



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Chennai leads air cargo growth as traffic rises 6%; Kolkata alone slides among major airports

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

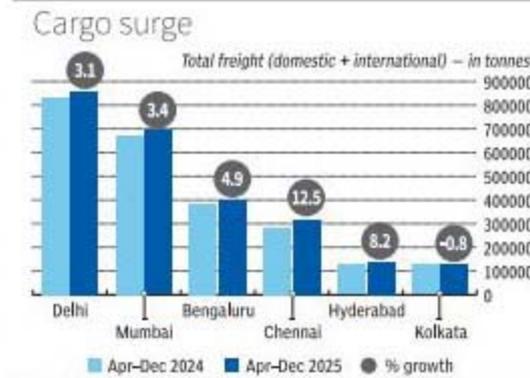
Domestic and international air cargo traffic across the major airports grew by 6 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) during April-December 2025.

Chennai reported the highest growth, driven by increased handling of mobile phones and machinery during the period, sources said. This growth happened despite the US tariffs that impacted major export segments, including textiles and leather.

Imports also rose across several airports, including Chennai, said sources.

TOP AIRPORTS

Except Chennai, the other five airports recorded growth of less than 10 per cent, according to the Air-



Source: Airports Authority of India (AAI)

ports Authority of India data. Hyderabad narrowly surpassed Kolkata, which reported a decline y-o-y to secure the fifth position.

On Chennai airport's growth in cargo handling, J Krishnan of S Natesa Iyer Logistics LLP, a Chennai-

based freight forwarder, said mobile phone shipments have been a critical driver of the jump in throughput. Dedicated freighter landings as non-scheduled operators from China have seen a significant increase, boosting the tonnage, he said.

Chennai reported the highest growth, driven by increased handling of mobile phones and machinery during the period

The growth in Chennai has been because of strong industrial belts around the city manufacturing phones, engineering and automotive goods, said Dinesh Krishnan, Chairman, The Air Cargo Agents Association of India, South Region.

"We expect more tonnage of the traditional cargoes (textile/leather) to rebound in the next six months, in Chennai, on account of the EU FTA and the US lowering of tariffs," he added.



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Aviation Bodies Short of Hands

New Delhi: A total of 2,645 positions are lying vacant at the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and three aviation regulators DGCA, BCAS and AERA, the government said on Thursday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol said adequate steps are taken from time to time to fill up vacancies under the ministry, including its attached offices and regulatory bodies. At the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, there are 787 vacancies, largely due to the creation of 441 additional posts as part of the restructuring undertaken during 2022-24. The minister said that at the AAI, there are 1,667 vacancies pertaining to direct recruitment (executive) posts. — PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Govt. says 2,645 posts vacant at AAI, 3 aviation regulators

A total of 2,645 positions are lying vacant at the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and three aviation regulators DGCA, BCAS and AERA, the government said on Thursday. In a written reply to Lok Sabha, MoS for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said adequate steps are taken from time to time to fill up vacancies under the ministry, including its attached offices and regulatory bodies. At the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, there are 787 vacancies, largely due to the creation of 441 additional posts as part of the restructuring undertaken during 2022-2024. PTI



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

1,667 posts vacant at AAI, 787 at DGCA

A total of 2,645 positions are lying vacant at the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and three aviation regulators DGCA, BCAS and AERA, MoS for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said in a written reply to Lok Sabha on Thursday. At the DGCA, there are 787 vacancies, largely due to the creation of 441 additional posts as part of the restructuring during 2022-2024. The minister said that at AAI, there are 1,667 vacancies pertaining to direct recruitment (executive) posts. "AAI has expedited recruitment, redeployed staff at operationally sensitive airports, created additional ATCO (Air Traffic Controllers) posts in line with expanding airspace requirements..." he said. According to the minister, at Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), 180 and 11 positions are vacant, respectively. In a separate written reply, Mohol said 6,936 flights were cancelled by IndiGo during last three months affecting 10,81,680 passengers. PTI

Turkish Airlines flight makes emergency landing at Kolkata airport

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: A Turkish Airlines flight en route from Kathmandu to Istanbul was forced to make an emergency landing at Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on Tuesday after the pilot reported a fire in the aircraft's right engine, officials said.

According to a statement issued by the Civil Aviation Ministry, the pilot declared a "PAN PAN" call — an internationally recognised radio signal indicating an urgent situation — at around 1.38 pm after detecting a fire accompanied by a failure in the right engine. The crew subsequently sought permission to divert the aircraft to Kolkata.

The aircraft, operated by Turkish Airlines, landed safely at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport with full emergency measures activated.



EMERGENCY LANDING

» The pilot declared a 'PAN PAN' call — an internationally recognised radio signal indicating an urgent situation — at around 1.38 pm after detecting a fire accompanied by a failure in the right engine

» An AAI official said that another aircraft is scheduled to arrive around 4 am on Thursday

Airport fire and rescue teams were placed on high alert as the plane touched down, and the engine fire was brought under control by 1.51 pm, the ministry said. **Continued on P6**

Turkish Airlines

Airport officials confirmed that all safety protocols were followed during the emergency landing. There were no reports of injuries to passengers or crew members, and all those on board were safely evacuated after the aircraft was secured.

Officials said further inspection of the aircraft would be carried out to determine the exact cause of the engine fire, while arrangements were being made for passengers affected by the unscheduled diversion.

Meanwhile, all passengers, crew members and the captain were shifted to a hotel. An AAI official said that another aircraft is scheduled to arrive around 4

am on Thursday, with passengers expected to depart at around 6 am.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Delhi airport aims to improve family travel

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

Dedicated terminal entry gates, exclusive family check-in counters, priority security lanes, and designated family seating areas at food courts offering specially curated kids' menus — Delhi airport has some new facilities now for families travelling together.

The GMR AERO-led Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Thursday launched

Family@DEL, a dedicated, passenger-centric initiative designed to enhance comfort, convenience, and ease for families travelling through Delhi Airport.

The programme aims to simplify every stage of the airport journey by offering curated services tailored to the unique needs of families, thereby enhancing the overall passenger experience.

Under Family@DEL, passengers travelling with families can access

▶ **THE INITIATIVE** aims to simplify every stage of the airport journey by offering curated services tailored to the unique needs of families, thereby enhancing the overall passenger experience

dedicated terminal entry gates, exclusive family check-in counters, priority security lanes, and designated family seating areas at food courts offering specially curated kids' menus.

The initiative also provides buggy assistance, if required, up to the boarding gates for those in need, ensuring a seamless, comfortable, and hassle-free journey from the terminal forecourt to the departure gate, DIAL said.

Family travellers, including those with infants, passengers with restricted mobility (PRMs), and elderly passengers, can enjoy complimentary baby strollers, private baby care rooms,

PRM-friendly washrooms, and specially trained on-ground family assistance buddies to guide and support families throughout their airport journey.

"With the introduction of Family@DEL, Delhi International Airport (DIAL) continues to strengthen its focus on passenger-centric innovations, reaffirming its commitment to making air travel simpler, more inclusive, and enjoyable for families," DIAL added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर परिवारों के लिए नई पहल 'फैमिली@डेल' शुरू परिवारों को एयरपोर्ट पर समर्पित प्रवेश द्वार, विशेष फैमिली चेक-इन काउंटर, प्राथमिक सुरक्षा जांच लेन सहित विभिन्न सुविधाएं मिलेंगी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने यात्रियों की सुविधा को और बेहतर बनाने के लिए अनूठी पहल 'फैमिली@डेल' शुरू की है। इसके तहत परिवार के साथ यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों को एयरपोर्ट पर समर्पित प्रवेश द्वार, विशेष फैमिली



एआई जर्नलस्टेड इमेज
चेक-इन काउंटर, प्राथमिक सुरक्षा जांच लेन और फूड कोर्ट में फैमिली

सीटिंग एरिया सहित विभिन्न सुविधाएं मिलेंगी डायल के मुताबिक, यह सुविधा फिलहाल टर्मिनल-1, 2 और 3 से घरेलू प्रस्थान करने वाले यात्रियों के लिए लागू की गई है।

इसके तहत बच्चों के लिए विशेष रूप से तैयार मेन्यू भी उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। इस पहल की खास बात यह है कि परिवारों को टर्मिनल

फोरकोर्ट से लेकर बोर्डिंग गेट तक एंड-टू-एंड सपोर्ट दिया जाएगा।

जरूरत पड़ने पर बगगी सेवा, बेबी स्ट्रॉलर, प्राइवेट बेबी केयर रूम, फ्रेंडली वॉशरूम और विशेष रूप से प्रशिक्षित फैमिली असिस्टेंस बडीज की सहायता भी उपलब्ध होगी, यह पूरे सफर में परिवारों का मार्गदर्शन करेंगे। डायल के सीईओ विधेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने बताया

कि 'फैमिली@डेल' पहल यात्रियों के प्रति एयरपोर्ट की संवेदनशील और समावेशी सोच को पेश करती है। यह परिवारों की अलग-अलग जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए तैयार की गई है।

इससे बुजुर्गों, शिशुओं के साथ यात्रा करने वाले माता-पिता और विशेष आवश्यकता वाले यात्रियों को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी।



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6 FEBRUARY 2026

'Bengaluru airport passenger traffic tops 400 m by mid-year'

Aishwarya Kumar
Bengaluru

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, (BLR Airport) is witnessing sustained compounded growth across passenger and cargo traffic, signalling a structural shift beyond a post-pandemic rebound, said Girish Nair, Chief Operating Officer of Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL).

The airport crossed 350 million cumulative passengers in February 2025 and is expected to reach 400 million by April-May 2026.

While it took three-four years to reach the first 50 million passengers, the latest 50 million will be achieved in a fraction of that time, he told *businessline*.

BUSIEST HUBS

BIAL is undertaking the refurbishment of Terminal 1 and curbside re-engineering as the airport positions itself among India's busiest hubs.

The airport has recorded 8 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) passenger growth of 43.82 million in 2025, and 520,985 tonnes of cargo in CY 2025,



Girish Nair, Chief Operating Officer of BIAL

registering a 5 per cent y-o-y. Nair said this rapid scale-up has pushed the airport to shift from reactive expansion to forward planning.

CAPACITY CREATION

"Airports have long gestation cycles. If you plan only when congestion becomes visible, you are already late," he said, adding that capacity creation and operational preparedness must move in tandem.

He said BLR Airport has an Vision 2030, anchored by multiple projects, with a strong emphasis on the use of technology.

"One of our biggest focus areas is how we bring in absolute usage of technology.

We will work with partners, because we will not be able to develop everything in-house," Nair said, adding that the airport is looking to collaborate with strong partners to build differentiated technology capabilities.

REVENUE SURGE

On revenues, Nair said aeronautical income continues to dominate.

"More than 70 per cent of our revenues still come from aeronautical sources," he said, adding that while airports typically aspire to grow non-aeronautical revenues, the objective is balance rather than substitution.

"Our aim is to make the airport a destination in itself," Nair said.

"We want the city to come and experience the airport, alongside the passenger journey."

He pointed to initiatives such as movie screenings and curated events, noting that BIAL's efforts are directed towards striking the right balance between aeronautical and non-aeronautical streams, each of which brings a differentiated advantage to the airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी, नियामकों में 2645 पद खाली: सरकार

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार ने गुरुवार को लोकसभा में बताया कि एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया और 3 विमानन नियामक संस्थाओं में कुल 2645 पद खाली हैं। नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले के अनुसार डीजीसीए में 787 पद रिक्त हैं। एएआई में 1667 पद खाली हैं। बीसीएस में 180 और आईआरए में 11 पद रिक्त हैं।

एयरपोर्ट पर परिवार संग आने वालों के लिए खास सुविधाएं



एयरपोर्ट पर फैमिली @ डेल सेवा की शुरुआत करते छयल के सोईओ • सौ डावड

जागरण संवाददाता नई दिल्ली: आइजीअइ एयरपोर्ट पर कृष्णतिवार को फैमिली @ डेल नामक एक यात्री केंद्रित पहल की शुरुआत की गई है। आइजीअइ एयरपोर्ट संचालन एजेंसी छयल की ओर से यह सेवा विशेष रूप से एयरपोर्ट से यात्रा करने वाले परिवारों के लिए आराम, सुविधा और सहजता को बढ़ाने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया है।

फैमिली @ डेल सेवा पहल के तहत, परिवारों के साथ यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों को अब टर्मिनल पर प्रवेश द्वार, विशेष फैमिली चेक-इन काउंटर और प्राथमिकता वाली सुरक्षा लेन की सुविधा मिलेगी। छोटे बच्चों,

बुजुर्गों और सीमित गतिशीलता वाले यात्रियों का विशेष ध्यान रखते हुए, एयरपोर्ट अब मुफ्त बेबी स्ट्रालर, निजी केबिन केयर रूम और पीआरएम-फ्रेंडली वाशरूम जैसी सुविधाएं भी दे रहा है। यात्रा के दौरान परिवारों का मार्गदर्शन करने के लिए विशेष रूप से प्रशिक्षित फैमिली असिस्टेंट को तैनात किया गया है। छयल के सोईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरिया ने कहा कि यह पहल यात्री परिवार की अनूठी जरूरतों को समझते हुए, इस पहल को इस तरह डिजाइन किया गया है कि प्रस्थान फोरकोर्ट से लेकर बोर्डिंग गेट तक हर कदम पर उनकी यात्रा आरामदायक और तनावमुक्त बनी रहे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

offgrid

Hosur airport plan reworked after defence objections

**HD Bureau
CHENNAI**

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation will shortly resubmit a revised Detailed Project Report for the proposed greenfield airport at Hosur, seeking airspace clearance after addressing technical objections raised by the Ministry of Defence, according to the agency's managing director Sandeep Nanduri. The

move revives a project seen as strategically important for the state's industrial corridor and for easing pressure on Bengaluru's existing aviation infrastructure. Speaking in an interview, Nanduri said the earlier proposal had been declined on airspace grounds but stressed that officials believe a workable solution exists. The revised submission, he indicated, would contain detailed technical clarifications

responding point by point to concerns flagged by defence authorities, particularly on flight paths, radar coverage and potential overlap with military airspace in the region. Hosur, located near the Karnataka border, has emerged as a fast-growing industrial hub anchored by automotive, electronics and manufacturing investments. Policy planners in Chennai have long argued that an airport there would serve



both the city's expanding industrial base and the southern periphery of Bengaluru, where congestion at Kempegowda

International Airport has become a recurring issue despite phased capacity expansions. The initial DPR, prepared after years of site studies and

consultations, envisaged a civilian airport capable of handling narrow-body aircraft, cargo operations and business aviation. However, the Ministry of Defence raised objections citing airspace safety and operational concerns, a common hurdle for greenfield airports located near sensitive zones. Such objections have delayed or reshaped airport projects elsewhere, often requiring revised runway orientations, altered approach paths or

additional air traffic management safeguards. Nanduri's comments suggest that the revised DPR will propose technical mitigations rather than a wholesale redesign. Officials familiar with the process say these typically include adjusted flight procedures, restricted operating windows and coordination mechanisms with defence aviation units to ensure civilian movements do not interfere with military operations. The Hosur

proposal sits within a broader national context where aviation growth is colliding with airspace constraints. Civil aviation traffic has expanded steadily, driven by rising incomes, regional connectivity schemes and low-cost carriers, while defence requirements continue to dominate large swathes of controlled airspace. Balancing these priorities has become a key policy challenge for the Centre. For Tamil Nadu, the stakes are high.

आईजीआई पर 'फैमिली एट डीईएल' के नाम से नई सेवा शुरू परिवार के लिए एयरपोर्ट पर अलग प्रवेश द्वार बने

अच्छी खबर

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। परिवार के साथ हवाई जहाज में सफर करने वालों के लिए दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर सुविधा बढ़ाई जा रही है। अब उन्हें लंबी कतारों में नहीं लगना पड़ेगा।

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे का संचालन करने वाली कंपनी डायल ने ऐसे लोगों के लिए 'फैमिली एट डीईएल' नाम से नई सेवा की शुरुआत की है। इसके अंतर्गत परिवारों के लिए विशेष प्रवेश द्वार, चेकइन एवं सुरक्षा जांच सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराई जाएंगी।

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से हर दिन हजारों की संख्या में यात्री उड़ान भरते हैं। परिवारों के लिए हवाई यात्रा को सजह और तनाव मुक्त बनाने के लिए नई और अनुभवी पहल की गई है।

डायल के मुताबिक, यह एक समर्पित, यात्री केंद्रित पहल है। इसे दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर यात्रा करने वाले परिवारों के लिए आराम, सुविधा और सहजता को बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से तैयार किया गया है। इस कार्यक्रम का लक्ष्य परिवारों की विशेष जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए हर चरण को सरल बनाना और समग्र यात्री अनुभव को बेहतर करना है। 'फैमिली एट डीईएल' के तहत परिवारों के साथ यात्रा करने वाले यात्री विशेष प्रवेश द्वार, विशेष फैमिली चेक-इन काउंटर, प्राथमिक सुरक्षा लेन और फूड कोर्ट में निर्धारित जगह का लाभ उठा सकेंगे। यहां पर बच्चों के लिए विशेष रूप से तैयार मैनुअल (खाद्य तालिका) भी उपलब्ध होंगे।



इस गेट से मिलेगा प्रवेश

- टर्मिनल 1- 4वीं, 4सी
- टर्मिनल 2- 4बी
- टर्मिनल 3- 3ए, 3बी

घरेलू उड़ान में है यह सुविधा

फैमिली एट डीईएल सुविधा अब टर्मिनल एक, दो और तीन में घरेलू प्रस्थान के लिए उपलब्ध है। इसमें परिवार के लिए समर्पित प्रवेश द्वार, प्राथमिक सुरक्षा क्षेत्र और परिवारों के अनुकूल कई सुविधाएं शामिल हैं जो टर्मिनलों के भीतर निर्बाध आवागमन को सुनिश्चित करती हैं। डायल का उद्देश्य है कि परिवार के साथ यात्रा करने वालों को किसी तरह की परेशानी का सामना नहीं करना पड़े। कई बार छोटे या बुजुर्ग के कारण लोगों को परेशानी होती है। अब परेशानी नहीं होगी।

ये सुविधाएं मिलेंगी

- विशेष प्रवेश द्वार, चेक इन काउंटर, प्राथमिक सुरक्षा लेन
- आवश्यकता पड़ने पर बोर्डिंग गेट तक बग्गी सहायता दी जाएगी
- निशुल्क बेबी स्ट्रोलर और बेबी कैरर रूम उपलब्ध होगा
- शारीरिक रूप से असमर्थ लोगों के लिए विशेष शौचालय
- फूड कोर्ट में इनके लिए विशेष स्थान निर्धारित होगा
- प्रशिक्षित फैमिली असिस्टेंट कर्मियों की होगी तैनाती

05 प्रवेश द्वार को आईजीआई के तीनों टर्मिनल पर परिवारों के लिए आरक्षित किया गया

इन्हें माना जाएगा परिवार

हवाई अड्डे पर साथ सफर करने वाले पति-पत्नी और बच्चों को एक परिवार माना जाएगा। पिता और पुत्र-पुत्री, मा और पुत्र-पुत्री को भी एक परिवार में शामिल माना जाएगा। साथ ही पति-पत्नी या नवदंपति को भी परिवार माना जाएगा। डायल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने बताया कि फैमिली एट डील एक समावेशी और संवेदनशील एयरपोर्ट बनाने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है। हम परिवारों की विशिष्ट आवश्यकताओं को समझते हैं और इसी सोच के साथ इसे तैयार किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर हर परिवार को अब स्पेशल ट्रीटमेंट

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■ नई दिल्ली : दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ने Family@DEL नाम से एक नई सुविधा शुरू की है, जो परिवारों को आरामदायक सफर देगी। एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन ने बताया कि इस सर्विस के साथ एक अलग कॉरिडोर बना गया है, जहां से उन लोगों को अलग से एंटी दी जाएगी, जो बच्चे या बुजुर्गों के साथ खाने परिवार के साथ हैं। इस सर्विस के साथ एंटी गेट से लेकर बोर्ड-इन गेट तक स्टाफ उन्हें गाइड करता रहेगा।

Family@DEL सर्विस गुरुवार को लॉन्च हुई। इसका उद्देश्य बच्चों, बुजुर्गों और परिवार के साथ यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों को आसन



Family@DEL से मिलेगा अब लाइन से छुटकारा, इंतजार होगा कम

और आरामदायक सफर देना है। दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (DIAL) के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपरिवार ने

कहा कि यह पहल परिवारों की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखकर बनाई गई है, ताकि उनकी यात्रा आरामदायक, सुरक्षित और



टेशन फ्री हो सके। Family@DEL के साथ दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट यात्रियों को बेहतर और सुविधाजनक अनुभव देने की दिशा

में एक और कदम आगे बढ़ा रहा है। इस पहल के तहत घरेलू उड़ानों से यात्रा करने वाले परिवारों को एयरपोर्ट पर अलग एंटी गेट, फैमिली चेक-इन काउंटर, जल्द सुरक्षा जांच और बैठने की खास व्यवस्था मिलेगी। जरूरत पड़ने पर यात्रियों को बगगी सेवा भी दी जाएगी, जिससे वे आसानी से बोर्डिंग गेट तक पहुंच सकें।

यह सुविधा दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल 1, 2 और 3 पर घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए शुरू की गई है। Family@DEL सुविधा में बच्चों के लिए बेबी स्ट्रोलर, बेबी केयर रूम, फूड कोर्ट में परिवारों के लिए अलग से जगह, बच्चों के हिस्से से स्पेशल मेन्यू, बुजुर्गों और दिव्यांग यात्रियों के लिए अनुकूल वांशरूम और मदद के लिए विशेष रूप से प्रशिक्षित स्टाफ भी मौजूद रहेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

एयरपोर्ट पर फैमिली@डेल सुविधा

नई दिल्ली, 5 फरवरी (नवोदय टाइम्स): इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर अगर आप परिवार के साथ यात्रा कर रहे हैं तो अब चिंता करने की बात नहीं। पारिवारिक यात्रा

को सुगम बनाने को एयरपोर्ट का संचालन करने वाली दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड ने फैमिली एट द रेट डेल सेवा शुरू की है।

परिवार के साथ यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों को एयरपोर्ट पर समर्पित प्रवेश द्वार, विशेष फैमिली चेक-इन काउंटर, प्राथमिक सुरक्षा जांच लेन और फूड कोर्ट में फैमिली सिटिंग एरिया सहित विभिन्न सुविधाएं मिलेंगी। डायल के

सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने बताया कि हम परिवारों की खास



जरूरतों को समझते हैं और हमने इस पहल को सोच-समझकर डिजाइन किया है ताकि दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल

एयरपोर्ट से उनकी यात्रा, डिपार्चर फोरकोर्ट से लेकर बोर्डिंग गेट तक, हर टचपॉइंट पर आरामदायक, आसान, तनाव मुक्त और भरोसेमंद हो। फैमिली एट द रेट डेल परिवार के साथ यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों के लिए आराम, सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए समर्पित यात्री केंद्रित पहल है। इसका उद्देश्य परिवारों की जरूरतों के अनुरूप सेवाएं प्रदान करना है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Delhi airport gets a family upgrade

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

Families travelling through the Delhi airport will no longer have to wait in long queues for various air travel related formalities. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Thursday launched Family@DEL, a dedicated, passenger-centric initiative designed to enhance comfort, convenience, and ease for families travelling through Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The programme, operational across terminals one, two and three for domestic departures, offers family travellers access to dedicated



Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

entry gates, exclusive family check-in counters, priority security lanes and designated seating areas at food courts with curated kids'

menus, and a host of family-friendly amenities ensuring seamless movement through the Terminals.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Delhi airport gets a family upgrade

According to DIAL, the aims to simplify every stage of the airport journey by offering thoughtfully curated services tailored to the unique needs of families, thereby enhancing the overall passenger experience. The initiative also pro-

vides buggy assistance (if required) up to the boarding gates for those in need, ensuring a seamless, comfortable, and hassle-free journey from the terminal forecourt to the departure gate.

Family travellers, including those with infants, passengers with restricted mobilities (PRMs), and elderly passengers, can enjoy complimentary baby strollers, private baby care rooms, PRM-friendly washrooms, and specially trained on-ground Family Assistance Buddies to guide and support families throughout their airport journey.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

5 FEBRUARY 2026

Turkish Airlines flight makes emergency landing at Kolkata Airport after engine fire scare

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Kolkata, 4 February

A Turkish Airlines passenger aircraft en route from Kathmandu to Istanbul made an emergency landing at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport here on Wednesday afternoon after the pilot suspected a fire in one of the engines mid-air, airport authorities said.

The wide-body aircraft landed safely at 2.49 p.m., with all 236 people on board reported to be safe, though passengers experienced moments of panic. According to officials at NSCBI Airport, the aircraft's captain alerted Kolkata Air Traffic Control (ATC) about a possible fire in the right engine and sought permission for an emergency landing. The request was

promptly approved, and a full emergency was declared at the airport as per standard operating procedures.

"The captain informed Kolkata ATC about a suspected fire in the right engine. A full emergency landing was carried out smoothly at 14:49 hours. All passengers and crew are safe," said the Airport Director of NSCBI Airport, Kolkata. The aircraft remains grounded at the airport, and a detailed technical inspection is currently underway. Airport sources said the aircraft was a Turkish Airlines Airbus A330-303 operating flight number THY-727. It had taken off from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu at 1:28 p.m. local time, bound for Istanbul. Within four minutes of take-off, the right engine reportedly caught fire, prompting the

pilots to shut it down as a precautionary measure. A senior official at Tribhuvan International Airport confirmed that the aircraft was diverted west of Kathmandu and held in the air for around 10 minutes after the engine issue was detected. Following the incident, Tribhuvan International Airport was temporarily closed for about 15 minutes as a safety measure.

According to information available, the aircraft was carrying 225 passengers along with 11 crew members, taking the total number of people on board to 236.

While no injuries were reported, several passengers were visibly shaken after the unscheduled landing. Sources at NSCBI Airport said emergency response teams, including fire tenders, medical staff and

security personnel, were deployed on the runway ahead of the aircraft's arrival.

The landing was completed without further complications, and passengers were later escorted safely inside the terminal. Passengers described moments of anxiety after being informed about a technical issue mid-flight, though many praised the calm handling of the situation by the flight crew.

"There was fear, but the crew kept reassuring us. We are relieved to be safe," said one passenger. Turkish Airlines officials are expected to send a technical team to Kolkata to assess the aircraft before deciding on further operations. Meanwhile, airport authorities said normal operations at NSCBI Airport were not disrupted due to the emergency landing.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

DIAL launches family travel initiative at IGI

New Delhi: Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) launched Family@Del on Thursday, a dedicated initiative aimed at making air travel easier and more comfortable for families at IGI airport.

The programme, operational across T1, 2 and 3 for domestic departures, offers family travellers access to dedicated entry gates, exclusive family check-in counters, priority security lanes and designated seating areas at food courts with kids' menus.

Additional facilities include buggy assistance up to boarding gates, complimentary baby strollers, private baby care rooms, passengers with reduced mobility-friendly washrooms and trained family assistance buddies to guide families through the airport. The initiative is designed to support families travelling with infants, elderly passengers and those with restricted mobility.

"Family@Del reflects our commitment to a more inclusive and caring airport experience," said Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO, DIAL. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

DGCA: IndiGo flight cancellations hit over 9 lakh passengers in Dec

NEW DELHI, Feb 4: Over 10.4 lakh passengers were affected by flight cancellations in December, with over 93 per cent of the total passengers getting impacted by IndiGo cancellations.

Latest data shared by aviation regulator DGCA also showed that scheduled domestic airlines shelled out over Rs 24.27 crore towards compensation and facilities for flight cancellations that affected more than 10.46 lakh passengers in December. Out of them, flight cancellations

by IndiGo impacted 9.82 lakh passengers in December and the airline spent Rs 22.74 crore towards facilitation.

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

IndiGo, the country's largest airline, faced massive flight disruptions in early December and during that month, its market share fell to 59.6 per cent from 63.6 per cent in November.

During December, a total of 29,212 passenger-related complaints had been received by the scheduled domestic airlines and the number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried was at around 20.41, as per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

According to DGCA data, flight delays impacted 8.34 lakh passengers and airlines spent Rs 4.50 crore towards facilitation in December.

In December, as many as 2,050 passengers were denied

boarding by the airlines, which shelled out Rs 2.08 crore towards compensation and facilitation in this regard.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-December 2025 were 1,669.46 lakh as against 1,613.31 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 3.48 per cent and a monthly negative growth of 4.14 per cent," the DGCA said in its report for December. - PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

Air traffic rose to 16.69 cr in 2025

NEW DELHI, Feb 4: Domestic air traffic rose over 3 per cent to 16.69 crore in 2025, while the number of people who flew in domestic airlines fell to 1.43 crore in December, a month when there were massive operational disruptions at IndiGo.

Data released by DGCA on Tuesday showed that IndiGo,

which had cancelled a large number of flights in early December, saw its market share slump to 59.6 per cent in that month from 63.6 per cent in November.

In December, the market share of Air India Group and Akasa Air rose to 29.6 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively. The two airlines' mar-

ket share stood at 26.7 per cent and 4.7 per cent, respectively. SpiceJet also saw its market share rise to 4.3 per cent in December from 3.7 per cent in November 2025. Alliance Air's market share remained unchanged at 0.4 per cent in December.

The cancellation of scheduled domestic airlines was 6.92

per cent in December, and that of IndiGo was 9.65 per cent.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during Jan-Dec 2025 were 1,669.46 lakh as against 1,613.31 lakh in the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 3.48 per cent and a monthly negative growth of 4.14 per cent," the DGCA said. - PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Sri Lanka plans Udan-type scheme to boost domestic air links

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Sri Lanka is formulating a domestic air connectivity scheme on lines of India's Udan scheme and is keen to attract investment from international airlines including those from India, the island country's Deputy Tourism Minister Ruwan

Ranasinghe said on Thursday. While Sri Lanka Airlines operates international flights, domestic air connectivity is limited with only four commercial aircraft serving within country.

DOMESTIC AVIATION

The Sri Lanka government is looking to promote domestic aviation with a view to boost high value tourism.

The government along with World Bank is preparing a feasibility report. Six airstrips are also being upgraded with government funds.

Udan stands for Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik and is flagship regional connectivity scheme of Indian government.

"We are looking to provide government support to

private airline operators in the form of a subsidy for domestic routes. We see a good potential for regional aviation especially to attract high spending tourists. Although ours is a small country, it still takes five to six hours to travel from one end to another and thus air connectivity will help," Ranasinghe said on the sidelines of OTM travel show in Mum-

bai. "Foreign airlines including those from India are welcome to invest in domestic aviation business in Sri Lanka in partnership with local companies," he added.

Sri Lanka received 2.33 million foreign visitors in 2025. India is the largest source market for Sri Lanka and over a half millions visited the island nation last year.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Government seeks industry roadmap for aviation push

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Centre has asked the aviation industry to submit proposals on measures to boost domestic manufacturing, aircraft leasing and related activities by effectively utilising provisions announced in the Budget.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation held a consultative meeting with industry leaders on Thursday to discuss a roadmap for the sector's growth.

IMPORT DUTY

Speaking to *businessline*, sources said that a key question during the discussions was how to utilise the reduction in import duty on components and raw materials to promote the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) as well as manufacturing sectors. Besides, the government sought industry inputs on improving financing options for emerging segments such as electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air-



craft and helicopters.

Furthermore, the discussions, sources said focused on how to fully leverage recent policy measures, including lower duties on aircraft parts, easing of leasing norms, expansion of MRO facilities, and steps to promote manufacturing within the country.

The Budget for 2026-27, presented on February 1, announced several initiatives to promote civilian aircraft manufacturing, maintenance and leasing, while also aiming to improve last-mile and regional air connectivity.

Among the key measures, the basic customs duty has been fully exempted on components and parts required for the manufacture of civilian, training and other aircraft. Additionally, the ex-

emption applies across multiple aircraft categories.

AIRCRAFT LEASING

The Budget also proposed steps to deepen aircraft leasing activity at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Simplification of regulations and improvements in the tax framework at the International Financial Services Centre are expected to enhance the competitiveness of India's leasing ecosystem and help lower airline operating costs over time.

Apart from manufacturing and leasing, the Budget outlines initiatives to promote the seaplane ecosystem in India. The seaplane specific proposals cover both manufacturing and route development.

Notably, the Centre plans to incentivise the indigenisation of seaplane manufacturing, along with the introduction of a Seaplane Viability Gap Funding scheme to support operations aimed at enhancing last-mile and remote connectivity and promoting tourism.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

IndiGo reviewing CCI antitrust order after mass cancellations

IndiGo said on Thursday that it is reviewing the order from antitrust regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) and will take appropriate recourse upon reviewing it in detail. CCI has ordered an investigation into the airline after its widespread flight cancellations in December rattled the country's air travel sector. IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share, cancelled about 4,500 flights in the first weeks of December, stranding tens of thousands of passengers nationwide and highlighting concerns over limited competition in the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

REUTERS



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

A-I investigating if crew followed protocols in fuel-switch incident

Air India on Thursday said it was investigating if its crew followed all compliance procedures when a Boeing jet took off from London with a possible fuel-switch defect, only to be later grounded in India. Authorities have said pilots in London had observed the fuel control switch did not stay latched in the 'run' position on two attempts, but was stable on a third. A source with direct knowledge of the matter said Air India's investigation would question the crew why they did not report the incident in London, and if they felt it was safe to fly, why they reported later in India. India's civil aviation authority did not immediately respond to queries from *Reuters*.

REUTERS



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Nearly 3/4th of A-I Grp's 267 planes had recurring defects since Jan 2025

Nearly three-fourths of the Air India Group's 267 planes that were analysed for repetitive defects have been identified as having recurring defects, data presented in the Lok Sabha on Thursday showed. In all, 377 aircraft have been identified as having recurring defects since January last year, of the total 754 aircraft analysed for such deficiencies across six scheduled airlines, the government told Lok Sabha on Thursday. Of these, 405 aircraft belonging to IndiGo were analysed, of which 148 were identified for repetitive defects, as on February 3, this year, as per the data presented by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol in Lok Sabha in response to MPs question.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

संसद में जवाब • जनवरी 25 से अब तक कुल 754 विमान जांचे, 377 में समस्याएं **हवाई यात्रा खतरे में; 1 साल में एअर इंडिया ग्रुप के 72% विमानों में बार-बार तकनीकी खराबी**

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

हवाई यात्रा की सुरक्षा सवालियों में है। जनवरी 2025 से देश की छह प्रमुख एयरलाइंस के कुल 754 विमानों की तकनीकी जांच की गई। इनमें से 377 विमानों में बार-बार आने वाली खराबियों की पहचान हुई। इनमें एअर इंडिया ग्रुप के 267 विमानों में से 191 (72%) में बार-बार तकनीकी दोष पाए गए, जो सबसे ज्यादा हैं। लोकसभा में नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने बताया कि डीजीसीए ने पिछले साल सुरक्षा को लेकर बड़े पैमाने पर जांच की। इस दौरान 3,890 निरीक्षण, 56 ऑडिट, 492 रैंप चेक और 84 विदेशी विमानों की जांच की गई। इसके अलावा 874 स्पॉट चेक और 550 नाइट सर्विलांस भी किए गए।

इंडिगो के विमानों में कम शिकायतें मिलीं

एयरलाइन	जांचे विमान	खराबी वाले	प्रतिशत
एअर इंडिया	166	137	82.5%
एअर इंडिया एक्स.	101	54	53.5%
एअर इंडिया ग्रुप	267	191	71.5%
इंडिगो	405	148	36.5%
स्पाइसजेट	43	16	37.2%
अकासा एयर	32	14	43.7%
कुल एयरलाइंस	754	377	50.0%

2,645 पद खाली पड़े; सरकार ने बताया एयरपोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया व 3 विमानन नियामक संस्थाओं डीजीसीए, बीसीएएस व आईआरए में 2,645 पद खाली।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

पड़ाव: निजीकरण का दिखा असर एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस को पहले प्रॉफिट की उम्मीद

बिजनेस संवाददाता | मुंबई



एअर इंडिया ग्रुप की किफायती यूनिट एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस को चालू वित्त वर्ष की दूसरी छमाही में प्रॉफिट की उम्मीद है। सरकार से टाटा ग्रुप द्वारा खरीदे जाने के बाद ये पहली बार होगा, जब ये एयरलाइन मुनाफे में आएगी। कंपनी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने हाल ही में एक कर्मचारी बैठक में मुनाफे की उम्मीद जताई है। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस को 2024-25 में 5,678 करोड़ रुपए का कर-पूर्व घाटा हुआ था। इस लिहाज से अगर इस छमाही यह मुनाफे में आई तो यह बड़ी उपलब्धि होगी।

इंडिगो से मिल रही कड़ी प्रतिस्पर्धा

एअर इंडिया ग्रुप कंपनियों को देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइंस इंडिगो से कड़ी प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। भारतीय बाजार में, इंडिगो 64-65% घरेलू हिस्सेदारी के साथ सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन है। वित्त वर्ष 2025 में इसने 7,587.5 करोड़ का कर-पूर्व लाभ कमाया था। हालांकि दिसंबर, 2025 तिमाही में मुनाफा 78% घटकर 550 करोड़ रुपए रह गया।

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

एएआई ने एपोजी एयरोस्पेस के साथ किया करार

नई दिल्ली, 5 फरवरी (एजेंसियां)। पानी और जमीन दोनों पर उतरने में सक्षम उभयचर विमान बनाने में विशेषज्ञता रखने वाली ऑस्ट्रेलियाई कंपनी एंफोबियन एयरोस्पेस इंडस्ट्रीज (एएआई) ने भारत में अपने एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 विमानों के एक हिस्से के निर्माण के लिए भारतीय कंपनी एपोजी एयरोस्पेस के साथ करार किया है।

साथ ही एएआई ने इन विमानों के रक्षा और सरकारी ग्राहकों को विमानों की बिक्री के लिए एपोजी एयरोस्पेस को भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप में अपना प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि सहयोगी भी घोषित किया है। इसके अलावा, एल्बेट्रोस विमानों के लिए रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहॉलिंग (एमआरओ) सुविधा देने के लिए भी प्राधिकृत किया गया है।

दोनों कंपनियों द्वारा गुरुवार को आयोजित संयुक्त संवाददाता सम्मेलन में बताया कि एपोजी एयरोस्पेस एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 विमान के लिए टेल सेक्शन (पिछले हिस्से) का निर्माण करेगी। एएआई की प्रवर्तक कंपनी एंफोबियन एयरक्राफ्ट होल्डिंग्स (एएएच) के संस्थापक और कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष ख्वा होंग ने कहा कि भविष्य में देश में असेम्बली लाइन लगाने की भी उनकी योजना है। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में उभयचर विमानों के लिए काफी बड़ा बाजार है।

कंपनी ने एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 के तीन संस्करण लॉन्च किये हैं - सैन्य, सरकारी और वाणिज्यिक। एएएच



के अध्यक्ष एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी गोपी रेड्डी ने बताया कि भारतीय नौ सेना ने चार उभयचर विमानों के लिए प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये हैं और कंपनी को विश्वास है कि उसे इसका ऑर्डर मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय सेना को तत्काल 25-30 उभयचर विमानों की जरूरत है। श्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि पहले चरण में तीन साल में 25-30 विमानों के भारत में आने की उम्मीद है। भारत इन विमानों का इस्तेमाल करने वाला एशिया का पहला देश होगा। उन्होंने बताया कि एल्बेट्रोस का डेमो विमान अगले चार-छह महीने में भारत में आ जाएगा जबकि ग्राहक के इस्तेमाल के लिए पहला विमान डेढ़ से दो साल में आ सकता है। उन्होंने बताया कि शुरुआती 15 विमान की कीमत 3,500 करोड़ रुपये के आसपास हो सकती है।

एपोजी एयरोस्पेस के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक विंग कमांडर (सेवानिवृत्त) एम.वी.एन. साई ने कहा कि कंपनी के पास 10-15 विमानों के लिए

- देश में बनेगा उभयचर विमान का पिछला हिस्सा
- रक्षा व सरकारी क्षेत्रों के लिए होंगे विशेष संस्करण

संभावित ऑर्डर हैं। एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 दो इंजन वाला उभयचर विमान है। यह एक बार ईंधन भरकर 18 घंटे तक उड़ान भर सकता है और 2,200 समुद्री मील की दूरी तय कर सकता है। यह 650 पाउंड का वजन लेकर जाने में सक्षम है। इसके सैन्य संस्करण का इस्तेमाल खोज एवं बचाव, पनडुब्बी-रोधी मिशन और जासूसी के लिए किया जा सकता है। इसके वाणिज्यिक संस्करण में सीटों की संख्या 28 तक होगी।

श्री रेड्डी ने बताया कि यह 19 से अधिक सीटों वाला दुनिया का पहला उभयचर विमान है जिसे अमेरिकी और यूरोपीय पंजीकृत यात्री परिवहन के लिए प्रमाणन प्राप्त है, यानी इसका इस्तेमाल शिड्यूल उड़ानों के लिए भी किया जा सकता है।

एएआई के मुख्य रणनीतिक अधिकारी संजय सिंह ने बताया कि इस विमान का इस्तेमाल समुद्री लुटेरों के खिलाफ प्रभावी तरीके से किया जा सकता है। आपदा के समय लोगों को बचाने के लिए और पर्यटन में अंतिम छोर तक संपर्क मुहैया कराने में यह कारगर हो सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

5 FEBRUARY 2026

No shortcuts in aviation safety

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

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

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

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

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

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

5 FEBRUARY 2026



IndiGo unfair biz: CCI orders investigation

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

5 FEBRUARY 2026

Probe ordered against IndiGo for unfair biz practices

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

After taking into consideration data related to airlines, the CCI has prima facie concluded that IndiGo has abused its dominant position.

In a 16-page order, CCI said that by cancelling thousands of flights, which constituted a significant portion of the scheduled capacity, IndiGo effectively withheld its services from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand. CCI also rejected objections raised by IndiGo that the regulator does not have the jurisdiction to look into the case.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

एअर इंडिया के 267 विमानों में से लगभग तीन-चौथाई विमानों में बार बार सामने आईं गड़बड़ियां

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : सरकार ने लोकसभा में बताया कि एअर इंडिया ग्रुप के 267 विमानों से संबंधित विश्लेषण से पता चला कि इनमें से लगभग तीन-चौथाई विमानों में बार बार गड़बड़ियां सामने आईं। छह एयरलाइन कंपनियों के कुल 754 विमानों में से पिछले जनवरी से कुल 377 विमानों में बार बार गड़बड़ियों का पता चला है। इंडिगो के 405 विमानों में से 148 विमानों में बार बार समस्याएं आईं।

नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहल ने प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया कि एअर इंडिया के 166 विमानों में से 137 विमानों में बार बार गड़बड़ियों की पहचान की गई, जबकि एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के 101 विमानों

- **नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री ने लोकसभा को दी जानकारी**
- **छह एयरलाइन कंपनियों के 377 विमानों में गड़बड़ियां मिलीं**

में से 54 विमानों में बार बार समस्याएं आईं। कुल मिलाकर, एअर इंडिया समूह के 267 विमानों का विश्लेषण किया गया, जिनमें से 191 में बार बार गड़बड़ियों की पहचान हुई। स्पाइसजेट के 43 विमानों का विश्लेषण किया गया, जिनमें से 16 विमानों में बार बार समस्याओं की पहचान की गई। अकासा एयर के विमानों 32 विमानों में से कुल 14 विमानों में बार बार दिक्कतें आईं। इस डाटा पर एअर

इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, हमने पूरी बेड़े में सावधानी बरतते हुए जांच की है। इसलिए संख्या अधिक है। अन्य प्रश्न के उत्तर में मंत्री ने कहा कि 2022 में डीजीसीए में 637 स्वीकृत तकनीकी पद थे। स्वीकृत तकनीकी पदों की संख्या बढ़कर 1063 कर दी गई है। नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री ने बताया कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में उड़ानों में तकनीकी समस्याओं के मामलों में कमी आई है। 2024 में 421 तकनीकी समस्याएं सामने आईं। नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री ने बताया कि भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण और तीन विमानन नियामकों डीजीसीए, बीसीएएस और एईआरए में 2,645 पद रिक्त हैं।

INDIA'S AVIATION SAFETY UNDER LENS

377 of 754 Aircraft Audited Show Recurring Snags; IndiGo, AI Top List

Disclosures come amid tighter scrutiny after recent incidents and flight disruptions

Forum Gandhi
& Arindam Majumder

Mumbai | New Delhi: India's aviation regulator found "repetitive defects" in half, or 377, of the 754 aircraft it analysed during safety audits between January last year and February 3, the civil aviation ministry told the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Airlines reported 353 technical faults during 2025, down from 448 in 2023, the ministry said. "During the last three years, technical faults reported in flights have decreased," it said, sharing year wise data.

Snags in the aviation industry may not always be critical to safety as a large part of them are reported in cabins, like a broken seat or non-functional in-flight screen.

They are reported in the minimum equipment list (MEL) and aircraft are allowed to operate with these. Airlines have a window to correct those defects in subsequent days, depending on criticality.

"We have benchmarked our safety reporting against the world's best airlines. We lag on the snags in the cabin side as



many of our planes are older," an airline official said.

The ministry said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has a "systematic safety oversight mechanism in place for monitoring the compliance of rules and civil aviation requirements encompassing all the aircraft and airport operators."

This oversight includes "surveillances, spot checks and regulatory audits," with deficiencies followed up for corrective action and enforcement where required.

The disclosures come amid heightened scrutiny of airline operations following recent aviation incidents and sustained passenger disruptions, with regulators facing questions over whether rapid network expansion, repeated technical snags and large-scale flight cancellations are stretching operational resilience across Indian carriers.

As part of this intensified oversight, the regulator conducted 3,890 surveillance inspections, 56 regulatory audits, 492 ramp checks and 84 inspections of foreign aircraft during 2025. In addi-

tion, 874 spot checks and 550 night surveillance exercises were carried out, the ministry said.

"A total of 377 aircraft have been identified for repetitive defects" out of 754 aircraft analysed across scheduled airlines between January 2025 and February 3, 2026, the government told Parliament.

Airline wise data placed IndiGo at the top of the list with 148 aircraft identified for repetitive defects, followed by Air India with 137, Air India Express with 54, SpiceJet with 16, Akasa Air with 14, and Alliance Air with eight aircraft.

Separately, the Lok Sabha was informed that "a total of 6,936 flights were cancelled by IndiGo during the last three months," affecting 1,081,680 passengers. The government attributed cancellations in December 2025 to "over optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness, deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in management structure and operational control," along with adverse weather.

The airline was directed to "undertake necessary measures to stabilise operations, mitigate passenger inconvenience and provide assistance to stranded passengers," and to ensure refunds and compensation strictly in line with Civil Aviation Requirements, including payment in cash, bank transfer or travel vouchers, subject to passenger consent.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

INDIGO REVIEWING CCI ORDER AFTER DECEMBER CRISIS



INDIGO SAID
THAT it is
reviewing
the order
from
Competition

Commission of India (CCI)
and will take appropriate
recourse upon reviewing
it in detail. CCI has
ordered a probe into the
airline after its widespread
flight cancellations in
December.

Wing scraping incident at airport: IndiGo in 'fault' line

h: AI P

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has initiated an investigation into the incident of ground collision between an Air India and an IndiGo aircraft at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Tuesday evening. Sources suggested that the IndiGo aircraft's mispositioning from the centre line caused the wingtips of the two Airbus A320s to scrape.

At around 7.30pm, the right wingtips of Air India's Mumbai-Coimbatore flight AI-2732 and IndiGo's Hyderabad-Mumbai flight 6E-791 made contact, causing minor damage to both. Air India had claimed that its aircraft, registered as VT-TYV, was stationary on taxiway CI awaiting its turn for departure, while the IndiGo aircraft, registered as VT-IFV, was taxiing toward its arrival gate after landing.

Although no injuries were reported among the flyers on



Jets clip wings at Mumbai airport

Dhairya Gajara
The wingtips of an Air India A320 aircraft (AI-2732) and an IndiGo A320 aircraft (6E-791) made contact on taxiway CI at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Tuesday evening. Sources suggested that the IndiGo aircraft's mispositioning from the centre line caused the wingtips of the two Airbus A320s to scrape.

DGCA's Mumbai division is currently reviewing taxiway CCTV footage and flight data

board, both the aircraft were grounded for maintenance inspections after the matter was reported to DGCA. While DGCA officials from the Mumbai office initiated an investigation, sources from the operational staff at the airport shared crucial details with the FPJ.

Sources suggested the accident likely occurred because the IndiGo pilot may have veered away from the designated taxiway center line. Insiders pointed out that another Air India aircraft had successfully taxied

past the same stationary flight moments earlier without incident. This suggests the available clearance was sufficient, provided the moving aircraft remained on its marked path.

The FPJ contacted IndiGo and Air India but did not get any official response. However, a source within IndiGo raised the possibility that the Air India aircraft was not entirely stationary. It is suggested that the Air India plane may have nudged forward or shifted slightly after the first aircraft passed, thereby closing the safety gap.

A senior aviation official noted, "The investigation will focus on digital ground movement logs and cockpit voice recorders to determine if the IndiGo aircraft deviated from the yellow line or if the Air India flight moved into the taxi path." Both carriers released statements emphasising that passenger safety remains their highest priority and that they are cooperating fully with the regulator.

CCI orders detailed probe against IndiGo for unfair biz practices

PTI

NEW DELHI

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

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

In a 16-page order, CCI said that by cancelling thousands of flights, which constituted a significant portion of the sched-



uled capacity, IndiGo effectively withheld its services from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting consumer access to air travel during peak demand.

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

For assessing the complaint filed by a passenger who was impacted by the cancellation of

flights in early December, the watchdog considered the 'market for domestic air passenger transport services in India' as the relevant one.

Noting that prima facie the airline's conduct seems to be causing an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India, CCI ordered a detailed investigation by its Director General (DG). "IndiGo consistently accounts for approximately 60-61 per cent of total domestic ASKM, which reflects not only passenger volumes but effective control over market capacity and supply-side conditions. CCI also rejected the objections raised by IndiGo that the regulator does not have the jurisdiction to look into the case and cited a Supreme Court ruling,



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 FEBRUARY 2026

Indigo's market share declines 4.7% in Dec

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

IndiGo witnessed a significant erosion of its market dominance in the month of December, losing 4.7% of its market share following a severe operational turmoil. Data released by the DGCA on Tuesday confirms that the airline's market share slumped to 59.6% in December, down from 63.6% in November.

The operational meltdown, primarily triggered by the airline's struggle to adapt to revised FDTL for pilots, led to a cascade of flight cancellations and delays during the peak winter travel season. IndiGo, which usually commands a dominant market share of around 64%, recorded cancellations of 5,689 flights in the

month. IndiGo usually captures around 64-65% market share of the domestic passengers but the share dropped down for the first time in long months to 59.6% in December as it reported a sharp 12% sequential decline from 96.93 lakh passengers in November to 85.23 lakh in December.

The crisis at IndiGo, which typically accounts for nearly two-thirds of the domestic market, had a cooling effect on the entire industry. Although the number of domestic passengers carried by Indian airlines in 2025 increased by 3.48% reaching 16.69 crore from 16.13 crore during the previous year, analysts believe that the figures for the year could have been higher if the IndiGo crisis had not happened in the peak travel season.

ब्रिटिश नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण ने एयर इंडिया से एक सप्ताह में स्पष्टीकरण मांगा ईंधन स्विच में खामी थी तो उड़ान की इजाजत क्यों दी

जवाब तलब

लंदन/नई दिल्ली, एजेसी। ब्रिटेन के विमानन नियामक ने बोइंग-787 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान में ईंधन स्विच से जुड़ी घटना को लेकर एयर इंडिया से स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि एयर इंडिया को लिखे गए पत्र में पूछा गया है कि यदि ईंधन स्विच में खामी थी तो एयरलाइन कंपनी ने उड़ान की इजाजत क्यों दी? ब्रिटेन के नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण (सीएए) ने तीन फरवरी को एयर इंडिया को पत्र लिखकर कहा है कि यदि एक सप्ताह के भीतर पूरी जानकारी नहीं दी गई तो एयर इंडिया और उसके बोइंग 787 बेड़े के खिलाफ नियामकीय कार्रवाई की जा सकती है।

बताया गया है कि संभावित रूप से खराब ईंधन स्विच को लेकर चिंता के बावजूद यात्री विमान लंदन से रवाना हुआ और भारत पहुंचने के बाद सुरक्षा जांच के लिए उसे ग्राउंड कर दिया गया। एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को कहा, उसने अपने बोइंग-787 बेड़े के सभी विमानों के ईंधन स्विच की जांच पूरी कर ली है,



जयपुर में रनवे छूकर फिर आसमान में उड़ा विमान

जयपुर। जयपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर एयर इंडिया की उड़ान संख्या एआई-2781 गुरुवार को लैंडिंग के दौरान रनवे छूकर फिर आसमान की ओर उड़ गया। कुछ देर आसमान में चक्कर लगाने के बाद दूसरे प्रयास में विमान को सुरक्षित उतारा गया। यह मुंबई से जयपुर के लिए उड़ा था। सूत्रों ने बताया, जयपुर में लैंडिंग के दौरान विमान रनवे पर फंसा, तभी पायलट को अस्थिरता का अनुभव हुआ। उसने तुरंत 'गो अराउंड' का फैसला लिया और विमान को आसमान में ले दूसरे प्रयास में विमान को सुरक्षित उतारा गया। इस दौरान यात्रियों घबराहट रही।

किसी प्रकार की खामी नहीं मिली है।

दरअसल, दो फरवरी को एयर इंडिया का बोइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान (एआई-132) करीब 200 यात्रियों को लेकर लंदन के होश्रो हवाई अड्डे से बेंगलुरु आ रहा था। पायलट ने सफलतापूर्वक लैंडिंग के बाद विमान

के ईंधन स्विच में संभावित गड़बड़ी होने की जानकारी दी थी। इसके बाद विमान को ग्राउंड कर दिया गया और अधिकारियों ने जांच शुरू की। इसकी जानकारी देश के विमानन नियामक नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को दी गई।

377 विमानों में बार-बार गड़बड़ी हुई: सरकार

नई दिल्ली। सरकार ने गुरुवार को लोकसभा को बताया कि जनवरी 2025 से लेकर इस साल तीन फरवरी तक विभिन्न एयरलाइन के कुल 377 विमानों में बार-बार गड़बड़ी होने का पता चला है। नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने एक प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में बताया कि बार-बार होने वाली गड़बड़ी के सिलसिले में इंडिगो के 405 विमानों का विश्लेषण किया गया और इस साल तीन फरवरी तक 148 विमानों में बार-बार गड़बड़ी होने की बात सामने आई। इसी तरह 166 एयर इंडिया विमानों में से 137 में और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के 101 विमानों में से 54 में बार-बार होने वाली गड़बड़ी की बात सामने आई।

तकनीकी खराबी की घटनाओं में कमी आई

विमानन सुरक्षा नियामक नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय ने भी 3,890 निगरानी निरीक्षण किए। मंत्री ने एक अन्य प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में बताया, पिछले तीन वर्षों में उड़ानों में तकनीकी गड़बड़ी के मामलों की संख्या में कमी आई है और गत वर्ष ऐसी केवल 353 घटनाएं हुईं। 2024 में तकनीकी खामियों के कुल 421 मामले सामने आए, जो इसके पिछले वर्ष की 448 घटनाओं से कम है। डीजीसीए के पास हवाई अड्डा संचालकों के लिए नियमों व नागरिक उड्डयन जरूरतों के अनुपालन की निगरानी के लिए सुरक्षा निगरानी तंत्र मौजूद है।



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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AIR INDIA PROBES IF CREW ADHERED TO RULES IN FUEL SWITCH INCIDENT

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Air India said on Thursday it was investigating if its crew followed all compliance procedures when a Boeing jet took off from London with a possible fuel-switch defect, only to be later grounded in India.

Britain has given Air India a week's deadline to submit a complete response, or face regulatory action against it and its fleet of 33 Boeing 787s.

Authorities have said pilots in London had observed the fuel control switch did not stay latched in the "run" position on two attempts, but was stable on a third.

The crew decided to fly to India, where the pilot reported a possible "defect" on landing, forcing the grounding of the plane for checks.

In a statement, Air India said it will be "following its safety investigation protocol and take appropriate action," in response to a query from Reuters whether the pilots had flagged concerns to British authorities before takeoff. It did not elaborate on possible action.

A person with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters that Air India's investigation would question the crew why they did not report the incident in London, and if they felt it was safe to fly, why they reported it later in India.

India's civil aviation authority did not immediately respond to queries from Reuters.

Fuel switches, which regulate the flow of jet fuel to a plane's engines, were at the centre of last year's crash of an Air India Dreamliner in Gujarat that killed 260 and triggered tighter scrutiny of the airline.

Britain's watchdog has sought a "comprehensive root-cause analysis" of the incident and a "preventive action plan", however, to avert any recurrence across Air India's Boeing 787 fleet, Reuters reported on Wednesday.

"The safety of our passengers and crew remains Air India's highest priority," the airline added in its statement.



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Repetitive defects found in 377 aircraft, Centre tells Parl

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: India's aviation safety regulator identified repetitive technical defects in 377 aircraft in 2025, exactly half the aircraft across Indian airlines, with the specific defects ranging from innocuous ones such as faulty recliners or entertainment system to critical ones such as inoperative weather radar and hydraulic pressure issue, according to data shared by the civil aviation ministry in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Repetitive defects are faults, malfunctions, or maintenance issues that reappear on the same aircraft multiple times, indicating that the root cause — such as a component failure or faulty wiring—has not been properly identified or eliminated.

The ministry's response, in the form of a written statement by minister of state Murlidhar Mohol, was to a set of questions by multiple lawmakers, including BJP's Dilip Saikia and Manoj Tiwari, who sought to know the number of safety audits, ramp inspections and surveillance checks conducted by the regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) since January, 2025, and

whether any recurring technical or operational faults/deficiencies have been identified across various airlines.

The response comes against the backdrop of serious questions being asked of DGCA and the ministry over the safety record of Indian airlines, especially following the June 12, 2025, crash of an Air India aircraft in Ahmedabad that claimed 260 lives.

To be sure, the ministry's response was only about safety audits and inspections of scheduled airlines; on January 28, a charter flight crashed in Baramati, killing Maharashtra's then deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar.

According to the data shared by the minister, IndiGo, which ended 2025 with a fleet strength of around 440 accounted for 148 aircraft identified with repetitive defects out of 405 analysed, followed by Air India with 137 aircraft out of 166 examined. In effect, defects were spotted in over 73% of Air India's 187-strong total fleet. Air India Express reported 54 aircraft with recurring issues, roughly half of its strength of 110, while SpiceJet, Akasa Air and Alliance Air together accounted for 38 aircraft flagged during the period.

HT reached out to IndiGo, but

couldn't get an immediate response. Air India declined to comment.

However, a top executive of Air India explained that there are different equipment that are checked on an aircraft and depending on priority or urgency, they are categorised into A, B, C and D segments.

"In case of Air India, most of the issues are with category D which includes items like seats, tray tables, screens (on the back of seats) and so on. These are not related to safety of the aircraft. As the retrofit programme for narrow body aircraft rolls out over the next two years, these issues will be resolved too," the executive said.

To address manpower constraints, DGCA has increased sanctioned technical posts from 637 in 2022 to 1,063, the minister said in the same response.

To be sure, HT pointed out in July 2025 that till June, 48% of these posts (all 1063 were technical posts in the regulator) were vacant.

In October, HT also reported that the Union Public Service Commission had selected 42 candidates for technical posts in DGCA. The status of the other vacancies isn't known.



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A.I. FLIGHT FROM MUMBAI 'ABORTS' LANDING IN RAJ, LANDS SAFELY LATER

JAIPUR: An Air India flight from Mumbai aborted its landing at the Jaipur International Airport on Thursday after an unstable approach forced its pilot to take off again immediately after touching the runway, people aware of the matter said.

The aircraft remained airborne for about 10 to 11 minutes before making a second landing attempt. The flight landed safely, according to airport officials.

They added that the pilot of the Air India flight AI-2781 experienced an unstable approach during the initial descent. Following standard safety protocols, the pilot decided to perform a "go-around". The manoeuvre caused brief anxiety among passengers before the plane returned for its final approach. **HTC**

• DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In India's first-ever disaster victim identification guidelines, teeth hold the key

Brendan Dabhi

Ahmedabad, February 5

INDIA'S FIRST-EVER guidelines and standard operating procedures for Disaster Victim Identification (DVI), released by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) late last month, are aimed at ensuring recognition, registration and dignified handover of human remains to families in the event of mass fatality incidents.

The reason behind formulating them was several victims of disasters remaining unidentified or difficult to identify, Nawal Prakash, Joint Advisor to the NDMA, said. "There are many branches in forensics that can help in DVI and so we wanted to bring them together to see how they can help during such trying times."

Four stages of DVI

The document underlines the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders such as police, health officials, and emergency responders, besides the need for a uni-

fied command to deal with the four stages of the DVI process, which is as under:

- Systematic recovery of human remains from the site, along with documentation and preservation measures.
- Collection of post-mortem data from the human remains, including medico-legal examination and forensic documentation.
- Collection of ante-mortem data including personal, medical, dental and other relevant records, and DNA from families and authorities for comparison.
- Reconciliation of this data for analysis, confirmation and release of remains.

Gaps and challenges

In India, vulnerabilities in the process exist at each level. These include:

- Lack of an "operational DVI incident commander" to coordinate with various agencies at a disaster site.
- Lack of a method to collect ante-mortem data to compare with remains.
- Shortage of trained forensic experts, anthropologists and other specialists,



The guidelines borrow from lessons learned from the Air India crash in Ahmedabad. FILE

coupled with overburdened forensic science laboratories busy working on legal cases.

- Inconsistent tagging, mapping and chain of custody practices leading to higher risk of misidentification, and legal complications. Body fragments of different victims could be considered as belonging to a single

victim and is handed over to a single family.

During natural disasters, fragmentation or commingling of human remains during earthquakes or landslides, rapid decomposition in hot areas, displacement of bodies during floods, and difficult terrain in high altitude or forest areas pose problems.

Incidents of burning, poly trauma (severe injuries to multiple body parts), and remains spread over a large debris field, can complicate matters. There could be hazardous exposure. The document also recognises climate change as a significant "risk multiplier", besides delineating logistical challenges (including mortuary spaces) and sociological issues.

National Dental Data Registry

Interpol's DVI guidelines (2023) state the three primary or scientific identifiers to be fingerprints, odontology (dental examination), and DNA profiling.

During the AI 171 crash in Ahmedabad last year, experts had relied on Interpol guidelines to identify the 260 bodies that were so charred and often commingled that normal identification processes like fingerprinting and property recovery were rendered useless. This document borrows from lessons learned from the crash: specifically, using forensic odontology, apart from DNA analysis, to identify victims. It recommends

creating a "National Dental Data Registry" so that ante-mortem data can be compared with post-mortem data for identification.

Dr Jayasankar Pillai, member of the Drafting Committee and secretary of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology, said everyone should have a selfie with their front teeth clearly visible as it would help identification in the event of a disaster.

Forensic archaeology

The methods of conducting DVI stated in the guidelines include post-mortem fingerprinting, DNA analysis, forensic odontology, virtual autopsy — and, interestingly, forensic archaeology. Notably, this field of forensics was included from a project underway in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Tripura, where the National Forensic Sciences University is exhuming and identifying bodies of Allied troops killed fighting the Japanese during World War II. This is being done in collaboration with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency of the US Department of Defense.



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS

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IndiGo shares plunge nearly 4% as CCI orders detailed probe

New Delhi: Shares of InterGlobe Aviation declined nearly 4% on Thursday morning trade after the Competition Commission of India (CCI) ordered a detailed probe against IndiGo for unfair business practices.

The stock dropped 3.65% to Rs 4,782.45 on the BSE. At the NSE, the stock declined 3.63% to Rs 4,780.30 apiece.

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

After taking into consideration data related to airlines and those provided by the aviation regulator DGCA, the CCI has *prima facie* concluded that IndiGo has abused its dominant position. **PTI**

संबोधन

रक्षा और सरकारी क्षेत्रों के लिए होंगे विशेष संस्करण, सेना को तत्काल 25-30 उभयचर विमानों की जरूरत

देश में बनेगा उभयचर विमान एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 का पिछला हिस्सा

- ग्राहकों को विमानों की बिक्री के लिए एपोजी एयरोस्पेस को भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप में अपना प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि सहयोगी भी घोषित किया है

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी

पानी और जमीन दोनों पर उतरने में सक्षम उभयचर विमान बनाने में विशेषज्ञता रखने वाली ऑस्ट्रेलियाई कंपनी एंफ्रीबियन एयरोस्पेस इंडस्ट्रीज (एएआई) ने भारत में अपने एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 विमानों के एक हिस्से के निर्माण के लिए भारतीय कंपनी एपोजी एयरोस्पेस के साथ करार किया है। साथ ही एएआई ने इन विमानों के

रक्षा और सरकारी ग्राहकों को विमानों की बिक्री के लिए एपोजी एयरोस्पेस को भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप में अपना प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि सहयोगी भी घोषित किया है। इसके अलावा, एल्बेट्रोस विमानों के लिए रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहॉलिंग (एमआरओ) सुविधा देने के लिए भी प्राधिकृत किया गया है।

दोनों कंपनियों द्वारा गुरुवार को आयोजित संयुक्त संवाददाता सम्मेलन में बताया कि एपोजी एयरोस्पेस एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 विमान के लिए टेल सेक्शन (पिछले हिस्से) का निर्माण करेगी। एएआई को प्रवर्तक कंपनी एंफ्रीबियन एयरक्राफ्ट होल्डिंग्स (एएच) के संस्थापक और कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष ख्वा होंग ने कहा कि भविष्य में देश में असेम्बली

लाइन लगाने की भी उनकी योजना है। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में उभयचर विमानों के लिए काफी बड़ा बाजार है।

कंपनी ने एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 के तीन संस्करण लॉन्च किये हैं - सैन्य, सरकारी और वाणिज्यिक। एएच के अध्यक्ष एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी गोपी रेड्डी ने बताया कि भारतीय नौ सेना ने चार उभयचर विमानों के लिए प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये हैं और कंपनी को विश्वास है कि उसे इसका ऑर्डर मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय सेना को तत्काल 25-30 उभयचर विमानों की जरूरत है।



रेड्डी ने कहा कि पहले चरण में तीन साल में 25-30 विमानों के भारत में आने की उम्मीद है। भारत इन विमानों का इस्तेमाल करने वाला एशिया का पहला देश होगा।

उन्होंने बताया कि एल्बेट्रोस का डेमो विमान अगले चार-छह महीने में भारत में आ जायेगा जबकि ग्राहक के इस्तेमाल के लिए पहला विमान डेढ़ से दो साल में आ सकता है। उन्होंने

बताया कि शुरुआती 15 विमान की कीमत 3,500 करोड़ रुपये के आसपास हो सकती है।

एपोजी एयरोस्पेस के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक विंग कमांडर (सेवानिवृत्त) एम.वी.एन. साई ने कहा कि कंपनी के पास 10-15 विमानों के लिए संभावित ऑर्डर हैं।

एल्बेट्रोस 2.0 दो इंजन वाला उभयचर विमान है। यह एक बार ईंधन भरकर 18 घंटे तक उड़ान भर सकता है और 2,200 समुद्री मील की दूरी तय कर सकता है। यह 650 पाउंड का वजन लेकर जाने में सक्षम है। इसके सैन्य संस्करण का इस्तेमाल खोज एवं बचाव, पनडुब्बी-रोधी मिशन और जासूसी के लिए किया जा सकता है। इसके वाणिज्यिक संस्करण में सीटों की संख्या 28 तक

होगी। रेड्डी ने बताया कि यह 19 से अधिक सीटों वाला दुनिया का पहला उभयचर विमान है जिसे अमेरिकी और यूरोपीय पंजीकृत यात्री परिवहन के लिए प्रमाणन प्राप्त है, यानी इसका इस्तेमाल शिड्यूल उड़ानों के लिए भी किया जा सकता है।

एएआई के मुख्य रणनीतिक अधिकारी संजय सिंह ने बताया कि इस विमान का इस्तेमाल समुद्री लुटेरों के खिलाफ प्रभावी तरीके से किया जा सकता है। आपदा के समय लोगों को बचाने के लिए और पर्यटन में अंतिम छोर तक संपर्क मुहैया कराने में यह कारगर हो सकता है। अभी अंडमान जाने वाले पर्यटकों को दूसरे द्वीपों पर जाने के लिए लंबा इंतजार करना होता है। यह विमान उसका भी समाधान है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Air India to investigate Boeing jet fuel-switch incident

Reuters
feedback@livermint.com

Air India said on Thursday it was investigating if its crew followed all compliance procedures when a Boeing jet took off from London with a possible fuel-switch defect, only to be later grounded in India.

Reuters is the first to report the airline's investigation of Sunday's incident, following reporting that Britain's aviation authority had privately asked Air India for details of all maintenance actions before the decision to take off.

Britain has given Air India a week's deadline to submit a complete response, or face regulatory action against it and its fleet of 33 Boeing 787s.

Authorities have said pilots in London had observed the fuel control switch did not stay latched in the 'run' position on two attempts, but was stable on a third. The crew decided to fly to India, where the pilot reported a possible "defect" on landing, forcing the grounding of the plane for checks.

Air India said it will be "following its safety investigation protocol to take appropriate action," in response to a query from Reuters if the pilots had flagged concerns to British authorities before takeoff. It, however, did not elaborate on possible action.

A source in the know told Reuters that Air India's investigation will question the crew why they did not report the incident in London, and if they felt it was safe to fly, why they reported it later in India.

India's civil aviation authority didn't respond to queries.

Fuel switches regulating jet fuel flow were central to last year's Air India Dreamliner crash in Gujarat that killed 260 prompting tighter scrutiny.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

Govt says 2,645 posts vacant at AAI, three aviation regulators

NEW DELHI: A total of 2,645 positions are lying vacant at the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and three aviation regulators DGCA, BCAS and AERA, the government said on Thursday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said adequate steps are taken from time to time to fill up vacancies under the ministry, including its attached offices and regulatory bodies.

At the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), there are 787 vacancies, largely due to the creation of 441 additional

The minister said that at the AAI, there are 1,667 vacancies pertaining to direct recruitment (executive) posts

posts as part of the restructuring undertaken during 2022-2024.

The minister said that at the Airports Authority of India (AAI), there are 1,667 vacancies pertaining to direct recruitment (executive) posts.

"To address these, AAI has

expedited recruitment, redeployed staff at operationally sensitive airports, created additional ATCO posts in line with expanding airspace requirements..." he said. ATCO refers to Air Traffic Controllers.

According to the minister, at the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), 180 and 11 positions are vacant, respectively. "BCAS and AERA are deputation-based organisations, vacancy circulars are issued periodically to fill posts in accordance with the prescribed norms," he added. P11



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

एंफीबियन विमानों के लिए 3500 करोड़ का ऑर्डर



■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली : देश में बढ़ते एविएशन सेक्टर में गुरुवार को दो और प्लेयर्स ने हाथ मिलाया। आर्मी और सिविल दोनों के लिए एंफीबियन यानी सी-प्लेन की डिमांड को पूरा करेंगे। दिल्ली में हुए एक कार्यक्रम में एक रणनीतिक साझेदारी के रूप में अपोजी एयरोस्पेस (Apogee Aerospace) ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया की एंफीबियन एयरोस्पेस इंडस्ट्रीज (AAI) को 15 एंफीबियन विमानों के लिए 3,500 करोड़ रुपये का ऑर्डर दिया।

इसके अलावा यह भारतीय कंपनी भारत में टेल-सेक्शन (विमान का पिछला हिस्सा) को बनाने, इनकी मेंटेनेंस और ओवरहॉल (MRO) सर्विस देने के लिए भी देश में इन्हें स्थापित करेगी। इसके लिए 500 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश किया जाएगा।

देश में बढ़
रहा एविएशन
सेक्टर, दो
प्लेयर्स ने
मिलाया हाथ।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

377 planes identified with recurring defects: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

A total of 377 aircraft have been identified as having recurring defects since January last year until February 3 across various scheduled airlines. Of them, nearly three-fourths of the Air India Group's 267 planes that were analysed for repetitive defects have been identified as having recurring defects.

According to a data shared by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in the Lok Sabha, in all, 377 aircraft have been identified as having recurring defects since January last year, of the total 754 aircraft analysed for such deficiencies across six scheduled airlines.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told in the Lok Sabha in response to MPs question, of the total 747 aircraft, 405 aircraft belonging to IndiGo were analysed, of which 148 were identified for repetitive defects, as on February 3, this year.

Of the 166 Air India aircraft analysed, 137 planes were identified for repetitive defects, while 54 Air India Express aircraft were identified for repetitive defects of the 101 aircraft analysed, the data showed.

Taken together, a total of 267 aircraft of Air India Group (Air India and Air India Express) were analysed, of which 191 or nearly 72 per cent were identified for repetitive defects.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

5 FEBRUARY 2026

CCI heat on IndiGo

AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

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

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

In a 16-page order, CCI said that by cancelling thousands of flights, which constituted a significant portion of the scheduled capacity, IndiGo effectively withheld its services from the market, creating an artificial scarcity, limiting



UNDER SCANNER

consumer access to air travel during peak demand.

"Such conduct by a dominant enterprise may be viewed as restricting the provision of services under Section 4 (2) (b) (1) of the Act," the regulator said.

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

Accordingly, the Commission directed the director general to investigate the matter and submit an investigation report within a period of 90 days.

Long-haul flights

IndiGo and Air India have stopped using the Iranian airspace and are flying alternative routes for their long-haul flights, according to officials.

With the alternative routes, flights to destinations in Europe, UK, and the US are taking longer, which also means burning more fuel.

On Wednesday, IndiGo said it will adjust its long-haul flights operated with leased Dreamliners, wherein services to Copenhagen will be suspended from February 17 while the flights on Delhi-London-Heathrow and Delhi-Manchester routes will also be reduced.

An Air India source said the airline is using an alternative route for destinations in the US, the UK and Europe. Air India operates flights to various US cities as well as Toronto and Vancouver in Canada.

1-engine flight lands in city

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: A Turkish Airlines flight from Kathmandu to Istanbul made an emergency landing at the Calcutta airport on Wednesday after the pilot reported that one of its engines had caught fire.

The Airbus A330 widebody aircraft, carrying 236 passengers, made a full emergency landing at 2.49pm, with the right engine shut down, an airport official said.

Late on Wednesday, most of the stranded passengers were accommodated at city hotels, while a few remained at the airport, the official added.

Flight THY 727 had taken off from the Kathmandu airport at 1.38pm IST.

"The pilot declared an emergency after the right engine caught fire and requested

diversion to Calcutta," a civil aviation ministry official said.

At 1.51pm, the pilot reported to Kathmandu air traffic control that the fire was under control and that the aircraft would continue to Calcutta with one engine inoperative. Sources said the right engine was switched off after catching fire.

The pilot continued to fly for some time with the engine shut and crossed Dhaka airspace before deciding it was safer to attempt an emergency landing at Calcutta rather than continue to Istanbul.

"The aircraft is parked at remote bay number 114," an airport official said late on Wednesday.

An aircraft will transport the stranded passengers to their destination on Thursday, the official said.



The Turkish Airlines plane at the city airport on Wednesday



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

6 FEBRUARY 2026

33K domestic flights cancelled in 2 years

New Delhi: Nearly 33,000 domestic flights operated by scheduled airlines were cancelled over the last two years, the government has informed Parliament.

Responding to a query by AAP MP Sandeep Kumar Pathak, MoS for Civil Aviation

Murlidhar Mohol said 14,978 flights, accounting for 1.3% of total operations, were cancelled in 2024. The figure rose to 18,349 flights in 2025, 1.6% of all scheduled domestic services. Pathak also flagged complaints of airlines charging as much as 90% or more of the ticket fare as cancellation charges. TNS