



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

2 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## UDAN to get 27 pc higher allocation

NEW DELHI, Feb 1: The government's ambitious regional air connectivity scheme or UDAN, will get nearly 27 per cent higher budgetary allocation in the fiscal 2026-27.

The total budgetary allocation for the Civil Aviation Ministry will rise marginally to Rs 4,699.92 crore for the next financial year. The allocation is pegged at Rs 4,688.03 crore for the current fiscal ending March 31, 2026, as per the revised Budget estimates for 2025-26.

According to the latest Budget documents, the regional air connectivity scheme or UDAN will get a higher allocation of Rs 550 crore in the next fiscal compared to Rs 434.50 crore in this financial year. This will mark an increase of 27 per cent.

The scheme mainly aims at the revival of unserved and underserved airstrips to enhance regional connectivity and improve air travel access in remote as well as underserved areas. Out of the total allocation for the ministry, an amount of Rs 47.39 crore will be set aside towards Customs Cost Recovery (CCR) charges to Airport Authority of India (AAI) and AAI Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company Ltd. (AAICLAS) for tier II / III cities' airports. – PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

2 FEBRUARY 2026

## With two new additions, all five aerobridges now go operational at Patna's JPNI airport

**Ruchir Kumar**

[htpatna@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htpatna@hindustantimes.com)

**PATNA:** Two additional passenger boarding bridges (aerobridges) became operational at Patna's Jay Prakash Narayan International (JPNI) Airport on Saturday, completing the commissioning of all five aerobridges at the new terminal within eight months of its inauguration.

The new terminal building, constructed at a cost of ₹1,217 crore, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 29, 2025, with only one aerobridge functional at the time. While the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had initially targeted completion of the remaining bridges within six months, the deadline was later extended to January 31, 2026. The fourth and fifth aerobridges were commissioned on the revised date, meeting the extended timeline.



**An aerobridge in operation at Jayprakash Narayan International airport in Patna, Sunday**

SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

Patna airport director Chandra Pratap Dwivedi said both aerobridges were operationalised with effect from January 31, 2026, after receiving approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). He said the addition would significantly enhance passenger convenience and overall travel experience.

The fourth aerobridge, connected with boarding gate number 12, was first used by 178 pas-

sengers arriving on Air India flight AI 1746 from Delhi, followed by 177 passengers boarding the return flight AI 1819 on the Patna-Delhi sector. The fifth aerobridge, connected with boarding gate number 12A, handled IndiGo flight 6E 6549 from Delhi with 175 passengers, and later facilitated boarding of 178 passengers on the return flight 6E 6550 to New Delhi.

After the terminal became

**THE AEROBRIDGES HAVE BEEN STARTED WITHIN EIGHT MONTHS OF INAUGURATION OF NEW TERMINAL BUILDING**

operational on June 3, 2025, the second aerobridge was commissioned on November 15, 2025, and the third on January 24, 2026.

In a statement, the AAI said the operationalisation of all passenger boarding bridges would streamline passenger movement, improve crowd management, and substantially enhance the travel experience at JPNI Airport, reaffirming its commitment to continuous infrastructure development and efficient passenger services.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## डोमेस्टिक का पियर-सी अब इंटरनेशनल उड़ानों में होगा इस्तेमाल

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। देश के सबसे व्यस्त इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल-3 में अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों की बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए बड़ा बदलाव हुआ है।

टी-3 के डोमेस्टिक पियर-सी को अब इंटरनेशनल ऑपरेशंस के लिए बदला जा रहा। इस बदलाव के बाद टी-3 की अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों को संभालने की सालाना क्षमता 2 करोड़ से बढ़कर करीब 3 करोड़ हो जाएगी। एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) के

**दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल 3 में बड़ा बदलाव**

अनुसार, पियर-सी को इंटरनेशनल पियर में बदलने का काम तेजी से चल रहा है और मार्च तक इसे पूरा करने की संभावना है। पियर-सी को इंटरनेशनल उपयोग के अनुकूल बनाने के लिए यहां इमिग्रेशन काउंटेर्स की संख्या बढ़ाई जा रही है। सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को अपग्रेड किया गया है और यात्रियों की आवाजाही को अलग-अलग जोन में बांटा है। इसके अलावा एरोब्रिज को बाइफर्केट कर दिया गया है, जिससे एक ही पियर से घरेलू और

अंतरराष्ट्रीय संचालन में स्पष्ट विभाजन संभव हो सके।

एयर इंडिया ने 26 अक्टूबर 2025 से अपनी 60 घरेलू उड़ानों को टी-3 से टी-2 में स्थानांतरित कर दिया है, जबकि 120 उड़ानें फिलहाल टी-3 से ही संचालित होंगी। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की सभी घरेलू उड़ानें अब टी-1 से उड़ान भर रही हैं। इंडिगो ने भी अपने ऑपरेशंस टी-1, टी-2 और टी-3 में बांट दिए हैं। गौरतलब है कि टी-2 को अप्रैल 2025 में अपग्रेडेशन के लिए बंद किया गया था।

**क्यों जरूरी था यह बदलाव :** कोरोना के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्राओं में

तेजी से इजाजा हुआ है। पर्यटन, व्यापार और प्रवासी भारतीयों की बढ़ती आवाजाही के चलते टी-3 पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों का दबाव लगातार बढ़ रहा था। टी-3 में रोजाना अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों की संख्या 67,000 से 68,000 तक पहुंच गई थी, जो इसकी मौजूदा क्षमता से अधिक है। इससे इंटरनेशनल-टू-इंटरनेशनल ट्रांजिट और कनेक्टिंग फ्लाइट्स में दिक्कतें आ रही थीं।

**तीन इंटरनेशनल पियर होंगे सक्रिय :** पियर-सी के इंटरनेशनल बनने के बाद टी-3 में अब तीन इंटरनेशनल पियर ए, बी और सी होंगे,

जबकि पियर-डी घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए इस्तेमाल होगा।

**अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों को मिलेगा फायदा :** इस बदलाव के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों का वेटिंग टाइम कम होगा, क्योंकि विमानों के लिए अधिक गेट उपलब्ध होंगे। साथ ही एयरलाइंस को ज्यादा स्लॉट मिलेंगे, जिससे उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी।

**जानिए क्या होता है पियर :** एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल में पियर एक लंबा गलियारा होता है, जो मुख्य टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग से जुड़ा रहता है। इसके दोनों ओर विमान पार्क किए जाते हैं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## एयरपोर्ट का इसी माह उद्घाटन कर सकते हैं पीएम

सीएम योगी ने लखनऊ में जताई उम्मीद

उद्घाटन के लिए तैयार नोएडा एयरपोर्ट, एयरलाइंस ने भी तेज की तैयारी

लखनऊ। मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने सोमवार को कहा कि नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (जेवर एयरपोर्ट) का उद्घाटन इसी महीने होने की संभावना है। मुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट पूरी तरह तैयार है और एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने की प्रक्रिया अंतिम चरण में है।

सोमवार को लखनऊ में आयोजित प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस के दौरान उन्होंने उम्मीद जताई कि इस महीने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन किया जा सकता है। मुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि संचालन शुरू होते ही यह एयरपोर्ट उत्तर प्रदेश का पांचवां अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा बन जाएगा। इससे प्रदेश की हवाई कनेक्टिविटी को बड़ा विस्तार मिलेगा और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के साथ-साथ एनसीआर क्षेत्र के लोगों को भी बेहतर हवाई सुविधाएं मिल सकेंगी।



सीएम योगी।



पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी।

जेवर क्षेत्र में विकसित किया जा रहा नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट एक ग्रीनफील्ड परियोजना है, जिसे पब्लिक-प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप (पीपीपी) मॉडल के तहत तैयार किया जा रहा है। परियोजना के पहले चरण में करीब 1,300 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में निर्माण कार्य किया गया है।

हालांकि, यह चरण सितंबर 2024 में शुरू होने के लिए निर्धारित था, लेकिन विभिन्न कारणों से इसे कई बार टालना पड़ा। सरकार का दावा है कि एयरपोर्ट के शुरू होने से निवेश, रोजगार और औद्योगिक विकास को गति मिलेगी। व्यूरो

यमुना सिटी। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर बकास की आपत्तियां निस्तारित होने के बाद अब हवाई अड्डा उद्घाटन के लिए तैयार है। जल्द ही नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस जारी हो जाएगा।

लखनऊ में मुख्यमंत्री के इसी माह प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के उद्घाटन करने की घोषणा के बाद अब जल्द ही उद्घाटन के लिए तैयारी शुरू हो जाएगी। हालांकि, इससे पहले भी दिसंबर में उद्घाटन की तैयारी हो रही थी लेकिन बकास की आपत्तियों के बाद इसे रोक दिया गया था।

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का उद्घाटन इसी माह होने की दोबारा से तैयारी शुरू होने जा रही है। उद्घाटन के लिए एयरपोर्ट तैयार है। हालांकि, अभी एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस का इंतजार है। इससे पूर्व भी नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन दिसंबर में टल गया था। एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन के लिए व्यूरो



नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा। फाइल

ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिक्वोरिटी (बकास) से सिक्वोरिटी क्लीयरेंस मांगी गई थी। बकास ने करीब 25 बिंदुओं पर सुरक्षा के लिए आपत्ति लगा दी थी। आपत्तियों में सुरक्षा उपकरणों की उपलब्धता, तैनाती, निगरानी व्यवस्था और अन्य तकनीकी बिंदु शामिल थे। अब इन सभी आपत्तियों का निस्तारण कर दिया गया है। व्यूरो

इंडिगो ने 47 व एयर इंडिया ने सात शहरों में उड़ान के लिए किया आवेदन

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से कॉमर्सियल फ्लाइट शुरू करने के लिए इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया ने डीजीसीए में उड़ान संचालन के लिए आवेदन किया है। इंडिगो ने देश के 47 शहरों के लिए उड़ान संचालन की अनुमति मांगी है। एयर इंडिया ने 7 शहरों के लिए आवेदन किया है।

जिला प्रशासन ने 14 गांवों का अवार्ड पूरा किया

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के तीसरे चरण में भूमि अधिग्रहण के लिए सोमवार को जिला प्रशासन ने 14 गांवों का अवार्ड पूरा कर लिया है। एयरपोर्ट के तीसरे चरण में कुल 14 गांवों की भूमि का अवार्ड होना था। यह कुल 1857 हेक्टेयर है। पूर्व में 13 गांव का अवार्ड हो चुका है। अब थोरा गांव की लगभग 500 हेक्टेयर भूमि का अधिग्रहण जिला प्रशासन की ओर से अवार्ड किया गया है।

एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा क्लीयरेंस को लेकर बीसीएएस की ओर से उठाई गई सभी आपत्तियों को दूर कर लिया गया है। अब डीजीसीए से एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस मिलने की प्रक्रिया अंतिम चरण में है। -आरके सिंह, सीईओ, नियाल और यमुना प्राधिकरण



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## 437 हेक्टेयर में बसाए जाएंगे नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के विस्थापित परिवार

यमुना सिटी। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा परियोजना के तीसरे चरण में होने वाले अधिग्रहण से विस्थापित होने वाले परिवारों को 437 हेक्टेयर भूमि में बसाया जाएगा। अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया में सबसे पहले सामाजिक प्रभाव आकलन कराया जाएगा। इसकी अनुमति के लिए जिला प्रशासन जल्द ही उत्तर प्रदेश शासन को पत्र भेजेगा। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा परियोजना में जिला प्रशासन ने अब तीसरे चरण के भूमि अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। परियोजना के तीसरे चरण में 2053 हेक्टेयर भूमि का अधिग्रहण किया जाना है। जिला प्रशासन ने मुआवजा वितरण करते हुए जमीन पर कब्जा लेने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। तीसरे चरण के भूमि अधिग्रहण में कुछ गांवों को भी विस्थापित किया जाना है। इसके लिए 437 हेक्टेयर भूमि में एक सेक्टर विकसित कर विस्थापित ग्रामीणों को बसाया जाएगा। इसके लिए जल्द ही अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का इसी महीने हो सकता है उद्घाटन: सीएम

एजेंसी | लखनऊ

उत्तर प्रदेश के जेवर में बन रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का इंतजार अब खत्म होने वाला है। मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने सोमवार को घोषणा की कि इस बहुप्रतीक्षित हवाई अड्डे का उद्घाटन इसी महीने यानी फरवरी में पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा किए जाने की संभावना है। मुख्यमंत्री ने लखनऊ में आयोजित एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में बताया कि एयरपोर्ट का काम लगभग पूरा हो चुका है। हवाई अड्डे के संचालन के लिए जरूरी 'एरोड्रोम लाइसेंस' मिलने की प्रक्रिया अब अपने अंतिम चरण में है। सीएम ने भरोसा जताया कि इसी महीने पीएम मोदी इस 'ग्रीनफील्ड प्रोजेक्ट' को राष्ट्र को समर्पित करेंगे। कहा, जेवर एयरपोर्ट के शुरू होते ही उत्तर प्रदेश देश का इकलौता ऐसा राज्य बन जाएगा जहां 5 अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे होंगे। इसमें चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, लखनऊ,

लाल बहादुर शास्त्री अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, वाराणसी, कुशीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, कुशीनगर, महर्षि वाल्मीकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, अयोध्या, नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, जेवर हैं।

**परियोजना पर एक नजर (फेज-1):** नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को पब्लिक-प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप (पीपीपी) मॉडल पर विकसित किया जा रहा है। क्षेत्रफल: पहले चरण में यह लगभग 1,300 हेक्टेयर में फैला है। शुरुआती दौर में यह सालाना 1.2 करोड़ यात्रियों को संभालने में सक्षम होगा। इस प्रोजेक्ट की शुरुआत 2021 में हुई थी और इसे सितंबर 2024 तक शुरू होना था, लेकिन तकनीकी और निर्माण संबंधी कारणों से इसकी समयसीमा कई बार बढ़ानी पड़ी। यह एयरपोर्ट न केवल दिल्ली के आईजीआई का बोझ कम करेगा, बल्कि पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में निवेश, पर्यटन और रोजगार के नए अवसर भी पैदा करेगा।

## पियर-सी को घरेलू से अंतरराष्ट्रीय में बदलने पर तेजी से हो रहा काम

गौतम कुमार मिश्रा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आइजीआई) एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 (टी-3) पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों की बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए बड़ा बदलाव हो रहा है। टर्मिनल-3 के डोमेस्टिक पियर-सी को इंटरनेशनल आपरेशंस के लिए तैयार किया जा रहा है। डायल द्वारा किए जा रहे इस बदलाव से टी-3 की अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों को हैंडल करने की क्षमता में 50% बढ़ोतरी होने की संभावना है। इससे टी-3 की इंटरनेशनल पैसेंजर हैंडलिंग क्षमता दो करोड़ से बढ़कर तीन करोड़ सालाना हो जाएगी। इन दिनों पियर यूज को डोमेस्टिक से इंटरनेशनल में बदलने का काम तेजी से चल रहा है। मार्च में यह काम पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है।

टी-3 के पियर-सी में इमिग्रेशन काउंटेर्स बढ़ाए जा रहे हैं। ब्रिज को भी वाइफॉकट किया गया है। डायल

- आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल -3 पर यात्रियों की बढ़ती संख्या को देखते हुए हो रहा बदलाव
- चार में से एक पियर घरेलू और तीन का अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों के लिए किया जाएगा उपयोग



आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल 3 के पियर-सी पर चल रहा काम • सौ. सुधी पाठक

का कहना है कि घरेलू उड़ानों को धीरे-धीरे अलग-अलग टर्मिनल में शिफ्ट किया जा रहा है, ताकि टी-3 में स्पेस फ्री हो सके। एअर इंडिया ने 26 अक्टूबर 2025 से 60 घरेलू उड़ानों को टी-3 से टी-2 में शिफ्ट कर दिया, जबकि बाकी

120 फ्लाइट्स टी-3 में ही रहेंगी। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की सभी घरेलू उड़ानें अब टी-1 से संचालित हो रही हैं। इंडिगो भी अपने आपरेशंस को टी-1, टी-2 और टी-3 में बांट रही हैं। इन सबसे पूर्व टी-2, जो अप्रैल 2025 से अपग्रेडेशन के लिए

### अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों के लिए वेटिंग टाइम होगा कम

विदेशी उड़ानों के इंतजार में बैठे यात्रियों के लिए बदलाव के बाद वेटिंग टाइम कम होगा, क्योंकि विमानों के लिए अधिक गेट्स उपलब्ध होंगे और कुल मिलाकर आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट की दक्षता बढ़ेगी। इससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों से जुड़ी एयरलाइंस को अधिक स्लाट्स मिल सकेंगे। यह बदलाव एयरपोर्ट के मास्टर प्लान 2026 का हिस्सा है।

बंद था, को 26 अक्टूबर 2025 को दोबारा खोला गया।

वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर 7.92 करोड़ यात्रियों की आवाजाही हुई, जिसमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्री 2.16 करोड़ थे। टी-3, जो मुख्य रूप से

अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का केंद्र है, में जगह की कमी महसूस की जा रही थी। टी-3 में अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों की रोजाना आवाजाही 67,000 से 68,000 तक पहुंच गई, जो क्षमता से अधिक है। इससे इंटरनेशनल टू इंटरनेशनल ट्रांसफर और कनेक्टिंग फ्लाइट्स में समस्या हो रही थी। पियर के उपयोग में बदलाव से इंटरनेशनल ट्राफिक को बेहतर मैनेज करने में मदद मिलेगी, खासकर बढ़ते इंटरनेशनल टू इंटरनेशनल ट्रांसफर और नए रूट्स के साथ। बदलाव के बाद टी-3 में अब तीन इंटरनेशनल पियर्स (ए, बी और सी) होंगे, जबकि एक पियर (डी) डोमेस्टिक के लिए रहेगा। एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल में पियर एक लंबा गलियारा होता है, जो मुख्य टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग से जुड़ा होता है। इसमें दोनों तरफ एयरक्राफ्ट पार्क करने के लिए बोर्डिंग गेट्स होते हैं, जहां से यात्री एरोब्रिज से प्लेन में चढ़ते हैं।

## एयरपोर्ट के पास 400 करोड़ रुपये की जमीन से हटवाया गया अवैध निर्माण

जागरण संवाददाता जेवर: यमुना प्राधिकरण ने जेवर के दयानतपुर और साबौता गांव में अधिसूचित जमीन पर ध्वस्तीकरण की बड़ी कार्रवाई की। प्राधिकरण की टीम ने दयानतपुर और साबौता में अवैध प्लार्टिंग और 60 मीटर रोड पर हो रहे अवैध निर्माण को ध्वस्त कर एक लाख वर्गमीटर जमीन को कब्जामुक्त कराया है।

यमुना प्राधिकरण के विशेष कार्याधिकारी ने शैलेन्द्र सिंह ने बताया कि दयानतपुर और साबौता गांव में कालोनाइजरो ने अधिसूचित क्षेत्र एवं एयरपोर्ट को जाने वाली 60 मीटर रोड पर अवैध प्लार्टिंग कर एक लाख वर्गमीटर जमीन पर अवैध निर्माण कर लिया था। सोमवार को मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी राकेश कुमार सिंह के निर्देशन में यमुना



यीडा के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में बने अवैध निर्माण को ध्वस्त करता बुलडोजर • जागरण

प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के ग्राम दयानतपुर के खसरा संख्या 463 पर ऐरो ग्रीन सिटी द्वारा की जा रही अवैध प्लार्टिंग एवं एयरपोर्ट को जाने वाले 60 मी रोड पर किए जा रहे अवैध निर्माण का ध्वस्त कराया गया। साबौता मुस्तफाबाद गांव की खसरा संख्या 447,448 पर हो रहे अवैध निर्माण को भी

ध्वस्त करते हुए 400 करोड़ की भूमि से अवैध निर्माण हटवाया गया। कार्रवाई में अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी राजेश कुमार तथा एवं प्राधिकरण उपजिलाधिकारी हरी प्रताप, शिवौतार सिंह, तहसीलदार मनोज कुमार सिंह, जेवर कोतवाली निरीक्षक संजय सिंह पुलिस बल के साथ मौके पर मौजूद रहे।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## PM likely to inaugurate Jewar airport this month, says Yogi

**MAULSHREE SETH**  
Lucknow, February 2

**THE NOIDA INTERNATIONAL Airport (NIA) is ready for inauguration, said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday, and is due to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this month.**

"The airport is completely ready. The Aerodrome Licence for the airport is in the final stages... It is my belief that we would be able to get this airport inaugurated by the Prime Minister this month," said the CM.

The NIA is a greenfield project being developed in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddha Nagar district under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The first phase of the project, spread over around 1,300 hectares, was initially



scheduled to begin operations in September 2024.

Commissioned in 2021 to lighten the existing passenger load on Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport, which handled nearly 80 million fliers in 2024, Jewar airport is expected to handle 12 million passengers annually in the

first phase. Officials said its passenger capacity in phases two and three is expected to rise to 30 million and 50 million, respectively.

For now, under the ₹6,500-crore phase one of the airport operations, Jewar will have one runway and one terminal, though officials said there are plans for six runways and four terminals in all.

Meanwhile, stating that the state budget will be presented this month, Adityanath also said the Union Budget will help achieve PM Modi's 2047 vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' as well as a 'Viksit Uttar Pradesh'.

Hitting out at the Opposition, especially the Samajwadi Party, for targeting the Budget, Adityanath said its claim of 'PDA (Pichara, Dalit, Alpasankhyak)' is a mere excuse

while working for the 'pariwar (family)' is their actual target. On the other hand, he said, PM Modi has presented a vision that treats the country's entire population as a family.

Stating that Uttar Pradesh would benefit hugely from the Budget, he claimed that the state has the maximum MSMEs in the country and that it would benefit from the ₹10,000 crore set aside for the sector.

On the assistance for the semi-conductor and electronic manufacturing sectors in the Budget, the CM highlighted that the state accounts for 55% of the country's mobile manufacturing and 60% of its electronic component manufacturing.

He said UP will also benefit from announcements related to sports manufacturing.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तैयार, मोदी करेंगे उद्घाटन: योगी

लखनऊ, एजेंसी। उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने सोमवार को कहा कि गौतमबुद्ध नगर जिले के जेवर स्थित नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का उद्घाटन प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी संभवतः इसी माह कर सकते हैं।

लखनऊ में योगी आदित्यनाथ ने कहा कि हमारा हवाई अड्डा तैयार है। हवाई अड्डे के लाइसेंस से संबंधित औपचारिकताएं अंतिम चरण में हैं। मुझे विश्वास है कि इसी माह प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा हवाई अड्डे का उद्घाटन किया जाएगा। यह हवाई अड्डा राज्य का पांचवां अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा होगा। इसका पहला चरण सितंबर 2024 में शुरू होना था, लेकिन काम पूरा नहीं होने के कारण ऐसा नहीं हो सका।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## Noida airport 'ready', may open this month: UP CM

**HT Correspondents**

[htreporters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htreporters@hindustantimes.com)

**LUCKNOW/NOIDA/DELHI:** Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath announced on Monday that the Noida International Airport at Jewar is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this month.

Speaking at a press conference on the Union Budget, Adityanath said that the airport is "ready" and that the process of obtaining the crucial aerodrome licence is in its final stages.

Officials familiar with the developments in the project confirmed that the aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) remains the last major prerequisite.

A review meeting is expected this week between Union civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and the airport management, the officials who asked not to be identified, said. "It is likely that the airport, if the pending issues are resolved, may be inaugurated by March



I believe that this month, the airport will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

**YOGI ADITYANATH, U.P. CM**

end," an official said.

The airport is a major public-private partnership project developed on approximately 1,300 hectares in Jewar, Gautam Buddh Nagar. Awarded in October 2020 to Zurich Airport International AG, it is being built and operated by its Indian subsidiary, Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd, under a 40-year concession. The foundation stone was laid by PM Modi in November 2021.

The first phase, which includes one runway and a passenger terminal, was initially slated to open in September 2024 but has since faced several

delays. It is designed to handle an initial capacity of 12 million passengers annually, with expansion planned in subsequent phases. The state government oversees the project through its special purpose vehicle, Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL).

The airport moved closer to operational readiness on October 31, 2025, when it successfully conducted a mandatory calibration flight. An Air India aircraft landed at the airport around 11.20am, conducting tests over several hours to validate navigation and communication systems. This test is a critical step toward certification, ensuring all systems meet international safety standards, officials explained.

A NIAL officer, who also asked not to be identified, said, "The aircraft came from IGI Airport, and landed after going around the airport four-five times... Now credential authentication technology will be installed for the safety and security paving way for the operations."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## I believe PM will open airport in Jewar this month, says CM Yogi

**Maulshree Seth**

*Lucknow, February 2*

THE NOIDA International Airport (NIA) is ready for inauguration, said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday, and is due to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this month.

“The airport is completely ready. The Aerodrome Licence for the airport is in the final stages... It is my belief that we would be able to get this airport inaugurated by the Prime Minister this month,” said the CM.

The NIA is a greenfield project being developed in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddha Nagar district under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The first phase of the project, spread over around 1,300 hectares, was initially scheduled to begin operations in September 2024.

Commissioned in 2021 to lighten the existing passenger

load on Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport, which handled nearly 8 crore fliers in 2024, Jewar airport is expected to handle 1.2 crore passengers annually in the first phase. Officials had earlier said its passenger capacity in phases two and three is expected to rise to 3 crore and 5 crore, respectively.

For now, under the Rs 6,500-crore phase one of the airport operations, Jewar will have one runway and one terminal, though officials had said there are plans for six runways and four terminals in all.

The CM on Monday also stated that the state budget will be presented this month. He added that the Union Budget will help achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 2047 vision of a ‘Viksit Bharat’ as well as ‘Viksit Uttar Pradesh’.

The Chief Minister also hit out at the Opposition, especially the Samajwadi Party, for targeting the Union Budget.

## 2 airports, 9 helipads identified in Himachal Pradesh under UDAN scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

The Government on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that two airports and nine helipads have been identified in Himachal Pradesh for operating flights under the UDAN scheme, providing air connectivity to remote areas. The Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) was launched in 2016 with an aim to enhance regional air connectivity to remote and unserved areas of the country through a demand-based bidding mechanism that incentivises airlines to connect unserved/underserved airstrips.

Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said, "UDAN scheme has revolutionised the Indian civil aviation sector, and we were able to extend the connectivity to regional remote areas, especially the areas of tier two and tier three cities, where we were able to establish the airports, but



the connectivity was still a challenge".

Through this scheme, he said, the Government has been able to operationalise 657 routes, and 1.59 crore passengers have travelled in these routes.

"So the success of this UDAN story needs to be continued, because we are in the plan of opening up more airports in the country. So it is a necessity that UDAN needs to be extended," the minister said. Naidu said the Government has been making changes in the scheme based on the feed-

back from stakeholders.

"I am very thankful to the finance minister who in the last budget only announced that the UDAN is going to be extended. And the specific things that were mentioned was 120 new destinations are going to be established in the coming 10 years. Especially the hilly terrain, the north eastern states, the Himalayan states are going to be given a priority in establishing regional connectivity," the minister said.

Naidu said Himachal Pradesh and to the extent Shimla is going to be there in

the extended UDAN also.

"Under the UDAN scheme, two airports and nine helipads have been identified in the state of Himachal Pradesh for development and operation of RCS flights," the minister said.

A total of 38 RCS routes have been operationalised, connecting 6 aerodromes namely Shimla, Kullu, Rampur (Heliport), Mandi (Heliport), Reckong Peo (Heliport) and Sanjauli (Heliport) in Himachal Pradesh.

"In terms of providing connectivity, it is a challenge especially in the hilly terrains to establish an airport. But the air connectivity is still of a big demand because the kind of time advantage it gives in terms of travelling," he said.

The Government has extended the UDAN not only to create airports, but to create helipads and heliports also.

"And Himachal has been a great beneficiary of this. We have established nine locations where the helipads are going to be there," the minister said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## *Naming of Adampur airport after Sant Guru Ravidas is a historic decision: Haryana CM*

**UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**  
Chandigarh, 2 February

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday termed the naming of Punjab's Adampur Airport after Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas as a historic and visionary decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He expressed gratitude to

the Prime Minister, saying the move reflects deep respect for India's great saints and social reformers.

Speaking to the media at Haryana Bhawan in New Delhi, the Chief Minister said, "It was a moment of immense pride that on the sacred occasion of Sant Guru Ravidas Ji's birth anniversary, the Prime Minister announced the renaming of

Adampur Airport as Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj Airport." He described the decision as a true tribute to the timeless ideals of Sant Guru Ravidas.

CM Saini said that the teachings of Sant Guru Ravidas, rooted in equality, compassion, and selfless service, continue to inspire society even today. "His message guides us towards building a harmonious, just,

and humane society. This initiative will not only honour his great thoughts but will also inspire future generations to follow the path shown by him," he added.

The Chief Minister further said that the decision reflects the government's commitment to remembering and honouring those great personalities who gave direction to society and worked tirelessly for social harmony and upliftment of the weaker sections.

Highlighting similar initiatives, CM Saini said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently named major national institutions after saints and great personalities as a mark of respect. He cited the recent renaming of Ayodhya Airport after Maharishi Valmiki and the naming of Hisar Airport after Maharaja Agrasen as

examples of this inclusive and respectful approach.

Referring to the union Budget, Saini said it has been presented keeping every section of society in mind, with Haryana receiving special attention. He said key issues such as waterlogged and salinity-affected land have been addressed, while special emphasis has been laid on MSMEs, industry, and artificial intelligence, which will directly benefit the state.

Taking a dig at the Congress, the Chief Minister said that despite being in power for 55 years, it failed to present such a comprehensive and people-centric budget. "This budget empowers women, provides employment to youth, strengthens farmers and fulfils the aspirations of 140 crore Indians, including the poor," he said.

BSES		BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi		
TENDER NOTICE		Date: 03.02.2026		
Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-				
NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/26-27/ FK/PR/SN/1326	SUPPLY OF SMART METERS, BOXES & ITS INTEGRATION WITH COMMON HES AT BRPL	30 Crores	17.02.2026 15:30 HRS	17.02.2026 16:00 HRS
Cost of each Tender Document : ₹ 1180/-				
For any query call on 011-49107518 or e-mail on Sarveshwar.Nautiyal@reliancegroupindia.com				
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website <a href="http://www.bsedelhi.com">www.bsedelhi.com</a>				
<a href="https://www.bsedelhi.com/web/brpl/open-tenders">https://www.bsedelhi.com/web/brpl/open-tenders</a>				
				Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019   Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527				
Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235   Website : <a href="http://www.bsedelhi.com">www.bsedelhi.com</a>				





# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

2 FEBRUARY 2026

## PM visits Dera Ballan in Punjab; renames Adampur Airport after Sant Ravidas



**UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**  
Chandigarh, 1 February

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Dera Sachkhand Ballan, the most prominent religious seat of the Ravidassia community on the occasion of Sant Ravidas's 649th birth anniversary, in Jalandhar on Sunday.

Upon his arrival, the Prime Minister held a private 10-minute meeting with the Dera head,

Sant Niranjana Das Ji. During this spiritual visit, the Prime Minister paid his obeisance, sat on the floor with devotees to partake in the traditional community meal (langar), and addressed the gathered congregation.

The visit began with Modi landing at the Adampur Airport, where he performed the ceremonial renaming of the facility as 'Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj Ji Airport, Adampur.'

He then virtually inaugurated the Ludhiana International Airport at Halwara. A notable highlight of the virtual ceremony was the inaugural screen that displayed messages in four languages — Punjabi, Hindi, Sanskrit, and English — as the Prime Minister pressed the remote button to mark the opening.

The Prime Minister's itinerary included a curated interaction with a group of approximately 100 individuals selected by the BJP.

In his address at the Dera, Modi echoed the teachings of the revered saints and reiterated the central government's commitment to the holistic development of Punjab. Senior BJP leaders, including National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, had coordinated the visit to ensure a personal interaction between the Prime Minister and the spiritual leadership of the Dera.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## UDAN scheme: 2 airports, 9 helipads identified in state

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2**

The Union Government on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that two airports and nine helipads have been identified in Himachal Pradesh for operating flights under the UDAN scheme providing air connectivity to remote areas. BJP MP Harsh Mahajan questioned whether the new, modified UDAAN scheme includes Shimla.

Minister of Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, responded that 657 air routes were operationalised by the UDAN scheme so far. He said whatever feedback the UDAN scheme has received in the past is being implemented in the modified scheme.

The minister said 120 new destinations would be established in the next few years, especially in hilly regions, including Shimla. "I am

very thankful to the Finance Minister who in the last Budget only announced that the UDAN is going to be extended. And the specific things that were mentioned was 120 new destinations are going to be established in the coming 10 years...especially the hilly terrain, the north eastern states, the Himalayan states are going to be given a priority in establishing regional connectivity," the minister said.

He said the success of this UDAN story needs to be continued, because we are in the plan of opening up more airports in the country. So it is a necessity that UDAN needs to be extended, Naidu said.

He said nine locations where helipads can be established were identified in Himachal Pradesh. "On average, we are spending 13 crore per helipad," the minister said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## AI pilot reports 'defect' in fuel switch of Dreamliner

■ *Plane grounded* ■ *DGCA orders probe into matter*

**VINEETA PANDEY**  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 2

In a repeat of the AI 171 crash scenario, the fuel switch of an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner automatically moved from "run" to "cut off" while stationed at Bengaluru airport.

The pilot immediately flagged the possible defect with the fuel control switch, and the matter was reported to the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which has ordered a probe. The plane has been grounded.

The aircraft operated the flight AI 132 from London to Bengaluru, and it landed in Bengaluru on Monday morning.

As per initial reports, the problem was reported after landing at Bengaluru airport when

the crew noticed unusual behaviour of the left engine fuel control switch on Boeing 787-8. During the engine start, the fuel switch failed to remain locked in the "run" position on two attempts and, on its own, moved towards "cut off".

This malfunction has the potential to shut down the engines, something that happened in the ill-fated AI 171 that crashed in June last year in Ahmedabad.

"We are aware that one of our pilots has reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft. After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the said aircraft and are involving the original equipment manufacturer to get the pilot's concerns checked on a priority basis."

"The matter has been communicated to the aviation regulator, DGCA. Air India had checked the fuel control switches on all Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet after a directive from the DGCA, and had found no issues. At Air India, the safety of our passengers and crew remains top priority," Air India said in a statement.

Boeing said it is in contact with Air India and is "supporting their review of this matter".

In its preliminary report on the AI 171 crash that was released on July 12 last year, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is probing the crash, said the fuel supply to both engines of the plane was "cut off" within a gap of one second, causing confusion in the cockpit soon after take-off.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में खराबी की सूचना पर रोका एअर इंडिया का विमान लंदन से बंगलूरु पहुंचा था विमान, पायलट ने दी जानकारी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया के पायलट ने सोमवार को बोइंग 787-8 विमान के ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में संभावित खराबी की सूचना दी, जिसके चलते विमान को जांच के लिए खड़ा कर दिया गया है।

विमान लंदन से बंगलूरु के लिए उड़ान एआई132 का संचालन कर रहा था और सोमवार सुबह बंगलूरु में उतरा। सूत्रों के अनुसार, विमान में 200 से अधिक लोग सवार थे। सूत्र के मुताबिक ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच रन स्थिति में नहीं था और कट ऑफ स्थिति की ओर बढ़ गया था। रन और कट ऑफ का इस्तेमाल क्रमशः इंजन को चालू या बंद करने के लिए किया जाता है। यह तुरंत पता नहीं चल सका कि उड़ान के किस चरण में पायलट ने ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में संभावित खराबी देखी।



### अहमदाबाद में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुए ड्रीमलाइनर विमान में भी हुई थी ऐसी ही गड़बड़ी

एअर इंडिया के बोइंग 787-8 विमान (ड्रीमलाइनर) के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने के बाद से ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच की कार्यप्रणाली चर्चा का विषय बनी हुई है। उस हादसे में 260 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट में

उल्लेख किया गया था कि उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद ईंधन की आपूर्ति बंद कर दी गई थी। एअर इंडिया ने डीजीसीए के निर्देश के बाद, अपने बेड़े के सभी बोइंग 787 विमानों के ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विचों की जांच की थी और कोई समस्या नहीं पाई थी।

**हादसे में 260 लोगों की हो गई थी मौत**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## एअर इंडिया हादसे की चल रही जांच : मोहोल

नई दिल्ली। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने बताया कि पिछले वर्ष जून में हुए एअर इंडिया विमान हादसे के सभी संभावित कारणों की जांच की जा रही है। जांच को समयबद्ध तरीके से पूरा करने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआईबी) इस भीषण हादसे की जांच कर रहा है, जिसमें 260 लोगों की मौत हुई थी। ब्यूरो



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## 'Budget proposals will give a push to aircraft manufacturing in India'

**SKY IS THE LIMIT.** Focus on maintenance, leasing, improving remote air connectivity: Civil Aviation Secretary

**Rohit Vaid**  
New Delhi

The Budget has strengthened India's resolve to build domestic capacity for civilian aircraft manufacturing, with a focus on seaplanes and regional connectivity, Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Sinha told *businessline*.

### AIR CONNECTIVITY

Moreover, Sinha said the measures will also support aircraft maintenance and leasing activities, while improving last-mile and remote air connectivity across the country.

According to Budget proposals, the basic customs duty will be fully exempted on components and parts required for the manufacture of aircraft for civilian train-

ing and other purposes.

According to Sinha, the exemption applies across various aircraft categories, and aligns with the government's objective of promoting domestic manufacturing and strengthening the maintenance, repair and overhaul ecosystem. Besides, the Budget has proposed measures to deepen aircraft leasing activity at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.

Referring to the Finance Minister's announcement, Sinha said the proposal to simplify regulations and enhance the tax framework at the International Financial Services Centre will improve the competitiveness of India's leasing ecosystem.

### LEASING COSTS

Lower leasing costs will help reduce airline operating expenses and contribute to



**BIG PLANS AHEAD.** Samir Sinha says India aims to position itself as a global manufacturing and export hub

moderating air fares, he noted. Apart from manufacturing and leasing, the Budget outlines initiatives to promote the seaplane ecosystem in India.

Seaplane-specific proposals cover both manufacturing and route development.

Notably, the Centre plans to incentivise the indigenisation of seaplane manufacturing, along with the introduction of a Seaplane Viability Gap Funding scheme to support operations aimed at enhancing last-mile and remote connectivity and

promoting tourism.

### LOCAL PRODUCTION

According to Sinha, these measures are intended to support domestic production and improve the commercial viability of seaplane services connecting riverine and coastal regions.

He added that the production of seaplane or amphibious aircraft will be useful in connecting smaller cities, as well as coastal and riverine areas, including for tourism-related services.

On an overall basis, Sinha said the objective of the Budget proposals is to build an integrated aerospace ecosystem, supporting both civil and defence aviation, strengthening supply chains and generating high-value employment, while positioning India as a global manufacturing and export hub.

# Jet fuel consumption hits record high in January

**SOARING DEMAND.** ATF use rose by 5 per cent on a monthly and annual basis to hit 8,21,000 tonnes; international travel and new airport add to the surge

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**  
New Delhi

India's jet fuel consumption during January 2026 rose to the highest on record on the back of a spurt in international travel as well as opening up of the Navi Mumbai airport.

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), India aviation turbine fuel (ATF) consumption rose by almost 5 per cent on a monthly and annual basis to hit 821,000 tonnes on a provision basis — an all-time high.

## JET FUEL USAGE

The previous high was recorded in March 2025, when jet fuel usage hit 8,01,000 tonnes.

Analysts attributed the surge to a spurt in international travel, particularly



**SIGNIFICANT JUMP.** The previous high was recorded in March 2025, when jet fuel usage hit 8,01,000 tonnes

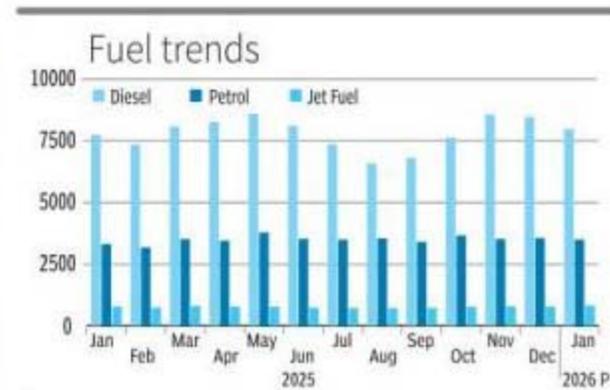
with airlines such as IndiGo, offering more flights to foreign locations. Besides, domestic travel is also appreciating, aided by a higher number of people preferring air travel. The opening of the Navi Mumbai International

Airport has also pushed up travel, consequently boosting demand for jet fuel, one of the analysts added.

Analysts and refiners express strong optimism about the continued growth in the demand for transport fuels

going ahead led by an expanding industrial and commercial base as well as growing affluence.

For instance, monthly average consumption of ATF rose by 2.71 per cent y-o-y to 737,000 tonnes in the 2025



calendar year. On the other hand, diesel consumption fell by almost 6 per cent m-o-m to around 7.98 million tonnes (mt).

However, it was higher by more than 3 per cent on an annual basis.

An analyst explained that November and December last year were sort of outlier months in terms of diesel usage. October-December normally is high on mining and

industrial activity. Besides, Rabi sowing and wedding season also pushes up demand.

## FESTIVAL SEASON

The October-December 2025 festival season witnessed a strong consumption base, supported by favourable rural sentiments following good monsoons and firm crop prices, positive effects of GST overhaul and

interest rate cuts. Petrol consumption last month fell by almost 2 per cent m-o-m to 3.50 mt. However, on an annual basis the key consumption fuel of the personal vehicles category rose by roughly 6 per cent.

Rising affluence in rural and semi urban areas, which is pushing up demand for two and four wheelers, is also supporting petrol usage.

Puneet Kumar, Partner Energy sector at EY Parthenon recently said that over the last three years (ending 2025), India's refined products production (3.3 per cent CAGR) and consumption (3.5 per cent CAGR) has increased across most major fuels.

These trends have been shaped by discounted crude inflows, record refinery utilisation (over 105 per cent) and rising refined product exports, he noted.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## Viasat calls for regulatory clarity on L-band

**Our Bureau**  
Hyderabad

Viasat, a satellite communications service provider, has said that regulatory clarity and coordinated policy action are needed to safely scale advanced air mobility in India's complex, densely used airspace.

Participating in a roundtable on Advanced Air Mobility at Wings India 2026, here, Gautam Sharma, MD of Viasat India, underlined the role of satellite communications in enabling safe and reliable advanced air mobility operations.

"We see significant potential for advanced air mobility in India. However, there are a few areas where DGCA support will be important. One critical aspect is that Indian airspace is extremely dense," he said.

"Ensuring coexistence

between crewed and uncrewed aircraft is essential for safety, and this requires SATCOM services that can support beyond visual line-of-sight operations," he observed. He appealed to the Civil Aviation Secretary to collaborate with DoT and confirm L-band as a safety service so that it can be used by UAVs and advanced air mobility platforms for safety and navigation purposes.

# ड्रीमलाइनर के ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में खामी

दीपक पटेल

नई दिल्ली, 2 फरवरी

एयर इंडिया का विमान बोइंग 787 जब आज लंदन-बेंगलूरु के लिए उड़ान भर रहा था तब बाएं इंजन के ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में गड़बड़ी का पता चला। इंजन शुरू करते समय यह स्विच 'रन' में लॉक नहीं रह पाया और दो बार कोशिश करने के बाद 'कटऑफ' में चला गया।

एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि उसने इस गड़बड़ी का पता चलने के बाद विमान को हवाईअड्डे पर ही खड़ा कर दिया और विमान विनिर्माता कंपनी बोइंग से इसकी जांच करने के लिए कहा है। साथ ही इस घटना के बारे में नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को सूचना दे दी गई है।

कंट्रोल स्विच 'रन' पोजिशन में लॉक रहने में विफल रहा और 'कटऑफ' पोजिशन की ओर चला गया, इस तरह की गड़बड़ी विशेष परिस्थितियों में उड़ान के दौरान अनजाने में इंजन बंद होने का कारण बन सकती है। पिछले साल 12 जून को अहमदाबाद में हुए एयर इंडिया बोइंग 787 विमान (फ्लाइट एआई171) के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने में ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में कथित खामी एक प्रमुख कारक था जिसका अंदाजा जुलाई 2025 में जारी विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो की प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट में भी मिला था। इस दुर्घटना में विमान में सवार 242 यात्रियों में से 241 की मौत हो गई थी।



## विमान खड़ा किया

■ लंदन-बेंगलूरु के लिए उड़ान भरने जा रहे एयर इंडिया बी787 विमान के ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में गड़बड़ी

■ पिछले साल एयर इंडिया 787 विमान के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने में फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में आई गड़बड़ी अहम वजह थी



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## AAIB: Probe into VSR Ventures' crash in Sep 2023 in 'final stages'

Aviation probe agency AAIB on Monday said the investigation into the nearly three-year-old accident of a VSR Ventures-owned Learjet 45 plane at the Mumbai airport in September 2023 was in final stages. The aeroplane crash at Baramati on January 28, in which Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others died, also involved a Learjet 45 plane owned by VSR Ventures. Since the Baramati air crash, questions have been raised about the delay by the AAIB in publishing its final report into the September 2023 accident, involving the company's plane of a similar model. AAIB said the team has analysed all evidence and other documents related to that accident. 97



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## Air India grounds Dreamliner after fuel switch scare

DEEPAK PATEL  
New Delhi, 2 February

An Air India Boeing 787 aircraft — operating between London and Bengaluru — on Monday reported abnormal behaviour of the left engine fuel control switch, which failed to remain locked in the “Run” position during engine start on two attempts and moved towards “Cutoff”.

Air India said it had grounded the aircraft, asked planemaker Boeing to examine the issue, and informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) about the incident. In a statement, Boeing said it was in contact with Air India and was supporting its review of the matter.

Fuel control switches were at the centre of the Air India Boeing 787 (Flight AI171) crash on June 12 last year in Ahmedabad, in which 241 of the 242 people on board were killed, according to the preliminary report of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau released in July 2025.

The report said both fuel control switches were moved to the “Cutoff” position in quick succession and, although they were returned to “Run” about 10 seconds later, the engines had already flamed out. According to the report, one pilot asked the other why he had moved the switches, and the other responded by denying it. The report did not specify whether it was the captain or the first officer who



asked the question. It did not rule out technical faults and noted that aviation medicine and psychology experts were involved in the ongoing investigation.

On Monday, Safety Matters Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, issued a statement about an incident on Air India Flight AI132 from London to Bengaluru, operated earlier in the day by a Boeing 787-9 aircraft. It said the crew observed that the left engine fuel control switch failed to remain locked in the “Run” position during engine start on two attempts and moved towards the “Cutoff” position — a malfunction that could, under specific conditions, lead to an inadvertent engine shutdown during flight.

“What makes this event deeply troubling is not only that it happened, but that it occurred after Air India publicly stated it had conducted pre-

cautionary checks across its 787 fleet and found no issues,” said Captain Amit Singh, founder of Safety Matters Foundation. “This discrepancy raises urgent questions: Were the checks thorough? Is this a new, recurring defect? Passengers and crews deserve unambiguous answers.”

The foundation said the incident comes amid the ongoing investigation into the crash of Air India Flight AI171, which also involved a Boeing 787 aircraft. It added that while no connection is implied between Monday’s incident and the AI171 crash, repeated reports involving a critical engine control system on the same aircraft type warrant the highest level of scrutiny.

Responding to the incident, an Air India spokesperson said: “We are aware that one of our pilots has reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft. After receiving this initial in-

formation, we have grounded the aircraft and are involving the OEM (original equipment manufacturer, Boeing) to get the pilot’s concerns checked on a priority basis.”

“The matter has been communicated to the aviation regulator, DGCA. Air India had checked the fuel control switches on all Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet after a directive from the DGCA, and had found no issues. At Air India, the safety of our passengers and crew remains top priority,” the spokesperson added.

The fuel control switch is a critical engine control that regulates fuel flow to the engine. When set to “Run”, it allows fuel to flow normally, while the “Cutoff” position shuts off fuel supply to the engine.

Safety Matters Foundation called for the immediate and transparent disclosure by the DGCA and Air India of the findings once the inspection of the Boeing 787 involved in the recent incident is completed. The foundation also urged the DGCA to conduct an urgent regulatory review to determine whether Monday’s incident is isolated or indicative of a fleet-wide issue, which could necessitate the issuance of an immediate airworthiness directive.

There was no immediate comment from the civil aviation regulator.

C S Randhawa, president of the Federation of Indian Pilots, said that from the outset after the Air India

Flight AI171 crash, the pilots’ body had been urging checks of all Boeing 787 aircraft for electrical system issues. He added: “We have also gone on record in the media and written mails and letters to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation that the fuel control switches must have moved automatically due to an electrical malfunction of the Thrust Control Management Apparatus in the Air India Flight AI171 crash.”

Randhawa said Boeing 787-8 aircraft were prone to water seepage into the main electronic bay, which can cause electrical malfunctions, citing an incident on June 12, 2025, when an Air India flight from Vienna to Delhi was grounded on the tarmac because of flooding in the electrical bay, and passengers were deplaned to avoid an accident.

He also referred to a February 17, 2019, incident involving an All Nippon Airways Boeing 787-8 in Osaka, Japan, in which both engines suddenly lost thrust during landing. He said Monday’s incident mirrored past issues, adding: “Today again, history has repeated itself at Heathrow airport in London, where the left fuel control switch was cut off after being moved to run during start.”

“We have been insisting that all Boeing 787 aircraft be grounded and checked for the electrical systems,” Randhawa added.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## एअर इंडिया के विमान में फिर 'फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच' में खराबी

### बोइंग 787 प्लेन की उड़ान पर लगी रोक

लंदन से बेंगलुरु पहुंची  
उड़ान में 200 यात्री थे,  
पायलट ने बताई खराबी

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

एअर इंडिया के एक पायलट ने बोइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान में फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में संभावित तकनीकी खराबी की सूचना दी है। लंदन के हीथ्रो से बेंगलुरु तक उड़ान संचालन के बाद यह शिकायत दर्ज की गई। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, सोमवार सुबह बेंगलुरु में लैंडिंग के बाद पायलट ने विमान की डिफेक्ट लॉग बुक में उल्लेख किया कि बाएं इंजन का फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच 'रन' से 'कट ऑफ' की ओर फिसल रहा था और वह अपनी स्थिति में लॉक नहीं हो पा रहा था। बता दें कि 'रन' और 'कट ऑफ' स्विच का उपयोग इंजन को शुरू या बंद करने के लिए किया जाता है। यह विमान उड़ान संख्या एआई-132 का संचालन कर रहा था, जिसमें 200 से अधिक यात्री सवार थे।

एअर इंडिया ने कहा कि पायलट की रिपोर्ट मिलने के तुरंत बाद संबंधित विमान को ग्राउंड कर दिया है। **शोध पेज 10 पर**

अहमदाबाद में कैंश हुआ था  
एअर इंडिया का विमान

जून 2025 में अहमदाबाद से लंदन जा रही एअर इंडिया की बोइंग 787-8 उड़ान एआई-171 के टेकऑफ के तुरंत बाद दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गई थी। इस हादसे में 260 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट में दोनों इंजनों में ईंधन आपूर्ति अचानक बंद होने की बात सामने आई थी। इस दुर्घटना की जांच विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआईबी) कर रहा है।

ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों की गहन  
जांच हो: पायलट्स फेडरेशन

फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन पायलट्स (एफआईपी) ने दावा किया कि फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में खराबी लंदन हीथ्रो पर ही सामने आ गई थी। संगठन ने कहा कि वह जून 2025 में हुए एआई171 हादसे के बाद से ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों की इलेक्ट्रिकल सिस्टम की गहन जांच की मांग करता आ रहा है। गैर-लाभकारी संस्था सेफ्टी मैटर्स फाउंडेशन ने बयान जारी कर कहा कि इंजन स्टार्ट के दौरान बाएं इंजन का फ्यूल स्विच दो बार 'रन' स्थिति में लॉक नहीं हो पाया और 'कट ऑफ' की ओर बढ़ गया, जिससे जोखिम हो सकता है।

एअर इंडिया के विमान में ...

मूल उपकरण निर्माता (ओईएम) बोइंग को जांच के लिए शामिल किया है। मामले की जानकारी विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए को भी दे दी गई है। एअर इंडिया ने कहा कि डीजीसीए के निर्देश पर उसके पूरे बोइंग 787 बेड़े के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच की जांच की जा चुकी है और उस दौरान कोई खामी सामने नहीं आई थी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

2 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## Duty relief, seaplane plan to boost aviation sector

**MRITTIKA BANERJEE | DC**  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 1

The Union Budget has put emphasis on seaplane operations and aircraft manufacturing in their push of aviation sector. They have proposed Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme with customs duty exemptions for aircraft components and raw materials used in maintenance and repair, as the government looks to widen air connectivity and lower operating costs across the sector.

"A Seaplane VGF Scheme will also be introduced to provide support for operations," Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech, while announcing incentives to indigenise sea-

plane manufacturing to support tourism and last-mile connectivity.

The Budget proposes basic customs duty exemption on aircraft components and parts, along with duty relief on raw materials for defence MRO, as India looks to attract fresh investment in aviation manufacturing and support services amid projections that annual passenger traffic could reach 665 million by FY31.

Industry leaders said the announcements point to a longer view of capacity creation rather than short-term relief.

Vamsi Vikas Ganesula, founder and MD of Raghu Vamsi Aerospace Group, said the import duty exemptions signal policy continuity in aerospace

and defence. He noted that raw material relief for defence MRO will aid scale and sustainment, while the review of drone components and seaplane incentives reflects a coordinated approach linking manufacturing with operations.

From an operator's view, veteran aviator Chandra Sekar, business development director at Sky Choppers Logistics, said seaplane flying carries stricter requirements than conventional regional aviation. "If I have 100 hours I can become a captain under normal rules, but for a seaplane you need around 1,500 hours," he said, adding that jetty construction and local issues have slowed projects earlier in Kerala and AP.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## लंदन से बेंगलुरु आ रहे एअर इंडिया के विमान में आई खराबी

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे से बेंगलुरु के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले एअर इंडिया के बोईंग 787-8 विमान के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में खराबी आ गई थी। एअर इंडिया ने बताया कि पायलट ने इस बात की सूचना दी थी और विमान को अब उड़ान भरने से रोक दिया गया है। जांच चल रही है। यह विमान सोमवार सुबह बेंगलुरु में उतरा था। विमान में 200 से अधिक यात्री सवार थे। यह घटना एअर इंडिया के अहमदाबाद विमान हादसे की चल रही जांच के बीच हुई है। उस विमान हादसे में ड्रीमलाइनर बोईंग 787-8 में सवार 260 लोगों

की जान गई थी।

सूत्रों के अनुसार, सोमवार सुबह बेंगलुरु में लैंडिंग के बाद पायलट ने लाग चुक में यह दर्ज किया कि विमान के बाएं इंजन का फ्यूल स्विच 'रन' से 'कट आफ' की स्थिति में चला गया और यह अपनी स्थिति में लाक नहीं हो रहा था। 'रन' और 'कट आफ' का उपयोग क्रमशः इंजनों को चालू व बंद करने के लिए किया जाता है।

उधर, बोईंग ने कहा कि वह एअर इंडिया के संपर्क में है और इस मामले की जांच में उसका सहयोग कर रहा है। अभी डीजीसीए की कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं आई है।

# एअर इंडिया के ड्रीमलाइनर के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में थी खराबी

विमान ने लंदन से उड़ान भरी थी और सोमवार सुबह बेंगलुरु में उतरा

उड़ान के किस चरण में खराबी का पता चला अभी जानकारी नहीं है



प्रतीकात्मक

**नई दिल्ली, प्रेस :** एअर इंडिया के एक एअर इंडिया के एक पायलट ने सोमवार को ड्रीमलाइनर बोईंग 787-8 विमान के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में संभावित खराबी की सूचना दी। सूचना मिलने के बाद विमान को उड़ान भरने से रोक दिया गया। यह घटना एअर इंडिया के ड्रीमलाइनर दुर्घटना की चल रही जांच के बीच हुई है।

विमान ने लंदन से उड़ान भरी और सोमवार सुबह बेंगलुरु में उतरा। विमान में 200 से अधिक लोग सवार थे। एक अन्य स्रोत ने बताया कि फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच 'रन' स्थिति में नहीं था और 'कट आफ' स्थिति की ओर बढ़ गया था। 'रन' और 'कट आफ' का उपयोग क्रमशः इंजन को चालू या बंद करने के लिए किया जाता है। यह तुरंत पता नहीं चल सका कि उड़ान के किस चरण में एअर इंडिया के पायलट ने स्विच की

संभावित खराबी को देखा।

एअर इंडिया के ड्रीमलाइनर बोईंग 787-8 विमान दुर्घटना में 260 लोगों की मौत के बाद से फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच की कार्यप्रणाली सवालों के घेरे में है। प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद ईंधन की आपूर्ति बंद कर दी गई थी।

एअर इंडिया ने सोमवार को कहा कि उसे इस बात की जानकारी है कि उसके एक पायलट ने बोईंग 787-8 विमान के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में संभावित खराबी की सूचना दी थी। जानकारी मिलते ही उक्त विमान को उड़ान भरने से रोक दिया गया है और जांच करने के लिए ओईएम (मूल उपकरण निर्माता) से संपर्क कर रहे हैं। इसकी जानकारी डीजीसीए को दे दी गई है।

सितंबर 2023 में वीएसआर वेंचर्स के विमान दुर्घटना की जांच अंतिम चरण में

**नई दिल्ली, प्रेस :** विमान जांच एजेंसी एएआइबी ने सोमवार को कहा कि सितंबर 2023 में मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर वीएसआर वेंचर्स के स्वामित्व वाले लॉयरजेट 45 विमान की लगभग तीन साल पुरानी दुर्घटना की जांच अंतिम चरण में है। 28 जनवरी को बारामती में हुए विमान हादसे में महाराष्ट्र के उपमुख्यमंत्री अजीत पवार और चार अन्य लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। इस हादसे में भी वीएसआर वेंचर्स का ही लॉयरजेट 45 विमान शामिल था। बारामती विमान हादसे के बाद से एएआइबी द्वारा सितंबर 2023 में हुई इसी तरह के माडल के विमान से संबंधित दुर्घटना की अंतिम रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित करने में देरी पर सवाल उठाए जा रहे हैं। जांच दल ने उस दुर्घटना से संबंधित सभी सुबूतों और अन्य दस्तावेजों का विश्लेषण किया है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

2 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## एअर इंडिया की शंघाई व दिल्ली के लिए सीधी उड़ानें फिर से शुरू

**शंघाई, एफएनआई :** भारत और चीन के बीच संबंधों को मजबूती देने की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम उठाते हुए एअर इंडिया ने लगभग छह साल के अंतराल के बाद शंघाई और नई दिल्ली के बीच अपनी सीधी उड़ान सेवा फिर से शुरू कर दी है। वर्ष 2020 की शुरुआत में निलंबित हुई यह सेवा द्विपक्षीय हवाई संपर्क को सामान्य बनाने में एक बड़ा कदम है। रविवार को शंघाई पुछेग अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे से बोइंग 787 विमान ने 230 से अधिक यात्रियों के साथ उड़ान भरी। एअर इंडिया इस रूट पर सप्ताह में चार बार अपने आधुनिक बोइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान का संचालन करेगी।

**PLANE SCHEDULED TO HEAD TO LONDON**

## Air India Grounds Dreamliner Over Fuel Switch Fault

Glitch seems to mirror shift to 'cutoff' as with last year's Ahmedabad crash

**Our Bureau**

**Mumbai:** Air India has grounded a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner after a pilot reported that one of the aircraft's engine fuel control switches failed to remain in the 'run' position and moved to 'cutoff' during engine start-up, the airline said on Monday. The aircraft was scheduled to operate flight AI 132 from London Heathrow to Bengaluru.

There has been heightened regulatory scrutiny of fuel control switches after the fatal Air India Dreamliner crash in Ahmedabad, in July last year. The preliminary investigation report showed that seconds after takeoff, fuel control switches of both engines briefly moved from 'run' to 'cutoff,' cutting fuel supply and causing a loss of power.

### Another Malfunction

Latest glitch comes amid heightened regulatory scrutiny

**Air India informed:** aircraft grounded immediately

**OEM involved** for priority inspection

**Boeing cooperating** with Air India on checks

**DGCA to act** after airline inspection



**Scrutiny follows** last year's Ahmedabad accident

**Crash killed 260** after both engines lost fuel supply

"We are aware that one of our pilots has reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft," an Air India spokesperson said.

**Checks Ongoing** >> 14

## Checks Ongoing

>> From Page 1

"After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the said aircraft and are involving the OEM to get the pilot's concerns checked on a priority basis," the spokesperson said.

A senior DGCA official said that the regulator will take follow-up action after Air India completes its inspection.

Boeing said it is cooperating with Air India on the inspections. Meanwhile, senior pilots who operate the Boeing 787 aircraft raised questions on why the crew took off the same aircraft from Heathrow airport despite such a failure. "They shouldn't have continued the flight," one of them said.

Fuel control switches regulate fuel flow into aircraft engines and are used to start or shut down engines. On the Boeing 787, the switches are located below the thrust levers and have safeguards such as a metal lock and a guard built around them to ensure they remain in position unless deliberately lifted and moved by the pilot. Such safeguards were built by manufacturers after multiple incidents of unintentional fuel shutoff on older generation planes.

According to the preliminary report on the Ahmedabad crash by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, both pilots were confused over the change to the switch setting, which cut fuel supply to the engines and caused a loss of thrust shortly after takeoff. The crash killed 260 people.

Following that accident, the DGCA had directed checks of fuel control switches across Boeing 787 aircraft. Subsequently, Air India carried out inspections across its Dreamliner fleet and "found no issues" at the time, the spokesperson said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## Personal Mobility and Goods Movement Lift Fuel Demand

**New Delhi:** Petrol sales rose 5.6% year-on-year and diesel demand increased 3% in January supported by higher personal mobility and goods movement in a fast-expanding economy. Sales of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) climbed 4.8%, while LPG consumption rose 7.5%, according to provisional data from the oil ministry. During the April-January period, petrol sales grew 6.3% and diesel consumption rose 3%. ATF sales increased 1.8% over the period, while LPG demand expanded 7.3%. Petrol sales growth has moderated in recent months, while diesel demand has picked up after the monsoon. Diesel, which accounts for about 40% of total consumption of refined products in the country, is traditionally weak in the first half of the year and strengthens in the second half as the festival season approaches, boosting manufacturing activity and demand for goods transport.—**Our Bureau**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## HAL's Civil Aviation Plans Take Off, Co Eyes Commercial Mkt

**Arindam Majumder**

**New Delhi:** State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) which has till now been a major supplier to the armed forces is aiming to pivot to the commercial market. Chairman and managing director DK Sunil said that commercial business will consist of almost 25% of the public sector unit's topline in the next five years, up from 5%.

"Till now we had not targeted the commercial segment seriously. But looking at the potential of this space, we are now increasing our focus on this," Sunil said.

Sunil said that the company was counting on three aircraft-

SJ-100, Dhruv NG and Hindustan-228 light transport aircraft to spearhead the ambitious civil campaign.

Plans by Indian companies to produce passenger planes in the country got a major boost with the budget scrapping basic customs duty on components used in the manufacture of civilian aircraft in the country. Besides HAL, Adani group has tied up with Brazilian company Embraer to manufacture passenger planes in India.

HAL signed a MoU with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation in Moscow to collaborate on the production of the SJ-100 civil aircraft in India. The agreement signed with is the first step for the production of the SJ-100, a twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft, in India in three years. Before production of the 103-seater aircraft begins, HAL will facilitate the lease of up to 10 SJ-100s to Indian operators directly from UAC

over the next 18 months—a step aimed at gaining a better understanding of issues related to aircraft maintenance and ground support.

"With the regional connectivity scheme, popularity of such aircraft has immensely increased. We believe this aircraft is an ideal fit for Indian airlines. To bring down the cost of ownership, we are trying to give these aircraft to carriers originally on lease. Based on the feedback we will go ahead for a production," Sunil said.

HAL's internal estimates suggest that the Indian aviation sector will require around 200 jets in this category over the next 10 years and another 350 to serve international tourist destinations in the vast Indian Ocean region.

The budget announced a scheme to augment local manufacturing of seaplanes. Sunil said the company is manufacturing an aqua version of the Hindustan-228 aircraft.

## Fuel switch issue forces AI to ground Dreamliner

YARUQHULLAH KHAN  
New Delhi, February 2

**AIR INDIA ON** Monday grounded one of its Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft after a pilot flagged a possible issue with the fuel control switch during pre-flight checks, the airline said. It adding that the aircraft has been withdrawn from service as a precaution and the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) has been brought in to examine the concern.

In a statement, the carrier said a pilot had reported a possible defect related to the fuel control switch on the aircraft. Following the report, the airline grounded the aircraft and initiated checks in coordination with the OEM on a priority basis. The aircraft had been scheduled to operate flight AI 132 from London Heathrow to Bengaluru, but was removed from the roster before departure once the issue was detected.

The airline said it has informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation about the development and reiterated that passenger and crew safety remains its top priority. It did not specify how long the aircraft is expected to remain grounded or whether additional checks

### SAFETY FIRST



■ Aircraft pulled from service as precaution

■ OEM called in to inspect issue

■ Scrutiny mounts after last year's Air India 171 plane crash

across the fleet have been ordered following the report.

The incident comes against the backdrop of heightened scrutiny of fuel control systems after the June 12 crash of Air India flight 171 on the Ahmedabad-London sector, which killed 260 people. A preliminary investigation report into that accident had pointed to the movement of both engine fuel control switches from RUN to CUTOFF shortly after takeoff, leading to a loss of thrust. The

cockpit voice recorder transcript indicated confusion in the cockpit, with one pilot questioning the fuel cutoff while the other denied initiating it.

On Monday, non-government organisation Safety Matters Foundation said the crew of flight AI 132 had observed abnormal behaviour of the left engine fuel control switch on the aircraft, registered VT-ANX. According to the NGO, during engine start the switch did not remain locked in RUN position and moved towards CUTOFF twice, a condition that could potentially result in an uncommanded engine shutdown under certain circumstances.

Air India said it had completed inspections of the fuel control switches on all its Boeing 787 and 737 aircraft in July last year, in line with regulatory directives issued after the Ahmedabad crash. Those inspections were aimed at verifying locking mechanisms and ensuring there were no latent defects that could lead to inadvertent switch movement.

The airline has not reported any injuries or in-flight disruptions linked to the latest incident, and said further action will be guided by the outcome of the ongoing technical assessment.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 FEBRUARY 2026

---



**●●** The Union Budget presents a forward-looking framework to comprehensively accelerate tourism and mobility across the country. With travel demand increasingly driven by Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities along with the metros, the focus on strengthening last-mile connectivity and infrastructure is encouraging for the travel industry. We appreciate the continued focus on creating a resilient, future-ready travel ecosystem.

**Vinay Dube**  
Founder and CEO, Akasa Air



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 FEBRUARY 2026

---



● ● Budget marks a clear shift from short-term stimulus to long-term capacity-building. The focus on structural reforms, diversified supply chains and future-ready investments shows a recognition that volatile times call for foresight, not fiscal populism. The 9% rise in public capital expenditure provides a growth anchor, while a fiscal glide path reinforces credibility and discipline.

## **Ajay Singh**

Chairman and Managing  
Director, SpiceJet



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## **UDAN to get 27% higher allocation**

The government's ambitious regional air connectivity scheme or UDAN, will get nearly 27 per cent higher budgetary allocation in the fiscal 2026-27.

The total budgetary allocation for the civil aviation ministry will rise marginally to Rs 4,699.92 crore for the next financial year. The allocation is pegged at Rs 4,688.03 crore for the current fiscal ending March 31, 2026, as per the revised Budget estimates for 2025-26.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## ड्रीमलाइनर का ईंधन स्विच खुद बंद होने से हड़कंप मचा

नई दिल्ली, वि.सं/ एजेंसी। एयर इंडिया के एक बोइंग 787 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान को तकनीकी कारणों से ग्राउंड (उड़ान सेवाओं से बाहर) कर दिया गया है। बताया जा रहा है कि पायलट की ओर से विमान के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में खराबी की शिकायत के बाद यह कदम उठाया गया।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि उड़ान संख्या एआई 132 ने लंदन से बेंगलुरु के लिए उड़ान भरी थी। सोमवार सुबह बेंगलुरु हवाई अड्डे पर उतरने के बाद पायलट ने अधिकारियों को फ्यूल स्विच में खराबी की जानकारी दी। एयर इंडिया ने बताया कि तत्काल विमान को एहतियातन ग्राउंड कर दिया गया। मामले की

- लंदन से बेंगलुरु पहुंची उड़ान में आई शिकायत
- डीजीसीए को दी गई पूरे मामले की जानकारी

जानकारी नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को भी दी गई है।

हालांकि, विमानन कंपनी का कहना है कि डीजीसीए के निर्देश के बाद एयर इंडिया ने पूर्व में भी अपने बेड़े में शामिल सभी बोइंग 787 विमानों के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच की जांच की थी, जांच के दौरान किसी तरह की समस्या नहीं पाई गई।

➤ फिर सवाल उठे P12

# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

**चिंताजनक | अहमदाबाद में पिछले साल एयर इंडिया विमान हादसे में चली गई थी 260 लोगों की जान, उस हादसे की प्रारंभिक जांच में भी फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच बंद होने की बात आई थी**

## एयर इंडिया के बोइंग विमानों में फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच पर फिर सवाल

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। एयर इंडिया के बोइंग 787 विमान में फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच की गड़बड़ी ने एक बार फिर हादसे का शिकार हुआ विमान भी बोइंग विमानों की जांच को लेकर भी सवाल खड़े हो गए हैं।

चिंता और सवाल इसलिए, क्योंकि अहमदाबाद में 12 जून 2025 को हादसे का शिकार हुआ विमान भी बोइंग ड्रीमलाइनर ही था। उस हादसे की वजह फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच के अचानक बंद हो जाने को माना गया था। हादसे की शुरुआती जांच में पता चला था कि उड़ान भरते ही एक सेकंड के भीतर दोनों फ्यूल कंट्रोल

### आठ हजार किलोमीटर से अधिक दूरी तय की

जानकारी के अनुसार, लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे से बेंगलुरु हवाई अड्डे तक सीधी उड़ान की हवाई दूरी 8000 किलोमीटर से अधिक है। विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, इतनी लंबी दूरी तय करने के दौरान इस तरह की तकनीकी खराबी बेहद घातक साबित हो सकती है। अच्छी बात यह रही कि विमान बेंगलुरु हवाई अड्डे पर सुरक्षित लैंड हो गया। हालांकि, अभी यह साफ नहीं हो सका है कि पायलट ने फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में खराबी उड़ान के किस चरण में पकड़ी। गैर लाभकारी समूह 'सेप्टी मेटर्स फाउंडेशन' का दावा है कि उड़ान परिचालन के दौरान विमान के बाएं इंजन के स्विच के असामान्य स्थिति में होने की सूचना दी गई थी।



**12 जून 2025**  
को अहमदाबाद  
में एयर इंडिया का बोइंग  
हुआ था क्रेश

**07 महीने पहले**  
बड़े के सभी  
बोइंग विमानों में की  
गई थी व्यापक जांच

### हादसे के बाद की गई थी जांच

अहमदाबाद विमान हादसे के बाद सभी बोइंग विमानों में फ्यूल स्विच कंट्रोल की जांच के आदेश दिए गए थे। एयर इंडिया की ओर से सोमवार को बयान में कहा गया कि प्रबंधन ने डीजीसीए के निर्देश पर अपने सभी बोइंग विमानों की ईंधन प्रणाली और विशेष तौर पर फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच की जांच कराई थी। 12 जुलाई से 22 जुलाई तक चली इस जांच के बाद कंपनी प्रबंधन ने सभी विमानों में ये स्विच सही पाए जाने की बात कही।

### ऐसे काम करता है स्विच

विशेषज्ञों ने बताया कि बोइंग 787 में दोनों स्विच थ्रस्ट लीवर के नीचे होते हैं। सामान्य स्थिति में ये अपनी जगह टिके रहते हैं। इन्हें रन से कटऑफ या कटऑफ से रन में बदलने को स्विच को ऊपर खींचना पड़ता है और फिर दूसरी स्थिति में परिवर्तित किया जाता है।

### एफआईपी बोला, जांच हो

फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन पायलट एसोसिएशन (एफआईपी) बोइंग 787 विमानों में इलेक्ट्रिक प्रणालियों की जांच की मांग उठाता रहा है। एसोसिएशन ने डीजीसीए को भी यह जानकारी दी थी कि फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच के अपने-आप हिलने की वजह इलेक्ट्रिकल प्रणाली की खराबी हो सकती है।

स्विच अचानक 'रन' से 'कटऑफ' पर आ गए थे, यानी बंद हो गए थे। इसके कारण दोनों इंजन भी बंद हो गए और विमान तेजी से जमीन पर आ गिरा था। हादसे में विमान में सवार

242 (यात्री, पायलट और केबिन क्रू) में से 241 यात्रियों और जमीन पर 19 लोगों की जान चली गई थी। इस विमान के कॉकपिट वॉयस रिकॉर्डर में एक पायलट दूसरे से पूछता सुना गया

कि तुमने ऐसा क्यों किया? जिसके जवाब में दूसरे पायलट ने कहा कि मैंने ऐसा नहीं किया।  
**बोइंग ने कहा, हम जांच में कर रहे सहयोग:** लंदन-बेंगलुरु उड़ान

मामले को लेकर बोइंग ने भी बयान जारी किया है। बयान में कहा गया है कि कंपनी प्रबंधन एयर इंडिया के संपर्क में है और इस मामले की समीक्षा में विमानन कंपनी की मदद की जा रही है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## डीजीसीए ने सीसीआई को सौंपी किराए की जानकारी

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। डीजीसीए ने सभी शेड्यूल्ड एयरलाइंस की रूट की जानकारी, मार्केट शेयर और औसत किराए सहित कई तरह की जानकारी कॉम्पिटिशन कमीशन को दी है।

कमीशन इस बात का आकलन कर रहा है कि क्या देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन ने गलत बिजनेस तरीकों का

इस्तेमाल किया। एयरलाइन इंडस्ट्री में कॉम्पिटिशन के सवालों के जवाब में, नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने सोमवार को राज्यसभा में बताया कि सरकार निष्पक्ष बाजार प्रथाओं को बनाए रखने के लिए जरूरत के अनुसार रेगुलेटरी फ्रेमवर्क और नीतिगत उपायों की समीक्षा करती रहेगी।

## Baramati crash: VSR now faces DGCA audit

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered a special audit of VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd, the charter operator that owned the Learjet 45, which crashed in Baramati last week, killing Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and four others.

The order, a copy of which has been reviewed by Hindustan Times, states "VSR Ventures Pvt. Ltd. Lear jet 45 aircraft VT-SSK met with an accident on 28.01.2026 at Baramati. In view of the above, a special audit of M/s VSR Ventures Pvt. Ltd is to be carried out...The team is advised to submit the report by 15th February 2026."

The audit team will be led by RK Anand, Deputy Director General, and will include Pathik Vaghela, Deputy Director (Air Safety); Sushil Malik, Deputy Director (Airworthiness); and Siva Kumar Jadala, Assistant Director (Air Safety). The team will also have Capt. Apoorva Agarwal as senior flight operations inspector, SFOI (A) and Capt. Lokesh Rampal as flight operations inspector (FOI).

Senior government officials told HT on condition of anonymity that the audit will check for lapses in maintenance and flight operations.

Pawar had flown to Baramati at least 20 times in the last six months, including at least two flights with the same pilot before the day of the crash, one of the officials cited above added.

According to records reviewed by HT, the jet, VT-SSK was actively flying since at least

continued on →15

### DGCA LENS ON VSR

the last week of December, operating charters to Mumbai, Goa (Mopa), Mangaluru, Delhi, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Pune, Surat and Juhu airport in Mumbai.

"While the reason for the crash last week will be known after the investigation is complete, the operator is being probed to check for lapses in maintenance and their casual approach towards flight operations," a second official said.

"All parameters including the alleged under-logging of flying hours will be thoroughly examined," this person added.

This comes as various insiders have alleged that VSR under-logs engine hours and crew flying time. Stretching engine hours leads to delay in maintenance schedule effectively saving costs for the operator. HT emailed VSR for a response but did not get one till the time of going to print.

A third official said safety regulator DGCA has already compiled data from past audits

of the operator.

The eight-seater Learjet 45 business jet, crashed in Baramati on Wednesday during its second landing attempt.

A team of three officers from the AAIB, Delhi, along with three officers from the DGCA's Mumbai regional office, reached the crash site soon after the accident.

CCTV footage that has since surfaced appears to show the aircraft's left wing dropping suddenly moments before impact. In the brief video clip, the jet has been seen sharply veering to one side mid-air before crashing in a ball of flames, visuals that aviation experts said point to three possible scenarios: an aerodynamic stall, a steep bank too close to the ground, or an engine failure.

The aircraft's black box has since reached Delhi and will be decoded by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

According to people familiar with the matter, AAIB and DGCA teams returned to base on Sunday night, after the wreckage was lifted from the crash site.

This is not the first crash involving a Learjet 45 belonging to the same operator.

The aircraft VT-DBL was involved in an accident while landing at Mumbai airport in September 2023 amidst bad weather. The aircraft broke into two pieces and was destroyed, though all six occupants survived with injuries.

AAIB issued a preliminary report in that case, stating that flight recorder data had been downloaded and records relating to maintenance, crew, radar, ATC communications and the enhanced ground proximity warning system been sent for analysis. However, more than two years later, the final findings have not been made public.

They say that if the final findings had been released, it would have clarified whether corrective actions by the operator were required.

Responding to allegations and the delay of the report, AAIB, in a statement issued on Monday said, "There were two crew and six passengers on board. The co-pilot suffered serious injury whereas the PIC (pilot in charge) and six passengers suffered minor injuries. The co-pilot could not be interviewed for a long time since he

was in bad shape. The aircraft was destroyed during the accident."

The bureau said that the investigation team prepared a detailed preliminary report on the accident which included the initial outcome of analysis of data from the flight recorders and published the report on AAIB's website.

"The investigation team has analysed all the evidence and other documents. The investigation is in final stages. The investigation team is trying their best to finalise the report on top priority," it said in the statement.

## AI Dreamliner jet grounded over fuel switch defect scare

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Air India on Monday grounded one of its Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners after a pilot reported a possible issue with a fuel control switch, a component that is at the centre of the investigation into the deadly crash of a Dreamliner last year.

Air India in a statement said it had informed the regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, about the issue. "We are aware that one of our pilots has reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft. After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the said aircraft and are involving the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) to get the pilot's concerns checked on a priority basis."

The incident on Air India Flight AI132 from London Heathrow to Bengaluru, assumes significance in the wake of the increased scrutiny faced by the airline after the June 12 crash. It also heightens the urgency for the release of the final report on the crash of AI171, also a 787-8 variant, which went down shortly after take off from Ahmedabad airport, killing 260 people.

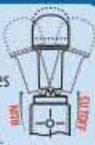
A preliminary report on the June 12 crash released a month later by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)

### FUEL SWITCHES

#### What you need to know

##### WHAT ARE FUEL SWITCHES?

They are toggles that regulate fuel flow into a plane's engines. Pilots use them to start or shut down engines on the ground or to manually shut down or restart engines during an engine failure.



##### HOW DO THEY WORK?

The two fuel control switches on a 787 are located below the thrust levers.

- The switches are spring-loaded to remain in position.
- To change one from run to cutoff, a pilot has to first pull the switch up and then move it from run to cutoff or vice versa.

**Two modes:** 'CUTOFF' and 'RUN'.

had found that fuel control switches—there are two of them in a Dreamliner cockpit, between the two pilots—were found in the "cutoff" position. The switches are used by the pilots to supply or cut off fuel to the plane's two engines.

continued on →2

### { FROM PAGE 1 }

#### AIR INDIA

What caused both fuel switches to transition from normal operation to the cutoff position remains the investigation's central mystery, leaving open possibilities ranging from mechanical failure to human error or electronic malfunction. The preliminary report also said the cockpit voice recorder captured one pilot questioning the fuel cutoff, with the other denying responsibility.

Air India said in its statement on Monday that it had checked the fuel control switches on all Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet, after a directive from the DGCA following the preliminary report, and had found no issues. AAIB's report had said that there was no "recommended action" for either Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer, or GE, the engine maker, at that time.

Safety Matters Foundation, an independent aviation safety education platform, said the pilot of Flight AI132 reported an issue in the left engine fuel control switch on the aircraft that bears the tail number VT-ANX.

"During engine start, the switch failed to remain locked in the RUN position on two attempts, moving towards CUTOFF, a malfunction that could, under specific conditions, lead to an inadvertent engine shutdown in flight," it stated. SMF also highlighted a bulletin by the US aviation regulator warning about the possibility of such behaviour.

In 2018, the US FAA issued an airworthiness bulletin for multiple Boeing aircraft models, including the 787-8, that said the fuel control switches, manufactured by Honeywell, could inadvertently move from run to cutoff without their locking mechanism engaging.

When the locking feature is engaged, the pilot has to lift the switch deliberately to change its position. If it is disengaged, "the switch would be exposed to the potential of inadvertent operation," the FAA said. The agency warned

that inadvertent operation "could result in an unintended consequence, such as an in-flight engine shutdown."

The directive was triggered by reports from operators of Boeing 737s that the switches were installed with the locking feature disengaged. The FAA said it was told by the company that the fuel control switch design, including the locking feature, is similar on various Boeing models. While it advised checks on the fuel control switches and the replacement of certain models, the recommendations were not mandatory.

A Boeing spokesperson said on Monday, "We are in contact with Air India and are supporting their review of this matter." Honeywell had not responded to requests for comment at the time of going to print.

"While no connection is implied, the repeated emergence of issues with a critical flight control system on the same aircraft type demands the highest level of scrutiny," Capt Amit Singh, Founder of Safety Matters Foundation, adding, "This discrepancy raises urgent questions: Were the checks thorough? Is this a new, recurring defect? Passengers and crews deserve unambiguous answers."

An official from India said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had received a preliminary report and was seeking further details from the airline. "Once the details are known, all the stakeholders including Boeing will be roped in," the official said.

"A decision on whether all B787-8 fleets in the country should be checked will be taken after studying the matter in detail," he added.

**AI SAID IT CHECKED THE FUEL CONTROL SWITCHES ON ALL BOEING 787 JETS IN ITS FLEET AND FOUND NO ISSUES**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## INDIGO SPENT ₹22.6 CR TO COMPENSATE PASSENGERS: GOVT

**NEW DELHI:** IndiGo has shelled out ₹22.68 crore towards compensation and facilitation of passengers following flight disruptions in December last year, according to official data.

The civil aviation ministry on Monday shared data with the Rajya Sabha on the amount spent by domestic scheduled airlines towards compensation and facilitation of passengers in December and the total amount is little over Rs 24 crore. The amount pertains to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights.

IndiGo shelled out Rs 22.68 crore while Air India Group – Air India and Air India Express – paid Rs 74.61 lakh. SpiceJet and Akasa Air spent Rs 40.09 crore and Rs 21.06 crore, respectively, as per the data shared by minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol in a written reply. “IndiGo (till 28th January, 2026), has made compensation of ₹22.68 crore. The process of compensation is under progress subject to necessary confirmation from passengers and document verification,” according to the reply. **PTI**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## India eyes aircraft assembly by 2028

**Neha LM Tripathi**

neha.tripathi@htlive.com

**NEW DELHI:** India aims to roll out its first locally assembled civilian aircraft by 2028, with the customs duty exemptions on plane components announced in the budget expected to accelerate the process to set up the country's first final assembly line, said civil aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu.

"This has been the priority focus area at least for the last one year where we were trying to address the availability of aircraft issues and the objective of manufacturing planes in the country", the minister told *HT* in an exclusive interview, adding that focus on boosting the component manufacturing ecosystem has been there for quite some time. The minister said the budget offers the civil aviation sector two specific things: viability gap funding for seaplane manufacturing, and customs duty exemptions for the component manufacturing ecosystem.

The duty exemption specifically for aircraft components is a "dream come true" for the objective of building an aircraft in the country, he said. "2028 is when we want to see the Made in India aircraft being done. With these budgetary announcements, it feels much more likely."

The Union budget, presented



**K Ram Mohan Naidu, aviation minister.**

PTI

by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, allocated ₹4,469 crore to the civil aviation ministry for the financial year 2027.

Naidu said that the final assembly line is a stepping stone for "us to build our own aircraft right from the scratch" and indigenization will improve ahead. "...this customs duty exemption absolutely hits the point in giving that kind of boost to the final assembly lines", he said.

Citing recent partnerships such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Adani Group and Embraer, and HAL and the government of Russia, the minister said, "Considering the growth story of India, everyone wants to associate with it and similar interest is being seen in civil aviation also. In that regard, we have already had these MoUs, but their execution and achieving our objectives will become much more accelerated."

{ AVIATION SECTOR }

## Industry leaders welcome focus on capex, infra-led investments

**Press Trust of India**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The Union Budget for 2026-27 sends a strong and reassuring signal for India's long-term growth, top aviation industry executives said on Sunday.

"The Union Budget 2026-27 sends a strong and reassuring signal for India's long-term growth, anchored in fiscal discipline and a sustained push on infrastructure-led development," said Alok Singh, Managing Director at Tata Group's owned Air India's low-cost subsidiary, Air India Express.

The continued emphasis on capital expenditure and destination-focused investment provides a solid structural framework for the expansion of tourism and the civil aviation sector by extension, said Singh.

The Budget, presented by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday, has proposed measures to boost air connectivity as well as the aviation manufacturing ecosystem in the country, which is one of the world's fastest civil aviation markets. Sitharaman announced various measures to boost tourism, including giving a push for seaplane operations.



**The Union finance minister announced basic customs duty exemption for components and parts required for the manufacture of civilian, training and other aircraft**

REUTERS

She also announced basic customs duty exemption for components and parts required for the manufacture of civilian, training and other aircraft. Additionally, basic customs duty exemption will be provided for raw materials imported for manufacture of parts of aircraft to be used in maintenance, repair, or overhaul requirements by the defence sector.

According to Singh, the Budget's focus on strengthening medical value tourism and destination development is particularly relevant for aviation, as it creates high-frequency, purpose-driven inbound travel, especially from regions such as

the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

"At a time when the global economy is being tested by supply-chain shocks, trade barriers and rising uncertainty, Budget 2026 marks a clear shift from short-term stimulus to long-term capacity-building," said Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD of SpiceJet.

According to Akasa Air founder and CEO Vinay Dube, with travel demand increasingly driven by Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities along with the metros, the focus on strengthening last-mile connectivity and infrastructure was encouraging for the travel industry.

## AI grounds Boeing 787-8 plane after pilot reports fuel switch malfunction

**Jagriti Chandra**

NEW DELHI

An Air India pilot reported an instance of a fuel switch malfunction on a Boeing 787-8 flight from London to Bengaluru after it landed on Monday, following which the airline says it has grounded the aircraft and is examining the matter.

The switches that supply fuel to the two engines were at the heart of the preliminary report into the Air India AI 171 crash in Ahmedabad last June. The report into the crash, which also involved a Boeing 787 aircraft, said that the two switches that supply fuel to each of the two engines shifted or “transitioned” to the CUTOFF position one after another and there was a loss of engine thrust and both engines shut



The pilot says the crew reported abnormal behaviour of the LEFT fuel switch. REUTERS

down, precipitating the crash of the Boeing 787-8 plane which killed 269.

The latest incident was brought to public attention by Captain Amit Singh, Founder of NGO Safety Matters, who has petitioned the Supreme Court for an independent probe into the Ahmedabad crash. He claimed the crew of the London to Bengaluru flight reported a similar mal-

function with one of the two fuel switches. On X, he wrote that the crew “reported abnormal behaviour of the LEFT engine fuel control switch”.

He said that “during engine start, the switch failed to remain locked in the RUN position on two attempts, moving towards CUTOFF,” a malfunction that has the potential to cut off fuel supply to the engine and force engine shutdown in certain scenarios.

It was not clear why the crew decided to proceed with the flight if the malfunction was observed during “engine start”, the post claims. “We have grounded the aircraft and are involving the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) to get the pilot’s concerns checked.” Air India said in a statement.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## LONDON-BENGALURU FLIGHT: FUEL SWITCH CUT OFF

# A-I pilot flags 'possible defect' with fuel control switch, plane grounded

**Sukalp Sharma**

*New Delhi, February 2*

AN AIR India pilot has flagged a possible defect with an engine fuel control switch of one of the airline's Boeing 787 aircraft, following which the plane has been grounded. The nine-year-old aircraft, operating a London-

Bengaluru flight, landed in Bengaluru on Monday morning.

Engine fuel control switches have been at the focus of the investigation into the crash of the Air India Boeing 787 jet (AI-171) in Ahmedabad last June, with the preliminary probe report saying the accident occurred after both en-

gines of the aircraft were starved of fuel as both its fuel control switches transitioned from 'run' to 'cutoff' position within a second of each other, moments after lift-off.

According to a statement by aviation safety advocacy group, Safety Matters Foundation, the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## A-I pilot

crew of the Boeing 787 (registration: VT-ANX) reported abnormal behaviour of the left engine fuel control switch on Monday, as during engine start, the switch failed to remain locked in the 'run' position on two attempts, moving towards 'cut-off'. Sources said the pilot reported that the left fuel control switch was slipping from 'run' to 'cutoff' if pushed down slightly, and was not locking properly in its position.

"We are aware that one of our pilots has reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft. After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the aircraft and are involving the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) to get the pilot's concerns checked on a priority basis. The matter has been communicated to the aviation regulator, DGCA," an Air India spokesperson said.

The OEM for the aircraft is Boeing, while the fuel control switch manufacturer is Honeywell. "We are in contact with Air India and are supporting their review," Boeing said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## Make-in-India boost for aviation sector

Dipali Banka & Abhishek Law  
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

**A** Budget proposal to scrap basic customs duty on imported civilian aircraft components is set to boost the aviation sector.

"I propose to exempt basic customs duty on components and parts required for manufacture of civilian, training and other aircraft," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her budget speech on Sunday.

Customs duty on aircraft components range from 2.5% to 15%. Some have zero duty. Experts said the duty exemption could lead manufacturers to expand and new companies to enter the space.

Adani Group and Brazil's Embraer are in talks to manufacture commercial aircraft in India. Embraer will import aircraft components, it said when it signed a partnership agreement with Adani last month.

State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd is in talks with Russia's UAC to manufacture SJ100 regional aircraft locally. Both airline-makers could get a boost if aircraft components and supplies become cheaper.

The budget proposals coincide with India's aspirations to



Duty relief on imports of aircraft components supports India's push to become a global hub for aircraft manufacturing.

position itself as a hub for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhauling (MRO) operations as the country's major airlines—IndiGo, Air India and Akasa—grow fleet sizes by 30% over the next two years. India accounts for 10% of global MRO work.

"The extension of customs duty exemptions on aircraft

engines, parts, raw materials till 2028 will significantly reduce costs and strengthen the 'Make in India' aerospace ecosystem," Krishnan Agarwal, Deloitte India's executive director, said. "The measure

will lower operating costs and enhance global competitiveness of Indian MROs, unlocking new opportunities in the aviation sector."

"This will help lower the aircraft purchase cost for airlines," said Kinjal Shah, senior

V P and co-group head, corporate ratings, ICRA Ltd.

Experts said duty exemptions on parts, including engines, for manufacturing civilian, training, and other aircraft and on raw material used to make aircraft parts for MRO when imported by defence sector PSUs will cut

input costs for aviation sector.

"It will lower input costs across the aviation value chain, making aircraft acquisition and upkeep more affordable while strengthening domestic MRO capability," Ashish Chhawchharia, partner and aviation industry leader, Grant Thornton Bharat, said.

With passenger traffic projected to reach 665 million by FY31, cost efficiency and local capacity are critical, he added.

"By lowering spare parts and tools costs, carriers can reduce maintenance costs, improving fleet economics and freeing up capital for growth. The move underscores the government's intent to strengthen India's aviation ecosystem and attract global partnerships," he said.

All imports of aircraft components and engine parts have 5% uniform integrated goods and services tax, implemented in 2024, which allowed firms to claim it back as input tax credit. The rate was recommended by the GST Council for the import of "parts, components, testing equipment, tools and tool-kits of aircraft."

[dipali.banka@livemint.com](mailto:dipali.banka@livemint.com)

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



## IndiGo hires Laming to head loyalty programme in ramp up

Abhishek Law &

Devina Sengupta

devina.sengupta@livemint.com

IndiGo, the largest airline in India by market share, has appointed veteran of loyalty programmes Nik Laming to lead its frequent-flyer business, as the airline seeks to shift from its low-cost roots to defend its market share against feisty Air India.

Laming, a Singapore-based consultant with over 30 years of experience, joins at a critical time. While InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.-operated IndiGo flew 124 million passengers in 2025, it faced a 2% dip in market share in November and a record ₹22.2 crore fine in December following operational issues.

The recruitment marks a shift for IndiGo as it scales its BluChip programme in order to compete with Air India's Maharaja Club. Since the September 2024 launch, BluChip has brought in 10 million members, reflecting the carrier's urgency to secure customer stickiness amid its inter-



Nik Laming to lead the airline's frequent-flyer business.

national expansion and introduction of premium services.

The move comes as the global travel loyalty market is projected to hit \$52.6 billion by 2030. For IndiGo, which introduced business-class 'Stretch' cabins, a robust loyalty driver is a necessity to transition from a budget airline to a global contender.

"The search for a loyalty head started 8-9 months ago, and the airline was looking globally for a candidate who could build a programme that would bring them repeat customers," said an industry execu-

utive aware of the development. The civil aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), is yet to release December passenger traffic numbers.

According to the executive mentioned above, Laming was onboarded about a month ago. While IndiGo did not respond to *Mint's* queries, Laming has yet to respond to *Mint's* queries via LinkedIn.

For the airline, which has 63.6% domestic aviation market share, getting its loyalty programme correct comes at a time when it cancelled 4,500 flights in December first week.

IndiGo's 10 million loyalty programme registrations came in less than 18 months since the programme's launch.

"IndiGo has a straightforward earn and burn loyalty points program. As they look at larger international operations, they are shedding their low-cost carrier image into a fit-for-purpose airline," said Mark D. Martin, aviation expert and chief executive at Gurugram-based Martin Consulting.

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



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

MINT

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## Air India grounds Boeing Dreamliner

**A**ir India said on Monday it had grounded a Boeing Dreamliner after one of its pilots reported a possible defect with the aircraft's fuel control switch, which is at the centre of an ongoing probe into a deadly air crash last year.

The airline did not specify the nature of the defect or provide details of the flight. But two sources said the pilot had reported the defect after the plane landed in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru after taking off from London.

"After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the said aircraft," Air India said, adding that it was in touch with Boeing "on a priority basis". Boeing said it was supporting Air India.

REUTERS



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## Air India grounds Dreamliner after pilot reports fuel switch defect

---

**NEW DELHI:** An Air India pilot reported a possible malfunction in the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 on Monday, prompting the airline to ground the aircraft for inspection. The Dreamliner had operated flight AI132 from London to Bengaluru and landed safely in Bengaluru that morning with more than 200 people on board, sources said.

A person familiar with the matter said the fuel control switch did not remain in the "RUN" position and drifted toward "CUT OFF". These settings are used to start and shut down engines respectively. It remains unclear at what point during the flight the issue was noticed.

The incident has drawn attention because of last June's fatal

**Continued on P4**

## Air India

---

**Air India Dreamliner crash.** The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is still probing that accident, in which 260 people, including 241 passengers, died after flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025. The AAIB's preliminary report on July 12 said fuel supply to both engines was cut off within one second, and noted that a pilot was heard asking, "Why did you cut off?"

Air India said it had grounded the aircraft and was involving the Original Equipment Manufacturer on a priority basis, adding that it had earlier checked fuel control switches across its 787 fleet after a DGCA directive and found no issues. The aircraft has 256 seats. Boeing said it was in contact with Air India and supporting the review. There was no immediate comment from the DGCA.

Safety Matters Foundation said the left engine switch failed to stay locked in "RUN" during two engine start attempts. Air India currently operates 33 Boeing 787s, comprising 26 787-8s and seven 787-9s.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## All probable causes for last year's Air India plane crash being probed: Govt tells Rajya Sabha

**NEW DELHI:** The civil aviation ministry on Monday said all probable causes leading to the Air India plane crash in June last year are being investigated, and all efforts are being made to complete the probe in a time-bound manner.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is probing the crash that killed a total of 260 people.

In one of the worst aircraft accidents in India, a total of 260 people, including 241 passengers, died after Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft operating flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol on



Monday told the Rajya Sabha that the AAIB probe is in progress.

"All probable causes leading to the accident are being investigated, and all efforts are being made to complete the investigation in a time-bound manner," he said in a written reply.

In its preliminary report on the crash that was released on July 12 last year, AAIB said

### The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is probing the crash that killed a total of 260 people

the fuel supply to both engines of the plane was cut off within a gap of one second, causing confusion in the cockpit soon after take-off.

"In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why he cut off. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it had said.

On Monday, Mohol also said the preliminary report on the accident contains fac-

tual information based on the evidence available at that point in time and does not include any interim safety recommendations.

A source on January 30 told a news agency that the AAIB team probing last year's fatal Air India plane crash was examining certain components of the aircraft and assessing various aspects, and "nothing has been ruled out" in terms of the factors that could have led to the accident.

All aspects related to technical, operational, organisational and human factors are being looked into, and it is a very complex process. Certain components of the aircraft are also being examined by AAIB, the source had said. **MPOST**

## *Dreamliner with faulty fuel switch reminds of AI171*

Air India pilot reported fuel control switch defect on Dreamliner Boeing 787-8 during its journey from London to Bengaluru with 200+ passengers



**FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

- **Technical issue:** Fuel control switch failed to stay in 'RUN' position and moved toward 'CUT OFF' position during engine start. Failed on two attempts
- **Immediate action:** Dreamliner immediately grounded for inspection; Original Equipment Manufacturer (Boeing) involved for priority checks
- **Response:** Incident reported to DGCA (aviation regulator); Air India had previously checked all Boeing 787 fuel switches after DGCA directive but found no issues
- **Past connection:** Issue mirrors June 12 Air India crash that killed 260 people when fuel supply to both engines got cut off after takeoff from Ahmedabad
- **Crash probe finding:** Preliminary report showed fuel to both engines cut within one second; cockpit recording captured pilots' confusion - one asking "why did he cut off"
- **Fleet Size:** Air India operates 33 Boeing 787s total (26 legacy 787-8s and 7 787-9s including former Vistara aircraft)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट में फिर फ्यूल स्विच खराबी

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली:  
लंदन से बेंगलुरु आ रही एयर इंडिया  
फ्लाइट की एक और फ्लाइट में लेफ्ट



फ्यूल कंट्रोल  
स्विच ऑन से  
ऑफ मोड में  
जाने की खराबी  
सामने आई।  
विमान सुरक्षित

उतरा। एयर इंडिया ने पायलट रिपोर्ट  
के बाद जांच शुरू की और DGCA  
को सूचित किया। 12 जून को हुए  
अहमदाबाद प्लेन क्रैश में सुरक्षा पर  
सवाल खड़े कर रहा है। ►► पृष्ठ 14

## जिस वजह से अहमदाबाद में क्रैश, वही समस्या फिर ड्रीमलाइनर में

File Photo



पिछले साल जून में एयर इंडिया का विमान क्रैश हो गया था।

### इंजन का फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच हुआ बंद

Maneesh.Aggarwal  
@timesofindia.com

कंट्रोल स्विच ऑन मोड से अचानक ऑफ मोड में चला गया। बताया जाता है कि ऐसा एक बार नहीं बल्कि दो बार हुआ। गनीमत रही कि कोई बड़ी दुर्घटना होने से बच गई। सभी यात्री सकुशल लैंड कर गए।

अचानक दो बार ऑफ हो गया बॉइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर का फ्यूल स्विच

एयर इंडिया की तरफ से इस गंभीर मामले में बताया गया है कि हमारे एक पायलट ने बॉइंग 787-8 विमान के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में संभावित खराबी की रिपोर्ट दी है। इसके बाद हमने उक्त विमान की उड़ानें रोक दी है यानी उसे ग्राउंड कर दिया गया है। मामले की जानकारी DGCA को दे दी गई है।

■ नई दिल्ली : लंदन से बेंगलुरु आ रही एयर इंडिया की एक और फ्लाइट में फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच बंद होने की टीक वैसी ही गंभीर परेशानी सामने आई जैसा पिछले साल अहमदाबाद में 12 जून को क्रैश हुई एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में आई थी। दोनों बॉइंग के प्लेन थे। ताजा मामले 2 फरवरी का है। लंदन से बेंगलुरु आ रही एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट नंबर एआई-132 के बॉइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर का लेफ्ट फ्यूल

### पैसेंजरों की जान दांव पर

बड़ा सवाल



180

से अधिक यात्रियों और कू की जिंदगी को दांव पर लगाते हुए फ्लाइट को लंदन से बेंगलुरु क्यों लेकर आए?

मामले में बताया गया है कि पायलट ने फ्लाइट के लैंड करने के बाद फ्यूल स्विच बंद होने के बारे में जानकारी दी थी। सूत्रों का कहना है कि इसका मतलब यह हो सकता है कि पायलट को यह समस्या लंदन में ही टेकऑफ करते वक्त सामने आई हो या फिर उड़ान के दौरान। अगर ऐसा है तो इन दोनों ही स्थिति में पायलट 180 से अधिक यात्री और कू की जिंदगी को दांव पर लगाते हुए फ्लाइट को लंदन से बेंगलुरु क्यों लेकर आए? यह भी जांच का विषय है।

### एक्सपर्ट्स ने उठाए कई गंभीर सवाल

सेप्टी मैटर्स फाउंडेशन के संस्थापक कैप्टन अमित सिंह ने कहा है कि इस गंभीर खराबी के सामने आने से कई अहम सवाल उठते हैं। क्या जांच पूरी तरह से की गई थी? क्या यह कोई नई और



बार-बार होने वाली खराबी है? फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन पायलट (FIP) के अध्यक्ष सीएस रंधावा का कहना है कि B-787-800 विमानों के मुख्य इलेक्ट्रॉनिक बे पानी के रिसाव या लीकेज की भी गंभीर समस्या है। इससे इलेक्ट्रिकल खराबी हो सकती है। 12 जून 2025 को विमान से दिल्ली जाने वाली AI की उड़ान को ग्राउंड करना पड़ा था।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

## एयरबस को भारतीय संचालक से 3 हैलीकॉप्टर का मिला ठेका

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी): एयरबस को एक भारतीय संचालक से 3 हैलीकॉप्टर का ठेका मिला है। एयरबस ने प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कहा कि एयरबस कॉर्पोरेट हैलीकॉप्टर्स को दिए गए ठेके में दो एसीएच160 और एक एच175 हैलीकॉप्टर शामिल हैं।

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार यह संचालक पहले से एसीएच160 का ग्राहक है और भारत का पहला एच175 ग्राहक बनेगा। संचालक का नाम और सौदे से जुड़े वित्तीय विवरण कंपनी ने हालांकि सांझा नहीं किए। कंपनी के अनुसार एच175 हैलीकॉप्टर 16 सीट वाला होगा और इसकी आपूर्ति इसी साल की जाएगी। वहीं दो एसीएच160 हैलीकॉप्टर की आपूर्ति 2027 में की जाएगी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

---

THE PIONEER

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026

---

## AIR INDIA GROUNDS DREAMLINER

An Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner was grounded on Monday after a pilot reported a possible defect in the fuel control switch, days after the airline faced scrutiny over last June's deadly Dreamliner crash. Flight AI132, operating from London to Bengaluru, landed safely with over 200 passengers on board. Sources said the left engine fuel control switch failed to remain in the 'RUN' position during engine start and moved toward 'CUT OFF', used to shut down engines. Safety Matters Foundation warned that such a malfunction could, under specific conditions, cause an inadvertent engine shutdown in flight. It is unclear when during the flight the issue was noticed. Air India said it notified the DGCA, grounded the aircraft, and involved the Original Equipment Manufacturer (Boeing) for urgent checks. Boeing confirmed its support for the review. The airline had previously checked all 33 Dreamliners in its fleet after a DGCA directive, finding no issues. The incident revives concerns over last year's crash that killed 260 people, when fuel supply to both engines was cut off shortly after take-off, according to the AAIB preliminary report.

## ड्रीमलाइनर के स्विच में खराबी

लंदन से बेंगलुरु जा रहा था विमान 200 यात्री थे सवार: डीजीसीए सूचित

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): एअर इंडिया के एक पायलट ने सोमवार को बोइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर के ईंधन नियंत्रण 'स्विच' में संभावित खराबी की सूचना दी तथा इसकी जानकारी नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को दे दी गई है। यह घटना पिछले साल जून में एयरलाइन के ड्रीमलाइनर के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने की जांच के बीच सामने आई है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, लंदन से बेंगलुरु आ रहा विमान (उड़ान संख्या एआई132) सोमवार सुबह बेंगलुरु में उतरा। विमान में 200 से ज्यादा लोग सवार थे। घटना से अवगत एक अन्य सूत्र ने बताया कि ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच 'रन' स्थिति में नहीं था और 'कट ऑफ' स्थिति की ओर चला गया। 'रन' और 'कट ऑफ' का उपयोग क्रमशः इंजन को चालू या बंद करने के लिए किया जाता है। यह तुरंत पता नहीं चल सका कि उड़ान के दौरान किस समय एअर इंडिया के पायलट ने ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच की संभावित खराबी को देखा। एअर इंडिया के बोइंग 787-8 विमान या ड्रीमलाइनर के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने के बाद से ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच की कार्यप्रणाली पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जा रहा है। पिछले साल जून में हुए हादसे में 260 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। दुर्घटना की प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट में उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद ईंधन की आपूर्ति बंद होने का उल्लेख किया गया था।



पायलट की सतर्कता के चलते ...  
पिछले साल जून में हुआ  
ड्रीमलाइनर जैसा हादसा टल गया



एयरलाइन ने सोमवार को एक बयान में कहा कि वह इस बात से अवगत है कि उसके एक पायलट ने बोइंग 787-8 विमान के ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में संभावित खराबी की सूचना दी। बयान में कहा गया, 'यह प्रारंभिक जानकारी मिलने के बाद, हमने उक्त विमान को उड़ान भरने से रोक दिया है और पायलट की चिंताओं की प्राथमिकता के आधार पर जांच कराने के लिए निर्माता कंपनी से संपर्क कर रहे हैं।' इसमें कहा गया, 'मामले की जानकारी डीजीसीए को दे दी गई है और एअर इंडिया ने डीजीसीए के निर्देश पर अपने बेड़े के सभी बोइंग 787 विमानों के ईंधन नियंत्रण 'स्विच' की जांच की। हालांकि उसमें कोई समस्या नहीं पाई गई। वहीं, बोइंग

ने एक बयान में कहा कि वह एअर इंडिया के संपर्क में है और इस मामले की समीक्षा में उनका सहयोग कर रही है। गैर-लाभकारी समूह 'सेफ्टी मैटर्स फाउंडेशन' ने सोमवार को कहा कि उड़ान परिचालन के दौरान, चालक दल ने विमान के बाएं इंजन के ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच के असामान्य स्थिति में होने की सूचना दी। इसने एक बयान में दावा किया, इंजन चालू करने के दौरान, स्विच दो प्रयासों के बावजूद 'रन' स्थिति में 'लॉक' नहीं हुआ और बार बार 'कट ऑफ' की ओर जा रहा था। यह एक ऐसी खराबी है जो विशिष्ट परिस्थितियों में, उड़ान के दौरान अनजाने में इंजन बंद होने का कारण बन सकती है।

# Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

3 FEBRUARY 2026



**विजय दर्दा**  
संपादक : लोकमत समूह  
पूर्व राज्यसभा सांसद

**महाराष्ट्र** के प्रखर नेता अजित दादा को हमने खो दिया। बस उनकी यादें शेष रह गई हैं। नागपुर में पिछले विधानसभा सत्र के दौरान महाराष्ट्र के मंत्रियों और विधायकों के लिए मैंने सम्मान भोज आयोजित किया था। दादा आए थे। बड़ी खुशामिज्जों से मिले, आमतौर पर गंभीर रहने वाले अजित दादा की आंखों में उस दिन गजब की चमक थी। व्यक्तित्व में उल्लास झलक रहा था। उन्होंने कहा कि जिस बिल्डिंग में आप रहते हैं वहीं रहने मेरे सुपुत्र पार्थ भी आ रहे हैं। मैं फिर देखने आने वाला हूँ। फिर साथ बैठेंगे, भोज करेंगे और खूब गप्पें लड़ाएंगे। मैंने मजाक में कहा कि दादा लड़ेंगे-लड़ाएंगे नहीं, सुशियां मनाएंगे।

नियति के दस्तूर का क्या कहें, कहानी बनते-बनते अधूरी रह गई। दादा यादों के इंद्रधनुष का हिस्सा बन गए। जाने वाले कब लौट कर आते हैं? बस यादें रह जाती हैं। अपने राजनीतिक गुरु और चाचा शरदचंद पवार के नक्शे-कदम पर उन्होंने राजनीति का पाठ पढ़ा। फर्क बस इतना था कि शरदचंद पवार मुस्कुरा कर राजनीति करते हैं और अजित दादा बेबाक थे। हां तो हां, ना तो ना! पवार साहब की तरह ही सुबोदय के साथ अजित दादा की दिनचर्या शुरू हो जाती थी। पहली बैठक का समय होता था सुबह 7 बजे! ऐसी बहुत सी बातें हैं जो उन्हें पसंद करने का कारण थीं। मुंबई में शनिवार का रविवार को कितना भी महत्वपूर्ण

## हवाई सुरक्षा को लेकर उठते सवाल!

कार्यक्रम हो, वे शामिल नहीं होते थे क्योंकि इनमें से एक पुणे और दूसरा दिन बरामती के लिए आरक्षित रहता था। दादा के साथ की और भी बहुत सी यादें हैं लेकिन इस वक्त मैं इस सौच से उबर नहीं पा रहा हूँ कि हवाई यात्राएं इतनी असुरक्षित क्यों हो रही हैं। भारत में हवाई यात्रा की सुरक्षा को हम सब

सिंधिया, विजय रूपाणी, ओपी ज़िंदल, जी. एम. सी. बालबेगी, वाई. एस. आर रेड्डी, दोरजी खांडू और साइप्रियन संगमा जैसे अनेक प्रमुख व्यक्तियों के नाम शामिल हैं। वैसे प्रसंगवश बता दें कि 1965 की जंग में गुजरात के तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री बलवंत राय मेहता के विमान को पाकिस्तान ने सैन्य विमान

रहा था। उस मार्ग पर कई पहाड़ हैं और ऊंची इमारतें हैं। हमने भगवान का नाम लेते वह यात्रा की। आए दिन हमें यह खबर मिलती रहती है कि कहीं विमान से फ़र्की टकरा गया तो कहीं रनवे पर कुत्ता आ गया। कई पायलट्स ने तो यहां तक शिकायत की है कि लेजर बीम के कारण भी उन्हें कई बार

फ्लाइट से पूर्व उन्हें नशे में पाया गया और डीजीसीए ने उन्हें तीन साल के लिए निलंबित भी किया था। सबल है कि ऐसे कैप्टन के हाथों में प्लेन क्यों दिया गया? कमर्शियल पायलट को नौद सात घंटे हुई हैं या नहीं या फिर वह नशे में तो नहीं हैं, इसकी जांच व्यापक तौर पर होती है लेकिन चार्टर्ड

**“ पहले भी कई लोग गए, अब अजित दादा चले गए, सवाल है कि क्या ऐसे हादसों से हम सबक लेते हैं? भारत में हवाई यात्रा की सुरक्षा को लेकर हमारे पास दावे बहुत हैं लेकिन जब भी कोई विमान हादसा होता है तो सवाल उठना लाजमी है कि सुरक्षा का स्तर क्या है? ”**



एयरक्राफ्ट और हेलिकॉप्टर के मामले में क्या इन नियमों का सख्ती से पालन किया जाता है?

मैं सोच रहा हूँ कि अत्यंत छोटे विमानतलों पर भी यदि सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था माकूल नहीं है तो फिर उन

बहुत बेहतर कहते हैं। इसके समर्थन में हमारे पास बहुत से कागजी आंकड़े भी हैं। वैश्विक विमानन सुरक्षा रैंकिंग में हम 112 से उठ कर 55 वें स्थान तक पहुंच चुके हैं, मगर मेरे मन में सवाल उठ रहा है कि चूक कहाँ हो रही है? जब हम सड़क पर यात्रा करते हैं तो भीषण दुर्घटना में भी बचने की संभावनाएं बनी रहती हैं लेकिन हवा में तो एक छोटी सी चूक भी सभी यात्रियों के लिए मौत का कारण बन जाती है। भारत में वीआईपी मूवमेंट के लिए नियम-कानून का अंवार है, फिर भी चूक कैसे हो जाती है। अखिर ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं में हमने कितने लोगों को खोया है। लंबी सूची है। होमी भाभा, बिपिन रावत, संजय गांधी, महेश्वरार

समझ कर मार गिराया था। खैर, वह तो मामला ही अलग था। ये तो मैं उनकी बात कर रहा हूँ जो चले गए। विमान दुर्घटना से बाल-बाल बचने वालों में वसंतराव नाईक से लेकर देवेन्द्र फडणवीस तक की लंबी सूची है।

जब राहुल गांधी आंध्रप्रदेश के चुनावी दौरे पर थे तब मैंने महसूस किया कि लैंड करते वक्त धूल का ऐसा गुब्बारा उठा कि हेलिकॉप्टर दिख ही नहीं रहा था। वह दृश्य देखकर मैं घबरा गया था। एक और घटना बतता हूँ। मैं और मेरे अनुचर रजेंद्र दडा हेलिकॉप्टर से मुंबई से ठाणे जा रहे थे। कुल जमा दस-पंद्रह मिनट की यात्रा थी लेकिन इतना कोहरा था, इतना प्रदूषण था कि कुछ दिखाई ही नहीं दे

परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

अब अजित दादा के चार्टर्ड विमान की दुर्घटना को लेकर जो बातें सामने आ रही हैं वो चौंकाने वाली हैं। बताया जा रहा है कि विमान में भी खामियां थीं। इसके अलावा बारमती एयरपोर्ट पर न तो ट्रेफिक कंट्रोल सिस्टम है और न ही इंस्ट्रुमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम है। स्थानीय फ्लाइट ट्रेनिंग स्कूल के इंस्ट्रक्टर रेडियो कम्युनिकेशन संभालते हैं। पायलट को सवे तलाशने के लिए सूरज के सामने देखना पड़ रहा था। सूरज की चमक ने भी चकमा दिया होगा और दूसरी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात जो उभर कर सामने आ रही है, वह है पायलट कैप्टन सुमित कपूर का मदिरा प्रेम। दो बार ऐसे मौके आए थे जब

विमानतलों को संचालित ही क्यों किया जा रहा है? भले ही किसी विमानतल पर महीने-दो महीने में एक विमान ही उतरे लेकिन सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था तो वैसी ही होनी चाहिए जैसे बड़े विमानतलों पर होती है, वैसे तो देश के सारे राज्यों को अपने विमानतलों पर समुचित सुरक्षा पर ध्यान देना चाहिए लेकिन विकसित राज्य महाराष्ट्र को इस मामले में नज़ीर पेश करनी चाहिए। अजित दादा तो चले गए, उन्हें कोई वापस नहीं ला सकता लेकिन वह तो सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि ऐसी हवाई दुर्घटना फिर कभी न हो। फिर किसी को जान न जाए।

अजित दादा... हम आपको कभी भुला न पाएंगे। अलविदा!



# Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

2 FEBRUARY 2026

## दमाम से आया प्लेन लखनऊ में नहीं उतरा, दिल्ली वापस

स्वतंत्र भारत ब्यूरो लखनऊ। खराब मौसम व कोहरे के चलते रविवार तड़के अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का संचालन प्रभावित रहा।

इसी क्रम में दमाम से लखनऊ

आ रही फ्लाइनेस की अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान को लखनऊ हवाई अड्डे के ऊपर

कई चक्कर लगाने के बाद दिल्ली वापस लौटना पड़ा। एटीसी अफसरों के मुताबिक फ्लाइनेस की विमान संख्या एक्स वाई-896 को सुबह करीब 5:15 बजे लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर उतरना था, लेकिन कम दृश्यता (विजिबिलिटी) के कारण एयर ट्रेफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी) ने लैंडिंग की अनुमति नहीं दी।

विमान लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट के

आसपास कुछ देर तक हवा में चक्कर लगाता रहा, लेकिन मौसम में सुधार न होने पर एटीसी के निर्देश पर उसे दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट भेज दिया गया, जहां विमान को

सुरक्षित उतार लिया गया।

इस उड़ान में 200 यात्री सवार थे, जिन्हें लखनऊ के

बजाय दिल्ली पहुंचना पड़ा। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों ने बताया कि बाद में मौसम सही होने पर यह विमान दिल्ली से सुबह 9:00 बजे पुनः लखनऊ पहुंच सका। खराब मौसम का असर अन्य उड़ानों पर भी देखने को मिला। दिल्ली से सुबह 6:15 बजे लखनऊ पहुंचने वाली एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान करीब दो घंटे की देरी से लखनऊ पहुंची।

■ कोहरे की वजह से कई चक्कर लगाए



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

2 FEBRUARY 2026

## Buddha Air plans daily direct flight services between Kolkata and Kathmandu

**DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY**  
*Kolkata, 1 February*

Nepal-based Buddha Air is considering a proposal to operate daily flights between Kathmandu and Kolkata in the near future. Since October last year, the airline has been running thrice-weekly direct services between the two cities. Owing to strong demand, this was soon increased to four flights a week.

Before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Air India operated direct flights between Kolkata and Kathmandu. However, since the resumption of international flight operations in 2022, the Maharaja has not returned to this route.

At this juncture, Buddha Air, with the support of the Nepal Tourism Board, has stepped forward to reintroduce direct flights between Kolkata and Kathmandu after a hiatus of more than five years, beginning on 19 October 2025.

Abhishek K.C., Senior Marketing Executive of Buddha Air, who attended the B2B meeting of the Nepal Sales

Mission 2026 in Kolkata, said that buoyed by the overwhelming success of both inbound and outbound services, the airline is planning to make the flights daily. The Kathmandu-Kolkata and Kolkata-Kathmandu routes are already operating at near-full capacity.

Executive Chairman of Buddha Air, Birendra Bahadur Basnet, confirmed that the current four-times-a-week service is expected to be extended to daily operations. The airline also operates thrice-weekly flights between Kathmandu and Varanasi. As part of its expansion, Buddha Air has opened a dedicated office in Kolkata to handle sales and marketing in the city.

Buddha Air, a private airline based in Nepal, operates ATR-72 aircraft with a seating capacity of 72 passengers. Since October 2025, it has been flying four times a week - on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays - from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata, to Tribhuvan

International Airport, Kathmandu.

The airfare is approximately Rs. 18,000 for a round-trip ticket between Kolkata and Kathmandu.

Dr. Kaulesh Kumar, Secretary General of the Association of Buddhist Tour Operators (ABTO), stated that the new direct services have opened up fresh opportunities in the travel and tourism sector and will particularly strengthen the Buddhist tourism circuit in both countries.

"It is truly encouraging. The Nepal government is keen to ensure hassle-free travel for tourists visiting both countries and expects passenger numbers to double by 2030. With the addition of new destinations, mountain experiences, hotels, resorts, casinos, and adventure sports, Nepal is rapidly becoming a favourite destination for young Indian travellers. Increased flight connectivity will provide a further boost," said Surya Thapaliya, Manager of the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB).

Currently, Nepal has three international airports.

# Mid-air mishap: Hot curry spills on passenger, costs airline ₹25k

Vindhya.Pabolu  
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** What should have been a peaceful flight from Bangkok to home in Bengaluru turned into a messy and painful shocker for a passenger. Moments after take-off and high up in the air, a flight attendant accidentally spilled hot non-vegetarian curry on him. With the passenger taking the legal route, the III additional Bengaluru Urban district consumer disputes redressal commission recently held the airline vicariously liable and ordered payment of compensation.

The saga began on March 5, 2024, when Sree Nayak (name changed), a resident of Konanakunte Cross, flew from Bangkok to Bengaluru with his wife and daughter,

paying Rs 12,404 for himself and Rs 24,808 for his family. Trouble struck about 15 minutes after take-off when a flight attendant opened the overhead bin above his seat, causing a hot food packet to fall on him, spilling curry and other items.

Nayak claimed the incident left him shocked, traumatised, and at risk, while his clothes were soiled. As a vegetarian, he alleged extreme discomfort, including skin irritation and a major headache from the smell, lasting eight hours until he reached home. Unable to change clothes or bathe immediately, he also faced embarrassment as co-passengers allegedly laughed. The food packet was reportedly stored by some other passenger.

He further stated his

branded T-shirt, jeans, jacket, shoes, and innerwear were irreparably stained, while his backpack, smartwatch, and mobile phone were damaged. According to Nayak, the airline admitted negligence over phone and email, and offered him a Rs 5,000 tra-

**CONSUMER IS KING**

vel voucher, which he deemed inadequate given the discomfort he had endured. Seeking a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for mental harassment and other losses, he filed a consumer complaint on July 5, 2025.

### IndiGo's defence

In its defence, IndiGo, represented by its manager, denied any deficiency in service, arguing that under consumer



law, a deficiency arises only when there is a shortcoming or inadequacy in the quality, nature, or manner of service

mandated by the law or contract. To support its stand, the airline cited a past in-flight incident in which a meal con-

tainer accidentally slipped from an overhead bin shortly after take-off while cabin crew was on routine duty.

The airline maintained the incident was unintentional and unforeseen. It said the crew responded promptly by apologising, relocating the passenger to a first-row seat, assisting in cleaning his clothes, and providing wet tissues. Referring to the present case, IndiGo said its customer experience team contacted the complainant on March 9, 2024, but he later sought compensation of Rs 5 lakh, which it termed illegal and exorbitant. Saying that as a goodwill gesture, it had repeatedly offered a Rs 5,000 travel voucher — which was declined — the airline urged the commission to dismiss the complaint.

After examining the records and hearing both sides, the commission held that opening an overhead bin after take-off, resulting in a hot meal falling on a passenger, amounted to a clear lapse in service. It observed that airlines are at fault if loose or hot items are stored in a manner that endangers passengers. However, the commission noted that Nayak had failed to produce credible evidence to substantiate claims of medical expenses or irreparable damage to his clothes.

The commission bench, comprising president Shivarاما K and members Chandrashekar S Noola and Rekha Sayannavar, on Dec 12, 2025, ordered IndiGo to pay the complainant Rs 20,000 as compensation and Rs 5,000 as litigation costs.

## AI Boeing fuel switch cuts off again, this time at UK airport

**SAFETY LOCK DIDN'T WORK DURING ENGINE START CHECK**

### WHAT HAPPENED

London Heathrow, Feb 1 | During engine check, fuel control switch of Boeing 787 (VT-ANX) goes from 'run' to 'cutoff' without the safety action of the switch first having to be lifted before being slotted

► After falling for a second time, the switch stays locked in 'run' mode the third time. The 9.05pm



flight to Bengaluru takes off at 9.40pm. It's now grounded

### IMPLICATION FOR AI 171 CRASH

► In initial report on last year's crash in Ahmedabad, AAIB said both fuel switches had moved from 'run' to 'cutoff' seconds after takeoff. It said no technical or design flaw was found, implying pilot action

► Raises serious oversight questions as AI said it's fleet's fuel switches had been checked and found to have no issues

► The London incident directly challenges the assumption that fuel switch movement in the AI crash was manual. Until now, the cut-off transition was treated as near-conclusive evidence of pilot action. The London event shows uncommanded switch behaviour, through mechanical detent failure, signal corruption, or other causes, is a credible failure mode — A SENIOR COMMANDER

### Discredits Ahd Crash Narrative Of Pilot Action

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: In a development with direct implications for the investigation into the June 12 fatal Air India Boeing 787 Ahmedabad crash, another Air India Dreamliner saw a fuel control switch move from "run" to "cut-off" after a crew member pressed it to check whether it was locked.

The switch moved without the required lift action, suggesting the safeguard meant to prevent fuel supply cut off and inadvertent engine shutdown did not function as designed, sources said. The London incident challenges the controversial narrative that the Ahmedabad crash resulted from a deliberate pilot act, pointing instead to a possible and critical technical flaw in the aircraft's fuel switch design.

The incident occurred on Feb 1 at London Heathrow during engine start of B787 (VT-ANX) operating the 9.05pm Air India flight AI-32 to Bengaluru.

### Ajit's death puts focus on charter firms' safety

India's charter aviation sector has grown steadily, filling a crucial gap left by airlines by connecting smaller towns & airports. But industry insiders say safety compliance across non-scheduled operators is uneven and often weaker than airline standards. Implementation of pilots' flight duty time limits, maintenance standards & weather-related decision-making vary widely between operators, reports Manju V.P.9

ru. The fuel control switches on the 787 require a two-step action: they must be lifted before they can be moved between "run" and "cut-off". The safety feature is intended to prevent inadvertent fuel shutdown. "The pilot lightly pushed the left fuel control switch to check if its lock feature was working and found it was not because the switch moved though it was not lifted first," the source said. It again failed to lock the second time. But the third time the switch stayed locked and did not move without lifting.

### DGCA takes note of TOI report on EU action on VSR

DGCA has taken note of Feb 1 report on EU Aviation Safety Agency's suspension and subsequent revocation of the Third Country Operator authorisation of VSR Ventures following a Learjet 45 accident at Mumbai airport in Sept 2023. India's AAIB is in the final stages of its investigation into the 2023 accident. Last week, a Learjet operated by VSR crashed killing DCM Ajit Parwar and 4 others. P16

The aircraft departed at 9.40pm for Bengaluru, where it is currently grounded.

India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), in its preliminary report released last July, said that both fuel control switches on the ill-fated aircraft had moved from "run" to "cut off" seconds after takeoff. The report said one pilot asked the other why did he cut off the fuel, to which the other responded that he did not do so.

► Continued on P 22

## UK incident challenges claim AI fuel switch movement was manual: Expert

► Continued from P 1

India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), in its preliminary report, added that no technical or design flaw was found with the aircraft so far, implying pilot action. Thereafter, the DGCA mandated an inspection of the fuel switch locking system. Air India later announced that it completed these inspections and found no faults. But the London incident brings back to fore the unresolved question around switch design, its locking integrity and the possibility of inadvertent activation, said sources.

A senior commander said: "The London incident directly challenges the assumption that fuel switch movement in the Air India crash was manual. Until now, the cut-off transition was treated as near-conclusive evidence of pilot action. The London event shows that uncommanded switch behaviour, through mechanical detent failure, signal corruption or other causes, is a credible failure mode. That places



UNRESOLVED ISSUES

the DGCA's earlier claim of fleet clearance under sharp scrutiny, as a defect appearing months later suggests inspections may have been visual, non-diagnostic, or incomplete. For the AAIB, the implication is clear: fuel cut-off can no longer be equated with intent, the investigation must widen to fleet-level and component analysis, and attribution of deliberate pilot action without fully eliminating system anomalies is no longer defensible."

Air safety expert Capt Amit Singh said: "The London incident is particularly concerning because in 2018

the US aviation regulator cautioned that fuel control switches on Boeing 787s could malfunction and lead to inadvertent engine shutdown. Occurring after Air India said its fleet's fuel control switches have been checked, and amid the ongoing June 12 B787 crash investigation, it raises serious questions about inspection adequacy and demands the highest level of regulatory scrutiny."

Air India, in a statement, said: "We are aware that one of our pilots has reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft. After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the said aircraft and are involving the OEM to get the pilot's concerns checked on a priority basis. The matter has been communicated to the aviation regulator, DGCA. Air India had checked the fuel control switches on all Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet after a directive from the DGCA, and had found no issues." Boeing said: "We are in contact with Air India and are supporting their review of this matter".

## AI grounds Dreamliner after pilot flags defect in fuel switch

**SHEKHAR SINGH**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

Air India on Monday said it had grounded a Boeing 787 aircraft and alerted the aviation regulator after a pilot reported a possible defect in a fuel control switch on Air India Flight AI132, from London Heathrow to Bengaluru. The Safety Matters Foundation (SMF) warned that the malfunction mirrors a known failure mode that can trigger inadvertent engine shutdowns, the same cut-off risk now being examined in the Air India Flight AI171 crash which claimed 260 lives on June 12, 2025.

The airline said it was involving Boeing on a priority basis and maintained that earlier fleet-wide inspections of fuel control switches had found no issues. SMF, however, said the incident raised serious questions about the depth of those checks and whether a long-flagged safety warning is resurfacing across the Dreamliner fleet.

"We are aware that one of



### AIRLINE ALERTS DGCA, SAYS ADDRESSING CONCERN

- Air India has said it has grounded the Boeing 787-8 aircraft in question and communicated the matter to DGCA. The airline said it was getting the pilot's concerns checked on priority
- The pilot of flight AI132 reported that during engine start, the left engine fuel control switch failed to remain locked in the RUN position on two attempts and instead moved towards CUTOFF

our pilots has reported a possible defect in the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft. After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the said aircraft and are involving the OEM to get the pilot's concerns checked on a priority basis. The matter has been communicated to the aviation regulator, DGCA. Air India had checked the fuel control switches on all Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet after a directive from the DGCA, and

had found no issues," an Air India spokesperson said.

The SMF said the malfunction was reported on February 2 during Air India Flight AI132 and during engine start, the left engine fuel control switch reportedly failed to remain locked in the RUN position on two attempts and instead moved towards CUTOFF.

Under specific conditions, SMF warned, such behaviour could result in an unintended engine shutdown during

flight. The foundation said the incident closely matches warnings issued by the US Federal Aviation Administration in 2018, when it cautioned operators that certain fuel control switches on Boeing 787 aircraft could malfunction in this exact manner and recommended inspection and replacement of affected components.

SMF also flagged the backdrop of the ongoing probe into the June 12, 2025 crash of Air India Flight AI171, which involved a Boeing 787 and is examining whether a fuel control switch moving to CUTOFF played a role. While saying that no direct link was being alleged, the Foundation said repeated issues involving a critical control system on the same aircraft type demand the highest level of scrutiny.

"We have been insisting that all Boeing 787 aircraft be checked for electrical system faults... the 787-800 is also vulnerable to water seepage into the main electronic bay, risking serious electrical failures," said FIP president CS Randhawa.