

End pact with Turkish Airlines in 3 months, DGCA asks IndiGo

MUMBAI, May 30 (PTI)

AVIATION watchdog DGCA on Friday granted a one-time final extension of three months to IndiGo on damp leasing of two Boeing 777 aircraft from Turkish Airlines till August 31 to avoid sudden flight disruptions that will cause inconvenience to passengers but directed the airline to terminate the lease within the three-month period.

IndiGo has also been directed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) not to seek any further extension.

The development also comes against the backdrop of Turkey backing Pakistan and condemning India's strikes on terror camps in the neighbouring country earlier this month.

On May 15, aviation security watchdog BCAS revoked the security clearance for Turkish company Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd in the "interest of national security". Some online travel portals and associations

have also issued advisories asking people not to visit Turkiye.

Currently, IndiGo is operating two B777-300 ER aircraft under damp lease from Turkish Airlines and the current lease is to expire on May 31. These planes are used



Directorate
General of
Civil
Aviation

by IndiGo to operate direct flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday said IndiGo has been granted a "one-time last and final extension" of three months up to August 31 on the damp leasing of the two aircraft while the airline had sought a six-month extension.

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security clearance for Turkish company Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd in the "interest of national security".

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"Indigo is currently operating two B777-300ER aircraft under damp lease from Turkish Airlines, which was permitted upto 31.05.2025. Indigo requested for a further extension of the same for another six months, which was not agreed to," DGCA said in a statement. However, the regulator said that

in order to avoid passenger inconvenience due to immediate flight disruption, IndiGo has been granted a one-time last and final extension of three months upto 31.08.2025 for these damp leased aircraft.

The extension has been given "based on the undertaking from the airline that, they will terminate the damp lease with Turkish Airlines within this extension period, and shall not seek any further extension for these operations," the statement said.

'Fastest-growing eco for 4th year'

FM: Sustaining Momentum

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said India is sustaining its GDP growth momentum as the fastest-growing economy for the fourth year in a row, aided by manufacturing, services, and farm sectors.

"India is sustaining growth and it is the fastest-growing economy now for the fourth year continuously, thanks to the work of small, medium, and large industries; industries which are coming in and making sure our manufacturing capacity, our service capacity are all intact. Agriculture has also sustained us even during Covid and subsequently," Sitharaman said at

Govt is constantly working to remove regulatory difficulties and bring soft-touch regulation, which will allow people to do business without suspicion

— NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FM



India's growth is holding up in a growth-scarce environment



— V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN | CEA

the Lakshmi Pat Singhania-IIM Lucknow National Leadership Award.

She drew comfort from the industrial growth numbers, pointing out that there were fears that inadequate investment in capacity addition would impact the economy. "I'm glad, India's industry and the manufacturing activity have all been good during the fourth quarter," FM said after data was released.

Earlier, chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said the provisional estimates for FY25 were in line with the expectation of 6.5% growth, and India fared

much better than contemporary economies at a time when expansion was difficult. "India's growth is holding up in a growth-scarce environment," he said.

For the current financial year, govt has retained its outlook at 6.3-6.8%, with private consumption, especially the rural rebound, and resilient services exports as the key drivers, he said. "Food inflation remains benign due to good rabi harvest, higher summer sowing, healthy procurement, and above-normal monsoon. Exports remain robust, forex reserves provide 11 months of import co-

ver. Declining crude oil prices will potentially lower import bills, create fiscal space, and alleviate external economic pressures," he said in a presentation.

Sitharaman said govt is constantly working to remove regulatory difficulties and bring soft-touch regulation, which will allow people to do business without suspicion. "We are at that part of India's history where it just requires all of us to have confidence in our country's abilities and belief that we can definitely deliver that goal... how long more are we going to say we are a developing country. When our own people are going all over the world and working at leadership levels in various sectors. It's time for all of us to get out of the suspicion that we have in our minds, will India be able to do, will India be able to reach? Yes, we can," the minister said.

Lavrov pushes for revival of Russia-India-China troika

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

With India having resolved its 2020 border standoff with China in Ladakh, Russia is pushing India to restart the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral mechanism. Foreign minister **Sergey Lavrov** said an understanding had been reached between India and China on how to ease the situation on the border and it's time now for the revival of the RIC troika.

"I would like to confirm our genuine interest in earliest resumption of the work within the format of troika—Russia, India, China—which was established many years ago on the initiative of Yevgeny Primakov (former Russian PM), and which has organised meetings over 20 times at the ministerial level since then, not only at level of foreign policy chiefs, but also heads of other economic, trade and financial agencies of three countries," said Lavrov, speaking at a conference, as per Russia's TASS agency.

Lavrov is likely to take up the issue with Indian authorities during his upcoming visit to India. As TOI had re-



'NZ pursuing FTA with India with real intent'

New Zealand is pursuing a free trade agreement (FTA) purposefully with India for which negotiations were launched earlier this year, visiting deputy PM and foreign minister Winston Peters said Friday. Peters discussed with his counterpart S Jaishankar issues related to trade, economy, defence and security in a meeting, while unequivocally condemning the Pahalgam attack and expressing solidarity with the people of India. They affirmed their shared commitment to a free, open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Speaking at Ananta Centre in Delhi later, Peters described the FTA talks as a breakthrough in economic ties with India. Differences remain over tariffs on dairy products though and Peters said he was aware of the concerns of the dairy industry in India. TNN

ported on May 26, the Russian minister is likely to travel to India in June to finalise the agenda for the upcoming India-Russia summit that will see President Vladimir Putin visiting India for the first time since the Russia-Ukraine war started in Feb 2022.

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The Russian agency also quoted Lavrov as saying that Nato is blatantly trying to lure India into anti-China intrigues. "I have no doubts whatsoever that our Indian friends, and I say this based on confidential conversations with them, obviously see this trend that can be actually deemed as a large

provocation," Lavrov said.

India last hosted a meeting of RIC foreign ministers in a virtual mode in Nov 2021. The minister had then pledged to strengthen cooperation under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) saying the group played a const-

ructive role in securing peace and sustainable development, advancing regional cooperation and consolidating ties of good-neighbourliness and mutual trust. While India hasn't taken any decision yet on participation in the SCO summit that China will host this year, Russia is hoping PM Modi will attend the event.

Israel accepts US proposal for temporary Gaza ceasefire

Hamas gives cool response

JERUSALEM, May 30 (AP)

ISRAEL has accepted a new US proposal for a temporary ceasefire with Hamas, the White House said on Thursday. US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, expressed optimism earlier this week about brokering an agreement to halt the Israel-Hamas war and return more of the hostages captured in the attack that ignited it.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Israel "backed and supported" the new proposal.

Hamas officials gave the Israeli-approved draft a cool response, but said they wanted to study the proposal more closely before giving a formal answer.

"The Zionist response, in essence, means perpetuating the

occupation and continuing the killing and famine," Bassem Naim, a top Hamas official, told The Associated Press. He said it "does not respond to any of our people's demands, foremost among which is stopping the war and famine." Nonetheless, he said the group would study the proposal "with all national responsibility." Hamas had previously said it had agreed with Witkoff on a "general framework" of an agreement that would lead to a lasting ceasefire, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, an influx of aid, and transfer of power from militants to independent committee of Palestinians.

Israeli PM Netanyahu has refused to end the war until all the hostages are released and Hamas is either destroyed or disarmed and sent into exile.

Three new SC judges take oath

■ SC regains full working strength of 34 judges

NEW DELHI, May 30 (PTI)

CHIEF Justice of India B R Gavai on Friday administered the oath of office to Justices NV Anjaria, Vijay Bishnoi and A S Chandurkar as judges of the Supreme Court.

The CJI administered the oath to the judges at a ceremony in apex court premises.

With the swearing in of the judges, the top court will regain its full working strength of 34 judges, including the CJI.

The Supreme Court collegium



on Monday recommended the appointment of Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Anjaria, Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Bishnoi, and Bombay High Court judge Justice Chandurkar as judges of the top court.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced their appointment on X. Their names were recommended against the
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◀ CJI B R Gavai greets Justice A S Chandurkar after administering the oath of office during his swearing-in ceremony as Supreme Court judge in New Delhi. (PTI)