

“Is the time right for Regional Airlines in India.”



Weekly Learnings 12 / 2024

I flew India One Air from Jamshedpur to Bhuvaneshwar last week. The ticket price was Rs 2913 and the flight was a 60 minute flight. a road trip would have taken 6 hours and a train ticket on Tejas Raj would be Rs 1553. Normal train fare would be about Rs 300. I researched the regional airlines concept for this note.

1. Regional airlines are there in every country, USA has 11 regional airlines, Japan has 18, China has 5 and Russia more than 100.
2. India had regional airlines 30 years ago in the form of Vayudhoot, UB Air, NEPC etc but none were viable. What will change this time around?
3. Regional airlines have the same impact on consumers, trade and culture like roads have, regional television has, and mobile networks have.
4. India is investing in Air infrastructure, we have 149 airports today of which 75 were built in the last ten years, and 70 more will be built by 2030. so we will have 220 airports by 2030.
5. This plane I went in was a 9 seater with the first row right behind the pilots shoulder. There is no separation/ partition between the pilots and passengers. The seating is a bit cramped and there are no toilet facilities on board.
6. I asked the pilot if this lack of separation was a security concern and his answer was ' we have been trained for this , '
7. The plane is a Cessna 208 that has a maximum range of 2000 kms. the entry and exit is from the rear right hand side and if you see the picture there is a rod that props up the plane at the rear to avoid tilt when passengers embark or disembark.
8. India has about 700 aircraft today of which regional airlines have 32. they are Alliance Air with 21, Star Air 5, Fly Big 3 and India One Air 3. There are others like Tru jet too in AP.
9. India one Air schedule for April is to connect Cooch Behar, Vizag, Jamshedpur, KolhataJeypore,

Bhubaneswar and Kolkata. Thats an ambitious plan for April.

The capacity on ground in terms of airports is there, the need is there, the economics and business model is the challenge for all Regional Airlines.

Is the time right? Time will tell. Below are some pictures from the journey.

Shiv

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25 March 2024







Serial No. 17-34359 Flight No. 17-205 Date 24-03-24 Sector BBI SEQ No. 01 Passenger Copy	बोडिंग पास Boarding Pass PNR: EMR6VS	बोडिंग पास Boarding Pass PNR: EMR6VS ETK: Name: MR. SHIVAKUMAR.D Class: KIKSACS Origin: IXW Destination: BBI Date: 24-03-2024 Board Time: 15:00 Seat: 1A Gate: 1 BN: 1 UNMR MAAS WCHR VGML		
नाम/Name: MR. SHIVAKUMAR.D	तारीख/Date: 24-03-24	बोडिंग संख्या/Boarding No. 17-205	बोडिंग समय/Boarding Time: 15:00	गेट/Gate: 1
उड़ान संख्या /Flight No. 17-205	सीट/Seat: 1A	मूल स्थान/Origin: IXW	गंतव्य स्थान/Destination: BBI	SSR:

परिस्थान समय से 20 मिनट पहले बोडिंग गेट बंद कर दिया जाएगा. सभी यात्रियों के लिए व्यक्तिगत तलाशी और हैंड बैग की जांच अनिवार्य है।
The boarding gate will close 20 minutes prior to departure. Frisking of passenger and checking of hand baggage is mandatory for all passengers.

24 MAR 2024
India One
Jamshedpur Airport Services



BMA



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CHECK-IN BAGGAGE

Prohibited Items

Documents and forms



