



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026



Centre awards Lols for 11 new flying training schools

The Centre on Tuesday issued Letters of Intent (Lols) for the establishment of 11 new Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) across seven airports operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). With the addition of these 11 FTOs, India's annual pilot training capacity is expected to increase by 750 cadets, providing a significant boost to the domestic training ecosystem, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a statement.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

कांगड़ा एयरपोर्ट विस्तार: मांझी खड्ड पर बनेगा देश का दूसरा रनवे ब्रिज

धर्मशाला | कांगड़ा (गगल) एयरपोर्ट विस्तार अब इंजीनियरिंग के नए इतिहास की ओर बढ़ रहा है। परियोजना के तहत मांझी खड्ड पर करीब 380 मीटर लंबा विशेष रनवे ब्रिज बनाया जाएगा। इसके साथ ही गगल एयरपोर्ट हिमालयी क्षेत्र का पहला और देश का दूसरा एयरपोर्ट बन

जाएगा, जहां नदी के ऊपर बने विशेष पुलनुमा ढांचे पर रनवे का निर्माण होगा।

इस चुनौतीपूर्ण परियोजना के तकनीकी डिजाइन को पुणे के विशेषज्ञ इंजीनियरों ने अंतिम रूप दे दिया है। एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया की इस परियोजना के तहत वर्तमान 1,376 मीटर लंबे रनवे को

बढ़ाकर 3,010 मीटर किया जाएगा। रनवे विस्तार के बाद एयरबस ए-320 जैसे बड़े यात्री विमानों का संचालन संभव हो सकेगा। अभी रनवे की सीमित लंबाई के कारण केवल छोटे और मध्यम श्रेणी के विमान ही उड़ान भर पाते हैं। रनवे ब्रिज एक विशेष इंजीनियरिंग संरचना होती है,

जिसमें नदी, गहरी खाई या घाटी के ऊपर मजबूत पिलरों और स्टील-कंक्रीट के ढांचे पर रनवे का हिस्सा तैयार किया जाता है। जहां भौगोलिक बाधाएं होती हैं, वहां पुल जैसी संरचना बनाकर उसके ऊपर विमानों के टेकऑफ और लैंडिंग के लिए रनवे विकसित किया जाता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

दिल्ली व हरियाणा से सीधे जुड़ेगा नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट

नोएडा, 5 अगस्त (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को दिल्ली से सीधे जोड़ने के लिए 50 किमी लंबा एलिवेटेड एक्सप्रेस वे बनाया जाएगा। जिसका रूट डिजाइन फाइनल कर लिया गया है। इस डिजाइन को प्राधिकरण भेजा गया है। जिसमें सेक्टर-94 से यमुना की 120 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क पर जोड़ेंगे। इसमें नोएडा का करीब 27 किमी का हिस्सा है। इस ट्रैक को बनाने में नोएडा में 22 और ग्रेटरनोएडा 3 गांव की जमीन शामिल है। ये एक्सप्रेस वे दिल्ली के अक्षरधाम मंदिर के पास मेरठ दिल्ली एक्सप्रेस वे से बनना शुरू होगा। नोएडा में सेक्टर-94, 150, मंझावली पुल को जोड़ते हुए यमुना के सेक्टर-21ए में 120 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क तक जाएगा। मंझावली पुल से जुड़ने से



- 50 किमी लंबे एलिवेटेड एक्सप्रेस का रूट फाइनल
- 4 हजार करोड़ में बनाएगा एनएचआई

हरियाणा के फरीदाबाद से भी एयरपोर्ट की दूरी कम हो जाएगी।

प्राधिकरण ने बताया कि सिचाई विभाग की ओर से पुश्ता पर क्लीयरेंस नहीं मिलने के बाद एलिवेटेड के एलाइनमेंट में बदलावा करते हुए पुश्ता के 5 मीटर दूर नोएडा की ओर जमीन पर इसे फाइनल किया गया। ये पूरा

एक्सप्रेस वे एलिवेटेड पर 6 लेन का होगा। जिससे नोएडा एक्सप्रेस वे पर लगने वाला जाम समाप्त हो जाएगा।

इस एलिवेटेड एक्सप्रेस वे के बनने से दिल्ली के नोएडा से जुड़े हरियाणा में मयूर विहार, अक्षरधाम, पड़पड़गंज, कालिंदी कुंज, सरिता विहार के लोग आसानी से एयरपोर्ट आ सकेंगे। इसके अलावा मंझावली पुल से सीधी कनेक्टिविटी मिलने से फरीदाबाद के लोग भी आ सकेंगे।

रूट फाइनल होने के बाद अब इसकी डीपीआर तैयार की जा रही है। इसके बाद स्वाइल टेस्ट किया जाएगा। ताकि मिट्टी की बियरिंग क्षमता को देखा जा सके। संभावित लागत करीब 4 हजार करोड़ के आसपास रहेगी। इसका निर्माण और मैनटेनेंस एनएचआई ही करेगा।



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 AUGUST 2026

100-key five-star hotel planned near Shirdi airport; bids invited

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd (MADC) has drafted a plan to develop a 100-key five-star hotel near Shirdi International Airport to expand passenger amenities and capitalise on surging pilgrim traffic. It has floated a tender to lease a 3.7 acre plot adjacent to the airport, with the hotel required to become operational within four years.

The project, located on Plot Nos 3 and 4 in a designated mixed-use zone outside the primary airport area, aims to



meet growing demand for upscale accommodation. Shirdi receives an estimated 1 lakh floating visitors daily, rising to 15 lakh on weekends and during festivals. MADC plans to lease around 14,973 sq m for the five-star hotel. The tender seeks to bring a five-star category hotel to the region while strengthening hospitality infrastructure around the international airport.

According to the official

tender document issued by MADC, the project will also include a business centre or convention facility. Optional components such as service apartments, a yoga or meditation centre and a gymnasium have been listed as desirable.

The land will be offered on a 49-year lease with a minimum base price of ₹3,000 per sq m as a one-time lease premium and a permissible basic FSI of 1.5. Each bidder will have to deposit ₹50 lakh as earnest money. The selected developer will have to furnish ₹1 crore as performance security through a bank guarantee before signing the lease agreement.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 AUGUST 2026

Protestors seek to name airport

Hundreds of protesters from Maharashtra gathered at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday to press for the naming of the Navi Mumbai International Airport after late social leader DB Patil, urging the Centre to approve a proposal that has been pending for three years.

टर्बुलेंस के जख्म अब भी ताजा चार घायलों का इलाज जारी

गर्दन, रीढ़, कंधे, पीठ और हाथ में हैं गंभीर चोटें, फिलहाल सर्जरी की जरूरत नहीं

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। थाईलैंड के फुकेट से दिल्ली आ रही एयर इंडिया की उड़ान में मंगलवार को आए भीषण टर्बुलेंस के जख्म अभी भी ताजा हैं। हादसे में गंभीर रूप से घायल सात यात्रियों और केबिन कू सदस्यों में से चार का इलाज अब भी वसंतकुंज के एक निजी अस्पताल में चल रहा है। सभी को रीढ़, गर्दन, पीठ, कंधों और हाथों में गंभीर चोटें आई हैं। राहत की बात यह है कि फिलहाल सभी की हालत स्थिर है और डॉक्टर बिना सर्जरी के उनका उपचार कर रहे हैं।

अस्पताल प्रशासन के अनुसार चारों मरीज विशेषज्ञ डॉक्टरों की निगरानी में हैं। डॉक्टरों का कहना है कि फिलहाल किसी मरीज को ऑपरेशन की जरूरत नहीं है, लेकिन चोटों की गंभीरता को देखते हुए उन्हें अस्पताल में निगरानी में रखा गया है। अस्पताल के मुताबिक 27 वर्षीय मानसी की गर्दन और पीठ के निचले हिस्से में गंभीर चोट लगी है। वह पूरी तरह होश में हैं और उनकी स्थिति स्थिर बनी हुई है। एक अन्य स्वास्थ्य समस्या को देखते हुए विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सकों से परामर्श लिया गया है। यदि उनकी स्थिति सामान्य बनी रहती है तो उन्हें जल्द छुट्टी दी जा सकती है।



केंद्रीय मंत्री किजरापु राम मोहन नायडू घायलों का हालचाल लेने पहुंचे। फाइल

यात्रियों ने इसे अपनी जिंदगी का सबसे भयावह अनुभव बताया। उनका कहना है कि अचानक विमान में इतने तेज झटके लगे कि कुछ समझने का मौका ही नहीं मिला। कई लोग अपनी सीटों से उछल गए। एक घायल यात्री की बेटी पलक रानीवाला ने बताया कि उनके पिता टर्बुलेंस के दौरान सीट से उछलकर विमान की छत से टकरा गए, जबकि उनकी मां की पसलियों में फ्रैक्चर हो गया। उन्होंने बताया कि पूरे विमान में दहशत का माहौल था। फ्लाइट अटेंडेंट लगातार यात्रियों से सीट बेल्ट बांधे रखने की अपील कर रहे थे और पायलट भी लगातार स्थिति की जांच कर रहे थे।

22 वर्षीय खावला मोहम्मद सलीम की रीढ़ की हड्डी में चोट आई है। उन्हें स्प्राइनल सपोर्ट और रिहैबिलिटेशन के साथ बिना सर्जरी के इलाज दिया जा रहा है। डॉक्टर लगातार उनकी रिकवरी की निगरानी कर रहे हैं। वहीं, 33 वर्षीय तान्या की गर्दन, पीठ, कंधों और हाथों में गंभीर चोटें हैं। उनकी न्यूरोलॉजिकल जांच जारी है और रीढ़ को स्थिर

रखने के लिए विशेष उपचार दिया जा रहा है। 28 वर्षीय चिंकी सुरेंद्र सिंह की पीठ के निचले हिस्से में चोट लगी है। पेट संबंधी शिकायतों के कारण विशेषज्ञ टीम उनकी अतिरिक्त जांच भी कर रही है। अस्पताल प्रशासन के अनुसार चारों मरीजों की हालत स्थिर है, लेकिन पूरी तरह स्वस्थ होने तक लगातार निगरानी और उपचार जारी रहेगा।

गंभीर हवाई झटके जानलेवा हो सकते हैं, डीजीसीए जांच करे : एविएशन विशेषज्ञ

एविएशन विशेषज्ञ कैप्टन प्रशांत ढल्ला बताते हैं कि यह बेहद गंभीर घटना है और इसकी विस्तृत जांच होनी चाहिए। उनके अनुसार टर्बुलेंस चार प्रकार का होता है—हल्का, मध्यम, तेज और गंभीर। गंभीर टर्बुलेंस की स्थिति में विमान का ऑटोपायलट सिस्टम भी स्वतः बंद हो सकता है, जिससे विमान को नियंत्रित करना पायलट के लिए चुनौतीपूर्ण हो जाता है। यदि यात्री सीट बेल्ट नहीं लगाए हों तो गंभीर चोट या जान का खतरा भी हो सकता है। उन्होंने डीजीसीए से पूरे मामले की तकनीकी जांच कराने की मांग की है।

सोशल मीडिया पर भी
टर्बुलेंस छाया रहा

घटना के बाद 'सोशल मीडिया' पर कई लोगों ने कहा कि क्लियर एयर टर्बुलेंस पूरी तरह अप्रत्याशित होती है और इसका विमान की तकनीकी खराबी से सीधा संबंध नहीं होता। खुद को केबिन कू सदस्य बताने वाले एक यूजर ने लिखा कि ऐसी स्थिति किसी भी एयरलाइन की किसी भी उड़ान में हो सकती है। कई लोगों ने यात्रियों को सलाह दी कि सीट बेल्ट का संकेत बंद होने के बाद भी सुरक्षा के लिए सीट बेल्ट लगाए रखें।

क्लियर एयर टर्बुलेंस का पहले से सटीक पता लगाना अब भी चुनौती

टर्बुलेंस ने बढ़ाई चिंता, विशेषज्ञ बोले-सीट बेल्ट ही सबसे बड़ी सुरक्षा

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। फुकेट से दिल्ली आ रही एयर इंडिया की उड़ान एआई-2379 में आए भीषण टर्बुलेंस ने एक बार फिर स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि आधुनिक विमान और उन्नत तकनीक के बावजूद क्लियर एयर टर्बुलेंस (सीएटी) का पहले से सटीक पता लगाना अब भी बड़ी चुनौती है। विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार ऐसे मामलों में विमान से अधिक खतरा उन यात्रियों को होता है, जिन्होंने सीट बेल्ट नहीं बांध रखी होती।

द्वारका स्थित बीवन एविएशन एकेडमी के प्रशिक्षक एवं वरिष्ठ पायलट कैप्टन नितिन राणा बताते हैं कि टर्बुलेंस हवा के तापमान, घनत्व और वायु प्रवाह में अचानक बदलाव के कारण उत्पन्न होता है। इनमें क्लियर एयर टर्बुलेंस सबसे चुनौतीपूर्ण होता है, क्योंकि यह साफ आसमान में भी बन सकता है और इसके साथ बादल या बारिश जैसी कोई स्पष्ट चेतावनी नहीं होती। यही वजह है कि आधुनिक डॉप्लर वेदर रडार वर्षा वाले बादलों और तूफानी मौसम का तो पता लगा लेते हैं, लेकिन क्लियर एयर टर्बुलेंस की पहले से सटीक पहचान नहीं कर पाते।

राणा बताते हैं कि टर्बुलेंस की आशंका होने पर पायलट विमान की गति कम कर उसे सुरक्षित टर्बुलेंस पेनट्रेशन स्पीड पर ले आते हैं।



कैप्टन नितिन राणा, एयरक्राफ्ट मटेनेंस इंजीनियर। संवाद

2018 में एयर इंडिया के बेड़े में शामिल हुआ था विमान

इस उड़ान का संचालन एयर इंडिया के एयरबस ए320नियो (ए320-251एन) विमान से किया जा रहा था, जिसका पंजीकरण वीटी-ईएक्सओ है। यह विमान नवंबर 2018 में एयर इंडिया के बेड़े में शामिल हुआ। ए320नियो एयरबस की नई पीढ़ी का नैरो-बॉडी विमान है। इसमें अत्याधुनिक एवियोनिक्स, डिजिटल फ्लाइट कंट्रोल सिस्टम और आधुनिक इंजन लगे हैं।

हवा में दहशत की उड़ान : वायरल टर्बुलेंस वीडियो ने हिला दिया यात्रियों का भरोसा

नई दिल्ली। सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल हुए विमान के टर्बुलेंस के वीडियो ने राजधानी में हवाई यात्रा को लेकर लोगों की चिंता बढ़ा दी है। वीडियो में यात्रियों की चीख-पुकार, केबिन से गिरता सामान और सीटों पर उछलते लोग दिखाई दे रहे हैं, जिससे कई लोग हवाई सफर की सुरक्षा को लेकर आशंकित हैं। महारली के आईटी प्रोफेशनल अनुराग ने कहा कि अगले महीने की पारिवारिक विदेश यात्रा को लेकर अब दोबारा विचार कर रहे हैं, जबकि दिल्ली गेट की पूजा ने घटना को बेहद डरावना बताया। सोशल मीडिया पर भी सुरक्षा जागरूकता, सीट बेल्ट बांधे रखने और चालक दल के निर्देशों का पालन करने पर जोर दिया जा रहा है। करोल बाग, कर्नाट प्लेस और लक्ष्मी नगर के ट्रेवल एजेंटों के अनुसार, यात्रियों की पूछताछ बढ़ी है। लोग खराब मौसम में उड़ान की सुरक्षा, टर्बुलेंस के जोखिम और टिकट रद्द या री-शेड्यूल कराने की प्रक्रिया की जानकारी ले रहे हैं। संवाद

जरूरत पड़ने पर उड़ान मार्ग भी बदला जाता है और यात्रियों को सीट बेल्ट बांधे रखने की लगातार सलाह दी जाती है। मंगलवार को हुई घटना के दौरान विमान ओडिशा के रंगाली जलाशय के ऊपर लगभग 36

हजार फीट की ऊंचाई पर सामान्य क्रूज चरण में उड़ रहा था। फ्लाइट ट्रेकिंग आंकड़ों के अनुसार कुछ ही सेकंड में विमान की ऊंचाई, गति और वर्टिकल स्पीड में अचानक बदलाव दर्ज हुआ।

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Air India appoints former Ethiopian Airlines boss Tewolde Gebremariam as CEO & MD

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Air India has named Tewolde Gebremariam as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, succeeding Campbell Wilson.

Just weeks ago, he was the front-runner to be named the CEO of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). However, his appointment was never formally announced.

GLOBAL SEARCH

On Wednesday, the Air India Board of Directors approved Gebremariam's appointment, following what the airline described as a comprehensive global search overseen by a dedicated board committee, which evaluated both internal and external candidates.

The details relating to Gebremariam's onboarding and transition timeline will be announced separately.

Speaking to *businessline*, sources said regulatory and security clearances are generally obtained before a CEO formally assumes charge of a scheduled airline; the CEO also serves as the airline's accountable manager. Security clearance will be sought for Gebremariam in the next phase of the transition.

The board, Air India said, sought a leader with proven record of managing large-scale airline turnarounds, driving operational excellence, strengthening safety and service standards, and delivering profitable growth.

Notably, Gebremariam's experience in transforming Ethiopian Airlines into Africa's largest and most profitable airline group made him the preferred choice to lead AI through its next phase of expansion, Air India said. During his tenure at Ethiopian, he oversaw a multi-billion-dollar expansion programme under



Tewolde Gebremariam

which the airline's revenues quadrupled while its fleet nearly tripled.

Gebremariam also brings extensive experience in developing long-haul international networks, building global hub operations, expanding maintenance, repair and overhaul capabilities, and establishing aviation training infrastructure.

Air India said the leadership transition comes as the airline moves beyond its initial stabilisation and integration phase towards execu-

tion, international expansion and long-term profitability.

According to N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons and Air India, "Having completed the initial phase of stabilisation, integration and fleet commitments under Campbell Wilson's guidance, Air India is now entering a critical execution and expansion era."

Gebremariam's expertise, commitment to safety and experience in developing global aviation hubs would be instrumental in positioning Air India as a premier international airline.

On his part, Gebremariam said it was a privilege to lead Air India at a significant stage in its evolution.

The airline would focus on operational reliability, customer service and sustainable long-term growth while supporting India's emergence as a major global aviation market, he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

India is a priority market for us: Riyadh Air's commercial head

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Riyadh Air sees India as a priority market with huge and diverse traffic potential, the Saudi national carrier's Chief Commercial Officer Vincent Coste said on Wednesday.

The airline, backed by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, had launched its service between Riyadh and Mumbai the day before, making the latter its first international destination in India.

LONG TERM MATCH

The airline is said to be in talks with the regulators and airports for slots, and aims to add another Indian city to its roster this year.

"There is a healthy mix of



Riyadh Air executives at the airline's service launch between Riyadh and Mumbai on August 4 RIYADH AIR

tourism, corporate, and religious traffic from India. The fact that there is a large Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia makes it a perfect market for investment in the coming years," Coste told reporters in Mumbai.

Currently, there are 30 daily flights between India and the Saudi Arabian capital. Riyadh Air aims to offer a

"consistent product" with its Boeing 787 aircraft, said Coste, adding that it will make a "huge difference" compared to other airlines.

Saudi Arabia is India's second-largest international market by scheduled capacity, with over 3 lakh seats, representing 4 per cent of all international flights to and from India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

India needs more competition in aviation, says Akasa Air CEO

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

Akasa Air will be supportive of a proposal to allow airport operators to own airlines as the government will take into account the "considerations" involved before taking a decision since India needs more competition in aviation, according to its CEO Vinay Dube.

The remarks from the top boss of the nearly four-year-old airline comes against the backdrop of reports that the government is looking at allowing airport operators to own airlines.

Speaking to *PTI*, Dube said he was very confident that the government will take into account considerations involved when a



Vinay Dube, Chief Executive Officer, Akasa Air

private enterprise owns both an airport and an airline. "Therefore I am happy and supportive of this move," he said.

While stressing that the country needs "more competition in aviation", the Akasa Air Founder and CEO said India needs, can have, and should support multiple

airlines. He noted that there would be considerations that the government will need to have when a private airport operator also owns an airline.

"But I am 100 per cent sure that the government is cognisant of these (considerations) and will account for these as it creates its legislature. But the overarching factor is that as a nation, we want consumers to have more choices," Dube said.

Earlier in July, Indigo Co-founder and Managing Director Rahul Bhatia had said there would be a "massive conflict of interest" if airport operators were allowed to own airlines.

India is currently one of the world's fastest growing aviation markets.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

एयर इंडिया के सीईओ बने गेब्रेमरियम

एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को इथियोपियन एयरलाइंस समूह के पूर्व प्रमुख तेवोल्डे गेब्रेमरियम को अपना अगला प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) नियुक्त करने की घोषणा की। वह कैपबेल विल्सन का स्थान लेंगे जिन्होंने इस साल अप्रैल में अपने इस्तीफे की घोषणा की थी। एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि गेब्रेमरियम के नाम पर निर्णय लेने से पहले उसने देश-दुनिया के कई बेहद कुशल बाहरी और आंतरिक उम्मीदवारों का कड़ा मूल्यांकन किया था। यह नियुक्ति ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण समय में हुई है, जब घाटे में चल रही एयर इंडिया कई बाहरी प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियों के बीच अपने विस्तार पर काम कर रही है। बयान में कहा गया कि गेब्रेमरियम ने इथियोपियन एयरलाइंस ग्रुप के सीईओ के रूप में सेवा दी है, जहां उन्होंने कई अरब डॉलर के विस्तार का नेतृत्व किया और एक क्षेत्रीय वाहक को अफ्रीका की सबसे बड़ी और सबसे लाभदायक विमान कंपनी में बदल दिया।

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Tewolde Gebremariam named Air India CEO

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 5 August

Air India on Wednesday appointed former Ethiopian Airlines group chief Tewolde Gebremariam its chief executive officer and managing director.

Gebremariam succeeds Campbell Wilson, who announced his resignation on April 7 after leading Air India since July 2022, following the Tata group's acquisition of the airline.

The appointment of Gebremariam follows a global search conducted by a committee of Air India's board of directors, which evaluated both internal and external candidates.

"The objective of the board was to identify a leader with a proven record of managing mega-scale airline turnarounds, delivering operational excellence, fostering a strong culture of safety and service, and driving profitable expansion," Air India said.

Gebremariam's appointment also comes weeks after media reports in Pakistan said he had been selected to lead the newly privatised Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). *Reuters* had reported, citing officials, that he had been chosen as PIA's next chief executive although the appointment was awaiting mandatory security clearances and had not been formally announced. Air India's announcement on Wednesday ends that possibility.

Gebremariam led the Ethiopian Airlines group for more than a decade, during which he transformed it into Africa's largest airline conglomerate.

Under his leadership, Ethiopian Airlines' annual revenues increased from about \$1 billion to \$4.5 billion and its fleet nearly tripled. Air India said he had extensive experience in expanding long-haul international networks, building global hub



TEWOLDE GEBREMARIAM'S APPOINTMENT COMES WEEKS AFTER MEDIA REPORTS IN PAKISTAN SAID HE HAD BEEN SELECTED TO LEAD THE NEWLY PRIVATISED PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

operations, maintaining high safety standards, and developing world-class maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities.

Accepting the appointment, Gebremariam said: "It is a pro-

found honour to be entrusted with leading Air India at such a historic moment in its journey. Air India carries an incredible legacy, and the opportunity to build a world-class global airline that reflects India's extraordinary economic potential is uniquely exciting."

"I look forward to working closely with Chairman Chandrasekaran, the board, our employees, and all government and industry partners to deliver exceptional operational reliability, warm Indian hospitality, and sustained long-term growth," he added. Air India said details of Gebremariam's appointment and the leadership transition timeline would be announced in due course.

N Chandrasekaran said Air India had completed the initial phase of its transformation and was now entering a new stage.

"Having completed the initial phase of stabilisation, integration, and fleet commitments under

Campbell's guidance, Air India is now entering a critical execution and expansion era. Tewolde's track record in building one of the world's most efficient and profitable airline groups makes him uniquely suited to lead Air India," the chairman said.

"His operational expertise, commitment to safety, and vision for hub development will be instrumental as we establish Air India as a premier global carrier and a source of national pride," he added. Wilson had reportedly informed Chandrasekaran in 2024 of his intention to step down in 2026. His tenure, according to his contract, ran till 2027.

Gebremariam joined Ethiopian Airlines as a traffic officer in 1985 and spent nearly four decades with the carrier before retiring in 2022 due to health reasons.

During that period, he held commercial and operational leadership roles in India, Saudi Arabia and North America before

becoming chief operating officer in 2006 and group chief executive in 2011. Wilson oversaw Air India's merger with Vistara, integration of Air India Express and AIX Connect, a record aircraft order, the introduction of a new brand identity, and the launch of fleet refurbishment programmes.

Thanking Wilson for his contribution, Air India said he had "successfully oversaw complex merger and integration processes, initiated massive fleet modernisation programmes, established new corporate governance standards, and laid the foundations that were necessary for the future". Air India said its focus under the new chief executive officer would include improving on-time performance, modernising aircraft cabins, enhancing passenger experience, and expanding international connectivity, while continuing investments in employee training and operational reliability.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Akasa Air CEO for airport operators owning airlines



Akasa Air will be supportive of a proposal to allow airport operators to own airlines as the government will take into account the "considerations" involved before taking a decision since

India needs more competition in aviation, according to its CEO Vinay Dube (*pictured*). The remarks from the founder and CEO of the nearly four-year-old Akasa Air comes against the backdrop of reports that the government is looking at allowing airport operators to own airlines. In an interview to PTI on Wednesday, Dube said he was very confident that the government will take into account considerations involved when a private enterprise owns both an airport and an airline.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

5 AUGUST 2026

EMIRATES SKYCARGO OPENS GLOBAL ROUTE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 4

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad on Tuesday welcomed the commencement of Emirates SkyCargo's dedicated Boeing 777 freighter service connecting Taipei-Hyderabad-Dubai. It said the service strengthened Hyderabad RGIA's position as one of India's leading air cargo gateways.

Authorities said the Boeing 777F, with a payload capacity exceeding 100 tonnes and long haul operating capabilities, will significantly boost cargo movement across the corridor. The service is expected to support seamless transport of high value and time sensitive shipments, including pharmaceuticals, life sciences products, electronics, semiconductors, perishables and express cargo.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

5 AUGUST 2026

Air India Phuket-Delhi flight drops 300 feet mid-air; 17 injured

NEW DELHI, PTI: An Air India flight from Phuket to the national capital faced mid-air turbulence, and the aircraft suddenly lost 300 feet in altitude on Tuesday morning, leaving at least 17 people onboard injured, including one cabin crew member who suffered severe injuries, according to officials.

The narrow-body A320 neo aircraft, operating flight AI2379 from Phuket, landed safely at Delhi airport at 11.07 am. There were 137 passengers and eight crew members on board, an Air India spokesperson said.

The DGCA is probing the incident. The plane's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder have been secured.

"Air India A320 aircraft VT-EXO operating flight AI2379 experienced loss of approximately 300 feet in altitude during the flight. Pilot in command reported a severe injury to one cabin crew member, injury to another and minor injuries to a few



Union minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu visits an injured passenger at a hospital in New Delhi. PTI

passengers due to a sudden loss of approximately 300 feet altitude," an official said.

It is a usual standard operating procedure for pilots to inform passengers about possible turbulence, especially when there is bad weather. However, mid-air turbulence resulting in injuries to passengers and cabin crew is rare.

On May 1, 2022, a SpiceJet flight from Mumbai to Durgapur faced severe turbulence, resulting in the death of a passenger and injuries to others.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

5 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo should remain disciplined, resilient, new CEO Walsh tells employees

NEW DELHI, PTI

IndiGo should remain agile, disciplined and resilient as the current operating environment is increasingly becoming dynamic with evolving airspace challenges, supply-chain constraints and changing global conditions, the airline's CEO William Walsh said on Tuesday.

Walsh, who took charge as the CEO on Monday, addressed the staff for the first time during a townhall.

India's largest airline, which has a domestic market share of over 66%, completed 20 years of flying on Tuesday.

"What excites me even more is the opportunity before



William Walsh

us. As new aircraft join the fleet and our international network continues to expand, IndiGo will connect India with more destinations across the world than ever before....," he said.

An aviation industry leader, Walsh emphasised that India's aviation story is still unfolding and that he firmly believes its greatest opportunities lie ahead.

IndiGo has more than 900 planes on order and the wide-body A350 aircraft are expected to join its fleet from 2028.

Walsh has taken over the reins of IndiGo at a time when the airline is preparing to further strengthen its domestic network and accelerate international connectivity.

"The environment in which we operate today is becoming increasingly dynamic. Aviation today faces evolving airspace challenges, supply-chain constraints and changing global conditions and these realities require us to remain agile, disciplined and resilient," he said.

According to him, IndiGo's story is a reflection of India's own growth and aspirations, emerging as an important enabler of the country's economic and social progress.

एअर इंडिया के नए सीईओ और एमडी होंगे टेवोल्डे गेब्रेमारियम



टेवोल्डे गेब्रेमारियम

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस: टेवोल्डे गेब्रेमारियम एअर इंडिया के नए मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) और प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) होंगे। वह कैपबेल विल्सन की जगह लेंगे। विल्सन ने इस साल अप्रैल में इस्तीफे का एलान किया था। विल्सन ने जुलाई, 2022 में एअर इंडिया के सीईओ का पद संभाला था। यह नियुक्ति ऐसे समय पर हुई है जब घाटे में चल रही कंपनी कई चुनौतियों के बीच विस्तार पर काम कर रही है। गेब्रेमारियम को विमानन उद्योग के सबसे सफल अधिकारियों में गिना जाता है। इथियोपियन एयरलाइंस ग्रुप के सीईओ के रूप में उन्होंने 10 साल से अधिक समय तक काम किया। उन्होंने एक क्षेत्रीय एयरलाइन को अफ्रीका की सबसे बड़ी और सबसे ज्यादा मुनाफा कमाने वाली एयरलाइन में बदल दिया। अपनी नियुक्ति पर गेब्रेमारियम ने कहा, 'एअर इंडिया के इतिहास के महत्वपूर्ण दौर में इसका नेतृत्व करने का अवसर मिलना सम्मान की बात है। कंपनी की शानदार विरासत है और इसे भारत की आर्थिक ताकत को दर्शाने वाली ग्लोबल एयरलाइन बनाना बेहद रोमांचक अवसर है।' देश की दो प्रमुख एयरलाइन एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो के सीईओ अब विदेशी हैं। तीन अगस्त को आयरिश नागरिक और वैश्विक विमानन कंपनियों के समूह आइएटीए के पूर्व प्रमुख विली वालश ने इंडिगो सीईओ का पद संभाला।

टर्बुलेंस के दौरान विमान को 20-30 डिग्री तिरछा कर पायलट बचने का करते हैं प्रयास

गौतम कुक्कड़ विश्वा • जगरण

नई दिल्ली: मौसम की अनिश्चितता और कुदरत के मिजाज के आगे आधुनिक विज्ञान और उन्नत एविएशन तकनीक भी कई बार बेबस नजर आती है। विमानन क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा के तमाम दावों के बावजूद बंगाल की खाड़ी और इसके आसपास का वायुमंडल पायलटों के लिए हमेशा से ब्रेक चुनौतीपूर्ण रहा है। इस मार्ग पर उड़ान का लंबा अनुभव रखने वाले पायलट और वर्तमान में पायलट ट्रेनिंग स्कूल चला रहे कैप्टन सुजीत ओझा के अनुसार, यहाँ केवल आधुनिक उपकरणों पर निर्भर नहीं रहा जा सकता।

वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण से टर्बुलेंस का मुख्य कारण 'हवा के घनत्व और तापमान' में अचानक आया बदलाव होता है। कैप्टन सुजीत बताते हैं कि शांत और स्थिर हवा का प्रवाह तब बिगड़ता है जब सूरज की असमान गर्मी, बादलों की भौतिक बाधाएँ और अलग-अलग तापमान वाली हवा के दृश्यमान (एयर मास) आपस में टकराते हैं। इससे हवा की चिकनी परतें टूटने लगती हैं और वे अशांत, भंवरदार चक्रवातों में बदल जाती हैं।

कैप्टन सुजीत स्पष्ट करते हैं कि आम बोलचाल में इस्तेमाल होने वाला 'एयर बबल' जैसा कोई शब्द



अनीशव सेमा मल्होत्रा



मार्क मार्टिन



कैप्टन सुजीत ओझा

टर्बुलेंस से बचने का कोई शत प्रतिशत उपाय नहीं

एविएशन विशेषज्ञ मार्क मार्टिन कहते हैं टर्बुलेंस इसलिए खतरनाक है क्योंकि इससे बचने का शत प्रतिशत उपाय किसी के पास नहीं है। अभी जो स्थिति है उसमें हम टर्बुलेंस को लेकर कोई सटीक पूर्वानुमान नहीं लगा सकते। हम नहीं जानते हैं कि विमान कब उड़ान के दौरान टर्बुलेंस की वॉपेट में आ जाएगा।

विमानन क्षेत्र में नहीं होता, बल्कि यह वास्तव में हवा का घनत्व घटने का परिणाम होता है। इससे बचने के लिए पायलट अक्सर विमान को 20 से 30 डिग्री तक तिरछा कर खतरनाक क्षेत्र से बाहर निकलने का प्रयास करते हैं। विमान में लगा 'डायलर वेदर रडार' हालांकि बादलों की नमी को तो पहचान लेता है, लेकिन 'विलबर एयर टर्बुलेंस' (कैट) को पकड़ने में विफल रहता है। मंगलवार को एअर इंडिया विमान के कैट में ही फंसने की बात कही जा रही है।

वहीं, एअर इंडिया में केबिन क्री इंचार्ज के रूप में लंबी सेवा देकर सेवानिवृत्त हो चुके सीमा और अनंश मल्होत्रा दंपती ने उड़ान के

दौरान एयर टर्बुलेंस के अनुभव साझा किए।

उन्होंने बताया कि एअर इंडिया की एक उड़ान के दौरान जब विमान अचानक गंभीर टर्बुलेंस में फंसा, तो केबिन के भीतर अफरा-तफरी मच गई। टर्बुलेंस से उत्पन्न गुरुत्वाकर्षण बल के कारण केबिन का आंतरिक संतुलन पूरी तरह बिगड़ गया। उस वक़्त सबसे अधिक परेशानी और चोट उन लोगों को आई जिन्होंने चेतावनी के बावजूद सीट बेल्ट नहीं बांधी थी।



खबर विस्तार से पढ़ने के लिए क्यूआर कोड स्कैन करें।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

ब्लैक बाक्स की जांच से सामने आया टर्बुलेंस के घटनाक्रम का सच

गौतम कुमार मिश्रा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली : फुकेट से दिल्ली आ रही एयर इंडिया की उड़ान संख्या एआइ2379 में मंगलवार को तेज टर्बुलेंस के बाद हुए हादसे की नगरिक उद्दयन महानिदेशालय और एयर एक्सिडेंट इन्वेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो ने जांच शुरू कर दी है।

घटना की वास्तविक स्थितियों का पता लगाने के लिए विमान के ब्लैक बाक्स की जांच की जाएगी। विमानन विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार महानिदेशालय व अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिक उद्दयन संगठन के प्रोटोकाल के तहत लैब में ब्लैक बाक्स से डेटा निकालकर थ्रीडी सिमुलेशन के जरिये घटनाक्रम का रीक्रिएशन किया जाएगा और विश्लेषण किया जाएगा। नियमों के तहत एयर एक्सिडेंट इन्वेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो 30 दिन के

► एक महीने में आंशिक रिपोर्ट, पूरी रिपोर्ट आने में लग सकता है एक वर्ष

भीतर प्राथमिक तथ्यों वाली प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट जारी करेगा, जबकि विस्तृत अंतिम जांच रिपोर्ट आने में एक वर्ष का समय लग सकता है।

क्या होता है ब्लैक बाक्स : ब्लैक बाक्स विमान हवाई जहाज में लगा एक ब्रेहद मजबूत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रिकार्डर होता है। भले ही इसे ब्लैक बाक्स कहा जाता है, लेकिन इसका रंग चमकीला नरंगी होता है। यह अत्यधिक उच्च तापमान, गहरे पानी के भारी दबाव और तेज झटके को भी बिना नुकसान के सहने के लिए टाइटेनियम या स्टेनलेस स्टील से बनाया जाता है। यह क्राफिट के भीतर पायलटों की बातचीत, अलार्म, स्विच आन-आफ होने की आवाजें और केबिन से आए संदेशों को रिकार्ड करता है।



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DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

4 AUGUST 2026

एयरपोर्ट: जोधपुर-कोटा आगे निकले, किशनगढ़ उपेक्षा का शिकार

केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार के तीन हैवीवेट मंत्री, 76 फीसदी यात्रीभार, फिर भी बंद हो रहीं उड़ानें

नवज्योति, मदनगंज-किशनगढ़। मार्बल सिटी और केक्यूएच कोड से बुनियाद पर में पहचान बनाने वाला किशनगढ़ एयरपोर्ट राजनीतिक संरक्षण की कमी के कारण धुट रहा है। हैरान करने वाली बात यह है कि इस एयरपोर्ट के प्रभाव क्षेत्र से केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार में तीन-तीन कद्दावर मंत्री मौजूद हैं। अजमेर से सांसद भागीरथ चौधरी केन्द्र में कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्यमंत्री हैं, किशनगढ़ से महज 35 किमी दूर दूरी से डॉ. प्रेमचंद वैरवा राज्य में उप मुख्यमंत्री हैं, और पुष्कर से विधायक सुरेश सिंह रावत जल संसाधन मंत्री हैं। इसके बावजूद

किशनगढ़ एयरपोर्ट का विस्तार और उड़ानों का संचालन भगवान भरोसे है। अजमेर संसदीय क्षेत्र के व्यापारियों, जनप्रतिनिधियों और आम जनता का स्पष्ट कहना है कि जिस रफ्तार से जोधपुर और कोटा एयरपोर्ट का विस्तार हुआ, उस रफ्तार से किशनगढ़ को राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति का सहारा नहीं मिला। एयरपोर्ट ऑकड़ों के मुताबिक, किशनगढ़ से जब उड़ानों की शुरुआत हुई थी, तब औसतन यात्री भार 76 प्रतिशत से 89 प्रतिशत तक रहा। हैदराबाद, सूरत, इंदौर, हिंडन और लखनऊ के लिए विमानन कंपनियों ने उड़ानें शुरू की थीं।



हैदराबाद जैसी लंबी दूरी की फ्लाइट्स में पैसेंजर लोड जबरदस्त होने के बाद भी उड़ानें बंद कर दी गईं। लखनऊ और हिंडन रूट पर यात्री भार कम मिलने का बहाना बनाकर कंपनियों ने सेवाएँ समेट लीं, क्योंकि उन्होंने अपने विमान दिल्ली के आईजीआई और एनसीआर जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर शिफ्ट कर दिए। आखिर जब शुरुआत इतनी अच्छी थी, तो विमानन कंपनियों को रोके रखने में हमारे जनप्रतिनिधि क्यों नाकाम रहे? इसका जवाब न तो एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन के पास है और ना ही हमारे नेताओं के पास।

पायलट ट्रेनिंग में अक्वल, लेकिन कमर्शियल उड़ानों में पिछड़ा

किशनगढ़ एयरपोर्ट देश का ऐसा प्रमुख एयरपोर्ट बनकर उभरा है जिसने प्रदेश को पहला प्रशिक्षित पायलट दिया। वर्तमान में यहाँ अवयवना एविएशन पायलट ट्रेनिंग दे रही है और दूसरी एकटीओ कंपनी भी जल्द आने वाली है। नॉन-कमर्शियल उड़ानों और पायलट ट्रेनिंग में इतिहास रचने वाला यह

एयरपोर्ट आखिर आम यात्रियों के लिए नई उड़ानें क्यों शुरू नहीं करवा पा रहा है? आज एनसीआर जेवर, दिल्ली, नागपुर, पुणे और अहमदाबाद के लिए उड़ानें चालू हैं, लेकिन मुंबई, कोलकाता, बंगलुरु और हैदराबाद जैसे महानगरों के लिए नई उड़ानों की संभावनाएँ सालों से फाइलों में धूल फंका रही हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Ethiopian Airlines ex-Chief's New Air India CEO

Tewolde Gebremariam, who succeeds Campbell Wilson, is uniquely suited to lead the airline, says Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Air India on Wednesday named former Ethiopian Airlines chief executive Tewolde Gebremariam as its CEO, ending the uncertainty over its leadership four months after Campbell Wilson resigned. Gebremariam, whose security clearance is yet to be approved by the government, takes charge as the Tata Group struggles to turn around the airline after last year's deadly plane crash and mounting losses linked to geopolitical tensions.

Since the group acquired the na-

tional carrier in 2022, it has raked up losses of over ₹55,000 crore.

Gebremariam is widely credited for leading Ethiopian Airlines to become the largest carrier in Africa during his 11 years' tenure between 2011 and 2022 when the carrier grew its revenues and fleet size four-fold and provided links to cities around Africa from its transit hub at Addis Ababa. He led its diversification into an aviation group. He was recently acting as strategic advisor to US carrier Delta.

While Air India's chief commercial officer Nipun Aggarwal was seen as a frontrunner to become the CEO, Singapore Airlines-



COMPANY PHOTO

—which holds a 25.1% stake in the airline—pitched for a leader with a history of running airline op-

PAST RECORD

Gebremariam is credited for leading Ethiopian Airlines to become the largest carrier in Africa during his tenure between 2011 and 2022

erations, people aware of the development said. Tata Sons said the search committee rigorously

evaluated internal as well as highly accomplished external candidates from across the world and found Gebremariam the most suitable. John Strickland, director of aviation consultancy firm JJS Consulting, who knew Gebremariam for a decade, said he was an ideal candidate to lead Air India out of trouble.

"He is battle hardened. He successfully insulated Ethiopian from the meddling of politicians invested in allied business like cargo and maintenance and repair organisation, and transformed the airline's operational and safety performance," Strickland said.

"Air India has got similar challenges that come with past history of state ownership and cultural complexity which comes with merging of four airlines into one."

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran said Gebremariam's track record in building one of the world's most efficient and profitable airline groups makes him uniquely suited to lead Air India with "his operational expertise, commitment to safety, and vision for hub development." According to news agency Bloomberg, Gebremariam was one of the leaders shortlisted to run Pakistan International Airlines.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Tewolde steps into Air India cockpit to steer next phase

● Former Ethiopian Airlines chief to succeed Campbell

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, August 5

AIR INDIA ON Wednesday appointed former Ethiopian Airlines Group chief Tewolde Gebremariam as its chief executive officer and managing director, as it looks to steer the Tata Group-owned carrier through its next phase of expansion amid operational disruptions, elevated costs and mounting financial pressure.

Gebremariam will succeed Campbell Wilson, who resigned in April after leading Air India through the initial phase of its post-privatisation turnaround, including the merger of the group's airlines, large aircraft orders and the integration of operations. The exact timeline for the leadership transition will be announced later.

The appointment follows a global search overseen by a committee of the Air India board, which evaluated both internal and external candidates. The airline said the board was looking for a leader with experience in managing large-scale airline transformations, driving operational excellence, strengthening safety standards and delivering profitable growth.



Tewolde Gebremariam, CEO & MD designate, Air India

»INSIDE«

NEWSPOINT: THE
TURNAROUND SPECIALIST

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The change at the top comes at a critical juncture for Air India. While the airline has laid the groundwork for its long-term transformation under the Tata Group, it continues to face significant challenges, including weak financial performance, operational bottlenecks and disruptions to global operations.

Continued on Page 11

Tewolde steps into Air India cockpit to steer next phase

AIRSPACE RESTRICTIONS FOLLOWING last year's India-Pakistan border flare-up and the conflict in West Asia have forced Indian airlines to operate longer international routes, increasing fuel consumption and operating costs. Gebremariam is expected to focus on improving operational reliability, expanding Air India's global network, strengthening hub operations and reducing cash burn. His appointment also comes as the airline seeks to improve on-time performance, enhance customer experience and accelerate fleet induction and cabin upgrades.

During his more than a decade-long tenure at Ethiopian Airlines Group, Gebremariam transformed the carrier into Africa's largest and among its most profitable airline groups through aggressive fleet expansion, network growth and investments in maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities



and aviation training infrastructure. Air India said his experience in building long-haul networks, developing aviation hubs and fostering a performance-driven culture made him well suited for the airline's next stage of growth.

"Having completed the initial phase of stabilisation, integration and fleet commitments under Campbell's guidance, Air India is now entering a critical execution and expansion era," Tata Sons and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran said. He

said Gebremariam's operational expertise, commitment to safety and experience in building globally competitive airline operations would help position Air India as a leading global carrier.

Calling the appointment a profound honour, Gebremariam said Air India has an opportunity to build a world-class global airline that reflects India's growing economic stature. He said his priorities would include delivering operational reliability, strengthening service standards and creating sustainable long-term growth while investing in employees and customer experience.

The board also thanked Wilson for laying the foundation for Air India's transformation through fleet modernisation, corporate governance reforms and the integration of the airline's businesses, saying the carrier was now entering a new phase.

TEWOLDE GEBREMARIAM, CEO & MD DESIGNATE, AIR INDIA

The turnaround specialist

THE FORMER ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES CHIEF NOW FACES THE TOUGH TASK OF EXECUTING TATA GROUP'S GLOBAL AMBITIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CARRIER



SHYAM KR PRASAD

AKBAR MERCHANT

AIR INDIA'S TRANSFORMATION under the Tata Group is set to enter a new chapter. After navigating one of the most turbulent periods in its recent history, marked by the Ahmedabad crash, mounting losses and operational disruptions triggered by the geopolitical tensions in West Asia, the airline has now chosen former Ethiopian Airlines chief Tewolde Gebremariam to succeed Campbell Wilson and lead the carrier through the next phase of its turnaround.

The appointment comes at a critical juncture. Wilson, who announced his resignation in April and continues until the transition is complete, leaves behind an airline that has done much of the heavy lifting following privatisation. Under his watch, Air India merged with Vistara, Air India Express was integrated with AIX Connect, record aircraft orders were placed and the foundations for a long-term revival were laid. But the next phase demands a different skill set: improving operational reliability, restoring customer confidence, achieving sustainable profitability and building Air India into a globally competitive network carrier.

For aviation watchers, the choice is hardly surprising.

Gebremariam is regarded as one of the airline industry's most accomplished turnaround specialists. He joined Ethiopian Airlines in 1985 as a transportation and traffic officer and rose through the organisation over more than three decades, holding leadership roles across cargo, commercial operations, network planning and regional management before becoming

group chief executive officer in 2011.

An economics graduate from Addis Ababa University, he later earned an MBA from the Open University in the United Kingdom. His long operational grounding across virtually every function of an airline is widely seen as one of his biggest strengths, giving him first-hand experience of running both the commercial and technical sides of a complex aviation business.

His India connection also predates his appointment by many years. Gebremariam served as Ethiopian Airlines' regional director for India and South-East Asia, in Mumbai. That familiarity with India is likely to prove valuable as Air India expands its international footprint.

Gebremariam's defining achievement remains his 11-year tenure as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group. During that period, he transformed the airline from a regional carrier into Africa's largest and most profitable airline group. Revenue grew more than four-fold, while the fleet nearly tripled in size. Under his leadership, Ethiopian Airlines invested heavily in maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities, pilot & engineering training, cargo infrastructure & airport connectivity, creating an integrated aviation ecosystem that became a benchmark for airlines in emerging markets.

His influence extended beyond Ethiopian Airlines. Gebremariam served on the Board of Governors of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the executive committee of the African Airlines Association and the United Nations High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport. After

stepping down from Ethiopian Airlines in 2022, he became a senior strategic adviser to Delta Air Lines and founded aviation consultancy TGM Advisory Services.

The challenges awaiting him at Air India, however, are considerably different. Unlike Ethiopian Airlines, which expanded steadily over two decades, Air India is rebuilding after years of underinvestment and operational decline. While the merger and integration phase is largely complete, the harder task now is execution. The airline must improve on-time performance, complete the retrofit of its legacy fleet, strengthen engineering and maintenance capabilities, rebuild customer confidence after the Ahmedabad crash and return to sustainable profitability despite higher operating costs and continuing geopolitical disruptions.

The pressure is equally intense on the international front. Air India wants to establish Delhi and Mumbai as competitive global hubs capable of attracting transit traffic that currently flows through the Gulf and other international gateways. Delivering that ambition will require reliable operations, seamless connectivity and a service experience that matches leading global airlines.

Gebremariam has built his reputation by managing complex airline operations, embedding a strong safety culture, strengthening engineering capabilities and delivering disciplined growth. Those are precisely the attributes the Tata Group believes Air India now needs as it moves beyond stabilisation and attempts to realise its ambition of becoming a world-class global airline.

NEWS

POINT



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo should remain disciplined, resilient: CEO Willie Walsh tells staff

PTI

NEW DELHI

IndiGo should remain agile, disciplined, and resilient as the current operating environment is increasingly becoming dynamic with evolving air-space challenges, supply chain constraints, and changing global conditions, Chief Executive Officer Willie Walsh stated on Tuesday.

Walsh, who took charge as the CEO on Monday, addressed the staff for the first time during a townhall.

The country's largest airline, which has a domestic market share of over 66%, completed 20 years of flying on Tuesday.



"What excites me even more is the opportunity before us. As new aircraft join the fleet and our international network continues to expand, IndiGo will connect India with more destinations across the world than ever before," he stated while addressing the employees for the first time after assuming charge as the CEO.

A trained pilot and an avi-

ation industry leader, Walsh emphasised that India's aviation story is still unfolding and that he firmly believes its greatest opportunities lie ahead.

IndiGo has more than 900 planes on order, and wide-body A350 aircraft are expected to join its fleet from 2028.

"Leadership begins with listening, and I'm here to listen and learn from all of you," Walsh told the employees.

An Irish national, Walsh has taken over the reins of IndiGo at a time when the airline is preparing to further strengthen its domestic network and accelerate international connectivity.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

5 AUGUST 2026

Air India flight hits severe turbulence, lands safely in Delhi

FPJ News Service
AHMEDABAD

An Air India flight from Phuket, Thailand, to Delhi experienced severe turbulence on Monday, triggering panic among passengers after the aircraft faced sudden air shocks during the journey. However, the pilot successfully managed the situation, ensuring a safe landing at Delhi airport.

Flight AI2379 encountered turbulence during its cruise phase, causing temporary changes in the aircraft's altitude. Air India confirmed that all passengers and crew members are safe following the incident.

The airline said some passengers and crew members suffered minor injuries and were immediately taken to the airport medical facility for examination and treatment as a precautionary measure.

An Air India spokesperson said, "The safety and



well-being of our passengers and crew remain our top priority. We are providing all possible assistance to those affected and extending full cooperation to the concerned authorities for further assessment."

A passenger onboard the flight described the frightening moment, saying, "The aircraft suddenly started descending rapidly, and many passengers were shaken. Some people suffered injuries due to the sudden movement."

What Causes Turbulen-

ce During Flights?

Turbulence occurs when the normal flow of air around an aircraft is disrupted, causing sudden movements or irregular changes in altitude. It can make passengers feel as if the aircraft is dropping, although modern aircraft are designed to handle such conditions.

Experts compare turbulence to driving a vehicle on a rough road. While mild turbulence may barely be noticed, severe turbulence can cause sudden aircraft movements.

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

विमानन क्षेत्र में और प्रतिस्पर्धा की जरूरत : अकासा एयरलाइंस

एजेंसी ॥ नई दिल्ली

अकासा एयर के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) विनय दुबे ने कहा है कि अगर सरकार हवाई अड्डा परिचालकों को एयरलाइन कंपनियों के स्वामित्व की अनुमति देने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार करती है तो कंपनी इसका समर्थन करेगी। उन्होंने

■ अकासा एयर के सीईओ दुबे ने कहा, स्वामित्व के प्रस्ताव पर विचार जारी

कहा कि भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र में और प्रतिस्पर्धा की जरूरत है। अकासा एयर के संस्थापक एवं सीईओ दुबे की यह टिप्पणी उन खबरों के बीच आई है, जिनमें कहा गया है कि सरकार हवाई अड्डा परिचालकों को विमानन कंपनियां रखने की अनुमति देने पर विचार कर रही है। दुबे ने बुधवार को कहा कि उन्हें पूरा भरोसा है कि सरकार उस स्थिति से जुड़े सभी पहलुओं पर विचार करेगी। सीईओ ने कहा, "मुझे पूरा भरोसा है कि वे (सरकार) इस बारे में जानते हैं और सभी पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखेंगे। इसलिए मैं इस कदम का समर्थन करता हूं। देश में विमानन क्षेत्र में "और अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धा" की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हुए अकासा एयर के संस्थापक ने कहा कि भारत में कई एयरलाइंस होनी चाहिए, हो सकती हैं और



अकासा के पास 40 बोइंग 737 विमानों का बोझ

अकासा एयर के पास वर्तमान में 40 बोइंग 737 विमानों का बोझ है और शुक्रवार को उसके परिचालन के चार साल पूरे हो जाएंगे। कंपनियों ने सात अगस्त, 2022 को उड़ान सेवाएं शुरू की थीं। नालंद विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन रायडू ने तीन अगस्त को राज्यसभा में लिखित जवाब में कहा था कि सरकार मौजूदा एयरलाइन कंपनियों के विस्तार और नए परिचालकों के बाजार में प्रवेश को सुगम बनाने के लिए अनुकूल माहौल तैयार करने को प्रतिबद्ध है।

इसका समर्थन करना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि जब कोई निजी हवाई अड्डा संचालक किसी एयरलाइन कंपनी का भी स्वामित्व रखता है तो सरकार को कुछ पहलुओं पर विचार करना होगा। दुबे ने कहा, "मुझे शत-प्रतिशत भरोसा है कि सरकार इन पहलुओं से अवगत है और कानून बनाते समय इन्हें ध्यान में रखेगी।



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विमानों की जरूरत बढ़ रही : नायडू

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। बीते कुछ वर्षों के दौरान देश में हवाई यात्रा करने वाले लोगों की संख्या तेजी से बढ़ी है। भविष्य में भी यात्रियों की संख्या में भारी बढ़ोतरी की संभावना है।

ऐसे में विमानन क्षेत्र की तेजी से बढ़ती जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखकर केंद्र सरकार ट्रेनर विमान (प्रशिक्षण विमान) और सी-प्लेन का निर्माण घरेलू स्तर पर करने के लिए मजबूत ढांचा (इकोसिस्टम) विकसित करने की दिशा में काम कर रही है।

बुधवार को केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू ने एक कार्यक्रम में कहा कि सरकार विमानन क्षेत्र की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखकर हर नजरिए

- केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू ने कार्यक्रम में रखे विचार
- अभी 41 फ्लाईंग ट्रेनिंग ऑर्गेनाइजेशन हैं, 63 प्रशिक्षण केंद्र संचालित

से काम कर रही है। एक तरफ हवाई अड्डों के विस्तार पर ध्यान दिया जा रहा है तो दूसरी तरफ विमानों और पायलटों की उपलब्धता पर काम कर रही है। इसलिए घरेलू स्तर पर विमानों का निर्माण बढ़ाना भी सरकार की प्राथमिकता है।

उन्होंने बताया कि पायलट प्रशिक्षण

को मजबूत बनाने के लिए नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय और डीजीसीए फ्लाईंग ट्रेनिंग ऑर्गेनाइजेशन के बुनियादी ढांचे को बेहतर बनाने पर मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं।

मौजूदा समय में देश में 41 फ्लाईंग ट्रेनिंग ऑर्गेनाइजेशन (एफटीओ) हैं, जिनके 63 प्रशिक्षण केंद्र संचालित हो रहे हैं। कार्यक्रम में मंत्री ने 11 एफटीओ को सात हवाई अड्डों पर नए प्रशिक्षण केंद्र स्थापित करने के लिए लेटर ऑफ इंटेन्ट (एलओआई) सौंपे।

इस मौके पर नागरिक उड्डयन सचिव समीर कुमार सिन्हा ने कहा कि वर्ष 2035 तक भारत को करीब 25,000 अतिरिक्त पायलटों की जरूरत होगी।



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एयर इंडिया में नए सीईओ की नियुक्ति

नई दिल्ली/मुंबई। एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को इथियोपियन एयरलाइंस समूह के पूर्व प्रमुख तेवोल्डे गेब्रेमरियम को अपना अगला प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) और सीईओ नियुक्त करने की घोषणा की।

वह कैपबेल विल्सन का स्थान लेंगे, जिन्होंने इस साल अप्रैल में अपने इस्तीफे की घोषणा की थी। एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि गेब्रेमरियम के नाम पर निर्णय लेने से पहले कड़ा मूल्यांकन किया था। यह नियुक्ति ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण समय में हुई है, जब घाटे में चल रही एयर इंडिया कई बाहरी प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियों के बीच अपने विस्तार पर काम कर रही है।



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विमानन क्षेत्र में प्रतिस्पर्धा की जरूरत

नई दिल्ली। अकासा एयर के सीईओ विनय दुबे ने कहा है कि अगर सरकार हवाई अड्डा परिचालकों को एयरलाइन कंपनियों के स्वामित्व की अनुमति देने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार करती है तो कंपनी इसका समर्थन करेगी। भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र में और प्रतिस्पर्धा की जरूरत है। इससे पहले इंडिगो के सह-संस्थापक राहुल भाटिया ने कहा था कि ऐसा कदम 'हितों का बड़ा टकराव' होगा।



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AIR INDIA NAMES EX-ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES CHIEF AS CEO AND MD

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Air India on Wednesday appointed Tewolde Gebremariam, former chief executive of Ethiopian Airlines Group, as its new CEO and managing director, succeeding Campbell Wilson, who is due to step down on September 30.

The airline, in a statement, credited Gebremariam with a decade-plus run atop Ethiopian Airlines during which the carrier's revenue grew more than fourfold and its fleet nearly threefold, transforming it into Africa's largest and most profitable airline group.

The board's search, overseen by a dedicated committee, considered both internal and external candidates, the airline said in the statement. It added that the panel was looking for a leader capable of managing large-scale turnarounds, expanding international networks and building hub operations — capabilities Air India said Gebremariam had already demonstrated at Ethiopian Airlines, alongside experience in MRO and aviation training infrastructure. Gebremariam succeeds Campbell Wilson as the airline grapples with losses — in part precipitated by the West Asia crisis and airspace restrictions due to India's fraught relationship with Pakistan — and the last year's crash that killed 260 people and intensified regulatory and operational scrutiny.

Wilson spent four years steering Air India's revival after Tata's takeover, overseeing the Vistara merger, brand overhaul and fleet modernisation.

N Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons and Air India, said the airline was moving from a "stabilisation, integration and fleet commitments" phase under Wilson into what he called a "critical execution and expansion era". Gebremariam's record building "one of the world's most efficient and profitable airline groups" made him suited to the role, Chandrasekaran said.



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Air India appoints Tewolde Gebremariam as its new CEO

Air India has appointed Tewolde Gebremariam as its new CEO. A former Ethiopian Airlines chief, he was most recently selected to lead Pakistan International Airlines. He will succeed Campbell Wilson, the first chief executive appointed after Air India was privatised and handed over to the Tata Group in 2022. Mr. Wilson stepped down from the role in April but continued to serve until his successor was appointed.

Ethiopian Airlines ex-chief Tewolde Gebremariam is new Air India CEO

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, August 5

FORMER ETHIOPIAN Airlines Group CEO Tewolde Gebremariam has been appointed as the next chief executive officer and managing director of Air India, and will be succeeding the Tata group airline's current CEO Campbell Wilson who had put in his papers in April. Wilson had agreed to continue as CEO till a successor was found by the airline's board. Air India said that details regarding the exact onboarding timeline for the new CEO and the transition schedule will be shared in due course. Foreign-origin leadership executives of Indian airlines require security clearance from the government before taking charge.

Gebremariam's appointment comes at a time when Air India is facing external headwinds due to geopolitical conflicts and high fuel prices, and is recovering from last year's tragic crash of AI 171. The airline is also at a critical juncture in its transformation programme to become a world-class airline. Gebremariam served in Ethiopian Airlines for over 36 years, 11 of which were as group CEO. He took an early retirement from the airline in March 2022 due to health issues, and is currently a senior strategic advisor to Delta Air Lines of the US, as per his LinkedIn profile.

According to reports, Gebremariam was chosen by the recently privatised Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to be its next CEO. But it was not clear why he did not join PIA.

As Air India's first post-privatisation CEO, Wilson helmed the Tata group carrier through a turbulent period. Under him, the carrier embarked upon an ambitious transformation programme to shrug off its legacy image of a rundown government-owned airline, placed world record-breaking aircraft orders, faced challenges due to supply chain woes, suffered a



Tewolde Gebremariam

tragic plane crash that killed 260 people, came under intense regulatory heat, and grappled with heavy financial losses and headwinds like airspace closures.

"The objective of the (Air India) Board was to identify a leader with a proven record of managing mega-scale airline turnarounds, delivering operational excellence, fostering a strong culture of safety and service, and driving profitable expansion. Following an intensive evaluation process, the Board unanimously concluded that Mr Gebremariam possesses the ideal combination of leadership, deep operational expertise, and strategic execution capability required for Air India's next phase of growth," Air India said in a release.

"On behalf of the board, I am delighted to welcome Tewolde to Air India. Having completed the initial phase of stabilisation, integration, and fleet commitments under Campbell's guidance, Air India is now entering a critical execution and expansion era. Tewolde's track record in building one of the world's most efficient and profitable airline groups makes him uniquely suited to lead Air India. His operational expertise, commitment to safety, and vision for hub development will be instrumental as we establish Air India as a premier global carrier and a source of national pride," Tata Sons and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran said.



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS

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● HOT AIR IS THINNER THAN COOL AIR, MAKING IT HARDER FOR A PLANE'S WINGS TO ATTAIN LIFT AND FOR JET ENGINES TO GENERATE THE THRUST FOR TAKEOFF

Rising temperatures could keep more flights from taking off on time

Rio Yamat & M K Wildeman
Las Vegas, August 5

AIRLINE PASSENGERS know to expect possible flight delays when weather forecasts call for thunderstorms, heavy snow or strong wind. The omens are less obvious on a hot summer day with clear skies.

Yet extreme heat also disrupts flights and travel plans. On the hottest days, thinner air can make it harder for aircraft to get off the ground safely. Airlines may have to lighten the load by removing passengers or cargo, or carrying less fuel.

The snag is well known at airports in desert climates around the world, from the US South-

west to West Asia.

But even less extreme heat can create similar challenges at airports with higher elevations or shorter runways. Researchers say human-caused climate change could make such disruptions more common.

With heat waves searing parts of the US and Europe this summer, Las Vegas illustrated how extreme heat can interfere with air travel. American Airlines offered compensation to customers who voluntarily gave up their seats on a July 24 flight from Harry Reid International Airport after temperatures reached 47 degrees Celsius.

The airline described reducing a plane's weight as a standard



A Turkish Airlines Boeing 777 takes off from Hatay Airport in Turkey. FILE

industry practice in hot-weather destinations when conditions require it to ensure a safe takeoff.

The explanation comes down to physics. Hot air is thinner than cool air, making it harder for a

plane's wings to generate lift and for jet engines to generate the thrust needed for takeoff, explained Ross Aimer, a retired United Airlines captain and CEO of Aero Consulting Experts.

"There is a science behind all this," Aimer said. "You can't deny the science of flight and what it takes for an airplane to operate."

Aimer likens the effect of high temperatures on airplane performance to athletes competing at high altitude. During this year's World Cup, foreign teams competing in Mexico City — located more than 7,300 feet above sea level — had to contend with thinner air that can leave players fatigued more quickly. "Just like

human beings, jet engines require lots of cool, dense air to perform well," Aimer said.

Before every departure, pilots and airlines determine whether an aircraft can safely take off by calculating several key factors, including weight, airport's elevation and outside temperature, said Alan Price, a retired Delta Air Lines captain.

Aircraft at higher elevations are already operating in thinner air, so temperatures don't have to climb as high to affect takeoff performance. Runway length also matters. Airliners need room to build enough speed for takeoff when temperatures soar, and shorter runways leave less distance to do that, Price said.



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LOKSATYA

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तैयारी

अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी अपनी अलग पहचान स्थापित होगी

भारत ही नहीं, दुनिया के लिए पेशेवर पायलट तैयार करना लक्ष्य: नायडू

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य।

केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने बुधवार को कहा कि सरकार का उद्देश्य ऐसे प्रशिक्षित और सक्षम पायलटों की नई पीढ़ी तैयार करना है, जो घरेलू विमानन क्षेत्र की मांगों को पूरा करने के साथ-साथ अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी अपनी अलग पहचान स्थापित कर सकें। इस मौके पर एफटीओ के लिए स्लॉट बुकिंग मोबाइल ऐप की शुरुआत भी की गई।

नायडू ने यहां रविश्व स्तरीय पायलट प्रशिक्षण के माध्यम से भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र को मजबूती प्रदान करना विषय पर आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में कहा कि विमानन क्षेत्र में लगातार मांग बढ़ती जा रही है और भारत अब न केवल विमानों के स्वदेशी विनिर्माण बल्कि उनके कल-पुर्जों के निर्माण पर भी ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहा है। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने



11 फ्लाईंग ट्रेनिंग ऑर्गनाइजेशन्स (एफटीओ) को आशय पत्र भी जारी किये। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी में सुधार और बुनियादी ढांचे के विस्तार के कारण भारत का विमानन क्षेत्र अगले पांच वर्षों में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि के लिए तैयार है। हम अब अगली पीढ़ी के पायलट प्रशिक्षण की आधारशिला रख रहे हैं और अगले पांच सालों में देश में 500 नये विमान आयेगे। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में अगले दशक में लगभग 30,000

अतिरिक्त पायलटों की आवश्यकता होगी, जिससे युवाओं के लिए करियर के महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पैदा होंगे। सरकार ने वर्ष 2047 तक भारत को विकसित बनाने का लक्ष्य रखा है और इसके लिए विमानन क्षेत्र का मजबूत होना काफी जरूरी है जिसके लिए पायलट प्रशिक्षण पर अधिक ध्यान दिया जायेगा। उन्होंने इन सभी एफटीओ से आग्रह किया कि वे इस स्तर के पायलट तैयार करें जो न केवल भारत में बल्कि वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धा करने में पूरी तरह सक्षम हों। नायडू ने कहा कि सरकार ने पायलट प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों के लिए अनेक सुधारात्मक पहल की है जिनमें कारोबार करने में आसानी, एफटीओ में विमानों के बेड़े का विस्तार, प्रशिक्षण दक्षता में सुधार कैडेटों को वाणिज्यिक पायलट लाइसेंस (सीपीएल) प्राप्त करने में लगने वाले समय में कमी शामिल है।

Airline turnaround expert to take charge at Air India

Gebremariam's appointment as CEO and MD comes four months after Wilson's resignation

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Air India has appointed Ethiopian Airlines Group chief executive Tewolde Gebremariam as its new chief executive and managing director, four months after Campbell Wilson resigned. The appointment comes as the Tata Group-owned carrier enters the next phase of its transformation, focused on expansion and profitability.

The appointment follows a global search overseen by Air India's board, which evaluated internal and external candidates before unanimously selecting Gebremariam.

He will formally assume charge after receiving security clearance from the ministry of home affairs and bureau of civil aviation security, a mandatory requirement for airline CEOs in India. The regulatory vetting is a sensitive step for Air India. Prior to Wilson's appointment, the airline had selected former Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayci for the role. However, Ayci had declined the position weeks before taking office following widespread push-back over his political ties.

The leadership change sets the stage for a new contest in Indian aviation, with Air India led by Gebremariam and IndiGo by former International Air Transport Association director general Willie Walsh. As the two carriers compete on international expansion and operational excellence, the contrast in succession planning is notable: Air India took four months to name a CEO, while IndiGo appointed Walsh within three weeks of Pieter Elbers' abrupt exit.

Gebremariam, 61, led Ethiopian Airlines Group for more than a decade, during which time the airline became Africa's largest and most profitable car-



Former Ethiopian Airlines chief Tewolde Gebremariam's appointment is subject to mandatory security clearance from Indian authorities.

rier. The group's revenue surged more than fourfold, while fleet nearly tripled, the company said in a statement. He also oversaw the development of maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities, aviation training infrastructure and global hub operations.

line's head office in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

In a LinkedIn post, Gebremariam wrote that under his watch, Ethiopian Airlines' revenue grew from \$1 billion in 2011 to \$5 billion by 2022, and profit reached \$1 billion. Air India will be hop-

while combined revenue fell nearly 9% to ₹71,870 crore.

The airline said Gebremariam's experience in leading large-scale airline turnarounds, expanding international operations and building profitable aviation businesses made him the preferred choice to steer Air India through its next stage of growth. Having completed the initial phase of stabilization, integration, and fleet commitments under Campbell's guidance, Air India is now entering a critical execution and expansion era," Air India chairman N. Chandrasekaran said.

He added that Gebremariam's operational expertise and experience in building one of the world's most efficient airline groups would be instrumental in establishing Air India as a premier global carrier.

Gebremariam described the appointment as "a profound honour" and said he looked forward to building a world-class airline. Over the past four years, he has led TGM Advisory Services while serving as a senior strategic adviser to Delta Air Lines.

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson had resigned. On 7 April, the airline confirmed his resignation and said Wilson had conveyed his intention to step down in 2026 to Chandrasekaran back in 2024 and, since then, had been working to ensure the organization and leadership team was on a stable footing for the transition.

Wilson's exit and Gebremariam's appointment come at a crucial juncture for Air India as Chandrasekaran oversees one of the world's most ambitious airline turnarounds. Addressing shareholders, Chandrasekaran reiterated that reviving the Tata Group-owned carrier would be a 5-10 year journey, acknowledging the formidable challenges it faced in FY26.

For an extended version of this story, go to livermint.com.

NEW CAPTAIN

GEBREMARIAM helped transform Ethiopian Airlines into Africa's most profitable carrier

UNDER him, the airlines' revenue grew from \$1 bn to about \$5 bn, while profit reached \$1 bn

AIR India seeks to enter its next phase of transformation, focused on global growth & execution

HIS appointment sets up a leadership battle with IndiGo, now led by aviation veteran Willie Walsh

Gebremariam stepped down from Ethiopian Airlines in March 2022, citing health reasons. Ethiopian Airlines said at the time it had agreed to Gebremariam's early retirement as he had sought medical treatment in the US and was unable to work from the air-

ing he can replicate this turnaround as it battles mounting losses and navigates an increasingly challenging operating environment. According to Tata Sons' annual report for FY26, Air India Group's combined net loss more than doubled to ₹22,238 crore in FY26,,

Akasa bets on profits, backs airport-airline ownership

Dipali Banka & Satish Jhri
MUMBAI

Akasa Air, India's youngest airline, says the country should not close the door on airport operators investing in airlines, emphasizing that more capital and increased competition are precisely what the domestic aviation sector requires.

In an interview with *Mint*, chief executive (CEO) Vinay Dube said concerns over potential conflicts of interest could be addressed via strong regulation rather than out-

right restrictions. "We are always eager to serve our country well and doing so means supporting more airlines, fostering increased competition and offering more choice to consumers," he said.

Last month *The Economic Times* reported that the Adani Group had written to the Airports Authority of India seeking a waiver of a clause barring airport operators from holding over 10% stake in a scheduled airline. The report had fuelled speculation that the conglomerate, which operates eight airports in India, was exploring an entry into commercial aviation. The reported proposal sharply divided the aviation industry.

Rahul Bhatia, co-founder and MD of IndiGo, had opposed allowing airport operators to own airlines, warning that such a policy will create a "massive conflict of interest" and hurt consumers. In contrast, FLY91 managing director and CEO Manoj Chacko, in an interview to *Mint*, welcomed the possibility, provided it was accompanied by transparent governance and safeguards.

Addressing concerns that



Akasa Air CEO Vinay Dube said stronger regulation by Indian authorities can address conflict-of-interest concerns.

airport owners could favour their own airlines, Dube said the responsibility will lie with the regulators to establish and enforce proper safeguards.

"The government has rules in place. It understands what the considerations are for a private airport operator...A mature regulator will account for all of that. That shouldn't take away from the fact that India needs competition."

Last month, Adani Group CEO Jugeshinder Singh sought to allay the concerns,

telling analysts after the earnings of flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd that its interest was "to support development of an airline for regional connectivity."

As Akasa completes four years of operation and market leader IndiGo marks its 20th anniversary, Dube said the airline's ambition is not to chase market share but to build a profitable, financially resilient business. The approach mirrors the philosophy often articulated by Bhatia that IndiGo was never about size but execution.

"We're focused on financial stability, profitability. We're focused on the consumer,"

Dube said on Wednesday in Mumbai, rejecting the notion that an airline's success is determined by its market share.

While Akasa holds about 6% of domestic market, Dube said it has never viewed market share as its primary objective.

Dube said several airlines globally have demonstrated that profitability is not necessarily linked to scale. "Between 2010 and 2019, four out of the five most profitable carriers in the US had market shares of only 2-4%," he said. "It's not a market share game."

IndiGo continues to dominate India's domestic aviation market with about two-thirds of the passenger traffic.

"When we started Akasa, IndiGo had 64-65% market share. We entered with eyes open as we believed India had room for at least one more well-run airline," Dube added.

Instead of pursuing market share gains, Akasa will focus on maintaining a competitive cost structure and delivering a consistent customer experience, Dube said, brushing aside concerns that geopolitical tensions and volatile fuel prices could derail the airline's long-term plans.

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For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Pawan Hans & Noemi Aerospace ink pact to explore next-gen tech

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: State-owned Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) on Wednesday signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Norway-based Noemi Aerospace (Elfly AS) to collaborate on next-generation sustainable aviation technologies, including electric seaplanes, in a move aimed at advancing India's green aviation ambitions.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu and Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha. The agreement was signed by Pawan Hans Chairman and Managing Director Sunil Kumar Nagdawne and Noemi Aerospace Chief Executive Officer Eric François Lithun.

Under the partnership, both organisations will explore cooperation in electric seaplane technology, human capacity building, knowledge management, workshops and feasibility studies.

The Civil Aviation Minister said the collaboration reflects



the government's commitment to strengthening domestic manufacturing while bringing cutting-edge technology to the country's civil aviation sector.

He said the government's objective is not only to introduce seaplane operations across India but also to manufacture seaplanes under the Make in India initiative. The Union Budget 2026 announced several incentives to promote indigenous seaplane manufacturing and also proposed a Seaplane Viability Gap Funding Scheme to accelerate commercial seaplane operations.

Noemi Aerospace, headquartered in Bergen, Norway, is a private aircraft manufacturer and lessor that is developing next-generation electric seaplanes with support from the Norwegian government.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Tewolde Gebremariam is Air India's new CEO

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI: Air India on Wednesday appointed former Ethiopian Airlines Group chief Tewolde Gebremariam as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, marking another change of guard at the airline after the takeover by the Tata Group four years ago.

An Ethiopian national, Gebremariam will replace New Zealander Campbell Wilson, who announced his resignation from the loss-making airline in April this year. While announcing the appointment, Air India said Gebremariam is widely recognised as one of the most successful aviation chief executives. The executive transition marks a pivotal juncture in the airline's transformation journey to become a world-class, leading global airline, the airline said in a release.

Gebremariam, who will be the second foreign CEO at Air India, will be taking over the reins at a time when the airline is working on its ambitious expansion plans amid multiple external headwinds.

"During his decade-plus tenure as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, he spearheaded a multi-billion-dollar expansion,

Gebremariam is former chief of Ethiopian Airlines

transforming a regional carrier into Africa's largest, most profitable, and decorated airline group -- growing revenue by more than fourfold and fleet size nearly three-fold," Air India said in a release.

According to the release, his unique strength lies in managing complex operational landscapes, driving cultural transformation, building competitive global hubs, and developing world-class MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) and aviation training infrastructure.

Tata Sons and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran said that having completed the initial phase of stabilisation, integration, and fleet commitments under Campbell's guidance, the airline is now entering a critical execution and expansion era. "Tewolde's track record in building one of the world's most efficient and profitable airline groups makes him uniquely suited to lead Air India," he said.

MP0ST

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

13 injured passengers of Air India Phuket-Delhi flight discharged, four crew members still in hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AN Air India flight from Phuket to Delhi faced mid-air turbulence, and the aircraft suddenly lost 300 feet in altitude on Tuesday, leaving at least 17 people onboard injured, including one cabin crew member who suffered severe injuries.

Air India on Wednesday said 13 passengers who were injured in the incident involving AI 2379 from Phuket to Delhi have been discharged from hospitals, while four cabin crew members remain under medical care and continue to receive treatment. The Airbus A320neo was carrying 137 passengers and eight crew members.

"Air India teams remain present at the hospitals and are in close contact with those affected, providing all necessary assistance and support," the airline said in a statement.

The safety and well-being of passengers and crew remain Air India's foremost priority, it added. "We will continue to support those affected and their families and will work closely

with the relevant authorities as the investigation progresses," the airline added.

Flight AI2379 took off from Phuket at 8.27 am (local time) and landed at Delhi's Terminal 3 at 11.07 am, 43 minutes ahead of schedule. A DGCA official attributed the incident involving the aircraft, registered as VT-EXO, to a "suspected transient technical fault". According to a source at Delhi airport, the incident occurred outside Indian airspace, likely around 10.30 am IST.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu had visited the Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj on Tuesday and assured the injured passengers of all possible assistance. The Ministry of Civil Aviation had said the aircraft had been moved to the hangar and that the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) had been secured for detailed examination. It said that medical teams attended to all passengers and crew immediately after landing. The DGCA has initiated a probe into the occurrence.

Regulator launches investigation

The Airbus A320neo, carrying 137 passengers, including three infants, and eight crew members, landed safely at IGI Airport. The aircraft has since been grounded, and the DGCA has launched an investigation into the incident.

Greater Noida resident recalls horror

Prince Chadha, a resident of Greater Noida and a lead security researcher, was travelling home with his brother, Ritik Chadha, after a vacation. He said the flight was initially expected to make an emergency landing at Lucknow but eventually continued to Delhi.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

AIR INDIA GETS NEW CEO

Air India on Wednesday appointed former Ethiopian Airlines Group chief Tewolde Gebremariam as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, succeeding Campbell Wilson and marking another leadership change since the Tata Group acquired the airline in 2022. An Ethiopian national, Gebremariam becomes Air India's second foreign CEO. He takes charge as the airline enters a crucial phase of expansion, seeking to transform itself into a leading global carrier amid operational and market challenges. Air India said Gebremariam is widely regarded as one of the aviation industry's most successful executives. During his decade-long tenure at Ethiopian Airlines Group, he oversaw a multi-billion-dollar expansion that turned the carrier into Africa's largest and most profitable airline group.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Air India's flight faced turbulence for five minutes; crew suffered spinal, neck injuries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Air India's flight from Phuket to Delhi on Tuesday experienced turbulence for four to five minutes and some crew members suffered spinal and neck injuries, according to Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu. At least 17 people, including 4 cabin crew members, suffered injuries due to the mid-air turbulence and the aircraft suddenly lost 300 feet in altitude.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is probing the incident. At a briefing in the National Capital on Wednesday, Naidu said the aircraft experienced mid-air turbulence for five minutes. There was turbulence for four to five minutes, he added.

"The plane had to travel for one more hour and even through that hour, the crew members provided all the assistance required. It was very brave... I would like to thank them for the bravery they have shown," he said.

When asked about the extent of injuries, the minister said that a couple of crew members have spinal injuries near the tailbone and also near the neck, adding that doctors have advised them to rest. There were 137 passengers and 8 crew members onboard the plane. A total of 13 passengers and 4 crew members were admitted to hospital for treatment of their injuries on Tuesday. "As of 15:30 hrs on August



5, all 13 passengers who were admitted to hospital following the incident involving Air India flight AI2379 from Phuket to Delhi on August 4 have been discharged. "Four crew members remain under medical care and continue to receive treatment," the airline said in a statement.

The airline also said its teams remain present at the hospitals and are in close contact with those affected. "Air India A320 aircraft VT-EXO operating flight AI2379 (Phuket-Delhi) experienced loss of approximately 300 feet in altitude during the flight. "Pilot in Command reported a severe injury to one cabin crew member, injury to another and minor injuries to a few passengers due to a sudden loss of approximately 300 feet in altitude," a senior DGCA official said on Tuesday.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Ex-Ethiopian Airlines chief Tewolde named Air India CEO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Air India on Wednesday appointed former Ethiopian Airlines chief Tewolde Gebremariam as its new CEO and Managing Director to replace Campbell Wilson, marking another change of guard at the airline after the takeover by the Tata Group four years ago. Gebremariam, who will be the second foreign CEO at Air India, will be taking over the reins at a time when the airline is working on its ambitious expansion plans amid multiple external headwinds. Wilson resigned in April this year after overseeing the initial phase of airline's transformation. The country's two top airlines — Air India and IndiGo — now have foreign CEOs. On August 3, Irish national and former chief of global airlines' grouping IATA, Willie Walsh, took over as IndiGo CEO.

Announcing his appointment, Air India said Gebremariam is widely recognised as one of the most suc-



cessful aviation chief executives. The executive transition marks a pivotal juncture in the airline's transformation journey to become a world-class, leading global airline, the airline said in a release.

"During his decade-plus tenure as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, he spearheaded a multi-billion-dollar expansion, transforming a regional carrier into Africa's largest, most profitable, and decorated airline group — growing revenue by more than fourfold and fleet size nearly threefold," Air India said in a release.

According to the release, his unique strength lies in managing complex operational land-

scapes, driving cultural transformation, building competitive global hubs, and developing world-class MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) and aviation training infrastructure.

Tata Sons and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran said that having completed the initial phase of stabilisation, integration, and fleet commitments under Campbell's guidance, the airline is now entering a critical execution and expansion era. "Tewolde's track record in building one of the world's most efficient and profitable airline groups makes him uniquely suited to lead Air India. "His operational

expertise, commitment to safety, and vision for hub development will be instrumental as we establish Air India as a premier global carrier and a source of national pride," he said. Gebremariam said Air India carries an incredible legacy, and the opportunity to build a world-class global airline that reflects India's extraordinary economic potential is uniquely exciting. The airline's board conducted a comprehensive search to identify the next leader for Air India, overseen by a dedicated Board committee. The committee rigorously evaluated internal as well as highly accomplished external candidates from across the world, according to the release.

His international experience includes serving as Regional Director for India and Southeast Asia based in Mumbai, followed by a stint as Area Manager for Saudi Arabia in Jeddah. When Ethiopian Airlines launched direct flights to the United States, he was

appointed Area Sales Manager for Northeast USA and Canada, based in New York.

His rise within Ethiopian Airlines continued with appointments as Executive Officer for Marketing and Sales in 2004 and Chief Operating Officer in 2006, where he oversaw commercial operations, flight operations, customer services, and maintenance and engineering.

On January 1, 2011, he was elevated to Group Chief Executive Officer, a position from which he built Ethiopian Airlines into Africa's largest and most profitable carrier. Beyond the airline, Gebremariam has held several influential positions in the global aviation ecosystem. He has served on the Board of Governors of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the executive committee of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), and the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

EVA Air to launch nonstop Taipei–Delhi service

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Taipei

EVA Air will launch a new nonstop passenger service between Taipei and Delhi on December 1, 2026, marking a significant expansion of its South Asia network and making it the only Taiwan-based airline to operate nonstop passenger flights to India.

Bookings for the new route are now open through EVA Air's website and authorized travel agencies. The service will operate five times a week using Airbus A330-300 aircraft. "The launch of nonstop Taipei–Delhi service represents an important milestone



in EVA Air's network development," said Clay Sun, President of EVA Air. "Growing connections across the manufacturing, semiconductor, artificial intelligence, and technology industries continue to drive closer economic ties between Taiwan and India.

Our new Delhi route not only provides a more efficient travel option for business

and leisure passengers but also strengthens connectivity between India and North America through our Taipei hub." The new service is expected to improve travel convenience for passengers who currently rely on connections through other hubs.

Through EVA Air's partnership with fellow Star Alliance member Air India, travelers arriving in Delhi will have access to seamless onward connections to major destinations across India. Likewise, passengers from India will be able to connect through Taipei to EVA Air's extensive North American network, serving growing demand from business travelers, students, researchers, and those visit-

ing family and friends.

Eligible Indian nationals traveling to the United States or Canada may also benefit from Taiwan's conditional visa-waiver transit program, allowing easier stopovers in Taiwan while supporting inbound tourism.

As India's political and commercial capital, Delhi also serves as the gateway to the country's renowned Golden Triangle tourism circuit, connecting Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. In partnership with leading travel companies, EVA Air will offer six- to nine-day escorted tour packages featuring UNESCO World Heritage Sites, cultural attractions, premium accommodations, and Mandarin-speaking guides.

Aircraft loses 300 feet in
altitude; probe initiated

17 hurt in AI flight turbulence

AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: At least 13 passengers and four crew members were injured when an Air India flight from Phuket to Delhi encountered turbulence and lost around 300 feet in altitude before managing to land safely at Delhi airport on Tuesday morning.

Sources said there were 37 passengers and eight crew members on board the narrow-body A320 aircraft, operating flight AI2379.

The flight took off from Thailand's Phuket at 8.41am and landed in Delhi at 11.07am.

The exact cause of the turbulence and its location have not yet been revealed.

"Thirteen passengers and four crew members sustained injuries and were taken to the hospital for medical evaluation. As of 6.50pm on August 4, five passengers have been discharged, while the remaining individuals continue to receive treatment and care. Air India teams remain at the hospitals and in close contact with those affected to provide all necessary assistance and support," Air India said in a statement.

Sources said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was probing the incident. The aircraft has been moved to the hangar and the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder have been secured for detailed examination.

"The pilot-in-command reported a severe injury to one cabin crew member, injury to another and minor injuries to a few passengers due to a

sudden loss of approximately 300 feet in altitude," a senior DGCA official told PTI.

Air India said it would work closely with relevant regulatory authorities to assist the probe. "Air India is fully cooperating with the investigation, and the aircraft manufacturer has also been notified," it said.

Fortis Hospital, where some of the injured were admitted, said it had discharged three passengers while four crew members were still under treatment.

Minister of civil aviation Ram Mohan Naidu visited Fortis Hospital to enquire about the condition of the injured and assure them of all necessary assistance.

Turbulence is a sudden, irregular movement of air triggered by adverse weather that causes aircraft to shake or lose altitude.

It is a usual standard operating procedure for pilots to inform passengers about possible turbulence, especially during bad weather. However, mid-air turbulence resulting in injuries to passengers and cabin crew is rare.

On May 21, 2024, a Singapore Airlines flight from London to Singapore faced severe turbulence, following which a passenger died of a suspected heart attack and several were injured.

A SpiceJet flight from Mumbai to Durgapur had faced severe turbulence on May 1, 2022, resulting in the death of a passenger and injuries to many others.

Additional reporting by PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Turbulence on flight: 2 flyers may be out of hospital soon

Kushagra Dixit
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Two passengers injured in the severe turbulence onboard Air India's Phuket-Delhi flight are under treatment at Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj, while two others are expected to be discharged Thursday as their condition has stabilised, the hospital has said.

Doctors said two patients suffered injuries to their lower spine during the turbulence. One of them, a 22-year-old woman, has compression injuries to two vertebrae in her lower back. She is conscious, stable and has been advised to wear a spinal brace as part of her treatment.

The other patient, a 28-year-old woman, suffered a stable fracture in her lower spine. She also complained of abdominal pain and difficulty in passing stools, prompting doctors to order an ultrasound of the abdomen and seek a surgical opinion. She has been advised to use a lumbosacral support belt.

Among the other two passengers, expected to be discharged Thursday, is a 27-year-old woman who suffered injuries to her neck and lower back and underwent CT scans and X-rays that did not reveal any major fractures. She is still in pain and has been advised to wear a cervical collar, apply ice packs and undergo a urology evaluation after blood was detected in her urine.

A 33-year-old woman, who suffered a fracture in one of her neck bones, remains stable but complained of dizziness. Doctors have sought a neurological opinion and planned an MRI of the brain as a precaution. She too has been advised to wear a cervical collar and use ice packs.

Air India flight AI 2379 from Phuket to Delhi faced severe clear-air turbulence Monday, causing the aircraft to suddenly lose about 300 feet in altitude. The violent jolt threw several passengers and cabin crew against the cabin ceiling and overhead bins before the pilots regained control and landed the aircraft safely in Delhi.

Seventeen passengers and crew members were hospitalised. Several have been discharged. Some patients are at Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon. Officials said they are stable.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

6 AUGUST 2026

Ethiopian Airlines ex-chief named CEO of Air India

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

Air India on Wednesday appointed former Ethiopian Airlines Group chief executive Tewolde Gebremariam as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, replacing Campbell Wilson as the Tata Group-owned carrier enters the next phase of its transformation and expansion.

The appointment was

approved by the airline's board of directors after what it described as a comprehensive global search involving both internal and external candidates.

Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran said the airline had completed the initial phase of stabilisation, integration and fleet commitments under Wilson's leadership and was now entering an execution- and growth-focused phase.