MALLYA'S ACJ319 UP FOR AUCTION TO COVER TAX LIENS

News / Business aviation

A court in Mumbai, India, has ordered that an impounded Airbus **ACJ319** owned by former Kingfisher Airlines founder Vijay **Mallya** must be sold before March 1. The jet was seized three years ago by India's tax authority after Kingfisher failed to remit $28 million in service taxes collected from passengers. The ACJ, manufactured in 2006, is on a finance lease from CJ Leasing of the Cayman Islands.

According to a source close to the company, the auction is likely to take place within the next few weeks. TheACJ, registered as VT-VJM (Mallya's initials), is parked at Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport and might have suffered some corrosion, as Mumbai is fairly humid since it's located on the coast. A maintenance technician told **AIN** that airframe patches near the wing root and APU area suggest that the airplane might also have been cannibalized.

The interior, which cost $25 million and is configured for 22 passengers, is in good condition with "no fungus or fading of upholstery," the maintenance technician added.

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