



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

2 DECEMBER 2025

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### AAI conducting audit of communication, navigation, surveillance equipment at all airports

NEW DELHI, Dec 1: Airports Authority of India (AAI) is carrying out a comprehensive audit of all communication, navigation and surveillance equipment across the airports in the wake of the technical glitch with the air traffic control system at the Delhi airport that resulted in hundreds of flight delays last month.

The technical problem with the Automatic Message Switching System, which supports the air traffic con-

trol's flight planning process, resulted in flight delays and cancellations at the Delhi airport on November 7. In a written reply to Rajya Sabha on Monday, Union minister Murlidhar Mohol said high latency in the processing and delivery of Air Traffic Service messages to Air Traffic Management Automation System and other stakeholders was observed at the Delhi airport on November 6 at 11 am. This had led to a de-

lay in the delivery of Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network messages, including Flight Plan, issuance of mandatory Flight Information Centre number and Air Defence Clearances, resulting in delays of 397 scheduled passenger departures from November 6 to November 8, Mohol said.

The Minister of State for Civil Aviation said that in response to the technical failure at the Delhi airport on

November 6 and November 7, AAI has been directed to carry out a comprehensive audit of all communication, navigation and surveillance equipment across the airports to evaluate their condition, operational reliability and lifecycle management.

AAI has also undertaken the replacement of the existing IP-based Automatic Message Switching System with the new Air Traffic Services Message Handling System. — PTI

## GPS spoofing, interference reported at seven major airports: Govt

No effect on movements of flights

NEW DELHI, DHNS

**G**PS spoofing and interference incidents have been reported at Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Hyderabad, and Chennai airports, and the Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) has been asked to identify the source of spoofing, the Ministry of Civil Aviation informed Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Responding to the questions raised by YSR Congress MP Niranjan Reddy, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said cybersecurity is ensured by continuous upgrades, and new protective measures are being taken as the nature and type of the threat change.

He said some flights reported GPS spoofing in the vicinity of Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi while using GPS-based landing proce-



Some flights reported GPS spoofing in the vicinity of Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi. REUTERS FILE

### SIGNAL SABOTAGE

- Global Positioning System/Global Navigation Satellite System spoofing and jamming refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals.
- Wireless Monitoring Organisation mobilised to locate spoofing signals near runways.
- interference reported from Delhi to Chennai since late 2023.

dures as they approached the runway.

**Contingency procedures** Contingency procedures were used for GPS-spoofed flights approaching the runway, he said, adding there were no effects on movements of flights, on other runway ends having

conventional navigational aids being operational, he said.

"Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also requested Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) to possibly identify the source of interference/spoofing. During the high-level meeting, WMO was directed to mobilise more resources to

identify the source of spoofing based on approximate spoofing location details shared by DGCA and Airports Authority of India," Naidu said.

After being mandated by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to report instances of GPS jamming or spoofing since November 2023, he said, regular reports are being received from other major airports in the country. "GNSS interference reports are being received from Kolkata, Amritsar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai airports," he said.

Naidu said Minimum Operating Network (MON), consisting of Conventional (Ground-based) Navigation and Surveillance Infrastructure, are retained in accordance with global best practices.

"To enhance cybersecurity against global threats, AAI is implementing advanced cybersecurity solutions for IT networks and infrastructure. These actions have been taken in accordance with the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) guidelines," he added.

## दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर कई उड़ानों में जीपीएस स्पूफिंग हुई

नई दिल्ली, एएनआइ : केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू ने सोमवार को इस बात की पुष्टि की कि हाल ही में नई दिल्ली स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (आइजीआइए) पर आने वाली कई उड़ानों में जीपीएस स्पूफिंग की घटनाएं सामने आई हैं। सोमवार से शुरू हुए संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र में राज्यसभा सदस्य एस. निरंजन रेड्डी द्वारा पूछे गए एक प्रश्न के जवाब में नायडू ने इस आशय की जानकारी दी।

रेड्डी ने राज्यसभा में नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री से पूछा कि “क्या सरकार को इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर जीपीएस स्पूफिंग की हालिया घटनाओं की जानकारी है और क्या नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) और भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआइ) ने भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं की जांच और रोकथाम के लिए क्या कदम उठाए हैं?”

नायडू ने जवाब में कहा कि

- नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ने राज्यसभा में प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर कई घटनाओं की पुष्टि की
- राज्यसभा सदस्य एस. निरंजन रेड्डी ने मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू से सदन में पूछे सवाल

### क्या होती है जीपीएस स्पूफिंग?

ग्लोबल पोजिशनिंग सिस्टम (जीपीएस) सिग्नल में जब कोई छेड़छाड़ की जाती है तो उसे स्पूफिंग कहा जाता है। स्पूफिंग में गलत लोकेशन सिग्नल को भेजकर असली नेविगेशन डाटा को बदल दिया जाता है। इस कारण विमान को लगता है कि वह किसी दूसरी जगह है। हालांकि, वह हकीकत में अपनी असल जगह से कई किलोमीटर दूर होता है। स्पूफिंग, जैमिंग से बिल्कुल अलग होती है। इसमें सिग्नल को पूरी तरह ब्लाक नहीं किया जाता है। जीपीएस स्पूफिंग के कारण कई बार तो आधुनिक नेविगेशन सिस्टम भी निष्क्रिय साबित हो जाते हैं। इस कारण प्रशिक्षित पायलट भी आसमान में रनवे को ढूंढते रहते हैं, जिसके चलते यात्रियों को सुरक्षित उतारने के लिए या तो फ्लाइट को डाइवर्ट कर दिया जाता है या लंबा इंतजार करना पड़ता है।



ये घटनाएं उस समय हुईं जब विमान हवाई अड्डे के रनवे 10 पर जीपीएस-आधारित लैंडिंग प्रक्रियाओं का उपयोग कर रहे थे। प्रभावित उड़ानों को नकली नेविगेशन सिग्नल मिलने के बाद आपातकालीन प्रक्रियाओं का सहारा लेना पड़ा। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि पारंपरिक जमीनी नेविगेशनल उपकरणों की उपलब्धता के कारण रनवे के अन्य हिस्सों पर परिचालन अप्रभावित रहा। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ने

कहा, “नवंबर, 2023 से डीजीसीए द्वारा जीपीएस जैमिंग/स्पूफिंग की घटनाओं की रिपोर्ट करने का आदेश दिए जाने के बाद देश के अन्य प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों से नियमित रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हो रही हैं। कोलकाता, अमृतसर, मुंबई, हैदराबाद, बेंगलुरु और चेन्नई हवाई अड्डों पर भी ग्लोबल नेविगेशन सैटेलाइट सिस्टम (जीएनएसएस) रेडियो फ्रीक्वेंसी हस्तक्षेप की घटनाएं दर्ज की गई हैं।”

### 15 हवाई अड्डे अस्थायी बंद

देशभर के 15 हवाई अड्डों को अस्थायी तौर पर बंद किया गया है। इनमें पटानकोट, पेवयांग, कुशीनगर, अलीगढ़, आजमगढ़, चित्रकूट, श्रावस्ती, मुरादाबाद, भावनगर, अंबिकापुर, राउरकेला, लुधियाना, दतिया, कलबुर्गी और शिमला हवाई अड्डे शामिल हैं। उड़ान योजना के तहत फिलहाल देवघर, कानपुर, अयोध्या और पूर्णिया के हवाई अड्डे ही सक्रिय हैं।

## Many airports complained of GPS spoofing, says Centre

**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

Complaints regarding GPS spoofing or counterfeit satellite signals experienced by aircraft were received from airports in Kolkata, Amritsar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai, the Centre informed Parliament on Monday.

In response to a question from YSRCP MP S. Niranjan Reddy, Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu admitted that “some flights” encountered GPS spoofing in the vicinity of Delhi airport as reported by *The Hindu* on November 7 about such events in the first week of the month.

The Minister said following the events, “the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) to identify the source of interference/spoofing.” The WMO has also been directed to mobilise more resources to trace the sources based on approximate spoofing location details shared by the DGCA and the AAI.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

2 DECEMBER 2025

# ‘दिल्ली समेत अन्य हवाई अड्डों पर हुआ था साइबर हमला’

नई दिल्ली। नवंबर महीने की शुरुआत में देश के प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर हवाई सेवाओं के संचालन में भारी परेशानी देखने को मिली थी।

■ संसद में सरकार ने जीपीएस स्पूफिंग की बात कबूल

दिल्ली के आईजीआई हवाई अड्डे पर करीब 800 उड़ानें प्रभावित हुईं। इस दौरान एटीसी की तरफ से ऑटोमैटिक मैसेज स्विचिंग सिस्टम में खराबी बताया गया था। लेकिन अब केंद्र सरकार ने संसद में एक लिखित बयान में स्वीकार किया है कि दिल्ली समेत देश के प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर साइबर हमला हुआ था, यानी इन सभी हवाई अड्डों पर आने और यहाँ से उड़ान भरने वाले



विमान जीपीएस स्पूफिंग का शिकार हुए हैं। इससे पहले केंद्र सरकार ने

संसद में एक आंकड़ा पेश किया था। सरकार ने लोकसभा में बताया था कि नवंबर 2023 से फरवरी 2025 के बीच 465 जीपीएस स्पूफिंग की घटनाएं भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा क्षेत्र (अमृतसर और जम्मू) में दर्ज की गईं। वहीं अंतरराष्ट्रीय वायु परिवहन संघ (आईएटीए) की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, साल 2024 में 4.3 लाख जीपीएस जैमिंग और स्पूफिंग घटनाएं दर्ज की गईं, जो 2023 की तुलना में 62 प्रतिशत अधिक हैं।

### क्या है जीपीएस स्पूफिंग?

जीपीएस स्पूफिंग एक साइबर हमला है, जिसमें नकली सिग्नल भेजकर किसी भी डिवाइस को गलत लोकेशन दिखाई जाती है। जैसे आपके फोन की लोकेशन अचानक चार किमी दूर दिखने लगे, वैसा ही विमानों के साथ होता है। जब यह विमान के साथ होता है, तो उसका नेविगेशन सिस्टम गलत दिशा में जा सकता है, जिससे दुर्घटना का खतरा काफी बढ़ जाता है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

2 DECEMBER 2025

## Govt admits GPS spoofing at Delhi's IGI airport; no flight disruptions

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
*New Delhi, 1 December*

The Narendra Modi government on Monday admitted that several flights approaching the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in New Delhi reported GPS spoofing last month.

In response to a question in Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said GPS spoofing incidents occurred while aircraft were using GPS-based landing procedures on Runway 10 at IGI Airport.

He, however, asserted that this did not disrupt the flight operations as the flights switched to contingency procedures after receiving spoofed navigation signals. The minister said the



flights used other runways as well as conventional ground-based navigational aids. On November 6, around 800 flights were reportedly delayed following a technical glitch in the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) of the Air Traffic Control.

The GPS spoofing was also reported at several other airports, including Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. Kolkata, Amritsar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai

airports have all recorded GNSS interference incidents," Naidu added. Meanwhile, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is seeking Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO)'s help in tracing the spoofing origin "After being mandated by DGCA to report instances of GPS jamming/spoofing since November 2023, regular reports are being received from other major airports in the country," Naidu added.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

2 DECEMBER 2025

# Lens on airport GPS spoofing

**AMIYA KUMAR  
KUSHWAHA**

**New Delhi:** The government on Monday informed Parliament that GPS spoofing had been reported in Delhi, Calcutta and five other airports, and directions had been issued to the Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) to identify the source of interference.

GPS spoofing refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals.

Confirming the recent report of GPS spoofing at the Delhi airport, civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu told the Rajya Sabha that it did not affect flight movements.

"Some flights reported GPS spoofing in the vicinity of IGIA, New Delhi while using GPS-based landing procedures, while approaching on runway (RWY) 10. Contingency pro-

cedures were used for GPS spoofed flights approaching RWY 10," Naidu said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Last month, the Delhi airport had reported GPS spoofing and a technical glitch in its Automatic Messaging Switch System (AMSS), a software used for flight planning.

"Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also requested WMO to possibly identify the source of interference/spoofing. During the high-level meeting, WMO was directed to mobilise more resources to identify the source of spoofing based on approximate spoofing location details shared by DGCA and AAI," Naidu said.

Regular reports of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) interference have also been received from Calcutta, Amritsar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai airports.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## हवाई अड्डों पर चेक इन सिस्टम में तकनीकी खराबी, उड़ानें प्रभावित

नई दिल्ली। देश के कई हवाई अड्डों पर मंगलवार देर शाम चेक-इन सिस्टम में तकनीकी समस्या आने से एअर इंडिया समेत कई एयरलाइंस के यात्रियों को उड़ान भरने में परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। यह समस्या एक थर्ड पार्टी सिस्टम में आई बाधा के चलते पैदा हुई थी। एअर इंडिया ने सोशल मीडिया पर पुष्टि की कि यह रुकावट 45 मिनट तक रही। एयरलाइन ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट टीमों चेक-इन प्रक्रिया को सुचारु बनाने के लिए काम कर रही थीं। रात 10:49 बजे एअर इंडिया ने जानकारी दी कि थर्ड पार्टी सिस्टम को पूरी तरह से ठीक कर लिया गया है और सभी उड़ानें अब निर्धारित समय के अनुसार चल रही हैं। एजेंसी



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## Fears of steep user fee increase at Delhi and Mumbai airports unfounded: APAO

**Aneesh Phadnis**  
Mumbai

Fears of a multi-fold rise in user development fees at the Delhi and Mumbai airports are unfounded, an executive from the Association of Private Airport Operators (APAO) has said.

The concerns of a steep increase arose following a recent Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) judgment directing the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) to recalculate the hypothetical regulatory asset base (HRAB) of the two airports of FY 2008-09.

HRAB is the notional value of airport assets and is used for the purpose of calculating tariffs.

A recalculation as per the TDSAT mandate would significantly increase the two

airports' average revenue requirements than what was approved by the regulator. As such, the airports would now be able to recover the difference in form of an increase in user fees.

### TDSAT JUDGMENT

AERA has appealed against the TDSAT judgment before the Supreme Court, and the matter is expected to be heard on Wednesday.

The Civil Aviation Ministry has backed AERA in the dispute and warned of a significant increase in user charges for passengers if the tribunal order is implemented. The Ministry estimates that domestic UDF at Delhi could rise from ₹129 to ₹1,261 and at Mumbai from ₹175 to ₹3,856.

The airports association, however, has said the fears are exaggerated. "It is not logical to recover past period

revenue in over three years only," the APAO executive said.

He added that the burden on passengers would be minimal if the recovery is spread in two control periods over the next 8-10 years.

"Evaluating the entire recovery solely through user development fee departs from the standard methodology, which allocates such adjustments across tariff categories (such as aircraft landing and parking charges, common user terminal equipment fees, etc). Under this approach, the incremental user development fee at the Delhi and Mumbai airports will be marginal," he claimed.

Also, a significant amount earned by the two airports will be shared with the Airport Authority of India as per their concession agreements.

नायल की बजाय थर्ड पार्टी के ऑफर लेटर देने का आरोप लगाया

## एयरपोर्ट पर नौकरी के लिए युवाओं का हंगामा



ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को नौकरी के लिए साक्षात्कार नहीं हो सके। युवाओं ने नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (नायल) की बजाय थर्ड पार्टी यानी निजी कंपनी के ऑफर लेटर देने का आरोप लगाते हुए धरना-प्रदर्शन किया।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण के दौरान एकमुश्त पांच लाख रुपये मुआवजे के बजाय रोजगार का विकल्प चुनने वाले परिवारों के युवाओं को मंगलवार को साक्षात्कार के लिए बुलाया गया। नायल की ओर से भेजे गए आधिकारिक ई-मेल में लिखा गया है कि साक्षात्कार के माध्यम से कन्सेशनायर पार्टनर्स के लिए उपयुक्त निजी नौकरियों के लिए युवाओं का चयन किया जाएगा। मंगलवार को युवा सुबह करीब 10 बजे एयरपोर्ट साइट पर पहुंचे। युवाओं का आरोप है कि जब उन्होंने साक्षात्कार से पहले दी जानी वाली नौकरी का विवरण मांगा तो उन्हें



नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को प्रदर्शन करते युवा। • हिन्दुस्तान

### नौकरी का विकल्प चुना

नए भूमि अधिग्रहण कानून के तहत जमीन देने वाले किसानों के परिवारों को परियोजना में नौकरी देने का प्रावधान है। नौकरी नहीं लेने पर उसे पांच लाख रुपये मिलेंगे। 335 किसान परिवारों ने नौकरी का विकल्प चुना।

जानकारी नहीं दी गई। इसके बाद उन्होंने धरना प्रदर्शन शुरू कर दिया। करीब चार घंटे तक हंगामा चला। युवाओं का कहना था कि उन्हें थर्ड पार्टी के ऑफर लेटर दिया जाने वाला है। उन्हें नायल की ओर से ऑफर लेटर दिया जाए,

अधिकारियों के साथ वार्ता कर युवाओं की समस्या का समाधान कराया जाएगा। इसके लिए मैं बुधवार को संबंधित अधिकारियों से मिलकर इस विषय को उठाऊंगा।

—धीरेंद्र सिंह, विधायक जेवर

ताकि भविष्य में कोई दिक्कत न हो। सूत्र बताते हैं कि हंगामे के बाद युवाओं को कुछ दिन बाद बुलाने की बात कहते हुए बाहर भेज दिया गया। दूसरी ओर, इस संबंध में नायल के अधिकारियों ने कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## 58 flights delayed in B'luru airport, reason unclear

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Bengaluru

MULTIPLE flights departing from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) were delayed by 60-90 minutes on Tuesday, inconveniencing hundreds of passengers. While the exact cause is unknown, a source from Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said the delays were due to "operational reasons" by the airlines, and had nothing to do with the airport.

According to flight tracking

website Skyscanner, around 58 flights were delayed. Of them, IndiGo reported 29 delays till 9pm Tuesday.

Air India Express, which according to Skyscanner suffered 12 delays, had three aircraft pushed back from the gate, and had them come back with the pilots refusing to fly. "Three of our flights departing from Bengaluru today (Dec 2) were delayed by approximately 1 to 1.5 hours after the flight crew elected to return to the bay as a precautionary safety meas-

ure, in line with standard operating procedures.

All aircraft were inspected by our engineering teams and cleared for operations after the necessary checks were completed. We regret the inconvenience and appreciate the patience and understanding of our guests. Safety remains our highest priority, and we are committed to upholding the strongest operational and engineering standards," said an Air India Express spokesperson.

Air India suffered six delays,

Star Air three delays, and SpiceJet two delays. Akasa Air, Singapore Airlines, Batik Air Malaysia, Air France, Lufthansa, Virgin Atlantic and Kuwait Airways suffered one delay each." A third-party system disruption has been affecting check-in systems at various airports, resulting in delays across multiple airlines, including Air India. Our airport teams are working diligently to ensure a smooth check-in experience for all passengers," Air India said in a statement on X.

# Airport readies to shift gears to future

**SANJAY MANDAL**

**Calcutta:** The new director of NSCBI Airport has outlined an ambitious plan to tackle the terminal's chronic cleanliness problems, expand passenger capacity, and attract direct flights to Europe and the US.

Vikram Singh shared his priorities with Metro, from overhauling maintenance systems to terminal expansion and boosting international connectivity.

## Cleanliness plan

Singh is implementing a synchronised system for cleaning and maintaining washrooms and aerobridges, bringing together the housekeeping agency, civil engineering and electrical departments.

"Each agency has been asked to coordinate when major cleaning and maintenance work is done. Usually, a full day is required for such work," Singh said. "Without

synchronisation, if each agency works separately, facilities remain inaccessible for more than a day each month. This causes inconvenience for passengers."

Under the new system, all three agencies will work together, reducing downtime.

Additionally, one officer will be dedicated solely to managing and overseeing cleaning operations at the terminal building.

"The airport manager has several responsibilities, so we need one dedicated official," said Singh. This officer will prepare regular cleaning schedules, oversee work and identify deficiencies.

The airport's stinking and perpetually wet washrooms have been a constant complaint among passengers since the present terminal opened in 2011. Reluctant cleaners backed by unions and flawed design are the two main culprits behind the

persistent problem.

There are 23 washroom blocks, each with three units for men, women and passengers with disabilities.

The airport is renovating all blocks in phases to make them brighter and cleaner.

## Technical help

Last week, the airport called in a reputable bathroom fitting manufacturer for technical guidance.

"We sought their suggestions, using one washroom as a prototype. We've observed that the cleaning agency sometimes uses ineffective chemicals, and the cleaning standard falls short. So we sought technical help from manufacturers who can specify exactly what's needed to achieve the desired standard," Singh said.

The manufacturer has recommended chemicals that the agency doesn't currently use. "If additional funds are needed, we'll arrange for that."



The under-construction section on the international side of the Calcutta airport's terminal building

Singh said. The airport will also consult other fitting manufacturers and floor tile makers.

## Terminal expansion

The expansion of the existing terminal, adjacent to the international section, will be complete in about three months, Singh said. "The work is at an advanced stage, and we expect it to be commissioned

soon," he said.

The additional 5,600 square metres will allow the terminal to handle two million extra passengers annually. Currently, the building can accommodate 26 million passengers per year. In 2024-25, it handled 21.83 million passengers, up from 19.4 million in 2023-24.

"More immigration and

security hold counters will be installed in the new area," Singh said.

On the domestic side, an unutilised security hold area near portal A will open for passengers in July or August. "This will reduce queues at security check counters," Singh said, bringing the total number of security hold areas from three to four.

Phase II of the expansion plan, which will entail construction of a new building where the old domestic terminal now stands, will begin in mid-2026, officials said.

On the apron side, new parking bays will be completed alongside the terminal expansion, increasing the number from 74 to more than 125.

## International flights

Singh said his focus would also be on how to increase international flights from the city. There are no direct flights to

Europe or the US from Calcutta.

"An airport's viability increases with more international flights. International passengers spend more time at the airport, buying from duty-free stores and using food and beverage facilities," Singh said.

Landing and parking charges for international flights are also higher than for domestic ones.

Calcutta airport has very low international passenger numbers. It handles around 59,000 domestic passengers daily on average, compared to only 8,700 international passengers.

"I've asked tour operators to provide data on how many passengers actually fly to Europe and the US from Calcutta. Based on that, I'll write to the airlines," Singh said.

Calcutta lacks direct connectivity to Europe and the US, forcing passengers to transit through other cities.

## KIA plans new ATC tower amid surge in flight movements

Nithya.Mandyam  
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), one of the busiest in the country in terms of passenger numbers, is gearing up for a major infrastructure upgrade with the proposal for a new air traffic control (ATC) tower. The move comes as aircraft movements continue to rise sharply, driven by expanded airport capacity and increased domestic and international connectivity.

When KIA began operations on its 4,000-acre campus, the ATC tower was built to manage a single runway. Since then, the airport has grown significantly, with a second runway and Terminal 2 now fully operational as around 750 flights — domestic and international — operate daily. This expansion has pushed the existing ATC, now 18 years old, close to its functional limits.

To address these demands and prepare for future growth, Bengaluru International Airport Ltd (BIAL) has floated tenders for the design and development of a new ATC tower. The facility is targeted for commissioning by 2027.

A senior airport official said: "The existing ATC needs an upgrade with the latest technology and infrastructure. To carry out that work smoothly, we need another ATC operating simulta-



### FACILITY BY 2027?

neously, given the volume of air traffic. Tenders have been invited, but it will take time before they are finalised."

According to officials, the new tower will significantly enhance the airport's capacity to handle aircraft movements, streamline arrivals and departures, and bolster safety. It is also expected to strengthen emergency response systems, improve weather-monitoring capabilities, and include upgraded facilities such as rest areas for air traffic controllers.

Bengaluru recently surpassed Mumbai in terms of domestic aircraft movements. In Oct, KIA handled 20,819 domestic flights, slightly more than Mumbai's 20,540. Though Bengaluru managed more aircraft operations, Mumbai continued to lead in passenger volumes — 32 lakh compared to Bengaluru's 31 lakh.

KIA, which handled 4.3 crore passengers in 2024, is undergoing a large-scale expansion to cater to future demand. BIAL aims to scale up capacity to 11.4 crore passengers annually, with the new ATC tower being a key component of this long-term infrastructure upgrade.

## 3K slider turtle hatchlings, 4kg of hydroponic weed seized at airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Customs sleuths thwarted the bid to smuggle nearly 3,000 hatchlings of red-eared slider turtles into the country from Kuala Lumpur and arrested a Malaysian national. In two other incidents, 4kg of hydroponic weed was seized from flyers.

The Malaysian flyer, who reached Chennai by Singapore Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur on Nov 28, was intercepted based on specific intelligence.

Upon spotting some moving objects while scanning his check-in luggage, the sleuths searched the bag and found hatchlings of red-eared slider turtle. This is a highly invasive species, transportation of which is banned in In-



**CONTRABAND:** The turtles were sent back to Malaysia. Two flyers from Bangkok on Sunday were nabbed for smuggling ganja



dia. The turtles are in high demand in the illegal pet market in Chennai and in other parts of India. The turtles were seized under the Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Customs Act. The flyer was arrested and the wildlife was deported to Malaysia.

Similarly, two Indian men who landed in Chennai from Bangkok on Sunday on

ThaiLion Airways flight and Malaysian Airlines flight were intercepted. One of the flyers took a transit route via Kuala Lumpur had 3.42 kg of hydroponic weed worth ₹1.5 crore. The other flyer was secured in possession of 650 grams of the hydroponic ganja. The flyers were arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

TOI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## **AI uses A320 sans safety paper, DGCA starts inquiry**

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has launched a probe on Air India for operating an A320 neo plane without having a requisite airworthiness certification on at least eight routes. The DGCA has also ordered the de-rostering of the personnel concerned till completion of the investigation.

Air India is also carrying out an internal investigation to identify deficiencies in their system and put corrective measures in place to prevent such failures from occurring in future, a statement from the company said on Tuesday.

Air India issues an airworthiness review certificate (ARC) in respect of the aircraft it operates. The ARC is issued annually in respect of an aircraft after a comprehensive review of its maintenance records, physical condition and verification of compliance with all airworthiness standards. It acts as a validation of the aircraft's main certificate of airworthiness (C of A).

The DGCA said that as part of the merger process of Vistara into Air India, in 2024, in respect of all the 70 Vistara aircraft, it was decided that the first ARC renewal post-merger will be done by the DGCA. To date, the ARC for all 69 aircraft has been issued by the DGCA after satisfactory compliance by the operator. Regarding the 70th aircraft, the operator filed an application with the DGCA and subsequently, the aircraft was grounded for an engine change.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## विमान में बम की धमकी

### कुवैत-हैदराबाद उड़ान की मुंबई में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

मुंबई। कुवैत से हैदराबाद जा रहे इंडिगो के विमान को मंगलवार सुबह बम से उड़ाने की धमकी के



बाद मुंबई ड्राइवर्ट करना पड़ा। छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज

अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर आपत लैंडिंग के बाद विमान की गहन जांच की गई। हालांकि कोई संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली। विमान में सवार यात्रियों की संख्या को तत्काल पताल नहीं चला है। यूरो



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

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## इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट : इंडिगो पर 117 करोड़ का जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली। इंडिगो ने मंगलवार को कहा कि उस पर इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट से जुड़े मामले में 117.52 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया गया है। इंडिगो इस आदेश को चुनौती देगी। यह जुर्माना केरल के सीजीएसटी कोष के संयुक्त आयुक्त (केंद्रीय कर एवं केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क) ने लगाया है। इंडिगो ने शेयर बाजार को बताया कि यह जुर्माना 2018-19 से 2021-22 की अवधि से संबंधित है। ब्यूरो



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## Jagan's chopper, aircraft bills cost ₹223 crore

**Our Bureau**  
Hyderabad

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy spent about ₹223 crore on helicopter and aircraft travel between 2019 and 2024 when his YSR Congress Party was in power.

According to data available with the Andhra Pradesh Aviation Corporation Ltd, Reddy spent ₹222.85 crore of public money on helicopter and aircraft travel during his five-year stint as CM.

An expenditure of ₹87 crore was on helicopters, while ₹112.50 crore was spent on fixed-wing aircraft. About ₹23 crore on boarding, crew handling and lodging was drawn from the State treasury. "While people struggled for jobs and amenities, Jagan Reddy was

splurging ₹500 crore on a palace and ₹222 crore on flying around. We're finally hearing the truth. Andhra Pradesh deserved a vision — they got a vacation instead," IT Minister Nara Lokesh said in a X post.

The information on the cost of the travel was obtained through RTIs filed by activist Suresh Babu.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

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## **IndiGo hit with ₹117 cr input tax credit penalty**

**New Delhi:** IndiGo on Tuesday said it has been slapped with a penalty of ₹117.52 crore related to input tax credit, and the airline will challenge the ruling. The penalty has been imposed on the airline by the Joint Commissioner of Central Tax and Central Excise, CGST Kochi Commissionerate, Kerala. According to a regulatory filing, the fine is related to the period 2018-19 to 2021-22. PH



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## Air India suspends staff as A320 operated with expired airworthiness certificate

**Rohit Vaid**  
New Delhi

As a fallout of a major safety breach, at least eight Air India staff members have been suspended after the aviation regulator found that an Airbus A320 was operated with an expired airworthiness review certificate.

Following the incident, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) launched an investigation.

Sources told *businessline*, "This suspension could escalate into outright termination, and the financial repercussions for the airline may be substantial."

### **EIGHT SUSPENDED**

"Department-level heads may also face suspension as the investigation progresses. As of now eight staff members have been suspended."

Meanwhile, the regulator



has instructed the airline to ground the aircraft. Notably, under the delegated authority, Air India issues the airworthiness review certificate (ARC) for aircraft it operates. The ARC is issued annually after a comprehensive review of maintenance records, the aircraft's physical condition and verification of compliance with applicable airworthiness standards.

Besides, the certificate serves as a validation of the aircraft's main 'Certificate of

Airworthiness' (C of A).

As per the regulator, during the merger process of Vistara with Air India in 2024, it was decided that the first ARC renewal for all 70 Vistara aircraft would be carried out by the DGCA.

### **COMPLIANCE**

Till date, ARC for 69 aircraft has been issued by the regulator after satisfactory compliance by the operator.

Nevertheless, in the case of the seventieth aircraft, Air India filed the application with the DGCA, and the aircraft was subsequently grounded for an engine change.

"During this period", the ARC expired, said the regulator, adding yet the aircraft was released for service after the engine replacement.

However, on November 26, 2025, the operator informed the DGCA that the aircraft had been flown on

the expired ARC for eight revenue sectors. Accordingly, the regulator instituted an investigation and directed the airline to ground the aircraft pending issuance of a fresh ARC. Furthermore, the DGCA said the concerned personnel have been de-rostered with immediate effect.

In addition, Air India, acting on the regulator's instructions, is conducting an internal probe to identify system deficiencies and implement corrective measures to prevent a recurrence.

On its part, Air India said that it duly reported the incident to the DGCA and all personnel associated with the decision have been placed under suspension, pending further review.

"We have initiated a comprehensive internal investigation and are fully cooperating with the regulator," an Air India spokesperson said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## A-I execs who let plane with expired licence fly de-rostered: DGCA

**DEEPAK PATEL**  
New Delhi, 2 December

Air India executives, who were involved in letting a plane with expired airworthiness licence operate eight commercial flights, have been de-rostered from the service till the probe by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is complete, the regulator said on Tuesday.

The airline's 164-seater Airbus A320 plane, with an expired airworthiness review certificate (ARC), flew eight times on November 24-25. In a statement, the regulator explained how this entire serious safety lapse actually took place.

The DGCA stated it has instituted an investigation and instructed the operator to ground the aircraft. "The ARC process is in progress. Concerned personnel have been de-rostered with immediate effect pending investigation. Air India, on the instructions of DGCA, is carrying out an internal investigation to identify deficiencies in their system and put corrective measures in place to prevent such failures from occurring in future," it added.

"Under the delegated authority (CAMO), Air India issues Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) in respect of aircraft it operates. ARC is issued annually in respect of an aircraft after a comprehensive review of its maintenance records, physical condition and verification of compliance with all airworthiness standards. It acts as a validation of the aircraft's main Certificate of Airworthiness (C of A)," the DGCA said.



### Case file

- The 164-seater Airbus A320 plane, with an expired airworthiness review certificate (ARC), flew eight times on November 24-25
- Airline informed the DGCA about the flying of the aircraft with the expired ARC on the "eight revenue sectors"
- Air India on the instructions of DGCA is carrying out an internal investigation to identify deficiencies

The Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation (CAMO) within Air India issues ARC annually to keep the C of A alive.

When Vistara was merged into Air India in 2024, it was decided that the first post-merger ARC of all 70 planes of Vistara will be reviewed and renewed by the regulator itself and not by the delegated authority within Air India, it noted.

"Till date, ARC for all the sixty-nine aircraft has been issued by the DGCA after satisfactory compliance by the operator. In respect of the 70th aircraft, the operator filed an application with the DGCA and subsequently the aircraft was grounded for engine change. During this period, the ARC expired. However, the aircraft was released for service after engine change," the regulator mentioned.

The plane was used to operate eight flights between November 24 and 25. On November 26, the airline informed the DGCA about the flying of the aircraft with the expired ARC on the "eight revenue sectors".

# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## एअर इंडिया: बिना सुरक्षा सर्टिफिकेट के 8 रूट पर उड़ाया विमान

भास्कर न्यूज़ | मुंबई

एअर इंडिया की ओर यात्री सुरक्षा पर फिर बड़ी लापरवाही का मामला सामने आया है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, विमानन कंपनी का एक विमान बिना सुरक्षा सर्टिफिकेट के उड़ान भरता रहा। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने मामले में जांच शुरू

कर दी है। जानकारी के अनुसार, एयरबस ए320 नियो विमान ने बिना वैध एयरवर्थीनेस रिव्यू सर्टिफिकेट (एआरसी) के आठ कमर्शियल उड़ानें पूरी कीं। एअर इंडिया ने खुद 26 नवंबर को डीजीसीए को इसकी जानकारी दी थी। इसके बाद डीजीसीए ने तुरंत कार्रवाई करते हुए विमान को ग्राउंड करने का आदेश

दिया। एअर इंडिया ने इस मामले में कार्रवाई करते हुए एक इंजीनियर को ड्यूटी से हटा दिया है। एक फ्लाइट ऑपरेशंस कमेटी बनाई गई है, जो छह से आठ पायलटों पर कार्रवाई तय करेगी। गौरतलब है कि 12 जून को अहमदाबाद में हुए एअर इंडिया ड्रीमलाइनर हादसे में 260 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। **शेष पेज 10 पर**

**क्या है एआरसी...** एअर इंडिया को अपने विमानों के लिए एआरसी जारी करने की अनुमति है। यह सर्टिफिकेट हर साल मेटेनैस रिकॉर्ड, विमान की स्थिति और सुरक्षा मानकों की जांच के बाद जारी किया जाता है। एआरसी, विमान के मुख्य एयरवर्थीनेस सर्टिफिकेट को पुष्टि करता है।

## एअर इंडिया: बिना सुरक्षा सर्टिफिकेट के 8 रूट पर उड़ाया विमान..

आखिर हुआ क्या: 2024 में विस्तारा के एअर इंडिया में मर्जर के बाद डीजीसीए को विस्तारा के 70 विमानों की एआरसी रिन्यूअल की जिम्मेदारी दी गई थी। डीजीसीए ने इनमें से 69 विमानों की एआरसी रिन्यू एअर इंडिया की संतोषजनक प्रक्रिया के बाद कर दी है। 70वां विमान इंजन बदलने के लिए ग्राउंड किया गया था। इस दौरान उसका एआरसी एक्सपायर हो गया। इंजन बदलने के बाद 24 नवंबर को इसे दिल्ली में एक टेस्ट फ्लाइट के



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

2 DECEMBER 2025



An Airbus A320

## AIRBUS A320 JETS FACE NEW QUALITY ISSUE

**Paris, Dec. 1:** Airbus has discovered an industrial quality issue affecting fuselage panels of several dozen A320-family aircraft, industry sources said on Monday.

The suspected production flaw is delaying some deliveries but there are no immediate indications that it has reached aircraft in service, the sources said, asking not to be named.

Airbus had no immediate comment.

The origin of the problem could not immediately be identified. It emerged as Airbus is beefing up efforts to meet challenging delivery targets for the year and has also been distracted by a weekend recall of jets over a software bug.

A person with knowledge of the matter said some deliveries were already being impacted, but there was no immediate confirmation of how many nor for how long. Industry sources said the planemaker delivered 72 aircraft in November, fewer than analysts had previously expected. — Reuters



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

2 DECEMBER 2025

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### TWIN BLOWS FOR AIRCRAFT COMPANY



- Airbus has identified a quality defect in fuselage panels on several A320-family jets, delaying some deliveries and adding pressure as the company races to meet delivery target.
- The issue comes on top of a major software-related recall that grounded over half the A320 fleet.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

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## इंडिगो पर लगाया 117 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली: विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने मंगलवार को बताया कि उस पर 117.52 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया गया है और यह जुर्माना इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट (आइटीसी) से जुड़ा है। विमानन कंपनी ने बताया कि केरल के कोच्चि आयुक्तालय के संयुक्त आयुक्त ने यह जुर्माना लगाया है। कंपनी ने इस फैसले को चुनौती देने की बात कही है। कंपनी ने बताया कि यह मामला वित्त वर्ष 2018-19 से 2021-22 से जुड़ा है। (एएनआई)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## बिना सुरक्षा सर्टिफिकेट एअर इंडिया का विमान आठ बार उड़ा

नई दिल्ली, ग्रेट : विमान यात्रियों की सुरक्षा से खिलवाड़ का मामला सामने आने के बाद विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने एअर इंडिया के खिलाफ जांच शुरू की है। एअर इंडिया के ए320 नियो विमान ने एयरवर्थनेस रिव्यू सर्टिफिकेट (एआरसी) के बिना आठ बार उड़ान भरी थी। एअर इंडिया ने गलती मान ली है। सभी सुरक्षा और रखरखाव मानदंड पूरे करने वाले विमानों को प्रत्येक साल एआरसी दिया जाता है। विमानों के संचालन के लिए एआरसी आवश्यक होता है। विमानों के रिकार्ड की पूरी समीक्षा के बाद एआरसी जारी किया जाता है।

एयरलाइन ने 26 नवंबर को डीजीसीए को सूचित किया कि वैधता अवधि समाप्त हो चुके एआरसी के साथ आठ क्षेत्रों में ए320 विमान का संचालन किया गया। इसके बाद नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने संबंधित कर्मचारियों को जांच पूरी होने तक डि-रोस्टर कर दिया है। इसका मतलब है कि इन कर्मचारियों को उड़ान संचालन से हटा दिया गया है। डीजीसीए ने कहा, जांच शुरू की है। एआरसी प्रक्रिया प्रगति पर है, और संबंधित कर्मचारियों को तुरंत प्रभाव से डि-रोस्टर किया

विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने शुरू की जांच, संबंधित कर्मियों को जांच पूरी होने तक हटाया



प्रतीकात्मक।

गया है। गौरतलब है कि डीजीसीए ने एअर इंडिया को एआरसी जारी करने का अधिकार भी दिया हुआ है, लेकिन एअर इंडिया के साथ विस्तार के विलय के बाद तय किया गया कि पहला एआरसी नवीनीकरण डीजीसीए द्वारा किया जाएगा। डीजीसीए ने 69 विमानों के लिए एआरसी जारी किया, लेकिन 70वें विमान के मामले में चूक सामने आई। इस विमान का इंजन बदलने के लिए उड़ान संचालन से हटाया गया था। इसी बीच एसीआर की वैधता समाप्त होने के बावजूद इंजन परिवर्तन के बाद विमान का संचालन किया गया।

एअर इंडिया ने मॉटेनेंस इंजीनियर को किया

निलंबित : बिना एआरसी विमान संचालन मामले में एअर इंडिया ने एक एयरक्राफ्ट मॉटेनेंस इंजीनियर को निलंबित कर दिया है और कुछ पायलटों के खिलाफ संभावित कार्रवाई पर निर्णय लेने के लिए समिति का गठन किया है। डीजीसीए ने एयरलाइन से आंतरिक जांच करने के लिए कहा था ताकि जिम्मेदारी तय की जा सके और यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि भविष्य में ऐसे घटनाएं न हों।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि नियो विमान से संबंधित घटनाक्रम के बाद एअर इंडिया के अकाउंटेंटबल मैनेजर और फ्लाइट आपरेशंस के निदेशक मनीष उप्पल ने सभी पायलटों को पत्र भेजकर उन्हें दस्तावेज की वैधता के संबंध में जिम्मेदारी की याद दिलाई। हालांकि, कुछ पायलटों इसका विरोध करते हुए कहा कि यह ए320 नियो विमान संचालन के संबंध में हुए उल्लंघनों के लिए "जिम्मेदारी से बचने" के समान है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि चार साल पुराना ए320 नियो विमान वीटी-टीएनव्यू जो पूर्व में विस्तारा का था ने 24 नवंबर को दिल्ली-बेंगलुरु-मुंबई सेक्टर पर सेवाएं संचालित कीं। 25 नवंबर को, उसी विमान ने मुंबई-दिल्ली-मुंबई, मुंबई-

हैदराबाद-मुंबई और फिर से मुंबई-हैदराबाद-मुंबई पर उड़ानें संचालित कीं। इन संचालन के बाद, विमान को उसी दिन रखरखाव के लिए भेजा गया और तब इंजीनियरों ने पाया कि कोई वैध एयरवर्थनेस सर्टिफिकेशन नहीं था। इसके बाद एयरलाइन ने एक एयरक्राफ्ट मॉटेनेंस इंजीनियर को डि-रोस्टर किया और पायलटों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई के संबंध में मामले की समीक्षा करने के लिए फ्लाइट आपरेशंस समिति का गठन किया गया।

इस बीच, उप्पल ने सोमवार को पत्र भेजकर कहा, आपको विमान नियम 1937 के नियम 7 के अनुसार दस्तावेज की सावधानीपूर्वक जांच करनी होगी ताकि उनकी वैधता हर समय सुनिश्चित हो सके। दो-पृष्ठ का दस्तावेज भी भेजा गया जिसमें आपरेशंस मैनुअल, जिसमें दस्तावेजों के विवरण शामिल थे। इसमें कहा गया है कि मानक संचालन प्रक्रियाएं का पालन न करने की गंभीरता से लिया जाएगा।

विमान नियम 1937 के नियम सात के अनुसार, भारत में पंजीकृत सभी विमानों को संबंधित नागरिक उड्डयन आवश्यकताओं द्वारा अनिवार्य दस्तावेज ले जाने चाहिए।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

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## Airbus to Check A320 Jets for Panel Defects

Airbus SE must inspect hundreds of its bestselling A320 jets for potential quality flaws in the aircraft's body, an arduous process that risks complicating the company's last-ditch effort to meet its delivery target. A total of 628 jets contain panels that may be too thick or too thin due to a manufacturing issue at a supplier, Airbus told A320 customers in a roughly hour-long presentation last week. Most of those aircraft are still at Airbus, with 245 on the final assembly line or being prepared for delivery while 215 are in earlier stages of production. —Bloomberg

## Air India, Others Face Check-In Glitch

**New Delhi:** Check-in systems of Air India and other airlines faced glitches on Tuesday evening due to a third-party system disruption, causing flight delays at several airports. The problem lasted at least 45 minutes before being resolved, a source said. "A third-party system disruption has been affecting check-in systems at various airports, resulting in delays," Air India said in a post on X. —PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

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## इंडिगो पर 117 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना लगा

नई दिल्ली। इंडिगो ने मंगलवार को कहा कि उस पर इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट से संबंधित मामले में 117.52 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया गया है और एयरलाइन इस आदेश को चुनौती देगी। यह जुर्माना केरल के सीजीएसटी कोच्चि के संयुक्त आयुक्त (केंद्रीय कर एवं केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क) ने लगाया है। यह जुर्माना 2018-19 से 2021-22 की अवधि से संबंधित है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## DGCA orders probe after Air India flew plane 8 times without licence

**HT Correspondent**

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

**NEW DELHI:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Tuesday that it has launched an investigation on Tuesday and grounded an Air India aircraft that was reported to have been operated for eight commercial flights with an expired Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC).

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the civil aviation regulator said, "On November 26, the operator (Air India) informed DGCA about the flying of the aircraft on the expired ARC for eight revenue sectors... DGCA has instituted investigation and instructed the operator to ground the aircraft."

The DGCA said that the personnel concerned have been de-rostered with immediate effect pending the completion of the investigation.

The statement was issued after a news report by a financial daily brought the incident to light.

Air India, acting on DGCA's instructions, also initiated an internal probe to identify gaps in its system and "put corrective measures in place to prevent such failures from occurring in future," the regulator said.

**DGCA SAID THAT THE PERSONNEL CONCERNED HAVE BEEN DE-ROSTERED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THE PROBE.**

"An incident involving one of our aircraft operating without an airworthiness review certificate is regrettable. As soon as this came to our notice, it was duly reported to the DGCA and all personnel associated with the decision have been placed under suspension, pending further review. We have initiated a comprehensive internal investigation and are fully cooperating with the regulator," an Air India spokesperson said.

An Airworthiness Review Certificate is issued annually after a comprehensive review of an aircraft's maintenance records, physical condition and verification of compliance with all airworthiness standards, serving as a validation of the aircraft's main Certificate of Airworthiness.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation, India's aviation

regulator, is the primary authority that issues ARCs, though it can delegate this authority to airlines, as it has in the case of Air India.

But after Air India's merger with Vistara, certain jets were to be issued an ARC through a direct process. "Following the Vistara-Air India merger, it was decided in 2024 that the first ARC renewal for all 70 Vistara aircraft would be carried out by the DGCA. The regulator has so far issued ARCs for 69 of them," the DGCA said.

The regulator said the seventeenth aircraft had been submitted for ARC renewal, but was later grounded for an engine change. The ARC expired during this period, and the aircraft was released for service after the engine replacement. Air India continued to operate the aircraft.

The DGCA said the renewal process is ongoing and the investigation will determine responsibility for the lapse.

"Air India remains unwavering in its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of operational integrity and safety, and any deviation from mandated compliance protocols is treated with utmost seriousness and is unacceptable to the organization," the airline said.

## DGCA: Air India officials involved in letting aircraft operate without certificate de-rostered, plane grounded

Sukalp Sharma

New Delhi, December 2

AIR INDIA officials who allowed an aircraft to operate with an expired airworthiness certificate have been de-rostered pending a probe by India's aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and the Tata group airline was instructed to ground that aircraft, the regulator said Tuesday. Air India is also conducting an internal investigation into the matter on the DGCA's instructions to identify deficiencies in its systems and put corrective measures in place.

The aircraft—an Airbus A320 bearing registration VT-TQN—operated eight commercial flights on an expired Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC), before Air India voluntarily informed the DGCA about the gaffe on November 26, the DGCA said. Air India expressed regret over the incident, adding that it suspended all personnel involved in the decision to operate the aircraft while its ARC was not valid. Following the tragic crash of Air India flight AI171 in Ahmedabad on June 12, the carrier has been at the receiving end of a number of regulatory actions by the DGCA, a number of which were a result of voluntary disclosures by the airline.

According to flight tracking data, the three-year-old aircraft—which earlier flew with Vistara—last operated a flight on November 25, which suggests that it was grounded immediately following Air India's disclosure to the regulator. The data also shows that the aircraft operated eight flights on November 24-25. Before that, it was under maintenance for a month, having operated its last flight on a valid ARC on October 24. Operating an aircraft on a

***The aircraft—an Airbus A320 bearing registration VT-TQN—operated eight commercial flights on an expired Airworthiness Review Certificate, before Air India voluntarily informed the DGCA***

lapsed airworthiness license is typically categorised as a serious safety lapse. Usually, Air India issues ARCs for the aircraft it operates under delegated authority. These are issued by Air India's in-house Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization (CAMO). But in view of Vistara's merger into Air India in November last year, it was decided that the DGCA, and not Air India, will do the first ARC renewal for all 70 aircraft that were in Vistara's fleet.

The ARC is issued annually after a comprehensive review of the aircraft's maintenance records, physical condition, and verification of compliance with all airworthiness standards. It acts as a validation of the aircraft's main Certificate of Airworthiness. "Till date ARC for all the sixty-nine aircraft has been issued by the DGCA after satisfactory compliance by operator (Air India). In respect of the seventieth aircraft, the operator filed application with the DGCA and subsequently the aircraft was grounded for the engine change. During this period the ARC expired, however the aircraft was released for service after engine change," the regulator said.

FULL REPORT ON

[WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

## एअर इंडिया ने एक्सपायर फिटनेस सर्टिफिकेट वाला प्लेन उड़ाया

### ● विमान ने 8 रूट्स पर उड़ान भरी, मामले से जुड़े लोगों को इयूटी से हटाया

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य। एअर इंडिया ने अपने A-320 नियो प्लेन को फिटनेस सर्टिफिकेट एक्सपायर होने के बाद भी 8 रूट्स पर उड़ाया। 26 नवंबर को एयरलाइन ने नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (DGCA) को इसकी जानकारी दी।

मामला सामने के बाद DGCA ने प्लेन की उड़ान भरने पर रोक लगा दी है। वहीं एक्सपायर सर्टिफिकेट के साथ प्लेन को उड़ाने की परमिशन देने वाले एयरलाइन के

स्टाफ को इयूटी से हटा दिया है। फिलहाल कौन-कौन लोग इसमें शामिल थे, इसकी जानकारी सामने नहीं आई है। A-320 नियो विमान पहले विस्तारा एयरलाइन के बेड़े में था। नवंबर 2024 में विस्तारा का



एअर इंडिया के साथ मर्जर हुआ। इसके बाद विमान एअर इंडिया का हिस्सा बन गया।

उड़ान के लिए प्लेन को

एयरवर्दीनेस सर्टिफिकेट (ARC) दिया जाता है। इसे DGCA जारी करता है। इस मामले में भी तय हुआ कि मर्जर के बाद पहला ARC सर्टिफिकेट DGCA जारी करेगा।

लेकिन जब DGCA सर्टिफिकेट देने के लिए विमान की जांच करने पहुंचा तो उसका इंजन बदला जा रहा था। एयरलाइन के अफसरों ने बताया कि जैसे ही इंजन बदल दिया जाएगा, आपको फिर से बुलाया जाएगा।

इस बीच इंजन बदलने में लंबा समय लगा और ARC सर्टिफिकेट की अवधि खत्म हो गई। एयरलाइन ने इसकी जानकारी DGCA को नहीं दी और विमान को रूट्स पर ऑपरेट करना शुरू कर दिया। यह एयरलाइन की गलती थी।



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DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## Airbus to inspect hundreds of A320s for panel defect

The extra inspections will risk slowing down delivery of newly-produced jets

[Bloomberg](#)  
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**A**irbus SE must inspect hundreds of its bestselling A320 jets for potential quality flaws in the aircraft's body, an arduous process that risks complicating the company's last-ditch effort to meet its delivery target.

A total of 628 jets contain panels that may be too thick or too thin due to a manufacturing issue at a supplier, Airbus told A320 customers in a roughly hour-long presentation last week. Most of those aircraft are still at Airbus, with 245 on the final assembly line or being prepared for delivery while 215 are in earlier stages of production, according to materials from the presentation that were seen by *Bloomberg*.

Another 168 planes are in service with carriers, Airbus told customers during the presentation. Airbus said that a "significant proportion" of panels are expected to conform to specifications, meaning they will be acceptable in current state.

Seville, Spain-based Sofitec Aero SL provided the affected parts to Airbus, according to the presentation. The company is one of the planemaker's two suppliers of the panels. An official at the supplier contacted by telephone had no immediate comment.

The panels at issue are on the crown of the A320 and either side of the aircraft's main front door. Airbus engineers determined that the issue doesn't pose a safety concern for planes



that have not been delivered, according to the presentation.

Airbus said earlier on Monday that it is taking "a conservative approach" by inspecting all aircraft potentially affected by the issue, adding that "only portion of them will need further action to be taken."

Still, the new issue comes at a crucial time for the European planemaker. Airbus is racing to meet its goal of handing over 820 planes to customers

this year. To do so, it must deliver a record 165 jets over the next four weeks. The extra inspections will be time-consuming and risk slowing down delivery of newly produced jets.

The revelations also come just days after Airbus was forced into its largest recall ever, also involving the A320. More than 6,000 of the jets were found to require an urgent software revision after Airbus determined the latest version could malfunction under intense solar radiation.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025



The DGCA said it had grounded the aircraft and de-rostered 'concerned personnel'. REUTERS

## DGCA probing Air India safety lapse

India's aviation regulator on Tuesday said it was investigating Air India after the airline operated an aircraft eight times without a valid airworthiness review certificate, a document issued annually that ensures compliance with safety standards.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) did not name the aircraft type but its news release's title referenced the registration code of an Airbus A320 and a person with direct knowledge of the matter confirmed the case in fact concerned the single-aisle jet. Airbus did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The probe comes as Air India deals with the fallout from a June Boeing Dreamliner crash that killed 260 people and financial losses from an airspace ban imposed on Indian airlines by Pakistan. It has also been repeatedly warned by the DGCA over safety lapses this year.

The DGCA said it had also grounded the aircraft and de-rostered "concerned personnel."

India's second-largest airline said it had reported the lapse to the regulator on 26 November and that it had suspended personnel involved in the decision, pending further review. REUTERS



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## A320 plane violations: AI grounds aircraft maintenance engineer

**MUMBAI:** Air India has grounded an aircraft maintenance engineer and has also set up a committee to decide on possible action against some pilots who were involved in operating an Airbus A320 neo plane multiple times without airworthiness certification in November, according to sources.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is probing the incident reported on November 26. The regulator had asked the airline to carry out an internal probe to fix the responsibility and ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future. Following the A320 neo aircraft-related developments, Air India's Accountable Manager and Director of Flight Operations Manish Uppal has



sent out a communication to all pilots, reminding them of their "responsibility" regarding document validation, the sources said.

However, some pilots are not happy with the communication, claiming that it amounts to "passing the buck" for the violations that have happened with respect to the A320 neo plane operations.

The sources said the four-year old aircraft A320 neo aircraft VT-TNQ belonging to

erstwhile Vistara was grounded for a long time and its airworthiness certificate had also expired. On November 24, the airline decided to take the aircraft off the ground and conducted a proven flight over Delhi. On the same day, the aircraft operated commercial services on Delhi-Bengaluru-Mumbai sector, they said.

The next day, the same aircraft operated commercial flights on Mumbai-Delhi-Mumbai, Mumbai-Hyderabad-Mumbai then again Mumbai-Hyderabad-Mumbai. After that, the plane was sent for maintenance on the same day and that was when the engineers found that there was no valid airworthiness certification, the sources said.

AGENCIES



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## Check-in system glitches briefly hit multiple airlines

**NEW DELHI:** Check-in systems of Air India and other airlines faced glitches due to a third party system disruption at various airports, resulting in flight delays on Tuesday evening.

The problem persisted for at least 45 minutes before getting addressed, one of the sources said.

"A third-party system disruption has been affecting check-in systems at various airports, resulting in delays across multiple airlines, including Air India," Air India said in a post on X at 9.49 pm.

It also said that airport teams are working diligently to ensure a smooth check-in

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**'The problem persisted for at least 45 minutes before getting addressed'**

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experience for all passengers and while the system is progressively getting restored, some flights may continue to experience delays.

"The third party system has been fully restored, and check-in at all airports is functioning normally. All our flights are operating as per schedule," the airline said in another post at 10.49 pm.

AGENCIES

## बिना सेफ्टी सर्टिफिकेट महीने भर उड़ा एयर इंडिया का विमान, जांच के आदेश

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

एयर इंडिया के एक विमान को उड़ान भरने के लिए जरूरी डीजीसीए के एयरवर्थनेस रिव्यू सर्टिफिकेट (ARC) जारी किए बिना ही टेकऑफ कराया जा रहा था। यह विमान आठ सेक्टरों में फ्लाई भी कर चुका था। मामले की जानकारी मिलने के बाद खुद एयर इंडिया ने 26 नवंबर को इसकी जानकारी डीजीसीए को दी।

सुरक्षा में चूक पर डीजीसीए ने विमान को उड़ान पर रोक लगा दी। उन कर्मचारियों-अधिकारियों को भी ड्यूटी से हटा दिया गया, जिन्होंने उड़ान भरने के लिए डीजीसीए की जरूरी एनओसी बिना ही प्लेन को यात्रियों को उड़ान के लिए लगाया। नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने बताया, ARC तब जारी किया जाता है। जब विमान का मेटेनेंस रेकॉर्ड, उसकी फिजिकल कंडीशन और उड़ान भरने के लिए अन्य तमाम स्टैंडर्ड्स वह विमान पूरा करता हो। लेकिन इस विमान को एआरसी जारी किए बिना ही उड़ाया गया।



अधिकारियों ने बताया कि असल में साल 2024 में विस्तारा का एयर इंडिया में विलय होने के बाद विस्तारा के सभी 70 विमानों के मामले में यह निर्णय लिया गया था कि विलय के बाद पहला ARC रिन्यू करने का काम एविएशन रेगुलेटर डीजीसीए द्वारा किया जाएगा। डीजीसीए ने 70 विमानों में से 69 के लिए ARC जारी कर दिया। लेकिन एक विमान इंजन बदलने की वजह से ग्राउंड किया गया था। इस अवधि के दौरान उसका ARC अवधि खत्म हो गई। लेकिन इंजन बदलने के बाद बिना ARC जारी हुए एयर इंडिया ने इस विमान की सेवाएं पैसेंजर प्लेन के रूप में देना शुरू कर दी।

### बम धमकी, मुंबई में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

■ भाषा, हैदराबाद : कुवैत से हैदराबाद आने वाली इंडिगो की एक उड़ान को बम की धमकी मिलने के बाद मंगलवार को उसका रूट डायवर्ट कर मुंबई में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई। सूत्र ने बताया कि 'एयरबस ए321 निओ' विमान द्वारा संचालित उड़ान संख्या 6ई1234 को सुबह सात बजकर 45 मिनट पर सुरक्षित उतारा गया। जांच में कुछ भी सदिग्ध नहीं पाया गया। अधिकारी ने कहा कि मामले की जांच जारी है। उन्होंने कहा, हैदराबाद हवाई अड्डे को मंगलवार सुबह छह बजकर 33 मिनट पर इस विमान के लिए बम की धमकी से संबंधित ईमेल मिलने के बाद इसका रूट डायवर्ट कर दिया गया था।

अधिकारी ने बताया, फ्लाइट में जांच करने के बाद कुछ भी सदिग्ध नहीं मिला

## सुरक्षा प्रमाणपत्र के बिना उड़ान भरता रहा एयर इंडिया का विमान

### डीजीसीए ने लिया एक्शन और विमान को जमीन पर खड़ा किया

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने बड़ी अनियमितता पकड़ी है। एयर इंडिया का एक बोइंग विमान पिछले कई दिनों तक बिना वैध 'वायु योग्यता नवीनीकरण प्रमाणपत्र (एआरसी) के व्यावसायिक उड़ानें भरता रहा। यह प्रमाणपत्र हर विमान के लिए हर साल अनिवार्य होता है, जो यह साबित करता है कि विमान पूरी तरह सुरक्षित और उड़ने लायक है। विस्तार के एयर इंडिया में विलय की प्रक्रिया के तहत यह तय हुआ था कि विलय के बाद विस्तार के सभी 70 विमानों का पहला नया एआरसी खुद डीजीसीए जारी करेगा। डीजीसीए ने संतोषजनक जांच के बाद 69 विमानों को नया एआरसी दे दिया था। सत्रहवें



विमान के लिए एयर इंडिया ने आवेदन दिया था, लेकिन इंजन बदलने के काम के कारण विमान को कुछ समय के लिए जमीन पर खड़ा कर दिया गया। इसी दौरान उसका पुराना एआरसी समाप्त हो गया। इंजन बदलने के बाद विमान को फिर से उड़ान सेवा में लगा दिया गया, लेकिन नया एआरसी लेना भूल गए। 26

नवंबर 2025 को एयर इंडिया ने खुद डीजीसीए को सूचना दी कि उनका यह विमान बिना वैध एआरसी के 8 यात्री उड़ानें पूरी कर चुका है। सूचना मिलते ही डीजीसीए ने तुरंत जांच शुरू कर दी और संबंधित विमान को तत्काल प्रभाव से जमीन पर खड़ा करने का आदेश दिया। अभी नया एआरसी जारी करने की प्रक्रिया चल

● डीजीसीए ने जांच पूरी होने तक जिम्मेदार कर्मियों को तुरंत ड्यूटी से हटा भी दिया

रही है। डीजीसीए ने सख्ती दिखाते हुए जांच पूरी होने तक जिम्मेदार कर्मियों को तुरंत ड्यूटी से हटा दिया है। साथ ही एयर इंडिया को निर्देश दिया गया है कि वह अपनी पूरी व्यवस्था की आंतरिक जांच करे, कमियां ढूंढे और भविष्य में ऐसी गलती दोबारा न हो, इसके लिए ठोस सुधार करे। यात्रियों की सुरक्षा से जुड़ा यह मामला गंभीर है। डीजीसीए ने स्पष्ट किया है कि सुरक्षा नियमों में किसी तरह की ढिलाई बर्दाश्त नहीं की जाएगी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## इंडिगो पर इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट में 117 करोड़ का जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : इंडिगो ने मंगलवार को कहा कि उस पर इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट से संबंधित मामले में 117.52 करोड़ रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया गया है और एयरलाइन इस आदेश को चुनौती देगी। यह जुर्माना केरल के सीजीएसटी कोचि के संयुक्त आयुक्त (केंद्रीय कर एवं केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क) ने लगाया है। इंडिगो ने शेयर बाजार को बताया कि यह



जुर्माना 2018-19 से 2021-22 की अवधि से संबंधित है। इसमें कहा गया कि विभाग ने कंपनी द्वारा लिए गए इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट (आईटीसी) को अस्वीकार कर दिया है और कर मांग आदेश के साथ जुर्माना भी लगाया है। कंपनी का मानना है कि प्राधिकारी द्वारा पारित आदेश गलत है और उसका मामला गुण-दोष के आधार पर मजबूत है। एयरलाइन ने आगे कहा कि वह उचित प्राधिकारी के समक्ष इसका विरोध करेगी और इससे कंपनी के वित्तीय, परिचालन या अन्य गतिविधियों पर कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

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## DGCA grounds AI plane over lapsed cert, orders probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Air India has yet again earned regulatory ire, this time for operating eight commercial flights on an aircraft with lapsed "airworthiness review certificate" (ARC). The regulator has ordered the aircraft to be grounded and initiated a probe into this lapse. Flying aircraft without an airwor-

thiness certificate means endangering everyone on board.

"Concerned personnel have been de-rostered with immediate effect pending inves-

### **SAFETY BREACH**

tigation. On instructions of DGCA, Air India is carrying out an internal probe to identify deficiencies in their system and put corrective measures

in place to prevent failures from occurring in future," the regulator said in a statement. AI had, on Nov 26, 2025, informed DGCA about flying the aircraft on an expired ARC for eight revenue sectors.

In past few months, AI has been ticked off by DGCA for reasons like faulty rostering and scheduling of crew. Few weeks back, an AI pilot operated a flight without undergoing

mandatory corrective training after not being able to clear the bi-annual pilot proficiency check-instrument rating test. While this is not an out of ordinary occurrence, pilots have to mandatorily undergo corrective training and get their proficiency rechecked to a satisfactory level of performance before they can fly again.

Comments from AI have been sought and are awaited.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

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## Bomb hoax forces flight diversion

**Hyderabad:** An IndiGo flight from Kuwait to Hyderabad Tuesday was diverted mid-air to Mumbai after Hyderabad airport received an email threat of a suicide-bomb attack, reports **Ma-hesh Buddi**. The threat later turned out to be a hoax, and passengers reached Hyderabad on another IndiGo flight.

RGIA police registered a case following a complaint by GMR Airport officials. The complainant said two emails were received at 5.12am and 7.04am on Dec 2 from anonymized mail2tor addresses. Copied to several GMR and Kuwait Airways service IDs, the mails claimed remote-controlled explosives had been planted aboard the aircraft and demanded diversion and terminal evacuation, calling the plan a "fatwa". Police have invoked BNS sections 351(4), 353(2) and IT Act 66(D).



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

2 DECEMBER 2025

### Flights to and from Pt Blair cancelled

Times News Network

**O**perations of SpiceJet and Indigo flights from and to Andaman were cancelled, and several other flights were delayed on Monday.

Airport authorities maintained that the delays were not due to weather constraints, and airlines cited operational reasons. Indigo flights from Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, Hyderabad, and



Kolkata, and AI flight from Mumbai, as well as Akasa's flight from Port Blair, were delayed on Monday. The arrival of Kuwait Airlines' flight from Kuwait, Cathay Pacific's from Hong Kong, and

SriLankan Airlines' from Colombo were also delayed.

Indigo flights to Mumbai, Jaipur, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Varanasi, Kochi, Trichy, Madurai, Ahmedabad, Mysore, Ranchi, Visakhapatnam, Coimbatore, and to international destinations such as Colombo and Singapore were running late. AI flights to Delhi and Mumbai were also delayed.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

2 DECEMBER 2025

# 4 weekly Trichy-Gulf flights suspended, flyers frustrated

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Trichy:** The suspension of four weekly flights between Trichy International Airport and three destinations in Gulf countries has not gone down well with expatriates in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait.

Trichy airport, the second busiest international airport in the state, was handling 23 weekly flights to seven destinations in the Gulf, all operated by Air India Express. But since the last week of Oct, it suspended four weekly services to Dammam (Sundays and Thursdays), Kuwait City (Saturdays), and Doha (Fridays). Subsequently, the number of Gulf destinations connected by Trichy slipped from seven to four, and weekly services fell from 23 to 19.

Recently, India and Kuwait signed a revised bilateral air services agreement, expand-



**SUSPENDED SINCE OCT'S END**

ing the weekly seat capacity between the two countries from 12,000 to 18,000 each side. Cancellation of services, when an increase in seats was expected, has irked the Kuwait-based Tamil community.

"NRIs travelling home for emergency suffer most, we have to land in other cities and travel on road for hours. The cost of tickets to other airports is expensive for most. Routine export of vegetables and sweets during festival season has been affected too," said A B Khaleel Ahmed Baa-

qavee, general secretary, Kuwait Tamil Islamic Committee. Recently, Trichy-based passengers returning from Dammam landed at Colombo airport for a connecting flight, and were stranded due to Cyclone Ditwah. Had the direct flight service between Dammam and Trichy continued, they would not have faced the ordeal.

"I will approach Air India Express management to apprise the need for additional services from Trichy airport. Reasons for suspension of the flight services will be discussed," Durai Vaiko, Trichy MP and chairman of Trichy airport advisory committee told **TOI**. The suspension of Gulf services has come in the wake of demands by travel associations and passengers to operate new flight services from Trichy to Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

3 DECEMBER 2025

## Air India crew de-rostered for flying plane on expired licence

Airline's Airbus A320neo aircraft flew eight times despite lapsed airworthiness certificate | DGCA begins probe

**SHEKHAR SINGH**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2** Aviation regulator DGCA has opened an investigation after an Air India A320neo aircraft operated eight commercial flights without a valid Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC), triggering the grounding of the jet and the immediate de-rostering of all personnel involved.

Air India informed the regulator on November 26 that the

aircraft had flown eight revenue sectors despite its ARC having lapsed. The ARC, renewed annually, is issued only after a thorough review of maintenance records, physical checks and full compliance with safety norms. It is the key validation of an aircraft's Certificate of Airworthiness.

Although Air India holds delegated powers to issue its own ARCs, the DGCA has directed the airline to investigate internal lapses and

### INDIGO FLIGHT DIVERTED AFTER BOMB THREAT

A Hyderabad-bound IndiGo flight from Kuwait was forced to make an emergency landing in Mumbai on Tuesday morning after authorities received a bomb threat linked to the aircraft, according to airport sources. The Airbus A321neo touched down safely at 7.45 am. The threat turned out to be a hoax.

strengthen its procedures. The regulator has also launched its own probe and ordered the aircraft to remain grounded until the certification process is completed.

The aircraft at the centre of

the case belonged to the former Vistara fleet, now merged with Air India. After the November 2024 merger, the DGCA had decided it would conduct the first ARC renewal for all Vistara aircraft itself.

According to the regulator, ARCs have been issued for 69 of the merged fleet's aircraft after full compliance. The issue arose with the 70th aircraft, which had been grounded for an engine change. "During this period, the ARC expired. However, the aircraft was released for service after engine change," the DGCA said.

Air India said it acted promptly once the lapse surfaced. "Air India remains unwavering in its commit-

ment to maintaining the highest standards of operational integrity and safety," said an airline spokesperson.

The spokesperson said the incident involving the operation of the aircraft without an airworthiness review certificate was regrettable. "As soon as the incident came to our notice, it was duly reported to the DGCA and all personnel associated with the decision have been placed under suspension," he added.