



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

26 SEPTEMBER 2024



Industries Minister holds review meeting at airport

Minister for Industries T.R.B. Rajaa stressed the need to upgrade the Chennai airport to be able to handle Code F aircraft (wide-body aircraft). In a review meeting held with the chairman of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) Sandeep Nanduri and officials of Airports Authority of India (AAI), an array of issues from the traffic concerns at the airport to the expansion plans were discussed at length. According to AAI officials, Mr. Rajaa was keen that the airport's capacity should be enhanced in such a way that it can handle large Code F aircraft, and this will make a significant difference and make the city a hub for international trade and travel. AAI had sought assistance from the State for clearing obstacles in the approach of the secondary runway.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

29

Airport Addition

THAT IS the number of greenfield airports India plans to build in underserved regions over the next two decades to link smaller towns with global air routes, *Mint* reported. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has completed feasibility studies for 10 of these airports. Of these, nine will be in Gujarat, followed by Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. The government also plans to upgrade airports in small cities and build second or third airports in metros.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

मेट्रो और नमो भारत के ट्रैक पर ही एयरपोर्ट तक दौड़ेगी एलआरटी

यूपी सरकार ने मंजूर किया जेवर एयरपोर्ट से फिल्म सिटी तक लाइट ट्रांजिट रेल संचालन का प्रस्ताव

ग्रेटर नोएडा। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे की राह सुगम बनाने के लिए नमो भारत और मेट्रो लाइन के ट्रैक पर अब लाइट ट्रांजिट रेल (एलआरटी) भी दौड़ लगाएगी। फिल्म सिटी से जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक पॉड टैक्सी संचालन की योजना की जगह एलआरटी लेगी। करीब 14 किमी लंबे इस रूट पर एलआरटी संचालन के लिए प्रदेश सरकार ने सहमति दे दी है। साथ ही इसका प्रस्ताव भारत सरकार के शहरी आवासन मंत्रालय को भेज दिया है। उम्मीद जताई जा रही है कि आने वाले दो-तीन महीने में परियोजना पर कार्य शुरू हो जाएगा।



वृहस्पतिवार को यमुना प्राधिकरण की बोर्ड बैठक में चेयरमैन अनिल सागर के समक्ष एयरपोर्ट से गाजियाबाद, ग्रेटर नोएडा वेस्ट और नोएडा को कनेक्ट करने वाली परियोजना का प्रस्तुतीकरण किया गया। इसमें बताया गया कि दो चरणों

में प्रस्तावित गाजियाबाद से एयरपोर्ट के बीच ट्रैक का निर्माण अब एक साथ किया जाएगा। पूर्व योजना के अनुसार पहले चरण में गाजियाबाद के सिद्धार्थनगर से इकोटेक-6 तक 39.39 किमी लंबे और दूसरे चरण में इकोटेक-6 से एयरपोर्ट तक

32.90 किमी का ट्रैक बनना था। पूरी तरह से एलिवेटेड ट्रैक पर नमो भारत 140 की रफतार से सफर तय करेगी। जबकि मेट्रो 40 किमी प्रति घंटा की रफतार से दौड़ेगी। परियोजना को पूरा करने के लिए केंद्र और यूपी सरकार 20-20% का अंशदान करेंगे। इसके निर्माण में राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र परिवहन निगम (एनसीआरटीसी) लागत का 60% खर्च करेगा। एनसीआरटीसी की असमर्थता पर इस धनराशि की व्यवस्था गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण, ग्रेनो, यमुना प्राधिकरण और नोएडा इंटरनेशनल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (नायल) करेगा। व्यूरो

10% का भुगतान करते ही फ्लैट का मालिकाना हक

ग्रेटर नोएडा। विल्डरों की मनमानी पर शिकंजा कसने और खरीदार का अधिकार सुरक्षित करने के लिए यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यूडा) ने वृहस्पतिवार को बड़ा फैसला किया है। अब यमुना सिटी में खरीदार 10 फीसदी का भुगतान करने के बाद स्टांप ड्यूटी जमाकर फ्लैट का मालिकाना हक प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। इसके साथ ही बुकिंग वाले सभी खरीदारों की सूची विल्डर को प्राधिकरण में जमा करनी अनिवार्य होगी। यमुना प्राधिकरण की 82वीं बोर्ड बैठक में हुए इस फैसले के बाद अब विल्डर न तो मनमाने तरीके से खरीदार के फ्लैट का पंजीकरण रद्द कर पाएगा और ना ही उसे आगे बेच पाएगा। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Cargo villages planned at upcoming airports in TN

Our Bureau
Chennai

The new airport planned at Parandur, 60 km west of Chennai, will have a cargo village that will handle the trade. It will have direct connectivity to the upcoming multimodal logistics park at Mappedu, said Sandeep Nanduri, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).

The upcoming airport in Hosur will have a similar facility to meet the demands of manufacturing, electric vehicles, and semiconductors.

"We will ensure the cargo requirement is taken care of in both airports," he said at the SEAIRO Conference on Logistics: Gateway to Growth, themed 'Connecting Markets, Collaborative Strategies for Elevating Logistics to Global Standards'

organised by CII on Thursday.

The strength and success of the State depends on how strong the logistics infrastructure is, he said.

An investment of ₹20,000 crore is planned to develop the greenfield airport at Parandur, which would annually handle 10 crore people; it will have two runways, terminal buildings, taxiways, an apron, and a cargo terminal.

Chennai airport handles around 2.2 crore people annually. After the ongoing modernisation work, it can handle 3.5 crore people a year for the next seven years.

The State government plans to build the greenfield international airport in the industrial town of Hosur, bordering Bengaluru, on nearly 2,000 acres. It will have the capacity to annually handle around 3 crore passengers. TIDCO has also un-

dertaken a study for developing a high speed rail corridor and also a high speed freight corridor in the State. In association with the Railways, a study was commissioned, and a report has been submitted.

"We are evaluating routes to develop the corridor. This study has covered various routes like Madurai-Thoothukudi; Chennai-Hosur and Coimbatore-Thoothukudi," he said.

"We are also piloting implementation of tracking and tracing infrastructure to streamline cargo movement in the State," he added.

Chennai Port Authority Chairman Sunil Paliwal said

collaboration has been at the heart of infrastructure projects whether it is RFID implementation at the Chennai Port or ongoing construction of new warehouses and paved yards, to optimise efficiency.

The Northern Port Access Road and Elevated Corridor projects exemplify how joint efforts between various agencies can improve infrastructure, he said. "As we forge ahead with these initiatives, we remain committed to the holistic development of our ports, ensuring that we not only reduce logistics costs but also contribute positively to the environment," he emphasised.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Bangalore International Airport to raise up to ₹5K cr

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) is tapping capital markets to raise up to ₹ 5,000 crore through non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to refinance old debt and support capital expenditure for expansion. BIAL is in the process of refinancing the term loans (taken for phase 2 project) with longer tenured NCDs of 15 years including moratorium of seven years to conserve cash to fund the expansion projects over FY25-29. Icra has assigned rating 'AAA' (stable) for proposed NCDs. BIAL, where Prem Watsa promoted Fairfax group holds 64 per cent stake, did not respond to queries from *Business Standard*. BIAL is planning to undertake capex with an outlay of around ₹16,000 crore over FY25-FY29.

ABHIJIT LELE



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Dubai-bound flight emits smoke at Chennai Airport, Emirates apologises to passengers

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Emirates Airlines apologized for the inconvenience caused to passengers after smoke started coming from the engine compartment of a Dubai-bound flight at Chennai Airport on Tuesday.

Responding to the situation, an Emirates spokesperson said, "Emirates flight EK547 from Chennai

to Dubai on 24 September 2024 was delayed due to a technical fault. Following an engineering inspection, the aircraft was cleared to proceed to Dubai. Emirates apologizes for the inconvenience caused. The safety of our passengers and crew is of the utmost importance."

According to Chennai Airport officials, smoke was detected from the tail of Flight

EK547 during refuelling at 9:40 PM on Tuesday has caused panic.

"Ground staff alerted pilots, who shut down engines to prevent escalation. And fire engines rushed to the site to prevent any untoward situation. The situation was brought under control. In between, all passengers were deplaned for safety inspection," said an airport official.

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से फिल्म सिटी तक लाइट ट्रेन चलेगी

ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से गाजियाबाद तक चलने वाली नमो भारत ट्रेन और मेट्रो लाइन के साथ ट्रैक पर अब लाइट ट्रॉजिट ट्रेन (एलआरटी) चलाने की तैयारी है। हालांकि, एलआरटी सिर्फ अंतरराष्ट्रीय फिल्म सिटी से एयरपोर्ट तक ही चलेगी।

फिल्म सिटी से एयरपोर्ट के बीच की दूरी करीब 14 किलोमीटर है। प्रदेश सरकार ने इस प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी है, जिसे भारत सरकार को भेजा गया है। यमुना प्राधिकरण की बोर्ड बैठक में बताया गया गाजियाबाद से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक नमो भारत ट्रेन, मेट्रो और एलआरटी के लिए 72.4 किलोमीटर लंबा ट्रैक बनेगा। इस ट्रैक पर 22 स्टेशन होंगे। इनमें 11



नमो भारत ट्रेन और 11 स्टेशन मेट्रो के लिए होंगे।

एक्वा लाइन से जुड़ेगी नमो भारत ट्रेन : एक्वा लाइन को भी नमो भारत ट्रेन से जोड़ने की तैयारी है। एक्वा लाइन का सेक्टर-51 से नॉलेज पार्क-5 तक विस्तार किया जाएगा। इसे एयरपोर्ट तक जाने वाली नमो भारत ट्रेन को लाइन से नॉलेज पार्क-5 में जोड़ा जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Smoke emanates from Dubai-bound flight, sparks scare

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Tense moments prevailed at the Chennai International Airport's tarmac on Tuesday night, after smoke emanated from a Dubai-bound Emirates flight, resulting in fire tenders being deployed to extinguish it. The flight, which was to depart at 10 p.m., left only around 12.15 a.m.

"Excess fuel was loaded into the aircraft, and smoke emanated from the tail end. The excess fuel was offloaded..." an official said. Later, Emirates Airlines apologised for the inconvenience.

T.N. applies for ‘in-principle’ approval from Centre for second airport at Parandur

State govt. hopes to get the nod in three or four months, following which tenders will be floated; it will take up two environment studies and submit report to the Centre in the coming months

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

In an important development, the State government has sent an application seeking “in-principle” approval from the Centre for the city’s second airport at Parandur.

Two months ago, the Centre’s Steering Committee gave its go-ahead for the Parandur site and accorded its clearance. Subsequently, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) applied for security clearance from the Centre and recently, they sent the application for the “in-principle” approval, sources said.

“A host of documents, including the techno-economic feasibility report (TEFR), land area, cost of the project, capacity, passenger amenities, accessi-



The Tamil Nadu government has planned to construct the second airport for Chennai over an area of 2,172.73 hectares at a cost of ₹29,144 crore at Parandur, 60 km from the city. FILE PHOTO

bility, approvals that we have received so far and the status of the other clearances that are yet to be received, have been submitted,” a source said.

The Steering Committee will examine the application and respond. “We hope to get the ‘in-princi-

ple’ approval within three-four months. After this process, we will float the tenders for the project,” another source said.

TIDCO had applied for the Environmental Clearance, and the Terms of Reference (ToR) had been granted by the Ministry of

Environment, Forest and Climate Change a few weeks ago. Two studies – Environment Impact Assessment and Environment Management Plan – will be taken up and submitted to the Centre in the coming months. “We estimate that it may take a little more than a year to get the Environmental Clearance and there are quite a few studies mentioned in the ToR that have to be carried out now,” an official said.

The second airport will come up over an area of 2,172.73 hectare, located nearly 60 km from the city, at an estimated cost of ₹29,144 crore. As over 1,000 families will be affected by this project, several residents and farmers have been persistently opposing the airport ever since the State government made the announcement.

स्पाइसजेट के कर्मचारियों को मिल सकेगा वेतन

कर्म में डूबी है कंपनी

स्पाइसजेट पर वैधानिक तौर पर 601.5 करोड़ रुपये का बकाया है। कुल राशि में से 297.5 करोड़ रुपये का टीडीएस है। इसके अलावा 156.4 करोड़ रुपये कर्मचारियों के प्रोविडेंट फंड के हैं। जीएसटी के 145.1 करोड़ रुपये भी बकाया है।

घरेलू एयरलाइन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट के कर्मचारियों के लिए खुशखबरी है। कंपनी ने जून, जुलाई और अगस्त के लड़ए 80 करोड़ रुपये के बकाया वेतन का भुगतान कर दिया है। स्पाइसजेट कंपनी ने हाल ही में क्वालिफाइड इंस्टीट्यूशनल प्लेसमेंट के जरिए 3000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाए थे।

कंपनी में हाल ही में पूंजी निवेश के बाद कर्मचारियों को बकाया वेतन



का भुगतान किया जाएगा। यह जानकारी घटनाक्रम से परिचित एक सूत्र ने दी। कर्मचारियों को उनके लंबित जुलाई और अगस्त के वेतन के साथ-साथ जून के शेष भुगतान

भी बुधवार देर शाम को मिल गए, जिन्हें आंशिक रूप से मुआवजा दिया गया था। स्पाइसजेट के प्रवक्ता ने गुरुवार को वेतन वितरण की पुष्टि की।

कंपनी के प्रवक्ता ने अतिरिक्त जानकारी दिए बिना कहा, कि कर्मचारियों को लंबित वेतन बुधवार शाम को वितरित कर दिया गया। नकदी संकट के कारण

■ कंपनी में हाल ही में पूंजी निवेश के बाद कर्मचारियों को बकाया वेतन का भुगतान किया जाएगा। यह जानकारी घटनाक्रम से परिचित एक सूत्र ने दी। कर्मचारियों को उनके लंबित जुलाई और अगस्त के वेतन के साथ-साथ जून के शेष भुगतान भी बुधवार देर शाम को मिल गए, जिन्हें आंशिक रूप से मुआवजा दिया गया था।

स्पाइसजेट को पिछले कुछ महीनों से वेतन भुगतान में देरी का सामना करना पड़ रहा था। इसके अतिरिक्त, एयरलाइन ने पिछले ढाई वर्षों से कर्मचारियों के भविष्य निधि अंशदान का भुगतान नहीं किया है, तथा वेतन से स्रोत पर कर कटौती (टीडीएस) अभी तक सरकार के पास जमा नहीं की गई है। 23 सितंबर को

एयरलाइन ने क्वालिफाइड इंस्टीट्यूशनल प्लेसमेंट (क्यूआईपी) के माध्यम से 3,000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाने की घोषणा की, साथ ही पिछले फंडिंग राउंड से अतिरिक्त 736 करोड़ रुपये जुटाए, जिससे इसके वित्तीय दृष्टिकोण और भविष्य की विकास संभावनाओं में सुधार हुआ।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

PM to inaugurate Solapur Airport, launch ₹22,600-cr projects in Maharashtra today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 SEPTEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra on Thursday and lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation various projects worth over Rs 22,600 crore, including initiatives of the petroleum and natural gas sector worth Rs 10,400 crore.

During his visit, Mr Modi will inaugurate the Solapur Airport which will significantly improve connectivity, making Solapur more accessible to tourists, business travellers, and investors. The existing terminal building of the Solapur Airport has been revamped to serve around 4.1 lakh pas-

sengers annually.

The Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation the Bidkin Industrial Area, a transformative project covering an expansive 7,855 acres under the National Industrial Corridor Development Program of the Central government, situated 20 km south of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra.

The project developed under the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor holds immense potential as a vibrant economic hub in the Marathwada region. The Central Government has approved this project with an overall project cost of over Rs 6,400 crore for development in



three phases.

In Pune, earlier, the prime minister will flag off from the District Court Metro Station the Metro train scheduled to run from District Court to Swargate, Pune. The inauguration of the project will mark the completion of Phase 1 of the Pune Metro Rail Project. The cost of the underground section between the

District Court to Swargate is around Rs 1,810 crore.

Mr Modi will then lay the foundation stone for the Swargate-Katraj Extension of Pune Metro Phase-1 to be developed at the cost of around Rs 2,950 crore. This southern extension of around 5.46 km is completely underground with three stations, Market Yard, Padmavati, and Katraj. The

prime minister will lay the foundation stone for the Memorial of Kranti Jyoti Savitribai Phule's First Girls' School at Bhidewada.

In line with his commitment to make India self-reliant in the field of Supercomputing technology, the prime minister will dedicate to the nation three PARAM Rudra Supercomputers worth around Rs 130 crore, developed indigenously under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). These supercomputers have been deployed in Pune, Delhi and Kolkata to facilitate pioneering scientific research. The Giant Metre Radio Telescope (GMRT) in Pune will leverage

the supercomputer to explore Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) and other astronomical phenomena. The Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) in Delhi will enhance research in fields like material science and atomic physics. S.N. Bose Centre in Kolkata will drive advanced research in areas such as physics, cosmology, and earth sciences.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate a High-Performance Computing (HPC) system tailored for weather and climate research. This project represents an investment of Rs 850 crore, marking a significant leap in India's computational capabilities for meteorological applications.

PLANNING A FESTIVE TRIP?

GET READY TO SMARTLY NAVIGATE AIRPORT SNARLS LIKE A PRO

Yvonne Jacob

The festive season is a time for celebration, travel, and big family reunions, but it's also the peak time for airport congestion and unexpected delays. With the upcoming Navaratri, Dasara and Deepavali festivities, October is full of celebrations. This also means longer queues at security checks, packed flights and long layovers, besides delays caused by unpredictable weather. However, with a bit of pre-planning, you could navigate through the airport chaos smoothly. Here's how:



Preferably buy tickets directly from the airline

One of the many tips and tricks shared by author Christopher Schaberg in his book *The End of Airports* was to not try and save money by choosing third-party vendor ticket deals. "When delays and cancellations happen, if you have such a ticket, the airline will have less interest in aiding you. Buying tickets directly from the airline will help you get back in the air quicker," writes Christopher.



● The number of passengers affected due to flight cancellations and delays rose by **34%** during January to March 2024

● Over **9.5 lakh** passengers were affected due to cancellations and delays in the first three months of the year

(As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation)

Have a Plan B

Be prepared for things to not go as per plan during the festive rush. Try to keep a few hours between connecting flights to avoid the hassle. Another useful tip is to do your homework and research hotels close to the airport or connect with people you know from the same city so you can have a comfortable spot to rest.

● The most important tip is to be patient. Delays and cancellations can't be controlled by airline employees or the airport staff, so it's only human to not inconvenience them or other passengers in case something unexpected happens

— Swati Hirudkar, travel enthusiast and marketing head at a Pune-based finance firm

Enjoy lounge access and other airport perks

The airport can be a fun place if you take some time to explore its perks. Yash Khilnani, co-founder of a manufacturing company, and a frequent flier, shares, "Getting stuck at airports for hours can be made easy if you explore bookstores, cafes or go for a quick spa treatment. If not, you can access a lounge to get comfortable seating and enjoy complimentary food, beverages, and Wi-Fi to catch up on work or a movie."

Pack smart for layovers

A layover survival kit comes in handy for an unplanned stay. "Carrying an extra set of clothes, comfortable shoes, toiletries, medicines, and non-perishable snacks in your carry-on luggage can help you be comfortable in case of layovers. Download books, podcasts, or movies on your device to keep yourself entertained," suggests Chaarul Shrivastava, a Mumbai-based travel enthusiast.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

7 flights from Mum diverted to RGIA

Hyderabad: Bad weather conditions in Mumbai led to seven flights being diverted to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad on Wednesday. Among them were two Vistara flights – one flying from Hyderabad to Mumbai and the other from Delhi to Mumbai. IndiGo flights from Guwahati, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru – all flying to Mumbai – were also diverted to shamshabad airport on Wednesday. The poor weather conditions also affected international flights, with two connections from Bahrain and Doha also being diverted to RGIA, after failing to land in Mumbai. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Navi Mum airport runway trial on Oct 5, PM likely to be in town

B B Nayak

Navi Mumbai: Since the runway work of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has been completed, a plane trial will be conducted on Oct 5. This was announced by Cidco chairman, Sanjay Shirsat, after inspecting the airport site on Wednesday.

The under-construction airport is set to undergo a crucial test with the Indian Air Force planes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be present during the trial run, signifying an important step forward in the airport's development, said Shirsat, who expressed satisfaction with the

progress of the airport project. Shirsat is optimistic that the test will proceed as planned, setting the stage for the airport to commence domestic operations by March 2025, as was announced by the govt earlier, and international flights by June 2025. The airport will feature four terminals, two parallel runways, and parking space.

Developed by Adani Airports in collaboration with Cidco under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, the NMIA spans an area of 1,160 hectares. "The ensuing test with IAF planes is an important step towards ensuring that the airport meets interna-

tional standards. The success of this test will determine if the airport is ready for the next phase of operations. Once operational, it will help reduce the burden on Mumbai's current airport," Shirsat stated. The project is pegged at Rs 16,700 crore.

Meanwhile, the Airports Authority of India completed Instrument Landing System (ILS) testing, which calibrates the flight path to ensure the operational readiness of the airport, last month. NMIA, a greenfield project, is set to become Mumbai's second international aviation hub, as the existing airport approaches its maximum capacity.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

SpiceJet clears salary dues after raising ₹3,000 crore

AJINKYA KAWALE

New Delhi, 26 September

Low-cost carrier SpiceJet credited the pending salaries of its employees for the months between June and August this year, a company source said.

The clearing of salary dues comes days after the airline raised ₹3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). “SpiceJet has cleared all pending salary dues of employees. Salaries of July and August of all employees and those who hadn’t received June salaries were disbursed last evening,” a person close to the

development said on Thursday.

Apart from the capital raised via the QIP route, the airline had said it would receive an additional ₹736 crore from a previous funding round with a view to improve its financial stability and support growth plans.

Lastweek, the airline had revealed that it did not pay statutory dues amounting to nearly ₹427 crore between April 2020 and August 2024 due to its “constrained financial position”.

This includes ₹219.8 crore in tax deducted at source, ₹71.33 crore in goods and services tax (GST), and ₹135.47 crore towards provident fund contribution.

स्पाइसजेट ने किया कर्मियों के बकाया वेतन का भुगतान

अजिंक्य कावले
मुंबई, 26 सितंबर

किफायती विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने बुधवार देर रात अपने कर्मचारियों को इस साल जून से लेकर अगस्त के बीच के महीनों के लंबित वेतन का भुगतान कर दिया है। कंपनी के एक सूत्र ने यह जानकारी दी। विमानन कंपनी ने पात्र संस्थागत नियोजन (क्यूआईपी) के जरिए 3,000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाए थे। इसके कुछ दिनों बाद बकाया वेतन का भुगतान किया गया है। घटनाक्रम से जुड़े सूत्र ने गुरुवार को बताया, 'स्पाइसजेट ने कर्मचारियों के सभी बकाया वेतन का



भुगतान कर दिया है। सभी कर्मचारियों को जुलाई और अगस्त का वेतन और जून का वेतन नहीं पाने वाले कर्मचारियों को कल शाम वेतन दे दिया गया।' विमानन कंपनी ने कहा था कि क्यूआईपी के जरिए जुटाई गई पूंजी के अलावा उसे अपनी वित्तीय स्थिरता में सुधार करने और विकास योजनाओं

को समर्थन देने के लिए फंडिंग के पिछले दौर से 736 करोड़ रुपये और मिलेंगे। पिछले सप्ताह विमानन कंपनी ने खुलासा किया था कि उसने अपनी 'तंग वित्तीय स्थिति' की वजह से अप्रैल 2020 से अगस्त 2024

के बीच करीब 427 करोड़ रुपये की वैधानिक बकाया राशि का भुगतान नहीं किया है। इसमें 219.8 करोड़ रुपये की स्रोत पर कर कटौती (टीडीएस), 71.33 करोड़ रुपये का वस्तु और सेवा कर (जीएसटी) तथा 135.47 करोड़ रुपये का भविष्य निधि (पीएफ) अंशदान शामिल है।

विमानन कंपनी ने खुलासा किया था कि उसके 58 विमानों में से 36 विमानों का परिचालन रुका हुआ था। विमान किराये पर देने वाली कंपनियों को भुगतान में कथित चूक, विमानों के रखरखाव को प्रभावित करने वाली वित्तीय कठिनाइयों तथा पुर्जों और विमान के घटकों की अनुपलब्धता जैसे कारणों से ऐसा किया गया था। विमानन कंपनी की घरेलू बाजार हिस्सेदारी लगातार घट रही है। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के नवीनतम आंकड़ों के अनुसार इस साल अगस्त में विमानन कंपनी की घरेलू यात्री बाजार में हिस्सेदारी घटकर केवल 2.3 प्रतिशत रह गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Adani, Bombardier discuss aviation, defence partnerships

TGG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Adani Group Founder and Chairman Gautam Adani held a high-level meeting with Eric Martel, CEO of Bombardier on Tuesday, to discuss transformative partnerships in Aircraft Services, Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO), as well as Defence.

According to a social media post on 'X' by Gautam Adani, the meeting marks a potential milestone in India's pursuit of strengthening its aviation capabilities and becoming more self-reliant in the sector, aligning with the government's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) initiative. "Powering India's aviation growth! Had a great discussion with @Bombardier CEO Eric Martel on trans-



Adani Group Chairman, Gautam Adani meets Bombardier CEO Eric Martel, on Tuesday. ANI

formative partnerships in Aircraft Services, MRO and Defence. Together, we are harnessing synergies for a stronger, self-reliant India. @AdaniOnline #AatmanirbharBharat *AdaniDefenceAerospace," Gautam Adani's post said. Highlighting the critical

discussions aimed at harnessing synergies between the two companies, Adani stated that the collaboration is expected to pave the way for advancements in aircraft services, a field where India has increasingly been focusing to reduce dependency on foreign MRO services.

Developing a robust in-country MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) sector would help reduce costs, improve turnaround times for airlines, and establish India as a regional hub for aircraft maintenance.

According to the company website, Adani Defence & Aerospace have succeeded in establishing a resilient network of capabilities through strategic collaborations with credible global partners. The company says it continues to make strategic investments in unique products and technologies working with Indian small and medium-sized businesses to foster indigenous expertise and strengthen the domestic defence industry. The group further says its efforts revolve around positioning India as a key

player in the global market and substantially reducing the country's net current account deficit through robust exports.

Bombardier is a global leader in aviation, focused on designing, manufacturing, and servicing. Bombardier's Challenger and Global aircraft families are renowned for their cutting-edge innovation, cabin design, performance, and reliability. Bombardier aircraft are also trusted around the world in government and military special-mission roles leveraging Bombardier Defense's proven expertise. Headquartered in Greater Montreal, Quebec, Bombardier operates acrostructure, assembly and completion facilities in Canada, the United States and Mexico.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

स्पाइसजेट ने अगस्त तक का बकाया वेतन दिया

मुंबई: तीन हजार करोड़ रुपये की ताजा पूंजी जुटाए जाने के बाद घरेलू विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने अपने कर्मचारियों को अगस्त तक के बकाया वेतन का भुगतान कर दिया है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि सभी कर्मचारियों का जुलाई और अगस्त का बकाया वेतन बुधवार शाम को उनके खाते में जमा करा दिया गया। कंपनी के प्रवक्ता ने भी बकाया वेतन के भुगतान की पुष्टि की है। (पेट्र)

In a Nutshell



FILE PHOTO

■ 'SpiceJet Clears Salary Dues of its Employees'



NEW DELHI Troubled domestic carrier SpiceJet said it has cleared all pending salary dues of its

employees after securing a fresh capital infusion of ₹3,000 crore

"Pending salaries of employees were disbursed on Wednesday evening," a spokesperson of the airline said on Thursday without divulging further details.

The salaries for July and August for all employees, as well as the remaining June salaries for those who were partially paid, were deposited into their accounts on Wednesday evening, according to employees.

The development comes days after the airline's chairman and managing director Ajay Singh told **ET** on Sunday that clearing dues of employees would be one of his first priorities.

SpiceJet's employees have had to bear the brunt of the airline's stressed financial condition. The company had defaulted on their salaries, provident fund as well as tax deducted at source. This affected employee morale as well as operations, with frontline staff pleading helplessness to customer problems.

In August, the airline had one of the highest cancellation rates, with barely three out of 10 flights operating on time. **Our Bureau**

■ IndiGo Appoints Isidro Porqueras as COO



NEW DELHI IndiGo, India's largest airline, has appointed Isidro Porqueras Orea as chief operating

officer (COO) with effect from November 1. Orea will succeed Wolfgang Prock Schauer, who has been the airline's COO since 2018.

IndiGo said that Orea possesses 25 years of professional experience in different functional areas such as operations, commercial, strategy and finance. He has been a C-suite executive for the past 10 years.

"As we move towards the next phase of our ambitious growth plans, Isidro will work closely with the leadership team, to build and prioritise our focus areas. His deep expertise in operations and demonstrated success in previous organisations will be instrumental as we continue to execute our strategic vision and expand business in international markets," said IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers.

The airline is set to see a similar transition in the heads of engineering and in-flight services roles as current incumbents, SC Gupta and Suman Chopra respectively, are retiring. **Our Bureau**



FILE PHOTO



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

SPICEJET CLEARS PENDING SALARIES TILL AUGUST



SPICEJET HAS CLEARED all pending salary dues of its employees after securing a fresh capital infusion of ₹3,000 crore, a source said. The salaries for July and August for all staff, as well as the remaining June salaries for those who were partially paid, were deposited into their accounts on Wednesday.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Isidro Porqueras to be next IndiGo COO

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, September 26

INDIGO, INDIA'S LARGEST airline, on Thursday said that Isidro Porqueras will replace Wolfgang Prock-Schauer as its chief operating officer (COO) from November 1, subject to regulatory approvals.

Prock-Schauer, who has been leading the operations at the airline since 2018, will be retiring later this year.

Porqueras has more than 25 years of experience leading high-performance teams in competitive environments in different areas such as operations, commercial, strategy and finance, said a note from the carrier.

Porqueras joined IndiGo in April, 2024 as chief of transformation and has been engaged in several operations' related projects



Isidro Porqueras (above) will replace Wolfgang Prock-Schauer who is retiring later this year

over the past months.

Before joining IndiGo, Porqueras was the COO at Volotea, one of the fastest growing airlines in Europe, and prior to that, he worked for companies such as McKinsey and Uralita.

SPICEJET CLEARS PENDING SALARIES OF ITS EMPLOYEES

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Debt-ridden domestic carrier SpiceJet has cleared all pending salary dues of its employees after securing a fresh capital infusion of ₹3,000 crore, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The low-cost carrier has been postponing salary payments to its staff since June due to liquidity crisis. The airline cleared the pending salary dues on Wednesday evening, much to the respite for its employees.

"Salaries of July and August of all employees and those who hadn't received June salaries were disbursed on Wednesday evening," an airline official said, requesting anonymity. SpiceJet spokesperson confirmed the development, but refused to divulge further details.

The development comes shortly after the debt-ridden airline secured a fresh capital infusion from various investors. On September 23, SpiceJet had announced raising ₹3,000 crore through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) and an additional ₹736 crore from the previous funding round, further boosting its financial stability and growth plans.

The airline, which lost over ₹4,000 crore since 2020, is expected to create positive sentiment for itself.

According to Planespotters, an aviation website that tracks fleet details, SpiceJet has a fleet size of 55, of which 37 aircraft are on ground (AOG) while 18 are currently operational.

Many believed that it was curtains for the airline before its chairman and managing director, Ajay Singh, managed to get funds from the investors. This is, however, not the first time that Singh managed to save the airline from going the GoFirst way. Recently in media interviews, Singh said with the fresh funding, it aims to have 100 aircraft by 2026 end. He attributed the airline's downfall to the global grounding of the MAX aircraft and Covid-19.

As of now, the airline not only struggles with the HR issues, but also with its operations — it's on time performance.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

SpiceJet aims to add 75 jets in next 2 yrs, some secondhand

Bloomberg

feedback@livemint.com

SpiceJet Ltd., which raised 30 billion rupees (\$359 million) last week in an institutional share sale, plans to add 75 aircraft to its fleet over the next two years to fuel the carrier's domestic expansion.

The embattled Indian budget airline aims to get 30 of its planes that are currently grounded back in the skies by the end of 2025 and purchase as many as 45 jets from the secondary market using funds raised from the share sale, Managing Director Ajay Singh told local media *ET Now* on Wednesday.

The carrier also plans to become debt free by using the

THE CARRIER ALSO PLANS TO BE DEBT FREE BY USING THE PROCEEDS TO PAY OUTSTANDING DUES AND STAFF PAYMENTS

proceeds to make outstanding statutory payments and pay employee dues, as well as settle with lessors, Singh said.

SpiceJet's financial woes mean the airline has several overdue payments to airports. It's also been forced to furlough staff and withhold mandatory social security payments. Auditors have raised concerns about tax payments while

India's aviation regulator is increasing scrutiny of the carrier due to its financial instability. The airline is betting India's rapidly expanding aviation market can underpin its recovery. SpiceJet is still flying but its market share fell to just 2.3% in August, ranking it sixth among local airlines. It used to command around 15% of the market just prior to Covid in 2020.

SpiceJet said earlier this month that it has an order book of 147 Boeing Co. 737 Max aircraft and is considering wide-body operations for Asia-Europe connectivity. Singh in a separate interview on Wednesday said the carrier aims to be operating around 5,000 flights a month in the near term.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Jet takeover at risk over unpaid deposit

Krishna Yadav

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NEW DELHI

The lenders of Jet Airways informed the Supreme Court that the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) has not released the full first tranche of a ₹350-crore deposit—a key condition for transferring the bankrupt airline's ownership.

Lenders, led by State Bank of India, also stated that the consortium has not complied with any conditions necessary for ownership transfer, making a case for the bankruptcy resolution plan to be set aside, which could potentially result in Jet Airways's liquidation.

• Jet Airways, founded by Naresh Goyal, went bankrupt in April 2019 when it suspended all flight operations due to financial woes.

The Jalan-Kalrock Consortium comprises Murari Lal Jalan, a UAE-based non-resi-



Jet's lenders told the SC that they received only ₹200 crore of the ₹4,783 crore promised to them, as per the resolution plan. MINT

dent Indian, and Florian Fritsch, who holds shares in Jet Airways through his Cayman Islands-based investment holding company, Kalrock Capital Partners Ltd. The National Companies Law Tribunal approved the consortium's resolution plan for Jet Airways on 22 June 2021.

At the Supreme Court on Thursday, Jet Airways's len-

ders argued that JKC was in breach of a previous Supreme Court directive requiring the consortium to deposit ₹150 crore to complete the first tranche of ₹350 crore.

Jet's lenders informed the apex court that they received ₹200 crore out of the ₹4,783 crore promised to them as per the resolution plan, which is to be paid over 5 years, and that

they were incurring losses of ₹22 crore per month while maintaining the airline and its assets. Also, they stated that Jet Airways owes around ₹7,500 crore to lenders.

"This is a case of gross abuse of the (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) process. This is a definite moment—enough is enough. The court must make it clear that the IBC is not for abuse but a genuine facilitator for takeovers. Operators like this cannot come and play with the courts," stated additional solicitor general N. Venkataraman, representing Jet Airways's lenders.

The lenders reiterated that JKC had not fulfilled various preconditions necessary to take over Jet Airways, including obtain an air operator certificate (AOC), approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, slot allotment, bilateral rights, and international traffic rights.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024



The airline had been delaying salaries for the last couple of months due to a liquidity crunch. **MINT**

SpiceJet clears due salaries till August

Domestic carrier SpiceJet has cleared all pending salary dues of its employees after securing a fresh capital infusion of ₹3,000 crore, a source has said.

The salaries for July and August for all employees, as well as the remaining June salaries for those who were partially paid, were deposited into their accounts on Wednesday evening, according to the source.

A SpiceJet spokesperson confirmed the disbursement of employees' pending salaries. "Pending salaries of employees were disbursed on Wednesday evening," the spokesperson said on Thursday. SpiceJet had been delaying salaries to its staff for the last couple of months due to a liquidity crunch. The airline hasn't paid the provident fund for two-and-a-half years while TDS, which is deducted from employees' salaries every month, has also not been deposited with the government.

On September 23, the airline announced raising ₹3,000 crore through QIP and an additional ₹736 crore from the previous funding round, further boosting its financial stability and growth plans. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

IndiGo names Isidro its new COO

Domestic carrier IndiGo on Thursday said it has nominated Isidro Porqueras for the post of chief operating officer (COO) to replace Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, who will be retiring later this year. Porqueras's appointment, subject to regulatory approvals, will be effective from November 1, IndiGo said.

With over 25 years of experience in operations, commercial, strategy and finance, Porqueras has been working with IndiGo since April this year as its chief of transformation. Before joining IndiGo, he was the COO at European air carrier Volotea and prior to that he worked for companies such as McKinsey and Uralita.

Prock-Schauer has been leading the operations at IndiGo for the past seven years. He joined IndiGo in 2018 after quitting the now grounded Go First as its chief executive officer and MD in 2017. "Prock-Schauer has played a vital role in shaping IndiGo's operations and has contributed to its sustained growth," said IndiGo chief executive officer Pieter Elbers. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

AVIATION

SpiceJet starts clearing salaries of employees

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DAYS after raising ₹3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), budget carrier SpiceJet has started crediting the pending salaries of its employees for the months of June, July and August.

"SpiceJet has cleared all pending salary dues of employees. Salaries of July and August of all employees and those who hadn't received June salaries were disbursed last evening," said a source privy to the development. An employee working with the airline also confirmed receiving his pending salary.

The source said that the company will soon clear all the other dues related to the Provident Fund and TDS. SpiceJet has not paid statutory dues amounting to ₹427 crore between March 2020 and August 2024. These statutory dues include ₹219.8 crore in tax deducted at source (TDS), ₹71.33 crore in goods and services tax (GST), and ₹135.47 crore towards provident fund (PF) contribution. In its QIP document, SpiceJet said it owed ₹118.9 crore to its employees as of September 15, 2024, in addition to the statutory dues. The airline would also receive an additional ₹736 crore from the previous funding round.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Fixing SpiceJet's broken wings

Can the low-cost airline heal enough to effectively compete with IndiGo and Air India?

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

Days after low-cost carrier SpiceJet raised Rs 3000 crore from institutional investors, the airline promptly cleared pending salary dues estimated to over Rs 80 crore. It is believed that the beleaguered low-cost airline will use much of the remaining funds to settle dues with a host of creditors from leasing companies to airports. However, even if much of the funds the airline has raised will go towards clearing dues, the fact is that SpiceJet did successfully manage to raise this large sum of money. This is despite the airline having to face a litany of problems and constantly being dragged to the courts by everyone from the previous owners, the Maran family of the Sun Group to various leasing firms. In fact, just last week the Supreme Court upheld a

Delhi High Court order mandating the return of three engines used by the airline on their Boeing 737 aircraft. With leasing companies asking the airline to pay up, and taking their aircraft away, the airline is down to just having 21 operational aircraft according to website airfleets.net. This is a precipitous decline from the halcyon days of the airline before Covid when the airline had almost five times as many aircraft in its fleet and was the first Indian operator of the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. However, the one-two punch of the coronavirus shutdown and the grounding of the Boeing 737MAX fleet worldwide following two deadly disasters almost knocked the airline out. But this is not a time to dwell on the past, the fact is that despite difficult odds the airline has managed to raise a



large sum of money from Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) with institutions such as Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, BNP Paribas, Nomura and Tata Mutual Fund subscribing to the issue. The quality of investment is a very positive indicator of the future prospects of the airline. SpiceJet has a lot to do, first and foremost to regain the confidence of employees,

service providers and most importantly customers. They can do this by becoming more reliable and offering more services. Due to issues with leasing companies, the airline has been forced to wet-lease temporary aircraft from airlines in Cambodia and Turkey. They should now concentrate on operating their own fleet and by repaying dues owed to leasing firms, rebuild their

confidence in SpiceJet as a reliable airline. There is now talk of the airline growing to 100 aircraft by the end of 2026. If this fructifies, it is a welcome move as the Indian aviation sector needs the competition as the domination of IndiGo and Air India/Air India Express leave customers with little choice. This duopoly needs to be challenged, and SpiceJet

was a capable third player in the sector. Now however, they will have to deal with increased competition from the likes of Akasa. That said, the growth prospects for the Indian aviation sector are extremely high. Between January and June 2024, domestic air traffic numbered 79.35 million passengers, which was a growth of 4.28 percent from the same period last year. The growth could have been higher still had it not been for the collapse of Go First last year and persistent engine problems with Pratt&Whitney GTF engines plaguing IndiGo leading to almost a quarter of their fleet grounded. If SpiceJet can get their act together, and there is no reason to doubt that they can't after the fund-raise, the Indian aviation sector could easily grow to 250 million passengers per year by 2028.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

स्पाइसजेट ने दिया बकाया वेतन

मुंबई (भाषा)।

घरेलू विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने 3,000 करोड़ रुपये की नई पूंजी हासिल करने के बाद अपने कर्मचारियों के सभी लंबित वेतन का भुगतान कर दिया है। एक सूत्र ने यह जानकारी दी। सूत्र के अनुसार, सभी कर्मचारियों का जुलाई तथा अगस्त के वेतन के अलावा ऐसे कर्मचारी जिन्हें जून का आंशिक वेतन दिया गया था, के खातों में उनका वेतन जमा कर दिया गया है।

स्पाइसजेट के प्रवक्ता ने कर्मचारियों के लंबित वेतन के भुगतान की पुष्टि की। प्रवक्ता ने योजनाओं को और बढ़ावा मिला।



बृहस्पतिवार को बिना कोई विस्तृत जानकारी दिए कहा, 'कर्मचारियों को लंबित वेतन बुधवार शाम को दे दिया गया।' विमानन कंपनी ने ढाई साल से भविष्य निधि का भुगतान नहीं किया है, जबकि कर्मचारियों के वेतन से हर महीने काटा जाने वाला टीडीएस (स्रोत पर कर कटौती) भी सरकार के पास जमा नहीं किया है।

विमानन कंपनी ने पात्र संस्थागत नियोजन (क्यूआईपी) के जरिये 3,000 करोड़ रुपये और पिछले वित्तपोषण चक्र में अतिरिक्त 736 करोड़ रुपये जुटाने की 23 सितम्बर को घोषणा की थी। इससे इसकी वित्तीय स्थिरता तथा विकास

More Indians now holidaying abroad, but foreign arrivals still below pre-Covid high

Post-Pandemic Domestic Travel Up Too, But Country Losing Out To Cheaper Destinations When It Comes To Visitors From Overseas. Travel Firms Want Govt To Take Steps To Woo Them To India

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More Indians are travelling to foreign shores than they did pre-Covid, but the number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTA) is yet to return to 2019 levels. Outside of the West, countries — especially those in Southeast Asia — are going all out to woo the high-spending desi globetrotter by simplifying visa processes. The travel industry in India is requesting the govt to also take steps to help boost inbound numbers, something that they say will create much-needed jobs and bring in forex.

According to Union tourism ministry, over 1.5 crore Indians went abroad between Jan and June 2024, 12% more than the 1.3 crore

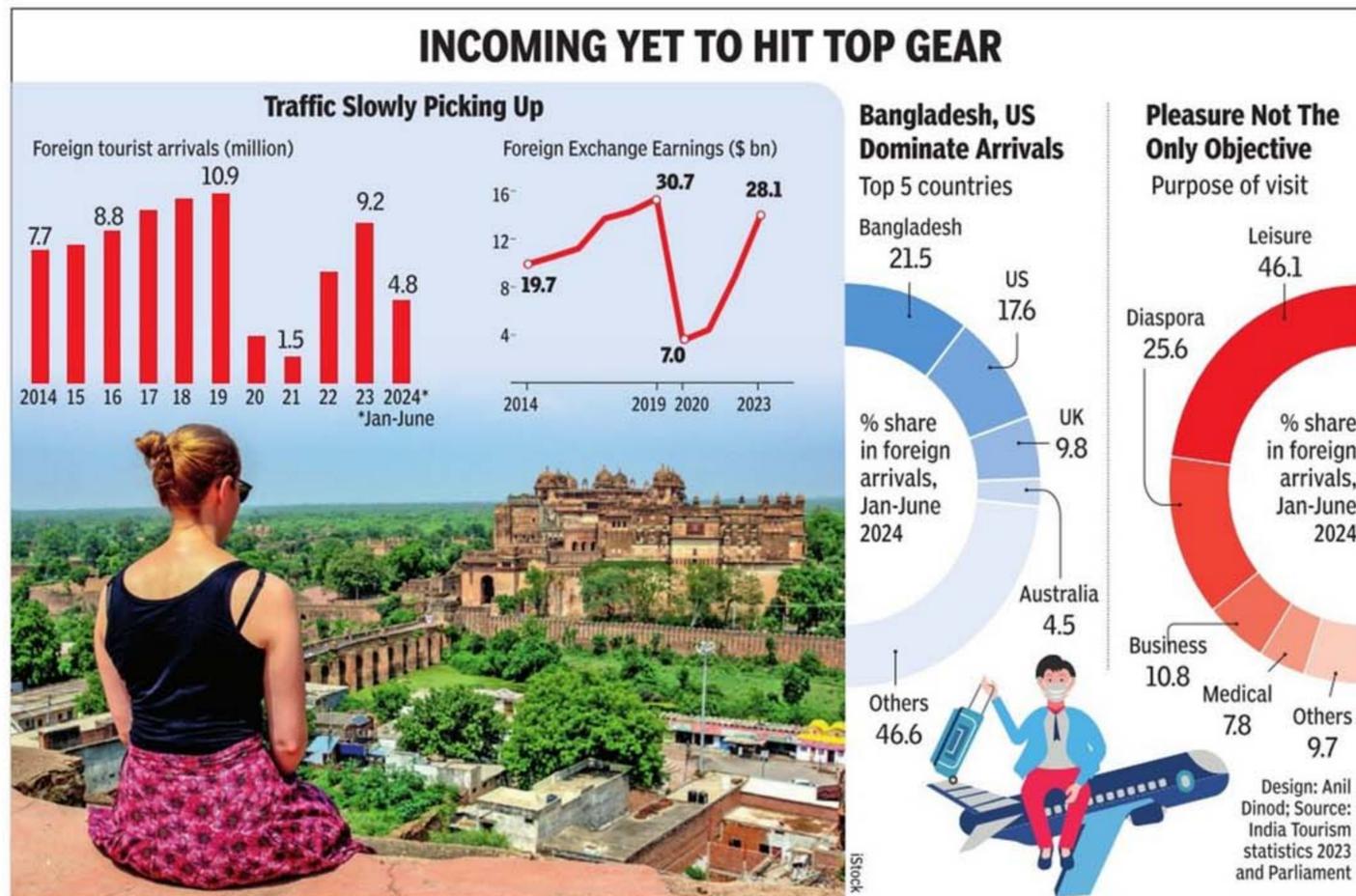
World Tourism Day

who did so during the same period in 2019. Inbound foreign traffic in the first six months of 2024 stood at 47.8 lakh, 10% less than the almost 53 lakh that visited India during the same period in 2019.

But the FTA numbers include members of the large Indian diaspora who keep coming home for various reasons. And there's also the growing expat community that now works in the country. "Bangladesh is traditionally the largest source country for foreign arrivals and a vast majority of them come to India to work. So, in reality, the foreign tourist numbers are only a fraction of FTA numbers," said Rajiv Mehra, president of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO).

Untapped Potential

The travel industry is calling for India to be promoted abroad as a tourist destination through efforts akin to



the Incredible India campaign that was launched over two decades back. While the travel industry acknowledges the govt's aim to make India one of the top destinations globally — PM Narendra Modi is seen as the biggest brand ambassador for India — they want such steps to be accelerated.

"India's economic growth has made it mandatory for big foreign companies to be present in the country. The pace of infra development, be it highways, airports, railway stations or ports, is amazing. All this will lead to an increase in arrivals of foreigners to the country for work,

but a concerted attempt to woo tourists is required," said a senior industry leader who did not wish to be named.

Price Point Key

But despite its varied attractions, why is the potential of India inbound still untapped? "India has become an expen-

sive destination. Entry-level 5-star daily tariff used to be about Rs 5,000-5,500 pre-Covid, which is now double that range. Airfares, even of so-called low-cost carriers, are much higher now. Foreign tour operators planning MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions)

find good hotels in Thailand available for Rs 10,000 (for a room) while the same in India comes for Rs 17,000-18,000. Return airfares to India are 20-25% higher than Bangkok," said IATO's Mehra.

A leading hotelier, who did not want to be named, blamed high taxes for the high costs. "People may feel they are paying hotels a lot, but a large part of that goes as taxes to govt. Having a drink in an Indian 5-star costs five times more than in many key destinations abroad," the hotelier said.

While domestic tourism — which kept the industry alive globally during Covid travel restrictions — is still strong, it's common to find those who once used to holiday in India going for short-duration trips abroad to destinations where visa is not a hassle. After all, Thailand is a cheaper option than Goa and Sri Lanka can be less expensive than Kerala, many travel agents point out.

MakeMyTrip group CEO Rajesh Magow said: "Both domestic and outbound travel is on the rise. Domestic travel received a boost during Covid, and this growth has sustained. Enhanced flight connectivity, more airports, and easy visa regulations are powering a surge across leisure and corporate travel with a 25% year-on-year growth in the number of people taking at least three domestic trips annually, and 32% increase in people taking two or more international trips.

"In addition to popular hotspots, we are observing a sustained interest among travellers in exploring off-beat destinations in India and abroad. There's been a 30% growth in 16 emerging tourist destinations across India and a 70% increase in the combined search volume for the top 10 emerging international destinations."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

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Former Europe airline exec new IndiGo COO

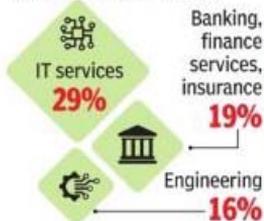
Mumbai: IndiGo nominated Isidro Porqueras for the post of COO to replace incumbent Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, who will be retiring later this year. Before joining IndiGo, Porqueras was COO at the European air carrier Volotea, IndiGo said. AGENCIES

IT, FINANCE AND ENGINEERING ARE IN LEAD AS CORPORATE TRAVEL SOARS IN COUNTRY

With organisations accepting hybrid way of working, new trends are emerging in the business travel ecosystem with bleisure (a portmanteau of business & leisure), workcations and laptop luggers becoming buzzwords in the corporate travel world. Corporate travel expenses exceeded pre-pandemic numbers last March, as per a survey

WHO IS TRAVELLING FOR WORK?

Top three sectors in India's corporate travel market:



Other sectors (aviation, oil and gas, pharma, diversified, metals, FMCG and auto) collectively represent 86% of total travel spend of top 100 firms



WHERE ARE THEY TRAVELLING TO?

► Mumbai, Delhi NCR and Bengaluru remain the most popular business travel destinations

► Cities such as Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bhubaneswar and Lucknow are emerging as new corporate hubs

► Top international corporate travel destinations are US, UK and Europe

► Among emerging destinations are Singapore, South

Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and those in the Middle East



FREQUENCY AND EXPENSES

34% respondents of the survey said they travel once or twice a quarter for domestic purposes

33% travel once or more a year on international business

Annual travel expenditure allocation:

₹1cr
For companies with up to 250 employees

₹10cr
For companies with up to 5,000 employees

An analysis of the top 100 listed firms revealed that a leading IT major incurred travel expenses of more than ₹2,600cr in FY23



Corporate travel constitutes about 20% of the total Indian travel market. The overall travel market in India is set to reach \$97 billion — DELoitTE SURVEY

Evening downpour gridlocks city, kills 4, diverts 14 flights

IMD Red Alert Shuts Schools In Mumbai, Thane

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai/Navi Mumbai/Thane: Over a five-hour period from 5pm on Wednesday, parts of Mumbai Metropolitan Region received more than 200mm of rain that resulted in four deaths, widespread waterlogging, severe traffic and Central Railway train disruptions (Western Railway was not affected), and 14 flight diversions.

In view of a red alert till 8.30am on Thursday, Mumbai and Thane civic bodies declared a holiday for schools and colleges.

Harried commuters were stuck on roads, stations and in trains for hours. While a 45-year-old woman drowned in a



Social media posts by Mumbaikars showed Western Express Highway flooded and choked with vehicles on Wednesday evening

nullah in Andheri East, two persons died while working in a stone quarry due to lightning at Varap village in Kalyan. A woman drowned near

Zenith waterfall, Khopoli.

IMD upgraded its orange alert issued on Wednesday afternoon to red in the evening for Mumbai, Thane and

Raigad, indicating a high likelihood of extremely heavy rainfall and thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds at isolated places till 8.30am on Thursday. Thereafter, it has issued an orange alert for Thursday.

Worst affected were several areas in the suburbs such as Mankhurd (276mm rainfall), Ghatkopar (259mm) and Powai (234mm), but traf-

► Pune rain record of 86yrs broken in less than 3hrs, P 3

fic in the evening peak hour was gridlocked almost across the city, with a short distance of 3km taking up to three hours to cover by road.

CR's Main and Harbour lines had to suspend services for a period, leaving people returning home from work stranded. Western Railway services managed to keep running with delays.