



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

5 APRIL 2026

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट : अब वैध पार्किंग में खड़ी टैक्सी-कैब की ही होगी बुकिंग

पुरुषोत्तम वर्मा

नई दिल्ली। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर अब पिन-डिस्पैच एप से अधिकृत पार्किंग और हॉल्टिंग क्षेत्रों से ही टैक्सी व कैब की बुकिंग हो सकेगी। अवैध पार्किंग में टैक्सी पार्क करने पर तुरंत चालान कट जाएगा। दिल्ली ट्राफिक पुलिस ने इसके लिए एयरपोर्ट पर 14 एएनपीआर कैमरे लगाए गए हैं। दिल्ली

अवैध पार्किंग व दलालों से मिलेगा छुटकारा, लगाए गए 14 एएनपीआर कैमरे

पुलिस के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इससे दलालों पर लगाम लगेगी और विदेशी सैलानियों के साथ होने वाली वारदातें रूकेंगी।

दिल्ली यातायात पुलिस की नई दिल्ली रेंज के पुलिस उपायुक्त शोभित

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट ट्राफिक सर्किल के अधिकार क्षेत्र में दलाली की गतिविधियों

एक सप्ताह में
41 ई-चालान

पर नजर रखी जा रही है। इस साल दलाली में शामिल लोगों के खिलाफ 132 ई-चालान जारी किए गए हैं। वहीं, पिछले एक सप्ताह में 41 ई-चालान जारी किए गए हैं और 10 वाहन जब्त किए गए हैं।

सक्सेना ने बताया कि यह एप टर्मिनल-3 व टर्मिनल-2 पर शुरू हो गई है। इस महीने के आखिर तक ये टर्मिनल-पर शुरू हो जाएगी। उन्होंने

बताया कि टर्मिनल भवनों के बाहर चल रही टैक्सियां कोई बुकिंग नहीं ले सकती हैं। पुलिस उपायुक्त ने बताया कि टर्मिनल -3 रोड पर आठ कैमरे,



टर्मिनल-1 निकास रोड पर एक और यूईआर -II पर दो एएनपीआर कैमरे लगाए गए हैं। ये कैमरे एनआईसी सिस्टम से जुड़े हुए हैं।

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 APRIL 2026

Curbs on Srinagar airport operating hours worry tourism stakeholders

Gulzar Bhat
New Delhi

As the peak travel season approaches, tourism stakeholders in Kashmir have raised concerns over Srinagar airport being restricted to operate only between 8 am and 5 pm from April 6 to July 31 due to runway upgrade works by the Indian Air Force.

FLIGHT MOVEMENTS

At present, around 60 flight movements operate daily between 8 am and 10 pm, and the revised schedule will compress operations into a shorter window during one of the busiest periods for travel to the Valley.

The move has prompted airlines and industry players to recalibrate schedules to minimise disruption.

In a post on X, Srinagar In-

From April 6 to July 31, working hours have been cut to 8 am-5 pm, from 10 pm earlier, due to runway upgrade works by the IAF

ternational Airport said while operational hours will be reduced under a NOTAM issued by the IAF, flight movements are expected to increase in line with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's summer schedule.

The curtailed hours will lead to tighter turnaround times at the airport, which serves as Kashmir's primary aviation hub. Industry insiders said the compression of schedules could result in bunching of arrivals and de-

partures, putting pressure on airport infrastructure and ground handling services.

The Kashmir Economic Alliance (KEA), an amalgam of traders, transporters and hoteliers, expressed concern over the move, warning that restricted hours during peak months could impact economic activity.

"While infrastructure development is essential, limiting operations to 8 am-5 pm during peak travel and tourism months will significantly disrupt business, trade, tourism and overall economic activity in the Valley," said Qazi Touseef, spokesperson of the KEA.

Despite the concerns, stakeholders said much would depend on how efficiently airlines and airport authorities manage the revised schedule in the coming months.

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MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

5 APRIL 2026

Airport cites 31 bite cases, attempted relocation for action on stray dogs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DELHI airport authorities came under fire over alleged cruelty towards stray dogs after photos and a video from Terminal 1 went viral. The visuals showed a dog's paws tied while another staffer pinned its neck with a stick during its removal from the premises.

Airport sources claimed they were attempting to relocate the dog, which had bitten two flyers earlier this week. They also stated that 31 dog bite cases have been reported across the three terminals of IGIA since January 1, and efforts were being made to ensure passenger safety from aggressive dogs.

The video and screenshots



triggered an online campaign, with many calling out the airport over alleged cruelty. Several users also questioned CM Rekha Gupta over the issue. Sahil Bhambri shared a video and said, "Illegal relocation of street dogs at IGI airport, Delhi. This is a blatant violation of laws and humanity. Stop immediately and

hold officials accountable."

A Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) source said the dog had bitten passengers on March 30 and 31 and had become aggressive on April 2. "We adopted these tactics to take it for vaccination and released it back into the premises," the source said, adding that the method is also used by municipal authorities.

Abhijeet Gupta posted on X, threatening legal action, while activist Rachita Vishwakarma alleged that staff targeted vulnerable dogs. Responding to the backlash, DIAL said it follows a comprehensive dog management programme in line with government and Animal Welfare Board of India guidelines.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

5 APRIL 2026

Puri airport gets Centre's approval for diversion of nearly 28 ha of forest land

SUDARSAN MAHARANA

@Bhubaneswar

THE proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport at Puri has got a big boost with the Centre according in-principle approval for the diversion of 27.8 ha forest land required for the greenfield project.

In a communication to the Odisha government, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) stated that Stage-I (in-principle) approval under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, has been granted for diversion of 27.887 hectares of forest land in Puri division for construction of the airport. The approval follows due examination of the proposal by the Ministry's Advisory Committee (AC) two months ago.

The Committee, in its meeting on February 27, 2026, minutes, has made it clear that the



approval has been granted on condition that the state government will ensure the user agency implements mitigation measures and other important recommendations derived from the impact assessment studies and site specific wildlife management plan developed as per the recommendations of Wildlife Institute of India and Zoological Survey of India.

The state has been asked to comply with 33 different conditions for grant of the stage-II (final) clearance. The MoEFCC has asked the state to take up compensatory afforestation in 29.939 ha of non-forest land.

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 APRIL 2026

Domestic airfares jump 44% despite govt's relief measures, fuel levy bites

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Domestic airfares have surged sharply despite a series of relief measures by the Centre, with average ticket prices up 44 per cent year-on-year in April.

Cleartrip data showed the average domestic ticket price had risen from ₹5,850 in April 2025 to ₹8,450 this month.

International airfares have risen by 43 per cent over the same period, with average ticket prices increasing from ₹52,000 to ₹74,500 over the same period.

Another dataset from Wego India also indicated a rising trend in domestic fares.

The average domestic booking values this month are in the range of ₹9,000-10,000, compared to ₹8,500-9,500 in 2025, reflecting a 12 per cent year-on-year increase.

RELIEF MEASURES

The fare increases come even as the Ministry of Civil Aviation implemented multiple measures to ease the cost pressure on airlines, including removing fare caps and keeping the 60 per cent free seat allocation rule in



SKY HIGH. International airfares have risen about 43%, with average ticket prices climbing from ₹52,000 in April 2025 to ₹74,500

abeyance. Additionally, a rebate on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) has also been provided.

According to sources, these relief measures were aimed at cushioning airlines against a sharp rise in operating costs, driven by higher ATF prices, airspace restrictions, and currency pressures. In the absence of such interventions, airlines may have been forced to undertake steeper fare increases, reduce capacity and rationalise routes to maintain financial viability.

However, a fuel surcharge and fewer flights in the summer schedule continue to push domestic airfares higher.

FARE GAP

Notably, spot fares across key metro routes are significantly higher than advance

purchase levels. On the Delhi-Bengaluru route, fares range between ₹10,500 and ₹14,000 for immediate travel against ₹7,200-₹8,500 for bookings made 15 days in advance. On the Mumbai-Chennai sector, the fares stand at ₹8,200-10,500 and ₹4,400-₹5,200 respectively.

On the Mumbai-Delhi sector, spot fares range between ₹9,500 and ₹12,800, while advance fares are ₹5,800 and ₹7,100. Bengaluru-Mumbai fares are currently between ₹8,400 and ₹11,200, compared to ₹4,900-₹6,300 for 15-day advance bookings.

A similar trend is seen on metro to non-metro routes as well. Delhi-Varanasi fares range between ₹10,500 and ₹14,500 for near-term travel, compared to ₹4,600-₹5,500 for advance bookings.

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 APRIL 2026

Charter firms flag ATF price hike as discriminatory, urge govt review

POLICY MEASURE. Business aircraft companies call on government to ensure fair treatment for all operators

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Business jet operators have raised concerns over the government's move to limit aviation turbine fuel price hike only for airlines, calling it unfair, and have asked for a review of the decision.

The Business Aircraft Operators Association (BAOA) has asked Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu to examine the issue to ensure that any policy measure or pricing dispensation is applied in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner across all categories of commercial air operators.

SCHEDULED AIRLINES

On Wednesday, the government limited jet fuel price hike to 25 per cent on domestic routes.

This concession is available only for scheduled airlines.



COST BURDEN. Imposing disproportionate cost burden on non-scheduled operators will not only impact regional connectivity but also hit operations of national importance

Non-scheduled operators (charter companies) and private aircraft owners will have to pay double the rates. So, while a kilolitre of jet fuel in Delhi will cost ₹1.04 lakh for a domestic airline, a charter operator will pay ₹2.07 lakh.

"Such differential treatment, in respect of the same essential input — ATF — used for comparable commercial air transport opera-

tions, raises concerns of being discriminatory in effect and outcome, particularly when both scheduled and non-scheduled operators are recognised under the same regulatory framework for public air transportation," BAOA Managing Director Rajesh Bali said in his letter.

CRUCIAL ROLE

The association pointed out that non-scheduled opera-

tors do not serve corporates alone but are engaged in remote and inaccessible area connectivity, and support pilgrimage and tourism across the country. Besides, they are also engaged by the Home Ministry and the Defence Ministry for transport.

Imposing disproportionate cost burden on non-scheduled operators will not only impact regional connectivity but also impact operations of national importance, Bali said.

CRITICAL RELIEF

Addressing mediapersons on Wednesday, Joint Secretary (Civil Aviation Ministry) Asangba Chuba Ao said the move to limit price hike for scheduled airlines provides critical relief and ensures their operating costs on domestic routes remain manageable. He said the measure will help prevent a potential industry wide crisis.

The decision was taken

following consultations between the Civil Aviation and Petroleum Ministries.

Accordingly, state oil marketing companies have levied only a partial increase of 25 per cent on domestic routes. The balance is expected to be recovered from airlines in a staggered fashion in the coming months.

According to the International Air Transport Association, jet fuel prices in the region have increased by 130 per cent on a month-on-month basis. This is a direct consequence of the ongoing conflict in West Asia, which has disrupted the flow of oil and gas through the Strait of Hormuz.

SHORTAGE WOES

The crisis is impacting neighbouring countries, too, which are resorting to price hike or rationing. While Nepal has doubled jet fuel prices, Myanmar is reporting a shortage of stock.

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

4 APRIL 2026

Air India's Amravati flying school to train 180 pilots annually

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Tata Group-promoted Air India is set to commence operations at its flying training organisation (FTO) in Amravati, Maharashtra, in the first quarter of FY27, industry sources told *businessline*.

Accordingly, the FTO is set to commence operations at a time when the airline is stepping up efforts to build a dedicated pilot pipeline amid an aggressive fleet expansion plan.

COCKPIT CREW

Speaking to *businessline*, sources said the facility, licensed by regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) at Belora airport will train around 180 commercial pilots annually, helping meet rising demand for cockpit crew. Besides, the

move assumes significance given the growing requirement for trained pilots in India.

ACTIVE PILOTS

As per data given to Parliament, the country will need around 30,000 pilots over the next 15-20 years, while currently there are over 25,000 active pilots holding licences issued by the DGCA.

Presently, India has 10,261 airline transport pilot licence (ATPL) holders, while 12,480 pilots hold commercial pilot licences (CPL) for aeroplanes and 777 CPL holders for helicopters.

In addition, 1,477 pilots hold private pilot licences for aeroplanes and six for helicopters, according to a written reply in Parliament.

Further, sources said Air India's training ecosystem is being developed across multiple locations.



THE TALLY. India has 10,261 airline transport pilot licence holders; 12,480 hold commercial pilot licences for aeroplanes and 777 have commercial licences for helicopters

Notably, the Flying Training Academy is based in Amravati, while the airline has partnered with two training schools in the United States for CPL training.

Under this structure, cadet pilots will undergo basic

and intermediate training at Amravati before progressing to the airline's Aviation Training Academy in Gurugram for advanced training and certification aligned with fleet requirements.

Type rating will be con-

The airlines has also partnered with two training schools in the US for commercial pilot licence training

ducted at Air India-affiliated approved training organisations, including upcoming simulator centres in Gurugram.

According to sources, the airline has placed an order for 34 trainer aircraft for the new flying school.

It has taken delivery of 29 new trainer aircraft from Piper Aircraft, manufactured at its Vero Beach, Florida facility, and all three Diamond DA42NG aircraft.

CUTTING DEPENDENCY
An FTO trains pilots in air-

craft operations, navigation and flight safety and typically requires access to operational airfields for flight training activities. Additionally, the Amravati FTO is expected to reduce dependence on overseas training while ensuring standardised instruction aligned with airline requirements. Beyond basic training, Air India is also expanding its advanced training capabilities.

FOR FUTURE

The airline plans to train over 5,000 pilots over the next decade at its Gurugram facility, which forms part of its broader Aviation Training Academy.

Earlier, Campbell Wilson, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Air India, had said the airline's expansion, with 600 aircraft on order, necessitates significant investments in training infrastructure.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 APRIL 2026

अहमदाबाद विमान हादसे के पीड़ित परिवारों ने पीएम से मांगा ब्लैक बाक्स डाटा

अहमदाबाद, प्रेस : एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट एआइ-171 के भीषण हादसे को 10 महीने बित चुके हैं, लेकिन अब भी सैकड़ों परिवार अपने अपनों की मौत के असली कारण जानने के लिए भटक रहे हैं। इसी पीड़ा के बीच गुजरात के करीब 30 पीड़ित परिवारों ने शनिवार को पीएम मोदी को पत्र लिखकर ब्लैक बाक्स और क्राशपिट व्हाइस रिकार्डर का डाटा सार्वजनिक करने की मांग की है।

पीड़ित परिवारों का कहना है कि

उन्हें अब तक यह नहीं बताया गया कि हादसे की असली वजह क्या थी। उन्होंने मांग की है कि यदि ब्लैक बाक्स डाटा सार्वजनिक नहीं किया जा सकता, तो कम से कम इसे परिवारों के साथ निजी तौर पर साझा किया जाए। उनका कहना है हमें सिर्फ सच जानना है, क्या कोई तकनीकी खराबी थी? निलेश पुरोहित, जिन्होंने अपने 24 वर्षीय बेटे को इस हादसे में खो दिया, कहते हैं घर पूरी तरह खाली हो गया है। हमें पैसे नहीं, सच्चाई चाहिए।

लैंडिंग के दौरान हेलीकाप्टर का आपातकालीन सिस्टम नहीं हुआ था सक्रिय

मुंबई, प्रेस : अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह के मायाबंदर के पास 24 फरवरी को समुद्र में पवन हंस हेलीकाप्टर दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया था। विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआइबी) की शनिवार को जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, हेलीकाप्टर के आपातकालीन फ्लोटेशन सिस्टम को लैंडिंग के दौरान सक्रिय नहीं किया गया था।

एएआइबी ने दुर्घटना पर अपनी प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट में सिफारिश की है कि विमानन सुरक्षा नियामक संस्था सभी वाणिज्यिक हेलीकाप्टर आपरेटरों के संचालन की मौके पर जांच करे, ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि वे इस आवश्यकता का अनुपालन कर रहे हैं। संस्था ने डीजीसीए को भी सिफारिश की है कि वह अपने पायलटों को सभी लागू

आपरेशनों के लिए फ्लोट सिस्टम को सक्रिय करने के लिए जागरूक करे। प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि पवन हंस हेलीकाप्टर ने मायाबंदर हेलीपैड पर उतरने का प्रयास किया, जिसे सह-पायलट द्वारा संचालित किया जा रहा था। अंतिम चरण में मुड़ने के बाद हेलीकाप्टर तेजी से नीचे उतरने लगा और दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया।

Indian Students Scale Back Spring Break Plans as Airfares Take Flight

Neil Ghai & Prachi Verma

New Delhi: As airfares surge and routes lengthen amid tensions in West Asia, Indians studying abroad in the Northern Hemisphere are scaling back their spring break travel plans, prompting many to stay back, defer trips, or opt for shorter regional travel, experts said.

For instance, a Global Reach study-abroad platform spokesperson said a student travelling to Germany last week had to avoid flying through Dubai due to restrictions and ended up paying around ₹1.2 lakh for the ticket. "Most students are paying over Rs 50,000 more than usual," said Aditeya Lochan Singh, university relationships and marketing manager) at Global Reach.

"What we're seeing is not a uni-



form spike, but a clear reset in pricing across key student corridors," said Saurabh Arora, founder of student housing marketplace, University Living, noting that India-US return fares have jumped from around ₹90,000 to ₹2-3 lakh, while UK routes have nearly doubled to ₹1 lakh on certain dates, he said the

increase was being driven more by capacity constraints and longer routes than by demand.

Other estimates point to a slightly more moderate but still significant rise. According to Sanjay Laul, founder of global education marketplace and student recruitment platform MSM Unify, fares to the

US and Canada are up 20-30% during peak travel periods, while UK and European routes have risen by 15-25%.

"The current shift has reached a more detectable stage because airports started closing their airspace during the ongoing conflict," he said. The cost escalation is also being compounded by currency pressures. Pavan Kavadi, managing director of currency exchange and remittance service provider Prithvi Exchange, said India-US fares that were earlier ₹55,000-₹90,000 have climbed to ₹1.3 lakh- ₹3 lakh, "effectively doubling or tripling the dollar outflow for students." European routes have seen similar jumps, with ticket costs now ranging from ₹1,200 to ₹1,500 for travel alone.



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HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 APRIL 2026

हेलीकॉप्टर के फ्लोट नहीं थे सक्रिय

खुलासा

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। अंडमान-निकोबार द्वीप समूह में 24 फरवरी को हुए हेलीकॉप्टर हादसे की प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट सामने आ गई है। इसमें कहा गया है कि पानी में गिरने के समय हेलीकॉप्टर के फ्लोट (तैरने वाले उपकरण) सक्रिय नहीं हुए।

विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआईबी) की प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट में कई अहम कमियों को पता लगा है। हालांकि, घटना के असल कारणों का अभी तक पता नहीं चल सका है, पर रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि मायाबंदर हेलीपैड के पास पहुंचने पर लैंडिंग की प्रक्रिया शुरू हुई, जिसे को-पायलट संभाल रहा था। इसी दौरान हेलीकॉप्टर तेजी से नीचे आने लगा और नियंत्रण

एयर एंबुलेंस हादसे की जांच रिपोर्ट एएआईबी ने साँपों

नई दिल्ली, वि.सं.। झारखंड की राजधानी रांची से दिल्ली आ रहा एयर एंबुलेंस विमान हादसे को लेकर विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआईबी) ने प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट साँप दी है। पता चला है कि हादसा इतना भीषण था कि विमान पूरी तरह नष्ट हो गया। उसका मलबा करीब एक किलोमीटर के क्षेत्र में बिखर गया। विमान 23 फरवरी को दिल्ली आते वक्त झारखंड के चतरा जिले में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। इस हादसे में विमान में सवार सभी सात लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि यह विमान रेडबर्ड एयरवेज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड का बीचक्राफ्ट किंग एयर सी90ए था, जो नॉन-शेड्यूल्ड एयर एंबुलेंस सेवा के तहत उड़ान भर रहा था।

खो बैठा। इसके बाद हेलीकॉप्टर समुद्र में गिर गया। रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि पवन हंस लिमिटेड का हेलीकॉप्टर मायाबंदर हेलीपैड से करीब 1.6 किलोमीटर दूर दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। इसमें एक यात्री की मौत हो गई, जबकि अन्य को बचा लिया गया।

कॉकपिट में फ्लोट स्विच ऑफ स्थिति में पाया गया: नियमानुसार

ऐसे ऑपरेशन में फ्लोट्स (तैरने वाले उपकरण) को पहले से चालू रखना जरूरी होता है, पर कॉकपिट में फ्लोट स्विच ऑफ स्थिति में पाया गया। यही कारण रहा कि हेलीकॉप्टर पानी पर स्थिर नहीं रह सका और पलट गया। इधर, हादसे की प्रारंभिक जांच के आधार पर एएआईबी ने कुछ अहम दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए हैं।



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विमान हादसे पर मोदी को पत्र लिखा

अहमदाबाद, एजेंसी। सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से उड़ान भरने के कुछ ही देर बाद हुए एयर इंडिया के बोइंग विमान हादसे के दस महीने बाद पीड़ितों के परिजनों ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को पत्र लिखा है। इसमें उन्होंने कॉकपिट वॉयस रिकॉर्डर (सीपीआर) और ब्लैक बॉक्स का डाटा सार्वजनिक करने की मांग की है, ताकि इस त्रासदी के पीछे की असली वजह सामने आ सके।

260 की जान चली गई थी : मालूम हो कि 12 जून, 2025 को हुए इस भीषण हादसे में लंदन जा रहा विमान एक मेडिकल कॉलेज के हॉस्टल परिसर में गिरकर क्रैश हो गया था। हादसे में विमान सवार 241 और जमीन पर मौजूद 19 लोगों समेत कुल 260 की जान चली गई थी।

‘Airlines cannot bypass weekly rest for pilots’

Shruti Kakkar

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NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has informed the Delhi high court that its decision permitting airlines to count a pilot’s 48-hour earned leave as weekly rest while rostering them does not give airlines a free hand to bypass or suspend the mandatory weekly rest requirements under the revised FDTL norms.

The DGCA on December 5 last year had withdrawn an earlier rule issued in November 2025 that prevented airlines from counting pilot leave as weekly rest.

The revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms, implemented from November 1 last year, significantly reduced pilot workload by increasing weekly rest from 36 to 48 continuous hours, expanding night duty from midnight–5 am to midnight–6 am, limiting consecutive night duties to two, capping night landings at two per week, and reducing monthly flying time from 125 hours to 100 hours in 28 days.

“That the withdrawal of the advisory (issued in November) on 5.12.2025, does not dilute or compromise the requirement of



DGCA said the Dec 5 decision was taken after representation was received from IndiGo and Air India Express. REUTERS

providing the mandated weekly rest strictly in accordance with the FDTL CAR. Operators remain fully responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable regulatory provisions,” the affidavit filed through advocate Anjana Gosain in March stated.

The affidavit was filed in response to a petition by former aircraft engineer Sabari Roy challenging the DGCA’s December 5 decision. On January 30, the high court had directed the regulator to submit an affidavit explaining the rationale behind its decision.

The 5-page affidavit added that the decision was taken in view of multiple flight disruptions, including instances affecting IndiGo operations, to pre-

vent further disruptions, stabilise schedules, minimise passenger inconvenience, and restore necessary roster flexibility, after it received representations from several operators.

“That in the initial days of December 2025, multiple flight disruptions were reported to the regulator, including instances in IndiGo operations. Representations were also received from several operators stating that the said advisory had resulted in reduced roster flexibility and operational challenges,” the affidavit stated.

It added, “Accordingly, without deviating from the provisions of the FDTL CAR dated 26.03.2024, concerning weekly rest, and with a view to avoid further disruptions, stabilize airline operations, minimize passenger inconvenience, and restore necessary roster flexibility-while ensuring adherence to the intent of managed weekly rest the aforesaid advisory was withdrawn on 05.12.2025 and the same was communicated to all operators. The representation was received from IndiGo and Air India Express.”

To be sure, although the matter was listed on Thursday, no hearing took place due to paucity of time, and the case was adjourned to July 29.

{ AAIB REPORT ON FEB 24 CRASH }

‘Pawan Hans safety device was inactive’

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The emergency floats of a Pawan Hans helicopter were not armed when it crash-landed into the sea near Mayabunder in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on February 24, killing one passenger, according to a preliminary report released by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on Saturday.

The helicopter, an Airbus AS365N3 registered as VT-PHY, was operating the Sri Vijaya Puram–Rangat–Mayabunder–Rangat–Sri Vijaya Puram sector carrying 10 passengers, including eight adults and two infants. Five passengers were bound for Rangat, and the remaining five — four adults and one infant — for Mayabunder.

“The floats were not armed in the cockpit during the approach although the same is required by the Standard Operating Procedure for operations at Port Blair as approved by DGCA in the company operations manual,” the report stated. The floats failed to deploy on water impact. The aircraft toppled onto its starboard side, coming



The helicopter crash landed on February 24, killing one. ANI

to rest on the seabed in four to five feet of water, leaving the port side above the waterline. Both crew members evacuated all passengers, who were ferried to a hospital in Mayabunder by boat.

Three passengers, including the infant, and both crew members were subsequently airlifted to Sri Vijaya Puram by a Pawan Hans helicopter. One passenger died on the third day following the accident; two others — one adult and one infant — were discharged from hospital on March 12.

In its interim safety recommendations, the AAIB said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) should direct Pawan Hans to ensure strict adherence to all passenger seat

restraint mechanisms and life jackets wherever applicable, and conduct spot checks on commercial helicopter operators for compliance. It also recommended that DGCA direct the company to sensitise its pilots to arm floats for all applicable operations as per the approved operations manual.

The report noted that during the flight, crew wore full safety harnesses, while passengers had only lap belts.

Separately, the AAIB released preliminary report on the crash of a Redbird aviation aircraft in Jharkhand on February 23. It found that the emergency location transmitter did not activate. The Beechcraft C90A, operating an air ambulance flight from Ranchi to Delhi with seven onboard, went down near Simaria in Chatra district approximately 17 minutes after take-off.

The crew had requested to continue on runway heading owing to weather — a request approved by air traffic control — and last communicated at 7.19 pm, roughly 12 minutes after departure. The AAIB said fuel samples and weather data are being analysed.



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Families of AI171 crash victims seek release of black box data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ Ahmedabad

Ten months after the tragic Air India plane crash that killed 260 persons, bereaved families of the victims have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the release of the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and black box data.

Air India flight AI 171, a Boeing 787-8 aircraft enroute to London, crashed into a medical college hostel complex shortly after the take-off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport here on June 12, 2025.

The aircraft burst into flames, killing 241 out of 242 people onboard and 19 individuals on the ground.

Around 30 bereaved families from across Gujarat met in Ahmedabad on Saturday and wrote a letter to the prime minister, requesting the release of the CVR and 'black box' (Flight Data Recorder) data to uncover the truth behind the calamity.

"We want to know the truth about what caused the crash and whether there was

any technical problem," they said. The letter, copies of which were sent to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, said that if the black box data cannot be made public, it should at least be shared with the victims' families privately.

"My home feels completely empty now," said Nilesh Purohit, who lost his 24-year-old son in the crash. "No amount of compensation can fill this void. We don't want money, we just want to know what happened," he said. For many, the pain is compounded by a perceived lack of institutional support.

Kinjal Patel from Vasad, who lost her mother, described the difficulty of using the website created by Air India recently to help families recover victims' belongings. "There are over 25,000 items listed, but the images are unclear. It's almost impossible to find anything," she said. Others voiced concerns over the lack of accessible communication channels.

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4 APRIL 2026

फ्लाइट में 60 फीसदी सीटें मुफ्त देने के फैसले पर रोक

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार ने एयरलाइंस को फ्लाइट में 60 प्रतिशत सीटें बिना अतिरिक्त शुल्क

आदेश तक स्थगित कर दिया गया है। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने 15 दिन पहले 18 मार्च को कहा था कि डीजीसीए को निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि किसी भी फ्लाइट में सीट चयन के लिए न्यूनतम 60 प्रतिशत सीटें बिना चार्ज उपलब्ध कराई जाएं। इसका उद्देश्य यात्रियों को सीट चुनने में समान अवसर देना बताया गया था। मंत्रालय के अनुसार, इस मुद्दे की समीक्षा के दौरान फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन एयरलाइंस की ओर से आपत्तियां भेजी गईं। इनमें ऑपरेशनल असर, किराए पर प्रभाव और मौजूदा डिरेगुलेटेड टैरिफ व्यवस्था से

‘प्रेफर्ड सीट’ के नाम पर एक्स्ट्रा चार्ज नहीं ले सकेगी एयरलाइंस

अक्सर देखा जाता है कि टिकट बुकिंग के बाद जब यात्री वेब चेक-इन करते हैं, तो उन्हें फ्री सीट के नाम पर केवल 20 प्रतिशत ऑप्शन ही मिलते हैं। बाकी सीटों के लिए कंपनियां प्रेफर्ड सीट के नाम पर भारी वसूली करती हैं। डीजीसीए के 15 दिन पुराने आदेश में कहा था कि हर फ्लाइट में 60व सीटें ऐसी होनी चाहिए, जिन्हें यात्री बिना किसी एक्स्ट्रा चार्ज के चुन सकें। हालांकि अभी यह लागू नहीं होगा।

तालमेल जैसे मुद्दे उठाए गए। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि व्यापक जांच पूरी होने तक 60 प्रतिशत सीटें मुफ्त देने का प्रावधान लागू नहीं किया जाएगा। मौजूदा नियमों में पैसेंजर्स के लिए 20 प्रतिशत सीटें ही बिना एक्स्ट्रा

चार्ज दिए बुक की जा सकती हैं, जबकि बाकी सीटों के लिए भुगतान करना पड़ता है। रिपोर्ट्स के मुताबिक अभी एयरलाइंस पंसद की सीटें चुनने पर 500 से 3000 रुपए तक एक्स्ट्रा चार्ज करती हैं।

■ सरकार ने 15 दिन में फैसला बदला

■ कई एयरलाइंस ने आपत्ति जताई थी

के चुनने देने वाले निर्देश को अस्थायी रूप से रोक दिया है। एजेंसी ने सूत्रों के हवाले से बताया कि यह नियम 20 अप्रैल से लागू होना था, लेकिन अब इसे अगले

Summer of 2026: Flight fares see route-specific spikes from India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK


Mumbai: As the summer of 2026 heats up, Indian travellers are discovering that not all flight routes are created equal. While some international sectors have seen dramatic month-on-month fare spikes, others remain surprisingly stable, offering opportunities for budget-conscious holiday-makers, if they book now for travel 3-4 weeks down the line.

International airfares from India have witnessed sharp, route-specific increases ahead of the peak season, influenced by rising aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs and the ongoing West Asia-related disruptions, said ixigo.com. Its data showed the highest surge on the Mumbai-Kuala Lumpur route, where one-way average fares for April jumped 110% compared to March (see box).

“However, several popular destinations continue to remain relatively stable and affordable for Indian travellers; routes such as New Delhi-Colombo, New Delhi-Male, New Delhi-Bangkok and Mumbai-Singapore have seen only marginal fare increases month-on-month, making them attractive options for travellers looking to plan international trips without a significant impact on budget,” said an ixigo spokesperson.

Domestically, Cleartrip’s

MARGINAL RISE IN POPULAR COLOMBO, MALE, SINGAPORE ROUTES



| International routes | One-way avg fare for April 2026 | One-way avg fare for March 2026 | MoM % increase |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Mumbai - Kuala Lumpur | 22,600 | 10,800 | 110 |
| New Delhi - Ho Chi Minh | 23,200 | 14,700 | 58 |
| Bengaluru - Singapore | 16,500 | 12,400 | 33 |
| Mumbai - Hanoi | 25,100 | 19,500 | 29 |
| New Delhi - Kathmandu | 9,700 | 7,500 | 29 |
| Mumbai - Krabi | 19,000 | 15,200 | 25 |
| New Delhi - Phuket | 15,800 | 13,400 | 18 |
| New Delhi - Paris | 39,200 | 33,400 | 17 |
| Mumbai - Frankfurt | 32,900 | 29,300 | 12 |
| New Delhi - Male | 17,800 | 17,400 | 2 |
| Mumbai - Singapore | 17,000 | 15,700 | 8 |
| New Delhi - Bangkok | 14,300 | 13,300 | 7 |
| New Delhi - Colombo | 15,700 | 15,500 | 1 |

in ₹

Source: ixigo

Price Trends reveal strong year-on-year fare growth on leisure and emerging Tier-2 destinations. Routes showing the sharpest spikes include Kolhapur (+54%), Coimbatore

(+47%), Imphal (+45%), Rajahmundry (+43%) and Diu (+40%). These increases reflect rising demand for offbeat and experiential travel beyond the usual metro circuits.

Demand patterns also tell an interesting story. The data showed explosive growth in certain international sectors from Mumbai with Riyadh (+391%), Taipei (+273%) and Vienna (+121%) leading the pack. Domestically, Bareilly (+54%) and Leh (+40%) are seeing notable booking surges.

On the supply side, reduced capacity has pushed fares higher on several domestic routes, including Vijayawada-Kolkata, Delhi-Tiruchirappalli and Ranchi-Dehradun. Internationally, sectors like Kolkata-Abu Dhabi, Seoul-Delhi and Delhi-Melbourne are facing pricing pressure, showed Cleartrip data.

Meanwhile, for Mumbai travellers, the new Navi Mumbai International Airport is yet to make a significant dent in booking patterns. While it offers Rs 2,000-3,000 cheaper fares on some return routes, especially to Madurai and Bagdogra, where Mumbai airport fares hover around Rs 25,000 to Rs 29,000 for return flights, high ground transport costs have so far deterred mass shift from the main Mumbai airport. The takeaway this summer for leisure travellers is to compare routes carefully. While some fares have spiked sharply, stable sectors like Delhi-Colombo and select Tier-2 leisure destinations still offer relative value for your summer escape.