



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

25 DECEMBER 2024

RGIA SEES 25L PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN NOV.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC.24

Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has shown strong growth in passenger numbers for November, according to the data of Airport Authority Of India,(AAI). Compared to the same time last year, the RGIA saw a 24.6 per cent increase in passenger traffic.

The airport handled 25,31,482 domestic and international passengers, an increase of 1,03,577 passengers compared to October, which saw 24,94,905 passengers. The airport processed 21,29,692 passengers in November, compared to 20,95,641 in October, an increase of 34,051 passengers.

To Request AAI For A Detailed Study Next Wk TN govt zeroes in on 2 sites for Hosur airport

Julie.Mariappan
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Chennai: Tamil Nadu govt is believed to have shortlisted two potential sites in Hosur, Krishnagiri district, for a new greenfield airport to serve the needs of the manufacturing hub. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) will soon be asked to conduct a detailed study of the locations, both within a radius of 20km, multiple sources confirmed to TOI.

The decision came after chief minister M K Stalin had a high-level meeting at the state secretariat. On a request from state govt, a multi-disciplinary team of AAI and TIDCO assessed the feasibility of four proposed sites near Hosur in Sept. These included Thogarai Agraharam, Shoolagiri, Dhasapalli, and an area near a private airstrip.

"Two locations have now been shortlisted based on an interim report from the AAI. The state govt plans to formally request a detailed study from the AAI next week," said a source. The area near the private airstrip is likely to be chosen for the



GETTING AHEAD IN THE GAME

detailed study, and the govt also appears willing to negotiate with a private firm regarding the airstrip, but the potential purchase hinges on the company offering the asset at a reasonable price.

CII Tamil Nadu State Council Chairman and Wheels India managing director Srivats Ram said the proposed airport would serve as a critical node for business and logistics activities across South India.

"This project aligns with the vision to foster regional integration, potentially creating a dynamic twin-city ecosystem with Bengaluru

and catalysing growth in neighbouring districts like Dharmapuri and Salem. Despite obstacles, the project holds the promise of transforming Hosur into a pivotal hub of economic and logistical activity, fostering cross-state collaborations."

Hosur has been an automotive hub for decades. It recently expanded to sectors like advanced manufacturing, electronics, and electric vehicles. In June, chief minister M K Stalin announced that the airport, proposed for 2,000 acres, will be designed to handle up to three crore passengers annually.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

25 DECEMBER 2024

TN shortlists 2 sites for Hosur airport

AAI To Take Up A Study In A Week

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FOR A SMOOTH TAKE-OFF

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In June, chief minister M K Stalin announced that the airport, proposed on 2,000 acres, will be designed to handle up to three crore passengers annually.

TN's Hosur push coincides with Karnataka govt's exploration of a second airport for Bengaluru.

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक दौड़ लगाएंगी छह नए रूटों की ई-बसें

यीडा ने चार रूटों का प्रस्ताव रोडवेज निगम को भेजा, दो रूट पर बन चुकी हैं सहमति

ग्रेटर नोएडा। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के संचालन से पहले यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) शहर में छह प्रमुख रूटों पर इलेक्ट्रिक बसों का संचालन कराने की कवायद में जुटी है। इन रूटों के जरिये एयरपोर्ट को यमुना सिटी के साथ ही नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और आसपास के जिलों की कनेक्टिविटी बेहतर की जाएगी।

प्रस्तावित छह रूटों में दो रूट रोडवेज निगम ने मंजूर कर दिया है। बाकी चार रूटों का प्रस्ताव यीडा ने निगम को भेज दिया है। इन रूटों पर सहमति बनने के बाद जेवर, बुलंदशहर, सिकंदराबाद, खुर्जा, टप्पल आदि शहरों के बीच परिवहन की सुविधा मिलेगी। इन रूटों पर चलने वाली इलेक्ट्रिक बसें हाईटेक होगी। यह बसें यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के

बुलंदशहर व अलीगढ़ के यात्रियों को मिलेगी सुविधा

अप्रैल में एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान प्रस्तावित हैं। ऐसे में गौतमबुद्धनगर के अलावा बुलंदशहर और अलीगढ़ के यात्रियों की सहूलियत को ध्यान में रखते हुए यीडा बसों के नए रूट पर मंथन कर रहा है। प्राधिकरण ने बुलंदशहर, अलीगढ़ के अलग अलग क्षेत्रों से एयरपोर्ट तक बसों के संचालन का निर्णय लिया है। रोडवेज निगम को नए रूटों का प्रस्ताव बनाकर भेज दिया गया है। मंजूरी मिलने के बाद

ऑपरेशन को नियुक्त करने के लिए रिक्वेस्ट फॉर प्रॉपोजल (आरएफपी) जारी की जाएगी। इन रूटों पर कुल 175 बसों का संचालन होगा।



वृष्टिगत सीसीटीवी कैमरे, जीपीएस ट्रैकर और एयर कंडिशन समेत सभी प्रकार की सुविधाओं से लैस रहेगी। बता दें कि यमुना सिटी में एयरपोर्ट के लिए परी चौक से जेवर एयरपोर्ट वाया रबुपुरा और कासना बस डिपो से एयरपोर्ट वाया गलगोटिया विश्वविद्यालय रूट को मंजूरी मिली है। व्यूरो

एप से होगी मानिटरिंग

इलेक्ट्रिक बसों के संचालन से पहले यात्रियों की सहूलियत के लिए एप विकसित किया जाएगा। इस एप के जरिये यात्री बसों की एडवॉंस टिकट बुकिंग करा सकेंगे। इसी एप से बसों ऑनलाइन मानिटरिंग की जा सकेगी। जीपीएस के जरिए बसों की लाइव लोकेशन का पता लगाने में भी मदद मिलेगी।

K'taka flies high: Third in India in domestic air travel

Bengaluru's airport is third busiest in country; state saw year-on-year domestic passenger growth of 16.06%

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The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has recently become the country's third busiest international and domestic airport after Mumbai and Delhi. However, interestingly, Karnataka (with all airports combined) is also the third state to have the highest number of domestic air travellers. As per the latest data presented in Rajya Sabha, Karnataka retained its third position in domestic passenger traffic during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24, highlighting its steady growth in air travel. However, in the international category, Karnataka ranked sixth both years. The state witnessed a year-on-year domestic passenger growth of 16.06%, increasing from 3,02,55,765 passengers in 2022-23 to 3,51,13,640 in 2023-24. International traffic rose by 11.38%, from 12,50,195 passengers to 13,92,683 during the same period.

In domestic air traffic, Delhi and Maharashtra outperformed Karnataka. Delhi recorded 5,41,07,308 passengers in 2023-24, 54.07% higher than Karnataka, while Maharashtra reported 5,24,76,118 passengers, 49.45%



higher. Similarly, in international air traffic, Delhi led with 91,83,880 passengers, a staggering 559.66% more than Karnataka, followed by Maharashtra with 66,01,785 passengers, 374.23% higher. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana also ranked above Karnataka, with international traffic 253.91%, 87.86%, and 19.18% higher, respectively.

No government role in airfare

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Murlidhar Mohol, stated that the government has minimal involvement in controlling high airfares. Responding to a query in the Rajya Sabha, he noted that airfares in 2024 have moderated compared to 2023. There is no evidence of airlines engaging in artificial shortages or black marketing.

Mohol clarified that airfares

AERA oversees determination of tariffs for aeronautical services at major airports in India

— Murlidhar Mohol, Minister

are not regulated by the government, allowing airlines the flexibility to set prices based on operational needs in compliance with Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Airlines determine fares by considering market conditions, demand fluctuations, seasonal trends, and other market influences, ensuring prices reflect the current travel environment. While the government avoids regulating airfares to promote market competitiveness, it remains vigilant. It has intervened during exceptional circumstances like the pandemic to cap fares or reallocate capacity to curb excessive pricing and safeguard passenger interests.

"Additionally, the Airports Economic Regulatory Author-

ity of India (AERA), an independent economic regulator, oversees the determination of tariffs for aeronautical services at major airports. AERA allows airport operators to recover revenue through landing and parking charges from airlines and User Development Fees (UDF) from passengers. Tariffs are determined based on factors such as return on investment, operational expenditure, depreciation, and taxes under the AERA Act and guidelines for a five-year control period. Despite significant capital expenditure to accommodate rising passenger traffic, Indian airports maintain substantially lower passenger charges compared to major international airports worldwide," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 DECEMBER 2024

BENGALURU

'Location for 2nd airport only on merit'

Karnataka Minister for Infrastructure Development M B Patil on Monday said the location for Bengaluru's second airport will be finalised "purely and strictly on merit".

The state government will soon decide on the matter and communicate the same to the Airport Authority of India (AAI), Patil said.

"If it is nearer to city, people will come. For other districts -- whether Tumakuru, Vijayapura, Hubballi or Belagavi -- district airports are different. This airport is related to Bengaluru, and it should provide convenience to the people of Bengaluru for the all-round development of the city to be globally competitive," Patil told reporters here.

Stating that the location for the airport will be decided purely based on merit, Patil said, "A decision will be taken soon in the interest of Bengaluru after considering all the pros and cons, which we will send to the Airport Authority of India."

यीडा ने यूपीएसआरटीसी को प्रस्ताव भेजा, बसों की निगरानी ऐप से की जाएगी

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक चार नए रूट पर ई-बस चलाने की तैयारी

अच्छी खबर | 1 |

ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) क्षेत्र में नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट तक कॉमर्शियल विमान यात्रा शुरू होने वाली है। ऐसे में शहर के छह प्रमुख रूटों पर इलेक्ट्रिक बसों के संचालन की तैयारी है। यह रूट एयरपोर्ट को नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और आसपास के शहरों से जुड़ेंगे।

एयरपोर्ट तक कनेक्टिविटी के लिए प्रस्तावित मार्गों से जेवर, बुलंदशहर, सिकंदराबाद, खुर्जा, टप्पल आदि शहरों के बीच परिवहन की सुविधा मिलेगी। प्राधिकरण ने उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम (यूपीएसआरटीसी) से नए रूटों का प्रस्ताव बनाकर भेजा है। इन रूटों पर कुल 175 बसों का संचालन होगा। प्राधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि फिलहाल यमुना सिटी में एयरपोर्ट के लिए दो रूटों पर बसों के संचालन को मंजूरी मिल चुकी है। इनमें परी चौक से जेवर एयरपोर्ट वाया रबुपुरा और कासना बस डिपो से एयरपोर्ट वाया गलगोटिया विश्वविद्यालय शामिल है। इलेक्ट्रिक बसों की निगरानी के लिए

इस तरह प्रस्तावित किया गया है रूट



यमुना प्राधिकरण ऐप भी विकसित कराएगा, ताकि बसों पर एडवॉंस टिकट बुकिंग और ऑनलाइन बसों की निगरानी

की जा सके। जीपीएस के जरिए बसों की लोकेशन इत्यादि की जानकारी हासिल की जा सकेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

25 DECEMBER 2024

State identifies land for airport in Naxal-impacted Gadchiroli



Presently, poll parties are airdropped in various parts of Gadchiroli by Air Force helicopters.

Yogesh Naik

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MUMBAI: Plans are afoot to build an airport in Gadchiroli, to help combat naxal activities and facilitate development in this remote, north-eastern district in the state.

The state government has identified 229 hectares spread across three villages for a greenfield airport and is awaiting a nod from the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC), which is responsible for the construction, maintenance and operation of airports in the state.

A senior government officer said, "We are waiting for a final okay from MADC, after which the collector of Gadchiroli will start the acquisition process for 229 hectares for the airport."

At present, all that Gadchi-

roli has by way of aviation facilities is a helipad used by defence helicopters and VVIP choppers. There is also no night-landing facility.

A senior state government official said there was an earlier proposal to build an airport for small aircraft such as ATRs or defence planes like the C 130J, but chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had directed that the facility should must be expanded to accommodate larger, aircraft like the A320 or B737. This would include defence as well as commercial aircraft.

Land in Murkhula, Pulkhal and Kaneri villages has been identified for the airport and the acquisition will cost ₹230 crore. The airport will help swiftly evacuate forces who are injured in anti-naxal operations in Gadchiroli, state a state

GADCHIROLI HAS A HELIPAD THAT IS USED BY DEFENCE HELICOPTERS AND VVIP CHOPPERS

government official. "We need proper air facilities so that defence planes from Nagpur and air ambulances can fly in. We have been repeatedly asking for an airport with night-landing facilities," said a retired additional director general of police.

A retired additional director general of police said, "The Ministry of Home Affairs has been pushing for the airport as a part of the state's action against left-wing extremism, something that has been discussed since 2008."

This will be the fourth air-

port in the Nagpur division. Nagpur city has an international airport; Gondia has an airport and a flying school; and Chandrapur has an airport at Morwa and another airport (stalled by the forest department).

An airport in Gadchiroli will be another link in enhancing the district's connectivity. Work is underway on the Wadga-Gadchiroli railway line, while the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi expressway will be extended to include Gadchiroli.

An airport with commercial operations will greatly facilitate the remote district's development.

Recently, Fadnavis announced that Gadchiroli will be developed as the next steel city and that private players have pledged investment of ₹50,000 crore in the district.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

UP to soon unveil new five-year export policy: UP industrial development minister Nand Gopal Gupta



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government will soon unveil a new export policy for 2025-30 as the State aims to significantly increase its share in India's outward shipments and create more employment opportunities.

Under the 2020-2025 export policy, the state government provides comprehensive hand-holding support to the exporters. In an interview to The Pioneer, Uttar Pradesh minister for industrial development, export

promotion, NRI, and investment promotion Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' informed that the state government is working on a new five-year export policy and extensive consultations with different stakeholders are being held.

"We are working on unveiling an ambitious Export Policy for 2025-30 to boost the state's contribution to India's exports," the Minister said.

In FY 2023-24 state's share in India's total export was 4.71 per cent. In the first two quarters (April-September) of the current financial year, Uttar Pradesh's share in country's total export was estimated at 4.89 per cent.

"Our focus on enhancing export capabilities will propel UP towards becoming a USD 1 trillion economy, driving revenue and fostering development. The Yogi government remains committed to transforming Uttar Pradesh into India's most prosperous state," Gupta said. He said

operationalisation of the Jewar Airport will further help exports from the state. It will save time and save expenditure on freight charges.

To promote export-oriented industries, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has ensured development of adequate infrastructural facilities in the state. It is to be noted here that the state has the largest rail network in the country, 38 per cent of the expressways, 4 international airports, 9 domestic airports and 7 under-construction airports along with Jewar Airport which is due to be operational very soon.

The Minister informed that the government is providing financial assistance to the exporters through various schemes, including Marketing Development Assistance, Gateway Port Scheme and Air Freight rationalization schemes. Uttar Pradesh has also started organising International Trade Show (UPITS) since 2023 through

which it is providing global marketing exposure and business to the exporters by conducting B2B sessions.

Besides the government is also providing international marketing exposure to exporters from the state by participating in various international trade shows organised by the central government like IITF and Bharat Tex.

Minister Gupta emphasised the state government has adopted export as well as investment friendly policies along with a focus on the development of better logistics facilities in the state. All these initiatives will help in increasing exports from the state and help Uttar Pradesh become a USD One trillion economy.

India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) during April-November 2024 was estimated at USD 536.25 billion, a growth of 7.61 per cent from USD 498.33 billion in the year ago period.

Over 300 flights delayed as fog cuts visibility at IGI to 100m

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Dense fog impacted flights at Delhi airport on Wednesday as visibility dropped to 100 metres for nearly three hours.

Over 300 flights were delayed, according to FlightRadar24. Officials at Indira Gandhi International Airport said that no flight was diverted or cancelled.

According to India Meteorological Department, IGI Airport recorded the lowest visibility of 100 metres from 5.30am to 8.30am, which improved thereafter, becoming 300 metres at 9.30am.

Following the dip in visibility, Delhi airport warned about the delays on X at 5.45am. "While landings and take-offs continue at Delhi Airport, flights that are not CAT III compliant may get affected. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information. Any inconvenience is deeply regretted," it said.

IMD has predicted moderate to dense fog on Thursday.

The data from FlightRadar24 showed that more than 300 flights were delayed at IGI Airport, and the average delay was 18 minutes. "However, no flight was diverted or cancelled due to low visibility. Some flights were also delayed due to weather conditions at the origin airport," an airport official said.

Officials said the airport initiates low visibility procedures (LVP) — measures aimed at making landing for flights easier when visibility dips below 800 metres.

During such a period, CAT-I procedures, which are a basic set of precautions, are initiated for visibility above 550 metres. Those pilots who are CAT-II compliant are allowed to land when visibility is between 275-550 metres.

However, CAT-III A and B-compliant pilots can land when visibility is below 275 metres and even when it is as low as 50 metres. "The pilots who are trained in CAT III procedures can make an aircraft land with a minimum visibility of 50 metres, while an aircraft can take off with a visibility of 125 metres," an official had said earlier.

This season, dense fog happened early, with the first spell recorded from Nov 13 onwards.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

Six e-bus routes from Noida and west UP to link airport in Jewar

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Noida: Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) is planning to operate electric buses on six routes initially connecting the Noida International Airport with Noida, Greater Noida and the nearby towns of west UP.

The proposed city routes include Jewar to Botanical Garden metro station in Noida, and another linking Noida Sector 35 with the airport via Pari Chowk. Buses are also being planned to Bulandshahr, Sikandrabad, and Khurja.

Officials said YEIDA had sought permission from UP Roadways and would hire an operator to run the buses once the approvals are in. The initial fleet will have 175-200 buses in it, equipped with enough space for luggage.

A passenger will have to download a mobile application to book a seat on his chosen route — just like in the case of shared cabs.

“The service aims at providing a dedicated public transport system for commuters and airport passengers. A network of electric bus routes linking the Jewar airport with more key locations in the region and beyond will be in place very soon,” said Arun Vir Singh, the CEO of YEIDA and Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL).

He added that if required, funding would be secured through NIAL to ensure there were no hurdles in implementing the service.

This fleet of all-electric buses is in addition to a wider programme of 500 vehicles that will operate on various routes across Noida, Greater Noida, and Yamuna Expressway Authority’s township areas. The three development authorities have established a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to operate the electric bus service, which includes routes connecting Noida with Delhi and other neighbouring cities. A request for proposal for the bus service was issued last month following an order from UP govt.

While the Noida airport is set for an April launch, connectivity to it has been one of the biggest concerns.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

25 DECEMBER 2024

Hydroponic ganja from Thailand new headache for airport security

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Chennai: Hydroponic cannabis (ganja) is the newest headache for officials of the directorate of revenue intelligence (DRI) at Chennai airport. Valued at ₹1 crore a kg, this highly potent variety of ganja has started to enter the state through Chennai airport at frequent intervals.

This month alone, 14 kg of premium hydroponic cannabis valued at ₹14 crore has been seized at Chennai airport.

And, just as the exotic pet menace, Thailand has become the source of Chennai-bound consignment of hydroponic cannabis.

On Monday, 3.6kg of hydroponic ganja was seized from a passenger coming from Thailand. Based on a specific tip-off about the drug being brought from the Thailand capital of Bangkok, DRI officials maintained a vigil at the airport, along with customs officials.

A passenger, 30, from Chennai attracted the sleuths' notice as his travel documents showed that he was visiting Thailand on a tourist visa for just two days. His responses during inquiry were evasive.

A search by officials revealed that he was carrying 3.6 kg of high-grade cannabis hidden in a compartment of his suitcase.

Investigations revealed that he was a courier for an international drug syndicate. Officials are now pursuing leads to locate and arrest the syndicate's key operatives in Chennai.

Officials have noted a pattern in the smuggling of hydroponic cannabis through Chennai airport. On Nov 21, authorities arrested a Chennai woman for smuggling hydroponic cannabis valued at ₹2.8 crore. On Dec 16, officials seized 7.6 kg of premium cannabis worth ₹7.6 crore and arrested a man. The current seizure marks the third such incident. Officials, however, have not been revealing the identity of the people arrested.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

Under hub strategy, Centre evaluating proposal to ease aircraft leasing norms

REFORM PACKAGE. Plan involves longer leasing duration for wet lease aircraft and easier mechanism to re-lease

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

To develop direct long-haul air travel capabilities of India-based airlines, the Centre, under its hub strategy, is evaluating a proposal to further ease aircraft leasing norms.

Accordingly, the proposed reform package includes longer leasing duration for wet lease aircraft (leased aircraft accompanied by crew) and easier mechanism to re-lease. At present, the wet lease period has been limited for only six months, as the aircraft is required to undergo scheduled maintenance activity beyond this duration.

On the other hand, the dry lease period for an aircraft ranges between five and



READY TO SOAR. The proposal recommends tweaking norms to allow wet-leased aircraft in new international routes

seven years. "A consultative mechanism is used in the strategy to develop international hub airports in the country and to promote direct connectivity. Various stakeholders including airlines propose certain ways in which the objective of this strategy can be achieved," a source said. "Under the same

mechanism, the Centre has received airlines' proposals on the wet lease norms. We are evaluating the same."

PROPOSED STRATEGY

As per sources, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has established a platform under which industry participants and other ministries are en-

gaged to make a strategy to develop international hub airports in the country.

The proposal recommends tweaking of current norms which will then allow airlines to deploy wet leased aircraft for new international routes, sources said.

The proposal also deals with the supply chain and other issues that has impacted aircraft availability.

"Leasing is generally a short-term measure to meet higher demand. However, the proposal at hand widens the usage of wet lease in promoting direct connectivity," sources said.

Meanwhile, responding to reports on the wet lease of long-range Boeing 787s to open new routes to Europe, airline major IndiGo on Wednesday said that it is committed to "constantly

evolving to provide its customers with an alternate and differentiated travel experience."

"In April, IndiGo announced the order for wide-body A350-900 aircraft with deliveries starting in 2027 and alongside the XLR aircraft expected next year (2025), IndiGo is well positioned to expand our geographic reach and serve the ever-growing demand for international travel to and from India," the airline said.

"In order to address this growing demand and keeping in mind global supply chain challenges, IndiGo is exploring interim solutions for an earlier introduction of long-range aircraft to its fleet. Route and network opportunities related to these solutions are being explored at present."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

इंडिगो को 11.2 करोड़ यात्रियों की उम्मीद

एयरलाइन कंपनी इंडिगो की उड़ानों से इस साल (2024 में) 11.2 करोड़ लोगों के यात्रा करने की उम्मीद है। इंडिगो के प्रमुख पीटर एल्बर्स ने यह बात कही है। उन्होंने कहा कि इंडिगो वैश्विक विमानन क्षेत्र में अग्रणी कंपनी बनने की राह पर है। पिछले साल (2023 में) देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन से 10 करोड़ से अधिक लोगों ने यात्रा की थी। भारत दुनिया के सबसे तेजी से बढ़ते नागर विमानन बाजारों में से है और घरेलू बाजार में 63.6 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी रखने वाली इंडिगो अपने अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क का भी विस्तार कर रही है।

भाषा

IndiGo eyes early induction of wide-body planes in fleet

Airline reportedly in talks with Norse Atlantic Airways to wet-lease six B787

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 25 December

IndiGo on Wednesday said it was exploring an earlier introduction of wide-body planes in its fleet to meet the growing demand for international travel.

Industry sources said the airline was in talks with Norse Atlantic Airways to wet-lease six B787 planes in its fleet. Under a wet-lease, the lessor provides flight and maintenance crew along with the aircraft. In a dry-lease, the lessor provides just the plane.

IndiGo had in April announced an order for 30 A350 wide-body aircraft, marking a major change in its business model that had been focused on all-economy operations. However, the deliveries of A350 aircraft will begin from 2027 onwards.

IndiGo's competitor Air India has, in the last two years, expanded its presence on domestic metro-to-metro routes and started new long-range international flights to



IndiGo had in April announced an order for 30 A350 wide-body aircraft, marking a major change in its business model that had focused on all-economy operations

far-flung destinations in Europe, North America and Australia using wide body planes.

IndiGo has a fleet of about 427 planes in its fleet. The airline has some experience in operating wide-body planes. Two out of the 427 planes are B777 wide-body planes, which have been leased from Turkish Airlines, and they are being used on India-Istanbul routes.

IndiGo, which started business class operations from September this year, wants to increase its presence in the pre-

mium arena.

In a statement, the airline said, "IndiGo is committed to constantly evolve to provide our customers an alternate and differentiated travel experience, which is best in class. In April, IndiGo announced the order for wide-body A350-900 aircraft with deliveries starting 2027 and alongside the XLR aircraft expected next year (2025), IndiGo is well positioned to expand our geographic reach and serve the ever-growing demand for international travel to and from India."

"In order to address this growing demand and in keeping also in mind global supply chain challenges, IndiGo is exploring interim solutions for an earlier introduction of long range aircraft to its fleet. Route and network opportunities related to these solutions are being explored at present," it added. IndiGo's discussions with Norse Atlantic Airways are happening at a time when the Central government is close to allowing airlines to operate wet-leased wide body planes on new routes. The government is considering this measure as the new aircraft supply from Boeing and Airbus have slowed in the last several months due to supply chain issues, etc.

To meet growing demand in the country's air travel market, Indian carriers have made four significant aircraft orders since last year. In February 2023, the Tata-run Air India Group placed an order for 470 planes: 250 with Airbus and 220 with American plane maker Boeing.

भारत का घरेलू एयर ट्रैफिक नवम्बर में दोहरे अंक में बढ़ा

नई दिल्ली, 25 दिसम्बर (एजेंसियां)। भारत में नवंबर में घरेलू मार्गों पर 1.42 करोड़ यात्रियों ने उड़ान भरी। इसमें सालाना आधार पर 12 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी देखी गई है। नागरिक विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, एयर ट्रैफिक में 63.6 प्रतिशत की हिस्सेदारी के साथ इंडिगो देश की शीर्ष एयरलाइन बनी हुई है। इसके बाद एयर ट्रैफिक में एयर इंडिया के पास 24.4 प्रतिशत, आकासा एयर के पास 4.7 प्रतिशत और स्पाइस जेट के पास 3.1 प्रतिशत बाजार हिस्सेदारी है। एयर ट्रैफिक में नवंबर में एलायंस एयर की हिस्सेदारी 0.07 प्रतिशत रही है।

डीजीसीए की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, जनवरी-नवंबर 2024 के दौरान घरेलू एयरलाइनों द्वारा ले जाए गए यात्रियों की संख्या 14.64 करोड़ थी, जबकि पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि के दौरान यह संख्या 13.82 करोड़ थी। यह सालाना आधार पर यात्रियों की संख्या में 5.91 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।

नवम्बर में घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या 1.42 करोड़ रही, जबकि एक साल पहले इसी अवधि में यह आंकड़ा 1.27 करोड़ था। नवम्बर



- नवम्बर में घरेलू मार्गों पर 1.42 करोड़ यात्रियों ने भरी उड़ान
- इंडिगो देश की शीर्ष एयरलाइन में बरकरार

में हवाई यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों की संख्या भी अक्टूबर के 1.36 करोड़ के आंकड़े से भी अधिक रही है।

हालांकि, नवम्बर के दौरान बंगलुरु, दिल्ली, हैदराबाद और मुंबई में शेड्यूल्ड घरेलू एयरलाइनों के ऑन टाइम परफॉर्मंस (ओटीपी)

में गिरावट आई है और यात्रियों को देरी का सामना करना पड़ा है। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, इंडिगो का ओटीपी 74.5 प्रतिशत रहा, जबकि आकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट का ओटीपी क्रमशः 66.4 प्रतिशत और 62.5 प्रतिशत रहा। वहीं, एयर इंडिया और एलायंस एयर का ओटीपी क्रमशः 58.8 प्रतिशत और 58.9 प्रतिशत रहा।

आंकड़ों के अनुसार, नवम्बर में 2,24,904 यात्री देरी से प्रभावित हुए। एयरलाइनों ने फंसे हुए यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए करीब 2.9 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान किया। नवम्बर के दौरान शेड्यूल्ड घरेलू एयरलाइनों को यात्रियों से संबंधित 624 शिकायतें मिलीं। नवम्बर में कुल 3,539 यात्रियों को विमान में चढ़ने से मना कर दिया गया और उन्हें मुआवजा देने और सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए एयरलाइनों द्वारा 2.84 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए गए।

आंकड़ों से यह भी पता चलता है कि उड़ान रद्द होने से 27,577 यात्री प्रभावित हुए, जिसके लिए एयरलाइनों ने मुआवजे और सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के रूप में 36.79 लाख रुपये खर्च किए।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

महाकुंभ के दौरान संगमनगरी की विमान सेवा करीब चार गुना महंगी

जागरण संवाददाता, प्रयागराज: महाकुंभ के दौरान हवाई यात्रा करने वालों को अधिक किराया चुकाना होगा। विमान कंपनियों ने महाकुंभ के दौरान यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों से चार गुना तक किराया वसूलना शुरू कर दिया है। 10 जनवरी से महाकुंभ के लिए विशेष विमान सेवाएं शुरू होंगी, जिनका किराया पांच हजार से बढ़कर 22 हजार रुपये तक पहुंच गया है।

महाकुंभ की तैयारियों पर नजर रख रहे एयरपोर्ट व क्षेत्रीय रेल उपयोगकर्ता परामर्शदात्री समिति के सदस्य व व्यापार मंडल के

महामंत्री शिव शंकर सिंह का कहना है कि सरकार तैयारी कर रही है तो इसकी फिक्र भी करनी चाहिए कि लोग 12 वर्ष बाद लगने वाले इस महाकुंभ में आ पाएं।

दिल्ली से एलाइंस एयर, इंडिगो, स्पाइस जेट और अकासा एयर महाकुंभ के दौरान विमान सेवा उपलब्ध कराएंगे। इंडिगो और एलाइंस एयर की दोपहर की उड़ान का किराया 24 हजार पहुंच गया है। शाम की उड़ान का किराया 10 हजार से नीचे है। स्पाइस जेट का किराया तो अभी से ही 21 हजार हो गया है।

महाकुंभ के दौरान संगमनगरी की विमान सेवा चार गुना महंगी

जागरण संवाददाता, प्रयागराज

महाकुंभ के दौरान हवाई यात्रा करने वालों को अधिक किराया चुकाना होगा। विमान कंपनियों ने महाकुंभ के दौरान यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों से चार गुना तक किराया वसूलना शुरू कर दिया है। 10 जनवरी से महाकुंभ के लिए विशेष विमान सेवाएं शुरू होंगी, जिनका किराया पांच हजार से बढ़कर 22 हजार रुपये तक पहुंच गया है।

महाकुंभ की तैयारियों पर नजर रख रहे एयरपोर्ट व क्षेत्रीय रेल उपयोगकर्ता परामर्शदात्री समिति के सदस्य व व्यापार मंडल के महामंत्री शिव शंकर सिंह का कहना है कि सरकार पूरी तैयारी कर रही है तो इसकी फिक्र भी करनी चाहिए कि लोग 12 वर्ष बाद लगने वाले इस महाकुंभ में आ पाएं। परिवार के साथ आने पर अगर लाखों रुपये का खर्च केवल किराये में लग जाएगा तो यह कैसे संभव होगा। एयरपोर्ट सलाहकार समिति के सदस्य चंद्रशेखर ओझा विमानन कंपनियों के रवैये को मनमाना बताते हैं। कहते हैं, जब सामान्य दिनों में किराया चार-

24 हजार दिल्ली, 27 हजार पुणे और 25 हजार रहेगा चेन्नई का किराया

● बेंगलुरु, मुंबई समेत डेढ़ दर्जन शहरों का टिकट 22 हजार रुपये के पार



दिल्ली से सर्वाधिक उड़ानें, पर किराये में राहत नहीं

दिल्ली से सर्वाधिक विमानों का संचालन होना है, लेकिन किराये में राहत नहीं है। दिल्ली से एलाइंस एयर, इंडिगो, स्पाइस जेट और अकासा एयर महाकुंभ के दौरान विमान सेवा उपलब्ध कराएंगे। इंडिगो और एलाइंस एयर की दोपहर की उड़ान का किराया 24 हजार रुपये पहुंच गया है। शाम की उड़ान का किराया 10 हजार रुपये से नीचे है। इस साप्ताह जिन तिथियों पर फ्लैगशिप एयर किराया अभी 10-12 हजार है, वह भी महाकुंभ के समय 20 हजार के ऊपर होगा। स्पाइस जेट का किराया तो अभी से ही 21 हजार हो गया है।

पांच हजार रुपये होता है तो महाकुंभ में यह चार गुना तक कैसे पहुंच रहा है। इसके लिए हम उड़्डयन मंत्री और डीजीसीए को पत्र भी लिखेंगे।

मुंबई का किराया देखें तो सिर्फ पहली जनवरी को मात्र पांच हजार रुपये में ही टिकट मिल रहा है, लेकिन 10 जनवरी को 18 हजार और 22 जनवरी से किराया 22 हजार रुपये पार

इन शहरों के लिए 10 जनवरी से विशेष उड़ान

प्रयागराज से दिल्ली, मुंबई, बेंगलुरु, कोलकाता, भुवनेश्वर, हैदराबाद, रायपुर, लखनऊ, अहमदाबाद, गुवाहाटी, जयपुर, जबलपुर, चंडीगढ़, देहरादून, बिलासपुर, पुणे, भोपाल, नागपुर, चेन्नई, इंदौर, गोवा व अमृतसर के लिए 10 जनवरी से विशेष उड़ान सेवा उपलब्ध होगी।

कर गया है। बेंगलुरु का किराया भी 10 जनवरी को 19 हजार रुपये है।

अगले एक माह तक लगभग यही स्थिति है। पुणे का किराया सर्वाधिक बढ़ा है। 12 जनवरी को एक टिकट की कीमत 27 हजार रुपये है। नागपुर का किराया 23 हजार रुपये और चेन्नई का किराया 25 हजार रुपये पार कर गया है।





Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

25 DECEMBER 2024

डीजीसीए ने अकासा एयर पर लगाया 10 लाख का जुर्माना

मुंबई, प्रेटर: डीजीसीए ने बंगलुरु हवाई अड्डे पर बोर्डिंग से वंचित किए गए कुछ यात्रियों को समय पर मुआवजा नहीं देने पर अकासा एयर पर 10 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है। डीजीसीए की ताजा कार्रवाई छह सितंबर को बंगलुरु से पुणे के लिए उड़ान बुक करने वाले

सात यात्रियों को बोर्डिंग से इन्कार करने से संबंधित है। जिस विमान को उड़ान संचालित करनी थी, उसे रोक दिया गया था और उसके बदले में जाने वाली विमान में नौ गैर परिचालन सीटें थीं, जिससे सात यात्रियों को विमान में चढ़ने से मना कर दिया गया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

25 DECEMBER 2024

नवंबर में 1.42 करोड़ लोगों ने घरेलू हवाई यात्रा की

नई दिल्ली: नवंबर 2024 के दौरान 1.42 करोड़ लोगों ने घरेलू हवाई यात्रा की है। इसमें नवंबर 2023 के मुकाबले 12 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि रही है। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय के अनुसार, 63.6 प्रतिशत बाजार हिस्सेदारी के साथ इंडिगो शीर्ष पर रही है। एअर इंडिया की हिस्सेदारी 24.4 प्रतिशत, अकासा एयर की 4.7 प्रतिशत और स्पाइसजेट की 3.1 प्रतिशत रही है। (प्रेट)

TRAVEL SECTOR FLYING HIGH

Over 18 m Int'l Tourist Arrivals in 2023: Centre

IAN S

New Delhi: India recorded 18.89 million international tourist arrivals in 2023 as foreign exchange earnings (FEEs) through tourism last year surged to ₹2,31,927 crore, the government said on Wednesday.

Foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2023 were 9.52 million and domestic tourist visits (DTVVs) were 2,509 million, according to data released by the ministry of tourism. The ministry sanctioned a total of 76 projects for an amount of ₹5,287.9 crore under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, of which 75 projects are physically complete.

Under this, 40 projects worth ₹3,295.76 crore were approved under special assistance to states for capital investment (SASCI) for development of iconic tourist centres to global scale across 23 states, and 34 projects were sanctioned for ₹793.2 crore under the 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0' (SD2.0) initiative.

The Swadesh Darshan Scheme has been revamped as SD2.0 with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist and destination-centric approach.

The ministry of tourism has also sanctioned a total of 48 projects for an amount of ₹1,646.99 crore under the PRASHAD Scheme, out of which 23 projects have been completed.

Nov Domestic Air Traffic Posts Strong Growth

IAN S

New Delhi: India's commercial airlines flew 14.2 million passengers on domestic routes in November this year, which represents a robust 12% increase compared to the same month in the previous year, according to figures compiled by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

IndiGo maintained its position as the market leader with a 63.6% share of air traffic, followed by Air India (24.4%), Akasa Air (4.7%) and SpiceJet (3.1%). The market share of Alliance Air stayed flat at 0.7% during the month.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-November 2024 were 146.402 million as against 138.234 million during the corresponding period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of 5.91% and monthly growth of 11.9%," according to the DGCA report.

Domestic flyer traffic was at 14.25 million in November compared to 12.73 million in the same period a year ago. The number of flyers that took to Indian skies in November was also higher than the corresponding figure of 13.6 million for October. However, the on-time performance of domestic airlines at Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai declined during November with passengers facing longer delays.

'IndiGo Expects to Carry 112 m Flyers in 2024'

PTI

New Delhi: IndiGo expects to carry 112 million passengers in 2024 and is on the way to become a leading player in global aviation, its chief **Pieter Elbers** has said.

In 2023, the country's largest airline has flown over 100 million passengers.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets and IndiGo, which has a domestic market share of 63.6%, is also expanding its international network.

In a statement to PTI on the outlook for 2025, CEO Elbers said A321 XLRs will be arriving next year. These narrow-body planes have a longer range and will help the airline to start longer-duration direct international flights.

IndiGo has a fleet of over 400 aircraft and also placed an order for 30 wide body A350-900 widebodies.

"An airline so young expects to welcome over 112 million customers in 2024," Elbers said.



Dozens Feared Dead as Azerbaijan Airlines Flight, with 67 on board, Crashes near Kazakhstan's Aktau

An Embraer passenger jet flying from Azerbaijan to Russia crashed near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan on Wednesday with 62 passengers and five crew on board, Kazakh authorities announced, saying 32 survivors had been rescued.

Azerbaijan Airlines flight J2-8243 had flown hundreds of miles off its scheduled route to crash on the opposite shore of the Caspian Sea, after what Russia's aviation watchdog said was an emergency that may have been caused by a bird strike.

Officials did not immediately explain why it had crossed the sea, but the crash came shortly after drone strikes hit southern Russia. Drone activity has shut airports in the area in the past and the nearest Russian airport on the plane's flight path was closed on Wednesday morning.

Kazakhstan's emergencies ministry said in a statement that fire services had put out the blaze and that the survivors, including two children, were being treated at a nearby hospital. The bodies of the dead were



Handout image of emergency workers at the plane crash site AFP

being recovered.

Authorities in Kazakhstan said a government commission had been set up to investigate what had happened and its members ordered to fly to the site and ensure that the families of the dead and injured were getting the help they needed.

Kazakhstan would cooperate with Azerbaijan on the investigation, the government said.

President Vladimir Putin expressed his condolences as did Ilham Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, who had decided to return home from Russia where

he had been due to attend a summit on Wednesday, his office said.

Azerbaijan Airlines said the Embraer 190 jet was flying from Baku to Grozny, capital of the Chechnya region in southern Russia, but had been forced to make an emergency landing around 3 kms from Aktau in Kazakhstan.

"Preliminary: after a collision with birds, due to an emergency situation on board, its commander decided to 'go' to an alternate airfield - Aktau was chosen," Russia's aviation watchdog said on Telegram. **Reuters**



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024



● RISING AVIATION LEADER

Pieter Elbers, CEO, IndiGo

An airline so young expects to welcome over 112 million customers in 2024, after crossing the 100 million annual customers bar last year.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

Azerbaijan Airlines plane crashes in Kazakhstan, many feared dead

MARIYA GORDEYEVA, GLEB STOLYAROV & NAILIA BAGIROVA
Astana/Tbilisi/Baku, December 25

AN EMBRAER PASSENGER jet flying from Azerbaijan to Russia crashed near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan on Wednesday with 62 passengers and five crew on board, Kazakh authorities announced, saying 32 survivors had been rescued.

Azerbaijan Airlines flight J2-8243 had flown hundreds of miles off its scheduled route to crash on the opposite shore of the Caspian Sea, after what Russia's aviation watchdog said was an emergency that may have been caused by a bird strike.

Officials did not immediately explain why it had crossed the sea, but the crash came shortly after drone strikes hit southern Russia. Drone activity has shut airports in the area in the past and the nearest Russian airport on the plane's flight path was closed on Wednesday morning.

Video of the crash showed the plane descending rapidly before bursting into flames as it hit the seashore, and thick black smoke then rising. Bloodied and bruised



The wreckage of Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190 lays on ground near the airport of Aktau in Kazakhstan on Wednesday

AP

passengers could be seen stumbling from a piece of the fuselage that had remained intact.

Reuters was able to verify from visible landmarks that the video was filmed on the Caspian shore near Aktau. Kazakhstan's emergen-

cies ministry said in a statement that fire services had put out the blaze and that the survivors, including two children, were being treated at a nearby hospital. The bodies of the dead were being recovered.

Azerbaijan Airlines said the

Embraer 190 jet was flying from Baku to Grozny, capital of the Chechnya region in southern Russia, but had been forced to make an emergency landing around 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from Aktau in Kazakhstan. —REUTERS





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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 DECEMBER 2024

DGCA imposes ₹10L fine on Akasa Air

PTI

NEW DELHI

Aviation regulator DGCA has slapped a Rs 10 lakh penalty on Akasa Air for failing to provide compensation on time to some passengers who were denied boarding at the Bangalore airport in September, according to a source. In recent months, the more than two-and-a-half-year-old airline has come under the scanner of the regulator for certain alleged violations. Earlier this month, some pilots had also flagged concerns about training at the carrier, which has termed the allegations as baseless.



The latest action by the DGCA pertains to the denial of boarding of seven passengers who had booked a flight from Bangalore to Pune on September 6. The aircraft, which was to operate the flight, was grounded on account of foreign object damage and the replacement aircraft had nine non-operational seats as a result of which seven passengers were denied boarded, the source said on Tuesday.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 DECEMBER 2024

Aviation cos seen making losses in FY25, FY26

Informist

NEW DELHI

Indian airline companies are likely to report annual net losses in the region of INR 20-30 billion in the current financial year ending March and next year as they struggle to maintain the plant load factor amid higher jet fuel prices, according to rating agency ICRA. Some Indian airlines will face higher borrowing costs on the back of increased lease liabilities as they are slated to receive new aircraft, ICRA said in a report on Tuesday.

SpiceJet the least punctual airline

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

SpiceJet was ranked as the least punctual among all the scheduled domestic airlines at Mumbai International Airport. Vistara had the best on-time performance, followed by Indigo, Akasa Air, Air India and Alliance Air, according to the latest air traffic data for the month of November 2024 released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Focusing on the Mumbai Airport, Vistara's on-time performance (OTP) stood at 67.1% in its 11 days of functioning as a separate airline. Indigo OTP touched 62.1%, followed by Akasa Air at 58.6%, Air India at 56.6% and Air India's subsidiary Alliance Air at 42.9%.

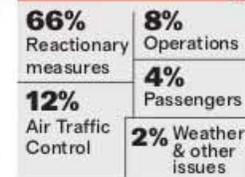
DGCA also analysed the reasons for delays. While 66% delays were caused due to reactionary measures, 12% were attributed to air traffic control, 8% to operations and 4% to passengers. While only 2% delays were attributed to weather, other issues included technical, airport management, ramp and miscellaneous reasons.

Domestic airlines recorded monthly passenger growth of 11.90%. According to the data, 14.64 crore pas-

On-time performers



Reasons for delay



sengers were carried from January to November.

In 2024 until November, Indigo occupied the domestic market by carrying nine crore passengers comprising of 61.7% of market share. Air India's market share remained 15.4%, followed by Vistara at 9%. Akasa Air carried 4.6% of the total flyers. Air Asia captured 4.2%.

FlyBig airline reported the most number of flight cancellations – 38.71%.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 DECEMBER 2024

Flight rules on hand bag

According to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, passengers are now allowed to carry only one hand or cabin bag inside the aircraft. Any additional baggage should be checked in. This is regardless of whether a passenger is on a domestic or international flight. The baggage dimensions may however differ for economy and business class: Air India allows passengers in economy or premium economy class to carry a hand baggage weighing up to 7 kg. However, those travelling in first or business class have a higher limit of around 10 kg.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

इंडिगो को 11.2 करोड़ लोगों के यात्रा करने की उम्मीद

एजेसी » नई दिल्ली

एयरलाइन कंपनी इंडिगो की उड़ानों से इस साल (2024 में) 11.2 करोड़ लोगों के यात्रा करने की उम्मीद है। इंडिगो के प्रमुख पीटर एल्बर्स ने यह

बात कही है। उन्होंने कहा कि इंडिगो वैश्विक विमानन क्षेत्र में अग्रणी कंपनी बनने की राह पर है। पिछले साल (2023 में) देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन से 10 करोड़

से अधिक लोगों ने यात्रा की थी। भारत दुनिया के सबसे तेजी से बढ़ते नागर विमानन बाजारों में से है और घरेलू बाजार में 63.6 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी रखने वाली इंडिगो अपने अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क का भी विस्तार कर रही है। साल 2025 के लिए संभावनाओं पर इंडिगो के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ)

■ 18 साल से उड़ान भर रही इंडिगो के पास 400 से ज्यादा विमानों का बेड़ा

भर सकते हैं और इससे एयरलाइन को लंबी अवधि की सीधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें शुरू करने में मदद मिलेगी।

करीब 18 साल से उड़ान भर रही इंडिगो के पास 400 से ज्यादा विमानों का बेड़ा है और उसने 30 बड़े आकार के ए350-900 विमानों का ऑर्डर दिया है।

एल्बर्स ने पीटीआई-भाषा से कहा कि छोटे आकार के ए321 एक्सएलआर विमान अगले साल आएंगे। ये विमान लंबी दूरी तक उड़ान

एयरलाइन वैश्विक अग्रणी बनने की राह पर : एल्बर्स

एल्बर्स ने कहा, "एक इतनी युवा एयरलाइन को 2024 में 11.2 करोड़ से अधिक यात्रियों का स्वागत करने की उम्मीद है। पिछले साल 30 करोड़ वार्षिक यात्रियों का आंकड़ा पार कर गया। भारत को विश्व बैंक के रूप में स्थापित करने के दृष्टिकोण को देखते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि एयरलाइन विमानन क्षेत्र में वैश्विक अग्रणी कंपनियों में से एक बनने की राह पर है।



IndiGo may add long-range planes earlier than 2027

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

IndiGo may add wide-body planes earlier than 2027 when the brand new Airbus A350 aircraft join the fleet in order to address a “growing demand” for travel and a shortage of new planes globally, it said.

Industry sources said the airline plans to wet lease (or rent aircraft along with crew) six Boeing 787s from Norwegian airline Norse Atlantic and deploy them for its network from February.

Though the airline declined to confirm a possible wet-lease agreement with Norse Atlantic, it said, “IndiGo is exploring interim solutions for an earlier introduction of long-range aircraft to its fleet.”

The airline explained it was doing so because it is “well positioned to expand our geographic reach and serve the ever-growing demand for international travel to and from India” as well as to “keeping also in mind global supply chain challenges”.

Route and network opportunities related to the solutions are being explored, IndiGo said. Its fleet of more than 400 planes include the narrow-body A320 aircraft.

To help carriers like IndiGo, which also has 70-80 aircraft on ground due to issues with Pratt and Whitney engines as well as SpiceJet which too has been wet leasing planes to overcome maintenance related aircraft groundings, the DGCA on Tuesday notified revised norms allowing airlines to take planes on wet-lease for up to 18 months instead of six months permitted earlier.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

25 DECEMBER 2024

{ **WORLD** } 'TECHNICAL SNAG'

American Airlines briefly grounds flights



American Airlines briefly grounded flights nationwide on Tuesday due to a technical issue just as the Christmas travel season kicks into overdrive and winter weather is threatening more potential problems for those planning to fly or drive. There were 1,447 delays for flights entering or leaving the US early in the day, with 28 cancellations. Snow was falling early in New York and Dallas-Fort Worth International, which is American Airlines' main hub, was getting hit with rain. American flights were cleared to fly by federal regulators about one hour after a national ground stop order was issued by the Federal Aviation Administration. **AGENCIES**

DGCA fines Akasa Air for not compensating passengers who were denied boarding

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on Akasa Air for not paying compensation to seven passengers after denying them boarding on its Bengaluru-Pune flight on September 6.

Though the airline accommodated them on an IndiGo flight scheduled for departure two hours later the same day, the DGCA norms require airlines to compensate passengers if the alternative flight is more than one hour after the original departure time. In this case, the passengers were entitled to 200% of the basic fare, and fuel charge up to a maximum of ₹10,000.

The incident pertains to Akasa's Bengaluru to Pune



The incident pertains to the Akasa's Bengaluru-Pune flight on September 6.

flight QP 1437 that was scheduled to take off at 8.50 p.m. The aircraft was grounded for maintenance and the replacement aircraft had nine seats that were unserviceable. As a result, seven passengers were denied boarding. They were put on an IndiGo flight on the same route scheduled for departure at 10.40 p.m. the same day.

“No compensation was

paid to the passengers, thereby failing to comply with the provisions of CAR Section-3, Series M, Part IV,” the DGCA wrote in its order.

The CAR, or Civil Aviation Requirement, lays down the amount of compensation to be paid for “denied boarding” in different scenarios.

The order further states that though the regulator raised a requisition for compensation for passengers, the airline contested it on the ground that they were denied boarding owing to “reasons beyond the control of the airline”.

Following the DGCA order, Akasa Air said in a statement, “We continue to work closely with the DGCA to address this matter and enhance our protocols as required by the regulator”.



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

भारत का घरेलू एयर ट्रैफिक नवंबर में दोहरे अंक में बढ़ा

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी।

भारत में नवंबर में घरेलू मार्गों पर 1.42 करोड़ यात्रियों ने उड़ान भरी। इसमें सालाना आधार पर 12 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी देखी गई है।

नागरिक विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, एयर ट्रैफिक में 63.6 प्रतिशत की हिस्सेदारी के साथ इंडिगो देश की शीर्ष एयरलाइन बनी हुई है। इसके बाद एयर ट्रैफिक में एयर इंडिया के पास 24.4 प्रतिशत, आकासा एयर के पास 4.7 प्रतिशत और स्पाइस जेट के पास 3.1 प्रतिशत बाजार हिस्सेदारी है।

एयर ट्रैफिक में नवंबर में एलायंस एयर की हिस्सेदारी 0.07 प्रतिशत रही है।

डीजीसीए की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, जनवरी-नवंबर 2024 के दौरान घरेलू एयरलाइनों द्वारा ले जाए गए यात्रियों की संख्या 14.64 करोड़ थी, जबकि पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि के दौरान यह संख्या 13.82 करोड़ थी। यह सालाना आधार पर यात्रियों की संख्या में 5.91 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।

नवंबर में घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या 1.42 करोड़ रही, जबकि एक साल पहले इसी अवधि में यह



आंकड़ा 1.27 करोड़ था। नवंबर में हवाई यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों की संख्या भी अक्टूबर के 1.36 करोड़ के आंकड़े से भी अधिक रही है।

हालांकि, नवंबर के दौरान वेगलुरु, दिल्ली, हैदराबाद और मुंबई में शेड्यूल्ड घरेलू एयरलाइनों के ऑन टाइम परफॉर्मेंस (ओटीपी) में गिरावट आई है और यात्रियों को देरी का सामना करना पड़ा है।

आंकड़ों के अनुसार, इंडिगो का ओटीपी 74.5 प्रतिशत रहा, जबकि आकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट का ओटीपी क्रमशः 66.4 प्रतिशत और 62.5 प्रतिशत रहा।

वहीं, एयर इंडिया और एलायंस एयर का ओटीपी क्रमशः 58.8 प्रतिशत और 58.9 प्रतिशत रहा।

आंकड़ों के अनुसार, नवंबर में

2,24,904 यात्री देरी से प्रभावित हुए। एयरलाइनों ने फंसे हुए यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए करीब 2.9 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान किया।

नवंबर के दौरान शेड्यूल्ड घरेलू एयरलाइनों को यात्रियों से संबंधित 624 शिकायतें मिलीं।

नवंबर में कुल 3,539 यात्रियों को विमान में चढ़ने से मना कर दिया गया और उन्हें मुआवजा देने और सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए एयरलाइनों द्वारा 2.84 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए गए।

आंकड़ों से यह भी पता चलता है कि उड़ान रद्द होने से 27,577 यात्री प्रभावित हुए, जिसके लिए एयरलाइनों ने मुआवजे और सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के रूप में 36.79 लाख रुपये खर्च किए।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

'IndiGo to fly 112 mn passengers in '24'

IndiGo expects to carry 112 million passengers in 2024 and is on the way to become a leading player in global aviation, its chief Pieter Elbers has said.

In 2023, IndiGo flew over 100 million passengers.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets and IndiGo, which has a domestic market share of 63.6%, is also expanding its international network.

In a statement to *PTI* on the outlook for 2025, CEO Elbers said A321 XLRs will be arriving next year.

These narrow-body planes have a longer range and will help the airline to start longer-duration direct international flights.

IndiGo has a fleet of over 400 aircraft and also placed an order for 30 wide body A350-900 widebodies.

Elbers said that the airline is on its way to becoming one of the global leaders.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

25 DECEMBER 2024

DGCA imposes fine of ₹10 lakh on Akasa Air

MUMBAI: Aviation regulator DGCA has slapped a Rs 10 lakh penalty on Akasa Air for failing to provide timely compensation to some passengers who were denied boarding at Bangalore airport in September, according to a source.

Earlier this month, some pilots had also flagged concerns about training at the carrier, which has termed the allegations as baseless.

The latest action by the DGCA pertains to the denial of boarding of seven passengers who had booked a flight from Bangalore to Pune on September 6. The aircraft,

which was to operate the flight, was grounded due to foreign object damage and replacement aircraft had nine non-operational seats as a result of which seven passengers were denied boarding, the source said on Tuesday.

Later, the passengers were moved to an Indigo flight with a scheduled departure time of 2240 hours which was more than one hour of the scheduled departure time of the actual Akasa flight.

The source said that no compensation was paid to the passengers which was non-compliance with DGCA norms. PFI

NEARLY 12% MORE COMPARED TO YEAR-AGO PERIOD

Indian airlines flew 1.42 cr domestic travellers in Nov

In October this year, domestic passenger stood at 1.36 cr

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Indian airlines carried 1.42 crore passengers on domestic routes in November, nearly 12 per cent more compared to the year-ago period, amid rising air traffic demand.

In terms of domestic market share, IndiGo topped the list with a 63.64 per cent pie, followed by Air India (24.37 per cent), Akasa Air (4.73 per cent) and SpiceJet (3.11 per cent). While all these carriers saw their share rise, the share of Alliance Air was unchanged at 0.68 per cent in November, according to the latest data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

“Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January–November 2024 were 1,464.02 lakh as against 1,382.34 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of 5.91 per cent and monthly growth of 11.90 per cent,” the watchdog said in its monthly report.

Domestic air passenger traffic was at 142.52 lakh in November compared to 127.36 lakh in the same period a year ago.

In October this year,



domestic passenger stood at 1.36 crore.

Air India completed the merger of full service carrier Vistara with itself in November.

The On Time Performance (OTP) of scheduled domestic airlines — computed for the four metro airports at Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai — took a beating in November.

IndiGo’s OTP stood at 74.5 per cent while that of Akasa Air and SpiceJet touched 66.4

per cent and 62.5 per cent, respectively.

The OTP of Air India and Alliance Air were at 58.8 per cent and 58.9 per cent, respectively, the data showed.

Further, the data revealed that 2,24,904 passengers were affected by delays in November. Carriers shelled out nearly Rs 2.90 crore towards facilitation.

Last month, a total of 624 passenger-related complaints were received by the scheduled domestic airlines.

Key Points

- » Domestic market share of IndiGo topped list with a 63.64 per cent pie, followed by Air India (24.37%), Akasa Air (4.73%), SpiceJet (3.11%), while Alliance Air’s share was unchanged at 0.68%
- » Last month, a total of 624 passenger-related complaints were received by scheduled domestic airlines
- » As many as 3,539 passengers were denied boarding & amount of Rs 2.84 crore was spent towards compensation

As many as 3,539 passengers were denied boarding in November and an amount of Rs 2.84 crore was spent by airlines towards compensation and providing facilities in this regard.

The data showed that 27,577 passengers were impacted by flight cancellations for which airlines incurred expenses to the tune of Rs 36.79 lakh as compensation and in extending facilities.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

IndiGo expects to carry 112 mn passengers in '24

Mumbai: IndiGo expects to carry 112 million passengers in 2024 and will become a leading player in global aviation, its chief Pieter Elbers said. In 2023, the airline flew over 100 million passengers. Its domestic market share of 63.6%, is expanding its international network. *ENS*



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

25 DECEMBER 2024

Domestic air passenger traffic rises 12 per cent in November, IndiGo leads market share



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian airlines carried 1.42 crore passengers on domestic routes in November, nearly 12 per cent more compared to the year-ago period, amid rising air traffic demand.

In terms of domestic market share, IndiGo topped the list with a 63.6 per cent pie, followed by Air India (24.4 per cent), Akasa Air (4.7 per cent)

and SpiceJet (3.1 per cent). While all these carriers saw their share rise, the share of Alliance Air was unchanged at 0.7 per cent in November, according to the latest data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-November 2024 were 1,464.02 lakh as against 1,382.34 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of 5.91 per cent and monthly growth of 11.90 per cent," the watchdog said in its monthly report.

Domestic air passenger traffic was at 142.52 lakh in November compared to 127.36 lakh in the same period a year ago.

In October this year, domestic passenger stood at 1.36 crore. Air India completed the

merger of full service carrier Vistara with itself in November.

The On Time Performance (OTP) of scheduled domestic airlines - computed for the four metro airports at Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai - took a beating in November. IndiGo's OTP stood at 74.5 per cent while that of Akasa Air and SpiceJet touched 66.4 per cent and 62.5 per cent, respectively.

The OTP of Air India and Alliance Air were at 58.8 per cent and 58.9 per cent, respectively, the data showed.

Further, the data revealed that 2,24,904 passengers were affected by delays in November. Carriers shelled out nearly Rs 2.90 crore towards facilitation.

Last month, a total of 624 passenger-related complaints were received by the scheduled domestic airlines.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

फ्लाइट में 'लगेज लेकर जाने के बदले नियम

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो ने हैंड बैग पॉलिसी में बदलाव किया है। नये नियम के मुताबिक, यात्री अब फ्लाइट के अंदर केवल एक ही हैंड बैग ले जा सकेंगे। ये नियम घरेलू और अंतराष्ट्रीय विमान दोनों पर लागू होगा। एक हैंड बैग के अलावा जो भी बैक होंगे उनको चेकिंग करवाना जरूर होगा। यात्रियों की बढ़ती संख्या के कारण नियमों में बदलाव किया गया है। बीसीएएस और एयरपोर्ट की सिक्योरिटी के लिए तैनात सीएसआईएफ ने अब नियमों को सख्त किया है। इसी के

कारण अब रिलायंस ने भी अपने नियमों में बदलाव किया है। एयर इंडिया के अनुसार, प्रीमियम इकोनॉमी और इकोनॉमी क्लास के पैसेंजर्स को अधिकतम 7 किलो तक का हैंड बैग ले जाने की परमिशन है, जबकि बिजनेस या फर्स्ट क्लास के पैसेंजर्स के लिए लिमिट 10 किलोग्राम रखी गई है। बैगेज का आकार 40 सेमी (लंबाई), 20 सेमी (चौड़ाई) और 55 सेमी (ऊंचाई) से ज्यादा नहीं होना चाहिए। एक हैंड बैग के अलावा जो भी बैग होंगे, उनको चेक इन करवाना जरूरी होगा।



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DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

कोहरे की चादर ने रोकी उड़ान, कई विमानों के परिचालन पर असर

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : राजधानी दिल्ली में बुधवार सुबह उसके आसपास के इलाकों में घने कोहरे की चादर छाई रही, जिससे आईजीआई ने उड़ानों पर संभावित प्रभाव को लेकर एक एडवाइजरी जारी की। कोहरे के कारण देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों से दिल्ली आने वाली कम से कम 20 ट्रेनें देर से चल रही हैं। दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे ने बुधवार सुबह अपनी एडवाइजरी में कहा कि जो उड़ानें कैट-श्री तकनीक के अनुरूप नहीं हैं, वे प्रभावित हो सकती हैं। यात्रियों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे अपनी फ्लाइट की जानकारी के लिए एयरलाइन से संपर्क करें। इंडिगो एयरलाइन ने भी यात्रियों से आग्रह किया है कि वे हवाई अड्डे जाने से पहले अपनी फ्लाइट का स्टेटस जांच लें। कैटेगरी 1/2/3 विभिन्न स्तरों की सटीक उपकरण आधारित लैंडिंग तकनीक को दर्शाती हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

भारतीय एयरलाइन्स का शानदार प्रदर्शन

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): भारतीय एयरलाइन्स ने नवंबर 2024 में घरेलू मार्गों पर 14.2 मिलियन (1.42 करोड़) यात्रियों को ले जाकर पिछले साल के मुकाबले लगभग 12 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की। इस दौरान हवाई यातायात की बढ़ती मांग के बीच एयरलाइन्स ने अभूतपूर्व वृद्धि हासिल की है। घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी में, इंडिगो ने 63.6 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी के साथ अग्रणी स्थान बनाए रखा, जबकि एयर इंडिया 24.4 प्रतिशत के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर रही। अकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट ने क्रमशः 4.7 प्रतिशत और 3.1 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी प्राप्त की। हालांकि, एलायंस एयर की हिस्सेदारी 0.7 प्रतिशत पर स्थिर रही। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जनवरी-नवंबर

2024 के बीच घरेलू एयरलाइनों द्वारा ले जाए गए यात्रियों की संख्या 1,464.02 लाख रही, जो पिछले साल के समान अवधि में 1,382.34 लाख थी। इस दौरान, कुल मासिक वृद्धि 11.90 प्रतिशत रही, जो नवंबर में 142.52 लाख यात्रियों तक पहुंची। नवंबर में 2,24,904 यात्री देरी से प्रभावित हुए, जबकि 27,577 यात्री उड़ान रद्द होने के कारण प्रभावित हुए। एयरलाइन्स को यात्री सुविधाओं और मुआवजे के लिए क्रमशः 2.90 करोड़ रुपये और 36.79 लाख रुपये खर्च करने पड़े। इसी दौरान, 3,539 यात्रियों को विमान में चढ़ने से मना कर दिया गया, और इस संबंध में एयरलाइन्स ने 2.84 करोड़ रुपये का मुआवजा और सुविधाएं प्रदान की।

12%
अधिक घरेलू
यात्रियों ने किया
साफर



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

26 DECEMBER 2024

इंडिगो का नया रिकार्ड

नई दिल्ली। प्रमुख विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो एक महीने में 1 करोड़ पैसेंजर्स को यात्रा कराने वाली देश की पहली विमानन कंपनी बन गई है। एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार इंडिगो ने नवम्बर के महीने में एक करोड़ से ज्यादा पैसेंजर्स को यात्रा कराई। इनमें 90.7 लाख डोमेस्टिक पैसेंजर्स थे, जबकि शेष इंटरनेशनल पैसेंजर्स थे। 18 साल पहले अस्तित्व में आई इंडिगो के यह किसी एक माह में सबसे ज्यादा डोमेस्टिक पैसेंजर्स हैं। एयरलाइन ने अक्टूबर 2024 में 8.64 मिलियन पैसेंजर्स और दिसंबर 2023 में 8.52 मिलियन पैसेंजर्स के अपने पिछले रिकॉर्ड को पार कर लिया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

25 DECEMBER 2024

Air traffic

■ **NEW DELHI:** Indian airlines carried 1.42 crore passengers on domestic routes in November, nearly 12 per cent more compared to the year-ago period, amid rising air traffic demand. In terms of domestic market share. ₹11

Plane With 67 On Board Crashes In Kazakhstan, At Least 38 Dead

29 Survivors In Hospital; Azerbaijan Prez Says Bad Weather Could've Led To Route Change; Russian Officials Say Pilots Likely Diverted Due To Bird-Hit Emergency

Moscow: An Azerbaijani airliner with 67 people, including five crew members, onboard crashed Wednesday near the Kazakhstani city of Aktau, killing 38 people and leaving 29 survivors, a Kazakh official said. Deputy PM Kanat Bozumbaev disclosed the figures while meeting with Azerbaijani officials, the Russian news agency Interfax reported.

The Embraer 190 was en route from the Azerbaijani capital of Baku to the Russian city of Grozny in the North Caucasus when it was diverted and attempted an emergency landing 3km from Aktau, Azerbaijan Airlines said. Speaking at a news conference, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said that it was too soon to speculate on the reasons, but said that the worsening weather conditions could have forced the plane to change from its planned course. Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsia, said that preliminary information showed that the pilots diverted to Aktau after a bird strike led to an emergency on board.

Kazakhstan's emergency ministry said in a statement that a total of 29 survivors, including two children, were being treated at a nearby hospital. According to Kazakh officials, those aboard the plane included 42 Azerbaijani citizens, 16 Russian nationals, six Kazakhs and three Kyrgyzstan nationals. Azerbaijan's prosecutor general's office previously said that 32 of the 67 people



A drone view of the crash site near the city of Aktau, Kazakhstan



on board had survived the crash, but said the number wasn't final. AP could not immediately reconcile the difference between the numbers of survivors given by Kazakhstan and Azerbaijani officials.

Mobile phone footage circulating online appeared to show the aircraft making a steep

descent before smashing into the ground in a fireball. Other footage showed part of its fuselage ripped away from the wings and the rest of the aircraft, lying upside in the grass. The footage corresponded to the plane's colours and its registration number. Some of the clips posted online showed sur-

vivors dragging fellow passengers away from the wreckage.

Data from FlightRadar24.com showed the aircraft making what appeared to be a figure-eight once nearing the airport in Aktau, its altitude moving up and down substantially over the last minutes of the flight before impacting the ground. FlightRadar24 separately said the aircraft had faced "strong GPS jamming", which "made the aircraft transmit bad ADS-B data", referring to the information that allows flight-tracking websites to follow planes in flight. Russia has been blamed in the past for jamming GPS transmissions in the wider region. Radar jamming is often used to defend an area against drones. Authorities in two Russian regions adjacent to Chechnya, Ingushetia and North Ossetia, reported drone strikes on Wednesday morning. It was not immediately clear whether this played any role in the crash.

Azerbaijan Airlines said it would suspend flights between Baku and Grozny, as well as between Baku and Makhachkala in Russia's North Caucasus, until its probe is over. Kazakhstani, Azerbaijani and Russian authorities said they were investigating the crash.

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed condolences. Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, had decided to return home from Russia where he had been due to attend a summit on Wednesday. AP, REUTERS & NYT