



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DANIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

4 APRIL 2025

# एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी और बीसीएएस का 30वां स्थापना दिवस मनाया

जयपुर | जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को एयरपोर्ट्स ऑथोरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (एएआई) का 30वां स्थापना दिवस मनाया गया। स्थापना दिवस समारोह एयरपोर्ट पर आईक्लास के कार्गो कॉम्प्लेक्स में आयोजित किया गया। इस मौके पर एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी के प्रभारी अधिकारी चरण सिंह ने अथॉरिटी के चेयरमैन का संदेश पढ़कर सुनाया। इसमें एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी की विकास यात्रा और प्रतिबद्धता के बारे में बताया गया।

इस दौरान जयपुर एयरपोर्ट के चीफ एयरपोर्ट ऑफिसर अनिमेष

भट्ट, बीसीएएस के क्षेत्रीय निदेशक विक्रम सिंह मीना, सीआईएसएफ के डिप्टी कमांडेंट सूरज खुड़े, जयपुर मौसम केन्द्र के निदेशक राधेश्याम शर्मा और एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी के सीनियर काउंसल संजय महला ने केक काटकर स्थापना दिवस सेलिब्रेट किया। समारोह में मौजूद अडानी समूह, बीसीएएस और अन्य अधिकारियों ने स्थापना दिवस की बधाई दी। एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी के साथ ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिव्योरिटीज (बीसीएएस) का भी स्थापना दिवस था।

# Chennai to get direct flights to Vietnam soon

AAI has requested airlines to provide direct connectivity to Japan, Australia, and Cambodia

**Sunitha Sekar**

CHENNAI

**T**he city will soon have direct connectivity to Vietnam, one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the world. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has also been pushing international airlines for direct flights from Chennai to countries such as Australia.

Officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation recently said the city would have direct flights to Vietnam. The Southeast Asian country has been witnessing a spike in international visitors, recording 17.5 million in 2024, with India being one of its biggest markets.

Meanwhile, AAI officials said that in the last week of March, an international conference was held in Australia, and they requested airlines to consider Chennai as a 'Point of Call'.

"We have requested several key international airlines to start direct flights between Chennai and Japan, Australia, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Some of the airlines evinced interest. We are hoping to hear from them soon," an official said.

But sources said while the AAI could take the initiative, it would be the Ministry of Civil Aviation that had the final say regarding new flight connections to a



Currently, those travelling to Vietnam from the city must take a transit flight to Bangkok.

city. Even if the requests are approved, it may take at least a year for the operation of these direct flights.

Those travelling to Vietnam from Chennai currently have to take a transit flight to Bangkok. While Delhi and Bengaluru have direct flights to Australia, those flying from Chennai will have to transfer at Singapore, Colombo, or Kuala Lumpur. While Chennai used to have direct connectivity to Japan, these flights were suspended during the pandemic and never resumed. Hence, those flying to Japan have to transfer at Singapore, Bangkok, or Kuala Lumpur.

## 'Plenty of takers'

S. Jeyasekaran of the Travel Agents Association of India, (TAAI) Southern Region, said there is plenty of interest in Vietnam and Cambodia.



**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
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STATEMEN

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6 APRIL 2025

## **Airports Authority of India celebrates 30th Annual Day**

The Airports Authority of India celebrated its 30th Annual Day on 1 April, with great enthusiasm and grandeur at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking three decades of excellence in serving as the mainstay of Indian Civil Aviation.

The event was graced by Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Union Minister of Civil Aviation (HMCA), as the Chief Guest, along with Vumlungmang Vualnam, Secretary, MoCA as the Guest of Honour, Vipin Kumar, chairman, AAI, board members of AAI and other senior officials. The celebrations began with

a warm welcome by Vipin Kumar, chairman, AAI, highlighting the organisation's achievements and commitment to India's aviation growth aligning with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, HMCA, praised AAI's pivotal role in nation-building and highlighted AAI's capex plan of 25,000 crore for FY2024-29 to meet rising aviation demand and announced the development of 50 new airports in the next five years, strengthening India's global aviation standing.



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TRIBUNE

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6 APRIL 2025

## Kangra Airport tops in customer satisfaction

DHARAMSALA, APRIL 5

The Kangra Airport, the busiest in the state, has been ranked number one in AAI customer satisfaction in the 2024 survey among all domestic airports in the country. To celebrate this achievement, a grand puja ceremony was organised by the airport employees.

Dhirendra Singh, Director of the Kangra Airport, in an exclusive conversation with *The Tribune*, said, "It is a proud moment for all of us. The survey evaluates 34 points relating to overall customer satisfaction, including services during arrival and departure, security arrangements and the hygienic atmosphere maintained."

At present, the airport operates nine flights, two to Chandigarh, six to Delhi and one to Shimla. By the end of the month, flights to Dehradun and Jaipur will also be introduced. — OC

# KAAC calls for expedited implementation of greenfield airport project

CORRESPONDENT

DIPHU, April 4: Tuliram Ronghang, the chief executive member (CEM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), on Wednesday led a delegation to New Delhi to present a memorandum to Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, the Union Minister of Civil Aviation. The memorandum underscored the urgent necessity for timely execution of the greenfield airport project in Karbi Anglong, a commitment outlined in the 2021 Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) with the Central government.

Despite this commitment, delays in funding have impeded progress of the project. Nevertheless, Ronghang emphatically stated that discontinuing the project is not a viable option. In order to



adhere to the MoS and enhance air connectivity to the hill districts of Assam, the KAAC has suggested relocating the

airport site to Kheroni in West Karbi Anglong. He elaborated that the Kheroni location is more centrally positioned

and can effectively cater to the districts of Hojai, Nagaon, Dima Hasao, West Karbi Anglong, and Karbi Anglong.

This proposed relocation is expected to improve the commercial viability of the project and provide enhanced connectivity to a larger area and population.

The KAAC has urged upon the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the State government to take immediate action to fulfil this long-standing commitment.

The delegation included prominent individuals such as Member of Parliament Amarsing Tisso, MLA Darsing Ronghang (Howraghat), KAAC executive members Lusing Teron and Surjya Rongphar, MAC Dr Mongve Rongpi, former MP and CEM Dr Jayanta Rongpi, ex-MLA Dr Dharamsing Teron (director of the Centre for Karbi

Studies), former EM Elwin Teron, and other distinguished dignitaries.

Originally intended for Chotalangfer (Borlangphar) in Jamunapar mouza under the Diphu revenue circle in Karbi Anglong, some progress has been made on the project. Consultants SRV Techno Engineering Pvt Ltd and DSDNA, New Delhi, have submitted the final detailed project report (DPR) to CEM Ronghang.

Constructing a greenfield airport of this magnitude necessitates a minimum of 3,000 acres (approximately 5,000 *bighas*) of land to facilitate modern infrastructure, including multiple runways, terminal aprons, parking areas, utilities, and access roads. A runway length of at least 3,000 meters (approximately 3 kilometers) is essential to accommodate large commercial aircraft.

However, the proposed Kheroni site is recognised for its agricultural productivity and fertile soil, which may raise concerns regarding potential impacts. While greenfield airports are generally established on undeveloped land, the construction on agricultural terrain is feasible, albeit often provoking discussion around environmental and economic ramifications.

The final determination regarding the site will rest with the KAAC and relevant authorities, who must carefully consider these factors.

The greenfield airport project has the potential to serve as a transformative initiative for West Karbi Anglong and adjacent districts, fostering economic growth and enhancing regional connectivity.

## आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट के टी-3 पर स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ शुरू

एलजी ने किया शुभारंभ, यात्रियों की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना उद्देश्य

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। उपराज्यपाल वीके सक्सेना ने शनिवार सुबह आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-तीन पर स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ का शुभारंभ किया। इसकी स्थापना यात्रियों की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने और नागरिक-केंद्रित सेवाएं प्रदान करने के उद्देश्य से की गई है। अत्याधुनिक सुविधा वाले बूथ को पुलिस ने जीएमआर के सहयोग से स्थापित किया है।

इस मौके पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में उपराज्यपाल ने कहा कि पुलिस लोगों की सुरक्षा में तत्पर है। पुलिस ने महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाते हुए स्मार्ट बूथ बनाया है। एयरपोर्ट पर प्रतिदिन दो लाख यात्री आते हैं जो कभी न कभी किसी तकलीफ में फंस जाते हैं। ऐसे लोगों के लिए स्मार्ट बूथ काफी मददगार साबित होगा। वहीं, पुलिस आयुक्त संजय अरोड़ा ने बूथ की उन्नत तकनीकी विशेषताओं और सेवाओं की जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह पहल प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के डिजिटल इंडिया और स्मार्ट पुलिसिंग के विजन को साकार करती है। विशेष पुलिस आयुक्त रविन हिंज्वु ने भी इस पहल को जनता और पुलिस के बीच की दूरी कम करने वाला कदम बताया। इस दौरान ट्रांसपोर्ट परिक्षेत्र के संयुक्त आयुक्त विजय सिंह और डायल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार मौजूद रहे। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट की



बूथ का शुभारंभ करते एलजी। अमर उजाला

### बूथ में मिलने वाली सुविधाएं

- उड़ान विवरण, सुरक्षा अलर्ट और आपातकालीन संपर्क
- ई-एफआइआर, खोए हुए सामान व लपटा होने के रिपोर्ट की सुविधा
- प्रशिक्षित पुलिसकर्मियों की मौजूदगी
- 200 से अधिक सीसीटीवी, वाई-फाई, कंप्यूटर और इंटरैक्टिव पैनल

अतिरिक्त पुलिस आयुक्त उषा रंगनानी ने बताया कि बूथ में एयरपोर्ट और आसपास के इलाकों की जानकारी जैसे पर्यटक स्थल, परिवहन व अस्पतालों के विवरण उपलब्ध हैं। इस मौके पर आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण देने वाली दो प्रशिक्षकों को प्रमाणपत्र भी प्रदान किए गए।



The domestic passenger traffic touched 36.05 million, while international passenger numbers surged to 5.83 million. DH FILE PHOTO

## Bengaluru airport touches 41 million passengers in FY25

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, has crossed the 41-million passenger mark in the financial year 2024-25, according to a press release.

The release also mentions that the airport has surpassed the transportation of five lakh metric tonnes of cargo.

While the airport welcomed 37.53 million passengers in the last financial year, the latest data indicates a 11.6% growth in passenger traffic. The domestic passenger traffic witnessed a 10% growth, reaching 36.05 million, while international passenger numbers surged to 5.83 million, reflecting a 25% increase on the previous financial year, it stated.

### IndiGo's expansion

"This increase in international passenger numbers is

largely driven by IndiGo's expansion of its global network, additional daily frequencies to London Heathrow, along with increased services from several foreign carriers, including Cathay Pacific, Japan Airlines and Qantas," it said.

The Bengaluru airport has consistently ranked as India's third busiest airport for international passengers for the last four months.

### Connectivity

It also offers connectivity to 76 domestic and 33 international destinations, with Hanoi in Vietnam set to become the 34th international destination, starting early May.

The release stated that the cargo growth was driven by a 21% rise in international cargo, totalling 3,21,418 metric tonnes, while domestic cargo grew 4%, reaching 1,81,062 metric tonnes.



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DELHI

6 APRIL 2025

### आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ शुरू

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल विनय कुमार सक्सेना ने शनिवार सुबह इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आइजीआइ) एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 पर 'स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ' का उद्घाटन किया। यह अत्याधुनिक सुविधा दिल्ली पुलिस और जीएमआर समूह के सहयोग से स्थापित की गई है, जिसका उद्देश्य यात्रियों की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना और नागरिक-केंद्रित सेवाएं प्रदान करना है। उद्घाटन समारोह में दिल्ली पुलिस आयुक्त संजय अरोड़ा, आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट अतिरिक्त पुलिस आयुक्त उषा रंगनानी ने बूथ की उन्नत तकनीकी विशेषताओं और सेवाओं की जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि यह पहल प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के डिजिटल इंडिया और स्मार्ट पुलिसिंग के विजन को साकार करती है। उपराज्यपाल ने दिल्ली पुलिस और जीएमआर के प्रयासों की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि यह सुविधा तकनीक के माध्यम से पुलिसिंग को आधुनिक बनाती है और यात्रियों के लिए सुरक्षित माहौल



आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ की शुरुआत करने के बाद पुलिस आयुक्त (दाएं से) संजय अरोड़ा, उपराज्यपाल, विशेष पुलिस आयुक्त राबिन हिबू • जागरण

सुनिश्चित करती है। विशेष पुलिस आयुक्त राबिन हिबू ने भी इस पहल को जनता और पुलिस के बीच की दूरी कम करने वाला कदम बताया। बूथ में एयरपोर्ट और आसपास के इलाकों की जानकारी, जैसे पर्यटक स्थल, परिवहन और अस्पतालों के विवरण भी उपलब्ध हैं। समारोह में डायल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार भी मौजूद रहे। साथ ही, आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण देने वाली दो प्रशिक्षकों को भी प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान किए गए।

#### ये सुविधाएं मिलेंगी

- रीयल-टाइम जानकारी: उड़ान विवरण, सुरक्षा अलर्ट और आपातकालीन संपर्क।
- ई-एफआइआर: खोए हुए सामान और लापता व्यक्तियों की रिपोर्ट दर्ज करने की सुविधा। यहां पर ईएफआइआर का प्रिंट भी निकाला जा सकता है।
- 24/7 सहायता: प्रशिक्षित पुलिस कर्मियों की मौजूदगी। सीसीटीवी निगरानी, इंटरैक्टिव पैनेल।



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**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

# **Corporate Communications Directorate**

DANIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

4 APRIL 2025

## **एयरपोर्ट पर चल रहा ड्रेनेज सिस्टम बनाने का कार्य**

**जयपुर।** जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर ड्रेनेज सिस्टम बनाने का कार्य चल रहा है। जानकारी के अनुसार रनवे के पास पुराना ड्रेनेज सिस्टम क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया था। इसके चलते यहाँ पानी भरवा हो रहा था। इस पर निर्माण कार्य शुरू किए गए हैं। नए सिरे से ड्रेनेज सिस्टम विकसित होने से बरसात के दौरान रनवे पर पानी नहीं रुकेगा। इसी प्रकार जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट संचालन को बेहतर बनाने की कवायद शुरू की गई है। एयरपोर्ट पर नए मौसम कार्यालय, एग्रन कार्यालय की शुरुआत हुई। वहीं अत्याधुनिक बैगेज हैंडलिंग एरिया भी शुरू किया गया है।

# After Heathrow debacle: Who pays for a ruined vacation?

When the airport shut down, travellers were on the hook. How can you protect yourself next time?

SETH KUGEL

LAST FRIDAY'S POWER outage in Heathrow Airport disrupted vacations across the world, causing countless thousands of travellers to miss prepaid reservations and forgo long-anticipated adventures. Among them were Sheila Addison, a therapist from Seattle, who missed out on a four-day whisky-tasting in the Scottish Highlands, forfeiting a \$500 nonrefundable hotel room and a rare break from her work routine; Zachary Wang and friends from Brown University, who lost \$260 in "Les Misérables" tickets, \$180 from an Airbnb reservation and two days of spring break in London; and Steve Wehr of Hyde Park, NY, who missed two days in Jordan - including the first day of a cruise - a loss of about \$1,500.

**Who pays when your vacation gets ruined through no fault of your own?**

The answer, all too often, is you. Though travellers can recoup some losses through refunded flights and vouchers for meals and hotel stays, airlines generally do not pick up the tab for reservations that can't be canceled, expensive last-minute flights

that must be booked, or missed family events like weddings. Unfortunately, there is no perfect way to protect yourself, but there are three imperfect ones. Here's what you can do:

## Find the right travel insurance

Wehr does not expect to recover that \$1,500 he lost by missing two days in Jordan. "We didn't have trip insurance," he lamented in an email.

It probably wouldn't have mattered. Travel insurance is generally a "covered peril" type of policy, meaning that the fine print has a list of events that you are covered for, like illness, hijacking and natural disasters. Guess what is almost never on there: airport power outages. "It covers a lot. It doesn't cover everything," said Stan Sandberg, a co-founder of Travel Insurance.com, an online marketplace. Companies try to update policies to match the current travel environment, he said, but only one he knew of covered what happened at Heathrow.

Indeed, Travel Guard's Deluxe and Preferred plans specifically protect against airport closures caused "by a fire or a power outage." But they "must result in a delay of the Insured's Trip for at least 48 consecu-



tive hours," according to the policy. So even if Wehr had chosen one of those plans, he would have had to show that his delay was long enough. Comparison shop on sites like Travel Insurance.com, or its competitor SquareMouth, and make sure the policies best cover the risks that fit your own circumstances (infirm relatives) or your destination's (hurricanes). It is usually best to avoid policies offered at checkout by airlines and online travel agencies, which are generally one-size-fits-all, and to not put too much hope into policies included with some credit cards.

Another option is a Cancel for Any Reason,

or CFAR, plan that typically allows you to back out of a trip, no questions asked, though you often don't get a 100% refund. But most require you to cancel 48 hours before the trip starts, Sandberg said - which wouldn't have helped the typical Heathrow stranded. But Iris Planamento of Manchester Township, NJ, was not typical. She was on her way to see London, Paris and Normandy with EF Go Ahead Tours when her flight got cancelled. The company's CFAR plan is Any Reason Protection, a \$75 add-on that offers trip credit, not your money back - but that expires only at airport check-in. Planamento was delighted

to confirm she was covered and plans to rebook soon.

## Leave yourself enough time

Losing one day of a weeklong trip to Paris is a shame, but don't ask the rest of us for sympathy. Missing a wedding or a cruise ship departure is another story.

Here's a basic rule: Book flights that are scheduled to arrive at least 24 hours in advance of anything you can't miss. You'll want to extend that cushion based on a number of factors, like how crushed you'd be to miss the wedding and whether your cruise ship's next port of call is reachable by

20 daily flights or one monthly tugboat.

You'll also want to consider your backup plan. If you're headed from New York to Chicago and your flight gets cancelled, there's a pretty decent chance you'll be on another flight that day from the same or another area airport, or, worst case scenario, you could drive overnight. There are fewer options if you're headed from Hawaii to Dubrovnik, Croatia, to catch an island-hopping cruise. The carrier you choose matters. As you book, look at how many flights a day each airline has, and lean toward the one with the most flights, even if it's somewhat more expensive. Airlines are often very stubborn about booking you on competitors, sometimes even if they're in the same alliance.

## Fight, efficiently and politely

Gloria-Jean Masciarotte's flight to London turned around midflight and returned to Boston. She and her family were able to cancel most of their plans, but "the fly in the ointment," she said, was their \$3,146 Airbnb rental. Airbnb did not declare the outage a "major disruptive event" except in the immediate vicinity of Heathrow - nor should they have, given the company's definition of that term. But after two days of texts and phone calls, she said, she was able to finagle a \$2,730 credit.

Once something does go wrong, take action. —NYT



**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

6 APRIL 2025

## एयरपोर्ट पर मदद करेगा स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से सफर कर रहे यात्रियों को अब सामान खोने या चोरी होने की शिकायत दर्ज कराने के लिए थाने नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। वाहन, होटल, बस सेवा आदि की जानकारी के लिए भी भटकना नहीं होगा। यह संभव होगा स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ की बदौलत। आईजीआई थाना पुलिस ने टर्मिनल-3 पर पहला स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ खोला है। यह 24 घंटे खुला रहेगा। शनिवार को उपराज्यपाल विनय कुमार सक्सेना ने इसका उद्घाटन किया। इस मौके पर पुलिस आयुक्त संजय अरोड़ा के अलावा डायल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार भी मौजूद रहे।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

6 APRIL 2025



## Telangana will get 2 airports if govt. acts fast: Union Minister

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has urged the Telangana government to cooperate in the development of airports at Adilabad and Warangal to bring affordable travel to people. "If the State government acts swiftly in acquiring land and fully cooperates, the Warangal and Adilabad airports will soon be able to serve the people," the Minister said in a press statement on Saturday, a day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh informed him that the government was ready to develop the IAF airfield at Adilabad for joint use by the military as well as civil aviation.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

6 APRIL 2025

## LG INAUGURATES SMART POLICE BOOTH AT DELHI AIRPORT T-3 TO BOOST SECURITY

**Sanjeev K Jha**

[htreporters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htreporters@hindustantimes.com)

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena on Saturday inaugurated a smart police booth at Terminal-3 of Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport to bolster passenger safety and streamline law enforcement, officials said. A joint initiative by Delhi Police and GMR Group, the booth is already operational.

"Initiatives like the Smart Police Booth will create a safer, more secure environment for passengers here," Saxena said, adding that the project aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India and SMART Policing vision.

"The Smart Police Booth will transform the way law enforcement agencies interact with the public, providing immediate assistance for passengers and bridging the gap between citizens and the police," he added.

The booth allows e-FIR filing, lost item reporting, and missing person complaints. Equipped with CCTV, Wi-Fi, and 24/7 staff, it also offers real-time flight updates, security alerts, and emergency contacts through interactive digital panels.

"It also provides vital information on flight schedules, security alerts, and important helplines through interactive digital panels," said Usha Rangnani, ADCP (IGI Airport).



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

6 APRIL 2025

## Smart police booth for passengers at IGI Terminal 3

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

WITH AN aim to enhance passenger safety, security, and citizen-centric services, the Delhi Police on Saturday set up a Smart Police Booth at Terminal-3, IGI Airport, in collaboration with the GMR Group.

The booth offers real-time flight updates, emergency contacts, e-FIR filing, and lost and found services through digital panels.

The booth was inaugurated by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena in the presence of Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora.

The booth is part of Delhi Police's broader plan to implement technology-backed citizen services under the smart policing initiative.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLANUM POST

DELHI

6 APRIL 2025

## With smart police booth now at IGI, travelling to get easier & safer

### Booth inaugurated at the Airport, to boost passenger safety, digital policing

**NEW DELHI:** A smart police booth equipped with real-time flight information, e-FIR filing, emergency helplines, interactive passenger support and live surveillance was inaugurated at Terminal 3 of Delhi's IGI Airport on Saturday, officials said.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening airport security and digital policing initiatives, they said.

The facility, developed jointly by Delhi Police and Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.

The smart police booth is a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance the experience of travellers by integrating advanced technological features, an officer said.

The booth integrates advanced technological features such as direct reporting of lost articles, missing persons' complaints, emergency assistance and real-time CCTV



**The booth enhances airport's facilities**

AFF

monitoring of the airport's terminal areas.

"It offers real-time information, including flight arrivals and departures, security alerts, emergency contact details and travel guidelines, accessible through intuitive digital board and interactive panels," a senior police officer said.

The travellers can con-

veniently file e-FIRs, report lost items and submit missing person reports directly at the booth, eliminating the need to visit a police station, he added.

The officer said the interactive panel provides comprehensive information about Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. "It provides information about its surroundings such

### Highlights

» The smart police booth is a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance the experience of travellers by integrating advanced technological features

» The officials said the smart police booth is part of Delhi Police's broader plan to implement technology-backed citizen services under the smart policing initiative in line with Digital India vision

as important helplines, tourist attractions, transportation hubs, entertainment venues, shopping and dining options, lost and found services, and locations of nearby hospitals, metro stations and police stations," he added.

The booth manned 24x7 by trained police personnel, including male and female

officers, is equipped with computers, two printers, a scanner, Wi-Fi connectivity and real-time data integration with airport operations, the officials said.

The facility will enable quick response to any security incident or complaint without requiring the passengers to visit a police station.

The officials said the smart police booth is part of Delhi Police's broader plan to implement technology-backed citizen services under the smart policing initiative in line with the Government of India's Digital India vision.

"The smart police booth will serve as a model for future infrastructure upgrades aimed at integrating technology with policing for enhanced public safety," an official statement said. "Such initiatives are critical to meet the expectations of citizens in a rapidly changing urban environment," L-G said.

AGENCIES

## VIRAL VIDEO

# No flight ops affected: Kol airport

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOLKATA:** Following reports of an aircraft being stuck at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (NSCBI) Kolkata causing operational disruptions went viral along with a video footage, airport officials clarified that the aircraft seen in the footage is an old, retired aircraft brought in for dismantling.

The airport statement said: "It is a standard practice for airports to facilitate the arrival of decommissioned aircraft for dismantling and recycling in an environmentally responsible manner.

This process is part of a well-regulated aviation industry practice, ensuring that old aircraft are safely deconstructed, and their parts are either repurposed or disposed of sustainably."

"Additionally, to prevent any inconvenience to the nearby public and to ensure that normal aircraft operations remain unaffected, the airport operator has chosen the lean period, i.e., nighttime, for the removal of obsolete aircraft," the statement read.

Airport officials said, prior coordination with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the local police is carried out before the aircraft is removed, ensuring a smooth and well-managed process.

"We assure all passengers and stakeholders that Kolkata Airport continues to operate as per the highest safety and operational standards," the statement concluded.

## Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

6 APRIL 2025

# आईजीआई पर स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ से यात्रियों की बढ़ेगी सुरक्षा

● ई-एफआईआर, आपातकालीन हेल्पलाइन आदि सुविधाओं से होगा लैस

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल 3 पर शनिवार को वास्तविक समय उड़ानों की जानकारी, ई-एफआईआर दर्ज कराने, आपातकालीन हेल्पलाइन, परस्पर संवादात्मक यात्री सहायता और सीधी निगरानी की सुविधाओं से सुसज्जित एक स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ का उद्घाटन किया गया।

अधिकारी बताया कि इस पहल का उद्देश्य हवाई अड्डों की सुरक्षा और डिजिटल पुलिसिंग पहल को



मजबूत करना है। दिल्ली पुलिस और दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा लिमिटेड (डायल) द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से विकसित इस सुविधा का उद्घाटन उपराज्यपाल विनय कुमार सक्सेना ने किया। एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ एक अत्याधुनिक सुविधा है जिसे उन्नत तकनीकी सुविधाओं को एकीकृत करके यात्रियों के अनुभव को बढ़ाया बनाने के लिए

बनाया गया है। इस बूथ में उन्नत तकनीकी विशेषताएं शामिल हैं, जैसे खोई हुई वस्तुओं की सीधे सूचना देना, गुमशुदा व्यक्तियों की शिकायत, आपातकालीन सहायता और हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल क्षेत्रों की वास्तविक समय में सीसीटीवी निगरानी। एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी ने बताया, यह सहज डिजिटल बोर्ड और इंटरैक्टिव पैनल के माध्यम से उड़ानों

के आगमन और प्रस्थान, सुरक्षा अलर्ट, आपातकालीन संपर्क विवरण और यात्रा दिशा-निर्देशों सहित वास्तविक समय की जानकारी प्रदान करता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यात्री आसानी से ई-एफआईआर दर्ज कर सकते हैं, खोई हुई वस्तुओं की सूचना दे सकते हैं और बूथ पर सीधे गुमशुदा व्यक्ति की रिपोर्ट दर्ज कर सकते हैं, जिससे पुलिस थाने जाने की आवश्यकता समाप्त हो जाएगी। अधिकारी ने बताया कि इंटरैक्टिव पैनल इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आईजीआई) हवाई अड्डे के बारे में व्यापक जानकारी प्रदान करता है। उपराज्यपाल ने प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित पुलिसिंग उपायों को अपनाने के लिए दिल्ली पुलिस की प्रशंसा की। उन्होंने कहा, तेजी से बदलते शहरी परिवेश में नागरिकों की अपेक्षाओं को पूरा करने के लिए ऐसी पहल महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

## आईजीआई हवाई अड्डे पर स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ से यात्रियों की सुरक्षा को मिलेगा बढ़ावा

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (आईजीआई) के टर्मिनल 3 पर शनिवार को वास्तविक समय उड़ानों की जानकारी, ई-एफआईआर दर्ज कराने, आपातकालीन हेल्पलाइन, परस्पर

■ दिल्ली पुलिस व डायल के संयुक्त रूप से विकसित इस सुविधा का उद्घाटन उपराज्यपाल वीके सक्सेना ने किया

संवादात्मक यात्री सहायता और सीधी निगरानी की सुविधाओं से सुसज्जित एक स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ का उद्घाटन किया गया।

वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी ने बताया कि इस पहल का उद्देश्य हवाई अड्डों की सुरक्षा और डिजिटल पुलिसिंग पहल को मजबूत करना है। दिल्ली पुलिस और दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा लिमिटेड (डायल) द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से विकसित इस सुविधा का उद्घाटन उपराज्यपाल विनय कुमार सक्सेना ने किया। एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि स्मार्ट पुलिस बूथ एक अत्याधुनिक सुविधा है जिसे



उन्नत तकनीकी सुविधाओं को एकीकृत करके यात्रियों के अनुभव को बढ़िया बनाने के लिए बनाया गया है।

बूथ में उन्नत तकनीकी विशेषताएं शामिल हैं जैसे खोई हुई वस्तुओं की सीधे सूचना देना, गुमशुदा व्यक्तियों की शिकायत, आपातकालीन सहायता और हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल क्षेत्रों की वास्तविक समय में सीसीटीवी निगरानी। एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी ने बताया यह सहज डिजिटल बोर्ड

और इंटरैक्टिव पैनल के माध्यम से उड़ानों के आगमन और प्रस्थान, सुरक्षा अलर्ट, आपातकालीन संपर्क विवरण और यात्रा दिशा-निर्देशों समेत वास्तविक समय की जानकारी प्रदान करता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यात्री आसानी से ई-एफआईआर दर्ज करा सकते हैं, खोई हुई वस्तुओं की सूचना दे सकते हैं और बूथ पर सीधे गुमशुदा व्यक्ति को रिपोर्ट दर्ज करा सकते हैं, जिससे पुलिस थाने जाने की जरूरत समाप्त हो जाएगी।

## L-G launches smart police booth at IGI's Terminal 3

Passengers to get e-FIR filing facility and 24/7 security assistance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ New Delhi

LIEUTENANT Governor VK Saxena on Saturday inaugurated a smart police booth at IGI Airport Terminal-3, offering real-time information, e-FIR filing, and 24/7 assistance to passengers.

The booth, established by the Delhi Police in collaboration with the GMR Group, is a major initiative aimed at improving passenger safety enhancing security measures, and providing efficient, citizen-centric services at one of the busiest airports in the country, a statement said.

This initiative aligns with the vision of PM Narendra Modi's Digital India and SMART Policing programs, representing the adoption of innovative, technology-driven solutions in policing to provide enhanced safety and convenience for citizens. The smart police booth is a step forward in strengthening the public-police interface, ensuring quick response and round-the-clock accessibility to police assistance, it added.

The L-G emphasised the importance of such initiatives in creating a safer and more secure environment for travellers, highlighting how technol-



### Interactive panel provides complete information

The interactive panel provides comprehensive information about IGI Airport and its surroundings, such as important helplines, tourist attractions, transportation hubs, entertainment venues, shopping and dining options, lost-and-found services, and the locations of nearby hospitals, metro stations, and police stations.

ogy-driven solutions can transform policing to meet the modern-day demands of public safety and convenience. The program also included a short film showcasing the features, objectives, and operations of the smart police booth.

The smart police booth is a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance the travel experience by integrating advanced

technological features. It offers real-time information, including flight arrivals and departures, security alerts, emergency contact details, and travel guidelines—accessible through an intuitive digital board and interactive panels.

Travellers can conveniently file e-FIRs, report lost items, and submit missing person reports directly at the booth.

## LG inaugurates smart police booth at IGIA's Terminal 3

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 5 APRIL

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday inaugurated a smart police booth at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the presence of Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora.

According to the Delhi police, the smart police booth is equipped with digital infrastructure designed to cater to the needs of passengers with efficiency and speed. It features an interactive information panel, real-time flight updates, digital filing of e-FIRs, and police assistance, making it a first-of-its-kind public safety facility in the country.

The launch of this latest facility aims to enhance airport security. It is a collaborative initiative of the Delhi Police and Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) under the GMR Group, providing seamless, technology-driven policing and round-the-clock assistance to air travellers.

During the inauguration ceremony, the LG commended the joint efforts of the Delhi Police and GMR in setting up the Smart Police Booth. He emphasised the importance of such initiatives in enhancing traveller safety and security, noting that technology-driven innovations are key to transforming policing and meeting the evolving needs of public



service and convenience.

Special Commissioner of Police (PTSD) Robin Hibu also addressed the gathering, highlighting the key elements of the new technology, which aims to strengthen the police-citizen interface while ensuring timely redressal of grievances.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGIA) Usha Rangnani said, "The booth offers a lot of facilities that are both feasible and user-friendly. Passengers can also access their flight details from the booth inside the airport."

She further said that passengers can file complaints regarding lost or missing items, lodge e-FIRs, and easily obtain printed copies of the same. The new smart police booth is designed to provide both information and emergency assistance. It includes computers, printers, scanners, and high-speed internet. A dedicated CCTV surveillance system enables real-time monitoring of terminal entry and exit points.

The presence of trained police personnel, including both male and female officers, ensures round-the-clock availability for addressing queries, complaints, and emergencies.

## Adilabad airport approved for civil operations

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
HYDERABAD, 5 APRIL

The Ministry of Defence has approved plans to develop the Indian Air Force (IAF) airfield in Adilabad in North Telangana as a full-fledged training establishment while allowing civil aircraft operations as well. This follows the recent go-ahead given to the Mamnoor airport project in Warangal. The projects will provide a much-needed boost to Telangana's aviation infrastructure since apart from Hyderabad, none of the cities in the state are currently connected by air. However, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy blamed the Telangana government for failing to support the initiative taken by the BJP leaders. He urged the state government to acquire the required land for the development of the airports at Adilabad and Warangal swiftly.

Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh wrote a letter to Reddy informing him that "the Indian Air Force airfield in Adilabad is envisaged as a training establishment, to be developed by Indian Air Force in future. Ministry of Defence is ready to develop the existing Indian Air Force airfield of Adilabad as a Joint User Airfield and to provide necessary assistance in this matter." Describing it as a long-standing dream of the people of Adilabad, which was about to become a reality, Reddy said the development of Adilabad and Warangal airports "would significantly improve air connectivity in the state and contribute towards economic growth, employment opportunities and overall development." He further added: "Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN), 60 out of 620 routes are operational to Hyderabad. These new airports will provide more UDAN routes, allowing the middle-class affordable air travel."

# State-of-art police booth at airport's Terminal 3

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) just became more convenient for travellers, thanks to the inauguration of a brand-new Smart Police Booth at Terminal 3. Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena officially inaugurated this state-of-the-art facility on Saturday.

So, what makes this booth so smart? For starters, it offers real-time information on flight arrivals and departures, security alerts, emergency contact details, and travel guidelines. Travellers can access all this information through an intuitive digital board and interactive panels. Plus, with e-FIR filing, reporting lost items, and submitting missing person reports is now a breeze – no need to visit a police station!

The booth is also equipped with computers, printers, a scanner, and Wi-Fi connectivity, making it easy to handle complaints efficiently. With a dedicated CCTV system, security is enhanced, and quick responses to incidents are enabled. Trained police personnel, including male and female officers, are available 24/7 to provide round-the-clock assistance.

This initiative is part of Delhi Police's commitment to adopting cutting-edge technology and innovative solutions to enhance public safety and service delivery. By leveraging technology, Delhi Police aims to create a secure and citizen-friendly environment for travellers at IGI Airport.

LG Saxena emphasised the utility of such initiatives in creating a safer and more secure environment for travellers, highlighting how technology-driven solutions can transform policing to meet the modern-day demands of public safety and convenience.

“The interactive panel provides comprehensive information about IGI Airport and its surroundings, said additional commissioner of police (IGIA) Usha Rangnani.

## Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

BANGLORE

5 APRIL 2025

# KIA sees 42mn flyers in '24-25, 12% more than previous year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) achieved its highest-ever passenger and cargo throughput in the financial year 2024-25, accounting for nearly 42 million flyers and exceeding the 5,00,000-tonne cargo threshold for the first time.

The passenger traffic increased nearly 12% year-on-year; from 37.5 million in the previous financial year. Domestic passenger volume crossed 36 million—a 10% growth—while international passenger numbers grew 25%, with more than 5.8 million international passengers utilising the airport. The substantial increase in international traffic was propelled by IndiGo's broadening global network, supplementary daily flights to Lon-



ON GROWTH PATH

don Heathrow, and enhanced services from carriers including Cathay Pacific, KLM, Japan Airlines and Qantas.

KIA sustained its standing as India's third busiest airport for international travel for four successive months. It presently provides direct connectivity to 76 do-

mestic and 33 international destinations, with Hanoi poised to become the 34th foreign destination in May this year.

The airport processed 5,02,480 tonnes of cargo in 2024-25, demonstrating a 14% year-on-year growth. International cargo increased 21% to 321,418 tonnes, while domestic cargo saw a 4% rise.

KIA is preparing for Rs 17,000 crore in investments over the forthcoming five years to enhance airside, landside, and terminal capacity.

"We are enthusiastic about the growth of aviation in Bengaluru and India. KIA is strategically positioned to be the preferred gateway for south and central India," said Satyaki Raghunath, chief operating officer, Bangalore International Airport Limited, which operates KIA.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

5 APRIL 2025

## Man on the run detained at city airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** A 26-year-old man who was on the run in connection with an economic offence case, was detained at Chennai airport on Thursday when he landed in the city from Dubai.

The accused, Mohammed Ali Usman, had been evading arrest for over a year in connection with an FIR registered against him by Tiruvarur police in a cheating case. During the investigation, Tiruvarur police learned that the accused had fled the country, and issued a lookout notice against him. On Thursday, during a routine immigration clearance, the officials found that Mohammed Ali Usman's passport was flagged in the system. He was detained, and the city police were immediately alerted.

## VISA-FREE ENTRY, ADD'L FLIGHTS TO SE ASIA HELP MUM AIRPORT LOG 19% FLYER GROWTH IN 1 YEAR

Boosted by visa-free entry and increased flight options to southeast Asia, Mumbai saw a 19% year-on-year passenger growth in 2024. Post pandemic, airlines added flights on the medium-haul sector to countries in that region. TOI looks at the recovery



**Top routes**  
**Most flyers:**  
Singapore, Bangkok & Kuala Lumpur

### SCENARIO AFTER PANDEMIC

- ▶ International travel recovery was slower than domestic in India and elsewhere in the world
- ▶ Within int'l travel, short- and medium-haul sectors comprising flights under 6 hrs recovered faster than long-haul ones

**What changed |** Shot in the arm came in the form of visa-free or e-visa facilities for Indian tourists in southeast Asian countries

### 133

Flights operated weekly in 2024 from Mum to southeast Asian countries like Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam & Malaysia

#### Flyers

2023 **2.1mn**    2024 **2.5mn**

### More flights to Thailand

- ▶ IndiGo launched flights to Krabi from Mumbai last month
- ▶ Last Dec, Thai Vietjet Air launched flights to Bangkok from Mumbai
- ▶ Air India, Thai & IndiGo also have flights to Bangkok



### The big picture in India

- 2mn+ annual flyers in 2024
- 1.96mn | In 2019

### 2.3-2.5mn

Expected passenger volume from India in 2025. In Jan alone, 1.9L Indian tourists visited Thailand

### SE Asia no match for West Asia

- ▶ West Asia has some of the busiest routes out of India, including Mumbai
- ▶ At No. 1 is UAE, with Dubai leading the pack. A large majority of West Asia-bound passengers, though, are transit passengers, flying onwards to Europe & US



(Sources: Mumbai International Airport Ltd, Tourism Authority of Thailand & Directorate General of Civil Aviation)

## Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

5 APRIL 2025

# Cidco completes 40% of Ulwe Coastal Road linking airport with Atal Setu

Umesh K Parida

**Navi Mumbai:** Around 40% of the 6-lane Ulwe Coastal road of total length 6.7 km starting from Amra Marg to Atal Setu (MTHL) junction at Shivajinagar has been completed. The road length includes an elevated airport link of 0.903 km stretch which flies over Nerul-Uran Suburban Railway line as well as Amra Marg (NH 348 A) and lands within the airport site.

The 60m wide road project executed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,591 crore becomes the key to seamless connectivity and commercial success of the Navi Mumbai International Airport.

The airport project is nea-



The 60m wide road project will be key to seamless connectivity

ring completion. The vital connectivity projects for the airport are under implementation by various authorities including Cidco, which is implementing the major urban arterial road projects. The road work started in end Jan 2024 is likely to be comple-

ted by Sept 2026.

The Cidco has already obtained the Coastal Regulatory Zone and forest clearances. The Bombay high court has granted permission for cutting mangroves in Jan 2024.

The Cidco has spent Rs 528

crore out of the total estimated cost till the end of February 2025 (financial year 2024-25). The Cidco has proposed to spend Rs 628 cr in the revised budget of 2025-26 fiscal year. Balance expenditure will be made in the next financial year (2026-27).

The work is executed in two parts. The first part (3.8km) covers a portion of the Amra Marg including the elevated airport link executed through a joint venture firm, formed by two big contractors at an estimated of Rs 679 cr. The second part (2.9km) is executed by one of the big firms of the joint venture from the balance of Amra Marg to Atal Setu junction estimated to Rs 912 cr.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

6 APRIL 2025

## L-G inaugurates smart police booth at airport

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

Lieutenant Governor (L-G) VK Saxena inaugurated a "smart police booth" at Terminal-3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport here on Saturday.

Saxena lauded the police's commitment to digital innovation and citizen-centric services.

The initiative, launched in collaboration with Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) and GMR Group, aims to provide round-the-clock, tech-enabled policing services to domestic and international travellers.

"This smart police booth is a significant step towards realising the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India and Smart Policing initiatives," LG Saxena said. "Such initiatives play a vital role in creating a safer and more secure environment for passengers. Technology-driven policing is no longer a luxury but a necessity in today's world," he said.

Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, who welcomed the L-G at the venue with a sapling, said the facility underscores Delhi Police's commitment to innovation and passenger welfare. "We are continuously striving to modernise our policing efforts. This smart booth brings services closer to the people, especially at a crucial node like the airport," he said.

Additional CP (IGI Airport)

To provide round-the-clock, tech-enabled policing services



L-GVK Saxena and Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora inaugurate a smart police booth (below) at Terminal 3 of the IGI Airport in Delhi on Saturday.

### E-FIR FILING, REAL-TIME FLIGHT & SAFETY INFO

Additional CP (IGI Airport) Usha Rangnani, who demonstrated the booth's features to the L-G, said it was designed to be intuitive and user-friendly. "The booth is equipped with facilities like e-FIR filing, real-time flight and safety information, digital assistance for lost and found services, and emergency contacts. Travellers can now lodge complaints or file reports without visiting a traditional police station," she said.



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"The booth is equipped with facilities like e-FIR filing, real-time flight and safety information, digital assistance for lost and found services, and emergency contacts. Travellers can now lodge complaints or file reports without visiting a traditional police station," she said.

The booth includes com-

puters, scanners, printers and Wi-Fi connectivity to facilitate efficient complaint redressal. It also has an integrated CCTV monitoring system that keeps an eye on the terminal's entry and exit points, helping in quick response to incidents.

Special CP Robin Hibu said: "This is more than just a physical booth. It's a symbol of how policing is evolving. It enables faster grievance redressal and promotes public trust. Our

male and female officers are stationed here 24/7 to assist anyone in need."

Designed to function as a one-stop information hub, the smart police booth provides details about nearby metro stations, hospitals, police stations, entertainment zones, tourist attractions and travel guidelines. "This is not just about safety—it's also about convenience. We want travellers to feel informed, empowered and safe," Rangnani added.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

5 APRIL 2025

# Delhi airport to start trials of full body scanners in May

TDO NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi airport will start trials of full body scanners in May, with the airport operator DIAL saying that the scanners will generate a standardised 2D image on a preset human avatar so that no personal images are stored in the system. Four scanners have been pro-

cured, with two installed at Terminal 1 (T1) and two at Terminal 3 (T3). These scanners are expected to reduce the waiting time for passengers at the airport.

"The IT interface for these machines is being finalised, and upon completion of the three-to-four-month trial, a BCAS-led committee will evaluate the findings and establish

a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for full-scale implementation," Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a release on Friday.

The scanners will be using millimeter-wave technology operating between 70 to 80 GHz. DIAL said that unlike conventional X-ray scanners, they do not emit radiation, making

them safe for all travellers, including pregnant women and individuals with medical implants.

The trials of the scanners will start in May following the latest guidelines from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

"These advanced scanners detect both metallic and non-metallic threats, including explosives, sig-



nificantly improving upon traditional metal detectors.

"The technology, already in use at major interna-

tional airports in the US, Canada, and Australia, enables rapid screening, with each scan taking just three seconds and a maximum throughput of 1,200 scans per hour," the release said.

According to DIAL, the scanners generate a standardised 2D image on a preset human avatar, ensuring no personal images are stored.

They will be equipped with four touch screen monitors for image evaluation and passenger guidance and can scan individuals between 3.3 feet to 6.7 feet in height.

"All scan data is stored securely with access restricted to authorised agencies, ensuring both security and convenience for travellers," the release said.

## NCLAT Upholds NCLT Liquidation Order on Go First

**Suryash Kumar**

**New Delhi:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Friday dismissed Busy Bee Airways' appeal, upholding the NCLT's order of liquidating Wadia Group-owned airline Go First as the resolution process of the debt-ridden airline failed to attract a feasible revival plan.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had on January 20 approved the decision of Go First's committee of creditors (CoC) not to sell the airline as a going concern under liquidation.

Busy Bee Airways challenged the decision and its counsel informed the appellate tribunal that the liquidator was rushing to sell Go First's assets on a stand-alone basis or in parcels without exploring the possibility of selling it or its business as a going concern.

Busy Bee Airways' counsel said that a resolution to sell the carrier as a going concern was proposed to the CoC, but the proposal's voting pattern had been withheld.

"If the CoC has passed a resolution to explore the sale of Go First as a going concern, the liquidator cannot stand in the way," said the counsel.

Sale as a going concern refers to the sale of the company's business as a whole, along with its assets and liabilities, rather than selling them separately. A key benefit of sale as a going concern is that the process maximises returns for stakeholders and preserves employment.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 APRIL 2025

### NCLAT dismisses plea against liquidation of Go First

**PTI**

**NEW DELHI**

The insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT on Friday dismissed a batch of petitions filed against the liquidation of grounded carrier Go First.

A three-member NCLAT bench led by Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan upheld the earlier order passed by the Delhi bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which had, on January 20, ordered for the airline's liquidation.

Rejecting the petition by Busy Bee Airways, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) said it did not find any infirmity in the order of the Adjudicating



Authority.

The order was pronounced in the open court and a detailed order is still awaited.

Busy Bee Airways, Bhartiya Kamgar Sena Mumbai, and Captain Arjun Dhawan had challenged the NCLT order of liquidation of Go First.

Busy Bee Airways has submitted that it is ready to acquire Go First as a going concern as it still has valuable assets and a licence from the

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to operate.

Travel portal EaseMyTrip's Co-Founder Nishant Pitti is the majority shareholder in Busy Bee Airways. Bhartiya Kamgar Sena Mumbai, a trade union body, had submitted that around 5,000 workers would be left with nothing if the company is liquidated.

The trade union body requested to keep the airline as a going concern until arbitration with American engine maker Pratt & Whitney concludes at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre. On January 20, the NCLT ordered the liquidation of Go First, the budget carrier that stopped flying nearly two years ago amid financial woes.

column {rude food}

# The height of good taste

Air India taught the world that food could taste good even at 35,000 feet. It got others to up their game. Why did we forget it all?



VIR SANGHVI



In the 1960s and for much of the 1970s, Air India operated a London to New York service every day. Its inflight meals were ranked as the best at the time.

AIR INDIA



**I**t's not a story that Air India tells about itself, though perhaps that could be because everyone who remembers it has probably left the airline.

But in the 1960s and for much of the 1970s, Air India operated a London-to-New York service every day.

At that time, the trans-Atlantic route was the most competitive in the world, and European and American Airlines would slug it out for supremacy. Despite this, Air India, a small airline from a country that had no significant aviation tradition, managed to make a mark.

The big global carriers tried to figure out what Air India was doing right. They

discovered that its on-time performance could not match say, Pan Am's. It couldn't be the fares. In that era, the airline cartel IATA forced everyone to charge exactly the same fare. The planes were the same too, mostly bought from Boeing.

After careful study, they came to the conclusion that mostly, it was because of the food. This was a time when all airlines served European food. Even Japan Airlines, the best known of the Asian carriers, served Western food. A JAL menu from 1966 would be packed with such dishes as Chicken Galantine with Glazed Carrots. There were no Japanese dishes on offer.

Research showed that passengers enjoyed Air India's Indian food much more than the European food that the American and British airlines were serving.

The obvious conclusion was that passengers liked food that was different. But was it as simple as that?

**In the air, a reduced sense of smell and taste causes Western food to taste bland.**

ADOBESTOCK, SHUTTERSTOCK

Air India's success led airlines to finally research what kind of food tasted best at 35,000 feet. They already knew that it was difficult to cook at that altitude. As far back as 1939, Don Magarrell of United Airlines, a legendary figure in airline catering, had noted that at 5,000 feet in the air, it took six minutes, not three, to boil an egg. Coffee packed in a Thermos flask expanded at that height and could blow the top of the flask off.

But nobody had bothered to find out how food actually tasted at high altitudes. The Air India example - in those days the inflight food on Air India was far tastier than the food on Pan Am, BOAC or even Air France - led other airlines to research the subject. (Unlike today, many airlines did their own catering in the 1960s and 1970s.)

They came to the conclusion that food cooked at sea-level tastes very different at 35,000 feet. There were various reasons for this. Our sense of smell is reduced by at least 30 per cent at 35,000 feet. And smell is the key to taste. All airplane cabins dehydrate the palate, which means that perceptions of sweetness and saltiness are much reduced.

In 1973, in an effort to get around this problem, France's UTA airline hired Raymond Olivier, the chef at the three-Michelin-star Le Grand Véfour in Paris, to make its food more altitude-friendly. Olivier changed all the recipes, adding more salt, sugar, butter and cream. The change was dramatic and widely commented on.

In Germany, LSG, a catering giant, discovered that European spices could hardly be discerned at heights and reformulated its recipes to make the food more spice-forward. Ernst Derenthal of LSG even told *The Wall Street Journal* that all airline food would get



A Japan Airlines menu from 1966 would have such dishes as Chicken Galantine with Glazed Carrots. There were no Japanese dishes on offer.

GETTY IMAGES

average airline meal".

But mostly, it is that airlines don't care about food any longer. There are exceptions - Qantas, Emirates, Singapore Airlines, etc - but they are in a tiny minority. If you look at airline ads from 30 years ago, many of them featured the food served on board. Nobody does that any longer. Nor do many of today's airlines even make a special effort with business-class passengers.

On Air India, the presentation may be different, but everyone in every cabin eats food of the same basic quality. The menus may read better in the front of the aircraft, but the food tastes the same.

I don't think Indigo even has ovens for reheating food on many of its aircraft, because catering has never been its priority.

The emphasis is on cost. Managers are told the story of Robert Crandall, the Chairman of American Airlines, who made huge savings for the airline by removing one olive from every salad. The story has since been debunked but it is still told at management schools as example of great managerial skills.

When the emphasis is on spending less on passengers so that you make higher profits, what do you expect? Can it be an accident that even as passengers complain about airline food, many flight caterers make huge profits?

Today's airlines get you from place A to place B (well, mostly) and really don't give a damn about what you eat along the way.

It could be different. The Crandall-olive story has a counterpoint. In 2008, an angry passenger wrote a bitter but brilliantly sarcastic letter to Richard Branson about how bad the food on a Virgin flight from India to London was. Most airlines would have let a chat bot or a flack respond. But Branson replied personally. Virgin made the letter public. And the disgruntled passenger was invited to the flight kitchen to talk to the chefs and suggest menu changes. It could have been a PR disaster. Virgin turned it into a triumph. And the food did get better.

But to do things like that you need a boss with Branson's flair, talent and concern for passengers.

better if they only served Indian curries on board "but the passengers may not let us".

Very little actually changed. For instance, Heston Blumenthal did a TV show with British Airways, demonstrating that umami flavours survived high altitudes, so if the inflight meals had a higher umami content they would taste better. The show had a huge impact on viewers, but in the long run, nothing changed.

Most experts in inflight catering will tell you that devising meals for Indian planes is the easiest thing in the world. If you make a gravy dish, you get around the texture problems you face with say, steaks or other cuts of protein. The spices awaken the palate. And for variety, there is always the so-called Oriental option with umami flavours.

Given these advantages, and given that Air India used to be the airline whose success forced Western carriers to re-examine their catering, why isn't the food on our airlines better?

Some of this has to do with scale. When a flight kitchen turns out thousands of meals, quality is bound to suffer. Then, there is the delay factor. Meals are made several hours before and inexpertly reheated in basic ovens before service. As the comedienne Joan Rivers used to say, "The average aircraft is 16 years old and so is the



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

STATEMEN

DELHI

6 APRIL 2025

## Another delay: Air India flight AI2601 held up for more than 2.5 hours amid mounting criticism

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 5 APRIL

Air India's repeated delays have sparked fresh outrage after flight AI2601, scheduled from Delhi to Chandigarh, was held up for several hours on Saturday.

While the airline initially assured passengers of a 7:30 PM departure — nearly two hours after its scheduled take-off — the flight missed that deadline as well.

The airline attributed the delay to "technical issues" but offered no further clarity beyond the revised timing.

Repeated disruptions have added to the growing frustration among fliers, many of whom say such delays have become routine and affect their schedules.

In recent days, Air India has faced severe criticism from passengers, including political leaders across party lines, over what they allege is persistent

**In response, Air India said there are occasional operational issues outside its control that affect flight schedules.**

mismanagement and disregard for customer convenience.

Last month, senior NCP leader and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule took to X to slam the airline.

"Air India flights are end-

lessly delayed — this is unacceptable! We pay premium fares, yet flights are never on time. Professionals, children, and senior citizens — all affected by this constant mismanagement," she posted, tagging Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, and urging immediate action.

She later cited her own experience of a 1 hour and 19-minute delay on flight AI0508, calling for stricter regulations to hold Air India

accountable and to enforce better service standards. In response, Air India said there are occasional operational issues outside its control that affect flight schedules.

"Dear Ma'am, we recognise that delays can be very frustrating. However, there are occasional operational issues outside our control that can affect flight schedules. Your flight to Mumbai this evening was delayed by an hour due to such an issue. We appreciate

your understanding," the airline stated. In February this year, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed his dissatisfaction after being allotted a broken seat.

"I don't mind sitting in discomfort, but it is unethical to make passengers sit on bad and uncomfortable seats after charging them the full amount. Isn't this cheating the passengers?" he asked in a post on X.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

## Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

5 APRIL 2025

# Cathay's resumes HK-Hyd flight op

Swati.Bharadwaj  
@timesofindia.com



**Hyderabad:** Hong Kong's flag carrier, Cathay Pacific, which resumed operations from Hyderabad with thrice-a-week flights from March 31, plans to ramp up its frequency to five flights weekly from the city to Hong Kong by Sept this year, driven by high load factors. The airline had suspended flights during Covid-19.

"We resumed our operations from Hyderabad after nearly five years and found our first flight this Monday had about 75% passenger load and full cargo load, and the second flight on Thursday went with 100% passenger and cargo loads," said Rakesh Raicar, regional

general manager for South Asia, Middle East and Africa, Cathay Pacific.

With the addition of Hyderabad back on its network, Cathay Pacific now has 39 flights per week from five cities in the country that include Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai.

"From Sept, this will go up to 43 flights weekly once we increase the frequency from Hyderabad to five flights per week," Raicar added. Before Covid-19 struck, the carrier operated five weekly flights from the city.