



Corporate Communications Directorate

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MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2025

SC: All AAI services taxable

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed an appeal by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), upholding a service tax demand spanning 2003 to 2007. The Court ruled that the statutory definition of "taxable service" is broad, confirming that all services rendered by the AAI at any airport are subject to service tax. This includes the handling of cargo, such as unloading, screening, and packing of export cargo. Now, any service covered under Finance Act is taxable.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

1 OCTOBER 2025

All services rendered by Airport Authority of India taxable: SC upholds Service Tax demand



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court (SC) has said all kinds of services rendered by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in any airport are taxable and liable to service tax as it dismissed the appeal of the airport regulator against the service tax liability between 2003 and 2007.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and PB Varale upheld the March 1, 2017 order of Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) that approved the service tax demand from the AAI on services, including export cargo, it provides.

The AAI in discharge of its duties, handles cargo on airports including export cargo which involves a number of activities like unloading, carting, X-ray, export packing, etc.

These services are rendered from the time the cargo is accepted for shipment till it is placed on the aircraft.

The AAI contended that the service tax demand was raised for services, including handling of export cargo which was excluded under Sub section (23) of Section 65 of the Finance Act, 1994.

The bench after analysing the provisions of the law said the definition of the taxable service is very wide and takes into its fold any kind of service that may be provided to any person by the Airports Authority at any airport.

"Accordingly, all kinds of services rendered by the Airports Authority in any airport are taxable services and are chargeable to service tax under Section 66 of the Act," the bench held in a recent verdict.

"It may be pertinent to note that sub-clause (zxm) was introduced with effect from September 10, 2004. Accordingly, any kind of services whether in respect of export cargo provided by the Airports Authority to any person after inclusion of sub clause (zxm) would be taxable service," the top court said.

The bench observed that the intent of the charging Section 66 of the Act, which provides for tax on the services, refers to in sub-clauses including sub-clause (zxm).

"In short, any kind of services which are covered under any of the sub-clauses of Section 66, including (zxm) are chargeable to tax and are taxable service,"

the top court said, while rejecting AAI's argument that handling of export cargo does not incur service tax liability.

While upholding the decision of the CESTAT, the bench said, "CESTAT or the authorities below have not erred in taxing the services rendered by the appellant in relation to export cargo as taxable service under sub-clause (zxm) of Sub-section (105) of Section 65 of the Act with effect from September 10, 2004."

On March 17, 2010, the Commissioner (Adjudication), Service Tax at Delhi confirmed the service tax liability upon the airport regulator for the period October 1, 2003 to March 31, 2007 under the category of "Storage and Warehousing Service" up to September 9, 2004 and thereafter from September 10, 2004 under the category "Airport Services" introduced in Finance Act of 1994. Aggrieved by the order, the AAI moved the CESTAT on the ground that the order of the Commissioner (Adjudication), Service Tax was flawed in view of the exem.

Passenger traffic grows despite flight caps at country's two busiest airports

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As the long-delayed Navi Mumbai airport project nears its inauguration date and Delhi pushes ahead with the Noida-Jewar airport opening, India's air routes map is being redrawn. Mumbai-Delhi is the busiest domestic airport pair in the country, with more than 39,000 flights operated on this route last year. It translates to an average of over 100 flights per day in both directions. Yet, the two airports serving India's top two most populated urban agglomerates – the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Delhi-NCR – have hardly seen any growth in air traffic since 2018.

Airports Authority of India data for air traffic (landings and take-offs) handled by Mumbai and Delhi between April and July 2025 compared to the same period in 2018 shows a telling decline. Delhi airport's air traffic dropped by 2.6%, while Mumbai's by 0.2%, which essentially means that the two airports are at the same place as in 2018. Despite a decrease in airline seat availability at the two airports, passenger traffic grew from Apr-July 2018 to Apr-July 2025 – by 8.5% for Mumbai and 6% for Delhi. It points to the ever-increasing demand for



Despite having capacity-limited airports, India boasts the world's fastest-growing domestic air traffic market

air travel or bigger aircraft flying into the two airports. The story of poor air traffic growth repeats at India's other two big metros as well. Air traffic in Chennai dropped by 7.6% when Apr-July 2025 is compared with Apr-July 2018 and in Kolkata by 10%.

In spite of its capacity-constrained four metro airports, India currently has the fastest growing domestic air traffic market in the

world. The split between India's airports is clear: On one hand are the British-era airport locations of Mumbai (commissioned in 1942), Kolkata (1924) and Chennai (1930) – with Delhi moving from Safdarjung airport to the current one in 1962 – and on the other the comparatively younger, better-planned airports that are riding double-digit passenger traffic growth. Among them are the 2008-born Bangalore

and Hyderabad airports.

The 2025 vs 2018 comparison of air traffic at Bangalore, the third busiest airport in India, shows a 21.6% growth, while Hyderabad grew by 27%. The commissioning of the Navi Mumbai airport and the Jewar-Noida airport will finally change the narrative and skewed air travel demand-supply equation for Mumbai and Delhi.

Mumbai-Delhi is the busiest domestic corridor of the country and accounts for 3.4% of all domestic flights, according to data shared by International Air Transport Association (IATA). Bengaluru-Delhi and Bengaluru-Mumbai are the second and third busiest routes, with around 27,000 (2.4% of domestic traffic) and 25,000 (2.2%) flights in 2024.

Between 2011 and 2019, India experienced a double-digit average annual growth rate of 10.3% in air passenger traffic. According to IATA, this performance easily outpaced that of the industry globally and for the Asia Pacific region. The growth stopped in 2019 when Jet Airways shut down and then in 2020 with the onset of Covid. While airports the world over and in India recovered in the following years and surpassed their pre-pandemic volumes, Mumbai and Delhi airports stayed constrained and congested.

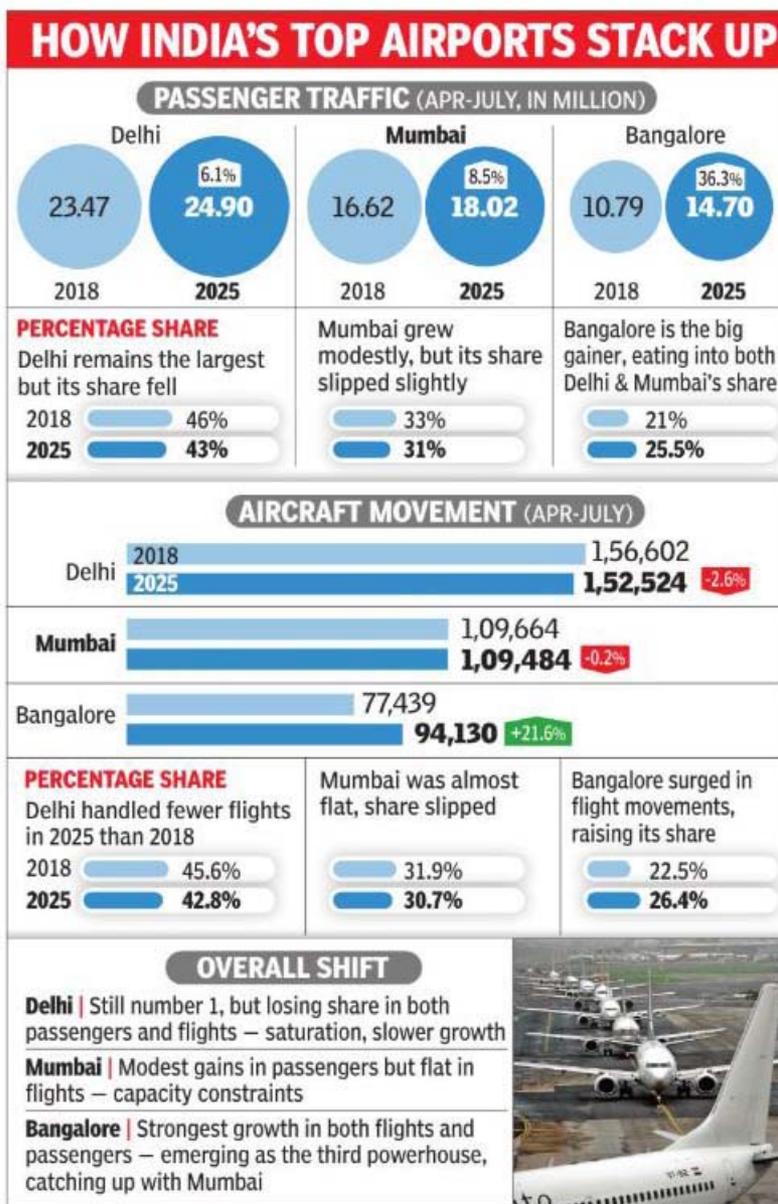
IATA's 'Aviation in India' report says, "Investing in air transport infrastructure is essential to meet future passenger demand. Expanding and modernizing airports ensures they can accommodate the expected threefold increase in traffic over the next 20 years efficiently and effectively."

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2025



The New Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has achieved a major milestone with the grant of its aerodrome license from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), clearing the way for flight operations. Scheduled for ceremonial inauguration on Oct 8, the long-awaited airport is expected to welcome its first commercial flights around mid-Nov. But a full rollout hinges on completion of operational readiness trials, involving everything from baggage systems to biometric entry. Designed by the internationally-known Zaha Hadid Architects, the terminal's lotus-inspired architecture provides a spacious experience, with key airlines players like IndiGo, Air India Express and Akasa Air set to test operations.

The aerodrome license certifies that the airport meets the International Civil Aviation Organisation's regulatory, safety and operational standards. Flights can land and take off at the airport from the date of issue of the license - Sept 30 in this case. A Boeing 737-8 MAX business jet operating a passenger flight landed at the airport on Tuesday and more flights will arrive in the coming days as part of mock tests, but "formal operations won't begin till next month," said a source. "Several processes such as security operations need to be completed before commercial flights can begin. These take about 30 days," said an aviation official.

Why a full month? "Airport operational readiness tests check whether systems are in place and facilities and equipment fully operational. It involves testing airport systems through operational trials."

How to reach the new airport, P 4

Are all visual and non-visual aids functional after necessary flight checks? Is the secondary power supply meeting the specified levels? Will there be any issues with operational requirements? Is the airport rescue and firefighting service ready to respond in an emergency? It is for this that mock tests with real-life scenarios are played out," said an aviation expert.

The airport is carrying out comprehensive trials in advance of the planned opening date by simulating an arrival flight which will bring in a certain number of passengers and bags. "Can the bags be loaded onto the conveyor belt within the specified timelines so that the aircraft turnaround times are adhered to. The airport operator would have and should have conducted these operational readiness tests a couple of times by now," the expert said. NMIA will also need to validate new systems - from biometric entry to access digital trails - before passengers walk through its gates.

The terminal, built within a lotus-inspired structure, incorporates 15 sculptural feature columns shaped like unfolding petals. Helped to allow daylight, the columns guide passenger circulation through the concourse and create shifting patterns of light, said NMIA in a press statement. Scissor-like columns support the roof canopies, engineered to withstand seismic shocks, wind pressure and heavy loads. It said, adding that the structural system enables wide spans without mid-concourse obstructions, giving passengers unobstructed views and large open spaces.

Construction involved custom moulds and modular prefabrication to achieve the complex petal geometry. The curved roof elements are designed to reduce wind resistance, channel rainwater and bring natural illumination through skylights positioned between the petals, said NMIA. "The design draws on India's architectural traditions, where columns have symbolic and structural importance in temples and historic cave halls. The design allows the airport to handle large aircraft and heavy passenger volumes while retaining a distinct cultural identity."

On the manpower front, government-run bodies have already trained and posted their staff. "The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has posted about 30 air traffic controllers. About 40 other officials are in charge of communication, navigation, surveillance, and maintenance of navigation aids," said a source. About 200 trained CSF personnel have been posted to handle core security jobs such as airport entry and security screening.

After the inauguration, the next big day for the airport would be when airlines start selling tickets for the new airport.

NMIA CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF OCT 8 LAUNCH, NOV OPS LIKELY



WHAT NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT MEANS FOR FLYERS

TWO AIRPORTS, ONE CITY

20 million passengers per annum is the declared capacity of Navi Mumbai Terminal 1, handling about 55,000 flyers daily

2026 is the expected year when Terminal 1 will reach saturation, marking the shortest saturation time for a greenfield airport terminal worldwide

90 million PASSENGERS PER ANNUM PROJECTED TO BE HANDLED BY THE FINISHED AIRPORT'S TERMINAL BUILDINGS

30 million passengers per annum is the declared capacity of Navi Mumbai Terminal 2, which is scheduled to be ready by 2029

Between 2026 and 2029 expansions of Mumbai Airport Terminal 2 and Navi Mumbai Terminal 1 will increase capacity beyond their original limits to accommodate passenger growth

1,160 hectares (2,866 ACRES) IS THE AREA NMIA WILL COVER UPON COMPLETION, FEATURING TWO PARALLEL RUNWAYS

HOW PASSENGERS GAIN

Flyers will soon have the option to choose between two airports when booking tickets | 'BOM', the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, and 'NMI', the Navi Mumbai Airport

- This setup is similar to Goa, where travelers pick between 'GOI' (the old Dabolim Airport) and 'GOX' (the new Mopa Airport)
- Unlike Goa's sometimes confusing airport codes, Mumbai's two airports will have clearly distinct codes, making the booking process easier to navigate
- Currently, all bookings for Mumbai flights are done through 'BOM', the existing airport code

HOW NAVI MUMBAI & NOIDA AIRPORTS COMPARED

	NAVI MUMBAI INT'L AIRPORT (NMIA)	NOIDA INT'L AIRPORT (NIA)
Project Developer	Navi Mumbai International Airport Limited (NMIAL), a joint venture between Adani Airport Holdings & Cidco	Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL), a subsidiary of Zurich Airport AG, and Adani Airport AG, a joint venture
Inauguration Date	Oct 8	Oct 30
Commercial Operations	Expected to handle airline flights by mid-Nov	Expected within 45 days of inauguration
Phase 1 Land Area	1,160 hectares (for core airport development)	1,334 hectares
Total Planned Land Area	1,160 hectares	5,000 hectares
Phase 1 Capacity	20 mn passengers per annum (MPPA)	12 mn
Final Capacity	90 MPPA	60-120 MPPA
Phase 1 Infrastructure	One runway, one terminal	One runway, one terminal
Final Infrastructure	Two parallel runways, four terminals	Six runways, multiple terminals (with six runways, it will become India's largest airport)
Strategic Purpose	To alleviate congestion at Mumbai's airport (CSMIA) and become a modern parallel hub for Mumbai and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region	To serve as the second airport for the National Capital Region and a major aviation/cargo hub for western Uttar Pradesh
Sustainability Goals	Designed with a strong focus on green features and sustainability	Aims to be India's first net-zero emissions airport



GROUND BREAKING TO INAUGURATION

- Nov 1997** | Civil aviation ministry constitutes a committee to examine potential sites for a second international airport in Mumbai
- July 2007** | Union cabinet gives in-principle approval for the Navi Mumbai airport
- Aug** | Cidco board approves NMIA development on public-private partnership (PPP) basis
- Dec 2010** | Defence ministry grants clearance
- Feb 2017** | GVK-led Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) wins bid to develop NMIA
- Feb 2018** | Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils plaque at groundbreaking ceremony
- Aug** | Cidco board approves NMIA development on public-private partnership (PPP) basis
- July 2022** | Cidco hands over the full 2,866 acres of land to Adani Group after resolving land acquisition and resettlement issues
- Dec 28, 2024** | First validation flight test carried out by IndiGo, an A320 lands using ground-based navigation systems
- Sept 30, 2025** | Latest announced date for NMIA inauguration, after several deadlines are missed



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DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

नवी मुंबई एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन 8 अक्टूबर को

मुंबई। नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन 8 अक्टूबर को होगा। यह मुंबई मेट्रोपॉलिटन रीजन का दूसरा एयरपोर्ट होगा। यह प्रोजेक्ट पांच फेज में तैयार किया जा रहा है। एयरपोर्ट पूरी तरह तैयार होने के बाद हर साल 9 करोड़ पैसेंजर और 32 लाख मीट्रिक टन कार्गो संभाल सकेगा। इससे यह एशिया के सबसे बड़े एविएशन हब्स में शामिल हो जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

अडानी ने नवी मुंबई एयरपोर्ट का किया निरीक्षण

मुम्बई। दुनिया के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डों में शामिल नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का आठ अक्टूबर को उद्घाटन किया जाएगा और इससे पूर्व इसकी निर्माता अडानी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड के प्रवर्तक अडानी समूह के अध्यक्ष गौतम अडानी ने बुधवार को इसका निरीक्षण किया। कंपनी की यहां जारी विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा (एनएमआईए) अपने औपचारिक उद्घाटन से पहले अंतिम चरण में पहुंच चुका है। पूर्ण रूप से संचालित होने के बाद यह हवाई अड्डा प्रति वर्ष नौ करोड़ यात्रियों को सुगम यात्रा करवाने का क्षमता रखेगा। श्री अडानी ने हवाई अड्डे की तकनीकी प्रगति और संचालन का गहन निरीक्षण किया। उन्होंने हवाई अड्डे के निरीक्षण के दौरान तैयारियों का जायजा लिया और इसको आकार देने वाले विभिन्न समूहों से संवाद किया। उन्होंने निर्माण कार्यों में लगे कर्मचारियों से भी मुलाकात की।



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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का सर्वे पूरा, जल्द मिलेगा एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस

जासं, ग्रेटर नोएडा: नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से विमान सेवा संचालन शुरू करने के लिए जरूरी एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस जल्द मिल सकता है। महानिदेशालय नागर विमानन (डीजीसीए) ने नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का सर्वे पूरा कर लिया है। सर्वे करीब एक सप्ताह तक चला। एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद विमान सेवा संचालन का रास्ता साफ हो जाएगा।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन के लिए 30 अक्टूबर की तिथि तय होने के बाद विमान सेवा संचालन की आखिरी औपचारिकताएं भी तेजी से पूरी की जा रही हैं। ब्यूरो आफ सिविल एविएशन ने 15 सितंबर को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के लिए अपनी स्वीकृति दे दी थी। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (नियात) के नोडल अफसर शैलेंद्र भाटिया ने बताया कि करीब एक सप्ताह चले सर्वे के दौरान डीजीसीए की टीम ने विमान सेवा शुरू करने के लिए एयरपोर्ट के सभी मानकों की जांच की है।

एयरपोर्ट पर आठ मिनट बाद पार्किंग शुल्क

जागरण संवाददाता, कानपुर: चकेरी एयरपोर्ट पर प्रवेश-निकास लेन पर अब आठ मिनट तक वाहन रुक सकेंगे। अभी तक यह समय पांच मिनट था। आठ मिनट से ज्यादा वाहन के रुकने पर पार्किंग शुल्क देना होगा। हवाई अड्डे पर नई पार्किंग नीति लागू की गई है। इस नीति के अंतर्गत प्रवेश से निकास तक लेन का उपयोग करने के लिए अधिकतम आठ मिनट का समय निर्धारित किया गया है।

हवाई अड्डा निदेशक संजय कुमार ने बताया कि अब नई पार्किंग नीति में वाहन रुकने का समय तीन मिनट बढ़ाया गया है। इससे ज्यादा समय पर पार्किंग शुल्क देना होगा। गेट पर हवाई अड्डे के अंदर जाने पर समय लिखा जाता है। दो घंटे से ज्यादा वाहन रुकने पर 10 रुपये

इस तरह देना होगा शुल्क

वाहन	आधा घंटे तक	आधा घंटे से दो घंटे
बस, ट्रक	170	250
टैपो, मिनी बस	60	80
कार पार्किंग	75	80
दोपहिया वाहन	10	15
कामर्शियल कार (आथराइज्ड लाइसेंस आफ एएआइ)	20	35
कामर्शियल कार (बिना एएआइ आथराइज्ड लाइसेंस)	60	110

प्रति घंटे अतिरिक्त शुल्क देना होगा। दोपहिया वाहन को पांच रुपये प्रति घंटे के हिसाब से अतिरिक्त शुल्क देना होगा। यदि सात घंटे से

24 घंटे तक और वाहन पार्क किया गया तो आधा घंटे से दो घंटे तक के स्लैब का तीन सौ प्रतिशत और शुल्क देना होगा।

- प्रवेश और निकास लेन पर अभी तक पांच मिनट ही रुक सकते थे वाहन
- दो घंटे से ज्यादा पार्किंग पर अतिरिक्त शुल्क का करना होगा भुगतान



Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Flights to Srinagar airport halved

Passenger traffic down 54% post-Pahalgam attack

Mukeet Akmal
Srinagar, Sep 29

Air connectivity to Kashmir has taken a severe hit in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, with airlines slashing operations on the Srinagar route amid plummeting demand.

Figures accessed by *Greater Kashmir* reveal



Numbers don't lie. The half-empty lounges and reduced schedules are proof that we are in damage-control mode. It will take time, and trust, to undo this slump

that flight movements and passenger arrivals at Srinagar International Airport, Kashmir's lone civilian airport, have halved in just five months, underlining the depth of the crisis facing Kashmir's fragile tourism economy.

On April 22, 2025, just before the terror strike unsettled Kashmir's tourism flow, the airport handled 102 flights carrying 19,140 passengers.

» See **Flights...** on Pg-08

Flights to Srinagar...

ism flow, the airport handled 102 flights carrying 19,140 passengers.

The day's operations included 51 arrivals with 9235 passengers and 51 departures with 9905 passengers.

In stark contrast, by September 28, 2025, flight traffic had collapsed to 50 flights – a 51 percent decline – with passenger numbers falling to 8822, reflecting a 54 percent dip.

The breakdown shows 4265 arrivals on 25 flights and 4557 departures on 25 flights, making September traffic less than half of April's peak.

Civil aviation executives admit that carriers had no choice but to reduce their schedules.

"A 50 percent reduction in flights within a short span mirrors the demand crash. Airlines cannot operate at losses; low load factors have forced consolidation on Srinagar routes," a senior aviation executive told *Greater Kashmir*. The reduced connectivity is already rippling across sectors dependent on tourism.

Hoteliers and travel agents say post-attack, they recorded massive cancellations, and the outlook for the winter months is also gloomy.

The decline is not only stunting tourist inflows but also hitting ancillary industries – from handicrafts to road transport – that rely heavily on passenger traffic.

Aviation experts warn that the autumn season, usually considered a second peak for Kashmir tourism, may see muted arrivals unless confidence is urgently restored.

Government efforts to reassure travellers and promote Kashmir as a safe destination have so far failed to translate into higher inflows. As one senior tourism official said, "Numbers don't lie. The half-empty lounges and reduced schedules are proof that we are in damage-control mode. It will take time, and trust, to undo this slump."



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

एयरपोर्ट पर 1200 वाहन एक साथ खड़े हो सकेंगे



ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सेंटर (जीटीसी) में एक साथ 1200 से अधिक वाहन खड़े हो सकेंगे। यहां वाहनों की पार्किंग के अलावा चार्जिंग की भी व्यवस्था होगी। जीटीसी का काम उड़ानें शुरू होने तक पूरा कर लिया जाएगा।

एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट परिसर में दो टर्मिनल के बीच

20 एकड़ में जीटीसी तैयार किया जा रहा है। तीन चरणों में यह पूरा होना है। पहले चरण का काम 80 प्रतिशत से अधिक पूरा हो गया है। यहां कैब, टैक्सी और बसें खड़ी हो सकेंगी, जो एक लाख वर्गमीटर में तैयार हो रही टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग से पैदल दूरी पर होगी।

एयरपोर्ट बना रही यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड ने यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, हरियाणा रोडवेज से बस सेवा और उबर, रेपिडो और महिंद्रा के साथ टैक्सी के लिए करार किया हुआ है। पहले दिन से ही एयरपोर्ट से पश्चिमी यूपी के जिलों समेत उत्तराखंड और हरियाणा के लिए बसों का संचालन होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

Navi Mumbai Airport likely to open early Oct

The Navi Mumbai International Airport is expected to be inaugurated in the first or second week of October, with October 7 or 9 being considered. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will cut the ribbon. He had also laid the foundation stone of the same project earlier. At that time, he said the difference between previous governments and his was that he does both groundbreaking and inauguration. His statement is turning true in this case. The new airport will reduce the burden on the heavily congested current Mumbai. Once operational, it will become India's second-largest greenfield airport, boosting connectivity and air traffic capacity.

DGCA grants aerodrome licence to Navi Mumbai International Airport

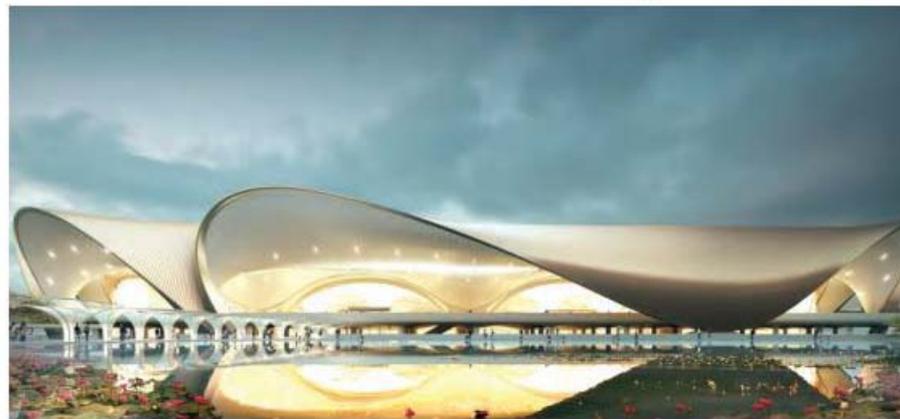
TN RAGHUNATHA
■ Mumbai

Ahead of its scheduled inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 8, the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has received the Aerodrome Licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The aerodrome licence, essential for commencing the airport's operations, authorises the NMIA to be used as a regular place of landing and departure for all persons on equal terms and conditions, subject to the specifications outlined in its Aerodrome Manual.

While granting the Aerodrome licence, the DGCA said that the licence was non-transferable and might be suspended or modified in case of violations of the Aircraft Act 1934, Aircraft Rules 1937, or other regulatory requirements.

"The Aerodrome Licence, awarded after meeting stringent safety and regulatory requirements, is an essential prerequisite for commencing operations. The achievement represents a key step in the NMIA's progress towards becoming fully operational.



With the Aerodrome Licence now in place, NMIA moves closer to its vision of enhancing regional and international connectivity and establishing a modern gateway that will link Navi Mumbai with the rest of the world," an NMIA spokesperson said on Tuesday.

The NMIA has been developed by the Navi Mumbai International Airport Pvt Ltd (NMIAL), which is a special-purpose vehicle formed by the Adani Airports Holdings Ltd (AAHL) and City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd (CIDCO). The CIDCO was the nodal agency for the project.

Located in Ulwe in the

adjoining Raigad district, the NMIA — a Greenfield airport — will serve as the second international airport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), operating alongside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) of Mumbai.

The distance between the CSMIA and NMIA is around 40 km. The Adani group, which has 74 per cent stake each stake in both CSMIA and NMIA, is addressing connectivity.

With the Commissioning of NMIA, Mumbai will become a twin-airport model along the lines of Dubai's DXB-DWC, London's Heathrow-Gatwick, and New York's JFK-Newark pairs.

On their part, Air India, IndiGo and Akasa Air have already announced plans to begin commercial operations from the new airport.

A seamless transfer model, supported by multimodal transport—road, metro, suburban rail, and water links—will eventually connect NMIA and CSMIA, ensuring that India's busiest business city operates with the same infrastructure sophistication as premier world capitals.

The twin-airport strategy mirrors global precedents: distributing traffic between two facilities to decongest bottlenecks, de-risk operations and provide passengers with greater airline and route choices.



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

1 OCTOBER 2025

एयरपोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी, मुकदमा दर्ज

स्वतंत्र भारत ब्यूरो लखनऊ। राजधानी के कई स्कूलों व लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने के मामले में सरोजनीनगर थाने में अज्ञात व्यक्ति के खिलाफ रिपोर्ट दर्ज कराई गई है। एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों ने इस संबंध में पुलिस को तहरीर दी है। लखनऊ इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड के ड्यूटी टर्मिनल मैनेजर विपुल कुमार के अनुसार, 28 सितंबर को एयरपोर्ट के आधिकारिक ईमेल पर एक संदिग्ध संदेश प्राप्त हुआ था। इस संदेश में लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट, भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण के अन्य हवाई अड्डों और कुछ स्कूलों को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई थी। विपुल कुमार ने सरोजनीनगर थाने में तहरीर देते हुए धमकी भरे ईमेल की सत्यता की जांच, ईमेल के स्रोत की पहचान और दोषियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की मांग की है। उन्होंने पुलिस को जांच में हर संभव सहयोग देने का आश्वासन भी दिया है। सरोजनीनगर पुलिस ने बताया कि मामला दर्ज कर लिया गया है और धमकी भरे ईमेल की जांच एक तकनीकी टीम को सौंप दी गई है। पुलिस मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए आवश्यक कदम उठा रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

Adani's Navi Mumbai International Airport to be inaugurated by PM Modi on October 8

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai, 1 October

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Adani Group-owned Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) on October 8 (Wednesday), according to official sources.

The development comes a day after the NMIA received its Aerodrome Licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday, which is essential to commence flight operations.

The DGCA licence has authorised the NMIA to be used as a regular place of landing and departure for all persons on equal terms and conditions, subject to the

specifications outlined in its Aerodrome Manual. The DGCA emphasised that the licence is non-transferable and may be suspended or modified in case of violations of the Aircraft Act 1934, Aircraft Rules 1937, or other regulatory requirements.

Officials said that flight operations will begin from NMIA a week or 15 days after it is inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Starting with 60 daily flights (30 arrivals and as many departures) in the first month, the number will double after 30 days and then reach the 240-300 mark in six months.

In its first phase with a capacity of 2 crore passengers annually (CPA), the greenfield



airport will handle 400 daily flights, which it will ramp up to in a year, Adani Group Director (Airports) Jeet Adani had recently stated.

Ahead of the airport's inauguration by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on October 8, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani had visited the NMIA project site recently and undertaken a detailed inspection of the airport, which, once fully operational, would have

the capacity to handle 9 crore passengers annually, placing it among the largest and most advanced airports in the world.

Besides assessing technical progress and operational readiness, Gautam Adani interacted with construction workers, engineers, project teams, airport firefighting staff and differently-abled staff at an airport terminal's retail outlets.

"Every runway, every terminal, every gate here carries the imprint of thousands of hands and hearts. This is more than an airport. It is a monument to the spirit of Bharat, built by its people, for its people," Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said during his visit to

NMIA.

Airlines like IndiGo, Akasa Air and Air India Express have already announced plans to commence operations from the NMIA, with initial flights connecting various domestic cities.

The airport's development is progressing in phases, with the first phase expected to handle 20 million passengers and 500,000 metric tonnes of cargo annually. After full completion, the NMIA is projected to handle 90 million passengers and 3.2 million metric tonnes of cargo each year, complementing the existing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSIA) located at Santacruz East.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2025

New airport gets final approval for take-off, landing

Crossing a significant milestone, the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) on Tuesday received its 'aerodrome licence' from the DGCA, certifying that it meets the standards for flights to land and take off, reports **Manju V.** Ahead of the ceremonial inauguration slated for Oct 8, many flights will land in the coming days as part of tests. On Tuesday, a Boeing 737-8 MAX business jet operating a passenger flight landed at the airport. Next, NMIA will have 'airport operational readiness' tests for its systems, facilities & equipment. **Other Book, P2&4**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2025

Customs seize 2 gibbons from pax at airport



Mumbai: Customs seized two white-cheeked gibbons from a woman passenger who arrived from Bangkok at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on Tuesday, an official from the forest department said. He said the primates were found suffocating inside the basket and were handed over to an expert team of wildlife rescuers and vets from RAWW for treatment. PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2025

MUMBAI Access to Navi Mumbai Airport, for the time being, will be limited to road routes. While travellers can easily reach the airport in vehicles from SoBo, the suburbs and other parts of MMR using Atal Setu and other roads, connectivity in the years ahead promises greater convenience. While in the near future, shuttle bus services will link the new airport to three nearby railway stations, the long-term plan includes direct metro connections from Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and from the existing airport. A water taxi service too is in the pipeline

HOW TO REACH THE NEW AIRPORT

Immediate easy access to the airport from anywhere in MMR will be by road

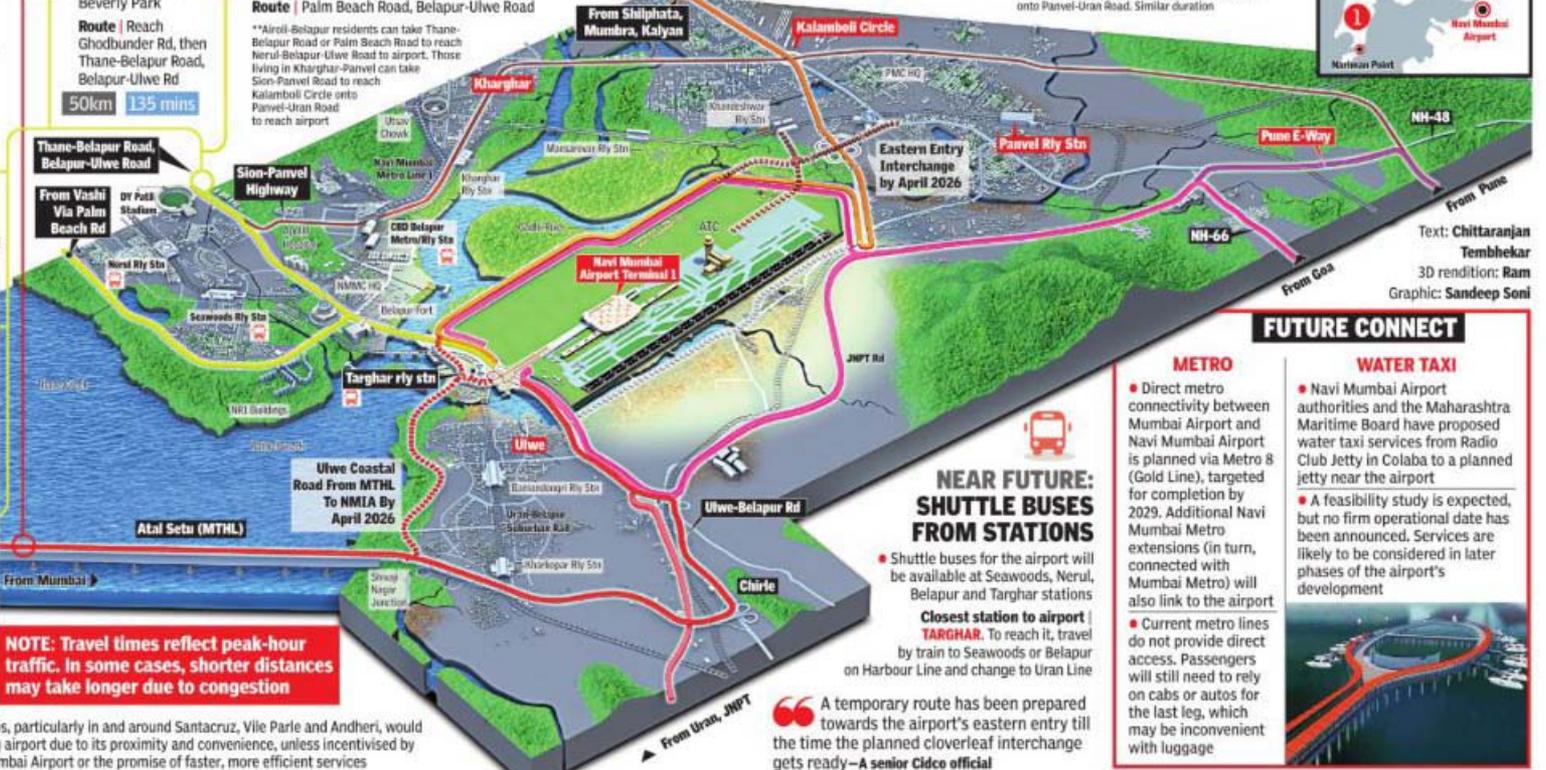
- 1** Region
ISLAND CITY
Starting point | Worli
Route | Reach Freeway, then Atal Setu, finally Ulwe-Belapur Road (connects to airport)
Distance | 35km
Time | 70 mins
- 2** EASTERN SUBURBS
Starting point | Powai
Route | Reach Eastern Express Highway, Vashi Bridge, Thane-Belapur Road, Belapur-Ulwe Road
Distance | 34km
Time | 70 mins
- 3** THANE
Starting point | Viviana Mall
Route | Eastern Express Highway, Mulund-Airoli Road, Thane-Belapur Road, Belapur-Ulwe Road
Distance | 34km
Time | 60 mins
- 4** WESTERN SUBURBS*
Starting point | Goregaon (Oberoi Mall)
Route | Western Express Highway, JVL, Eastern Express Highway, Vashi Bridge, Thane-Belapur Road, Belapur-Ulwe Road
Distance | 45km
Time | 95 mins

- 5** MIRA ROAD
Starting point | Beverly Park
Route | Reach Ghodbunder Rd, then Thane-Belapur Road, Belapur-Ulwe Rd
Distance | 50km
Time | 135 mins

- 6** NAVI MUMBAI**
Starting point | Vashi
Route | Palm Beach Road, Belapur-Ulwe Road
Distance | 14km
Time | 30 mins

- 7** KALYAN, DOMBIVLI, BADLAPUR, AMBERNATH
Starting point | Kalyan Junction
Route* | Shilphata Road, Sion-Panvel Highway, Ulwe-Belapur Road
Distance | 37km
Time | 120 mins

*Alternatively, Shilphata Road to Kalamboli Circle onto Panvel-Uran Road. Similar duration



NOTE: Travel times reflect peak-hour traffic. In some cases, shorter distances may take longer due to congestion

*Residents of the western suburbs, particularly in and around Santacruz, Vile Parle and Andheri, would typically prefer using the existing airport due to its proximity and convenience, unless incentivised by cheaper fares offered at Navi Mumbai Airport or the promise of faster, more efficient services

NEAR FUTURE: SHUTTLE BUSES FROM STATIONS

- Shuttle buses for the airport will be available at Seawoods, Nerul, Belapur and Targhar stations
- Closest station to airport | TARGHAR. To reach it, travel by train to Seawoods or Belapur on Harbour Line and change to Uran Line

“A temporary route has been prepared towards the airport’s eastern entry till the time the planned cloverleaf interchange gets ready—A senior Cidco official

FUTURE CONNECT

- METRO**
 - Direct metro connectivity between Mumbai Airport and Navi Mumbai Airport is planned via Metro 8 (Gold Line), targeted for completion by 2029. Additional Navi Mumbai Metro extensions (in turn, connected with Mumbai Metro) will also link to the airport
 - Current metro lines do not provide direct access. Passengers will still need to rely on cabs or autos for the last leg, which may be inconvenient with luggage
- WATER TAXI**
 - Navi Mumbai Airport authorities and the Maharashtra Maritime Board have proposed water taxi services from Radio Club Jetty in Colaba to a planned jetty near the airport
 - A feasibility study is expected, but no firm operational date has been announced. Services are likely to be considered in later phases of the airport’s development



Text: Chittaranjan Tembhekar
3D rendition: Ram Graphic: Sandeep Soni



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

ATF prices up 3%, commercial LPG rises by ₹15.5

Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices were hiked by over 3 per cent and commercial LPG rates by ₹15.50 per cylinder on Wednesday as oil firms revised fuel prices in line with global benchmarks. Jet fuel (ATF) price was increased by ₹3,052.5 per kilolitre, or 3.3 per cent, to ₹93,766.02 per kl in the national capital - home to one of the busiest airports in the country, according to state-owned fuel retailers.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

डीजीसीए ने जारी की फ्लाइंग ट्रेनिंग संस्थानों की पहली रैंकिंग

नई दिल्ली। विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने देश में उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठनों (एफटीओ) की पहली रैंकिंग जारी की है। सूची में शामिल 35 एफटीओ में से किसी को भी ए+ और ए की टॉप रेटिंग नहीं मिली है। डीजीसीए के अनुसार, 13 एफटीओ को बी और 22 एफटीओ को सी रेटिंग मिली है। परिचालन, सुरक्षा मानकों और छात्रों को सहायता जैसे चार मानदंडों पर एफटीओ का मूल्यांकन किया गया था। डीजीसीए सी कैटेगरी वाले एफटीओ को सुधार के लिए नोटिस भेजेगा। 5 एफटीओ को 18 महीने का परिचालन पूरा न करने के कारण रैंकिंग से बाहर रखा गया है। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

विमानन ईंधन की कीमत में हुई 3 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी

नई दिल्ली। तेल कंपनियों ने बुधवार को विमानन ईंधन की कीमतों में 3 प्रतिशत से अधिक और वार्षिक एलपीजी की कीमतों में 15.50 रुपये प्रति सिलिंडर की बढ़ोतरी की है। तेल विपणन कंपनियों ने वैश्विक मानकों के अनुसार ईंधन की कीमतों में यह संशोधन किया। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के ईंधन खुदरा विक्रेताओं के अनुसार राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में विमानन टरबाइन ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत 3,052.5 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर यानी 3.3 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 93,766.02 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर हो गई। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

Aircraft leasing rules may be eased

REUTERS

1 October

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed removing the mandate that airlines can take planes on lease with crew only in emergencies, draft regulations show, in a move that could make it easier for carriers to tide over any aircraft shortages.

The proposed rules could help airlines like the country's biggest carrier IndiGo, which has taken two planes with crew on wet lease from Turkish Airlines, allowing it to offer connectivity with flights to Europe and the United States.

The DGCA regulations had permitted air-

lines to enter such leases only in emergency, such as unexpected grounding of aircraft.

The new draft proposal replaces the word "only" with "normally", making processing of such requests potentially easier, lawyers said.

The proposal was posted on DGCA's website earlier this week but has not previously been reported. It is open for public consultations until October 28.

The DGCA and IndiGo did not respond to *Reuters* queries on the planned changes.

IndiGo's Turkish partnership has faced criticism in India in recent months after Turkey came out in support of Pakistan during the recent India-Pakistan conflict.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

फिलीपींस के लिए एयर इंडिया ने शुरू की उड़ान

नई दिल्ली। टाटा समूह की विमान सेवा कंपनी एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से फिलीपींस के मनीला के लिए उड़ान शुरू की। पहली उड़ान आज दोपहर बाद 1:20 बजे रवाना हुई। सप्ताह में मनीला के लिए और वापसी की कुल पांच उड़ानें होंगी जो सोमवार, बुधवार, शुक्रवार, शनिवार और रविवार को उपलब्ध होंगी। एयर इंडिया ने एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि भारत में फिलीपींस के राजदूत जोसेल एफ. इग्नासियो और भारत में फिलीपींस के दूतावास की मंत्री एवं महावाणिज्यदूत मारिया सिथिया पी. पेलायो और एयर इंडिया के कॉर्पोरेट मामलों के समूह प्रमुख पी. वालाजी भी उद्घाटन उड़ान के मौके पर मौजूद थे। मनीला के लिए सेवाओं के शुभारंभ के साथ एयर इंडिया अब दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया के सात देशों के आठ गंतव्यों के लिए सेवा प्रदान कर रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

Cyber fraudsters posing as Indigo Airlines recruiters busted in city

TGG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested two members of a cyber fraud gang posing as recruiters for Indigo Airlines on Tuesday.

This case came to light when the complainant, Rohit Yadav, filed an on-line complaint through the NCRP portal regarding the cheating of Rs. 24,100 under the pretext of being offered a job at Indigo Airlines.

In his statement, Rohit mentioned that he saw a job advertisement on his Facebook account. He called the mobile number provided in the ad and subsequently



Representational Image

received a call from someone identifying himself as Rohit Sharma. The caller informed Rohit that if he was interested in the job, he would need to deposit Rs. 350 as a form fee and Rs. 3,250 as dress charges, which would be refunded with his first month's salary.

Trusting the assurance given by the caller, the complainant transferred the form fee of Rs. 350 on

July 30, via UPI. The following day, he also sent Rs. 3,250 for the dress charges through UPI. After making the payment, Rohit received a gate pass and a bond agreement from Indigo Airlines via WhatsApp on his number.

However, Rohit Sharma then demanded an additional Rs. 15,500 for the agreement and Rs. 5,000 for file charges, which the complainant also complied with. But the alleged individuals blocked Rohit, and their mobile numbers were found to be switched off.

Upon investigation, the police discovered that money from a cheating scheme had been credited to a State

Bank of India (SBI) account registered in the name of Azad Khan, a resident of Faridabad. Additionally, the Customer Acquisition Form (CAF) details for the alleged mobile number 8510028711 were obtained, revealing that it was registered in the name of Ajay, who lives in Jeevan Nagar Part-II, Gochi, Faridabad, Haryana.

Hence, based on technical analysis, a raid was conducted, and Azad Khan was apprehended near his residence in Gochi, Sector-55, Faridabad. Based on Azad's information, another suspect, Ajay, was also arrested the same day at his home.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

डीजीसीए की रैंकिंग में किसी भी उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठन को शीर्ष रेटिंग नहीं

नई दिल्ली, प्रेड: अहमदाबाद में हुए एअर इंडिया के विमान हादसे के बाद विमानन सुरक्षा को लेकर उठते सवाल के बीच नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने देश में उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठनों (एफटीओ) की अपनी पहली रैंकिंग जारी की है। सूची में शामिल 35 एफटीओ में से कोई भी 'ए+' और 'ए' जैसी शीर्ष रेटिंग हासिल नहीं कर पाया। 13 एफटीओ को 'बी' और 22 को 'सी' रैंकिंग मिली है। एफटीओ पायलट और अन्य विमानन पेशेवरों को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करते हैं।

चार श्रेणियों के अंतर्गत एफटीओ का मूल्यांकन करने में परिचालन पहलुओं, एफटीओ के प्रदर्शन, सुरक्षा मानकों, अनुपालन के मानकों और छात्रों को दी जाने वाली सहायता को ध्यान में रखा जाता है। मूल्यांकन के बाद 85 प्रतिशत या उससे अधिक अंक वाले एफटीओ को 'ए+' और 85 प्रतिशत से कम से 70 प्रतिशत तक अंक वाले एफटीओ को 'ए' श्रेणी में रखा जाता है।

इसके बाद 70 प्रतिशत से कम से 50 प्रतिशत तक अंक वाले एफटीओ 'बी' श्रेणी में और



- 13 संगठनों को 'बी' रैंकिंग और 22 को मिली 'सी' रैंकिंग
- विमानन नियामक ने पहली बार जारी की इस तरह की रैंकिंग

50 प्रतिशत से कम अंक वाले एफटीओ 'सी' श्रेणी में आते हैं। यह रैंकिंग वर्ष में दो बार जारी की जाएगी। अगली रैंकिंग एक अप्रैल, 2026 को जारी होगी।

पांच एफटीओ रैंकिंग में शामिल नहीं: डीजीसीए के अनुसार, पांच एफटीओ को वर्तमान रैंकिंग से बाहर रखा गया। इसकी वजह यह है कि उनमें से चार ने अभी तक परिचालन के 18 महीने पूरे नहीं किए हैं और एक एफटीओ की स्वीकृति 31 अगस्त तक मान्य नहीं थी। डीजीसीए ने मंगलवार को जारी सूची के साथ सार्वजनिक सूचना में कहा, श्रेणी 'सी' के अंतर्गत आने वाले एफटीओ को अपने प्रदर्शन में सुधार के लिए स्व-विश्लेषण हेतु डीजीसीए एक नोटिस जारी करेगा।

डीजीसीए की रैंकिंग में किसी भी उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठन को शीर्ष रेटिंग नहीं

नई दिल्ली, प्रेट : अहमदाबाद में हुए एअर इंडिया के विमान हादसे के बाद विमानन सुरक्षा को लेकर उठते सवाल के बीच नागरिक उड़्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने देश में उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठनों (एफटीओ) की अपनी पहली रैंकिंग जारी की है। सूची में शामिल 35 एफटीओ में से कोई भी 'ए+' और 'ए' जैसी शीर्ष रेटिंग हासिल नहीं कर पाया। 13 एफटीओ को 'बी' और 22 को 'सी' रैंकिंग मिली है। एफटीओ पायलट और अन्य विमानन पेशेवरों को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करते हैं।

चार श्रेणियों के अंतर्गत एफटीओ का मूल्यांकन करने में परिचालन पहलुओं, एफटीओ के प्रदर्शन, सुरक्षा मानकों, अनुपालन के मानकों और छात्रों को दी जाने वाली सहायता को ध्यान में रखा गया है।

मूल्यांकन के बाद 85 प्रतिशत या उससे अधिक अंक वाले एफटीओ को 'ए+' और 70 प्रतिशत से 85 प्रतिशत से कम अंक वाले एफटीओ को 'ए' श्रेणी

13 संगठनों को 'बी' रैंकिंग और 22 को मिली 'सी' रैंकिंग

विमानन नियामक ने पहली बार जारी की इस तरह की रैंकिंग



प्रशिक्षण गुणवत्ता में सुधार है जरूरी।

प्रतीकात्मक

पांच एफटीओ रैंकिंग में शामिल नहीं

डीजीसीए के अनुसार, पांच एफटीओ को वर्तमान रैंकिंग से बाहर रखा गया। इसकी वजह यह है कि उनमें से चार ने अभी तक परिचालन के 18 महीने पूरे नहीं किए हैं और एक एफटीओ की स्वीकृति 31 अगस्त तक मान्य नहीं थी। डीजीसीए ने मंगलवार को जारी सूची के साथ सार्वजनिक सूचना में कहा, श्रेणी 'सी' के अंतर्गत आने वाले एफटीओ को अपने प्रदर्शन में सुधार के लिए स्व-विश्लेषण हेतु डीजीसीए एक नोटिस जारी करेगा।

में रखा जाता है। इसके बाद 70 प्रतिशत से कम से 50 प्रतिशत तक अंक वाले एफटीओ 'बी' श्रेणी में और 50 प्रतिशत से कम अंक वाले एफटीओ 'सी' श्रेणी में आते हैं। यह रैंकिंग वर्ष में दो बार जारी

की जाएगी। अगली रैंकिंग एक अप्रैल, 2026 को जारी होगी।

डीजीसीए रैंकिंग में शामिल उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठनों की सूची

पेज>>3

डीजीसीए रैंकिंग में शामिल उड़ान प्रशिक्षण संगठनों की सूची

प्रथम पृष्ठ से आगे

श्रेणी 'बी' के 13 एफटीओ : 1. चाइम्स एविप्रेशन अकादमी 2. एसवीकेएम की एनएमआइएमएस एकेडमी आफ एविप्रेशन, शिरपुर 3. बिहार फ्लाईंग क्लब 4. ओरिएंट फ्लाइट्स एविप्रेशन अकादमी 5. स्काईनेक्स एयरो प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 6. एफएसटीसी फ्लाईंग स्कूल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 7. पटियाला एविप्रेशन क्लब 8. हरियाणा इंस्टीट्यूट आफ सिविल एविप्रेशन 9. जेट सर्व एविप्रेशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 10. नागपुर फ्लाईंग क्लब 11. नेशनल फ्लाईंग ट्रेनिंग इंस्टीट्यूट 12. वनस्थली विद्यापीठ ग्लाइडिंग एंड फ्लाईंग क्लब 13. राजीव गांधी एकेडमी फॉर एविप्रेशन टेक्नोलॉजी।

श्रेणी 'सी' के 22 एफटीओ : 1. ड्यून्स एविप्रेशन एकेडमी 2. गर्ग एविप्रेशंस लिमिटेड 3. द ब्रांवे फ्लाईंग क्लब 4.

चेतक एविप्रेशन 5. एकवी एयर ट्रेनिंग आर्गनाइजेशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 6. एकेडमी आफ कावर एविप्रेशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 7. एंबिशंस फ्लाईंग क्लब प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 8. फ्लाइटक एविप्रेशन एकेडमी 9. इंडियन फ्लाईंग अकादमी 10. शा-शिव फ्लाईंग एकेडमी 11. गवर्नमेंट एविप्रेशन ट्रेनिंग इंस्टीट्यूट 12. इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय उड़ान एकेडमी 13. रेडबर्ड फ्लाइट ट्रेनिंग एकेडमी 14. तेलंगाना स्टेट एविप्रेशन एकेडमी 15. अल्केमिस्ट एविप्रेशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 16. फाल्कन एविप्रेशन एकेडमी 17. विंग्स एविप्रेशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 18. एशिया पैसिफिक फ्लाइट ट्रेनिंग एकेडमी लिमिटेड 19. द गुजरात फ्लाईंग क्लब 20. द मध्य प्रदेश फ्लाईंग क्लब लिमिटेड 21. पायनियर फ्लाईंग एकेडमी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड 22. ब्लू रे एविप्रेशन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

खराब मौसम के कारण इंडिगो की फ्लाइट वाराणसी डायवर्ट

पटना : कोलकाता से पटना आ रही इंडिगो की फ्लाइट संख्या 6ई713 को बुधवार को खराब मौसम (कम दृश्यता) के कारण पटना एयरपोर्ट पर उतरने की अनुमति नहीं मिली। इसके बाद फ्लाइट को वाराणसी डायवर्ट किया गया। वहीं, मुंबई से आ रही इंडिगो की फ्लाइट संख्या 6ई2043 36 मिनट विलंब से पटना पहुंची। पटना से बंगलुरु जाने वाली इंडिगो की फ्लाइट 6ई805 ने 40 मिनट विलंब से उड़ान भरी। पुणे जाने वाली इंडिगो की विमान संख्या 6ई126 ने 19 मिनट विलंब से उड़ान भरी। मुंबई जाने वाली इंडिगो की विमान संख्या 6ई2167 निर्धारित समय से 57 मिनट विलंब से उड़ान भरी। (जास)



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

30 SEPTEMBER 2025

स्पाइसजेट शुरू करेगी थाईलैंड के लिए उड़ान

नई दिल्ली। किफायती विमान सेवा कंपनी स्पाइसजेट दिल्ली और मुंबई से थाईलैंड के सबसे बड़े द्वीप फुकेट के लिए दैनिक नॉन-स्टॉप उड़ान शुरू करेगी। दिल्ली से फुकेट के लिए उड़ान 31 अक्टूबर से और मुंबई से 6 नवंबर से शुरू होगी। थाईलैंड की राजधानी बैंकॉक के लिए वह पहले से सेवा प्रदान कर रही है। स्पाइसजेट के मुख्य व्यवसाय अधिकारी देवोजो महर्षि ने कहा, हम दुनिया के सबसे लोकप्रिय अवकाश स्थलों में से एक, फुकेट को अपने बढ़ते अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क में शामिल करके उत्साहित हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

30 SEPTEMBER 2025

दुबई की फ्लाइट रद्द

जयपुर। जयपुर से दुबई जाने व आने वाली फ्लाइट का सोमवार को संचालन रद्द

रहा। इसके चलते यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट



दुबई से रात 12.45 बजे जयपुर आकर सुबह 5.55 बजे वापस दुबई के लिए रवाना होती है। इसके पीछे विमान अनुपलब्धता होना बताया गया है। एयरलाइन ने दूसरे विमान से यात्रियों को दुबई से जयपुर भेजा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

NEED TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE, SAYS REGULATOR

Most Pilot Training Schools Fail to Make the Grade in DGCA Rankings

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: A ranking of pilot training schools by the civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed that 63% of these establishments need to improve their scores.

Out of the 35 institutes ranked by DGCA, 22 received C rankings, meaning they scored less than 50% in the parameters and need to improve their performance while 13 got B. None have managed to get the highest A+ or A rating.

While privately owned Chimes Aviation Academy has been ranked top, government-owned Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy (IGRUA) was ranked 25th.

Some of the primary parameters used by DGCA include safety standards, performance, compliance, student support,

A SAFE FLIGHT



Parameters used by DGCA include safety standards, performance, compliance, student support, operations and compliance to rules

operations, and compliance to rules. DGCA said that such rankings will be published bi-annually, preferably in October and April, and serve the dual purpose of protecting student interests and ensuring a pipeline of quality trained pilots.

This is the first time DGCA is grading flying schools in an effort to increase transparency of these institutions among aspiring pilots, amid several crashes and incidents involving such schools and trainer aircraft in recent years.

DGCA's action came after an increase in number of acci-

dents or serious incidents in flying schools over the last few years which were primarily attributed to inadequate aircraft maintenance or not adhering to safety rules.

However, multiple flying schools officials, that ET spoke to said that DGCA being a body which is responsible for ensuring compliance and safety of flight schools should not be involved in ranking them.

"DGCA is involved in certifying the schools. They are authorised to take action or even shut them down if they are not compliant to rules," an official said.

A system where DGCA itself is grading the schools will, without doubt, create a bias in the minds of DGCA's officers during dealings with the schools and will lead to unequal treatment," an official said.

While the education ministry ranks professional training organisations like engineering and medical colleges, and business schools, it is done by the National Institutional Ranking Framework under based on multiple factors like faculty-student ratio, faculty experience, financial resources and their utilisation.

A second official said schools in India suffer long delays in obtaining various permissions from DGCA or from inadequate numbers of trainers and maintenance engineers.

"The administration should first settle such issues to improve the ease of doing business," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

Jet fuel price jumps 3%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, October

Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices were hiked by over 3% and commercial LPG rates by ₹15.50 per cylinder on Wednesday as oil firms revised fuel prices in line with global benchmarks.

Jet fuel (ATF) price was increased by ₹3,052.5 per kilolitre, or 3.3%, to ₹93,766.02 per kl in the national capital — home to one of the busiest airports in the country, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase comes on the back of a 1.4% (₹1,308.41 per

kl) reduction last month.

The price hike will increase the burden on commercial airlines, for whom fuel makes up almost 40% of the operating cost. No immediate comments could be

obtained from the airlines on the impact of the price change.

Alongside, oil firms increased the price of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants by ₹15.50 per 19-kg

cylinder. Commercial LPG now costs ₹1,595.50 in the national capital. The hike follows six-monthly reductions, the last being of ₹51.50 on September 1.

The price of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants increased by ₹15.50 per 19-kg cylinder



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2025

AI, Airbus set up pilot training facility in Haryana; plans ₹1,000 crore investment

PTI

NEW DELHI

Air India and Airbus have established a joint venture training facility in Haryana to train pilots for A320 and A350 family aircraft, with a planned investment of over Rs 1,000 crore for simulators.

The advanced pilot training centre at the Air India Aviation Training Academy will train more than 5,000 new pilots over the next decade, the airline said in a release on Tuesday. The equal joint venture facility, spread over 12,000 square metres, will have 10 full-flight simulators, along with advanced



classrooms and briefing rooms. It was inaugurated by Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu on Tuesday.

Currently, it has two full-flight simulators for A320 family aircraft. The remaining six A320 simulators and two A350 simulators will be installed progressively.

Naidu, in a post on X, said the simulators will be installed with an investment

of more than Rs 1,000 crore.

"Had the honour of inaugurating the Air India-Airbus Pilot Training Centre at Air India's Aviation Training Academy alongside Airbus Board Chairman, Rene Obermann and Air India CEO, Campbell Wilson.

"Through this joint venture, 10 cutting-edge simulators, including India's first A350 simulators, will be installed with a planned investment of over (Rs) 1,000 crore," the minister said in a post on X.

Jurgen Westermeier, President and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia, said it is more than a joint venture.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2025

NEW DELHI

IndiGo flight to Delhi gets bomb threat

An IndiGo flight from Mumbai to the national capital received a bomb threat on Tuesday morning, according to a source. The flight 6E 762 had around 200 people on board and the security agencies found the threat to be non-specific, the source told PTI. A security threat was noticed onboard IndiGo flight 6E 762 operating from Mumbai to Delhi on Tuesday, an IndiGo spokesperson said.

SERIOUS IMPACT | Ticket prices to go up and itineraries threatened

Gulf flight cuts create crisis for Malabar NRIs

HD Bureau

KOCHI

Air India Express decision to pull back multiple direct Gulf routes from Kerala in its upcoming winter schedule has prompted outcry from Malayali expatriate communities, especially in Malabar, who warn of escalating costs, disrupted itineraries, and diminished access. Community leaders and political figures are labelling the move discriminatory and demanding urgent redress.

The cuts include suspension of services between Thiruvananthapuram and Dubai/Abu Dhabi from October, and termination of direct links from Kozhikode and Kannur to Gulf destinations. The airline has also ceased its Kuwait-Goa route, effectively severing the only direct connection for Malabar passengers from Kuwait.

Operators and analysts suggest the reductions reflect route rationalisation



Fares already up

Airfare monitoring already shows upward pressure: with fewer direct options, travellers face inflated costs for indirect options plus the burden of additional hotel and transit expenses. In peak seasons, community sources report fare escalations as high as fourfold for certain Kerala-Gulf legs.

Behind the scenes, the Air India Group is contending with pressures across the network, including rising input costs, route yield volatility, and regulatory constraints. The airline's capacity reallocation may favour more profitable or resilient international and domestic routes. Operational safety constraints borne of previous route realignments in sensitive airspace zones also feed into strategic planning.

under cost pressure, though Gulf sectors from Kerala have often been among the more vital and high-volume international links.

Expats in Kuwait say they are now stranded by the cuts. The Kozhikode District NRI Association warned that removal of direct links will force travellers into longer, more expensive layover itineraries. Some community voices are petitioning Gulf carriers like Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways to launch direct services to Kozhikode and Kannur.

While the airline has not issued a full public breakdown, industry insiders point to a mix of surging fuel and operational costs, compressed yields on low-cost international segments, and shifts in traffic patterns. Air India's broader strategy of rerouting flights to avoid geopolitical turbulence in certain Gulf airspaces may also influence route economics.

Kerala state leaders have pressed for intervention.

Shashi Tharoor, MP from Thiruvananthapuram, wrote to Air India CEO Campbell Wilson, warning: "Kerala is one of the busiest aviation hubs ... any curtailment will cause severe hardship to migrant workers, students, tourists and families." He urged that the airline "must stop treating Kerala as an afterthought," alluding to earlier withdrawal of business-class service on the Delhi-Trivandrum sector. Tharoor added that carriers like IndiGo and Akasa are "waiting in the wings," suggesting passenger migration if Air India does not reverse course.

V. D. Satheesan, Leader of Opposition in Kerala's Legislative Assembly, has also sought Union government action. He claimed that services are being shifted to airports such as Mangaluru, Jaipur and Lucknow, reducing options for Gulf-bound Malayalis. Moreover, he argued that the Gulf routes from Kerala are traditionally profitable.

 Hindustan Times

Airbus H125 choppers set to be built in K'taka

Rahul Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Airbus on Wednesday announced that it will set up a production line for the H125 helicopters in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) at Vemagal in Karnataka, the fourth such facility in world (after France, the US and Brazil) and India's first helicopter final assembly line in private sector.

Karnataka was among the four states shortlisted by Airbus to build the single-engine helicopter in the country.

"The 'Made in India' H125 helicopter will help develop new civil and para-public market segments and also meet the Indian armed forces' requirement for a light multi-role helicopter... Plans include a military version, the H125M, to be offered out of this Indian factory with...indigenised components and technologies," Airbus said.

The first H125 is expected to roll out of the facility in early 2027, and the choppers built in India will be exported to south Asian countries too. "India is an ideal helicopter country. A 'Made in India' helicopter will help develop this market and



The first H125 is expected to roll out of the facility in early 2027.
HT PHOTO

position helicopters as an essential tool for nation-building," said Airbus India and South Asia president Jurgen Westermeier.

The final assembly line (FAL) in India will initially produce 10 H125s a year, with production being ramped up as orders grow. Airbus has projected a demand for 500 light helicopters of H125 class in the country and south Asia during the next 20 years.

"Tata Advanced Systems is proud to be the first private sector company in India to build helicopters. This will bolster both civil and defence requirements. This is our second FAL (the other being for C-295 aircraft) in collaboration with Airbus and further reinforces the partnership between Tata and Airbus for India..." TASL CEO Sukaran Singh said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2025

DELHI-BOUND INDIGO FLIGHT RECEIVES HOAX BOMB THREAT

Neha LM Tripathi

neha.tripathi@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: A Delhi-bound IndiGo flight from Mumbai received a hoax bomb threat mid-air on Tuesday morning, triggering an alarm among security agencies, officials aware of the details said.

"A crew member found a threat note with 'BOMB' written on it in one of the lavatories and told the pilot. The pilot alerted the local air traffic control (ATC)," an official privy to the matter said.

A second official said a bomb threat assessment committee (BTAC) was formed immediately at both Mumbai and Delhi airports to assess the situation and decide on the next course of action.

An IndiGo spokesperson confirmed the incident and said, "A security threat was noticed onboard IndiGo flight 6E 762 operating from Mumbai to Delhi on 30 September 2025. Following the established protocol, we informed the relevant authorities immediately and fully cooperated with them in carrying out the necessary security checks before the aircraft was cleared for operations."

The officials cited above said upon being informed of the threat, the aircraft was given priority landing and was parked in a secluded bay.

"The aircraft was thoroughly checked before declaring it safe," the second official cited above said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

1 OCTOBER 2025

AI to train 5,000 new pilots over a decade

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Air India says it will train more than 5,000 new pilots over the next decade at a training facility it unveiled on Tuesday here.

The centre now has two Airbus A320 simulators and will add 8 more over time, including India's first A350 simulators helping the airline save costs and resources on sending pilots overseas for training.

"This facility is a major step forward in our transformation journey and in making Air India and the Indian aviation industry more self-reliant," AI CEO Campbell Wilson said.

The centre will eventually have 21 simulators, including those of Boeing.

The Air India Training Academy is likely to train



The training centre will eventually have 21 simulators

AI professionals, including pilots, cabin crew, ground handling, engineering and security staff over the next few years and host management training programmes. AI is also in the process of setting up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati in Maharashtra.

AI has planned an aircraft maintenance engineering school for supply of skilled engineers.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

विमान में विधायक और यात्री के बीच धक्का-मुक्की

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 1 अक्टूबर।

दिल्ली से लखनऊ जा रहे एअर इंडिया के एक विमान में 'अपशब्द' बोलने से मना करने पर अमेठी के गौरीगंज से विधायक राकेश प्रताप सिंह और एक अन्य यात्री के बीच कहासुनी हो गई तथा दोनों के बीच कथित तौर पर धक्का मुक्की और हाथापाई भी हुई।

पुलिस ने आरोपी यात्री को हिरासत में ले लिया है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि एअर इंडिया की उड़ान संख्या एआइ-837 में समद अली नाम का एक यात्री किसी से फोन पर बात करते हुए गाली गलौज कर रहा था और यात्रियों के विरोध के बावजूद उसने चिल्लाकर बात करना जारी रखा। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, विधायक राकेश प्रताप सिंह भी इस विमान में सवार थे।

उन्होंने भी गाली-गलौज कर रहे यात्री को टोका। इस पर बात बढ़ गई और दोनों के बीच धक्का-मुक्की और हाथापाई हो गई। उन्होंने यात्री से अभद्र भाषा का प्रयोग बंद करने को कहा, लेकिन इससे दोनों के बीच तीखी बहस छिड़ गई।

पुलिस ने आरोपी को हिरासत में ले लिया, सरोजिनी नगर थाने में शिकायत दर्ज।

विधायक ने लखनऊ पहुंचने के बाद संवाददाताओं से कहा कि वह व्यक्ति लगातार अपमानजनक शब्दों का प्रयोग करता रहा, जो किसी भी सभ्य समाज में स्वीकार नहीं है। जब मैंने उसे सख्ती से रोकने की कोशिश की तो उसने मेरे साथ भी दुर्व्यवहार किया। सूत्रों ने बताया कि विधायक और यात्री के बीच हाथापाई शुरू होने पर केबिन कू के सदस्यों को दोनों को अलग करने के लिए आगे आना पड़ा। बाद में सिंह ने सरोजिनी नगर थाने में शिकायत दर्ज कराई। पुलिस ने पुष्टि की है कि घटना की जांच शुरू कर दी गई है। विधायक ने कहा कि संविधान हमें स्वतंत्रता देता है, लेकिन इसका मतलब यह नहीं कि कोई इसका दुरुपयोग दूसरों की गरिमा का हनन करने के लिए कर सकता है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि फतेहपुर जिले के हथगांव थाना क्षेत्र के रज्जीपुर गांव निवासी आरोपी समद को बाद में पुलिस ने हिरासत में ले लिया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

India proposes easing aircraft leasing conditions



New Delhi: India's aviation regulator has proposed removing the mandate that airlines can only take planes on lease with crew in emergencies, draft regulations show, in a move that could make it easier for carriers to tide over any aircraft shortages. The proposed rules could help airlines like IndiGo which has taken two planes with crew on so-called wet lease from Turkish Airlines. **REUTERS**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

ATF price hiked 3%, commercial LPG rates by Rs 15.50 per cylinder

NEW DELHI: Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices were hiked by over 3 per cent and commercial LPG rates by Rs 15.50 per cylinder on Wednesday as oil firms revised fuel prices in line with global benchmarks.

Jet fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 3,052.5 per kilolitre, or 3.3 per cent, to Rs 93,766.02 per kl in the national capital - home to one of the busiest airports in the country, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The increase comes on the back of a 1.4 per cent (Rs 1,308.41 per kl) reduction last month.

The price hike will increase the burden on commercial airlines, for whom fuel makes up almost 40 per cent of the operating cost.

No immediate comments could be obtained from the airlines on the impact of the price change.

The ATF price in Mumbai was hiked to Rs 87,714.39 per kl from Rs 84,832.83 per kl,

The price hike will increase the burden on commercial airlines, for whom fuel makes up almost 40% of the operating cost

while those in Chennai and Kolkata were increased to Rs 96,816.58 and Rs 97,302.14 per kl, respectively.

Rates differ from city to city, depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT.

Alongside, oil firms increased the price of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants by Rs 15.50 per 19-kg cylinder. Commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,595.50 in the national capital.

The hike follows six-monthly reductions, the last being of Rs 51.50 on September 1. In the six reductions, prices were cut by Rs 223 per bottle since April.

Oil prices have firmed since the last revision mainly because of geopolitical reasons, necessitating the changes in retail rates. Prices of ATF and LPG differ from state to state, depending on the incidence of local taxes, including VAT.

The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 853 per 14.2-kg cylinder. The price of the domestic LPG was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder in April.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revised prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of every month based on the average price of benchmark international fuel and foreign exchange rate.

Domestic rates of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. Rates were cut by Rs 2 per litre in mid-March last year, ahead of the general elections.

MPOST



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

DGCA rankings: No FTO gets top rating

'Out of 35 Flying Training Organisations, 13 get B while 22 receive C'

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA has come out with its first-ever ranking of flying training organisations in the country, and none of the 35 organisations in the list have managed to get top ratings of 'A+' and 'A'.

Out of the 35 Flying Training Organisations (FTOs), 13 got 'B' and 22 received 'C' rankings, according to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Operational aspects, FTO performance, safety standards and assistance to students are taken into consideration for evaluating the FTOs under four categories. Those having a score of 85 per cent and above are classified as 'A+' and those with score of 70 per cent to less than 85 per cent are categorised as 'A'.

FTOs having a score of less than 70 per cent to 50 per cent are in 'B' category and those with a score below 50 per cent are in the 'C' category.

According to the regulator, 5 FTOs were excluded from the current rankings as 4 of them were yet to complete 18 months of operations and 1



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

FTO's approval was not valid as on August 31.

"FTOs falling under category 'C' will receive a notice from DGCA for self-analysis towards improvement of their performance," the watchdog said in a public notice along with the list released on Tuesday.

There are 13 FTOs in category 'B' -- Chimes Aviation Academy, SVKM's NMIMS Academy of Aviation, Shrirampur, Bihar Flying Club, Orient Flights Aviation Academy, Sky-

nex Aero Pvt Ltd, FSTC Flying School Pvt Ltd, Patiala Aviation Club, Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation and Jet Serve Aviation Pvt Ltd, as per the list.

Others in this category are Nagpur Flying Club, National Flying Training Institute, Banasthali Vidyapith Gliding and Flying Club and Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology.

Dunes Aviation Academy, Garg Aviations Ltd, The Bombay Flying Club, Chetak

Aviation, Ekvi Air Training Organisation Pvt Ltd, Academy of Carver Aviation Pvt Ltd, Ambitions Flying Club Pvt Ltd, Flytech Aviation Academy, Indian Flying Academy, Sha-Shib Flying Academy, Government Aviation Training Institute, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA), Redbird Flight Training Academy and Telangana State Aviation Academy have received 'C' rating. Other entities that are in the 'C' category are Alche-

mist Aviation Pvt Ltd, Falcon Aviation Academy, Wings Aviation Pvt Ltd, Asia Pacific Flight Training Academy Ltd, The Gujarat Flying Club, The Madhya Pradesh Flying Club Ltd, Pioneer Flying Academy Pvt Ltd and Blue Ray Aviation Pvt Ltd.

FTOs provide training for pilots and other aviation professionals. The rankings will be published biannually, and the next one will be issued on April 1, 2026.

AGENCIES

CLOSER LOOK

- » None of the 35 organisations in the list have managed to get top ratings of 'A+' and 'A'
- » Operational aspects, FTO performance, safety standards, compliance standards and assistance to students are taken into consideration for evaluating the FTOs under four categories
- » Those having a score of 85 per cent and above are classified as 'A+' and those with score of 70 per cent to less than 85 per cent are categorised as 'A'
- » FTOs having a score of less than 70 per cent to 50 per cent are in 'B' category and those with a score below 50 per cent are in the 'C' category
- » 5 FTOs were excluded from the current rankings as 4 of them were yet to complete 18 months of operations and 1 FTO's approval was not valid as on August 31

DGCA ranking on pilot training, no organisation makes it to top grades

S LAJITHA @New Delhi

NO flying training organisation (FTO) in India has made it to the top two categories in the latest ranking announced by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday. For the first time, the regulator has ranked flying schools based on safety, infrastructure, and the quality of training provided to cadets.

The rankings show that 22 institutes were placed in the B category, while 13 were in the C category. Those in the C category will receive notices from the DGCA to conduct a self-assessment.

The evaluation covered a one-year period from September 1, 2024, to August 1, 2025. The DGCA has announced that the next ranking will be released on April 1, 2026.

The DGCA's ranking system has four categories based on overall scores: A+ for scores of 85% and above, A for scores between 70% and 85%, B for scores between 50% and 70%, and C for scores below 50%.

Captain C S Randhawa, president of the Federation of Indian Pilots Association, told this newspaper that there has been a general decline in the quality of training across flying schools. He also pointed out that infrastructure is lacking and stated that the DGCA's exercise is intended to encourage schools to improve. He added that a trainee spends between ₹55 lakh and ₹60 lakh over an 18-month programme to become a pilot, and they must receive proper training



HOW FLYING TRAINING ORGANISATIONS PERFORM

A+ and A ranking	No organisation qualifies
B ranking	22 academies qualify
C Ranking	13 academies qualify

Bottom category to receive notice from DGCA

for this investment.

The evaluation criteria included operational aspects (40%), safety standards (20%), FTO performance (20%), compliance standards (10%), and assistance to standards (10%).

Operational aspects considered factors such as the student-to-aircraft and student-to-instructor ratios, fleet size, and availability of ground schools and simulators.

Safety standards were evaluated based on the number of accidents and incidents in the past year, with penalties for non-reporting. FTO performance was evaluated based on the average time taken to complete 175 hours of flying time on aircraft, while compliance encompassed observations made during DGCA inspections.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2025

26-yr-old held for heckling MLA mid-air AI flight

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

A 26-year-old passenger was booked by Lucknow police following a mid-air confrontation with Gauriganj MLA Rakesh Pratap Singh aboard Air India flight AI 837 from Delhi to Lucknow. The passenger, Samad Ali of Fatehpur, was returning from Jeddah.

The incident took place on Tuesday and an FIR was lodged against Samad Ali at Sarojinagar police station on the basis of a complaint lodged by the MLA.

Singh said Ali had been using abusive language loudly, and upon confrontation, Ali allegedly argued and pushed him.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

1 OCTOBER 2025

Flights diverted

■ **NEW DELHI:** Heavy rain and thunderstorms forced the diversion of at least five flights from Delhi to Jaipur between 12.15pm and 12.30pm on Tuesday, an airport official said. Airlines, including IndiGo, Air India and SpiceJet, warned passengers of delays as bad weather disrupted operations. [PTI](#)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

1 OCTOBER 2025

No flying schools in India get A+ or A tag

Saurabh Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: No flying training organisation (FTO) in India has been placed in the top A+ or A category in the first-ever ranking published by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Tuesday.

Based on multiple parameters such as safety record and the time taken to complete the required flying hours for a commercial pilot licence, FTOs scoring 85% and above are ranked A++, those scoring between 70–84.99% as A+, 50–69.99% as A, and below 50% as B.

Thirteen FTOs—Chimes Aviation Academy, SVKM's NMIMS Academy of Aviation Shirpur, Bihar Flying Club, Orient Flights Aviation Academy, Skynex Aero, FSTC Flying School, Patiala



SUBPAR FLIGHT

Aviation Club, Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Jet Serve Aviation, Nagpur Flying Club, National Flying Training Institute, Banasthali Vidyapith Gliding & Flying Club, and Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology—have been placed in the B category. Twenty-two FTOs have been placed in the C category, including govt-owned Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi. DGCA has sent them “a notice for self-analysis towards improving

their performance.” “The idea behind the ranking is to improve FTOs both in terms of safety record and student-friendliness. There will be significant churn and improvement among the schools, as they work to either raise or retain their ranking and become more attractive to students. We hope to see some FTOs in the A category next time,” said a source.

The FTO rankings will be published biannually, “preferably on Oct 1 and April 1 of every year.” Currently, even after paying several lakhs, many students have to virtually “beg” to complete their flying hours in most schools. DGCA hopes the ranking system will encourage schools to improve performance and help aspiring pilots choose better institutions.