



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Chennai airport is not up for privatisation, services to be enhanced: Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 27 FEBRUARY

Ruling out privatisation of Chennai airport, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday said it is not even in the proposed list of the 11 airports made before the general elections but lying with the cabinet.

"Don't worry, it is not on the list. It is close to our hearts," he told newsmen after inaugurating a Udan Yatri Coffee at the Chennai international Airport. "A proposal to privatise 11 airports was submitted before the general elections. It is still lying with the Union Cabinet and lying at that stage only. No decision has been taken as yet," he said.

Responding to a question



whether operations of Chennai airport will be handed over to private parties once the construction works are completed, he was categorical in saying "No. It is very close to our hearts and we are trying to do our best to improve and enhance facilities

and services. Being the fourth largest airport, it is very important for AAI and remains the gateway to the East. Hence, more focus is there on its development."

"As of now, Chennai airport handles 22 million passengers annually and it could be

hiked to 35 million and augment passenger capacity. With Chennai being a top most priority, we are carrying out construction of terminal buildings and other infrastructure. The construction of the Terminal-3 will be completed by March next year," the Minister explained.

Justifying airport privatisation, Naidu said "It facilitates inflow of investment and improvement in services. Building airports at places with little viability is a burden on the AAI and hence the Civil Aviation Ministry is working out a model to overcome financial stress. While the Union Government is holding the land, airport operations are leased out so that passengers get quality service.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Daily capacity is 20 flights but Prayagraj handled 748 in Maha Kumbh's last 3 days

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Lucknow: With over 75,500 passengers and 748 flights, 394 of them chartered, Prayagraj airport created a new record in last three days of Maha Kumbh. It handled a record 282 flights on Monday and a whopping 27,322 passengers Tuesday, both all-time records and way above what Lucknow international airport handles.

The average handling capacity of Prayagraj airport is 300 passengers during peak hour and only 3,500 passengers per day with 20 aircraft movements.

Airport Authority of India data accessed by TOI shows that flyers' numbers soared significantly during last 10 days of Maha Kumbh as compared to the period between Jan 11 to Feb 16.

Total passenger footfall between Feb 17 to 26 was 2.38 lakh while the first 36 days saw movement of 3.20 lakh pas-



Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath participates in cleaning drive at the end of Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Thursday

sengers. The total count during 46 days of Maha Kumbh festivity was 5,59,178 flyers.

The highest passenger footfall during Kumbh of 27,673 was recorded on Feb 25 when the airport handled 262 flights. On Feb 24, Prayagraj airport handled 282 flights with a passenger count of 26,182. Lucknow airport recorded its highest footfall of 24,297 on Feb 8 this year with 155 aircraft movements.

Prayagraj airport recorded 5,229 aircraft movements in 46 days, of which 2,319 movements were recorded in last 10 days, while 2,910 aircraft movements were recorded in the initial 36 days. Total 15 bays were activated, including eight, for chartered flights, and seven for special scheduled flights for Maha Kumbh. The AAI also used technical areas of IAF airstrip to park aircraft during

Kumbh. "Since Feb 11, airlines have increased flight movements by multiple times due to heavy demand. We operated the airport round-the-clock in close-coordination with IAF, who were responsible for Air Traffic Control," Prayagraj airport director Mukesh Chandra Upadhyay told TOI.

"There were times when we made an aircraft land, de-board passengers with their full luggage, allow boarding of departing passengers, and final take off in 20-30 minutes," added Upadhyay. To manage the passenger movement, on an average, AAI had deployed a team of 13 personnel for operation and terminal duty.

"Five groups were formed with manpower enlisted from Udaipur, Kolkata, Chennai, Leh, Dehradun, Delhi, Srinagar and Bhopal. Each group was deployed for 10 days each. In total, over 60 personnel were assigned for Maha Kumbh duty," said a source in AAI.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

AAI held liable for damaged equipment, ordered to pay ₹45L

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Chennai: A 'domestic dispute' of a different kind played out in a mahila court this week, involving two central agencies holding each other accountable for damage to uninsured defence cargo.

Sparks flew inside the Chengalpet courtroom after Embarkation Headquarters (EH), a military unit that manages movement of troops and equipment, accused Airports Authority of India (AAI) of being responsible for damage to imported consignment while it was being unloaded from an Air China flight.

AAI said it was merely a cargo processing centre and not liable for anything that happens during the journey or unloading. Lawyers representing AAI argued that the issue was between the defence unit and the airline, and that the consignor had failed to insure the shipment, rendering the claim for damages invalid.

EH countered that govt policy permits insurance for imported defence goods only if

their value exceeds ₹2.5 crore. It said the damaged cargo was worth ₹5.8 lakh, below the insurance threshold.

AAI dismissed this reasoning, saying it was an attempt to shift blame. It said a claim had been forwarded to state-owned New India Assurance, the designated underwriter for such disputes, but the process had stalled without resolution.

AAI said that Bhadra International India, ground handling agency responsible for loading and unloading cargo, hadn't been named in the case. It also argued that the liability of an airline ferrying critical equipment extended till the delivery of the shipment.

That argument fell apart when the consignor produced a segregation report—a document detailing cargo condition during handover. The report confirmed that Air China delivered the consignment in sound condition, leaving AAI accountable for the damage.

On Feb 6, sessions judge M Ezhilarasi ordered AAI to pay EH ₹45 lakh in compensation, the price of the damaged military equipment.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

TN mahila court orders AAI to pay ₹45L for damaged military equipment

Two central agencies — Embarkation Headquarters (EH) and Airports Authority of India (AAI)— held each other liable for damage to uninsured defence cargo ferried by a Chinese airline, in a mahila court in Chengalpattu recently, reports **Ram Sundaram**. AAI said it was only a cargo processing centre and not liable for anything that happens to a shipment during the journey or unloading. EH said govt policy permits insurance for imported defence goods only if their value exceeds ₹2.5 crore and the damaged cargo was worth ₹5.8 lakh. However, when EH submitted a segregation report confirming that Air China delivered the consignment in sound condition, the court ordered AAI to pay EH ₹45 lakh in compensation, equivalent to the price of the damaged military equipment. **P 3**



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

TN mahila court hears MoD grievance, slaps ₹45L penalty on AAI for damage to def cargo

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Chennai: A 'domestic dispute' of a different kind played out in a Tamil Nadu mahila court this week, involving two central agencies holding each other accountable for damage to uninsured defence cargo ferried by a Chinese airline.

Sparks flew inside the time-worn courtroom in Chengalpattu near Chennai after Embarkation Headquarters (EH), a military unit that manages movement of troops and equipment, accused Airports Authority of India (AAI) of being responsible for dam-

age to imported consignment while it was being unloaded from an Air China flight.

AAI sought to distance itself from the dispute, saying it was merely a cargo processing centre and not liable for anything that happens to a shipment during the journey or unloading. AAI's lawyers argued that the issue was strictly between the defence unit and the airline, and that the consignor had failed to insure the shipment, rendering the claim for damages invalid.

EH countered that govt policy permits insurance for imported defence goods only if their value exceeds Rs 25

crore. It said the damaged cargo was worth Rs 45.8 lakh, falling below the insurance threshold.

AAI dismissed this reasoning, terming it an attempt to shift blame. It said that a claim had been forwarded to state-owned New India Assurance, the designated underwriter for such disputes, but the process had stalled without any resolution.

During the hearing, AAI pointed out that Bhadra International India, the ground handling agency responsible for loading and unloading cargo, hadn't even been named in the case. It also argued that the

liability of an airline ferrying critical equipment extended beyond landing and till the delivery of the shipment.

That argument fell apart when the consignor produced a segregation report, a crucial document detailing cargo condition during handover. The report confirmed that Air China delivered the consignment in sound condition, leaving AAI solely accountable for the damage.

On Feb 6, sessions judge M Ezhilarasi ordered AAI to pay EH Rs 45 lakh in compensation, which is equivalent to the price of the damaged military equipment.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से आज से भरें गोवा, बंगलूरु व कोलकाता के लिए उड़ान सुविधा : सुबह 9:30 बजे हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर उतरेगा 180 सीटर एयर इंडिया का विमान, गोवा के लिए बुक हैं 80 सीटें

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

साहिबाबाद। गोवा, बंगलूरु और कोलकाता की उड़ान आज से शुरू हो रही है। यह पहला मौका है, जब सिविल एयरपोर्ट से 180 सीटर विमान उड़ान भरेगा। सुबह साढ़े नौ बजे एअर इंडिया कंपनी का 180 सीटर विमान यात्रियों को लेकर हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर उतरेगा।

यहां से करीब एक घंटे बाद सुबह 10:30 बजे यही विमान गोवा के लिए उड़ान भरेगा। ठीक एक वर्ष बाद हिंडन



कोलकाता से सुबह 7:10 बजे पर हिंडन के लिए उड़ान शुरू होगी और यहां 9:30 बजे पहुंचेंगे। यहां एक घंटे के बाद गोवा के लिए यही विमान सुबह 10:30 बजे उड़ान भरेगा और गोवा 1:15 पर पहुंचेगा।

यह रहेगा समय

गोवा से यही विमान फिर दोपहर 2 बजे हिंडन सिविल एयरपोर्ट के लिए उड़ान भरेगा और यहां शाम 04:40 बजे पहुंचेगा। इस फ्लाइट का समय 2 घंटे 40 मिनट होगा। यहां 40 मिनट रुकने के बाद कोलकाता के लिए 5:20 पर उड़ान भरेगा और रात 7:40 बजे कोलकाता पहुंचेगा। बंगलूरु से 12:40 बजे प्रस्थान करेगा और दोपहर 03:15 बजे हिंडन पहुंचेगा।

एयरपोर्ट से नए शहर के लिए उड़ान शुरू हो रही है। हिंडन से गोवा की फ्लाइट में

सांसद अतुल गर्ग के साथ ही सभी विधायक व भाजपा नेता के साथ करीब

50 लोग हैं, जिनकी सीट बुक है। इनके साथ ही शहर के अन्य लोगों ने भी अपनी

बुकिंग कराई हुई है। अभी तक गोवा के लिए सर्वाधिक बुकिंग हुई है, क्योंकि 50-60 सीट सांसद अतुल गर्ग ने बुक कराई हैं। वह विधायकों और पार्टी के कार्यकर्ताओं के साथ गोवा जाएंगे।

गोवा की लगभग 80 फीसदी सीट बुक हुई हैं, जबकि बंगलूरु और कोलकाता की भी 60 फीसदी तक टिकट बुक हो चुकी हैं। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के निदेशक उमेश यादव ने बताया कि पूर्व में भी एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की ओर से इन शहरों के लिए उड़ान शुरू होनी थी।

कानूनी अड़चन की वजह से उड़ान पर रोक लग गई थी। अब पाबंदी हटने के बाद एयरलाइंस कंपनी तीनों शहर के लिए उड़ान शुरू कर रही है। फिलहाल, इसका टिकट करीब 4000 से शुरू हो रहा है। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से अभी लुधियाना, बठिंडा, आदमपुर, किरानगढ़ और नांदेड़ की उड़ान चल रही है।

इन शहरों के लिए उड़ान है प्रस्तावित : जम्मू, अयोध्या, प्रयागराज, लखनऊ, बनारस, मुरादाबाद और पिथौरागढ़ शामिल है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BANGALORE MIRROR

BANGALORE

28 FEBRUARY 2025

City airport unveils India's largest greenfield domestic cargo terminal

Kempegowda International Airport has launched the country's largest Greenfield Domestic Cargo Terminal (DCT) by design capacity. Spanning 2,45,000 square feet, the facility is a major boost to BLR Airport's cargo operations, enhancing infrastructure and streamlining processes to meet growing domestic demand.

Satyaki Raghunath, COO of Bangalore International Airport Limited, said the 7-acre terminal has a peak handling capacity of 3,60,000 metric tons, with potential expansion to 4,00,000 metric tons. Equipped with 42 truck docks, over 400 cargo bins, and conveyors integrated with X-ray machines, the facility also features real-time data capture through handheld terminals and self-service kiosks to improve efficiency and reduce turnaround times.

BLR Airport, a key exporter of perishables like mangoes and coriander, will now have expanded capacity for perishables and specialized storage for valuables, fragile cargo, live animals, dangerous goods, and radioactive materials. Charles Wyley of Menzies Aviation noted that with India's air cargo market expected to reach 5.8 million tonnes by 2029, the new facility is designed to meet both current and future demand.

-BMB



Advanced infrastructure boosts cargo capacity at Bengaluru airport's new terminal

डीजीसीए की टीम एयरपोर्ट पर चार मार्च को करेगी तकनीकी व परिचालनिक जांच

घंटर नोएडा, 28 फरवरी (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा से वाणिज्यिक विमानों का उड़ान अप्रैल से शुरू हो जाएगा। विमान का उड़ान शुरू करने के लिए अंतिम प्रक्रिया मार्च तक पूरी हो जाएगी। नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण (डीजीसीए) के चार मार्च को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का दौरा करेंगे। रनवे, टैक्सोवे, टर्मिनल सुविधाओं, ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग सिस्टम आदि की जांच डीजीसीए की टीम करेगी। यदि कोई तकनीकी या परिचालनिक कमी पाई जाती है, तो उसे दूर करने का निर्देश विकासकर्ता कंपनी को दिया जाएगा। एयरपोर्ट पर तकनीकी व परिचालनिक जांच पूरी होने के बाद मार्च के अंतिम सप्ताह में डीजीसीए की तरफ से विमानों के वाणिज्यिक परिचालन के लिए एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस और अनापातित प्रमाण पत्र जारी किया जाएगा। शुक्रवार नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड के सीईओ डॉक्टर अरुणवीर सिंह और यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लिमिटेड के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ श्लेमेन के बीच बैठक हुई। एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण कार्य प्रगति समेत वाणिज्यिक विमानों के परिसंचालन और उद्घाटन आदि मुद्दा पर चर्चा हुई। विकासकर्ता कंपनी की तरफ से एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस को लेकर डीजीसीए में फरवरी के प्रथम सप्ताह में आवेदन किया गया था। आवेदन के आधार पर भारतीय नागरिक



■ एयरपोर्ट से वाणिज्यिक विमानों के उड़ान को लेकर मार्च में जारी होगा एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस

■ अप्रैल में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से शुरू हो जाएगा अंतरराष्ट्रीय व घरेलू विमानों को उड़ान

उड्डयन प्राधिकरण के अधिकारी एयरपोर्ट के तकनीकी की बारीकी से भीतिक जांच करने मंगलवार को पहुंच रहे हैं।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण कार्य अंतिम दौर में चल रहा है। दिसम्बर 2024 तक, निर्माण कार्य का लगभग 85 फीसदी पूरा हो चुका था, और अप्रैल 2025 में इसे चालू करने की योजना है। दिसम्बर 2024 में, हवाई अड्डे पर पहला ड्रायल रन भी सफलतापूर्वक संपन्न हुआ, जो इसके समय पर संचालन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। हवाई अड्डे के पहले चरण में 80 एकड़ क्षेत्र में एक विशाल कार्गो टर्मिनल का निर्माण किया जा रहा है, जिसमें से 37 एकड़ का काम पहले चरण में पूरा होगा। यह टर्मिनल पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के उत्पादों को वैश्विक बाजार तक पहुंचाने में

महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा। एयरपोर्ट फेस-एक में 1365 हेक्टेयर में किया जा रहा है। जिसमें एक रनवे और टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। भविष्य में, नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को छह रनवे के साथ विकसित करने की योजना है, जिससे यह दुनिया के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डों में से एक बन जाएगा। तीसरे और चौथे चरण के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया भी शुरू हो चुकी है, जिससे हवाई अड्डे के विस्तार और विकास में तेजी आएगी। कुल मिलाकर, नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण कार्य निर्धारित समयानुसार प्रगति कर रहा है, और इसके अप्रैल 2025 में संचालन शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। किसी नए हवाई अड्डे (एयरपोर्ट) से वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों को शुरुआत करने की अंतिम प्रक्रिया कई

चरणों में पूरी होती है। ये प्रक्रिया मुख्य रूप से नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण और संबंधित एयरलाइंस के सहयोग से पूरी की जाती है।

अंतिम चरण में नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा और परिचालन स्वीकृति डीजीसीए और अन्य नियामक संस्थाओं द्वारा एयरपोर्ट का सुरक्षा ऑडिट किया जाता है। जिसमें हवाई अड्डे पर आवश्यक सुरक्षा मानकों की जांच होती है (जैसे रनवे, एटीसी टावर, इमरजेंसी सेवाएं, नेविगेशन सिस्टम), इसके बाद एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर को अंतिम लाइसेंस और स्वीकृति प्रदान की जाती है।

एयरलाइंस द्वारा संचालन की स्वीकृति और स्लॉट आवंटन एयरलाइंस को उड़ान स्लॉट आवंटित किए जाते हैं। नई उड़ानों के लिए टिकट बुकिंग प्रणाली को अपडेट किया जाता है। एयरलाइन द्वारा अपने पायलट, कू और ग्राउंड स्टाफ को ट्रेनिंग दी जाती है। 4 मार्च को डीजीसीए की टीम एयरपोर्ट पर यात्री सुविधाओं, टर्मिनल, बैगेज सिस्टम, चेक-इन काउंटर, सुरक्षा जांच आदि की अंतिम जांच करेगी। इसके बाद जाकर डीजीसीए की तरफ से एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस और हवाई अड्डा का एनओसी जारी करने की प्रक्रिया पूरी की जाएगी। इसके बाद जाकर औपचारिक उद्घाटन और वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों को शुरुआत होगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के कार्गो टर्मिनल को यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ने का काम शुरू

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 28 फरवरी (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट के कार्गो टर्मिनल की यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ने का काम शुरू हो गया है। राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण ने शुक्रवार से सड़क का निर्माण कार्य शुरू कर दिया है। चार माह में एयरपोर्ट का कार्गो टर्मिनल भी यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से जुड़ जाएगा। भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचएआइ) की ओर से सड़क निर्माण के लिए 235.70 करोड़ के एस्टीमेट के सापेक्ष प्रदेश के वित्त विभाग की समिति ने 196.79 करोड़ खर्च करने पर स्वीकृति दे दी है। यह सड़क एयरपोर्ट की उत्तर व पूर्व की चारदीवारी से होकर बनेगी। इसके अतिरिक्त वीवीआईपी के लिए एयरपोर्ट पहुंचने के लिए अलग मार्ग के तहत पश्चिमी छोर से यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के 33 किमी प्वाइंट तक 750 मीटर रोड बनाई जाएगी। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से अप्रैल में यात्री सेवाओं की शुरुआत होगी। एयरपोर्ट को यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ने के लिए 750 मीटर लंबी व आठ लेन सड़क का निर्माण किया है। कार्गो टर्मिनल की यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से कनेक्टिविटी के लिए सड़क निर्माण का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया गया था। इसके तहत



- कार्गो टर्मिनल व वीवीआईपी के लिए अलग से बनाई जा रही 750 मी. लंबी और 30 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क
- राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण कर रहा सड़क का निर्माण, चार माह में पूरा किया जाएगा निर्माण कार्य

एक्सप्रेस वे से तीस मीटर चौड़ी सड़क का एयरपोर्ट के उत्तर व पूर्व दिशा में निर्माण होना है। इसके अलावा वीवीआईपी के आवागमन के लिए एयरपोर्ट व यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के बीच 750 मीटर लंबी एक और सड़क बनेगी। प्राधिकरण ने सड़क निर्माण के लिए 73 करोड़ लागत का आंकलन करते हुए भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण को इसके निर्माण की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी थी,

लेकिन एनएचएआइ के तीस मीटर सड़क के मुख्य कैरिज वे को 16 मीटर चौड़ाई को भविष्य में माल वाहक वाहनों के दबाव को देखते हुए अपर्याप्त बताया और मुख्य कैरिज वे की चौड़ाई उत्तर में 18 मीटर व पूर्व में 24 मीटर का प्रस्ताव देते हुए 235.79 करोड़ लागत का एस्टीमेट यमुना प्राधिकरण को दिया था। शेष हिस्से में जल निकासी आदि का ढांचा होगा। प्राधिकरण के इसके आंकलन और स्वीकृति के लिए शासन को भेजा था। वित्त विभाग की व्यय वित्त समिति ने लोक निर्माण विभाग की दरों के हिसाब से परियोजना के खर्च का आंकलन करते हुए 196.79 करोड़ खर्च की स्वीकृति दी है। इसके साथ ही कार्य को तुरंत शुरू कराने के भी निर्देश दिए हैं। यमुना प्राधिकरण के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह का कहना है कि सड़क का निर्माण कार्य एनएचएआइ ने शुक्रवार से शुरू कर दिया। चार माह में दोनों सड़क का निर्माण पूरा कर लिया जाएगा। एनएचएआइ के इंजीनियरों की टीम एयरपोर्ट पहुंच कर जेसीवी मशीन लगाकर जमीन समतल करने का कार्य शुरू कर दिया। चार माह के अंदर कार्गो टर्मिनल भी यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से जुड़ जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Domestic air traffic rises 11% in January

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Domestic air traffic grew 11.28 per cent to 1.46 crore in January compared to the year-ago period, according to official data. IndiGo saw its market share climb to 65.2 per cent while that of Air India Group declined to 25.7 per cent last month.

Akasa Air and SpiceJet saw their respective market share increased to 4.7 per cent and 3.2 per cent.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January 2025 were 146.11 lakh as against 131.30 lakh during the corresponding



period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of 11.28 per cent and monthly growth of 11.28 per cent," DGCA said on Thursday.

Last month, the overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines stood at 1.62 per cent, with the highest cancellation rate for Fly Big at 17.74 per cent followed by

Fly91 (5.09 per cent) and Alliance Air (4.35 per cent).

The data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed that IndiGo recorded the highest On Time Performance (OTP) at 75.5 per cent while that of Akasa Air stood at 71.5 per cent in January.

Air India Group's OTP was at 69.8 per cent, Alliance Air at 57.6 per cent and SpiceJet at 54.8 per cent.

The OTP is computed for six metro airports -- Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Bengaluru airport unveils India's largest greenfield domestic cargo terminal

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR Airport), in partnership with Menzies Aviation, has launched India's largest Greenfield Domestic Cargo Terminal (DCT) in terms of designed capacity.

Sprawled over seven acres, the DCT boasts a peak handling capacity of approximately 360,000 metric tonnes, with the potential to expand to 4,00,000 metric tonnes. The facility is equipped with 42 truck docks, over 400 specially designed cargo bins, and conveyors integrated with X-ray machines to enhance security and efficiency.

Speaking at a press conference, Satyaki Raghunath, COO of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), said, "By integrating eco-friendly practices with cutting-edge technology, we have created a facility that not only addresses the growing demand for domestic cargo, but also sets benchmarks for operational efficiency and environmental responsibility."

The terminal features real-time data capture using 40 handheld terminals and



The newly launched Domestic Cargo Terminal at the Bengaluru airport. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

self-service kiosks for agents, significantly reducing processing times.

Cargo capabilities

BLR Airport has established itself as a leading hub for perishable goods, being the largest exporter of mangoes, coriander, and flowers in India.

The new terminal includes dedicated storage areas for valuables, fragile items, live animals, dangerous goods, and radioactive materials, reinforcing its position as a comprehensive cargo-handling hub.

Currently, BLR Airport handles approximately 40% of all cargo in South India, the

highest among the southern states.

Sustainability at the core

Designed in compliance with Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) standards, the terminal prioritises sustainability while ensuring scalability for future growth.

Key eco-friendly features include skylighting to maximise natural light, advanced ventilation systems for energy efficiency, and a dedicated sewage treatment plant for waste management.

Further, authorities also have plans to install solar panels on the roof to enhance energy efficiency.

Meeting slated to discuss reopening of HAL airport

Hopes of the old airport coming back to life are flickering again, going by what MP Tejasvi Surya tells Metrolife

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

The buzz about resumption of commercial operations at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport is getting louder.

On Wednesday, Tejasvi Surya, member of parliament from Bengaluru South, told *Metrolife*: "A meeting of all stakeholders will be held in Delhi in March second week. It will be headed by the civil aviation minister and include stakeholders like Airports Authority of India, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) and HAL," Surya said.

Located around 13 km from Vidhana Soudha, the airport served Bengaluru till 2008, when the Kempegowda International Airport run by BIAL was inaugurated in Devanahalli.

Surya believes reopening the old airport will help Bengaluru in many ways. "It will create a commercial airport facility in the heart of the city and augment BIAL's capacity. It will also create a revenue stream for HAL and additional revenue for BIAL.... BIAL is keen and so is HAL. The civil aviation minister (K Rammohan Naidu) is also keen to get this addressed," he said.

The HAL airport could be a domestic airport and boost regional travel (from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, for instance), he said. "People visiting Bengaluru for business can finish their work in the CBD or areas close to Whitefield and leave immediately," Surya said.

Surya had posted on X in January that



Located around 13 km from Vidhana Soudha, the HAL Airport served Bengaluru till 2008. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

he had appealed to the Public Accounts Committee in Delhi in connection with the reopening of the HAL airport: "While we wait for a proposed second airport, there is no logic in wasting the already existing public infrastructure at HAL."

The government, instead of investing on projects like tunnel roads, should look at how the metro network can be integrated with the HAL airport, he told *Metrolife*.

Experts say...

Civic evangelist V Ravichandar describes the HAL airport as an asset. "We must sweat our assets," he says.

"When the international airport was built, BIAL and the government had come to an agreement that for 25 years there would be no other airport within a 150 km radius. It ends in 2033. Thus, the way forward is for the BIAL to take this plan ahead," he said.

Short-haul flights would make sense from the HAL airport as it will help reduce point-to-point travel time. "The congestion towards the Hebbal flyover will come down, and impact on the HAL Airport Road would be minimal given nature of flights," he said.

Urbanist Ashwin Mahesh wondered,

"A second airport in the eastern half of the city will continue to sprawl the city towards Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh borders. Also, if the HAL airport is opened, will we ever get an airport between Bengaluru and Mysuru where it is needed?"

Reopening the airport could help people in areas like Mahadevapura, HSR Layout and Bommanahalli, he observed. However, the conditions on which the HAL airport was closed are still in force. "Consistency of policy is important for any long-term plan," he said.

"If smoother transport is the current concern, one could work on setting up a south Bengaluru railway station. Can the Kengeri railway station be turned into a large, world-class railway station which a lot of people can use?" he added.

Mahesh reckons the questions to be asked are: "What is the problem we are trying to solve, whom are we trying to solve the problem for, and what part of the overall solution is this?"

'Cut monopoly'

Capt G R Gopinath (ret), who founded Air Deccan, says it was not a prudent idea to shut down the HAL airport in the first place.

"Though the airport was inefficient

BIAL NUMBERS

As of December 31, 2024, the Kempegowda International Airport serviced 75 domestic and 30 international destinations. Its cargo network now includes 12 freighter airlines operating on both domestic and international routes.

"The airport welcomed 4.07 crore passengers in 2024 as compared to 3.72 crore passengers in 2023," a spokesman said.

and congested, it served a purpose. I was one of the petitioners in a PIL to the High Court, demanding that the old airport not be shut, while supporting the need for a new modern airport we can be proud of. However, the court did not give a stay," he said.

He stressed that one of the key things to keep in mind in any business is not to allow a monopoly.

"The only way to bring down prices and improve quality of service is with competition. If airlines can compete, airports must compete. Starting another airport in Bidadi or Tumakuru is also a welcome idea. One of the major benefits of multiple airports is that the city will develop in multiple directions," he explained. Cities like London, Hong Kong and Washington DC have multiple airports, he noted.

Gopinath endorses reopening of the HAL airport, and believes an additional airport in Hosur will make travel easier for people in areas like Electronics City and Jigani. He urged, "We need to have low-cost airlines and terminals alongside the existing international airports to bring down prices and not only enable more common people to fly but also enhance regional connectivity to smaller towns, which is now impeded with mega-glittering international airports."

कार्गो टर्मिनल की कनेक्टिविटी के लिए शुरू हुआ सड़क निर्माण

जागरण संवाददाता, ग्रेटर नोएडा : प्रदेश सरकार से सड़क का बजट स्वीकृत होते ही भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचएआइ) ने नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के कार्गो टर्मिनल की कनेक्टिविटी के लिए सड़क का काम शुरू कर दिया है। प्राधिकरण की टीम शुक्रवार को मशीनों के साथ करौली बांगर गांव पहुंची और सड़क मार्ग में आ रही फसल को हटाकर जमीन समतल करना शुरू कर दिया। करीब चार घंटे तक यह कार्रवाई हुई।

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के कार्गो टर्मिनल की कनेक्टिविटी के लिए तीस मीटर चौड़ी व आठ किमी लंबी सड़क

● करौली बांगर में जमीन के समतलीकरण का काम शुरू

● तीस मीटर चौड़ी व आठ किमी लंबी सड़क बनाई जा रही



करौली बांगर में एनएचएआइ ने शुरू किया काम ● सौजन्य: प्राधिकरण

बनाई जा रही है। यह सड़क एयरपोर्ट की चारदीवारी के साथ उत्तर व पूर्व दिशा में बनेगी। इसके लिए एनएचएआइ ने 235.70 करोड़

का एस्टीमेट यमुना प्राधिकरण को दिया था, यमुना प्राधिकरण की ओर से शासन के वित्त विभाग को भेजे गए एस्टीमेट के सापेक्ष 196.79

करोड़ खर्च की स्वीकृति मिली।

चार माह में सड़क निर्माण पूरा करने के लिए एनएचएआइ की टीम ने मंगलवार से काम शुरू कर दिया है। प्रस्तावित सड़क के मार्ग में आ रही किसानों की फसल को हटा दिया गया। सुबह से टीम भरी भरकम मशीनों के साथ करौली बांगर गांव पहुंच गई।

मशीनों को देखकर ग्रामीणों ने खेत में खड़ी फसलों को काटना शुरू कर दिया ताकि पशुओं के चारे में उसका उपयोग कर सकें। बीछा पहले ही किसानों को इस जमीन के सापेक्ष मुआवजा वितरण कर चुका है। इसलिए टीम को विरोध का सामना नहीं करना पड़ा।

सड़क का निर्माण होने पर यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के रास्ते मालवाहक वाहनों की आवाजाही कार्गो टर्मिनल तक हो जाएगी।

इसके साथ ही एयरपोर्ट के पश्चिमी छोर पर वीवीआईपी के आवागमन के लिए 750 मीटर रोड का काम भी शुरू होगा। आठ किमी लंबी सड़क के मुख्य कैरिज वे की चौड़ाई 18 मीटर व 24 मीटर होगी। एनएचएआइ के कार्रवाई के दौरान यमुना प्राधिकरण के ओएसडी शैलेंद्र भाटिया व महाप्रबंधक परियोजना राजेंद्र भाटी मौजूद थे। शैलेंद्र भाटिया ने बताया कि एनएचएआइ को सड़क निर्माण के लिए जमीन पर कब्जा दिला दिया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Land acquisition for Bhogapuram Airport going on at brisk pace

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

The land acquisition for the construction work of Alluri Seetharama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district is progressing at a rapid pace. GMR group has taken up the works at a cost of Rs 4,850 crore under the first phase. Though the company has announced that it will be completed by June 2026, the government is providing infrastructure with the intention of completing it by January.

60.08 acres of land has been acquired in four villages of Bhogapuram mandal for the connecting road from NH 16 to the airport. Of this, owners of 20.22 acres were compensated. Similarly, a compensation of Rs 19.89 crore, which was to be paid to 45 people in respect of 39.86 acres of land in Savaravilli limits, was deposited in the court. Last month, farmers had handed over 1.11 acres of



land for the construction of a road up to land parcel-1 at Munjeru for which they will get a compensation of Rs 71.25 lakh.

24.30 acres have been identified for the construction of a residential complex for the airport staff at Basavapalem. On the other hand, 4.50 acres of land has been acquired for the construction of the 132/33 KV power sub-station, for which the government has to release Rs 70.21 crore. 19.75 acres of land has been acquired for the construction of

the trumpet from the national highway to the airport. The government will pay Rs 14.43 crore as compensation.

Some more land requires Rs 22 crore. The Rural Water Supply Department (RWS) has already completed the trial run to supply 1.7 MLD of water daily in Phase-I from the first week of March. GMR has appealed to the government that it needs 3.3 LMDs in Phase-II. Accordingly, the government has decided to supply from the Tarakarama Theertha Sagar project.

PRIZED LOT

B'luru airport launches India's largest domestic cargo terminal

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, operated by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) in partnership with Menzies Aviation, has launched India's largest Greenfield Domestic Cargo Terminal (DCT) in terms of designed capacity.

According to BIAL, this state-of-the-art 245,000-square-foot facility marks a significant milestone in BLR Airport's cargo handling capabilities. It offers enhanced infrastructure and streamlined processes to meet the growing demands of the domestic market.

This facility will play a

key role in connecting industries, strengthening supply chains, and driving innovation toward a more sustainable future for domestic cargo and regional trade, positioning BLR Airport as a leader in cargo handling.

Spanning over seven acres, the DCT has a peak handling capacity of approximately 360,000 metric tons, with the potential to expand to 400,000 metric tons.

"With around 42 truck docks, more than 400 specially designed cargo bins, conveyors integrated with X-ray machines, approximately 30 Unit Load Device (ULD) build-up and breakdown stations, along with real-time data capture us-



ing 40 handheld terminals and self-service kiosks for agents, the facility will ensure seamless cargo movement while reducing turnaround times," BIAL said in a statement.

Briefing the media, BIAL COO Satyaki Raghunath said, "This is an initiative we conceptualised over the last two or three years. When we established this partnership, our goal was

to prioritise domestic cargo. Historically, international cargo has been the primary focus, but over the last two years—especially in the post-COVID environment—domestic cargo has gained prominence."

Highlighting that Bangalore Airport has effectively tripled its cargo capacity every decade, he said, "When we first started, we handled around 130,000 metric tons

of cargo. By our 10th anniversary, this had increased to approximately 350,000 metric tons. This year, we will surpass 500,000 metric tons. The growth of cargo has closely paralleled the rise in passenger traffic."

He added, "We have high hopes that the domestic cargo facility will drive domestic traffic growth. From a South India perspective, Bangalore already holds over 40 per

This 2,45,000 square-foot facility marks a significant milestone in B'luru airport's cargo handling capabilities.

cent of the market share. In terms of tonnage, we expect this year to end with more than half a million metric tons overall. This facility will significantly boost interest in domestic cargo."

According to Anil Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, the

terminal is equipped with cutting-edge technology and digital solutions, introducing upgrades such as real-time shipment tracking, data analytics tools, and enhanced communication systems integrated with barcodes and QR codes.

"This integration enables seamless data exchange with airline systems, improves process timelines, and reduces human touchpoints, ensuring faster and safer cargo handling. The emphasis on digitalisation will streamline operations, enhance visibility across the supply chain, and elevate the overall cargo handling experience for airlines, cargo agents, and end users," he said.

According to the statement, BLR Airport has

established a strong reputation as a leading hub for perishables. It is already the largest exporter of mangoes, coriander, and various other perishable goods.

"With the Domestic Cargo Terminal (DCT), BLR Airport is set to further enhance its handling capacity. The new DCT will have the capability to manage perishables, solidifying BLR Airport's position as a key player in the air cargo industry," the statement said.

"The terminal will also include dedicated storage areas for specialised cargo such as valuables, fragile items, live animals, dangerous goods, and radioactive materials, reinforcing its comprehensive cargo handling capabilities," it added.

'Special meeting to grant approval for Parandur airport to be held soon'

The existing airport in Chennai will not be privatised, says Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

As Chennai's second airport, coming up in Parandur awaits in-principle approval, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said on Thursday that a special meeting would be held in New Delhi within the next two weeks to grant the nod.

"Parandur airport has been under discussion for quite some time now. The site clearance was sought first, and we gave the approval for it. The second stage is the in-principle approval, and the State government has sent the application. We have done a thorough consultation on the same. In a week or two, we will hold a special meeting in New Delhi and are



Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu speaking to presspersons at Chennai airport on Thursday. M. SRINATH

going to give the approval after due process," he said.

Mr. Naidu said the Chennai airport would not be privatised. "This [existing] airport is close to our heart. We want to better the services by ourselves," he said, after reviewing the ongoing modernisation

work at the airport. The airport at Meenambakkam has been receiving flak on social media, with passengers facing various issues ranging from problems with cab pickups to inadequate facilities. Addressing this, Mr. Naidu said: "One of the main rea-

sons for my review is to learn more about these issues. Because, for passengers, that is the priority. Any small issue flagged by the passenger is going to be taken up seriously."

When asked how private airports, such as the one in Bengaluru, had more connectivity to destinations in many parts of the world, including Australia and Europe, and whether Chennai was losing out on this front, he said: "Chennai airport is going to be a very important airport for the Ministry."

"We will do what is necessary to improve the operations and air connectivity, internationally. We feel there is a lot of potential here. We have to speak to the airlines. If there is a lot of demand for Europe, we

are going to sit with the airlines and propose that they start operating flights to those places," he said. He added that it was difficult to remove the existing obstacles in the approach of the second runway at the Chennai airport and that the authorities were trying to streamline operations on both runways.

Cafe inaugurated

Mr. Naidu also inaugurated the Udan Yatri Café at the airport. In the last eight years, 1.5 crore passengers have travelled through the Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik scheme. With more people travelling, we have been receiving feedback from passengers to ensure the availability of food and beverages at affordable rates at the airport, he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

New pier to be built at T3 to handle 5.5 cr passengers yearly

DEVANSH MITTAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

PART of the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) plan to undertake upgradation works at IGI Airport starting April is building a new pier in the flagship Terminal 3 to increase its capacity to handle 5.5 crore passengers a year, up from the current 4.5 crore.

The new pier has been described as 'Pier E' in a proposal by DIAL, the operator of the airport. DIAL has estimated that constructing Pier E will cost Rs 1,661.98 crore, almost 70% of its proposed Rs 2,420.42 crore expansion budget.

Upgradation work will be taken up on three fronts in the next four years — sprucing up Terminal 2, upgrading runway 10/28 to enable low visibility operations from both ends before next winter, building a pier, a long and narrow building that houses parked aircraft, and converting another at T3. This would entail shifting all flights from T2 to the redeveloped and expanded T1,

which DIAL expects will be fully operational by April, after which T2 will be shut for 4-5 months.

In a submission to the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) while determining aeronautical tariff of five-year period ending March 31, 2029, DIAL has said: "Existing domestic capacity of DIAL will get exhausted by 2027-28 and, hence, will require a new pier to be added to Terminal 3.. This will result in allocation of Pier A, B and C (C is currently used for domestic operations) for international traffic while Pier D and E will be completely utilised for domestic operations."

In response to DIAL's submission, AERA proposed a budget of Rs 1,241.33 crore to build Pier E. To develop Pier E as well as a domestic in-fill — an area that caters to domestic flyers — to the eastern side of the airport, 3,600 sqm of Terminal 3 will require reconfiguration and refurbishment.

The new pier will have 12 contact stands and 6 remote contact stands, and comprise three levels — departure, arrivals and apron, DIAL's proposal stated.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

UDF not to blame for major spike in air fares: AERA

New Delhi: Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) Chairperson SKG Rahate said it is not right to say the user development fee (UDF) charged by airports plays a significant role in exorbitant airfares. The comments were made during a stakeholders' consultation meeting related to Delhi airport tariffs held on February 17. AERA is reviewing the tariff proposal submitted by Delhi airport operator DIAL. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से अब 5 नए शहरों के लिए उड़ान

गाजियाबाद, लोकसत्य

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से 1 मार्च से अब बेंगलुरु, कोलकाता और गोवा के लिए उड़ान शुरू हो रही है। वहीं 22 मार्च 2025 से चेन्नई और जम्मू के लिए भी उड़ान शुरू की जा रही है। 5 शहरों के लिए एयर इंडिया टिकटों

की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग पहले ही शुरू कर चुका है।

अभी तक गाजियाबाद के हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से पंजाब के बठिंडा, लुधियाना, किशनगढ़, नांदेड़ और आदमपुर की उड़ान चल रही है। वहीं 5 नए शहरों के लिए हिंडन से विमान सेवा की शुरुआत हो रही है।



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

28 FEBRUARY 2025

नवी मुंबई एयरपोर्ट का अप्रैल में होगा उद्घाटन

मुंबई। नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन अप्रैल 2025 के दूसरे हफ्ते में होने की संभावना है। वहीं, मई में घरेलू उड़ानें शुरू हो सकती हैं। डायरेक्टोरेट जनरल ऑफ सिविल एविएशन और एविएशन अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया की टीमों ने एयरपोर्ट का इन्फेक्शन किया और तैयारियों का जायजा लिया। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें अगले साल जुलाई तक शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

'Chennai airport is not up for privatisation, services to be enhanced'



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 27 FEBRUARY

Ruling out privatisation of Chennai airport, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday said it is not even in the proposed list of the 11 airports made before the general elections but lying with the cabinet.

"Don't worry, it is not on the list. It is close to our hearts," he told newsmen after inaugurating a Udan Yatri Coffee at the Chennai international Airport. "A proposal to privatise 11 airports was submitted before the general elections. It is still lying with the Union Cabinet and lying at that stage only. No decision has been taken as yet," he said.

Responding to a question whether operations of Chennai airport will be handed over to private parties once the construction works are completed, he was categorical in saying "No. It is very close to our hearts and we are trying to do our best to improve and enhance facilities and services. Being the fourth largest airport, it is very important for AAI and remains the gateway to the East. Hence, more focus is there on its development."

"As of now, Chennai airport handles 22 million passengers annually and it could be hiked to

Justifying airport privatisation, Naidu said "It facilitates inflow of investment and improvement in services. Building airports at places with little viability is a burden on the AAI and hence the Civil Aviation Ministry is working out a model to overcome financial stress."

35 million and augment passenger capacity. With Chennai being a top most priority, we are carrying out construction of terminal buildings and other infrastructure. The construction of the Terminal-3 will be completed by March next year," the Minister explained.

Justifying airport privatisation, Naidu said "It facilitates inflow of investment and improvement in services. Building airports at places with little viability is a burden on the AAI and hence the Civil Aviation Ministry is working out a model to overcome financial stress. While the Union Government is holding the land, airport operations are leased out so that passengers get quality service."





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

28 FEBRUARY 2025

KIA unveils 2.4L-sqft domestic cargo terminal with latest tech

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) took a leap in domestic cargo operations with the launch of a 2.4 lakh-sqft domestic cargo terminal (DCT).

KIA operator Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) said this is India's largest greenfield domestic cargo terminal in terms of designed capacity. BIAL will operate the terminal in collaboration with Menzies Aviation. With enhanced infrastructure and streamlined processes, the DCT strengthens supply chains, connects industries and fosters innovation.

Spread over 7 acres, the terminal has a peak handling capacity of 3.6 lakh tonnes, with the potential to scale up to 4 lakh tonnes. It features 42 truck docks, 400 spe-



File photo

ENHANCED INFRASTRUCTURE

cially designed cargo bins, conveyors integrated with X-ray machines, and 30 ULD (unit loading device) build-up and breakdown stations.

Equipped with cutting-edge digital solutions, including real-time shipment tracking, data analytics, and enhanced communication systems, the DCT streamlines operations, improves timelines, and reduces human touchpoints. Digital integration facilitates data exchange with airline systems, enhan-

cing visibility across the supply chain.

Already a premier hub for perishables, KIA is India's largest exporter of mangoes, coriander, and other perishable goods. The new DCT further strengthens its leadership in air cargo. It also includes dedicated storage areas for specialised cargo, such as valuables, vulnerable items, live animals, dangerous goods, and radioactive materials.

Satyaki Raghunath, COO of BIAL, said, "This new domestic cargo terminal reflects our commitment to sustainable growth. By integrating eco-friendly practices with cutting-edge technology, we're addressing the growing demand for domestic cargo while setting benchmarks for efficiency and environmental responsibility."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

Akasa Air expands international operations with direct Bengaluru-Abu Dhabi flights

Aishwarya Kumar
Bengaluru

Akasa Airlines is set to launch its first international flight from Bengaluru to Abu Dhabi. In addition to Bengaluru, the airline will commence operations from Ahmedabad tomorrow.

Akasa aims to continue to expand both its domestic and international presence, according to Neelu Khatri, Co-founder and SVP, International. The Abu Dhabi flight is part of its codeshare agreement with Etihad

Airways.

The new routes complement Akasa Air's daily service between Mumbai and Abu Dhabi. With this expansion, Akasa Air now operates 21 weekly flights connecting Abu Dhabi with three major Indian cities (Mumbai, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad).

Currently, 17 per cent of Akasa's operations comprise international flights. The airline operates services to five international destinations including Riyadh, Jeddah, Doha, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi.

Elaborating on the expansion, Khatri said Akasa aims



Neelu Khatri, Co-founder and SVP, International

to extend its network further into South-East Asia and the northwestern region.

"We are considering des-

tinations such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, along with a few more to the Gulf. Additionally, we are exploring opportunities in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka," she said.

Additionally, she noted that future expansions will depend on factors such as traffic regulations, bilateral agreements, business feasibility and approvals from various airports and governments.

RIISING COSTS

The airline industry is observing a rise in operational

costs. Recently, the Delhi International Airport Ltd proposed higher aeronautical and non-aeronautical charges through a variable fee structure to recover expenses borne to build additional infrastructure.

Last year, the Adani-operated Thiruvananthapuram airport increased user development fees by 50 per cent.

Commenting on the rising costs, Khatri said, "Our focus is always on optimising costs wherever possible. There are some areas we can control and others that are beyond our control."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

Airfares on Delhi-Srinagar route shoot up

Gulzar Bhat
Srinagar

Airfares from New Delhi to Malaysia are now cheaper than those to Srinagar, leaving Srinagar-bound flyers feeling the pinch of skyrocketing fares. On February 27, fares from Delhi to Srinagar ranged between ₹12,000 and ₹19,000 while flights to Langkawi were available at ₹16,000. The surge in fares has hit budget travellers the hardest, making air travel unaffordable for them.

Zakir Ahmad, a civil services aspirant, who recently wrote a State civil services examination in Srinagar, said high airfares had forced him to travel by road from Delhi. "Last-minute travellers had to bear the brunt of exorbitant fares," Ahmad said.

In February 2024, a Parliamentary committee suggested implementing route-specific limits on airfares and



PRICY PEAKS. Growth in air passenger traffic and closure of the Jammu-Srinagar highway led to the surge in airfares

creating a separate body on airfares to control ticket pricing, addressing widespread concerns about arbitrary fare hikes. The panel recommended empowering the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation to regulate tariffs on domestic flights.

GROWING TRAFFIC

Notably, according to a monthly report by ICRA, domestic air passenger traffic in January reached 150 lakh, marking a 0.7 per cent in-

crease from 149 lakh in December 2024.

During the peak tourist season, airfares typically shoot up due to the influx of tourists arriving in the Valley, spurring many holiday makers and sightseers to reconsider their decision to visit the Valley. Another contributing factor is the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway — the only surface link connecting the Valley to other parts of the country — due to recurring

mud slides triggered by inclement weather conditions.

However, the construction of new tunnels along the road have not only helped reduce the travel time but have also circumvented some slide-prone areas. Nevertheless, the road is still far from becoming an all-weather road.

HOPE FROM RAILWAYS

"Once the train service between New Delhi and Srinagar becomes operational, travel is expected to get cheaper," said Nisar Ahmad, a businessman who frequently travels between New Delhi and Kashmir on business trips.

With the completion of the much awaited 272-km Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL), train services between New Delhi and Kashmir are expected to begin after the culmination of the Mahakumbh mela.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

जितनी उड़ानें एक वर्ष में नहीं, उससे अधिक महाकुंभ में

जागरण संवाददाता, प्रयागराज : विमान की लैंडिंग व उड़ान के लिए स्लाट न मिल पाने के समाचार आपने खूब पढ़े-सुने होंगे। लेकिन सोचिए, उड़ानों के आवागमन से व्यस्त एक ऐसा एयरपोर्ट, जहां भीड़ के चलते बैठने की जगह न मिले? टर्मिनल में प्रवेश करना चाहें तो रेलवे स्टेशन जैसी लाइन लगानी पड़े। महाकुंभ के दौरान यह सबकुछ प्रयागराज एयरपोर्ट पर हुआ। जिस एयरपोर्ट पर पिछले साल लगभग साढ़े चार हजार उड़ानें हुई थीं, वहां 48 दिनों के भीतर 5,363 उड़ानों का कीर्तिमान बना। इस दौरान 5,74,788 यात्री आए-गए। चार्टर्ड प्लेन की 1,799 उड़ानों से भी 5,429 विशिष्ट यात्रियों का आवागमन हुआ।

5,363 उड़ानों का बना कीर्तिमान, 5.74 लाख यात्रियों का



क्या महाकुंभ ने देश को सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक रूप से समृद्ध किया है?

mudda@jagran.com पर आप अपनी राय हमें भेज सकते हैं।

प्रयागराज हवाई अड्डा ऐसा पहला एयरपोर्ट है जहां यात्रियों के बैठने के लिए जर्मन हैंगर तक लगाना पड़ गया। प्रयागराज एयरपोर्ट

18 फरवरी को 120 व 24 फरवरी को चार्टर्ड की सर्वाधिक 128 उड़ान

इन शहरों के लिए सीधी उड़ान

रायपुर, बिलासपुर, जयपुर, जम्मू, गुवाहाटी, कोलकाता, भुवनेश्वर, दिल्ली, देहरादून, पुणे, मुंबई, बेंगलुरु, चेन्नई, अहमदाबाद, हैदराबाद, चंडीगढ़, लखनऊ के लिए सीधी उड़ान उपलब्ध है।

ने औसतन हर दूसरे दिन कोई न कोई कीर्तिमान बनाया और देश के सर्वाधिक 20 व्यस्ततम एयरपोर्ट में शामिल हुआ।

हर घर त्रिवेणी के जल को लेकर निकले फायर टैंडर

जासं, प्रयागराज : महाकुंभ अवधि में तीर्थराज प्रयाग में आस्था की अद्भुत बयार बही। देश-विदेश के 66 करोड़ से अधिक श्रद्धालुओं ने संगम के पवित्र जल में गोता लगाया। जो चूक गए, उन तक अब स्वयं त्रिवेणी का जल पहुंचेगा। घर-घर की कटीती में अब गंगा जल होगा, घर में ही मन चंगा होगा और जिह्वा पर हर-हर गंगा....। यह प्रदेश सरकार की अनूठी पहल स्वयं बता रही है। सरकार ने अग्निशमन व आपात सेवा विभाग को प्रदेश के 75 जिलों में घर-घर त्रिवेणी के जल को पहुंचाने की जिम्मेदारी दी है। शुक्रवार को 300 से अधिक दमकल वाहन त्रिवेणी का पवित्र जल लेकर रवाना हो गए।

महाकुंभ की
महिमा...

5,363 उड़ानों का
बना कीर्तिमान,
5.74 लाख
यात्रियों का
आवागमन, 18
फरवरी को 120
व 24 फरवरी
को चार्टर्ड की
सर्वाधिक 128
उड़ान

जितनी उड़ानें एक वर्ष में नहीं, उससे अधिक 48 दिन में

जागरण संवाददाता, प्रयागराज

विमान की लैंडिंग और उड़ान के लिए स्लाट न मिल पाने के समाचार आपने खूब पढ़े-सुने होंगे। लेकिन सोचिए, उड़ानों के आवागमन से व्यस्त एक ऐसा एयरपोर्ट, जहां थोड़े के चलते बैठने की जगह न मिले? टर्मिनल में प्रवेश करना चाहें तो रेलवे स्टेशन जैसी लाइन लगानी पड़े। विमान के अंदर जाएं तो रोडवेज बस जैसी थोड़े का अहसास। महाकुंभ के दौरान यह सबकुछ प्रयागराज एयरपोर्ट पर हुआ। जिस एयरपोर्ट पर पिछले साल लगभग साढ़े चार हजार उड़ानें हुई थीं, वहां 48 दिनों के भीतर 5363 उड़ानों का कीर्तिमान बना। इस दौरान 5,74,788 यात्री आए-गए। चार्टर्ड प्लेन की 1,799 उड़ानों से भी 5,429 विशिष्ट यात्रियों का आवागमन हुआ।

वर्ष 2019 में सिविल एयरपोर्ट के रूप में अस्तित्व में आया प्रयागराज हवाई अड्डा ऐसा पहला एयरपोर्ट है जहां यात्रियों की



प्रतीकात्मक

इन शहरों के लिए सीधी उड़ान

रायपुर, बिलासपुर, जयपुर, जम्मू, गुवाहाटी, कोलकाता, भुवनेश्वर, दिल्ली, देहरादून, पुणे, मुंबई, बेंगलुरु, चेन्नई, अहमदाबाद, हैदराबाद, चंडीगढ़, लखनऊ के लिए सीधी उड़ान उपलब्ध है।

संख्या इतनी बढ़ गई कि उनके बैठने के लिए जर्मन हेंगर तक लगाना पड़ गया। महीनों जहां चार्टर्ड प्लेन न आते हों, उस एयरपोर्ट पर 24 फरवरी को 126 चार्टर्ड आ गए। स्थिति यह रही कि एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड

एयरपोर्ट की विशेष उपलब्धियां

10 जनवरी को 106 वर्षों के विमान सेवा इतिहास में पहली बार प्रयागराज से रात्रि में विमान ने उड़ान भरी

15 जनवरी को 93 वर्ष बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमान (तारेन पावेल विमान से भूटान गई) उड़ा

1 वर्ष में औसतन 4.90 लाख यात्रियों का आवागमन होता है, लेकिन 48 दिन में पांच लाख से अधिक यात्री आए-गए।

25 फरवरी को प्रयागराज प्रदेश का सर्वाधिक व्यस्ततम एयरपोर्ट बना।

होने के लिए विमानों को स्लाट नहीं मिल पा रहा था। प्रयागराज एयरपोर्ट ने औसतन हर दूसरे दिन कोई न कोई कीर्तिमान बनाया और देश के सर्वाधिक 20 व्यस्ततम एयरपोर्ट में शामिल हुआ। इस दौरान यहां 3350 शेड्यूल

और 1775 नान शेड्यूल उड़ानें आई-गईं। 25 फरवरी को तो यह यूपी का सर्वाधिक व्यस्त एयरपोर्ट रहा। इस दिन लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर 22 हजार, जबकि वाराणसी में 15 हजार यात्रियों का आवागमन हुआ था और प्रयागराज में इसी दिन रिकार्ड 27,500 हजार यात्रियों का आवागमन हुआ।

यू तो 13 जनवरी से 26 फरवरी तक (45 दिन) महाकुंभ का आयोजन हुआ लेकिन 11 जनवरी से ही महाकुंभ विशेष उड़ानों का संचालन शुरू हो चुका था। पहले दिन 28 उड़ानों से 2991 यात्रियों का आवागमन हुआ। सात फरवरी को पहली बार 110 उड़ानें आईं। 17 फरवरी को यह संख्या 203 पहुंच गई। 17 से 26 फरवरी तक हर दिन उड़ानों की संख्या 200 के पार रही। 24 फरवरी को 282 उड़ानों का सबसे बड़ा कीर्तिमान बना। 27 फरवरी को 138 उड़ानों से 14,945 यात्रियों का आवागमन हुआ। 11 फरवरी से अभी तक चार्टर्ड विमानों की संख्या प्रतिदिन 50 से नीचे नहीं आई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

28 FEBRUARY 2025

जनवरी में घरेलू हवाई यातायात 11% बढ़ा

नई दिल्ली : इस वर्ष जनवरी में 1.46 करोड़ लोगों ने घरेलू हवाई यातायात किया है। इसमें जनवरी 2024 के मुकाबले 11.28 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि रही है। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के अनुसार, 65.2 प्रतिशत बाजार हिस्सेदारी के साथ इंडिगो शीर्ष पर रही है। इस दौरान एअर इंडिया समूह की हिस्सेदारी घटकर 25.7 प्रतिशत रही है। (प्रेट्र)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

IndiGo faces ₹1.3-cr fine related to input tax credit in Gujarat

INDIGO ON FRIDAY said it is facing a penalty of ₹1.30 crore in relation to input tax credit in Gujarat and evaluating necessary legal recourse. In a regulatory filing, IndiGo said the tax officer has denied input tax credit availed for FY21.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

INDIGO MARKET SHARE CLIMBS, AIR INDIA'S FALLS

Data for January Company	Market share (%)	Pax carried (in mn)	PLF* (%)	On time performance (%)
IndiGo	65.2	9.52	89.8	75.5
Air India group	25.7	3.76	84.4	69.8
Akasa Air	4.7	0.7	93.7	71.5
SpiceJet	3.2	0.47	87.1	54.8



*Passenger load factor; Source: DGCA



JANUARY JUMP

There was a passenger growth of

11%
y-o-y
to

14.6 mn

■ Air India Group had the least flight cancellations in January

■ Fly Big had the maximum cancellations in January

75%

of flight cancellation was due to weather





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Domestic air traffic rises 11% in January

PTI
NEW DELHI

Domestic air traffic grew 11.28 per cent to 1.46 crore in January compared to the year-ago period, according to official data.

IndiGo saw its market share climb to 65.2 per cent while that of Air India Group declined to 25.7 per cent last month. Akasa Air and SpiceJet saw their respective market share increased to 4.7 per cent and 3.2 per cent.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January 2025 were 1.46 crore as against 1.31 crore during the corresponding period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of 11.28 per cent and monthly

growth of 11.28 per cent," DGCA said on Thursday.

Last month, the overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines stood at 1.62 per cent, with the highest cancellation rate for Fly Big at 17.74 per cent followed by Fly91 (5.09 per cent) and Alliance Air (4.35 per cent). The data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed that IndiGo recorded the highest On Time Performance (OTP) at 75.5 per cent while that of Akasa Air stood at 71.5 per cent in January.

Air India Group's OTP was at 69.8 per cent, Alliance Air at 57.6 per cent and SpiceJet at 54.8 per cent. The OTP is computed for six metro airports – Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

AI Express flights from Hindon to begin today

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Starting Saturday, travellers from the National Capital Region (NCR) will have another airport option as Hindon civil terminal gears up for its first flight by a full-service airline, Air India Express, on Saturday.

The airport, located next to the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad, is expected to benefit travellers from western Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, said officials from the civil aviation ministry.

Currently, Hindon has flights operated only by Bangalore-based regional carrier Star Air (India) to Kalaburagi and Hubli, three and four times a week, respectively.

The airport will witness a non-stop flight of Air India Express from Kolkata land at Hindon on Saturday morning. This flight will be a B737-8 aircraft, officials said, but the daily flights from the airport after that will be operated on A320 aircraft. "The same flight will take off for Goa from Hindon airport at 10.30am and land in Goa around 1.15pm," said a civil aviation official, asking not to be

**A NON-STOP
FLIGHT FROM
KOLKATA WILL
LAND AT HINDON
ON SATURDAY
MORNING. IT WILL
THEN TAKE OFF
FOR GOA
AT 10.30AM**

named.

With this development, Air India Express will become the first airline in the country to operate from two airports in NCR. The airline will also operate direct flights to Bengaluru, Goa, and Kolkata from the Hindon airport, it had said in a statement earlier.

With this expansion, Air India Express will join IndiGo (which operates from both Goa's old airport and MOPA airport) in operating from two airports within the same metropolitan region, reinforcing the benefits of multiple airports in major metros for improved connectivity, increased competition, and greater affordability for travellers.

"Hindon airport ensures quicker access to key areas in

the National Capital Region. It also makes air travel more accessible to a broader population, particularly aspiring travellers from western Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand," the airline spokesperson said.

"Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu is expected to inaugurate the flight around 9.15am on Saturday," a second ministry official confirmed, asking not to be named. "The minister will be accompanied by civil aviation secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam, Vipin Kumar, chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), and local politicians," the official added.

Hindon Civil Enclave, located in Ghaziabad, is operated by the AAI using the Hindon Air Force Base runway and air traffic control services are provided by the Indian Air Force. The airport was primarily built to handle domestic flights under the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS).

Owing to its proximity to the national capital, Hindon civil terminal serves as a convenient alternative for scheduled and non-scheduled operators who face challenges securing slots at Delhi airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

हिंडन से गोवा और कोलकाता की हवाई सेवा आज से होगी शुरू

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, टीएचए: गाजियाबाद भी अपने साथियों और कार्यकर्ताओं के समेत आसपास के जिलों में रहने साथ गोवा के लिए उड़ान भरेंगे। उन्होंने वाले लोगों को अब गोवा, कोलकाता और बैंगलुरु की फ्लाइट के लिए 40 किलोमीटर दूर दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। शनिवार से हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से

सोमवार से बैंगलुरु के लिए भी होगी उड़ान, नहीं जाना पड़ेगा दिल्ली

खुद इसमें कई सीटें बुक करवाई हैं। जबकि बैंगलुरु के लिए यही फ्लाइट 2 मार्च को यहां से उड़ान भरेगी। वहीं 22 मार्च से जम्मू और चेन्नई के लिए फ्लाइट शुरू होनी है।

ये हैं प्रस्तावित फ्लाइट:

गोवा और कोलकाता की फ्लाइट एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की तरफ से शुरू हो जाएगी। 184 सीटर वाली फ्लाइट की 80 प्रतिशत सीटें एक दिन पहले ही बुक हो चुकी थीं। पहले दिन सांसद अतुल गर्ग

लखनऊ, अयोध्या, प्रयागराज, बनारस, मुरादाबाद, मुंबई और पिथौरागढ़ के लिए भी फ्लाइटें शुरू होनी हैं। इन रूट पर फ्लाइटों को शुरू करने के लिए बात चल रही है।

गोवा-कोलकाता को हिंडन से पहली उड़ान आज

भाजपा सांसद और विधायकों ने बुक कराई अपनी टिकट एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट देगी हिंडन से सेवा

गाजियाबाद, 28 फरवरी, (नवोदय टाइम्स): गाजियाबाद के हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से शनिवार को गोवा, कोलकाता और बेंगलुरु के लिए सीधी फ्लाइट शुरू हो रही है। इससे पहले लोगों को गोवा, कोलकाता और बेंगलुरु के लिए फ्लाइट पकड़ने को गाजियाबाद से दिल्ली जाना ही पड़ता था। लेकिन आज से गाजियाबाद से हिंडन एयरबेस से लोगों को इन शहरों के लिए सीधी फ्लाइट मिलने जा रही है। इन तीनों शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट की टिकट भी ऐसी रखी गई है कि एक आम आदमी आराम से हवाई यात्रा कर सकता है। बताया जा रहा है कि अभी एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट यह सेवाएं देंगी। इसके बाद में कई दूसरी एयरलाइन गाजियाबाद के हिंडन हवाई अड्डे से उड़ानें शुरू कर सकती हैं।



गाजियाबाद टू गोवा फ्लाइट

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट निदेशक उमेश यादव के मुताबिक पहले भी कोशिश की गई थी कि इन शहरों के लिए गाजियाबाद से फ्लाइट शुरू की जाए। लेकिन कुछ कानूनी अड़चनों के कारण उड़ानें नहीं शुरू हो पा रही थी। लेकिन अब इसकी पाबंदी हट चुकी है। ऐसे में तीन शहरों के लिए उड़ान शुरू की जा रही है। हवाई यात्रा के लिए टिकट के दाम चार हजार रुपये से शुरू हैं।



गोवा की पहली फ्लाइट में सफर करेंगे सांसद

गोवा की पहली फ्लाइट से सांसद अतुल गर्ग और जिले के सभी विधायक व कुछ व्यापारी नेता सफर करेंगे। सांसद अतुल गर्ग, शहर विधायक संजीव शर्मा, तौनी विधायक नंद विश्वोर गुर्जर, घौलाना विधायक धर्मेरा तोमर, साहिबाबाद विधायक सुनील शर्मा और मुरादनगर विधायक अजीत पाल त्यागी ने एडवॉंस बुकिंग करा ली है। गोवा जाने वाली फ्लाइट की करीब 80 प्रतिशत सीटें बुक हैं। हिंडन से बेंगलुरु के लिए शुरू हुई फ्लाइट से नौकरीपेशा लोगों को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी। अभी तक इन लोगों को दिल्ली से जाना पड़ता था।

फ्लाइट का समय

उन्होंने बताया कि आने वाले दिनों में प्रयागराज, अयोध्या और लखनऊ के लिए भी हिंडन से फ्लाइट शुरू की जाएगी। पूरी संभावना है कि कई दूसरी एयरलाइन अपनी सेवाएं शुरू करेंगी। आज से गोवा, कोलकाता और बेंगलुरु के लिए फ्लाइट शुरू हो रही है। समय सरणी की बात करें तो सुबह 7.10 पर कोलकाता से विमान उड़ान भरेगा। जो कि 9.30 बजे हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पहुंचेगा। यहां पर एक घंटे के ब्रेक के बाद विमान गोवा के लिए उड़ान भरेगा जो दोपहर 1.15 बजे गोवा पहुंचेगा। इसके बाद वहां से 2.15 बजे हिंडन के लिए वापस उड़ान भरेगा। हिंडन में यात्रियों को उतारने के बाद यहीं विमान शाम को कोलकाता के लिए रवाना होगा। बताया गया कि प्रतिदिन तीन शहरों के लिए हिंडन एयरपोर्ट सिविल टर्मिनल से फ्लाइट मिलेगी। जिन शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट जाएगी उनसे हिंडन के लिए रोजाना आएगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

1 MARCH 2025

घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या में वृद्धि

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जनवरी 2025 में घरेलू हवाई यातायात में 11.28 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई, जिससे यह 1.46 करोड़ यात्रियों तक पहुंच गया। इस दौरान इंडिगो की बाजार हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 65.2 प्रतिशत हो गई, जबकि एयर इंडिया ग्रुप की हिस्सेदारी घटकर 25.7 प्रतिशत रह गई। अकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट ने भी अपनी बाजार हिस्सेदारी में वृद्धि दर्ज की, जो क्रमशः 4.7 प्रतिशत और 3.2 प्रतिशत रही। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार-जनवरी 2025 में घरेलू एयरलाइंस द्वारा कुल 146.11 लाख

यात्रियों को सेवाएं दी गईं, जो पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि में 131.30 लाख थीं। इस प्रकार, वार्षिक और मासिक आधार पर 11.28 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। **भारत एमआरएनए, सेल और जीन थेरेपी और एंटीबॉडी के मामले में भी आगे बढ़ रहा है**

भारत दुनिया के 60 प्रतिशत से अधिक टीकों और एचआईवी उपचार के लिए वैश्विक एंटी-रेट्रोवायरल दवाओं का 70 प्रतिशत भी सप्लाई करता है। इसके अलावा रिपोर्ट से पता चला है कि भारत एमआरएनए, सेल और जीन थेरेपी और एंटीबॉडी के मामले में भी आगे बढ़ रहा है।



Video grab of passengers leaving the Delta Air Lines CRJ-900 jet after it crashed on landing at Toronto Pearson airport on Feb 17

WHAT YOU MAY NOT

KNOW ABOUT YOUR FLIGHT ATTENDANT

They aren't there just to bring you refreshments but are the first responders when a landing goes wrong, as the recent Delta accident in Toronto showed. Here's a peek into a cabin crew's meticulous safety routine

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Even when only half the exits are usable, flight attendants are trained to execute a full-scale evacuation within 90 seconds, less than the time it takes to cook instant noodles. Even when the aircraft flips and lands on its top, as was the case with the Delta Bombardier aircraft on Feb 17 in Toronto. All 76 passengers on board survived the accident. "During this impressive event, the cabin crew acted quickly and effectively... This incident underscores the vital role that cabin crew members play in aviation safety," said the European Cabin Crew Association.

Mental Exercise To Save Lives "Cabin crew training is of paramount importance, an evacuation should be completed within 90 seconds of the pilot's 'evacuate' command," said Capt Manoj Hathi, former Air India director. "Indian carriers have over 1,500 aircraft on order. Accidents such as the one in Toronto highlight the critical nature of a flight attendant's job." Though the 90-second rule isn't always perfectly executed — video clips of some accidents in the past decade show passengers grabbing their belongings instead of rushing to the emergency exit — flight attendants prepare for such events not only during their training and annual refresh-

ers but on every single flight. Called the 'cabin crew silent review', it begins the moment the cockpit announces: 'Cabin crew to landing station'. While the passengers sit back, the flight attendants seated in their jump seats begin a mental practice. They silently run through emergency procedures in their mind, visualising and rehearsing the series of actions they would take in case of an unexpected turn of events. "It keeps us focused so that we can respond swiftly, efficiently to an emergency," said a senior flight attendant. "During the critical phases of a flight, such as take-off or landing, we do the silent review," she said. Two silent reviews per flight, hundreds a

year. So, if and when the "evacuate, evacuate" or, worse, "brace for impact" command comes, there is no need for second-guessing, the protocol has become second nature.

Known, Unknown Emergencies "Starting an evacuation from an upside-down orientation is not part of the training, yet," said another flight attendant, referring to the Delta accident. Though rare, India, too, witnessed such an accident way back in 1993. A Hyderabad-Delhi Indian Airlines flight with 165 passengers and crew on board came to a halt in an inverted position after a series of bumps. The TU-154 aircraft wet-leased from Uzbekistan Airways then caught fire, but the

cabin crew evacuated all fliers in time with no fatalities.

But it's the 2005 Air France A340 Toronto accident that highlights the vital role played by flight attendants in turning a tragedy into a story of survival. The aircraft, with 309 people on board, overshot the Toronto runway, fell into a creek, and caught fire. One of the emergency slides deflated after it was punctured by the aircraft debris, another failed to deploy and the two rear exits remained closed due to the fire. Despite everything, flight attendants evacuated all on board within the 90-second deadline. There were no fatalities.

"In the initial training, flight safety takes up to three months, while hospitality is only one month," said K Jagannatharao, a former flight attendant with three decades of experience. Since their job demands knowing the passenger cabin inside out, cabin crew can be trained and rostered on no more than three different aircraft types.

But, despite all the training, passenger behaviour during an emergency can strongly influence survival rates. Not removing stilettos or jumping onto the slide carrying sharp objects could end up puncturing it and jeopardising the evacuation. One might not pay attention to the pre-flight safety briefing but, in an emergency, every single word a flight attendant utters becomes critical for survival.

After The 'Evacuate' Command...

Flight attendants say they first check on their fellow flight attendant and, if they are injured or unconscious, take the responsibility of manning their door as well. Airlines mandatorily roster one flight attendant per serviceable aircraft door. For instance, a Boeing 737-800 has a minimum of four flight attendants on board for its four doors.

Airlines have voice commands and rules that vary slightly. Then there is improvisation, called upon by passenger behaviour. Videos of the Delta accident showed a flight attendant guiding passengers to the exit while commanding them to, "Drop everything. Drop it. Come on... Put that phone away."



Photo for representation

Exiting Safely...

Once it's safe to open the plane door, the crew does a 'DIT':

DEPLOY | The attendant checks whether the slide on their door has been deployed and fully inflated.

INFLATE | Aircraft slides are designed to fully inflate in six seconds in temperatures ranging from -40 degrees Celsius to 70 degrees Celsius and unfurl in winds of up to 53kmph.

TOUCH | The flight attendant visually checks whether the inflated slide is touching the ground.

After the DIT procedure, cabin crew quickly scan the outside environment and the evacuation begins with a calm, but loud command, "Open seat belt, leave everything, come this way, jump, jump."

The cabin crew must check their assigned rows, lavatories, and cockpit for people who might have been left behind. Finally, they exit themselves, calling out loud, "All passengers are deplaned and (their name) is also evacuating from the aircraft".

Lessons From A Hijacking | In 1996, the hijacked Ethiopian Airlines Flight 961 crashed into the Indian Ocean. Emergency evacuation began even as water gushed into the plane. But 122 of its 160 passengers lost their lives, many of them trapped inside after prematurely inflating their life jacket and floating up and getting stuck to the ceiling of the aircraft. Hence, the norm is to first exit the aircraft and then inflate the life jacket.

First Flight Attendants Were Nurses

In the 1930s, **Ellen Church**, a nurse, persuaded the aviation industry that a nurse was needed in the cabin for medical emergencies.



Registered nurses thus became the first flight attendants. But they were discontinued during WWII. After the war, requirements changed. Airlines no longer wanted nurses, but young women with charm, poise, and conversational skills as focus moved to passenger service. In early 1960s, following a series of accidents, probe reports pointed to the crucial role flight attendants could play in saving lives. That led to upgraded emergency training protocol for cabin crew.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Airline hit by 2 DDoS attacks in 8 mths

Mumbai: An airline has lodged a complaint with cyber police after being targeted in a DDoS (Distributed Denial-of-Service) attack on two occasions in eight months, impacting its operations, report **Mateen Hafeez & Nitasha Nattu**. A DDoS attack is like an artificial traffic jam, where hackers flood a company's site, server, or network with fake requests, making it slow or unavailable to real users.

The unidentified attacker left behind messages on the airline's social media account — "... your website is under attack by me. If you wish to save your website let us know, otherwise we will continue with our attack." A police officer said: "While no specific monetary demand was made, targeting their portal resulted in impacting their sales and caused them losses."

Motives for a DDoS attack

could vary — from a rival firm to steal business, or extortion or by disgruntled individuals simply to make a statement.

According to the FIR registered on Tuesday, the airline's IT department noticed a sudden rise in internet traffic on their official portal on Jan 31, 2024. As a result of the DDoS attack, ticket sales on the airline's portal were impacted for 24 hours. The second DDoS attack was on Oct 16, 2024.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Flight makes emergency landing

A Saudia Airlines flight from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, made an emergency landing at Chennai Airport on Thursday evening after a passenger experienced sudden breathing difficulties.

The 65-year-old Indonesian woman, who was traveling with her family, fell ill as the aircraft was over Chennai around 7pm. Alerted by the crew, the pilot sought and received landing clearance from Chennai ATC.

After an assessment was made and emergency medical visas issued to the woman and her four family members, they were taken to a private hospital in Chennai and the plane left for Kuala Lumpur. TNN

AVIATION ACCIDENTS INCREASED IN 2024 BUT LONG-TERM SAFETY TRENDS IMPROVE

Globally, the most common accidents involving airline aircraft last year were tail strikes and runway excursions, underscoring the importance of takeoff and landing safety measures. **Manju V** looks at how 2024 fared in terms of aviation safety

GLOBAL AIRLINES SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Metric	2024 value	2023 value	5-year average (2019-2023)
All-accident rate	1.13 per million flights	1.09 per million flights	1.25 per million flights
Fatal accidents	7	1	5
Fatalities	244	72	144
Fatality risk	0.06	0.03	0.1

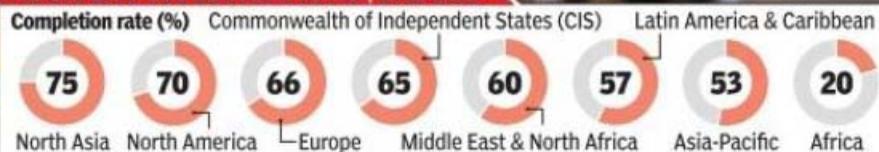


Most affected regions: **Türkiye, Iraq, Egypt**

*Any disruption of the signals received from GNSS satellites, like GPS, which can negatively affect the accuracy of positioning data

**A malicious technique that manipulates GPS data, thereby misleading a GPS receiver about its actual location

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS | 2018-2023



SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Area	Recommendation
Conflict zone safety	Enhanced government action
Intelligence sharing	Better global cooperation
Accident investigation reports	Clearer global protocols and transparency
GNSS interference issues	Urgent countermeasures and mitigation efforts

“ Even with recent high-profile aviation accidents, it is important to remember that accidents are extremely rare. There were 40.6 million flights in 2024 and only seven fatal accidents. Moreover, aviation safety has continuously improved **Willie Walsh** | DIRECTOR GENERAL, IATA

Source: IATA 2024 Annual Safety Report

Airline hit by 2 DDoS attacks in 8 mths; ticket sales impacted

Mateen Hafeez & Nitasha Natu | TNN

Mumbai: An airline has lodged a complaint with cyber police after being targeted in a DDoS (Distributed Denial-of-Service) attack on two occasions in eight months, impacting its operations. A DDoS attack is like an artificial traffic jam, where hackers flood a company's website, server, or network with fake requests, making it slow or unavailable to real users.

The unidentified attacker left behind messages on the airline's social media account, warning them to "take things seriously". A police officer said: "While no specific monetary demand was made from the airline, targeting their portal would result in impacting their sales which would cause losses."

Motives for a DDoS attack could vary — from a rival shutting down a company's online operations to steal their business, or extortion by installing ransomware on the company's servers. Attacks may also be carried out by disgruntled individuals simply to make a statement or to express disapproval.

According to the FIR re-

CYBERATTACK TARGETS DROP IN PORTAL TRAFFIC



Expertspeak

- > Nikhil Mahadeshwar, founder of Cyber Secured India, said while investigating firms facing DDoS attacks, they found that most have policies only on paper and technologies are not properly implemented or monitored
- > Forensics readiness is also lacking at firms. "After the attack, they often don't have enough logs to provide...for probe," he added
- > They should follow advisories given by bodies like RBI & SEBI, in collaboration with CERT-IN

> **A Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attack** is a malicious attempt to disrupt normal traffic to a web property



> It results in loss of business/income, damage to reputation, and drop in legitimate traffic to a website

> Some global companies, including software firms and cloud computing services, have been targeted

How to safeguard from DDoS attacks

> To protect against such attacks, companies should strengthen network defences using firewalls, intrusion prevention systems, DDoS mitigation



services, and rate limiting, said Mahadeshwar

> Having an incident response plan, backup servers, and fail-over systems ensures quick recovery

gistered on Tuesday, the airline's general manager of the IT department noticed a sudden rise in internet traffic on their official portal on Jan 31, 2024. As a result of the DDoS attack, ticket sales on the airline's portal were impacted for 24 hours. The attacker left behind messages on the airline's social media account which read, "... your

website is under attack by me. Aap ko website bachani ho to batana, ya fir hum attack on hi rakehenge (If you wish to save your website let us know, otherwise we will continue with our attack)."

The second DDoS attack was on Oct 16, 2024. The attacker once again left a series of messages on the airline's social media account.

The airline carried out an internal probe and found that multiple Internet Protocols had been used while committing the crime. Details of these IP addresses were submitted to Central Cyber Police who are carrying out the investigation under the supervision of DCP Datta Nalwade and senior inspector Mousami Patil.