

CHHATTISGARH Global air cargo hub back on schedule

R KRISHNA DAS

Raipur, 27 November

After nearly a decade, the proposed international air cargo hub at Swami Vivekanand airport in Raipur is likely to see the light of day.

“The proposal for an international air cargo hub was discussed during the meeting with Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu and he has agreed to examine and take necessary action,” Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said.

Chhattisgarh will soon connect with Singapore and Dubai as the minister has agreed to start operation of international flights from the state capital, Sai added.

According to Airport Authority of India (AAI) officials, they were ready with the infrastructure for the international air cargo hub as they were already operating a domestic cargo centre at the old terminal building.

It will not be a big task to convert the centre, but other formalities have to be completed from the end of the ministry of foreign affairs and finance. Handling international flights and cargo would require custom and immigration set ups, the officials added. The plan for the international air cargo hub was conceptualised in 2013 by the then Raman Singh government.





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

27 NOVEMBER 2024

fly safe

'Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2024' begins

Staff Reporter

PUNE

Pune Airport authorities have officially announced Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2024, marking the start of a week dedicated to promoting safety awareness among employees and stakeholders. The event will be observed nationwide from Nov 25 to 29, as per guidelines issued by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) Corporate Headquarters.

The inaugural ceremony at

Pune Airport was led by the airport director, accompanied by Heads of Departments (HoDs), who jointly lit the ceremonial lamp. Following the inauguration, the airport director addressed the attendees, emphasising the importance of maintaining high safety standards and encouraging all stakeholders to actively promote safety practices.

The day's events included a detailed discussion of the activities planned for the week. To raise awareness,

safety slogans and banners were prominently displayed throughout the terminal building and operational offices.

A key highlight was a comprehensive presentation on the Airport Emergency Plan for crash and accident scenarios, delivered by the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) team. The session covered emergency procedures and offered insights into the use of grid maps for rescue operations.

Additionally, a practical

training session on fire extinguisher usage was held, providing employees with hands-on experience to enhance their safety skills and confidence. The Airport Fire Services team also organised a Hot Fire Drill, showcasing their preparedness and efficiency in handling fire emergencies.

Aviation Safety Awareness Week aims to foster a culture of safety and preparedness among employees, ensuring the highest standards of operational safety.





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MINT

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024



The notice was in response to a petition filed by AAI over the revenue-sharing model. MINT

Airports in Mumbai, Delhi get HC notice

The Delhi high court's division bench on Wednesday issued notices to Delhi International Airport Ltd and Mumbai International Airport Ltd, subsidiaries of GMR Airports Ltd and Adani Airport Holdings Ltd, in response to a petition filed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) over the revenue-sharing model.

The petition challenged a 2022 arbitral award that ruled against AAI. The bench, led by chief justice Manmohan, deferred the hearing to 29 January after the airports said they would not enforce the arbitral award until further orders.

The dispute centres around confusion in the revenue-sharing model between the airports and the AAI under the operation, management, and development agreement of 2006.

The case reached the division bench after a single judge of the HC, in October, refused to interfere with the arbitral award and dismissed AAI's challenge.

KRISHNA YADAV



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

अदाणी एयरपोर्ट लि. की सहायक कंपनियों को हाईकोर्ट का नोटिस

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) की ओर से राजस्व-साझाकरण मॉडल पर दायर याचिका में जीएमआर एयरपोर्ट्स लिमिटेड और अदाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड की सहायक कंपनियों को नोटिस जारी किया। याचिका में 2022 के मध्यस्थता फैसले को चुनौती दी गई थी। चीफ जस्टिस मनमोहन की पीठ को हवाईअड्डों की ओर से बताया गया कि अगले आदेश तक मध्यस्थता फैसला लागू नहीं किया जाएगा। पीठ ने 29 जनवरी तक सुनवाई टाल दी। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

दरभंगा एयरपोर्ट पर कुहासे का कहर , मुंबई से आई फ्लाइट बनारस डायवर्ट

दरभंगा | सर्दियों का मौसम शुरू होते ही दरभंगा एयरपोर्ट से विमान सेवा अस्त-व्यस्त हो गई है। बुधवार को कोहरे व कम विजिबिलिटी के कारण एक भी विमान का परिचालन नहीं हुआ। दरभंगा से दिल्ली, मुंबई, कोलकाता, बेंगलुरु व हैदराबाद के लिए एक भी विमान ने उड़ान नहीं भरी। मुंबई से दरभंगा आने वाली फ्लाइट आसमान में 10 मिनट तक चक्कर लगाती रही, जिसे वाराणसी डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। इधर, स्पाइस जेट ने बुधवार को कहा है कि गुरुवार को भी खराब मौसम के कारण उसके सभी विमान को रद्द रहेंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

एयरपोर्ट पर पार्किंग के दौरान ब्रेक लगाना भूला पायलट

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : सिंगापुर से दिल्ली आया एक विमान इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर लैंड करता है। विमान के रुकने पर यात्री उतरने की तैयारी में ही थे, तभी उन्हें लगा कि वह पीछे की तरफ जा रहा है। इसी दौरान एक क्रू मेंबर अपना संतुलन खो देने से विमान में गिर जाता है जिससे उसके पैर में चोट लग जाती है। यह देख यात्री घबरा जाते हैं। कुछ ही मिनट में यह सब घटित होता है और फिर विमान स्थिर हो जाता है। बाद में पता चलता है कि पार्किंग के समय पायलट विमान में ब्रेक लगाना ही भूल गया था। सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस ने इस असुविधा के लिए यात्रियों से माफी मांगी है।

25 नवंबर की रात करीब 8:14 बजे की यह घटना एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 की है। सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस (एसआइए) के एयरबस ए380 विमान को पायलट ने जब पार्किंग-बे पर खड़ा किया, उस वक्त उसमें यात्री सवार थे। इस दौरान पायलट ने विमान में पार्किंग ब्रेक ही नहीं लगाई और वह पीछे जाने लगा। गनीमत रही कि उस वक्त आसपास कोई वाहन या अन्य विमान नहीं खड़ा था, वरना बड़ा हादसा हो सकता था। बाद में गलती का अहसास होने पर पायलट ने ब्रेक लगाकर

- जब विमान पीछे जाने लगा तब पायलट ने लगाए ब्रेक
- क्रू के एक सदस्य के पैर में आई हल्की चोट
- सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस ने यात्रियों से मांगी माफी

आप भी जानें, क्यों पीछे जाने लगा विमान

विमान के पार्किंग-बे पर पीछे जाने की वजह वहां ढलान होना है। पार्किंग-बे पर ढलान इसलिए बनाई जाती है ताकि तेज बारिश होने पर पानी एकत्र न हो सके। सामान्य तौर पर जब विमान लैंडिंग के बाद पार्किंग बे में आता है तो पायलट इंजन को बंद करने से पूर्व टो ब्रेक और फिर पार्किंग ब्रेक लगाता है। इसके बाद ग्राउंड स्टाफ विमान के अगले और पिछले पहियों को चोक कर देते हैं, जिससे पहिये स्थिर रहे। इस प्रक्रिया के पूरी होने पर पायलट को इसकी जानकारी दी जाती है। फिर पायलट पार्किंग ब्रेक हटाता है।

विमान को रोका और घटना की जानकारी एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल व ग्राउंड स्टाफ को दी। इसके बाद दोबारा से विमान को पार्किंग-बे में ले जाया गया जहां यात्रियों को सुरक्षित नीचे उतारा गया।

Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर पार्किंग के दौरान ब्रेक लगाना भूल गया पायलट

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर आर् ए सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस के एक विमान का पायलट ब्रेक लगाना ही भूल गया। ढलान होने के कारण विमान पीछे जाने लगा तो अफरातफरी मच गई। इस दौरान एक क्रू मेंबर को हल्की चोट भी आई। गनीमत रही कि आसपास कोई वाहन या विमान नहीं खड़ा था, अन्यथा बड़ा हादसा हो सकता था। एयरलाइंस ने इस घटना के लिए यात्रियों से माफी मांगी है।

यह घटना 25 नवंबर की आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 पर रात तकरीबन 8:14 बजे की है। सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस (एसआइए) का एयरबस ए380 सोमवार को सिंगापुर से आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पहुंचा। पायलट ने उसे पार्किंग-बे पर खड़ा कर दिया, लेकिन ब्रेक लगाना भूल गया। पार्किंग-बे पर ढलान होने के कारण जब विमान पीछे की ओर जाने लगा तो यात्रियों के होश उड़ गए। पायलट ने तुरंत पार्किंग ब्रेक लगाया और एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल व ग्राउंड स्टाफ को इसकी

सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस ने घटना के लिए यात्रियों से माफी मांगी

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर हुई घटना, एक क्रू सदस्य चोटिल



इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस का विमान। फाइल

जानकारी दी। विमान के रुकने के बाद पायलट दोबारा उसे पार्किंग-बे में ले गया, जिसके बाद यात्रियों को सुरक्षित नीचे उतारा गया। सवाल उठ रहा है कि यात्रियों से भरा विमान पार्किंग बे पर अचानक से पीछे कैसे जाने लगा। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों के मुताबिक पार्किंग बे पर जहां विमान खड़े होते हैं, वहां ढलान होती है, ताकि वर्षा के समय पानी जमा न हो।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

27 NOVEMBER 2024

Warangal Airport In 5 Yrs: Naidu ■ Priyanka Invited For Dec 9 Event ■ 92% Of Caste Survey Complete

Revanth pushes for air links in T'gana, seeks central nod

Roushan.Ali@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Chief minister Revanth Reddy on Tuesday urged the Centre to grant permission for the development of the airport at Warangal and also clear the proposals for airports at other places in the state.

The CM was accompanied by his deputy Bhatti Vikramarka and other cabinet colleagues. Later, they met civil aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu and explained to him about the industrial development and also the special efforts being made by the govt to improve transport facilities in the state.

The CM explained to the minister that the state govt had obtained NOC from GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) for building another airport at Warangal, the second largest city in Telangana after Greater Hyderabad. The NOC was required as the agreement with GHIAL had a clause that no airport will be established within a 150-km radius of GHIAL's Rajiv Gandhi Inter-



CM Revanth Reddy participates in Samvidhan Raksak Abhiyan in Delhi on Tuesday. Also seen are Congress president Mallikarjuna Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and other senior members of the party

national Airport at Shamsabad. The state govt has released Rs 205 crore for acquisition of 253 acres of land for the airport.

Revanth told Naidu that the previously identified land in Bhadradi Kothagudem district was not suitable and hence 950 acres of land has been identified in Paloncha as an alternative.

The CM also brought to the notice of the Union minister the outcome of the AAI pre-feasibility survey, which said the previously identified land in Peddapalli district was not suitable for construction of an airport. As an alternative site, the state govt identified 591 acres of land at Anthargam and Revanth requested the minister to grant permission for building an

airport there. "The Indian Air Force already has 369.50 acres of land in Adilabad, and an additional 249.82 acres is required for full scale operations. The state govt is ready to acquire the additional land and hand it over to the ministry," the CM said and asked the minister to immediately grant an airport at Adilabad, which has a large tribal population.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

27 NOVEMBER 2024

Navi Mumbai airport may be opened only in April

Mumbai: The Navi Mumbai International Airport might begin operations in April, a few days or weeks past its current deadline of the end of March, said sources.

Media reports quoted an Adani Enterprises (AEL) executive as saying that the airport would be commissioned only in the first quarter of FY 2025-26, essentially in the April to June period.

Navi Mumbai airport sources pointed out that the March 31 deadline was such that even if they miss it by a day, the airport inauguration would technically fall into the next financial year. "Even if it does get delayed, it will be a minor one and the airport will be commissioned in April," said a source.

An Adani Airport Holdings spokesperson said: "There is no delay as of now in the opening of the Navi Mumbai airport as communicated to the state and central authorities." TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

27 NOVEMBER 2024

AIR INDIA URINATION CASE

SC asks DGCA to modify norms for unruly flyers

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Centre and aviation regulator DGCA to frame more comprehensive guidelines to control unruly air passengers and observed "something creative" had to be done to check such trends.

A bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan was hearing a plea filed by a 73-year-old woman, on whom a male co-passenger allegedly urinated in an inebriated condition on board an Air India flight in November, 2022.

The septuagenarian sought directions to the Centre, the DGCA and all the air carriers to frame a standard operating procedure (SOP) to deal with similar incidents.

The top court asked the solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati to instruct the authorities concerned to examine and suitably modify the existing guidelines on unruly passengers, in line with the international norms.

Justice Viswanathan shared his own experience while travelling with Justice Surya Kant when they encountered a similar incident.

"Two passengers were fully drunk. One went to the washroom and slept off. The other one who was outside had a bag to vomit. The crew was all women and for about 30 to 35 minutes no one could open the door. The crew then requested my co-passenger to open the door and take him out to the seat. It was a 2.40 hour-long flight," Justice Viswanathan said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

विमानों को बम से उड़ाने की 994 फर्जी धमकियां मिलीं

नई दिल्ली। एयरलाईंस को इस साल 13 नवंबर तक बम से उड़ाने की 994 फर्जी धमकियां मिलीं। सरकार ने कहा कि ऐसे खतरों से निपटने के लिए मजबूत प्रोटोकॉल लागू हैं। उड़डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर ने बताया कि फर्जी कॉल के खतरे से व्यापक तरीके से निपटने के लिए नागरिक उड़डयन मंत्रालय ने नागरिक उड़डयन सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 1982 और विमान (सुरक्षा) नियम, 2023 के खिलाफ गैरकानूनी कृत्यों का दमन में संशोधन करने की योजना बनाई है। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

इस वर्ष विमानों में तम की 994 धमकियां मिलीं: केंद्र

नई दिल्ली: इस वर्ष 13 नवंबर तक विमान कंपनियों को 994 तम की धमकियां मिलीं। केंद्रीय नागरिक उड़्डयन राज्यमंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने रास में बताया, ऐसे धमकियों के खतरे से निपटने को मंत्रालय ने नागरिक उड़्डयन सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 1982 और विमान (सुरक्षा) नियम, 2023 के खिलाफ गैरकानूनी कृत्यों के दमन में संशोधन की योजना बनाई है। 2023 की तुलना में 2024 में विमानों का किराया कम हुआ और त्योहारी मौसम के दौरान टिकटों की दरों में कमी देखने को मिली। (प्रेट)



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

इस वर्ष विमानों में बम की 994 धमकियां मिलीं

नई दिल्ली, 28 नवंबर : देश में इस वर्ष 13 नवंबर तक विभिन्न विमानन कंपनियों को 994 बम की धमकियां मिलीं और इनसे निपटने के लिए मजबूत प्रोटोकाल मौजूद हैं। केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने राज्यसभा में बताया कि ऐसी धमकियों के खतरे से निपटने के लिए मंत्रालय ने नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 1982 और विमान (सुरक्षा) नियम, 2023 के खिलाफ गैरकानूनी कृत्यों के दमन में संशोधन की योजना बनाई है।

उन्होंने बताया कि अगस्त 2022 से लेकर 13 नवंबर 2024 तक 1,143 बम की धमकियों घरी काल/मैसेज मिले। अगस्त 2022 से लेकर दिसंबर 2022 तक इनकी संख्या 27 थी, जो 2023 में 122 पहुंच गई। जबकि जनवरी 2024 से लेकर 13 नवंबर 2024 तक इनकी संख्या 994 रही। हाल ही में मिली धमकियां फर्जी थीं और देश में किसी भी हवाईअड्डे या विमान में किसी भी तरह का खतरा नहीं पाया गया। हालांकि कुछ उड़ानों का संचालन जरूर प्रभावित हुआ। हर हवाईअड्डे पर बम धमकी के खतरों का आकलन करने के लिए विशेष समिति तैनात है, जो धमकी मिलने पर खतरे को भांपकर जरूरी कार्रवाई करती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

Akasa Air Gets Notice over Pilot Retraining Lapse

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sent a notice to Akasa Air for failing to impart corrective training to a pilot who was responsible for a hard landing, according to people aware of the development.

A hard landing occurs when an aircraft lands at a velocity beyond the manufacturer's permitted limit. DGCA rules mandate that after investigation is completed in such landings, the pilot should be sent for corrective actions like additional training in simulators.

Sources cited above said that an Akasa Air flight from Bagdogra to Benga-

luru was involved in a hard landing incident in March.

"Regulatory audit conducted by DGCA found that the incident was closed with a counselling session only without any corrective training being imparted to the pilot in command," a government official said. The DGCA has given the carrier's head of training 14 days to reply.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

Air India to fly Vistara A320 jets on 5 routes

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, November 27

AIR INDIA ON Wednesday said it will deploy erstwhile Vistara's A320 planes that offer "best narrow-body cabin products" on five key metro-to-metro routes, including Delhi-Mumbai and Mumbai-Hyderabad.

The Tata Group-owned airline said the deployment will start from December 1. It will continue to operate one flight with a wide-body plane each between Delhi and Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, and Delhi and Hyderabad. For this, either a Boeing 777 or Airbus A350 aircraft will be deployed.

Full-service carrier Vistara was merged with Air India earlier this month. To provide a choice to passengers at the time of booking, these new flights will operate with their numbers starting with the prefix "AI2".

Air India also said it will optimise flight schedules so that flight departures are spread out

throughout the day, without reducing frequency.

In the announcement, the airline said that flights on five metro-to-metro routes will be operating with erstwhile Vistara's A320 series aircraft having a three-class configuration — business, premium economy and economy class.

The airline will offer 35,000 premium seats — premium economy and business — every week on these routes. The routes are Delhi and Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, Delhi and Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru, and Mumbai and Hyderabad. Currently, Air India has a fleet of 208 planes, including around 67 wide-body aircraft.

"By combining the strengths of both full-service carriers, we are able to consolidate our best narrow body offering on routes where there is desire for a high frequency, full service product," said MD and CEO Campbell Wilson. "We will progressively expand the coverage to more routes," he added.

**Full-service carrier
Vistara was
merged with
Air India earlier
this month**





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

27 NOVEMBER 2024

IndiGo pilot late, flight delayed by over 2 hours

FPJ News Service

AHMEDABAD

A routine IndiGo flight turned into a nightmare for nearly 100 passengers at Ahmedabad's domestic airport when their flight was delayed by over two hours due to the pilot arriving late. The situation led to chaos on board, with passengers expressing outrage over the airline's poor management and communication.

The flight, originally scheduled for departure at 11:30 AM, faced an unexpected delay, leaving passengers waiting inside the aircraft for an hour. By 12:30 PM, frustration peaked as cabin crew informed passengers that the pilot was stuck in traffic and had yet to reach the airport.

This prompted travellers to question why they were required to arrive at the airport hours before the flight if the pilot couldn't adhere to the same timeline.

The delay escalated tensions inside the plane. Heated arguments broke out between the cabin crew and the passengers, prompting staff to call in the Central Industrial Security Force.

Despite the intervention, many passengers expressed dissatisfaction with the handling of the incident, accusing the airline staff of lacking empathy and professionalism. After a wait of over two hours, the pilot finally arrived, and the flight departed at 1:00 PM.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

स्पाइसजेट को मिली बड़ी राहत

नई दिल्ली, एजेसी। एयरलाइन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट को बड़ी राहत मिली है। आयरलैंड स्थित विमान पट्टादाता एयरकैसल ने 56 लाख डॉलर के समझौते के बाद स्पाइसजेट के खिलाफ अपना दिवालियापन मामला वापस ले लिया है।

दोनों पक्षों ने बुधवार को एनसीएलटी को समझौते के बारे में सूचित किया, जिसके बाद न्यायाधिकरण ने मामला वापस लेने की मंजूरी दे दी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

Emirates unveils Airbus A350 to be flown on Indian routes next year

Jagriti Chandra
DUBAI

Emirates's brand new Airbus A350 unveiled on Wednesday will be deployed for flights to Mumbai and Ahmedabad beginning February as part of the airline's capacity "optimisation" in a market where it remains constrained by bilateral agreements on seats between Dubai and India as well as amid larger concerns over delay in aircraft delivery from Boeing leaving it "frustrated".

The first of the 65 Airbus A350-900 on order to join Emirates fleet was unveiled at an exclusive event showcase in Dubai. The first scheduled flight on



Tim Clark

this aircraft type will be to Edinburgh on January 3, 2025. The first batch of planes have a range of 12 hours and will be primarily used for the regional market, and will be followed by those with an ultra-long haul range that will include crew rest area and will join the fleet in June or July, explained Emirates President Tim Clark. "The big constraint is the size of our aircraft given the number of

seats we are allowed to use. So we're having to mix and match. Sometimes we put an aircraft and are not allowed to sell some of the seats," Mr. Clark told *The Hindu* reiterating the airline's demand for doubling of seat capacity between Dubai and India as the travel demand had tripled in this market since 2015 when the agreement was last drawn.

The Emirates A350 has a seating capacity of 312 passengers in 3 cabin classes, which include Business Class lie-flat seats, 21 Premium Economy seats and 259 Economy Class seats.

(The writer was in Dubai at the invitation of Emirates)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

Erstwhile Vistara's A320 planes to fly on 5 AI routes

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Air India on Wednesday said it will deploy erstwhile Vistara's A320 planes that offer best narrow body cabin products on five key metro-to-metro routes, including Delhi-Mumbai and Mumbai-Hyderabad.

The Tata Group-owned airline, which has embarked on an ambitious transformation journey, will continue to operate one flight with a wide body plane each between Delhi and Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, Delhi and Hyderabad.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

Airline pilot dies by suicide, partner held

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: A 27-year-old man was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly abetting the suicide of his girlfriend, a 25-year-old pilot with Air India who was found dead in her flat in Mumbai earlier this week, police said, adding that the victim's family has attributed the death to frequent fights between the couple.

According to police, the accused found the woman dead in their rented flat on Monday. She was rushed to a hospital in Mumbai, where she was declared dead, said an officer. "The accused reached the woman's house with a keymaker on Monday after she did not receive his calls and found her dead," he said

"The couple met two years ago in Delhi where the woman had gone for training. They soon began living together in Mum-

bai. However, the victim's family has alleged that the accused was harassing and abusing her and forcing her to stop eating non-vegetarian food," another officer aware of the matter said, referring to the complaint lodged by the woman's family.

The officer added: "Her family members say she was disturbed due to the relationship, and her boyfriend continuously harassed her, leading to her suicide."

Based on the complaint, police took the accused into custody on Tuesday.

"We have booked him under section 108 (abetment to suicide) of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and arrested him," said the police officer.

HELP IS JUST A CALL AWAY

SNEHI: 011-65978181

**SUMAITRI: 011-46018404
9315767849**

Mega aviation package to cut levies, ease rules soon

Niti Aayog leads effort towards building hub, involving multiple central ministries

Dhirendra Kumar & Manas Pimpalkhare

dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The Union government is working on a comprehensive package for the aviation sector involving lower user fees, relaxed regulations and tax concessions, three government officials aware of the development said.

Federal think tank Niti Aayog is leading the initiative, holding consultations with the ministries of aviation, commerce, finance, home, petroleum and environment for the package, the people cited above said on the condition of anonymity.

While the civil aviation ministry is focused on regulatory relaxations and route allocation, the commerce ministry will work to align the package with India's trade goals and encourage foreign investment. The finance ministry will examine tax concessions, particularly on aviation turbine fuel (ATF),



The finance ministry will examine tax concessions, particularly on aviation turbine fuel.

PTI

while the petroleum ministry will work with states to rationalize value-added tax.

Meanwhile, the environment ministry will ensure sustainability norms, and the home ministry will work on efficient immigration and security protocols. State governments are expected to support regional airport development, the people cited above added.

"An official announcement is expected in the coming months, with Niti Aayog tasked with providing policy guidance for ensuring economic viability. Several rounds of inter-ministerial discussions on the matter have

been held, and another round of dialogues is being planned in the coming months," one of the three officials said. Other proposals under consideration include minimizing procedural delays in permitting new airlines, aircraft acquisition, route additions and easing restrictions on hiring foreign pilots. Easier norms on digital ticketing, security checks and customer services to improve passenger convenience are also likely.

India is the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, behind the US and China. Ratings agency Ica projects India's domestic air passenger traffic in

FY25 to grow by 8-13%, reaching 165-170 million. Meanwhile, international passenger traffic is set to surpass the FY19 peak in the current fiscal year.

Mint reported earlier that the Centre is working on a plan to reduce ATF prices to compete with global hubs. ATF is not under the goods and services regime, meaning states are free to tax them. ATF prices in India are nearly 60% costlier than in Dubai, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Since ATF costs make up almost 40% of airlines' operating costs, reducing their prices would be a significant breather for airlines, helping them bring down fares and raise air traffic. That dovetails with the government's objective of growing India's aviation sector by adding airports, pushing local manufacturing, and developing repair hubs.

"The other key components of the package will be reduced user charges, route optimization, and regulatory relaxations. The rationalization of ATF prices is a key component of this package. Consultations are underway with states and oil marketing companies to align prices, as our current rates still exceed global trends," the second official said.

Aircastle, SpiceJet reach \$5.6 million settlement

Krishna Yadav

krishna.yadav@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: In a relief to SpiceJet, Ireland-based aircraft lessor Aircastle has withdrawn its insolvency case against the budget airline after reaching a \$5.6 million settlement.

Both parties informed the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in Delhi about the settlement on Wednesday, after which the court approved the withdrawal of the case.

This marks another instance of the airline settling its disputes with creditors after raising ₹3,000 crore through a qualified institutional placement (QIP).

In October, the airline had announced the resolution of a \$23.39 million dispute with Aircastle (Ireland) Designated Activity Co. and Wilmington Trust SP Services (Dublin) Ltd. The matter was settled for \$5 million, along with an agreement regarding the treatment of certain aircraft engines.

Aircastle was among the first



Aircastle was among the first lessors to file an insolvency plea against SpiceJet in 2023. PTI

against SpiceJet in 2023 for defaulted rental dues, as the airline faced mounting insolvency claims from lessors and vendors in Delhi's insolvency court.

On 9 October, the airline resolved a \$131.85 million claim with Horizon Aviation 1 Ltd., Horizon II Aviation 3 Ltd., and Horizon III Aviation 2 Ltd., managed by Babcock & Brown Aircraft Management, for \$22.5 million. On 24 September, the airline settled a claim with Engine Lease Finance Corp., reducing its dues from an initial \$16.7 million.

FOR CONSISTENT, SUPERIOR FLYING EXPERIENCE ON KEY ROUTES

Air India to use Vistara planes for flights on 5 metro-to-metro routes

SUKALP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 27

PRIORITISING DEPLOYMENT of a superior product on key metro-to-metro routes, Tata group airline Air India has decided that narrow-body aircraft that earlier belonged to Vistara will be used to operate nearly all the flights on five such routes from December 1. Consequently, all narrow-body flights between Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Bengaluru, Delhi-Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru, and Mumbai and Hyderabad will be operated by erstwhile Vistara aircraft, which are in much better shape than a number of Air India planes.

Vistara, which was widely considered as India's best full-service airline with superior aircraft cabin and service, merged into the Tata group's flagship airline Air India on November 12. With the merger, Vistara's 63 narrow-body planes of the Airbus A320 family and seven widebody aircraft (Boeing 787s) are now being operated by Air India.

"Such (metro-to-metro) flights will operate with 'AI'-prefixed four-digit flight numbers beginning with '2', such as AI2999



File

from Delhi to Mumbai, Air India will also optimise flight schedules so that flight departures are spread out throughout the day, without reducing frequency. Air India now offers more than 1,000 weekly flights (round trips) on these key routes: 56x daily on Delhi-Mumbai, 36x daily on Delhi-Bengaluru, 24x daily on Delhi-Hyderabad, 22x daily on Mumbai-Bengaluru, and 18x daily on Mumbai-Hyderabad," Air India said in a release Wednesday.

On October 24, *The Indian Express* had reported that Air India planned to minimise the overlap between its older aircraft and Vistara planes at the individual route level with major metro-to-

metro routes expected to see deployment of the newer aircraft, while Air India's older aircraft would move to certain other routes. Sources had said that this was being planned in a bid to provide certainty to flyers regarding the quality of product they are likely to experience. The idea is to set the customer's expectations right and offer a consistent product on that route irrespective of the flight booked.

Although Wednesday's announcement pertains to domestic flights, such an exercise is also in the works for international network of the expanded Air India on routes where both Air India and Vistara operated, it is

learnt. Slots at certain international airports are also being adjusted accordingly.

"The merger of Vistara into Air India has unlocked many new opportunities to improve our customer offering. By combining the strengths of both full-service carriers, we are able to consolidate our best narrowbody offering on routes where there is desire for a high-frequency, full-service product. We will progressively expand the coverage to more routes as Air India inducts new aircraft and completes the retrofit of our legacy narrowbody fleet during 2025," Air India's chief executive officer and managing director Campbell Wilson said Wednesday.

Sources indicated that the product differentiation between Vistara aircraft and Air India planes is likely to continue at least till June, when the retrofit programme for Air India's legacy narrow-body fleet is scheduled to be completed. With new Air India aircraft coming in and older aircraft undergoing refurbishment, Air India will eventually be able to offer a uniform product across its fleet and the planes will largely become fungible. **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

Mega aviation package to cut levies, ease rules soon

Niti Aayog leads effort to make India aviation hub, involving multiple ministries

Dhirendra Kumar & Manas Pimpalkhane

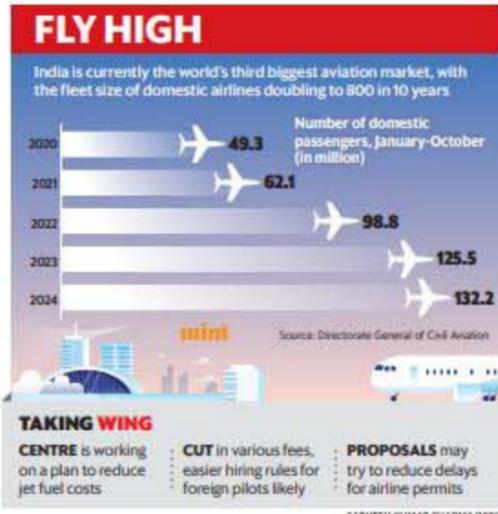
NEW DELHI

The Union government is working on a comprehensive package for the aviation sector involving lower user fees, relaxed regulations and tax concessions, three government officials aware of the development said.

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While the civil aviation ministry is focused on regulatory relaxations and route allocation, the commerce ministry will work to align the package with India's trade goals and encourage foreign investment. The finance ministry will examine tax concessions, particularly on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), while the petroleum ministry will work with states to rationalize value-added tax.

Meanwhile, the environment ministry will ensure sustainability norms, and the home ministry will work on efficient immigration and security protocols. State govern-



TAKING WING

CENTRE is working on a plan to reduce jet fuel costs

CUT in various fees, easier hiring rules for foreign pilots likely

PROPOSALS may try to reduce delays for airline permits

SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA/MINT

ments are expected to support regional airport development, the people cited above added.

"An official announcement is expected in the coming months, with Niti Aayog tasked with providing policy guidance for ensuring economic viability. Several rounds of inter-ministerial discussions on the matter have been held, and another round of dia-

logues is being planned in the coming months," one of the three officials said. Other proposals under consideration include minimizing procedural delays in permitting new airlines, aircraft acquisition, route additions and easing restrictions on hiring foreign pilots. Easier norms on digital ticketing, security checks and customer services to improve passen-

ger convenience are also likely. India is the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, behind the US and China. Ratings agency Iera projects India's domestic air passenger traffic in FY25 to grow by 8-13%, reaching 165-170 million. Meanwhile, international passenger traffic is set to surpass the FY19 peak in the current fiscal year.

Mint reported earlier that the Centre is working on a plan to reduce ATF prices to compete with global hubs. ATF is not under the goods and services regime, meaning states are free to tax them. ATF prices in India are nearly 60% costlier than in Dubai, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Since ATF costs make up almost 40% of airlines' operating costs, reducing its prices would be a significant breather for airlines, helping them bring down fares and raise air traffic. That dovetails with the government's objective of growing India's aviation sector by adding airports, pushing local manufacturing, and developing repair hubs.

"The other key components of the package will be reduced user charges, route optimization, and regulatory relaxations. The rationalization of ATF prices is a key

TURN TO PAGE 6

Aviation package to cut levies, relax rules on cards

FROM PAGE 1

component of this package. Consultations are underway with states and oil marketing companies to align prices, as our current rates still exceed global trends," the second official said. Experts said that India's aviation sector holds immense potential, but is held back by constraints including those which are regulatory in nature.

"Rising user charges can drag down profit margins of airlines. With the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) mandating charges for airports, airlines are not directly involved, but they are impacted in terms of margins due to increased user charges," added Ameya Joshi, an independent aviation analyst.

User charges include fees charged by airports to flyers for using airport equipment such as metal detectors and baggage screening. These include user development fee (UDF) and passenger service fee (PSF), which are different for different airports, and are regulated by AERA.

For instance, AERA raised the UDF for the services at Jaipur International Airport Ltd (JAIL) from ₹394 per person departing to ₹805 in August this year, to finance the airport's modernization plans. These fees are also different for domestic and international travel. Industry stakeholders remain hopeful about the upcoming changes.

"India's aviation sector is undergoing a remarkable transformation," said Indiver Rastogi, president & group head, global business travel, Thomas Cook (India) and SOTC Travel.

Indian airlines' fleet size has doubled to 800 in 10 years while domestic passenger traffic has jumped from 67 million to 152 million in the same period. "The ambitious expansion plans of airlines such as Air India and IndiGo, which includes the delivery of 150 additional wide-body aircraft by FY35 and further additions of A321XLRs for medium-haul routes, are set to boost connectivity further," Rastogi added.

Queries emailed on Tuesday to spokespersons of Niti Aayog, and the ministries of aviation, commerce, finance, petroleum, home and environment remained unanswered.

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Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

Aircastle settles insolvency case with SpiceJet for \$5.6mn

Krishna Yadav
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NEW DELHI

In a relief to SpiceJet, Ireland-based aircraft lessor Aircastle has withdrawn its insolvency case against the budget airline after reaching a \$5.6 million settlement.

Both parties informed the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in Delhi about the settlement on Wednesday, after which the court approved the withdrawal of the case.

This marks another instance of the airline settling its disputes with creditors after raising ₹3,000 crore through a qualified institutional placement (QIP).

In October, the airline had announced the resolution of a \$23.39 million dispute with Aircastle (Ireland) Designated Activity Co. and Wilmington Trust SP Services (Dublin) Ltd. The matter was settled for \$5 million, along with an agreement regarding the treatment of certain aircraft engines.

Aircastle was among the first lessors to file an insolvency plea against SpiceJet in 2023 for defaulted rental dues, as the airline faced mounting insolvency claims from lessors



SpiceJet is set to receive ₹736 crore from a previous funding round, further bolstering its financial stability and growth prospects.

and vendors in Delhi's insolvency court.

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Brown Aircraft Management, for \$22.5 million. On 24 September, the airline settled a claim with Engine Lease Finance Corp., reducing its dues from an initial \$16.7 million.

SpiceJet settled with Celestial Aviation, Alterna Aircraft, and Raymach Technologies. Despite the settlements, SpiceJet continues to face insolvency claims. Last week, the NCLT issued notices to the

airline over pleas filed by lessors Sabarmati Aviation and JetAir 17. On 24 October, another insolvency plea was filed by Falgu Aviation Leasing over a default of \$8.1 million (₹68 crore).

However, it's worth noting that none of these claims have resulted in any insolvency proceedings against SpiceJet to date. Many have been withdrawn after settlements, some dismissed, and others are still pending.

Additionally, SpiceJet is also set to receive ₹736 crore from a previous funding round, further bolstering its financial stability and growth prospects.

This new capital is vital for SpiceJet to address the financial challenges and settle obligations with various creditors.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

Indian airlines riding high on wedding season travel surge

Flight and charter bookings spike as 3.5 million weddings are expected from Nov to mid-Dec

Daresh Arand
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NEW DELHI

India's peak wedding season in India and airlines and operators of charter jets are rejoicing with the honeymooners.

India's peak wedding season spans from November to March, aligning with a higher number of dates deemed auspicious for matrimonial alliances. For airlines operating in India, that's expected to translate to more families, wedding guests and newly wedded couples taking to the skies.

On 17 November, a Sunday, India's daily air passenger traffic climbed to a record 505,412, per data from India's ministry of civil aviation, although this is also attributed to the ongoing festive season. The previous record was 499,000 passengers on 15 November.

"Tier II cities are powering the wedding season this year," said Aloke Bajpai, group chief executive, ixigo, a travel and hotels booking platform run by Le Travellers Technology Ltd. "Travel bookings to tier II and III cities for November and December have seen a significant rise, with Varanasi bookings up by an impressive 263% and Gorakhpur by 109%. Amritsar, Chandigarh and Patna have recorded an increase of over 70%."

According to ixigo, more people are flying to small towns like Varanasi while travelling to hometowns for weddings or religious tourism.

Flight bookings to metros such as Delhi and Mumbai as well as leisure destinations such as Srinagar, Jaipur, and Goa are also seeing a 70-80% year-on-year (y-o-y) jump for November-December, Bajpai said.

"Overseas honeymoon bookings to destinations in Southeast Asia and the Middle East have risen by 2x, marking this wedding season as one of the most dynamic and high-demand periods yet,"



The airline industry hopes the wedding season will make up for lower-than-anticipated flight bookings during Diwali, sources

said Rikant Pittie, co-founder of EaseMyTrip, a travel booking platform. "Indians are increasingly making bookings for honeymoon travel, showcasing a shift in preferences toward destinations like Thailand, the Andaman

and around 3.5 million weddings in November to mid-December this year.

The airline industry hopes the wedding season will make up for lower-than-anticipated flight bookings during Diwali. "We have increasingly seen a lot

For uber-wealthy families, charter planes are a grand wedding accessory. "For weddings, the demand is for business jets to fly the immediate family and VIP guests and bigger planes (an ATR or other aircraft) to fly (other) people," said Santosh Sharma, founder of Bookmyjet. The cost depends on the type of aircraft—₹1.50 lakh to ₹30 lakh per hour.

"We are seeing demand from smaller cities like Indore, Rajkot, Raipur and also Kolkata, with flights going into Jaipur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur," said Sharma.

"People from Middle East are getting married in India and they are booking flights from Delhi and Mumbai to marriage destinations to ferry their guests."

For an extended version of the story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com).

LIFTING SPIRITS

ON 17 November, India's daily air passenger traffic climbed to a record 505,412

PEOPLE are flying to small towns like Varanasi owing due to various factors, according to ixigo

FLIGHT bookings to major metro hubs as well as leisure destinations are seeing an increase

INTERNATIONAL destinations are also in demand, as in any wedding season

Islands, and Vietnam, moving away from...the Maldives and Kerala."

India typically registers about 10 million weddings every year, per industry estimates. Prabhudas Lillardier estimates revenue of ₹4.25 trillion from

of demand for travel during the marriage season, and this year seems to be similar," said a senior executive at Tata Group's Air India Express, declining to be identified. "...we might see a strong third quarter supported by weddings."



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024



A decline in air ticket prices was observed in various routes during the festival seasons. **PTI**

Airfares moderated in 2024, says govt

The government has said airfares have moderated in 2024 compared to 2023 and notably, a decline in air ticket prices was observed in various routes during festival seasons.

Amid concerns in certain quarters that air ticket prices are ruling high, minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol told Rajya Sabha that airfares are not subject to regulation by the government and airlines have the flexibility to determine their airfares based on their operational needs while adhering to existing rules. "...the government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it remains vigilant, and the government intervenes to shift capacity from one sector to another to prevent exorbitant pricing to ensure passenger comfort and welfare," he said in a written reply on 25 November.

Airfares are dynamic and is a function of demand and supply.

With continuous engagement with airlines and online ticketing agents (OTAs) and keeping a watch on the movement of airfares by the government, Mohol said airfares have moderated in 2024 relative to 2023. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

28 NOVEMBER 2024

Akasa Air को DGCA का नोटिस

■ **एनबीटी न्यूजडेस्क:** डायरेक्टोरेट जनरल ऑफ सिविल एविएशन (DGCA) ने मंगलवार को Akasa Air को एक कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया। उड़ान के दौरान लैंडिंग में कठिनाई आने के बावजूद एक पायलट को कोई सुधारात्मक प्रशिक्षण नहीं दिया गया। रेगुलेटर ने पाया कि इस घटना को सिर्फ काउंसलिंग से निपटा दिया गया। टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया के मुताबिक, एयरलाइन को नोटिस जारी कर 14 दिन के अंदर जवाब मांगा गया है। फिलहाल अकासा की तरफ से कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं आई है।



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एयर इंडिया महानगरों के बीच 5 प्रमुख मार्गों पर विस्तार के ए320 विमान का इस्तेमाल करेगी

नई दिल्ली, 27 नवम्बर (एजेंसी): एयरलाइन कंपनी एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को कहा कि वह विस्तार के ए320 विमानों को महानगरों के बीच पांच प्रमुख मार्गों पर तैनात करेगी। इन मार्गों में दिल्ली-मुंबई और मुंबई-हैदराबाद हवाई मार्ग भी शामिल हैं।

टाटा समूह के स्वामित्व वाली यह एयरलाइन दिल्ली और मुंबई, दिल्ली और बेंगलुरु, दिल्ली और हैदराबाद के बीच एक-एक बड़े आकार के विमान के साथ एक उड़ान संचालित करना जारी



रखेगी। इन मार्गों पर बोइंग 777 या एयरबस ए350 विमान तैनात किए जाएंगे।

पूर्ण सेवा प्रदाता विस्तार का इसी महीने एयर इंडिया के साथ विलय कर दिया गया था। बुकिंग

के समय यात्रियों को विकल्प प्रदान करते हुए विस्तार विमानों द्वारा संचालित उड़ानों के नंबर 'एआई2' से शुरू होते हैं। एयर इंडिया ने बयान में कहा कि महानगरों से महानगरों के बीच पांच मार्गों पर उड़ानें पूर्ववर्ती विस्तार के ए320 श्रृंखला के विमानों के साथ संचालित होंगी। इनमें तीन श्रेणी - बिजनेस, प्रीमियम इकोनॉमी और इकोनॉमी श्रेणी होंगी। ये मार्ग- दिल्ली और मुंबई, दिल्ली और बेंगलुरु, दिल्ली और हैदराबाद, मुंबई और बेंगलुरु, तथा मुंबई और हैदराबाद हैं।



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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

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Air India urination case: Modify the guidelines for unruly air passengers, SC tells authorities

PARMOD KUMAR

NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the aviation authorities to consider modifying the existing guidelines to conform with the international norms to deal with unruly air passengers, saying that something creative will have to be done.

A bench of Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice K.V. Viswanathan asked the Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who was appearing for the Central government, to instruct the authorities to examine and suitably modify the guidelines on unruly passengers in line with international norms. The top court's suggestion came in the course of the hearing of a plea by a woman passenger, who was urinated upon in a New York-Delhi Air India flight on 26 Novem-



ber 2022 by an allegedly inebriated passenger, seeking direction to DGCA and all airlines to frame mandatory SoP and zero tolerance rules to deal with unruly passengers and on-board sufferers.

The petitioner Hema Rajaraman has sought direction to the DGCA to include in the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) an explicit zero-tolerance policy with respect to "unruly/disruptive behaviour", which would mandate reporting such incidents to aviation regulator and also to law enforcement agencies, failing which action would be taken against the airlines in all cases.