



Airline Turbulence

Why in News?

Recently, [Directorate General of Civil Aviation \(DGCA\)](#) has issued a show-cause notice to SpiceJet over degradation of safety margins of its aircraft.

Why do such Incidents take Place?

- **Financial Reasons:**
 - SpiceJet reported a consolidated net loss of Rs.1,259.21 crore for the nine month period ended 31st December 2021 and is yet to declare its results for the full financial year 2022.
 - This leads to situations where an airline company is not able to pay the vendors and falls short of spare parts, as most of the vendors carry out business on **“cash and carry”** basis.
- **Ignorance to Defaults:**
 - Many captains blame the **organizational culture where pilots are forced to fly despite defects being unresolved** and rules given a go-by.
 - For instance, a DGCA surprise check at a training centre in March 2022 revealed that SpiceJet was training its pilots on a simulator despite a faulty stick shaker which warns a pilot if there is an imminent fall.
 - The training was part of the return to service of the infamous **Boeing 737 MAX planes** which were grounded across the world after two air crashes.
 - The DGCA barred 90 of SpiceJet's pilots from flying the MAXs until they were re-trained.

What Do We Know About DGCA?

- It is an attached office of the **Ministry of Civil Aviation.**
- It is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation primarily dealing with safety issues.
- It is responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards.
- It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with the [International Civil Aviation Organisation.](#)

What Can the DGCA Do?

- **The Aircraft Rules 1937** empower the DGCA to **impose a fine of Rs. 1 crore**, detain any aircraft if it can lead to danger to persons in the aircraft or to any other persons or property.
- The regulator can also **suspend the airline's air operator's certificate (AOC)** which is a prerequisite for offering commercial air services in the country or curtail the airline's schedule, i.e., flights.

[Source: TH](#)

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