

Airlines hit as Deepavali travel fails to take off

Fares on key metro routes are down by 30% at a time when it usually peaks

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Deepavali is a time when most Indians spare no expense to be with their families. But not this year. The reluctance to spend on air travel this festival season has dampened celebrations and is making airlines nervous, who are forced to lower airfares to fill up their planes. Data from the travel portal Yatra.com shows that fares on key metro routes are down by 30%, while this is usually a time airlines hike airfares due to a huge demand and are able to make up for losses piled up during the lean months of July, August and September. On Monday, full-service carrier Vistara even launched its 'grand international sale' for destinations like Bangkok, Dubai, and Singapore for return fares starting at ₹14,999.

'Industry-wide trend'
"The slowdown is beginning to bite us. The demand for air travel is not growing as compared to the same time last year. As a result, our yields (average fare per passenger mile) are lower. I don't see this improving for several months to come. This is an industry-wide trend," said a top official at one of the leading airlines in the country on the condition of anonymity.

Fares nosedive

Airfares on key routes during the Deepavali season have fallen significantly, compared to 2018. Fares on the Delhi-Chennai route are down 44%



DGCA's monthly data shows domestic traffic growth rate was at (-)4% in April; it rose to 6% in June and then again fell to 1.18% in September. While the closure of Jet Airways in mid-April was to be blamed for

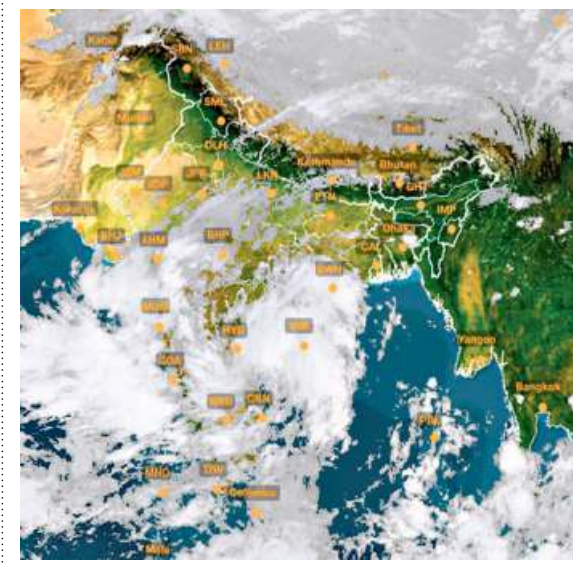
many months, industry insiders say by August its impact had diminished. "Demand is stagnant due to a slowing economy. Economy class is really struggling. This is a very serious situation as airlines depend on peak season to make up for losses in other seasons,"

said another senior executive of another airline. Data shows that airfares booked 15 days before the date of travel have dropped on Delhi to Chennai route by 44% from ₹5,571 last year to ₹3,071 this year, Delhi to Pune by 30% from ₹5,219 last year to ₹3,631 this year and

22% on Chennai-Delhi from ₹5,688 to ₹4,382. *The Hindu* spoke to Minister of Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri on this crisis in the aviation sector, and he said, "No, low fares are not due to an economic slowdown. Is any plane going empty, not at all. LCCs are competing against each other and dumbing down fares." However, both the airline executives quoted above said that "competitive pricing is an outcome of weak demand". "People are being more cautious than they have been in the past. But going by the prevailing last minute fare rise trends, we could expect a rise in fares as we get closer to the booking dates," said Yatra.com's Sharat Dhall.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over coastal Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Konkan & Goa, Telangana, Rayalaseema, interior Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaiikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	7.6	33.0	24.0	Kozhikode	18.2	31.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	22.0	33.0	22.0	Kurnool	—	31.0	22.0
Aizawl	26.0	17.0	—	Lucknow	—	31.0	18.0
Allahabad	31.0	20.0	—	Madurai	30.0	32.0	23.0
Bengaluru	38.9	28.0	20.0	Mangaluru	—	29.0	23.0
Bhopal	28.0	20.0	—	Mumbai	9.8	28.0	24.0
Bhubaneswar	31.0	24.0	—	Mysuru	20.0	28.0	19.0
Chandigarh	31.0	16.0	—	New Delhi	—	32.0	17.0
Chennai	25.7	28.0	24.0	Patna	—	31.0	22.0
Coimbatore	0.8	28.0	21.0	Port Blair	10.0	30.0	24.0
Dehradun	30.0	14.0	—	Puducherry	4.1	28.0	23.0
Gangtok	20.0	14.0	—	Pune	42.4	29.0	21.0
Goa	33.7	32.0	24.0	Raipur	—	28.0	22.0
Guwahati	31.0	21.0	—	Ranchi	—	28.0	20.0
Hubbli	26.0	21.0	—	Shillong	—	24.0	13.0
Hyderabad	29.0	22.0	—	Shimla	—	21.0	11.0
Imphal	3.6	29.0	18.0	Srinagar	—	—	—
Jaipur	—	32.0	19.0	Thiruvananthapuram	3.0	33.0	24.0
Kochi	17.6	30.0	23.0	Tiruchi	—	26.0	30.0
Kolkata	24.0	14.0	—	Vijayawada	6.6	27.0	25.0
Kolkata	32.0	25.0	—	Visakhapatnam	26.8	27.0	25.0

IN BRIEF



IAF carries out twin firing of BrahMos

Two BrahMos surface-to-surface missile tests were conducted as part of routine operational training at the Trak Island in the Andaman & Nicobar group of islands on October 21 and 22, the IAF said on Tuesday.

No govt. jobs for those with over 2 children

Two years after it adopted a population policy, the Assam Cabinet on Monday decided to make government jobs out of bounds for people with more than two children. The policy will come into effect from January 1, 2021.

ED custody of HDIL promoters extended

A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court on Tuesday extended the ED's custody of Housing Development Infrastructure Limited's (HDIL) directors Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang till October 24.

Banking services partially hit as unions protest merger bid

We will seek support from Opposition parties, say leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Services in some public sector banks were partially affected on Tuesday with two unions observing a nationwide one-day strike to protest against the Centre's proposed merger of banks and banking reforms.

The strike, called by the All-India Bank Employees Association (AIBE) and the Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) saw the participation of 3 lakh employees and led to about 20 lakh banking instrument, including cheques worth around ₹15,000 crore not being cleared, AIBE general secretary C.H. Venkatachalam said.

Clerical staff stay away
Mr. Venkatachalam said the strike affected services as "clerical and subordinate staff" stayed away from work. The unions had announced in September that they would hold the strike to



Bank employees taking part in the strike at Azad Maidan in Mumbai on Tuesday. *EMMANUEL YOGINI

stop the merger of 10 public sector banks. Mr. Venkatachalam said the unions would seek support from other unions and Opposition parties ahead of the winter session of Parliament. He said the government representatives who met the union leaders on Monday had said the workers' issues would be addressed after the merger, but the unions did not accept

it as the merger itself was the bone of contention. "Merger of the banks is totally unwarranted in India as we need more banking services and opening of more branches to serve the people. Past mergers have resulted in closure of branches. Recovery of the huge bad loans is the top priority of the banks and mergers would change the priority," he said.

Ayodhya 'deepotsav' given State Fair tag

The Uttar Pradesh government has granted the status of State fair to the Deepotsav Mela to be held in Ayodhya during Deepavali.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has granted the status of State fair to the Deepotsav Mela to be held in Ayodhya during Deepavali. The festival, in which over 5.5 lakh lamps will be lit on October 26, will be held at an estimated cost of ₹133 crore, government spokesperson Shrikant Sharma said.

With the change, the Mela will now be planned by the District Magistrate of Ayodhya. Earlier, the Tourism Department organised it. The decision was taken given the "international status" of the festival and on the proposals sent by the District Magistrate in letters dated January 15 and July 3, the government said.

The BJP government plans to organise a grand Deepavali celebration in Ayodhya. Last year, the festival showcased the Korean connection to the town, and South Korea's first lady Kim Jung-sook was the chief

Nirvani Akhara seeks right to 'Shebait'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed Nirvani Akhara, one of the Hindu parties in Ayodhya title dispute, to file a note seeking right to manage the worship of deity as the 'Shebait', a person who takes care of the deity and manages its daily affairs. The Nirmohi Akhara had filed the suit seeking Shebait right in 1959. Both Nirmohi Akhara and Nirvani Akhara have contested each other's stand.

Restrictions under Section 144 of CrPC have been imposed in Ayodhya until December 10 in anticipation of the Supreme Court's verdict in the land dispute case.

Power firm takes Water Ministry to court over Ganga notification

The order requires hydropower companies situated on the river's tributaries to release more water than previous years

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Alaknanda Hydropower Company (AHC) has taken the Union Water Ministry and the Uttarakhand State government to court following a 2018 notification by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), a Union Water Ministry body, that requires hydropower companies located on the Ganga's tributaries to release more water than from previous

years. Located on the Alaknanda river – a major source river for the Ganga – the 330 MW project was commissioned in 2014 and is among the 19 hydropower projects functioning along various stretches of the Ganga and its tributaries.

'Financially detrimental'
Company officials said that the notification was financially detrimental to the company and that the go-

vernment ought to be compensating it for the losses that would accrue due to the notification. "The matter is in the court. Any losses to the company have to be reimbursed by the State government (Uttarakhand) as this is a change in law," G.V.K. Reddy, chairman, GVK Group, told *The Hindu* in a text message. AHC is run by GVK Power & Infrastructure Ltd. The 2018 e-flow notification specifies that the upper stretches of the Ganga would have to maintain 20% of the monthly average flow of the preceding 10 days between November and March, which is the dry season; 25% of the average during the "lean season" of October, April and May; and 30% of the monthly average during the monsoon months of June-September.

This would require existing and upcoming projects to change their design to accommodate greater flows. Companies are reluctant to release water because it impedes power generation. The 2018 order by the NMCG gave companies three years – until October 2021 – to make necessary changes but site visits to 11 companies by the Central Water Commission, which is tasked with measuring flows, showed that most companies did not need to make major design changes comply with the

new requirements. The compliance date was therefore advanced to 2019. An NMCG official, who did not want to be quoted, said that GVK had claimed losses of nearly ₹4,000 crore, adding, "We have had some meetings at the Prime Minister's Office and the government is considering making good the losses. We will have to see how the case proceeds." Mr. Reddy did not confirm this number to *The Hindu*.

Kamlesh Tiwari's killers arrested in Gujarat

The two are residents of Surat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad on Tuesday said it has arrested the two main suspects who allegedly murdered Hindu Samaj Party leader Kamlesh Tiwari in Lucknow on October 18. The two suspects were nabbed from Shamlaji near the Gujarat-Rajasthan border and they were on the way to Gujarat after having reached Shahjahanpur from Nepal, police said. The two were identified as Ashfaqhussain Jakirhussain Shaikh, 34, and Moinuddin Khurshid Pathan, 27. While Shaikh is a medical representative, Pathan is a food delivery boy, the police said. Both are residents of Surat. The ATS said the two were apprehended on the basis of technical and physical surveillance mounted on their family and acquaintances. The primary investigation of the accused revealed that they had committed the crime "in retribution to purported statements by the deceased," the ATS said. In 2015, Tiwari had shot into the limelight after he made some controversial remarks, following which several Muslim groups held huge protests demanding action against him. Six persons, including two Muslim clerics from Bij-nor in west U.P., have been detained for allegedly scripting the conspiracy behind the murder.



The two were on their way to Gujarat after reaching Shahjahanpur. *PTI

Ex-BJP MLA's daughter returns home

STAFF REPORTER
BHOVAL

A former BJP MLA's daughter, who had left home alleging torture by the family, returned on Tuesday. "We found her at a village near Raver of Maharashtra ... There was no settlement between the two sides," said Umesh Tiwari, T.T. Nagar City Superintendent of Police. "She had run away on her own accord and returned the same way," he said. On October 16, former MLA from Bhopal Central Surendranath Singh had filed a complaint claiming his "mentally ill" daughter, Bharti Singh, had gone missing. Days later, Ms. Singh released a video online alleging torture by her family for a decade, including administration of sleep-inducing injections. On Monday, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that his daughter was a victim of "love jihad", in which Congress leaders had a hand.

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SPAB/RGO/AdvT/2019-20/14 Dated: 23.10.2019
Recruitment of Non-Academic positions
Applications are invited for the posts of Registrar & System Administrator. Last date of submission of application is 11th November, 2019 time 05:00 pm. Eligibility criteria and other details are available on Institute website spabhopal.ac.in

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture
MPEDA, Ministry of commerce & Industry, Govt. of India
3/197, Poompuhar Road, Karaimedu, Sattanathapuram (Post),
Sirkali - 609 109, Nagapattinam (District), Tamilnadu.

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) – an R & D - Aquaculture
Technology Incubation Centre for MPEDA (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India), inviting competitive quotations from various firms for supply of chemicals, glassware and other aquaculture related materials for RGCA projects located in various parts of the Country. The list of chemical, glassware, other materials and the location of the projects are given in RGCA website: www.rgca.org.in
Last date for submission of quotations - 13-11-2019
PROJECT DIRECTOR

INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006

"ICFRE Awards for Excellence in Forestry - 2019"
Last date of receipt of Application extended to
15th December, 2019
"ICFRE Awards for Excellence in Forestry" are given for original and outstanding work/research contribution. The categories are: (a) ICFRE Personnel (Five Awards) (b) Non-ICFRE Individuals, Institutions and Organizations (Six Awards) (c) ICFRE Lifetime Achievement Award in Forestry (One Award). Detailed advertisement with guidelines and proforma is available at www.icfre.gov.in and is also available at the office of ADG (Edu. & R.B.).
Last date of receipt of application is extended to 15.12.2019
Complete application should be sent to
ADG(Education & RB)
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
P.O. New Forest, Dehra Dun - 248006, Tel: 0135-222-4850, 0135-2758348,
Fax: 0135-2758571, E-mail: adg_edu@icfre.org, rb.icfre@gmail.com

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Phone: 011-23411411, Fax: 011-23472550,
CIN: L74899DL1998PLC093073
Email: investors@petronetng.com,
Company's website: www.petronetng.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company has been scheduled on Tuesday, 29th October, 2019 at the Registered Office of the Company at World Trade Centre, Babar Road, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi-110001, inter-alia, (i) to consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter/half year ended 30th September, 2019 and (ii) to consider declaration of Special Interim Dividend on the equity shares of the Company for the financial year 2019-20.

Pursuant to the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015, Code for prevention of Insider Trading in the Securities of PLL (PLL's Code) as well as circular issued by the stock exchanges dated 2nd April, 2019, it was informed to the Stock Exchanges vide letter dated 28th June, 2019 that the Trading Window for dealing in securities of PLL would be closed, for all 'Insider' as per PLL's Code, from Tuesday, 1st October, 2019 till 48 hours after the financial results for the quarter / half year ended 30th September, 2019 would be filed with exchanges and become generally available.

In view of the above, the Trading Window for trading in PLL's securities has been closed from Tuesday, 1st October, 2019 and will remain closed till Thursday, 31st October, 2019 (both days inclusive). The Trading Window shall re-open on Friday, 1st November, 2019. Accordingly, it is requested to all the concerned (to whom the said code is applicable) not to trade in the PLL's securities during the period of closed Trading Window.

This information is also available at the website of the Company at www.petronetng.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges where the shares of the Company are listed i.e. www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com.

For Petronet LNG Limited
Sd/-
(Rajan Kapur)
CGM & Vice President-Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date: 22nd October, 2019

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**

Advertisement No.A.14011/2/2012 - I **October 21, 2019**

Applications invited for the post of Controller, SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota –reg.

Department of Space is looking for a suitable candidate for the position of Controller in **Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota**, in Level 14 of Pay Matrix (7th CPC - Joint Secretary level) (Pay Band of Rs.37,400-67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.10,000/- in 6th CPC regime) on deputation basis.

Controller will be the Administrative Head of Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh at a distance of 100 Kms from Chennai. **Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota** is the third largest centre of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) having a manpower strength of around 2200 plus employees.

Eligibility : Suitable Officers from All India Services or Central Services Group-A holding analogous posts on regular basis or 8 years service in the Junior Administrative Grade (including services, if any, in the Non Functional Selection Grade) or 17 years regular service in Group-A posts out of which at least 4 years regular service should be in Junior Administrative Grade.

Age limit : The maximum age limit for appointment by deputation shall not exceed 58 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

Educational qualifications : Graduate in any discipline from a recognised Indian University / Institution.

Experience : Experience required is in the areas of Personnel Management, General Administration, Finance, Procurement & Inventory Management in a Government / Autonomous Bodies/ Public Sector Undertakings.

Period of deputation : The period of deputation including the period of deputation in another ex-cadre post held immediately preceding this appointment in the same or some other Organisation / Department of the Central Government shall not exceed 5 years.

General Conditions / Information : Applications of only such Officers will be considered as are routed through proper channel and are accompanied with bio-data in the proforma; ACR/APAR dossier of the Officer containing upto date APARs or clear photocopies of ACR/APAR for at least last five years duly attested. Cadre clearance; clearance from vigilance and disciplinary angle; Certificate of Head of Office/Forwarding Authority and any other relevant documents along with application.

The eligible candidates who are desirous to apply for the said post, may forward the applications in the prescribed proforma through proper channel to **Shri M Ramadas, Deputy Secretary (Personnel) Government of India, Department of Space, Antariksh Bhawan, New BEL Road, Bangalore - 560 094** so as to reach latest by **30/11/2019**. For application format and other details, please visit the website of the Department **www.isro.gov.in** under the link "Careers" -> Department of Space.