



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 AUGUST 2025

## Surat Airport hides obstacle building data

**FPJ News Service**

**SURAT**

In a revelation that has sent shockwaves through Surat's aviation and real estate sectors, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has officially admitted in the Rajya Sabha that 28 buildings near Surat Airport violate height norms, posing a serious threat to air safety. But what's more alarming is this: the list of these obstacle buildings remains hidden from the public.

On July 28, 2025, responding to a query by MP Shaktisinh Gohil, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Shri Murlidhar Mohol confirmed these height violations, identified through Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) surveys conducted by the Airports Authority of India



(AAI). Yet, citizens and stakeholders remain completely in the dark about which buildings they are.

Worse still, repeated RTI applications seeking the list have been denied by Surat Airport authorities, citing "commercial confidence and trade secrets" under Chapter II para 8(d) of the RTI Act.

"How can they prioritise trade secrets over public

safety? Buyers are unknowingly investing in properties that may be marked for demolition. It's a betrayal of trust," said Ajay Suthar, an RTI activist and resident of Vesu.

This lack of transparency has turned into a ticking time bomb. If these illegal structures are eventually demolished, hundreds of innocent homebuyers could face massive financial losses — all

because the information was deliberately kept from them.

"The RTI Act is meant to empower citizens, not shield vested interests. This secrecy violates not just the law, but the basic duty of governance," said Surat-based lawyer Jitesh Solanki, who has been assisting affected buyers.

Since 2016, the AAI has conducted seven OLS surveys and issued notices multiple times. But there's no publicly displayed list at Surat Airport, no press releases, and no civic awareness efforts — despite the critical nature of the threat to flight operations and urban safety.

"Are we waiting for a disaster to happen before acting? The public has a right to know which buildings pose a threat," said Ramesh Patel, a former civic official.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

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## ... and will open second showroom in Delhi's Aerocity on Aug 11

Tesla is opening its second showroom in India at the Tesla Experience Centre located in Aerocity's Worldmark 3, near Indira Gandhi International [Airport](#) in New Delhi. The invite-only launch event will be held on August 11, marking the company's expansion into the National Capital Region following the opening of its first outlet in Mumbai last month. Tesla's first showroom in India opened on July 15 at Maker Maxity Mall in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. The showroom features the imported Model Y, with the rear-wheel drive variant priced at ₹54.9 lakh and the long-range version at ₹64.9 lakh (ex-showroom).

BS REPORTER

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण कार्यों को जिलाधिकारी ने की समीक्षा

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 5 अगस्त (देशबन्धु)। जेवर स्थित नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के सभागार में निर्माण कंपनी एवं संबंधित प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों के साथ जिलाधिकारी मेधा रूपम ने मंगलवार को समीक्षा बैठक कर निर्माण कार्यों की वर्तमान प्रगति की जानकारी प्राप्त की। जिलाधिकारी ने बैठक करते हुए स्पष्ट निर्देश दिए कि शेष निर्माण कार्यों को निर्धारित समयसीमा के भीतर



■ एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण कार्यों को गुणवत्ता के साथ समय पर पूरा करने के लिए निर्देश

गुणवत्ता के साथ पूर्ण किया जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि यह परियोजना उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की शीर्ष प्राथमिकताओं में शामिल है और इसकी प्रगति में किसी प्रकार की शिथिलता स्वीकार नहीं की जाएगी। समीक्षा बैठक के उपरान्त जिलाधिकारी ने कमांड सेंटर, टर्मिनल भवन एवं अन्य निर्माणाधीन स्थलों का भी स्थलीय निरीक्षण कर निर्माण कार्यों का जायजा लिया। इस दौरान उन्होंने एयरपोर्ट निर्माण कार्यों में गति लाने हेतु संबंधित अधिकारियों को आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश प्रदान किए। इस दौरान अपर जिलाधिकारी भू./अ. राजेश कुमार, उप जिलाधिकारी जेवर अभय कुमार सिंह, एसीपी जेवर सार्थक सेंगर, तहसीलदार जेवर ओमप्रकाश पासवान, जेवर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ श्रेलमैन, सीओओ किरन जैन सहित अन्य संबंधित अधिकारी उपस्थित रहे। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ श्रेलमैन ने पावर प्रजेंटेशन के माध्यम से जिलाधिकारी को रनवे, टर्मिनल भवन सहित अन्य बुनियादी ढांचे की प्रगति से अवगत कराया गया।



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## Growth in pax slows at CSMIA

With 13.6 million passengers flying from Mumbai through more than 82,000 flights, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) recorded a slow growth in passenger traffic and air traffic movements in the first quarter of FY2025-26.

### Top int'l travel regions

Middle East	(48%)
Asia-Pacific	(30%)
Europe	(14%)

### Top domestic destinations

Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata

**82,369**

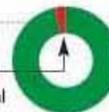
Air traffic movements (ATMs)

**989 ATMs**

The highest handling of ATMs recorded on April 30

**3.3%**

Growth of international ATMs



**1.61 lakh**

Highest single-day traffic of passengers recorded on May 30

### New airline partners

Air Astana and Royal Jordanian Airlines

### Network widened to

Porbandar, Gaya and Amravati

### Expanded network

54 international, 67 domestic destinations

**Text: Dhairya Gajara**



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## Kempegowda Airport unveils 'Rhythm of BLR'

**NT Correspondent**

**BENGALURU**

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport) on Monday announced that it has unveiled its signature sonic identity "Rhythm of BLR".

It has been developed in collaboration with sonic branding experts BrandMusiq.

This unique musical expression is a central part of the 'Feels Like BLR' campaign envisioned to transform the airport from a transit point into a space that truly connects with people.

"Rooted in the melodic framework of the BLR Airport Anthem, composed by Grammy® Award-winning artist Padma Ricky Kej, Rhythm of BLR is a multi-sensory narrative that blends tradition with global influences.

Drawing from Carnatic sounds like the mandolin and mridangam, and harmonised with Western

acoustic and electric guitars, piano, and a vibrant sing-along chorus, the identity becomes a rich jugalbandi of heritage and modernity," Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) said in a statement.

Hari Marar, Managing Director and CEO, BIAL, said, "Every journey begins and ends with emotions.

At BLR Airport, we've always believed that travel should connect not just places, but people, feelings, and memories.

Rhythm of BLR is an extension of that belief — a sonic expression of Bengaluru's spirit that welcomes you, comforts you, and stays with you long after you've left the airport.

"For us, this isn't just a sound, rather a part of our identity, a reminder that you're home, or on your way to something special."

"A powerful sonic identity starts with emotional clarity," said Rajeev Raja, founder and Soundsmith, BrandMusiq.



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## BJP MP's remark on Gaya airport triggers row

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A BJP MP's complaint that Gaya International Airport's three-letter code "GAY" is "socially and culturally offensive" has sparked backlash from LGBTQ activists who say his remarks reinforce prejudice against the community.

Rajya Sabha member Bhim Singh from Bihar submitted a written query to Parliament questioning why the International Air Transport Association (IATA) code for the Bihar airport remains in use when people find it "uncomfortable". He asked whether the government would consider changing it to "a more respectful and culturally appropriate code"

and sought a timeline for any such process.

The ministry of civil aviation acknowledged receiving similar requests in the past. Minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol explained that the three-letter codes are assigned by IATA—a trade association representing 300 airlines—to uniquely identify airports worldwide, typically using the first three letters of the location's name. "Air India had earlier approached IATA seeking change of the existing airport code," Mohol said. "However, IATA has conveyed that under the provisions of Resolution 763, assigned three-letter codes are considered permanent and are altered only under exceptional circumstances, usually involving air safety con-

**LGBTQ ACTIVISTS CONDEMNED BHIM SINGH'S REMARK, ARGUING THAT IT REFLECTED HIS DEEP-ROOTED PREJUDICE**

cerns." The response did not elaborate on when Air India made the request or who were the other entities.

LGBTQ activists condemned Singh's characterisation of the code as offensive, arguing it reflects deep-rooted prejudice rather than legitimate cultural concerns.

Arvind Narrain, an LGBTQ

activist, pointed to the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling that decriminalised same-sex relationships and recognised LGBTQI persons' right to dignity. "The member's description of us as immoral strips the community of dignity," he said. "They need to educate themselves that as per the Supreme Court, what governs is not personal morality but constitutional morality. He should apologise to the community."

Rajesh Srinivas, another LGBTQ activist, dismissed the need for any change. "The airport code does not require a change as there is nothing culturally inappropriate about it. The discomfort with the term stems from deeply ingrained prejudice."

Sharmathi Senthil Kumar, a

counselling psychologist and diversity advocate who has worked in mental health and social sectors, called Singh's framing "deeply concerning".

"That the term 'GAY' is being labeled as offensive, culturally inappropriate, or even unsafe reflects how deeply rooted the stigma against LGBTQIA+ people still is," Kumar said.

"If we look at how the queer community is perceived in India, we still have a long way to go. There is a lack of awareness. If a word is considered offensive, simply avoiding it doesn't help. One way forward is to confront and address it, rather than shy away from it. The question raised is also aiming in that direction," psychotherapist Vidya Dinakaran said.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

# Airports on high alert after inputs of threats

**Neha LM Tripathi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has placed all Indian airports on maximum alert following intelligence inputs warning of potential threats from terrorists or "anti-social elements" between September 22 and October 2, 2025.

The civil aviation ministry's security wing issued the advisory on August 4, directing immediate enhanced surveillance measures across all aviation installations including airports, airstrips, helipads, flying schools and training institutes. "Recent inputs from the central security agency indicate a potential threat from anti-social elements or terrorist groups," the BCAS advisory stated, calling for heightened security to "avoid any untoward incident."

Security personnel have been instructed to maintain round-the-clock maximum alert status while increasing patrolling across terminals, parking areas, perimeter zones and other vulnerable locations. Airports must also strengthen cityside security measures in coordination with local police forces. The directive extends to aircraft operators, both domestic and international, who must ensure rigorous security controls for all cargo and mail before loading onto commercial

aircraft. Enhanced screening measures for mail parcels apply to both domestic and international shipments across all stations.

Airport authorities must strictly verify identification for all staff, contractors and visitors, with any unauthorised access to be immediately reported and denied. All CCTV systems require continuous operational monitoring, with suspicious behaviour or unattended objects demanding immediate response. BCAS has mandated close liaison with local police, the Central Industrial Security Force, Intelligence Bureau and other relevant agencies, ensuring prompt intelligence sharing amongst stakeholders.

Passengers will be advised to report suspicious activities and unattended luggage, with periodic announcements made where deemed appropriate. Emergency response teams and protocols must be reviewed and activated, with quick drills or briefings conducted where feasible, the advisory stated.

Airport directors must convene special Airline Passenger Service Committee meetings, advising all agencies to implement precautionary measures preventing unlawful interference with civil aviation operations. Regional BCAS directors will ensure immediate special meetings across airports within their jurisdiction.

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

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Asia Pacific dominated the



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

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

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

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

"Leading the regions in terms of percentage growth was

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

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

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

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



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

## 2 pilots grounded after flight carrying CM lands at wrong runway in Raj

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

A chartered flight carrying Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma from Delhi to Phalodi mistakenly landed on the wrong runway on July 31, 2025. The Falcon-2000 aircraft was scheduled to land at the Indian Air Force Station in Phalodi, but due to pilot error, it instead touched down on the civil airstrip in Phalodi town.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has launched an inquiry into the incident and grounded both pilots pending investigation. The incident occurred around 3 pm, shortly after the Chief Minister's departure from Delhi.

The aircraft was meant to land at a military airbase located in a restricted zone, but the pilots mistakenly approached the nearby civil airstrip, about five kilometers away. Realising the error immediately after landing, they took off again and redirected the plane to the designated airbase.

While the situation did not lead to any major mishap, it has raised serious concerns about aviation safety and procedural lapses. According to DGCA

### Visual resemblance between 2 airstrips

Sources confirmed that the distance between the civil airstrip and the Air Force Station in Phalodi is roughly five to ten kilometres, but the striking visual resemblance between the two caused the pilots to err. The DGCA is treating the matter seriously and is examining procedures to prevent similar incidents in the future, sources added.

sources, the confusion likely stemmed from the similar geographical orientation and layout of the two airstrips. Both the civil and military runways in Phalodi share striking structural similarities, which may have led to the misjudgment.

It also emerged that the pilots were not provided with sufficient information about the two airstrips during the pre-flight briefing.

Experts say such incidents highlight the urgent need to strengthen pre-flight protocols, especially when two landing sites exist in proximity. The charter company has voluntarily reported the mistaken landing to the DGCA.





# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## Gay is not acceptable to Gaya and Bihar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A BJP member in Rajya Sabha has raised concerns about 'GAY' as the IATA identifier code for Gaya international airport in Bihar. In response, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol in a written reply said the three-letter airport codes once assigned are considered permanent and are altered only under exceptional circumstances, usually involving air safety concerns. The three-letter airport codes, also known as IATA location identifiers, are assigned by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to facilitate identification of airports across various travel-related systems and processes. These codes are generally assigned using the first three letters of the location's name where the airport is situated, Mohol said.

He also mentioned that requests for changing the code of Gaya have been received in the past by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority of India. "IATA location codes are primarily intended for commercial airline operations and are issued at the request of airline operators. Air India had earlier approached IATA seeking change of the existing airport code. However, IATA has conveyed that under the provisions of IATA Resolution 763, assigned three-letter codes are considered permanent and are altered only under exceptional circumstances, usually involving air safety concerns," Mohol said.

The minister's responses were to queries from BJP member Bhim Singh on whether it is a fact that the Gaya international airport's code is 'GAY', which people consider socially and culturally offensive and uncomfortable. He also asked whether the government is considering changing the code name 'GAY' to a more respectful and culturally appropriate code.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## INDIGO BREAKS GROUND WITH INDIA'S LARGEST MRO FACILITIES AT BENGALURU AIRPORT



IndiGo, India's largest and most preferred airline, marked a significant milestone today as it officially commenced construction of a world-class Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru. The groundbreaking ceremony (Bhoomi Poojan) was attended by key Government dignitaries and senior leadership from the aviation industry. Among the distinguished guests were Ms. Gunjan Krishna, IAS, Commissioner - Industries, Government of Karnataka; Pieter Elbers, CEO, IndiGo; Hari Marar, CEO, BIAL; Isidre Porqueras, COO, IndiGo; Satyaki Raghunath, COO, BIAL; and Parichay Datta, SVP - Engineering, IndiGo. The MRO facility, which will span 31 acres of land allocated by Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), is set to become one of India's largest. Once operational by early 2028, it will feature up to 12 bays with the capability to service both narrow-body and wide-body aircraft – a significant leap from the combined capacity of IndiGo's existing MROs in Delhi and Bengaluru. "This project reinforces our commitment to not only growing our operational base in Bengaluru – one of our largest hubs with over 200 daily flights – but also to building a future-ready aviation ecosystem in India," said Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo. "With this facility, we aim to ensure quicker turnaround times, improved cost efficiencies, and enhanced aircraft availability for our rapidly growing fleet." The development is also expected to generate over a thousand new jobs across various roles including engineers and technicians, strengthening the regional economy and advancing India's vision of becoming a self-reliant aviation hub. The new MRO project follows the signing of an MoU between IndiGo and BIAL in May 2025, demonstrating swift execution and strategic planning.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## Gaya's GAY airport code sparks unease but can't be altered

**Gaya:** From Gyan to Gaya to GAY — the spiritual city's airport code has stirred unease, but it's not changing. Junior civil aviation minister Murlidhar Mohol informed RS Tuesday that the three-letter code assigned to Gaya international airport cannot be altered unless it poses a threat to aviation safety — which, he said, it does not, reports **Abdul Qadir**.

“Once a code is issued, it is not changed and any exception to it can be made if the code offers threat to air safety,” Mohol said in a written reply, ruling out a request by a BJP MP to seek a more “neutral” alternative.

GAY was allotted based on IATA norms, which typically draw on the first three letters of the airport's geographic location. It has been in official use since Sept 30, 2011, when the first regular AI flight began operating the Gaya-Varanasi-Delhi route.

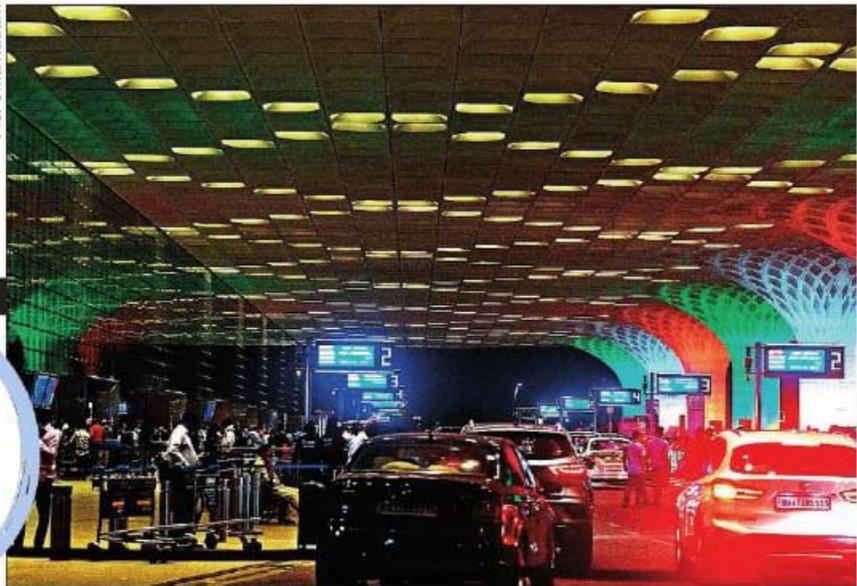
The code has caused discomfort among locals and flyers. Gaya-based fiction writer Sanjay Sahay said: “I always felt embarrassed while booking air tickets for my hometown.”

International flights from cities like Bangkok, Yangon and Thimphu operate from Gaya between Oct and March, alongside domestic carriers

## MUMBAI, DELHI SEE SLUGGISH PASSENGER TRAFFIC SOUTHERN AIRPORTS OUTPERFORM APRIL-JUNE

During the first quarter of the current financial year (April to June), airports across north India recorded sluggish growth in passenger traffic. This slowdown was driven by a combination of factors, including regional airspace restrictions, geopolitical conditions, temporary airspace closures in the Middle East, and a dip in passenger sentiment due to recent aviation incidents

Pic: Uma Kadam



### DELHI & MUMBAI

► Delhi, the busiest Indian airport was the worst hit with a **1.2%** drop in passenger traffic

► Mumbai airport handled over **13.6 million** passengers in the Apr-June period. It was a year-on-year growth of merely 1.1%

**AIRPORTS IN THE SOUTH**  
Bengaluru registered a **9.6%** rise in passenger traffic in the first quarter, while Hyderabad had an **18%** growth

### INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC



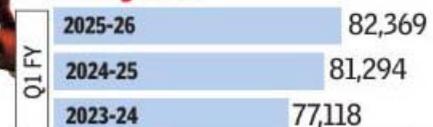
It was domestic passenger traffic that brought down the numbers, with Delhi registering a dip of 2.7% and Mumbai a decline of 0.1%

### MUMBAI AIRPORT

► The highest single-day passenger traffic was on May 30, with 161,603 passengers

► It handled 82,369 flights or air traffic movements (ATMs) in Q1 FY 2025-26

### ATM growth



Year-on-Year: **-1.3%** (2025-26) vs **6.8%** (2024-25)





# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

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## Was doing my job: SpiceJet staffer thrashed by officer

**SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4**

Mudasir Ahmad Khan, the SpiceJet employee who has been bedridden due to alleged assault by an Army officer at Srinagar airport, said he was targeted for doing his work honestly. He sought stern action against the accused to prevent such incidents.

Four employees of the airline were allegedly assaulted by Lieutenant Colonel RK Singh on July 26 after Khan had asked the Army officer to pay charges for carrying extra cabin baggage according to the norms set by SpiceJet.

"I saw this man was carrying two cabin bags and asked him to stand aside so that they could be weighed. Against an allowance of 7 kg per piece of cabin baggage,

this man was carrying two which weighed 16 kg," Khan said at his home in Srinagar where he has been bound to his bed after suffering a spinal injury.

Khan said he asked the officer to pay for extra baggage but he misbehaved with him and other colleagues before turning violent. "He hit me with the bag, he punched me and slapped me till blood started oozing from my mouth and nose. Then I fell unconscious. Later I saw in the videos that he was not allowing anyone to even pick me up. He even assaulted four employees," he said.

Khan said he only stopped the officer as a part of his duty. He demanded that the erring officer be punished for his violent acts. — PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

5 AUGUST 2025

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## India fifth-biggest aviation market, saw 211 mn flyers

**SHEKHAR SINGH**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4**

India continued its sharp ascent in global aviation rankings in 2024, with strong growth in both domestic and international air travel, according to the latest World Air Transport Statistics (WATS) released by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The annual statistical digest, compiled from over 240 airlines worldwide, offers a sweeping view of industry performance across passenger demand, cargo metrics, aircraft utilisation and financial health. One of the biggest take-

### West Asia tops in premium travellers

aways this year: premium-class air travel, first and business class, grew by 11.8 per cent globally, slightly ahead of economy class growth (11.5 per cent), reflecting a post-pandemic appetite for luxury and comfort in the skies.

India emerged as the fifth-largest air passenger market, with 211 million passengers in 2024, a rise of 11.1 per cent compared to the previous year. The country now sits behind only the US (876 million), China (741

million), the UK (261 million) and Spain (241 million), cementing its status as one of the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world.

A key trend highlighted in the report was the global resurgence of premium-class travel. Of the 1.95 billion international passengers flown in 2024, 116.9 million, about six per cent opted for first or business class. The West Asia recorded the highest proportion of premium travellers, with 14.7 per cent of all flyers choosing upscale cabins, while Europe retained its dominance with 39.3 million premium passengers.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## विमान इंजन बंद होने की 6 घटनाएं तीन मेडे कॉल हुए

नई दिल्ली। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को बताया कि इस साल जनवरी से अब तक छह विमानों के इंजन बंद होने की घटनाएं सामने आई हैं। वहीं, आपात स्थिति में किए जाने वाले मेडे कॉल की कुल तीन घटनाएं हुई हैं।

नागरिक उड्डयन राज्यमंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने राज्यसभा में बताया कि इंडिगो व स्पाइस जेट में इंजन बंद होने की दो-दो, जबकि एअर इंडिया व एलायंस एयर में एक-एक घटनाएं हुई हैं। एअर इंडिया, इंडिगो व एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की ओर से एक-एक बार मेडे कॉल प्राप्त हुई है। इसमें 12 जून को अहमदाबाद में हुआ विमान हादसा भी शामिल है, जिसके पायलट ने मेडे कॉल की थी। ब्यूरो



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

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## मनीला के लिए दिल्ली से सीधी उड़ान एक अक्टूबर से

पीएम मोदी ने यह जानकारी भी दी कि दिल्ली से मनीला के लिए सीधी उड़ान इस वर्ष एक अक्टूबर से आरंभ होने की उम्मीद है। वार्ता के बाद विदेश मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने इस बारे में बताया कि दोनों देश अन्य गंतव्य शहरों के लिए भी हवाई संपर्क बढ़ाने की संभावनाएं तलाश रहे हैं ताकि पर्यटन, व्यापार, स्वास्थ्य और व्यक्तिगत संपर्कों को बढ़ावा मिल सके। राष्ट्रपति मार्कोस ने सीधी उड़ान शुरू होने की घोषणा का स्वागत किया है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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AMAR UJALA

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## एअर इंडिया की दिल्ली से मिलान की उड़ान रद्द



नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को दिल्ली से मिलान जाने वाली उड़ान एआई-137 रद्द कर दी। बोईंग 787 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान में प्रस्थान से पहले तकनीकी खराबी पता चलने के बाद यह निर्णय लिया गया। एयरलाइन ने कहा, हमारे ग्राउंड सहयोगी यात्रियों को होने वाली असुविधा को कम करने के लिए प्रयास कर रहे हैं। यात्रियों को जल्द मिलान ले जाने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है। उनके खर्च का पूरा रिफंड सुविधा भी दी जा रही है। व्यू

# लंबी छुट्टियों का मौका, होटल बुकिंग व हवाई किराये बढ़े

अक्षरा श्रीवास्तव

सप्ताहांत की लंबी छुट्टी होने पर लोगों के सैर-सपाटे पर निकलने के कारण होटलों की बुकिंग बढ़ने लगती है। आगामी स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर लंबे सप्ताहांत के मद्देनजर होटलों में लगभग पूरी ऑक्यूपेंसी दिख रही है। होटलों में 15 अगस्त से लेकर 17 अगस्त तक की जबरदस्त बुकिंग दर्ज की जा रही है।

लक्जरी विला रेंटल फर्म स्टेविस्टा ने अपने पोर्टफोलियो में आगामी लंबे सप्ताहांत के लिए 100 फीसदी बुकिंग दर्ज की है। इस प्लेटफॉर्म के सह-संस्थापक प्रणव माहेश्वरी ने कहा, 'हमारे सभी गंतव्यों के लिए बुकिंग पूरी हो चुकी है। यह सार्थक सैर-सपाटे के प्रति लोगों के रुझान में हुए बदलाव का सबूत है।' इस प्लेटफॉर्म को महाराष्ट्र, गोवा, ऊटी और कूर्ग जैसे गंतव्यों के लिए पूरी बुकिंग दिख रही है।

आईटीसी होटल्स ने भी लंबे सप्ताहांत पर मांग में जबरदस्त तेजी दर्ज की है। कंपनी अपने क्लब आईटीसी सदस्यों को इस

## विमान किराये में वृद्धि

मार्ग	किराया (₹) (14-15 अग.)	किराया (₹) (7-8 अग.)	वृद्धि (प्रतिशत)
दिल्ली-देहरादून	4,907	3,607	36
दिल्ली-गोवा	13,687	6,512	>100
मुंबई-गोवा	12,376	4,995	>100
दिल्ली-पोर्ट ब्लेयर	10,895	9,495	14
दिल्ली-पुणे	6,494	5,500	18
दिल्ली-कोच्चि	12,091	8,133	49
मुंबई-कोच्चि	12,770	7,650	67

नोट: विमान किराया रुपये में। यह 7-15 दिन पहले बुक किए गए टिकट का नॉन-स्टॉप उड़ानों के लिए औसत एक तरफ का किराया है।  
स्रोत: इक्सिगो

अवसर पर खास अनुभव प्रदान करने की तैयारी कर रही है। लंबे सप्ताहांत के लिए न केवल शहरों बल्कि पहाड़ी इलाकों में मौजूद होटलों में भी काफी अग्रिम बुकिंग दर्ज की

गई है। जिम कॉर्बेट, चैल और शिमला में वेलकमहोटल ब्रांड के सभी होटलों में बुकिंग लगभग पूरी हो चुकी है। इसी प्रकार नई दिल्ली के शेरटन होटल में भी ठहरने

और रेस्टोरेंट की मांग में तेजी दिख रही है। आईटीसी होटल्स- नॉर्थ एंड वेस्ट के उपाध्यक्ष (संचालन) अतुल भल्ला ने कहा, 'आगामी लंबे सप्ताहांत ने लोगों में सैर-सपाटे की चाहत बढ़ा दी है। यही कारण है कि मौज-मस्ती के लिए बाहर निकलने, आध्यात्मिक यात्रा करने और वेलनेस गंतव्यों के लिए जबरदस्त बुकिंग हुई है।'

इस बीच, जयपुर में आईटीसी राजपुताना और मेमेंटोज, गोवा में आईटीसी ग्रैंड और उदयपुर में मेमेंटोज की बुकिंग लगभग पूरी हो चुकी है। होटल सरोवर में भी खास तौर पर गोवा, आगरा, डलहौजी, उदयपुर और जयपुर जैसे मनोरंजन स्थलों के लिए जबरदस्त बुकिंग होने की उम्मीद है।

रेडिसन होटल ग्रुप के प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य संचालन अधिकारी (दक्षिण एशिया) निखिल शर्मा ने कहा, 'स्वतंत्रता दिवस का लंबा सप्ताहांत एक दमदार अवधि साबित हो रहा है। हमें प्रमुख अवकाश गंतव्यों पर शुरुआती बुकिंग के उत्साहजनक संकेत मिल रहे हैं जो लोगों में बढ़ते आत्मविश्वास

और छुट्टियों की चाहत को दर्शाता है।' स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर लंबे सप्ताहांत के कारण केवल होटलों की बुकिंग में ही तेजी नहीं दिख रही है, बल्कि हवाई टिकटों की बुकिंग और किराये में भी वृद्धि हुई है।

इग्जिगो के समूह सह-मुख्य कार्याधिकारी रजनीश कुमार ने बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड से कहा, 'इस साल स्वतंत्रता दिवस के लंबे सप्ताहांत के लिए उड़ानों की बुकिंग में काफी तेजी दिख रही है। लोकप्रिय अवकाश गंतव्यों के लिए यात्रा में पिछले साल की समान अवधि के मुकाबले 25 से 30 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई है। दिल्ली-गोवा और मुंबई-गोवा जैसे मार्गों पर हवाई किराये में साप्ताहिक आधार पर सौ फीसदी से अधिक की वृद्धि हुई है।'

देहरादून और कोच्चि जैसे अन्य दर्शनीय स्थलों के लिए किराये में भी अच्छी वृद्धि दिख रही है, जहां हवाई किराये में 35 से 40 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई है। कुमार ने आगे कहा, 'इस साल सबसे अधिक बुकिंग वाले घरेलू गंतव्यों में देहरादून, पोर्ट ब्लेयर, गोवा और कोयंबटूर शामिल हैं।'



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## Strengthening state finances

States must focus on their own revenue

A recent report by Crisil showed that India's 18 largest states, which together account for over 90 per cent of the country's gross state domestic product (GSDP), are projected to see a revenue growth rate of 7-9 per cent in 2025-26, up from 6.6 per cent in 2024-25. Aggregate revenues are expected to touch ₹40 trillion, driven largely by steady goods and services tax (GST) collection, robust growth in excise on liquor, and improved central transfers. Petroleum tax collection, however, continues to lag with subdued 2 per cent growth.

Clearly, this is a reassuring sign of stability in state finances against a challenging global and domestic economic backdrop, creating fiscal space for increasing capital outlay. However, it also highlights deeper structural issues. Revenue growth remains below the decadal average of 10 per cent, and most states continue to rely heavily on transfers from the Union government. From 2015-16 to 2024-25, central transfers accounted for 23 to 30 per cent of state revenues, relative to 20-24 per cent in the 2000s and early 2010s. At the same time, central grants comprised 65-70 per cent of the non-tax revenue of states in the last decade, compared to 55-65 per cent earlier. This long-term trend underscores both the increasing role of the Centre and the narrowing scope of states to independently boost their finances. A report by PRS Legislative Research showed that, in 2024-25, states were estimated to have raised 58 per cent of their revenue receipts from own tax and non-tax sources, while 42 per cent was estimated to have come from the devolution of central taxes and grants from the Centre.

Overall, as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Report on State Finances 2023-24 had noted, the aggregate debt-to-GDP ratio of states stood at 28.5 per cent, exceeding the 20 per cent limit set by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Review Committee. The data suggests that of all states and Union Territories, 12 had their debt-to-GSDP ratio higher than 35 per cent in 2023-24, while around 24 had their debt above 20 per cent. Nevertheless, states have done better than the Centre, barring a few outliers. Several states have improved transparency in budgeting, enhanced efficiency in social-sector delivery, and prioritised capital expenditure. In fact, most states have demonstrated a fair degree of fiscal prudence. They have by and large adhered to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management norms, keeping their fiscal deficits around 3 per cent of GSDP. The consolidated gross fiscal deficit of states fell from an average of 4.3 per cent of GDP during the period 1998-99 to 2003-04 to 2.7 per cent of GDP during 2004-05 to 2023-24.

However, there is a need for strengthening state-government finances. Reforming GST compliance is an urgent priority. States must also expand digital revenue tracking and plug leakages in property tax and user charges. Concurrently, the Centre must ensure timely and predictable transfers, particularly through Finance Commission-recommended grants, which help address horizontal imbalances. There is also considerable friction between states and the Centre on the latter's use of cesses and surcharges, which are not shared with states. The increased dependence on cesses and surcharges distorts the fiscal balance between states and the Union, which should be avoided.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## DGCA suspends Akasa examiner over lapses

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 5 August

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has suspended one of Akasa Air's designated examiners (DEs) for six months over alleged violation of rules during a pilot skill test, *Business Standard* has learnt.

"Suspension of DE approval of Capt Kunal Khajuria is hereby ordered for a period of six (06) months, effective from the date of this order," the order dated July 29 read. The action followed a formal complaint by Akasa's Director of Training, Captain Sewak Singh Khosa, and was based on findings from a personal hearing and detailed review of a check session conducted by Khajuria.

The regulator found significant procedural deviations during the skill test of a trainee pilot, Captain Sanjeev Panwar, conducted by Khajuria. It declared the test "null and void" and directed a retest by a qualified examiner under the observation of a type-rated Flight Operations Inspector (FOI).

The DGCA said, "Captain Kunal Khajuria is hereby warned to adhere to the regulatory compliances and regulatory standards in future."

Before he can resume examiner duties, Khajuria must undergo a mandatory Designated Examiner Indoctrination Course and a standardisation check



### Rising trouble

- Procedural deviations found during skill test of trainee pilot
- Test declared "null and void" and a retest directed
- Suspension comes as airline witnessed high-level departures during the last few months
- Akasa's net loss surged amid rising employee, maintenance, forex and airport costs

with a DGCA-approved FOI, it mentioned. Akasa Air did not respond to *Business Standard's* queries on this matter.

Akasa Air's standalone net loss surged 18.7 per cent to ₹1,983 crore in the financial year 2025 (FY25), amid rising employee, maintenance and airport costs, along with forex losses.

Moreover, the airline has witnessed a

string of high-level departures during the last few months. Vice president (in-flight services) Ajit Bhagchandani recently resigned too.

In May, three other senior executives, Rishabh Dev (head of long term operations and strategy), Amol Mane (vice president, aircraft acquisition and leasing), and Vineet Mishra (deputy general manager, catering) were either leaving or serving notice-period.

Akasa's fleet expansion, too, has slowed due to delayed deliveries from Boeing.

From 36 weekly flights in August 2022, the airline grew rapidly to 945 by June 2023. However, in the two years since, it has added only 125 more weekly flights, a modest 13.2 per cent growth, reaching 1,070 services by June 2025.

Of the 226 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft it has ordered, just 30 have joined the fleet, with only six added in the past 12 months.

This delay has left a large portion of its pilot workforce underutilised. While the airline currently has 775 pilots, only 78 per cent are flying, though Akasa expects full utilisation by the end of the year.

Despite these setbacks, Akasa maintains that its financial performance is aligned with its long-term strategy.

"Running an airline is a business of fixed costs and needs some scale before we turn profitable," a spokesperson said in June.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

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## इंडिगो की एमआरओ फेसिलिटी का काम शुरू

बेंगलुरु। इंडिगो ने मंगलवार को बेंगलुरु के केम्पेगौड़ा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर अपनी रखरखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहाल (एमआरओ) फेसिलिटी का निर्माण शुरू किया। ये सेंटर 31 एकड़ में बन रहा है, जो देश में सबसे बड़ा होगा। यह इंडिगो की दिल्ली और बेंगलुरु में मौजूदा एमआरओ फेसिलिटी की संयुक्त क्षमता से तीन गुना होगी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## इस साल 48 लोगों को नो-फ्लाई लिस्ट में किया गया शामिल

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: नागरिक उड्डयन राज्यमंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने एक प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में मंगलवार को राज्यसभा में बताया कि इस वर्ष 30 जुलाई तक कुल 48 हवाई यात्रियों को नो-फ्लाई लिस्ट में डाला गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि अशिष्ट या अनुशासनहीन व्यवहार करने वाले यात्रियों पर उनके आचरण की गंभीरता के आधार पर उड़ान प्रतिबंध की अवधि तय की जाती है।

साझा किए गए आंकड़ों के अनुसार, वर्ष 2024 में 82 और 2023 में 110 यात्रियों को नो-फ्लाई लिस्ट में डाला गया था। वहीं, 2022 में 63, 2021 में 66, और 2020 में 10 यात्रियों को नो-फ्लाई लिस्ट में शामिल किया गया था। मोहोले ने बताया कि अनुशासनहीन यात्रियों की गलत हरकत की गंभीरता के आधार पर तीन स्तरों में वर्गीकृत किया गया है। स्तर-1 की अनुशासनहीनता के लिए अधिकतम तीन महीने, स्तर-2 के लिए अधिकतम छह महीने और स्तर-3 के लिए न्यूनतम दो वर्ष या उससे अधिक की उड़ान प्रतिबंध लगाया जाता है।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

5 AUGUST 2025

# भारत बना दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा विमानन बाजार

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

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



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

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



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## Indian Airlines Seek Fair Play as Europe Squeezes Slots

IndiGo flights to Amsterdam facing uncertainty; govt engaging with delegations from European countries for level-playing field, say officials

Arindam Majumder

**New Delhi:** Indian airlines have called for retaliatory action by authorities as they face hurdles to access slots at major airports such as Amsterdam and Heathrow in London.

Leading carriers such as IndiGo and Air India said this is hindering their ability to fully utilise flying rights granted to them. International flying rights between two nations are allocated on a bilateral reciprocal basis by the governments to their respective airlines.

IndiGo's flight to Amsterdam is facing uncertainty as its request for slots in winter is yet to be approved by airport authorities there. The airline launched its Mumbai-Amsterdam flight last month and has announced plans to increase it to six flights per week from September.

While Dutch flag carrier KLM flies 21 flights per week to Delhi,

Mumbai and Bengaluru, IndiGo and Air India are able to operate only 10 flights to the Netherlands, industry officials said.

"Despite an open-sky agreement between the two countries which allows airlines to launch unlimited flights, it is the Dutch carriers which are getting the benefit of this," an official at an Indian airline said on condition of anonymity. "The government should curtail flights for KLM so that there is a level-playing field between the two countries."

KLM can fly to multiple Indian cities, while Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport is the only option for

**Rough Weather**

**INDIAN AIRLINES EXPANSION PLANS HIT**

Airlines have called for retaliatory action by Indian authorities

**KLM** operates 21 weekly flights to India

Indian carriers allowed only 10 flights to Netherlands

Slot issues also affect Indian carriers at Heathrow

Indian carriers as other airports in Holland rarely handle wide-body aircraft, he said.

And the Dutch government is now preparing to impose a cap on annual flight movements at Schiphol starting November as part of an effort to reduce noise pollution. The plan would limit

Schiphol to 478,000 flights per year, down from the current 500,000.

Airport Coordination Netherlands (ACNL), which allots slots at Schiphol airport, said the probability for airlines to launch new flights or increase operations is low because of the capacity reduction.

"For winter '25 season, no slots

are allocated at this moment to IndiGo," Hugo Thomassen, managing director of ACNL, told ET in response to a query. "To allocate slots to airlines on the waitlist, first slots must be returned to the slot pool by other airlines. Therefore, we cannot provide any indication for IndiGo (and other airlines) to obtain slots for winter '25."

In 2023, Air India also had to halt bookings for its flights to Amsterdam as the carrier was unable to get slots. They were later restored after multiple negotiations between the Indian and Netherlands government.

Indian carriers are also facing a challenge to get slots at London Heathrow airport.

Government officials said they are engaging with delegations from these countries to provide a level-playing field to Indian airlines.

The new challenge comes at a time when leading Indian carriers have

charted aggressive international expansion plans.

While a revised air service agreement in 2023 allowed airlines from both sides to increase flights from Indian cities to Heathrow airport from 56 to 70 per week, Indian airlines said slot constraint at Heathrow doesn't allow them to expand even as they intend to launch more flights to London.

"We can only take advantage of this new agreement if Heathrow airport gives us more slots," said an executive of an Indian airline.

The airlines have requested the government to intervene to ensure new slots, the person added.

While Air India operates 31 weekly flights to Heathrow, IndiGo has also announced plans to launch from October.

Heathrow allows an airline to lease or buy slots from other countries, it comes at a high price, increasing the cost of operations.



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

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## **Lufthansa not to buy stake in Spain's Air Europad**

LUFTHANSA HAS ABANDONED its plan to bid for a stake in Spanish airline Air Europa, a spokesperson for the German group said on Tuesday, only a week after Air France-KLM announced it was also dropping out of the process. That leaves Turkish Airlines as the only known remaining bidder.

## Explainer

### ● DGCA's safety audit findings

AS PART OF its annual audit of the country's airlines, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) uncovered 51 safety violations at Air India during the past year. The findings come amid renewed scrutiny of the airline after the tragic crash of its AI 171 flight from Ahmedabad to London in June, where 260 people lost their lives—although the audit was not related to the incident.

According to *Reuters*, 51 safety lapses were found in the July audit, "including lack of adequate training for some pilots, use of unapproved simulators and a poor rostering system." Among these, seven safety-related lapses were of the highest level. Within the Air India Group, Vistara had ten Level 1 lapses while Air India Express had two Level 1 lapses. In the Level 2 category, the group had 74 violations, of which 44 were by Air India.

Findings are classified as Level 1 (significant safety issues requiring immediate corrective action) or Level 2 (less urgent but still notable gaps in documentation or procedure adherence) breaches.



DGCA  
AUDIT

## What 51 safety lapses say about Air India

Beleaguered air carrier Air India has experienced yet another setback as the aviation watchdog flagged 51 safety lapses in the past year. While a higher lapse count is normal for large carriers, several of these violations are critical lapses requiring immediate corrective measures, explains *Anwitii Rai*

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CRITICAL LAPSES BY AIR INDIA, 10 BY VISTARA AND 2 BY AIR INDIA EXPRESS IN THE PAST ONE YEAR

ACROSS AIRLINES, THE AUDIT FOUND 263 LAPSES, WITH ALLIANCE AIR TOPPING THE LIST

₹98 lakh

FINE ON AIR INDIA IMPOSED BY DGCA IN 2024 FOR VARIOUS VIOLATIONS

### ● How did other airlines fare

ACROSS AIRLINES, THE audit found 263 lapses in total. Other airlines with notable findings included Alliance Air (57), Ghodawat Star (41), QuickJet (35), IndiGo (23), and SpiceJet (14).

Addressing the question of safety standards at various airlines, the DGCA said that for airlines with extensive operations and large fleet sizes, a higher number of audit findings is entirely

normal. "The quantum and scale of their activities mean that such observations reflect the breadth and depth of their operations rather than any unusual lapse." Air India has nearly 300 aircraft, while IndiGo has 419 aircraft in its fleet. SpiceJet has 19 aircraft in service. Air India's fleet includes 34 Boeing 787s and 23 Boeing 777s, according to Flightradar24 website.

### ● What's the next step for Air India

AIRLINES ARE FORMALLY notified after each audit, and are required to submit timely compliance reports specifying the corrective actions taken. These are considered during the next audit cycle. Air India had to fix the seven Level 1 breaches by July 30, while its 44 Level 2 violations have to be resolved by August 23. Air India has acknowledged the audit findings, indicated that it is fully cooperating with DGCA, and has highlighted its transparency during the audit process.

In the aftermath of the investigation that followed the June crash (separate from the annual audit), the aviation watchdog issued four show-cause notices (dated July 23) addressing 29 systemic violations, to which an Air India spokesperson responded, "We will respond within the stipulated period and remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers." Air India has seen several compliance hiccups—in 2023, 13 fabricated spot-check reports came in from multiple stations during an internal audit, and in 2024, the DGCA issued fines of around ₹98 lakh for allowing flights to operate with non-qualified crew, among other violations.

### ● International norms & India

THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL Aviation Organisation (ICAO) issues an Effective Implementation score, which includes various aspects like legislation, organisation, licensing, operations, airworthiness, accident investigation, air navigation services, etc. When the DGCA was last audited by the ICAO (in 2022), the overall score was 85.65%, up from 69.95% in 2018. The national score was also higher than the global average in all of the eight categories covered under ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme.

Additionally, the US' Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), regarded as the foremost global aviation regulator, conducted an audit of the DGCA in October 2021 and retained India's Category 1 status under its international aviation safety assessment programme, signifying that Indian airlines meet international standards and allowing them to operate or expand services to the US.

The DGCA's annual safety audit (called the Annual Surveillance Plan) assesses airline compliance across operational and safety domains, adhering to global best practices.

### ● Kinds of violations mentioned in the audit report

ACCORDING TO A *Reuters* report, officials said they found "recurrent training gaps" for some unspecified Boeing 787 and 777 pilots, saying they had not completed their monitoring duties—where they don't fly but observe functioning of instruments in the cockpit—ahead of mandatory periodic evaluations. The news agency, which said it

had seen the report, said officials wrote in their report that Air India did not do "proper route assessments" for some so-called Category C airports—which may have challenging layouts or terrain—and conducted training for such airfields with simulators that did not meet qualification standards. "This may account to non-

consideration of safety risks during approaches to challenging airports," the DGCA audit report said as per *Reuters*. Further, it said no chief pilots were assigned for Airbus A320 and A350 fleet. The report noted that "door checks and equipment checks" showed inconsistency with procedures.





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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 AUGUST 2025

## INDIA EMERGES AS WORLD'S 5TH BIGGEST AVIATION MARKET: IATA

**PTI**  
NEW DELHI

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

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



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

"The US remains the world's biggest aviation market with 876 million passengers in 2024 on the strength of

its domestic market, growing 5.2 per cent year-on-year.

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

While India stood at the 5th place, the UK at the 3rd spot (261 million passengers) and

Spain at the 4th position (241 million).

The figures include all international and domestic passengers departing or arriving in each country.

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

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



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

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## तकनीकी खराबी के कारण उड़ान रद्द

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को दिल्ली से मिलान जाने वाली उड़ान 'एआई-137' को रद्द कर दिया। बोइंग 787 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान में टेकऑफ से पहले तकनीकी खराबी का पता चला, जिसके बाद यह फेसला लिया गया। एयरलाइन ने कहा, 'हमारा स्टाफ यात्रियों को होने वाली असुविधा को कम करने के लिए प्रयास कर रहा है। जल्द मिलान ले जाने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है।'



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

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## '6 aircraft engine shutdown incidents so far'

**NEW DELHI:** Six aircraft engine shutdown incidents and three incidents of May Day calls have been reported so far this year, according to Centre. As per data shared by minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol with the Rajya Sabha, there have been two incidents of engine shutdown, in IndiGo and SpiceJet, while Air India and Alliance Air had one such incident each. There have been three incidents of May Day Call, including the London Gatwick-bound flight that crashed on June 12.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

5 AUGUST 2025

## Insurance for domestic, overseas flights under separate laws: Govt

**Dheer Chawla**

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**NEW DELHI:** The ministry of civil aviation said that insurance coverage for domestic and international air passengers is governed by separate legal instruments.

Replying to a question by CPI(M) MP John Brittas in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, clarified that insurance for domestic flights is regulated under the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, whereas international flights are governed by the Montreal Convention, 1999, to which India is a signatory. The provisions of the Convention have been incorporated into the same Act through specific clauses.

The statement further noted

that both frameworks prescribe liability limits for compensation in cases of death, bodily injury, delay in carriage, or destruction, loss, or delay of baggage. Airlines are required to maintain insurance to adequately cover their liability for both domestic and international operations.

The exact amount of maximum payouts, benefit types, and policy conditions are based on individual arrangements between the airline and its insurer. The requirement for maintaining such coverage is ensured by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) through the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), which are followed while issuing Air Operator Certificates to Indian carriers.

The Montreal Convention,

1999, is an international treaty that standardises rules relating to the liability of airlines in cases of death, injury, baggage loss, and delays during international air travel. It replaced earlier frameworks like the Warsaw Convention and aims to ensure uniformity and greater protection for passengers.

In India, the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, governs the legal framework for air transportation. It applies to domestic flights. The act sets liability limits for various scenarios, including bodily injury, loss or damage to baggage, and flight delays. While the Montreal Convention governs international flights, domestic operations fall under national provisions within the same Act, enforced by Indian authorities like the DGCA.



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JANSATTA

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## इस साल 48 लोगों को निषिद्ध उड़ान सूची में रखा गया : सरकार

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो



सरकार ने मंगलवार को राज्यसभा को सूचित किया कि इस वर्ष 30 जुलाई तक कुल 48 हवाई यात्रियों को 'निषिद्ध उड़ान सूची' (नो-फ्लाई लिस्ट) में डाला गया है। नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने एक प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में यह भी जानकारी दी कि अशिशु या अनुशासनहीन व्यवहार करने वाले यात्रियों पर उनके आचरण की गंभीरता के आधार पर उड़ान प्रतिबंध की अवधि तय की जाती है।

मंत्रों के द्वारा साझा किए गए आंकड़ों के अनुसार, वर्ष 2024 में 82 और 2023 में 110 यात्रियों को 'निषिद्ध उड़ान सूची' में डाला गया था। वहीं 2022 में 63, 2021 में 66, और 2020 में 10 यात्रियों को 'निषिद्ध उड़ान सूची' में शामिल किया गया था। मोहोले ने बताया कि नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) द्वारा जारी नागर विमानन नियमन के तहत, विमान में अनुशासनहीन यात्रियों को उनकी गलत हरकत की गंभीरता के आधार पर तीन स्तरों में वर्गीकृत किया गया है। उन्होंने बताया, 'स्तर-1 की अनुशासनहीनता के लिए अधिकतम तीन महीने, स्तर-2 के लिए अधिकतम छह महीने, और स्तर-3 के लिए न्यूनतम दो वर्ष या उससे अधिक की उड़ान प्रतिबंध अवधि निर्धारित की जाती है। हाल के हफ्तों में अशोभनीय आचरण के कई मामलों की सूचना मिली है। एक अग्रस्त को इंडिगो की मुंबई-कोलकाता उड़ान में एक यात्री ने सहयात्री

**मुरलीधर** मोहोले ने बताया कि नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) द्वारा जारी नागर विमानन नियमन के तहत, विमान में अनुशासनहीन यात्रियों को उनकी गलत हरकत की गंभीरता के आधार पर तीन स्तरों में वर्गीकृत किया गया है।

को थप्पड़ मार दिया, जिसके बाद एअरलाइन ने उस यात्री पर अपने विमानों में यात्रा पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया। एक अन्य घटना में, 26 जुलाई को श्रीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर एक वरिष्ठ सैन्य अधिकारी पर निजी एअरलाइन के चार कर्मचारियों के साथ मारपीट करने और एक को रोक की हड्डी में चोट पहुंचाने का आरोप लगा है। पुलिस ने इस संबंध में मामला दर्ज किया है। इस मामले में अधिकारी ने भी एअरलाइन स्टाफ पर हमले का दावा करते हुए शिकायत दर्ज करवाई है, जिसके आधार पर पुलिस ने एअरलाइन कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ भी प्राथमिकी दर्ज की है।

इस वर्ष अब तक विमान के इंजन बंद होने की कुल छह घटनाओं की खबर : सरकार ने मंगलवार को बताया कि इस वर्ष अब तक विमान के इंजन बंद होने की कुल छह घटनाएं और 'मे डे काल' की तीन घटनाएं दर्ज की गई हैं। नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने राज्यसभा को एक प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में यह भी सूचित किया

इंडिगो और स्पाइसजेट के विमानों में इंजन बंद होने की दो-दो घटनाएं हुईं, जबकि एअर इंडिया और एलायंस एअर में से प्रत्येक के साथ एक-एक ऐसी घटना दर्ज की गई। उन्होंने बताया कि 'मे डे काल' की तीन घटनाओं में शामिल एक घटना 12 जून को अहमदाबाद से उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुई एअर इंडिया की लंदन गैटविक जा रही उड़ान एआइ-171 की है। इसके अलावा, इंडिगो और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ानों के साथ भी 'मे डे काल' की एक-एक घटना हुई। 'मे डे काल' के संदर्भ में मोहोले ने बताया कि यह काल फायलट द्वारा तीन बार दोहराई जाती है, ताकि जमीनी हवाई यातायात नियंत्रक को यह स्पष्ट रूप से सूचित किया जा सके कि विमान एक जानलेवा आपात स्थिति में है और तत्काल मदद की आवश्यकता है। उन्होंने बताया जनवरी से जुलाई, 2025 तक इंजन बंद होने की कुल छह घटनाएं और 'मे डे काल' की तीन घटनाएं घटने की खबर है।

12 जुलाई को प्रकाशित विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो की प्रारंभिक रपट में 12 जून को हुई एअर इंडिया की दुर्घटना को लेकर कोई निष्कर्ष नहीं निकाला गया है। जांच अब भी जारी है। इस दुर्घटना की जांच में छेड़छाड़ या तोड़फोड़ की आशंका को भी शामिल किए जाने के बारे में पूछने पर मंत्री ने कहा कि दुर्घटना के संभावित कारणों / सहायक तत्वों का पता लगाने के लिए हर पहलु की जांच की जा रही है। एक अन्य उत्तर में, मंत्री ने बताया कि 2022 से अब तक कुल 36 विमान दुर्घटनाएं दर्ज की गई हैं, जिनमें से अनुसूचित विमान, दो गैर-अनुसूचित विमान, 19 प्रशिक्षण विमान, दो निजी विमान और 11 हेलिकाप्टर शामिल रहे।

राज्यसभा



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## ONUS TO ENSURE DECORUM ON PASSENGERS & AIRLINES

**T**HE shocking incident of a senior army officer assaulting four SpiceJet staffers at Srinagar airport deserves to be condemned. The episode refocuses the nation's attention on passenger rage as well as airline staff behaviour. The incident was reportedly triggered by a pre-boarding argument between SpiceJet staffers and an officer carrying more than twice the weight allowed for cabin baggage. The officer, Lt Col Ritesh Kumar Singh, posted at the High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg, was on his way to Delhi on flight SG-386 on emergency leave when the incident took place. It has been alleged that after assaulting the staff, Singh rushed through the boarding gate without completing the formalities mandated by regulations—a gross violation of aviation safety protocols. While a first information report has been registered against Singh at the Budgam police station under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for what SpiceJet described as a “murderous assault”, he too filed a complaint against the airline, alleging mistreatment by the airlines staff that caused him to miss his flight.

When incidents like these occur, it is easier to blame the person who has caused grievous injuries to others—in this case, the army officer. But what is shocking is that Singh belongs to a force that boasts of high discipline in civil spaces. The Indian Army has acknowledged the incident, promising full cooperation with the authorities investigating the case. A statement from the army headquarters stressed that the Indian Army was “fully committed to maintaining discipline and mutual respect in all civil spaces across the country”.

However, it must also be noted that as the number of air passengers shoots up, so will the frequency of heated interactions with the airline staffers serving them. According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, India's domestic passenger traffic grew 6.12 percent to 161.3 million in 2024 from the previous year. While passengers—whatever be their backgrounds—need to realise that rules and regulations pertaining to air travel are of utmost importance for the overall safety of flights, airline staffers too must understand that among the hordes of flyers there may be many who could be high-strung while travelling. The need is for the latter to interact with the former in a manner that avoids violent flashpoints like this unfortunate incident.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

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## DGCA suspends approval for Akasa air pilot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

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Aviation safety regulator DGCA has suspended its approval for a senior Akasa Air pilot to act as a designated examiner citing procedural lapses, sources said on Tuesday. Besides, the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) cancelled a skill test of a trainee pilot conducted by the designated examiner and ordered a retest.

Designated examiners are authorised to conduct various skill tests and proficiency checks for pilots to ensure that they meet the required competency level for licensing and ratings.

Response to a query on the issue was awaited from Akasa Air.

"Refer to e-mail dated 26.05.2025 by Director Training of Akasa Air, the case has been examined and based on the personal bearing and review of procedural deviations and findings during the check session conducted by Designated Examiner, DE approval is hereby suspended for a period of six months," the DGCA said in its July 29 order.

The regulator in its order also "warned" the senior pilot to adhere to the regulatory compliances and regulatory standards in future.

Further, the trainee pilot's skill test conducted by the senior pilot is hereby declared null and void. A retest shall be conducted by a qualified Designated Examiner (DE) under the observation of a type-rated flight operations inspector, the DGCA order stated.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

5 AUGUST 2025

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## एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में मिले कॉकरोच

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया की सैन फ्रांसिस्को से कोलकाता होते हुए मुंबई जाने वाली फ्लाइट में कॉकरोच मिलने का मामला सामने आया है। दो यात्रियों ने अपनी सीट के पास कॉकरोच मिलने की शिकायत थी। इसके बाद केबिन कू ने दोनों की सीट बदल दी। दोनों कॉकरोच देखकर परेशान हो गए थे। एयरलाइन ने बताया कि कोलकाता

में फ्यूल भरने के दौरान, ग्राउंड कू ने फ्लाइट की सफाई की। फिर फ्लाइट मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुई। एअर इंडिया ने कहा, लगातार फ्यूमिगेशन (केमिकल स्प्रे) के बावजूद, कभी-कभी ग्राउंड ऑपरेशन के दौरान कीड़े विमान में घुस सकते हैं। एयरलाइन ने घटना को दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बताते हुए पैसेंजर्स से माफी भी मांगी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2025

## India mulls new pilot training system as air traffic booms

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** India is considering revamping pilot training by gradually moving away from the current system, where a student has to first earn a commercial pilot licence (CPL) and then do type rating separately for a specific aircraft, to a unified "multi-crew pilot licence" (MPL) system.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation will hold a meeting with stakeholders on the issue on Wednesday. If approved, both systems will co-exist, and operators will have the flexibility to choose what best meets their requirements of safety and operational efficiency.

This is the second big change India is contemplating in this field, after proposing to make students who from Class 12 arts and commerce streams eligible to pursue CPL — a field reserved for science students with physics and maths in 12th since mid-1990s. As the fastest growing aviation market globally, govt is clearly keen to take steps to meet Indian carriers' requirement for pilots in coming years.

At the moment, cadet pi-

**This is the second big change India is contemplating in this field, after proposing to make students from arts and commerce streams eligible to pursue commercial pilot licence**

lots have to first do CPL that involves, among other things, flying training aircraft for 200 hours. They then need to do simulator-based type rating for specific aircraft like Airbus A320 or Boeing 737.

MPL will require them to fly a small training plane for about 70 hours. Then they will do simulator training for 140 to 160 hours. Subsequently, airlines will induct them as trainees on that type of aircraft. Approved by International Civil Aviation Organisation, MPL has been adopted by over 50 airlines globally, like Lufthansa, Etihad, flyDubai and Singapore Airlines.

"We will evaluate both the systems and take a considered view on what is best in terms of ensuring high training standards and meeting

airline requirements. MPL was considered by us in the past too. There has again been a request to consider the same and that is being done," said senior govt officials. If approved, MPL will be introduced gradually over 2-3 years and CPL will continue to exist for non-airline students.

An integrated programme, MPL "lays emphasis on developing key competencies that are essential to safely operate modern commercial aircraft. It can be tailored to specific aircraft type and the operational philosophy of airlines which will ensure a steady stream of pilots", said a senior pilot.

"MPL should have been adopted several years ago to meet India's growing aviation needs... MPL aligns better with modern airline operational realities than the current CPL system which is outdated for a fast-developing aviation sector. India needs 2,000-plus new pilots annually over the next decade," said another captain.

Opposing MPL, a senior captain said: "Our regulatory system lacks necessary robustness to adequately oversee and enforce MPL program standards consistently."



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

5 AUGUST 2025

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# Cockroaches on SF-Mum AI flight

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Air India has “apologised” for cockroaches on last Saturday’s San Francisco-Mumbai (via Kolkata) flight due to which seats of some flyers had to be changed en-route India. The aircraft, a relatively new ex-Delta Boeing 777 (VT-AEH), was “deep cleaned” during its technical (fuelling) halt in Kolkata and the airline will initiate “a comprehensive investigation to determine the source / cause of this incident and implement measures to prevent recurrence.”

The aircraft had taken off from San Francisco at 8.28pm (local time) on Aug 2. The cockroach trouble happened as it flew to Kolkata, where it reached after an about 16-hour jour-

### AIRLINE APOLOGISES

ney “...two passengers were unfortunately bothered by the presence of a few small cockroaches on board. Our cabin crew, therefore, relocated the two passengers to other seats in the same cabin, where they were comfortable thereafter,” an AI spokesperson said.

“During the flight’s scheduled fuel stop in Kolkata, our ground crew promptly conducted a deep cleaning process to address the issue. The same aircraft subsequently departed in time for Mumbai. Despite our regular fumigation efforts, insects can sometimes enter an aircraft during ground operations. AI will be undertaking a comprehensive probe to determine the source & the cause and implement measures to prevent recurrence. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused to the passengers,” the spokesperson added.

## FAA sounds alarm over unsafe RAT in Boeing models

Saurabh Sinha

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

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



**This condition, “if not addressed, could result in loss of backup hydraulic and/or electrical power as well as the RAT module departing from the airplane”**

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

RAT is a device on an aircraft used to provide emergency backup power by de-

ploying into the airstream when needed, like in case of dual engine failure. The RAT was deployed on AI171, which crashed in Ahmedabad seconds after take-off on June 12. The pre-merger Air India uses B787-8 variants of Dreamliners (one of which crashed in Ahmedabad) and may not

be required to undergo this check. “We issued guidance to our B787-9 and B787-10 customers in Feb 2025 and fully support the FAA’s proposal to make that guidance mandatory. The in-service fleet can continue normal operations,” Boeing said in a statement to **TOI** on Monday.

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

ufactured with the incorrect titanium alloy material could fail when the RAT is deployed.”

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

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