L. Madhu Nag is Akashvani DG; Deepak Rajawat to head Air India Express

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News

L. Madhu Nag, a 1994-batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, took charge as Director General of Akashvani (All India Radio) on 18 November 2026 (PSU Watch, exchange4media). He was earlier Registrar of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, and has also served in the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) and Doordarshan. Separately, Air India Express, the Air India group's low-cost airline, announced on 18 November 2026 that its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Deepak Rajawat will become Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from 1 December. With over two decades in aviation and finance, he worked at Vistara from its inception and became its Chief Commercial Officer. Air India Express chairman Nipun Aggarwal said Rajawat brings valuable insight into the opportunities ahead. The airline flies about 585 daily flights to 48 domestic and 17 international destinations with 108 Boeing 737 and Airbus A320-family aircraft.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Akashvani DG	L. Madhu Nag (IIS, 1994 batch)
Earlier post	Registrar, IIMC, New Delhi
Akashvani	Radio arm of Prasar Bharati

Point	Details
AIX CEO	Deepak Rajawat (elevated from CFO)
Takes charge	1 December 2026
Earlier	Vistara – Chief Commercial Officer
AIX chairman	Nipun Aggarwal
Fleet	108 (Boeing 737, Airbus A320 family)
Network	~585 daily flights; 48 domestic, 17 international points

Background

- Radio broadcasting in India began on 23 July 1927 through the private Indian Broadcasting Company (stations at Bombay and Calcutta); in April 1930 the government's Indian State Broadcasting Service began. On 8 June 1936 it was renamed All India Radio (AIR). In 1956 it also adopted the name 'Akashvani'. Today it runs 591 stations broadcasting in 23 languages and 146 dialects (News On AIR).
- The name 'Akashvani' comes from India's first private radio station, started at Mysore by Prof. M.V. Gopalaswamy on 10 September 1935; writer N. Kasturi coined the name. The station joined AIR on 1 April 1950. Akashvani and Doordarshan function under Prasar Bharati, set up under the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990; it came into existence on 23 November 1997. The IIMC was established on 17 August 1965 under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.
- Air India traces its roots to Tata Air Services, started by J.R.D. Tata in 1932. The Air Corporations Act, 1953, nationalised the airlines and created Air India and Indian Airlines. In January 2022 Air India returned to the Tata group.
- The Tata group consolidated its airlines into two: AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) merged into Air India Express on 1 October 2024, and Vistara merged into Air India in November 2024. Air India Express began in 2005 as a low-cost service mainly to the Gulf.

Tamil Nadu link: There is no direct Tamil Nadu link in this news. Closest facts: AIR's Madras station opened in 1938 (DT Next), and the first airmail service of Tata Air Services, launched on 15 October 1932, ran Karachi–Bombay–Madras – J.R.D. Tata flew the Karachi–Bombay leg and Nevill Vintcent the Bombay–Madras leg.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

L. Madhu Nag, a 1994-batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, took charge as Director General of Akashvani (All India Radio) on 18 November 2026 (PSU Watch, exchange4media).

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Akashvani DG: L. Madhu Nag (IIS, 1994 batch); Earlier post: Registrar, IIMC, New Delhi; Akashvani: Radio arm of Prasar Bharati; AIX CEO: Deepak Rajawat (elevated from CFO).

What is the background to this news?

Radio broadcasting in India began on 23 July 1927 through the private Indian Broadcasting Company (stations at Bombay and Calcutta); in April 1930 the government's Indian State Broadcasting Service began.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. In which year was India's state broadcasting service given the name 'All India Radio'?

A) 1927

B) 1936

C) 1947

D) 1959

Answer: B – Explanation: 8 June 1936. 1927 – private Indian Broadcasting Company; 1930 – state broadcasting service; 1959 – Doordarshan's trial telecast.

2. The name 'Akashvani' came from India's first private radio station, started in 1935. In which city was it?

A) Madras

B) Bangalore

C) Hyderabad

D) Mysore

Answer: D – Explanation: Mysore – Prof. M.V. Gopalaswamy began it at his home; N. Kasturi coined the name. It joined AIR in 1950.

3. The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), where Madhu Nag was Registrar, is under which ministry?

A) Education

B) Culture

C) Info. & Broadcasting

D) Home Affairs

Answer: C – Explanation: The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting – IIMC was set up in New Delhi in 1965. Prasar Bharati also comes under this ministry.

4. Which airline, formerly AirAsia India, merged into Air India Express in October 2024?

A) Vistara

B) Alliance Air

C) Akasa Air

D) AIX Connect

Answer: D – Explanation: AIX Connect – 1 Oct 2024. Vistara (Tata–Singapore Airlines) merged into Air India in November 2024.

5. Which 1953 law nationalised India's airlines and created Air India and Indian Airlines?

A) Air Corporations Act

B) Aircraft Act

C) Airports Authority Act

D) Carriage by Air Act

Answer: A – Explanation: The Air Corporations Act, 1953 – Tata's Air India and others became state-owned. Air India went back to Tata in January 2022.

Sources: PSU Watch, 19 Nov 2026; exchange4media, 20 Nov 2026; The Week, 18 Nov 2026; News On AIR (Akashvani@90; Mysuru Akashvani 90); Business Standard (AIX Connect merger); ThePrint (Air India history); Prasar Bharati (history; Prasar Bharati Act, 1990); DT Next (AIR Chennai at 80); Tata.com (JRD). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.