024, IndiGo said that it was expecting around 12% capacity growth in the March quarter on a year-over-year basis. With that, IndiGo will be exceeding its original guidance for FY24 to deliver a growth of more than 20% as compared to FY23.

As of the end of February the company had 366 aircraft while at the end of FY23 its fleet strength stood at 304. An 'early double digit' growth could mean the airline closing FY25 with a fleet of 406-420 aircraft.

Airbus, which has a near-monopoly of IndiGo's current fleet and future orders, notified airlines of delivery delays scheduled in 2024 and 2025, *Reuters* reported last month. IndiGo has 960 aircraft on order. It also claimed that it is 'poised to become 600+' aircraft carrier by 2030.

Growing uncertainty over meeting delivery targets of aircraft by their manufacturers owing to challenges within the supply chain and regulatory hurdles is also leading to airlines refraining from sharing their aircraft induction plan.

## FLEET STRENGTH

■ IndiGo's guidance for FY24 for growth in aircraft addition was 'north of mid-teens'

■ It will exceed original guidance for FY24 at more than **20%** growth as compared to FY23

■ At Feb-end, the airline had **366** aircraft, while at the end of FY23 its fleet strength stood at **304**

■ 'Early double digit' growth could mean IndiGo closing FY25 with **406-420** aircraft



Responding to *FE*, Vinay Dube, CEO, Akasa Air, said, "We stopped providing guidance on future aircraft deliveries six-eight months ago. We are growing by tens of percent almost, irrespective of whether there is one more or less (aircraft). We tend to stay away from providing guidance because they tend to be distracting."

Low-cost carrier Akasa, the newest to start international operations, has a fleet strength of 24 aircraft and 202 aircraft on order. The company is aiming to expand international operations with the new additions to its fleet in FY25.

Since the grounding of Go First in May last year, there has been a sharp increase in air fares as demand

for air travel rose amid supply crunch. In the upcoming summer schedule which starts from March 31, only a 2.3% rise is scheduled in weekly domestic flights to 24,275, compared to the winter schedule.

Akasa will push its weekly domestic departures by 14% to 903. IndiGo will be operating nearly 14% more flights at 13,050 flights per week in the summer schedule while Air India will increase its weekly departures by just under 5% to 2,278.

IndiGo added 10 destinations in FY24 to end with 115 and hopes to replicate that record in FY25. In the calendar year 2023, IndiGo became the first Indian airline to serve 100 million passengers.





# Corporate Communications Directorate

FINANCIAL EXPRESS DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## Carrier looks to buy widebody jets

DANNY LEE & SIDDHARTH PHILIP  
March 22

**INDIGO IS EXPLORING** the purchase of widebody aircraft, according to people familiar with the matter, a move that would give Asia's biggest budget carrier a greater international radius and intensify competition with Air India.

The airline is still considering several options, with an order for about 30 Airbus SE A350s emerging as the most likely choice, said the people,

who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public. A decision could be announced in the next few weeks, the people said, cautioning that IndiGo could still change its mind about timing and the number of planes.

IndiGo has repeatedly toyed with the idea of introducing long-haul services to tap the growing pool of affluent Indians flying further afield to places such as the UK and Europe.

The low-cost carrier currently

operates two Boeing 777s leased from Turkish Airlines to Istanbul and has otherwise built its fleet around single-aisle jets made up almost entirely of Airbus planes.

The airline is already one of Airbus's largest customers after placing a record-breaking order for 500 A320neo family aircraft last summer. IndiGo now has a backlog of around 1,000 aircraft.

Representatives from IndiGo and Airbus declined to comment.

— BLOOMBERG



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FINANCIAL EXPRESS DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## Air India fined for violating duty time rules

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, March 22

**THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL** of civil aviation (DGCA) on Friday slapped a ₹80 lakh fine on Tata Group-backed Air India for violating Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms for flight crew.

The airline was also fined on a count of violating regulations pertaining to the fatigue management system (FMS) of flight crew.

"As a proactive step towards ensuring a high level of safety in aviation, DGCA conducted a spot audit of M/s Air India Limited in the month of January this year for verifying the regulatory compliance by the operator in respect of FDTL and FMS regulations," the DGCA said in a statement on Friday. "During the audit, the evidences were collected and fleet-wise random reports were analysed."

According to the regulator, the analysis of reports and evidence revealed that Air India operated flights with both flight crew members aged above 60 flying together in a few instances, which is a violation.

"The operator was also found deficient in providing adequate weekly rest, adequate rest before and after ultra-long range (ULR) flights and adequate rest on layover to flight crew, which violates the extant provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirements pertaining to FDTL."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL MUMBAI 22 MAR 2024

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## **24,275 weekly domestic flights in summer schedule: DGCA**

PTI / New Delhi

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday said the Indian operators will conduct a total of 24,275 weekly domestic flights during the upcoming summer schedule, commencing from March 31.

This marks an approximately six per cent rise compared to the same period last year. According to the aviation regulator DGCA, the number of weekly departures has increased by just 2.30 per cent compared to the ongoing winter schedule, with scheduled carriers operating 23,732 flights.

"Summer Schedule 2024 (SS24), which will be effective from March 31 till October 26, of the scheduled domestic airlines has been finalised after the slot conference meeting held in February," DGCA said in a statement issued on Thursday.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIME DELHI 23 MAR 2024

### नियमों के उल्लंघन में एयर इंडिया पर 80 लाख का जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। विमानन क्षेत्र के नियामक डीजीसीए ने शुक्रवार को टाटा समूह के नियंत्रण वाली एयर इंडिया पर 80 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया। यह जुर्माना उड़ान सेवा अवधि सीमित करने और चालक दल के लिए थकान प्रबंधन प्रणाली संबंधित मानदंडों का उल्लंघन करने के लिए लगाया गया।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय ने जनवरी में एयर इंडिया का मौके पर ऑडिट किया था। नियामक ने कहा कि रिपोर्टों और सबूतों के विश्लेषण से पता चला कि एयर इंडिया लिमिटेड ने कुछ मामलों में 60 साल से अधिक उम्र के दोनों चालक दल के सदस्यों के साथ उड़ान भरी थी। एयरलाइन ने चालक दल को पर्याप्त साप्ताहिक आराम तथा लंबी उड़ानों से पहले और बाद में पर्याप्त आराम देने में कोताही बरती।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE HINDU DELHI 23 MAR 2024

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## DGCA slaps ₹80 lakh fine on AI for 'overworking' pilots

Aviation safety regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has imposed a penalty of ₹80 lakh on Air India for 'overworking' pilots in violation of laid-down mandatory duty hours for the crew. The DGCA conducted a spot audit in January and upon random scrutiny, found lapses in providing adequate weekly rest of 36 hours for the cockpit crew, and adequate rest before and after ultra-long range flights such as those to the U.S., it said in a statement.

HINDUSTAN TIME DELHI 23 MAR 2024

# Air India fined ₹80 lakh for violating crew duty time rules

**HT Correspondent**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed a fine of ₹80 lakh on Air India for violating norms related to flight duty time limitations and fatigue management system of flight crew.

The aviation regulator, in a statement issued on Friday, said that it imposed a fine for violation of regulations pertaining to Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) and fatigue management system (FMS) of flight crew.

“As a proactive step towards ensuring a high level of safety in aviation, DGCA conducted a spot audit of Air India Limited in the month of January this year for verifying the regulatory compliance by the operator in respect of FDTL and FMS regulations”, the statement read.

DGCA said that it collected the evidence during the audit, and even analysed fleet wise random reports. “DGCA is committed to maintaining the highest levels of safety in the civil aviation sector



**DGCA also found instances of exceeding duty periods, wrongly marked training records, overlapping duties during the audit.**

in India and this enforcement action is in line with its commitment,” it said.

“The analysis of reports and evidence revealed that M/s Air India Limited operated flight(s) with both flight crew aged above 60 years flying together in a few instances, which is a violation of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 28 A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937,” it said.

The aviation watchdog said that Air India was also found deficient in providing adequate weekly rest, adequate rest before and after ultra-long range (ULR) flights and adequate rest on lay-

over to flight crew, which violates the extant provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirements pertaining to FDTL.

The regulator stated that it also found instances of exceeding duty periods, wrongly marked training records, overlapping duties during the audit.

As a result, the DGCA issued a show cause notice to Air India Limited on March 1 for submitting response to the observed violations. The airline’s response to the regulator was not found satisfactory after which Air India was fined.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIME DELHI 23 MAR 2024

# Indian airlines soar: Oct-Dec int'l traffic up 22%

Anu Sharma

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**NEW DELHI:** Domestic carriers registered a 22% increase in international air traffic to and from India at 7.7 million passengers, as per the latest data available for the October-December period, the fruits of a likely sustained post-pandemic focus by Indian airlines to expand their global network.

As per data from the regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Indian airlines also registered an increase in the cumulative market share of international flights to and from India at 44.6% in the period. Their share was 43.5% seen in the same quarter a year ago for a total of 6.3 million passengers.

For the entire calendar year 2023, domestic carriers garnered a market share of 44.4% by transporting 28.4 million international passengers, a sharp increase from 38% recorded in pre-pandemic 2019 when the



**For the Oct-Dec period, India's largest airline IndiGo held a market share of 18.2% as compared with 15.6% a year ago.**

MINT

passenger count was around 24.2 million.

Scheduled international flight operations resumed in India in March 2022 after a two-year shutdown due to the covid pandemic. Another sign of a bounce-back is that while the total international traffic for 2023 – for both international and domestic carriers – is still 0.5% lower at 63.9 million passengers than the

2019 figure of 64.2 million, the Indian airlines have outpaced their pre-pandemic levels of international air traffic.

Domestic carriers registered a growth of 17% in passengers carried on international flights during 2023 while the total overseas traffic carried by foreign carriers is still 11% lower at 35.5 million passengers than the 2019 levels of 40 million passengers.

For the October-December period, India's largest airline IndiGo held a market share of 18.2% as compared with 15.6% a year ago. The Tata Group-backed Air India and Air India Express held 12.8% and 7.1% as compared with 12.5% and 6.9% respectively in the same period a year ago. The market share of Vistara, a joint venture of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, rose to 3.6% from 2.6% earlier while that of low-cost carrier SpiceJet dipped to 2.8% from 3.5%.

Among international carriers, the UAE's Emirates flew 1.39 million passengers in the December quarter as compared with 1.38 million a year ago, its market share dipping to 8.1% from 9.5%. Singapore Airlines, registered an 8% increase in passengers carried at 623,968 passengers, but its market share fell to 3.6% as compared to 4% a year ago on a higher base.

Doha-based Qatar Airlines, which carried 544,125 passengers as compared to 474,257 pas-

sengers earlier, held a market share of 3.1% as compared to 3.3% a year ago. Etihad held a market share of 2.8% as compared to 2.4% earlier and it carried 483,033 passengers, 36% up on year. Air Arabia saw a decline in its market share to 2.6% from 3.1% earlier and flew 455,318 passengers, 0.7% up on year.

In terms of passengers, IndiGo flew 3.1 million passengers to and from India, registering a rise of 39% on year and full-service carrier Vistara recorded a 70% growth on-year by flying 630,427 passengers in the quarter. Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express carried 2.2 million and 1.2 million passengers respectively, recording a growth of around 22% each as compared to the same period a year ago.

The latest data for domestic carriers chimes in with the plans of Indian airlines. IndiGo, which operates a fleet of more than 360 aircraft, plans to allocate at least 30% of its available capacity to international networks.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

INDIAN EXPRESS DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## DGCA fines Air India ₹80 lakh for violating fatigue rules

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

THE AVIATION safety regulator Friday imposed a ₹80-lakh fine on Air India for violating rules to prevent pilot and crew fatigue.

The action by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) comes after a spot audit of the Tata group's flagship airline in January to ascertain its compliance with flight duty time limitations (FDTL) and the fatigue management system (FMS).

These sets of rules are in place to prevent crew fatigue, which can be dangerous for flight operations apart from hav-

ing a negative impact on the health of the crew.

"The analysis of reports and evidences revealed that M/s Air India Limited operated flight(s) with both flight crew aged above 60 years flying together in few instances, which is a violation of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 28 A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937," the DGCA said in a statement.

According to the regulator, Air India was also found deficient in providing adequate weekly rest, sufficient rest before and after ultra-long range flights, and enough rest on layover to flight crew. All such findings were found to be in violation of the provisions of the Civil Aviation



The regulator conducted a spot audit of Air India in Jan

Requirements (CARs) pertaining to FDTL. Additionally, the spot audit also revealed instances of exceeding duty periods, wrongly marked training records, and

overlapping duties, among other violations.

"A show cause notice (SCN) was issued to M/s Air India Limited on 01st March, 2024 for submitting response to the observed violations. The operator submitted its response to the SCN which was not found satisfactory. Pursuant to the non-satisfactory response submitted by operator, a fine of ₹80,00,000 (Rupees eighty lakhs) have been imposed on the operator," the DGCA said, adding that the regulator is committed to maintaining the highest levels of safety in India's civil aviation sector and this enforcement action is in line with that commitment.

Air India has so far not commented on the penalty.

Flight crew fatigue and exhaustion are seen as major factors contributing to human errors in aircraft operations, which can lead to catastrophic accidents. Therefore, FDTL regulations are considered important globally. In India, the DGCA oversees FDTL compliance. The regulator has already announced changes to FDTL norms in a bid to make the regulations more crew-friendly. The new rules, which are set to take effect from June, have increased mandatory weekly rest periods, extension of night duty hours, and fewer night landings as compared to current norms.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE MINT DELHI 23 MAR 2024

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## SpiceJet has cleared all dues, Credit Suisse tells SC



**New Delhi:** Credit Suisse told the Supreme Court on Friday that SpiceJet has cleared its outstanding dues and is no longer in default. On the bank's request, the court deferred the case to the end of July. At the next hearing the court will monitor whether SpiceJet has been paying its monthly instalments on time. During the previous hearing it had ordered the airline to clear all pending payments by 15 March and pay \$1.25 million to Credit Suisse by that date.

KRISHNA YADAV



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE MINT DELHI 23 MAR 2024

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## **DGCA imposes ₹80 lakh fine on Air India for violating crew duty time**

**New Delhi:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of ₹80 lakh on Air India for violation of regulations related to Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) and fatigue management system (FMS) of flight crew or pilots. The regulator had conducted a spot audit of Air India in January for verifying the regulatory compliance and fleet-wise random reports were analyzed.

**ANU SHARMA**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MINT DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## Indian airlines soar: Oct-Dec international traffic up 22%

DGCA says airlines also saw rise in cumulative market share of international flights at 44.6%

Anu Sharma  
anu.sharma@themint.com  
NEW DELHI

Domestic carriers registered a 22% increase in international air traffic to and from India at 7.7 million passengers, as per the latest data available for the October-December period, the fruits of a likely sustained post-pandemic focus by Indian airlines to expand their global network.

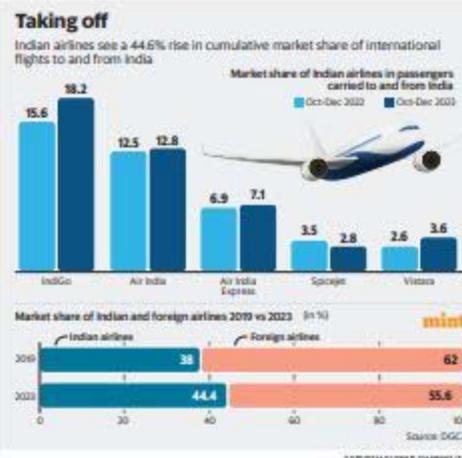
As per data from the regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Indian airlines also registered an increase in the cumulative market share of international flights to and from India at 44.6% in the period. Their share was 43.5% seen in the same quarter a year ago for a total of 6.3 million passengers.

For the entire calendar year 2023, domestic carriers garnered a market share of 44.4% by transporting 28.4 million international passengers, a sharp increase from 38% recorded in pre-pandemic 2019 when the passenger count was around 24.2 million.

Scheduled international flight operations resumed in India in March 2022 after a two-year shutdown due to the covid pandemic. Another sign of a bounce-back is that while the total international traffic for 2023 - for both international and domestic carriers - is still 0.5% lower at 63.9 million passengers than the 2019 figure of 64.2 million, the Indian airlines have outpaced their pre-pandemic levels of international air traffic.

Domestic carriers registered a growth of 17% in passengers carried on international flights during 2023 while the total overseas traffic carried by foreign carriers is still 11% lower at 35.5 million passengers than the 2019 levels of 40 million passengers.

For the Oct-Dec period, India's largest airline IndiGo held a market share of



18.2% as compared with 15.6% a year ago. The Tata Group-backed Air India and Air India Express held 12.8% and 7.1% as compared with 12.5% and 6.9% respectively in the same period a year ago. The market share of Vistara, a joint venture

compared with 1.38 million a year ago, its market share dipping to 8.1% from 9.5%. Singapore Airlines, registered an 8% increase in passengers carried at 623,968 passengers, but its market share fell to 3.6% as compared to 4% a

### POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY

**INDIAN** airlines have outpaced their pre-pandemic levels of international air traffic

**SCHEDULED** international flights resumed in India in 2022 after two-year covid shutdown

**FOR** calendar year 2023, domestic carriers had a market share of 44.4% with 28.4 mn passengers

**MARKET** share was recorded at 38% in pre-pandemic 2019 when passenger count was 24.2 mn

of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, rose to 3.6% from 2.6% earlier while that of low-cost carrier SpiceJet dipped to 2.8% from 3.5%.

Among international carriers, the UAE's Emirates flew 1.39 million passengers in the December quarter as

year ago on a higher base.

Doha-based Qatar Airlines, which carried 544,125 passengers as compared to 474,257 passengers earlier, held a market share of 3.1% as compared to 3.3% a year ago. Etihad held a market share of 2.8% as compared to 2.4% ear-

lier and it carried 483,033 passengers, 36% up on year. Air Arabia saw a decline in its market share to 2.6% from 3.1% earlier and flew 455,318 passengers, 0.7% up on year.

In terms of passengers, IndiGo flew 31 million passengers to and from India, registering a rise of 39% on year and full-service carrier Vistara recorded a 70% growth on-year by flying 630,427 passengers in the quarter. Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express carried 2.2 million and 1.2 million passengers respectively, recording a growth of around 22% each as compared to the same period a year ago.

The latest data for domestic carriers chimes in with the plans of Indian airlines. IndiGo, which operates a fleet of more than 360 aircraft, plans to allocate at least 30% of its available capacity to international networks. The airline, which currently connects destinations in the range of 5-6 hours with its A320 family aircraft, has further plans to connect destinations beyond in mid-long haul markets with A321XLR (extra long range) aircraft that will join its fleet from 2025. IndiGo recently said there is a compelling opportunity to expand its international footprint through large airports, including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bengaluru. Full-service carrier Air India, which ordered 470 aircraft in February 2023, including 70 wide-body planes, intends to launch non-stop long-haul flights with the new fleet.

"The international opportunity is starting everyone in the face. In some hubs cases, upwards of 70-90% of people are not going to that place.

They are going through that place. I think if we get the basics right, be credible, we are going to get the time-sensitive, the discerning, the premium traveler who values the experience that we are going to provide," Air India chief executive officer and managing director Campbell Wilson said earlier this week.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MINT DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## Indigo sees capacity growth slowing next year

Bloomberg  
feedback@bvmint.com

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., which operates India's biggest airline IndiGo, has forecast slower capacity growth in the fiscal year starting April 1.

The budget carrier expects capacity to grow in the "early double-digits" next year, with a similar rate of increase in the number of passengers it flies, it said in an analyst presentation Friday.

The pace is slower than growth seen in the December quarter and guidance for the current financial year.

IndiGo's capacity grew by almost 27% last quarter, while the number of passengers carried rose by more than 23%.

The airline also said it met its guidance of capacity expansion in "north of mid-teens" and flying more than 100 million passengers in the financial year ending 31 March.

The carrier aims to add more than one aircraft to its fleet every week next year. As of 29 February, it operated 366 planes, and had a further 960 on order.

IndiGo dominates India's domestic aviation market despite some erosion in market — which fell to around 60% in February from more than 63% in July, according to data from India's aviation regulator.

IndiGo plans to add 10 new destinations in fiscal 2025 and manage a fleet of more than 600 aircraft by 2030 as it expects the number of fliers in India to more than double by the end of the decade.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST KOLKATA 22 MAR 2024

## Airlines summer schedule: 24,275 weekly domestic flights

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Indian airlines will operate a total of 24,275 weekly domestic flights during the summer schedule starting from March 31, a nearly 6 per cent increase compared to the year-ago period.

The number of weekly departures is just 2.30 per cent higher as against 23,732 flights being operated by the scheduled carriers in the ongoing winter schedule that ends on March 30, according to aviation regulator DGCA.

IndiGo, Air India and Vistara will operate more flights while SpiceJet will reduce departures during the 2024 summer schedule that spans from March 31 to October 26.

In the summer schedule, Indian carriers will connect 37 countries, including the US, the UK, Uzbekistan, Maldives, Georgia and Azerbaijan. The international flights will be operated from 27 domestic airports.

Domestic carriers will be operating 1,922 weekly international flights, a rise of 5.1 per cent compared to the 2023 summer schedule. In comparison to the ongoing winter schedule where the count of international weekly flights is 1,892, the increase is only 1.6 per cent.

Akasa Air, which is set to

### Nearly 6% increase compared to the year-ago period

commence its overseas operations on March 28, is yet to file its schedule for international flights with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The regulator said there will be 24,275 domestic departures per week which have been finalised to/from 125 airports as per the summer schedule.

“Out of these 125 airports, Azamgarh, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Gondia, Jalgaon, Moradabad and Pithoragarh are the new airports proposed by the scheduled airlines,” the watchdog said in a release on Thursday.

The country’s largest airline IndiGo will be operating 13.82 per cent more flights at 13,050 in the summer schedule, while Air India will increase its weekly departures by 4.59 per cent to 2,278.

Vistara will be operating 25.22 per cent more weekly flights at 2,324 while Akasa Air will increase their weekly domestic departures by 14.30 per cent to 903.

SpiceJet will be cutting down its weekly departures by 22.28 per cent to 1,657.

In terms of airports that will

be operational during the summer schedule, Uttar Pradesh will have the maximum number at 14, followed by Maharashtra (11) and Gujarat (9).

In the international segment, Air India will operate 455 weekly flights, an increase of 5.1 per cent compared to the year-ago period.

IndiGo will have 13.5 per cent more international flights at 731 while Vistara will increase its weekly overseas departures by 50.8 per cent to 184. Air India Express’ departures will rise 20.8 per cent to 371 flights.

However, SpiceJet will be reducing its international flights by 12.6 per cent to 174. In the last summer schedule, Go First was to operate 120 weekly overseas flights.

The carrier stopped flying in May 2023.

Alliance Air will operate 7 weekly international departures in the latest summer schedule compared to 4 in the year-ago period.

Air India, Air India Express and Vistara are part of the Tata Group, and Vistara is in the process of getting merged with Air India.

India’s civil aviation market is one of the fastest growing in the world but there are supply chain and engine woes that have also resulted in the grounding of many aircraft.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIME DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## नियमों का उल्लंघन, एयर इंडिया पर 80 लाख का जुर्माना

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

एयर इंडिया पर एक बार फिर से एविएशन रेगुलेटर DGCA ने नियमों का उल्लंघन करने के आरोप में जुर्माना लगाया है। उस पर 80 लाख रुपये की पेनल्टी लगाई गई है। इस बार एयर इंडिया के खिलाफ उड़ान ड्यूटी समय सीमा (FDTL) और फ्लाइट क्लू मेंबर के लिए थकान मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम (FMS) का उल्लंघन करने पर कार्रवाई की गई है। इसके लिए डीजीसीए ने इस साल जनवरी के महीने में एयर इंडिया की एक स्पॉट ऑडिट की थी। जिसमें इन नियमों के उल्लंघन करने का पता लगा था।

डीजीसीए ने बताया कि इस मामले



AI Image

में इस साल एक मार्च को एयर इंडिया को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया था। एयरलाइंस ने नोटिस के जवाब में अपनी जो प्रतिक्रिया दी, उससे डीजीसीए संतुष्ट नहीं हुआ। एयरलाइंस का जवाब संतोषजनक नहीं था।

डीजीसीए के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि इस साल जनवरी के महीने में एयर इंडिया लिमिटेड की जो स्पॉट ऑडिट की गई थी, उसमें कई तरह के दस्तावेज और सक्ल्ट इकट्ठे किए गए थे। इसमें पता लगा था कि एयर इंडिया ने कुछ मामलों में 60 साल से अधिक की उम्र वाले दोनों फ्लाइट क्लू के साथ कुछ उड़ाने भरी थीं जोकि सीधे तौर पर नियमों का उल्लंघन था।

यही नहीं एयरलाइंस की तरफ से पायलटों और क्लू मेंबर को जो साप्ताहिक आराम दिया जाना चाहिए था, उसमें भी कमी की गई। यही नहीं ऑडिट में यह भी पता लगा कि क्लू से ड्यूटी टाइम से अधिक काम लिया गया और गलत तरीके से रिकॉर्ड रखे गए।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIME DELHI 23 MAR 2024

### एयर इंडिया पर लगा 80 लाख का जुर्माना



नई दिल्ली, 22 मार्च (एजेंसी): विमानन क्षेत्र के नियामक डीजीसीए ने शुक्रवार को टाटा समूह के नियंत्रण वाली एयर इंडिया पर 80 लाख रुपए का जुर्माना लगाया। यह जुर्माना उड़ान सेवा अवधि सीमित करने और चालक दल के लिए थकान प्रबंधन प्रणाली से संबंधित मानदंडों का उल्लंघन करने के लिए लगाया गया। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने जनवरी में एयर इंडिया का मौके पर ऑडिट किया था। इस दौरान जमा किए गए सबूतों के आधार पर यह फैसला किया गया है। नियामक ने एक बयान में कहा,

रिपोर्टों और सबूतों के विश्लेषण से पता चला कि एयर इंडिया लिमिटेड ने कुछ मामलों में 60 साल से अधिक उम्र के दोनों चालक दल के सदस्यों के साथ उड़ान भरी थी।

बयान के मुताबिक एयरलाइन ने चालक दल को पर्याप्त साप्ताहिक आराम तथा लंबी उड़ानों से पहले और बाद में पर्याप्त आराम देने में कोताही बरती। नियामक ने एक मार्च को उल्लंघनों के संबंध में एयर इंडिया को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया था। इस नोटिस पर एयरलाइन के जवाब को संतोषजनक नहीं पाया गया।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER DELHI 23 MAR 2024

## DGCA fines Air India ₹80 lakh for violation of norms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday imposed an Rs 80 lakh penalty on Air India for violations of flight duty and fatigue management norms, including failure to provide adequate rest to flight crew before and after ultra-long haul flights.

This is at least the third time in less than two months that Tata Group-owned Air India has been fined by the DGCA. The latest penalty also comes at a time when the DGCA has decided not to extend the June 1 deadline for implementing the revised flight duty norms that will provide more rest hours for pilots.

In January, the watchdog conducted a spot audit of Air India to verify the airline's compliance with Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) and Fatigue Management System (FMS) regulations. During the audit, evidence was collected and fleet-wise random reports were analysed.

"The analysis of reports and evidence revealed that Air India Limited operated flight(s) with both flight crew aged above 60 years flying together in a few instances... The operator was also found deficient in providing adequate weekly rest, adequate rest before & after ultra-long range flights and adequate rest on layover to the flight crew, which violates the extant provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirements pertaining to FDTL," the DGCA said in a release. Generally, ultra-long-haul

flights are those having a duration of more than 16 hours. Air India operates such flights to destinations in Canada and the US. Further, the DGCA on Friday said there were instances of exceeding duty periods, wrongly marked training records and overlapping duties. On March 1, the watchdog issued a show cause notice to Air India with respect to the violations.

"The operator submitted its response to the show cause notice which was not found satisfactory. Pursuant to the non-satisfactory response submitted by the operator, a fine of Rs 80,00,000 has been imposed on the operator," the release said.

Having both cockpit crew members or pilots aged above 60 years in a flight violates Rule (2) of Rule 28 A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. "No person holding a pilot's licence issued under these rules and having attained the age of sixty years shall act as Pilot-in-Command or Co-pilot of an aircraft engaged in commercial air transport operations unless it is operated in a multi-crew environment and the other pilot is less than sixty years of age," as per the rule.

Earlier this month, the DGCA said it would not be extending the June 1 deadline for implementing the revised flight duty norms for pilots. The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), comprising Air India, SpiceJet and IndiGo, had written at least twice to the regulator, seeking more time for implementation of the revised Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms issued on January 8.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER LUCKNOW 22 MAR 2024

# DGCA finalises summer schedule for flights

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has finalised the summer schedule — which will be in from March 31 to Oct 26, 2024, — of domestic and international flights. As per the summer weekly schedule, Indian airlines will operate a total of 24,275 weekly domestic flights during the summer schedule starting from March 31, a nearly 6 per cent increase compared to the year-ago period and 2.3 percent more than ongoing winter's weekly schedule's 23,732 (which will be ended on March 30). This is despite over 75 IndiGo planes being grounded due to Pratt & Whitney's unending engine issues; GoAir not flying since last may; less operations by SpiceJet and slower than expected supply of new planes from Boeing and Airbus due to global supply chain constraints. Out of these 125 airports,



Azamgarh, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Gondia, Jalgaon, Moradabad and Pithoragarh are added to the new airports proposed by the scheduled airlines while Ziro and Hindon airports will not be included in the Summer Schedule 2023.

According to DGCA, in the summer schedule, Indian carriers will connect 37 countries, including the US, the UK, Uzbekistan, Maldives, Georgia and Azerbaijan. The international flights will be operated

from 27 domestic airports.

IndiGo, Air India and Vistara will operate more flights while SpiceJet will reduce departures during the 2024 summer schedule that spans from March 31 to October 26. Domestic carriers will be operating 1,922 weekly international flights, a rise of 5.1 per cent compared to the 2023 summer schedule. In comparison to the ongoing winter schedule where the count of international weekly flights is

1,892, the increase is only 1.6 per cent.

According to the schedule, IndiGo plans to operate the highest number of departures with 13,050 flights per week followed by Vistara with 2,324 weekly flights. Air India, SpiceJet, Air India Express, IAX Connect, Akasa Air and Alliance Air are going to operate 2,278 flights, 1,657 flights, 1,239 flights, 1,198 flights, 903 flights and 896 flights on a weekly basis, respectively.

The combined entity of Air India Express and AIX Connect — will operate 31.6 percent more flights in the upcoming summer schedule. IndiGo plans to operate 0.5 percent fewer flight or around 70 fewer weekly flights, Air India plans to operate 3.8 percent less capacity or 89 fewer weekly flights, SpiceJet plans to operate 22 percent less capacity or 475 fewer weekly flights and Alliance Air plans to operate 2 percent lower capacity or

18 fewer weekly flights, as per DGCA data.

In the international segment, Air India will operate 455 weekly flights, an increase of 5.1 per cent compared to the year-ago period. IndiGo will have 13.5 per cent more international flights at 731 while Vistara will increase its weekly overseas departures by 50.8 per cent to 184.

Air India Express' departures will rise 20.8 per cent to 371 flights. However, SpiceJet will be reducing its international flights by 12.6 per cent to 174. In the last summer schedule, Go First was to operate 120 weekly overseas flights.

Alliance Air will operate 7 weekly international departures in the latest summer schedule compared to 4 in the year-ago period.

Air India, Air India Express and Vistara are part of the Tata Group, and Vistara is in the process of getting merged with Air India.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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TELEGRAPH KOLKATA 22 MAR 2024

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## Summer flights

■ **NEW DELHI:** Indian airlines will operate 24,275 weekly domestic flights during the summer schedule starting from March 31, a nearly 6 per cent increase compared to the year-ago period. IndiGo, Air India and Vistara will operate more flights while SpiceJet will reduce departures during the 2024 summer schedule that spans from March 31 to October 26.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIME OF INDIA DELHI 23 MAR 2024

# DGCA slaps ₹80L fine on AI for violating crew duty time rules

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a fine of Rs 80 lakh on Air India for violating regulations pertaining to flight duty time limitations (FDTL), which mandate the work and rest rules, and fatigue management system (FMS) of flight crew.

The regulator conducted a spot audit in Jan and found violations, such as both pilots operating a flight being aged above 60. "The operator (Air India) was also found deficient in providing adequate weekly rest; adequate rest before and after ultra-long range flights and adequate rest on layover to flight crew, which violates the extant provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirements pertaining to FDTL. Moreover, the instances of exceeding duty periods, wrongly marked training records, overlapping duties...were also observed during the



Flight duty time limitations mandate work and rest rules and fatigue management system of flight crew

audit," DGCA said in a statement. After the audit, the regulator had served a show-cause notice to the airline on March 1, but its response was not found satisfactory.

DGCA said the spot audit was conducted for "verifying the regulatory compliance by the operator in respect of FDTL and FMS regulations as a proactive step towards ensuring a high level of safety in aviation".

Air India has been fined by the regulator several times in the last one-and-a-half years for various lapses.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIME OF INDIA BANGALORE 22 MAR 2024

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## **'IndiGo donated ₹56 crore to four parties; Spicejet gave ₹70L to AAP'**

**New Delhi:** IndiGo promoter Rahul Bhatia, in his individual capacity, and companies of his InterGlobe Group have donated Rs 56 crore to four political parties while SpiceJet gave Rs 70 lakh to AAP.

BJP got the lion's share of Rs 31 crore from InterGlobe Real Estate Venture (Rs 20 crore) and InterGlobe Air Transport Ltd (Rs 11 crore).

The second biggest recipient, surprisingly, was TMC which got Rs 16.2 crore from Bhatia. Congress got Rs 5 crore from InterGlobe Aviation Ltd while Bhatia paid Rs 3.8 crore to its ally NCP. TNN



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIME OF INDIA BANGALORE 22 MAR 2024

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### At 14, UP has maximum cities connected by air

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** At 14, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of airports that will get regular commercial flights this summer. The recent opening of Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Aligarh, Moradabad and Shravasti has propelled the state to the top of the country's aviation link charts.

Maharashtra is second at 11, according to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation data. It also shows Haryana and Pondicherry to be the only state and UT, respectively, with no airport getting flights this summer. The small UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli has no airport. UP and Maharashtra are followed by Gujarat (9), Karnataka (8), and Assam (7). Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are at six each; Madhya Pradesh and Odisha are at five each; West Bengal, Kerala, Punjab and Arunachal at four each; Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand at three each, and Goa and J&K at two each.



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THE TIME OF INDIA HYDERBAD 22 MAR 2024

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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While InterGlobe is flush with funds as IndiGo has been only consistently profitable airline, SpiceJet has been trying to raise funds for the past few years during which it has routinely delayed payment of salary and statutory dues like PF to employees, apart from delaying depositing TDS. Many IndiGo employees did not find the contributions to political parties surprising but many in SpiceJet were surprised. TNN



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THE TIME OF INDIA MUMBAI 22 MAR 2024

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## IndiGo donated ₹56 crore to four parties; SpiceJet gave ₹70L to AAP

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# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TRIBUNE DELHI 23 MAR 2024

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## **Air India fined ₹80 lakh over safety violations**

NEW DELHI: Aviation watchdog DGCA has fined Air India ₹80 lakh for violating norms related to flight duty time limitations and fatigue management of crew. [TNS](#)