



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

4 FEBRUARY 2026

Govt gives 15-acre land to AAI for ILS installation at Purnea airport

Aditya Nath Jha

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PURNEA: The Bihar government on Tuesday transferred 15 acres of land to the Airport Authority of India (AAI), making way for the installation of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) at the Purnea airport. This will facilitate aircraft movement in low visibility and adverse weather, improving reliability, reducing delays and minimising diversions.

This came soon after Purnea airport set a record by achieving a milestone by serving over 1 lakh passengers since its inception on September 15 last year till January 31 this year. The airport had crossed the 50,000-passenger mark till December 12 last year within less than three

months of its operation.

"Within a short period, the Purnea airport has achieved the milestone and surpassed the 1 lakh mark and this shows the growth momentum," airport director Deep Prakash Gupta said, pointing out the increasing public confidence and growing demand for air travel in the Seemanchal and Kosi regions.

He further indicated that the passenger convenience has been enhanced by strengthening the car park facilities even during night parking facilities have been introduced. He expressed happiness that the airport could handle even medical emergencies promptly in less than five months as per SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures).

He added, "Passenger safety has been our prime concern and

we have so far done as per people's expectations with effective coordination among doctors, airline staff, the Indian Air Force and Air Traffic Control."

Ever since the Purnea airport was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on September 15, last year, the surge in the passengers has underlined the need for four-lane road connectivity.

Group Captain (retired) Vishwajeet Kumar said that the record footfalls during the short period of time and said, "Now we have direct flights for Delhi, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Kolkata," and the flights for Bangalore, Chennai, Guwahati and Mumbai have become a need for hours. "Record footfalls have proved that Purnea airport has potential to grow into an international airport," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

4 FEBRUARY 2026



An IndiGo Airbus A320 and an Air India Airbus A320 are seen on the taxiway at Mumbai airport after their wing tips reportedly touched during taxiing.

— PTI

Air India, IndiGo wingtips collide at Mumbai airport

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 3

A major mishap was averted at Mumbai airport when wingtips of Air India and IndiGo planes collided at the tarmac. Both flights were full of passengers and were taxiing. They have now been grounded and the DGCA officials are probing the incident.

Air India said one of the wings of its Mumbai-Coimbatore bound plane, AI 2732, got damaged and had to be grounded while IndiGo flight had landed in Mumbai from Hyder-

abad. According to DGCA officials, while AI2732 was taxiing from runway C1 towards M4 for departure and IndiGo arrival flight was taxiing at adjoining B1, right wing tips of both the aircraft touched each other. Both the aircraft were taxiing at the time of incident. Both the aircraft returned to the bay for inspections after the incident.

“Flight AI2732 operating from Mumbai to Coimbatore was delayed after the aircraft scheduled to operate the service came into contact with another airline’s aircraft while

waiting on the taxiway prior to take-off. The wingtips of the two aircraft made contact, resulting in damage to our aircraft’s wingtip. As a precautionary measure, the aircraft has been grounded for further technical checks. All passengers were safely disembarked, and our ground teams are making alternative arrangements to fly them to their destination at the earliest. The incident has been reported to the regulator. Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to passengers due to this event.”



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

4 FEBRUARY 2026

Menzies Aviation secures 15-year ground handling licence at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: Menzies Aviation has secured a 15-year licence to provide ground handling services at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The licence will come into effect from April 1, with operations expected to begin immediately after the company obtains the required regulatory approvals.

Menzies Aviation has been associated with KIA for the past 15 years, during which it has provided air cargo services to both domestic and international carriers.

Under the new licence, the company will offer a full suite



of ground handling services across Terminals 1 and 2, including passenger, ramp and baggage operations. It will also integrate its ground and cargo handling services at the airport.

As part of the expansion,

Menzies will launch a local recruitment programme, with around 1,000 new employees expected to be hired over the first three years. This will add to its existing cargo workforce of about 1,700 employees.

The company will also invest more than \$9.2 million (approximately Rs 83 crore) to modernise and standardise its ground support equipment (GSE) at KIA. This will include the introduction of electric GSE as part of its long-term sustainability strategy, according to a statement issued by the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operator.



An IndiGo Airbus A320 and an Air India Airbus A320 are seen on the taxiway at Mumbai airport after their wing tips reportedly touched during taxiing. PTI

Wings of two aircraft collide at Mumbai airport

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

An Air India jet and an IndiGo flight were involved in an on-ground collision at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Tuesday. It happened when the right wing tips of the two aircraft brushed past each other.

Both the planes had passengers on board at the time of the incident.

While the Air India AI 2732 was to fly from Mumbai to Coimbatore, and was on push-

back, IndiGo 6E 791, which had come to Mumbai from Hyderabad, was taxiing.

No injuries were reported. Details about the number of passengers could not be immediately ascertained.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, which happened at around 7.30 pm.

"Flight AI2732 operating from Mumbai to Coimbatore on 3 February was delayed after the aircraft scheduled to operate the service came into contact with another airline's aircraft while waiting on the

taxiway prior to take-off. The wingtips of the two aircraft made contact, resulting in damage to our aircraft's wingtip," an Air India spokesperson said.

"As a precautionary measure, the aircraft has been grounded for further technical checks. All passengers were safely disembarked, and our ground teams are making alternative arrangements to fly them to their destination at the earliest. The incident has been reported to the regulator," the spokesperson added.



Jets clip wings at Mumbai airport

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The wingtips of two Airbus A320 aircraft operated by Air India and IndiGo collided at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Tuesday evening. All passengers disembarked safely, though

both aircraft sustained damage, leading to a delay to the outbound Air India flight.

Passengers aboard the two scheduled commercial flights were briefly left alarmed when the wings of their aircraft scraped against each other at around 7 pm.

▶ [Contd on | city](#)

FROM PG1

Jets collide at Mumbai airport

The Air India aircraft, registered VT-TYV and operating flight AI-2732 to Coimbatore, was stationary on the taxiway awaiting take-off when an IndiGo aircraft, registered VT-IFV, scraped its wingtip while taxiing after landing from Hyderabad. The IndiGo aircraft was operating flight 6E-791.

Sources said no passengers on either flight suffered injuries, though the wingtips incurred minor damage. Passengers from both aircraft were asked to disembark, resulting in a delay to the Air India flight bound for Coimbatore. Both airlines subsequently grounded the aircraft, conducted maintenance inspections, and informed the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) about the incident.

Air India said its ground teams were making alternative arrangements to fly affected passengers to their destination at the earliest. "Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to passengers due to this event. The safety of our passengers and crew remains our highest priority," an airline spokesperson said.

An IndiGo spokesperson said, "In line with established protocols, the relevant authorities were promptly informed and the matter is being investigated. At IndiGo, the safety and security of our customers, crew and aircraft remain our highest priority."

Major scare at Mumbai airport: Wings of 2 jets brush on tarmac

Yogesh Naik

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The wingtips of Air India and IndiGo aircraft came into contact at Mumbai airport on Tuesday evening, and both planes have been grounded for checks, officials said. All passengers are safe.

Air India flight AI 2732 was waiting on the taxiway before take-off while the IndiGo flight 6E 791 was taxiing after landing. Both were Airbus A320 aircraft.

A Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) team is at the site and will probe the incident, a civil aviation ministry spokesperson said.

"The wingtips of the two aircraft made contact, resulting in damage to our aircraft's wingtip. As a precautionary measure, the aircraft has been grounded for further technical checks. All passengers were safely disembarked," Air India said in a statement.

→P3



The two aircraft on the Mumbai airport taxiway.

HT PHOTO

Working of fuel switches found to be satisfactory, says DGCA

NEW DELHI: Tests by Air India's engineers on the fuel switches of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which was grounded after its pilot reported a possible issue with one of them, found the

components were working within satisfactory parameters when operated according to the procedure recommended by the aircraft's manufacturer, the regulator said on Monday.

→P11



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

4 FEBRUARY 2026

Two aircraft brush wingtips at Mumbai airport; none injured

Yogesh Naik

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MUMBAI: A mishap was narrowly averted at Mumbai airport on Tuesday evening when the right wingtips of two aircraft brushed against each other.

The accident happened at around 7.30 pm, when Air India aircraft AI 2732 was departing for Coimbatore while Indigo aircraft 6E 791 was coming in from Hyderabad. Officials of the directorate-general of civil aviation reached the spot soon after.

Both aircraft were A320s. Both returned to the bay for inspections.

An Air India spokesperson



The AI plane was taxiing out, and the Indigo flight was taxiing in.

said, "Flight AI2732, operating from Mumbai to Coimbatore, was delayed after the aircraft scheduled to operate the service came into contact with another

airline's aircraft while waiting on the taxiway prior to take-off. The wingtips of the two aircraft made contact, resulting in damage to our aircraft's wingtip."

The spokesperson said that as a precautionary measure, the aircraft had been grounded for further technical checks. "All passengers have safely disembarked, and our ground teams are making alternative arrangements to fly them to their destination at the earliest," he added. "The incident has been reported to the regulator."

The Indigo spokesperson too confirmed the incident. "All the passengers are safe and disembarked after parking," he said. "The aircraft is undergoing maintenance inspections. In line with established protocols, the relevant authorities were promptly informed and the matter is being investigated."

2 taxiing aircraft brush wingtips at city airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A ground incident involving two Airbus A320 aircraft occurred at the city airport on Tuesday when the wingtips of two jets brushed during taxiing operations, the ministry of civil aviation said on Tuesday. No passengers or crew were injured in the incident. Directorate General of Civil Aviation officials reached the site for inspections.

According to the ministry, Air India flight AI2732 (VT-TYF) was taxiing for departure, while an IndiGo A320 (VT-IFV), operating an arrival flight, was taxiing after landing. "During taxiing, the right wingtips of both the aircraft touched each other," the mini-



stry said. Both aircraft returned to the bay for inspection.

An Air India spokesperson confirmed the incident, stating that flight AI 2732 was delayed after the aircraft scheduled to operate the service came into contact with another airline's aircraft while waiting on

the taxiway prior to departure. "The right wingtips of the two aircraft made contact, resulting in damage to our aircraft's wingtip. As a precautionary measure, the aircraft was grounded for further technical checks," Air India said, adding that all passengers were safely

disembarked and alternative arrangements were being made to fly them to their destination.

IndiGo, in their statement, said the incident occurred while taxiing after landing and all passengers were safely disembarked after parking.

IndiGo to adjust long-haul flights over op constraints

Reductions aim to 'improve operational resilience'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 4

IndiGo has announced to readjust its long-haul flight schedule saying its wide-body (B787-9) operation has faced external operational constraints. The airline on Wednesday said continuously changing airspace constraints due to geopolitical circumstances, congestion at airports both in India and abroad leading to longer block times and schedule strain across its six 787-9 aircraft are some of the factors that has forced it to readjust its long distance flight schedules including suspending services to Copenhagen from February 17. The airline will also reduce its flights on Delhi-London Heathrow and Delhi-Manchester routes.

IndiGo said the step has been taken to "improve operational resilience" and "schedule/on-time reliability." IndiGo added it is proactively reaching out to the affected customers to offer alternative flights or issue timely refunds and compensation as per the applicable rules. The airline further said that it will keep monitoring conditions and may scale the long-haul network up or down depending on how constraints evolve.

From February 7, the carrier will reduce its Delhi-Manchester services to four times a week from five times per week. On this route, the number of flights will be cut to three times per week from February 19. Further, Delhi-London Heathrow services will be cut to four from five per week for the current winter schedule starting from February 9. IndiGo said the measures are being taken to avoid inconvenience to passengers due to misconnections and cascading delays.

Turkish aircraft lands in Kolkata after engine fire

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, FEB. 4

A Turkish Airlines flight, carrying 236 passengers and 11 crew members to Istanbul, made a full emergency landing at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport in the city on Wednesday after one of its engines caught fire and suffered failure following take-off from Nepal.

All the passengers and crew members on board were later evacuated safely. The THY727 aircraft (Type — A333, Registration — TCLNH) took off at 1.28 pm from Tribhuvan International Airport at Kathmandu. Its pilots however detected a fire in the right engine within four minutes.

They immediately shut down the affected engine

and diverted the plane to the west of Kathmandu, keeping it airborne for 10 minutes. At 1.38 pm, the flight, declared 'PAN PAN', an international radio distress signal, due to the right engine on fire, requested to divert to Kolkata (VECC), the civil aviation ministry stated.

The widebody aircraft reported the fire under control at 1.51 pm while proceeding to NSCBI Airport with one engine failure. Meanwhile four fire engines and three ambulances with medical teams and security personnel were mobilised near the runway by the airport authorities.

The plane made a full emergency landing at 2.49 pm after its captain informed the Kolkata ATC about the fire and engine failure, NSCBI Airport director Vikram Singh said.

AI clears fuel switch checks on all 787s; no issues found

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 4

Air India on Wednesday said it has completed precautionary re-inspections of the Fuel Control Switch across all its operational Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet and no issues were identified during these checks. The inspections were undertaken in an abundance of caution following an observation reported by one of its pilots on Monday regarding Fuel Control Switch not locking at "Run" Position and slipping to "Cut Off" automatically. The DGCA probe report

found that applying external force in an incorrect direction caused the switch move. "We acknowledge regulator's (DGCA) proactive oversight in conducting independent inspections and subsequently clearing the FCS.

Air India will fully adhere to the regulator's guidance to circulate original equipment maker (Boeing) recommended operating procedures for the operation of the FCS to all crew members. The safety of our passengers and crew remains Air India's highest priority," said Air India Spokesperson.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

No shortcuts in aviation safety

Aviation safety is not just a process but a moral duty that must be attended to every day so that fliers are not forced to put faith only in the astronomical odds against dying in an air crash.

It will be several months before the final report from the probe into the Ahmedabad crash of an Air India Dreamliner on June 12, 2025, is released. Meanwhile, the question of a glitch in the form of involuntary movement of fuel control switches has cropped up again as a pilot reported such movement in a Dreamliner that flew to London from India.

The DGCA appears to have suggested that crew action may have moved the switch from 'run' to 'cutoff' position. Calling upon Boeing to circulate the recommended procedure for the operation of the switch to crew members may be part of safety procedures. But there seems to be an admission of belief, involuntary or otherwise, that the manufacturer is always right and that the pilots are the ones who are moving switches.

It should not take a year of probing to know how those switches moved on the ill-fated aircraft out of Ahmedabad so that there could be closure on the event. Manufacturers cannot brush aside the field data that may show that they are not infallible in the matter of ensuring the built-in safety of their aircraft.

Pilots, backed by air traffic controllers, do make mistakes, as we saw most recently in the right wings of two taxiing aircraft brushing each other in Mumbai, which operates one of the country's busiest airports. But assuming pilot error before thoroughly probing each unusual incident in aviation is an error that must not be allowed to creep in because that would undermine safety, which is the manufacturers' responsibility first.

The sooner we have the mystery solved of moving fuel switches – which must be pulled up before being pushed to the cutoff position – the better. How trustworthy is an aircraft if unusual movement of the fuel switches takes place. What can be done to control this aspect of flying a sophisticated fly-by-wire flying machine must be explored if the manufacturer is to regain the total trust of passengers and crew.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

सीसीआई ने दिए इंडिगो उड़ानें रद्द मामले की जांच के आदेश

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (सीसीआई) ने दिसंबर में बड़े पैमाने पर उड़ानें रद्द करने के मामले में इंडिगो के खिलाफ जांच के आदेश दिए हैं। दिसंबर की शुरुआत में इंडिगो द्वारा लगभग 4,500 उड़ानें रद्द किए जाने से देश के विमानन क्षेत्र में हड़कंप मच गया था। डीजीसीए के अनुसार, दिसंबर में कुल 10.46 लाख



यात्री प्रभावित हुए, जिनमें से 93% यानी 9.82 लाख अकेले इंडिगो के यात्री थे। विमानन नियामक ने जनवरी

में इंडिगो पर लगभग 22.20 करोड़ रुपये का रिकॉर्ड जुर्माना भी लगाया था। जांच में पायलटों के आराम और ड्यूटी नियमों से जुड़ी खामियां पाई गई थीं। नियामक को मिली शिकायतों में आरोप लगाया गया है कि उड़ानों के रद्द होने से टिकट की कीमतों में भारी उछाल आया और यात्रियों को भारी असुविधा हुई। इंडिगो की कोपेनहेगन की उड़ानें 17 से स्थगित : देश की दिग्गज एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों की समयसारिणी में बड़े बदलाव की घोषणा की है। एयरलाइन ने 17 फरवरी से कोपेनहेगन (डेनमार्क) की सेवाएं अनिश्चित काल के लिए स्थगित कर दी है। साथ ही दिल्ली से लंदन और मैनचेस्टर जाने वाली उड़ानों के फेरों में कटौती की है। व्यू

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

CCI orders probe against IndiGo for 'prima facie abusing dominant position'

Our Bureau
Mumbai

The Competition Commission of India has, *prima facie*, held IndiGo responsible for abuse of its dominant position in the domestic air travel sector and ordered an investigation against the airline.

The anti-trust regulator has directed its Director-General to investigate and submit a report in 90 days.

The order follows a preliminary inquiry following mass disruption of IndiGo's flights last December, which impacted lakhs of passengers.

"It is observed that passengers who had booked tickets were left with no real choice but to accept last-minute cancellations. Further, passengers were left to seek alternatives on their own, at significantly higher prices," the CCI said in its order on Wednesday.

It noted that given IndiGo's dominant position, consumers were effectively locked in and lacked viable alternatives, which appears to be in violation of relevant provisions of law.

The CCI also noted that by cancelling thousands of flights that constitute a significant portion of the scheduled capacity, IndiGo effectively withheld its service from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand.



UNDER THE LENS. The order follows a preliminary inquiry following the mass disruption of IndiGo's flights last December, which impacted lakhs of passengers

It noted that such conduct by a dominant enterprise may be viewed as restricting the provisions of services under the competition law.

The CCI carried out a preliminary inquiry following a passenger complaint.

To the CCI's queries, IndiGo said issues raised in the complaint do not fall within the jurisdiction of the CCI and asked that no further action be taken in the matter. It further argued that under aviation law and rules, the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation had the exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate on issues raised in the complaint.

It further contended that any residual individual consumer grievances relating to service outcomes, such as flight cancellations or consequential pricing concerns, are appropriately redressed under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and do not give rise to a cause of action under the competition Law.

The CCI observed that the disruptions of IndiGo flights were not confined to one or a

few routes but occurred almost simultaneously across a wide network of domestic origin-destination pairs.

Cancellations and delays affected passengers flying between many different origins and destinations at the same time, creating a system-wide capacity shock. In such a situation, the harm is no longer confined to this route versus that route; rather, the conduct constrains the overall ability of consumers to use domestic air travel as a mode of transport, regardless of which specific pair of cities they want to fly between.

The impact was felt across multiple routes and hubs, and passengers on different routes were all affected by a common constraint. Hence, it is appropriate to treat the relevant product market as "market for domestic air passenger transport services" and to define the relevant geographic market as the whole of India. Hence, the relevant market appears to be "the market for domestic air passenger transport services in India".



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

IndiGo curtails Europe flights due to airspace curbs

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

IndiGo has been forced to cut back its services to UK and suspend its flights to Copenhagen as ongoing airspace restrictions impact its schedules.

On Wednesday the airline announced it is reducing its flights from Delhi to Manchester and London from this month.

Services between Mumbai and Copenhagen are being suspended from February 17. The airline has been using wet-leased Boeing 787 aircraft to operate flights to Europe.

While Pakistan airspace

has been closed to Indian carriers since April, recent tensions in West Asia have also resulted in Indian carriers avoiding Iran airspace.

AIRPORT CONGESTION

In a statement, IndiGo said its widebody operations have been impacted by continuously changing airspace constraints due to geo-political circumstances, and congestion at airports both in India and abroad.

"These factors significantly increased flight and block times causing strain over the airline's 787-9 schedule that is operated with six widebody aircraft. With the objective of avoiding inconvenience to cus-



SCHEDULE REJIG. The carrier has also cancelled flights to Central Asian destinations until February 28

tomers due to misconnections and cascading delays, IndiGo has decided to take

some immediate measures to restore operational reliability in terms of on-time per-

'Widebody operations impacted by changing airspace constraints due to geo-political circumstances'

formance for its widebody operation," the airline said.

Other than cuts to European flights the airline has already cancelled flights to Central Asian destinations of Almaty, Baku, Tashkent and Tbilisi until February 28.

This move, it said, was "in view of the developing situation around Iran".

SkyHop Aviation signs first aircraft lease, paves way for seaplane ops

NEW VENTURE. Deal with Japan's AERL enables the upcoming operator to apply for DGCA's air operator permit

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Industrialist Avani Singh-led SkyHop Aviation has taken a significant step towards launching seaplane services in India, signing its first aircraft lease agreement with Japanese lessor AERL, industry sources told *businessline*.

Accordingly, the development allows the upcoming operator to move ahead with its application for an air operator permit (AOP) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), a critical milestone before commercial operations can begin.

Sources said SkyHop has secured a Twin Otter DHC-6-400 series aircraft with floats and has, at its own cost, completed construction of dedicated jetty infrastructure at five islands in Lakshadweep, placing it

“Seaplanes offer a unique opportunity to connect parts of the country that traditional aviation struggles to reach — whether islands, coastal belts or remote regions

AVANI SINGH,
SkyHop Aviation CEO



ahead on the operational side even as regulatory approvals are awaited.

MORE AIRCRAFT

“The initial focus will be on connecting the mainland with various islands in Lakshadweep, even as the airline remains in talks to induct additional aircraft,” the source told *businessline*.

SkyHop Aviation is headed by Avani Singh, daughter of SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh, who previously led SpiceHealth and is spearheading the seaplane project as an independent

venture, not linked to SpiceJet.

REGIONAL TRAVEL

Speaking about the project, Avani Singh told *businessline* that seaplane operations could unlock a new chapter in regional connectivity and tourism.

“Seaplanes offer a unique opportunity to connect parts of the country that traditional aviation struggles to reach — whether islands, coastal belts or remote regions,” Avani said.

“What makes this journey special is building something

from the ground up — putting together aircraft, infrastructure and operations while learning at every step. If done right, seaplanes can play a meaningful role in boosting tourism and improving connectivity.”

The airline has partnered with De Havilland Canada to procure seaplanes.

FLOATS TESTED

As per industry sources, the floats required for water landings have already been tested.

SkyHop is now preparing to approach the DGCA for its AOP.

The venture had received its no objection certificate (NOC) along with mandatory security clearance in June last year.

According to sources, SkyHop has advertised for pilots for the Twin Otter DHC-6-400 aircraft and holds multiple key regional routes across Andhra Pradesh, Lak-

shadweep, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the North-East and other strategic locations.

India currently has no operational seaplane services. The segment briefly gained attention in 2019-20 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew on a seaplane between the Sabarmati riverfront and the Statue of Unity in Gujarat. The service, operated by SpiceJet, was later discontinued due to Covid-19.

WIDELY USED

Globally, seaplanes are widely used to connect islands and tourism-heavy regions, with the Maldives alone operating an estimated 100 such aircraft. Industry estimates suggest the development of 20-25 water aerodromes and more than 50 seaplane routes over the next five years, with a projected requirement of around 50-100 aircraft.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

De Havilland looking for supply chain partnerships



EVALUATING OPPORTUNITIES. De Havilland's Twin Otter aircraft

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Canadian seaplane maker De Havilland is evaluating opportunities for supply chain partnerships globally to support its operations.

The plane maker's statement comes in response to the Budget announcement to incentivise indigenous production of seaplanes. The government also plans to introduce a viability gap funding scheme to support seaplane operations in the country. De Havilland, which makes the Twin Otter aircraft, said it is always evaluating opportunities for sup-

ply chain partners both in Canada and around the world. "Manufacturing in jurisdictions that support our products is always something we consider when making investments," a company spokesperson said. The Twin Otter aircraft has been in service for over five decades. It can take off and land on runways and on water (when equipped with floats).

Globally, there are 640 Twin Otter aircraft in service now and 130 of those are amphibian variants. Nearly 100 of these amphibian or sea planes operate in Maldives.

"The Twin Otter flies safely and reliably around the world each day and is per-

fectly suited for India. Having SkyHop go successfully through the regulatory process will hopefully give other operators a roadmap for success," De Havilland said.

Up until now seaplane operations in India have failed to live up to its expectations.

Requirements for setting up of water aerodromes were eased and qualification requirements for seaplane pilots were relaxed.

The industry is banking on enhanced government support to make seaplane operations successful. Suggestions include increasing tenure of viability gap funding per route under UDAN scheme from existing three years.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

'Air India Express set to report H2 profit'

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Tata Group-promoted budget airline Air India Express is projected to report an operating profit in the second half of the current financial year (FY26), industry sources told *businessline*.

The turnaround, sources said, is attributed to multiple initiatives undertaken during the year, including improving unit economics, disciplined cost management and stronger operational performance, despite prevailing industry challenges.

They added that the airline's focused commercial strategy, sharper capacity deployment, and enhanced customer proposition have begun to deliver results.

"The leadership has in-



formed employees that ongoing investments in fleet, systems and people are aimed at building a scalable, resilient and sustainable airline," a source said.

IMPROVING MARGINS

Meanwhile, the airline's Chairman Nipun Aggarwal, sources noted, emphasised that while achieving operating profitability is a key milestone, the airline remains focused on sustaining performance, improving margins and delivering de-

pendable service. Air India Express has expanded rapidly over the past year, with available seat kilometres nearly doubling and market share tripling, according to industry data.

The broader Air India Group, which includes Air India and Air India Express, also posted strong gains.

The group increased its market share to 29.6 per cent in December, up from 26.7 per cent in November, carrying 42.29 lakh passengers during the month.

Looking ahead, the airline is targeting threefold growth by FY31, with plans to build a fleet of 300 aircraft and achieve a 25 per cent market share.

According to sources, Air India Express does not intend to operate strictly as a full-service or low-cost carrier, but rather as a "value

carrier" positioned between the two, offering a premium, differentiated experience.

In line with this strategy, the airline has announced an investment of over \$70 million in a fleet retrofit programme to deliver a more premium onboard product.

NETWORK STRENGTH

Air India Express is currently the second-largest airline in India in terms of domestic routes, domestic stations and international routes.

It operates 110 domestic routes, serves 45 domestic stations, and flies 75 international routes, compared with Air India's 70 domestic routes, 43 domestic stations, and 60 international routes.

"The airline's network is now almost evenly split between international and domestic operations, with a 54:46 ratio," sources added.

सीसीआई ने दिए इंडिगो के खिलाफ जांच के आदेश

रुचिका चित्रवंशी
नई दिल्ली, 4 फरवरी

भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (सीसीआई) ने दिसंबर में बड़े पैमाने पर उड़ानें रद्द किए जाने के मामले में आज विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो के खिलाफ विस्तृत जांच का आदेश दिया। सीसीआई ने अपनी प्रारंभिक जांच में पाया कि इंडिगो ने बाजार में अपने प्रभुत्व का दुरुपयोग करते हुए सेवाओं को प्रतिबंधित करके प्रतिस्पर्धा पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डाला है।

पिछले साल 18 दिसंबर को आयोग ने एक संक्षिप्त बयान में कहा था कि उसने 1 से 9 दिसंबर के बीच विभिन्न मार्गों पर हवाई सेवाओं में व्यवधान के संदर्भ में इंडिगो के खिलाफ दायर जानकारी का संज्ञान लिया है। सीसीआई ने कहा कि हजारों की संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द कर इंडिगो ने अपनी निर्धारित क्षमता का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बाजार से हटा लिया जिससे कृत्रिम अभाव उत्पन्न हो गया और अधिक मांग के समय यात्रियों को हवाई सफर की पर्याप्त सुविधा नहीं मिल सकी।

आयोग ने कहा, 'बाजार में वर्चस्व वाली कंपनी की ओर से ऐसे आचरण को प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम की धारा चार (2)(बी)(आई) के तहत सेवाओं की आपूर्ति सीमित करना माना जा सकता है।' सीसीआई के आदेश के बारे में पक्ष जानने के लिए इंडिगो को ईमेल किया गया मगर खबर लिखे जाने तक जवाब नहीं आया।

(शेष पृष्ठ 2 पर)



प्रतिस्पर्धारोधी जांच

■ प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग ने बड़े पैमाने पर उड़ानें रद्द करने के मामले पर आदेश दिया

■ महानिदेशक कार्यालय को 90 दिनों के भीतर जांच रिपोर्ट सौंपने का दिया निर्देश

■ प्रारंभिक जांच में पता चला कि इंडिगो ने अपने वर्चस्व का दुरुपयोग करते हुए सेवाएं सीमित कर प्रतिस्पर्धा को प्रभावित किया

सीसीआई ने दिए इंडिगो के खिलाफ जांच के आदेश

पृष्ठ 1 का शेष

प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम की धारा चार बाजार में दबदबे की स्थिति के दुरुपयोग से संबंधित है। सीसीआई ने कहा कि प्रथम दृष्टया इंडिगो का यह आचरण भारत में प्रतिस्पर्धा पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डालता प्रतीत होता है। इसके मद्देनजर आयोग ने मामले की विस्तृत जांच के लिए अपने महानिदेशक को निर्देश दिए हैं। महानिदेशक कार्यालय को आदेश की प्राप्ति की तारीख से 90 दिनों के भीतर जांच रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया गया है। आदेश से पता चला कि इंडिगो ने सीसीआई को बताया है कि प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम आयोग को क्षेत्रीय नियामक ढांचे की पर्याप्तता या प्रभावशीलता की जांच करने का अधिकार नहीं देता है। इंडिगो ने कहा, 'नागर विमान महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के विशिष्ट

अधिकार क्षेत्र में आने वाले मामलों में आयोग का कोई भी हस्तक्षेप अधिकार क्षेत्र का गलत इस्तेमाल होगा'

इंडिगो ने 1 से 9 दिसंबर के बीच 4,200 से ज्यादा उड़ानें रद्द कर दी थीं। यह संकट तब शुरू हुआ जब डीजीसीए ने नवंबर, 2025 में नए ड्यूटी नियमों को पूरी तरह से लागू किया था। इससे विमान कंपनी अपने पायलट ड्यूटी रोस्टर को मैनेज नहीं कर पाई और पायलटों की कमी हो गई। सीसीआई ने अपने आदेश में इंडिगो के बाजार में दबदबे के लिए वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 और 2024-25 की यात्री संख्या, बाजार हिस्सेदारी और प्रति किलोमीटर उपलब्ध सीट सहित सभी घरेलू विमान कंपनियों के आंकड़े का हवाला दिया। आयोग ने कहा, 'घरेलू विमानन बाजार में एकीकरण बढ़ रहा है, जिससे पता चलता है कि

अग्रणी कंपनियां प्रतिस्पर्धा की चिंता से इतर काम कर सकती हैं क्योंकि प्रतिद्वंद्वियों की मौजूदगी काफी हद तक सीमित है।' डीजीसीए ने आयोग को सितंबर, अक्टूबर और नवंबर 2025 के महीनों के लिए इंडिगो द्वारा विशेष रूप से संचालित मार्गों का विवरण प्रदान किया था।

सीसीआई ने इंडिगो मामले में प्रारंभिक जांच बेंगलूरु के एक ग्राहक की शिकायतक पर की थी जिसने उड़ान रद्द होने के कारण 7,173 रुपये की मूल लागत की तुलना में 17,000 रुपये की अधिक कीमत पर टिकट बुक करने की मजबूरी और अन्य परेशानियों की शिकायत की थी।

9 दिसंबर, 2025 को डीजीसीए ने इंडिगो को संचालन स्थिर करने में मदद करने के लिए पूरी सर्दियों के लिए अपनी 10 फ्रीसदी घरेलू उड़ानों में कटौती करने के लिए कहा था।

इंडिगो ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में की कमी

दीपक पटेल

नई दिल्ली, 4 फरवरी

विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने आज कहा कि वायु क्षेत्र के प्रतिबंधों में बदलाव तथा देश और विदेश में हवाई अड्डों पर भीड़-भाड़ की वजह से वह बोइंग 787-9 विमान द्वारा संचालित लंबी दूरी के अपने वाइड-बॉडी नेटवर्क को कम कर रही है।

विमानन कंपनी ने कहा, 'कनेक्टिंग उड़ानें चूक और लगातार देरी के कारण ग्राहकों को होने वाली असुविधा से बचने के मकसद से इंडिगो ने अपने वाइडबॉडी संचालन के मामले में वक्त की पाबंदी के मद्देनजर परिचालन का भरोसा बहाल करने के वास्ते तत्काल कुछ उपाय करने का फैसला किया है।' इंडिगो ने कहा कि ये बदलाव इसलिए जरूरी हैं क्योंकि उड़ानें पहले की तुलना में संचालित करने में अधिक वक्त ले रही हैं, जिससे उसके तय कार्यक्रम पर दबाव बढ़ रहा है।

विमानन कंपनी ने बताया कि ब्लॉक टाइम (प्रस्थान हवाई अड्डे पर किसी विमान द्वारा गेट छोड़ने से लेकर गंतव्य पर गेट तक पहुंचने का कुल समय) भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों से जुड़े वायु क्षेत्र के प्रतिबंधों तथा भारत और विदेश के प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर भीड़-भाड़ के कारण बढ़ गया है। उड़ानों के इस लंबे वक्त का इस बात पर असर पड़ा है कि इंडिगो अपने छह बोइंग 787-9 विमानों का कितनी कुशलता से उपयोग कर सकती है।



इस संशोधन के तहत इंडिगो 17 फरवरी से दिल्ली-कोपनहेगन मार्ग पर उड़ानों को अगली सूचना तक निलंबित कर देगी।

इंडिगो दिल्ली-मैनचेस्टर सेवा के मामले में भी चरणबद्ध तरीके से फेरे कम कर रही है। इस मार्ग पर प्रति सप्ताह 5 उड़ानों को 7 फरवरी से घटाकर 4 कर दिया जाएगा। इसके बाद 19 फरवरी से सेवाओं में और कमी करते हुए इन्हें प्रति सप्ताह 3 कर दिया जाएगा। कुल मिलाकर विमानन कंपनी की मैनचेस्टर कनेक्टिविटी साप्ताहिक 9 उड़ानों से घटकर 7 रह जाएगी। संचालन के दिनों में इस बदलाव का मकसद तयशुदा कार्यक्रम के वक्त में सुधार करना है।

इसके अलावा दिल्ली-लंदन हीथ्रो मार्ग पर उड़ानें 9 फरवरी से मौजूदा शीतकालीन कार्यक्रम के लिए प्रति सप्ताह 5 से घटाकर 4 कर दी जाएंगी। यह कार्यक्रम मार्च के अंत तक चलेगा। भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों पर वायु क्षेत्र के कई प्रतिबंधों का असर पड़ा है।

बोइंग 787: सुरक्षा चिंताएं बढ़ीं

जयंत पंकज

ईंधन स्विच के कट-ऑफ की आशंका होने के बाद एयर इंडिया के विमान बोइंग 787-8 को 2 फरवरी को खड़ा कर दिया गया है। इस घटना से पिछले साल जुलाई में अहमदाबाद में इसी तरह की दिक्कत के बाद

हुए विमान हादसे की यादें ताजा हो गईं। पिछले साल मार्च तक भारत के पास 181 बोइंग विमान थे, जिनमें 35 विमान 787 श्रेणी के थे, जो

34 विमान एयर इंडिया और एक ईंडिगो के पास है। वर्ष 2019 से 2024 के बीच वैश्विक स्तर पर 906 हादसे हुए, जिनमें 26 फीसदी बोइंग उड़ानों के साथ सामने आए। इस दौरान भारत में भी बोइंग उड़ानों के साथ भी 7 हादसे हुए। जिन उड़ानों के साथ हादसे पेश आए, उनमें बी787, बी717 और बी737 श्रेणी के विमान थे।

प्रति 10,000 उड़ान घंटों में विमानों की सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंता पैदा करने वाली घटनाएं 2021 से 2023 के बीच तेजी से बढ़ी हैं। बोइंग बी777 के साथ यह आंकड़ा 0.9 से बढ़कर 15.5 हो गया जबकि बोइंग बी787 के साथ इस तरह की गंभीर घटनाएं 3.3 से बढ़कर 13.7 हुईं तथा बोम्बार्डियर

प्रति 10,000 उड़ान घंटों पर घटनाएं

विमान	2021	2022	2023
बोइंग बी777	0.9	0.6	15.5
बोइंग बी787	3.3	2.9	13.7
बोम्बार्डियर क्यू400	8.6	9.0	10.9
एम्ब्रैयर ईआरजे 145	0.9	0.6	7.9
एयरबस ए319	6.0	1.7	6.0

नोट: घटनाओं का तात्पर्य दुर्घटनाओं के अलावा, विमान के संचालन से जुड़ी घटनाओं से है। स्रोत: डीजीसीए



आंकड़ों के आईने में

आधी वैश्विक दुर्घटनाओं में बी737 शामिल है

श्रेणी	दुनिया में	भारत की हिस्सेदारी(%)
दुर्घटनाएं	240	2.9
बी737	131	3.8
बी777	26	0.0
बी787	25	4.0
बी767	24	0.0
बी757	18	0.0
बी747	9	0.0
बी717	5	20.0
बी727	2	0.0
कुल	906	1.9

दुनिया में 2019 से 2024 तक कुल दुर्घटनाएं (संख्या में), भारत में दुर्घटनाओं की हिस्सेदारी प्रतिशत में, स्रोत: एविएशन सेफ्टी नेटवर्क

क्यू400 के साथ इस अवधि में दुर्घटनाओं का आंकड़ा 8.6 से बढ़कर 10.9 पहुंच गया।

भारत में बोइंग बेड़े की हिस्सेदारी (%)

मॉडल	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
बी737	57.6	45.0	61.3
बी787	21.5	26.4	19.3
बी777	13.9	22.5	16.0
बी757	4.2	6.2	3.3
बी747	2.8	0.0	0.0
कुल	144	129	181

स्रोत: डीजीसीए

2023 में श्रेणीवार घटनाओं की हिस्सेदारी (%)

सिस्टम कंपोनेंट फेल्योर - पावरप्लांट	59
सिस्टम कंपोनेंट फेल्योर - नॉन पावरप्लांट	14
असामान्य रनवे संपर्क	10
आग/धुआं (गैर-प्रभाव)	3
ईंधन संबंधित	2
अन्य	12
कुल घटनाएं	10,494

नोट: घटनाओं में दुर्घटनाएं, गंभीर घटनाएं या तकनीकी खराबी शामिल हैं, स्रोत: डीजीसीए

■ प्रति 10,000 उड़ान घंटों में विमानों की सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंता पैदा करने वाली घटनाएं 2021 से 2023 के बीच तेजी से बढ़ी हैं

भारत में बोइंग बेड़े में 2022-23 से 2024-25 के बीच बी737 और बी777 श्रेणी के विमान

शामिल किए गए। इस दौरान बी787 की संख्या तेजी से घटी लेकिन फिर भी यह 20 फीसदी रही।

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

DECEMBER DISRUPTION

CCI orders antitrust probe against IndiGo

RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI
New Delhi, 4 February

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered an investigation into the country's largest airline, IndiGo, after finding prima facie evidence that it abused its dominant market position, according to an order issued by the antitrust watchdog on Wednesday. The Commission, following its preliminary inquiry, said the airline appeared to have caused an appreciable adverse effect on competition by restricting its services.

Earlier, on December 18, 2025, the CCI said in a brief statement that it had taken cognizance of information filed against IndiGo in connection with widespread flight disruptions across multiple routes between December 1 and 9.

In its order, the Commission noted that by cancelling thousands of flights, representing a significant proportion of its scheduled capacity, IndiGo had effectively withheld services from the market. This, it said, created an artificial scarcity and limited consumer access to air travel during a period of peak demand.



BY CANCELLING THOUSANDS OF FLIGHTS, INDIGO CREATED AN ARTIFICIAL SCARCITY AND LIMITED CONSUMER ACCESS TO AIR TRAVEL DURING A PERIOD OF PEAK DEMAND, THE CCI NOTED IN ITS ORDER

IndiGo cuts int'l flights due to airspace curbs

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Turn to Page 15 ▶

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DECEMBER DISRUPTION

CCI orders antitrust probe against IndiGo

"Such conduct by a dominant enterprise may be viewed as restricting the provision of services under Section 4(2)(b)(i) of the Act," stated the CCI in its 16-page order. The Commission said that, given IndiGo's dominant position, consumers were effectively locked in and lacked viable alternatives, a situation that appeared to violate provisions of the Competition Act.

The CCI has directed the office of the director general (DG) to submit an investigation report within 90 days of receiving the order.

IndiGo did not respond to queries regarding the matter until the time of going to press.

The order records IndiGo's submission that the Competition Act does not empower the Commission to examine the adequacy or effectiveness of sectoral regulatory frameworks.

The airline argued that "any intervention by the Commission in matters falling within the exclusive remit of the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) would amount to an impermissible assumption of jurisdiction".

IndiGo cancelled more than 4,200 flights between December 1 and 9. The disruption was triggered by the airline's failure to manage its pilot duty roster after the DGCA fully implemented stricter rest and duty regulations last month. The new rules

increased weekly rest requirements and reduced the number of hours pilots can fly at night.

In its order, the competition watchdog cited data on all domestic airlines, including passenger numbers, market share and available seat kilometres for the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25, to establish that IndiGo was a significant player in the market.

"The domestic passenger aviation market exhibits very high and increasing concentration, exhibiting that leading firms possess the ability to operate independently of competitive forces, as the presence of effective rivals is materially constrained," said the Commission.

The CCI also noted that IndiGo's substantial presence on high-density and revenue-critical routes pointed to significant economic strength and extensive network coverage across key city pairs. The DGCA had provided the Commission with details of routes operated exclusively by IndiGo for September, October and November 2025. The Commission said IndiGo's exclusive operations across a substantial number of city pairs demonstrated extensive network coverage combined with limited competitive presence in a significant segment of the market. "Such structural presence on a large number of monopoly routes constitutes a relevant indicator of market power," according to the order.

The DGCA had also furnished the CCI with year-wise revenue details of airline operators from 2021-22 to 2024-25.

The CCI initiated its preliminary inquiry following a complaint from an informant, a Bengaluru-based consumer, who described a personal experience of having to book a ticket at a significantly higher price of ₹17,000, compared with the original cost of ₹7,173, because of flight cancellations.

Nearly 1 mn affected by IndiGo cancellations in December

More than 1.46 million passengers were affected by flight cancellations in December, with over 93 per cent of the total passengers getting impacted by IndiGo cancellations.

The latest data shared by the civil aviation regulator showed that scheduled domestic airlines shelved out over ₹24.27 crore towards compensation and

facilities for flight cancellations last month. Flight cancellations by IndiGo impacted 982,000 passengers in December and the airline spent ₹22.74 crore towards facilitation.

The overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines was 6.92 per cent in December, and that of IndiGo was 9.65 per cent.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

A-I Express may turn profitable for first time since privatisation

Air India Express is projected to make an operating profit in the second half of FY26, which would be the first time the airline posts such a profit since its privatisation in January 2022, the management said during a town hall meeting on Wednesday. Operating profit refers to the profit a company makes from its core business operations after accounting for operating costs such as fuel, staff salaries, leases and maintenance, but before interest and tax expenses. The airline's monthly town hall, held at its headquarters in Gurugram, attended by Air India Express Chairman Nipun Aggarwal, *Business Standard* has learnt. While Air India Express is projected to make operating profit in H2, its parent company Air India is reportedly expecting to post sizable losses in the entire FY26 due to the AI171 crash last year and airspace restrictions. According to the management, Air India Express's focused commercial strategy, more efficient deployment of aircraft capacity and an improved customer offering have started delivering results. Looking ahead, Air India Express is targeting three-fold growth by FY31 and aims to command a 25 per cent market share with a fleet of around 300 aircraft.

BS REPORTER



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

No issues found in fuel-control switches: A-I

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 4 February

Air India on Wednesday said it has completed precautionary re-inspections of the fuel control switches on all its operational Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft and that no issues were found during the checks.

The airline said the inspections were carried out "in an abundance of caution" after an observation reported by one of its pilots.

In a statement, Air India also acknowledged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) "proactive oversight" in carrying out independent inspections and clearing the fuel control switches.

The airline said it will fully comply with the regulator's guidance to circulate aircraft manufacturer Boeing's recommended operating procedures for the fuel control switches to all crew members.

On Monday, the non-governmental organisation Safety Matters Foundation had said that pilots on AI32 London-Bengaluru flight that the left engine fuel control switch on their B787 plane failed to remain locked in the "Run" position during engine start on two attempts and moved towards "Cutoff".

Fuel control switches are cockpit switches that allow pilots to start or shut down an aircraft's engines by moving them between the "Run" and "Cutoff" positions. Any unintended movement of these switches during flight can have serious consequences, which is why they are designed to lock into position.

These switches played a key role in AI71 crash (operated through B787 plane), which took place last year in Ahmedabad, killing 241 out of 242 people on board. After the crash, fuel control switches on all B787 planes were checked and no issues were found with them.

Once the new aforementioned incident was reported on Monday, Air India had started re-inspection of fuel control switches on all Dreamliner planes.

Meanwhile, the DGCA on Tuesday said it found no issue with the fuel control switches on the Boeing 787-8 aircraft used to operate AI32. The regulator said post-flight inspections, carried out as per Boeing's procedures, found the switches to be serviceable, with no abnormal engine parameters or alerts during the flight. The DGCA noted that while the switch could move if pressed in an incorrect direction due to its angular design, this did not indicate a defect when operated as per approved procedures.

DATANOMICS

Boeing — A spate of mishaps and safety scare



(JAYANT PANKAJ)

An Air India Boeing 787-8 was grounded in Bengaluru on February 2. There were initial reports of a fuel-switch cutoff in the plane. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Air India, however, later said that they didn't find any issues during checks. As of March 2025, India operated 181 Boeing aircraft, of which 35 belonged to the 787 family. Between 2019 and 2024, 906 flight accidents occurred globally, of which Boeing flights were involved in 26 per cent cases. In India, seven Boeing accidents took place during this period.

Tech glitches with Boeing flights growing in India

Total number of incidents (flaws that could affect aircraft safety) per 10,000 flying hours rose sharply between 2021 and 2023 — from 0.9 to 15.5 in case of Boeing B777, from 3.3 to 13.7 in Boeing B787, and from 8.6 to 10.9 in Bombardier Q400.



Note: Incidents refer to occurrences, excluding accidents, associated with aircraft operation that affects, or could affect, operation safety. Sources: DGCA, BS calculations

Every fifth Boeing flight is a B787

In India, Boeing's fleet composition shifted during 2022-23 to 2024-25 in favour of B737 and B777. The share of B787 declined slightly, but still was almost 20 per cent.



Source: DGCA, BS calculations

Half of global accidents involve B737

Share of accidents in India out of total no. of global accidents (%)



Note: Figures in brackets are share of accidents in India. Sources: ASN, BS calculations

IndiGo cuts int'l flights due to airspace curbs

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 4 February

IndiGo on Wednesday said it was reducing its long-haul wide-body network operated by Boeing 787-9 aircraft due to shifting airspace restrictions and airport congestion in India and overseas.

"With the objective of avoiding inconvenience to customers due to misconnections and cascading delays, IndiGo has decided to take some immediate measures to restore operational reliability in terms of on-time performance for its wide-body operation," the airline stated.

IndiGo said the changes are needed because flights are taking longer to operate than earlier, increasing pressure on its schedules.

The airline explained that block time — the total time from when an aircraft leaves the gate at the departure airport to when it reaches the gate at the destination — has increased due to airspace restrictions linked to geopolitical developments and congestion at major airports in India and abroad. These longer flight times have affected how efficiently IndiGo can use its six Boeing 787-9 aircraft.

As part of the revision, IndiGo will suspend flights on the Delhi-Copenhagen route from February 17 until further notice.

IndiGo is also reducing frequencies on its Delhi-Manchester service in a phased manner. From February 7, the route will see a reduction from five flights a week to four, followed by a further cut to three weekly services from February 19. Overall, the airline's Manchester connectivity will come down from nine weekly flights to seven, with changes in operating days aimed at building recovery time into the schedule.

In addition, flights on the Delhi-London Heathrow route will be reduced from five to four services a week starting February 9 for the ongoing winter schedule, which finishes at March-end.

Indian carriers have been impacted by multiple airspace restrictions. Pakistan's ban on Indian airlines using its airspace, imposed in April last year, continues to remain in effect, forcing longer routings on Europe and West Asia flights. In addition, heightened tensions between the US and Iran led to restrictions and avoidance of Iranian airspace during January-February this year.



Turbulent ops

- Changes needed because flights are taking longer to operate than earlier, increasing pressure on schedules
- Block time has increased due to airspace restrictions linked to geopolitical developments
- IndiGo will suspend flights on the Delhi-Copenhagen route from February 17
- Frequencies on the Delhi-Manchester service will also be reduced in a phased manner
- Flights on the Delhi-London Heathrow route will be reduced from five to four services a week starting February 9

IndiGo said it is proactively reaching out to customers impacted by the changes to offer alternative flight options or provide timely refunds and compensation in line with applicable rules.

IndiGo added that it will continue to closely monitor operational conditions and may scale its long-haul network up or down depending on how constraints evolve over time.

These cuts in international flights have come after the cuts in domestic flights that were done in December following operations meltdown.

IndiGo cancelled 4,290 flights between December 1 and 9 after it fell short of pilots to implement the new flight duty time limitation (FDTL) rules, which introduced more humane working hours for crew and came into effect in November.

On December 9, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ordered IndiGo to cut 10 per cent domestic flights from its schedule for the entire winter season, which ends late March.

एअर इंडिया से एक हफ्ते में मांगा जवाब फ्यूल स्विच में खामी थी, तो विमान को उड़ान भरने की अनुमति कैसे दी: ब्रिटेन

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

ब्रिटेन की सिविल एविएशन अथॉरिटी (सीए) ने एअर इंडिया से एक बोइंग 787 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान से जुड़े सुरक्षा मामले पर स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है। यह विमान रविवार को लंदन से भारत आया था और यहां पहुंचने के बाद सुरक्षा जांच के लिए ग्राउंड कर दिया गया। पायलट ने लैंडिंग के समय विमान के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में संभावित खराबी की सूचना दी थी।

ब्रिटिश नियामक ने एअर इंडिया को लिखे पत्र में पूछा है- "जब ईंधन नियंत्रण स्विच में समस्या देखी गई थी, तो विमान को लंदन से उड़ान भरने की अनुमति कैसे दी गई?" सीए ने चेतावनी दी है कि यदि एक सप्ताह के भीतर पूरा और संतोषजनक जवाब नहीं मिला, तो एअर इंडिया और उसके बोइंग

सभी विमानों के फ्यूल स्विच की जांच की, कोई खामी नहीं मिली

एअर इंडिया ने बुधवार को एक आंतरिक मेमो में कहा कि उसने अपने सभी बोइंग 787 विमानों के फ्यूल स्विच की जांच की है और 'कोई समस्या नहीं पाई गई।' कंपनी ने ब्रिटिश नियामक को पूरा जवाब देने की बात कही है।

787 बेड़े के खिलाफ नियामकीय कार्रवाई की जा सकती है। भारतीय नागरिक उड्डयन नियामक के अनुसार, लंदन में इंजन स्टार्ट के दौरान फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच दो बार 'रन' पोजीशन में लॉक नहीं हुआ, जबकि तीसरी बार यह स्थिर रहा। इसके बाद उड़ान जारी रखने का फैसला लिया गया। भारत में जांच के दौरान स्विच सामान्य पाया गया।

दिसंबर में उड़ानें रद्द, सीसीआई ने दिए इंडिगो की जांच के आदेश

देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो के खिलाफ भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (सीसीआई) ने दिसंबर 2025 में बड़े पैमाने पर हुई उड़ान रद्दीकरण को लेकर विस्तृत जांच के आदेश दिए हैं। आयोग की प्रारंभिक जांच में पाया गया कि भारी संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द होने से हवाई सेवाएं सीमित हुईं, जिससे प्रतिस्पर्धा प्रभावित हुई और यात्रियों को गंभीर असुविधा झेलनी पड़ी। सीसीआई के मुताबिक, 1 से 9

दिसंबर 2025 के बीच इंडिगो ने 4,200 से अधिक उड़ानें रद्द कीं। यह पीक ट्रेवल सीजन था। आयोग ने कहा कि कई प्रमुख रूट्स पर इंडिगो की मजबूत बाजार हिस्सेदारी के कारण यात्री फंसे रह गए। सीसीआई ने महानिदेशक को 90 दिनों में रिपोर्ट सौंपने को कहा है। वहीं डीजीसीए के अनुसार, दिसंबर में इंडिगो की कैसिलेशन दर 9.65% रही, जिससे 9.82 लाख से अधिक यात्री प्रभावित हुए।

चंडीगढ़ से आई फ्लाइट पहली कोशिश में नहीं उतर सकी, 15 मिनट बाद हुई लैंडिंग

भास्कर न्यूज़ | जयपुर

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को चंडीगढ़ से आ रही एक फ्लाइट पहली बार में लैंड नहीं हो सकी। पायलट ने रनवे टचडाउन के दौरान गो-अराउंड किया और करीब 15 मिनट बाद दूसरे प्रयास में फ्लाइट सुरक्षित उतारी गई। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों के अनुसार मामला इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट 6ई-7719 का है। यह फ्लाइट चंडीगढ़ से जयपुर पहुंच रही थी। दोपहर करीब 1:58 बजे पायलट ने लैंडिंग के लिए अप्रोच किया, लेकिन रनवे पर टचडाउन करते समय दोबारा टेक-ऑफ करना पड़ा। इसके बाद गो-अराउंड कर दूसरे प्रयास में 2:15 बजे फ्लाइट की सुरक्षित लैंडिंग

कराई गई। सूत्रों की मानें तो लैंडिंग में परेशानी की वजह रनवे ऑब्स्टेकल (बाधा) रही। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों के अनुसार रनवे झालाना जंगल क्षेत्र के पास है, ऐसे में कई बार सियार, लेपर्ड, पक्षी या सांप रनवे पर आ जाते हैं। पायलट अगर किसी भी तरह की बाधा देखते हैं तो सुरक्षा कारणों से लैंडिंग या टेक-ऑफ रोक दिया जाता है और इसकी सूचना एटीसी को दी जाती है। इसके बाद रनवे मॉनिटरिंग व्हीकल बाधा हटाता है। एविएशन विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार यह प्रक्रिया सुरक्षा के लिहाज से जरूरी होती है। औसतन हर माह 3-4 बार जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर इस तरह की स्थिति बनती है, जब फ्लाइट को गो-अराउंड करना पड़ता है।

बेलगाम फ्लाइट का समय बदला; जयपुर से बेलगाम जाने वाली फ्लाइट के समय में बदलाव किया है। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार स्टार एयर की फ्लाइट SS-170 अब शाम की बजाय सुबह संचालित होगी। पहले यह फ्लाइट शाम 7:15 बजे जाती थी, अब यह तड़के 5:15 बजे जयपुर से बेलगाम के लिए रवाना होगी।

जयपुर-अहमदाबाद फ्लाइट रद्द, कई डायवर्ट

खराब मौसम और परिचालन कारणों से जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट संचालन भी प्रभावित रहा। इंडिगो की जयपुर-अहमदाबाद फ्लाइट 6ई-7031 (दोपहर 1:25 बजे) और अहमदाबाद-जयपुर फ्लाइट 6ई-7523 (शाम 5:05 बजे) रद्द रहीं, जिससे यात्रियों को परेशानी हुई।

कई फ्लाइट जयपुर डायवर्ट; खराब मौसम के कारण कई फ्लाइट जयपुर डायवर्ट करनी पड़ीं। इनमें एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की रांची-दिल्ली फ्लाइट IX-1056, थाई एयरवेज की बैंकॉक-दिल्ली फ्लाइट TG-331, इंडिगो की अबुधाबी-चंडीगढ़ फ्लाइट 6ई-1440 और मुंबई-चंडीगढ़ फ्लाइट शामिल हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

अकासा एयर के बेड़े में शामिल हुआ 33वां विमान

नई दिल्ली। नवोदित विमान सेवा कंपनी अकासा एयर के बेड़े में बुधवार को 33वां विमान शामिल हुआ। एयरलाइन ने एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि नया बोइंग 737 मैक्स 8-200 विमान आज बेंगलुरु के कम्पेगोड़ा हवाई अड्डे पर उतरा। इस साल कंपनी के बेड़े में शामिल होने वाला यह दूसरा विमान है। अकासा लगातार अपने बेड़े और नेटवर्क का विस्तार कर रही है। उसने साल 2030 तक दुनिया की शीर्ष 30 विमान सेवा कंपनियों में शामिल होने का लक्ष्य रखा है। साल 2022 में परिचालन की शुरुआत करने वाली एयरलाइंस ने बताया कि उसने कुल 226 बोइंग 737 मैक्स विमानों के ऑर्डर दिए हैं जिनमें 33 की डिलिवरी हो चुकी है और अन्य 193 की डिलिवरी अगले छह साल में होनी है। अकासा एयर के इस विमान को बेंगलुरु हवाई अड्डे पर लेकर आने वाले चालक दल के सदस्यों में दोनों महिला पायलट हैं। मुख्य पायलट स्वेतलाना पेरिएरा और को-पायलट करेन नोरोना इसे लेकर भारत आई हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

सीसीआइ ने इंडिगो के खिलाफ विस्तृत जांच का दिया आदेश

नई दिल्ली, 5 फरवरी: इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की दिसंबर में हजारों उड़ानें रद्द हुई थीं, जिससे लाखों यात्री प्रभावित हुए थे। अब इस मामले में भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (सीसीआइ) ने बुधवार को इंडिगो के खिलाफ विस्तृत जांच का आदेश दिया। जबकि दिसंबर में उड़ानें रद्द होने से प्रभावित यात्रियों को लेकर नागर विमानन मंत्रालय (डीजीसीए) ने डाटा साझा किया है। इससे यह पता चला है कि दिसंबर में कुल उड़ानों के रद्द होने से 10.4 लाख से ज्यादा यात्रियों पर असर पड़ा, जिनमें से अकेले 93 प्रतिशत यात्री इंडिगो की उड़ानें रद्द होने से प्रभावित हुए थे।

घटना के करीब दो महीने बाद जारी आदेश में सीसीआइ ने कहा कि बड़ी संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द कर इंडिगो ने अपनी निर्धारित क्षमता का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बाजार से हटा लिया, जिससे कृत्रिम अभाव की स्थिति पैदा हुई और व्यस्त मांग के दौरान यात्रियों की हवाई यात्रा तक पहुंच सीमित हुई। इस, विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए की तरफ से साझा किए गए ताजा आंकड़ों के अनुसार, घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों ने दिसंबर में

इंडिगो ने कई उड़ानों के कार्यक्रम में कड़ा बदलाव

इंडिगो ने विदेशी परिवालन संबंधी दिक्कतों का समाधान करने के लिए अपनी लंबी दूरी के उड़ान कार्यक्रम में बदलाव करने की घोषणा की है। इसके तहत 17 फरवरी से कोफ्स्टेन के लिए उड़ानें स्थगित कर दी जाएगी। इसके अलावा दिल्ली-लंदन हीथ्रो और दिल्ली-मैनचेस्टर रूट पर भी उड़ानें में कटौती की जाएगी। एयरलाइन ने बयान में बताया कि ये बदलाव ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों से संचालन पर लागू होंगे।

उड़ानें रद्द होने पर 10.46 लाख से ज्यादा यात्रियों को नुकसान होने पर मुआवजे और सुविधाओं के लिए 24.27 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए। इंडिगो देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन है, जिसको दिसंबर में बड़े पैमाने पर उड़ानें रद्द हुई थीं। दिसंबर के शुरुआती हफ्तों में इंडिगो की लगभग 4500 उड़ानें रद्द हुई थीं, जिससे देशभर में हजारों यात्री फंस गए थे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : एअर इंडिया ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने अपने बोइंग-787 विमानों के बेड़े के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच की जांच पूरी कर ली है और इस दौरान कोई समस्या नहीं पाई गई है। यह जांच उस घटना के बाद की गई है जिसमें रविवार को लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे से बेंगलुरु के लिए उड़ान भरने के बाद एअर इंडिया के बोइंग 787-8 विमान के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में खराबी आने की शिकायत पायलटों ने दर्ज कराई थी। इस विमान में 200 से अधिक यात्री सवार थे और

यह सोमवार सुबह बेंगलुरु पहुंचा था।

वर्तमान में, एअर इंडिया के पास 33 बोइंग 787 यानी ड्रीमलाइनर विमान हैं और जिनमें से 28 आपरेशनल हैं। एक बयान में एयरलाइन ने कहा- "हमने अपने बेड़े के सभी आपरेशनल बोइंग 787 विमानों में फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच (एफसीएस) की सावधानीपूर्वक पुनः जांच पूरी कर ली है। इन जांचों के दौरान कोई समस्या नहीं पाई गई। ये जांच हमारे एक पायलट द्वारा दर्ज की गई रिपोर्ट के बाद अतिरिक्त

सावधानी के तहत की गई।" वैसे रविवार की घटना एअर इंडिया के अहमदाबाद विमान हादसे की चल रही जांच के बीच हुई है। उस विमान हादसे में ड्रीमलाइनर बोइंग 787-8 में सवार 260 लोगों की जान गई थी। देश के सबसे भयावह विमान हादसे की शुरुआती जांच रिपोर्ट में भी टेक-आफ के तुरंत बाद विमान की फ्यूल सप्लाई बंद होने का जिक्र किया गया था।

एअर इंडिया ने यह भी कहा कि वह विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए के मार्गदर्शन का पालन करेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

तुर्किश एयरलाइंस के विमान का इंजन फेल, कोलकाता में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

राज्य ब्यूरो, जागरण • कोलकाता : काठमांडू से इस्तांबुल जा रहे तुर्किश एयरलाइंस के एक यात्री विमान को बुधवार दोपहर तकनीकी खराबी के कारण अचानक कोलकाता की ओर मोड़ना पड़ा। विमान ने नेपाल के त्रिभुवन अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से उड़ान भरी थी, इसी दौरान उसके एक इंजन में गंभीर खराबी का पता चला। कहा जा रहा है कि इंजन में आग लगने का संदेह हुआ। विमान में 236 यात्री व चालक दल के 11 सदस्य सवार थे। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों के मुताबिक, तुर्किश एयरलाइंस की उड़ान ने दोपहर 1.29 बजे काठमांडू से टेक-ऑफ किया था। आसमान में चढ़ाई के दौरान ही पायलटों को विमान के दो में से एक इंजन के काम करना बंद करने का संकेत मिला। स्थिति की गंभीरता को देख पायलटों ने काठमांडू एटीसी को सूचित किया और स्थिति का आकलन करने के लिए धाड़िंग जिले के धरके क्षेत्र के ऊपर विमान को कुछ समय तक होल्ड पर रखा।

जोखिम टालने के लिए कोलकाता को

चुना : जांच के बाद चालक दल ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि एक इंजन के सहारे लंबी दूरी की उड़ान जारी रखना सुरक्षित नहीं है। हालांकि, विमान के पास काठमांडू लौटने या भैरहवा हवाई अड्डे पर उतरने का विकल्प था, पर सुरक्षा मानकों को प्राथमिकता देते हुए चालक दल ने कोई भी जोखिम न लेने का निर्णय लिया और विमान का रुख भारत के कोलकाता की ओर मोड़ दिया। कोलकाता स्थित नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि आपातकालीन प्रोटोकाल के बीच विमान दोपहर 3.03 बजे हवाई अड्डे पर सुरक्षित रूप से लैंड कर गया।

CCI Orders Probe into IndiGo over Anti-competitive Conduct in Dec

Mass cancellations created artificial scarcity, says regulator; report in 90 days

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The competition regulator on Wednesday ordered a detailed investigation into IndiGo, holding a prima facie view that large-scale flight cancellations by the country's largest airline in December 2025 caused an "appreciable adverse effect" on consumers during peak demand.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) asked its director general for investigation to probe the matter and submit a report in 90 days. The regulator will take a call on further action based on the report.

The CCI order compounds worries for the airline already facing the wrath of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The aviation safety regulator had, in early December, curtailed IndiGo's winter schedule by 10%.

Between December 3 and 5, the airline cancelled 2,507 flights and delayed 1,852, impacting over 3,00,000 passengers at airports across the country, as per the order.

IndiGo, which has about 65% of the domestic aviation market share, cancelled flights in the wake of severe crew shortage due to its failure to implement new rest rules for pilots.

By cancelling thousands of flights constituting a significant portion of the scheduled capacity, "IndiGo effectively withheld its service from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand," the regulator said.

Passengers who had booked tickets were left with no real



choice but to accept last-minute cancellations and to seek alternatives, on their own, at significantly higher prices, CCI said. "Such conduct by a dominant enterprise may be viewed as restricting the provision of services under Section 4(2)(b)(i) of the Competition Act," it added.

Section 4 of the Competition Act bars a dominant enterprise from abusing its position if it imposes unfair or discriminatory conditions on the purchase or

sale of goods or service; or "limits or restricts" production or services; or imposes unfair or discriminatory conditions on consumers, among other things.

However, the regulator also made clear that "nothing stated in this order shall be tantamount to a final expression of opinion on the merits of the case, and the DG shall conduct the investigation without being swayed in any manner whatsoever by the observations made herein."

MARKET DOMINANCE

The CCI order flagged that IndiGo operates the largest fleet with over 400 aircraft, which is significantly higher than 191 aircraft of Air India. The regulator noted that IndiGo enjoys a dominant position in the relevant market, thanks to its substantial and sustained market share, wide network reach with exclusive operations on a significant number of city-pair routes, larger fleet and strong financial performance.



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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Airline Scales Back Flights to Europe

Mumbai: IndiGo is suspending flights to Copenhagen and cutting frequencies on Manchester and London Heathrow routes later this month, citing operational constraints that have affected schedule reliability.

Flights to and from Copenhagen will be suspended from February 17 till further notice. Also, the Delhi-Manchester service will be truncated in phases, lowering overall connectivity to the UK city to seven weekly flights from nine from February 19. Delhi-London Heathrow flights will

be reduced to four from five services a week starting February 9 for the remainder of the winter schedule.

In a statement, IndiGo said its wide-body operations have faced "continuously changing airspace constraints due to geopolitical circumstances" and congestion at airports in India and abroad, which have "significantly increased flight and block times", causing "strain over the airline's



787-9 schedule".

"With the objective of avoiding inconvenience to customers due to misconnections and cascading delays, IndiGo has decided to take some immediate measures to restore operational reliability in terms of on-time performance," the airline said, adding that the reduction in Manchester frequencies had originally been planned for the summer 2026 schedule but was being implemented earlier "to ensure reliability to the rest of IndiGo's long-haul operations". - **Our Bureau**



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AI Express' Maiden Operating Profit Likely in H2FY27

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Tata-owned low cost carrier Air India Express will report its maiden operating profit during the final two quarters of FY27, the airline said.

"Projected operating profit reflects improving unit economics, disciplined cost manage-

ment and stronger operational performance, despite prevailing industry challenges," the airline said. The announcement was made at the company's town hall with employees. However, for the full year the company will be in a loss.

The airline, which reported a loss of ₹5,678 crore last year, had undertaken a turnaround exer-



cise led by Air India group's chief commercial and transformation officer Nipun Aggarwal, who was announced as the chairman last year replacing Air India CEO Campbell Wilson.

Since then, the commercial team of the airline has been integrated with its parent Air India for better synergy. This was fol-

lowed by a restructuring of routes like increasing presence in some while exiting some routes which were unprofitable.

The airline said that it is planning to triple its size by FY31, when it plans to have 25% market share with 300 aircraft. "The airline's focused commercial strategy, sharper capacity deployment and enhanced customer proposition have started yielding results," the airline said.



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UNDER SCRUTINY

UK Asks AI to Explain Fuel Switch Incident in Dreamliner

Reuters

New Delhi: Britain's aviation authority has asked Air India to explain how a Boeing Dreamliner passenger jet which was grounded on arrival in India for safety checks took off from London on Sunday with a possibly faulty fuel switch, a letter shows.

The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), in a letter to the airline dated Tuesday, warned of the possibility of regulatory action against Air India and its Boeing 787 fleet if the airline does not submit a complete response within a



week.

Air India said in a statement it had completed a precautionary re-inspection of the switches and found no issues and would "respond to the UK regulator accordingly".

CAA said it was a standard process for a regulator to request details following "an aircraft incident and is in line with safety assurance procedures".

Fuel switches were at the centre of last year's crash involving an Air India Dreamliner, which killed 280 people in Gujarat and triggered tighter scrutiny of the airline. The switches regulate the flow of jet fuel into a plane's engines.

Air India said on Monday it had grounded a Boeing Dreamliner after a pilot reported a possible "defect" with the fuel control switch on the plane on landing.



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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CCI to probe IndiGo for unfair biz practice

MANU KAUSHIK
New Delhi, February 4

THE COMPETITION COMMISSION of India (CCI) on Wednesday ordered a detailed investigation into IndiGo for alleged abuse of its dominant position in the domestic aviation market, following large-scale flight cancellations in December 2025 which the regulator said may have caused an appreciable adverse effect on



competition.

In a 16-page order, the CCI said that by cancelling

thousands of flights during a peak travel period, IndiGo effectively withheld services from the market, creating an artificial scarcity and limiting consumer access to air travel.

The regulator said that the conduct prima facie appeared to fall within the scope of Section 4 of the Competition Act, which deals with abuse of dominant position.

Continued on Page 12

CCI to probe IndiGo...

"INDIGO CANCELLED HUNDREDS of flights, causing heavy surge in prices of seats across sectors as well as huge inconvenience to passengers," the order said. "The aforesaid brings out widespread inconvenience caused to travellers at large due to sudden and massive cancellation of flights with little or no alternatives available. The passengers were left stranded with severely limited options, while fares escalated sharply following the cancellation of 2,507 flights and delays in 1,852 flights, thereby affecting more than 300,000 passengers across various airports."

While directing the probe, the CCI underscored IndiGo's market position, noting that the airline has a significant share both in absolute passenger numbers and in available seat kilometres (ASKM). "IndiGo consistently accounts for approximately 60-61% of total domestic ASKM, which reflects not only passenger volumes but effective control over market capacity and supply-side conditions," the order said. It added that the domestic passenger aviation market exhibits very high and increasing concentration, constraining the presence



CCI underscored IndiGo's market position, noting that the airline has a significant share both in absolute passenger numbers and in ASKM

of effective rivals and enabling leading firms to operate independently of competitive forces.

IndiGo, in its submissions, said that the issues raised were squarely covered under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 and the Aircraft Rules, 1937, under which the sector regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has exclusive jurisdiction. The airline also contended that airfare fixation is subject to continuous regulatory oversight by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the DGCA, including fare ceilings and pricing norms imposed in the public

interest. The CCI rejected the argument that sectoral regulation excludes the application of competition law. "The commission also observes that it has, in the past, examined matters pertaining to the aviation sector involving allegations of cartelisation, abuse of dominant position and unfair pricing practices," the order said, adding that sectoral regulation and competition law operate in "distinct but complementary domains".

The investigation was ordered following a complaint by a Bengaluru-based lawyer, who told the regulator that his return flight was cancelled a few hours before departure without an alternative arrangement. When he attempted to book another flight, IndiGo and other airlines were offering seats at sharply higher fares on the same routes, the complainant said.

In early December, IndiGo faced widespread operational disruptions, after which the DGCA curtailed the airline's winter schedule by 10% until February 10. The CCI has directed its Director General to investigate potential violations of Sections 4(2)(a)(i) and 4(2)(b)(i) of the Competition Act and submit a report within 90 days.

IndiGo market share nosedives to two-year low

● Despite December fall, airline's annual share rises in 2025

YARUQHULLAH KHAN
New Delhi, February 4

INDIGO'S DOMESTIC MARKET share continued to decline for the second month in a row, hitting a two-year low of 59.6% in December, according to data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The decline of four percentage points, from 63.6% in November, followed widespread flight cancellations in early December and a significant reduction in daily flights thereafter.

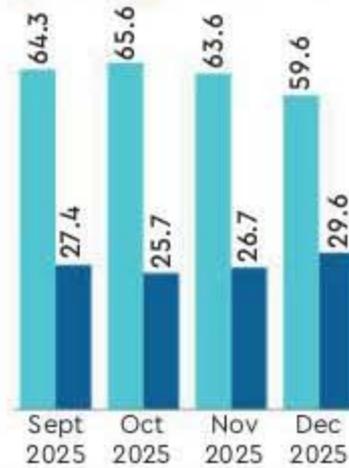
Despite the dip in the last two months — its market share in terms of passengers carried dropped about two percentage points in November — IndiGo wrapped up 2025 with an annual market share of 64%, up from 61.9% in 2024.

According to the DGCA data, around 982,072 IndiGo passengers saw their flights get cancelled in December, and the airline spent ₹22.74 crore on facilitation. Similarly, around 639,714 IndiGo passengers faced delays beyond two hours in December. In contrast a com-

IN NUMBERS

Domestic market share (%)

IndiGo Air India Group



bined 60,880 passengers of Air India, Akasa Air and SpiceJet saw their flights get cancelled in December, and the airlines spent ₹1.36 crore on facilitation. Similarly, around a total of 187,610 passengers of Air India, Akasa Air and SpiceJet faced delays beyond two hours.

Domestic flight operators carried about 14.3 million passengers in December, marking a decline of 4.14% year-on-year. The Air India Group took advantage of IndiGo's loss in December by increasing its market share to 29.6%, up from 26.7% in November.





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Cap on domestic airfare likely to stay till March

THE CENTRE IS likely to keep the airfare cap on domestic flights intact until March as a precaution to ensure airfares don't skyrocket in the coming weeks due to operational disruptions, multiple officials aware of ongoing discussions told *FE*.

"Once the operational stability is established in the domestic aviation ecosystem, airfare caps will be lifted. The next test of operational stability will be the period after

February 10, when the exemptions granted to IndiGo end," an official said. He added that the government will likely meet in the third week of February and take a call on the airfare caps on domestic flights. The DGCA had granted IndiGo exemptions from night duty restrictions, including the cap on two landings, until February 10, after widespread disruptions in early December. —**FE BUREAU**

‘AI-132 fuel control switches vetted under DGCA presence’

Airline states that after the crew reported defect upon landing in B’luru, it referred the matter to Boeing

**S Balakrishnan &
Dhairya Gajara**

MUMBAI

In a statement, Air India said that after the crew of AI-132 (London-Bengaluru) reported the fuel control switch (FCS) defect upon landing in Bengaluru, it referred the matter to Boeing. The airline further said that based on Boeing-recommended checks, both the left and right FCS were found satisfactory, with the locking tooth or pawl fully seated and not slipping from “run” to “cut-off” when force was applied parallel to the base plate. Air India claimed these inspections were carried out in the presence of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials.

Following the incident, Air India grounded the aircraft for investigation. In an internal memo to Dreamliner pilots on Tuesday, airline’s senior vice-president for flight operations, Manish Uppal, said the matter had been escalated to Boeing for priority evaluation. The airline also initiated a precautionary fleet-wide re-inspection of

AI-132 fuel switch glitch revives AI-171 crash scare



Dhairya Gajara
MUMBAI

Air India’s Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet is under renewed FPJ report on Feb 3

the FCS latch to verify normal operations as a measure of abundant caution. Many in civil aviation circles also said the crew should not have taken off from Heathrow after encountering a problem with the FCS. Air India stated that on February 1, its B787-8 aircraft, VI-ANX, operating flight AI-132 (London-Bengaluru), experienced an issue during engine start in London. On two

occasions, the crew observed that the FCS did not remain positively latched in the “run” position when light vertical pressure was applied. On the third attempt, the switch latched correctly in “run” and remained stable thereafter.

The airline said that before continuing with the remaining procedures, the crew physically verified that the switch was fully and positively latched in the “run” position. No abnormal engine parameters, cautions, warnings, or system messages were observed during engine start or at any time thereafter and the flight was completed without incident.

“However, applying external force in an incorrect direction caused the switch to move easily from ‘run’ to ‘cut-off’, due to the angular base plate allowing slip when pressed improperly with a finger or thumb,” the airline said. It also added a video circulating on social media was analysed in the light of Boeing-recommended procedures and the procedure demonstrated in the video was found to be incorrect.



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HINDUSTAN

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उड़ानें रद्द होने के मामले में इंडिगो की जांच के आदेश

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (सीसीआई) ने परिचालन अड़चनों के कारण दिसंबर में हजारों उड़ानें रद्द किए जाने के मामले में बुधवार को इंडिगो के खिलाफ जांच का आदेश दिया।

आदेश में सीसीआई ने कहा कि बड़ी संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द कर इंडिगो ने अपनी निर्धारित क्षमता का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बाजार से हटा लिया। इससे कृत्रिम अभाव की स्थिति पैदा हुई और व्यस्त मांग के दौरान यात्रियों को परेशानी हुई।

आयोग ने कहा कि किसी प्रभुत्वशाली कंपनी की तरफ से ऐसे आचरण को प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम की धारा चार (2)(बी)(आई) के तहत सेवाओं की आपूर्ति सीमित करने के रूप में देखा जा सकता है। प्रतिस्पर्धा

दस लाख से अधिक यात्री प्रभावित हुए थे

विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए के नए आंकड़ों से पता चला है कि इंडिगो द्वारा दिसंबर में उड़ानें रद्द करने से 9.82 लाख यात्री प्रभावित हुए और एयरलाइन ने सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए 22.74 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए।

अधिनियम की धारा चार बाजार में दबदबे की स्थिति के दुरुपयोग से संबंधित है। आयोग ने कहा कि प्रथम दृष्टया इंडिगो का यह आचरण भारत में प्रतिस्पर्धा पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डालता प्रतीत होता है। इसके मद्देनजर आयोग ने मामले की विस्तृत जांच के लिए अपने महानिदेशक को निर्देश दिए हैं।

➤ कार्यक्रम बदला P13



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

अकासा एयर के बेड़े में शामिल हुआ 33वां विमान

नई दिल्ली। अकासा एयर के बेड़े में बुधवार को 33वां विमान शामिल हुआ। नया बोईंग 737 मैक्स 8-200 विमान बुधवार को बेंगलुरु के कैम्पेगौड़ा हवाई अड्डे पर उतरा। इस साल कंपनी के बेड़े में शामिल होने वाला यह दूसरा विमान है। अकासा ने साल 2030 तक दुनिया की शीर्ष 30 विमान सेवा कंपनियों में शामिल होने का लक्ष्य रखा है।

विमान में 236 यात्री थे सवार, काठमांडू से इस्तांबुल के लिए भरी थी उड़ान, इंजन में आग लगने के कारण लिया गया फैसला

आग लगने के कारण तुर्किये का विमान कोलकाता में उतारा

इंडिगो ने विदेशी उड़ानों के कार्यक्रम में बदलाव किया

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। इंडिगो ने बुधवार को विदेशी परिचालन संबंधी बाधाओं के कारण अपने लंबी दूरी के उड़ान कार्यक्रम में बदलाव करने की घोषणा की। इसके तहत 17 फरवरी से कोपनहेगन (डेनमार्क) के लिए उड़ानों का संचालन स्थगित कर दिया जाएगा। इसके अलावा, एयरलाइन दिल्ली-लंदन हीथ्रो और दिल्ली-मैनचेस्टर मार्गों पर भी उड़ानों की संख्या में कटौती करेगी। कंपनी ने बुधवार को अपने बयान में कहा कि उसके बड़े आकार के

विमानों को परिचालन से संबंधित बाहरी चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इनमें भू-राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों के कारण हवाई क्षेत्र की लगातार बदलती परिस्थितियां और भारत के साथ-साथ विदेशों में भी हवाई अड्डों पर अत्यधिक भीड़ जैसे कारण शामिल हैं।
कोहरे के कारण दर्जनों उड़ानें लेट: वहीं, लखनऊ में बुधवार की सुबह घने कोहरे के कारण कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें लेट रही। इसके कारण यात्रियों को परेशान होना पड़ा।

बोइंग 787 के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच में खामी नहीं मिली

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने अपने बोइंग 787 बड़े के विमानों के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच की जांच कर ली है, जिसमें किसी प्रकार की खामी नहीं मिली है। एयरलाइन ने जांच प्रक्रिया ऐसे समय प्रारंभ की जब रविवार को लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे से बैंगलूर आने वाली एक उड़ान में स्विच कंट्रोल में खराबी की शिकायत मिली थी। फिलहाल एयर इंडिया के पास 33 बोइंग 787 या ड्रीमलाइनर विमान हैं, जिसमें 28 का

संचालन होता है। एयरलाइन ने कहा, उसने अपने बड़े के सभी ऑपरेशनल बोइंग 787 विमानों में फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच (एफसीएस) की एहतियाती जांच पूरी कर ली है। इन जांचों के दौरान कोई समस्या नहीं पाई गई। ये जांचें हमारे पावलट द्वारा बताए गए निर्देश के बाद बहुत सावधानी बरतते हुए की गईं। हम स्वतंत्र जांच करने और बाद में एफसीएस को क्लियर करने में विमानन नियामक संस्था (डीजीसीए) की सक्रिय निगरानी को स्वीकार करते हैं।



कोलकाता एयरपोर्ट पर बुधवार को इंजन में आई खामी के बाद तुर्किये एयरलाइंस के विमान की आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई। • प्र

हादसा

कोलकाता, एजेंसी। तुर्किये एयरलाइंस की उड़ान संख्या टीएचवाई-727 के इंजन में खराबी आने के बाद विमान ने कोलकाता हवाई अड्डे पर आपातकालीन लैंडिंग की। केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को यह जानकारी दी।
मंत्रालय की ओर से जारी बयान में कहा गया कि यह उड़ान काठमांडू से तुर्किये के इस्तांबुल जा रही थी। पायलट ने विमान के दाहिने इंजन में आग लगने के कारण संकट की स्थिति के बारे में सूचित करने के लिए रेडियो संदेश जारी किया और दोपहर 1:38 बजे कोलकाता की ओर जाने देने का अनुरोध किया। मंत्रालय ने बताया, विमान ने पूरी आपातकालीन स्थिति में यहां नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर लैंडिंग की और इंजन में लगी आग पर दोपहर 1:51 बजे तक काबू पा लिया गया। अफसरों ने बताया, यात्रियों के घायल होने की सूचना नहीं है। विमान में क्रू मेंबर सहित कुल 236 यात्री सवार थे। लैंडिंग के बाद यात्रियों ने राहत की सांस ली।

मुंबई की उड़ान रद्द होने से यात्री फंसे

नई दिल्ली। चेन्नई स्थित हवाई अड्डे पर एक निजी एयरलाइन की मुंबई जाने वाली उड़ान रद्द होने के कारण यात्रियों को असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ा। हवाई अड्डा अधिकारियों ने बुधवार को बताया, सुबह 8.45 बजे उड़ान भरने वाले इस विमान के यात्री सुबह छह बजे ही हवाई अड्डे पर पहुंच गए थे। हालांकि, बाद में इस उड़ान को रद्द करने की घोषणा की गई। सूत्रों के अनुसार, उड़ान रद्द होने की जानकारी पहले से न होने के कारण यात्री हवाई अड्डे पर फंसे रहे।

हलवारा हवाई अड्डे से शुरू होंगी उड़ानें

चंडीगढ़। पंजाब के कैबिनेट मंत्री सजीव अरोड़ा ने बुधवार को कहा कि लुधियाना में बने हलवारा हवाई अड्डे से मार्च के पहले सप्ताह से घरेलू उड़ान सेवाएं शुरू होंगी। उन्होंने कहा कि शुरू में एयर इंडिया दिल्ली और हलवारा के बीच सेवाएं संचालित करेगी। कैबिनेट मंत्री ने कहा कि वह लगातार एयर इंडिया के साथ संपर्क में हैं। लुधियाना हवाई अड्डे से पंजाब के मोगा, फिरोजपुर, फरीदकोट और बटिंडा जिलों में भी हवाई कनेक्टिविटी आसान होगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

CCI orders probe of IndiGo after Dec chaos that hit nearly a million

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NEW DELHI: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered an investigation into IndiGo after the airline's widespread flight cancellations in December, which affected nearly a million passengers, highlighted concerns over limited competition in the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

The order published on the CCI's website on Wednesday followed complaints alleging anti-trust violations by India's largest

ACCORDING TO A COMPLAINT, FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS DROVE UP PRICES AND CAUSED INCONVENIENCE TO PASSENGERS, THE REGULATOR SAID

airline. The antitrust regulator said that one of the complaints accused the budget airline of cancelling hundreds of flights that caused a heavy surge in prices as well as huge inconven-

ience to passengers. IndiGo did not comment on the notice from the anti-trust watchdog, but an official told HT that an order has been received by the airline and that a reply would be sent after studying it in detail.

IndiGo cancelled about 4,500 flights in the first week of December. The CCI's order came even as the airline said on Wednesday that it was curtailing some overseas services, including a recently launched one to Copenhagen, due to operational constraints from airspace closures linked to geopolitical tensions and airport congestion. →P15



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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Engine fire alert forces emergency landing



A Turkish Airlines flight travelling from Kathmandu to Istanbul with 236 passengers and 11 crew members made an emergency landing at the Kolkata airport on Wednesday. Officials said the pilot contacted the Kolkata air traffic control for landing permission after suspecting that the right engine had caught fire. The plane, an Airbus A330-300, landed shortly after 2.30pm, while the fire in the engine was brought under control at 1.51pm, the civil aviation ministry said, indicating the flames were doused during the flight itself. No injuries were reported.

ANI

CCI orders probe into IndiGo's Dec cancellations

HT Correspondent & Agencies

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Data released by the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), on Tuesday showed that the airline's market share had fallen to 59.6% in December from 63.6% in November. The disruptions affected 982,000 passengers in December and the airline spent ₹22.74 crore as compensation.

The overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines was 6.92% in December, and that of IndiGo was 9.65%.

In the wake of the massive disruptions blamed on poor



IndiGo cancelled about 4,500 flights in the first weeks of December.

HT

pilot roster planning, the DGCA fined the airline a record \$2.45 million (₹22 crore approx.), issued warnings to senior executives and directed the airline to remove the head of its operations control from his duties.

DGCA's probe found several deficiencies at the airline after stricter pilot rest and duty rules came into effect last year.

In a statement on Wednesday, the airline said it would suspend long-haul flights to Copenhagen and trim some services between Delhi and Britain. IndiGo will suspend Copenhagen flights from February 17, just months after launching the route in October. It will also cut Delhi-Manchester services to four flights a week from February 7 and to three from February 19, while reducing Delhi-London Heathrow operations to four flights a week from five.

IndiGo did not specify the geopolitical issues it faces, but airspace closures in West Asia, especially Iran, have disrupted airline schedules in recent months.

The restrictions and congestion at airports in India and abroad have significantly increased flight times for its leased Boeing Dreamliner jets, IndiGo said.

"IndiGo will continue monitoring these external developments and flexibly scale its network up or down to align with evolving conditions," it said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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5 FEBRUARY 2026

AI EXPRESS EYES OPERATING PROFIT IN H2 OF FY26

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NEW DELHI: Air India Express is projected to post an operating profit in the second half of FY26, a first since its privatisation, the airline's management told employees at a townhall in Gurugram. The projection shared during a monthly townhall at the airline's Gurugram headquarters was attended by managing director Alope Singh and chairman Nipun Aggarwal.

The management announced that AIX is investing over \$70M in the retrofit program, delivering this highly differentiated product and premium experience. The airline, officials said, declared its capacity, measured by available seat kilometres (ASKs), to have nearly doubled since privatisation, while market share tripled from earlier levels.

"It aims to expand its fleet to 300 aircraft by FY31, targeting a 25% market share," an official said. To be sure, Air India Express currently has an operating fleet of around 110 aircraft.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026



Turkish Airlines plane makes emergency landing in Kolkata

A Turkish Airlines flight from Kathmandu to Istanbul was forced to divert to Kolkata under emergency conditions after it reported failure of one of its engines. The airline in a statement said the flight landed safely in Kolkata, where it is undergoing necessary inspections. The airline arranged an alternative flight for its passengers. "The flight declared PAN PAN, an international radio distress signal, due to the right engine on fire and requested to divert to Kolkata at 1.38 p.m. with one engine failure," the Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026



IndiGo suspends flights to Copenhagen, trims U.K. trips

IndiGo has suspended flights to Copenhagen and reduced services to London and Manchester, as airlines are being forced to take longer detours to avoid Iranian airspace, increasing flight times and fuel consumption. Its Delhi-Manchester flights would also be reduced from five flights per week to three flights in a staggered manner from February 7. Its Delhi-London flights will also come down to four weekly flights from five per week from February 9.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026



Turkish Airlines flight 727 en route from Kathmandu to Istanbul makes an emergency landing in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

WEST BENGAL

Turkish Airlines plane catches fire, makes emergency landing in Kolkata

A TURKISH Airlines aircraft carrying 236 people made a “full emergency landing” at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata on Wednesday afternoon after its right engine reportedly caught fire shortly after departure from Kathmandu. Airport authorities confirmed that all 225 passengers and 11 crew members were unharmed. The aircraft is currently stationed at the Kolkata airport, undergoing a technical inspection. All passengers and crew/captain have been shifted to hotel. Tomorrow another aircraft will come around 0400 hrs IST and passengers will depart around 0600 hrs. ENS



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

IndiGo to adjust long-haul flights on operational constraints

New Delhi: IndiGo will adjust its long-haul flights operated with leased Dreamliners, including suspending services to Copenhagen from February 17, as the airline seeks to tackle external operational constraints.

As part of the adjustments, necessitated by Iranian airspace uncertainties and congestion at airports, the carrier on Wednesday said it will also reduce flights on Delhi-London Heathrow and Delhi-Manchester routes.

In a statement, the airline said its wide-body operation has faced external operational constraints such as continuously changing airspace constraints due to geopolitical circumstances, congestion at airports both in India and abroad.

The flights to and from Copenhagen (Denmark) will be suspended from February 17 till further notice. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

‘दिसंबर में 10.46 लाख यात्री उड़ानें रद्द होने से प्रभावित’

नई दिल्ली, 4 फरवरी (भाषा)।

दिसंबर महीने में उड़ानें रद्द होने से 10.46 लाख से अधिक यात्री प्रभावित हुए जिनमें से 93 फीसद यात्री इंडिगो की उड़ानें रद्द होने से प्रभावित थे। बुधवार को आधिकारिक आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी सामने आई।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) की तरफ से जारी नवीनतम आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, दिसंबर में उड़ानें रद्द होने से प्रभावित यात्रियों को मुआवजा और सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने पर घरेलू अनुसूचित एअरलाइंस ने कुल 24.27 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए। इनमें से अकेले इंडिगो की उड़ानें रद्द होने से 9.82 लाख यात्री प्रभावित हुए। उन्हें मुआवजा एवं सुविधाएं मुहैया कराने पर देश की सबसे बड़ी एअरलाइन ने 22.74 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए। आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, दिसंबर में घरेलू

इंडिगो ने लंबी दूरी के उड़ान कार्यक्रम में किया बदलाव

इंडिगो ने बुधवार को विदेशी परिचालन संबंधी बाधाओं के कारण अपने लंबी दूरी के उड़ान कार्यक्रम में बदलाव करने की घोषणा की। इसके तहत 17 फरवरी से कोपनहेगन (डेनमार्क) के लिए उड़ानों का संचालन स्थगित कर दिया जाएगा। इसके अलावा, एअरलाइन दिल्ली-लंदन हीथ्रो और दिल्ली-मैनचेस्टर मार्गों पर भी उड़ानों की संख्या में

कटौती करेगी। कंपनी ने बुधवार को बयान में कहा कि उसके बड़े आकार के विमानों को परिचालन से संबंधित बाहरी चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इनमें भू-राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों के कारण हवाई क्षेत्र की लगातार बदलती परिस्थितियां और भारत के साथ-साथ विदेशों में भी हवाई अड्डों पर अत्यधिक भीड़ जैसे कारण शामिल हैं।

अनुसूचित एअरलाइंस की उड़ानें रद्द होने की दर 6.92 फीसद रही, जबकि इंडिगो के मामले में यह अनुपात 9.65 फीसद रहा। इसकी वजह यह है कि इंडिगो को दिसंबर की शुरुआत में बड़े पैमाने पर उड़ान व्यवधानों का सामना करना पड़ा था। उस समय एअरलाइन की हजारों उड़ानें रद्द की गई थीं

जबकि सैकड़ों उड़ानों के परिचालन में विलंब हुआ था। इस व्यापक व्यवधान से इंडिगो की बाजार हिस्सेदारी भी नवंबर के 63.6 फीसद से घटकर दिसंबर में 59.6 फीसद रह गई। डीजीसीए ने बताया कि दिसंबर में घरेलू एअरलाइंस को यात्रियों से संबंधित कुल 29,212 शिकायतें मिलीं।

CCI flags 'artificial scarcity', orders probe into IndiGo

Abhishek Law & Dipal Banka
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI), the country's competition watchdog, has ordered an anti-trust investigation into IndiGo for alleged abuse of dominant position following large-scale flight cancellations and sharp fare increases in December.

CCI has observed that passengers were "left with no real choice but to accept last-minute cancellations" and were forced to seek alternatives "at

significantly higher prices". Given IndiGo's dominant position, consumers were "effectively locked in and lacked viable alternatives."

In a 16-page order dated 4 February, CCI directed the Director General (DG), the CCI's investigative arm, to examine if IndiGo violated provisions of the Competition Act by cancelling thousands of flights across its network and charging significantly higher fares to stranded passengers.

This marks the beginning of the investigation.

"...the CCI directs the DG to cause an investigation to be made into the matter and submit an investigation report within a period of 90 days from the date of

receipt of this order," the order by CCI chairperson, Ravneet Kaur and three members, Anil Agarwal, Sweta Kakkad and Deepak Anurag, read.

The anti-trust agency further said IndiGo created an 'artificial scarcity'.

Queries to the airline were not answered till print time. IndiGo has received the order.

It held that by cancelling thousands of flights that constituted a significant portion of



The airline had cancelled over 4,500 flights in early December, citing revised flight duty time and crew rest norms.

scheduled capacity. "IndiGo effectively withheld its service from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand. Such conduct by a dominant enterprise may be viewed as restricting provisions of services under Section 4(2)(b)(i) of the Act (relating to abuse of dominant position)."

Section 4 of the Competition Act 2002 deals with abuse of dominant position.

For context, IndiGo suffered an operational meltdown in the first week of December, cancelling over 4,500 flights and leaving thousands of passengers stranded at airports across India. The airline

told DGCA in December that disruptions were due to minor technical glitches, schedule changes for the winter, bad weather, more congestion and rollout of flight duty time limitations (FDTL) Phase II norms.

The revised rules mandate stricter night-flying limits and longer pilot rest periods, thereby raising crew requirements. However, in its 17 January probe, DGCA investigation found that over-optimised

operation and inadequate regulatory preparedness led to the disruptions.

It also flagged deficiencies in system software support. CCI said IndiGo failed to plan adequate buffers and implement FDTL norms properly, resulting in widespread cancellations.

One aggrieved passenger, Kartikeya Rawal, moved CCI, claiming his return flight was cancelled hours before departure, without any alternative arrangements, forcing him to rebook with the same airline at a much higher price.

CCI noted that this was not an isolated incident. "The issue has also been widely reported in the public domain," the regulator observed in its order, adding that passengers across the country were left stranded. Between 3 and 5 December, there were 2,507 flights, of which 1,852 were delayed, affecting more than three lakh passengers, it was noted.

"The harm is no longer confined to this route versus that route; rather, the conduct constrains the overall ability of consumers to use domestic air travel as a mode of transport," it said.

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For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com).



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MINT

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

No glitch found in Boeing jets: Air India

Air India on Wednesday said it has completed the precautionary inspection of fuel control switches across its operational Boeing 787 fleet, and no issues were identified during the checks.

The inspection was done after the incident of a switch malfunctioning in an aircraft that operated a flight from London Heathrow to Bengaluru on Sunday.

At present, Air India has 33 Boeing 787s or Dreamliners, and 28 are operational. In a statement, the airline said it has completed precautionary re-inspections of the Fuel Control Switch (FCS) across all operational Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet. "No issues were identified during these checks," it said.

PTI



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MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

'Unfair biz practices': CCI orders detailed probe against IndiGo

NEW DELHI: The Competition Commission on Wednesday ordered a detailed probe against IndiGo for unfair business practices, nearly two months after the country's largest airline cancelled thousands of flights due to operational issues, causing hardships to passengers.

After taking into consideration data related to airlines and those provided by the aviation regulator DGCA, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has prima facie concluded that IndiGo has abused its dominant position.

In a 16-page order, CCI said that by cancelling thousands of flights, which constituted a significant portion of the scheduled capacity, IndiGo effectively withheld its services from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand.

"Such conduct by a dominant enterprise may be viewed as restricting the provision of services under Section 4 (2) (b)(i) of the Act," the regulator said.

Section 4 of the Competition Act pertains to abuse of dominant position.



For assessing the complaint filed by a passenger who was impacted by the cancellation of flights in early December, the watchdog considered the 'market for domestic air passenger transport services in India' as the relevant one.

Noting that prima facie the airline's conduct seems to be causing an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India, CCI ordered a detailed investigation by its Director General (DG).

"IndiGo consistently accounts for approximately 60-61 per cent of total domestic ASKM (Available Seat Kilometres), which reflects not only passenger volumes but effective control over market capacity and supply-side conditions.

"The domestic passenger aviation market exhibits very

high and increasing concentration, exhibiting that leading firms possess the ability to operate independently of competitive forces, as the presence of effective rivals is materially constrained," the regulator said.

On the basis of substantial and sustained market share, wide network reach with exclusive operations on a significant number of city-pair routes, comparatively larger fleet and strong financial performance, the watchdog said it was of prima facie view that IndiGo enjoys a position of dominance in the relevant market delineated supra.

CCI also rejected the objections raised by IndiGo that the regulator does not have the jurisdiction to look into the case and cited a Supreme Court ruling.

AGENCIES

CCI to probe IndiGo over 'abuse' of mkt dominance

India's competition regulator orders investigation report in 90 days

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered a detailed investigation into Inter-Globe Aviation Ltd, which operates IndiGo, over the allegations that the airline cancelled a large number of flights in December 2025 and subsequently charged sharply higher fares to stranded passengers.

The CCI, in an order passed on February 4, held that the allegations raised by Bengaluru-based flyer Kartikeya Rawal warrant a probe by the Director-General (D-G) to examine possible abuse of dominant position by India's largest airline. It ordered the investigation report within 90 days from the date of the order.

The complaint stems from events during the first week of December 2025, when IndiGo allegedly cancelled hundreds of flights, leaving lakhs of passengers stranded.

The informant claimed that after cancelling its own services, IndiGo offered seats on the same routes at much higher fares, forcing passengers to either wait for days or pay steep prices for return travel.

Rawal cited his own experience of a cancelled Delhi-Goa-



- The investigation relates to events from **December 2025**, when IndiGo cancelled hundreds of flights
- CCI says allegations by Bengaluru-based flyer needs to be probed for possible abuse of dominant position
- The regulator has asked for the report of the investigation within **90 days** from the date of the order

Bengaluru return booking on December 5, 2025, for which he had paid Rs 7,173. After the cancellation, he was unable to secure an alternative at reasonable rates and eventually travelled two days later on another IndiGo flight for ₹17,000.

He alleged that the conduct amounted to abuse of dominance, arguing that fares during the disruption were signifi-

cantly higher than historical averages and recent pricing trends.

In its response dated January 10, IndiGo did not provide the operational and pricing data sought by the Commission. Instead, it challenged the CCI's jurisdiction, contending that the matter falls squarely within the domain of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The airline argued that airfare oversight, excessive pricing, and market practices in civil aviation are governed by a complete and self-contained regulatory framework administered by the DGCA. It further cited the Supreme Court's ruling in *Bharti Airtel vs CCI* case and the Delhi High Court's decision in the Monsanto case to argue that sectoral regulators should have primacy. IndiGo also submitted that consumer grievances over flight cancellations or fares are better addressed under the Consumer Protection Act rather than competition law.

However, in a crucial clarification to the CCI, the DGCA stated that it does not regulate airfares and does not possess economic regulatory powers over pricing under the current legal framework.

सैलरी संकट से स्पाइसजेट उड़ान पर असर मुमकिन

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■ नई दिल्ली : स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस में एक बार फिर से स्टाफ को समय पर सैलरी ना मिलने की समस्या सामने आई है। सात हजार से अधिक स्टाफ वाली इस एयरलाइंस के अधिकतर स्टाफ को अभी तक दिसंबर और जनवरी की सैलरी नहीं मिल सकी है। स्टाफ का कहना है कि समय पर सैलरी ना मिलने से उनके बच्चों की स्कूल फीस, बच्चों के स्कूल एडमिशन, ईएमआई और घर का खर्चा निकालने में भी परेशानी आना शुरू हो गई है। इससे पहले भी 2025 और 2024 में भी इस तरह की समस्या सामने आई थी।

जानकारों का कहना है कि अगर एयरलाइंस ने जल्द ही पायलटों, क्रू मेंबर, इंजीनियरों और अन्य अहम यूनिटों में काम करने वाले स्टाफ की सैलरी नहीं दी तो ना केवल स्पाइसजेट बल्कि देश की रीजनल एयर कर्नेक्टिविटी में भी बड़ी परेशानी आना शुरू हो जाएगी। पायलट और क्रू छुट्टी पर जाना शुरू कर सकते हैं। फ्लाइट कैसल

2024 और 2025 में भी इस तरह की समस्या आई थी।



और डिले होना शुरू हो जाएंगे। इसका गंभीर असर उड़ान स्कीम के तहत देश की रीजनल एयर कर्नेक्टिविटी पर पड़ना शुरू हो जाएगा। इसमें स्पाइसजेट अन्य एयरलाइंस के मुकाबले सबसे अधिक फ्लाइट उड़ाती है। मामले में स्पाइसजेट की तरफ से इस बारे में कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की गई। करीब 70 हवाई जहाजों के साथ देश के एविएशन सेक्टर में स्पाइसजेट की हिस्सेदारी बढ़ी है। पिछले साल नवंबर के मुकाबले दिसंबर में एयरलाइंस के रेवेन्यू में भी बढ़ोतरी हुई।



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NAVBHARAT TIMES

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बोइंग 787 विमानों की जांच पूरी, स्विच में खराबी नहीं: एयर इंडिया

■ **भाषा, नई दिल्ली :** एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने बेड़े में शामिल बोइंग 787 ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों के 'ईंधन नियंत्रण सिस्टम' (एफसीएस) की एहतियाती जांच पूरी कर ली है और इस दौरान कोई समस्या नहीं पाई गई। उड़ान के लंदन के हीथ्रो से बेंगलुरु की उड़ान के दौरान एक बोइंग-787 विमान के ईंधन सिस्टम में तकनीकी खराबी आने की रिपोर्ट के बाद यह जांच की गई थी।

एयर इंडिया के बेड़े में 33 बोइंग-787 विमान हैं जिनमें से 28 परिचालन का हिस्सा है। एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि हमारे एक फायलट द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के बाद सवधानी बरतते हुए यह निरीक्षण किया गया था। एयर इंडिया के एक फायलट ने लंदन हीथ्रो से बेंगलुरु की उड़ान संचालित करने के बाद बोइंग 787-8 विमान के ईंधन नियंत्रण सिस्टम के ठीक से काम न करने की सूचना दी थी। उसके बाद एयरलाइन ने उस विमान को जांच के लिए सेवा से हटा दिया था। ईंधन सिस्टम के कामकाज पर ध्यान पिछले साल जून में एयर इंडिया के 787-8 विमान के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने के बाद बढ़ गया है।

नेपाल से इस्तांबुल जा रही उड़ान की आपात लैंडिंग

■ **भाषा, कोलकाता:** इंजन में खराबी आने के बाद तुर्की एयरलाइंस के एक विमान की बुधवार को कोलकाता हवाई अड्डे पर आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई। केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में यह जानकारी दी। मंत्रालय की ओर से जारी बयान के मुताबिक, फायलट ने विमान के दहिने इंजन में आग लगने की सूचना दी थी। यह उड़ान काठमांडू से तुर्किये के इस्तांबुल जा

रही थी। बयान के मुताबिक, उड़ान संख्या टीएचआई-727 वाला एयरबस ए330-300 विमान अपराह्न करीब 1.15 बजे काठमांडू के त्रिभुवन अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से चालक दल के 11 सदस्यों सहित 236 यात्रियों को लेकर रवाना हुआ। एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि फायलट ने उड़ान भरने के दौरान विमान के दो इंजनों में से एक में खराबी की सूचना दी थी।

कोलकाता में हुई तुर्की एयरलाइंस के विमान की लैंडिंग।





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दिसंबर के उड़ान संकट पर इंडिगो की जांच होगी

■ पीटीआई, नई दिल्ली

कॉम्पिटिशन कमिशन ऑफ इंडिया यानी CCI ने एयरलाइन इंडिगो के खिलाफ जांच के आदेश दिए हैं। यह कार्रवाई दिसंबर में इंडिगो की हजारों फ्लाइट्स कैंसल होने और उससे पैदा उड़ान संकट को देखते हुए की गई है। आयोग का मानना है कि इतनी बड़ी संख्या में फ्लाइट्स रद्द करने से बाजार में उड़ानों की कमी हुई, जिससे यात्रियों को परेशानी हुई और इससे कारोबार में प्रतिस्पर्धा के नियमों का उल्लंघन हुआ।

3 से 8 दिसंबर के बीच इंडिगो की 4,500 उड़ानें रद्द हुई थीं। करीब 2000 फ्लाइट्स में देरी हुई थी। इसके कारण देशभर के एयरपोर्ट्स पर लाखों यात्री फंसे रहे थे।



इंडिगो की लंबी दूरी की उड़ानों में बदलाव

इंडिगो ने बुधवार को अपनी लंबी दूरी की विदेशी उड़ानों में कुछ बदलाव किए। 17 फरवरी से उसकी कोपनहेगन (डेनमार्क) के लिए उड़ानों को टाला जाएगा। दिल्ली-लंदन हीथ्रो और दिल्ली-मैनचेस्टर मार्गों पर भी फ्लाइटों की संख्या में कमी हो रही है। इंडिगो ने बाहरी चुनौतियों को इसकी दजह बताया।

CCI orders detailed probe against IndiGo for unfair business practices



The Competition Commission on Wednesday ordered a detailed probe against IndiGo for unfair business practices, nearly two months after the country's largest airline cancelled thousands of flights due to operational issues, causing hardships to passengers. After taking into consideration data related to airlines and those provided by the aviation regulator DGCA, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has prima facie concluded that IndiGo has abused its dominant position.

In a 16-page order, CCI said that by cancelling thousands of flights, which constituted a significant portion of the scheduled capacity, IndiGo effectively withheld its services from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand.

"Such conduct by a dominant enterprise may be viewed as restricting the provision of services under Section 4 (2) (b)(i) of the Act," the regulator said.

Section 4 of the Competition Act pertains to abuse of dominant position.

For assessing the complaint filed by a passenger who was impacted by the cancellation of flights in early December, the watchdog considered the 'market for domestic air passenger transport services in India' as the relevant one. Noting that prima facie the airline's conduct seems to be causing an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India, CCI ordered a detailed investigation by its Director General (DG).

"IndiGo consistently accounts for approximately 60-61 per cent of total domestic ASKM (Available Seat Kilometres), which reflects not only passenger volumes but effective control over market capacity and supply-side conditions.

"The domestic passenger aviation market exhibits very high and increasing concentration, exhibiting that leading firms possess the ability to operate independently of competitive forces, as the presence of effective rivals is materially constrained," the regulator said.

On the basis of substantial and sustained market share, wide network reach with exclusive operations on a significant number of city-pair routes, comparatively larger fleet and strong financial performance, the watchdog said it was of prima facie view that IndiGo enjoys a position of dominance in the relevant market delineated supra.

CCI also rejected the objections raised by IndiGo that the regulator does not have the jurisdiction to look into the case and cited a Supreme Court ruling.

"Even if Trai also returns a finding that a particular activity was anti-competitive, its powers would be limited to the action that can be taken under the TRAI Act alone. It is only CCI, which is empowered to deal with the same anti-competitive act from the lens of the Competition Act.

If such activities offend the provisions of the Competition Act as well, the consequences under that Act would also follow..." CCI cited a part of the ruling in its order. Further, CCI, in the order, mentioned the responses given by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

इंडिगो के खिलाफ जांच के आदेश

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (सीसीआई) ने परिचालन अड़चनों के कारण दिसंबर में हजारों उड़ानें रद्द किए जाने के मामले में बुधवार को देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो के खिलाफ विस्तृत जांच का आदेश दिया। घटना के करीब दो महीने बाद जारी इस आदेश में सीसीआई ने कहा कि बड़ी संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द कर इंडिगो ने अपनी निर्धारित क्षमता का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बाजार से हटा लिया, जिससे कृत्रिम अभाव की स्थिति पैदा हुई और व्यस्त मांग के दौरान यात्रियों की हवाई यात्रा तक पहुंच सीमित हुई। आयोग ने कहा कि किसी प्रभुत्वशाली कंपनी की तरफ से ऐसे आचरण को प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम की धारा चार (2)(बी)(आई) के तहत सेवाओं की आपूर्ति सीमित करने के रूप में देखा जा सकता है। प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम की धारा चार बाजार में दबदबे की स्थिति के दुरुपयोग से संबंधित है। सीसीआई ने कहा कि प्रथम दृष्टया



बोइंग 787 विमानों की निगरानी जांच पूरी, ईंधन नियंत्रण सिव में नहीं मिली खराबी

एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसने बेड़े में शामिल बोइंग 787 ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों के ईंधन नियंत्रण सिव (एफसीएस) की एहतियाती जांच पूरी कर ली है और इस दौरान कोई समस्या नहीं पाई गई। रविवार को लंदन के लीथो से बेंगलुरु की उड़ान के दौरान एक बोइंग-787 विमान के ईंधन सिव में तकनीकी खराबी आने की रिपोर्ट के बाद यह जांच की गई थी। वर्तमान में एयर इंडिया के बेड़े में 33 बोइंग-787 विमान हैं जिनमें से 28 विमान परिचालन का हिस्सा हैं। एयरलाइन ने एक बयान में कहा कि उसने अपने बेड़े के सभी परिचालन वाले बोइंग 787 विमानों में ईंधन नियंत्रण सिव की एहतियाती जांच पूरी कर ली है। एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि जांच के दौरान कोई भी समस्या नहीं पाई गई। हमारे एक पायलट द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के बाद अत्यधिक सावधानी बरतते हुए यह निरीक्षण किया गया था।

ने मामले की विस्तृत जांच के लिए अपने महानिदेशक को निर्देश दिए हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

तुर्की एयरलाइंस का विमान आपात स्थिति में कोलकाता उतरा

कोलकाता,
(पंजाब केसरी) :
तुर्की एयरलाइंस की
एक उड़ान के इंजन
में खराबी आने के
बाद विमान ने
कोलकाता हवाई
अड्डे पर
आपातकालीन
लैंडिंग की।



नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एक
बयान में यह जानकारी दी।

मंत्रालय की ओर से जारी बयान
के मुताबिक, पायलट ने विमान के
दाहिने इंजन में आग लगने की सूचना
दी थी। यह उड़ान काठमांडू से तुर्किये
के इस्तांबुल जा रही थी। बयान के
अनुसार, पायलट ने विमान के दाहिने
इंजन में आग लगने के कारण संकट
की स्थिति के बारे में सूचित करने
के लिए रेडियो संदेश जारी किया

और अपराह्न 1:38 बजे कोलकाता
की ओर जाने देने का अनुरोध किया।
मंत्रालय के बयान में कहा गया है
कि विमान ने पूरी आपातकालीन
स्थिति में यहां नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र
बोस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर
लैंडिंग की और इंजन में लगी आग
पर अपराह्न 1.51 बजे तक काबू पा
लिया गया। हवाई अड्डे के
अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यात्रियों
के घायल होने की सूचना नहीं है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

1.88 million passengers affected by flight cancellation delays in December

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

New Delhi, 4 February

Flight cancellations and delays by IndiGo and other airlines affected 1.88 million passengers in December, with airlines spending Rs 28.78 crore on compensation and passenger facilities.

According to the data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), 1,046,552 passengers were affected due to flight cancellations in December, while 834,453 passengers faced delays of more than two hours.

Airlines spent Rs 24.28 crore on compensation, meals, accommodation, refunds, and alternate flight arrangements

for cancelled flights, and Rs 4.50 crore on similar facilities for delayed flights.

In addition, 2,050 passengers were denied boarding despite having confirmed tickets, and airlines spent Rs 2.09 crore on compensation and other facilities for them.

IndiGo, which operates around 2,300 flights daily, cancelled 9.65 percent of its flights in December, affecting 982,072 passengers.

These passengers were either accommodated on alternate flights or provided refunds, costing the airline Rs 22.75 crore.

IndiGo's flights delayed by more than two hours also affected 6,39,714 passengers,

for whom the airline provided meals and refreshments.

It is noteworthy that in the first week of December 2025, IndiGo cancelled thousands of flights and faced widespread delays. The disruption occurred due to the airline's inability to manage crew rosters in line with new pilot duty time regulations.

As a result, IndiGo's market share saw a sharp decline of four percentage points, falling from 63.6 percent in November to 59.6 percent, though it continued to hold a majority share of the market.

DGCA data shows that 3.28 per cent of flights operated by the Air India Group (Air India and Air India Express)

were cancelled in December, affecting 43,278 passengers. The group spent Rs 74.61 lakh on meals, accommodation, alternate flights, and refunds.

It also denied boarding to 1,578 passengers, incurring Rs 1.63 crore on alternate arrangements, lodging, and meals. Flights delayed by over two hours affected 117,200 passengers, with Rs 2.87 crore spent on passenger facilities.

Furthermore, SpiceJet cancellations affected 11,929 passengers, on whom the airline spent Rs 40.09 lakh for meals, accommodation, and alternate flights. Delays of over two hours impacted 33,647 SpiceJet passengers, costing Rs 76.95 lakh.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

AI EXPRESS EYES OPERATING PROFIT IN H2 OF FY26

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Air India Express is projected to post an operating profit in the second half of FY26, a first since its privatisation, the airline's management told employees at a townhall in Gurugram. The projection shared during a monthly townhall at the airline's Gurugram headquarters was attended by managing director Alok Singh and chairman Nipun Aggarwal.

The management announced that AIX is investing over \$70M in the retrofit program, delivering this highly differentiated product and premium experience. The airline, officials said, declared its capacity, measured by available seat kilometres (ASKs), to have nearly doubled since privatisation, while market share tripled from earlier levels.

"It aims to expand its fleet to 300 aircraft by FY31, targeting a 25% market share," an official said. To be sure, Air India Express currently has an operating fleet of around 110 aircraft.

Regulator orders probe into IndiGo's 'unfair biz practices'

'Carrier Enjoys Position Of Dominance'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two months after IndiGo's mass flight cancellation in the wake of non-compliance with flying time norms, Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Wednesday ordered a detailed probe into its alleged unfair business practices.

It said the carrier enjoyed "a position of dominance" in the airline business, noting that it operated exclusively on 330 routes, had consistently had 60%-61% market share and a much larger fleet than its rival Air India.

Bengaluru-based Kartikeya Rawal had moved CCI after his flight on Dec 5 last year was cancelled and alternative ones were available only at higher prices. He alleged the overcharging by IndiGo was "abuse of dominance". The airline contested the claim, while arguing that CCI did not have jurisdiction in the case.

"...IndiGo is a significant



By cancelling thousands of flights and causing disruptions in Dec 2025, IndiGo withheld its service and created an artificial scarcity, CCI said

market player... (has) effective control over market capacity and supply-side conditions. The domestic passenger aviation market exhibits very high and increasing concentration, exhibiting leading firms possess the ability to operate independently of competitive forces, as the presence of effective rivals is materially constrained," the regulator said in a 16-page order uploaded on its website.

In 2025, IndiGo had 64% domestic market share, followed by Air India group with 27%, Akasa with 5.1%, and other smaller airlines

the remaining 3.9%, according to DGCA data.

"...IndiGo operates the largest fleet with over 400 aircraft, which is significantly higher than that of its nearest competitor, Air India, which operates a fleet of (about) 191 aircraft. Therefore, on the basis of substantial and sustained market share, wide network reach with exclusive operations on a significant number of city-pair routes, comparatively larger fleet and strong financial performance, the commission is of prima facie view that (IndiGo) enjoys a

position of dominance in the relevant market," CCI said.

The order said "by cancelling thousands of flights constituting a significant portion of the scheduled capacity, IndiGo effectively withheld its service from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand. Such conduct by a dominant enterprise may be viewed as restricting the provision of services."

The order added passengers who had booked tickets were left with "no real choice but to accept last-minute cancellations. Further, passengers were left to seek alternatives, on their own, at significantly higher prices. Given IndiGo's dominant position, consumers were effectively locked in and lacked viable alternatives which appears to be in violation of (rules)."

Cancellation of flights and lack of alternatives for passengers seemed to be "prima facie causing an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. Thus, the Commission is of the opinion that a prima facie case of contravention of provisions is made out in the present matter."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

AI Express to invest ₹633cr for revamp

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New Delhi: Air India Express will invest \$70 million (Rs 633 crore) on product upgrade and standardisation as the LCC is going to reposition itself between a low cost and a full service carrier.

The budget arm of AI had a fleet of 26 Boeing 737 NG (next generation) when the Tatas acquired it along with Air India in Jan 2022. Thanks to the fleet augmentation done by Tatas since then, along with the merger of erstwhile AirAsia India with AI Express, the airline now has a fleet of over 100 aircraft. The Tatas plans AI Express to have a fleet of 300 planes in five years that will be expected to take its market share to 25%.

Sources say the \$70 million programme is to upgrade its legacy fleet and standardise the 50 white tails (made for some other airline but inducted by AI Express) B737 MAX.

While H1 FY26 was tough, the airline expects a profit in H2 of this fiscal. However, FY 26 is likely to be in the red for AI Express.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

AI's 787 fuel switch checks completed, no defects reported

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

Air India on Wednesday said it had completed precautionary re-inspections of the fuel control switch (FCS) across all operational Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet, with no issues identified, marking the third straight day of disclosures following the AI132 fuel switch observation that brought the Dreamliner fleet under scrutiny.

The airline said the inspections were carried out "in an abundance of caution" after one of its pilots reported abnormal behaviour of the fuel control switch during engine start on a London-Bengaluru flight earlier this week. The development comes amid heightened regulatory attention and in the wider backdrop of the ongoing probe into the AI171 crash, where investigators are examining the role of a potential

INDIGO TRIMS LONG-HAUL OPERATIONS AMID STRAIN

- IndiGo on Wednesday announced a sharp recalibration of its long-haul operations, suspending flights to Copenhagen and cutting frequencies on key UK routes, citing mounting external operational constraints that have stretched its wide-body schedule
- The airline said its Boeing 787-9 operations were under sustained pressure due to continuously changing airspace restrictions linked to geopolitical developments along with congestion at major airports in India and overseas.

switch cut-off.

"Air India has completed precautionary re-inspections of the Fuel Control Switch (FCS) across all operational Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet. No issues were identified during these checks," an Air India spokesperson said.