

# Telcos to airports: Allow us to provide indoor telecom infra

Latest rules don't allow third-party partners to deploy active or passive infrastructure

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY

New Delhi, 5 May

Telecom service providers Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea have jointly asked airport authorities in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, and Guwahati to allow them — and not a third-party infrastructure provider — to install and provide indoor-telecom equipment.

The telcos had last week written to the upcoming Noida International Airport Ltd as well as Mumbai Metro earlier on this issue. Barring Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), the other four are run by Adani Airports Holding Ltd (AAHL).

In their letters — on April 25 — the telcos have cited laws that mandate licensed telecom-service providers will get right of way (RoW) access in public spaces.

The airports are in various stages of granting exclusive rights to third-party entities to install In-Building Solutions (IBS).

IBS improves mobile-network cov-



ILLUSTRATION: AJAYA MOHANTY

## CLASH OVER COMMUNICATION INFRA IN PUBLIC SPACES

- Telcos have requested airports to not hire third-party provider for in-building solutions (IBS) infrastructure
- Argue exclusive rights given to a third party will lead to payment of exorbitant charges
- Joint infrastructure is currently used by telcos for IBS infra in public spaces
- Last week, the companies had said it wouldn't be possible to provide IBS services in Mumbai metro
- They had blamed unviable rates offered by the selected infrastructure partner

erage and signal quality within buildings, especially where external signals struggle to penetrate.

But pacts with third parties not only contravene legal provisions but create a monopolistic environment, according to the telcos.

These entities may impose hefty charges on telcos for providing the network and become a gatekeeper for RoW, the letters said.

“We understand that you may have been approached by unlicensed entities holding IP-1 registrations from

the Department of Telecommunications, seeking exclusive rights under the pretext of being independent ‘neutral hosts’ for IBS deployment. We wish to clarify that under current regulations such third party vendors are not permitted to deploy active telecom infrastructure,” their letters said.

Meanwhile, the telcos have sought permission to provide IBS facilities at Terminal 1 of Bangalore International Airport, where the existing IBS licence will expire on May 31.

Queries mailed to BIAL and AAHL for a response did not elicit a response.

However, the telcos are unwilling to pay for the infrastructure, arguing that IBS at public facilities do not yield substantial revenue but serves a common, public need.

“RoW permissions in such scenarios should be seen not as a revenue generating opportunity by the Airport, but as a necessary, facilitative step for public interest,” the letters read. They said no public authority was allowed to charge fees for RoW beyond what was stipulated in the rules.

# आज से रनवे 10/28 पर उड़ानों की आवाजाही फिर से होगी शुरू

गौतम कुमार मिश्रा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: बंद पड़े रनवे 10/28 पर मंगलवार से विमानों की आवाजाही शुरू हो जाएगी। अब जून के मध्य में इस रनवे को फिर से बंद किया जाएगा, ताकि कैट 3 सुविधा को लेकर जो तकनीकी कार्य होने हैं, उसे पूरा किया जा सके। इसके बाद यदि सब कुछ सही रहा तो सितंबर में इसे खोल दिया जाएगा।

डायल के सूत्रों का कहना है कि डीजीसीए ने सोमवार को रनवे का दौरा किया था। सब कुछ सही पाए जाने के बाद ही इसे मंगलवार को खोले जाने का निर्णय लिया गया। इस रनवे के शुरू होने से आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट के सभी चार रनवे विमानों की आवाजाही के लिए उपलब्ध रहेंगे। चारों रनवे के शुरू



आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल 3 का प्रस्थान क्षेत्र • जागरण आर्काइव

होने के बाद व्यस्त समय में दिल्ली के आसमान में ट्रैफिक कंजेशन की स्थिति नहीं होगी। विमान समय से टेकआफ व लैंड कर सकेंगे। यानि जो लेटलतीफी की स्थिति पिछले कुछ दिनों से है, वह खत्म होगी।

बता दें कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों से

ठंड के दौरान कोहरे में रनवे पर दृश्यता कम होने के कारण विमानों को लैंडिंग व टेकआफ में दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ता रहा है। इससे निपटने के लिए डायल की कोशिश है कि अधिक से अधिक रनवे पर कैट 3 की सुविधा हो,

सोमवार को डीजीसीए के दौरे के बाद लिया गया निर्णय, आठ अप्रैल से इस रनवे पर उड़ानों की आवाजाही कर रखी थी बंद

## आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट के रनवे

- रनवे 09/27
- रनवे 11आर/29एल
- रनवे 11एल/29आर
- रनवे 10/28

ताकि न्यूनतम दृश्यता में भी पायलट को लैंडिंग व टेकआफ में दिक्कत न हो। सूत्रों का कहना है कि चार रनवे में रनवे 09/27 सबसे पुराना है और छोटा है, जिसपर कैट 3 सुविधा बहाल नहीं की जा सकती है। अन्य पर इसे बहाल किया जा

सकता है। रनवे 11आर/29एल व रनवे 11एल/29आर पर कैट 3 की सुविधा है। रनवे 10/28 ही ऐसा रनवे था, जहां इसे बहाल किया जा सकता था। इस रनवे के आधे हिस्से में यह सुविधा थी, लेकिन आधा हिस्सा इससे वंचित था। इस हिस्से पर भी यह सुविधा हो, इसके लिए आठ अप्रैल को इस रनवे को बंद कर दिया गया था।

**एडवाइजरी की जारी:** वैसे सोमवार को डायल ने एडवाइजरी जारी कर बताया कि प्रतिकूल मौसम के कारण उड़ानें प्रभावित हो सकती हैं। बेहतर हो कि एयरपोर्ट के लिए प्रस्थान करने से पहले संबंधित एयरलाइंस से एक बार बात कर लें। सोमवार को आगमन की 47 प्रतिशत उड़ानें और प्रस्थान की करीब 61 प्रतिशत उड़ानें विलंबित रही।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

## आइजीआइ के टर्मिनल-3 पर 360 डिग्री वर्चुअल नेविगेशन मैप की सुविधा शुरू

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट में टर्मिनल-3 पर 360 डिग्री वर्चुअल नेविगेशन मैप की सुविधा शुरू की गई है। एयरपोर्ट संचालन करने वाली एजेंसी डायल का दावा है कि यह सुविधा देश में पहली बार किसी एयरपोर्ट पर शुरू की गई है। यह तकनीक विश्व के सबसे व्यस्त एयरपोर्ट में यात्रियों को टर्मिनल में एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर जाने के लिए नेविगेशन की सुविधा देगा। इस मैप में टर्मिनल की वास्तविक तस्वीरों का उपयोग किया गया है, जिससे यात्री एयरपोर्ट के माहौल को आसानी से समझ और घूम सकें।

डायल के अनुसार 360 डिग्री

इस नई सुविधा से यात्रियों को यह पता चलेगा कि टर्मिनल के भीतर कहां और क्या-क्या सुविधाएं हैं और वहां कैसे पहुंचें

वर्चुअल नेविगेशन मैप घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों को ट्रांसफर डेस्क, बोर्डिंग गेट्स और बैगेज बेल्ट जैसे महत्वपूर्ण स्थानों तक आसानी से पहुंचने में मदद करेगा। यह सुविधा ट्रांसफर प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाएगी और यात्रा के दौरान समय की बचत के साथ तनाव को भी कम करेगी। डायल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने कहा कि आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट ग्लोबल हब

बनने की दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है। 360 डिग्री वर्चुअल नेविगेशन मैप का शुभारंभ ट्रांसफर यात्रियों के लिए एक बड़ा कदम है, खासकर पहली बार उड़ान भरने वालों, बच्चों या बुजुर्गों के साथ यात्रा करने वालों के लिए यह काफी कारगर साबित होगा।

क्यूआर कोड से आसान पहुंच : इस वर्चुअल नेविगेशन मैप का उपयोग बेहद आसान है। टर्मिनल 3 के आगमन हिस्से में विभिन्न स्थानों पर लगे क्यूआर कोड को स्कैन करते ही यह मैप तुरंत आपके मोबाइल डिवाइस पर खुल जाता है, जो एक सहज और इंटरैक्टिव गाइड प्रदान करता है।

### अलीगढ़ हवाई अड्डे पर एयरक्राफ्ट दुर्घटनाग्रस्त, पायलट बाल-बाल बचा



अलीगढ़ हवाई अड्डे पर रविवार दोपहर में उड़ान के दौरान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुए एयरक्राफ्ट को देखने पहुंचे अधिकारी • जागरण

जासं, अलीगढ़ : अलीगढ़ हवाई अड्डे पर रविवार दोपहर 3:10 बजे पायनियर फ्लाईंग क्लब का ट्रेनी एयरक्राफ्ट (वीटी-पीएनएच) दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। लैंडिंग के दौरान ही पायलट नियंत्रण खो बैठा, जिससे एयरक्राफ्ट रनवे से करीब 50 मीटर दूर दीवार से टकरा गया। गनीमत रही कि एयरक्राफ्ट में आग नहीं लगी। पायलट सुरक्षित है। जांच

के लिए नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय की टीम दिल्ली से रवाना हो गई है। फिलहाल सभी प्रशिक्षण उड़ानों पर रोक लगा दी गई है। डीजीसीए के निदेशक एसएस अग्रवाल ने बताया कि लैंडिंग के दौरान एयरक्राफ्ट दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुआ है। पायलट पूरी तरह सुरक्षित है। जांच की जा रही है। दोपहर में पायलट पर्व जैन प्रशिक्षण उड़ान पर थे।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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## ■ Telcos for Own Network at Airports



**NEW DELHI** Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have urged airport authorities

of Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati, Navi Mumbai and Mumbai to set up in-building solutions for telecom connectivity without involvement of a neutral third party. In separate but similar letters to the CEOs of the airports, the telcos jointly sought a survey of airport premises along with permission to deploy a common network to offer uninterrupted mobile coverage. The telcos said under current norms, third-party vendors are not permitted to deploy active telecom infrastructure.

**FLIGHT TURBULENCE | MIAL's decision to shut down freight operations and slot cuts in flights of West Asian airlines met with anger; IATA urges airport operator to engage with the industry**

## Airlines & freight operators cry foul as new airport takes wings

**Dhairya Gajara**  
MUMBAI

The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will be inaugurated on June 1 and operations are expected to commence in the second half of August. Even as the inauguration is less than a month away, uncertainties loom over airlines shifting operations from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) to the new facility.

In January, CSMIA and NMIA's operator, Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), announced the redevelopment of CSMIA's Terminal 1, to enhance capacity to manage 20 million passengers annually. The 'modernisation' of T1 is expected to begin in a phased manner in November and is expected to be completed in 2028-29. MIAL had announced that the capacity gap created by the redevelopment work will be managed by T2 and NMIA.

On April 21, MIAL informed cargo operators that it is going to temporarily shut down freight operations from August 16 until further notice. The airport operator justified the move by saying that it needs to carry out multiple airside works, including construction of a new taxiway for runway 14/32.

"MIAL has always ensured that any infrastructure upgrade is created in a fair and transparent manner. MIAL had therefore carried out consultation on March 13, 2024, on intended infrastructure upgrade giving all relevant stakeholders adequate notice period," the airport said in its letter to the cargo operators.

MIAL also announced slot cuts in flights of West Asian airlines for the winter season. The move faced severe backlash from airlines and Airline Operators Committee-Mumbai (AOC-Mumbai) complained to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The airlines believe that this is yet another attempt to push the operations to NMIA.

"Such a significant operational decision, which directly impacts airline schedules, connectivity and passenger experience, cannot and must not be imposed without stakeholder engagement," read the letter by AOC-Mumbai.

Following these two decisions by MIAL, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) intervened. In a statement, John Middleton, the head for worldwide airport slots at IATA, said that MIAL had failed to adhere to MoCA's guidelines for slot allocation.

It urged MIAL to immediately withdraw the cuts and instead urgently engage with the airline industry in consultations to minimise disruptions to airline operations, inconvenience to passengers, and loss of air connectivity for Mumbai. "We hope that the operator of the two-airport system in Mumbai is not using this situation to pressure airlines to move their operations to their upcoming airport. We fear that this is an example of airport capacity gaming which will harm aviation throughout India and beyond," he said.

MIAL also issued a statement in which it refuted IATA's assertions, claiming that the adjustments to cargo oper-

ations and slot allocations have followed a transparent, consultative and regulator-driven process.

"Airlines have full autonomy over network planning, and there has been no attempt to steer traffic from CSMIA to NMIA. MIAL continues to respect international best practices, including the guidelines issued by the Worldwide Airport Slot Board (WASB), and remains committed to maintaining fair and equitable coordination with all stakeholders," MIAL said.

Industry experts have raised concerns regarding these developments. They believe that MIAL is also planning to shift chartered flights to NMIA as the airport had announced that the non-scheduled flights will not get parking space at CSMIA from the end of the year.

Sandip Jadhav, a Saudi Arabia-based logistics manager, said, "This major update will impact the logistics and supply chain industry significantly. Freighters like Boeing 777s and 747s, carrying 100+ tonnes, will be grounded. Belly cargo on passenger flights will take over, but capacity may fall short. This change demands quick adaptability and close coordination with customers, partners, and airlines."

Vipul Saxena, a Mumbai-based former defence pilot and an aviation expert, said, "It will be inconvenient for the residents of south and north Mumbai to reach NMIA without a convenient mode of transport. The ministry should intervene and find a workable solution also focusing on the targeted development of T1 for increased passenger capacity."



CSMIA is India's second-busiest cargo hub handling 24% of the country's freight. It handles around four to five freighter aircraft daily, mainly facilitating import and export from the Middle-East, US and UK.

CSMIA records more than 120 daily flights to and from West Asia. Among them, more than 40 flights are operated by West Asian carriers

### Timeline

**DEC 29:** First commercial flight validation test at NMIA

**JAN 10:** MIAL announces chartered planes to not get parking space

**JAN 28:** MIAL announces redevelopment plan of T1

**APRIL 9:** IndiGo CEO announces flying from both CSMIA's T1 and NMIA



**APRIL 21:** MIAL announces freighter suspensions

**APRIL 26:** MIAL announces slot cuts for winter schedule

**JUNE 1:** Inauguration of NMIA

**AUG 2025:** Operations commencement at NMIA

**NOV 2025:** First phase of CSMIA T1's redevelopment to begin





# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 MAY 2025

## Airport: Search for leopard continues

**Indu Bhagat**

PUNE

Despite extensive efforts, the leopard spotted within the Pune International Airport premises remains elusive, as no movement was recorded on the night of May 3, officials said on Sunday. The leopard was first seen on Apr 28, triggering a joint search operation by the Forest Department and the wildlife rescue NGO RESQ. Since then, the animal has evaded capture even after entering a trap cage installed by the forest officials. The search area includes the



File photo

premises of the Air Force station, which shares its runway with the civilian airport.

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Division, Mahadev Mohite, provided an update on Sunday. "May 4 is

observed as International Leopard Day. No leopard movement was observed last night. We are currently repositioning camera traps at sensitive locations identified with the help of the dog squad. The

leopard has also not been directly sighted. Monitoring continues using 13 camera traps, four trap cages, and four live surveillance cameras," he said.

Officials said drones cannot be used as the airport is a no-fly zone, so advanced camera trap techniques are being deployed. "There are long drainage tunnels in the area. We don't want the leopard to enter those tunnels as it could endanger its life," an official added. Search operations will continue through the night, following the same monitoring plan.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

## एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों को फोन में वर्चुअल मैप मिलेगा

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 पर यात्रियों के लिए पहली बार 360 डिग्री वर्चुअल नेविगेशन मैप की शुरुआत की गई है। यात्री क्यूआर कोड स्कैन कर एयरपोर्ट का वर्चुअल मैप अपने मोबाइल पर देख सकेंगे।

एयरपोर्ट संचालन कंपनी डायल के अनुसार, इस मैप का सबसे ज्यादा लाभ ऐसे यात्रियों को होगा, जो टी-3 पर घरेलू से अंतरराष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय से घरेलू यात्रा कर रहे होंगे। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट का टर्मिनल-3 देश के व्यस्त

### ■ ट्रांसफर डेस्क, बोर्डिंग गेट और बैगेज बेल्ट की जानकारी मिल सकेगी

एयरपोर्ट में शामिल है। यहां से रोजाना बड़ी संख्या में लोग सफर करते हैं। ऐसे में यहां लगे हुए क्यूआर कोड को स्कैन करते ही यात्री को 360 डिग्री का वर्चुअल मैप उनके मोबाइल पर उपलब्ध हो जाएगा।

उन्हें आसानी से पता चलेगा कि ट्रांसफर डेस्क, बोर्डिंग गेट और बैगेज बेल्ट कहां पर हैं।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

# *Sigh of relief for flyers as IGI's closed runway to open today*

**Saurabh Sinha**  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** In a major relief for air travellers, Delhi Airport's main runway 10/28 will reopen on Tuesday, easing weeks of delays and diversions. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave its approval after inspecting the runway, which is the backbone of India's busiest airport that has four airstrips. "The runway will reopen on Tuesday morning," confirmed two senior officials.

The runway was closed on April 8 to upgrade the existing CAT IIIB instrument landing system (ILS) on its 28 end (Vasant Vihar side) and also provide CAT IIIB for the first time on its 10 end (Dwarka side). However, unseasonal easterly winds — during which aircraft land from Dwarka side and take off towards Vasant Vihar — since early last month meant massive flight delays and diversions at Delhi. This led Union aviation minister



The closed T2 and 10/28 runway in one frame

Ram Mohan Naidu to ask Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) to postpone the ILS work to after the peak summer travel season.

DIAL Monday said on X: "...upgrade work on runway 28/10 was carried out as per agreement with key stakeholders... As per approved plan, runway 28/10 will be closed again from mid-June to mid-Sept 2025, following the peak tourist season, when wind direction is also expected to shift (to westerly). We are working with airlines and all stakeholders to minimise any inconvenience."

With three operational

runways (minus 10/28) and unseasonal easterly winds, IGIA can handle a maximum of up to 32 arrivals in an hour. But the number of flights scheduled to fly in is way higher than this number, leading to endemic delays and diversions.

To ease the load, DIAL suggested airlines move 75 flights to night slots and cancel the remaining 19. Airlines warned this could lead to losses of up to Rs 1,000 crore during the peak season. The result was cascading delays across the network. With the runway reopening on Tuesday, the situation should improve now till mid June.

Saurabh Sinha



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

# IGI's runway 28/10 to resume ops today

**Neha LM Tripathi**

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**NEW DELHI:** Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport will resume operations with all four runways from Tuesday, airport officials said, adding that the non-operational runway will be functional before noon. "Runway 28/10 was cleared for operations by DGCA on Monday. Flights will land as per schedule before noon," an airport official, asking not to be identified, said. On Sunday, HT had reported

that negligible progress on the runway's upgrade was holding up flights and causing flight disruption, which prompted Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu to pause the work. The runway was shut on April 8 for an Instrument Landing System (ILS) upgrade to CAT III B standards, enabling operations in dense fog. The lighting system was also being extended from 650m to 900m.

By April 11, major delays emerged due to poor planning and unfavourable easterly

winds. With all four runways operational, IGI can handle up to 90 flights an hour. Under westerly winds, capacity drops to 74. With Runway 28/10 shut and easterlies prevailing, arrivals dipped further, triggering cascading delays. Following a high-level meeting chaired by the minister, it was decided that work would pause until the peak summer rush ends. ILS work by AAI will continue, and full upgrades will resume on June 15. The runway is expected to be fully functional by September 15.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

## Airport unveils nation's first 360° virtual navigation map

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @New Delhi

THE Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Monday launched India's first-ever 360° Virtual Navigation Map at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport. The state-of-the-art digital initiative aims to streamline passenger movement, especially for domestic and international transfer passengers, at one of the world's busiest airports.

The map uses real images of the terminal to offer an immersive, intuitive experience, helping passengers easily locate facilities such as transfer desks, boarding gates, and baggage belts. It provides step-by-step directions directly to passengers' mobile devices, reducing travel stress and improving efficiency, DIAL said. Access is enabled via QR codes placed throughout Terminal 3. Passengers can scan the code to open the guide on their phones and navigate the terminal independently.

"The 360° map enhances user experience and sets a benchmark for digital airport services," DIAL said. CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria added that the tool caters to all travelers, including first-time flyers.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

5 MAY 2025

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

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### Delhi airport's virtual map to facilitate easy terminal navigation

**New Delhi:** Indira Gandhi International Airport has introduced a 360-degree virtual navigation map at Terminals 1 and 3, designed to offer passengers — especially those in transit—a seamless, stress-free travel experience at one of the world's busiest airports.

The virtual map uses real images of the terminal interiors to help passengers familiarise themselves with the airport environment. It guides users to essential locations such as transfer desks, boarding gates, and baggage belts, according to Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), the airport operator.

Passengers can access the map by scanning QR codes placed throughout the arrival concourses at Terminal 3. The map opens directly on their smartphones or personal devices. Transfer passengers can also use the service via a dedicated link—virtual navigation map for transfers.

“Following the successful launch of the virtual navigation system, we are now expanding its coverage to include all boarding gates and baggage belts at both Terminals 1 and 3,” said DIAL in a statement.

Videh Kumar Jaipurkar, CEO of DIAL, said, “The launch of our 360° virtual navigation map marks a significant step in enhancing the airport experience—especially for transfer passengers. Whether it's a first-time flyer or someone travelling with children or elderly family members, this tool ensures smoother navigation through the terminals.” TNN

## Pune airport leopard reappears, forest dept reworks capture plan

**Aditi.Shekar@timesofindia.com**

**Pune:** Nearly a week after operations began to rescue an adult leopard from Pune airport (part of an IAF airbase), a fresh sighting over the weekend confirmed the big cat was still inside the perimeter, making use of an extensive tunnel network to move around the complex. Throughout Saturday night, trap cameras caught the leopard exploring parts of the airport, seemingly unfazed by bright spotlights and the noise from airplanes. So far, there has been no impact on flight movements, officials from the forest department said on Sunday.

The department said it was now reworking its capture strategy, and relocating all the camera traps and cages that were placed in the runway



Screengrabs of the first time the leopard was sighted last week

area to near the inlets and outlets of the airport's tunnel network. "We're hopeful this repositioning leads to his immediate capture," said Mangesh Tate, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Pune. "He is adapting lights and sounds. This is a completely open area. At night, he roams in the open and uses the tunnels in the morning," Tate said. Sniffer dogs helped identify the relocated spots, officials said.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

5 MAY 2025

# Airlines suspend Israel flights after airport hit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Airlines have begun cancelling Tel Aviv flights after a missile attack near Ben Gurion Airport in the Israeli capital on Sunday.

Air India's (AI) Delhi-Tel Aviv flight (AI 139) was en-route, about to enter Israeli airspace and less than an hour from its destination when the Houthi-claimed missile struck inside the perimeter of the country's main international airport.

The Boeing 787 was safely diverted to Abu Dhabi, from where it will return to Delhi.



**FULL ALERT:** Air India and many other airlines, including Lufthansa, SWISS, British Airways and Delta, have suspended Tel Aviv flights for a couple of days following the attack

Air India and many other airlines, including Lufthansa, SWISS, British Airways

and Delta, have suspended Tel Aviv flights for a couple of days following the attack.

Sunday's strike will add to airlines' overflying woes as they steer clear of Jordan and nearby airspaces — which they often use for flights between the west and the east. This has happened whenever conflict escalates in the region since the Oct 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas.

Air India explained Sunday's diversion. The flight (AI 139) had taken off from Delhi at 6.11am. After taking a longer route west it was about to enter Israeli airspace. The

aircraft turned back on being alerted about the attack and landed in Abu Dhabi about eight hours 30 minutes after leaving Delhi.

"The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi. Consequently, our operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended till May 6, 2025, to ensure the safety of our customers and staff. Customers booked between May 4 and 6, 2025, will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling or full refunds for cancellation," an AI spokesperson said.

## पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से परहेज कर रहीं एयर फ्रांस, लुफ्थांसा समेत कई विदेशी एयरलाइंस

नई दिल्ली। जर्मनी की लुफ्थांसा, एयर फ्रांस, ब्रिटिश एयरवेज, स्विस्, इटली की आईटीए और पोलैंड की एलओटी समेत कई विदेशी एयरलाइंस भारत के साथ बढ़ते तनाव के चलते पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र का इस्तेमाल करने से परहेज कर रही हैं। भारत और पाकिस्तान दोनों देशों ने एक दूसरे की एयरलाइनों के लिए अपने हवाई क्षेत्र को बंद करने का एलान किया है।

लुफ्थांसा समूह की एयरलाइंस ने एक बयान में कहा कि अगली सूचना तक वे पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से परहेज कर रही हैं। हालांकि इसके चलते एशिया के कुछ मार्गों पर उड़ानों का समय बढ़ जाएगा। साथ ही कहा कि वह घटनाक्रम पर नजर रख रही हैं। फ्लाइट ट्रेकिंग डाटा से पता चला है कि ब्रिटिश एयरवेज, स्विस् इंटरनेशनल एयर लाइंस और एमिरेट्स की कुछ उड़ानें अरब सागर से गुजरने के बाद पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से बचने के लिए उत्तर की ओर दिल्ली की ओर मुड़ रही हैं। भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच उत्पन्न तनाव का हवाला देते हुए एयर फ्रांस ने कहा कि एयरलाइन ने अगले आदेश तक पाकिस्तान के ऊपर से उड़ान निलंबित करने का निर्णय लिया है। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि वह



### एक घंटा भरनी पड़ी अतिरिक्त उड़ान

फ्लाइट ट्रेकिंग वेबसाइट फ्लाइटरेडार24 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, फ्रैंकफर्ट से नई दिल्ली जाने वाली लुफ्थांसा की उड़ान एलएच760 को रविवार को करीब एक घंटा अधिक उड़ान भरनी पड़ी, क्योंकि उसे लंबा रास्ता अपनाना पड़ा। एयरलाइनों के लिए लंबी दूरी और उच्च ईंधन लागत के अलावा, इन परिवर्तनों से पाकिस्तान की ओवरफ्लाइट शुल्क से होने वाली आय में भी कमी आएगी। यह विमान के वजन और तय की गई दूरी के आधार पर प्रति उड़ान सैकड़ों डॉलर तक हो सकती है।

दिल्ली, बैंकॉक और हो ची मिन्ह जैसे गंतव्यों के लिए अपनी उड़ान कार्यक्रम और उड़ान योजनाओं में बदलाव कर रही है। इससे उड़ान का समय बढ़ गया है। व्यूरो



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

## AI buys 6 leased Boeing 777-300 ER planes

**Press Trust of India**  
New Delhi

Air India has acquired six Boeing 777-300 ER planes that were being operated on lease, marking the purchase of this category of wide-body long range aircraft after more than seven years, according to sources.

The airline's move comes against the backdrop of supply chain constraints delaying deliveries as well as refurbishment works of its legacy wide-body planes. The loss-making airline, acquired by

the Tata Group in January 2022, is undergoing an ambitious five-year transformation plan, and is expanding its fleet as well as network amid rising air traffic demand. Its \$400 million retrofit programme for 67 wide-body and narrow-body planes is also in progress.

The sources told PTI that Air India has bought the six Boeing 777-300 ER aircraft that were being operated on lease. These planes were earlier operated by Etihad Airways. The purchase of these planes, having an extended range and deployed

for long-haul and ultra-long-haul flights, was completed recently through the airline's wholly-owned subsidiary AI Fleet Services Ltd (AIFS) located in the International Financial Services Centre in GIFT City, Gujarat.

### LEASE PERIOD

Further, the sources said the lease period of these planes was to end by next year, and then, the lessor would have taken back the aircraft. In order to ensure there is enough capacity, the airline decided to acquire the planes, they added.

# विदेशी एयरलाइनें भी कर रहीं पाकिस्तान से गुजरने से परहेज

दीपक पटेल

आतंकी हमले के बाद बढ़ते तनाव को देखते हुए लुफ्थांसा, स्विस्, एमिरेट्स, अमेरिकन एयरलाइंस, एयर फ्रांस और ब्रिटिश एयरवेज जैसी प्रमुख विदेशी एयरलाइनों ने भारत से आने-जाने वाली उड़ानों के लिए पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र का उपयोग करना बंद कर दिया है। अब ये सभी वैकल्पिक मार्गों से जा रही हैं। पाकिस्तान ने जम्मू-कश्मीर के पहलगाम में आतंकी हमले के दो दिन बाद 24 अप्रैल को भारतीय विमानों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र बंद करने की घोषणा की थी। इसके बाद भारत ने भी जवाबी कार्रवाई में 1 मई से पाकिस्तान की एयरलाइनों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंधित कर दिया।

एक-दूसरे के हवाई क्षेत्र के इस्तेमाल पर प्रतिबंध के दौरान विदेशी विमानन कंपनियों दोनों देशों के हवाई क्षेत्र का उपयोग जारी रख सकती हैं। लेकिन, उद्योग सूत्रों के अनुसार लुफ्थांसा की दिल्ली-फ्रैंकफर्ट उड़ान और स्विस् इंटरनैशनल एयर लाइन्स की दिल्ली-ज्यूरिख उड़ान ने 1 मई से पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र का उपयोग करना बंद कर दिया है। एयरलाइन ने अब गुजरात और यूएई के हवाई क्षेत्र से होते हुए यूरोप के लिए मार्ग पकड़ा है। स्विस् इंटरनैशनल लुफ्थांसा ग्रुप का ही हिस्सा है।

बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड को दिए बयान में लुफ्थांसा ग्रुप के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, 'वर्तमान हालात को देखते हुए लुफ्थांसा ग्रुप की एयरलाइंस ने अगली सूचना तक पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से नहीं गुजरने का फैसला किया है। हालांकि इसके परिणामस्वरूप एशिया के कुछ मार्गों पर उड़ान का समय बढ़ गया है। उन्होंने कहा, 'इस असुविधा के लिए हमें खेद है। हम सभी यात्रियों से अनुरोध करते हैं कि वे प्रस्थान से पहले ऐप या वेबसाइट पर अपनी उड़ान की स्थिति का पता कर लें। लुफ्थांसा ग्रुप वर्तमान स्थिति पर बारीकी से नजर बनाए हुए है। हम अपने यात्रियों की सुरक्षा से समझौता



नहीं कर सकते।' ब्रिटिश एयरवेज की दिल्ली-लंदन उड़ान और एयर फ्रांस की दिल्ली-पेरिस उड़ान भी 1 मई से पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र का उपयोग नहीं कर रही हैं। उद्योग से जुड़े सूत्रों ने कहा कि इस कारण एयर फ्रांस की दिल्ली-पेरिस उड़ान (एएफ225) का उड़ान समय लगभग 90 मिनट बढ़ गया है। इसी प्रकार अमेरिकन एयरलाइंस की दिल्ली-न्यूयॉर्क उड़ानों भी 30 अप्रैल से पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से परहेज कर रही हैं। सूत्रों ने कहा कि एमिरेट्स की दिल्ली-दुबई सेवा भी यहां से नहीं गुजर रही है।

ब्रिटिश एयरवेज, एयर फ्रांस, अमेरिकन एयरलाइंस और एमिरेट्स से इस मामले में टिप्पणी मांगी गई थी, लेकिन उन्होंने तुरंत कोई जवाब नहीं दिया। भारतीय और प्रमुख विदेशी विमानन कंपनियों के इस कदम से पाकिस्तान को ओवरफ्लाइट फीस का बड़ा हिस्सा खोना पड़ेगा। अपने हवाई क्षेत्र से गुजरने वाली उड़ानों से संबंधित देश ओवरफ्लाइट शुल्क के रूप में अच्छा-खासा राजस्व अर्जित करते हैं। इस शुल्क की गणना आमतौर पर विमान के वजन और देश के हवाई क्षेत्र के भीतर तय की गई दूरी जैसे कारकों के आधार पर की जाती है। भले ही वह विमान संबंधित देश में न उतरे। हालांकि अभी कतर एयरवेज और ओमान एयर अपनी भारत उड़ानों के लिए पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र का उपयोग कर रही हैं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

## Global airlines steer clear of Pak airspace for India flights

**DEEPAK PATEL**  
New Delhi, 5 May

Major global airlines such as Lufthansa, Swiss, Emirates, American Airlines, Air France, and British Airways have stopped using Pakistan's airspace while operating their flights to and from India, after tensions between India and Pakistan flared following a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in which 26 people, most of them tourists, died.

Pakistan had, on April 24, announced the closure of its airspace to Indian carriers. India shut its airspace for Pakistan's airlines from May 1 onwards. International carriers, however, are allowed to use both countries' airspaces.

Yet, Lufthansa's Delhi-Frankfurt flight and Swiss International Air Lines' Delhi-Zurich flight stopped using Pakistani airspace from May 1, instead routing via

Gujarat and the United Arab Emirates airspace to Europe, according to industry sources. Swiss is part of the Lufthansa Group.

A Lufthansa Group spokesperson said: "Due to the current situation, the airlines of the Lufthansa Group are avoiding Pakistani airspace until further notice. This will result in longer flight times on some routes to Asia."

"We regret any inconvenience caused by the resulting delays. We kindly ask all passengers to check their flight status before departure. Lufthansa Group is, of course, continuing to monitor the current developments closely. Safety is the top priority for all airlines in the Lufthansa Group at all times," the spokesperson added.

British Airways' Delhi-London flight and Air France's Delhi-Paris flight have also not been using Pakistani airspace since May 1.

As a result, the flight time of Air France's Delhi-Paris flight (AF225) has increased by about 90 minutes, industry sources said.

American Airlines' Delhi-New York flights have been avoiding Pakistani airspace since April 30. Emirates' Delhi-Dubai service has also been avoiding this airspace, sources added.

British Airways, Air France, American Airlines, and Emirates did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the matter.

With Indian carriers and major international carriers avoiding its airspace, Pakistan is bound to lose a significant chunk of overflight fees.

Countries earn revenue from overflight fees charged to airlines that use their airspace, even if the aircraft does not land within their borders. These fees are typically calculated based on factors such as the weight of the aircraft and the distance flown within the country's airspace.

However, not all global carriers have started avoiding Pakistan's airspace for their India flights. Sources mentioned that Qatar Airways and Oman Air continue to use that airspace for their India flights.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

5 MAY 2025

# Houthi blast hits flights to Israel

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

A missile launched by Houthi militants in Yemen thwarted Israel's aerial defenses and struck near the main airport. "Several attempts were made to intercept the missile," the Israel Defense Forces said. "A hit was identified in the area of Ben Gurion Airport."

Several international flights to Tel Aviv, including Air India's were cancelled as a result of the attack. An Air India



Israeli security forces inspect the site where a projectile was fired by Yemeni Houthi rebels and landed in the area of airport near Tel Aviv, Israel, on Sunday. — AP

Boeing 787 operating flight AI 139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday follow-

ing the attack. "Air India flight AI 139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv on 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi

after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning," the carrier said in a statement. "The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday vowed a multi-phased response to the attack that injured six people.

"It will not happen in one bang, but there will be many bangs," the Israeli prime minister added, referring to the promised retaliation, without going into further detail.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

5 MAY 2025

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## **Air India suspends flights until May 6**

**NEW DELHI, AFP:** Air India said on Sunday it had suspended flights to Tel Aviv until May 6 after a missile attack on Israel's main international airport.

"Our operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect till May 6, 2025, to ensure the safety of our customers and staff", the airline said in a statement.

An Air India flight from the New Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday, according to sources.

The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI39, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv, the sources said.

"Air India flight AI39 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning.

"The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi," the airline said in a statement.

As per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com, the flight was in the Jordanian airspace when it was decided to divert the flight to Abu Dhabi. Air India's flight from Tel Aviv to Delhi has been cancelled for Sunday.

## लुफ्थांसा समेत कई विदेशी एयरलाइनों ने पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र का उपयोग बंद किया

भारत-पाक **तनाव** को देख किया फैसला

नई दिल्ली, रायटर : पहलगाम आतंकी हमले के बाद भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच तनाव को देखते हुए एयर फ्रांस और लुफ्थांसा समेत यूरोप की कई एयरलाइनों ने पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र का उपयोग बंद कर दिया है। उड़ान ट्रेकिंग वेबसाइटों ने सोमवार को बताया कि ब्रिटिश एयरवेज, स्विस इंटरनेशनल एयरलाइन और एमिरेट्स की कुछ उड़ानें अरब सागर के ऊपर से गुजरेंगी और फिर पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से बचने के लिए दिल्ली की ओर मुड़ गईं। विमानन कंपनियों के इस फैसले से पाकिस्तान को ओवरफ्लाइट शुल्क से होने वाली आय का नुकसान उठाना पड़ेगा।

जर्मनी की विमानन कंपनी लुफ्थांसा ने बताया कि वह अगली सूचना तक पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से परहेज करेगी। हालांकि, इसके परिणामस्वरूप एशिया के कुछ मार्गों पर उड़ान का समय बढ़ जाएगा। फ्रैंकफर्ट से नई दिल्ली आने वाली



लुफ्थांसा फ्लाइट को रविवार को सामान्य से लगभग एक घंटा अधिक उड़ान भरनी पड़ी, क्योंकि इसने लंबा रास्ता अपनाया था।

भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच हाल ही में पैदा हुए तनाव का हवाला देते हुए एयर फ्रांस ने कहा कि एयरलाइन ने अगली सूचना तक पाकिस्तान के ऊपर से उड़ान को निलंबित करने का फैसला किया है। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि वह दिल्ली, बेंगलूर, चेन्नई, कोलकाता, मुंबई, दिल्ली, बेंगलूर, चेन्नई, कोलकाता, मुंबई के लिए उड़ान योजनाओं में बदलाव कर रही है। स्विस एयरलाइन ने कहा कि कंपनी उन यात्रियों का टिकट मुफ्त में फिर बुक करेगी, जो कनेक्टिंग फ्लाइट से चूक गए हैं।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

5 MAY 2025

### सात हजार के करीब आया श्रीनगर का विमान का किराया

जासं, लखनऊ : पहलगाम में पर्यटकों पर हुए आतंकी हमले का असर अब वहां जाने वाले विमानों के किराए पर पड़ने लगा है। गर्मी में पहले से बुरा हुआ दूर पैकेज लगातार निरस्त हो रहे हैं। बदलते हालात में पर्यटक श्रीनगर की यात्रा के लिए सतर्कता बरत रहे हैं। इस कारण लखनऊ से श्रीनगर का विमान का किराया तेजी से कम हो गया है। अगले दिन की उड़ान सात हजार रुपये में मिल रही है।

श्रीनगर में आतंकी हमले के ठीक एक दिन पहले तक लखनऊ से श्रीनगर जाने और वहां से वापस आने के सीधे विमान का एक तरफ का किराया औसतन 14 हजार रुपये था। एक ठहराव वाली कनेक्टिंग उड़ानों का किराया 17 हजार रुपये तक था। आतंकी हमले के बाद श्रीनगर से वापस आने वाले विमानों का किराया 25 हजार रुपये तक पहुंच गया था। श्रीनगर में फंसे लोगों

- हमले के एक दिन पहले तक औसतन 14 हजार था किराया
- पहलगाम में पर्यटकों पर हुए आतंकी हमले के बाद मांग घटी

को दिल्ली तक पहुंचाने के लिए रेलवे ने जम्मू से दिल्ली के लिए स्पेशल ट्रेन चलायी थी। इस हमले के बाद श्रीनगर जाने वाले पर्यटकों ने अपने दूर पैकेज निरस्त करा दिए हैं।

दूर आपरेटरों ने भी श्रीनगर के होटलों की बुकिंग और टिकट निरस्त करवा दिए हैं। वहीं, अब लखनऊ से श्रीनगर जाने वाली उड़ानों का किराया सात हजार रुपये तक चल रहा है। तीन जुलाई से शुरू हो रही अमरनाथ यात्रा के लिए भी राउंड ट्रिप (लखनऊ से श्रीनगर जाना और फिर वापस आना) का किराया 14,500 रुपये से 15,700 रुपये के बीच चल रहा है।

# Pet Set, Go

## More Indians are travelling with pets, pushing airlines and hotels to revamp their offerings

### Forum Gandhi

**Mumbai:** Airlines and hospitality brands are recalibrating their offerings to cater to pet-inclusive travel as Indian travellers increasingly bring their furry companions along, rapidly turning what was a niche segment into mainstream.

Across the board, companies are reporting strong double-digit growth, with pet-related bookings for flights and hotels surging between 26% and 43% year-on-year in 2024-25, according to industry data shared with **ET**.

Air India, for example, flew over 7,000 pets last fiscal, marking a 33.7% on-year increase. It saw a 7% average month-on-month growth in pet bookings—both in cabin and cargo—over the past year, with 80% of bookings domestic and 20% international, the Tata Group airline said in a statement to **ET**.

Pets weighing up to 7 kg, including the carrier, are allowed in the cabin, while heavier pets are transported in the cargo hold.



AI GENERATED

Key sectors like Bengaluru–Delhi and Mumbai–Delhi made up nearly 20% of the total pet travel volume, Air India said.

Akasa Air, which began offering pet travel in late 2022, also reported high demand on these routes.

Akasa, which has flown more than 6,200 pets, said the bookings rose 26% in FY25. The airline has raised the in-cabin pet weight limit to 10 kg.

“This sustained growth highlights the increasing demand for safe, reliable, and pet-friendly air travel options across the country,” Praveen Iyer, cofounder at Akasa Air, told **ET**.

IndiGo, India's largest carrier, does not allow pets on flights, while SpiceJet allows pets only in cargo.

In the hospitality industry, India's top travel portal MakeMyTrip has seen a 43% rise in bookings for pet-friendly accommodations in the first four months of 2025.

Airbnb, on its part, said it saw a 35% on-year increase in pet-night stays and a 30% on-year rise in pet-welcoming listings in 2024.

Booking.com noted that 11% of Indian travellers are now planning leisure trips

with pets, up from just 4% in 2024.

Nearly one-third of its listed properties in India now cater to pets, showing a clear trend of accommodation providers adapting to this shift in demand, Booking.com said.

### COSTLY AFFAIR

To be sure, taking pets along is a costly affair.

Airlines typically charge ₹3,000–10,000 per pet per sector, on top of veterinary certificates and specialised carriers, which are deterrents.

In addition, airports in the country lack dedicated relief areas or trained handlers, so pets endure cramped cabins or noisy cargo holds, according to pet parents.

Most hotels and homestays that accept pets often charge cleaning or damage fees of ₹500–2,000 per night.

Many also impose size or breed-based restrictions, forcing owners to call ahead and pay extra for basic pet amenities, industry experts said.

Also, despite increasing demand, pet-friendly lodging in India is concentrated in major metros, they said, adding that options in smaller cities are scarce or non-existent.

## Missile strikes Israel airport, AI halts flights



### Agencies

NEW DELHI/TEL AVIV

An Air India flight from Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday after a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city, according to sources. The airline also suspended the Tel Aviv flights till May 6.

The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI139, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv, the sources said. "The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi, and will soon return to Delhi," the airline said in a statement.

Passengers having valid tickets for Air India's Tel Aviv flights between May 4 and 6 will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling or full refunds for cancellation, it said.

Several European and US carriers including Lufthansa,

Delta, ITA Airways and Air France, also cancelled flights for the next few days.

The development came after a missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels landed near Ben Gurion Airport, Israel's main international airport, sending a plume of smoke into the air and causing panic among passengers in the terminal building. The attack happened as Israeli ministers were reported to be close to signing off on plans to expand the military operation in Gaza, prompting the Houthis to hit Israel with more missiles.

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis, who claimed responsibility for the missile strike, have recently intensified missile launches at Israel, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

### AI stops Israel...

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to retaliate. "We attacked in the past, we will attack in the future," he said in a video circulated by his office.

A senior Israeli police commander, Yair Hetzroni, showed reporters a crater caused by the impact of the missile, which airport authorities said landed beside a road near a Terminal 3 parking lot. The airport lies near the city of Tel Aviv.

Israel's Channel 12 News said Netanyahu would meet security ministers and defence officials on Sunday to discuss a response.

Most attacks from Yemen have been intercepted by Israel's missile defence systems, apart from a drone strike that hit Tel Aviv last year. Sunday's missile was the only one of a series launched in the past few days that was not intercepted.

"Several attempts were made to intercept the missile. A hit was identified in the area of Ben Gurion Airport," the military said.

The Israeli ambulance service said eight people were taken to hospital for mild to moderate injuries. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said Israel's main airport was "no longer safe for air travel". The Israel Airports Authority said normal operations had resumed, after reports of air traffic being halted and access routes to the airport being blocked.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

5 MAY 2025

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## Houthi missile hits near Israel's Ben Gurion airport, disrupting flights

Air India flight from New Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted midair to Abu Dhabi

**GK News Service**  
New Delhi, May 4

A ballistic missile launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck the perimeter of Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport on Sunday, halting flights and triggering air raid sirens in the country's busiest air hub, according to multiple news agencies, including Al Jazeera, IANS, and Press Trust of India.

The missile impact damaged an access road and a vehicle near the airport, but narrowly missed terminal infrastructure, reports suggested. Israel's military confirmed that several attempts to intercept the missile failed. "In the area of Ben Gurion Airport, an impact was identified," said the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), which also announced a full-scale investigation into the failure of its air defence systems.

According to Al Jazeera, the attack briefly halted air traffic and caused panic among travellers. The incident left couple of people injured, as confirmed by Magen David Adom (MDA),

Israel's emergency medical service.

Quoting Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz, IANS reported that Israel vowed a strong response to the attack: "Whoever harms us, we will strike them sevenfold." Israel has so far refrained from launching direct retaliatory strikes against Yemen, as U.S.-led forces continue broader operations against the Iran-backed Houthis.

Meanwhile, PTI reported that an Air India flight from New Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted midair to Abu Dhabi shortly before the missile landed. The Boeing 787 aircraft operating as AI39 was scheduled to land in Tel Aviv less than an hour after the missile strike. Air India has since suspended all flights to Tel Aviv until May 6, according to airline sources cited by PTI. The Israeli Airports Authority confirmed that airspace was reopened following a brief suspension of operations. Authorities continue to assess security protocols amid rising regional tensions fuelled by the ongoing war in Gaza and escalating cross-border hostilities.

# AI Toronto-Delhi flight diverted as 5 toilets clogged

**Neha LM Tripathi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** An Air India flight from Toronto to Delhi was diverted to Frankfurt around six hours through its journey after several lavatories aboard the Boeing 777 aircraft were clogged, said people aware of the matter, in what is the second such incident in less than two months on a flight operated by the airline.

The incident took place on May 2. Flight AI 188, a Boeing 777 aircraft, took off from Frankfurt and resumed its journey to Delhi a "couple of hours" later, once the washrooms were made available.

An official aware of the matter said, "The flight had to be diverted to Frankfurt as at least five washrooms were clogged." A Boeing 777 typically has 12 washrooms.

The airline, in a statement issued on Monday, confirmed the diversion and attributed it to a "technical issue".

"Air India flight AI188 of 02 May 2025, operating non-stop from Toronto to Delhi was diverted to Frankfurt due to a technical issue. The flight was airborne from Frankfurt within a couple of hours and proceeded to its destination, Delhi. We would like to reiterate that at Air India, the safety and wellbeing of our customers and crew remain top priority," said an Air India spokesperson.

The flight took off from Toronto's Pearson International Airport airport at 6.14pm (local time) and landed in Delhi on the evening of May 3.

Friday's incident comes less than two months after an Air India flight from Chicago to Delhi returned to the American

city 10 hours after taking off, after all but one of its lavatories were clogged.

The airline, at the time, attributed the issue blockages to polythene bags, rags, and clothes being stuffed down the toilets.

A former airline official called the issue "chronic".

"Washrooms largely become unavailable for use because passengers dump rags, diapers, polythene bags and clothes, clogging them. It could also happen as mineral scaling can curtail plumbing systems. This is because the systems in the aircraft are old," said the official, who asked not to be named.

"There are three independent sewage lines on the 777. In case one of the lines gets blocked, it directly impacts a third of the total washrooms," the official added.

A former pilot, who asked not to be named, said, "Flights that have more senior citizens and kids are the ones that encounter such issues. Usually, pilots apologise for the inconvenience, but continue with the flight, if the situation is manageable. It is when a majority of the washrooms become unserviceable that they decide to divert and get help."

Mark D Martin of Martin consulting, an aviation consulting and safety firm based in Asia, said, "Clogged toilets again can't be because of the same reason as before. This should be a maintenance issue."

"If the flight was able to take off within two hours from Frankfurt, it would be one of the quickest turnaround times in such a scenario,' the former pilot concluded.

# Poor crew management led to death on SpiceJet flight: Report

**Neha LM Tripathi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Poor crew resource management led to a situation where one person died and at least 20 people were injured during turbulence on a SpiceJet flight in May 2022, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has found in its investigation.

In its findings, AAIB highlighted the accident was caused by the poor Crew Resource Management (CRM) and decision making on part of the crew.

“Accident was caused by the poor CRM (crew resource management) and decision making on part of the crew to penetrate bad weather and not maintaining specified separation from turbulence prone weather,” the report said.

“Due to insufficient time for



**The SpiceJet flight was on its way to Durgapur.**

securing the cabin, the cabin crew could not ascertain if all passengers had seat belts ON. Passenger not complying with seat belt instructions led to avoidable injuries as aircraft encountered severe turbulence,” it said.

The Mumbai-Durgapur flight, with 189 passengers and six crew members on board, encounter severe turbulence on May 1, 2022. Passengers, who were not wearing seat belts, were thrown from their seats

sustaining severe injuries.

The AAIB observed that as announcement from the flight deck was made for all crew and passengers to be seated, cabin crew did not get sufficient time to ascertain if passengers beyond eight rows had their seat belts fastened.

It recommended that the operator should ensure that procedure for recurring defect monitoring and control is followed (by the airline) in letter and spirit. It also said that aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), airport operators and airlines should conduct campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of seat-belts among passengers travelling by air.

HT reached out to the airline for a comment, but there was no response at the time of going to press.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MINT

DELHI

6 MAY 2025

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## **Air France, Lufthansa, others avoid Pakistan airspace**

**New Delhi:** Air France and Lufthansa were among global carriers avoiding Pakistani airspace, airlines said and flight-tracking websites showed on Monday, as tension between India and Pakistan remained high after the terror attack in Kashmir.



REUTERS

REUTERS



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

5 MAY 2025

## Air India suspends Tel Aviv flights till May 6 after Houthi missile strike

### *Flight diverted to Abu Dhabi*

**NEW DELHI:** An Air India flight from the national capital to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday as there was a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city, according to sources.

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

The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI139, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv, the sources said.

"Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning.

"The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi," the airline said in a statement.

The airline said its operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect till May 6 to ensure the safety of its customers and staff.

As per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com, the flight was in the Jordanian airspace when it was decided to divert the flight to Abu Dhabi.

Air India's flight from Tel Aviv to Delhi has been cancelled for Sunday. **Continued on P6**



#### VICTORY SPEECH

» The flight was in the Jordanian airspace when it was decided to divert the flight to Abu Dhabi

» Air traffic to the Tel Aviv airport was briefly suspended after a missile launched from Yemen landed near the Tel Aviv airport

## Air India

Air traffic to the Tel Aviv airport was briefly suspended after a missile launched from Yemen landed near the Tel Aviv airport.

Passengers having valid tickets for Air India's Tel Aviv flights between May 4 and 6 will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling or full refunds for cancellation, Air India said. **AGENCIES**



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

6 MAY 2025



## अकासा एयर ने अपने बेड़े में बोइंग 737 मैक्स-8 विमान किया शामिल

मुंबई (एजेंसी): घरेलू विमानन कंपनी अकासा एयर ने अपने बेड़े में एक और बोइंग 737 मैक्स-8 विमान को शामिल करने की घोषणा की। इससे उसके बेड़े में इन विमानों की संख्या बढ़कर 28 हो गई। विमानन कंपनी की ओर से जारी बयान के अनुसार पंजीकरण संख्या बीटी-वायबीई वाला बोइंग 737 मैक्स 8-200 विमान एक मई को आइसलैंड के रास्ते अमरीकी विमानप्रमुख कीसिएटल सुविधा से बेंगलुरु के केम्पेगौड़ा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर पहुंचा।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

5 MAY 2025

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### AI stops flights to Tel Aviv after missile attack

#### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

Air India announced on Sunday that it has suspended all its flights to and from Tel Aviv, with immediate effect, till 6 May, following the missile attack near the city's airport in the morning.

"Consequent to developments in Tel Aviv this

morning, our operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect till 6th May 2025, to ensure the safety of our customers and staff. Our colleagues on the ground are assisting customers and helping them with alternative arrangements," Air India said in a statement.

Air India flight AI139 from

Delhi to Tel Aviv was on its way to Israel when a missile, launched by the Houthi rebels from Yemen, landed near Ben Gurion Airport. The attack occurred less than an hour before the flight was scheduled to land.

The Air India plane, which was flying over Jordan's airspace, was diverted to Abu Dhabi and flew back to Delhi.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

5 MAY 2025

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### Air India Israel blow

**New Delhi:** An Air India flight from the national capital to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday as there was a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city.

The airline has suspended its Tel Aviv flights till May 6.

The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI139 was to land at Tel Aviv, sources said. "Air

India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv... was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi," the airline said in a statement.

The airline said its operations to and from Tel Aviv would remain suspended till May 6. PT