



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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MUMBAI

4 MAY 2025

# HC stays ₹1.5 cr cost on AAI over 27-year-old suit

**Urvi Mahajani**

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has stayed a Rs1.5 crore cost imposed on the Airports Authority of India (AAI) by the city civil court for unnecessarily involving Irish aircraft lessor Aer Lingus Ltd in a 27-year-old commercial dispute over unpaid airport charges.

A bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice MS Karnik, on April 25, observed that AAI officials may have been 'overcautious' in protecting the authority's interests by adding Aer Lingus, the aircraft owner, as a party to the suit.

"In such circumstances, merely because Aer Lingus was made a party and a claim

was raised against them, it is not sufficient to impose exemplary costs," the court said.

The HC was hearing AAI's appeal against a January 3 order of the Bombay City Civil Court rejecting its claim against Aer Lingus and terminating the suit 'malicious and vexatious'. The lower court directed AAI to pay Aer Lingus Rs1 crore as exemplary costs and Rs50 lakh in litigation expenses under the Commercial Courts Act. It also ordered AAI to refund Rs96.25 lakh towards bank guarantee charges over 27 years, with 9% annual interest.

AAI's suit sought to recover Rs2.71 crore in unpaid landing, parking and navigation charges from January 1995 to March 1996, when East West

Airlines operated two aircraft leased from Aer Lingus. AAI had added Aer Lingus as a defendant along with East West Airlines and others.

Aer Lingus argued it had no operations in India and had leased the aircraft to East West Airlines for five years starting in 1992. The lease was terminated due to non-payment and lack of insurance. The company claimed no contractual relationship with AAI and no liability for the lessee's dues.

The civil court accepted this, citing AAI employees' admissions and an earlier HC ruling exonerating Aer Lingus. It also noted a CAG report that flagged AAI's acceptance of just Rs1.75 lakh as security deposit instead of the required Rs17.5 crore.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

# Little progress made in runway upgrade at IGI despite closure

**Neha LM Tripathi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The nearly month-long shutdown of runway 28/10 at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) was marked by negligible progress on the technical upgrade that the closure was meant for, officials aware of the matter said, adding that the runway is now expected to be available for operations by May 8.

While the Airports Authority of India (AAI), responsible for installing the instrument landing system (ILS), continued its work, officials said the airport operator in charge of the runway lighting system "could barely begin the work" and will resume it during the next shutdown in mid-June.

The runway was closed on April 8 to upgrade its ILS to CAT

**THE RUNWAY WAS CLOSED ON APRIL 8 FOR UPGRADE AND BY APRIL 11, THE AIRPORT BEGAN REPORTING MAJOR FLIGHT DELAYS**

III B standards, enabling aircraft operations during low visibility—a frequent issue during Delhi's winter fog.

However, by April 11, the airport began reporting major flight delays, which officials attributed to poor planning among stakeholders and unfavourable easterly winds. This prompted civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu to call an urgent meeting and pause the upgrade.

→P6

{ DELHI AIRPORT }

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The runway closure significantly impacted flight operations HT

to call an urgent meeting and pause the upgrade.

"The AAI began work towards installing ILS on the runway and will continue to do so," said an AAI official, requesting anonymity. "The ILS consists of two parts: a localiser and a glideslope or glide path. Work for the localiser is underway in the localiser hut, which houses the transmitter and is placed outside the runway safety area. The glideslope is an antenna transmitting ultra-high frequency radio signals to

aircraft, located about 1,000 feet from the touchdown zone. Both pieces of equipment are positioned in a way that does not interfere with flight movements."

Meanwhile, an official familiar with the matter said lighting system work had just begun when the suspension was announced. "Pipes and channels for the lighting system were being laid when the decision to halt the work was taken. Since then, efforts have focused on

restoring operations from the runway," he said.

A second official said the airport operator is expected to complete restoration work and apply for inspection by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) by Monday evening. "The DGCA must be notified about the completion of restoration work, which is expected on Monday," he said. "The DGCA inspection may take a couple of days, after which the runway may be operational from May 8," added a ministry official.

The runway is scheduled to close again on June 15 for the remaining upgrade work and is expected to be fully operational by September 15.

IGIA has four runways, the newest operational since 2023. Terminal 2 was closed on April 15, with its traffic—about 46,000 passengers and 270,280 flights annually—shifted to the expanded Terminal 1.

On April 20, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) posted, X: "Runway 10/28 will be brought back into operation in the first week of May, with the remaining upgrade activities deferred for a month or so."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

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## एयरपोर्ट कारनवे 28/10 जल्द खुलेगा

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों की उड़ान में हो रही देरी के चलते जल्द ही रनवे संख्या 28/10 को खोलने की तैयारी है। मरम्मत कार्य की वजह से बीते अप्रैल माह में ही इसे बंद किया गया था। लेकिन हवा की दिशा बदलने के चलते एयरपोर्ट पर लगातार विमानों की उड़ान प्रभावित हो रही है। इस कारण एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन ने जल्द ही इस रनवे को भी उड़ान के लिए खोलने का निर्णय लिया है।

## Iran-backed Houthis attack Israel's main airport with hypersonic missile

AGENCIES @ Tel Aviv / New Delhi

A missile launched by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels of Yemen briefly halted flights and commuter traffic at Israel's main international airport on Sunday.

The Houthis have been striking Israel throughout the war in Gaza in solidarity with Palestinians. The attack on Ben-Gurion International Airport came hours before Israeli Cabinet ministers were set to vote on whether to intensify military operations in the Gaza Strip. The armed wing of Palestinian Islamist group Hamas praised the missile attack.

Houthi military spokesman Brig Gen Yahya Saree said in a video statement that the group fired a hypersonic ballistic missile at the airport.

The Israeli military confirmed that the attack, which gouged a large crater in the perimeter of Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion Airport, was launched from Yemen and had struck despite "several attempts... to intercept the missile". A photographer said the missile hit near the parking lots of Terminal 3, the airport's largest. The crater was just hundreds of metres



Israeli security forces inspect the site where the projectile was fired by Yemen's Houthis on Sunday, leading to suspension of flight services | AP

from the tarmac.

This was the first time a missile struck the airport since the war began. Passengers were heard yelling and scrambling for cover in footage shared by Israeli media. Air raid sirens were sounded in multiple parts of Israel.

In response, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz vowed retribution: "Whoever harms us, we will harm them sevenfold." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised a multi-phased response to Yemen's Houthis. "It's not bang,

bang and we're done, but there will be bangs," he said.

Scores of flights operating from the Ben-Gurion international airport to different countries were cancelled. Germany's Lufthansa airline and British Airways suspended flights to Tel Aviv till May 7, while Air India announced a temporary termination of all its operations to and from Tel Aviv till May 6 after the diversion of its New Delhi to Tel Aviv flight, carrying nearly 200 passengers, to Abu Dhabi due to the attack.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

## IGI पर हवा के रुख में सुधार की उम्मीद

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली के IGI एयरपोर्ट पर कुछ दिन अब मौसम में सुधार रहने की उम्मीद है। हवाई यात्रियों के लिए हवा के रुख को लेकर डायल ने जो एडवाइजरी जारी की थी, उसकी अवधि रविवार को पूरी हो गई है।

एडवाइजरी में कहा गया था कि 26 अप्रैल से 4 मई तक हवा के रुख में पड़ने वाले असर के कारण उड़ानों में विलंब हो सकता है। कृपया एयरलाइंस संपर्क में रहें और उनसे मिले अपडेट के आधार पर ही यात्रा सुनिश्चित करें। इस अवधि के



दौरान कई बार इसका असर देखने को मिला भी हवाओं के बदले रुख के असर को IGI पर कम करने के लिए डायल ने कई प्रयास किए और ATC के साथ-साथ एयरलाइंस के साथ भी बेहतर तालमेल रखकर एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों के संचालन में हुए विलंब को कम करने की

काफ़ी कोशिश की।

मौसम विभाग से मिली रिपोर्ट के आधार पर ही दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड ने 25 अप्रैल को ही लोगों के लिए यह अलर्ट जारी करके एडवाइजरी जारी कर दी थी। गौरतलब है कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर हवा का रुख वेस्टर्न से इस्टर्न होने की स्थिति में उड़ान समय पर संचालन करने में दिक्कत होती है। एक घंटा में 10 फ्लाइट की लैंडिंग कम हो जाती है, जिससे कंजेशन बढ़ने लगता है। खासकर पीक आवर में हवाई यात्रियों को ज्यादा परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता है।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

# DGCA asks NMIA to stop activities which attract bird at airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

**A**pprehending bird strike threats to aircraft due to illegal open slaughtering of animals in the vicinity of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked the airport operator to stop all activities which attract bird activity in the vicinity of the project.

The DGCA's directive to the airport operators comes in the run-up to the opening of the NMIA where the flight operations are expected to start within a month.

Responding to a complaint by the NatConnect Foundation — an organisation crusading for migrating flamingos, mangroves, wetlands and biodiversity in Navi Mumbai, DGCA's director Amit Gupta said: "The Aerodrome Operator has been advised to take necessary steps to stop all activities, including slaughtering of animals, which attract bird activity in the vicinity of aerodrome".

On February 24, NatConnect Foundation Director B N Kumar had lodged a complaint with the DGCA

through the Prime Minister's public grievance portal against unchecked slaughtering of goats and chicken at Ulwe, barely three km from the airport runway as the crow flies.

**The Aerodrome Operator has been advised to take necessary steps to stop all activities, including slaughtering of animals, which attract bird activity in the vicinity of aerodrome**

In his complaint, Kumar had said that the allowing of animal slaughter within 10 km radius of any airport was a violation of the aircraft norms framed by the DGCA.

This DGCA norm figures prominently in the Government Resolution (GR) issued by the Maharashtra Government while appointing the Aerodrome Environment Management Committee (AEMC) for the NMIA.

The City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd

(CIDCO), which heads the AEMC, administers the Ulwe node.

"Despite repeated complaints, the action from CIDCO so far has been less than cosmetic as some shops were demolished and they sprang back as if with vengeance, Santosh Kate, president of Ulwe city NCP (Ajit Pawar) said.

Kate has also written to CIDCO, the Raigad district collector and other officials against the menace of open selling of goat mutton and chicken meat, in gross violation of all norms of hygiene. "It is also risky in these days of bird flu and GBS virus threats. It is shocking that the officials have been turning a blind eye to the blatant violations," he said.

Kumar expressed surprise that the DGCA had taken over two months to respond, that too after two reminders, on such a critical issue.

Initially, A X Joseph, Director Air Safety, had informed NatConnect that the concerns raised have been forwarded to the Aerodrome Directorate of DGCA.

With no news of further development, the activist sent a protest note on April 13 stating that "it is astonishing and rather disturbing that even after two

months of alert citizens raising their voice of concern about these illegal animal slaughter and sale of mutton and chicken meat, the authorities remain unconcerned as the business thrives even today on a much-enlarged scale. And the airport in question will soon be functional."

A local resident Karan Chawla, who has also taken up the issue with the Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, said about 15 to 30 goats were illegally slaughtered daily at sector 19 in Ulwe. "I have sent a complaint to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Dr I S Chahal and Urban Development-II Secretary Govind Raj," Chawla said.

The DGCA directive to the operator has come as a big relief to the activists fighting for the ban on slaughtering of animals in the vicinity of the NMIA.

Following the ban on the slaughtering activity around NMIA, the activists have urged the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) to set up a slaughter house in Navi Mumbai with strict adherence to hygiene and other safety norms for the benefit of non-vegetarian food lovers.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

4 MAY 2025

# Halt animal slaughter near Navi Mum airport: DGCA

**B B Nayak**

**Navi Mumbai:** Amid activists' repeated concerns over bird strike threats to aircraft due to illegal open slaughtering of animals near Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has instructed the airport operator to cease activities attracting birds near the facility. This directive is particularly crucial as the airport prepares to commence operations in a month.

The DGCA regulation features prominently in the state govt's resolution establishing the Aerodrome Environment Management Committee (AEMC) for NMIA.

NatConnect Foundation director B N Kumar lodged a complaint via the Prime Minister's grievance portal on Feb 24 regarding unauthorised goat and chicken slaughtering at Ulwe, about 3 km from the runway. "This is a flagrant violation of the aircraft norms of DGCA which stipulate that there shall be

no slaughter of animals within a 10 km radius of any airport," Kumar stated in his complaint.

Cidco, heading the AEMC and administering Ulwe node, has taken limited action. Despite demolishing some shops, they reappeared quickly, according to Santosh Kate, Ulwe city NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) president. Kate has alerted Cidco and Raigad district authorities about unhygienic open meat vending. The practice poses risks during bird flu and GBS virus

outbreaks, with officials seemingly overlooking violations.

DGCA director Amit Gupta confirmed instructing the Aerodrome Operator to stop activities attracting birds. Kumar expressed disappointment at DGCA's delayed response after two months and reminders. Following limited initial response from Air Safety director A X Joseph, activists and angry residents protested on Apr 13 about continuing illegal operations despite imminent airport func-

tionality.

Local resident Karan Chawla reported to the chief minister about the daily illegal slaughter of 15-30 goats in Ulwe sector 19. The matter has been escalated to additional chief secretary (home) Dr I S Chahal and Urban Development-2 Secretary Govind Raj.

Activists hope for action following DGCA's intervention and suggest establishing a proper slaughterhouse in Navi Mumbai with strict hygiene standards.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

## तेल अवीव : हवाईअड्डे के पास मिसाइल हमला एअर इंडिया ने अबू धाबी डायवर्ट किया विमान एयरलाइंस ने इस्त्राइली शहर के लिए अपनी उड़ानें 6 मई तक निलंबित कीं

नई दिल्ली। यमन के हूती विद्रोहियों की ओर से दागी गई मिसाइल रविवार को इस्त्राइल के तेल अवीव में अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे के पास गिरी, जिससे हवाई यातायात करीब एक घंटे तक बाधित रहा। इस वजह से तेल अवीव जा रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान को अबू धाबी डायवर्ट करना पड़ा। एयरलाइंस ने तेल अवीव के लिए अपनी सभी उड़ानें 6 मई तक निलंबित कर दी हैं।

एयरलाइंस ने यह कदम यात्रियों और कर्मचारियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उठाया है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि वेन गुरियन हवाईअड्डे के पास मिसाइल

हमला एअर इंडिया की उड़ान संख्या एआई139 के उतरने से करीब एक घंटे पहले हुआ। विमान तब जॉर्डन की हवाई सीमा में था। तत्काल मार्ग बदलकर उसे अबू धाबी में उतारा गया।

एअर इंडिया ने तेल अवीव से दिल्ली आने वाली रविवार की उड़ान भी तत्काल प्रभाव से रद्द कर दी। एअर इंडिया ने कहा कि तेल अवीव के लिए 4 से 6 मई के बीच जिन यात्रियों के पास वैध टिकट हैं, वे अपनी यात्रा की तारीख फिर से बदल सकेंगे और रद्द कराने पर उन्हें पूरी राशि वापस दी जाएगी। ध्युरे



## Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

# बिना सूचना के फ्लाइट निरस्त करने पर एयरलाइंस पर तीन लाख जुर्माना

अदालत ने पांच शिकायतकर्ताओं की शिकायत पर सुनवाई करते हुए जारी किए आदेश



अदालत से

गौरव बाजपेई

नई दिल्ली। नई दिल्ली जिला उपभोक्ता फोरम ने बिना पूर्व सूचना के फ्लाइट निरस्त करने पर एयरलाइंस पर कुल तीन लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है। यह जुर्माना विस्तार एयरलाइंस को पांच वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को देने का आदेश दिया है। मामला दिल्ली से चेन्नई की उड़ान रद्द होने से संबंधित है, जिसके कारण यात्रियों को काफी परेशानी और मानसिक तनाव का सामना करना पड़ा।

शिकायतकर्ताओं सुरेंद्र सिंह, सावित्री देवी, कुंवर सिंह गुसाई, कोकिला गुसाई और सबी देवी - ने 17 फरवरी, 2024 को विस्तार एयरलाइंस से 16 मार्च, 2024 के लिए दिल्ली से चेन्नई की उड़ान (यूके 833) के लिए टिकट बुक किए थे। टिकट की कीमत 31,165 रुपये थी। इन वरिष्ठ नागरिकों ने अपनी आगे की यात्रा के लिए ट्रेन टिकट, होटल बुकिंग और अन्य व्यवस्थाएं भी की थीं।

हालांकि, 12 मार्च, 2024 को विस्तार ने बिना कोई वैकल्पिक

कहा, फ्लाइट निरस्त करते समय यात्रियों की सुविधा का ध्यान रखना चाहिए

व्यवस्था किए उड़ान रद्द होने की सूचना दी। इसके चलते, शिकायतकर्ताओं को एयर इंडिया से 34,025 रुपये में नए टिकट खरीदने पड़े। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि विस्तार की ओर से उड़ान रद्द करना जानबूझकर किया गया।

आयोग की अध्यक्ष पूनम चौधरी और सदस्य बारिक अहमद की पीठ ने माना कि एयरलाइंस ने अपने कर्तव्यों का पालन नहीं किया जिसके लिए शिकायतकर्ता नंबर एक सुरेंद्र सिंह को 2,870 रुपये (एयर इंडिया के टिकट का अतिरिक्त खर्च) वापस करने।

प्रत्येक शिकायतकर्ता को मानसिक तनाव और परेशानी के लिए 50,000 (कुल 2.5 लाख) रुपये मुआवजा देने और मुकदमे के खर्च के लिए 50,000 रुपये अतिरिक्त देने का निर्देश दिया है। आयोग ने आदेश दिया कि यह राशि आदेश प्राप्त होने के चार सप्ताह के भीतर चुकाई जाए, अन्यथा विस्तार को शिकायत दायर होने की तारीख से 9% वार्षिक ब्याज के साथ भुगतान करना होगा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

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## इंडिगो की उड़ान में एयर होस्टेस से छेड़छाड़, आरोपी गिरफ्तार

मुंबई। दिल्ली से शिरडी जा रही इंडिगो की उड़ान में एयर होस्टेस के साथ छेड़छाड़ का मामला सामने आया है। एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि शुक्रेवार दोपहर शिरडी हवाईअड्डे पर विमान उतरते ही आरोपी को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया। पुलिस ने उसके खिलाफ छेड़छाड़ का केस दर्ज किया है। पीड़िता का आरोप है कि शराब के नशे में धुत युवक ने टॉयलेट के पास उसे गलत तरीके से छुआ। मेडिकल जांच में पुष्टि हुई कि आरोपी ने शराब पी रखी थी। एजेसी



## Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

# Pak airspace closure: Govt forms panel to look into potential loss of airlines

**Rohit Vaid**

New Delhi

The Centre has instituted a mechanism to look into the potential losses that India's airline industry faces on the back of Pakistan's decision to close its airspace for their operations, industry sources told *businessline*.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has formed a committee to look into potential losses as well as any measures that can be applied to mitigate the impact.

"A committee has been formed with airline representatives as members. They will, over a period of time, assess the potential losses and suggest measures to mitigate them and ease operations," industry sources told *businessline*.

The Pakistan air corridor is vital for Indian airlines, especially for west-bound flights from northern cities



like Delhi to Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, and even to the US.

Consequently, the closure has forced airlines to reroute their flight paths, thereby extending travel time and necessitating technical stopovers.

Speaking to *businessline*, sources in the newly-formed committee said that feedback on potential losses had been received from various airlines. "They (airlines) have given rough figures on potential losses that they might face if the closure continues for an extended period of time," sources said.

Last week, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu had asked airlines to work

out a "thorough assessment" of the impact, if the airspace closure continues for six months or one year, and identify routes that will be affected.

As per industry sources, airlines have suggested several measures, such as alternate routes over Chinese airspace. Until now, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has relaxed the crew rest guidelines for ultra-long-haul flights, thereby giving some relief to airlines.

### **\$600 MILLION LOSS**

On its part, Air India has estimated that if the airspace remains closed for a year, it may face a hit of \$600 million, and the government's subsidies will be required.

Meanwhile, the Centre has instructed airlines to bolster passenger "amenities as well as handling protocols" with immediate effect to shield flyers from the fallout of the airspace closure.



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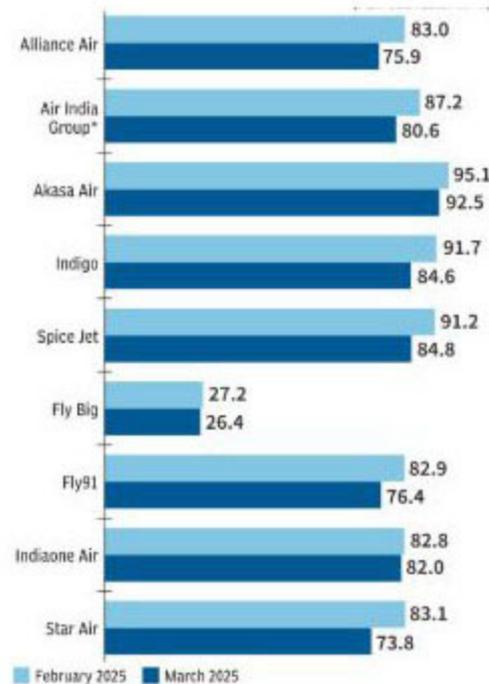
5 MAY 2025

## Domestic airlines see steady bookings

Month-on-month comparison of passenger load factor — percentage of seats filled with paying passengers on a flight or route — of scheduled domestic airlines



(Pax load factor in %)



\*Air India Group includes Air India and Air India Express

Note: Figures as received from scheduled domestic airlines

Source: Directorate General of Civil Aviation



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5 MAY 2025

### DGCA to make hull cover optional for trainer aircraft

**Aneesh Phadnis**  
Mumbai

The government plans to make hull insurance optional for trainer aircraft — a move that will lower operating expenses of pilot training schools.

The move follows a demand by the schools in the wake of a steep increase in insurance premia — a result of a spate of accidents involving trainer aircraft.

Currently, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) norms mandate pilot training schools to obtain an insurance policy that covers hull loss. Schools also take insurance cover for instructors, trainees and for third party liability.

The DGCA is expected to invite public comments on the proposed amendment.

#### **LOWERING COSTS**

The Association of Flight Training Organisations (AFTO) has welcomed the DGCA's move. AFTO president HVP Singh said this will benefit flying training schools who own aircraft. Schools which have taken aircraft on lease would have to take full insurance cover based on their lease terms.

The schools can create a capital fund to self-finance their losses in an event of aircraft damage or could earn interest on the saved capital. Singh said he believes that making hull insurance optional would lower the cost of flying training and encour-

age students to train in India.

DGCA issued 1,342 commercial pilot licences (CPL) in 2024 — down from 17 per cent the previous year.

Last year, AFTO wrote to the Civil Aviation Ministry to highlight aircraft insurance challenges. While globally premia account for 1-2 per cent of the hull value, these had increased to up to 40 per cent for certain trainer aircraft in India.

The association complained about delays in claim settlements and alleged that companies were refusing to insure legacy aircraft.

#### **LICENSING DELAYS**

In India, there are 38 flying training schools with a combined fleet of around 250 planes. Around 60-70 per cent of the fleet comprises 20-40-year old Cessna aircraft. Per industry insiders, a new Cessna 172 costs ₹4-5 crore and Diamond DA-40 costs upwards of ₹5.5 crore.

“The removal of mandatory hull insurance will help reduce losses of schools. Besides expensive spare parts with forex appreciation and high fuel costs, the industry has to bear costs of delays in securing RBI approval and import and certification of aircraft. Even the certification of instructors can take 3-9 months. We can achieve economies of scale and speed up training if we implement the DGCA's standards of service and cut down time taken for approvals,” said Hemant DP, CEO of Asia Pacific Flight Training Academy.

## 2022 हादसा • डीजीसीए की रिपोर्ट में सामने आई लापरवाही का खुलासा कर रहा भास्कर हेलीकॉप्टर के पीछे लगने वाला पंखा खराब था, सुधारा नहीं इसलिए मारे गए 2 पायलट

**भास्कर एक्सक्लूसिव**

मोहम्मद निजाम | रायपुर

माना एयरपोर्ट पर 12 मई 2022 शासकीय हेलीकॉप्टर अगस्ता A109E लैंडिंग में त्रैश होने से दो पायलट मारे गए थे। तब लैंडिंग में रनवे पर चलते समय हेलीकॉप्टर 3 बार पलटा। डीजीसीए ने 3 साल जांच के बाद रिपोर्ट तैयार की है। इसमें लापरवाही व चूक का खुलासा है।

रिपोर्ट में साफ लिखा है कि छत्तीसगढ़ में हेलीकॉप्टर के मेंटनेंस की एसओपी का पालन ही नहीं किया जा रहा था। हेलीकॉप्टर का मेंटनेंस सिस्टम कमजोर था। इसके पिछले हिस्से में लगने वाला छोटा पंखा यानी टेल रोटर खराब था। तब भी मेंटनेंस नहीं किया जा रहा था। एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षा इंतजाम तैयार रखने का कल्चर ही नहीं था। यही वजह है कि जब हेलीकॉप्टर की इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग हुई, तो उसे खींचने के लिए ट्रेक्टर जैसा टोइंग आर्म भी नहीं था। रिपोर्ट में इस बात का भी उल्लेख है कि मेंटनेंस में इतनी लापरवाही थी कि जो जरूरी पार्ट्स एक्सपायर हो रहे थे, उन्हें बदला भी नहीं जा रहा था।

**जो पायलट जिम्मेदार, उसे ही बनाया मुख्य तकनीकी सलाहकार**



डीजीसीए की रिपोर्ट में चीफ पायलट को भी हादसे के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया गया। हैरानी की बात है कि हादसे में दो पायलट की मौत के बाद भी तत्कालीन सरकार ने घटना की जांच के आदेश ही नहीं दिए। चीफ पायलट को हटाना तो दूर कोई एक्शन भी नहीं लिया। तत्कालीन चीफ पायलट अभी भी विमानन विभाग में मुख्य तकनीकी सलाहकार और डिप्टी डायरेक्टर के रूप में संविदा के तौर पर अपनी सेवाएं दे रहे हैं। हद तो यह है कि 2022 के बाद छत्तीसगढ़ में एक भी हेलीकॉप्टर नहीं है। उसके बाद भी तकनीकी सलाहकार और डिप्टी डायरेक्टर के रूप में पोस्टिंग देकर उन्हें हर महीने 3 लाख से ज्यादा सैलरी दी जा रही है।

**हादसा रिकॉल: टेल रोटर बंद हो गया था**

माना एयरपोर्ट पर मई 2022 में लैंडिंग में हेलीकॉप्टर का टेल रोटर यानी पिछले हिस्से के छोटे पंखे ने अचानक काम करना बंद कर दिया था। यही त्रैश होने की मुख्य वजह थी। उस समय छत्तीसगढ़ के सीनियर पायलट जीके पांडा की औपचारिक टेस्टिंग चल रही थी। इसके लिए दिल्ली से वरिष्ठ पायलट आए थे। यह 6 महीने की नियमित प्रक्रिया है। पायलट टेस्टिंग के लिए हेलीकॉप्टर लेकर उड़े और जैसे-तैसे लैंडिंग कराई। लेकिन लैंडिंग के बाद हेजैसे ही रनवे की ओर बढ़ रहा था, तभी टेल रोटर बंद होने से हेलीकॉप्टर 3 बार पलट गया।

**सरकार का फैसला है**

3 साल से हेलीकॉप्टर नहीं है। तब भी तकनीकी सलाहकार, डिप्टी डायरेक्टर पद पर उसी पायलट को पोस्टिंग देने का निर्णय सरकार का है।

**संजीव झा**, डायरेक्टर, विमानन विभाग

त्रैश होने की जांच रिपोर्ट मुझे नहीं मिली है। अगर जारी हुई है तो एविएशन डायरेक्टर से मंगवा कर परीक्षण करेंगे। उसके आधार पर आगे का निर्णय लेंगे।

**बी. राजू**, सचिव, विमानन विभाग

## Global airlines reroute flights, avoid Pak airspace

VINEETA PANDEY | DC  
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

Post Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan had closed its air space for the Indian carriers in a bid to punish its neighbour but in the process it is getting a bloody nose in the 'air space war.' Some of the major international European carriers like Lufthansa, British Airways, Air France, Swiss, LOT Poland, ITA Italy are found to be avoiding Pak air space voluntarily despite having an easy passage over it.

In the wake of India, Pakistan tension and anticipating a military action between the two countries, majority of

● Majority of international carriers are found to be avoiding Pak air space leading to huge financial loss to it in terms of overflight.



international carriers are found to be avoiding Pak air space leading to huge financial loss to it in terms of overflight fees. This can be in the range of \$60,000 daily for 737 Boeings at the rate of \$600 per flight. For the bigger 777 Boeing flights this fee can be between \$1000 to \$1700 per flight. Even though the flights to and from India are now more costlier and longer than before, the international airlines are not willing to take chance

in this peak travel season. For its own operators, the Indian government is mulling other shorter alternative routes to Central Asia, Middle East, Europe and the United States of America, as Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, Akasa, SpiceJet rerouted their journey after Pak air space closure. Together they operate about 100 flights a day on international routes. As per estimate Indian carriers are expected to lose anything between ₹ 70 to 80 crore weekly in this standoff situation. Air India has sought a subsidy from Government for the affected international flights till the time overflight ban is in place as it faces about \$600m losses if the ban stays for a longer period.

## इजरायली एयरपोर्ट के पास गिरी मिसाइल, दिल्ली से उड़ा विमान अबूधाबी में उतरा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : इजरायल के बेन गुरियन एयरपोर्ट के पास मिसाइल हमले के बाद नई दिल्ली से तेल अवीव जाने वाली एअर इंडिया की उड़ान को रविवार को अबूधाबी में उतारा गया। इस बीच एयरलाइन ने तेल अवीव की उड़ानें छह मई तक निलंबित कर दी हैं।

यमन के हाउती आतंकियों ने रविवार को इजरायल पर मिसाइल दागी, जो बेन गुरियन एयरपोर्ट के पास गिरी। हमले की जिम्मेदारी लेते हुए हाउतियों ने कहा है कि वे गाजा में फलस्तीनियों के साथ एकजुट हैं। हाउती के सैन्य प्रवक्ता याह्या सारी ने कहा कि इजरायल का मुख्य एयरपोर्ट अब हवाईयात्रा के लिए सुरक्षित नहीं है। यह एयरपोर्ट तेल अवीव के पास है।

एपी के अनुसार, यह हमला ऐसे समय में किया गया, जब इजरायल के कैबिनेट मंत्री कुछ ही घंटों में बैठक कर इस बात पर मतदान करने वाले हैं कि गाजा पट्टी में देश के सैन्य अभियान को तेज किया जाए या नहीं। सेना ने और आक्रामक कार्रवाई करने के लिए हजारों रिजर्व सैनिकों को बुलाना शुरू कर दिया है।

सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह हमला एअर इंडिया के बोइंग 787 विमान के तेल अवीव में उतरने से एक घंटे से भी कम समय पहले हुआ। एयरलाइन ने बयान में कहा कि चार मई को दिल्ली से तेल अवीव जाने वाली एअर इंडिया की उड़ान एआइ 139 को अबूधाबी डायवर्ट कर दिया

गया। उड़ान की अबूधाबी में लैंडिंग हुई। तेल अवीव से उसकी उड़ानें तत्काल प्रभाव से छह मई तक निलंबित रहेंगी।

फ्लाइट ट्रेकिंग वेबसाइट फ्लाइटरेडार24. काम पर उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार, जब विमान को अबूधाबी डायवर्ट करने का निर्णय लिया गया, तब वह जार्डन के हवाई क्षेत्र में था। बहरहाल, एअर इंडिया ने चार मई से छह मई के बीच बुक किए गए टिकटों के लिए एकमुश्त छूट की घोषणा की है, जिससे यात्री अपनी उड़ानों को रीशेड्यूल कर सकेंगे या रद्द कर पूरा रीफंड ले सकेंगे।

हाउतियों के ईरानी 'आकाओं' को जवाब देगा इजरायल : नेतन्याहू >> पेज 11

## अलीगढ़ हवाई अड्डे पर एयरक्राफ्ट दुर्घटनाग्रस्त



अलीगढ़ में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त एयरक्राफ्ट को देखने पहुंचे अधिकारी • जागरण

जागरण संवाददाता, अलीगढ़: अलीगढ़ हवाई अड्डे पर रविवार दोपहर 3:10 बजे पायनियर फ्लाईंग क्लब का ट्रेनी एयरक्राफ्ट (वीटी-पीएनएच) दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। हादसे में पायलट सुरक्षित है। जांच के लिए नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) की टीम दिल्ली से रवाना हो गई है। फिलहाल सभी प्रशिक्षण उड़ानों पर रोक लगा दी गई है। डीजीसीए के निदेशक एसएस अग्रवाल ने बताया कि जांच की जा रही है।

दोपहर में दिल्ली के शाहदरा निवासी पायलट पर्व जैन प्रशिक्षण उड़ान पर थे। हवाई अड्डे से उन्होंने दो चक्कर लगाए। दूसरे चक्कर के दौरान ही एयरक्राफ्ट को लैंड करना चाहते थे। लैंडिंग न होती देख पायलट ने हवा में ही एयरक्राफ्ट को मोड़ना चाहा, ताकि दूसरी बार में लैंडिंग की जा सके। इसी दौरान एयरक्राफ्ट अनियंत्रित होकर दीवार से टकरा गया। एयरक्राफ्ट का दाहिना पहिया अलग हो गया। एयरक्राफ्ट के रिकार्डर ब्रॉक्स को कब्जे में ले लिया गया है।

हादसे में दिल्ली के शाहदरा निवासी पायलट पर्व जैन बाल-बाल बचे, उस समय प्रशिक्षण उड़ान पर थे

### धर्मशाला जा रही इंडिगो की उड़ान की करानी पड़ी इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

जासं, नई दिल्ली: रविवार सुबह नई दिल्ली से धर्मशाला जा रही इंडिगो की उड़ान को बीच सफर में ही

यूटर्न लेकर नई दिल्ली लौटना पड़ा। जानकारी के मुताबिक, नई दिल्ली से धर्मशाला के बीच इंडिगो की उड़ान संख्या 6ई 7483 के पायलट को आशंका हुई कि फ्यूल सिस्टम में कहीं लीकेज हो रहा है।

पायलट ने अपनी आशंका से एटीसी से अवगत कराया और आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग की इजाजत मांगी। इजाजत मिलने के बाद विमान ने यूटर्न लिया और नई दिल्ली में लैंडिंग की तैयारी शुरू हुई। सुरक्षित लैंडिंग पर सभी ने राहत की सांस ली। इस डाइवर्जन पर इंडिगो ने फिलहाल आधिकारिक तौर पर कुछ नहीं कहा है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2025



REUTERS

## Etihad Wants to Fit Premium Features into its Smallest Plane

Bloomberg

When Etihad Airways received its first Airbus SE A380 jets a good decade ago, the airline furnished the front of the giant double-decker with a veritable luxury playground it called the Residence, a three-room layout featuring a double bed, living area and shower cubicle — all with a personal butler on hand.

Now, the Abu Dhabi-based carrier wants to squeeze its premium offering into far more constrained quarters: the narrow confines of an Airbus SE A321 long-range aircraft that joins its fleet in the next few months. While Etihad has dispensed with its Residence servant in tailcoats and white cotton gloves, the airline promises amenities like sliding privacy doors, lie-flat seats, and large screens, all packed into an aircraft no wider than a city bus.

Etihad's ambitious cabin layout highlights how the workhorse aircraft in the industry — the Airbus A320 family and the Boeing Co 737 — are increasingly pushing into spheres that were once the reserve of large planes. The A321LR and its longer-range sibling, the A321XLR, are built for long-distance routes like Europe to India or across the Atlantic, meaning passengers expect amenities they'd typically enjoy when flying on much bigger aircraft.

While budget carrier Wizz Air Holdings Plc has chosen to go the no-frills approach with its narrow-body long-range jets, other airlines are using the planes to expand premium service on longer routes without needing to fill the more fuel-guzzling and sometimes too-large widebody jets.



**The Airbus SE A321 long-range aircraft joins Etihad's fleet in the next few months**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

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## ■ Air India Suspends Flights to Tel Aviv



**NEW DELHI** An Air India flight from the national capital to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on

Sunday as there was a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city, according to sources. The airline has also suspended the Tel Aviv flights till May 6. The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI139, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv, the sources said. "Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. "The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi," the airline said in a statement. As per information available on flight tracking website Flight-radar24.com, the flight was in the Jordanian airspace when it was decided to divert the flight to Abu Dhabi. The airline said its operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect till May 6 to ensure the safety of its customers and staff.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

## ● YEMENI MISSILE GROUNDS ISRAELI FLIGHTS



Israeli security forces inspect the site where the military said a projectile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels landed in the area of Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv on Sunday

## Air India halts Tel Aviv flights till Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, May 4

**AN AIR INDIA** flight from the national capital to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday as there was a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city, according to sources.

The airline has also suspended the Tel Aviv flights till May 6.

The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI 139, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv, the sources said.

"Air India flight AI 139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. "The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi," the airline said in a statement.

Continued on Page 5

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Air India's flight from Tel Aviv to Delhi has been cancelled for Sunday. Air traffic to the Tel Aviv airport was briefly suspended after a missile launched from Yemen landed near the Tel Aviv airport. Passengers having valid tickets for Air India's Tel Aviv flights between May 4 and 6 will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling or full refunds for cancellation, Air India said.

**Passengers having tickets for AI Tel Aviv flights between May 4-6 will be offered a one-time waiver**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

## लैंडिंग के दौरान विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त

अलीगढ़। धनीपुर एयरपोर्ट पर रविवार की दोपहर एक प्रशिक्षु विमान लैंडिंग के दौरान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। लैंडिंग के समय विमान का संतुलन बिगड़ गया और प्रशिक्षु पायलट ट्रेनी एयरक्राफ्ट को संभाल नहीं पाया।

हादसे के बाद एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी और प्रशिक्षण देने वाली पायनियर फ्लाईंग क्लब में हड़कंप मच गया। हादसे में प्रशिक्षु पायलट सुरक्षित है। धनीपुर एयरपोर्ट पर पायनियर फ्लाईंग क्लब विमान उड़ाने का प्रशिक्षण देती है। पायनियर फ्लाईंग के प्रशिक्षु पायलट पर्व जैन रविवार को ट्रेनी एयरक्राफ्ट डायमंड 40 विमान को उड़ा रहे थे। दोपहर 3.20 बजे धनीपुर एयरपोर्ट के रनवे पर विमान की लैंडिंग करा रहे थे तभी विमान का संतुलन बिगड़ गया।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

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## एयरहोस्टेस के साथ विमान में बदसलूकी

नई दिल्ली, प्र.सं। दिल्ली के आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट से शिरडी जा रहे विमान में एक एयरहोस्टेस के साथ बदसलूकी का मामला सामने आया है।

विमान के शिरडी पहुंचने पर आरोपी यात्री को सुरक्षा एजेंसी के हवाले कर दिया गया है। इंडिगो के विमान में बीते 2 मई को दिल्ली से शिरडी के लिए उड़ान भरी थी। सफर के दौरान एक यात्री ने एयरहोस्टेस के साथ दुर्व्यवहार किया। विमान में मौजूद कर्मचारियों ने नियमों का पालन करते हुए स्थिति को संभाला। विमान जब शिरडी पर उतरा तो इसकी जानकारी सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को दी गई। एयरलाइंस की तरफ से यात्री को मौके पर पहुंचे सुरक्षाकर्मियों को सौंप दिया गया।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

4 MAY 2025

# Chennai flight searched in Colombo over alert on Pahalgam terror suspect

**Meera Srinivasan**

**R. Sivaraman**

COLOMBO/CHENNAI

A flight from Chennai that arrived in Colombo on Saturday was subjected to a detailed security search, following information from Indian authorities that a suspect linked to the Pahalgam terror attack could be among the travellers, the Sri Lanka Police said.

All passengers, including transit passengers, were thoroughly screened, and no one with the identity provided by Indian authorities was found, a top Sri Lankan official told *The Hindu*.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Sri Lankan Airlines, the island's national carrier, said flight UL-122, which arrived in Colombo from Chennai at 11.59 a.m., was subjected to "a com-



**Security check:** All passengers were thoroughly screened, an official said. FILE PHOTO

prehensive security search" upon arrival. "This was carried out in coordination with local authorities following an alert from the Chennai Area Control Centre regarding a suspect wanted in India who was believed to be on board," the statement said.

### Pre-planted explosives

At Chennai, tense moments prevailed among officials after the Chennai Airport Director received a mail claiming that five ter-

ror operatives were aboard a Sri Lankan Airlines flight bound to Colombo with a plan to activate pre-planted explosives in Chennai airport.

The mail was received at 9.55 a.m. on Saturday, claiming that five men on the the Sri Lankan Airlines flight UL-122 were Lashkar operatives. "Their real plan was to activate pre-planted explosives in Chennai airport... Trigger method hidden signal via mobile phone," said the mail. The airport authority immediately alerted the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and local police to the threat mail. Sources said by the time of receipt of the mail, the flight had departed and was midway. Immediately, the Area Control Centre (ATC) and the authorities in Colombo were alerted.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

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### DRUNK PASSENGER MOLESTS CREW MEMBER ON FLIGHT TO SHIRDI

**MUMBAI:** An air hostess was allegedly molested by a drunk male passenger on a Delhi-Shirdi flight in Maharashtra, police said on Sunday.

The accused was apprehended after the IndiGo flight landed at Shirdi airport on Friday afternoon.

The police officer said the passenger touched the air hostess inappropriately near the toilet of the flight.

The air hostess alerted her crew manager, who, in turn, informed security personnel after the flight landed at the Shirdi airport, the officer said, adding that the passenger was taken into custody.

He was escorted to Rahata police station where a case of molestation was registered. His medical examination confirmed that he had consumed alcohol.

The official said the accused was served a notice by Rahata Police.

PTI



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

### AIR INDIA, OTHER AIRLINES SUSPEND FLIGHT OPERATIONS TO ISRAEL'S BEN GURION AIRPORT

**Neha LM Tripathi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Indian, US and European airlines have suspended flights to Tel Aviv following a Houthi missile attack near Israel's Ben Gurion airport on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, an Air India flight from Delhi to Tel Aviv had to be diverted to Abu Dhabi following the missile attack. The flight, AI 139, that was believed to be an hour away from Tel Aviv landed safely. Later in the day, the airline suspended its operations to the city until May 6.

Other airlines like Delta, Ryanair, Air France, Lufthansa, United too cancelled their flights to Tel Aviv. SWISS Airline said that it has suspended flights to Tel Aviv until and including May 6.

An Air India spokesperson said, "Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv on May 4, 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi.

"Consequently, our operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect till May 6, 2025, to ensure the safety of our customers and staff. Our staff on ground is assisting customers and helping them with alternative arrangements."

The airline also extended help to passengers booked between the two destinations till May 6.

"Customers booked on our flights with valid tickets between May 4 and 6, 2025 will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling or full refunds for cancellation.

"We would like to reiterate that at Air India, the safety of our customers and crew remains top priority," the Air India spokesperson said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

**HOUTHİ MISSİLE ATTACK ON İSRAELİ AIRPORT FORCES AIR İNDIA DELHI-TEL AVİV FLİGHT TO DIVERT TO ABU DHABI**

## Air India suspends Tel Aviv flights till May 6

**SUKALP SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

A MISSILE attack on Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport forced an Air India flight from Delhi to Tel Aviv to divert to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, and will be returning to Delhi from there. In view of the incident, the Tata group airline has suspended services to and from the Israeli city till Tuesday (May 6).

According to international media reports, a ballistic missile launched by Yemen-based Houthi militia hit the perimeter of the Ben Gurion International Airport—the busiest airport in Israel—leaving a few people injured. The Houthis, while claiming responsibility for the attack, also reportedly warned airlines that the Tel Aviv airport



The site at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, in Israel, where a projectile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels landed. AP

was not safe for travel. The Houthis have been launching attacks against Israel over the latter's

### ONLY INDIAN AIRLINE WITH FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL

- Air India is the only Indian airline that operates flights to Israel
- The carrier had resumed its Delhi-Tel Aviv daily service on March 2 this year
- The service had been suspended early August of last year amid a flare-up in tensions between Israel and Iran

military offensive in Gaza. Sunday morning's attack led to a brief suspension of flight opera-

tions at the Tel Aviv airport, leading to some of the flights being diverted to other airports. Air India's flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv was among the flights that had to be diverted. According to flight tracking data, the flight—being operated with a Boeing 787—was in Jordanian airspace and about an hour away from Tel Aviv when it was diverted to Abu Dhabi.

"Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi. Consequently, our operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect till 6 May 2025, to ensure the safety of our customers and staff. Our staff on ground is assisting cus-

tomers and helping them with alternative arrangements," an Air India spokesperson said.

"Customers booked on our flights with valid tickets between 4 and 6 May 2025 will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling or full refunds for cancellation. We would like to reiterate that at Air India, the safety of our customers and crew remains top priority," the airline's spokesperson added. Air India is the only Indian airline that operates flights to Israel. The carrier had resumed its Delhi-Tel Aviv daily service on March 2 this year. The service had been suspended early August of last year amid a flare-up in tensions between Israel and Iran. The months prior to that had also seen the flight being suspended for varying periods due to the regional conflict.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

## एअर इंडिया ने तेल अवीव की उड़ानें छह मई तक स्थगित की

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 4 मई।

इजराइल के तेल अवीव हवाई अड्डे के पास हुए हवाई हमले के कारण दिल्ली से तेल अवीव जा रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान का रविवार को सुरक्षा कारणों से अबू धाबी की ओर मार्ग परिवर्तित किया गया। सूत्रों ने यह जानकारी दी। विमानन कंपनी ने तेल अवीव की उड़ानें छह मई तक निलंबित कर दी हैं। सूत्रों ने बताया कि यह हमला एअर इंडिया की उड़ान संख्या एआइ139 के तेल अवीव में उतरने से एक घंटे से भी कम समय पहले हुआ।

विमानन कंपनी ने एक बयान में कहा, चार मई 2025 को दिल्ली से तेल अवीव जा रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान एआइ 139 का रविवार सुबह बेन गुरियन हवाईअड्डे पर हुई घटना के बाद अबू धाबी की ओर मार्ग परिवर्तित कर दिया गया है। बयान में कहा गया, उड़ान को अबू धाबी में सुरक्षित उतारा गया और जल्द ही यह दिल्ली खपस लौटेगी।

विमानन कंपनी ने कहा कि यात्रियों और कर्मचारियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए तेल अवीव से उसकी उड़ानें तत्काल प्रभाव से छह मई तक निलंबित रहेंगे। रविवार को तेल अवीव से दिल्ली के लिए एअर इंडिया की उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई है। एअर इंडिया ने कहा कि चार से छह मई के बीच जिन यात्रियों के पास तेल अवीव के लिए वैध टिकट हैं, उन्हें एक बार के लिए अपनी यात्रा की तारीख बदलने की छूट या फिर रद्दीकरण पर पूरा पैसा वापस दिया जाएगा।

एअरलाइन ने एक बयान में कहा, चार मई को दिल्ली से तेल अवीव जाने वाली एअर इंडिया की उड़ान एआइ 139 को रविवार सुबह बेन गुरियन एअरपोर्ट पर एक घटना के बाद अबू धाबी की ओर परिवर्तित किया गया। एअरलाइन



विमानन कंपनी ने एक बयान में कहा कि चार मई 2025 को दिल्ली से तेल अवीव जा रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान एआइ 139 का रविवार सुबह बेन गुरियन हवाईअड्डे पर हुई घटना के बाद अबू धाबी की ओर मार्ग परिवर्तित कर दिया गया है। बयान में कहा गया, उड़ान को अबू धाबी में सुरक्षित उतारा गया और जल्द ही यह दिल्ली वापस लौटेगी।

ने कहा कि 4 से 6 मई के बीच वैध टिकट के साथ हमारी फ्लाइट बुक करने वाले ग्राहकों को यात्रा पुनर्निर्धारण पर एक बार की छूट या कैशलेसन पर पूरा पैसा देने की पेशकश की जाएगी। हम दोहराना चाहेंगे कि एअर इंडिया में हमारे ग्राहकों और चालक दल की सुरक्षा सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है।

बेन गुरियन एअरपोर्ट के मुख्य टर्मिनल के पास यमन से दागी गई मिसाइल के गिरने से चार लोग घायल हो गए। मिसाइल हमले ने एअरपोर्ट पर परिचालन को कुछ समय के लिए रोक दिया। अधिकारियों ने बाद में कहा कि परिचालन फिर से शुरू हो गया है। हती सैन्य प्रकृता याह्य सारी ने कहा कि बेन गुरियन एअरपोर्ट एअर ट्रावल के लिए अब अब सुरक्षित नहीं है।

यमन से दागी गई  
मिसाइल के कारण उड़ानें  
बंद रही : इजराइल

तेल अवीव, 4 मई (एपी)।

यमन के ईरान समर्थित विद्रोहियों द्वारा रविवार को दागी गई मिसाइल के कारण इजराइल के मुख्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उड़ानें करी एक घंटे तक बाधित रहीं। यमन के हती विद्रोहियों द्वारा दागी मिसाइल के कारण धुएँ का गुबार उड़ता दिखाई दिया और यात्रियों में दहशत फैल गई।

हती विद्रोही गाना में युद्ध के दौरान फलस्तीनियों के साथ एकजुटता दिखाते हुए इजराइल पर हमला कर रहे हैं। बेन-गुरियन अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर हमला शीघ्र इजराइली कैबिनेट मंत्रियों द्वारा गाना पढ़ी में देश के सैन्य अभियानों को तेज करने के बारे में मतदान करने से कुछ घंटे पहले हुआ। हती विद्रोहियों द्वारा रविवार को दागी गई मिसाइल के कारण इजराइल के कई हिस्सों में हवाई हमले के सावरन बजने लगे। इजराइल हवाई अड्डे प्राधिकरण ने बताया कि करीब एक घंटे बाद यातायात फिर से शुरू हो गया। इजराइल के पैरामेडिक सर्विस मैगन डेविड एडोम ने बताया कि चार लोग मामूली रूप से घायल हुए हैं।

इजराइली रक्षा मंत्री इजराइल काटन ने हवाई अड्डे पर हमले का बदला लेने का संकल्प लिया। उन्होंने कहा, 'जो कोई भी हमें नुकसान पहुंचाएगा, हम उसे सात गुना नुकसान पहुंचाएंगे।'



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MINT

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

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## Air India's Delhi-Tel Aviv flight diverted

**A**n Air India flight from New Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday due to a missile attack near the Israeli airport, people aware of the matter said.

The airline has also suspended the Tel Aviv flights till May 6. The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI39, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv and was in the Jordanian airspace when it was decided to be diverted.

Those with Tel Aviv tickets between May 4 and 6 will get a one-time rescheduling waiver or full refunds for cancellation, Air India said. **PTI**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

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## AI temporarily terminates ops to Tel Aviv

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ New Delhi

AIR India on Sunday announced a temporary termination of all its operations to and from Tel Aviv till May 6. This follows the diversion of its New Delhi-Tel Aviv flight, carrying nearly 200 passengers, to Abu Dhabi due to a missile attack near the Tel Aviv airport.

Flight AI 139, a Boeing 787 aircraft, departed from New Delhi at 6.13 am on Sunday, and was slated to reach Ben Gurion International Airport. It was flying through Jordan and was just over an hour from reaching its destination when the diversion happened, reveals tracking data from flight tracking website Flightradar24.com. The flight will return to Delhi, said Air India in a statement.

An AI spokesperson said, "Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

5 MAY 2025

## Air India flight faces near missile miss

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ New Delhi/Tel Aviv

An Air India flight from Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday after a missile attack near the Ben Gurion Airport in the Israeli city. The missile attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI139 was to land at Tel Aviv. Subsequently, Air India flights to and from Tel Aviv have been suspended till May 6.

According to reports, a missile launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Sunday, struck near Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport, the busiest airport in Israel, leaving a 25-metre-deep gaping crater. The missile reportedly bypassed four layers of air defence and hit a grove adjacent to an access road within the airport's perimeter — one of the country's most sensitive zones — creating a 25-meter deep crater. At least eight people were injured in the attack.

The Houthis, while claiming responsi-

bility for the attack, also reportedly warned airlines that the Tel Aviv airport was not safe for travel. The Houthis have been launching attacks against Israel over the latter's military offensive in Gaza.

In a video message posted shortly after the attack, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "We operated against them in the past and we will operate in the future." "It's not 'bang — that's it, but there will be bangs".

Netanyahu, in his video message, said that his cabinet would discuss the next stage of the Gaza offensive this evening, reaffirming that the military campaign is aimed at "defeating Hamas." "We are focused on two missions," he said. "One, to bring our hostages back. Two, to defeat Hamas. Hamas will not remain — you have to understand this," the Israeli Prime Minister said, adding, "In wars, you reach a decision — victory.

This was the first time a missile struck the airport since the war began in October 2023, as most attacks from Yemen have

been intercepted by Israel's missile defence systems. Multiple international airlines, including Air India, cancelled flights to Tel Aviv following the incident.

According to information on the flight tracking website Flightradar24.com, the flight was in Jordanian airspace when it was diverted to Abu Dhabi. Air India said that the flight landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi.

"Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. "The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi," the airline said in a statement. Later the airline operator announced that all flights to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended till May 6. "Consequent to developments in Tel Aviv this morning, our operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect till 6th May 2025, to ensure the safety of our customers and staff.

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## Air India flight faces near missile miss

Continued from >> P1 Our colleagues on ground are assisting customers and helping them with alternative arrangements. Customers booked on our flights with valid tickets between 4th and 6th May 2025 will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling or full refunds for cancellation," it said.

Air India is the only Indian airline that

operates flights to Israel. The carrier had resumed its Delhi-Tel Aviv daily service on March 2 this year. The service had been suspended early August of last year amid a flare-up in tensions between Israel and Iran.

Several people at the airport posted videos that showed a plume of black smoke visible from a passenger terminal.

Several videos showed smoke behind parked aircraft and airport buildings. Videos of the site also showed that the missile hit a connecting road inside the perimeter of the airport, with some debris scattered on adjacent roads. Later, Lufthansa Airlines also announced suspension of all Tel Aviv flights till May 6 after the airport attack.

## Summer airfares from Ahmedabad skyrocket

Some Destinations See Over 100% Jump In Tkt Prices

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**Ahmedabad:** Planning a last minute escape from the scorching Ahmedabad summer? Brace yourself for sky-high airfares. As schools shut and families prepare for long-overdue holidays, ticket prices from Ahmedabad to vacation hotspots have soared — with some destinations seeing more than a 100% jump when booked two weeks in advance.

According to current fare data for travel between May 18



and May 24, bookings made on May 3 reveal staggering spikes up to 134%. For instance, Bagdogra, the gateway to the North-East and hill towns

like Darjeeling, tops the list with a 134% hike as fares have rocketed from Rs 14,000 to Rs 32,780.

Surprisingly, despite the

recent terror attack, round trip to Srinagar costs up to Rs 23,750 per person against the routine fare of Rs 13,000. Industry sources said that Srinagar airfare has corrected from the level of Rs 42,000 per person for a return direct flight.

Similarly, a trip to Dehradun, a favourite among those heading to Mussoorie or Rishikesh, now costs Rs 17,415, up 45% from the average non-holiday tariff of Rs 12,000.

Southern sojourns aren't spared either. A ticket to Kochi has risen from Rs 13,000 to Rs 18,299 (40.8% increase), while Bengaluru sees a 41.6% hike. Even the otherwise moderate Chandigarh route now demands Rs 13,190 — up 31.9%

from regular fares.

"Summer airfares are significantly higher this year, especially to destinations with cooler climates. People who earlier planned trips to Kashmir are now diverting to places like Gangtok, Jim Corbett, or Sikkim. With fewer choosing international travel — thanks to inflation, steep currency exchange rates, and visa hassles — demand for domestic spots like Munnar, Coorg, Mussoorie, and Darjeeling has soared. As a result, not just flight fares but even hotel tariffs have gone up by 25-40% in these regions," said Ankit Bajaj, a travel consultant.

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## 'Srinagar airfare remains high'

►Continued from P1

The Srinagar airfare still remaining as high is surprising and we're seeing a wait-and-watch sentiment around Kashmir. But people aren't cancelling holidays — they're choosing alternative destinations. The higher airfares could be due to limited connectivity to the region," Ankit Bajaj, a travel consultant said. The only silver lining? Goa. Despite being a perennial favourite, airfares to the beach paradise have remained relatively stable, inching up a mere 5.7%, from Rs 7,000 to Rs 7,400. However, fewer people have flocked to Goa this year due to the summer heat, according to travel industry estimates, which has cooled off prices.

"Those who got refunds from airlines are quickly rebooking for destinations accessible via Bengaluru, Kochi, Chandigarh, Delhi, or Bagdogra. Arunachal Pradesh is also one of the destinations which is very popular among tourists. With international travel out of reach for many

### CITY'S AIR TRAVEL MAP

Pax (Lakh)	2023-24	2024-25	% Change
Delhi	25.99	25.37	-2.4
Mumbai	22.67	21.01	-7.3
Bengaluru	9.6	9.8	2.1
Goa	5.3	6.6	24.5
Pune	5.09	6.44	26.5
Hyderabad	5.01	5.05	0.8
Chennai	4.22	4.53	7.3
Kolkata	3.96	4.25	7.4
Lucknow	3.32	3.06	-7.7
Jaipur	2.02	2.29	13.3

Source: DGCA

due to costs and logistics, domestic tourism is booming, especially to places promising a cooler escape from the heat," said Manish Sharma, an Ahmedabad-based travel expert. Experts advise booking tickets at least a month in advance during peak travel periods to avoid the heat on the wallet.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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## Candidates from any academic background should be eligible to be trained as pilots

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**F**lying schools argue that modern pilot training does not require more than a class X level knowledge of Maths to pursue a Commercial Pilot License (CPL). The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is considering broadening the eligibility standards by allowing candidates from Arts and Commerce to pursue CPL, which is currently limited only to those who studied Physics and Mathematics in class XII.

In a conversation with *Education Times*, Varun Mittal, head of flight training aeroplane/helicopter, Indowings Flight Training Academy, Uttar Pradesh, says, "The pilot training includes teaching all the necessary subjects from the beginning. Arts and Commerce candidates get the theoretical and practical knowledge, making prior academic specialisation less critical if candidates demonstrate the required aptitude and commitment.

Aspiring pilots are required to clear theoretical and practical exams conducted by



the DGCA to earn a CPL, after course completion. The theoretical test consists of six core subjects, including Air Regulations, Aviation Meteorology, Air Navigation, Technical General, Technical Specific, and Radio Telephony. "The DGCA tests have components that require numerical calculations, but it does not demand advanced mathematical skills. A scientific calculator is also allowed in the DGCA exams, and with a good conceptual understanding of topics taught in class X and polished

in aviation academies, students from any stream can pass the exam," says Priyanka Talreja, chief operating officer, Captain Aviation Academy, Mumbai. Many students from Arts and Commerce backgrounds already use alternate eligibility options. One common path is enrolling in NIOS which allows the candidate to get a class XII certificate for Physics and Maths, mandated for technical fields like aviation and maritime.

"Candidates are regularly opting for NIOS certification to meet the eligibility requirement of having studied Maths and Physics. Once they join flight training, they follow the same curriculum as science-background students and perform well," says Talreja. Passing NIOS exams does not mean that students have a sound knowledge in Science and Math, but they know enough to be able to do well during pilot training," says Rajesh Handa, owner, Pioneer Flying Academy, Delhi.

Furthermore, the move, if rolled out by DGCA, will align with the international standards of aviation. "International regulators such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the US and the European Union Aviation

Safety Agency (EASA) do not restrict pilot training to Science stream students. Their systems are based on performance in aviation-specific exams and practical flight assessments. Candidates from any academic background are eligible to train as pilots, provided they can meet the rigorous standards set by the training institutions and regulatory exams," adds Mittal.

To cater to a classroom consisting of candidates from non-maths and Science backgrounds, flying schools will have to tweak the training process. "Flight training academies may need to adjust their admission and training approaches to accommodate a more academically diverse group of students. The instructors will have to change the teaching method to cater to Arts and Commerce students," says Mittal. The core curriculum for CPL training will remain the same for all students, as aviation theory and flight skills are standardised under DGCA norms. "However, training institutions would need to adopt varied teaching methods to help students from non-science backgrounds grasp technical concepts," he adds. This move will also increase the talent pool and help meet the demand for trained pilots. "With India's aviation sector expanding and many experienced pilots migrating abroad, the aviation industry is staring at talent crunch. Flexible eligibility will help address these challenges," adds Talreja.



International regulators such as the FAA in the United States and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) do not restrict pilot training to Science stream students



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## Tel Aviv airport attacked, AI halts flights till Tues

**New Delhi:** Airlines have begun cancelling Tel Aviv flights after a missile attack near the city's Ben Gurion Airport Sunday. Air India's Delhi-Tel Aviv flight (AI 139) was about to enter Israeli airspace and less than an hour from its destination when the Houthi-claimed missile struck inside the perimeter of the main international airport. The airline safely diverted its Boeing 787 to Abu Dhabi from where it will return to Delhi.

After the attack, AI has suspended operations to and from Tel Aviv till May 6. AI and many other airlines, including Lufthansa, SWISS, British Airways and Delta, have suspended their Tel Aviv flights for a few days as of now. The attack will add to airlines' overflying woes as they steer clear of Jordan and nearby airspaces. **TNN**

► **Diverts to Abu Dhabi, P 20**

## After attack on Israel airport, AI diverts flight to Abu Dhabi

► **From P 1**

The attack on Israel airport will add to airlines' woes as they steer clear of Jordan and nearby airspaces — which they often use for flights between the west and the east — whenever conflict escalates in the region since the Oct 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

An AI spokesperson said: "AI 139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of May 4, 2025, was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport Sunday morning. The flight has landed in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi. Our operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended till May 6, 2025, to ensure the safety of our customers and staff."

The flight had taken off from Delhi at 6.11 am Sunday. After taking the longer route to west (with Pakistan airspace closed), it was about to enter Israeli airspace when Tel Aviv airport was attacked. The aircraft turned back and landed in Abu Dhabi about 8.5 hours after leaving Delhi.

"Customers booked on our flights between May 4 and 6, 2025, will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling or full refunds for cancellation," AI spokesperson added.