



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

स्पाइसजेट के विमान में एसी खराब, यात्री बेहाल

नई दिल्ली। श्रीनगर को उड़ान भरने वाले स्पाइसजेट के विमान में एसी खराब होने से यात्रियों को भारी असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ा। विमान ने तीन घंटे देरी से उड़ान भरी। कई यात्रियों ने सोशल मीडिया पर अपना गुस्सा ज़ाहिर किया।

एक यात्री ने वीडियो अपलोड किया, जिसमें यात्री गर्मी से परेशान

दिखे। नई दिल्ली से श्रीनगर के लिए उड़ान संख्या एनजी 170 में सवार यात्रियों ने सोशल मीडिया पर विमान के लेटलैन्डिंग और गर्मी का सामना करने की बात लिखी।

यात्रियों ने बताया कि विमान काफी विलंब से रनवे की ओर रवाना हुआ लेकिन रनवे पर पहुंचने से पहले ही रुक गया। एक ही जगह विमान जब

काफी समय तक खड़ा रहा तो यात्रियों ने कारण पूछा लेकिन प्रू ने कुछ स्पष्ट नहीं बताया। बाद में विमान ने एरिया की ओर लैंड अगया। विमान को 4.10 बजे रवाना होना था। लेकिन एसी में खराबी के कारण इसके प्रस्थान में करीब तीन घंटे का विलंब हुआ। अंत में विमान ने शाम सात बजे श्रीनगर के लिए उड़ान भरी। ब्यूरो



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अमिताभ कांत इंडिगो के बोर्ड में शामिल

मुंबई। इंडिगो की पेरेंट कंपनी इंटरग्लोब एविएशन ने वृहस्पतिवार को नीति आयोग के पूर्व सीईओ अमिताभ कांत को अपने बोर्ड में गैर-कार्यकारी निदेशक के रूप में नियुक्त करने की घोषणा की है।



यह नियुक्ति नियमकीय और शेयरधारकों की मंजूरी के अधीन है। मेक इन

इंडिया, स्टार्टअप इंडिया और इनक्रेडिबल इंडिया जैसे कई प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय अभियानों के प्रमुख रणनीतिकार रहे कांत ने पिछले महाने भारत के जी20 शेरपा के पद से इस्तीफा दिया था। इंडिगो बोर्ड के चेयरमैन विक्रम सिंह मेहता ने कहा, कांत के पास राष्ट्रीय एवं अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर समृद्ध प्रशासनिक दक्षता और नीति निर्धारण का अनुभव है। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

Amitabh Kant joins IndiGo board



Mumbai: InterGlobe Aviation which operates IndiGo, India's largest domestic airline, has appointed former bureaucrat Amitabh Kant as a non executive director on its board. Until recently, Kant, an IAS officer of 1980 cadre, served as a G20 Sherpa. He stepped down from the role last month.

OUR BUREAU

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

Airport lounges turn battlegrounds for traveller loyalty

No need for intermediaries, says Adani Group after DreamFolks accuses airports of pressure tactics

Aneesh Phadnis

Mumbai

Airport lounges seem to be becoming the new battleground for traveller loyalty. The first salvo was fired on Wednesday by DreamFolks promoter Liberatha Peter Kallat, who accused two major airport operators of “pressurising” banks to partner with them for providing lounge access to their card-holders.

On Thursday, in a LinkedIn post, Chief Executive Officer of the Adani Group’s airports business Arun Bansal said the group was providing passengers direct access to airport lounges through its platform, thanks to digital innovations, and there was no need for intermediaries.

Over the years, banks and credit card issuers have been offering airport lounge access as a perk for card-holders. DreamFolks, which



LEVERAGING TECH. Adani Group is providing passengers direct access to airport lounges through its digital platform

is a travel and lifestyle aggregator, integrates lounge operators with banks, card networks and corporate clients, facilitating customer access to airport lounges, among others.

UNDER PRESSURE

Now, with airport operators developing their own solutions and collaborating with banks, DreamFolks’ business model has come under pressure. On Wednesday, Kallat said airports are indulging in pressure tactics but did not name any oper-

ator. This was after the company announced discontinuation of certain lounge access programmes of Axis Bank and ICICI Bank from July 1. The company’s stock declined over 3 per cent on Thursday, its second consecutive fall.

In his post, Bansal said the Adani Group had brought the same spirit of innovation like fintech companies that have eliminated the need for middlemen across sectors. “Passengers across India can now access lounges directly through

our platform in partnership with other lounge operators. This means no intermediaries, and seamless world class experience delivered directly to our consumers,” Bansal wrote.

“In today’s tech-driven world, only those companies that can disrupt themselves will survive. The rest will disappear,” he added.

DIRECT PARTNERSHIP

The Adani Group runs seven airports, which handled 94.4 million passengers in FY25. While the Group did not comment on the DreamFolks promoter’s allegations, it said banks and airport operators had been working together for a considerable time to improve industry standards. A direct partnership between banks and lounge operators would offer customers enhanced services and lounge experiences, it said.

Also read p7



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

IndiGo, AI Express among 10 lowest carbon emitters

Our Bureau
Mumbai

IndiGo and Air India Express have been ranked 5th and 10th in a global list of lowest carbon-emitting airlines.

The study, prepared by aviation analytics firm Cirium, analysed carbon dioxide emissions per available seat kilometre (ASK), an aviation industry metric that measures passenger capacity of an airline.

Wizz Air of Hungary ranked first among major airlines with an industry low emission of 53.9 g of carbon dioxide per ASK in 2024. IndiGo and Air India Express recorded emissions of 58.2 g and 60.5 g per ASK, respectively, in 2024.

Frontier Airlines of US and Pegasus of Turkiye were ranked second and third in the global review.

The top-ranked airlines operate young fuel efficient aircraft (like Airbus A320Neo) and use high-density cabin configurations, spreading emissions over more passengers. Among the 10 major airlines, IndiGo's fleet is the youngest with an average weighted age of 4.1 years.

In the case of Air India Express, it is 6.9 years.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

Delhi-Washington AI flight terminated in Vienna

Mumbai: An Air India flight from Delhi to Washington, which took off on July 2, could not complete its journey after it developed a technical glitch during a scheduled refuelling stopover in Vienna, the Tata Group-owned airline said on Thursday. Consequently, its return flight from Washington to Delhi, scheduled on July 2, was also cancelled. [PTI](#)



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

Amitabh Kant set to join IndiGo board as non-executive director

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 3 July

InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, has appointed former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant as a non-executive director on its board, the airline said in a statement on Thursday.

Kant, a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1980 Kerala cadre, has held several senior positions in the Indian government. Most recently, he served as India's G20 Sherpa

during the country's presidency. He played a key role in drafting the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration in September 2023.

Kant said, "In under two decades, IndiGo has transformed air travel. With its scale, efficiency, and international ambition, IndiGo will open up new markets for India and transform airports into global hubs."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

DATA NOMICS



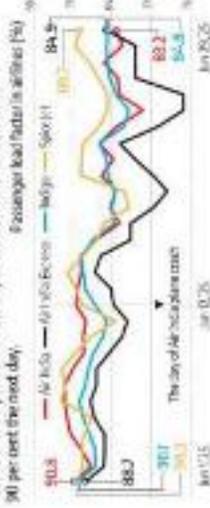
A-I crash: No clear trend showing passenger worries

Flight cancellations surged in the days following the Air India crash on June 13, with a more than 190% increase. According to flight data, cancellations were caused later in June due to technical glitches, Google flight trackers, berth concerns, and other reasons, according to media reports.

Between June 1 and June 20, the passenger load factor across most flights remained to 95 per cent. Load factor is the percentage of available seats occupied by paying passengers on an aircraft.

Passenger load factor dips mildly

Air India's passenger load factor of 88.6 per cent a day before the crash rose to over 90 per cent on the day of the crash and remained over 90 per cent the next day.



Int'l passenger traffic shows no clear shift

Out of the 17 days post-crash, eight days witnessed traffic above 100,000 and nine days below it.

Departing passengers for different routes in India (in lakhs)



Note: Security gap refers to the total number of travellers who board flights and have their e-tickets generated during a given time period. Data not available for June 12.

Volatility weighed on flight movements

There were sharp fluctuations in the number of international flights after the crash. It fell below 1,000 for three days after June 15.

Aircraft movements for different routes in India (in no.)



Note: Data was not available for June 12.

Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

3 JULY 2025

5 domestic flights for Hyd diverted due to heavy rain

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 2

Several domestic flights bound for Hyderabad were diverted to nearby cities on Tuesday due to heavy rain and poor weather conditions. One international flight was also cancelled due to bad weather in its city of origin.

A total of five IndiGo flights were diverted. Flight 6E 638 from Bengaluru was sent to Vijayawada, while flights 6E 6528 from Kolkata, 6E 6166 from Lucknow, 6E 471 from Jaipur and 6E 5326 from Mumbai were rerouted to Bengaluru.

Airport officials said the diversions were carried out for passenger safety. "The flights could not land in Hyderabad due to bad weather conditions. Once the weather improved,



People seen shopping for raincoats during the constant drizzle at Ameerpet on Wednesday. — DC

five of the diverted flights were brought back to Hyderabad and landed safely," the official explained.

Officials added that flight operations are cur-

rently normal. Meanwhile, Salam Air's international flight OV 735 from Muscat to Hyderabad was cancelled on Tuesday night due to bad weather in Muscat.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

3 JULY 2025

SpiceJet window frame dislodges mid-air; No passenger risk, says airline

TDO NETWORK
MUMBAI

A window frame of SpiceJet's aircraft operating its flight to Pune from Goa was found dislodged mid-air but there was no impact on passengers' safety, the airline said on Wednesday.

The frame was fixed once the aircraft landed at the next (Pune) airport, in accordance with standard maintenance procedures, the airline said in a statement.

SpiceJet, however, did not share other details.

"A cosmetic (interior) window frame on one of the Q400 Aircraft became loose



SpiceJet said the frame was fixed upon landing at the next station.

during flight and was found dislodged," the airline said in a statement.

SpiceJet also said that cabin pressurisation remained normal throughout the flight, and there was no impact on passenger safety, adding that the dislodged

part was a non-structural trim component, fitted onto the window for the purpose of shade, and did not compromise the safety or integrity of the aircraft in any way.

The Q400 aircraft is equipped with multiple layers

of window panes, including a robust, pressure-bearing outer pane, ensuring that passenger safety is never at risk, even in the unlikely event of a superficial or cosmetic component coming loose," SpiceJet added.

Questioning the airworthiness of the aircraft, a passenger posted a video of the dislodged window on social media platform X.

"*SpiceJet from Goa to Pune today. The whole interior window assembly just fell off mid flight. And this flight is now supposed to take off and head to Jaipur. Wonder if it's air worthy..*" the passenger stated, while tagging the aviation safety regulator DGCA in the post.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

3 JULY 2025

Window frame of SpiceJet aircraft dislodges mid-air

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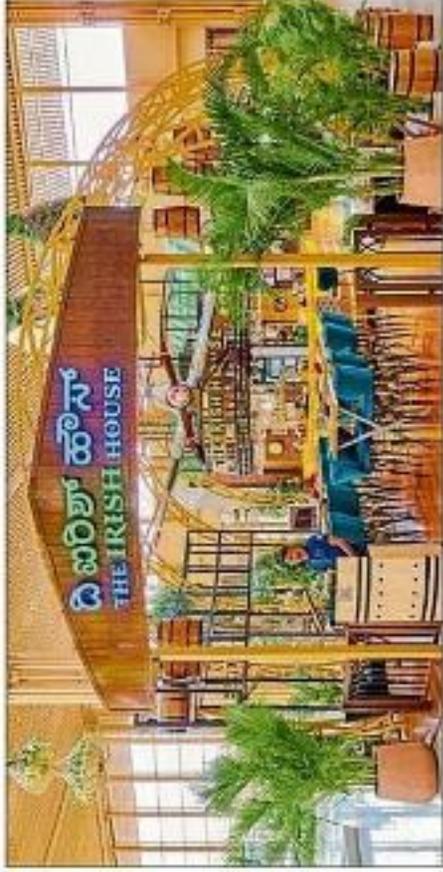


Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

3 JULY 2025



The Irish House, located in Terminal 2, received the award for 'Airport Casual Dining Restaurant of the Year'. . PIC: BIAL

KIA bags 10 awards in global meet

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has received 10 awards at the 2025 Airport Food & Beverage and Hospitality Conference and Awards, recently held in Barcelona, Spain.

Of the 10 awards, the 080 Lounges swept accolades across seven categories. The lounges at Terminal 2 were crowned 'Best Lounge of the Year-Regional and Global', along with 'Airport F&B Offer of the Year-Sense of Place-

Regional and Global', in recognition of their immersive local culinary experience and thoughtfully designed spaces reflecting Karnataka's cultural vibrancy.

The 080 Domestic Lounge at Terminal 1 clinched 'Airport Lounge Opening of the Year-Regional and Global'.

The Irish House, Qila and CTR were among the food establishments that received awards for restaurant design, casual dining, and other categories.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

3 JULY 2025

AI pilots conduct simulator test after crash; results show Boeing 787-8 kept flying

MUMBAI, PTI: A group of senior Air India pilots recreated on simulators some adverse conditions, such as flying with higher weight and temperature, and with landing gear down and retracted wing flaps at 50 feet, with the results showing the Boeing 787-8 aircraft continued flying, sources said on Wednesday.

The simulator test was carried out independently by the Air India Boeing 787 aircraft fleet trainers during a simulator training session at the airline's Mumbai facility within days of the crash of an Air India Dreamliner in Ahmedabad, sources said.

When contacted, Air India said pilots conducted simulator tests on their own, and the airline had no role in that.

Among the various theories doing the rounds initially regarding the possible causes of the Air India aircraft crash in Ahmedabad on June 12 that killed over 260 people, was that the pilot flew the aircraft with retracted flaps and gear down.

"The pilots simulated AI171 flight conditions on their own during the training session. They attempted to create

some slightly adverse conditions like with higher weight and higher temperature, while keeping (landing) gear down and retracting (wing) flaps at 50 feet altitude," said a source.

"In the simulator, the aircraft continued flying," he said.

Flaps are movable panels, located along the trailing edge of an aircraft's wings, which get extended during takeoff and landing to increase the wing's surface area, which provides more 'lift' that keeps the plane flying.

This additional aerodynamic force is crucial during low-speed flight, like takeoff or landing.

Flaps are adjusted manually by either pilot, depending on the situation. In cruise flight, they remain retracted.

The crash, one of the worst air disasters in India in decades, involved a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner operating as Air India flight AI 171. The aircraft was en route to London's Gatwick Airport when it crashed into a medical hostel complex in Ahmedabad's Meghani Nagar area shortly after takeoff.

उड़ान भरने से पहले विमान में गर्मी से परेशान हुए यात्री

जगरण संगठनवा, नई दिल्ली: श्रीनगर की उड़ान भरने के लिए स्पाइजसेट के विमान में सवार यात्री तब परेशान हो उठे, जब उन्हें महसूस हुआ कि विमान का एसी काम नहीं कर रहा है। पहले तो यात्रियों ने सीट बेल्ट में रखी मैग्नेट बंद पंखे के तौर पर इस्तेमाल कर गर्मी को किसी तरह सामना किया, लेकिन जब बात इससे नहीं बनी, तो उन्होंने इंटरनेट मीडिया पर अपना आक्रोश जतित करना शुरू कर दिया। एसा पर एक यात्री द्वारा साझा किए गए वीडियो में विमान पर सवार यात्री परेशान नजर आ रहे हैं। स्पाइजसेट ने इस मामले में अपना कोई भी पक्ष नहीं दिखा।

नई दिल्ली से श्रीनगर के लिए उड़ान संख्या एसजी 170 में सवार यात्रियों को सामना पहले लेटलैंगीपी और फिर गर्मी से हुआ। यात्रियों ने कहा कि विमान तब समय से काफी विलंब था। इसके बाद विमान रनवे की ओर रवाना हुआ, लेकिन रनवे पहुंचने से पहले ही यह रुक गया। एक ही जगह विमान जब काफी समय तक खड़ा रहा, तो यात्रियों ने डू सदस्यों ने इसका कतलन पूछा, तो उन्हें स्पष्ट उत्तर नहीं मिला। यात्रियों

- स्पाइजसेट की उड़ान संख्या एसजी 170 का एसी सिस्टम काम नहीं करने से हुई दिक्कत
- शाम रात बजे तीन घंटे के विलंब से स्पाइजसेट के विमान ने श्रीनगर के लिए भरी उड़ान

ने कहा कि वे बस रनवे पर विमान की टेकआफ और लैंडिंग विंडो से देखते रहे। बाद में विमान के परिचा की ओर लौट आया। यात्रियों ने एसा पर पोस्ट में लिखा कि इसका वजह क्या है, इस बारे में कोई भी विमानकर्मी कुछ नहीं बता रहा है। कुछ यात्रियों ने पोस्ट में अंदर घुटन महसूस होने की शिकायत भी लिखी।

तीन घंटे की देरी से विमान हुआ रवाना: विमान के प्रस्थान का समय 4.10 बजे था, लेकिन विमान के एसी सिस्टम में आई खराबी के कारण इसके प्रस्थान में करीब तीन घंटे तक का विलंब हुआ। बार-बार कभी आधा घंटा कभी पौने घंटा विलंब किए जाने के बाद अंत में विमान ने शाम सात बजे श्रीनगर के लिए उड़ान भरी। इसके बाद यात्रियों ने राहत की सांस ली।



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

एअर इंडिया की दिल्ली-वाशिंगटन उड़ान विएना में तकनीकी खराबी के कारण रद्द

नई दिल्ली, आइएनएस : एअर इंडिया की एक और उड़ान को रास्ते में तकनीकी खामों का सामना करना पड़ा है। इसकी दिल्ली से वाशिंगटन जाने वाली उड़ान एआइ-103 में विएना में ईंधन भरने के दौरान तकनीकी खराबी आ गई। विज्ञापक इसे रद्द कर दिया गया। परिणामस्वरूप वापसी की वाशिंगटन से विएना होते हुए दिल्ली की उड़ान एआइ-104 को भी रद्द कर दिया गया। एयरलाइन ने बताया कि प्रभावित यात्रियों को दिल्ली के लिए वैकल्पिक उड़ानों में फिर से बुक किया गया है या उनकी पसंद के आधार पर पूरा रिफंड दिया गया है।

एअर इंडिया प्रवक्ता ने गुरुवार को बताया कि एआइ-103 ने बुधवार देर रात 12.45 बजे उड़ान भरी थी। इसे गुरुवार रात 8.45 बजे वाशिंगटन पहुंचना था। विएना में ईंधन के लिए स्टाप के दौरान विमान की नियमित जांच की गई। इसमें रखरखाव से जुड़े ऐसे कार्य का पता चला जिसे

विमान हादसे के तुरंत बाद 150 कर्मी तैनात किए: अधिकारी

पुणे, प्रेस : अहमदाबाद में एअर इंडिया विमान दुर्घटना के बाद सेना ने संचालन के लिए मिनटों के भीतर 150 से अधिक कर्मियों को घटनास्थल पर तैनात कर दिया था। कॉलेज ऑफ मिलिटरी इंजीनियरिंग में 'राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन दायरे में इंजीनियरिंग कोर्स की भूमिका' पर एक

उच्च स्तरीय संगोष्ठी को संबोधित करते हुए सेना के दक्षिणी क्षेत्र के कमांडर लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल वीरज सेठ ने कहा कि आपदा राहत अब केवल एक आकस्मिक कार्य नहीं रह गया है, बल्कि इसे योजना बनाकर, प्रशिक्षण देकर और निर्यात रूप से क्रियान्वित करने की जरूरत है।

विमान के उड़ान भरने से पहले ठीक किया जाना जरूरी था। इस कारण विएना से वाशिंगटन की उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई। एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों को हुई इस असुविधा के लिए गहरा खेद प्रकट किया और सभी यात्रियों एवं चालक दल की सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए प्रतिबद्धता जताई।

हाल के दिनों में एअर इंडिया की कई उड़ानें तकनीकी खराबी के कारण रद्द हुई हैं। टोक्यो (जापान) से दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले

एअर इंडिया के विमान एआइ-357 को केबिन में अधिक तापमान के कारण पूर्णतयातन खोलकर को और मोड़ दिया गया था। 27 जून को मुंबई से चेन्नई जाने वाले एअर इंडिया के विमान एआइ-639 को उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद मुंबई लौटना पड़ा था, क्योंकि चालक दल को केबिन के अंदर जलने की गंध महसूस हुई थी। एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस प्रतिदिन 1,100 से अधिक उड़ानें संचालित करते हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

BILATERAL SEAT LIMITS UNCHANGED FOR OVER A DECADE

Unable to Fly Higher in India, Emirates Soars Elsewhere

The country has slipped from the airline's top 5 markets to top 10 now, says CCO Adnan Kazim

Forum Gandhi

Mumbai: Emirates is realigning its strategy, shifting its focus from India due to continued bilateral restrictions limiting its ability to expand operations.

Speaking to ET, Adnan Kazim, deputy president and chief commercial officer of Emirates, said India, once a top-five market for the airline, has since slipped to among its top 10 markets globally. Under the current air services pact between India and Dubai, weekly seat entitlements for UAE carriers, including Emirates, are capped at 65,000. A reciprocal cap applies to Indian carriers flying to Dubai. These limits have stayed unchanged for more than a decade, despite surging demand and rapid growth in outbound travel from India.

"All 171 weekly frequencies we operate to India are flying above 95% seat factor," said Kazim. "We're spilling traffic. The demand



LIMITED LIFT

Kazim said the airline is open to partnering with Indian carriers, but sees limited value without more seat capacity

far exceeds the supply."

Despite India's importance to Emirates' global network, Kazim said the market's relative standing has slipped. "India used to be among the top five markets. Now it's in the top 10," he said.

The cap on adding seats to India is leading Emirates to expand its footprint to other markets. "We've been growing consistently; year after year, by at least 3-5%," said Kazim. "But we've not been able to add a single seat to India

since 2014—nearly 11 years. Even though India is important, Emirates is shifting its dependency to many other markets and continents that are adding value to our network."

He added that Emirates has added destinations and capacity in Asia, the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. "That could've been India playing that role... but it's not the case."

Kazim said the airline is open to partnerships with Indian carriers but added that such arrangements have limited value without additional seat capacity. "You need to open up the gateway to create connectivity between domestic feeders and international routes," he said. "Flights are already full. A partner cannot add much in that situation."

Emirates has also shown interest in expanding into Tier 2 Indian cities, but Kazim said those opportunities are restricted as well. "Even these new airports need business. When you build and make a size of airport, you need the contribution coming from international airlines," he said.

He also pointed to India's low international travel volumes. "You're moving about 120 million international passengers with a population of 1.5 billion. That number should be much higher."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 JULY 2025



Passengers stuck at Roissy Charles-de-Gaulle airport, outside Paris, on Thursday, as French air traffic controllers launched a two-day strike to demand better working conditions, disrupting travel for thousands of people at the start of a summer holiday season.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

Kant Joins IndiGo Board

Mumbai: Domestic carrier IndiGo parent InterGlobe Aviation on Thursday announced the appointment of former Niti Aayog CEO and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh



Kant as a Non-Executive Director to its board.

A career bureaucrat, Kant had resigned as India's G20 Sherpa last month. His appointment to the board is subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals, InterGlobe Aviation said in a statement. —PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

AI terminates Delhi-Washington flight in Vienna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, July 3

AN AIR INDIA flight from Delhi to Washington, which took off on July 2, could not complete its journey after it developed a technical glitch during a scheduled refuelling stopover in Vienna, the Tata Group-owned

airline said on Thursday.

Consequently, its return flight from Washington to Delhi, scheduled on July 2, was also cancelled.

Of late, frequent delays and cancellations of long-haul flights by Air India have been causing severe inconvenience to passengers.

According to Air India statement, "Flight AI103 from Delhi to Washington, DC on July 2 made a planned fuel stop in Vienna. During routine aircraft checks, an extended maintenance task was identified, which required rectification before the next flight and, thus, additional time for com-

pletion." The airline further said as Vienna to Washington leg was cancelled, alternative arrangements were made for the stranded passengers.

Passengers eligible for visa-free entry or those with valid Schengen visas were provided hotel accommodations in Vienna until the next available

flight, as per the airline.

For passengers without Schengen visas, accommodation was arranged, in liaison with immigration and security clearances by Austrian authorities, while others were rebooked on alternative flights, Air India said in the statement.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

3 JULY 2025

AIRPORT TO COME UP IN AMARAVATI

5,000 acres Identified for mega project near Pedaparimi

METRO NEWS | AMARAVATI

In a major boost to the infrastructure vision of Andhra Pradesh's capital region, the state government has identified 5000 acres of land near Pedaparimi in Amaraavati to develop a world-class international airport, reaffirming its commitment to make Amaraavati a truly global capital.

According to official sources, the site has been selected for its flat terrain, absence of hills or water bodies, and excellent geographical positioning. The area lies strategically between National Highway (NH-16), the Krishna River and the proposed Outer Ring Road (ORR), making it easily accessible and highly suitable for large-scale aviation infrastructure.

The process of land pooling is set to begin shortly in 25 villages surrounding the airport zone, and the government has initiated consultations with local farmers and landowners to ensure a smooth and transparent process. Officials from the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) are expected to conduct detailed surveys and outreach programs in the coming weeks.

Speaking to Metro India, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister

Dr. P. Narayana stated, "We are determined to build Amaraavati as a capital that reflects the aspirations of 21st-century India. A world-class international airport is not just a necessity but a catalyst for investment, tourism, and global connectivity."

The minister further confirmed that the government intends to follow a voluntary land pooling model, similar to the one used in Amaraavati's initial development phase. Under the scheme, landowners are offered a share in developed plots, compensation, and access to modern amenities.

The selected region around Pedaparimi is ideal for an international airport, its flat topography ensures minimal displacement, and connectivity with the NH and ORR will allow seamless ac-

cess," said Murali, a senior CRDA official.

The international airport is expected to spur economic growth, create thousands of jobs, and attract foreign investment, particularly in aviation-linked industries such as logistics, aerospace, and biotechnology. It also sends a strong political signal – that Amaraavati is no longer in limbo but on the fast track once again.

The state government is expected to issue a formal notification for land pooling within the month, following that, environmental impact assessments, feasibility studies, and design tenders will be floated. The airport is likely to be developed in phases with provisions for both domestic and international operations, cargo handling, and MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) facilities.



Window frame of Spicejet aircraft dislodges midair

No impact on passenger safety: Airline

PTI
MUMBAI

A window frame of Spice Jet's aircraft operating its flight to Pune from Goa was found dislodged midair but there was no impact on passengers' safety, the airline said on Wednesday.

The frame was fixed once the aircraft landed at the next (Pune) airport, in accordance with standard maintenance procedures, it said.

SpiceJet, however, did not share other details.

"A cosmetic (interior) window frame on one of the Q400 Aircraft became loose during flight and was found dislodged," a statement said.

SpiceJet said cabin pressurisation remained normal throughout the flight, and there was no impact on passenger



safety, adding, the dislodged part was a non-structural trim component, fitted onto the window for the purpose of shade, and did not compromise the safety or integrity of the aircraft in any way.

The Q400 aircraft is equipped with multiple layers of window panes, including a robust, pressure-bearing outer pane, ensuring that passenger safety is never at risk, even in the unlikely event of a superficial or cosmetic component coming loose," it added.

SAFETY CONCERNS Many buildings, including those under construction, flout mandatory NOC rules issued by AAI

Cranes, poor lights risk Surat airport's safety

Melvyn Thomas
SUNAT

In a scathing letter addressed to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) chairman Sanjay Ezhava, President of the Surat Airport Action Committee (SAAC) has raised an alarm over ongoing violations of the Aircraft Act, 1934 near Surat Airport including illegal high-rise tower cranes and the lack of mandatory anti-collision lights on buildings surrounding the airfield.

Ezhava, a longtime airport safety activist, warned that these violations pose a direct threat to aircraft during take-off and landing, particularly in early morning hours when fog and low visibility are common in the region.

"Many buildings near the airport have already reached their height limits, but they've failed to install anti-collision lights. This is a basic safety requirement, ignored at the cost of lives," Ezhava stated.

"A single violation can endanger hundreds of lives. Are we waiting for a tragedy to act?" asked Sanjay Ezhava.

According to Ezhava, many



buildings, including those under construction, are flouting the No Objection Certificate (NOC) rules issued by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). These NOCs are mandatory for any structure within a certain radius of the airport to ensure airspace is clear for safe navigation.

From sunset to sunrise, every high point must be illuminated with anti-collision lights as per regulations. The failure to do so is not just negligence, it's a violation of

national aviation laws," he added.

Equally alarming is the presence of tower cranes on construction sites whose heights exceed the permissible NOC limits, further encroaching into the aircraft's glide path.

"These cranes are more dangerous than the buildings themselves. They're temporary, unmonitored, and in some cases, even exceed the height of the structures they're building. It's a disaster waiting to

happen," Ezhava said.

He urged the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) and local developers to take immediate corrective measures, including reducing crane height and ensuring all structures, permanent or temporary, are equipped with working anti-collision lights.

"The authorities must act now, not after an incident occurs. Passenger safety and the reputation of Surat Airport are at stake," Ezhava stated.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

अमिताभ कांत इंडिगो बोर्ड में शामिल होंगे

मुंबई। नीति आयोग के पूर्व सीईओ और जी20 शेरपा अमिताभ कांत इंडिगो की फ्लैट इंटरग्लोब एविएशन के बोर्ड में गैर-कार्यकारी निदेशक के रूप में शामिल होंगे। कंपनी ने गुरुवार को नियुक्ति की घोषणा की। कांत ने पिछले महीने भारत के जी20 शेरपा के पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया था। इंटरग्लोब एविएशन ने बयान में कहा कि बोर्ड में उनकी नियुक्ति विनियामक और शेयरधारक अनुमोदन के अधीन है। इंडिगो के निदेशक मंडल के अध्यक्ष विक्रम सिंह मेहता ने कहा कि इंडिगो को अमिताभ कांत का बोर्ड सदस्य के रूप में स्वागत करते हुए खुशी हो रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

वाशिंगटन जा रहे एयर इंडिया के विमान में खराबी

मुंबई, एजेसी। दिल्ली से वाशिंगटन जा रही एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट गुरुवार को रास्ते में ही अटक गई। वियना में विमान ईंधन भरने के लिए रुका था, लेकिन उतरने के बाद वह विमान अग्रे नहीं बढ़ पाया। रूटों जांच के दौरान तकनीकी खराबी के सामने आने के बाद एयर इंडिया को फ्लाइट रद्द करनी पड़ी। इसके परिणामस्वरूप गुरुवार को वाशिंगटन से दिल्ली की इसकी वापसी की उड़ान भी रद्द कर दी गई।

हाल के दिनों में एयर इंडिया द्वारा लंबी दूरी की उड़ानों में लगातार देरी और रद्दीकरण से यात्रियों को भारी असुविधा हो रही है। एयर इंडिया के बयान के अनुसार 2 जुलाई को दिल्ली

■ वाशिंगटन से दिल्ली की उड़ान भी रद्द

से वाशिंगटन, डीसी के लिए उड़ा विमान एआई103 वियना में ईंधन भरने के लिए रुका था। अगली उड़ान से पहले इसे ठीक करना जरूरी थी, इसके लिए अतिरिक्त बकत चाहिए था। एयरलाइन ने आगे कहा कि चूंकि वियना से वाशिंगटन की उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई थी, इसलिए फंसे हुए यात्रियों के लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की गई। वीजा-मुक्त प्रवेश के लिए पात्र या वैध शेंगेन वीजा वाले यात्रियों को अगली उपलब्ध उड़ान तक वियना में होटल की सुविधा प्रदान की गई है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

3 JULY 2025

[MID-AIR SCARE] GOA-PUNE ROUTE

SpiceJet's window panel gets dislodged

Dheeraj Bengruat

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PUNE: Passengers aboard SpiceJet flight SG-1080 from Goa to Pune experienced a mid-air scare when an interior window panel detached mid-flight, sparking panic and raising fresh concerns about airline safety and aircraft maintenance standards. The airline clarified that there was no cabin depressurisation as the outer layers of the windowpane remained intact and passenger safety was not compromised.

The incident occurred on Tuesday shortly after take-off from Goa. Flyers seated near the affected window described a sudden detachment of the inner plastic shell and shatter, exposing the insulation material underneath. While SpiceJet clarified that the aircraft's outer windowpane remained intact—thereby preventing cabin depressurisation—several passengers called the episode frightening and unacceptable.

"There was no cabin depressurisation, and passenger safety was not compromised," SpiceJet said in a statement issued after the incident. However, visuals shared online by passengers showed the dislodged window trim inside the flight hanging loose, with cabin crew seen attempting to temporarily reattach the panel during the flight.



Visuals shared online showed the dislodged window trim inside the flight hanging loose during the flight.

Aatish Mishra, one of the flyers on board, posted on social media: "SpiceJet from Goa to Pune today (Tuesday). The whole interior window assembly just fell off mid-flight. And this flight is now supposed to take off and head to Jaipur. Wonder if it's airworthy."

Another passenger, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "Thankfully the structural outer window was intact. But the inner panel coming off mid-air is still a serious concern. This kind of thing just shouldn't happen."

The flight attendants tried to handle the situation calmly. They relocated a woman and her infant to another seat. One crew member managed to fix the panel back, but it didn't look very secure. A sudden jolt and it could have come off again."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

Air India terminates flight to U.S. in Vienna

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI

An Air India flight from Delhi to Washington, which took off on July 2, could not complete its journey after it developed a technical glitch during a scheduled refuelling stopover in Vienna, the airline said on Thursday. Consequently, its return flight

from Washington to Delhi was also cancelled.

The airline also said that accommodation was arranged for the stranded passengers in Vienna or bookings on alternative flights were made. Those who had booked on the Washington-Delhi flight were given alternative bookings or offered full refunds.

Passengers can access lounges via portal: Adani Airports CEO

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Passengers travelling through any Adani Group airport will be able to access lounge services via their website eliminating the need for 'intermediaries,' according to Arun Bansal, CEO, Adani Airports Holding Ltd.

The company manages eight airports in India, including the upcoming Navi Mumbai airport and airports at Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Gurwahani, and Thiruvananthapuram.

"Passengers across India can now access lounges directly through our platform in partnership with other lounge operators. This means no intermediaries - only seamless, world-class experience delivered directly to our consumers," Mr. Bansal wrote in a post on LinkedIn. The post said such a platform was an initiative of its Digital Lab, the technology and digital solutions arm for its airports which links passengers directly with various airport services.

Mr. Bansal was responding to comments made by the CEO of airport service aggregator Dreamfolks, Liberatha Peter Kullat who said credit-card firms ended partnerships with them 'under pressure from two airport operators.'

On July 1, Dreamfolks, that partnered lounge operators and food and beverage firms at airports, informed the exchange some of its programmes for Axis Bank and ICICI bank were being closed and the impact of this would be "material in nature."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

No 'middlemen' required for lounges, says Adani Airport chief executive

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI Airport Holdings said on Thursday passengers across India can now access lounges directly through their platform in partnership with other lounge operators, removing the need for any intermediaries.

Adani Group operates airports in Mumbai, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Mangaluru, Guwahati, Jaipur, and Thiruvananthapuram. It is building the Navi Mumbai International Airport. "Passengers across India can now access lounges directly via our platform in partnership with other lounge operators. This means no intermediaries – only seamless, a world-class experience delivered directly to our consumers," Adani Airport Holdings's CEO Arun Bansal said on LinkedIn.

Bansal added that India is at the global forefront of digital innovation. "UPI has transformed the lives of a billion Indians, revolutionising how we transact everyday and accelerating our journey to becoming the third-largest economy in the world. This fintech revolution has eliminated the need for middlemen across sectors, just as companies like Airbnb and Uber did several years ago."

"We have brought the same spirit of innovation to our own ecosystem, led by our outstanding Digital Lab team."

Adani Airport's move to cut middlemen and increase accessibility of lounge services comes days after Dreamfolks Services CEO and Chairperson Liberatha Peter Kallat criticised two major Indian airport operators for using pressuring tactics to disrupt her company's business. Dreamfolks commands 90% market share in domestic lounge access market for debit and credit card programs, as per the company's website.

In an interview to a financial news channel, Kallat said the airport operators who recently launched lounge access services have put pressure on banks to cut ties with them.

Dreamfolks Services on Tuesday had announced certain programs of Axis Bank and ICICI Bank have been closed with effect from July 1, 2025.

"While the company is evaluating exact potential impact of aforesaid, it is likely to be material in nature. Activation of new programs/ deactivation of existing programs is part of our regular business operations," it said. "The company is committed to take requisite actions for mitigating above impact. The company remains committed to adhering to highest standards of corporate governance and will continue to inform the exchanges of any material events in a timely manner as required under applicable laws," it added.





Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

एयर इंडिया ने दिल्ली-वाशिंगटन उड़ान को वियना में रोका, वापसी उड़ान भी रद्द

मुंबई, 3 जुलाई (एजेंसी): दिल्ली से वाशिंगटन के लिए 2 जुलाई को उड़ान भरने वाला एयर इंडिया का विमान वियना में ईंधन भरने के लिए निर्धारित पड़ाव के



दौरान तकनीकी खराबी आने के कारण अपनी यात्रा पूरी नहीं कर सका। इस कारण वाशिंगटन से दिल्ली

के लिए निर्धारित इसकी वापसी उड़ान भी रद्द कर दी गई। एयर इंडिया के अनुसार, "2 जुलाई को दिल्ली से वाशिंगटन डी.सी. जाने वाली उड़ान संख्या ए.आई. 103 वियना में ईंधन भरने के लिए पूर्व निर्धारित योजना के तहत रुकी। विमान की नियमित जांच के दौरान, एक विस्तारित रख-रखाव कार्य की पहचान की गई, जिसे अगली उड़ान से पहले ठीक करने की आवश्यकता थी। इस प्रकार, इसे पूरा करने के लिए अतिरिक्त समय की आवश्यकता थी।"

इसने कहा कि चूंकि वियना से वाशिंगटन की उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई थी, इसलिए फंसे हुए यात्रियों के लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की गई।

Air India pilots carry simulator test after Ahmedabad crash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

A group of senior Air India (AI) pilots recreated on simulators some adverse conditions, such as flying with higher weight and temperature and with gear down and retracted flaps at 50 feet, with the results showing the Boeing 787-8 aircraft continued flying, sources said on Wednesday.

The simulator test was carried out independently by the Air India Boeing 787 aircraft fleet trainers during a training session at the airline's Mumbai facility within days of the crash of an Air India Dreamliner in Ahmedabad.

When contacted, Air India said pilots conducted the tests on their own and the airline had no role in it.

Among various theories doing the rounds initially regarding the possible causes of the Air India aircraft crash on June 12 that killed over 260 people, was that the pilot flew the aircraft with retracted flaps and gear down.



According to a source : "The pilots simulated AI 171 flight conditions on their own during the training session. They attempted to create some slightly adverse conditions like with higher weight and higher temperature, while keeping gear down and retracting flaps

at 50 feet altitude. In the simulator, the aircraft continued flying." Flaps are movable panels, located along the trailing edge of the wings of the aircraft, which get extended during takeoff and landing to increase the wing's surface area to provide more 'lift' that

keeps the plane flying. This additional aerodynamic force is crucial during low-speed flight, like takeoff or landing.

Flaps are adjusted manually by either pilot, depending on the situation. In cruise flight, they remain retracted.

The crash, one of the worst

air disasters in India in decades, involved a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner operating as Air India flight AI 171. The aircraft was en route to London's Gatwick Airport when it crashed into a medical hostel complex in Ahmedabad's Meghani Nagar area shortly after takeoff.

Of the 242 people onboard, 241 were killed, with only one survivor. The total death toll stood at 260, including casualties on the ground.

India's nodal aircraft accident probe agency, AAIB, launched a probe after the tragedy and constituted a multidisciplinary team on June 13.

The team includes representatives from the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), an air traffic control officer and an aviation medicine specialist.

Last week, the Government said data is being extracted from black boxes, and analysis of the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder is underway to reconstruct the sequence of events that led to the fatal crash.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

3 JULY 2025

Goa-Pune flight window pane comes off midair

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Pune: Passengers on board a Goa-to-Pune SpiceJet flight (SG-1080) had a scare on Tuesday evening when a window panel was found dislodged while the plane was mid-air.

The airline played down the incident, saying the window part that had come off was “a non-structural trim component, fitted onto the window for the purpose of shade”.

But a person on board the plane—a Bombardier Q400—told **TOI** the incident triggered anxiety among the passengers. “Two to three layers of the window panel just came off,” said Aatish Mis-



MIDAIR SCARE: Broken window panel, which was fixed after the plane landed in Pune

hra, the passenger.

“There was no depressurisation, but this shouldn’t have happened. There has to be focus on proper maintenance of interiors too, just like other technical aspects. We’ve just had a tragic plane crash,”

Mishra added. The airline issued a statement saying: “A cosmetic window frame on one of SpiceJet’s Q400 aircraft became loose during flight and was found dislodged. It is important to note that this was a non-structural trim component, fitted onto the window for the purpose of shade, and did not compromise the safety or integrity of the aircraft in any way. Cabin pressurisation remained normal throughout the flight, and there was no impact on passenger safety.”

Mishra said he was in row 8 when he heard commotion from the back. The Q400 can seat around 80 passengers.

“The flight’s scheduled departure time was 5.20pm, but

it took off from Goa’s Mopa around 7pm. We were mid-air when I heard noises. A mother and child just stood up from their seats. I then saw the window frame, which had come off,” he told **TOI**. Mishra said the plane landed nearly 30 minutes later. A SpiceJet spokesperson said the frame was fixed after landing, “in accordance with standard maintenance procedures”.

“The Q400 aircraft is equipped with multiple layers of window panes, including a robust, pressure-bearing outer pane, ensuring that passenger safety is never at risk, even in the unlikely event of a superficial or cosmetic component coming loose,” the airline said.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

4 JULY 2025

Ex-bureaucrat Kant joins IndiGo board

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: IndiGo has appointed former G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on its board. The airline's board of directors met Thursday to approve Kant's appointment. His appointment will be "effective from the date of receipt of security clearance from the ministry of civil aviation," IndiGo said in a regulatory filing.



Kant said, "I am delighted to join the board of InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo). In under two decades, IndiGo has transformed air travel in India, emerging as a global benchmark for operational excellence and customer experience. With its scale, efficiency and international ambition, IndiGo will open up new markets and transform our airports into global hubs of connectivity — driving tourism, trade and investment, while linking markets, and opportunities across borders. I look forward to contributing to IndiGo's and India's, next chapter of trade, tourism, and economic growth."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

3 JULY 2025

Mumbai-Adampur flight launched

JALANDHAR, JULY 2

Almost 15 months after the Adampur Civil Airport relaunched services with a flight on the Hindon-Nanded-Bengaluru route, a second daily flight for Mumbai commenced from here on Wednesday.

While 54 passengers arrived at Adampur from Mumbai, 47 left for Mumbai on the first flight this afternoon. The Hindon flight is managed by Star Air, while IndiGo is providing service on the latest route.

The airport terminal was raised at a cost of Rs 125 crore in February last year. The services at the civil airport began in

2019 with minimal facilities, but these were stopped during the Covid pandemic. The relaunch came late as the airlines had been weighing the viability factor.

The second destination was added today, but it was a no-frills event. On behalf of the administration, Adampur SDM Vivek Modi visited the airport. — TNS

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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

3 JULY 2025

Aviation sector takes a pause for safety's sake



SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN
SENIOR FINANCIAL JOURNALIST

AIR travel is supposed to be quicker and more convenient than either road or rail transport. The luxuries of a first class railway berth may not be available on a domestic flight but one reaches the destination much quicker and in relative comfort.

This axiom has been tested to the limits, however, in recent times as passengers on board Indian air carriers have found flights lacking several cabin amenities. A common complaint is poor air conditioning while others include faulty seats and even back rests patched together with tape.

A cabin minister once got a broken seat while others have found inflight entertainment missing despite the presence of screens.

These might all seem to be minor irritants compared to the tragedy that unfolded in Ahmedabad on June 12 with the Air India crash. It does, however, indicate a laissez faire attitude to customer comfort issues.

In this context, one may recall that crime rate in New

York in the 1990s dropped dramatically when the police authorities decided to focus on dealing with minor crimes. Known as the "broken windows" approach, it led to a larger fall in violent crimes in the metropolis than in the US as a whole.

It was found that effectively dealing with smaller infractions actually led to a decline in the overall crime rate.

While the analogy is certainly not precise, one is bound to assume that airlines which are not overly worried about air conditioning failures or seat quality issues, may also not be as vigilant in other areas.

It is encouraging that carriers have recently taken these shortcomings more seriously. At least one aircraft is reported to have been diverted and brought to the nearest airport following such a malfunction.

It can only be hoped that the Indian airline industry which has soared only to China in its pace of growth, has recognised that expansion and profitability must go hand in hand with an intensive focus on maintenance, safety and consumer needs.

All these issues have come into the spotlight after the devastating Air India crash, which has created a fear psychosis even among regular air travellers.

Prior to the unfortunate event, it could have been declared with confidence that the country is well on



LYING LOW: The Ahmedabad crash has created a fear psychosis even among regular air travellers across

the way to becoming one of the largest aviation markets in the world. Now, there is no doubt that the pause button has been hit for domestic aviation. Air India, for instance, which was in the process of revival, after being privatised, has already reduced the number of international flights.

Such a pause is timely as maintenance and safety issues need to be given much greater attention, not merely in the light of the crash but also to meet the needs of rising passenger loads.

A bootstrapping development in this regard is the decision of the regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to launch a com-

Maintenance and security issues need to be given much greater attention, not merely in the light of the air tragedy but also to meet the needs of rising passenger loads.

prehensive special audit of the entire aviation ecosystem. It will range from all types of airlines, maintenance and repair organisations, flying schools, airport operators and even ground handling agencies.

There is some scepticism given the fact that the regulator has been carrying out audits in the past as well. But one must hope this review is taken up with a greater sense of urgency and a mandate to unearth lapses wherever they exist.

The strictures being displayed by the DGCA recently as extending pilots operating times was also overdue, given that this seems to have become a regular occurrence

in some carriers.

These measures must be viewed in the backdrop of an aviation industry that has been facing turmoil over the past few years.

One reason has been the unexpected closure of major airlines like Jet Airways along with entry of new players like Akasa Air and the resurgence of the formerly state-owned Air India under the Tata.

Economic viability of airlines has also been an area of concern with high jet fuel prices leading to razor thin margins in an industry that continues to see a high rate of drop-outs. The result of the shake-out in recent years has been that two major airlines — Indigo and Air India — are dominating the skies.

Indigo has about 61 per cent of the market share while Air India has another 24-26 per cent. Adversely cannot be in the consumer's interest as there will be fears of collusion in fixing fares as well as reduced interest in passenger amenities.

These are real concerns at a time when airlines are raising flight frequencies to meet growing demand for air travel. According to a recent report of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), scheduled flights have risen sharply from 613,000 in 2014 to nearly 1.1 million in 2024.

The country's aviation sector now accounts for 1.5 per cent of GDP and has

created about 7.3 million jobs, both directly and indirectly. It has also become the sixth largest air cargo market in the world.

There can be no doubt, as the report says, that the industry has been a key driver of employment, investment and international trade.

India's emergence as a major player in global aviation has been achieved by the rapid pace of growth over the past two decades.

Passenger traffic has been rising at the rate of seven to eight per cent and is currently at 160 per cent. As a reality check, however, India's 174 million passengers in 2024 accounted for only 4.2 per cent of global passenger traffic compared to 16.7 per cent for China and 16 per cent for the US.

So this country still has a long way to go to catch up with world leaders in aviation. Yet there is no need to expand in haste as this can wait till all regulatory issues are dealt with in the coming months.

The reasons for the Ahmedabad crash are not known as yet and could well point to manufacturing defects. Even so, it is important to ensure that the aviation ecosystem is reviewed rigorously by the regulator.

The growth of the aviation industry must take a back seat right now while safety and maintenance is accorded the highest priority.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

3 JULY 2025

Pilots recreate AI-171's final moments on simulator

NEW DELHI, JULY 2

As part of the ongoing investigation into the deadly Air India crash that killed 260 people, simulator tests have been conducted to recreate the flight conditions of the ill-fated Boeing 787. The flight en route from Ahmedabad to London had gone down shortly after its takeoff on June 12.

Sources said Air India pilots conducted the simulation using the same aircraft configuration reported before the crash with landing gear deployed and wing flaps retracted. These tests were aimed at examining whether the aircraft could remain airborne under such conditions.

According to reports, the

simulation revealed that this configuration alone was not enough to bring down the aircraft, suggesting the need to explore other possible causes.

Air India said pilots conducted simulator tests on their own, and the airline had no role in that.

Moments before the crash, the crew had reportedly communi-

cated a "MayDay" message.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is leading the probe into the plane crash, with assistance from multiple agencies. Investigators have retrieved both the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and Flight Data Recorder (FDR), which are being examined for more definitive clues. — TNS