

Decade after GMR's ouster, AAI to study Maldives request to run airport

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NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to study a request from the Maldives seeking assistance of Indian companies to manage its recently upgraded Hani-maadhoo International Airport.

The request comes more than a decade after the Maldives government abruptly terminated a contract with Indian infrastructure conglomerate GMR to develop the Male International Airport and evicted the company's staff from the island.

Earlier this week, the Civil Aviation Ministry wrote to the AAI saying that the request for assistance was made during the inauguration of the airport on November 9, 2025, by President Mohamed Muizzu to Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, who



A view of one of the terminals at the Ibrahim Nasir International Airport in the Maldives. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was present as a special envoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The AAI has been instructed to study the proposal for "engaging Indian companies for the management of the airport", a senior official from the Ministry told *The Hindu*.

The AAI manages 26 State government airports, in addition to owning 113 airports in the country. Thirteen AAI-owned airports are managed by priv-

ate operators such as GMR, GVK, and the Adani Group, which has seven AAI airports under its purview, apart from Navi Mumbai.

India supported the redevelopment and expansion work at the Hani-maadhoo airport that has been operational since 1986 with a \$800 million line of credit issued by EX-IM Bank of India. Redevelopment work was contracted to an Indian company, JMC Projects, at

a cost of \$136.6 million. The upgrade features a 2,465-metre runway capable of accommodating an Airbus A320 aircraft and a new passenger building designed to handle 1.3 million flyers annually. The airport has been dubbed as a catalyst for economic growth in the northern region of the Maldives as well as for enhanced global connectivity.

The Maldives's request comes over a decade after a debacle that saw GMR's ouster from the island. In November 2012, the Maldives Cabinet cancelled a deal signed with GMR in 2010 for upgrading and operating the country's biggest airport. The \$511-million deal was the country's biggest foreign investment project at the time and was declared void *ab initio* (having no legal effect from inception) with GMR given a seven-day ultimatum to leave the country.



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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

Delhi airport sees 148 flight cancellations due to low visibility

At least 148 flights were cancelled and over 150 delayed at the Delhi airport on Wednesday, due to dense fog and low visibility conditions. Two flights were diverted at the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport, which is operated by the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL). An official said 78 arrivals and 70 departures were cancelled at the airport. The civil aviation ministry in a post on X said, "Airlines have been instructed to strictly adhere to passenger service norms, including timely information, assistance during delays, rebooking or refunds where applicable, and baggage facilitation," it said.

PTI



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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DESHBANDHU

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

2026 उम्मीदों का शहर नोएडा-ग्रेटर नोएडा

शहरवासियों को मिलेगा पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट उड़ेगी पहली कमर्शियल फ्लाइट

■ नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर पहली कमर्शियल और कार्गो फ्लाइट

नोएडा, 31 दिसम्बर (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पहले फेज में एक रनवे व टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग के साथ सितम्बर 2024 में काम पूरा होने के साथ ही संचालन की तैयारी थी। एयरपोर्ट को नागर विमानन सुरदा ब्यूरो (बीसीएएस) की तरफ से सिक्योरिटी क्लीयरेंस न मिलने से महानिदेशालय नागर विमानन (डीजीसीए) ने एथेन्स लाइसेंस जारी नहीं किया। जनवरी में इसे शुरू किया जा सकता है। पहले कार्गो फिर कमर्शियल फ्लाइट उड़ान भरेगी।

बोड़ाकी तक मेट्रो को मंजूरी

इसी साल सरकार की ओर से एक्वा मेट्रो के ग्रेटर नोएडा स्थित आखिरी स्टेशन मेट्रो डिपो से बोड़ाकी तक लाइन के विस्तार की मंजूरी मिली। 2.6 किमी लंबी लाइन बिछाई जाएगी। बोड़ाकी में रेलवे जंक्शन बनना है, जिसकी कनेक्टिविटी मेट्रो से हो जाएगी। वहीं बोटैनिकल गार्डन से सेक्टर-142 और सेक्टर-61 से नॉलेज पार्क-5 तक मेट्रो संचालित करने की परियोजना को इस साल भी केंद्र से मंजूरी नहीं मिल सकी।

मिलेंगी ई बस बढ़ेगा पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट

नोएडा-ग्रेटरनोएडा में सार्वजनिक परिवहन सेवा की सुविधा इस साल मिल जाएगी। कंपनियों के लिए दोबारा टेंडर जारी होंगे। एसपीवी शासन बनाएगा। ऑन डिमांड तीनो प्राधिकरण को ई बस दी जाएगी। जिनको अलग-अलग

नोएडा में 2025 को मिला

भंगेल एलिवेटेड रोड शुरू

नोएडा सेक्टर 37 से भंगेल और सुरजपुर होते हुए ग्रेटर नोएडा का सफर आसान हो गया है। नोएडा प्राधिकरण ने नवम्बर में भंगेल में बने 4.5 किलोमीटर लंबे एलिवेटेड रोड को आवाजाही के लिए खोला। इसका निर्माण करीब पांच साल पहले शुरू हुआ था। छह लेन फ्लाईओवर को बनाने में 608 करोड़ रुपये का खर्चा आया है।

स्वच्छता में अवार्ड राष्ट्रपति से सम्मानित नोएडा

भारत सरकार के वार्षिक स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण 2024-25 में नोएडा ने एक बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल की। 3 से 10 लाख की जनसंख्या वर्ग में नोएडा को देश का सबसे स्वच्छ शहर घोषित किया गया है। इसके साथ ही शहर को गोलडन सिटी अवार्ड से नवाजा गया है। यह सम्मान पाने वाला नोएडा उत्तर प्रदेश और एनसीआर का इकलौता शहर है। राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने नोएडा प्राधिकरण को यह अवार्ड प्रदान किया।

मनोरंजन जंगल ट्रेल शुरू

सेक्टर-94 में महामाया फ्लाईओवर के पास 18.27 एकड़ में वेस्ट टू वंडर थीम पार्क को दिसम्बर में शुरू हुआ। कबाड़ से बने इस जंगल में 650 से अधिक जानवर और पक्षियों की आकृतियां बनीं हैं। 25 करोड़ की लागत में बने जंगल ट्रेल में अब ये कबाड़ हाथी, शेर, जिराफ, पेंगुइन, शार्क बनकर जंगल में खड़े हैं। इसे कबाड़ से बनाया गया

रूटों पर चलाया जाएगा। हालांकि ये बस सेवा इसी साल चलनी थी।

नोएडा को मिलेगा पहला स्काईवॉक

नोएडा के सेक्टर 62 में स्काईवॉक 530 मीटर लंबा और चार मीटर चौड़ा होगा। यह स्काईवॉक माडल टाउन गोल चक्कर के चारों तरफ जीरो आकार का होगा। इसको दिल्ली-मेरठ एक्सप्रेस वे पर खोड़ कालोनी की तरफ बने एफओबी को जोड़कर जीरो के आकार में बनाते हुए छिजारसी की तरफ बनाया जाएगा। इसे बनाने में करीब 43 करोड़ रुपये की लागत खर्च होगी। छह महीने में यह बनकर तैयार होगा।

चिल्ला एलिवेटेड का निर्माण जारी

दिल्ली-नोएडा बार्डर से महामाया फ्लाईओवर तक यातायात जाम

कम करना के उद्देश्य से नोएडा प्राधिकरण चिल्ला रेगुलेटर से शहदरा ड्रेन के किनारे 5.5 किलोमीटर लंबा छह लेन का चिल्ला एलिवेटेड रोड का निर्माण करा रहा है। दिसम्बर 2027 से पहले एलिवेटेड रोड पर वाहन फर्टाटा भर सकते हैं। यह मयूर विहार और पूर्वी दिल्ली से आने वाले वाहनों को सीधा नोएडा-ग्रेटर नोएडा एक्सप्रेस वे तक पहुंचाएगी। 892 करोड़ की लागत से चिल्ला एलिवेटेड रोड का निर्माण किया जा रहा है।

नोएडा- ग्रेटरनोएडा को मिलेगी नई कनेक्टिविटी

एलजी गोलवक्कर से शारदा विश्वविद्यालय होते हुए नोएडा ग्रेटर नोएडा एक्सप्रेस वे तक लिंक रोड की योजना है। नमोली गांव के पास टीसीटीज कंपनी की जमीन के कुछ हिस्से पर विवाद है।

कंपनी का कहना है कि जितनी जमीन प्राधिकरण ले रहा है, उतनी ही जमीन कहीं और उपलब्ध कराई जाए। हालांकि यहां हिंडन ग्रिज, नोएडा की एप्रोव रोड पूरी हो चुकी है। ये एलजी चौक से नोएडा के सेक्टर-145 तक है।

गौर चौक अंडरपास से जाम नहीं लगेगा

गौर चौक पर अंडरपास का निर्माण 92 करोड़ रुपये से हो रहा है। इसी डेडलाइन पहले जून 2025 थी, फिर इसे बढ़ाकर दिसम्बर किया गया। अब इस अंडरपास को बनने में अभी और छह महीने लगेगे। प्राधिकरण के मुताबिक विजली, पीएनजी, की लाइन शिफ्ट करने के साथ ही पेड़ों को भी शिफ्ट करने में समय अधिक लग रहा है। अब जनवरी 2026 में निर्माण पूरा होगा। इससे शुरू होने से गौर चौक पर जाम से राहत मिलेगी।

नोएडा को मिलेगा एडमिस्ट्रेशन ऑफिस

सेक्टर-96 में नोएडा प्राधिकरण की प्रशासनिक बिल्डिंग का निर्माण पूरा हो गया है। इसे 390 करोड़ में बनाया गया है। इसके बनने से प्राधिकरण के सभी रीजनल ऑफिस को इसमें शिफ्ट कर दिया जाएगा। जिससे लोगों को एक ही छत के नीचे सभी काम हो सकेंगे।

स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स का निर्माण नोएडा में सेक्टर-123 में स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स का निर्माण हो जाएगा। इसका निर्माण 70 करोड़ में किया जाएगा। खेलो इंडिया खेलों की प्रतिभा बढ़ाने के लिए इसका निर्माण किया जाएगा।



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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

31 DECEMBER 2025

KIA posts 5,904 metric tonnes of coriander trade this season

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has posted 13% rise in coriander trade this season.

During the June-November 2025 season, the airport handled 5,904 metric tonnes of coriander, a 13% increase year-on-year.

This season saw movement across 22 domestic destinations, with notable growth in shipments from northern and central markets. Lucknow, Varanasi, and Jaipur, in particular, recorded a significant volume increase, the airport stated.

Kolkata accounted for the

highest share of coriander traffic, followed by Delhi, Bagdogra, Ranchi, and Patna, it stated.

The airport also facilitated movement to five more domestic destinations — Agartala, Agra, Nagpur, Amritsar, and Port Blair.

“The season’s agri-cargo volumes reflect evolving demand patterns and expanding domestic linkages, while reinforcing BLR Airport’s role in facilitating efficient, scalable agri-cargo operations to support India’s growing agricultural trade,” the statement said.



Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport. DH FILE

कोहरे से 148 उड़ानें रद्द, परेशान रहे यात्री

आइजीआइ पर 350 से अधिक उड़ानें घंटों रहीं विलंबित

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली समेत एनसीआर में घने कोहरे ने नए साल की पूर्व संध्या पर हवाई यातायात की कमर तोड़ दी है। आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर बुधवार को दृश्यता शून्य के करीब पहुंचने से हजारों यात्रियों का नए साल का सफर दुःस्वप्न में बदल गया। कड़के की ठंड और घने कोहरे के कारण बुधवार को 148 उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं, जबकि 350 से अधिक उड़ानें घंटों विलंबित रहीं। बुधवार को इंडिगो, एअर इंडिया और स्पाइसजेट जैसी प्रमुख एयरलाइंस के यात्री टर्मिनल के अंदर घंटों फंसे रहे, जिससे भारी भीड़ और अफरा-तफरी का माहौल बना रहा।



आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर बुधवार सुक 50 मीटर थी दृश्यता • इंटरनेट मीडिया

इंटरनेट मीडिया पर फूटा यात्रियों का गुस्सा: उड़ानों में देरी और रद्द होने से परेशान यात्रियों ने इंटरनेट मीडिया पर अपना दर्द साझा किया। अमित अरोड़ा नामक यूजर ने अपनी बेबसी जाहिर करते हुए लिखा, 150 उड़ानें रद्द, दिल्ली से हमारे नए साल के जश्न के सारे प्लान अब खत्म हो चुके हैं। वहीं, आर्यन गाला नामक यूजर ने इंडिगो एयरलाइंस को टैग करते हुए अपनी परेशानी बताई। उन्होंने लिखा कि दिल्ली टर्मिनल-1 पर उनकी फ्लाइट (6ई 6758) तीसरी बार शाम पांच बजे हो गई। उन्होंने गुहार लगाई कि रांची में रात आठ बजे उनका शो है, जिसके मिस होने का डर है।

धार्मिक और पर्यटन स्थलों पर जाने वाले श्रद्धालु वेहाल: रद्द की गई 70 प्रस्थान उड़ानों में अधिकांश उत्तर भारत के प्रमुख पर्यटन केंद्रों के लिए थीं। इनमें अमृतसर, काशी (वाराणसी), अवोध्या, कटरा और

जैसे धार्मिक स्थलों पर जाने वाले श्रद्धालुओं की संख्या अधिक है, जो नए साल पर दर्शन-पूजन के लिए निकले थे। लेकिन नये साल पर

उनका अपने अराध्य के दर्शन का सपना अधूरा रह गया। ज्ञात हो कि कोहरे के कारण पिछले तीन दिनों में दिल्ली में कुल 394 उड़ानें रद्द हो

चुकी हैं। इस दौरान दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर लगाया गया कैट 3 सिस्टम भी बेअसर साबित हो रहा है। बुधवार सुबह भी रनवे पर दृश्यता पर 50

से 100 मीटर तक गिर गई। दृश्यता इतनी कम थी कि अत्याधुनिक कैट 3 लैंडिंग सिस्टम के बावजूद उड़ानों का संचालन संभव नहीं हो सका।

कोहरे के चलते पंजाब से वापस लौटा हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से उड़ा विमान

जासं, गाजियाबाद: कोहरे की वजह से हवाई यात्रा करने वाले लोग लगातार परेशानी झेल रहे हैं। बुधवार को हिंडन एयरपोर्ट सिविल टर्मिनल से स्टार एयर का विमान पंजाब के आदमपुर रवाना हुआ। विमान की दृश्यता कम होने पर वहां उतरने की अनुमति नहीं मिल सकी। विमान कंपनी ने हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर उतरे यात्रियों को बस से आदमपुर भेजा। इसके अलावा कोलकाता के लिए हिंडन से

जाने और कोलकाता से आने वाली इंडिगो की उड़ान रद्द रही।

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट प्राधिकरण के निदेशक डा. चितका महेश ने बताया कि आदमपुर के लिए जाने वाली फ्लाइट में 72 यात्री थे। करीब ढाई बजे विमान ने यहां से उड़ान भरी थी। ढाई घंटे बाद विमान यात्रियों को लेकर वापस लौटा। 30 यात्रियों को कंपनी ने बस से आदमपुर भेजा है। बाकी ने टिकट रद्द करा दी। मुंबई की उड़ान आधा घंटे की देरी से रवाना हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

नए साल की पूर्व संध्या में एयरपोर्ट पर परेशान रहे यात्री, 148 उड़ानें रद्द

टीम जागरण, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली समेत एनसीआर में घने कोहरे ने नए साल की पूर्व संध्या में हवाई यातायात की कमर तोड़ दी है। इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आइजीआई) एयरपोर्ट पर बुधवार को दृश्यता शून्य के करीब पहुंचने से हजारों यात्रियों का नए साल का सफर दुःस्वप्न में बदल गया। कड़के की ठंड और घने कोहरे के कारण बुधवार को 148 उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं, जबकि 350 से अधिक उड़ानें घंटों विलंबित रहीं।

साल के अंतिम दिन इतनी बड़ी संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द होने से उन यात्रियों की झुट्टियों का आनंद फीका पड़ गया, जो अपने परिवार के साथ धार्मिक और पर्यटन स्थलों पर जश्न मनाने के लिए निकले थे। बुधवार को इंडिगो, एयर इंडिया और स्पाइसजेट जैसी प्रमुख एयरलाइंस के यात्री टर्मिनल के अंदर घंटों फंसे रहे, जिसे भारी भीड़ और अफरा-तफरी का माहौल बना रहा। अब इन यात्रियों को पर्यटन स्थलों के बजाय एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल के ठंडे फर्श और बेंचों पर बैठकर उड़ान का इंतजार करना पड़ रहा है।

इंटरनेट मीडिया पर फूटा यात्रियों का गुस्सा : उड़ानें में देरी और रद्द होने से परेशान यात्रियों ने इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर अपना दर्द साझा

कोहरे के चलते 148 उड़ानें रद्द, प्रस्थान वाली 70 उड़ानों में अधिकांश प्रमुख पर्यटन केंद्रों पर जाने वाली

किया। अमित अरोड़ा नामक यूजर ने अपनी ब्रेबसी जाहिर करते हुए लिखा, 150 उड़ानें रद्द, दिल्ली से हमारे नए साल के जश्न के सारे प्लान अब खत्म हो चुके हैं।

धार्मिक और पर्यटन स्थलों पर जाने वाले श्रद्धालु वेहाल : रद्द की गई 70 प्रस्थान उड़ानों में अधिकांश उत्तर भारत के प्रमुख पर्यटन केंद्रों के लिए थीं। इनमें अमृतसर, काशी (वाराणसी), अयोध्या, कटरा और मथुरा जैसे धार्मिक स्थलों पर जाने वाले श्रद्धालुओं की संख्या अधिक है, जो नए साल पर दर्शन-पूजन के लिए निकले थे। लेकिन नये साल पर उनका अपने अराध्य के दर्शन का सपना अधूरा रह गया। ज्ञात हो कि कोहरे के कारण पिछले तीन दिनों में दिल्ली में कुल 394 उड़ानें रद्द हो चुकी हैं।

पहाड़ों में शीतलहर तो मैदानों में कोहरे का प्रकोप : कश्मीर के उच्च पर्वतीय इलाकों में रुक-रुक कर बर्फबारी जारी रही, लेकिन उत्तराखंड में इंद्रदेव की बेस्वखी से इस बार शीतकाल में वर्षा-बर्फबारी का इंतजार बढ़ता जा रहा है। पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में शीतलहर तो उत्तर भारत के मैदानी क्षेत्रों में भीषण कोहरे के प्रकोप बना हुआ है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

Delhi airport sees 148 flight cancellations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, December 31

AT LEAST 148 flights were cancelled and over 150 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport on Wednesday due to dense fog and low visibility conditions.

Two flights were diverted at the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which is operated by the Delhi International Airport (DIAL). An official said 78 arrivals and 70 departures were cancelled at the airport.

In a post on X in the morning, DIAL said visibility at the airport is improving but a few flights may still be affected.

The airport's on-ground officials are working closely with all stakeholders to assist passengers and provide necessary support across terminals, it added.

Adani-run airport blocking mobile infra: telcos

Jagriti Chandra
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Telecom companies are sparring with the Adani Group and have sought the Centre's intervention over the latter's refusal to grant "right of way" (RoW) at the recently opened Navi Mumbai airport for deploying infrastructure to provide cellular services to air travellers, alleging "monopolistic arrangements" by the airport operator which has deployed an in-building network and has sought from telcos "extortionary charges" that "undermine competition and consumer choice".

Earlier a picture went viral on social media of a public display board at the Navi Mumbai airport informing passengers that mobile signals for Airtel,



Monopoly move: The Navi Mumbai International Airport operator has sought nearly ₹92 lakh per month per telecom company. PTI

Vodafone and Jio may not be available at the airport and they could use the free airport Wi-Fi.

The airport operator has countered charges from telcos, and said that as the airport was a sensitive zone, frequent servicing, maintenance and upkeep of the infrastructure was best managed by it,

and, therefore, it had opted for In Building Solution (IBS) infrastructure.

"The Navi Mumbai International Airport Limited has declined to grant the necessary permissions and directed telecom service providers (TSPs) to mandatorily utilise a network deployed by it, at exorbitant and commercially untenable

charges," the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) said in a statement.

It has written to the Department of Telecommunication seeking its intervention on the matter.

The airport operator has sought nearly ₹92 lakh per month per operator, aggregating to nearly ₹44.16 crore per annum for four operators.

Public entity

The COAI has demanded that as the airport qualifies as a public entity as per the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 the airport operator is statutorily obligated to grant Right of Way (RoW) permission in a "non-discriminatory and time-bound manner" for the installa-

tion of telecommunication infrastructure.

It further states that the Navi Mumbai International Airport Limited has conferred upon itself exclusive RoW rights under the guise of being a "neutral host" and asserted that such a grant of exclusive RoW or creation of "monopolist arrangements" for provision of RoW for the purpose of building the telecommunication network were not permissible under the law.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi remarked about this controversy on X and wrote, "Here comes the business of profit mafia. My way or the highway for public infrastructure? Should government agencies have not ensured that the airport operator ensure connectivity and passenger convenience?"

एयरपोर्ट पर भी दिखा असर, 150 उड़ानें रद्द

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

2025 के आखिरी दिन दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट आने-जाने वाली 150 उड़ानें रद्द हुईं। लगातार दूसरे हफ्ते दिल्ली में फ्लाइट्स कैसल और लेट होने के साथ डाइवर्ट हो रही हैं, जिससे यात्री काफी परेशान हो रहे हैं। कई लोगों के तय काम भी कैसल हुए हैं। बुधवार को इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट आने वाली 79

इनके अलावा दो फ्लाइट्स का रूट भी बदला गया

फ्लाइट्स रद्द हुईं तो दिल्ली से जाने वाली 71 फ्लाइट्स कैसल हुईं। इनके अलावा दो एयरक्राफ्ट का रूट भी बदला गया और 150 से ज्यादा फ्लाइट्स लेट हुईं। दिल्ली समेत पूरी नॉर्थ दिल्ली में छाए घने कोहरे का असर

दो हफ्तों से उड़ानों पर पड़ रहा है। इस हफ्ते 29 दिसंबर को 128, 30 दिसंबर को 118 तो 31 दिसंबर को 150 उड़ानें रद्द हुईं। ज्यादातर उड़ानें तड़के और सुबह कैसल हुईं, जब विजिबिलिटी सिर्फ 50 मीटर थी। सुबह 8 बजे तक विजिबिलिटी बहुत कम रही, तो CAT 3 कंडिशन में उड़ानों का संचालन हुआ। इसके बाद धीरे-धीरे विजिबिलिटी में कुछ सुधार हुआ, हालांकि एयरक्राफ्ट्स की लैंडिंग और टैकऑफ पर असर जारी रहा और उड़ानें कैसल होती रही या लेट होती रही। दोपहर बाद स्थिति सामान्य की ओर जानी लगी। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन ने बताया कि



कि कोहरे की वजह से सुबह कम CAT 3 कंडिशन (जब रनवे विजुअल रेंज 300 मीटर से भी नीचे या लगभग शून्य की विजिबिलिटी की स्थिति पर) पर उड़ानें संचालित की गईं।

बुधवार को एयर इंडिया, इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट की कई फ्लाइट्स कैसल हुईं, जिनमें दिल्ली से लेह, जामनगर, बागडोगरा, श्रीनगर, चेन्नै समेत कई शहरों की उड़ानें थीं। कुछ एयरलाइंस ने भी यात्रियों को अलर्ट कर कहा कि यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और लंबे इंतजार से बचने के लिए उड़ानें रद्द की गई हैं, यात्री एयरपोर्ट निकलने से पहले अपनी फ्लाइट्स जरूर जांच लें। एयरलाइंस का कहना है कि उड़ानों के समय बदलने या रद्द होने पर मैसेज भेजे जा रहे हैं। वहीं, एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन ने कहा कि ग्राउंड टीम यात्रियों को खाने-पीने समेत जरूरी सुविधा दे रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

31 DECEMBER 2025

At ₹275, KIA now rolls out 'premium pick-up'

Nithya.Mandyam
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced 'premium pick-up zone' for arrivals at Terminal 1, offering an additional option for faster kerbside exits. The new facility came into effect on Sunday.

The airport has set the pick-up charge at Rs 275 for the first 10 minutes, with additional Rs 150 for every subsequent five minutes.

Located opposite T1 departures, the facility is designed for corporate and hotel cabs, including commercial

vehicles with yellow and green number plates and adds to the existing arrival pick-up options available at the P3 and P4 parking areas.

Airport officials say the facility is aimed at easing congestion at existing pick-up points and are meant for passengers who prefer direct kerbside access.

Frequent flyers, in the past, have raised concerns about increasing costs associated with accessing terminal infrastructure, while taxi operators have flagged the impact of timed charges on delays caused by passenger movement or baggage issues.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

■ 'Transfers, postings of staff internal decisions' Why Dreamliners operated despite snags? DGCA to AI

Mumbai, Dec. 31: Aviation watchdog DGCA has sought an explanation from Air India for operating a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner despite repetitive technical snags, according to sources. In a show-cause notice issued this week, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has flagged snags pertaining to Dreamliner VT-ANI.

Non-compliance with the Minimum Equipment List (MEL) for the flight operated on June 28 this year has also been mentioned in the notice.

According to sources, the regulator has flagged that there were safety concerns related to aircraft dispatch, MEL compliance and flight crew decision-making during the

▶ **AMONG OTHER** aspects, regulator has mentioned that aircraft was operated despite prior knowledge of snags and existing system degradations

operation of flights AI 258 and AI 357.

While details about the dates of operations for these flights could not be immediately ascertained, these flights operate on the Delhi-Tokyo route.

Among other aspects, the regulator has mentioned that the aircraft was operated despite prior knowledge of repeated snags and existing system degradations, the sources said.

There was no comment

from Air India.

It was also not immediately clear whether the aircraft VT-ANI is out of operation now.

Meanwhile, the DGCA said officers' transfers and postings are internal administrative decisions and that any speculation regarding such transfers is misleading and unfounded.

While DGCA did not mention any specific instance, the statement comes against the backdrop of the regulator divesting Ravinder Jamwal of the additional charge of the Flight Standards Directorate earlier this month. Mr Jamwal was in charge of FDTL norms and FDTL schemes of the airlines, sources had said. — PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

तकनीकी खराबी के बावजूद बोइंग उड़ा रहा एअर इंडिया, डीजीसीए ने मांगा स्पष्टीकरण

मुंबई। नागर विमानन नियामक (डीजीसीए) ने बार-बार तकनीकी खामियां सामने आने के बावजूद एअर इंडिया की ओर से बोइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान उड़ाने पर कड़ा रुख अपनाया है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, डीजीसीए ने इस मामले में एअर इंडिया को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी कर स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है।

डीजीसीए की ओर से इस सप्ताह जारी कारण बताओ नोटिस में ड्रीमलाइनर विमान चीटी-एनआई से जुड़ी कई तकनीकी खराबियों का जिक्र किया गया है। साथ ही 28 जून, 2025 को संचालित एक उड़ान के दौरान न्यूनतम उपकरण सूची (एमईएल) के पालन में कमी को भी रेखांकित किया गया है। डीजीसीए ने उड़ान संख्या एआई-258 और एआई-357 के

ड्रीमलाइनर विमान में बार-बार आई खराबियों को लेकर नियामक की सख्ती

संचालन में विमान सुरक्षा, एमईएल अनुपालन और फ्लाइट कू के निर्णय लेने को लेकर गंभीर चिंताएं जताईं।

दोनों उड़ानें आमतौर पर दिल्ली-टोक्यो रूट पर संचालित होती हैं। इन उड़ानों की सही तारीखों की पुष्टि नहीं हो सकी है। डीजीसीए ने यह भी कहा कि विमान को पहले से मौजूद तकनीकी समस्याओं और सिस्टम में गिरावट की जानकारी होने के बावजूद उड़ाया गया, जो सुरक्षा मानकों के खिलाफ है। इस पूरे मामले पर एअर इंडिया की ओर से कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं आई है। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

फ्लाइट में दो महिला क्रू से अभद्रता...हंगामा, इमरजेंसी गेट खोलने का भी प्रयास

इंदौर। इंदौर एयरपोर्ट पर इंडिगो की एक फ्लाइट में एक यात्री की ओर से महिला क्रू मेंबर और अन्य यात्रियों के साथ बदतमीजी करने का मामला सामने आया है। यात्री ने इमरजेंसी गेट खोलने का प्रयास भी किया। क्रू मेंबर की शिकायत पर पुलिस ने आरोपी के खिलाफ प्रकरण दर्ज किया है।



मामला सोमवार रात का बताया जा रहा है, जब इंडिगो की फ्लाइट नंबर 6ई-6002 इंदौर एयरपोर्ट पर खड़ी थी। इसी दौरान सीट नंबर 29 पर बैठे यात्री ने दो महिला क्रू मेंबर यात्री और रिया के साथ अभद्र व्यवहार शुरू कर दिया। महिला क्रू मेंबर ने ड्यूटी ऑफिसर शरीफ कुरैशी को बुलाकर घटना की जानकारी दी। मौके पर पहुंचने पर यात्री ने कहा कि फ्लाइट पहले ही दो घंटे लेट है और वह अब फ्लाइट से उतरना चाहता है। समझाने के प्रयास पर यात्री गाली-गलौज करने लगा। व्यंग्य



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

IndiGo expects to close 2025 with 123 m passengers

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Airline major IndiGo on Wednesday said it expects to ferry around 123 million (12.3 crore) passengers in calendar year 2025.

The airline ferried 113 million (11.3 crore) passengers in the previous calendar year, while about 100 million passengers used its services in 2023.

"Flying more than one million customers every three days, the airline expects to welcome over 123 million customers and transport more than 55,000 tonnes of cargo in the calendar year 2025," the airline said. Notably, the carrier operated an average of over 2,200 flights per day.

As per the airline, the operating environment in 2025

presented periods of industry-wide challenges, including IndiGo's major operational disruption between December 3 and December 5.

However, the airline said it rapidly restored its network and operations to normal and continues to focus on strengthening its operational processes and resilience.

Meanwhile, IndiGo said it is fully collaborating with the regulator's committee and providing the information sought.

TAKING STOCK

Besides, IndiGo Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers said the airline had taken stock of the operational challenges faced in 2025, as well as the learnings gained from those experiences.

According to Elbers, the New Year offers an opportunity to reflect on the pro-



FLYING HIGH. The airline ferried 113 m passengers in 2024, while about 100 m passengers used its flight services in 2023

gress made and learn from the operational challenges encountered.

He further said that the airline had progressed across customers, product, domestic and international network, cargo, maintenance, repair and overhaul, and India's hub functions.

Furthermore, Elbers said that after laying the building blocks of the airline's strategy "Towards New Heights and Across New Frontiers", 2025 witnessed IndiGo taking strides in ex-

ecuting this strategy and moving into the next phase of growth to become a global-scale airline.

Looking ahead, IndiGo said that anchored with a sharper focus on future growth, the airline plans to induct India's first Airbus A321XLR, launch non-stop services to Athens and continue its international expansion in the New Year, while densifying its domestic network.

The airline added that learnings from the year gone

by will help enhance operational reliability and remain aligned with its stated strategy.

FLEET STRATEGY

In addition, IndiGo said that in 2025, it reinforced its long-term fleet strategy by doubling its order for Airbus A350-900 wide-body aircraft to 60. Apart from this, it made progress in long-haul operations during the year by launching non-stop flights connecting India with Manchester and Amsterdam, followed by services to Copenhagen and London.

Over the year, IndiGo launched 10 international destinations and 30 international routes.

These long-haul operations were enabled through the induction of wide-body Boeing 787-9 aircraft in partnership with Norse Atlantic Airways.

नए साल की शुरुआत ठंड और कोहरे के साथ कम दृश्यता के कारण 148 उड़ान रद्द

दिल्ली में नए साल की शुरुआत कड़के की ठंड के साथ हो रही है। गुरुवार को हल्की वर्षा होने की भी संभावना है। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में बुधवार को न्यूनतम तापमान 6.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया, जो सामान्य से 0.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस कम है। कोहरे के कारण दिनभर सूर्य दिखाई नहीं दिया। कम दृश्यता की वजह से दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से लगभग 148 उड़ान रद्द की गईं।

मौसम विभाग के वैज्ञानिक डॉ. नरेश कुमार ने बताया कि बुधवार को घने कोहरे के कारण शहर के सफदरजंग में सुबह 6:30 से 7:30 बजे के बीच दृश्यता सबसे कम 50 मीटर दर्ज की गई, जो बाद में सुबह आठ बजे तक बढ़कर 100 मीटर हो गई। पालम में तड़के चार बजे से



दिल्ली में सुबह घना कोहरा छाया

सुबह 7:30 बजे के बीच दृश्यता 50 मीटर तक कम रही।

इस कारण नई दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर कम से कम 148 उड़ान रद्द कर दी गईं, जबकि 150 से अधिक में देर हुई। दो उड़ान का मार्ग परिवर्तित किया गया।

भाषा



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

DGCA asks Air India to explain operation of flight despite snags

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sought an explanation from Air India for operating a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner despite repetitive technical snags, according to sources. In a show-cause notice issued this week, the DGCA flagged snags pertaining to Dreamliner VT-ANI. Non-compliance with the Minimum Equipment List (MEL) for the flight operated on June 28 this year has also been mentioned in the notice. According to sources, the regulator has flagged that there were safety concerns related to aircraft dispatch, among other issues.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

A-I, IndiGo unveil plans for 2026

Two major domestic carriers Air India and IndiGo on Wednesday unveiled their plans for 2026 with Tata group-owned Air India saying that the first two Boeing 787-8 from its legacy fleet with full interior-refit will re-enter services in February and IndiGo announcing that it is all set to induct its first Airbus A321XLR in 2026.

IndiGo, which earlier this month cancelled thousands of flights and caused severe hardships to lakhs of passengers across airports, also said the "learnings" from the year gone by enables it to enhance its operational reliability, among others.

"The full interior refit of our legacy widebody fleet, including new seats and entertainment systems, with the first two 787s re-entering service in February and two more each month thereafter," Air India Chief Commercial Officer Nipun Aggarwal said in a letter to the airline's loyalty programme, Maharaj Club members.

Six brand-new wide-body aircraft, comprising 787s and A350s, will also arrive, and the refit of Air India's 777 fleet will commence, he said.

By the end of 2026, nearly 65 per cent of the airline's widebody fleet and over 50 per cent of its international services will feature modern, top-of-the-line cabins, he added. Aggarwal also said Air India's new flagship international lounge at Delhi Airport will open in early 2026, followed by a new lounge at San Francisco International Airport.

"We'll also commence work on an upgrade of the New York JFK lounge and a new domestic lounge at Delhi," he said.

The operating environment presented periods of industry-wide challenges this year, including IndiGo's major operational disruption, "regrettably impacting the airline's valued customers for which IndiGo has profusely apologised", the airline said. The airline rapidly restored its network and operations to normal and continues to focus on further strengthening its operational processes and resilience, it added. 071



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

IndiGo Sets Sights on Stability, to Expand Select Routes in 2026

Our Bureau

Mumbai: IndiGo said on Wednesday it will head into 2026 with a limited set of confirmed international launches and a stated focus on "operational reliability", as the airline looks to "stabilise operations" after disruptions and add capacity, it said.

India's largest airline said it is set to launch non-stop services to Athens starting January 23, 2026, a route that will also mark "the international debut of India's first Airbus A321XLR". The aircraft type is expected to play a role in opening new international markets as IndiGo expands beyond short-haul flying.

Apart from Athens, the airline has not announced additional destinations or capacity plans for 2026. IndiGo said it will continue international expansion in the new year, while densifying its domestic network, without outlining timelines or scale.

Closer home, on the domestic si-

de, IndiGo said it is preparing to commence operations from Noida International Airport (Jewar) in due course.

On operational stability IndiGo's outlook followed a major network disruption between December 3 and 5. The airline said it rapidly restored its network and operations to normal.

IndiGo also said it is "fully collaborating and providing requested information to the regulator's committee," refer-

ring to the review being conducted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

While the airline reiterated its long-term fleet and growth ambitions, including widebody aircraft orders, the forward-looking commentary remains measured. IndiGo said its renewed focus will drive further scale, innovation, and impact across new frontiers.

Indigo is set to launch non-stop services to Athens from Jan 23 and open new international markets



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

DGCA seeks explanation from Air India



AVIATION WATCHDOG
DGCA has sought an explanation from Air India for operating a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner despite repetitive technical snags, according to sources. In a show-cause notice issued this week, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has flagged snags pertaining to Dreamliner VT-ANI.

IndiGo: Expect to close 2025 with 123 mn passengers

INDIGO ON WEDNESDAY said that it expects to carry 10 million more passengers to reach 123 million this year. According to IndiGo, it has rapidly restored its network and operations to normal, and continues to focus on further strengthening its operational processes and resilience.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

31 DECEMBER 2025

Shankh Airlines to begin ops in Jan

PTI
LUCKNOW

Shankh Airlines is likely to begin flight operations in the first half of January with an initial fleet of three Airbus aircraft, focusing on connecting Lucknow with Delhi, Mumbai and other metro cities, Chairman Shравan Kumar Vishwakarma said on Tuesday.

The airline will also operate flights to destinations across Uttar Pradesh in its first phase, Vishwakarma said, adding that two more aircraft are expected to join the fleet within the next one-and-a-half months.

"At present, the fleet size is limited, but as it grows, we will cover the entire country," he said, noting that international

operations are planned for 2028 or 2029. The 35-year-old entrepreneur said Shankh Airlines' core objective is to make air travel accessible to middle-class passengers and first-time flyers, and to break the perception that flying is a luxury.

"An aircraft is just a means of transport, like a bus or a tempo. It should not be seen as something exclusive," he said.

Recalling the airline's origin, Vishwakarma said the idea of entering the aviation sector came to him about four years ago. "Once the thought struck me, I began understanding the process, how to get the NOC, what are the rules and how the system works. What started as an idea four years ago has now taken shape," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

31 DECEMBER 2025

INDIGO FACES ₹458 CRORE GST PENALTY

IndiGo on Tuesday said authorities have slapped a GST penalty of over Rs 458 crore, and that it would contest the decision. The Additional Commissioner of CGST- Delhi South Commissionerate has slapped the penalty. It pertains to the assessment order under Section 74 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, for FY-2018-19 to FY 2022-23, according to a regulatory filing.

The total GST penalty is Rs 458,26,16,980.

"GST department has passed an order imposing GST demand along with interest and penalty on compensation received from foreign supplier and denial of Input Tax credit. The company strongly believes that the order passed by the GST department is erroneous and not in accordance with law, backed by advice from external tax advisors.

-PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

31 DECEMBER 2025

DHRUV TAKES OFF

HAL made multi-role helicopter Dhruv takes flight, minister hails India's capability

NT Correspondent
BENGALURU

Marking a milestone in the country's indigenous aerospace manufacturing, the next generation, multi-role civil helicopter Dhruv NG, billed as an alternative to imported light twin-engine helicopters, made its maiden flight on Tuesday here.

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu flagged off the HAL-made helicopter and called it a symbol of the country's capability.

The minister also performed aarti and participated in the puja before the flight inaugural ceremony.

Designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to meet the requirements of the civil aviation market, the helicopter boasts of modern fea-

tures in terms of ride quality as well as safety, according to officials. It includes a world-class civil-certified glass cockpit and a modern avionics suite for superior situational awareness, they said.

Dhruv NG, a sophisticated 5.5-tonne, light twin-engine helicopter engineered to master the diverse and demanding requirements of the Indian terrain is specifically upgraded to meet the rigorous demands of the global civil aviation market, they said.

Addressing a gathering after witnessing the inaugural flight, Naidu said the event marked a "very important milestone in Indian aviation history" and congratulated the entire HAL workforce, from designers and engineers to technicians, for the achievement.



He said HAL had long functioned like a bicycle with one dominant wheel—defence, but was now evolving into a balanced organisation riding on two equal wheels—defence and civil aviation.

"This is an especially proud moment for me as the civil aviation minister," he said, adding that the development reflected India's growing con-

confidence in indigenous aerospace manufacturing.

He emphasised that the Dhruv-NG was not just a machine but a symbol of India's capability, confidence and commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

Naidu recalled inspecting the aircraft at Aero India earlier this year and expressed satisfaction that the

long-awaited inaugural flight had been completed within a year.

Before its take-off from HAL here, the minister joined the pilot in the cockpit to gain first hand insight into the helicopter's advanced systems and features.

He also termed the handing over of the type certificate by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the indigenous Shakti engine as a "defining moment" for the civil aviation sector.

"With its state-of-the-art avionics and best-in-class powerful engine, the Dhruv NG has emerged as a platform for several domestic operators. I am pleased to note that a contract for the supply of 10 helicopters to Pawan Hans for deployment with ONGC is also under finalisation," Naidu said.

The Government of Karnataka is also showing keen interest, and the Border Security Force has also expressed interest in acquiring these helicopters, he added.

"It is estimated that we will add over 1,000 helicopters in the next 10 to 15 years, enabled by the regional connectivity UDAN scheme, driven by the Prime Minister's mission to make aviation more inclusive, democratic and impactful," he added.

Speaking about the helicopter, HAL Chairman and Managing Director D K Sunil said the engine has been built by HAL and has gone through a formal civil certification procedure.

"It is now civil-certified," he said, adding that the certification would enable wider civilian deployment of HAL helicopters.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

अकासा की उड़ान में गंदगी का दावा

नई दिल्ली। अकासा एयर की एक यात्री ने उड़ान के बाद फंगल इंफेक्शन होने का दावा किया है। यात्री जाह्नवी त्रिपाठी ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म लिंकडइन पर पोस्ट कर आरोप लगाया कि 26 दिसंबर को बंगलुरु से अहमदाबाद की यात्रा के दौरान विमान की सीटें गंदी थीं।

उन्होंने अपनी पोस्ट में पैरों की सूजन की तस्वीरें साझा करते हुए कहा कि यात्रा के तुरंत बाद उनके पैरों में गंभीर फंगल इंफेक्शन हो गया। यात्री के अनुसार, विमान के भीतर सफाई की स्थिति बेहद चिंताजनक और अस्वीकार्य थी।

इस मामले पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए अकासा एयर के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि एयरलाइन को सोशल मीडिया पर साझा किए गए इस अनुभव की जानकारी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

इंडिगो के यात्रियों की मुआवजे को लेकर बढ़ीं शिकायतें दावा 10 हजार देने का, मुआवजा बस चार हजार

संकट

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। इंडिगो द्वारा घोषित किया गया निर्धारित मुआवजा उन यात्रियों को नहीं दिया जा रहा है जो तीन से पांच दिसंबर के बीच व्यापक पैमाने पर उड़ानें रद्द होने व समय से उड़ान न भरने के चलते प्रभावित हुए।

यात्री ई-मेल और सोशल मीडिया के जरिए उचित मुआवजे की मांग कर रहे हैं लेकिन इंडिगो बिना किसी ठोस कारण के वाउचर और मुआवजा धनराशि में कटौती कर रही है।

वाउचर और मुआवजा धनराशि से जुड़ी शिकायतों को लेकर हिंदुस्तान की तरफ से मेल के जरिए इंडिगो से जवाब मांगा गया लेकिन कंपनी की तरफ से कोई जवाब नहीं मिला। दिसंबर के पहले सप्ताह में देश भर में इंडिगो की बड़ी संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द हुईं या देरी से उड़ान भरी। काफी लोग शादियों में नहीं

चार हजार का वाउचर दिया वो भी सक्रिय नहीं

इंडिगो से सफर करने वाले परिवार चार हजार का वाउचर दिया गया वो भी सक्रिय नहीं है। इनका टिकट पांच दिसंबर को बुक था। पति-पत्नी घंटों तक एयरपोर्ट पर फंसे रहे। इन्हें आठ दिसंबर की फ्लाइट उपलब्ध कराई गई। इंडिगो ने चेक-इन में सामान लेने के बाद 28 दिसंबर को भी समय बदला। फ्लाइट सुबह 11 बजे की तय थी, जिसे शाम चार बजे किया गया।

पहुंच पाए तो बड़ी संख्या में लोगों कंपनी या अपनी निजी बैठकों में शामिल नहीं हो पाए।

इंडिगो के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की मांग उठी। उसके बाद 11 दिसंबर को इंडिगो ने ऐलान किया कि तीन से पांच दिसंबर से प्रभावित यात्रियों को इंडिगो की तरफ से 10,000 रुपये का ट्रेवल वाउचर दिया जाएगा। यह वाउचर 12 महीनों

रिफंड मिला चौथाई से कम, मुआवजे का पता नहीं

एक यात्री की फ्लाइट छह दिसंबर को बुक थी। छह दिसंबर को कोलकाता में ट्रांजिट के दौरान रद्द की गई। 18474 रुपये में टिकट लिया था लेकिन रिफंड सिर्फ 4545 रुपये का मिला। जवाब मांगने पर इंडिगो ने कहा कि ग्राहक मुआवजे का पत्र नहीं है लेकिन सद्भावना के तौर पर चार हजार दिए गए हैं। फ्लाइट कंपनी ने रद्द की थी तो मुआवजा देना बनता है।

तक किसी भी इंडिगो यात्रा में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकेगा।

सरकारी नियमों के अनुसार, उड़ान के निर्धारित समय से 24 घंटे के भीतर फ्लाइट रद्द होने पर यात्रियों को उड़ान की अवधि के आधार पर 5,000 रुपये से 10,000 का मुआवजा दिया जाता है, लेकिन वाउचर करते वक्त कहानी उल्टी है।

In first month of crew rest rules, 269K flyers hit by ops disruptions

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: More than 269,000 domestic air passengers were affected by denied boarding, flight cancellations and delays beyond two hours in November, the first full month after stricter pilot fatigue rules took effect. Disruptions increased from around 255,000 passengers affected in November 2024, data submitted by airlines to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed.

Delays beyond two hours accounted for the largest share, affecting 156,000 passengers, though this represented a decline in absolute numbers compared with the previous year. Flight cancellations impacted 112,000 passengers — a more than fourfold increase from fewer than 27,000 in November 2024.

Denied boarding cases affected 830 passengers, down significantly from 3,539 the previous year, indicating improved capacity and booking management.

Compared to the 2024-25 winter schedule, Indian airlines were allowed by the DGCA to operate 5.95% more flights during the same period this year for a total of 26,495 flights per week. Of this, IndiGo received approval for



Delays beyond two hours accounted for the largest share in November, affecting 156,000 passengers.

15,014 flights per week or 2,144 flights per day.

The DGCA data does not directly attribute disruptions to the revised flight duty time limitations, implemented in phases through July and November, though airlines were adjusting flight schedules, aircraft utilisation and crew planning to comply with stricter limits on pilot duty hours and mandatory rest periods.

IndiGo reported the highest number of delayed passengers at 75,150, followed by the Air India group (46,323) and SpiceJet (26,241), reflecting the operational strain on large domestic networks. IndiGo alone accounted for nearly 90,000 passengers impacted by cancellations, while the Air India

group reported 12,488. Other carriers, including Akasa Air, SpiceJet and regional airlines, accounted for the remaining cases.

IndiGo is the largest airline, with an 63% market share.

While the year-on-year increase in affected passengers was modest, the financial burden on airlines rose sharply.

Facilitation and compensation costs jumped from ₹60.6 crore in November 2024 to over ₹321 crore in November 2025. The increase reflects higher per-passenger costs, expanded facilities and stricter compliance with passenger rights norms.

Airlines provided refreshments, meals, transport assistance and, in some cases, alternate flights to affected passengers. For cancellations, airlines offered refunds, rebooking and alternate flights, along with accommodation and transport where required.

Denied boarding incidents, though limited in volume, resulted in significant compensation payouts. Airlines collectively spent over ₹70 crore on accommodation, meals, alternate flights and monetary compensation across 830 cases.

The Air India group accounted for the bulk of these at 639 passengers, followed by SpiceJet, IndiGo and Akasa Air.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

DGCA SEEKS AI'S EXPLANATION FOR OPERATING A B-787 DESPITE SNAGS

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a show-cause notice to Air India, flagging safety concerns over the operation of a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft VT-ANI despite repetitive technical snags.

In the notice issued on December 29, the aviation regulator highlighted issues related to aircraft dispatch, compliance with the Minimum Equipment List (MEL) and flight crew decision making during the operation of flights AI 358 and AI 357.

There was no comment from Air India on the matter.

The DGCA noted that there was non-compliance with MEL provisions during a flight operated on June 28 this year. It also pointed out that the aircraft was operated despite prior knowledge of repeated snags and existing system degradations.

The regulator also flagged that technical issues linked to the same systems had been recorded on multiple previous sectors, indicating a known history of system degradation.

The DGCA has sought an explanation on why enforcement action should not be initiated under the applicable Aircraft Rules and Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR). **HTC**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

DGCA seeks explanation from AI for operating Dreamliner despite snags

Mumbai: Aviation watchdog DGCA has sought an explanation from Air India for operating a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner despite repetitive technical snags, according to sources.

In a show-cause notice issued this week, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has flagged snags pertaining to Dreamliner VT-ANI.

Non-compliance with the Minimum Equipment List (MEL) for the flight operated on June 28 this year has also been mentioned in the notice. According to sources, the regulator has flagged that there were safety concerns related to aircraft dispatch, MEL compliance and flight crew decision-making during the operation of flights AI 258 and AI 357.

While details about the dates of operations for these flights could not be immediately ascertained, these flights operate on the Delhi-Tokyo route.

There was no comment from Air India. PTI

MINT

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

Star Air eyes ₹1,100 cr turnover in FY26

Abhishek Law
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NEW DELHI

Star Air, owned by Ghodawat Enterprises Pvt. Ltd, expects revenue to rise to about ₹1,100 crore in FY26—nearly 70% higher than last year's ₹650 crore—driven by fleet expansion, operational growth and fresh capital to strengthen connectivity across India's smaller cities.

In FY25, nearly a third of the firm's revenue—about ₹200 crore—came from viability gap funding, said Shrenik Ghodawat, executive director of the group. The privately held firm is yet to file its FY25 financials with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

VGF is a subsidy provided by the Centre under the UDAN regional connectivity scheme to ensure the commercial viability of select unserved or underserved routes. It is shared between the central and state governments and administered via the Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust, with receivables typically realized within 30 days.

Roughly 65% of Star Air's network falls under UDAN, with the remaining 35% oper-



It expects growth from fleet expansion, operations, fresh capital.

ating commercially. Load factors currently range between 70% and 75%.

The subsidy is typically available for three years from the start of a route, after which airlines must operate commercially. Fares on UDAN seats are capped based on route distance, limiting revenue upside. "Hence, GEPL is protected to a certain extent against soaring fuel costs; however, this benefit applies only to UDAN seats and lasts for three years from the com-

mencement of the route," rating agency India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said in an April note.

That reliance remains a key feature of Star Air's operating model. Ind-Ra noted the airline has a high dependence on UDAN support to sustain operations. In FY24, around ₹130 crore, or 36% of

Star Air's ₹360 crore revenue, came from VGF, according to its MCA filings.

"₹1,100 crore we will do this year (topline for FY26). Last

year (fiscal), we did ₹650 crore," Ghodawat said. "Our growth is coming from disciplined expansion, not chasing capacity for the sake of scale. We are building routes where there is willingness to pay for time," he told *Mint*.

Ghodawat said 70-75% of Star Air's routes are "effectively monopolistic", either due to UDAN exclusivity or because deploying larger aircraft on those sectors is uneconomical.

Pricing power is limited, as the fares on UDAN routes are capped on a portion of seats.

On the question of profitability once UDAN subsidies taper off, Ghodawat noted that VGF is typically available for three years per route. He said the firm has been Ebitda-positive for four consecutive years, (FY21 to FY24) and "turned net profitable last year, without relying on one-off gains."

Founded in 2019, Star Air operates largely outside India's busiest aviation corridors, focusing on direct connectivity between tier-3, tier-4 and tier-5 cities—an operating footprint that also qualifies it for scheme subsidies.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com).



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

DGCA notice to AI for flying snag-hit aircraft

Vulnerable route

DGCA took note of the pilots making multiple trips on flights AI-357 from Delhi to Tokyo and AI-358 from Tokyo to Delhi despite allegedly knowing about the non-compliance of minimum equipment list requirements.

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a show-cause notice to Air India's cockpit crew for operating multiple flights to and from Delhi and Tokyo despite being aware of serious compliance lapses. The aviation regulator sought an explanation from them within two weeks.

The notice issued on December 29 talks about multiple trips performed by flight AI-357 from Delhi to Tokyo and AI-358 from Tokyo to Delhi.

An Air India source confirmed the receipt and said this was the second such notice is-

sued by the regulator in connection with this route. "Due to persistent warm temperature in the cabin, one of the trips of the flight from Delhi to Tokyo had to be diverted to Kolkata on June 28. The issue came to the fore after that. The engineering division had received a notice regarding the status of the heating equipment on board the flight and they replied to it. The pilots on board the flight have received the notice a couple of days ago," the source said.

The DGCA notice states, "The minimum equipment list (MEL) on the flight was incom-

patible." A senior pilot told this newspaper that the airline needs to ensure that the parts specified in the MEL are rectified within a time-bound period. "Crucial parts need to be rectified immediately and

the aircraft is generally taken to the base station to do it. In the case of minor parts, airlines play around with it by stretching the rectification period to the maximum possible limit," he said.

The heating and cooling equipment figure in the MEL List, whose malfunctioning caused the flight to be diverted to Kolkata.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

31 DECEMBER 2025

Shankh Airlines to begin operations in January: Chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Lucknow

Shankh Airlines is likely to begin flight operations in the first half of January with an initial fleet of three Airbus aircraft, focusing on connecting Lucknow with Delhi, Mumbai and other metro cities, Chairman Shrawan Kumar Vishwakarma said on Tuesday.

The airline will also operate flights to destinations across Uttar Pradesh in its first phase, Vishwakarma said, adding that two more aircraft are expected to join the fleet within the next one-and-a-half months.

"At present, the fleet size is limited, but as it grows, we will cover the entire country," he told PTI Videos, noting that international operations are planned for 2028 or 2029.

The 35-year-old entrepreneur said Shankh Airlines' core objective is to make air travel accessible to middle-class passengers and first-time flyers, and to break the perception that flying is a luxury. "An aircraft is just a means of transport, like a bus or a tempo. It should not be seen as something exclusive," he said.

Recalling the airline's origin, Vishwakarma said the idea of entering the aviation sector came to him about four years ago.

"Once the thought struck me, I began understanding the process, how to get the NOC, what are the rules and how the system works. What started as an idea four years ago has now taken shape," he said.

Coming from a modest middle-class background, Vishwakarma said even dreaming big was once considered unrealistic.

"In the circumstances we grew up, just earning a livelihood was seen as enough. Dreaming beyond that was

almost unthinkable," he said.

Vishwakarma said his formal education was limited and he had little interest in academics. "I drove autos with acquaintances and tried a few small businesses, many of which failed," he said, adding his business journey gained momentum in 2014 with entry into the cement trade.

This was followed by ventures into TMT steel, mining and the transport sectors.

"Today, we have a fleet of over 400 trucks," he said, describing the growth as gradual and organic. "There was no grand planning. Things evolved with time."

Calling aviation one of the fastest-growing sectors, Vishwakarma said its biggest strength lies in strong cash flow. "There is no credit system in aviation. Many businesses collapse because they depend on credit, but aviation does not work that way."

Explaining the airline's name, he said, "Our trading firm was already called Shankh, and the name also has a cultural association. That is why we kept the airline's name Shankh as well."

On funding, Vishwakarma said the airline has full backing from its parent company.

On fares, Vishwakarma said ticket prices would not be increased during festival seasons, though business-class fares would be priced higher than competitors.

He also said the airline would generate employment opportunities for youth.

Advising young people, he said, "The first thing they should stop worrying about is what people will say. If someone who once drove a tempo can run an airline, others can also move ahead. The difference is only in mindset."



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

31 DECEMBER 2025

इंडिगो के पायलट्स का भत्ता बढ़ा

नई दिल्ली। देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने अपने पायलटों के भत्ते में बढ़ोतरी करने का फैसला किया है। इससे एयरलाइन के करीब 5,000 पायलटों को सीधा फायदा मिलेगा। नए नियम 1 जनवरी से लागू होंगे। एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, लेओवर के लिए कैप्टन को अब 2,000 रुपए की जगह 3,000 रुपए मिलेंगे। वहीं फर्स्ट ऑफिसर्स के लिए इसे 1,000 से बढ़ाकर 1,500 रुपए कर दिया गया है। यह कदम ऐसे समय में उठाया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

150 flights cancelled, over 200 delayed at IGI due to poor visibility

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, 31 December

Flight operations at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) were significantly disrupted on Wednesday, with 79 arriving flights and 71 departures cancelled over the course of the day.

In addition, two flights were diverted to alternate airports, airport officials confirmed. Visibility plunged to as low as 50 meters in several pockets, severely disrupting road, rail, and air movement, even as city residents geared up to usher in the New Year amid hazardous weather.

According to the officials, at least 150 flights were cancelled and over 200 delayed at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, Delhi airport's website showed that at least 75 incoming flights and a similar number of departures had been cancelled till 8.30 a.m. In addition, over 200 flights, including both arrivals and departures, were delayed.



According to the Meteorological Department, the visibility at the airport dropped from 600 meters to 50 meters after 2.30 a.m. However, it is expected to improve after 9.30 a.m.

In an advisory posted on X, the airport warned passengers of possible delays and cancellations and asked them to check directly with airlines for updates.

The statement added that flight operations under the CAT-III instrument landing system commenced at 3 a.m. and remain in effect. Under these conditions, only CAT-III-equipped aircraft

operated by specially trained pilots are permitted to land or take off.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department has warned that the wintry weather will remain strong across large parts of North India, with several states likely to receive rain and snowfall even as cold conditions persist.

In a statement issued earlier, the IMD had stated that owing to a western disturbance moving across the region, it is set to trigger widespread precipitation over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and adjoining areas between December 30 and January 1, 2026.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

31 DECEMBER 2025

Bird hit delays flight to Bangkok

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Surat: Passengers endured a 10-hour delay on Air India Express's Delhi-Surat-Bangkok flight on Tuesday, triggering frustration as several travellers had onward connections to China, Vietnam and other destinations.

The flight, scheduled to depart Delhi at 5.25am, took off nearly four hours late due to dense fog in the capital and reached Surat Airport at around 11.15am instead of 7.30am. Soon after landing, the pilot reported a bird strike. During an engine inspection, airport staff found a dead bird stuck in the fan blades.

As the aircraft underwent thorough checks, around 130 passengers waited at



the airport, growing increasingly agitated due to a lack of information from airline officials. Passengers said that timely communication could have helped them make alternative arrangements for their connecting flights from Bangkok.

To resolve the situation, another flight was brought in from Jaipur to accommodate all passengers.

The delayed flight eventually departed Surat at 8:41pm instead of the scheduled 9 am.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

31 DECEMBER 2025

Commercial validation flight set to land at Bhogapuram on Jan 4

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Visakhapatnam: Alluri Sitarama Raju international greenfield airport at Bhogapuram will witness the landing of the commercial validation flight on Sunday, Jan 4.

The construction works of the airport were completed at 98%, as the runway, terminal building, and ATC (air traffic control), among others, were completed long ago.

Bhogapuram airport was scheduled for operations by June 2026, as per an announcement by the govt earlier. However, the works are being com-

Photo for representation



SCHEDULED FOR OPS BY JUNE

pleted at a fast pace. The validation flight landing is to test and certify airport approach and departure procedures.

The Union minister for civil aviation, Rammohan Naidu, along with officials of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)

and the director-general of civil aviation (DGCA), would come on the Air India flight that will land after 11 am.

The greenfield airport would be developed in three phases. The first phase works were taken up with ₹4,592 crore and created infrastructure to serve 60 lakh passengers per year. The runway is 3800 metres, and a cargo terminal would also be developed in an area of more than 5000 sq metres. In the second phase, the airport would be developed to serve 1.2 crore passengers, and 1.8 crore passengers in the third phase.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

1 JANUARY 2026

Snag-hit Boeing operated, DGCA asks AI to explain

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 31

Aviation watchdog DGCA has sought an explanation from Air India for operating a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner despite repetitive technical snags, according to sources.

In a show-cause notice issued this week, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has flagged snags pertaining to Dreamliner VT-ANI.

Plane flew between New Delhi and Tokyo with safety concerns

Non-compliance with the Minimum Equipment List (MEL) for the flight operated on June 28 this year has also been mentioned in the notice. According to sources, the regulator has flagged that there were safety concerns related to aircraft dispatch, MEL compliance and flight crew decision-making during the operation of flights AI 258 and AI 357.

While details about the dates of operations for these flights could not be immediately ascertained, these flights operate on the Delhi-Tokyo route.

Among other aspects, the regulator has mentioned that the aircraft was operated despite prior knowledge of repeated snags and existing system degradations, the sources said. There was no comment from Air India. It was also not immediately clear whether the aircraft VT-ANI is out of operation now. — PTI
