

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

Japan-based Terra Charge, AAI join hands to set up EV charging stations at airports

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Airports Authority of India (AAI), along with Japan-based Terra Charge, will install charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) at four more international airports for passengers in the city-side area.

At present, there are around 25,000 EV charging stations across the country.

Terra Charge's Managing Director Go Suzuki said the one-of-a-kind partnership with the public sector airport developer-cum-operator is in line with the company's goal to collaborate with public entities to support India's EV charging infrastructure.

"The plan advances our mission of enhancing public access to efficient and convenient charging solutions,"



ON THE MOVE. To increase charging infrastructure, the Centre plans to provide subsidies under the PM E-DRIVE scheme

Suzuki told *businessline*.

"We are currently working on four more similar projects that are in the pipeline and are expected to be completed soon," he said without disclosing further details.

ADVANCED SOLUTIONS

"The increased foot traffic and sustainable initiative will further benefit the airport operator by building

their reputation and enhancing their public amenities," Suzuki said.

"This initiative could encourage more private entities and public bodies to join hands and develop advanced charging solutions for the public and foster employment."

Last year, Terra Charge launched a 75 square meter charging hub at AAI's Raja

Bhoj International Airport located in Bhopal.

The charging hub at Bhopal airport features one slow and one fast charger to cater to varying charging needs and make EV charging accessible to the public.

The trend of setting up EV charging infra at the city and airside of India's airports is on the rise across the country, said official sources, adding that both private and public players are in the process of erecting such facilities.

To further boost this trend, the Centre plans to provide subsidies under the PM E-DRIVE scheme to support EV adoption at airports. The scheme, with a total outlay of ₹10,900 crore, has earmarked ₹2,000 crore for the setting up of public EV charging stations within the next two years.

Surat airport: Flak over lack of amenities

Melvyn Thomas

SURAT

Frequent fliers and airport activists have written to the chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI) drawing his attention to the issue concerning the non-availability of food, beverage, and retail shops for passengers at Surat Airport. Despite the grand inauguration of the expanded terminal building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 17, 2023, the basic amenities for passengers remain glaringly absent even after 1 year.

The tenders were published on 28th February 2023. However, it has been almost two years, and the commercial department at Surat Airport has not yet managed to facilitate the installation of food and beverage outlets or retail shops at the expanded terminal building. This delay is causing significant inconvenience to passengers and reflects poorly on the airport's commitment to providing a world-class experience.

Passengers frequently endure long waiting times at the airport, and the lack of proper food outlets, particularly in the international departure security hold area, leaves them with no viable options for food or drinks. This



daily chaos and inadequate facility undermine the airport's potential to deliver a seamless travel experience and tarnish its reputation as a modern, passenger-centric facility. Such a situation is creating a defaming impression of the so-called international tag granted to the airport by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through cabinet approval just before the inauguration. Surat now operates flights to Sharjah, Dubai, and Bangkok with almost daily frequency, attracting significant international passenger footfall. Unfortunately, these passengers are left with a poor impression of India's airport infrastructure.

It is understood that there

was a prolonged deadlock and tug of war between BCAS and Surat Airport administration regarding the approval of the floor plan for these facilities, which delayed progress by 6-8 months. However, it is now believed that the floor plan has been approved, and the matter resolved. But the continued delay appears to be due to the casual approach of the commercial department at Surat Airport, resulting in a status quo on this critical matter. On one hand, the Aviation Minister is taking a personal interest in initiatives like UDAN Yatri Cafe to provide affordable and quality food options for travellers and on the other hand, the commercial department at Surat

Airport exhibits a lacklustre attitude in addressing these urgent needs. This disparity highlights the urgent need for proactive leadership within the commercial department.

Moreover, by failing to utilize the rentable spaces for food, beverage, and retail outlets, the Airport Authority of India (AAI) is incurring substantial revenue losses, which ultimately affect the public exchequer. The activists have demanded deployment of competent and proactive leader in the commercial department at Surat Airport to expedite the installation of essential passenger facilities, and ensure strict adherence to deadlines for the completion of these installations.

Water pipeline leak at KIA's Terminal 2 disrupts airline offices

BENGALURU, DHNS: A drinking water pipeline leak inside Terminal 2 of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Wednesday evening caused inconvenience to airline offices located within the terminal.

The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA, stated that the issue was quickly identified and resolved.

"On the evening of January 1, 2023, a potable water pipeline at Terminal 2 of the BLR Airport experienced a leak. The issue was promptly identified and swiftly resolved. The leak affected a few back offices; however, there was no impact on airport operations," according to a BIAL spokesperson.

BIAL further mentioned that alternate office spaces were provided to the affected airline partners during the repair work. "We regret any inconvenience this isolated incident may have caused and reaffirm our commitment to the comfort and safety of all our stakeholders," the statement added.

Not the first time

This is not the first water-related issue at the terminal.

On May 2, 2023, water seepage was reported following 9.8 mm of rainfall, which airport authorities described as "heavy".

Terminal 2, constructed at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 11, 2022, and commenced operations in January 2023.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 JANUARY 2025

50-metre visibility at Raja Bhoj airport, flight cancelled

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

Flight services were disrupted due to intense fog in the city on Thursday. Bhopal-Pune flight, which was to land at 3 am, was cancelled due to poor visibility, which was 50 metres. It was lowest in the state and was recorded at Jabalpur airport too.

The cold wave swept Bhopal and other districts for the second consecutive day on Thursday. The impact of cold wave was felt in Neemuch. It was cold day in Bhopal, Nar-

madapuram, Sehore, Marukheda (Neemuch) while it was severe cold day in Rajgarh, Raisen, Girvar (Shajapur), according to meteorological department.

On Wednesday, Bhopal recorded maximum temperature of 25.4 degrees Celsius. With a drop of 1.6 degrees, the night temperature was 6.8 degrees Celsius.

Indore recorded maximum temperature of 25.4 degrees Celsius. The city registered 3.1-degree drop in night temperature, which settled at 9.4 degrees Celsius.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 JANUARY 2025

IOCL to provide fueling services at Noida Intl Airport

PTI

MUMBAI

Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), a public sector oil marketing company, will provide fueling services at Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh. The airport is expected to be inaugurated early next fiscal, as per a statement on Thursday.

Under a 30-year concession agreement, IOCL will operate fuel stations at three locations within the airport premises -- near main western access road for passengers, at airside for airport operations, and close to the eastern cargo precinct.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

LUCKNOW

3 JANUARY 2025

IOCL to provide fueling services at Noida International Airport

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Airports Take Bird's Eye View on Safety

Following Korean plane crash, DGCA wants extra precautions against bird hits

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: From loud crackers and zonguns along runways to neem oil, India's largest airports deploy all kinds of tools—some high-tech, some deadly and some just noisemakers—to scare away birds,

which are increasingly posing a threat to flight safety.

Authorities in South Korea are investigating whether a bird hit brought down the Jeju Air jet that crashed at the Muan airport on Sunday, killing 179 of the 181 people on board. India has recorded a significant increase in bird hit incidents in

the past two years, often causing pilots to return the plane to the airport or abort take-off. According to civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), bird hit incidents increased to 9.68 per 10,000 flights in September 2024 from 4.26 two years earlier.

In one of the latest incidents, an Air India flight aborted its take-off at Goa's Dabolim airport in August after smoke started emanating from the plane's engine after a bird hit.

A senior DGCA official said airports have been asked to reassess their threat and mitigation measures for

bird hits following the Jeju Air crash. "As cities become denser, habitation near airports is also increasing, thereby increasing leftovers of food or animal carcasses which attract big birds like vultures. All airports have been sensitised about the threat and to review their preparedness," said the official.

'Bird Strike' Testing

►► From Page 1

"Regulation prohibits dumping of garbage and slaughter of animals that may attract wildlife within 10 km of airport."

Aircraft engineers said all modern commercial airplane engines are required to pass a "bird strike" test before they can be certified for use. The engines are revved to full power inside a test facility and absorb various kinds of birds, with the size of sparrows to that of herons. Still, a bird hit could pose serious damage to the aircraft and become deadly.

CREATING AWARENESS

While the Delhi airport, India's busiest, reported 169 bird hits in 2023, Bengaluru has not seen any such incidents in the past three years. "The impact of these incidents was minimal and there were no major disruptions in operations at the airport," a Delhi airport spokesperson said.

employing the usual tactics of trimming grass and scaring away birds with scarecrows.

It also holds camps for communities staying in the approach path of the runways, sensitising them on garbage management and hygiene to reduce bird strike. Promotional materials such as bottles, bags, and caps with awareness messages are distributed in those camps, the spokesperson said.

A Bengaluru airport spokesperson attributed its record of no bird-hit incidents to "proactive measures implemented by our dedicated bird control team, who continuously monitor critical areas of the airport to deter bird activity".

MAPPING ACTIVITIES

In Mumbai, the airport maps wildlife and bird activities and their behaviour is assessed while within the premises. "Tolerable species are not targeted while the hazardous species are identified, and all mitigation measures are implemented to

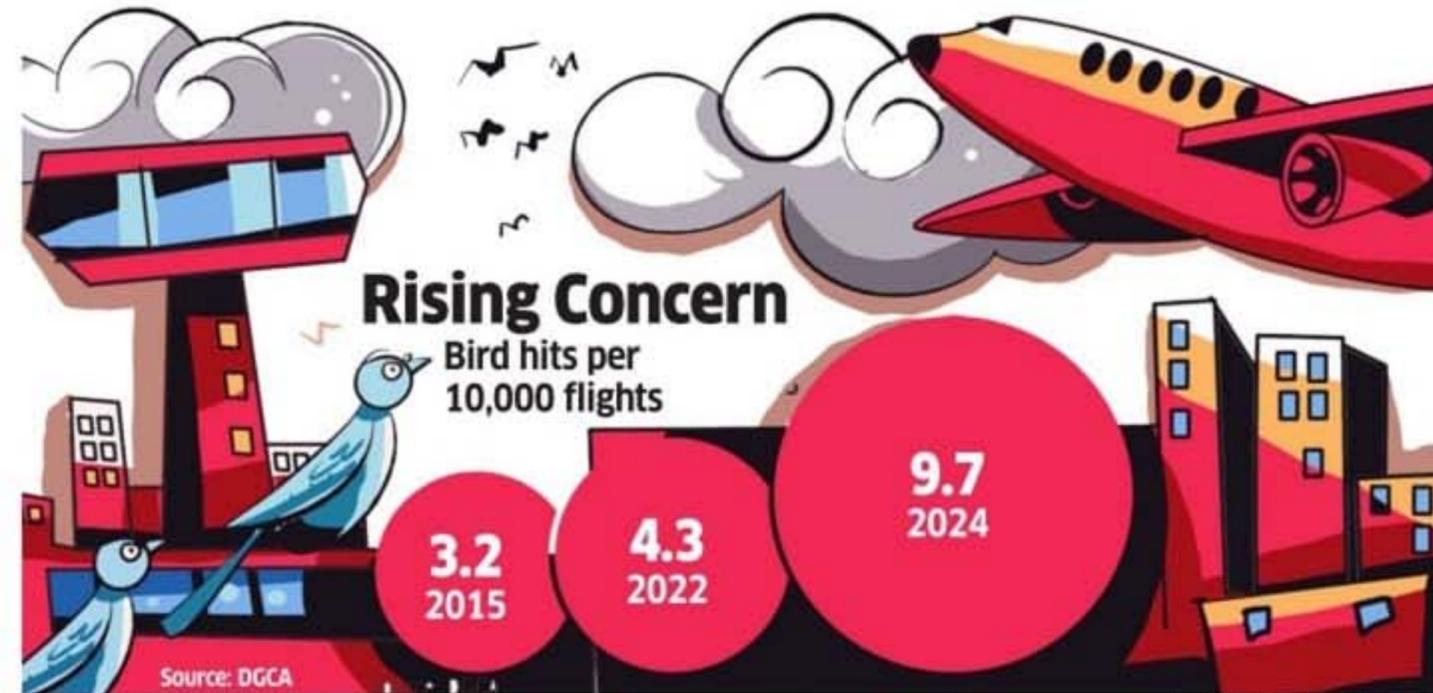


ILLUSTRATION: ZAHID



Corporate Communications Directorate

ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

■ Fog Delays Over 100 Flights at Delhi Airport



NEW DELHI Dense fog-induced low visibility conditions led to the delay of over 110 flights at the capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Friday. Thick smog engulfed Delhi on Friday morning prompting warnings of possible flight disruptions from airport and airline officials, as worsening air quality cut visibility to zero in some areas. "While landing and takeoffs continue at Delhi Airport, flights that don't comply with low visibility regulations may get affected," Delhi International Airport said in a social media post. — **Our Bureau**

Corporate Communications Directorate

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

Over 400 flights delayed at IGI due to bad weather

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 3

MORE THAN 400 flights were delayed at the airport in the national capital on Friday morning as low visibility conditions due to dense fog disrupted operations, according to an official.

Visibility conditions dropped to zero in some areas of the national capital due to the thick blanket of fog. The official said over 400 flights were delayed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) but there were no diversions. As per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com, 470 flights



were delayed at the airport.

"Low Visibility Procedures are still in progress at Delhi Air-

port. However, there has been no impact on flight operations. Passengers are requested to

contact the airline concerned for updated flight information," Delhi International Airport (DIAL) said in a post on X.

In another post, DIAL said while landing and takeoffs continue at the airport, flights that are not CAT III compliant may get affected. CAT III facility allows aircraft to operate in low-visibility

conditions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the airport experienced very dense fog with visibility recorded at 0 metres.

It said all runways are operating under CAT III, which allows aircraft to operate in low visibility conditions. IGI, operated by DIAL, handles around 1,300 flight movements daily.

EXIT OFFER FOR THE ATTENTION OF RESIDUAL SHAREHOLDERS OF

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NOTICE FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that an Extra Ordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of the members of Z-Tech (India) Limited (The Company) will be held on Saturday, 25th

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

Over 300 flights delayed as fog grips northern India

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Friday saw the worst spell of fog this winter in the national capital resulting in over 300 flights getting delayed and six flights getting cancelled at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.

Delayed by 45 minutes

Between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., there were 303 flights delayed by more than 45 minutes at IGI Airport as per flight tracking

website flightradar24. These include 73 arrivals and 230 departures that faced delays of over 45 minutes.

Other airports in the northern parts of the country that were impacted due to poor visibility were Leh, Srinagar, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Varanasi as well as Guwahati.

"There was intense fog at IGI Airport between 6 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Between 7 a.m. to 9.30 a.m., there was the biggest dip in visibility conditions with general visibility dropping to



Several flight operations were delayed due to low visibility at Delhi and other airports. FILE PHOTO

50 metres, and the runway visual range remaining between 100 metres to 300 metres," IMD scientist R.K Jenamani told

The Hindu.

Runway Visual Range (RVR) is the range over which the pilot of an aircraft can see the runway surface markings or the lights that help identify the centre line on the runway.

He said this was the season's worst fog so far in terms of both its visibility and duration.

One diversion

Srinagar airport witnessed one diversion, and seven delays out of the total 64 aircraft movements, which include both ar-

ivals and departures, according to Airport Director Javed Anjum.

Visibility below 50 m.

At Amritsar airport too, visibility remained below 50 metres through the day, and landings were carried out under CAT-II-IB conditions, i.e. with the help of precision instrument landing aids on the runway.

There were 22 flight delays, while five flights were cancelled, according to flightradar24.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

2nd day of zero visibility delays 350+ flights at IGI

Jasjeev Gandhiok

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi was shrouded in "very dense" fog for a second straight day as visibility fell to zero in the early hours of Friday, delaying flights and disrupting rail operations.

The fog also led to a drop in the minimum temperature, but sunshine in the second half of the day saw the maximum temperature rise sharply and cross the 20°C-mark, abating "cold day" conditions after four days.

The maximum temperature stood at 21.2°C — two degrees above normal and higher than the 16.2°C recorded a day earlier. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies it as a "cold day" when the maxi-

mum is 4.5°C or more below normal, with the minimum also being below 10°C — a criteria not met at any weather station in the city on Friday.

Delhi's minimum was recorded at 7°C, which is around normal for this time of the year. It was 7.6°C a day earlier.

Visibility fell to zero at Palam at around 8 am, while at Safdarjung, the base weather station, it was 50 metres.

Though no diversions or flight cancellations were reported at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport in New Delhi, more than 350 flights were delayed throughout the day, with an average delay time of 41 minutes, according to flight-tracking website Flightra-24.

IMD has issued an orange alert for Saturday, forecasting moderate to dense fog in most places.

A weather official said that on Friday, "the major impact period was between 8am and 10am, when we saw the lowest visibility at both these stations, before gradual improvement as the sun came out in parts of the city."

The Capital had reported zero visibility on Thursday morning, which also led to over 300 delays at the airport.

"Like Thursday, CAT-3 procedures were initiated. All three runways were impacted," said IMD scientist RK Jenamani.

The Northern Railways said at least 24 trains were delayed by over an hour due to fog.



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TRIBUNE

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

PM Modi set to inaugurate state's first airport in Hisar

Likely date to be decided after review meeting tomorrow

PRADEEP SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 3

Haryana's first airport in Hisar is set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February-March. Sources said the Saini government was keen to get the airport inaugurated by the PM in this financial year, as the airport infrastructure, including the 3,000-metre runway, required for commencing domestic flights was "almost complete".

Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi will visit Hisar on January 5 to take stock of the progress at the airport. His office is coordinating with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for Modi's visit. A possible date for the inauguration and PM's availability would be decided after the review meeting, sources said.

IN FIRST PHASE, FLIGHTS TO CHANDIGARH, J&K

- The BJP government keen to get the airport inaugurated within this financial year
- Chief Secretary to visit Hisar on January 5 to review work at airport
- 3,000-metre runway, other infrastructure 'almost complete' to start domestic flights
- Flights to Chandigarh, Jaipur, Ayodhya, J&K and Ahmedabad planned in first phase

The work at the airport, rechristened Maharaja Agrasen Airport, started in 2014 when the BJP formed the government for the first time in Haryana. The first phase of the work was completed a few years back.

However, the work picked up momentum in 2020, when former CM Manohar Lal Khattar, now Union minister, performed "bhoomi puja" for the construction of the runway. Besides the runway, a terminal building and all related facilities for cargo and

maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility of the aviation ecosystem and the 4,200-acre Integrated Aviation Hub are nearing completion.

The government has already signed an MoU with Alliance Air for operations, and soon flights to various destinations will begin, including Chandigarh, Jaipur, Ayodhya, J&K and Ahmedabad. This development will benefit not only local residents but also people from Punjab, Rajasthan and other states.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

Bureaucratic rejig: DGCA and FCI get new heads

New Delhi: Senior IAS officer Faiz Ahmed Kidwai was appointed the Chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle by the Centre. Ashutosh Agnihotri, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, was named Chairman & Managing Director of Food Corporation of India. PTI

कोहरे से 500 उड़ानें, 24 ट्रेनें प्रभावित

बीएस संवाददाता

कोहरा और धुंध एक बार फिर परेशान करने लगी है। राजधानी दिल्ली में घने कोहरे के कारण शुक्रवार को आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर आने और जाने वाली लगभग 500 उड़ानों में देर हुई जबकि 24 रेलगाड़ियां भी अपने गंतव्य पर देर से पहुंची। फ्लाइट राडार 24 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार शाम 5.30 बजे तक दिल्ली आने वाले लगभग 145 विमान निर्धारित समय पर नहीं थे। यही नहीं, कोहरे के कारण यहां से विभिन्न जगहों के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले लगभग 394 विमान भी प्रभावित हुए।

मौसम विभाग ने सुबह के बुलेटिन में बताया कि पालम एयरपोर्ट पर बहुत अधिक कोहरा छाया है, जो दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट से सटा हुआ है। विभाग ने अपने बयान में कहा, 'पालम एयरपोर्ट पर सुबह 8 बजे से साढ़े 9 बजे तक सबसे कम दृश्यता 0 मीटर दर्ज की गई। 10 बजे के बाद कुछ सुधार हुआ और यह 50 मीटर तक पहुंची। सुबह के समय हवा की गति 4 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा से भी कम होने वातावरण में छाए कण आगे नहीं बढ़ सके जिससे मध्यम स्तर का कोहरा छाया रहा।'

इस बीच, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट का संचालन और प्रबंधन संभालने वाले जीएमआर समूह के दिल्ली



इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने शुक्रवार सुबह लगभग 11 बजे एक्स पर पोस्ट कर कहा, 'दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर अभी भी कम दृश्यता प्रक्रिया अपनाई जा रही है। लेकिन, विमान संचालन पर इसका कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है। अपनी उड़ान के बारे में ताजा जानकारी हासिल करने के लिए यात्री संबंधित एयरलाइंस से संपर्क करें।'

कोहरे के कारण देर से उड़ने या रद्द होने वाले विमानों के बारे में डायल ने कोई आंकड़ा साझा नहीं किया। विमानन क्षेत्र का विश्लेषण करने वाली फर्म सिरियम के अनुसार दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर प्रति दिन 500 उड़ानों का संचालन करने वाली इंडिगो सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन है। इसके बाद एयर इंडिया का नंबर आता है, जिसके हर रोज 435 विमान यहां उतरते और उड़ान भरते हैं। स्पाइस जेट यहां

से 72 उड़ानों का संचालन करती है।

इंडिगो ने शुक्रवार सुबह एक्स पर पोस्ट कर दिल्ली, बेंगलूरु और लखनऊ में अपनी उड़ानें कोहरे से प्रभावित होने की आशंका जाहिर की थी। एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों को सलाह देते हुए कहा, 'यात्रा के लिए घर से निकलने से पहले अपनी उड़ान की स्थिति के बारे में जानकारी हासिल कर लें। हवाई अड्डे के लिए कुछ समय पहले निकलें, क्योंकि कोहरे की वजह से वाहनों की गति प्रभावित हो सकती है।'

दो दर्जन ट्रेनें प्रभावित

घने कोहरे के कारण दिल्ली से विभिन्न जगहों के लिए जाने वाली लगभग 24 रेलगाड़ियां प्रभावित हुईं और उन्होंने निर्धारित समय से देर से अपनी यात्रा शुरू की। कम दृश्यता के कारण ब्रह्मपुत्र एक्सप्रेस जैसी रेलगाड़ी भी चार घंटे देर से चल रही थी। इसी प्रकार महाबोधि एक्सप्रेस जैसी कई प्रमुख ट्रेनें भी काफी देर से चलीं। घने कोहरे के दौरान भी संचालन निर्बाध रखने के लिए रेलवे ट्रेनों में जीपीएस आधारित उपकरण लगा रहा है। बीते दिसंबर में रेल मंत्री ने कहा था कि मंत्रालय ने रेल इंजनों में कोहरे से निपटने वाले 20,000 उपकरण लगा दिए हैं।

DENSE FOG GRIPS NORTH INDIA

Over 500 flights delayed, 24 train ops hit in Delhi

Palam airport records zero visibility from 8 am to 9.30 am Friday

BS REPORTERS

New Delhi, 3 January

More than 500 flights, including departures and arrivals, and 24 trains departing from Delhi were delayed on Friday amid dense fog in several parts of north India. According to flight-radar24 data, till 5.30 pm on Friday, about 145 arrivals were delayed at the national capital's airport.

Moreover, about 394 departures were also delayed at this airport.

In a statement on Friday morning, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that "very dense" fog was reported at Palam airport, which adjoins the Delhi International Airport.

"Palam airport recorded the lowest visibility 0 metres from 8 am to 9.30 am which thereafter improved and became 50 metres at 10 am...Mainly moderate fog conditions with wind speed less than four kilometers per hour variable direction prevailed over the region in the forenoon on Friday," the IMD noted.

Meanwhile, GMR Group-led Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which operates and manages the Delhi airport, stated on X at about 11 am on Friday, "Low visibility procedures are still in progress at Delhi airport. However, there has been no impact on flight operations. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for the updated flight information."

DIAL did not release any information about the number of flights delayed or cancelled due to fog. According to aviation analytics firm Cirium, IndiGo is the largest airline operator at the Delhi airport with about 500 daily flights. Air India is the second largest operator at Delhi airport with about 435 daily flights. SpiceJet operates about 72 daily flights to and from the airport.



Workers clear snow in Srinagar as thick fog engulfs large parts of the Kashmir valley. Visibility fell sharply and flights were affected

PHOTO: PTI

IndiGo stated on X on Friday morning that "another foggy morning" is expected for Delhi, Bengaluru, and Lucknow. "We advise you to monitor your flight status before starting your journey. Additionally, please allow extra time when travelling to the airport, as reduced visibility might affect vehicle movement," it added.

SpiceJet had stated on X on Monday morning that due to poor visibility at Delhi airport, all departures and arrivals and their consequential flights might get affected. "Passengers are requested to keep a check on their flight status," it added.

On the morning of Friday, 24 trains departing from Delhi were reportedly delayed after dense fog engulfed the national capital. Some of these, such as the Brahmaputra Express, were delayed by around four hours due to zero visibility.

Similarly, Gorakh Express, Mahabodhi Express and Bihar Kranti Express, among others, also saw significant delays on account of the conditions.

The Indian Railways has been installing fog safety devices, which are GPS-based navigation tools, in

trains to ensure visibility even during dense fog. In December, the railway ministry had said that it had installed close to 20,000 fog safety devices in locomotives.

Additionally, indigenous automatic train protection system Kavach is also expected to allow loco pilots to pass through foggy areas with relative ease.

On November 20, Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu had told the airlines to ensure that all check-in counters at Delhi airport are fully staffed to minimise passenger inconvenience as fog and smog started affecting the flight operations.

The minister had given this direction during a meeting with representatives of major airlines, DIAL, officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

The meeting was called on November 20 to assess readiness of the aviation ecosystem amid the "early onset of fog/smog" in Delhi.

More than 370 flights, including departures as well as arrivals, were delayed at Delhi airport on November 18 due to dense fog and pollution.



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DANIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

3 JANUARY 2025

उदयपुर की फ्लाइट रद्द, दिल्ली की उड़ान 8वें दिन भी 5 घंटे देरी से उड़ी

जयपुर | एयरपोर्ट पर गुरुवार को फ्लाइट्स का शेड्यूल गड़बड़ा गया। जानकारी के अनुसार एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की दिल्ली की फ्लाइट लगातार 8वें दिन भी घंटों देरी से संचालित हुई।

फ्लाइट संख्या आईएक्स-1199 करीब घौने 5 घंटे लेट रही। ये फ्लाइट जयपुर से दोपहर 12:20 बजे दिल्ली जाती है, जो शाम 5 बजे तक रवाना हुई। वहीं, इंडिगो की उदयपुर की फ्लाइट रद्द रही। मामला इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट संख्या 6ई-7465 का है। फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 6:55 बजे उदयपुर जाती है। ऐसे में उदयपुर जाने वाले यात्री सुबह एयरपोर्ट पहुंच गए। पहले तो



यात्रियों को जानकारी दी गई कि फ्लाइट तकनीकी कारणों की वजह से रिशेड्यूल की गई है। ऐसे में यात्री टर्मिनल में ही बोर्डिंग के लिए इंतजार करने लगे, लेकिन थोड़ी देर बाद ही फ्लाइट को रद्द कर दिया गया। ऐसे में यात्रियों को जबरदस्त परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा।

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DECCAN CHRONICAL

HYDERABAD

3 JANUARY 2025

Flights' Wi-Fi: Etiquette a must

Air India, which is well on the way to matching its own description as India's premier global airline, has become the first in the country offering complimentary in-flight Wi-Fi connectivity on domestic flights.

The question of what to do with your flying time in today's hyper-connected world of digital devices, which allows everyone to keep fulfilling a newfound habit of glancing at devices every few moments that is becoming almost compulsive these days, may have had its answer.

The service is on select aircraft now but is bound to expand given that competitors for India's open skies are also planning to match Air India in its innovative approach to flying by offering an additional facility besides in-flight movies comprising unending runs of popular titles starring matinee idols.

Telephone connectivity has been on offer on board for more than three decades now on international flights, but few flyers would venture to use their credit cards for satellite telephony that could cost a fortune per minute. There is just one worry though.

With Wi-Fi, it becomes possible to make Internet-based phone calls. And imagine if the stereotype of an average Indian speaking loudly on his mobile at several decibels above the respectable limit — be it on the weather, the menu for dinner or the well-being of loved ones — becomes the norm. The situation could well become a travelling cabin of a virtual Tower of Babel kind.

It is said the airline will implement measures to ensure the cabin environment remains quiet, peaceful and comfortable for everyone with passengers reminded of the need to keep their voices low and avoid disturbing others. But is it Indian etiquette yet to be considerate to fellow passengers?

While the workaholics, peripatetic Net browsers and streaming content fans will be delighted with having something to do as jet engines cover the air miles to the destination, those blessed with the ability to take a quick nap on board flights might get disturbed if phone chatters don't keep their voices down.

The providing of the service will, however, be widely welcomed from a revived airline that boasts of the catchline — "Tata doesn't always mean goodbye" — as it has super-ambitious plans on the anvil with orders for 570 new aircraft placed, and steps initiated to integrate other co-owned airlines into an aviation behemoth as well as opening a large aviation academy.

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DANIK JAGRAN

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

200 उड़ानों के प्रस्थान में डेढ़ से दो घंटे का विलंब, कई रद्द

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली :घने कोहरे का शुकवार को उड़ानों पर भी असर नजर आया। प्रस्थान की करीब 80 प्रतिशत उड़ानों में विलंब की स्थिति रही। करीब 200 उड़ानें ऐसी थीं, जिनके प्रस्थान में डेढ़ से दो घंटे का विलंब हुआ। इस बीच यात्री परेशान रहे।

एक अनुमान के अनुसार विमानों के प्रस्थान में विलंब का औसत करीब 35 मिनट रहा। यह औसत काफी अधिक है। इस बीच करीब 14 उड़ानों को रद्द भी किया गया। इनमें सर्वाधिक रद्द उड़ानें इंडिगो की थी। अमृतसर, लेह, खजुराहो, पटना, रावपुर इनमें शामिल रही। एअर इंडिया, स्पाइसजेट, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस व अलाइंस एअर की एक एक उड़ानें रद्द हुईं। शुकवार का दिन यात्रियों के लिए काफी परेशानी से भरा था। गनीमत यह थी कि कोहरे को देखते हुए तमाम एयरलाइंस व डायल ने खुद ही समय समय पर यात्रियों के लिए

- उड़ानों के प्रस्थान में औसतन 35 मिनट का विलंब दर्ज
- सबसे अधिक इंडिगो की उड़ाने की हुई रद्द

एडवाइजरी जारी कर एयरपोर्ट खाना होने से पहले एयरलाइंस के प्रतिनिधि से बात कर लेने का सुझाव दिया।

सुबह आठ बजे से एक बजे तक सबसे अधिक दिशा असर: यूं तो उड़ानों के प्रस्थान में लेटलतीफी पूरे दिन जारी रही। लेकिन दृश्यता कम होने का असर सुबह आठ बजे से सबसे अधिक नजर आने लगा। सुबह आठ बजे से साढ़े बजे के बीच ऐसी एक भी उड़ान नहीं थी, जिसमें करीब एक घंटे का विलंब दर्ज नहीं हुआ। इसके बाद कुछ देर के लिए स्थिति सुधरी लेकिन फिर स्थिति बिगड़ गई। आलम यह था कि साढ़े नौ बजे के बाद एक बजे के बीच कुछ उड़ानों को छोड़कर अधिकांश उड़ानें विलंबित रहीं।



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DANIK JAGRAN

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

एयरबस ने 2024 में 765 विमानों की डिलिवरी की

पेरिस : विमान निर्माता कंपनी एयरबस ने कैलेंडर वर्ष 2024 के दौरान एयरलाइंस को 765 विमानों की डिलिवरी की है। हालांकि, कंपनी अपने लक्ष्य के मुकाबले मामूली अंतर से चूक गई है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, एयरबस ने पिछले वर्ष 770 विमानों की डिलिवरी देने का लक्ष्य रखा था। दिसंबर 2024 में करीब 122 विमानों की डिलिवरी दी है। (रायटर)

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RS DANIK JAGRAN

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

मौसम की चाल

पहाड़ों में कड़ाके की ठंड के साथ खिल रही धूप, मैदानी इलाकों में घने कोहरे से कम हो गई दृश्यता, दिल्ली के आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर 100 से ज्यादा उड़ानें प्रभावित, रेल और सड़क यातायात पर भी असर

घने कोहरे से दृश्यता घटी, हवाई यातायात हुआ प्रभावित

जागरण टीम, नई दिल्ली

पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में जहां बर्फबारी थमने से राहत मिली है और दोपहर बाद धूप खिल रही है। वहीं मैदानी इलाकों में घने कोहरे से जनजीवन प्रभावित हो रहा है। दिल्ली, पंजाब, हरियाणा, उत्तर प्रदेश में कोहरे के कारण दृश्यता बेहद कम हो गई है। इसका हवाई, रेल और सड़क यातायात पर असर पड़ रहा है। शुक्रवार को दिल्ली स्थित आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर कम दृश्यता के चलते 100 से ज्यादा उड़ानें प्रभावित हुईं। श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट दोपहर तक ठप रहा। अमृतसर एयरपोर्ट पर भी तीन उड़ानें रद्द करनी पड़ीं। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, मैदानी क्षेत्रों में अभी कुछ दिन कोहरे का असर रहेगा।

कई क्षेत्रों में दृश्यता शून्य हुई : दिल्ली में शुक्रवार को न्यूनतम तापमान सात डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। राजधानी में कई



नई दिल्ली में शुक्रवार सुबह घने कोहरे से दृश्यता कम रही। वाहन चालक लाइट जलाकर गुजरते दिखे। एएनआइ

इलाकों में सुबह दृश्यता शून्य भी रही। कुछ यही हाल पंजाब का भी रहा। जहां तीन जिलों में दृश्यता शून्य रही। राज्य में भटिंडा और गुरुदासपुर पांच डिग्री सेल्सियस तापमान के साथ राज्य में सबसे ठंडे स्थल रहे। इधर हरियाणा में ठंड बढ़ने के साथ ही शुक्रवार को प्रदेश कोहरे की चादर में लिपटा रहा।

श्रीनगर समेत अधिकांश इलाकों में मौसम शुष्क रहा

कश्मीर के उच्च पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में हल्की बर्फबारी के बीच शुक्रवार को श्रीनगर समेत अधिकांश इलाकों में मौसम शुष्क रहा। दोपहर तक श्रीनगर समेत अधिकांश हिस्से कोहरे में लिपटे रहे। गुलमर्ग समेत उच्च पर्वतीय इलाकों में दूसरे दिन भी रुक-रुक कर बारिश के साथ हल्की बर्फबारी जारी रही। कोकरनाग न्यूनतम तापमान (-5.5 डिग्री) के साथ कश्मीर का सबसे ठंडा क्षेत्र रहा। मौसम विभाग ने अगले 24 घंटों के दौरान घाटी में सामान्य से भारी बर्फबारी की संभावना जताई है। उत्तराखंड में शुक्रवार को मौसम शुष्क रहा। पहाड़

दृश्यता 10 मीटर होने से कई जिलों में हादसे हुए। वहीं मौसम विज्ञानियों ने अभी प्रदेश में कोहरे की संभावना जताई है। पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में मध्यम और पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में घने कोहरे की संभावना है। शुक्रवार को कानपुर नगर और इटावा में सबसे कम तापमान 4.6 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा। दोनों स्थान प्रदेश में

से लेकर मैदान तक कटख घूप खिली। दून में इन दिनों कोहरे के कारण दृश्यता पांच सौ मीटर ही रह गई है। देहरादून एयरपोर्ट पर इसका असर दिखा और छह उड़ाने देरी से पहुंची। हिमाचल में मौसम का अलग ही रुख दिख रहा है। एक तरफ रोहतांग, शिंकुला व बारालावा दर्रे में सुबह हिमपात हुआ तो वहीं शिमला में गर्मी ने रिकार्ड बनाया। शिमला में 18 वर्ष बाद अधिकतम तापमान बढ़ कर 21.6 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। यहां न सिर्फ अधिकतम बल्कि न्यूनतम तापमान में भी बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई है।

सबसे ठंडे रहे। राजस्थान में वनस्थली 5.8 डिग्री सेल्सियस न्यूनतम तापमान के साथ राज्य में सबसे ठंडा स्थान रहा। राज्य के कुछ इलाकों में घना कोहरा होने के कारण दृश्यता बेहद कम रही। बिहार में मौसम विभाग ने कोहरे को लेकर यलो अलर्ट जारी किया है।

More flights to Thailand and Malaysia as visa-free entry spurs Indian traffic

SUKALP SHARMA
New Delhi, January 3

IN THE AUTUMN of 2023, Thailand and Malaysia extended visa-free entry to Indian nationals in the hope of attracting tourists from the country at a time when they were travelling overseas like never before.

Slow post-pandemic economic recovery in China had evidently hit tourist inflows to Southeast Asian hotspots, while India's recovery in terms of international passenger traffic was booming. Meanwhile, emerging destinations in other regions, particularly Central Asia and the Caucasus, also picked up in terms of interest among Indian tourists.

A year on, both Southeast Asian nations appear pleased with the results, so much so that they have decided to extend the visa-free entry facility for Indian passport holders further. Aviation and travel industry insiders say the visa waivers have stimulated demand for travel to Thailand and Malaysia, which airlines have recognised.

Data shows that the number of Indians travelling to the two countries has grown substantially in the wake of these measures, and airlines have jumped at the opportunity by significantly increasing capacity between India and the two countries by adding flights and destinations.

In the December quarter of 2024, the total number of flights in both directions between India and the two countries rose 29.2% y-o-y to 14,409, with the deployed seat capacity rising 26.6% to 28.02 lakh, according to an analysis of data from aviation analytics firm Cirium.

In the January-March quarter, the number of flights is set to rise further to 16,131 (up 43.7% y-o-y), with a cumulative seat capacity of 31.44 lakh seats (up 41.1% y-o-y).



FLYING HIGH

■ In the December quarter of 2024, the total number of flights in both directions between India and the two countries rose 29.2% y-o-y to **14,409**

■ New flights: IndiGo's Chennai-Penang & Bengaluru-Langkawi flights; Air India Express's flights to Bangkok from Pune, Lucknow, Surat, & Amritsar, & its Hyderabad-Phuket service

■ With the inclusion of these flights to Penang (from Chennai), IndiGo will now operate 28 weekly flights to Malaysia from two cities in India

■ In the Jan-March quarter, the number of flights is set to rise to 16,131, with a cumulative seat capacity of 31.44 lakh seats

■ Thailand and Malaysia's major cities — Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur — are significant international aviation hubs

While capacity deployment is not the same as the actual passenger load, it is representative of growth in passenger traffic and airline demand estimates. India's official data for international air passengers is available only until the June quarter of the current fiscal, and even that shows a significant increase in traffic over the corresponding period last year.

In the past year or so, Indian airlines as well as those from Southeast Asia have launched a number of new flights, densifying the network between the two regions. These include IndiGo's Chennai-Penang and Bengaluru-Langkawi flights; Air India Express's flights to Bangkok from Pune, Lucknow, Surat, and Amritsar, and its

Hyderabad-Phuket service; Air India's Delhi-Kuala Lumpur and Delhi-Phuket flights; Thai AirAsiaX flights between Delhi and Bangkok; Thai AirAsia's Hyderabad-Bangkok and Chennai-Phuket flights; AirAsia's Kuala Lumpur-Port Blair service; and Malaysia Airlines's flights from Kuala Lumpur to Amritsar, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad and Kolkata.

"With the inclusion of these flights to Penang (from Chennai), IndiGo will now operate 28 weekly flights to Malaysia from two cities in India. The country's recent visa waiver for Indian citizens is bound to create an even greater demand and easy access for business as well as leisure travellers," IndiGo's head of global sales Vinay Malhotra said.





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4 JANUARY 2025

Boeing still needs culture change: FAA

ASSOCIATED PRESS
January 3

A YEAR AFTER a panel blew out of a Boeing 737 Max during flight, the nation's top aviation regulator says the company needs "a fundamental cultural shift" to put safety and quality above profits.

Mike Whitaker, chief of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), said in an online post Friday that his agency also has more work to do in its oversight of Boeing.

Whitaker, who plans to step down in two weeks to let President-elect Donald Trump pick his own FAA administrator, looked back on his decision last January to ground all 737 Max jets with similar panels called door plugs. Later, the FAA put more inspectors in Boeing factories, limited production of new 737s, and required Boeing to come up with a plan to fix manufacturing problems.

"Boeing is working to make progress executing its comprehensive plan in the areas of safety, quality improvement and effective employee engagement and training," Whitaker said. "But this is not a



one-year project. What's needed is a fundamental cultural shift at Boeing that's oriented around safety and quality above profits. That will require sustained effort and commitment from Boeing, and unwavering scrutiny on our part." The National Transportation Safety Board continues to investigate the door-plug blowout on an Alaska Airlines Max jet.

Despite a gaping hole in the side, pilots landed the plane safely in Portland, Oregon, and no serious injuries were reported.

A month after the accident, investigators said in a preliminary report that bolts used to help secure the panel were not replaced after work in a Boeing factory.



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AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

संकट: कोहरे के चलते चार सौ विमान, दर्जनों ट्रेनें लेट

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। दिल्ली में घने कोहरे के चलते शुक्रवार को 400 से अधिक विमानों ने देरी से उड़ान भरी। दूसरी तरफ, 40 से ज्यादा ट्रेन विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर देरी से पहुंची, जबकि 35 गाड़ियां देरी से रवाना हुईं।

राजधानी में शुक्रवार सुबह घना कोहरा छाया रहा। विमान एवं रेल सेवा पर इसका सबसे अधिक प्रभाव देखने को मिला। घने कोहरे के बीच भी दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों की उड़ान चलती रही। सूत्रों ने बताया कि विमानों के उतरने के लिए रनवे विजुअल रेंज पर्याप्त रही। इसके चलते किसी भी विमान को दूसरे एयरपोर्ट के लिए डाइवर्ट नहीं किया गया।

कैट-3 को छोड़कर अन्य विमानों की उड़ान में समय को लेकर यात्रियों को सतर्क रहने की सलाह दी गई है। एजेंसी का कहना है कि ऐसे विमानों की उड़ान में कोहरे के समय देरी हो सकती है। शुक्रवार को 20 अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमानों ने देरी से उड़ान भरी। हालांकि, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से किसी विमान को डाइवर्ट नहीं किया गया।

दिल्ली के विभिन्न रेलवे स्टेशनों

दिल्ली में ग्रैप-3 की पाबंदियां फिर लागू

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली में प्रदूषण बढ़ने के साथ ग्रैप तीन की पाबंदियां लागू कर दी गई हैं। इसके तहत निजी निर्माण और ध्वस्तीकरण कार्यों पर रोक लगा दी गई। वीएस-3 पेट्रोल और वीएस-4 डीजल वाहनों पर दिल्ली और एनसीआर के जिलों में पाबंदी लग जाएगी। पांचवी तक की कक्षाएं हाईब्रिड मोड में चलाई जाएंगी। शुक्रवार को दिल्ली का वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक 371 के अंक पर रहा है। इसलिए यह पाबंदियां लागू की गईं। > ब्योरा P03

पर रेलगाड़ियां शुक्रवार को कई घंटों की देरी से पहुंची। इसकी वजह से दिल्ली से रवाना होने वाली रेलगाड़ियों को भी कई घंटे की देरी से चलाया गया।

नई दिल्ली से बनारस जाने वाली चंदिभारत दोपहर तीन बजे की जगह रात नौ बजे चलाई गई। इसी तरह कई राजधानी भी घंटों की देरी से रवाना हुईं। > टंड बढ़ने के आसार P07

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

Senior bureaucrat Faiz Ahmed Kidwai is new chief of DGCA

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer Faiz Ahmed Kidwai is the new Director-General (D-G) of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Currently an additional secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Mr. Kidwai is a 1996-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his appointment on Friday.

The posting was necessitated after his predecessor Vikram Dev Dutt was elevated from the additional secretary rank to the rank of secretary and later transferred to the Ministry of Coal where he took charge on October 21. In the interim, a joint-DG level official at the DGCA,



Faiz Ahmed Kidwai

D.C. Sharma, was assigned the additional charge of the D-G.

The top official has the task before him of resolving the stalemate between airlines and pilots over the latter's duty and rest norms. The new rules announced in 2024 increased weekly rest for pilots from 36 hours to 48 hours as well as curtailed night flying following concerns from the cockpit crew over mounting fatigue as well as instances of deaths of pilots while on duty.



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HINDU

CHENNAI

3 JANUARY 2025

Passengers of an international flight dropped off at domestic terminal

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Passengers of an international flight were accidentally taken to the domestic terminal at Chennai airport on Wednesday night. The Air India Express from Singapore reached the city around 11.45 p.m.

Since the flight was parked at the remote stand, around 150 passengers were transported in five buses by the ground handling agency. Of the five buses, two carrying about 90 passengers erroneously dropped them off at the T4 domestic terminal instead of the T2 international terminal, sources said.

As soon as they realised the mistake, they ensured that the 90 passengers were transported to the international terminal in the same bus. "They were accompanied by Customs officials. They got Central Industrial Security Force clearance and subsequently went through immigration. As a result of this, they were delayed by half an

hour. The mistake occurred because it was a new ground handling agency, and we believe there was a communication error," a source said.

The incident came to light when a passenger highlighted the security concerns on social media platform 'X' (formerly Twitter). What if the passengers had exited the terminal without immigration and the inconvenience they had to endure, the passenger said.

"We are aware of an incident where the ground handling agency coach drivers at Chennai airport erroneously directed international passengers of one flight to the domestic arrival area. The issue was promptly resolved," an Air India Express spokesperson said. Airports Authority of India officials say they are looking in it. "The airline and ground handling agency are usually responsible for carrying passengers from the aircraft to the terminal," an official said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

More flights to Thailand and Malaysia as visa-free entry spurs Indian traffic

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

IN THE autumn of 2023, Thailand and Malaysia extended visa-free entry to Indian nationals in the hope of attracting tourists from the country at a time when they were travelling overseas like never before.

Slow post-pandemic economic recovery in China had evidently hit tourist inflows to Southeast Asian hotspots, while

India's recovery in terms of international passenger traffic was booming. Meanwhile, emerging destinations in other regions, particularly Central Asia and the Caucasus, also picked up in terms of interest among Indian tourists.

A year on, both Southeast Asian nations appear pleased with the results, so much so that they have decided to extend the visa-free entry facility for Indian passport holders further. Aviation and travel industry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

• More flights to Thailand, Malaysia as visa-free entry spurs Indian traffic

insiders say the visa waivers have stimulated demand for travel to Thailand and Malaysia, which airlines have recognised.

Data shows that the number of Indians travelling to the two countries has grown substantially in the wake of these measures, and airlines have jumped at the opportunity by significantly increasing capacity between India and the two countries by adding flights and destinations.

In the December quarter of 2024, the total number of flights in both directions between India and the two countries rose 29.2 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to 14,409, with the deployed seat capacity rising 26.6 per cent to 28.02 lakh, according to an analysis of data from aviation analytics firm Cirium.

In the January-March quarter, the number of flights is set to rise further to 16,131 (up 43.7 per cent y-o-y), with a cumulative seat capacity of 31.44 lakh seats (up 41.1 per cent y-o-y).

While capacity deployment is not the same as the actual passenger load, it is representative of growth in passenger traffic and airline demand estimates. India's official data for international air passengers is available only until the June quarter of the current fiscal, and even that shows a significant increase in traffic over the corresponding period last year.

In the past year or so, Indian airlines as well as those from Southeast Asia have launched a number of new flights, densifying the network between the two

regions. These include IndiGo's Chennai-Penang and Bengaluru-Langkawi flights; Air India Express's flights to Bangkok from Pune, Lucknow, Surat, and Amritsar, and its Hyderabad-Phuket service; Air India's Delhi-Kuala Lumpur and Delhi-Phuket flights; Thai AirAsia X flights between Delhi and Bangkok; Thai AirAsia's Hyderabad-Bangkok and Chennai-Phuket flights; AirAsia's Kuala Lumpur-Port Blair service; and Malaysia Airlines' flights from Kuala Lumpur to Amritsar, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad and Kolkata.

"With the inclusion of these flights to Penang (from Chennai), IndiGo will now operate 28 weekly flights to Malaysia from two cities in India. The country's recent visa waiver for Indian citizens is bound to create an even greater demand and easy access for business as well as leisure travellers," IndiGo's head of global sales Vinay Malhotra said recently

when the airline launched its Chennai-Penang service.

"We are seeing rising demand in the international sector, supported by measures like visa-free entry, which have made travel more accessible and cost-effective. We thank the Indian government for the successful negotiation of an additional Air Service Agreement between India and Thailand, along with visa exemptions for Indian tourists and the waiver of Thai tourist visa fees," Thai AirAsia X CEO Tassapon Bijevelid said on the launch of the airline's Delhi-Bangkok service a few weeks ago.

Apart from being popular destinations in themselves, Thailand and Malaysia's major cities — Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur — are significant international aviation hubs. Visa-free entry also encourages Indian travellers to explore destinations beyond these countries by using these airports for connections

and adding a stopover to their broader itinerary without much hassle. Industry insiders say this, too, is adding to heavy passenger flows to these countries.

Flights between India and Thailand in October-December jumped 35.5 per cent y-o-y to 8,782, while deployed seat capacity was higher by 31.4 per cent at 17.44 lakh. In the January-March quarter, flights are set to rise to 9,821 (up 48.3 per cent y-o-y), while deployed seat capacity is seen at 19.48 lakh (up 44.3 per cent y-o-y).

As for flights between India and Malaysia, the December quarter saw a 20.5 per cent y-o-y rise in number of flights to 5,627, and seat capacity was higher by 19.3 per cent at 10.58 lakh. In the March quarter, flights are expected to rise further to 6,301 (up 36.8 per cent y-o-y), and seat capacity is seen at 11.92 lakh (up 35.7 per cent y-o-y).

Official international passenger traffic data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), while available only until the June quarter, also suggests that visa-free entry to Thailand and Malaysia has bumped up the number of Indian travellers visiting these countries.

The number of passengers who flew on direct flights between India and Thailand in April-June rose 21.8 per cent y-o-y to 11.61 lakh. Passenger traffic on direct flights between India and Malaysia jumped 35.3 per cent y-o-y to 8.42 lakh, shows an analysis of international passenger data released by the DGCA.

MEETING THE DEMAND

Country pair	Flights in Oct-Dec	% rise (y-o-y)	Flights in Jan-Mar	% rise (y-o-y)
India-Thailand	8,782	35.5	9,821	48.3
India-Malaysia	5,627	20.5	6,301	36.8
Country pair	Seat capacity in Oct-Dec	% rise (y-o-y)	Seat capacity in Jan-Mar	% rise (y-o-y)
India-Thailand	17.44 lakh	31.4	19.48 lakh	44.3
India-Malaysia	10.58 lakh	19.3	11.92 lakh	35.7

(Flights and seat capacities in both directions; y-o-y: year-on-year); Source: Cirium



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INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

New DGCA DG, FCI Chairman appointed

New Delhi: The government Friday appointed Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, a 1996-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, as the Director General in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. An order of this effect was issued by the DoPT on Friday. His appointment has been approved by the ACC. The ACC also approved the appointment of Ashutosh Agnihotri, a 1999-batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, as the Chairman & Managing Director, Food Corporation of India. **ENS**

Corporate Communications Directorate

INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

Boeing needs 'fundamental cultural shift' putting safety, quality above profits: FAA

DAVID SHEPARDSON
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 3

THE FEDERAL Aviation Administration's tougher oversight of Boeing will continue indefinitely, the agency's outgoing head said on Friday, nearly a year after a door panel missing four key bolts flew off a new Alaska Airlines 737 MAX 9 in mid-air.

The January 5, 2024 incident prompted FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker to cap production at 38 737 MAX planes per month and temporarily ground 170 airplanes. The incident exposed serious safety issues at the U.S. planemaker and contributed to the departure of its then-CEO Dave Calhoun.

"We have conducted an unprecedented number of unannounced audits; and we conduct monthly status reviews with Boeing executives to monitor progress. Our enhanced oversight is here to stay," Whitaker said in a statement ahead of the anniversary of the incident.

Whitaker in February or



The January 5, 2024, incident, involving an Alaska Air plane exposed serious safety issues at the US planemaker. File

dered Boeing to implement a safety and quality improvement plan and previously acknowledged prior oversight "was too hands off."

"This is not a one-year project. What's needed is a fundamental cultural shift at Boeing that's oriented around safety and quality above profits," Whitaker said Friday. "That will require

sustained effort and commitment from Boeing, and unwavering scrutiny on our part."

Boeing on Friday released an update on its safety and quality efforts, saying it has instituted new random quality audits and significantly reduced defects in 737 fuselage assembly at supplier Spirit AeroSystems by increasing inspection points and

implementing a customer quality approval process.

Whitaker last month said he plans to step down early from his five-year term on Jan. 20 when President-elect Donald Trump takes office. Trump's nominee to head the Transportation Department, Sean Duffy, told Reuters last month he wanted to make sure "we have safe planes coming out of Boeing."

The FAA announced a new audit of Boeing in October. Last month, Whitaker met with new Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg, and he plans another meeting this month. Whitaker praised Boeing for waiting a month before resuming 737 production following a machinists strike. Boeing agreed in July to plead guilty to fraud in the wake of two fatal 737 MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 and to pay a fine of up to \$487.2 million and spend \$455 million to improve safety and compliance practices over three years of court-supervised probation as part of the deal. A judge last month rejected the deal, faulting a diversity and inclusion provision. **REUTERS**

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLANIUM POST

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

Over 400 flights delayed as thick fog engulfs Delhi

NEW DELHI: More than 400 flights were delayed at the airport in the national capital on Friday morning as low visibility conditions due to dense fog disrupted operations, according to an official.

Visibility conditions dropped to zero in some areas of the national capital due to the thick blanket of fog.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature in the city settled at 21.2 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above average and the minimum temperature was recorded at 7 degrees Celsius, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The relative humidity during the day ranged between 74 and 100 percent, it said. **Continued on P4**

From Page 1

400 flights

The official said over 400 flights were delayed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) but there were no diversions.

As per information available on flight tracking website Flight-radar24.com, 470 flights were delayed at the airport.

"Low Visibility Procedures are still in progress at Delhi Airport. However, there has been no impact on flight operations.

"Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information," Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a post on X at 11 am.

In another post at 6.35 am, DIAL said while landing and take-offs continue at the airport, flights that are not CAT III compliant may get affected.

CAT III facility allows aircraft to operate in low-visibility conditions.

It said all runways are operating under CAT III, which allows aircraft to operate in low visibility conditions.

IGIA, operated by DIAL, handles around 1,300 flight move-

ments daily.

The weather office has predicted a partly cloudy sky for Saturday, with predominant surface winds from the northwest at speeds of less than 4 kmph in the morning.

Moderate fog and smog are expected in most areas, with dense fog in isolated places during the morning. Wind speeds are likely to increase to 4-6 kmph in the afternoon, before decreasing to less than 4 kmph from the southwest direction in the evening and night.

Smog and shallow to moderate fog are also expected during the evening and night hours, it said.

The maximum and minimum temperatures on Saturday are expected to settle at 21 and 8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

GRAP 3 curbs

Parents and students have the option to choose online education wherever available.

Under Stage 3, the use of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel cars (4-wheelers) is restricted in Delhi and nearby NCR districts. Persons with disabilities are exempt.

Stage 3 also bans non-essential diesel-operated medium goods vehicles with BS-IV or older standards in Delhi.



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PIONEER

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai becomes DGCA chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed the chief of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Friday. The 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre is currently Additional Secretary in the

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. He has been appointed as Director General in the DGCA "in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the Government of India by keeping the Recruitment Rules of the post in abeyance", an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. Ashutosh Agnihotri, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, has been named Chairman & Managing Director of Food Corporation of India (FCI), it said.



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RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

4 JANUARY 2025

मौसम: अमृतसर और श्रीनगर में दृश्यता जीरो कोहरे के कारण 500 उड़ानों में देरी, कई ट्रेनों की रफ्तार घटी



नई दिल्ली में शुक्रवार को भारी कोहरे के बीच से गुजरती ट्रेन।

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. देश के कई उत्तरी राज्यों में शुक्रवार को कड़के की सर्दियों और कोहरे का असर रहा। इससे दर्जनों ट्रेनों और उड़ानों प्रभावित हुईं। कोहरे के कारण इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 394 उड़ानें देरी से खाना हुईं। इसके साथ ही 145 उड़ानें निर्धारित समय पर नहीं पहुंचीं। वहीं दिल्ली से चलने वाली 24 ट्रेनों ने भी देरी से प्रस्थान किया। देश के 14 राज्यों में कोहरे का असर रहा। अमृतसर और श्रीनगर में भी दृश्यता जीरो होने से एयरपोर्ट पर संचालन

दिल्ली में ग्रैप-3 के प्रतिबंध लागू

दिल्ली में प्रदूषण बढ़ने के बाद एक बार फिर ग्रैप-3 के प्रतिबंध लागू कर दिए हैं। अब राजधानी में गैर जरूरी निर्माण कार्यों पर रोक रहेगी। कक्षा 5वीं के स्कूल हाइब्रिड मोड में चलेंगे। इसके साथ ही दिल्ली एनसीआर में बीएस-3 पेट्रोल व बीएस-4 डीजल वाहनों का भी इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा सकेगा।

रोक दिया गया। शनिवार को भी नई दिल्ली, हरियाणा और चंडीगढ़ में कोहरा छाए रहने की संभावना है।



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SWATANTRA BHARAT

KOLKATA

3 JANUARY 2025

लखनऊ से भुवनेश्वर के बीच सीधी उड़ान सेवा कल से

स्वतंत्र भारत संवाददाता, लखनऊ। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस लखनऊ से भुवनेश्वर के लिए सीधी उड़ान सेवा चार जनवरी से शुरू कर रही है। इससे लखनऊ से भुवनेश्वर का सफर आसान हो जायेगा। मुख्यमंत्री योगी

■ **सीएम दिखायेंगे नई
फ्लाइट को हरी झंडी**

आदित्यनाथ नई फ्लाइट को हरी झंडी दिखा सकते हैं। लखनऊ से फ्लाइट आईएक्स 2802 दिन में 11:15 बजे उड़ान भरेगी। यह भुवनेश्वर एयरपोर्ट पर

13:05 बजे उतरेगी। वापसी में आईएक्स 2801 भुवनेश्वर से 7:55 बजे उड़ान भरकर 9:40 बजे लखनऊ उतरेगी। यह फ्लाइट लखनऊ-भुवनेश्वर के बीच सप्ताह में तीन दिन मंगलवार, गुरुवार और शनिवार को संचालित होगी। फिलहाल भुवनेश्वर के लिए इंडिगो की वाया रायपुर उड़ान है। इंडिगो की फ्लाइट 6-ई 6521 सुबह 9:20 बजे उड़ान भरकर रायपुर होते हुए 12:10 बजे भुवनेश्वर पहुंचाती है। वापसी में फ्लाइट संख्या 6-ई 6522 भुवनेश्वर से 12:46 बजे उड़ान भरने के बाद रायपुर होते हुए 3:40 बजे लखनऊ उतरती है। इसके अलावा इंडिगो की ही वाया कोलकाता भी भुवनेश्वर की फ्लाइट है। ऐसी फ्लाइटों में समय ज्यादा लगता है। सीधी फ्लाइट यात्रा को आसान बना देती है।



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BANGLORE

3 JANUARY 2025

Air India Express launches direct flights to Saudi city

Bengaluru: Air India Express Thursday launched direct flights from KIA to Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The new service will operate three times a week and expected to offer affordable options to passengers travelling to and from West Asia.

Dammam, a major economic hub in the region, is expected to attract business travellers, tourists and those visiting their families working there. TNN

No Indian carrier makes it to punctuality list last year: Data

Hoax Threats, Infra Crunch & Own Issues Were Some Factors Behind It

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New Delhi: Indian carriers operated more flights in 2024 than they did in the previous year but their on-time performance (OTP) dropped significantly, according to aviation analytics company Cirium.

A number of factors, like spate of hoax bomb threats last year, infra crunch leading to congestion both on the ground at airports and hovering in the air, and airlines' own issues, like poor aircraft despatch reliability or mismanagement leading to delays, have meant no Indian carrier figured in Cirium's list of 10 most punctual airlines in 2024 under any category.

Similarly, no Indian airport has made it to the punctuality list in any category, a



Representative picture

NOT 'ON TIME': Airlines are measured as 'on time' when a scheduled flight arrives within 15 minutes of scheduled arrival, while airports are measured by departure times being within 15 minutes of scheduled departure

far cry from 2023 when IndiGo was the fourth most punctual Asia-Pacific airline and Bengaluru and Hyderabad ranked among the most punctual airports.

Data released Thursday by Cirium shows IndiGo operated over 7.5 lakh flights last year, of which almost 70% were on time. In 2023, IndiGo had operated 6.8 lakh

flights, of which 82.2% were on time. Air India operated almost 1.8 lakh flights last year, of which 63.7% were on time. In 2023, AI had operated fewer flights, at about 1.5 lakh, but Cirium did not give OTP data for that year "as the percentage of flights tracked does not meet the threshold". The world's most punctual airline last year, Aeromexico, had an

OTP of 86.7%. Airlines are measured as "on time" when a scheduled flight arrives within 15 minutes of scheduled arrival, while airports are measured by departure times being within 15 minutes of scheduled departure.

Regarding the Cirium data, IndiGo said in a statement: "IndiGo remains dedicated to operational excellence as Indian aviation rapidly expands, already ranking as the third-largest market globally. Despite infrastructural challenges and circumstances beyond our control, such as bomb threats, extended runway closures, and weather-related delays, including monsoon and fog conditions, IndiGo has consistently delivered reliable service. As of Oct, IndiGo has reclaimed the (number) one position in OTP rankings within India."

Full report on www.toi.in



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CHENNAI

3 JANUARY 2025

Int'l flyers dropped at domestic terminal

Chennai: It was complete chaos at T4 domestic terminal of Chennai airport on Wednesday as passengers of an Air India Express flight from Singapore were dropped at the domestic arrival terminal instead of the international terminal.

SHUTTLE MIX-UP

Anantha Raman, a passenger who arrived on the flight, took to X to post a video of passengers stranded at the domestic terminal with no one to assist them. "After more than an hour, they made us pass through the security check again and then sent us

to T2 for immigration, customs, etc," he said.

While passengers were trying to leave without clearance by immigration and customs, the airline realised the blunder. Passengers were stopped and taken to the international terminal.

Airport sources said the shuttle service operator mistook the flight for a domestic flight as it came to a stop at the T4 terminal. Sources added that Air India Express always parks their international flights at T4 instead of T2 for ease of operation.

Air India Express officials were not available for comment. **TNN**