



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 APRIL 2025

MoD's nod for Adilabad airport

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The Ministry of Defence has granted in-principle approval for the Telangana government's proposal to develop the Adilabad Airport for civilian air operations.

The decision came following detailed consultations between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the state government, officials said on Wednesday.

The IAF has agreed to allow civilian aircraft operations at the Adilabad airfield and proposed its development as a joint-user airport in coordina-



Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

tion with the Airports Authority of India (AAI). For civilian operations to commence, AAI will need to acquire adjacent land for a new civil terminal, aircraft parking apron, and other infrastructure.

Additionally, the existing runway must be resur-

facied, and a new taxiway connecting the civil apron to the runway needs to be constructed.

The IAF has instructed the AAI to submit a detailed proposal for obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC).

Telangana roads and buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy expressed satisfaction over securing permissions for Adilabad Airport, following a similar approval for Mamnoon Airport in Warangal in February.

The minister highlighted that the gaining clearances for two airports within two months

demonstrates the state government's commitment to enhancing aviation infrastructure and economic growth.

Komatireddy further stated that the Telangana government is working closely with the AAI to expedite proposal submissions and secure necessary approvals.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for their support in advancing airport development initiatives in the state.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

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Air pollution: Trial for artificial rain in May

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said on Thursday the government is likely to conduct a trial for artificial rain in May as part of its efforts to tackle air pollution. The Environment Minister held a review meeting with officials from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the Ministry of Defence, the Institute of Tropical Meteorology under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Ministry of Environment, MHA, IIT Kanpur, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the Airport Authority of India, and other stakeholders reviewed the potential of artificial rain through cloud seeding.

After the meeting, Sirsa said that the trial will be carried out in an area in outer Delhi, with the final site selection to be made by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and IIT Kanpur. The minister said the plan is part of a broader strategy to tackle pollution using multiple methods. "This is a war against pollution and we are working on various measures, with artificial rain being one of them. Before implementing it on a large scale, we will try to conduct a trial in May when summer is at its peak," he added. He further said, "We have asked

for detailed reports to determine whether the chemicals used in cloud seeding could have any harmful effects on human health or the environment." Based on the findings, we will conduct a small-scale test and analyse water samples. If the trial is successful, we will expand the project across Delhi during periods of severe pollution, the environment minister said.

The Team of IIT Kanpur, during the meeting, apprised the minister that Cloud seeding is a scientific technique that enhances precipitation by dispersing specific chemical substances into clouds. These substances act as cloud condensation nuclei, encouraging water droplets to form and grow until they become heavy enough to fall as rain. Aircraft or ground-based generators are typically used for dispersing these substances into the atmosphere.

The officials informed the minister that this process generally covers hundreds of kilometres in area and that it has been successfully implemented in various parts of the world to tackle drought conditions and mitigate air pollution by bringing down the suspended pollutants.

IIT Kanpur has previously demonstrated success in cloud seeding, with six out of seven experiments showing positive results in inducing rainfall under suitable atmospheric conditions.

Cloud seeding back on table for fighting bad air in city

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Repeatedly presented by previous govts as a potential solution to the city's emergency air crisis during winters but never implemented, cloud seeding is back in talk as environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa held a meeting on

Thursday.



Manjinder
Singh Sirsa

The meeting reviewed the potential of artificial rain with stakeholders, including officials from Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi

Pollution Control Committee, IIT Kanpur, Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Union home, defence and environment ministries, Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India.

Cloud seeding is a weather-modification measure that introduces substances in the air to aggregate and condense moisture particles into rain. Earlier, the previous Aam Aadmi Party govt stated that they couldn't do the artificial rain due to the lack of moisture, a must for the rain, while later they accused central govt of not cooperating.

"IIT Kanpur previously demonstrated success in cloud seeding, with six out of seven experiments showing positive results in inducing rainfall under suitable atmospheric conditions. The minister carefully examined the viability and effectiveness of the project based on these past experiences and urged the departments concerned to extend cooperation for the necessary permissions for its implementation in Delhi," Delhi govt stated.

The meeting included discussions on the necessary compliance measures and permissions required, regulatory approvals, flight clearances and inter-departmental coordination to ensure a smooth execution of the project.

"We are fighting a war against air pollution in Delhi and are committed to implementing all necessary solutions. We are doing this for our children, so they can breathe clean air," Sirsa said.

Adilabad airport plan: IAF gives 'in principle' approval

IAF Plans New Training Centre At The Airport

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Hyderabad: In a major boost to the state govt's plan to connect more towns in Telangana by air, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has given its 'in principle' approval for a civil airport in Adilabad. Recently, the govt had also got the Centre's nod to construct an airport in Mamnoon in Warangal. Once the two are developed, along with the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad, the state would have three airports.

The demand for an airport has been a long pending one in Adilabad, which has an old IAF airstrip on the town's periphery. The town's proximity to Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra also made it an ideal location for an airport. A major grievance of locals has been that they had to depend on airports either in Hyderabad or Nagpur.

In response to the state govt's proposal, the ministry

JOINT USER AIRFIELD SUGGESTED

- Roads & buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announces IAF approval

- Ministry of defence (MoD) conveyed IAF's approval for project in a letter on Tuesday

- AAI may be requested to submit detailed proposal for NOC issuance, says letter



- IAF suggests developing Adilabad airport as joint user airfield, accommodating both civil and IAF aircraft movements, says Komatireddy

of defence (MoD) conveyed IAF's approval for the project in a letter on Tuesday. The IAF said that it also planned to set up a training establishment at the airport.

"IAF considered the request and agreed 'in principle' to the proposal of the govt of Telangana for civil aircraft operations from Adilabad airfield... The Airports Authority of India (AAI) may be requested to submit a detailed proposal for the issuance of NoC by IAF," IAF director Sanap Bajirao Ramnath said in the letter.

Roads and buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, announcing the approval on Wednesday, said it was due to Telangana govt's relentless efforts that the state has got

nod for two airports within a few months.

The minister said the IAF suggested developing Adilabad airport as a joint user airfield, accommodating both civil and IAF aircraft movements. The AAI has been asked to provide the required land for these developments, he said. The minister said that officials were reviewing the next steps and will compile a comprehensive report to be submitted to the Centre soon.

He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union civil aviation minister K Ram-mohan Naidu and CM A Revanth Reddy for their support in obtaining approvals for both Mamnoon and Adilabad airports.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

2 APRIL 2025

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट; स्पाइसजेट की सिर्फ एक पुणे की फ्लाइट चलेगी, 4 शहरों की बंद

जयपुर | स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस ने जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से अपना फ्लाइट संचालन समेट लिया है। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार स्पाइसजेट अब जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से सिर्फ एक डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट संचालित करेगी। दरअसल एयरलाइंस द्वारा समर शेड्यूल में फ्लिहल सुबह वाली पुणे की एकमात्र फ्लाइट संचालित की जाएगी। इससे पहले एयरलाइन 4 अन्य शहर वाराणसी, अमृतसर, कोलकाता और अहमदाबाद के लिए फ्लाइट्स संचालित होती थी, लेकिन समर शेड्यूल में एयरलाइन ने सभी फ्लाइट्स बंद कर दी हैं। वैसे स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट्स अक्सर लेट या रद्द रहती हैं।

शनिवार देर रात जयपुर से रात 2 बजे स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट चेन्नई गई थी। चेन्नई जाने के बाद जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर एग्न टीम निरीक्षण कर रही थी। रनवे पर निरीक्षण के दौरान टीम को टायर के टुकड़े मिले। इसकी जानकारी टीम ने तुरंत एटीसी को दी। निरीक्षण की अवधि में 3 विमानों का आवागमन हुआ था। ऐसे में एटीसी ने तीनों विमान के पायलटों को टायर के फटने की जानकारी दी। इसके बाद स्पाइसजेट फ्लाइट के पायलट ने सावधानी बरतते हुए चेन्नई में लैंडिंग से पहले होल्ड पर रहते हुए विमान में मौजूद ईंधन को डिस्पोज किया। इससे बड़ा हादसा टल गया।



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

3 APRIL 2025

एयरपोर्ट; दो दिन से प्रीपेड टैक्सी बंद

जयपुर | एयरपोर्ट पर दो दिन से प्रीपेड टैक्सी सेवा बंद है। इसका कारण एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन द्वारा टैक्सी सेवा का लाइसेंस रिन्यू नहीं करना है। लाइसेंस रिन्यू नहीं होने से जहां टैक्सी चालक एयरपोर्ट के बाहर भटकने को मजबूर हैं, वहीं यात्रियों को कम दरों वाली टैक्सी सेवा नहीं मिल पा रही। हालांकि एप से चलने वाली टैक्सी एयरपोर्ट पर उपलब्ध हैं, लेकिन इनकी दरें पीक आवर्स में बहुत ज्यादा रहती हैं, जबकि प्रीपेड टैक्सी का किराया आरटीओ की दरों के मुताबिक रहता है। एयरपोर्ट के अनुसार बुधवार को एक महीने लाइसेंस का अप्रूवल दिया है। यह अंदर रहना का ही है। वहीं, प्रीपेड टैक्सी यूनियन ने कहा कि अप्रूवल बाहर रहने के लिए दिया है, जो सही नहीं है, क्योंकि प्रीपेड टैक्सी का काउंटर सालों एयरपोर्ट के अंदर रहा है।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ने का रास्ता साफ

■ गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से 24.8 किमी पर फिल्म सिटी के पास जुड़ेगा
■ उत्तर प्रदेश एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ने 74.3 किलोमीटर लंबे ग्रीन फील्ड लिंक एक्सप्रेसवे का एलाइनमेंट किया तैयार

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 3 अप्रैल (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट रेलवे, आर्बिटल ट्रेन के साथ रोड नेटवर्क से जोड़ने की दिशा में तेजी से कार्य किया जा रहा है। गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे को जेवर एयरपोर्ट से जोड़ने के लिए एक लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे बनाए जाने का रास्ता अब साफ हो गया। लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे योडा के कुछ सेक्टरों के बीच से होकर जा रहा था। जिसे लेकर यमुना प्राधिकरण को आपत्ति थी। उत्तर प्रदेश एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास ने इसका समाधान निकाल लिया है। अब गंगा लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के जरिए 24 किलोमीटर पहले ही जुड़ जाएगा। फिल्म सिटी के लिए प्रस्तावित सेक्टर-28 और औद्योगिक सेक्टर-21 के बीच यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ने पर सहमति बन गई है। इसके लिए कोई इंटरचेंज बनाने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। इस एक्सप्रेस वे के बनने से मेरठ, बुलंदशहर के लोग कम समय में सीधे जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंच सकेंगे। इसके साथ ही जेवर एयरपोर्ट गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे के माध्यम से सीधे प्रयागराज से जुड़ जाएगा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। उत्तर प्रदेश एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यूपीडा) ने 74.3 किलोमीटर लंबे ग्रीन फील्ड लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे का एलाइनमेंट



तैयार कर लिया है। यमुना प्राधिकरण ने भी यूपीडा को अपने अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में जमीन अधिग्रहण के लिए अनापत्ति पत्र (एनओसी) जारी कर दी है। लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे 54 गांव की जमीन पर बनेगा।

प्राधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे और यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे को जोड़ने के लिए लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे बनना है। यह 120 मीटर चौड़ा लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे, गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे पर 44.3 किलोमीटर यानी बुलंदशहर के सियाणा क्षेत्र से शुरू होगा व यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के 24.8 किलोमीटर यानी सेक्टर-21 फिल्म सिटी के पास आकर जुड़ेगा। खास बात यह है कि लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे अब यमुना सिटी के किसी भी सेक्टर को काटकर नहीं जाएगा, पहले यह सेक्टरों के बीच से गुजर रहा था। पहले इसकी लंबाई 83 किलोमीटर थी, अब इसका दोबारा से एलाइनमेंट तैयार हुआ है जिससे सेक्टरों को बचाते हुए इसे सेक्टर-21 में जोड़ने की योजना तैयार है। लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे का निर्माण कुल 54 गांवों की भूमि पर होगा, जिनमें गौतमबुद्धनगर के नौ गांव और बुलंदशहर के 45 गांव हैं। इनमें 13 गांव खुर्जा तहसील के हैं, बाकी बुलंदशहर, सियाणा व शिकारपुर

तहसील के रहेंगे। जल्द ही यूपीडा गौतमबुद्धनगर के इन नौ गांवों में भूमि अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया शुरू करेगा, जिसके लिए प्राधिकरण की ओर से हरी झंडी मिल गई है। इस परियोजना पर करीब 4000 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होंगे।

दिल्ली-मुंबई समेत आगरा तक राह होगी आसान

मेरठ से प्रयागराज तक बन रहा गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे के यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे से जुड़ने के बाद नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट, दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेस वे और यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे पर आगरा से ग्रेटर नोएडा तक की राह आसान हो जाएगी। साथ ही देश-विदेश से आने वाले यात्रियों को इस एक्सप्रेस वे के जरिए मेरठ से प्रयागराज तक भी सीधी कनेक्टिविटी मिलेगी। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से जुड़ने पर गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे की उपयोगिता और बढ़ जाएगी। इसके अलावा लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे का यमुना सिटी के औद्योगिक सेक्टर 28, 29, 32, 33 से भी सीधा जुड़ाव होगा, जिससे कार्गो के वाहनों को एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचने या इससे जुड़े किसी भी रूट पर पहुंचना आसान हो जाएगा। इसके साथ ही लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे को एनएच

गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे को जोड़ने वाले लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे का एलाइनमेंट तैयार हो गया है। इसके बनने के बाद एयरपोर्ट की मल्टीमॉडल कनेक्टिविटी में एक और कड़ी जुड़ जाएगी : डॉ. अठणवीर सिंह, सीईओ यमुना प्राधिकरण।

बुलंदशहर में दोनों तरफ बनेगा औद्योगिक कलस्टर

गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ने वाले नए लिंक ग्रीनफील्ड एक्सप्रेस वे के दोनों तरफ किनारे पर बुलंदशहर में औद्योगिक कलस्टर भी विकसित होगा। इससे नई औद्योगिक इकाइयों को भूमि उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी। एयरपोर्ट, चोला रेलवे स्टेशन व एक्सप्रेस वे की नजदीकी के कारण यहां निवेशकों व निर्यातकों को काफी सहूलियत होगी और यहां औद्योगिक व आर्थिक गतिविधियां भी तेज होंगी। इसके लिए 13 स्थान चिह्नित भी कर लिए गए हैं।

34 से भी जोड़ा जा सकता है, हालांकि अभी इसे लेकर कोई कार्य योजना तैयार नहीं है।

गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे के बारे में

इस परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत 4415 करोड़ रुपए है, रकार ने बजट में इस परियोजना के लिए 1000 करोड़ रुपए की व्यवस्था की है। गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे की लंबाई 594 किलोमीटर है, यह मेरठ जिले में एनएच 334 से शुरू होकर प्रयागराज जिले में समाप्त होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

एयरपोर्ट पर निजी आभूषण अनावश्यक रूप से जब्त न करें

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों से उनके पुराने व निजी आभूषण जब्त करने के मामले में दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने अहम निर्देश दिया है। न्यायमूर्ति प्रतिभा एम सिंह व न्यायमूर्ति रजनीश कुमार गुप्ता की पीठ ने सीमा शुल्क अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया कि यात्रा के दौरान यात्रियों के पुराने और निजी आभूषण को अनावश्यक रूप से न जब्त किया जाए। पीठ ने यह निर्देश तब दिया जब सीमा शुल्क विभाग की तरफ से सूचित किया गया कि केंद्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर और सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड (सीबीआइसी) द्वारा हितधारकों के साथ विस्तृत परामर्श करके बैगेज नियमों में संशोधन के लिए कुछ और समय की आवश्यकता है।

हाई कोर्ट इस तरह की 30 से अधिक याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई कर रहा है। याचिकाकर्ताओं ने याचिका में सीमा शुल्क विभाग द्वारा भारत आने वाले भारतीय और विदेशी

- हाई कोर्ट ने सीमा शुल्क विभाग अधिकारियों को दिया निर्देश
- कहा-भारत आने वाले यात्रियों को कोई परेशानी न हो

मूल के पर्यटकों के सामान को रोकने की प्रक्रिया पर सवाल उठाए गए हैं। पीठ ने कहा कि ऐसे में जबकि सीबीआइसी और सीमा शुल्क विभाग अब बैगेज नियमों में संशोधन करने के लिए समय मांग रहे हैं, तो विभाग द्वारा अपने सभी अधिकारियों के लिए एक संवेदनशीलता की पहल की जानी चाहिए, ताकि भारत आने वाले यात्रियों को कोई परेशानी न हो।

पीठ ने कहा, यदि बैगेज नियमों में सुनवाई की अगली तारीख तक संशोधन नहीं किया जा सकता है, तो 19 मई तक एक मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया (एसओपी) पेश की जाए और संशोधन होने तक इस एसओपी का पालन किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

एयरपोर्ट को एक्सप्रेसवे से जोड़ने का काम आगे बढ़ा



ग्रैंटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। उत्तर प्रदेश एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यूपीडा) ने 74.3 किलोमीटर लंबे ग्रीन फील्ड लिंक एक्सप्रेसवे का एलाइनमेंट तैयार कर लिया है। इससे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को गंगा एक्सप्रेसवे से जोड़ने का रास्ता साफ हो गया।

प्राधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि गंगा एक्सप्रेसवे और यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे को जोड़ने के लिए लिंक एक्सप्रेसवे 54 गांवों की जमीन पर

गंगा एक्सप्रेसवे को जोड़ने वाले लिंक एक्सप्रेसवे का एलाइनमेंट तैयार हो गया है। इसके बनने के बाद एयरपोर्ट की कनेक्टिविटी में एक और कड़ी जुड़ जाएगी।

-डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह, सीईओ यमुना प्राधिकरण

बनना है। यमुना प्राधिकरण ने यूपीडा को अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में जमीन अधिग्रहण के लिए अनापत्ति पत्र (एनओसी) भी जारी कर दी है। यह 120 मीटर चौड़ा लिंक एक्सप्रेसवे, गंगा एक्सप्रेसवे पर 44.3 किलोमीटर यानी बुलंदशहर के सियाना क्षेत्र से शुरू होगा। यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के सेक्टर-21 फिल्म सिटी के पास आकर जुड़ेगा।

Public transport linkages can revolutionise airports

Readers might be interested in an interesting piece that appeared in *The Economist* (tinyurl.com/yckh2txc) on India's airports and their functionality or the lack of it.

But I would like to emphasise one of the most overlooked aspects, a feature in which they lag behind almost all their global peers — seamless connectivity to and from the facility through public transport. The world over, metros, bus and several other forms of public mass transport are the only modes used by the ultra-rich, rich and the middle-class: How often does one see passengers jumping into a taxi in Paris or Amsterdam to reach the city centre from the airport? The convenience of the bus, the subway, trams and the metro beats the comfort of the taxi by a mile.

The advantages, including the reduction in emission footprint, need no elaboration. At Delhi's T3, to cite one instance, finding a parking slot for a cab or a private vehicle at peak hours is almost impossible due to clogged lanes. If the airport didn't have metro connectivity, one can only imagine how much worse things would have been.

In Goa, getting an affordable taxi remains a challenge. This sounds absurd for a state whose mainstay is tourism but in India, absurdities lurk at every corner. Taxis to and fro from the two airports in the state — Dabolim in the South and MOPA in the North — cost double of what they do in most other Indian cities.

So, you can imagine my delight when a young, budget-conscious friend who lives in Panjim told me he took the bus from MOPA and paid ₹250 for the hassle-free ride. Last mile connectivity, of course, is not a strength of almost all Indian cities, but he managed to get an auto and reached home for ₹300 as opposed to ₹1,600 for a taxi.

Inspired, on a day-trip back from Mumbai with just hand-luggage, I located the Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) bus counter at the airport and found that I had just missed the last bus and the next one was a wait of one hour at least. So, I took a Goa Miles (a PPP app by the Goa Tourism Development Corporation and a private vendor) taxi.

Upon further enquiry, I discovered that



The advantages, including emission reduction, need no elaboration. HTPHOTO

KTCL started operations from MOPA airport to four locations in Goa with six 49-seater electric buses, with fares ranging from ₹200 to ₹500. The buses have hourly departures and can be boarded from four points in Goa, to reach the airport as well. The fact that some fliers can and do avoid the prohibitive cost of a taxi and lower the loads on Goa's crowded and pot-holed inner roads sounds like progress to me.

That's why I was happy to learn of the two agreements between Noida International Airport (at Jewar in Greater Noida) and the Uttarakhand and Haryana roadways that will offer seamless AC bus services from the airport to four key destinations in Uttarakhand and nine in Haryana. Passengers will be able to take these buses directly from NIA to their destinations, which itself is a huge positive.

It remains to be seen how fliers make their way from central bus stations or city centres to their final destinations however, since last-mile connectivity remains a challenge in most Indian cities. I am not sure how many readers might have experienced this, but the central bus terminal in Dehradun is a nightmarish spot for almost anyone and at any time, but even more so for heavily jet-lagged fliers, who might undertake the road journey by bus.

So, how well the Jewar initiative works remains to be seen, but it's definitely a step in the right direction, one that every Indian airport needs to emulate.

In yet another first, Jewar airport has also entered into a partnership with Mahindra Logistics Mobility to offer a premium, all-electric taxi service for passengers. A fleet of 100% electric vehicles, offering passengers a pickup and drop-off facility located directly at the arrival and departure kerbs with minimal walking distances is proposed to be available 24X7. Competing with the Olas and Ubers, the service is expected to be available through every possible channel — a mobile app, website, call centre, airport kiosks and through the airline one flies. But, as experts in the sector point out, in a cost-conscious country like ours, the fares charged by the service will finally determine success or failure.

Either way, the very fact that airports are beginning to think beyond the building and looking at other aspects like functionality and connectivity is a sign of coming of age for the Indian airport sector.

What we now need to work on is behavioural change from those who can best benefit from these developments. Can the authorities, governments or private airport owners convince more fliers to jump on the public transport bandwagon? How long will it be before affluent Indian fliers begin to see the light?

Soon after he took charge, the Union aviation minister publicly proclaimed his intentions of bringing down fares so that the common man can fly, which sounded a bit ludicrous to me (free market principles). So, here's my submission: If the common man can fly, why can't the more privileged be encouraged to take buses and other forms of transport to and from the airport? Leading by example is the need of the hour.

Anjali Bhargava writes about governance, infrastructure and the social sector. The views expressed are personal



Anjali Bhargava



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

3 APRIL 2025

UPGRADE IS PART OF A LARGER RS 5,000 CR MASTER PLAN

‘Kolkata airport expansion work likely to meet Dec 2025 deadline’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Working towards the goal of increasing terminal two (T2's) annual passenger capacity from 26 million to 28 million by December 2025, the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) airport is planning to add over 71,000 square feet (approximately 6,596 square meters) of floor space to the departure and arrival levels.

This upgrade is part of a larger Rs 5,000 crore master plan announced in July 2024 which involves constructing a new U-shaped integrated terminal to replace the old domestic Terminal 1 (T1) and air traffic services (ATS) building. It aims to add 11 million passengers annually, pushing the airport's total capacity to around 39 million by 2030-31.

Airport sources said the additional space will expand the security hold area (SHA), addressing chronic conges-

The Expansion

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- » It aims to add 11 million passengers annually, pushing the airport's total capacity to around 39 million by 2030-31
- » By December 2025, this will lift T2's capacity to 28 million passengers



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

- » Additional space will expand the security hold area (SHA), addressing chronic congestion noted in passenger feedback

tion noted in passenger feedback. It includes four new bus boarding gates in the domestic wing, reducing reliance on remote bays and easing peak-hour bottlenecks.

In arrival, the space previously occupied by artificial water bodies and underutilized zones is being repurposed to streamline baggage claim and passenger exit processes, enhancing flow from the terminal's 18 aerobridges and 57

parking bays. The expansion employs prefabricated structures to minimise disruption to T2's operations, which currently handle about 400 daily flights. This approach will leverage the terminal's existing 233,000-square-meter footprint. It was learnt that as of April 2, construction is on track and is likely to succeed in meeting the December 2025 deadline. The additional space will add roughly two million pas-

sengers to T2's annual capacity.

Airport sources said the addition of over 71,000 square feet to T2's departure and arrival levels, as part of the ongoing Rs 130 crore expansion, is a pivotal step in Kolkata Airport's modernization.

By December 2025, this will lift T2's capacity to 28 million passengers, alleviating immediate pressure while paving the way for the larger terminal project starting August 2025.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAI PUR

2 APRIL 2025

एयरपोर्ट पर खुलेंगी शराब दुकानें, 10 कमरे वाले होटलों में बार

जयपुर@पत्रिका. प्रदेश में नई आबकारी नीति मंगलवार से लागू हो गई। पहली बार एक साथ चार साल के लिए नीति जारी की है। सभी 7665 दुकानें नई नीति के तहत संचालित होंगी। एयरपोर्ट पर भी शराब दुकानें खोलने का पहली बार प्रावधान किया गया है। लेकिन यहां दुकानों का आवंटन एयरपोर्ट प्राधिकरण की अनुशंसा पर किया जाएगा। एयरपोर्ट पर मॉडल शॉप खोलने व बंद करने का समय भी प्राधिकरण ही तय करेगा। इसके अलावा एक ही परिसर में होटल बार और रेस्टोरेंट बार भी खोले जा सकेंगे। फैक्टरी आउटलेट पर भी शराब लाइसेंस लिया जा सकेगा। नई नीति के प्रावधानों के तहत वित्त विभाग ने मंगलवार को राजस्थान आबकारी अधिनियम में संशोधन को लेकर कई अधिसूचनाएं जारी कीं।

राजस्थान आबकारी एवं मद्यसंयम नीति 1 अप्रैल 2025 से 31 मार्च 2029 तक लागू रहेगी। यह नीति राज्य सरकार ने दो माह पहले जारी कर दी थी। उसी के तहत दुकानों के आवंटन की प्रक्रिया चल रही थी। इसमें मौजूदा दुकान संचालकों को ही पहले नवीनीकरण का अवसर दिया गया था। जिन्होंने दुकानों का नवीनीकरण नहीं कराया, उनकी नीलामी की गई है। अब तक होटल बार के लिए 20 कमरे परिसर में होना जरूरी था, जिसे अब 10 कर दिया है।

Name Bagdogra airport after Rajbanshi leader: MLA

The request follows another one earlier to name airport after Gorkha leader Subhash Ghising

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 2 APRIL

BJP MLA from Matigara-Naxalbari, Anandamay Barman, has urged Union civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu to name the under-construction terminal at Bagdogra airport after Biswa Mahabir Chila Roy.

Notably, a delegation of 10 BJP MLAs from North Bengal is currently in Delhi, meeting Union ministers to discuss developmental issues and seek central assistance ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA from Siliguri, Sankar Ghosh, who also serves as the chief whip of the Opposition in the State Assembly, has requested the Siliguri Police Commissioner to order the closure of liquor shops in Siliguri for 12 hours on 6 April during Ram Navami celebrations. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) General Secretary Laxman Bansal has also urged state authorities to shut down liquor shops from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the same day.

Interestingly, some Ram Navami celebration committees have been staging protests



outside liquor shops in Siliguri, urging owners to shut down their outlets after their appeal to the excise department reportedly went unanswered.

It is also significant that a BJP MLA from Darjeeling had previously proposed naming the new Bagdogra Airport terminal after Gorkha leader Subash Ghising. However, MLA Barman, who belongs to the Rajbanshi community, met the Civil aviation minister separately to advocate for

naming the terminal after Chila Roy, presenting his rationale for the choice.

In his letter to the minister, Barman highlighted that at least 13 Rajbanshi families had donated land for the establishment of the Bagdogra airport in its early stages. He also briefed the minister on the historical significance of Biswa Mahabir Chila Roy, also known as Shukladhwaj (1510–1577 AD).

Chila Roy was the third

son of Maharaja Biswa Singha, the founder of the Koch-Rajbanshi dynasty in Kamtapur (present-day Cooch Behar). He was the younger brother of Maharaja Nara Narayan and served as his commander-in-chief and chief minister (Dewan) of the Kamtapur Kingdom. His military prowess earned him the title "Chila Ray," as he was known for swift and strategic attacks, much like an eagle striking its prey.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

3 APRIL 2025

Govt's Adilabad airport plan gets IAF boost

In a major boost to the state govt's plan to connect more towns in Telangana by air, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has given its 'in principle' approval for a civil airport in Adilabad. Recently, the govt had also got the Centre's nod to construct an airport in Mamnoon in Warangal. Once the two are developed, along with the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad, the state would have three airports.

The demand for an airport has been a long pending one in Adilabad, which has an old IAF airstrip on the town's periphery. The town's proximity to Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra also made it an ideal location for an airport. **P4**



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

विमान यात्रियों के पुराने आभूषण जब्त न किए जाएं : हाईकोर्ट

नई दिल्ली। हाईकोर्ट ने सीमा शुल्क विभाग के अधिकारियों को हिदायत दी कि सफर के समय विमान यात्रियों के पहने आभूषण सहित उनके पुराने व निजी आभूषण हवाईअड्डों पर जब्त करके उन्हें बेवजह प्रताड़ित न किया जाए। अदालत 30 से अधिक ऐसी याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई कर रही थी, जिसमें विदेश से लौटने

वाले भारतीयों व विदेशी मूल के पर्यटकों के सामान को जब्त करने की प्रक्रिया पर सवाल उठाए गए थे।

जस्टिस प्रतिभा एम सिंह व जस्टिस रजनीश कुमार गुप्ता की पीठ ने कहा, जब्त लिए गए सामान के मूल्यांकन और निपटान प्रक्रियाओं को भी सरल बनाने पर विचार किए जाने की

जरूरत है। इससे पहले, सीमा शुल्क विभाग ने कोर्ट को सूचित किया कि केंद्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर एवं सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड की तरफ से हितधारकों के साथ विस्तृत परामर्श किया जा रहा है। सामान नियम में संशोधन के लिए कुछ और वक्त चाहिए। पीठ ने कहा कि विभाग यात्रियों को अनावश्यक परेशानी न हो। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

केदारनाथ के लिए हेली सेवा की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग आठ अप्रैल से

देहरादून। केदारनाथ धाम के लिए हेली सेवा की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग आठ अप्रैल से शुरू हो जाएगी। उत्तराखंड नागरिक उड़डयन विकास प्राधिकरण व आईआरसीटीसी ने इसकी तैयारी पूरी कर ली है। बुकिंग के लिए आईआरसीटीसी जल्द वेबसाइट का लिंक जारी करेगा। दो मई को केदारनाथ धाम के कपाट खुल रहे हैं। इसी दिन से केदारनाथ धाम के लिए गुप्तकाशी, सिरसी व फाटा से हेली सेवा का संचालन शुरू हो जाएगा। हेली टिकटों की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग के लिए आईआरसीटीसी आठ अप्रैल को पोर्टल खोल देगा। यूकाडा ने आईआरसीटीसी को यात्रा पंजीकरण का डाटा भेज दिया है। बता दें कि हेली टिकट की बुकिंग के लिए यात्रा पंजीकरण होना अनिवार्य है।

इस बार पांच प्रतिशत बढ़ा किराया

यूकाडा की सीईओ सोनिका ने बताया कि केदारनाथ हेली सेवा का संचालन पवन हंस, हिमालयन हेली, ट्रांस भारत, ग्लोबल विक्ट्री, थंबी एविएशन, केस्ट्रल एविएशन, एयरो एयरक्राफ्ट के माध्यम से किया जाएगा। हेली कंपनियों के साथ हुए तीन साल के अनुबंध के अनुसार इस बार किराये में पांच प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी की गई है। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

SpiceJet promoter to set up seaplane venture

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh is planning to introduce a seaplane service in India under the SkyHop brand in the next few months.

The seaplane operations will not be part of SpiceJet.

Singh has applied to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for a scheduled commuter operator permit to run the service.

Singh's plans to reintroduce the seaplane service follow introduction of new guidelines last August.

Requirements for setting up water aerodromes were



Ajay Singh

eased and qualification requirements for seaplane pilots were relaxed.

The government has also invited fresh bids for seaplane routes under its 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Aadmi'

scheme. Previously 50 seaplane routes were awarded under the Udan scheme, but these didn't take off.

Infrastructure too is being readied for seaplane services.

For instance, terminal facilities are being developed at three locations in the Andaman & Nicobar islands.

SpiceJet did not respond to an email query.

MULTIPLE TRIALS

Sources said preparatory work is underway and SkyHop Aviation has leased one Twin Otter amphibian aircraft.

Meantime, pilots are being hired and a team is being put

in place to run the service. The Sky Hop venture is being led by Singh's daughter Avani. Last November SpiceJet had partnered with planemaker De Havilland in seaplane trials across multiple locations.

At the time De Havilland had expressed hope India will have around 10 seaplanes in service soon.

SpiceJet had introduced a seaplane service linking the Sabaramati riverfront in Ahmedabad with the Statue of Unity in Kevadia in October 2020.

However, the operations were suspended within a few months citing Covid-19 restrictions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

भास्कर खास पहली बार...पौने दो घंटे का सफर, 1 मई को पटना से किराया 5072 रु.

अब पटना के हवाई मार्ग से जुड़ेगा गाजियाबाद, 1 मई से एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की नई फ्लाइट सेवा

भास्कर न्यूज़ | पटना

पहली बार पटना के हवाई मार्ग से गाजियाबाद का हिंडन एयरपोर्ट जुड़ेगा। एक मई से एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस पटना-हिंडन-पटना सेक्टर के बीच नई फ्लाइट शुरू करने जा रही है। यह रोजाना ऑपरेट करेगी। इसकी बुकिंग भी शुरू हो गई है। पटना से हिंडन एयरपोर्ट का किराया एक मई को 5072 रुपए है जबकि हिंडन से पटना का किराया 4200 है। 180 सीटर के इस विमान में बिजनेस क्लास नहीं है। सभी सीट इकोनामी क्लास के हैं। यह सफर पौने दो घंटे का होगा। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी एयरपोर्ट से करीब 40 किलोमीटर दूर है। यह हवाई अड्डा हिंडन एयर फोर्स स्टेशन से सटा हुआ है। यह हवाई अड्डा क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी योजना (आरसीएस) के तहत संचालित होने वाली घरेलू उड़ानों के ऑपरेशन के लिए बनाया गया था। इसे वायु सेना संचालित करती है।

व्या होगा फायदा : एनसीआर पहुंचने में सुविधा, बचेगा समय

पटना से गाजियाबाद के लिए विमान सेवा शुरू होने से गाजियाबाद, मेरठ, नोएडा जैसे शहरों के लोगों को एनसीआर तक पहुंचने में आसानी होगी, समय भी बचेगा। उत्तरी और पूर्वी दिल्ली एनसीआर के साथ-साथ पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के लोगों के लिए कनेक्टिविटी बेहतर होगी। बिहार के लाखों लोग इस क्षेत्र में काम करते हैं। छात्रों की तादाद भी अधिक है।

पहली मई से एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की टाइमिंग

प्रस्थान	आगमन
आईएक्स 1518 पटना- हिंडन- 11:50 पूर्वाह्न- 1: 40 अपराह्न	आईएक्स 1519 हिंडन- पटना- 2.25 अपराह्न- 4:10 अपराह्न

• पटना से एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के उड़ानों की संख्या 8 से बढ़कर 9 हो जाएगी।

• अभी इसकी सेवा पटना से बेंगलुरु, चेन्नई, हैदराबाद, भुवनेश्वर, दिल्ली व कोलकाता के लिए है।





Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

आफत • हार्ट-डायबिटीज पेशेंट यात्रियों की हालत खराब लंदन-मुंबई फ्लाइट की आपात लैंडिंग, 300 भारतीय 24 घंटे से तुर्किये में फंसे

भास्कर न्यूज़ | वलसाड/लंदन

भारत के 300 से ज्यादा यात्री 24 घंटे से तुर्किये के एक एयरपोर्ट पर फंसे हुए हैं। दरअसल, 2 अप्रैल को लंदन से उड़े वर्जिन अटलांटिक के विमान (वीएस358) को मेडिकल इमरजेंसी के चलते तुर्किये के दियारबाकिर एयरपोर्ट पर डायवर्ट कर दिया गया था। वहां एयरपोर्ट पर उतरने के बाद विमान में तकनीकी समस्या आ गई। इसके चलते, 300 से ज्यादा यात्री पिछले 24 घंटे से तुर्किये के एयरपोर्ट पर फंसे हुए हैं। इस विमान में गुजरात के 3 लोग हैं। उनमें से एक सुनिलभाई ने बताया कि वे हार्ट पेशेंट हैं। वे पत्नी अंजनाबेन के साथ लंदन से खाना हुए। विमान की तुर्किये के सैन्य इलाके में लैंडिंग



हुई। कई घंटे से खाने-पीने से वंचित हार्ट-डायबिटीज पेशेंट यात्रियों की हालत खराब है। उधर, हनुमान दास ने कहा कि उनका परिवार भी तुर्किये में फंसा है। वहां 300 लोगों को एक सीमित स्थान पर रखा है और एक शौचालय है। एयरलाइंस वैकल्पिक उड़ान की व्यवस्था नहीं कर रही है। अंकारा में भारतीय दूतावास ने कहा कि एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों के संपर्क में है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

Sarla air taxis in Delhi, Mumbai soon

RAGHAV AGGARWAL
New Delhi, April 3

AEROSPACE STARTUP SARLA Aviation will launch electric air taxis in Mumbai and Delhi a couple of months after starting operating in Bengaluru, its CEO and co-founder Adrian Schmidt said.

Talking to *FE* on the sidelines of Startup Mahakumbh, Schmidt added that within five years of the launch, they would aim to provide

the services to "every corner" of the country. The company had unveiled the prototype of the air taxi, Shunya, at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo earlier this year.

Sarla Aviation is aiming to launch its services in the country in 2028 and is expanding its team rapidly. From 20 employees in January, it has expanded its team to 47 people. By the end of the year, it aims to have around 80-120 employees, Schmidt said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 APRIL 2025

A supply chain quirk helped Air India get 50 Boeing jets made for China



FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

Air India's steady supply of Boeing 737 Max jets—redirected from Chinese carriers—will end by June 2025, leaving uncertainty around future deliveries, Bloomberg reports.

With 41 of 50 diverted planes received, the airline faces a gap until fresh orders arrive by March 2026, potentially losing ground to IndiGo.

After adding two Boeing aircraft a month on average since September 2023 as the US manufacturer cleared a backlog of the jets it had originally built for Chinese carriers, the pool will run dry by June, people familiar with the matter said, leaving the Indian airline with little visibility around fresh deliveries in the months ahead.

Air India's easy supply was thanks to a supply chain quirk. Boeing was able to divert 737 Max jets built for Chinese carriers, including Shanghai Airlines Co., as they deferred taking deliveries following regulatory concerns about the safety of a lithium battery in the planes' cockpit voice recorders.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

तुर्किये में विमान की आपात लैंडिंग, दो सौ भारतीय फंसे

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। लंदन से मुंबई जाने वाली वर्जिन अटलांटिक की फ्लाइट वीएस 358 को एक मेडिकल इमरजेंसी के कारण तुर्की के दियारबाकिर एयरपोर्ट पर आपात लैंडिंग करनी पड़ी। इसके बाद 200 से ज्यादा भारतीय यात्री 18 घंटे से अधिक समय तक हवाई अड्डे पर फंसे रहे।

मीडिया रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक विमान में एक यात्री को अचानक पैनिक अटैक आया, जिसके बाद विमान को मजबूरन दियारबाकिर एयरपोर्ट पर उतारा गया। लैंडिंग के दौरान तकनीकी खराबी भी आ गई, जिससे यात्रियों की परेशानी और बढ़ गई। विमान में सवार यात्रियों ने

■ मुंबई आ रही थी वर्जिन अटलांटिक की उड़ान

आरोप लगाया कि वर्जिन अटलांटिक एयरलाइन ने उनकी आगे की यात्रा को लेकर कोई स्पष्ट जानकारी नहीं दी। यात्रियों ने उम्मीद जताई कि जल्द ही एयरलाइन कोई समाधान निकालेगी।

एक यात्री ने कहा कि लंबे इंतजार के दौरान विमान यात्रियों को खाने-पीने और अन्य जरूरी सुविधाओं की कमी का सामना करना पड़ा। समाचार लिखे जाने तक वर्जिन अटलांटिक एयरलाइन की ओर से इस मामले पर कोई टोस बखान नहीं आया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

विमानन वस्तुओं से जुड़ा विधेयक मंजूर

नई दिल्ली। संसद ने गुरुवार को 'विमानन वस्तुओं में हितों के संरक्षण विधेयक 2025' को मंजूरी दे दी। इस विधेयक के कानून बनने के बाद एयरलाइंस को सस्ती दरों पर विमान किराए पर लेने में मदद मिलेगी, जिससे हवाई यात्रा की लागत घटने की संभावना है।



Cost of repairs carried out on spares sent by Indian airlines to the U.S. could rise. FILE PHOTO

Boeing aircraft delays, supply chain issues may worsen

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

The impact of the tariff order from U.S. President Donald Trump could worsen supply chain issues for aerospace manufacturer Boeing, resulting in prolonged aircraft delivery delays for airlines such as Air India Group and Akasa.

“While it is early to gauge the precise impact of the U.S. tariff order, a hike in duties could further compound supply chain challenges raising delivery timelines,” said senior aviation adviser Sandeep Bahl.

The cost of repairs carried out on spares that are sent by Indian airlines to the U.S. could also increase as their might be a duty on their re-import, Mr. Bahl warned.

Currently, these have been negotiated at zero tariff for re-importing by the two countries.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

LOK SABHA APPROVES AIRCRAFT OBJECTS BILL

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Thursday passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, a move expected to support the rapidly growing aircraft leasing sector in India. The bill, which was approved by the Rajya Sabha on April 1, received final approval from the Lok Sabha via a voice vote on Thursday. Civil aviation minister Rammohan Naidu said the bill would help enhance cost efficiency. The bill is designed to provide a legal framework for Cape Town Convention, which focuses on aircraft leasing. It aims to address inconsistencies in leasing regulations, allowing lessors to reclaim possession of aircraft leased to airlines.

Air India to get last of 50 Boeing jets made for Chinese peers

Bloomberg

feedback@lvemint.com

Air India Ltd.'s windfall of 737 Max jets amid a broader shortage of new planes is coming to an end.

After adding two Boeing Co. aircraft a month on average since September 2023 as the US manufacturer cleared a backlog of the jets it had originally built for Chinese carriers, the pool will run dry by June, people familiar with the matter said, leaving the Indian airline with little visibility around fresh deliveries in the months ahead.

Air India's easy supply was thanks to a supply chain quirk. Boeing was able to divert 737 Max jets built for Chinese carriers, including Shanghai Airlines Co., as they deferred taking deliveries following regulatory concerns about the safety of a lithium battery in the planes' cockpit voice recorders.

Having ordered 190 of the aircraft in June 2023, Air India's low cost arm, Air India Express Ltd., has already taken possession of 41 of the 50 so-called white-tail planes — those built for others but still in storage. Another four are due this month and five between May and June.

Considering deliveries of the remaining 140 737 Max jets wouldn't start before the end of the fiscal year ending March 2026, the Tata Group-owned Air India risks losing ground to market leader IndiGo, which has said that this year, it's adding more than one aircraft a week.

Of the 41 white-tail aircraft Air India has received so far, 38 of them are in operations and three are being repainted, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing confidential arrangements. Boeing is separately working on ramping up the 737



Air India Express has already taken possession of 41 of the 50 so-called white-tail planes. MINT

production, as it targets 38-jets a month by mid-2025.

"We will defer to our customers for any details on their fleet planning," Boeing said in an email response. Air India and Air India Express didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Air India Group, which commands less than a third of India's domestic aviation market, ordered a total of 570 aircraft in the past two years, with the orders split between from Boeing and Airbus SE.

Despite the large order, fresh deliveries of single-aisle planes from Boeing may happen only closer to the end of the current fiscal year, the people said.

Apart from the white-tail aircraft from Boeing, Air India has also received six Airbus 350-900s, which were meant for Russian Flag carrier Aeroflot. Besides, it leased 11 Boeing 777s from the market, they said.

Akasa Air, Air India's smaller rival and another Boeing 737 Max customer, has grown its fleet to 27 aircraft in 30 months mainly on the back of these white-tail planes, even as it struggles amid delivery delays of 199 of the 226 aircraft it ordered.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

3 APRIL 2025

Mumbai-Chennai flight lands safely after two missed approaches

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

An Air India flight from Mumbai to Chennai made two missed approaches on Wednesday morning. The aircraft landed safely in the third attempt.

The flight departed from Mumbai around 9 a.m., and was scheduled to arrive in Chennai at 11 a.m.

Officials of Airports Authority of India said the aircraft attempted to land around 11 a.m. but due to a missed approach, the pilot did a go-around.

“For the second time too, the aircraft couldn’t land and it did a go-around yet again. It landed safely

in the third attempt around 11.30 a.m.,” an official said.

A missed approach can happen due to various reasons. To prevent an unsafe landing, a missed approach and go-around is usually carried out, and the pilot does so by following the safety protocols, sources said.

An Air India source said, “The flight landed normally, following all the safety protocols.”

In November last year, an IndiGo flight from Mumbai to Chennai made a missed approach due to heavy winds, did a go-around, and was subsequently diverted to Hyderabad.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

TO COMBAT POLLUTION

Govt likely to conduct trial for artificial rain in May: Minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government is likely to conduct a trial for artificial rain in May as part of its efforts to tackle air pollution, Environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said on Thursday.

The trial will be carried out in an area in outer Delhi, with the final site selection to be made by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and IIT Kanpur, he said.

Sirsa said the plan is part of a broader strategy to tackle pollution using multiple methods.

"This is a war against pollution and we are working on various measures, with artificial rain being one of them. Before implementing it on a large scale, we will try to conduct a trial in May when summer is at its peak," he added.

He further said, "We have asked for detailed reports to determine whether the chemicals used in cloud seeding could have any harmful

Sirsa: The trial will be carried out in an area in outer Delhi, with the final site selection to be made by the DGCA and IIT Kanpur



effects on human health or the environment."

Based on the findings, we will conduct a small-scale test and analyze water samples. If the trial is successful, we will expand the project across Delhi during periods of severe pollution, the environment minister said.

Delhi records season's highest temp at 39°C

NEW DELHI: The national Capital recorded the highest temperature of the season till date at 39 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal, a Met official said. The second-highest temperature of the season was recorded on March 26, when the mercury touched 38.9 degrees Celsius, according to weather department data. The minimum temperature in the capital was recorded at 15.6 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal, the MeT office said. The humidity levels fluctuated between 41 per cent and 22 per cent during the day, the IMD said. The weather office has forecast strong surface winds for Friday, with the maximum temperature expected to be around 38 deg Celsius, and the minimum 16 deg Celsius. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

'Airlines received 24 hoax bomb calls this year till Mar 25'

NEW DELHI: Airlines received 24 hoax bomb threat calls this year till March 25, the government said on Thursday.

Citing data from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said a total of 836 hoax bomb threats were received by airline operators since 2022 till March 25, 2025.

In 2022, the number of calls stood at 13 and rose to 71 in 2023. Last year, there were 728 such calls and the count was at 24 this year up to March 25, as per the data.

In a written reply to the

Closer Look

- » In 2022, the number of calls stood at 13 and rose to 71 in 2023. Last year, there were 728 such calls and the count was at 24 this year up to March 25
- » The minister said 13 people were arrested in 2024 for making hoax bomb threat calls to airlines
- » BCAS has mandated robust protocols for handling such threats in coordination with law enforcement agencies, central security agencies, CISF and stakeholders, leading to minimal impact on flight operations.

Lok Sabha, the minister said 13 people were arrested in 2024 for making hoax bomb threat calls to airlines.

BCAS has mandated

robust protocols for handling such threats in coordination with law enforcement agencies, central security agencies, CISF and stakeholders,

leading to minimal impact on flight operations.

Bomb Threat Contingency Plan (BTCP) is put in place to handle such threats.

"As a part of BTCP, every airport has a designated Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) which analyses the threat and takes action.

"In order to deal with hoax bomb threats, BCAS has issued advisories to all the civil aviation stakeholders in the country to ensure maintenance of robust aviation security infrastructure and uphold public confidence in air travel," the minister said. MPOST



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

4 APRIL 2025

260 on London-Mumbai flight stranded in Türkiye since Wed

New Delhi: Over 260 passengers of a Virgin Atlantic flight from London to Mumbai have been stranded at Türkiye's Diyarbakır airport for the past 24 hours, after the aircraft was diverted on Wednesday owing to a medical emergency, and subsequently faced a technical glitch.

"VS358 flight from Heathrow to Mumbai on April 2 was cancelled after to an urgent medical diversion to Diyarbakır, followed by technical inspections of aircraft," a Virgin Atlantic spokesman said.

Stranded flyers alleged

the airline failed to arrange basic facilities. "After landing, we remained on board for five hours. Then, we were asked to alight as the airline needed to fix a technical issue," Sagar Kochhar, a passenger, told **TOI** over phone from Türkiye. He alleged that Virgin neither made any arrangements for passengers, nor was providing any information on when they would be able to depart for Mumbai.

The airline said it was making all efforts to ensure passengers are flown to their destination at the earliest. **TNN**