



Corporate Communications Directorate

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MUMBAI

2 JANUARY 2025

'Communicate proactively on delays, cancellation'

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has instructed airlines companies to proactively communicate potential delays or cancellations with passengers especially during the winter season which hinders operations following foggy conditions.

Meanwhile, in coordination with AAI, IMD has also committed to work in sync to expedite the imple-

mentation of the Advanced Weather Observation System (AWOS) at Delhi Airport and other fog-affected airports, ensuring accurate and timely weather information for pilots and air traffic controllers.

Delhi Airport has installed LED screens at prominent locations to provide real-time updates on visibility conditions. Delhi Airport has also scaled up the number of "Follow-Me" vehicles, which will guide



and assist the pilots on the apron/taxiway during low visibility conditions ensuring better coordination on ground.

The Mumbai-Delhi route was ranked the world's eighth-most busiest air route in 2024 by international travel data and analytics firm OAG and hence special care is being taken to ensure smooth operations during the winter.

MoCA has also conducted a series of consulta-

tions over the past two months with airline companies, airport operators, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airports Authority of India (AAI), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Airlines have committed to ensure full staffing at check-in counters during peak hours to reduce passenger inconvenience.



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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

2 JANUARY 2025

Dense fog disrupts flights at Bagdogra



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 1 JANUARY

Bagdogra Airport faced temporary disruptions today as dense fog forced the diversion of five flights—four Indigo and one SpiceJet—to alternative airports. The first flight managed to land at Bagdogra at 11.44 a.m. once visibility improved.

Airport authorities confirmed that no passengers faced inconvenience, thanks

to proactive capacity-building measures by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Despite the diversions, no flights were cancelled, and all diverted flights subsequently landed and departed from Bagdogra without further delays.

Officials lauded the efficiency of contingency plans and urged travellers to stay updated on flight schedules as winter fog continues to affect the region.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

2 JANUARY 2025

Govt wants airlines, airports to optimise flyer comfort

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Airlines should not keep passengers seated inside aircraft for more than 90 minutes in case of fog-related delayed departures and they must cancel flights delayed by over three hours.

As peak winter fog season kicks in, the aviation ministry on Wednesday listed out dos and don'ts for airlines and airport operators to minimise passenger inconvenience. "Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) circular for facilitating smooth re-entry of passengers in case of flight cancellations was operationalised and drills were organised by CISF with stakeholders. This would significantly reduce passenger inconvenience and ensure a smoother re-boarding process once flights resume," the Ram Mohan Naidu-headed ministry said in a statement.

Airlines have been "instructed" to proactively communicate with passengers about potential delays and cancellations due to visibility issues.

"For this, airlines and booking agents must ensure that correct passenger contact information is recorded during ticket booking." The Met department (IMD) along with Airports Authority of



As peak fog season kicks in, the aviation ministry has listed out dos and don'ts

India (AAI) is expediting implementation of "advanced weather observation system" (AWOS) at IGIA and other fog-affected airports.

This system will ensure accurate and timely weather information for pilots and air traffic controllers to enhance operational safety and efficiency. "IMD (is) committed to ensure all Met equipment function without disruption," Met office said.

The DGCA said it is "in close coordination with airlines, has ensured deployment of adequate number of CAT II/CAT III-compliant crew and aircraft to carry out low visibility operations efficiently during the fog period at affected airports. Three runways at the Delhi airport have activated CAT III ILS systems, including the important runway 10/28 (the one between T1 and T2)."

Airlines have been asked to ensure full staffing at check-in counters during peak hours to reduce passenger inconvenience.

"Delhi Airport has installed LED screens at prominent locations to provide real-time updates on visibility conditions. Delhi airport has also scaled up the number of 'follow me' vehicles, which will guide and assist the pilots on the apron/taxiway during low visibility conditions ensuring better coordination on ground," IGIA said in a statement. Airlines have been told to sensitise their "operations control centres" (OCCs) and war-room representatives for closer coordination during adverse weather conditions, especially fog, to "improve real-time decision-making (and) allowing for more effective and timely responses to flight delays or cancellations", the DGCA said.

"AAI has implemented new standard operating procedures to effectively regulate air traffic at fog-affected airports and at the originating or destination airports," it added. The aviation ministry said it has conducted a series of consultations over the last two months with airlines, airport operators, DGCA, BCAS, AAI, IMD, and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

TN's Parandur among 3 greenfield airports 'close to getting' govt nod

SET TO TAKEOFF. Kota in Rajasthan and Puri in Odisha also in the fray; reach second stage of approval

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Centre is considering giving clearance for the construction of three greenfield airports at different locations across the country, sources told *businessline*.

The three proposed airports are planned for Parandur, Tamil Nadu; Kota, Rajasthan; and Puri, Odisha.

These airports, sources said, have reached the second stage of the Centre's Greenfield Airports (GFA) policy for getting 'in-principle' approval to start land acquisition.

"The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), along with other agencies such as IMD, as well as associated ministries of Home and Defence, are deliberating on granting 'in-principle' approval to the projects," sources said.

"The greenfield airport

projects are the cornerstone to enhance connectivity and spur economic activity. We are hopeful that 'in-principle' approval for these projects will be granted soon."

The Parandur-based airport in Tamil Nadu is expected to become the second such infrastructure facility for Chennai city, while Puri will cater not just to the pilgrimage town, but also to Bhubaneswar city.

"The greenfield airport at Kota in Rajasthan will replace the existing airport there," sources said.

2-STAGE APPROVAL

In the last couple of years, MoCA has given 'site clearance' to seven airports proposed to be built at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh; Kottayam, Kerala; Puri, Odisha; Doloo, Assam; Parandur, Tamil Nadu; Kota, Rajasthan; and Raichur, Karnataka. Notably, GFA prescribes a two-



PERMISSION TO LAND. Ministry of Civil Aviation as well as associated ministries of Home and Defence deliberating on granting 'in-principle' approval to the projects REUTERS

stage approval process that includes 'site clearance' followed by 'in-principle' nod.

At present, State governments propose locations for constructing greenfield airports, which are then inspected by various government bodies, including the Airports Authority of India (AAI), to determine the technical feasibility of the project.

Implementation of airport

projects, including funding, rests with the concerned airport developer, including the State government.

The second stage involves project evaluation upon considering the detailed project report (DPR), including a techno-economic feasibility study of the project.

GREENFIELD AIRPORTS
Under GFA, the Centre has till now given 'in-principle'

approval for the setting up of 21 greenfield airports, in Mopa in Goa; Navi Mumbai, Shirdi, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra; Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Hassan, and Shivamogga in Karnataka; Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh; Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh; Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat; Karaikal in Puducherry; Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram, and Orvakal (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh; Durgapur in West Bengal; Pakyong in Sikkim; Kannur in Kerala; and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. Of these, 12 greenfield airports, including Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar, Itanagar, Mopa, and Shivamogga, have been operationalised. India has 159 operational airports, including both brownfield and greenfield facilities.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

Indian airlines, airports 'low' in on-time performance

Our Bureau

Mumbai

Indian carriers were a lot less punctual than global peers, and airports failed to make a mark in global on-time performance rankings released by aviation analytics firm Cirium on Thursday.

With 82 per cent on-time arrivals, IndiGo ranked fourth in Asia Pacific in 2023.

Hyderabad and Bengaluru took the global second and third spot respectively in 2023 with 84 per cent on-time departures but failed to make the cut this time.

IndiGo has the largest share among airlines at these two airports and hence IndiGo's performance has a bearing on the airport's ranking.

"Despite infrastructural challenges and circumstances beyond control, such as bomb threats, extended runway closures, and weather-related delays... IndiGo has consistently delivered reliable service... As of October, IndiGo has reclaimed the #1 position in OTP rankings within India," said a statement from In-

diGo. In 2024 only 69.69 per cent of IndiGo's flights arrived on time at their destination.

Among other airlines Air India and Vistara had on time performance (OTP) of 63.69 per cent and 62.28 per cent. Air India Express and SpiceJet's OTP was below 60 per cent.

Cirium recognises an on-time arrival when a flight arrives at the parking bay within 15 minutes of the scheduled arrival time.

An on-time departure is one when a flight departs within 15 minutes of scheduled departure time. On-time arrivals are used to rank airlines, and on-time departures are used to rank airports.

NO REASONS CITED

Cirium did not share reasons for the decline in OTP of Indian airlines and airports.

Domestic flights increased five per cent year-on-year between January and November, 2024.

Also, OTP of airlines continues to be impacted due to congestion at Mumbai resulting in schedule delays.

Aeromexico, Saudia among most punctual global airlines for 2024

BLOOMBERG

2 January

If the latest round of airline delays over the holiday season has you feeling anxious about your next flight, the 2024 annual on-time performance list from Cirium, published on January 2, may help.

The aviation analytics firm analyses more than 25 million data points from 600-plus sources each day to determine whether airlines are meeting their scheduled arrival times. A flight is considered punctual if it arrives within 14 minutes and 59 seconds of its scheduled landing time. Only air carriers that exceed a threshold of operational size and regional diversity are eligible for the global rankings.

After conducting a review of how its data added up over the course of 2024, Cirium's most on-time airline in 2024—with 86.7 per cent of flights arriving on time—is Aeromexico.

For the Mexico City-based carrier, that number represents a 9 per cent improvement from the year prior: “an astronomical rise,” as Cirium put it during a press conference.

The accolade caps off a turnaround story that started in 2022 when Grupo Aeromexico SAB de CV emerged from bankruptcy. In the two years since, it's “relentlessly” invested in technological upgrades to improve on-time records and increased profits, says Mike

ON-TIME ARRIVALS

(in %)

Aeromexico	86.70
Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia)	86.35
Delta Air Lines	83.46
LATAM Airlines	82.89
Qatar Airways	82.83
Azul Airlines	82.42
Avianca	81.80
Iberia	81.58
Scandinavian Airlines	81.40
United Airlines	80.93



Source: Cirium

Malik, chief marketing officer at Cirium. Amid all the momentum, Aeromexico filed for an initial public offering in the US in May 2024, seeking to raise as much as \$500,000.

Following in second place in Cirium's list is Jeddah-based Saudi Arabian Airlines (better known as Saudia), with an 86.35 per cent on-time performance. Delta Air Lines Inc came in third place, at 83.46 per cent, in spite of the CrowdStrike software malfunction that led to a global ground stop in July. The airline was slower to recover than its competitors, canceling approximately 7,000 flights over subsequent days.

“The on-time performance numbers are measured over 365 days, not the five days where a specific carrier had an issue,” says Malik, adding that Delta's on-time performance reached 91 per cent in August.

The news is good for US-based flyers, with carriers' performance largely either improving or staying flat. For the many travelers heading to Asia in 2025, these are the most punctual airlines: Japan Airlines Co, All Nippon Airways and Singapore Airlines, in descending order. In Europe, Madrid-based Iberia Express and its big sibling Iberia took first and second place, respectively.



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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

IOC to provide fuelling services at Noida International Airport

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), a public sector oil marketing company, will provide fuelling services at Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh. The airport is expected to be inaugurated early next financial year, according to a statement released on Thursday. Under a 30-year concession agreement, IOC will operate fuel stations at three locations within the airport premises— near the main western access road for passengers, at the airside for airport operations, and close to the eastern cargo precinct, the private airport operator said.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

2 JANUARY 2025

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में फिर दोहराया नए साल में मई में शुरू कराएंगे कोटा एयरपोर्ट का काम : बिरला

कोटा | लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला ने कहा कि नए साल में कोटा में कई नए प्रोजेक्ट शुरू होंगे। उन्होंने मीडिया को एक-एक कार्य की विस्तार से जानकारी दी। कहा कि कोटा ग्रीनफील्ड एयरपोर्ट का काम मई में शुरू हो जाए, ऐसा प्रयास कर रहे हैं। देश में यह एकमात्र प्रोजेक्ट है, जिसमें 95 प्रतिशत फॉरस्ट लैंड है, जिस्का डायवर्जन किया जा सका है। वित्तीय मामलों की कमेटी और कैबिनेट में क्लीयरेंस मिलते ही एएआई टेंडर लगा देगी। दो से ढाई साल निर्माण में लेंगे।

बिरला ने कहा कि वन्यजीव पर्यटन के लिहाज से मुकुंदरा से भी ज्यादा संभावनाएं बूंदी के रामगढ़ टाइगर रिजर्व में हैं। अगले तीन माह में दोनों जगह 5 टाइगर और लाए जाएंगे। इस वर्ष में जल और जंगल सफारी भी

शुरू करेंगे। रिवर फ्रंट को लेकर उन्होंने कहा कि इसकी खुशियां देश-दुनिया तक कैसे पहुंचे, इस पर काम कर रहे हैं। टेक्नल एजेंट्स के साथ पहले दौर की बैठक हो चुकी है, दूसरे दौर की बैठक होगी। एक बार सभी को कोटा भी बुलाया जाएगा। उन्होंने कोटा महोत्सव की सफलता को लेकर सभी को बधाई दी। आगामी राज्य बजट में कोटा के लिए मिनी सचिवालय की घोषणा हो सकती है। स्पीकर बिरला ने दावा किया कि शहर के पार्क, श्मशान घाट, दोनों अस्पतालों में 300 बेड की तीमारदारों के ठहरने की व्यवस्था आदि पर काम चल रहा है। लीवर टेस्ट के लिए फाइब्रोस्कैन मशीन तैयार हो रही है, यह मोबाइल होगी, इसे कहीं भी ले जाया जा सकेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट परिसर के अंदर तीन ईंधन स्टेशन बनेंगे

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 2 जनवरी (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनआईए) ने हवाई अड्डे के परिसर के भीतर तीन प्रमुख स्थानों पर ईंधन स्टेशन संचालित करने के लिए इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (आईओसीएल) के साथ 30 साल के रियायत समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। यह सहयोग हवाई अड्डे पर उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली ईंधन सेवाओं तक निर्बाध पहुंच सुनिश्चित करेगा, जो एनआईए के निर्बाध और कुशल विमानन केंद्र के दृष्टिकोण का समर्थन करेगा।

समझौते के तहत तीन ईंधन स्टेशनों की स्थापना और संचालन किया जाना है। जिसमें पहला यात्रियों के लिए मुख्य पश्चिमी पहुंच मार्ग के पास, दूसरा हवाई अड्डे के समीप, तीसरा पूर्वी कार्गो परिक्षेत्र के पास बनाया जाएगा।

यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ़ श्नेलमैन ने कहा कि इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड के साथ हमारा सहयोग एनआईए की परिचालन तत्परता की यात्रा में एक और मील का पत्थर है। भारत के सबसे भरोसेमंद ईंधन



प्रदाताओं में से एक के साथ साझेदारी करके, हम निर्बाध और कुशल ईंधन सेवाएं सुनिश्चित करेंगे। यह नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे को उत्तरी भारत के प्रवेश द्वार के रूप में बनाने की दिशा में एक कदम आगे है।

इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड के नोएडा डिविजनल कार्यालय के डिविजनल रिटेल सेल्स हेड, सुमीत मुंशी ने कहा कि यात्रियों के लिए एक अद्वितीय अनुभव बनाने के लिए इंडियन ऑयल को नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के साथ हाथ मिलाने पर गर्व है। यह सहयोग नवाचार, स्थिरता और ग्राहक सुविधा के प्रति हमारी

■ इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर ईंधन स्टेशन संचालित करेगा

प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करता है। इन ईंधन स्टेशनों की स्थापना करके, हम न केवल ग्राहकों की सेवा कर रहे हैं बल्कि क्षेत्र की बढ़ती बुनियादी ढांचागत आवश्यकताओं का भी समर्थन कर रहे हैं।

ईंधन स्टेशनों को उत्तरी भारत के लिए एक विश्व स्तरीय हवाई अड्डा बनाने के एनआईए के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप सुरक्षा और परिचालन उत्कृष्टता के वैश्विक मानकों का पालन करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया जाएगा। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, जो 2025 में परिचालन शुरू करने वाला है, इस क्षेत्र में हवाई यात्रा और रसद को फिर से परिभाषित करने के लिए तैयार है। हवाई अड्डे की इंटरमॉडल कनेक्टिविटी और नवाचार और दक्षता पर ध्यान भारत की विकास गाथा को सक्रिय करने के आईओसीएल के मिशन के साथ पूरी तरह से मेल खाता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर बनेंगे तीन फ्यूल स्टेशन

ग्रेटर नोएडा : नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (एनआइए) पर ईंधन की आपूर्ति के लिए तीन स्टेशन स्थापित किए जाएंगे। इसके लिए यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्रा. लि. (यापल) ने इंडियन आयल के साथ अनुबंध किया है। एक स्टेशन यात्री, एक एयरपोर्ट व एक कार्गो टर्मिनल पर वाहनों की ईंधन की जरूरत को पूरा करेगा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट अप्रैल में यात्री सेवाओं के लिए शुरू हो जाएगा। एयरपोर्ट आने वाले यात्रियों को किसी तरह की असुविधा न हो, इसके लिए विभिन्न ढांचागत सुविधाएं विकसित की गई हैं। इसी के तहत एयरपोर्ट परिसर में तीन फ्यूल स्टेशन विकसित होंगे। यात्रियों के लिए पश्चिम रोड के नजदीक स्टेशन स्थापित किया जाएगा। जबकि एयरपोर्ट आपरेशन के लिए एयरसाइड में एक स्टेशन होगा। तीसरा स्टेशन कार्गो टर्मिनल की जरूरत को ध्यान में रखते हुए उसके पास बनाया जाएगा। (जास)

Dry state: Surat Airport Customs caught in prohibition row

Melvyn Thomas

SURAT

In a state renowned for its strict prohibition laws, Surat International Airport has landed in hot water over a controversial incident that critics claim undermines Gujarat's dry state policy. Customs officials at the airport reportedly allowed a passenger arriving on a Bangkok-Surat flight to bring in additional liquor bottles, imposing a hefty 275% duty on two liters of alcohol exceeding the permissible limit. However, in a glaring violation of the Bombay Prohibition Act, they failed to notify the Gujarat Police of the infraction.

The incident gained public attention when the passenger, identified as Suresh Savalia, shared the customs receipt on his Instagram reels. The post, which quickly went viral, warned travelers about the steep penalties for exceeding the legal limit of alcohol in Gujarat. What started as a cautionary tale for fellow passengers spiraled into a heated debate about the enforcement practices at Surat International Airport.

Violation of Prohibition Laws

Gujarat has maintained its dry state status under the Bombay Prohibition Act, which strictly prohibits the possession, transportation, and consump-



tion of liquor. Even individuals with permits issued by the Gujarat Prohibition and Excise Department are restricted to purchasing alcohol solely from government-authorized outlets for personal use. Any violation, including unauthorized possession, is punishable under the law.

By levying duty on the excess bottles instead of notifying law enforcement, the Customs Department has been accused of indirectly enabling bootlegging. Critics argue that such actions send a dangerous message that illegal acts can be legitimized through monetary penalties. "This is not just about a fine; it's about the sanctity of the law. Customs officials must act as gatekeepers, not facilitators," said a local prohibition activist.

Public Outcry and Concerns

The Customs Department's approach has sparked widespread criticism. Surat International Airport, already

under scrutiny for frequent cases of gold smuggling, is now facing allegations of lax enforcement of prohibition laws.

"Charging a 275% duty might act as a deterrent financially, but it does not address the legal violation. The Customs Department's failure to report the incident to the Gujarat Police compromises the very essence of prohibition enforcement," said another critic.

The issue has also highlighted potential loopholes in how prohibition laws are enforced at entry points into Gujarat. While airports are equipped with stringent customs checks, incidents like this undermine public confidence in their effectiveness.

Implications for Enforcement

This controversy raises pressing questions about the roles and responsibilities of customs officials in states with unique legal frameworks like Gujarat. Should they focus solely on revenue collection, or do they have an obligation to uphold state laws, especially those with moral and social implications?

CONNECTING PEOPLE | Metro will ensure smooth link between NMIA & CSMIA

Tender process in 3 months for inter-airport metro link

Bhalchandra Chorghade

NAVI MUMBAI

Even as the first commercial flight made its landing at the proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) on December 29, 2024, the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) has pulled up its sleeves to provide smooth connectivity between NMIA and the existing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai. Plans are afoot to expedite the process to make the Airport Express Line Metro a reality soon.

While interacting with reporters on the sidelines of the function to mark commercial flight landing at NMIA, CIDCO vice chairman and managing director, Vijay Singhal said that the planning agency is committed to provide inter-airport metro connectivity to the people for smooth and hassle-free com-

33km Metro route	8 Proposed metro stations	15-minute Train frequency	₹15,000Cr PROJECT COST
3 months To finalise DPR	9 lakh Daily ridership expected	11.1km CSMIA-Mankhurd stretch by MMRDA	21.9km Mankhurd-NMIA stretch by CIDCO

Farooq Syed

muting.

Asked about the status of the project, a senior CIDCO official said that the detailed project report (DPR) for Airport Express Line Metro is under preparation. "We will

be completing the preparation of DPR within three months for the 33-km-long metro line between two airports. Once the DPR is ready, we will start with the tendering process and ensure that

the metro line gets operational at the earliest," the official added.

Asked whether the metro will be an elevated one or underground or combination of both, the official said that

some parts of the metro will be underground while some will be elevated. "We are deliberating on the same while preparing the DPR and hope to finalise the route alignment soon," the official said.

The route is likely to have eight metro stations and the trains will run within a frequency of 15 minutes.

The ₹15,000 crore metro line is likely to have a daily ridership of nine lakh passengers once the existing and the proposed airport is connected. CIDCO is working in coordination with another state body Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for the project. MMRDA, through Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will build metro line 8 from CSMIA to Mankhurd, which is a stretch of 11.1km while CIDCO will connect Mankhurd to the proposed NMIA.

Prayagraj airport expands ops, flights connecting 23 cities for Maha Kumbh

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE Prayagraj Airport authorities are bracing up to meet the expected crowd of devotees thronging the Sangam city for Mahakumbh.

After attaining the status to handle flights round-the-clock and in all weathers, around two dozen flights from different cities are being scheduled at Prayagraj airport for the religious congregation.

The flights will connect with Prayagraj after stopping at different airports for the convenience of the Prayagraj bound passengers. For this, aviation companies have started releasing the schedule of their connecting flights and bookings have also opened.

Although the exact days of the flights are yet to be finalised, ticket booking has started for 23 cities including Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Raipur, Lucknow, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Nagpur, Chennai, Guwahati, Jaipur, Jabalpur, Chandigarh,

Flying to mega gathering

The Prayagraj airport to handle flights round-the-clock and in all weathers

2 DOZEN FLIGHTS FROM DIFFERENT CITIES BEING SCHEDULED FOR MAHAKUMBH

Ticket booking started for 23 cities including Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi and Kolkata, among others



Dehradun, Bilaspur, Srinagar, Jammu, and Amritsar. While some flights will operate daily, others will operate twice or thrice a week, said an official.

Among the direct flights operating to Prayagraj and back include the ones between Nagpur and Prayagraj, Prayagraj and Pune, Chennai and Prayagraj, Prayagraj and Jammu. Prayagraj to Amritsar and back via Delhi. Likewise, the flight between Prayagraj and Chennai would operate via

Some flights will operate daily and others twice or thrice a week

Currently, direct flights are operating from Prayagraj to Delhi, Bilaspur, Bangalore, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, Raipur, Lucknow, and Hyderabad

Raipur; and the flight between Prayagraj and Kochi would operate via Bangalore. Similarly, the flight between Prayagraj and Visakhapatnam would operate via Hyderabad and the one between Prayagraj and Indore and back would operate via Lucknow.

Currently, direct flights are operating from Prayagraj to various cities including Delhi, Bilaspur, Bangalore, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, Raipur, Lucknow, and Hyderabad.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

हवाई अड्डे पर ईंधन सेवाएं प्रदान करेगा आईओसीएल

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नोएडा

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनी इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसीएल) उत्तर प्रदेश के गौतम बुद्ध नगर जिले के जेवर में नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनआईए) पर ईंधन सेवाएं प्रदान करेगी।

निजी हवाई अड्डा संचालक ने जारी बयान में कहा, 30 साल के रियायत समझौते के तहत आईओसीएल हवाई अड्डे के परिसर में तीन स्थानों पर ईंधन स्टेशन संचालित करेगा। यात्रियों के लिए मुख्य पश्चिमी पहुंच मार्ग के पास, हवाई अड्डे के संचालन के लिए हवाई क्षेत्र में और पूर्वी कार्गो परिसर के पास एक स्टेशन होगा। हवाई अड्डे का उद्घाटन अगले वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 की शुरुआत में होने की उम्मीद है। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के

● 30 साल के रियायत समझौते में परिसर में तीन स्थानों पर ईंधन स्टेशन संचालित होंगे

मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) क्रिस्टोफ स्नेलमैन ने कहा, इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड के साथ हमारा सहयोग एनआईए की परिचालन तत्परता की यात्रा में एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है। आईओसीएल के साथ साझेदारी कर हम हवाई अड्डे पर निर्बाध तथा कुशल ईंधन सेवाएं सुनिश्चित करेंगे। लिमिटेड के नोएडा मंडल कार्यालय के प्रमुख (मंडल खुदरा विक्री) सुमीत मुंशी ने कहा, यह सहयोग नवाचार, स्थिरता और ग्राहक सुविधा के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

IOCL to provide fueling services at Noida International Airport

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), a public sector oil marketing company, will provide fueling services at Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh. The airport is expected to be inaugurated early next fiscal, according to a statement released on Thursday. Under a 30-year concession agreement, IOCL will operate fuel stations at three locations within the airport premises – near the main western access road for passengers, at the airside for airport operations, and close to the eastern cargo precinct, the private airport operator said.

"Our collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd marks another milestone in NIA's journey to operational readiness. By partnering with IOCL, we will ensure seamless and efficient fueling services at the airport," said Christoph Schnellmann, CEO, Noida International Airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर ईंधन सेवाएं देगी इंडियन आयल मुंबई (भाषा)।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनी इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसीएल) उत्तर प्रदेश के गौतम बुद्ध नगर जिले के जेवर में नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनआईए) पर ईंधन सेवाएं प्रदान करेगी।

निजी हवाईअड्डा संचालक ने वृहस्पतिवार को जारी बयान में कहा, 30 साल के रियायत समझौते के तहत आईओसीएल हवाई अड्डे के परिसर में तीन स्थानों पर ईंधन स्टेशन संचालित करेगा। यात्रियों के लिए मुख्य पश्चिमी पहुंच मार्ग के पास, हवाईअड्डे के संचालन के लिए हवाई क्षेत्र में और पूर्वी कार्गो परिसर के पास एक स्टेशन होगा। हवाई अड्डे का उद्घाटन अगले वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 की शुरुआत में होने की उम्मीद है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

Flight operations at IGI disrupted by dense fog, 200+ delays reported

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Dense fog at Indira Gandhi International Airport disrupted flight operations on Wednesday morning. Visibility dropped to 100 metres for about two hours, causing several flight delays. However, no flights were diverted or cancelled due to low visibility.

According to FlightRadar24, over 200 flights experienced delays, with the average delay being 18 minutes.

RK Jenamani, senior scientist at India Meteorological Department (IMD), said, "The visibility was 100 metres at IGI Airport for nearly two hours, from 5 am to 7 am, on Wednesday. However, the runway visibility range was low at only one runway at 500 metres."

He added that no significant dense fog was observed at Palam this year due to frequent winds. "The wind conditions observed mostly in Dec eroded the fog layer in Delhi," said Jenamani.

An airport official said, "No flight was diverted to any other city due to fog. Some flights were also delayed due to weather conditions at the origin airport."

Delhi Airport wrote on X: "While landings and take-offs continue at Delhi Airport, flights that are not CAT III compliant may get affected. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information. Any inconvenience is deeply regretted."

IMD has issued a yellow alert for moderate fog at most places and dense fog at isolated locations on Thursday. "Fog may affect some airports, highways, and railway routes. It causes difficult driving conditions with slower journey times," IMD stated. Met department advised caution while driving or travelling and staying updated with airlines, railways, or state transport regarding journey schedules.

Officials noted that the airport initiates low visibility procedures (LVP) when visibility drops below 800 metres. During such periods, CAT-I procedures apply for visibility above 550 metres. Pilots compliant with CAT-II can land when visibility is between 275-550 metres, while CAT-III A and B pilots can land in conditions with visibility below 275 metres and even as low as 50 metres.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

Visibility down to zero for over an hr at IGI, 300 flights delayed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Visibility at IGI Airport dropped to 0 metres for over an hour due to the formation of very dense fog, delaying 300 flights on Thursday.

The average delay was 18 minutes, according to FlightRadar24.

India Meteorological Department's data shows that the visibility was below 200 metres from 5.30am to 9.30am. However, it dipped further to below 50 metres from 7 to 8am. Visibility below 50 metres is termed as very dense fog, while visibility below 200 metres is considered dense fog.

RK Jenamani, a senior scientist at IMD, said: "The visibility at runways varied from 200 metres to 600 metres during the dense fog period. Low visibility procedures for CAT II and III were initiated."

Jenamani added that in this season, the intensity of dense fog was the most on Thursday morning as wind conditions mostly eroded the fog layer in Dec at IGI Airport.

Delhi airport wrote on X at 6.17 am: "While landings and take-offs continue at Delhi Airport, flights that are not CAT III compliant may get affected. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information. Any inconvenience is deeply regretted."

No flight was diverted or cancelled. Thursday was the second consecutive day of dense fog at the airport. The visibility dipped to 100 metres on Wednesday, delaying over 200 flights.

Officials said the airport initiates low visibility procedures. During this period, CAT-I procedures, which are a basic set of precautions, are initiated for visibility above 550 metres. Pilots who are CAT-II compliant are allowed to land when visibility is between 275-550 metres.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

2

JANUARY 2025

Airport expansion: ₹298 crore disbursed among landowners

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JANUARY 1

As a step forward in the expansion of Gaggal airport in Kangra district that is vital for the growth of tourism in the region, the government has distributed Rs 298 crores among the landowners whose land is to be acquired in Gaggal area for expansion of the airport.

Sources here said that the government is distributing compensation among the people who are giving consent for handing over their land for expansion of the airport. SDM Kangra, Ishant Jamwal, said that till date Rs 298 crore has been distributed as compensation among the landowners whose land was being acquired. The government had initially released Rs 500 crore for distribution as compensation. "We have



₹2,000 CR EARMARKED IN BUDGET

The expansion of Gaggal airport located in Kangra district had been given a push by the present Congress government. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had been actively pursuing the project of expansion of Gaggal airport since the new government took over. In the budget passed by Himachal government the government has kept a provision of ₹2,000 crore for the expansion of Gaggal airport.

already received Rs 300 crores out of which an amount of Rs 298 crore has been distributed," he said.

The SDM said that a total of

Rs 2300 crore would be required for acquisition of entire land that has been notified for expansion of Gaggal airport. Another Rs 700

crores has been proposed by the government for relief and rehabilitation of the people being uprooted due to airport expansion project, he said.

The sources said that the government was initially distributing Rs 500 crore to the people in the seven revenue Mohals situated across the Manjhi Khad.

For the airport expansion, land of about 1,200 families from 14 villages is to be acquired. For acquisition, the government has marked about 147 hectares (about 3847 kanals) of government and private land of 14 villages. It includes 123 hectares of private and 24 hectares of government land.

Bagh, Balla, Barswalkad, Bhedi, Dhugiyari Khas, Gaggal Khas, Jhikli Ichhi, Mugrehd, Sahoora and Sanaura villages under Kangra Assembly constituency are coming under the airport expansion.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

2 JANUARY 2025

Air India rolls out Wi-Fi service on select aircraft

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 1

Air India on Wednesday announced rolling out Wi-Fi internet connectivity services on board domestic and international flights operated by Airbus A350, Boeing 787-9 and select Airbus A321neo aircraft.

"This makes Air India the first to offer in-flight Wi-Fi internet connectivity on flights within India, enabling travellers – flying for leisure or business – to stay connected to the internet during their flights, and to enjoy browsing, accessing social media, catching up on work, or texting friends and family," the airline said in a statement. However, the in-flight wi-fi connections depend on factors such as satellite connectivity, overall bandwidth

usage, routes, and government restrictions.

Accessible on Wi-Fi-enabled devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones with iOS or Android operating systems, the in-flight Wi-Fi will also allow guests to connect multiple devices simultaneously when above 10,000 feet.

Air India said the deployment of Wi-Fi on domestic routes follows an ongoing pilot programme on international services operated by the Airbus A350, select Airbus A321 neo and Boeing B787-9 aircraft serving international destinations including New York, London, Paris and Singapore. In the domestic sector, Wi-Fi is complimentary for an introductory period. Air India will progressively roll out the service on other aircraft in its fleet

over time.

"Connectivity is now an integral part of modern travel. For some, it is about the convenience and comfort of real-time sharing, while for others, it is about greater productivity and efficiency. Whatever be one's purpose, we are confident that our guests will appreciate having the option of connecting to the web and enjoy the new Air India experience on board these aircraft," said Mr Rajesh Dogra, chief customer experience officer, Air India.

Travellers need to enable Wi-Fi settings and select 'Air India Wi-Fi' network. Once redirected to the Air India portal on the default browser of the device, they need to give details such as PNR and last name and access complimentary internet services.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

विमानन कंपनियों को निर्देश • विदेश जाने वाले यात्रियों का डेटा शेयर करें विदेश यात्रियों के 19 निजी डेटा पूछेगी सरकार- किस सीट पर बैठे, कितने बैग ले गए... सब जानेगी

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

भारत से विदेश जाने वाले लोग कब, कहां और कैसे यात्रा कर रहे हैं। इसका खर्च किसने और कैसे उठाया। कौन कब कितने बैग लेकर गया और किस सीट पर बैठा था? विदेश यात्रा करने वालों से जुड़े ऐसे 19 निजी डेटा अब सरकार इकट्ठा करेगी। यह डेटा 5 साल तक स्टोर रहेगा। जरूरत पड़ने पर इसे अन्य कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों के साथ भी साझा किया जा सकेगा।

एयरलाइंस के लिए यात्रियों का यह डेटा कस्टम डिपार्टमेंट से साझा करना अनिवार्य बनाने का प्रस्ताव है। केंद्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर एवं कस्टम्स बोर्ड (सीबीआईसी) ने अभी विदेशी रूटों वाली सभी एयरलाइंस को 10

जनवरी तक नए पोर्टल 'एनसीटीसी-पैक्स' पर रजिस्टर करने को कहा है। सरकार की मंशा है कि रजिस्ट्रेशन होने के बाद 10 फरवरी से कुछ एयरलाइंस के साथ पायलट के तौर पर डेटा शेयरिंग ब्रिज शुरू किया जाए। 1 अप्रैल से यह व्यवस्था पूरी तरह लागू करने की तैयारी है। बोर्ड की ओर से जारी पत्र के अनुसार डेटा कलेक्शन का नियम 2022 से ही था। अब इसे अनिवार्य किया जा रहा है। समझा जाता है कि यह कदम तस्करी पर निगाह रखने के लिए उठाया गया है। कस्टम डिपार्टमेंट समय-समय पर डेटा का विश्लेषण करेगा। किसी यात्री के दौरों में कोई संदिग्ध पैटर्न सामने आएगा तो तुरंत जांच शुरू की जा सकती है।

19 तरह के डेटा लेंगे, जिसमें क्रेडिट कार्ड नंबर भी

सीबीआईसी की ओर से जारी पत्र के अनुसार 19 डेटा में यात्रियों के नाम, पीएनआर, यात्रा की तारीख और टिकट खरीदने की तारीख शामिल है। इसके अलावा ये डेटा लिया जाएगा-
• उपलब्ध कराए गए बेनीफिट जैसे कि मुफ्त टिकट और अपग्रेडेशन इत्यादि की जानकारी।
• एक पीएनआर पर कितने यात्री थे।
• यात्री द्वारा दिए गए ईमेल, फोन/मोबाइल नंबर। रिजर्वेशन करवाने वाले की भी सारी जानकारी।
• भुगतान कैसे किया गया। यानी क्रेडिट कार्ड इत्यादि का नंबर या कोई और तरीका।
• पीएनआर का यात्रा प्लान।
• ट्रेवल एजेंसी/ट्रेवल एजेंट

की जानकारी।

- अगर एक एयरलाइन ने टिकट दूसरी एयरलाइन को बेचा हो तो कोड शेयरिंग इंफार्मेशन।
- एक पीएनआर पर दूसरे पीएनआर का रेफरेंस हो तो उसकी जानकारी।
- यात्री की यात्रा स्थिति
- सामान की जानकारी • सीट की जानकारी नंबर समेत
- टिकट के साथ अन्य सहूलियतों का विवरण।
- यात्री से जुड़ी जानकारियां जो एयरलाइन के पास हों। जैसे पासपोर्ट नंबर, जन्मतिथि और लिंग।
- ऊपर दी सभी जानकारियों में कोई बदलाव हो तो उसकी सूचना।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

KANPUR

2 JANUARY 2025

जयपुर से स्पाइसजेट की पुणे और अहमदाबाद जाने वाली फ्लाइट रद्द

जयपुर | नए साल के पहले ही दिन जयपुर से सुबह जाने वाली 2 शहरों की फ्लाइट्स रद्द रहीं। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार सबसे पहले स्पाइसजेट की पुणे की फ्लाइट एसजी-1077 रद्द रही। फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 5:35 बजे पुणे जानी थी। इसी प्रकार अहमदाबाद की फ्लाइट एसजी-2960 भी रद्द रही। ये जयपुर से सुबह 8:05 बजे अहमदाबाद जाती है। इन दोनों फ्लाइट के अचानक रद्द होने की वजह से यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा।

प्रयागराज महाकुंभ के लिए उत्तराखंड से शुरू होगी हवाई सेवा

■ महाकुंभ में स्थान के लिए ट्रेन के साथ बसें भी चलेंगी

देहरादून, 2 जनवरी (एजेंसियां) प्रयागराज में आयोजित महाकुंभ मेले को लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के साथ-साथ अन्य राज्य भी अपनी-अपनी तैयारी कर रहे हैं। केंद्र सरकार का फोकस प्रयागराज में लगने वाले महाकुंभ मेले पर पूरी तरह से है। इसी कड़ी में देवभूमि उत्तराखंड से तीर्थनगरी प्रयागराज जाने वाले लोग हवाई सेवा, ट्रेन और बस के जरिए प्रयागराज पहुंच सकते हैं और आस्था की डुबकी लगा सकते हैं। 12 जनवरी से राजधानी देहरादून के जॉलीग्रैंट एयरपोर्ट से प्रयागराज के लिए हवाई सेवाएं शुरू हो रही हैं। हफ्ते में 2 दिन चलने वाली इस फ्लाइट का समय देहरादून से शाम 4 बजकर 25 मिनट पर होगा। 2 घंटे की समय अवधि में फ्लाइट



प्रयागराज पहुंच जाएगी। इसके बाद शाम लगभग 6 बजकर 50 मिनट पर प्रयागराज से फ्लाइट देहरादून के लिए उड़ान भरेगी और 8 बजकर 45 मिनट पर श्रद्धालुओं को देहरादून पहुंचाएगी। एक चक्कर में लगभग 72 श्रद्धालुओं को यह फ्लाइट

लेकर जाएगी। फ्लाइट के अलावा ट्रेन के माध्यम से भी श्रद्धालु देहरादून-हरिद्वार से सीधा प्रयागराज पहुंच सकेंगे। भारतीय रेल द्वारा राजधानी देहरादून से ट्रेन 18 जनवरी, 21 जनवरी और 24 जनवरी को रवाना होगी। साथ ही 9 फरवरी, 16 फरवरी और 23 फरवरी को भी देहरादून और हरिद्वार से श्रद्धालु ट्रेन के माध्यम से प्रयागराज जा सकेंगे। ट्रेन के चलने का समय सुबह 8 बजकर 10 मिनट पर होगा, जबकि प्रयागराज से देहरादून के लिए सुबह 6 बजकर 30 मिनट पर ट्रेन रवाना होगी। उत्तराखंड रोडवेज और उत्तर प्रदेश रोडवेज की तरफ से भी प्रयागराज के लिए बस सेवा चलाई जा रही है। देहरादून हरिद्वार, हल्द्वानी और काशीपुर से सीधी प्रयागराज के लिए बस सेवा 10 जनवरी के आसपास शुरू होगी। लिहाजा श्रद्धालु रोडवेज के माध्यम से भी प्रयागराज पहुंच सकते हैं।

तीन घंटे से ज्यादा विलंब हो तो रद्द करें उड़ान

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: उत्तर भारत के अधिकांश हिस्सों में कोहरा घना होने से इस क्षेत्र में विमान सेवाएं भी प्रभावित होनी शुरू हो गई हैं। ऐसे में नागरिक विमानन मंत्रालय ने कोई भी नया कदम उठाए जाने के संकेत तो नहीं दिए हैं, लेकिन विमानन कंपनियों को याद दिलाया गया है कि ग्राहकों को समय पर विमान रद्द होने की सूचना दें और तीन घंटे से ज्यादा विलंब हो तो रद्द करें। विलंब हो रहे विमान में यात्रियों को 90 मिनट से ज्यादा देर तक नहीं बिठाने का निर्देश खास तौर पर दिया गया है।

वैसे यह सवाल अहम है कि तीन घंटे पहले उड़ान रद्द करने से यात्रियों को कैसे सुविधा होगी, क्योंकि यात्री काफी वक्त पहले घर से निकल पड़ता है। विमानन कंपनियों को वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था करने को भी नहीं कहा गया है। अधिकारियों का

● विलंब होने पर विमान के अंदर यात्रियों को 90 मिनट से ज्यादा न बिठाएं



एअर इंडिया की उड़ानों में शुरू हुई वाई-फाई सुविधा

असम चौधरी (मिड-डे), मुंबई: एअर इंडिया ने नए साल के पहले दिन से अपनी घरेलू उड़ानों में वाई-फाई की सुविधा शुरू कर दी है। यह इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी सेवा इसकी एयरबस ए350, बोइंग 787-9 और एयरबस ए321नियो विमानों द्वारा संचालित सभी उड़ानों में मिलने शुरू हुई है।

कहना है कि इन निर्देशों से कोहरे से विलंब होने की मूल समस्या का समाधान तो नहीं होगा, लेकिन यात्रियों को समय रहते जानकारी मिलने से उनकी समस्या कम

एअर इंडिया घरेलू उड़ानों में वाई-फाई की सुविधा देने वाली देश की पहली एयरलाइन बन गई है। फिलहाल यात्रियों को इसके लिए कोई अतिरिक्त शुल्क नहीं देना पड़ेगा। नई सेवा का उद्देश्य यात्रियों को उड़ान के दौरान संपर्क में बने रहने की सुविधा देकर उनकी यात्रा के अनुभव को बेहतर बनाना है।

जल्द हो सकती है। अधिकारियों का मानना है कि किसी भी उड़ान को तीन घंटे से पहले रद्द करना सही नहीं रहता है। कई बार ऐसा देखा जाता है कि कोहरा दो-तीन घंटे में

छंट जाता है और उड़ानों को चालू करना आसान हो जाता है। साथ ही पूरे उड़्डयन क्षेत्र की अर्थव्यवस्था का भी खयाल रखना पड़ता है।

नागरिक विमानन मंत्रालय का कहना है कि कोहरे की समस्या से उड़ान सेवाओं के प्रभावित होने की घटनाओं को कम से कम करने के लिए पिछले दो महीनों से संबंधित विभागों से विचार-विमर्श चल रहा है। इस विचार-विमर्श में नागरिक उड़्डयन महानिदेशक (डीजीसीए), नागरिक उड़्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बीसीएएस), एयरपोर्ट प्राधिकरण (एएआइ), मौसम विभाग (आइएमडी) और सुरक्षा एजेंसी सीआइएसएफ के प्रतिनिधि शामिल हुए हैं। उड़्डयन मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि इन सभी विभागों के आपसी सामंजस्य से ही विमान सेवाओं को सुचारु तौर पर चलाया जा सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

2 JANUARY 2025

एयर इंडिया की उड़ानों में इन-फ्लाइट इंटरनेट की सुविधा

एजेंसी/हैदराबाद। एयरलाइन एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को एयरबस ए350, बोइंग 787-9 और चुनिंदा एयरबस ए321 नियो विमानों की ओर से संचालित घरेलू उड़ानों में वाई-फाई इंटरनेट की शुरुआत करने की घोषणा की। एयरलाइन की ओर से बताया गया कि अब यात्रियों को उड़ान के दौरान निशुल्क इंटरनेट का उपयोग करने का मौका मिलेगा, जिससे वे अपने मोबाइल फोन, लैपटॉप वा अन्य उपकरणों के माध्यम से इंटरनेट पर ब्राउजिंग, ईमेल भेजने, और अन्य ऑनलाइन सेवाएं प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। यह सुविधा एयरबस ए350, बोइंग 787-9 और चुनिंदा एयरबस ए321 नियो विमानों की ओर से संचालित होने वाली घरेलू उड़ानों में की गई है। यह सेवा एयर इंडिया के सभी प्रमुख घरेलू मार्गों पर उपलब्ध होगी और इसके जरिए यात्रियों को एक बेहतर और आधुनिक उड़ान अनुभव प्रदान किया जाएगा।



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DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

2 JANUARY 2025

दो फ्लाइटों का संचालन रद्द

जयपुर। जयपुर से पुणे और अहमदाबाद जाने वाली फ्लाइट का संचालन बुधवार को रद्द रहा। इसके चलते यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 5.35 बजे पुणे और स्पाइसजेट की जयपुर से सुबह 8.05 बजे अहमदाबाद जाने वाली फ्लाइट का संचालन अज्ञात कारणों के चलते रद्द किया गया।



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI 3 JANUARY 2025

INDIGO SLIPS FROM ASIA PACIFIC LIST

Indian airlines score low on punctuality

● Flight delays in India rise by 27%, affecting 2.39 mn passengers

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, January 2

NONE OF THE Indian aviation brands or companies made it to the top 10 rankings for on-time performance (OTP) globally, as instances of flight delays soared in 2024 highlighting the gap in operational inefficiencies.

The second and third positions during the 2023 global ranking conducted by Cirium, an aviation data and analytics firm, were held by Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad and Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, respectively.

However, neither Hyderabad nor Bengaluru airports made it to the top 10 rankings in 2024. In fact, no Indian airport, including major hubs like Delhi and Mumbai, featured in the top 10 even within the Asia-Pacific category.

King Khalid International Airport, Saudi Arabia and Jorge Chavez International Airport, Peru, clocked the best OTPs among airports during 2024 for the number 1 and number 2 positions, respectively.

IndiGo, India's largest carrier by fleet size and domestic market share, slipped out of the Top Asia Pacific Airline list of 2024 after securing the fourth spot in 2023. As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data, the OTP of IndiGo between January and November stood at 71%. The same was 82% in 2023, as per Cirium.

"IndiGo remains dedicated to operational excellence as Indian aviation rapidly expands, already ranking as the third-largest market globally. Despite infrastructural challenges and circumstances beyond our control, such as bomb threats, extended runway closures, and weather-related delays including monsoon and fog conditions, IndiGo has consistently delivered reliable service. As of October, IndiGo has reclaimed the #1 position in OTP rankings within India. This achievement underscores the airline's unwavering focus on enhancing operational efficiency and delivering superior travel experiences for its customers," said an IndiGo spokesperson.

Delta Airlines, with a fleet nearly three times the size of IndiGo's, ranked as the third most punctual airline globally. The top two spots were claimed by Mexico's private carrier Aeromexico and Saudia, the flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, as the world's

ON-TIME REPORT



Top 5 global airports 2024

Airports	OTP (%)
1. King Khalid International, Riyadh	86.65
2. Jorge Chavez International, Lima	84.57
3. Benito Juarez International, Mexico City	84.04
4. Salt Lake City International	83.8
5. Arturo Merino Benitez International, Santiago	82.84

Top 5 Asia Pacific airlines 2024

Airlines	OTP (%)
1. Japan Airlines	80.9
2. All Nippon Airways	80.62
3. Singapore Airlines	78.67
4. Air New Zealand	77.58
5. Thai AirAsia	77.46
4. IndiGo (82.12%, 2023)	

most punctual airlines.

With a world share of 1.8%, India has the third largest domestic aviation market in the world trailing the US and China. It saw 14.64 crore passengers between January and November, recording a growth of 6% year-on-year.

Nearly 1,000 hoax bomb calls, the outage of Microsoft CrowdStrike, unscheduled mass leave by a group of dispirited pilots, airport-specific incidents and inclement weather added to the reasons behind the rise in cases of flight delays in India this year.

Over 2.39 million passengers in India were affected by flight delays in the first 11 months of 2024, marking a 27% increase compared to the same period in 2023, according to DGCA data.

The most common cause behind the tardy performance was 'reactionary delay', a DGCA-defined reason caused by the late arrival of aircraft, crew, passengers or loads from a previous flight. This usually has a cascading effect on punctuality of other flights.

India's domestic demand for air travel is unlikely to be abated. Rating and research agency ICRA estimates an increase in domestic air passenger traffic to 164-170 million in FY2025, reflecting a year on year growth of 7-10%.





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 JANUARY 2025

Air India will increase its global coverage in years ahead: CEO

PTI
NEW DELHI

Air India has covered a lot of ground since privatisation and its global coverage will further increase in the years ahead, the airline's chief Campbell Wilson said on Wednesday.

He also said the interior refit of the single-aisle fleet, serving domestic and short-haul international destinations, is underway, and will be completed by mid-2025.

Loss-making Air India was acquired by the Tata Group from the government in



January 2022, and is undergoing an ambitious five-year transformation plan.

In his New Year message, Wilson said these mergers and new aircraft deliveries have taken Air India Group's fleet to 300 aircraft, allowing it to expand to over 100 domestic and international destinations.

AI rolls out Wi-Fi service

Private carrier Air India on Wednesday rolled out Wi-Fi internet connectivity services on board domestic and international flights on its widebody Airbus A350 and Boeing 787-9 fleet as well as on select Airbus A321neo aircraft. This makes Air India the first airline to offer such services on flights within India, the airline said.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 JANUARY 2025

AI's flying start: Surf online while airborne

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

On Day 1 of 2025, Air India became the first Indian airline to provide in-flight Wi-Fi internet services to all domestic and international passengers. During this introductory period, the service will be complimentary, the airline has said.

On Wednesday, Air India rolled out Wi-Fi services on board domestic and international flights operated by Airbus A350, Boeing 787-9 and

select Airbus A321neo aircraft, thereby becoming the first Indian airline to do so within India. In-flight Wi-Fi means travellers can stay connected to the internet during their flights, enjoy browsing, access social media, catch up on work or text friends and family.

This service will be accessible on Wi-Fi-enabled devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones with iOS or Android operating systems.

▶ **Contd on | nation**

AI's flying start: Surf

online while airborne

The in-flight Wi-Fi will also allow guests to connect multiple devices simultaneously when above 10,000 feet.

Travellers can access Wi-Fi on board Air India flights by selecting 'Air India Wi-Fi' network, entering their PNR and last name on the portal to access the complimentary service. However, Air India has said that the in-flight Wi-Fi connections depend on factors such as satellite connectivity, overall bandwidth usage, routes, and government restrictions.

The deployment of Wi-Fi on domestic routes follows an ongoing pilot programme on international

services operated by the Airbus A350, select Airbus A321neo and Boeing B787-9 aircraft serving international destinations including New York, London, Paris and Singapore. Air India will progressively roll out the service for the rest of its fleet over time.

Air India Chief Customer Experience Officer Rajesh Dogra said, "Connectivity is now an integral part of modern travel. For some, it is about the convenience and comfort of real-time sharing, while for others, it is about greater productivity and efficiency. Whatever be one's purpose, we are confident that our guests will appreciate having the option of connecting to the web and enjoy the new Air India experience on board these aircraft."



हादसे

विकेश कुमार बडोला

सबसे बड़ी असुरक्षा वेदना और सर्वाधिक भय इस दुर्घटना में मारे गए यात्रियों के परिजनों को है, जो घटना के दो-तीन दिनों के बाद भी विश्वास नहीं कर पा रहे हैं कि उनके अपनों ने ऐसे यूँ इस प्रकार अपने प्राण गंवा दिए हैं। वैसे दिन-प्रतिदिन आधुनिक से आधुनिकतम होती जा रही दुनिया में अधिसंख्य व्यक्ति किसी के भी प्रति वैसी संवेदना नहीं रखते, जैसी किसी के मरने पर किसी में कभी हुआ करती थीं। दक्षिण कोरिया, दुनिया, वायु यातायात नियंत्रण कंपनियों, वायु यान निर्मित करने वाली कंपनियों और दुर्घटना के समाचार से अवगत हुए लोगों में विमान दुर्घटना में दिवंगत लोगों के प्रति कोई विशेष संवेदना होने की स्थितियाँ-परिस्थितियाँ बची ही कहां हैं अब कहीं।

विमान यात्रा को सुरक्षित बनाना जरूरी

गत रविवार को दक्षिण कोरिया में एक यात्री विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुआ। विमानकर्मियों सहित कुल 181 लोग इस पर सवार थे। मुआन विमान-स्थल पर उतरते हुए इसमें आग लगी और देखते ही देखते भू-बल व अग्नि के कारण 179 लोगों की दुःखद मृत्यु हो गई। इनमें से 85 स्त्रियों और 84 पुरुषों की पहचान कर ली गई है, किंतु 10 मृतक ऐसे हैं जिनकी तात्कालिक लैंगिक पहचान नहीं हो सकी थी। घटना में केवल दो बच्चे जीवित बच सके हैं। स्थानीय वाईटीएन टेलीविजन द्वारा प्रसारित एक चलचित्र में स्पष्ट दिखाई दे रहा है कि जेजू एअर नामक विमान विमान-स्थल के मार्ग पर फिसला और एक कंक्रीट दीवला से जा टकराया। यह चलचित्र प्रथम चलचित्र था। अन्य चलचित्रों में विमान को टकराकर टूटने के बाद जलते हुए और काला धुंआ छोड़ते हुए स्पष्ट देखा जा सकता है। अग्निशमन विभाग के प्रमुख ने पृष्टि की है कि विमान पूर्ण रूप से नष्ट हो गया। दक्षिण कोरियायी देश में हुई कुल विमान दुर्घटनाओं में से यह एक बड़ी दुर्घटना है। कोरिया के परिवहन मंत्रालय के अनुसार वायुयान 15 वर्ष पुराना बोइंग 737-800 संरूप धारी जेट था, जो बैकक से लौट रहा था। परिवहन मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों से घटना के स्पष्ट कारणों की जानकारी प्राप्त नहीं हो सकी है।

आशंकाएं व्यक्त की जा रही हैं कि यान पक्षी या पक्षियों से टकराया हो, भूमार्ग पर उतरने की समयावधि में गति नियंत्रक उपकरणों में से कोई उपकरण क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया हो, भूमार्ग पर कोई अनापेक्षित अवरोधक पड़ा हो, पुराना होने के कारण विमान का कोई पेंच या पुर्जा हिलडुल गया हो अथवा चालक व चालकों से कोई भूल या चूक हो गई हो। जो भी हुआ हो, किंतु उसका परिणाम अत्यंत दुःखद, हृदयविदारक और भयभीत करने वाला है। सबसे बड़ी असुरक्षा वेदना और सर्वाधिक भय इस दुर्घटना में मारे गए यात्रियों के परिजनों को है, जो घटना के दो-तीन दिनों के बाद भी विश्वास नहीं कर पा रहे हैं कि उनके अपनों ने ऐसे यूँ इस प्रकार अपने प्राण गंवा दिए हैं। वैसे दिन-प्रतिदिन आधुनिक से आधुनिकतम होती जा रही दुनिया में अधिसंख्य व्यक्ति किसी के भी प्रति वैसी संवेदना नहीं रखते, जैसी किसी के मरने पर किसी में कभी हुआ करती थीं। दक्षिण कोरिया, दुनिया, वायु यातायात नियंत्रण कंपनियों, वायु यान निर्मित करने वाली कंपनियों और दुर्घटना के समाचार से अवगत हुए लोगों में विमान दुर्घटना में दिवंगत लोगों के प्रति कोई विशेष संवेदना होने की स्थितियाँ-परिस्थितियाँ बची ही कहां हैं अब कहीं। वास्तव में मनुष्य की एक शारीरिक-मानसिक सीमा है, आधुनिकता के समर्थक मनुष्यगण इस सत्य को स्वीकार ही नहीं करना चाहते। इसीलिए

आधुनिक प्रगति के समर्थक लोग दुनिया में रहकर हर वह यंत्र, रसायन और उन्नत व्यवस्था बना-बसा देना चाहते हैं, जो एक क्षण के लिए तो आकर्षित करती है, किंतु दीर्घावधि में उन्हीं लोगों का राक्षसी दोहन करने लगती है, जिनके बारे में सोच-विचार कर इनकी उत्पत्ति हुई होती है। एक सीमा तक पूरा जीवित संसार, कोरियाई शासन-प्रशासन और लोग इतना भर आश्चर्य हो सकते हैं कि दुर्घटना का सजीव प्रसारण उनके पास है, और वे दुर्घटना के आघात से ठहराव मिलने के बाद, उसके आधार पर स्पष्ट देख सकते हैं कि उनके परिजन विमान दुर्घटना में मारे गए हैं और परिणाम में उनके मृत शरीर



अंतिम संस्कार हेतु उनके पास हैं, किंतु इसके विपरीत कल्पना करें उन विमान या यान दुर्घटनाओं को, जिनमें न तो विमान या यान के अंश और न ही इनके साथ अदृश्य हुए यात्रियों का ही कहीं, गहन खोज के बाद भी, मृत भी होने का कोई साक्ष्य मिल पाया है। आज तक ऐसे विमान और इनके यात्रियों का कुछ पता नहीं चल सका है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिक विमानन संगठन के पास उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 19वीं शताब्दी में 28 जून 1856 से लेकर 14 जुलाई 1897 तक कुल 5 वायु वाहन दुर्घटनाग्रस्त या अदृश्य हुए थे। बीसवीं सदी में सन् 1901 से 1919 तक कुल 13 वाहनों के साथ दुर्घटना हुई। इनमें 11 लोग रहस्यमयी ढंग से अदृश्य हुए। इसी सदी में 1920 और 1939 की समयावधि में हुई 49 विमान दुर्घटनाओं में मृत 195 लोगों में से अधिसंख्य का पता नहीं चल पाया था। जैसे-जैसे दुनिया में वैज्ञानिक, औद्योगिक, यांत्रिक व प्रौद्योगिकीय उन्नति होती रही, उसी गति से वायुयान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त अथवा दुर्घटना में अदृश्य होते रहे। 1940 और 1959 की अवधि में 75 विमान आकाश में अनियंत्रित हुए। इनमें 1160 लोग लापता थे। 1960 से 1979 के मध्य 46 विमानों की दुर्घति हुई। इनमें 531 व्यक्ति काल-कवलित हुए। इसी प्रकार 1980 से 1999

के बीच 32 विमान-दुर्घटनाओं में 220 लोगों ने प्राण गंवाए। इक्कीसवीं सदी में भी विमान दुर्घटनाओं की आवृत्ति कम नहीं हुई। 2000 से 2019 के बीच कुल 18 घटनाओं में 295 लोगों की जानें गईं। इस समयावधि में 8 मार्च 2014 को मलेशिया एयरलाइन्स के बोइंग 777-200ईआर की दुर्घटना भी सम्मिलित है। सन् 2019 तक यह सबसे बड़ी विमान दुर्घटना थी। इसमें 239 लोग सवार थे, जिनका आज तक कुछ भी पता नहीं चला है। इस घटना के बारे में ये प्रामाणिक तथ्य है कि यह विमान आस्ट्रेलिया के पश्चिम में स्थित हिंद महासागर के ऊपर से गायब हो गया था। हालांकि घटना के बहुत दिनों बाद विमान के कुछ अवशेष अवश्य प्राप्त हुए थे, लेकिन विमान अब भी अदृश्य ही है। इसके बाद 2 अप्रैल 2022 को फ्रांस से उड़ा एक विमान अत्यधिक घने बादलों में गायब हो गया था। जहां तक दो बड़ी विमान दुर्घटनाएं हैं उनमें मलेशियाई बोइंग और गत रविवार को दक्षिण कोरिया के यात्री विमान के साथ हुई घटनाएं सबसे बड़ी और भयावह हैं। इनमें क्रमशः 239 और 179 लोगों ने अपने प्राण गंवाए। जब दक्षिण कोरिया का विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुआ तब ही कनाडा का एक विमान भी अनियंत्रित हुआ था। धनपतियों के स्वामित्व वाले अनेक निजी विमान भी यहां-वहां समुद्र के ऊपर अथवा किसी दुर्गम पहाड़ या सघन वनों के ऊपर आकाश में विचित्र परिस्थितियों में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुए हैं। वायु सेना के कई विमान भी व्योम में रहस्यमयी ढंग से गायब हो गए। समुद्र की सीमा तक आकाश में समुद्र से ऊपर एक निश्चित दूरी पर उड़ने वाले अनेक विमान अत्यंत रहस्यमयी परिस्थितियों में अदृश्य हो चुके हैं। आधुनिक एवं नवोन्नत प्रौद्योगिकीय उपकरणों के साथ वर्षों तक इन्हें ढूँढने के अनेक अभियान भी चलाए गए। अनेक देशों ने पारस्परिक खोज अभियान भी चलाए, पर अंततः सब विफल रहे। इस तरह आकाश की वैमानिकी-यात्रा दिनोंदिन असुरक्षित एवं भयाक्रांत होती जा रही है। विमानन कंपनियों और विमान व विमान से संबंधित उपकरण बनाने वाली कंपनियों को व्यापक स्तर पर यह प्रयास अवश्य करना चाहिए कि वे रहस्यमयी ढंग से गायब होने वाले विमानों का प्रामाणिक कारण खोजें और फिर विमान गायब होने की घटनाओं पर नियंत्रण करें। प्रत्येक देश के शासन और वैमानिकी शिक्षण-प्रशिक्षण में कार्यरत प्रतिष्ठानों को सामान्य विमान दुर्घटनाओं के परिचित, अपेक्षित और संभावित कारणों की भी सघन जांच-पड़ताल करनी चाहिए, ताकि यात्रियों के लिए वायुयात्राओं को चहुँदिस रूप में सुरक्षित से भी अधिक सुरक्षित किया जा सके।

(लेखक व्यक्तिगत लेखकार हैं, वे उनके अपने विचार हैं।)

लेख पर अपनी प्रतिक्रिया edit@haribhoomi.com पर वे सकते हैं।

Zero Visibility



A thick blanket of fog at NH-48 at 8.28 am on Thursday. IMD has issued a yellow alert for Friday and Saturday, forecasting moderate fog.

PARVEEN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Delhi woke up to a thick blanket of fog on Thursday, as visibility dropped to zero in the morning, disrupting flights, trains and vehicular traffic across the region, marking one of the most challenging mornings of the winter so far.

More than 300 flights coming in and out of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport were delayed on account of the "very dense" fog engulfing the area around the airport for two hours between 6am to 8am.

Officials, however, said that no diversion or cancellation of flights was reported as the fog cleared up by early afternoon. The average delay for a flight was reported around 18 minutes, according to flight tracking website FlightRadar24.

The sharp drop in visibility also impacted trains coming into Delhi. Northern Railways said at least 43 trains were delayed due to poor visibility.

On the roads, drivers faced challenging conditions as visibility dropped sharply, impacting traffic flow in the early hours of the across NCR.

Scientists at India Meteorological

OVER 300 FLIGHTS WERE DELAYED AT IGI AIRPORT IN THE 2 HOURS BETWEEN 6AM AND 8AM

logical Department (IMD) recorded visibility at Palam plummeting below 200 metres by 5.30am.

In the next half-an-hour, it dropped even further, touching zero by 6am, where it remained for two hours. It finally started improving around 8am, IMD officials said.

Under IMD's classification, visibility below 200 metres is considered as "dense" fog, and below 50 metres is considered "very dense" fog.

RK Jenamani, scientist at IMD, said that at the airport, CAT 2 and CAT 3 procedures were initiated, allowing planes to operate during low visibility.

Delhi had experienced dense fog on Wednesday as well, with visibility dropping to 100 metres. IMD issued a yellow alert for Friday and Saturday, forecasting moderate fog during early mornings and late evenings.

Explaining the phenomenon, IMD scientist said that the fog was a result of cold morning temperatures mixing with the high moisture and pollutants in the air.

AQI in 'very poor'; back online after 24 hours

Delhi on Thursday recorded an Air Quality Index reading of 318 ("very poor"), as the Central Pollution Control Board resumed sharing data after a day's break.

CPCB did not share air quality data on Wednesday and the first half of Thursday due to server issues. When it resumed in the evening, Delhi clocked a "very poor" AQI of 318 at 4pm.

Forecasts by the Early Warning System for Delhi (EWS) said the AQI is likely to remain "very poor" till January 5 as conditions remain adverse for the dispersal of pollutants.

An official with the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said the problem was fixed on Thursday evening, with both the Sameer app and its website sharing real-time data from 6pm.

"The day's bulletin was also updated and all data will be collated and shared in real-time from now on," the official said.

Max 16.2 degrees, min 7.6°C as bitter cold persists in city

Jaasveer Gandhiok

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NEW DELHI: Parts of the Capital recorded "cold day" conditions for a fourth day in a row on Thursday, with at least four weather stations clocking maximum temperatures with significant departure from the normal.

At Safdarjung station, which is considered representative of Delhi weather, a maximum temperature of 16.2 degrees Celsius (°C) was recorded, which was up from 15°C recorded a day earlier but three degrees below normal. The minimum temperature was 7.6°C, slightly up from 7.4°C recorded a day before and one degree above normal.

The IMD classifies it as a "cold day" when the maximum temperature is 4.5°C or more below normal, with the minimum also being below 10°C. Although this criterion was not met at Safdarjung, "cold day" was recorded at the Palam, Najafgarh, Pusa and

GB Nagar schools ordered shut due to intense cold, fog

NOIDA: Gautam Budh Nagar district administration on Thursday ordered the closure of all schools till Class 8, citing severe cold and fog. The order applies to all CBSE, ICSE, IB, UP Board, and other recognised schools in the area and will remain in force till further notice.

Narela weather stations.

However, cold conditions are likely to abate over the next few days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting a marginal increase in both maximum and minimum temperatures from Friday due to a fresh western disturbance.

"This is likely to bring fresh

snowfall to the Himalayan mountains, along with the possibility of a drizzle in Delhi-NCR on January 6, officials said. A drop in temperatures is again likely from January 8, once cold northwesterly winds return," IMD said.

According to forecasts, Delhi's maximum will likely be around 17°C on Friday and 18°C on Saturday. "A marginal rise in maximum temperature by a degree is expected in most places across the region," an IMD official said.

Mahesh Palawat, vice president at Skymet, said the gradual impact of a fresh western disturbance will slow down winds in the region starting Friday. "We will start to see an increase in moisture and winds slowing down again. The maximum and minimum will rise during this spell, during which snowfall is expected in the mountains and some rain in the plains. Cold northwesterly winds are expected from January 8, which will then lead to a dip in temperature again," he said.

Streets shrouded in fog on cold day in Delhi; flight, train ops hit

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The drop in visibility also



A foggy morning at Kartavya Path on Thursday. VIPIN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

impacted trains entering Delhi. Northern Railways said at least 43 trains were delayed.

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traffic flow in the early hours of the across NCR.

Scientists at India Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded visibility at Palam plummeting below 200 metres by 5.30am. →P4

Police raid Jeju Air over crash, ban CEO from leaving S Korea

Agence France-Presse

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MUAN, SOUTH KOREA: South Korean police raided the offices of Jeju Air and the operator of Muan International Airport on Thursday as they step up a probe into the fatal crash of a Boeing 737-800 that killed 179 people. The flight was carrying 181 passengers and crew from Thailand to South Korea on Sunday when it issued a mayday call and belly-landed before slamming into a barrier, killing all aboard except two flight attendants.

Authorities on Thursday carried out search and seizure operations at Muan airport where flight 2216 crashed, a regional aviation office in the



The site of the plane crash in Muan, South Korea. AP

southwestern city, and Jeju Air's office in the capital Seoul, police said.

Jeju Air's chief executive officer (CEO) Kim E-bae has also been banned from leaving the country as the investigation continues, police said sepa-

ately. "The police plan to swiftly and rigorously determine the cause and responsibility for this accident in accordance with the law and principles," police said in a statement.

Officials initially pointed to a bird strike as a possible cause of the crash, and have since said the probe was also examining the role of a concrete barrier at the end of the runway.

Yonhap reported the Muan airport warrant was approved on charges of professional negligence resulting in death, citing officials. "Police are securing evidence related to the legitimacy of the airport's localizer," Yonhap said, referring to the concrete wall at the end of the runway housing an antenna array.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

2 JANUARY 2025

AIR INDIA PLANS TO EXPAND IN 2025, SAYS CEO CAMPBELL WILSON

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Air India's chief executive officer Campbell Wilson in an internal mail on Wednesday announced that the airline has expansion plans in 2025 and that it is set to grow remarkably in the years to come.

"More than 100 new aircraft have been deployed, including India's first Airbus A350 aircraft now flying from Delhi to London and New York. These are part of the one-third of our twin-aisle fleet... with the remainder of the fleet progressively undergoing similar upgradation over the next two years. Interior refit of the single-aisle fleet, serving domestic and short-haul international destinations, is already well underway, and will be complete by mid-2025," Wilson said while extending new year wishes to the employees.

The merger of the four Tata airlines into one full-service airline, Air India, and one low-cost carrier, Air India Express, was completed in late 2024, and the erstwhile Vistara aircraft are now deployed on metro-to-metro domestic routes and to key international destinations such as Frankfurt and Singapore.

"These mergers and new aircraft deliveries have taken the Air India Group fleet to 300 aircraft. Air India's global coverage will further increase in the years ahead, not least because of the recent addition of 100 aircraft to our order book, augmenting the earlier commitment for 470 made in 2023," Campbell said.

"These new aircraft will be supported by a brand-new 12-bay maintenance facility and maintenance training school in Bengaluru, a new 34-aircraft flight school in Amravati, and the aforementioned training academy in Gurugram, underscoring our commitment to strengthening India's aviation ecosystem, not just our airline," he added. The airline has deployed customer-facing initiatives, including upgraded inflight catering, new amenities, and the rolled-out of streaming entertainment on all aircraft.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

2 JANUARY 2025

AIR INDIA ROLLS OUT WI-FI SERVICE ON SELECT PLANES

Press Trust of India

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MUMBAI: Private carrier Air India on Wednesday rolled out Wi-Fi internet connectivity services on board domestic and international flights on its wide-body Airbus A350 and Boeing 787-9 fleet as well as on select Airbus A321neo aircraft. This makes Air India the first airline to offer such services on flights within India, the airline said.

Accessible on Wi-Fi-enabled devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones with iOS or Android operating systems, the in-flight Wi-Fi will also allow guests to connect multiple devices simultaneously when above 10,000 feet, it said.

The deployment of Wi-Fi on domestic routes follows an ongoing pilot programme on international services operated by the Airbus A350, select Airbus A321 neo and Boeing B787-9 aircraft serving international destinations including New York, London, Paris and Singapore. As with the domestic offer, Wi-Fi is complimentary for an introductory period, Air India said.

How in-flight Internet works

Tata Group's Air India has announced the rollout of free in-flight Internet services on board domestic and international flights serviced by select aircraft in its fleet. Here is how this will work

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 2

AIR INDIA rang in the new year by announcing the rollout of Wi-Fi Internet connectivity services on board domestic and international flights serviced by select aircraft in its fleet. This makes the airline the first in India to offer Internet connectivity on domestic flights.

Wi-Fi will be offered free of charge on domestic flights operated by the select aircraft for a limited introductory period. Over time, Air India plans to progressively offer the service on other aircraft in its fleet.

On-board internet services are fast becoming a standard offering, particularly among major full-service carriers (FSCs) globally. Air India, which returned to the Tata Group three years ago, has big ambitions to be counted among the world's foremost airlines.

Which Air India planes currently have the onboard Wi-Fi offering?

For now, Wi-Fi will be available on the airline's Airbus A350, Boeing 787-9, and select Airbus A321neo aircraft. The airline was already offering Internet connectivity on board international flights operated by these aircraft as part of an ongoing pilot programme.

Apart from the new A350 aircraft, which Air India started operating in 2024, the other aircraft are understood to be those of erstwhile Vistara, which merged with Air India in November. All these aircraft are equipped with special hardware required to offer Internet connectivity on board. Vistara had been offering Internet on select international flights prior to the merger.

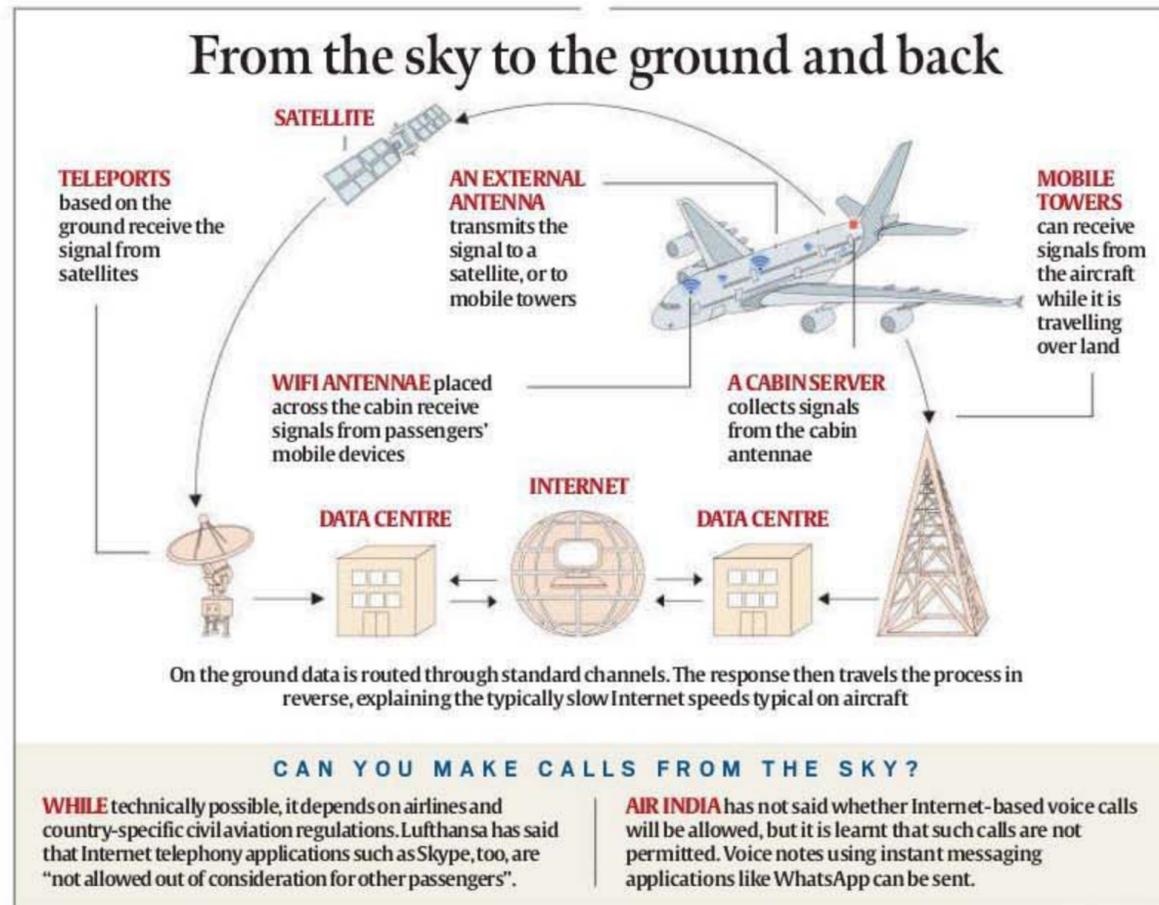
On board the Vistara aircraft, the service was facilitated by another Tata Group company — Nelco — in partnership with Panasonic Avionics Corporation. The same service is now being extended to select Air India's domestic flights, it is learnt.

Passengers will have to enable Wi-Fi on their devices, and select the 'Air India Wi-Fi' network to access the Internet. They will then be redirected to the Air India portal on the device's default browser, and will need to enter their details, including PNR and last name. The device will then be connected to Wi-Fi.

What are the technologies available to provide in-flight Internet connectivity?

In-flight connectivity systems primarily use two kinds of technologies — ground-based cellular towers, also known as air-to-ground (ATG) technology, and satellite-based connectivity. Both require special antennae and other equipment to be installed on the aircraft.

In the former, an antenna — usually placed around the plane's belly, picks up signals from the nearest tower on the ground, or ground receiver, to provide connectivity on board the air-



Graphic: Komal

craft. In some senses, this is similar to how our devices access wireless Internet on the ground.

Unless the aircraft passes over a big body of water, deserted land, or sparsely populated areas without enough cellular towers, the connection should stay seamless and stable up to a certain altitude. That said, the availability of nearby towers on the ground is a fundamental limitation of this technology.

The other option, which is fast gaining popularity, is satellite-based connectivity. Put simply, Internet from ground stations is transmitted to aircraft through satellites, using antennae mounted on top of the aircraft's body. This form of connectivity offers wider coverage, and is particularly useful in providing connectivity when the aircraft is flying over regions without ground towers.

How does in-flight Wi-Fi work?

Multiple Wi-Fi antennae are located inside the aircraft cabin, which get signals from passengers' devices. From these in-cabin antennae, the signals are sent to an on-board server. Till this point, the process is the same for both ATG and satellite-based connectivity.

In the case of a satellite-based connectivity system, the signals are then transmitted through an antenna on top of the aircraft to a satellite, which relays them to a ground station or teleport. In response, signals are sent from the ground station to the satellite, which relays them to the aircraft. In ATG technology, the signals from the server on board the aircraft are transmitted directly to on-land cellular towers using the antenna underneath the aircraft. The towers then respond with signals to the aircraft.

In-flight Wi-Fi is typically much slower than on the ground. But this is changing with newer technologies entering this market.

How expensive is this technology for airlines and passengers?

Airlines have to bear the initial cost of installing antennae on aircraft. Some airlines have been of the view that it would be easier for them to have the equipment installed on their new aircraft rather than taking planes out of service for retrofitting.

For Air India, which is anyway undertaking a mammoth \$400-million retrofit programme to spruce up its legacy narrow-body

fleet, it might make sense to equip its older planes with Internet connectivity equipment as part of that exercise. It is worth noting that the aircraft on which the airline is currently offering Wi-Fi are significantly newer than much of the carrier's legacy fleet, and came installed with the necessary equipment.

Globally, some airlines offering onboard WiFi offer a small volume of free Internet before asking the customer to buy a data pack, which is usually not cheap. Some carriers provide limited or unlimited Internet to members of their loyalty programmes, and business class and first class passengers.

For the time being, Air India is offering the Internet free for a limited introductory period. The airline has not specified when it plans to make the service chargeable.

With the demand for in-flight Internet expected to grow, airlines are looking at it as a source of ancillary revenue. And since it is expensive for airlines to equip their planes to offer Internet connectivity, no-strings-attached complimentary Wi-Fi, particularly to economy class passengers, is unlikely to be a norm, at least in the near to medium term.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

S Korean police search Jeju Air, airport operator over plane crash

REUTERS
SEOUL, JANUARY 2

SOUTH KOREAN police said on Thursday they had raided Jeju Air and the operator of Muan International Airport as part of their investigation into Sunday's crash that killed 179 people in the worst aviation disaster on the country's soil.

Police said investigators were searching the offices of the airport operator and the transportation ministry aviation authority in the county of Muan, as well as the office of Jeju Air in Seoul.

Investigators planned to seize documents and materials related to the operation and maintenance of the aircraft as well as the operation of airport facilities, a police official told *Reuters*.

The official also said police had banned Jeju Air chief executive Kim E-bae and another unidentified official from leaving the country, calling them key witnesses potentially facing charges of causing deaths by negligence. **REUTERS**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

Air India seeks to extend its premium lead over IndiGo

AI plans to expand the business and premium economy offerings to 100 narrow-body aircraft

[Daanish Anand](#)
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NEW DELHI

Air India doesn't seem content with adding Vistara's business class seats to its overall range of premium services. The Tata Sons-owned full-service carrier is now expanding its business class and premium economy offerings to about 100 narrow-body aircraft to strengthen its lead over IndiGo in the race for passengers willing to pay more for a comfortable flying experience.

Currently, Air India has 62 narrow-body aircraft featuring all three class configurations—business, premium economy, and economy. These include business class seats from the erstwhile Vistara, the Tata group's premium full-service airline that was merged with Air India in November.

Air India is currently refurbishing 27 of its legacy A320 narrow-body aircraft with new seats and interiors along with



Currently, Air India has 62 narrow-body aircraft with three classes. REUTERS

the three-class configuration, a person familiar with the airline's plans told *Mint*. "With the retrofit exercise [set to] complete by mid-year, Air India will deploy an additional 50,000 premium seats every week on metro-to-metro

routes," this person said, declining to be identified. Air India's three-class configuration on its narrow-body fleet features eight business class seats, 24 premium economy seats, and 132 economy seats. On wide-body aircraft, Air India also has a first-class section.

Currently, Air India has premium seating in 86 aircraft, which includes 24 wide-body aircraft and 62 narrow-body aircraft. Overall, the airline deploys nearly 80,000 premium seats (including first class, business class, and premium economy) weekly within India. Of these, around 47,000 premium seats are deployed on metropolitan routes.

Air India is rolling out other features, too, for its passengers. On 1 January, the airline became the first Indian carrier to offer in-flight Wi-Fi on its Airbus A350, Boeing 787-9, and select Airbus A321neo fleet.

The planned premium expansion will give Air India a bigger edge over IndiGo in terms of premium seat capacity. IndiGo, essentially a low-cost carrier, in

November launched its premium business product, called IndiGoStretch, with a focus on metro-to-metro routes.

An IndiGo official told *Mint* for an earlier report that over the next 14 months IndiGoStretch would be expanded to 45 aircraft on 12 routes with a frequency of over 260 daily flights. Currently, IndiGoStretch is available on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Bengaluru flights, and is expected to soon feature on the Delhi-Chennai route as well. Air India did not immediately reply to *Mint*'s queries.

The domestic aviation sector took off in the 2000s as Air Deccan and IndiGo made flying more affordable for Indians. The sector's turned a full circle, especially since the covid years, with a huge pent-up demand surging for premium and business-class travel in India.

Sanjay Lazar, chief executive of Avialaz Consultants, an aviation consultancy, said the demand is chiefly noticeable in the business-class segment.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](#).

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

खराब मौसम के कारण 108 फ्लाइट्स लेट 85 डोमेस्टिक और 23 इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स प्रभावित

■ NBT न्यूज, नई दिल्ली

ठंड और खराब मौसम के कारण दिल्ली आने और यहां से जाने वाली डोमेस्टिक और इंटरनेशनल दोनों फ्लाइट्स प्रभावित हो रही हैं। गुरुवार को खासकर इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया की डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स ज्यादा प्रभावित हुईं।

इंडिगो और AI की डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स ज्यादा प्रभावित हुईं

इंटरनेशनल उड़ानों की बात करें तो एयर इंडिया के विमानों पर मौसम का ज्यादा असर दिखा। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों के मुताबिक गुरुवार को आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट से 85 डोमेस्टिक और 23 इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स ने खराब मौसम और अन्य कारणों की वजह से देरी से उड़ान भरी। इंडिगो की करीब 40 डोमेस्टिक और एयर इंडिया की 24 फ्लाइट्स ने देरी से उड़ान भरी। इसके अलावा एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की 12 और स्पाइस जेट की



9 डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स ने भी देरी से टेकऑफ किया। 23 इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स में 16 एयर इंडिया की थीं। बाकी अन्य एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट्स थीं।

एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों के मुताबिक ठंड की वजह से केवल दिल्ली ही नहीं, पूरा उत्तर भारत प्रभावित है। यही कारण है कि दूसरे राज्यों से आ रहे विमान भी देर से पहुंच रहे हैं। इस कारण दिल्ली से भी विमान देर से उड़ान भर रहे हैं। हालांकि कुछ डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स को

छोड़ दें तो ज्यादातर फ्लाइट्स की उड़ान में आधे घंटे से लेकर एक घंटे की देरी हुई है। कई फ्लाइट्स ने अपने तय समय से फइले भी टेकऑफ किया। हालांकि गुरुवार को इंडिगो की नागपुर जाने वाली एक फ्लाइट ने शाम 6:35 के बजाय रात 9:20 बजे उड़ान भरी। वहीं, एयर इंडिया की हैदराबाद जाने वाली एक फ्लाइट ने गुरुवार दोपहर 12:30 बजे की बजाय दोपहर 2:41 बजे उड़ान भरी। वहीं, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की जयपुर, अमृतसर और श्रीनगर जाने वाली तीन फ्लाइट्स ने दो घंटे से लेकर चार घंटे की देरी से टेकऑफ किया।

इंडिगो ने गुरुवार को X पर बयान जारी कर बताया कि कोहरे के कारण विजिबिलिटी काफी कम हो गई है। इस कारण उड़ानें प्रभावित हो रही हैं। एयरलाइंस ने अपने यात्रियों को सलाह दी है कि एयरपोर्ट पर आने से पहले अपनी फ्लाइट के बारे में पता कर लें और एक्स्ट्रा टाइम लेकर निकलें।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

3 JANUARY 2025

हवाई उड़ानों पर भी प्रभाव डाल सकता है घना कोहरा, एडवाइजरी जारी की गई

सुबह 6 बजे सामान्य विजिबिलिटी शून्य हो गई...

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : दिल्ली-एनसीआर समेत देश के कई हिस्सों में ठंड का प्रकोप बढ़ता जा रहा है। गुरुवार को सड़कों पर घने कोहरे की चादर बिछी नजर आई, जिससे राहनों की रफ्तार धीमी हो गई। कोहरे का असर सिर्फ सड़क यातायात पर ही नहीं, बल्कि हवाई उड़ानों पर भी पड़ सकता है। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ने यात्रियों के लिए एडवाइजरी जारी की है।



दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर पोस्ट करते हुए कहा, दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर कम विजिबिलिटी की शर्तों में संचालन प्रभावित है। फिलहाल सभी उड़ान संचालन सामान्य हैं। यात्रियों से अनुरोध है कि उड़ानों की जानकारी के लिए संबंधित एयरलाइन से संपर्क करें। एक अन्य पोस्ट में कहा गया, 'दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग और टेक-ऑफ जारी है। हालांकि, कैट 3 मानकों का पालन न करने वाली उड़ानों पर असर पड़ सकता है। यात्रियों से अनुरोध है कि वे अपनी उड़ानों की स्थिति के लिए एयरलाइन से संपर्क करें। किसी भी असुविधा के लिए खेद है।' दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, ठंढे पर विजिबिलिटी 200 से 500 मीटर के बीच दर्ज की गई। सुबह 6 बजे यह सामान्य विजिबिलिटी शून्य हो गई। कम विजिबिलिटी

इंडिगो ने जारी की एडवाइजरी

इंडिगो एयरलाइंस ने गुरुवार सुबह दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से फ्लाइट लेने वाले यात्रियों के लिए एडवाइजरी जारी की है। एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों से अपील की है कि वे घर से निकलने से पहले अपनी फ्लाइट की स्थिति जरूर जांच लें। दिल्ली में कोहरे के कारण विजिबिलिटी काफी कम हो गई है, जिससे उड़ानें प्रभावित हो रही हैं। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि फ्लाइट में देरी हो सकती है, इसलिए यात्री समय रहते अपडेट लेते रहें। वहीं दिल्ली के अलावा, इंडिगो ने बंगलुरु और श्रीनगर जैसे अन्य एयरपोर्ट्स के लिए भी एडवाइजरी जारी की है। बंगलुरु में कोहरे की वजह से विजिबिलिटी कम हो गई है, जिससे फ्लाइट शेड्यूल में बदलाव संभव है।

संचालन के लिए सक्षम उड़ानें उतरने में सक्षम थीं, लेकिन अन्य उड़ानों को देरी या डायवर्जन का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

2 JANUARY 2025

सुहाना सफर : फिलहाल कुछ विमानों में मिलेगी, समय के साथ होगा विस्तार अब घरेलू उड़ानों में भी वाई-फाई की सुविधा, एयर इंडिया का सेवाएं शुरू करने का ऐलान

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. अब यात्री घरेलू उड़ानों के दौरान वाई-फाई का इस्तेमाल कर सकेंगे। एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को एयरबस ए-350, बोइंग 787-9 और चुनिंदा एयरबस ए-321 नियोजित विमानों की घरेलू उड़ानों में वाई-फाई इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी सेवाएं शुरू करने की घोषणा की। वह घरेलू उड़ानों में यह सुविधा देने वाली पहली भारतीय एयरलाइन बन गई है।

पिछले साल जुलाई में विस्तार एयरलाइन ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में

कनेक्टिविटी जरूरी

एयर इंडिया के चीफ कस्टमर एक्सपीरियंस अधिकारी राजेश डोगरा ने कहा, कनेक्टिविटी आज यात्रा का अंग बन चुकी है। नई सुविधा उड़ानों के दौरान इंटरनेट से जुड़े रहने, दोस्तों और परिवार को मैसेज करने में मदद करेगी।

वाई-फाई सेवा की शुरुआत की थी। नवंबर में विस्तारा का एयर इंडिया में विलय हो गया। एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि घरेलू मार्गों पर वाई-फाई की सेवा देने के लिए उसकी अंतरराष्ट्रीय

इतनी ऊंचाई के बाद...

भारतीय दूरसंचार विभाग कह चुका है कि विमान में यात्री वाई-फाई से इंटरनेट सेवाओं का इस्तेमाल तभी कर पाएंगे, जब विमान भारतीय क्षेत्र में 10,000 फीट की ऊंचाई पर पहुंचेगा। इसके बाद यात्री मोबाइल व लैपटॉप का इस्तेमाल कर सकेंगे।

उड़ानों में पहले से दी जा रही सुविधा को फॉलो किया गया है। घरेलू उड़ानों में वाई-फाई की सुविधा फिलहाल कुछ विमानों में मिलेगी। बाद में अन्य विमानों में इसे शुरू किया जाएगा।



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

2 JANUARY 2025

In a first in India, Air India rolls out in-flight Wi-Fi internet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Air India has become the first Indian airline to offer in-flight Wi-Fi internet to passengers on domestic and international routes aboard its Airbus A350, Boeing 787-9, and select A321neo flights.

“Wi-Fi is complimentary for an introductory period and will progressively roll out on other aircraft in the fleet over time. It will enable passengers to browse, access social media, catch up on work, or text friends and family,”

Tata group company said.

The service allows passengers to connect multiple devices simultaneously when flying above 10,000 feet, subject to factors such as satellite connectivity, overall bandwidth usage, flight routes, and government restrictions.

“Connectivity is now an integral part of modern travel. For some, it is about the convenience and comfort of real-time sharing, while for others, it is about greater productivity and efficiency. Whatever one’s purpose, we are confident that our passengers will appreciate the option to connect to the

web and enjoy the new Air India experience on board these aircraft,” said Rajesh Dogra, AAI’s chief customer experience officer.

The deployment of Wi-Fi on domestic routes follows an ongoing pilot program on international services aboard Airbus A350, select A321neo, and Boeing 787-9 flights to destinations such as New York, London, Paris, and Singapore. Passengers will need to enter their PNR and last name to connect to the Wi-Fi while on board select Air India flights.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

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Air India becomes first desi airline to roll out in-flight Wi-Fi service

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