

TG airport plans fails to take off

Questions on viability stay

MD NIZAMUDDIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

FLIGHT PLAN

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state cleared acquisition of over 280 acres for expanding Warangal's Mamnoon airport, at an estimated cost of nearly ₹300 crore, of which ₹90 crore has already been released.

The government has also sanctioned ₹40.53 lakh for a pre-feasibility study of a proposed greenfield airport at Anthergoan in Peddapalli district, with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) appointed as consultant. The site spans 591.24

Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, and Rajahmundry have remained functional for decades, but the two newer ones — Kadapa and Kurnool — have not yet achieved the same level of traffic. The number of flights per day remains minimal," he added.

Aviation researchers and analysts argue that Telangana's airport push, though aligned with the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme of the Central government, might not fully align with the rapid technological transformation in global aviation. "Companies across the world are developing electric and propeller-driven aircraft — not only to enhance fuel efficiency but also to address environmental concerns," notes Srujan Chowdary Panda, aviation enthusiast and author of *The Mayday*. "In smaller cities, propeller-based and hybrid-electric aircraft are becoming more common, requiring shorter runways, causing less turbulence, and posing lower risks of bird strikes."

According to officials of the transport, roads and buildings (airports) wing, major progress has been made at Warangal, Peddapalli, and Adilabad. Earlier this month, the

acres, and the consultancy fee has been fixed at ₹40.5 lakh.

At Adilabad, a 3-km runway is planned on land under Indian Army control, following an approval from the defence ministry for joint civilian-military use earlier

this year. The AAI has completed a master plan, and the State has cleared the project to handle Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 aircraft. This makes it the second airport, after Warangal, to receive full approval.

Historically, Adilabad already has an airstrip dating back to the Nizam era at Shantinagar.

"When VIPs visit, they use the helipad there. The IAF, which controls the 369 acres of land, had long sought to convert it into an Air Force station. The State proposed a joint-use airport, and the IAF issued a no-objection certificate. An additional 250-300 acres are now being acquired to support the project," officials explained.

The AAI has conducted a Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) for the Nizamabad airport, while the proposed sites at Kothagudem and Mahbubnagar continue to face significant logistical and environmental hurdles.



AAI report on Bengaluru 2nd airport flags terrain and airspace challenges

DH SPECIAL

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS



DH The report does not approve or disapprove of either location. It merely states the challenges prevalent at each of the locations. Each location has its pros and cons. Now, our team will carry forward this report and do our own feasibility and viability studies before we decide on a location. We'll also look at the technical and financial feasibility

M B Patil
Industries Minister

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The minister is looking at roping in "top consultancy firms" to get the project started. Once that is sorted, the next move is to rope in private developers. "The vi-

ability study is extremely important as it will determine the passenger capacity and other important factors. It is what the private developers are interested in. We want to ensure that the private developers show interest," he added.

So far, the Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) has shown keen interest in taking on the second airport, with Hari Marar, the managing director of BIAL, appealing to the government to fast-track the process back in 2023. Among the challenges highlighted in the report are proximity to the Bannerghatta peak, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airspace, and the hilly terrain, a well-placed source with the Industries Department told *DH*.

Proximity to the Bannerghatta Hills is a common challenge for building an airport in either of the locations, a senior AAI official told *DH*.

"When the aircraft is ascending or descending, the Bannerghatta peak is of concern. The proximity of the locations needs to be thoroughly studied, keeping in mind various scenarios of landing or taking off," the AAI official said.

► **AAI report, Page 6**

AAI report on B'luru 2nd airport flags terrain & airspace issues

AAI report, From Page 3

"Apart from this, the terrain at both locations is pretty much the same. The Nelamangala-Kunigal side is a little more hilly; there are more stones and 'bandes'. However, these can be broken and the land can be flattened, but that would cause an increase in the construction costs."

The three locations also fall in the HAL airspace area; however, this can be resolved and is unlikely to cause any relocation, he said.

"There is already a flexible airspace usage agree-

ment, according to which defence airspace can be utilised for civilian purposes as well," the AAI official said. "How this works is that, once the aircraft operates under the ATC (Air Traffic Control) of the airport/AAI when it takes off, but as it moves into the HAL airspace, it'll operate under the HAL ATC. The HAL would have to increase their manpower to accommodate the new airport's operations," he explained, adding that the HAL had already given preliminary consent for the proposed second airport using its airspace.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

IGIA to boost T3's international traffic capacity by December

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Delhi airport is in the process of boosting the international traffic handling capacity of India's largest passenger terminal T3 to over three crore passengers per annum by December 2025.

At present, the total international passenger capacity of T3 stands at two crore per annum.

However, the continuous overseas expansion of India-based airlines, along with the growing international to international transfers and the increasing inclination towards foreign travel, has led to a rise in global traffic.

Speaking to *businessline*,



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Delhi International Airport Ltd's (DIAL) Chief Executive Videh Kumar Jaipuria said that C, one of the four piers of T3, will be converted from domestic to international.

"The conversion is being done to increase the terminal's international capacity to handle growing international

passenger traffic," Jaipuria told *businessline*. "The conversion will be completed by December 2025."

Accordingly, the conversion will increase T3's international capacity to 3.2 crore passengers annually. Delhi airport handled approximately 5.8 crore passengers in

FY25, out of which 2.2 crore were international.

T2 UPGRADE

Meanwhile, the domestic traffic load of Pier C has been shifted to the newly refurbished Terminal 2 (T2) of the IGIA.

Last week, DIAL, a GMR Aero-led consortium that maintains and operates IGIA, reopened the upgraded T2.

The upgrade of the 40-year-old terminal, as per DIAL, was undertaken to optimise flight operations across terminals and enhance passenger convenience, supporting the airport's growing traffic and expanding airline operations.

Besides, the T2 reopening has optimally distributed air-

line operations across terminals, with IndiGo operating flights numbered 6E 2000-6E 2999, while Air India has shifted around 60 domestic flights from Terminal 3 to Terminal 2.

Together, Air India and IndiGo operate around 120 daily domestic flights from the upgraded T2. Further, the Pier C conversion to an international concourse is strategic in nature as the airport moves towards becoming a major hub.

A hub airport synergises domestic and international operations in a manner that allows passengers to transit seamlessly between the two. Such a facility requires well-synchronised flight connectivity to regional airports,

in addition to efficient metro, road and highway access.

Under the hub-and-spoke model, passengers arriving from various smaller cities are grouped together and transferred in a coordinated manner to major hubs such as Delhi for international connections.

At present, India does not have any designated international hub airports.

This has resulted in a substantial volume of passenger traffic from India transiting through airports in the Middle East and South-East Asia to reach long-haul destinations. The aim, industry insiders said, is to make India-based airports as competitive as those in Dubai and Singapore.

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चकेरी हवाई अड्डे के विस्तार में मिल सकती एयरोब्रिज की सुविधा

जागरण संवाददाता, कानपुर: चकेरी हवाई अड्डे के विस्तार में एयरोब्रिज की सुविधा मिल सकती है। अभी रनवे पर विमान उतरने के बाद सीढ़ियों के सहारे यात्रियों को विमान से उतारा जाता है। इसके बाद वह हवाई अड्डे के भवन तक आते हैं। बरसात होने पर यात्रियों को रनवे पर उतरने के बाद हवाई अड्डे तक आने में असुविधा होती है। दोनों सांसदों का कहना है कि यात्रियों को एयरोब्रिज की सुविधा दिलाई जाएगी।

वर्ष 1970 में शहर को हवाई यात्रा की सुविधा मिलने लगी थी। औद्योगिक राजधानी कहे जाने वाले इस शहर से विभिन्न शहरों को हवाई यात्रा की सुविधा की बढ़ती मांग पर नया टर्मिनल बनाने का फैसला लिया गया। इससे शहरियों में फिर हवाई सेवा के विस्तार की आस जगी। आखिर में मई 2023 में 150 करोड़ की लागत से अहिरवां चकेरी में बने नए टर्मिनल भवन का लोकार्पण केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया और प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने किया। अब फिर हवाई अड्डे के विस्तार की मांग

● अभी विमान उतरने के बाद सीढ़ियों से उतारे जाते यात्री

● बारिश में रनवे से हवाई अड्डे तक आने में होती असुविधा



1970 में शहर से पहली बार शुरू हुई थी हवाई यात्रा की सुविधा

150 करोड़ की लागत से एयरपोर्ट पर बनाया गया है नया टर्मिनल मई 2023 में किया गया था लोकार्पण

हवाई अड्डे का विस्तार कराया जाएगा। इसी दौरान यात्रियों को एयरब्रिज की सुविधा दिलाने का प्रयास रहेगा। इस मामले पर उड्डयन मंत्री से बात भी हुई थी। अब फिर एक बार उनका ध्यान यात्रियों की इस मांग पर दिलाया जाएगा।
-देवेन्द्र सिंह भोले, चेयरमैन, हवाई अड्डा सलाहकार समिति व सांसद

हाल ही में हवाई अड्डा सलाहकार की बैठक हुई थी। इसमें हवाई अड्डे की विस्तार के लिए जमीन अधिग्रहण के लिए कहा गया है। एयरब्रिज की मांग से उड्डयन मंत्री को अवगत कराएंगे।
-रमेश अवरथी, सांसद

उठ रही है। अब तक हवाई अड्डे पर एयरोब्रिज की सुविधा यात्रियों को नहीं मिल रही है। रनवे पर विमान उतरने के बाद यात्रियों को सीढ़ी लगाकर उतारा जाता है।

एयरोब्रिज हवाई अड्डे की इमारत को सीधे विमान से जोड़ता है। इससे यात्रियों को बिना मौसम की परवाह विमान में प्रवेश करने और बाहर निकलने में मदद मिलती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

2 NOVEMBER 2025

जेवर एयरपोर्ट से जुड़ेंगी रेल और मेट्रो सेवाएं

स्वतंत्र भारत ब्यूरो, लखनऊ। जेवर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के जल्द उद्घाटन को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए परिवहन नेटवर्क को मजबूत बनाने की दिशा में बड़े कदम उठाए हैं। इसके चलते एयरपोर्ट को दिल्ली-एनसीआर, आगरा, अलीगढ़, मथुरा, मेरठ और हरियाणा जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्रों से जोड़ने के लिए बहु-माध्यम परिवहन (मल्टी-मॉडल) कनेक्टिविटी सिस्टम विकसित किया जा रहा है। इससे एयरपोर्ट पहुंचना न सिर्फ आसान होगा, बल्कि यात्रियों का समय भी काफी बचेगा। गौरतलब है कि एयरपोर्ट को रेल और मेट्रो नेटवर्क से जोड़ने की दिशा में भी तेजी से काम चल रहा है। उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम ने एयरपोर्ट के लिए 10 इंटरसिटी बस सेवाएं शुरू करने की योजना तैयार की है, जिनमें करीब 500 बसें का बेड़ा तैनात किया जाएगा। ये बसें नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा, दिल्ली, मेरठ, अलीगढ़, मथुरा और



आगरा जैसे शहरों से सीधी एयरपोर्ट कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करेंगी, जिससे दिल्ली और आसपास के जिलों के लोगों को सफर करने में आसानी होगी।

रेल मंत्रालय ने दी मंजूरी

जानकारी के अनुसार रेल मंत्रालय ने जेवर एयरपोर्ट को दिल्ली-वाराणसी हाई-स्पीड रेल कॉरिडोर और दिल्ली-आगरा ग्रीनफील्ड एक्सप्रेसवे से जोड़ने की योजना को मंजूरी दे दी है। वहीं, नोएडा मेट्रो रेल कॉरपोरेशन (एनएमआरसी) द्वारा ग्रेटर नोएडा से एयरपोर्ट तक मेट्रो

लाइन का प्रस्ताव भी तैयार कर लिया गया है, जो दोनों टर्मिनलों को जोड़ेगा। यात्रियों की यात्रा को और सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों के लिए कैब और कार रेंटल सेवाएं भी शुरू की जा रही हैं। मोबिलिटी लॉजिस्टिक्स कंपनी एनएमआईसी ब्रांड के तहत कैब सेवा शुरू कर रही है, जो एयरपोर्ट के साथ नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और आस-पास के क्षेत्रों में संचालित होगी। इसके अलावा, उबर, ब्लू स्मार्ट और मेक माई ट्रिप जैसी कंपनियां भी ऑन-

डिमांड टैक्सी सेवाएं और ऑनलाइन बुकिंग की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराएंगी। इन सेवाओं से दिल्ली, गाजियाबाद, गुरुग्राम, मथुरा और आगरा तक यात्रा करना बेहद सहज होगा।

एक्सप्रेसवे नेटवर्क से जुड़ेगा एयरपोर्ट

वहीं राज्य सरकार ने जेवर एयरपोर्ट को इंटरस्टेट एक्सप्रेसवे नेटवर्क से जोड़ने की भी मंजूरी दे दी है, जिससे दिल्ली, गुरुग्राम, मेरठ, मथुरा और आगरा तक सीधा और तेज मार्ग उपलब्ध होगा। नोएडा मेट्रो रेल कॉरपोरेशन और परिवहन विभाग के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, इंटरसिटी व इंटरमॉडल परिवहन व्यवस्थाओं को जोड़ने का कार्य अंतिम चरण में है। इन व्यवस्थाओं के पूरा होने के बाद जेवर एयरपोर्ट यात्रियों के लिए न केवल अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई सफर का केंद्र बनेगा, बल्कि पूरे उत्तरी भारत के लिए एक प्रमुख परिवहन हब के रूप में भी उभरेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

2 NOVEMBER 2025

₹2cr gold seized at city airport

Chennai: Customs officials at Chennai airport seized gold worth nearly ₹2 crore from two flyers. They were arrested under the Customs Act. On Thursday, the Air Intelligence Unit intercepted a man who arrived from Bangkok. During questioning, he admitted to concealing gold in his rectum. Ingots of 24K purity weighing 733 grams and valued at ₹86.28 lakh, were recovered from him. On Friday, officials intercepted a man who arrived from Kuala Lumpur. About 768 grams of gold paste in two sachets in his socks, worth more than ₹90 lakh, was seized. Another 61 grams of gold was seized from another flyer of same flight. Officials suspect cartels are testing whether scrutiny on gold smuggling remains strict. **TNN**



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

DGCA notifies grievance redressal system for disability-friendly air travel

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The civil aviation regulator has introduced a structured grievance redressal system to strengthen passenger rights as well as accountability in the carriage of persons with disabilities and those with reduced mobility.

Accordingly, airlines and airports will now be required to appoint nodal and appellate officers, enable online complaint registration and issue a unique reference number for each case to ensure time-bound resolution.

NEW FRAMEWORK

Under the revised Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), unresolved complaints may be escalated to statutory bodies, such as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. The new framework came into effect on October 29, 2025, updating and replacing the 2022 version of the CAR, which was amended following several incidents in-

volving passengers with disabilities. On its part, the regulator said the overhaul aims to establish a transparent, uniform mechanism for handling disability-related grievances and standardise accessibility standards across the aviation sector.

Besides, the new regulation defines “assistive device” and allows passengers to carry personal battery-operated wheelchairs. The updated CAR also mandates airlines and airport operators to ensure barrier-free infrastructure, inclusive services and non-discriminatory assistance throughout the travel process.

Further, airlines are required to accept medical certificates and special assistance documentation across connecting flights under the same PNR to avoid repeated verification. Additionally, airlines are barred from denying boarding to passengers on the grounds of disability or health condition unless a qualified doctor certifies them as unfit to fly. In such cases, the airline must provide the reason in writing and communicate it

directly to the passenger. The revised CAR further makes disability sensitisation training mandatory for all airline and airport personnel, including ground handling agents, cabin crew and security staff.

Airport operators are mandated to ensure accessible design across terminals with ramps, signage, restrooms, low-floor buses and ambulifts or towable ramps for boarding and deboarding. They must also deploy dedicated staff at drop-off points and inside terminals to coordinate assistance for passengers with reduced mobility.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

Air India gets clearance for China flight operations

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Air India has received regulatory clearance to operate direct flights to China, industry sources told *businessline*.

According to sources, the airline has secured approval to launch services from Delhi to Shanghai.

The carrier is also expected to receive a second set of clearances to operate direct flights between Mumbai and Shanghai.

"Flights are expected to begin in December," said one of the sources. "Only after

receiving the second set of approvals will a decision be made on which hub — Delhi or Mumbai — the flights to Shanghai will be operated from."

DIRECT FLIGHTS?

Interestingly, five years ago, the airline operated direct services from Mumbai to Shanghai.

However, sources pointed to a strong possibility of Air India operating flights from Mumbai to Delhi and then onwards to Shanghai.

Last week, flight services between India and China resumed after five years.

IndiGo became the first

Indian carrier to reinstate non-stop flights between India and mainland China. The airline started daily non-stop flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou.

Further, IndiGo will launch flights between Delhi and Guangzhou from November 10.

businessline was the first to report that India's domestic airlines are set to commence operations to China in the upcoming winter schedule, with Shanghai and Guangzhou topping their list of destinations.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, airlines from both countries operated direct

flights to several destinations, including Shanghai, Guangzhou, New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

These services were suspended in early 2020 and never resumed, even as flights to Hong Kong resumed.

A few months later, in mid-2020, the situation was further complicated by the military clashes in the Galwan Valley of Ladakh, leading to a prolonged freeze in direct operations.

Industry insiders said that the resumption of flight services will provide a major boost to bilateral trade, tourism and business travel.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD DELHI 3 NOVEMBER 2025

भारत के लिए उड़ानें शुरू करेगी फ्लाईडील

तेजी से बढ़ते भारतीय विमानन बाजार से उत्साहित सऊदी अरब की कंपनी फ्लाईडील 2026 की पहली तिमाही से मुंबई समेत भारतीय शहरों के लिए उड़ानें शुरू करेगी। फ्लाईडील के मुख्य कार्य अधिकारी स्टीवन ग्रीनवे ने कहा कि भारत दुनिया के सबसे प्रतिस्पर्धी हवाई बाजारों में से एक है और यहां उड़ान संचालन के लिए खर्चों पर कड़ी निगरानी रखना जरूरी है।

फ्लाईडील आठ वर्षों से अधिक समय से उड़ान भर रही है और इस वर्ष के अंत तक उसके बेड़े में 46 विमान होने की उम्मीद है। वर्तमान में इसके पास 42 ए320 श्रृंखला के विमान हैं और इसने 10 वाइड-बॉडी ए330 नियो विमान के ऑर्डर भी दिए हैं, जो जुलाई 2027 से आने शुरू होंगे।

ग्रीनवे ने कहा, 'हमारा इरादा अगले साल की पहली तिमाही में भारत में परिचालन शुरू करने का

है। हम मुंबई और दिल्ली जैसे महानगरों में परिचालन शुरू करने की उम्मीद करते हैं, और साथ ही हमारा ध्यान भारत के दूसरे शहरों पर भी होगा। मुझे लगता है कि मुंबई पहला शहर होगा।'

सऊदी अरब और भारत के बीच एक महत्वपूर्ण विमानन बाजार है और फ्लाईडील अपने देश में 25 गंतव्यों को जोड़ता है। ग्रीनवे ने कहा कि फ्लाईडील भारत की किसी घरेलू

विमानन कंपनी के साथ कोडशेयर साझेदारी करना चाहती है। कोडशेयर साझेदारी में एक विमानन कंपनी अपने यात्री को एक ही टिकट पर अपनी साझेदार विमानन कंपनी की उड़ान में यात्रा की सुविधा देती है। उन्होंने कहा कि विमानन कंपनी को उम्मीद है कि वह 2026 के अंत तक जेद्दा, रियाद और दम्मम स्थित अपने केंद्रों से भारत के छह गंतव्यों तक पहुंच जाएगी।

भाषा



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

Saudi Arabia's flyadeal to start India flights in Q1 of 2026: CEO

Bullish on the fast-growing Indian aviation market, Saudi Arabia's no-frills carrier flyadeal will start flights to Indian cities, including Mumbai, from the first quarter of 2026.

The airline's CEO, Steven Greenway, told *PTI* that India is one of the "most hyper-competitive markets" in the world and there is a need to have an "absolute, brutal focus on unit cost". A sister company of Saudia Airlines, the Jeddah-

based profitable flyadeal has been flying for over eight years and expects to have 46 planes in its fleet by the end of this year. Currently, the carrier has 42 A320 family aircraft and has also placed orders for 10 wide-body A330 Neos that are expected to start coming in from July 2027. Saudi Arabia and India have a significant domestic aviation market, and flyadeal connects 25 destinations in its home country. *PTI*

Akasa Air will consider flights to Kenya, Egypt, other nations: CEO

Akasa Air will consider operating flights to Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt and some other countries, and the three-year-old airline now feels "very good" about the delivery schedule for its Boeing planes, said its CEO Vinay Dube.

Stressing that Akasa Air's international expansion will continue on the right path, Dube, also the founder, said the airline will shortly announce flights to Sharjah.

The airline has a fleet of 30 Boeing 737 MAX planes and expects to add "more than one aircraft" this year. "Our aircraft are capable of hitting the shores of East Africa, absolutely it can go to Mauritius and on the southern side, it can go to Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt. We can (also) go into Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan. Boeing 737 MAX is also capable of going deep into South Asia., All will be considered," said Dube. *PTI*



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

2 NOVEMBER 2025

Flight diverted due to bomb hoax

MANVI VYAS | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

An Indigo flight from Jeddah to Hyderabad was diverted to Mumbai after officials at the RGIA here received an email that a bomb was placed on the aircraft. The mail was received at about 5.30 am on Saturday, and airport officials immediately alerted

security officers and the airline personnel.

According to RGIA (Outpost) inspector S. Kanakaiah said the mail was sent by 'Papaita Rajan', who claimed that members of the LTTE and Pakistan's ISI had planned an explosion involving nerve gas and IEDs in the flight.

The mail, with the subjectline 'Prevent

landing of IndiGO 68 to Hyderabad', read, "Onboard LTTE-ISI operatives have planned a major 1984 Madras Airport Modus Operandi style blast on impact at the RGIA Port Fuselages and Fuel tanks fixed with micro-bots. The IEDs will contain potent nerve gas. Frankfurt operation a test to study remedies. Please read stegano-

graphic document below for IED location details, read between lines (sic)."

Following this, it was decided to divert the aircraft. After it landed at Mumbai, the flight was checked by the bomb disposal squad, the CISF and the local police who found nothing suspicious and concluded that the threat was a hoax.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

2 NOVEMBER 2025

Air India launches daily flights from Bengaluru to Jodhpur, Udaipur

BENGALURU, DHNS: Air India Express launched new daily flights from Bengaluru to Jodhpur and Udaipur on Saturday.

From Bengaluru, the daily flight to Jodhpur is scheduled at 12.50 pm, while the return flight from Jodhpur to Ben-

galuru is scheduled at 4.45 pm. To Udaipur, the flight from Bengaluru will take off at 7.50 am, with the return flight from

Udaipur scheduled at 10.40 am. The airline has also launched daily flights from both Udaipur and Jodhpur to Delhi.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025



Akasa Air Eyes Africa, W Asia Expansion: CEO

NEW DELHI Akasa Air will consider operating flights to Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, and other countries, and the three-year-old airline now feels "very good" about the delivery schedule for its Boeing planes, CEO and founder Vinay Dube said. He added that the airline will soon announce flights to Sharjah, stressing that its international expansion is on track. The carrier currently operates a fleet of 30 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft and expects to add "more than one plane" this year.

"Our aircraft are capable of hitting the shores of East Africa, absolutely it can go to Mauritius and on the southern side, it can go to Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt... We can (also) go into Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan... Boeing 737 MAX is also capable of going deep into South Asia... All will be considered," Dube told. — PTI

Will consider flights to Kenya, Egypt, other nations: Akasa CEO

MANOJ RAMMOHAN
New Delhi, November 2

AKASA AIR WILL consider operating flights to Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt and some other countries, and the three-year-old airline now feels “very good” about the delivery schedule for its Boeing planes, according to its CEO Vinay Dube.

Stressing that Akasa Air’s international expansion will continue on the right path, Dube, also the founder, said the airline will shortly announce flights to Sharjah.

The airline has a fleet of 30 Boeing 737 MAX planes and expects to add “more than one aircraft” this year.

“Our aircraft are capable of hitting the shores of East Africa, absolutely it can go to Mauritius and on the southern side, it can go to Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt... We can (also) go into Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan... Boeing 737 MAX is also capable of going deep into South Asia... All will be considered,” Dube told *PTI* in an interview.

Currently, the carrier flies to six international cities — Doha (Qatar), Jeddah, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Abu Dhabi (UAE), Kuwait City (Kuwait) and Phuket (Thailand) — and 24 domestic destinations.

According to Dube, the airline’s Available Seat Kilometres

EXPANSION PLANS

■ The airline has a firm order for a total of 226 Boeing 737 MAX planes

■ Akasa’s Available Seat Kilometres (ASK) is now 20% international and 80% domestic

■ ASK is a measure of an airline’s passenger carrying capacity

■ The airline expects to restart hiring of pilots in 2026, mainly first officers

VINAY DUBE,
CEO, AKASA AIR

We are well-capitalised and will look at an IPO in the next two to five years



(ASK) is now 20% international and 80% domestic, and the overseas pie is expected to reach around 30% by the end of March 2027.

Generally, ASK is a measure of an airline’s passenger carrying capacity.

The airline, which has 750-775 pilots, expects to restart hiring of pilots in 2026, mainly first officers.

“We will have a need for pilots in the second half of next year. So, we will have to restart the (hiring) process well before that... We feel very good about our delivery schedule, we have more predictability,” Dube said.

There has been a delay in deliveries of the Boeing 737 MAX planes and earlier this month, the US Federal Aviation Administration allowed the aircraft maker to increase the production of MAX aircraft to 42 from 38 per month.

The airline has a firm order for a total of 226 Boeing 737 MAX planes.

Akasa Air expects to have some codeshare and interline partnerships in the next financial year, with Dube emphasising that the airline needs to be a little bigger to be an attractive partner for a number of codeshare, interline requirements

that other airlines have.

Currently, the airline has a codeshare partnership with Etihad Airways.

Generally, a codeshare partnership allows an airline to book passengers on its partner carrier in a single ticket. Under an interline arrangement, an airline issues and accepts tickets for flights operated by partner carriers, and the passengers will have a single itinerary but different tickets.

About the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) flagging certain lapses at the airline, Dube said all the observations have been addressed to the satisfaction of the regulator.

“We had observations like every airline had observations as part of routine audits. All of these observations have been addressed to the satisfaction of the regulator and there is no cause for safety concern at all,” he said.

On funding, the Akasa Air chief said the airline is well-capitalised and will look at an initial public offering (IPO) in the next two to five years.

In August, the carrier announced it raised funds from various investors, including Premji Invest and Claypond Capital, and that the money would be utilised mainly for expanding operations.

—PTI





Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

तकनीकी खराबी के कारण उड़ान में देरी

नई दिल्ली। इंडिगो एयरलाइन ने बताया कि रविवार सुबह दिल्ली से कोच्चि जाने वाली फ्लाइट में तकनीकी खराबी आ गई, जिससे उड़ान में तीन घंटे से अधिक की देरी हुई। इंडिगो के अनुसार, एहतियाती सुरक्षा उपाय के तौर पर सभी यात्रियों को विमान से उतारा गया और सुरक्षा जांच के लिए बे में ले जाया गया। समस्या की पहचान तकनीकी खराबी के रूप में की गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

अकासा एयर नई उड़ानें शुरू करेगी

नई दिल्ली। अकासा एयर केन्या, इथियोपिया, मिस्र और कुछ अन्य देशों के लिए उड़ानें संचालित करने पर विचार कर रही है। एयरलाइन कंपनी के सीईओ विनय दुबे ने रविवार को यह जानकारी दी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

 Hindustan Times

DGCA fills up key 18 posts to plug crunch

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The civil aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has promoted 18 senior officers to the post of Deputy Director General (DDG) — a move aimed at strengthening its top technical and air safety leadership amid persistent staff shortages across critical divisions.

"With these promotions, all the vacant posts of DDG are now full in the DGCA," an official confirmed to HT. "Some of these posts have been lying vacant since 2023," he said.

According to an October 31 office order, seven of the promoted officers were serving as director of airworthiness; two of them as director of air safety, three director of aircraft engineering and six director of Operations (Ops).

The promotions come against the backdrop of continuing vacancies across the DGCA's technical cadre.

Hindustan Times reported on July 19, nearly half of the regulator's sanctioned technical posts, including those in airworthiness, flight operations, and aerodrome safety, have remained vacant for years, affecting inspection and oversight functions.

These appointments are expected to strengthen India's aviation safety oversight and come months after the civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu told Parliament on July 21, that DGCA would recruit 190 people by the end of October.

The office order, seen by HT, notes that these appointments are effective from the date the officers assume charge.

While these promotions mark progress in filling long-pending posts, senior officials acknowledged that overall staffing at DGCA remains stretched.

The civil aviation ministry along with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) are working to expedite appoint-

Non-availability of cockpit crew and pilots hits Akasa

NEW DELHI: Akasa Air, backed by Azim Premji's investment arm Premji Invest, is facing mounting operational strain due to the non-availability of cockpit crew to operate certain flights. This is despite the airline having around 800 pilots on its rolls, with as many as nine flights for at least Sunday left without available pilots, according to an internal communication reviewed by HT.

At the same time, CAT III pilot rosters have not been created from November 15 onwards and the pilots have not received the rosters so far, in violation of the DGCA norms that the cockpit crew should receive the roster 15 days in advance, people privy to the information said.

"At least nine flights for Monday remain uncovered due to unavailability of captains," according to the internal communication.

The airline spokesperson however, said, "We are making certain operational adjustments which has led to a temporary impact on a few flights."

NEHA LM TRIPATHI

ments to strengthen DGCA's technical capacity, especially in light of India's expanding aviation market and increased oversight demands from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Recently, the UPSC selected 42 candidates for appointment as Assistant Directors (AD) of operations, who will start working by the end of November.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

2 NOVEMBER 2025

IndiGo flight diverted to Mumbai following 'human bomb' threat

HYDERABAD: The Rajiv Gandhi International (RGIA) Airport here received a threat email on Saturday claiming that there was a "human bomb" onboard an IndiGo flight from Jeddah to Hyderabad, following which the aircraft was diverted to Mumbai where it landed safely, police said.

The airport authorities lodged a complaint with police, saying they received the threat email at around 5.30 am which warned them to "prevent landing of IndiGo (flight) in Hyderabad". The email further stated

FOLLOWING THE THREAT, ALL STAKEHOLDERS WERE ALERTED AND FLIGHT WAS DIVERTED

"...onboard LTTE-ISI operatives have planned a major 1984 Madras Airport Modus operandi style blast", police said.

All stakeholders were alerted and the flight was diverted to Mumbai airport

where it safely landed, they said adding "all (security) checks were carried out and no issue was found".

Based on the complaint a case was registered. Further investigation is on, police added. In a statement, an IndiGo spokesperson said, "A security threat was received for IndiGo flight 6E 68 operating from Jeddah to Hyderabad on November 1 and the aircraft was diverted to Mumbai." According to IndiGO, after security checks, the plane was cleared for operations. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

flyadeal plans India flights in 2026: CEO

Bullish on the fast-growing Indian aviation market, Saudi Arabia's no-frills carrier flyadeal will start flights to Indian cities, including Mumbai, from the first quarter of 2026.

The airline's chief executive officer (CEO), Steven Greenway, told PTI that India is one of the "most hyper-competitive markets" in the world and there is a need to have an "absolute, brutal focus on unit cost".

A sister company of Saudia Airlines, the Jeddah-based profitable flyadeal has been flying for over eight years and expects to have 46 planes in its fleet by the end of this year. Currently, the carrier has 42 A320 family aircraft and has also placed orders for 10 wide-body A330 Neos that are expected to start coming in from July 2027. "Our intent is to start operating (to India) in the quarter one of next year..." Greenway told PTI.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

3 NOVEMBER 2025

अकासा एयर केन्या, मिस्र व अन्य देशों के लिए उड़ानों पर विचार करेगी : सी.ई.ओ.

नई दिल्ली, 2 नवम्बर (एजेंसी): अकासा एयर केन्या, इथियोपिया, मिस्र और कुछ अन्य देशों के लिए उड़ानें संचालित करने पर विचार कर रही है। कम्पनी के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सी.ई.ओ.) विनय दुबे ने यह बात कही।

उन्होंने कहा कि 3 साल पुरानी यह एयरलाइन अब अपने बोइंग विमानों की आपूर्ति को लेकर बहुत अच्छा महसूस कर रही है। इस बात पर जोर देते हुए कि अकासा एयर का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विस्तार सही दिशा में आगे बढ़ता रहेगा। दुबे ने कहा कि एयरलाइन जल्द ही शारजाह के लिए



उड़ानों की घोषणा करेगी।

एयरलाइन के पास 30 बोइंग 737 मैक्स विमानों का बेड़ा है और उसे इस साल एक से ज्यादा विमान जोड़ने की उम्मीद है। दुबे ने कहा, "हमारे विमान पूर्वी अफ्रीका के तटों तक पहुंचने में सक्षम

हैं। यह मॉरीशस तक जा सकता है और दक्षिणी छोर पर यह केन्या, इथियोपिया, मिस्र तक जा सकता है... हम कजाकिस्तान, उज्बेकिस्तान तक भी जा सकते हैं... बोइंग 737 मैक्स दक्षिण एशिया में भी दूर तक जाने में सक्षम है... इन सभी पर विचार किया जाएगा।"

इस समय एयरलाइन 6 अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शहरों दोहा (कतर), जेद्दा, रियाद (सऊदी अरब), अबू धाबी (यू.ए.ई.), कुवैत सिटी (कुवैत) और फुकेत (थाईलैंड) के साथ ही 24 घरेलू गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ान भरती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

2 NOVEMBER 2025

IndiGo flight diverted after receiving security threat:

New Delhi: An IndiGo flight from Jeddah to Hyderabad was diverted to Mumbai on Saturday, after a threat email claiming that there was a 'human bomb' on board was received by the Hyderabad airport authorities. IndiGo in a statement said: "A security threat was received for IndiGo flight 6E 68 operating from Jeddah to Hyderabad on 1st November 2025. The aircraft was diverted to Mumbai. Following the established protocol, we informed the relevant authorities immediately and fully cooperated with them in carrying out the necessary security checks..." All passengers were escorted off the plane, and a thorough security inspection was conducted. The authorities have registered a case and are investigating the source of the threat email.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

2 NOVEMBER 2025

Flight bomb scare

■ **HYDERABAD:** The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here received a threat email on Saturday, claiming that there was a "human bomb" onboard an IndiGo flight from Jeddah to Hyderabad, following which the aircraft was diverted to Mumbai, where it landed safely, police said. The airport authorities lodged a complaint with the police, saying they received the threat email around 5.30am, which warned them to "prevent landing of IndiGo flight in Hyderabad". PTI

AI captain flies sans licence, co-pilot after failed test; grounded

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: An Air India co-pilot and a senior captain have been taken off flying duty after the airline found they operated a flight each last month with a lapsed English Language Proficiency (ELP) licence in one case, and in another, without undergoing mandatory corrective training after failing the bi-annual instrument rating-pilot proficiency check (IR-PPC).

This occurred just five months after Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) reprimanded Air India for scheduling and rostering lapses. The regulator is now investigating the fresh lapses and has sought a report from the airline. Air India is learned to have asked pilots to ensure they meet all licence requirements.

It is not unusual for a co-pilot to not be able to clear his latest IR-PPC, but pilots have to mandatorily undergo corrective training and get their pro-



This occurred five months after DGCA reprimanded Air India for scheduling and rostering lapses

iciency rechecked to a satisfactory level of performance before they can fly again. In this case, the Airbus A320 co-pilot operated a flight without it.

In the other case, a senior commander was the pilot-in-command of an A320 flight despite a lapsed ELP licence. A valid ELP is mandatory for pilots to fly.

An AI spokesperson said, "An instance of a first officer operating a flight after an unsatisfactory recurrent training check was detected by the training team. As soon as the error came to our notice, a crew scheduler and the pilot involved were off-rostered."