



Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

4 AUGUST 2025

Udhampur airport proposal to be implemented in 2 phases: Dr Jitendra

GK News Service
Jammu, Aug 3

Union Minister of State in PMO Dr Jitendra Singh has revealed that Udhampur airport proposal is to be implemented in two phases.

In the first phase, civil flight operations will be initiated within the existing premises of the Air Force Station (AFS) while in the second phase, a permanent civil enclave will be set up outside it (AFS).

According to him, the efforts to commence civil flight operations from the Udhampur Air Force Station in Jammu and Kashmir have now taken a significant step forward, with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) completing a site feasibility assessment and initiating formal processes for the development of a new Aviation Enclave.

The Union Minister has stated this following a series of meetings he has held over the last two days with Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, Union Secretary Civil Aviation Samir K Sinha and members of the Airport Authority of India.

This marks the second major civil aviation initiative in the region attributed to Dr Jitendra Singh's tenure as MP.

Earlier, his efforts were instrumental in getting an airport for Kishtwar included in the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme plan, aimed at enhancing air connectivity in the far-flung hill region.

Dr Jitendra, who is also the Member of Parliament from the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, has also discussed the issue with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and has officially written to him. CM's response on this account has also been received. Besides, he (Dr Jitendra) has also taken the concerned Indian Air Force authorities on board.

The proposal, which aims to



connect Udhampur to the national civil aviation network, was initially triggered by a reference from Dr Jitendra Singh to the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Acting on this, a technical team comprising officials from various directorates of AAI visited the Air Force Station at Udhampur on March 28 and 29, 2025. The visit included a joint review with the Indian Air Force, evaluation of existing infrastructure, and consultations with the district administration and defence authorities.

In a phased plan now under consideration, phase 1 of the project involves initiating civil flight operations within the existing premises of the Air Force Station. The Indian Air Force has, in principle, agreed to allocate 2,200 square metres for developing a terminal building, which will

have the capacity to handle up to 150 passengers and accommodate ATR-72 or Q400 type aircraft. This arrangement is intended as an interim measure to begin operations at the earliest.

Phase 2 of the plan proposes the establishment of a permanent civil enclave outside the boundaries of the Air Force Station. A land parcel of approximately 27.6 acres has been identified by the district administration for this purpose.

The proposed enclave will cater to larger aircraft such as the Airbus A321 and will include a new terminal, apron, taxiway, and related civil aviation infrastructure.

Following the site visit, Dr Jitendra Singh formally reached out to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah, requesting support for land transfer and administrative facilitation.

» 'AAI completing site feasibility assessment, initiating formal processes'

» 'Besides ease of travel for far regions across, Udhampur airport to have strategic importance from security point of view'

» Marks 2nd major civil aviation initiative in region attributed to Dr Jitendra's tenure as MP

» Airport for Kishtwar already included in UDAN scheme plan

The Airports Authority of India has subsequently forwarded a request to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, seeking its intervention in obtaining the identified land parcel free of cost and free from encumbrances, as per the provisions of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016.

Dr Jitendra has informed that he has also spoken to the Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and held a detailed discussion with the Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha, underlining the strategic importance of the project for the region. "These high-level engagements have helped expedite the inter-ministerial coordination required for moving the proposal forward," the Union Minister has said.

If realised, the Udhampur Civil Enclave is expected to improve connectivity for both residents and tourists in this part of Jammu and Kashmir, while also easing pressure on the Jammu airport. Besides, Udhampur airport will also have strategic importance from a security point of view.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

4 AUGUST 2025

Come Sept, commute from airport easier

Long-Awaited 2nd Pick-Up Point To Open Near T1 After Ongoing Plaza Work

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Chennai: Passengers landing at Chennai airport may soon have a smoother ride home, with a long-awaited second pick-up point near the domestic terminal likely to open by Sept after completion of ongoing plaza work. This development offers much-needed relief from the hassle of dragging luggage to the distant multi-level parking lot or squeezing into crammed buggies to get there.

The new facility being built in front of Terminal 1 (T1) arrival area, is part of a broader plan to improve passenger convenience. For more than a year now, travellers have been demanding an easier way to board cabs or per-



HUGE RELIEF: Plaza will be used as a resting zone for passengers, with designated space for personal vehicle pick-up

sonal vehicles upon arrival.

“Right now, we are in the final stages of the plaza; membrane tensile roofing is being erected, and flooring will follow next,” said a source. The plaza will be used as a resting zone for passengers and those accompanying them, with designated space for personal vehicle pickups.

“A decision on allowing cabs to use this point will be made based on the traffic flow once it opens,” the source added.

In July last year, the cab pick-up point was shifted to Aerohub West multi-level car parking facility, drawing flak from passengers over its inaccessibility. Flyers have consistently raised compla-

ints about the lack of enough buggies from T1 to the parking lot, poor lift access for luggage, overcharging by cabbies — especially when dealing with senior citizens, and unhelpful staff appointed by parking contractor.

“Airport authorities always claim cabs can pick up senior citizens, pregnant women, and differently-abled at the terminal itself. But cabs often refuse to arrive at the terminal,” said Vivanesh G, a private firm employee, who experienced an unpleasant situation.

Initially, the airport’s hands were tied due to its agreement with Meenambakkam Realty Pvt Ltd, which managed the parking operations and had exclusive pick-up rights. However, the contract was terminated in May

over a separate dispute, paving the way for the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to plan a second pick-up point.

The transition is pending final approval from AAI regarding the cost of takeover. “The cost to manage the parking operations internally has been worked out. Once the board clears it, the formal handover will take place,” said an AAI official.

Chennai airport prepaid taxi drivers’ union president C Murugesan said AAI knows well that more passengers opt for cabs than personal vehicles. “Allowing personal vehicles alone to the new pickup point will not serve the purpose, and we hope the authorities will not err again by keeping the cabs to the MLCP. We are in talks with them,” he said.



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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

4 AUGUST 2025

Man held at Mumbai airport with marijuana

MUMBAI, Aug 3: Mumbai Customs on Sunday arrested a traveller at the international airport here for allegedly trying to smuggle 15 kg of hydroponic weed with an estimated value of Rs 14.73 crore, officials said.

The contraband was concealed in a packet labelled as "Diplomatic Pouch of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)", officials said.

The traveller had landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport from Bangkok, an official said.

"During the examination of his baggage, Customs officers recovered 14.738 kg of suspected hydroponic weed (marijuana), with an illicit market value of approximately Rs 14.738 crore," he said, adding that the accused was trying to smuggle the contraband by falsely declaring the consignment as confidential diplomatic cargo linked to national security. – PTI



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DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

4 AUGUST 2025

भुवनेश्वर और गोवा से पिछड़ा जयपुर एयरपोर्ट जून में 4.06 लाख लोगों ने किया सफर, पिछले साल से 9% कम, यात्रीभार घटा

जयपुर | जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर लगातार यात्रीभार में गिरावट आई है। जबकि यात्रीभार के लिहाज से अपनी श्रेणी में कभी देश के टॉप-10 एयरपोर्ट में शामिल होने वाला जयपुर की 15वीं रैंक है।

दरअसल, एयरपोर्ट पर पिछले 3 माह से यात्रीभार में गिरावट आ रही है। ऐसा इसलिए क्योंकि नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी जून, 2025 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार इस बार 4.06 लाख लोगों ने यात्रा की, जबकि पिछले साल जून में जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से 4.48 लाख ने यात्रा की थी यानी इस बार यात्रीभार में 9.04 फीसदी की कमी रही है। इसी तरह पिछले साल अप्रैल से जून तक 3 माह की अवधि में 13.61 लाख लोगों ने यात्रा की थी, जबकि इस बार यह संख्या 12.05 लाख है। इस तरह पिछले साल के शुरुआती तीन माह की तुलना में इस वित्त वर्ष में यात्रीभार में 11.05 फीसदी की गिरावट रही है। आंकड़ों के लिहाज से यह चिंताजनक है कि गोवा का मोपा एयरपोर्ट और भुवनेश्वर एयरपोर्ट भी जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से कहीं आगे रहे हैं।



रोड से दिल्ली जाना बना पहली पसंद

अहमदाबाद ह्रादसे के बाद लोगों के मन में हवाई सफर को लेकर डर है। वहीं, जयपुर से बांदीकुई होकर दिल्ली के लिए एक्सप्रेस-वे शुरू होने का असर भी हवाई यातायात पर दिखने लगा है। अब जयपुर से दिल्ली जाने वाले शहरवासी सड़क मार्ग से जाना पसंद करने लगे हैं। यही कारण है कि दिल्ली के लिए फ्लाइट्स की संख्या में भी कमी आई है। दिल्ली के लिए फ्लाइट संख्या में लगातार कमी देखी जा रही है। सर्दियों में दिल्ली के लिए रोज औसतन 6 से 7 फ्लाइट थीं, लेकिन अब सिर्फ 4-5 रह गई है। दिल्ली के लिए यात्रीभार में भले ही आंकड़ों में कमी नहीं आई हो, लेकिन फ्लाइट संख्या में कमी से यह आगामी समय में चिंताजनक हो सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से पांच शहरों की उड़ान की रद्द

जासं, साहिवाबाद: हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से सोमवार को पांच अलग-अलग शहरों के लिए उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने पटना, कोलकाता, भुवनेश्वर, बंगलुरु, जयपुर और गोवा को रद्द किया। अधिकारियों का दावा है कि यात्रियों को इसकी पूर्व सूचना दी गई थी। एयरपोर्ट निदेशक उमेश यादव ने बताया कि कंपनी की ओर से बस परिचालन में कुछ कारण ही बताया गया। एयरलाइंस कंपनी ने यही संदेश अपने यात्रियों को भी किया था। वहीं हिंडन से बंगलुरु, जयपुर की फ्लाइट की टिकट भी बिक नहीं हो पा रही है। ऐसे में संभावना है कि इन शहरों की फ्लाइट भी रद्द है हालांकि इसकी आधिकारिक पुष्टि नहीं की गई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

भारत बना दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (आइएटीए) ने सोमवार को कहा कि 24.1 करोड़ यात्रियों को संभालने के साथ वर्ष 2024 में भारत दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार रहा है। मुंबई और दिल्ली सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डों में शामिल रहे हैं।

करीब 350 विमानन कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाली आइएटीए की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, पिछले वर्ष भारत में हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या 21.1 करोड़ रही है और इसमें 2023 के मुकाबले 11.1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि रही है। इस अवधि में जापान ने 20.5 करोड़ यात्रियों को संभाला, जिसमें 18.6 प्रतिशत की वार्षिक वृद्धि हुई। 87.6 करोड़ यात्रियों के साथ अमेरिका विश्व का सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार बना हुआ है। इसमें अमेरिका के घरेलू बाजार का प्रमुख



आइएटीए ने सोमवार को जारी एक रिपोर्ट में कहा, भारत ने पिछले वर्ष 24.1 करोड़ यात्रियों को संभाला

योगदान रहा है। 74.1 करोड़ यात्रियों के साथ चीन दूसरे स्थान पर रहा है और इसमें 2023 की तुलना में 18.7 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि रही है। 26.1 करोड़ यात्रियों के साथ ब्रिटेन तीसरे और 24.1 करोड़ यात्रियों के साथ स्पेन चौथे नंबर पर रहा है। इसमें में प्रत्येक देश में आने-जाने वाले सभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय और घरेलू यात्री शामिल हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

3-YR PAPER MAY BE PRICED AT UP TO 10.50%

GMR Airports Plans ₹6,000cr NCD Issue

Shilpy Sinha

Mumbai: GMR Airports (GAL), the listed holding company of GMR Group's airport assets, is raising ₹6,000 crore in debt by issuing non-convertible debentures from a mix of banks and mutual funds to refinance existing liabilities, multiple sources aware of the fundraise likely closing Tuesday told ET.

The transaction is split in two tranches and likely to be priced at up to 10.50%, with a tenor of up to 3 years. The bank tranche of ₹4,200 crore is being raised from lenders including Barclays, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan.

The remaining ₹1,800 crore is being raised from mutual funds, including ICICI Prudential AMC, HDFC AMC, UTI AMC and SBI Mutual Fund. The mutual fund tranche has a tenor of 18 months and is likely to be priced around 10.35%, whereas the bank-funded portion is likely to have a tenor of 3 years and priced at around 10.50%.

Crisil has assigned A+ rating to the NCDs. Spokespersons of GMR Airports, JP Morgan, DB and Barclays, ICICI Prudential MF and HDFC AMC did not respond to requests for comment.

This round of fundraising will lower the average borrowing cost by nearly 300 basis points as the company is looking to refinance debt of GAL and DIAL (Delhi International Airport).

The company has ₹6,100 crore in non-convertible bonds, with ₹5,000 crore due for bullet repayment in November 2026, and ₹1,100 crore in

February 2028, according to Care Ratings' recent report. GMR Airports is co-promoted by Groupe ADP.

It owns and operates major Indian airports including Delhi and Hyderabad (GHIAL).



Bank tranche of ₹4,200 cr is being raised from lenders including Barclays, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

Mumbai Airport Passenger Traffic Flat in June Quarter

Geopolitical instability, subsequent airspace restrictions resulted in operational challenges

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Passenger traffic growth at Mumbai's international airport slowed to a 1.5% increase on-year in the June quarter, reflecting the impact of regional airspace disruptions and flight detours over West Asia, and continued unease among air travellers after several global aviation safety incidents this year.

Passenger traffic at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) grew to 13.6 million in the three months ended June, a sharp reversal from the 7.4% rise recorded a year earlier. The subdued quarterly performance comes despite peak summer travel demand and highlights a broader trend—international hubs in India are feeling the ripple effects of geopolitical instabi-

lity, tighter airspace rules, and operational volatility. Domestic demand however remained largely stable during the period.

Data from the airport operator showed total passenger traffic at 13.6 million in Q1 FY26, compared to 13.4 million a year ago. The airport handled a record 161,603 passengers on May 30.

Air traffic movements (ATMs) rose 1.3% year-on-year to 82,369. International ATMs increased 3.3%, and the busiest day for aircraft movements was April 30, with 989 flights.



The quarter was marked by multiple operational challenges. Geopolitical tensions in West Asia led to temporary flight rerouting and delays further disrupting international flight schedules. The aftermath of recent aviation safety incidents also dented traveller sentiment, contributing to the subdued growth.

"Despite disruptions such as regional airspace restrictions, geopolitical conditions, temporary airspace closures in the Middle East, and a momentary dip in passenger sentiment stemming from recent aviation incidents, CSMIA sustained operational momentum," the airport said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से पांच शहरों की उड़ानें फिर रद्द

ट्रांसहिंडन, संवाददाता | हिंडन हवाई अड्डे से सोमवार को पांच शहरों की उड़ानें फिर रद्द हो गईं। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने पटना, कोलकाता, भुवनेश्वर, जयपुर और गोवा की उड़ान रद्द की। कंपनी ने परिचालन संबंधी कारणों से उड़ानों को रद्द करने की बात कही है।

हिंडन हवाई अड्डे से उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ने के बाद से ही परिचालन बिगड़ा हुआ है। लगभग हर दिन कोई न कोई उड़ान रद्द की जा रही और यह सिलसिला सोमवार को भी जारी रहा। उड़ानों के रद्द होने की सूचना तीन घंटे या इससे अधिक पहले दे दी गई थी। इस वजह से कोई भी यात्री एयरपोर्ट नहीं

- विमानों की संख्या बढ़ने के बाद परेशानी बढ़ी
- यात्रियों ने सोशल मीडिया पर नाराजगी जाहिर की

पहुंचा। हालांकि, कंपनी से मैसेज मिलने के बाद लोगों ने सोशल मीडिया पर रोष जताया। कुछ लोगों का कहना था कि उनका जरूरी कार्य है तो उन्हें दिल्ली से उड़ान का विकल्प दिया जाए तो वहाँ कुछ लोगों ने रिफंड की मांग की। एयरपोर्ट निदेशक उमेश यादव ने बताया कि एयरलाइंस कंपनी ने ऑपरेशन संबंधी दिक्कतें बताते हुए पांच उड़ानें रद्द कर दीं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

हिंडन से कई उड़ानें फिर 'डगमगाईं'

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, टीएचए: हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइटों के कैंसल होने का सिलसिला खत्म होने का नाम ही नहीं ले रहा है। अब सोमवार को पटना, कोलकाता, भुवनेश्वर, बेंगलुरु, जयपुर और गोवा की उड़ानों को रद्द कर दिया गया। सूत्रों ने बताया कि एयरइंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने शाम को 3 बजे से पहले वाली अपनी फ्लाइट्स कैंसल की थीं। शाम को तीन बजे के बाद की जो भी फ्लाइट्स थी, वे अपने पूर्व निर्धारित समय पर हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से डिपार्ट हुईं। कैंसल होने की सूचना कुछ पैसेंजर्स को

एयर इंडिया
ने कई शहर
के फ्लाइट्स
किए रद्द

सोमवार तड़के सुबह मिली तो कुछ को रविवार रात को। इससे पैसेंजर्स काफी नाराज हुए और उन्होंने जमकर सोशल मीडिया पर एयरलाइंस के खिलाफ अपना गुस्सा निकाला। एक सप्ताह पहले भी यहाँ पर इसी कारण जमकर हंगामा हुआ था। एनबीटी ने इस संबंध में जब निजी एयरलाइंस कंपनी एयर इंडिया से इसका कारण जानना चाहा तो उन्होंने इसका कोई जवाब नहीं दिया। इस मामले पर हिंडन एयरपोर्ट डायरेक्टर ने भी जानकारी दी कि उन्हें एक साथ इतनी सारी फ्लाइट्स कैंसल क्यों की गई हैं, इसकी जानकारी नहीं दी गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

प्राधिकरण का निर्देश

एयरपोर्ट के पास मकानों के निर्माण को लेकर असमंजस समाप्त

20 किमी के दायरे में नहीं बना सकेंगे 6 मंजिला मकान

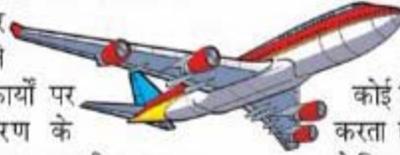
ग्रेटर नोएडा, 4 अगस्त (नवोदय टाइम्स): जेवर में बन रहे नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के 20 किलोमीटर के दायरे में कंस्ट्रक्शन के लिए एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (एएआई) ने नया नियम जारी किया है। जिसपर यमुना प्राधिकरण के अधिकारियों ने सोमवार को स्थिति स्पष्ट की है। हवाई अड्डे के 20 किलोमीटर की परिधि में कोई भी ग्रामीण छह मंजिला इमारत का निर्माण नहीं कर सकेगा। साथ ही बिल्डर भी

24 मीटर से अधिक बिल्डिंग का निर्माण नहीं कर सकेगा।

एएआई की तरफ से नए नियम जारी होने के बाद जेवर एयरपोर्ट के 20 किलोमीटर के क्षेत्र में होने वाले निर्माण कार्यों पर यमुना प्राधिकरण के अधिकारियों ने नजर रखनी शुरू कर दी है। निर्माण कार्य के लिए पहले एएआई से एनओसी लेना अनिवार्य होगा। इस दायरे में आने वाले ग्रामीण

6 मंजिला इमारत भी नहीं बना सकेंगे।

एनओसी देने से पहले एएआई मैप के जरिए यह भी सुनिश्चित करेगा कि निर्माण कार्य हवाई अड्डे के संचालन में बाधा न बने। अगर कोई नियमों का उल्लंघन करता है तो निर्माण कार्य को गिराया जा सकता है और विमान नियमों के तहत दंडात्मक कार्रवाई की जा सकती है। जानकारी देते हुए यमुना प्राधिकरण



घर बनाने से पहले लेनी होगी एनओसी

स्थानीय लोगों को अपने घर बनाने से पहले एएआई से एनओसी लेनी होगी। हालांकि, आस-पास ग्रामीण छह मंजिला इमारत का निर्माण नहीं कर सकेंगे। दरअसल, जेवर एयरपोर्ट के शुरू होने से किराए के लिए लोग कमरे बना सकते हैं। ऐसे में छह मंजिला से अधिक बिल्डिंग भी नोएडा की तरह ग्रामीण खड़ा कर सकते हैं। नए नियम के मुताबिक, अधिकारियों का कहना है कि छह मंजिला इमारत ग्रामीण नहीं बना सकेंगे।

के सीईओ राकेश कुमार सिंह ने बताया कि हाईराइज इमारतों पर इसका असर नहीं पड़ेगा, क्योंकि ज्यादातर हाईराइज इमारतें सेक्टर 17 ए, 19 और सेक्टर 22डी में हैं। साथ ही कोई भी बिल्डर

प्रोजेक्ट भी प्रभावित नहीं होगा। उन्हें प्लॉट अलॉट करते समय यह ध्यान रखा गया था। उन्होंने कहा कि नियमानुसार ही नए मकानों का निर्माण किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

भारत बना दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार: आईएटीए

नई दिल्ली। भारत दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार बनकर उभरा है। वहीं, मुंबई-दिल्ली मार्ग दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त हवाई मार्गों की सूची में सातवें स्थान पर रहा। विमानन कंपनियों के समूह आईएटीए ने एक रिपोर्ट में यह कहा। इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (आईएटीए) ने सोमवार को वर्ल्ड एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट स्टैटिस्टिक्स (डब्ल्यूएटीए) 2024 का नवीनतम संस्करण जारी किया। आईएटीए लगभग 350 विमानन कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में 2023 की तुलना में 2024 में 11.1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई और कुल 21.1 करोड़ यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

Lack of parking bays: Hindon airport hit

Abhijay.Jha@timesofindia.com

Ghaziabad: What was emerging as NCR's interim second airport before the one in Jewar takes flight is now grappling with operational challenges. Hindon civil terminal, which has seen a 10-fold increase in passenger footfall since 2019, might have to reduce its flight services following a series of cancellations and parking constraints, according to industry insiders.

A senior Airports Authority of India (AAI) official said discussions were underway to curtail flights from the terminal. "Talks between AAI and airline companies have focused on reducing services to manage the load. While no final decision has been taken yet, we might reduce flights on certain routes," the official said.

The terminal, which currently handles 21 flights daily, has been stretched beyond its original capacity of 300 passengers an hour to accommodate a footfall of 430. With IndiGo's recent entry, the terminal is expected to handle 500 passengers per hour — its maximum manageable load.

Umesh Yadav, director of Hindon civil terminal, acknowledged the infrastructural constraints, but steered clear of making a comment on possible curtailing of flight services. Hindon terminal, which is essentially an Air Force facility, has several restrictions, including a bar on services between dusk and dawn.

"The dusk-to-dawn restriction and insufficient parking bays have been causing flight cancellations. We need at least two more parking bays in addition to the existing two," he said, adding that discussions were ongoing with the civil aviation and defence ministries, and the Air Force regarding expansion of the facility.

With import duty slash, gold smuggling falls 70% at RGIA

Seizures Of Cigarettes See Threefold Rise

Sunny.Baski
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Hyderabad: Gold smuggling at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has seen a sharp decline following a reduction in import duty from 15% to 6% last year and heightened surveillance.

According to data obtained through an RTI application filed by TOI with the customs department, gold seizures decreased by 68%, from 132.4 kg in 2023-24 to 42.5 kg in 2024-25. The worth of gold seized at RGIA during 2024-25 is Rs 32.11 crore. On the other hand, cigarette seizures experienced a threefold increase, rising from 54 cases in 2023-24 to 175 cases in 2024-25.

The RTI data shows that in the previous fiscal, authorities apprehended 133 flyers involved in gold smuggling, down from 240 in 2023. Whenever a passenger is caught smuggling goods, including gold, the case is investigated and a showcause notice is issued under section 124 of the

SOME NOTABLE AIRPORT SEIZURES SINCE AUG 2023

May 1, 2025 | Nearly 3.5 kg smuggled gold worth ₹3.4cr seized at RGIA; 3 passengers held

Jan 1, 2024 | 1,100 grams of gold worth ₹69L hidden within a check-in bag belonging to a passenger arriving from Dubai

Aug 12, 2023 | 8 kg of gold worth ₹4.8cr seized from 4 passengers who arrived from Bangkok, Dubai & Sharjah

Sep 3, 2023 | 819 gm gold worth ₹50L hidden inside a mixer motor



CASE-WISE BREAKUP		
Item	23-24	24-25
Gold	240	133
Cigarettes	54	175
Foreign currency	12	6
Ganja	0	6
Diamonds & precious stone	0	1
Heroin	2	0
Wildlife	0	2
Electronics	1	0
Mobile phones	0	2
Other	0	1
Total	309	326

Customs Act, 1962, says the RTI reply.

“Passenger profiling, baggage scanning, deployment of officers for monitoring, and coordinating with intelligence agencies have helped prevent smuggling of gold and other goods. We have a staff of 96 in the office of deputy/assistant commissioner at RGIA,” said AV Ramana Murthy, deputy commissioner, customs, RGIA.

The majority of smuggled gold originates from West Asian cities, such as Jeddah, Sharjah, Dubai, Muscat, Kuwait, and Bahrain, with pas-

sengers attempting to conceal gold in various forms such as paste, capsules and garments.

During screening, authorities have found gold hidden in passengers’ rectums. In one incident reported on June 25, 2024, RGIA customs officials seized 806 gm of gold worth Rs 58.8 lakh from a passenger arriving from Abu Dhabi, who had hidden it inside his rectum.

The current market rate for 24-carat gold in Hyderabad stands at approximately Rs 1 crore per kg, indicating that a smuggler can potenti-

ally gain Rs 5 lakh to Rs 6 lakh per kg of gold. Usually, gold is cheaper by 5% to 7% in countries like the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar.

Under customs regulations, passengers can carry gold, including jewellery, up to a maximum limit of 1 kg in their baggage. For jewellery owned for more than one year, male travellers are permitted a duty-free allowance of up to 20 grams, whilst female passengers can bring up to 40 gm without paying customs duty as part of their legitimate baggage.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने एक साथ पांच शहरों की उड़ानों की रद्द

साहिबाबाद (गाजियाबाद)। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से एयरलाइंस कंपनियों द्वारा अलग-अलग शहर की उड़ानें रद्द करने का सिलसिला थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहा। सोमवार को एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने पांच शहर पटना, कोलकाता, भुवनेश्वर, जयपुर और गोवा की उड़ानें रद्द की। इसके लिए ऑपरेशनल रीजन बताया गया। हालांकि उड़ानों के रद्द करने की पूर्व सूचना सभी यात्रियों

एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन को फ्लाइट रद्द होने के कारणों की नहीं जानकारी

को दे दी गई थी। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने सोमवार को शाम 3 बजे से पहले वाली अपनी कई फ्लाइटें रद्द कर दीं। उड़ान क्यों रद्द की गई इस संदर्भ में एयरपोर्ट निदेशक उमेश यादव ने बताया कि एयरलाइंस कंपनी की ओर से बस ऑपरेशन रीजन ही बताया गया है। व्यूरो



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DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

भारत बना दुनिया का पांचवां बड़ा विमानन बाजार : आईएटीए मुंबई-दिल्ली दुनिया का सातवां सबसे व्यस्त हवाई मार्ग

नई दिल्ली। भारत दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार बनकर उभरा है। वहीं, मुंबई-दिल्ली मार्ग दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त हवाई मार्गों की सूची में सातवें स्थान पर रहा।

इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (आईएटीए) ने सोमवार को वर्ल्ड एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट स्टैटिस्टिक्स (डब्ल्यूएटीए) 2024 का नवीनतम संस्करण जारी किया। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में 2023 की तुलना में 2024 में 11.1 फीसदी की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। कुल 21.1 करोड़ यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की। यह आंकड़ा जापान से अधिक है, जहां 2024 में 20.5 करोड़ यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की। हालांकि जापान में सालाना वृद्धि दर 18.6 फीसदी रही। अमेरिका दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार बना



हुआ है, जहां 87.6 करोड़ यात्रियों ने 2024 में हवाई यात्रा की। दूसरे स्थान पर चीन रहा, जहां समान अवधि में 74.1 करोड़ यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा कर 2023 की तुलना में 18.7 फीसदी की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। भारत पांचवें स्थान पर रहा, वहीं ब्रिटेन (26.1 करोड़ यात्री) तीसरे और स्पेन चौथे स्थान (24.1 करोड़ यात्री) पर रहा। आईएटीए के अनुसार शीर्ष 10 हवाई मार्गों में मुंबई-दिल्ली मार्ग वर्ष 2024 में सातवें स्थान पर रहा, जहां कुल 59 लाख यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

एअर इंडिया के विमान में कॉकरोच, बदली गई सीट

नई दिल्ली। सान फ्रांसिस्को से कोलकाता होते हुए मुंबई आ रही एअर इंडिया की एक उड़ान में कॉकरोच (तिलचट्टे) पाए गए, जिससे अफरा-तफरी की स्थिति बन गई। दो यात्रियों



ने इसकी शिकायत केबिन क्रू से की तो उनकी सीट बदल दी गई। इसके बाद सोमवार तड़के जब

विमान के कोलकाता में उतरा तो उसकी गहन सफाई की गई और फिर विमान मुंबई के लिए प्रस्थान कर गया।

एअरलाइन एक प्रवक्ता ने इस घटना को दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बताया और कहा कि उड़ान संख्या एआई180 में दो यात्री कुछ छोटे कॉकरोच को देखकर परेशान हो गए। एअर इंडिया ने एक बयान में कहा, कोलकाता में ईंधन भरने के लिए जब विमान रुका तो ग्राउंड क्रू ने उसकी गहन सफाई की। इसके बाद विमान अपने तय समय पर मुंबई के लिए रवाना हो गया। एअरलाइन ने यात्रियों को हुई अशुविधा के लिए खेद जताया और कहा कि प्रतिदिन सफाई के बावजूद कभी-कभी कीड़े विमान में घुस आते हैं।

कोलकाता जा रहा विमान बंगलूरु लौटा...कोलकाता जा रहा एअर इंडिया का एक विमान तकनीकी खराबी के कारण रविवार शाम बंगलूरु लौट गया। उड़ान संख्या आईएक्स 2718 करीब दो घंटे तक हवा में रही। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

IndiGo to launch daily flights to London in Oct

Mumbai: IndiGo will launch daily flights to London from October 26, and introduce its business class product on the Dubai and Singapore routes this month, the airline announced on its 19th anniversary on Monday. London will be IndiGo's third destination in western Europe after Amsterdam and Manchester, and the route will be served with a damp-leased Boeing 787 aircraft. The flights to London will be thrown open for bookings soon, said the airline. [OUBUREAU](#)

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

Amid pushback, India reviews the feasibility of adopting 'multi-crew pilot licence' for training

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India's pilot community has pushed back efforts by the airline industry to establish the 'Multi-Crew Pilot Licence' (MPL) as the standard training pathway for commercial airline pilots in the country.

The development comes at a time when the aviation regulator has started the process to assess the feasibility of adopting MPL.

Notably, MPL offers an alternative pilot licensing standard that airlines around the world increasingly prefer as it prepares cadets for the role of co-pilot in commercial multi-crew operations.

COMMITTEE SET UP

Speaking to *businessline*, sources said that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had set up a high-level committee to assess the feasibility of the MPL model.

On a technical level, MPL replaces traditional solo flying hours with simulator-



UP IN THE AIR. MPL offers an alternative pilot licensing standard that airlines around the world increasingly prefer ANIL K. SHARMA

based instruction. While some airlines see this as a more efficient and industry-aligned model, many pilots argue that the Indian aviation ecosystem is ill-equipped to support this transition.

Interestingly, this is the third time that the DGCA is reviewing MPL, having rejected the model two times before.

On the other hand, airline industry officials cite the growing need for trained pilots, projected at nearly 2,000 annually by 2030, which prompted the regulator to revisit the proposal.

Countries such as the UK,

Australia and Singapore have already implemented MPL.

In contrast, the US, Canada and several other jurisdictions continue to follow the traditional Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) model.

Meanwhile, an airline official pointed out that MPL is better aligned with the demands of modern aviation, where teamwork, decision-making and real-time coordination matter more than solo flying hours.

"Unlike the CPL model, which requires 200 hours of flying a small aircraft, MPL integrates airline-specific procedures and scenarios

from the beginning and replaces solo flying with simulator-based and multi-crew training," said the official.

However, veteran captains warn that the MPL model, if implemented without proper safeguards, could flood the system with inadequately trained co-pilots.

"MPL will have very little benefit for India, if any at all," said a senior pilot. "The cost advantage is negligible, and there are too few flight simulators in the country to support proper implementation."

'MAY NOT WORK'

They also cite a lack of simulator capacity and standardised oversight mechanisms as serious impediments.

"MPL might work in countries with advanced infrastructure," said the senior captain. The DGCA has directed the committee to review regulatory gaps, benchmark global best practices and consult with flight training organisations, airlines and pilot bodies. The findings are expected within three months.

भारत बना दुनिया का 5वां सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार

भाषा
नई दिल्ली, 4 अगस्त

भारत दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार बनकर उभरा है और मुंबई-दिल्ली मार्ग दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त हवाई मार्गों की सूची में सातवें स्थान पर रहा। विमानन कंपनियों के समूह आईएटीए ने एक रिपोर्ट में यह कहा। इंटरनैशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (आईएटीए) ने वर्ल्ड आज एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट स्टैटिस्टिक्स (डब्ल्यूएटीए) 2024 का नवीनतम संस्करण जारी किया। आईएटीए लगभग 350

विमानन कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारत में 2023 की तुलना में 2024 में 11.1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई और कुल 21.1 करोड़ यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की। यह आंकड़ा जापान से अधिक है, जहां 2024 में 20.5 करोड़ यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की। हालांकि जापान में सालाना वृद्धि दर 18.6 प्रतिशत रही। आईएटीए की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अमेरिका दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार बना हुआ है, जहां 87.6 करोड़ यात्रियों



ने 2024 में हवाई यात्रा की। वहीं इस सूची में दूसरे स्थान पर चीन रहा जहां समान अवधि में 74.1 करोड़ यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की और

2023 की तुलना में 18.7 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। आईएटीए द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक भारत जहां पांचवें स्थान पर रहा,

वहीं ब्रिटेन (26.1 करोड़ यात्री) तीसरे और स्पेन चौथे स्थान (24.1 करोड़ यात्री) पर रहा।

आईएटीए के अनुसार शीर्ष 10 हवाई मार्गों में मुंबई-दिल्ली मार्ग वर्ष 2024 में सातवें स्थान पर रहा, जहां कुल 59 लाख यात्रियों ने हवाई यात्रा की। आईएटीए के अनुसार दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त हवाई मार्गों की सूची में एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र का दबदबा रहा। वर्ष 2024 में दक्षिण कोरिया का जेजू-सियोल मार्ग दुनिया का सबसे लोकप्रिय हवाई मार्ग रहा, जहां 1.32 करोड़ यात्रियों ने यात्रा की।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

अब एअर इंडिया के विमान में कॉकरोच

एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली

एअर इंडिया के विमानों में शिकायतों की झड़ी खत्म नहीं हो रही। अब सैन फ्रांसिस्को से मुंबई जा रही एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट एआई180 में कुछ पैसेंजर्स को प्लेन के अंदर छोटे कॉकरोच दिखने का मामला सामने आया है। यह फ्लाइट कोलकाता होते हुए मुंबई जा रही थी। कोलकाता एयरपोर्ट पर तय शेड्यूल के मुताबिक जब फ्लाइट रुकी, तब ग्राउंड क्रू ने प्लेन की गहराई से सफाई की। एअर इंडिया प्रवक्ता ने

तकनीकी खराबी से दो घंटे बाद बेंगलुरु लौटी फ्लाइट >

बेंगलुरु से कोलकाता जा रही एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट को रविवार शाम तकनीकी खराबी के चलते उड़ान के दो घंटे बाद वापस बेंगलुरु एयरपोर्ट लौटना पड़ा। फ्लाइट संख्या आईएक्स2718 के यात्रियों को गंतव्य तक पहुंचाने के लिए दूसरा विमान भेजा गया। तकनीकी समस्या की जांच जारी है।

बताया कि फ्लाइट में दो पैसेंजर्स को कॉकरोच की वजह से परेशानी हुई। इसके बाद उन्हें उसी केबिन में दूसरी सीटों पर शिफ्ट किया गया, जहां वे आराम से सफर कर सके। विमानन कंपनी ने इस घटना से हुई असुविधा के लिए पैसेंजर्स से माफी भी मांगी है।

जबलपुर: इंडिगो फ्लाइट का टायर पंक्चर, 4 घंटे बाद रवाना: सोमवार को जबलपुर के डुमना एयरपोर्ट पर मुंबई जा रही इंडिगो की फ्लाइट का टायर पंक्चर हो गया। टायर खराब होने की वजह से फ्लाइट करीब 4 घंटे तक वहीं खड़ी रही।

उपलब्धि • भारत 5वां सबसे बड़ा एविएशन मार्केट मुंबई-दिल्ली दुनिया का सातवां सबसे व्यस्त हवाई यात्रा मार्ग

एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली

इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (आईएटीए) की रिपोर्ट में भारत 24.1 करोड़ यात्रियों के साथ दुनिया का 5वां सबसे बड़ा एविएशन मार्केट बन गया है। हवाई यात्रियों की यह संख्या जापान (20.5 करोड़) से आगे है। 2023 की तुलना में भारत में यात्रियों की संख्या में 11.1% की वृद्धि हुई। वर्ल्ड एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट स्टैटिस्टिक्स रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक मुंबई-दिल्ली हवाई मार्ग 2024 में दुनिया का सातवां सबसे व्यस्त एयरपोर्ट पेयर्स (हवाई मार्ग) रहा। 2024 में इस रूट पर 59 लाख यात्रियों ने यात्रा



अमेरिका में 87 करोड़,
चीन में 74 करोड़ यात्री
रैंक देश यात्री (करोड़ में)

1	अमेरिका	87.6
2	चीन	74.1
3	यूके	26.1
4	भारत	24.1
5	जापान	20.5

की। दुनिया का सबसे लोकप्रिय मार्ग जेजू-सियोल रहा, जहां 2024 में 1.32 करोड़ यात्रियों ने यात्रा की।

एशिया प्रशांत में प्रीमियम ट्रेवल में 23% बढ़ोतरी

2024 में बिजनेस और फर्स्ट क्लास जैसी प्रीमियम कैटेगरी में 11.8 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई, जो इकोनॉमी क्लास की वृद्धि (11.5 फीसदी) से अधिक थी। प्रतिशत के लिहाज से एशिया प्रशांत में प्रीमियम यात्रा में 22.8 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

लैंड करने के बाद इंडिगो के विमान का टायर क्षतिग्रस्त

जबलपुर: इमना एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग के बाद सोमवार सुबह इंडिगो के विमान का टायर क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया। हादसा उस वक़्त हुआ, जब विमान यात्रियों को उतारने के बाद एप्रन एरिया में ले जाया जा रहा था। गनीमत रही कि घटना में कोई हताहत नहीं हुआ है। टायर बदलने के बाद विमान को करीब साढ़े चार घंटे बाद मुंबई के लिए रवाना किया गया। सूत्रों के अनुसार, टायर में कीलनुमा कोई नुकीली चीज घुसी थी। (नईदुनिया प्रतिनिधि)



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

मुख्यमंत्री के विमान को गलत स्थान पर उतारा

जयपुर : राजस्थान के मुख्यमंत्री भजनलाल शर्मा को ले जा रहा चार्टर विमान पायलटों की चूक के चलते गलत जगह पर उतार दिया गया। यह मामला 31 जुलाई का है जोकि सुरक्षा चूक से भी जुड़ा है। डायरेक्टर जनरल आफ सिविल एविएशन ने इस मामले की जांच शुरू की है। वहीं चार्टर विमान संचालन करने वाली कंपनी का कहना है कि दोनों एयरस्ट्रिप की स्थिति एक जैसी थी, इस वजह से पायलटों को भ्रम हुआ था। डीजीसीए ने दोनों पायलटों को इयूटी से हटा दिया है। (जासं)



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

4 AUGUST 2025

NEW DELHI

AI cancels int'l flight over snag

Air India on Sunday cancelled its flight from Singapore to Chennai due to a technical issue. The flight AI349 was to be operated with an Airbus A321. In a statement on Sunday, the airline said the flight AI349 scheduled to operate from Singapore to Chennai has been cancelled due to a maintenance task identified prior to departure which required additional time for rectification.

"Arrangements are being made to fly the passengers to Chennai at the earliest. Hotel accommodation is being provided, and full refunds on cancellation, or complimentary rescheduling is also being offered to passengers based on their preference," Air India said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

4 AUGUST 2025



High temperature: AI flight cancelled

A Delhi-bound Air India flight from Bhubaneswar was cancelled on Sunday due to "high temperature" in the aircraft cabin just prior to its departure for the destination, the airline said in a statement. Air India did not provide details such as the number of people on board the aircraft and the type of aircraft.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

4 AUGUST 2025

Bhubaneswar-Delhi AI flight cancelled over high temp in cabin

Press Trust of India

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MUMBAI: A Delhi-bound Air India flight from Bhubaneswar was cancelled on Sunday due to "high temperature" in the aircraft cabin just prior to its departure for the destination, the airline said in a statement.

Air India did not provide details such as the number of people on board the aircraft, the type of aircraft or the time the now-grounded flight was scheduled to take off from Bhubaneswar.

"Flight AI500 scheduled to operate from Bhubaneswar to Delhi on August 3 has been cancelled due to a technical issue causing high cabin temperature on ground prior to the departure," Air India said in a statement.

"Our airport team in Bhubaneswar is assisting the impacted passengers with alternative arrangements to fly them to their destination to Delhi. We regret the inconvenience caused," the airline said.

The flight, according to flight tracking website flightradar24.com, was to be operated by an Airbus A321 aircraft at its scheduled time of 12.35pm, and land in Delhi at 2.55pm.

Earlier in the day, Air India said its flight AI349 scheduled to operate from Singapore to Chennai was cancelled due to a maintenance task identified prior to departure, which

A SINGAPORE- BOUND AIR INDIA FLIGHT WAS ALSO CANCELLED FOLLOWING A MAINTENANCE TASK FOUND PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

required additional time for rectification.

The latest incident comes amid the aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) detecting over 100 violations and observations, with some of them identified as critical safety risks, during an audit of the Tata Group-run private carrier, and one of its Boeing 787-8 plane operating its London Gatwick flight crashing on a medical college within minutes of its take-off on June 12, killing 241 people on board and 19 on ground.

Last week, DGCA detected around 100 violations and observations related to Air India's training, crew's rest and duty period norms, and airfield qualification, among others, people aware of the matter had said.

Of these, as many as seven have been identified as Level-1 violations, which are considered critical safety risks and require immediate corrective action by the air operator, they added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

एयर इंडिया के विमान में कॉकरोच मिले, माफी मांगी

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। एयर इंडिया की सैन फ्रांसिस्को-मुंबई उड़ान के यात्रियों ने विमान में कॉकरोच होने की शिकायत की। इसके बाद कोलकाता हवाई अड्डे पर सोमवार सुबह विमान की सफाई की गई।

एयरलाइन ने इस संबंध में व्यापक जांच कर असुविधा के लिए माफी मांगी। जानकारी के अनुसार, यह उड़ान 'बोइंग 777' विमान से संचालित की गई थी। एआई180 में दो यात्रियों ने शिकायत की, जिन्हें बाद में दूसरी सीटें दे दी गईं।

इंडिगो का टायर पंचर

जबलपुर। मध्य प्रदेश के जबलपुर में दुमना हवाई अड्डे पर सोमवार को इंडिगो विमान का एक टायर पंचर हो गया। दिल्ली से टायर मंगवाय जिससे उड़ान में चार घंटे की देरी हुई।

बेंगलुरु लौटा विमान

नई दिल्ली। कोलकाता जा रहा एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का एक विमान तकनीकी खराबी के कारण रविवार शाम बेंगलुरु लौट गया। एअरबस ए320 विमान दो घंटे हवा में रहा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

Cockroaches found on AI flight, probe ordered

NEW DELHI: Passengers onboard an Air India flight flying from San Francisco to Mumbai spotted small cockroaches inside the plane, and the aircraft underwent deep cleaning during the scheduled stop over at Kolkata airport on Monday early morning. The flight was operated with a Boeing 777 aircraft, according to information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com.

“On flight AI180 from San Francisco to Mumbai via Kolkata, two passengers were unfortunately bothered by the presence of a few small cockroaches on board. Our cabin crew, therefore, relocated the two passengers to other seats in the same cabin, where they were comfortable thereafter,” an airline spokesperson said in a statement on Monday.

“During the flight’s scheduled

fuel stop in Kolkata, our ground crew promptly conducted a deep cleaning process to address the issue. The same aircraft subsequently departed in time for Mumbai. Despite our regular fumigation efforts, insects can sometimes enter an aircraft during ground operations. Air India will be undertaking a comprehensive investigation to determine the source and the cause of this incident and implement measures to prevent recurrence. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused to the passengers,” an Air India spokesperson said in a statement.

During the flight’s scheduled fuel stop in Kolkata, the airline’s ground crews conducted a deep cleaning process to address the issue and the same aircraft subsequently departed in time for Mumbai.

HTC

Army officer assaults airline staffers at Srinagar, booked

Ashiq Hussain

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has registered a case against a senior army officer for allegedly assaulting four employees of SpiceJet airline at Srinagar airport following a disagreement over payment of extra baggage charges during boarding, officers said on Sunday. The army officer also filed a counter-complaint alleging assault, following which an FIR against the airline staffers has been registered by the police.

Meanwhile, the Indian army in a statement said it is fully cooperating with the authorities in the investigations into the case. Stating that it is aware of the incident, the army emphasised its commitment to high standards of discipline.

A first information report (FIR) under Section 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered against the army officer of lieutenant colonel rank posted in Kashmir following complaint from the private air-



A video of the incident was shared widely on social media. PTI

line, alleging that the officer "grievously assaulted" its employees at the boarding gate of flight SG-386 from Srinagar to Delhi on July 26, officers cited above said.

The incident was caught on camera and a video has been shared widely on social media showed the enraged army officer hitting several airline employees with an iron stand. HT could not independently verify the veracity of the video.

The airline issued a detailed statement about the incident,

saying one of the four victims of the assault had suffered spinal injuries. It added that it has initiated the process to place the passenger on the no-fly list in line with civil aviation regulations.

"Our staff members suffered a spinal fracture and serious jaw injuries after being attacked with punches, repeated kicks and a queue stand," the SpiceJet statement said. According to the airline, one employee fell unconscious on the floor, but the passenger continued kicking and hitting the victim.

"Another staff member suffered bleeding from the nose and mouth after receiving a forceful kick to the jaw while bending down to assist the colleague who had fainted," it added.

The airline said the passenger was carrying two pieces of cabin baggage weighing a total of 16 kg, more than double the permitted limit of 7 kg.

"When politely informed of the excess baggage and asked to pay the applicable charges, the passenger refused and forcefully entered the aerobridge without completing the boarding process — a clear violation of aviation security protocols. He was escorted back to the gate by a CISF official," the statement said, adding at the gate, the passenger grew increasingly aggressive.

It could not be immediately ascertained whether the passenger was detained at the airport after the incident.

Army spokesperson in Srinagar Lt Col MK Sahu acknowledged the incident. "There has been an incident and the police have registered an FIR. We are cooperating in the investiga-

tions," Sahu said.

Though the airline has not released the identity of the army officer involved, officers aware of the matter said that he was posted with army warfare school at Gulmarg.

In a statement, PRO (Defence), Srinagar said: "The matter involving an alleged altercation between an Army personnel and airline staff at Srinagar Airport on 26 July 2025 has come to the notice of the Indian Army. The Indian Army is committed to uphold highest standards of discipline and conduct and takes all allegations seriously. Full cooperation is being extended to the authorities in investigating the case."

The army officer has not yet been arrested, police said.

Station house officer, Budgam, Tauseef Ahmad said an FIR has been registered in the incident. "The investigation is going on," he added.

SpiceJet also said that it has initiated the process to place the passenger on the no-fly list in accordance with civil aviation regulations.

How private jet flights became the No.1 marker of real wealth

Gunjan Banerji
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When Maxx Chewning sold his sourcandy business to Hershey for \$75.5 million, the first thing he did—before buying a Rolex or dream home—was jet his wife and six friends to Vail on a Dassault Falcon 900.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

They skipped security lines, zipped straight to the runway and seated themselves in leather recliners with gold accents in the wood-paneled cabin. The price tag for this adventure: \$100,000.

Chewning's goldendoodle, Dood, sprawled at their feet.

"The joke is, I had to get a private plane so I could bring my dog," the 35-year-old said. "I didn't really care what the price was."

The ultrawealthy have always enjoyed flying private. That exclusive club is growing, as soaring stocks and crypto prices mint more millionaires and billionaires, who now have a range of

choices to book a seat on a jet. Flying private has become the ultimate luxury splurge for many wealthy individuals, surpassing Ferraris, Hermès Birkin bags topping \$14,000 or even waterfront Hamptons homes. For many of those aspiring to join the ranks of the



Flying private has become the ultimate luxury splurge, surpassing Ferraris and Hermès Birkin bags. ISTOCKPHOTO

truly rich, having "private-jet money" is the new goal, dividing the 1% from the 0.1%.

The pandemic unleashed a burst of demand, but providers say popular culture has turbo-

charged enthusiasm and envy for the fly-private lifestyle. Social media has given younger people a glimpse into the lives of jet-setters, whether it is a model flying with friends to a

bachelorette party in Los Cabos, Mexico, or a hedge-fund manager hopping a plane to a birthday weekend in St. Barts.

Realistic expectations are in order. "It is my dream to fly private," says a user on a Reddit forum for so-called Henrys (which refers to high earners, not rich yet), adding that he earns about \$300,000, is married and has a kid in daycare.

"Definitely closer to broke than flying private," another user responds.

Yet the number of people who are rich enough has surged. The club of ultrahigh net worth individuals with more than \$30 million in assets hit a record in 2024, according to estimates from the wealth-intelligence provider Altrata. The U.S.

added more than 1,000 millionaires every day last year on average, according to UBS. The billionaire club grew more than 50% between 2015 and 2024.

Private-jet hours flown touched an all-time high in 2022 and have stayed elevated since then, according to data from the aviation-services firm Argus International. Travelers can now use apps to snag individual seats on private jets or pay for flights by the hour. Others charter flights, paying for just the occasional trip from New York to Miami, while the rare business mogul might spring for the entire jet.

Some jet providers accept payment in crypto.

TURN TO PAGE 4

How flying on a private jet became the No. 1 marker of real wealth

FROM PAGE 1

Shrimp cocktail and facials. Kenn Ricci, a pilot and chairman of Flexjet, a private-jet company, says the "frugal wealthy"—high earners who typically didn't splurge—started spending big on travel during the pandemic because of health concerns. Many of them have found it tough to go back to flying commercially. And years of economic growth have helped ease the stigma around conspicuous consumption that set in after the 2008-09 financial crisis.

"It's in vogue to be wealthy," he says. "Sometimes we love the rich. Sometimes we hate the rich."

It isn't just avoiding the security line, or the hot polloi. Flying private means trading Biscoff cookies for freshly baked ones and picking lunch of shrimp cocktail or filet mignon from menus spanning a dozen pages. Chef Nobu Matsuhisa crafted a menu for VistaJet that includes miso salmon. Some cabin hosts are trained to give travelers facials 40,000 feet above the ground—with Dr. Barbara Sturm's line of luxury skin care.

Flexjet hosted members in Lake Como last year, whisking them to a yacht excursion and black-tie dinner. Guests tried on jewels by Garrani, the jeweler that has designed pieces for England's royal family, including brooches for Queen Elizabeth II.

Tennille Holt, 44, retired in 2023 and now spends much of her time traveling the world with her husband and 8-year-



Around a third of wealth-management firms now offer concierge or lifestyle services, such as private aviation. ISTOCKPHOTO

old cavapoo, Hudson, Hudson has his own Instagram account documenting his life, including his private-jet flights, where he is often served his favorite: grilled chicken.

She and her husband spent around \$200,000 to fly Hudson from Australia to Los Angeles in a Bombardier Global 6000 and avoid the commercial flight. She recalls dreaming about this flexibility while working long days and nights as an entrepreneur.

"The goal was to create the freedom to live life on our own terms, which now includes plenty of travel and the ability to fly privately whenever we want," Holt says. "It's the best and most comfortable option for Hudson."

Flush with cash, Around a third of wealth-management firms working with high-net-worth individuals now offer concierge or lifestyle services, such as private aviation, according to a

survey by Crenill Associates. Money managers for the super-rich advise tech and crypto millionaires and billionaires on exactly which aircraft to buy and how to finance it. They liaise with bankers on issuing debt should clients prefer to borrow the money against their swelling investment portfolios—making monthly interest payments on the aircraft rather than putting tens of millions of dollars down.

After noticing heavy spending on flights, Corient, a wealth manager with around \$200 billion in assets, started helping clients team up to share private jets by buying fractional slices of planes or prepaid jet cards. Family offices, which are private entities that manage large pools of money for wealthy families, are turning to advisers to help them purchase jets outright, which can run into the tens of millions of dollars. Some advisers connect cli-

ents with those who can train aircraft crews or offer concierge services for trip planning. At Goldman Sachs, dedicated plane experts connect their ultrarich clients with financiers and point the clients to those who can customize interiors or renovate jets.

Nishi Somaiya, global head of private banking, lending and deposits at Goldman, says there has been a flurry of inquiries this summer. President Trump's tax overhaul includes a deduction for aircraft used for business travel, a welcome perk for clients who frequently mix their work trips with pleasure.

Kevin Hooks, 63, a Flexjet client and veteran flier, says he spends around \$800,000 annually mostly crisscrossing the Southwest in a Praetor 600 midsized business jet that seats 9. He has noticed plane hangars around the country growing more crowded because of increased demand since the pandemic.

Hooks, who has been flying privately since he sold his pharmaceuticals business around two decades ago, has also taken a liking to private helicopters, recently taking one between Normandy and London. The trip saved him eight hours, giving him more time to search for buried World War II relics.

He sometimes still takes commercial planes. He recalls the time his son, then 4 years old, got on a Southwest Airlines flight and asked, "Who are these other people on the plane?"

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MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

India emerges as world's 5th biggest aviation market: IATA

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India emerged as the world's fifth biggest aviation market, handling 241 million passengers, while Mumbai-Delhi was one of the busiest airport pairs in 2024, according to data released by global airlines' grouping IATA.

The International Airport Transport Association (IATA), which represents around 350 airlines, on Monday released the latest edition of the World Air Transport Statistics (WATS) for 2024.

India saw 211 million air passengers last year, a growth of 11.1 per cent compared to 2023, ahead of Japan, which handled 205 million passengers with an annual rise of 18.6 per cent.

"The US remains the world's biggest aviation market with 876 million passengers in 2024 on the strength of its domestic market, growing 5.2 per cent year-on-year.

"China was the second-biggest passenger market, with 741 million passengers, a growth of 18.7 per cent compared to 2023," it said in a release.

While India stood at the 5th place, the UK at the 3rd spot (261 million passengers) and Spain at the 4th position (241 million). The figures include all international and domestic passengers departing or arriving in each country.

Among the top 10 airport pairs, Mumbai-Delhi was the 7th busiest, carrying 5.9 million passengers in 2024.

"Asia Pacific dominated the



India saw 211 million passengers last year, a growth of 11.1% against 2023, ahead of Japan

ranking for the world's busiest airport pairs, with Jeju-Seoul (CJU-GMP) the most popular route globally, with 13.2 million passengers flying between the two airports in 2024.

"In the top 10, only one airport pair — Jeddah-Riyadh (JED-RUH) — was not in the Asia Pacific region," IATA said.

As per the grouping, international premium class travel — business and first class — grew 11.8 per cent, outpacing growth in global economy travel of 11.5 per cent. In 2024, the total number of international premium class travellers was 116.9 million or 6 per cent of the total international passengers.

"Leading the regions in terms of percentage growth was

Asia Pacific with a year-on-year growth of 22.8 per cent, with 21 million premium passengers — although it was outpaced in growth by economy class passenger numbers, up 28.6 per cent to 500.8 million.

"Growth in premium travel exceeded economy class travel in Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. Europe remained the largest market for international premium travel, with 39.3 million premium passengers, while premium travellers as a percentage of all travellers were highest in the Middle East at 14.7 per cent," IATA said.

Last year, narrow-body planes of Boeing and Airbus were among the most used ones.

Boeing's B737 alone flew 10 million flights with 2.4 trillion Available Seat Kilometres (ASKs) in 2024. "This was followed by the Airbus A320 with 7.9 million flights and 1.7 trillion ASKs and the Airbus A321 with 3.4 million flights and 1.1 trillion ASKs," it said. ASK is an indicator of capacity.



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THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

Cockroaches on US-Mumbai AI plane irk flyers

KAUSHIK PRADHAN @Kolkata

AN Air India flight from San Francisco to Mumbai took off with cockroaches, prompting the crew members to relocate two passengers to other seats in mid-air. The incident occurred on Air India flight AI180, which operates from San Francisco to Mumbai via Kolkata.

Issuing a statement on Monday, Air India said, "On flight AI180 from San Francisco to Mumbai via Kolkata, two passengers were unfortunately bothered by the presence of a few small cockroaches on board. Our cabin crew, therefore, relocated the two passengers to other seats in the same cabin, where they were comfortable thereafter."

The flight had a stop at Kolkata for refuelling. During its stay there, the ground staff at the NSCB airport conducted a deep cleaning process to address the issue, and the same aircraft subsequently departed in time for Mumbai. Offering an apology for any inconvenience caused to the passengers, an Air India spokesperson said, "Despite our regular fumigation efforts, insects can sometimes enter an aircraft during ground operations. Air India will be undertaking a comprehensive investigation."



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NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

एयर इंडिया की उड़ान में तिलचट्टे, जांच के आदेश

■ भाषा, नई दिल्ली

एयर इंडिया की सैन फ्रांसिस्को-मुंबई उड़ान में तिलचट्टे देखे जाने की शिकायत सामने आई है। सोमवार सुबह कोलकाता में ईंधन भरने के दौरान विमान की गहन सफाई की गई। फ्लाइट एआई180 के दो यात्रियों ने तिलचट्टे देखकर चालक दल को जानकारी दी, जिसके बाद उन्हें दूसरी सीटों पर बैठाया गया।

एयरलाइन ने कहा कि नियमित सफाई के बावजूद कभी-कभी कीड़े घुस सकते हैं। घटना की जांच शुरू कर दी गई है ताकि भविष्य में ऐसी स्थिति न दोहराई जाए। बोइंग 777 विमान से संचालित यह उड़ान तय समय पर मुंबई रवाना हुई। एयर इंडिया ने असुविधा के लिए यात्रियों से क्षमा भी मांगी है। विमान में कितने यात्री थे, इसकी जानकारी नहीं मिल सकी है।

When Becoming Big and Dangerous Isn't Considered Unsafe: The Air India Paradox

In the world of aviation, safety is sacrosanct. Every checklist, every simulator session, every pilot hour logged is underpinned by the singular pursuit of ensuring that aircraft operate within tightly controlled margins of safety. And yet, in some rare and paradoxical cases, an airline can reach a size where — even when its operations exhibit persistent safety lapses — it becomes virtually immune to the consequences that smaller entities would inevitably face. Air India is one such case.

A Crisis Hidden in Plain Sight

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), India's aviation regulator, recently flagged 51 safety violations by Air India in an audit conducted after the catastrophic crash of Flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8, on June 12, 2025. Among the issues were the use of unapproved simulators, training gaps for pilots flying high-risk routes, fatigue-related violations, and inadequate rostering systems that failed to ensure minimum required crew on flights.

Seven of these breaches were classified as Level I, the most serious category of violation under India's Civil Aviation Requirements. Some flights were operated without sufficient cabin crew, pilots were assigned duty hours that violated fatigue regulations, and instructors lacked proper approvals. These findings alone would be sufficient to ground any airline in a robust safety culture. But not Air India.

Despite damning evidence, no fleet was grounded. No executives were held publicly accountable. No routes were suspended. Instead, a compliance deadline was given: fix the worst problems by July 30, and the rest by August 23. Business as usual continues.

The Anatomy of Immunity

Air India is no longer just an airline; it is a critical node in India's national and international connectivity matrix. As a flag carrier, its brand bears the emotional weight of Indian identity, legacy, and ambition. It operates a sprawling global network, employs tens of thousands directly, and indirectly supports countless others across tourism, airport services, logistics, and retail.

The airline's systemic importance grants it a kind of immunity rarely seen outside of banking or national security infrastructure. Like "too big to fail" banks during the 2008 global financial crisis, Air India is "too big to ground." Shutting it down would unleash chaos across sectors and potentially trigger a domino effect: economic losses, stranded passengers, diplomatic embarrassment, and massive job losses. As a result, the safety narrative becomes secondary to political and economic calculus.



CAPTAIN AMIT SINGH

When Size Defangs Regulation

This immunity sends a dangerous signal across the industry. When a national carrier is allowed to operate despite glaring safety gaps, what incentive remains for private carriers to adhere strictly to regulations? It dilutes the authority of the regulator and undermines the very foundation of Just Culture, which relies on equal enforcement, accountability, and learning from failures.

Worse, it creates regulatory capture, where oversight agencies become reluctant to enforce penalties against institutions they perceive as indispensable. In this model, audits are conducted not to correct course or ensure accountability, but to create the illusion of oversight while preserving the operational status quo.

What the Audit Revealed

Here are some key findings from the DGCA audit and prior inspections:

- 29 systemic lapses related to pilot fatigue and recurrent training reported in early July.
- Use of unapproved simulators for training at Category C airports — where only specially trained crews can operate.
- Missing chief pilots and training heads for multiple fleets, including A320s and A350s.
- Flawed scheduling software that failed to prevent illegal rostering and over-dutying.
- Pilots operating without mandated simulator checks.

These are not clerical errors. These are systemic failures that strike at the core of flight safety: training, fatigue, crew preparedness, and oversight.

AI 171: A Wake-Up Call Ignored

The crash of Flight AI 171 in Ahmedabad that killed 260 people should have catalysed radical reforms. Initial data shows both engines shut down uncommanded shortly after takeoff, followed by deployment of the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) — a sign of catastrophic electrical failure. Pilots were reportedly not at fault, yet the system failed them. Was it a failure in engineering, power management, or design? Or was it a symptom of the same rot that audits are now unearthing?

Instead of ushering in transparency, the official narrative began leaning on pilot error. This redirection protects stakeholders but delays true reform.

Why No One Can Shut Air India

The answer is structural. Air India now sits at the intersection of politics, nationalism, and

economic policy. It is wholly owned by the Tata Group — a business conglomerate that is itself seen as an extension of India's industrial and philanthropic legacy. The Government has a stake in seeing the Air India divestment succeed, and grounding the airline would appear as a failure of both state and private enterprise.

There is also legal ambiguity. Indian aviation law, including Rule 12 of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2012, permits judicial inquiry into aircraft accidents involving systemic failure. But such provisions are rarely invoked — perhaps because doing so might open a Pandora's box implicating multiple stakeholders, including regulators.

Judiciaries rarely intervene in aviation operations unless explicitly petitioned, and political leadership — under pressure to project an image of modern, efficient governance — is unlikely to paralyse its national carrier.

What Can Be Done?

- Enforce transparent deadlines with public updates. The DGCA should publish progress reports on Air India's compliance, detailing which violations have been rectified and how.
- Mandatory third-party safety audit. Independent global aviation safety bodies should be invited to assess Air India, with results made public.
- Introduce real accountability. A strong message must be sent that size does not equate to immunity. If violations are not resolved, progressive penalties — fleet restrictions, route suspensions, fines — must follow.
- Empower whistleblowers. Pilots and crew should have anonymous channels to report safety concerns without fear of retaliation.
- Judicial inquiry into AI171. Only an impartial, court — appointed investigation can uncover the truth of what caused the B 787 to crash — and prevent recurrence.

A Dangerous Precedent

Air India today represents a case study in how institutions can grow so large, so integral, and so politically entwined that they transcend traditional models of accountability. The question is no longer whether Air India is safe — it is whether its size precludes it from ever being held accountable. This paradox threatens the very foundation of aviation safety in India. If audits don't result in grounding, if violations don't carry consequences, and if crashes don't lead to change, then aviation safety becomes a theatre — a ritual with no teeth. And when that happens, flying remains a miracle — but one built borrowed time.



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PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

जबलपुर हवाई अड्डे पर इंडिगो विमान का टायर हुआ क्षतिग्रस्त

जबलपुर, (पंजाब केसरी): मध्यप्रदेश में जबलपुर के डुमना हवाई अड्डे पर सोमवार को इंडिगो के एक विमान का टायर क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया, जिसके चलते उड़ान में चार घंटे की देरी हुई। एक अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि यह घटना उस वक्त हुई, जब यात्रियों को उतारने के बाद विमान को 'एप्रान (पार्किंग क्षेत्र) में खड़ा करने के लिए ले जाया जा रहा था। यह विमान मुंबई से यहां पहुंचा था।

अधिकारी ने कहा कि इसमें कोई हताहत नहीं हुआ है और टायर बदलने के चलते हवाई अड्डे पर फंसे विमान के ज्यादातर यात्रियों को बंगलुरु और दिल्ली के रास्ते उनके गंतव्य के लिए रवाना किया गया। इस बारे में टिप्पणी के लिए इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता से संपर्क नहीं हो सका। डुमना हवाई अड्डे के निदेशक राजीव रतन पांडे ने फोन पर बताया कि यात्रियों के सुरक्षित उतरने के बाद 'एप्रान' में ले जाये जाने के दौरान विमान का एक टायर क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

विवाद: सेना अधिकारी ने दर्ज कराई एफआईआर 'मेरे साथ बुरा व्यवहार हुआ, मेरी फ्लाइट भी छूट गई'

श्रीनगर/नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका. श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट पर स्पाइसजेट के कर्मचारियों से कथित मारपीट मामले में आरोपी बनाए गए एक सेना अधिकारी ने अपना पक्ष रखते हुए कहा है कि उसके साथ एयरलाइन स्टाफ ने अभद्र व्यवहार किया, जिससे उनकी फ्लाइट छूट गई। अधिकारी, जो उत्तरी कश्मीर के गुलमर्ग स्थित हाई-एल्टीट्यूड वारफेयर स्कूल से संबद्ध है,

आपातकालीन छुट्टी पर दिल्ली जा रहे थे। उन्होंने पुलिस में अपनी ओर से एफआईआर दर्ज कराते हुए कहा कि एयरपोर्ट स्टाफ ने न सिर्फ उन्हें अनावश्यक रूप से रोका, बल्कि बेहद अपमानजनक व्यवहार भी किया। सेना अधिकारी ने दावा किया कि वे बोर्डिंग प्रक्रिया पूरी कर रहे थे और अतिरिक्त सामान को लेकर बातचीत कर रहे थे, पर स्टाफ ने गैर-पेशेवर ढंग से व्यवहार किया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

एअर इंडिया की इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट में मिले कॉकरोच

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। एअर इंडिया की सैन फ्रांसिस्को-मुंबई उड़ान के यात्रियों ने विमान में छोटे तिलचट्टे देखे जिसके बाद सोमवार सुबह कोलकाता हवाईअड्डे पर निर्धारित ठहराव के दौरान विमान की गहन सफाई की गई। एयरलाइन ने कहा, वह घटना के कारण का पता लगाने के लिए एक व्यापक जांच करेगी तथा ऐसी घटना की पुनरावृत्ति रोकने के लिए उपाय करेगी। फ्लाइट ट्रेकिंग वेबसाइट फ्लाइटराडार24.कॉम पर उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार, यह उड़ान बोइंग 777 विमान से संचालित की गई थी।

एयरलाइन के एक प्रवक्ता ने सोमवार को कहा, सैन फ्रांसिस्को से कोलकाता होते हुए मुंबई जाने वाली उड़ान संख्या एआई180

में दो यात्री विमान में कुछ छोटे तिलचट्टों को देखकर परेशान हो गए। इसलिए हमारे चालक दल के सदस्यों ने दोनों यात्रियों को उसी केबिन की दूसरी सीट पर स्थानांतरित किया, जहां वे आराम से बैठे। ईंधन लेने के लिए उड़ान के कोलकाता में निर्धारित ठहराव के दौरान, एयरलाइन के ग्राउंड क्रू ने समस्या के समाधान के लिए गहन सफाई की और उसके बाद उसी विमान को समय पर मुंबई के लिए रवाना कर दिया गया।

तकनीकी खराबी के चलते बेंगलुरु लौटी फ्लाइट कोलकाता जा रहा एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का एक विमान तकनीकी खराबी के कारण रविवार शाम बेंगलुरु लौट गया।

अशोभनीय हरकत

हवाई यात्रा करने वालों को कैसे समझाया जाए कि धरती से ऊपर हवा में सफर करने में सक्षम होना उन्हें दूसरे ग्रह का प्राणी नहीं बना देता। वे भी आम लोगों जैसे ही होते हैं। उन्हें भी दूसरे यात्रियों जितने ही विशेषाधिकार होते हैं। इसमें कोई बात मनमुताबिक न होने पर किसी से दुर्व्यवहार करने का अधिकार तो कतई नहीं होता। चाहे मामला सहयात्रियों से संबंधित हो या हवाई अड्डा कर्मचारियों से, दुर्व्यवहार बिल्कुल मान्य नहीं है। श्रीनगर हवाई अड्डे पर 26 जुलाई को जो हुआ वह निंदनीय तो है ही आपराधिक गतिविधि भी है। मामूली सी बात पर एक यात्री ने चार कर्मचारियों पर बर्बर हमला किया। वाक्या स्पाइसजेट से जुड़ा है जिसकी जानकारी रविवार को सामने आई। श्रीनगर से दिल्ली आ रही उड़ान में सवार होने वाले एक वरिष्ठ सैन्य अधिकारी ने श्रीनगर



हवाई अड्डे पर एयरलाइन के जमीनी रखरखाव करने वाले चार कर्मचारियों के साथ बुरी तरह मारपीट की इन कर्मचारियों में से एक की तो रीढ़ की हड्डी ही टूट गई। एयरलाइन ने पुलिस में प्राथमिकी दर्ज कराई है। नागर विमानन नियमों के अनुसार यात्री को 'नो-फ्लाई' सूची में डालने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी गई है। बात मामूली सी थी, यात्री काफी सामान लेकर जा रहा था जो निर्धारित मानक भार से काफी अधिक था। उससे अतिरिक्त

सामान के लिए भुगतान करने को कहा गया। यहीं बात बिगड़ गई। सोशल मीडिया पर साझा किए गए घटना के वीडियो में यात्री को कर्मचारियों पर हमला करते और उनमें से एक पर हवाई अड्डे पर रखे जाने वाले स्टैंड से हमला करते हुए देखा गया। घायल कर्मचारियों को अस्पताल ले जाना पड़ा। स्पाइसजेट के अनुसार 26 जुलाई, 2025 को श्रीनगर से दिल्ली आ रही उड़ान संख्या एसजी-386 के बोर्डिंग गेट पर एक यात्री ने स्पाइसजेट के चार कर्मचारियों पर गंभीर हमला किया। दरअसल, यह यात्री एक वरिष्ठ सैन्य अधिकारी था। इससे तो बात और गंभीर हो जाती है। क्या सैन्य अधिकारी नियम कानूनों से परे होते हैं। शायद इस यात्री का विचार रहा होगा कि कर्मचारी उसके पद के दबाव में आ जाएंगे। जब ऐसा नहीं हुआ तो उसका गुस्सा भड़क उठा। हालांकि अभी तक इस यात्री का पक्ष सामने नहीं आया है, लेकिन हिंसा तो किसी बात का समाधान नहीं है। और अधिकारी होने के नाते भी उसका गुस्सा जायज नहीं कहा जा सकता। कल्पना ही की जा सकती है कि वह अपने अधीनस्थों से कैसा व्यवहार करता होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

4 AUGUST 2025

Army officer accused of assaulting Spicejet staff at Srinagar airport

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 3 AUGUST

In a shocking incident, an Army officer is accused of having grievously assaulted four SpiceJet employees and injured their spine and jaw at the boarding gate of flight SG-386 from the Srinagar airport to Delhi late last month.

A SpiceJet spokesman said on Sunday that the incident happened on 26 July when the staff of the airlines asked the passenger to pay for the excess baggage he was carrying.

The passenger, identified as a Lieutenant Colonel-rank Army officer, was reportedly carrying two pieces of cabin baggage totalling 16 kg - more than double the permissible cabin limit of 7 kg. When politely informed of the excess and asked to pay the applicable fee, the individual refused and forcibly entered the aerobridge without completing the boarding process, violating aviation security protocols.

A CISF official escorted him back to the gate, where the situation escalated, the spokesman said.

According to the SpiceJet spokesperson, the passenger launched a violent attack on the ground staff using punches, repeated kicks, and even a queue stand, leaving them with serious injuries, including a



spinal fracture and severe facial trauma.

"One employee collapsed unconscious during the assault, yet the passenger continued to kick and strike him. Another staff member, while attempting to assist the unconscious colleague, suffered heavy bleeding from the nose and mouth after a brutal kick to the jaw", the spokesman stated.

The injured employees were rushed to a hospital, where they remain under treatment for multiple grievous injuries.

The airline has lodged an FIR with local police and initiated the procedure to place the passenger on the national no-fly list under existing civil aviation regulations.

SpiceJet has also formally apprised the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the "murderous assault" and requested strict action against the accused, the spokesman said.

The Army has said it is committed to uphold the highest standards of discipline and conduct and is extending full cooperation to the investigation.

Army officer breaks airline staff spine

AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: SpiceJet on Sunday said a senior army officer who had been asked to pay charges for excess baggage assaulted four members of its ground staff at Srinagar airport, leaving one with a spinal fracture and another with a broken jaw.

Terming the July 26 incident a "murderous assault", SpiceJet said it had filed an FIR with Srinagar police and initiated the process to place the passenger, identified as Lieutenant Colonel R.K. Singh, on the no-fly list.

A case under Section 115 of the BNS (voluntarily causing hurt) has been registered against Singh, who was travelling to Delhi.

The identities of the assaulted airline staff have not been revealed. A SpiceJet source said they were all Kashmiris.

An army statement said: "This issue has come to the notice of the Indian Army, and we are awaiting the conclusion of the pending investigation. The Indian Army is fully committed to maintaining discipline and mutual respect in all civil spaces



Video footage shows a man, believed to be Lt Col RK Singh, attacking an airline staffer with a queue stand at Srinagar airport

across the country."

Singh is posted at the army's High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg.

The alleged assault took place at the boarding gate for Flight SG-386. Videos on social media appear to show a man hitting airline staff with a queue stand and raining kicks and punches on them. Some video clips show some of the victims cry out in pain, shout for help and collapse.

A Central Industrial Security Force official tried to intervene but failed to pacify the passenger, sources said.

"A passenger grievously assaulted four SpiceJet employees at the boarding gate of flight SG-386 from Srinagar to Delhi on July 26, 2025. Our staff members suffered a spi-

nal fracture and serious jaw injuries after being attacked with punches, repeated kicks and a queue stand," SpiceJet said in a statement.

According to the airline, the passenger continued kicking and hitting an employee until he collapsed unconscious on the floor.

"Another staff member suffered bleeding from the nose and mouth after receiving a forceful kick to the jaw while bending down to assist the colleague who had fainted," it added.

The injured are being treated in hospital.

SpiceJet said it had secured CCTV footage of the incident from airport authorities and handed it over to the police.

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SpiceJet

► FROM PAGE 1

SpiceJet has informed the civil aviation ministry about the "murderous assault" on its staff and requested appropriate action against the accused.

A SpiceJet spokesperson said the "airline will pursue this matter to its fullest legal and regulatory conclusion".

The airline said the army officer was carrying two pieces of cabin baggage weighing 16kg, more than double the permitted limit of 7kg.

He was politely informed about the excess baggage and asked to pay the applicable charges, but the passenger refused and forcibly entered the aerobridge without completing the boarding process, a clear violation of aviation security protocols, SpiceJet alleged.

He was escorted back to the gate by a CISF official, but the passenger grew increasingly aggressive, the airline added.

It could not be immediately ascertained whether the passenger was detained at the airport after the incident.

Outrage in J&K

Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday condemned the assault and demanded that the army officer be held accountable.

"This is gundagardi!! This incident took place at Srinagar Airport, where an Army officer was seen brutally assaulting SpiceJet staff member(s), leaving him with serious injuries. It is highly condemnable & shameful. The officer must be held accountable," National Conference spokesperson Sarah Hayat Shah posted on X.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti too demanded action against the officer.

"How dare this Army officer launch a murderous assault on employees at Srinagar airport simply for refusing excess cabin luggage? His demonic rage left one of the victims with a spinal fracture. @ChinarcorpsIA @adgpi Please take immediate action to set an example," she said in a post on X.

Additional reporting by PTI

US FAA rings alarm bells over unsafe RAT in Boeing models

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New Delhi: Operators of Boeing 787-9 and B787-10 models will have to check their ram air turbine (RAT) forward fittings after the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposed this to "address the unsafe condition" following reports indicating the same "were possibly manufactured with an incorrect titanium alloy material".

The erstwhile Vistara has seven Boeing 787-9 aircraft in its fleet that are now flying for Air India.

This condition, "if not addressed, could result in loss of backup hydraulic and/or electrical power as well as the RAT module departing (snapping off) from the airplane," the FAA says.

RAT is a device on an aircraft used to provide emergency backup power by deploying into the airstream when needed, like in case of dual engine failure. The RAT deployed on AI 171, which crashed in Ahmedabad seconds after take-off on June 12. The pre-merger Air India uses B787-8 variants of Dreamliners (one of which



Wreckage of Air India's AI 171 flight which crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12. RAT was deployed before the aircraft went down

crashed in Ahmedabad) and may not be required to undergo this check.

"We issued guidance to our B787-9 and B787-10 customers in Feb 2025 and fully support the FAA's proposal to make that guidance mandatory. The in-service fleet can continue normal operations," Boeing said in a statement to TOI on Monday.

The FAA said: "The titanium material that was possibly used is a Grade 1 or 2 commercially pure unalloyed titanium, which has significantly reduced strength, fatigue and damage tolerance properties... A RAT

forward fitting that was possibly manufactured with the incorrect titanium alloy material could fail when the RAT is deployed."

"The FAA is issuing this 'notice of proposed rule-making' after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design," it added.

The check requires "a high frequency eddy current or handheld X-ray fluorescence spectrometer inspection of the RAT forward fitting to determine the titanium alloy material".



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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FAA flags faulty alloy in RAT in 2 Boeing models

Operators of Boeing 787-9 and B787-10 models will have to check their ram air turbine (RAT) forward fittings after US aviation regulator FAA said these were “possibly manufactured with an incorrect titanium alloy material” and “could fail when RAT is deployed”. RAT is used to provide emergency backup power. RAT was deployed on AI 171 (B787-8), which crashed June 12; these aircraft may not have to undergo the check. **INSIDE JACKET**

Old jets, lax checks, crumbling safety net ail AI as it looks for crash answers

SHEKHAR SINGH
DESK AND INDIA AIR FORCE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

The tragic crash of an Air India Dreamliner in Ahmedabad this June, which claimed 260 lives, has triggered a national reckoning over the state of the country's flag carrier. While the cause of the crash remains under investigation, the incident has cast an unflinching spotlight on long-standing issues plaguing Air India's operations, from ageing aircraft and maintenance lapses to systemic safety violations. With pressure mounting from regulators and the public, the airline now faces a defining moment that demands more than just damage control.

At the heart of the crisis is the ageing fleet. According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation data, 35 per cent of Air India's 199 aircraft are more than a decade old, including 43 planes that have crossed 15 years in service. The Dreamliner that crashed in Ahmedabad was nearly 12 years old. Several of the airline's other widebody aircraft are nearing similar timelines, raising fresh concerns about reliability and airworthiness. By contrast, only 6 per cent of IndiGo's fleet has crossed the 10-year threshold.

These concerns are not unfounded. In August 2023, a London-bound Dreamliner, identical to the one involved in the crash, was forced to return



According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation data, 35 per cent of Air India's 199 aircraft are more than a decade old. FILE

to Mumbai after suffering an engine shutdown during climb. A fan blade had broken loose and investigators traced the fault to a wrongly installed component from 2018, which remained undetected for five years. The incident highlighted glaring lapses in inspection protocols and quality assurance.

Maintenance remains another major area of concern. Following its privatisation, Air India's maintenance arm, AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL), was retained by the government. As a result, Air India now relies on a fragmented mix of third-party MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) providers, including Lufthansa Technik, Honeywell, Turkish Technic and SIA Engineering. While these partnerships offer international expertise, the lack of a centralised maintenance command has raised concerns

about consistency, accountability and response time.

Some of these partnerships have not been without controversy. The airline's earlier arrangement with Turkish Technic for its Boeing 777 fleet drew criticism due to Turkey's political stance on India-related issues. Following the backlash, Air India announced it was exploring alternatives and has since taken steps to in-source more engineering functions. One major step in that direction is the development of its own MRO facility in Bengaluru, which is expected to reduce reliance on outsourcing and help restore engineering oversight.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), in its annual audit, found 51 safety violations at Air India in just one year. Following the Ahmedabad crash, the regu-

2 FLIGHTS CANCELLED

■ A Delhi-bound Air India flight from Bhubaneswar was cancelled on Sunday due to 'high temperature' in the aircraft cabin just prior to its departure for the destination, the airline said in a statement.

■ It also cancelled its flight from Singapore to Chennai due to a maintenance task identified prior to departure which required additional time for rectification. The flight AI 349 was to be operated with an Airbus A321.

later issued four show-cause notices, flagging an additional 29 safety-related lapses, including failures in crew duty scheduling, fatigue management and training oversight. These violations, disclosed by the airline itself, signal unresolved internal failures despite repeated warnings from the regulator.

Further concern arose when more than 100 pilots went on medical leave in the days following the crash, triggering alarms about staff morale and internal fatigue. The DGCA had already pulled up the airline in May for scheduling violations, after two Bengaluru-London flights exceeded legal duty hours on consecutive days. These oversights point to a broader institutional breakdown, where operational ambition appears to have outpaced safety safeguards.

In response, Air India has embarked on what is being termed India's largest fleet modernisation programme. In February 2023, the airline placed orders for 470 new aircraft, 250 from Airbus and 220 from Boeing. "Deliveries of next-generation A350s and Boeing 787-9s are set to begin later this year, with the full induction continuing through 2029. These additions are aimed at replacing outdated jets," said an airline official.

To support this transition, Air India has signed long-term strategic partnerships for component support and inventory management. Contracts with global players such as SIA Engineering and Honeywell are designed to streamline technical operations across the Airbus and Boeing fleets.

"The airline is also investing in modernising its training and safety compliance systems to align with international standards," said the airline official.

However, aviation analysts caution that hardware upgrades alone will not suffice. Without stronger institutional accountability, internal reform and rigorous regulatory enforcement, the airline's vulnerabilities will persist. "It's not just about fleet or maintenance, it's about an entire system that must operate with zero tolerance for failure," noted Amit Singh, an industry expert.