



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

6 MARCH 2025

TN to finalise location for Hosur airport by next month

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CHENNAI, DHNS

By April, the Tamil Nadu government is expected to finalise the location for an airport being planned for the industrial city of Hosur with a detailed study of the two shortlisted sites by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) likely to be completed in a week.

AAI is currently undertaking a detailed survey of two sites, including villages located close to the private airport owned by Taneja Aviation and Aerospace Limited (TAAL) in Belagondapalli near Hosur.

Once the AAI submits the report, the DMK dispensation in Tamil Nadu will discuss it threadbare and finalise the “best location” in terms of connectivity, land availability,

and less problematic, sources aware of the development told *DH*.

“Less human habitation, less disturbances, no major water bodies in the vicinity, and the extent of availability of government land are some of the key factors that will help finalise the site location. We are expecting the AAI report will be detailed enough for us to take a call,” a source told *DH*.

The two sites being studied were shortlisted after a survey by AAI of five locations suggested by the Tamil Nadu government. “We will hopefully decide on the location by April,” another source added.

The development comes close on the heels of the Karnataka government scouting for land for a second airport for Bengaluru besides the ef-

fort to operationalize the HAL airport in the heart of the state capital.

While the airport will come up in Hosur, it is also likely to cater to the needs of people from South Bengaluru due to its proximity to the Tamil Nadu town. At the *DH* Bengaluru 2040 Summit on February 21, Air Deccan founder Captain G R Gopinath said Karnataka shouldn’t object to building of an airport in Hosur, whose economy he said was based on Bengaluru.

Sources said once the location is decided, the government will set in motion the process of acquiring land and in-principle approval from the Union Government for which the Bengaluru International Airport Limited has to issue a No Objection Certificate.

Flyers have to wait longer for second cab pick-up point at Chennai airport

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

Air passengers were initially relieved when it was announced that an additional cab pick-up point would be set up near the T1 domestic terminal at Chennai International Airport this month. However, much to their disappointment, they will have to wait for another two months for its opening and, in the meantime, continue to take the long walk to the multi-level car parking lot.

The delay is attributed to the ongoing plaza and landscaping work opposite the T1 terminal. Passengers flying into the Chennai air-



Passengers walking towards the multi-level car parking at the Chennai airport.

port have had to struggle to board a cab. As soon as they exit the arrival hall, they are forced to carry their baggage to the second level of the parking lot to get a cab.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) had drawn flak over this arrangement

and there had been a deluge of complaints from air passengers on social media platform X. This eventually led to the decision to reintroduce a second cab pick-up point opposite the T1 terminal, where it was originally located.

‘Installing canopy’

AAI officials stated that they were working on sprucing up the area opposite the T1 terminal with landscaping and seating arrangements, providing passengers a place to sit and relax. “We are placing canopies now. Unfortunately, it took us some time to finalise the design of the canopy. After the canopy

collapse in Delhi, we wanted to make sure the ones we install here were sturdy and secure. Now, we are facing a manpower issue, which we are trying to resolve. By the end of April, the landscaping work will be completed, and in May, the cab pick-up can begin from this location,” an official said.

Sathish Galley, a frequent flyer, said he returned to Chennai from Hyderabad last week and found it tiresome to get to the parking lot of the airport. “Walking to the multi-level parking lot with my luggage after a delayed flight was extremely exhausting,” he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

एयरपोर्ट के लिए जमीन देने वाले किसान परिवार के युवाओं को जल्द मिलेगी नौकरी

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 6 मार्च (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से वाणिज्यिक विमानों के उड़ान भरने की तैयारी तेजी से चल रही है। एयरपोर्ट चालू होने से निर्माण में जमीन देकर अहम भूमिका निभाने वाले किसान परिवार के युवाओं को अब नौकरी की सौगात मिलेगी। युवाओं को योग्यता के अनुसार नौकरी दी जाएगी। इसके लिए पोर्टल तैयार किया जा रहा है। एक माह में नौकरी देने का लक्ष्य पूरा हो जाएगा।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लिए पहले चरण में 1334 हेक्टेयर जमीन का अधिग्रहण किया गया था। जमीन अधिग्रहण एवं विस्थापन से प्रभावित किसान परिवार के बालिग को आजीविका के लिए नौकरी या एक मुरत साढ़े पांच लाख रुपए का विकल्प दिया गया था। हालांकि यह सुविधा केवल युवाओं के लिए थी, परिवार की बालिग युवतियों को इससे अलग रखा गया था। अधिग्रहण से प्रभावित



परिवारों के 6727 युवाओं ने नौकरी को बजाए राशि को चुना और आजीविका के लिए साढ़े पांच लाख रुपये ले लिए, लेकिन 769 युवा ऐसे हैं, जिन्होंने धनराशि को बजाए नौकरी को तवज्जो दी, आज तक यह युवा नौकरी मिलने का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

लेकिन एयरपोर्ट का संचालन शुरू होने के साथ इन युवाओं की इंतजाम भी समाप्त होने जा रहा है। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लि. के मुख्य

- युवाओं को योग्यता के अनुसार दी जाएगी नौकरी, तैयार हो रहा पोर्टल
- एयरपोर्ट में 769 युवाओं को मिलेगी नौकरी, 6727 युवाओं ने नौकरी के बजाय साढ़े पांच लाख रुपए लिए

कार्यपालक अधिकारी डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह का कहना है कि जमीन अधिग्रहण से प्रभावित युवाओं को नौकरी के लिए आवेदन प्रक्रिया जल्द शुरू होगी। इसके लिए पोर्टल तैयार कराया जा रहा है। पोर्टल तैयार होने पर आवेदन व साक्षात्कार कर योग्यतानुसार नौकरी दी जाएगी। अधिग्रहण से प्रभावित युवाओं के अलावा अन्य युवाओं को भी नौकरी का अवसर मिलेगा। उन्हें भी पोर्टल के माध्यम से योग्यतानुसार आवेदन कर चयन प्रक्रिया से गुजरना होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

6 MARCH 2025

लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर महिला तस्कर के बैग से 20 करोड़ की ड्रग्स बरामद

जागरण संवाददाता, लखनऊ : चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को थाईलैंड की एक महिला को 20 किलो ड्रग्स के साथ गिरफ्तार किया गया है, जिसकी कीमत करीब 20 करोड़ रुपये है। लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट के इतिहास में अब तक की सबसे अधिक रुपये की ड्रग्स जब्त हुई है। महिला तस्कर बैकाक से एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट नाइन-105 से ड्रग्स लेकर आई थी।

लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट के लैंड होने का समय 6:40 बजे है, लेकिन फ्लाइट मंगलवार को समय से पहले 6:25 मिनट पर ही पहुंच गई। कस्टम जांच के दौरान

महिला संदिग्ध दिखी। बैग स्कैनिंग के दौरान सायरन बजा उठा, चेकिंग में बैग में कुछ पैकेट मिले। ड्रग्स की पैकिंग ऐसी की गई थी कि किसी की नजर न पड़े।

कस्टम अधिकारियों ने बताया कि महिला को 20 किलो हाइड्रोपोनिक वीड (मिट्टी के बजाय पानी का उपयोग करके उगाई जाने वाले भांग के पौधे) के साथ गिरफ्तार किया गया है। यह कार्रवाई केंद्रीय खुफिया एजेंसी एनसीटीसी के इनपुट पर कस्टम विभाग ने की है। कस्टम अधिकारी महिला से पूछताछ कर रहे हैं, जल्द ही उसे मजिस्ट्रेट के सामने पेश किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

6 MARCH 2025

Surat Airport activists demand 24x7 ops

FPJ NEWS SERVICE

SURAT

The We Want Working Airport Group (WWAS) has renewed its demand for 24x7 operations at Surat International Airport, emphasizing the need for enhanced staffing, security, and technical support. In a crucial meeting with Airport Director Anand Sharma on Wednesday, WWAS core members discussed key developmental aspects and operational challenges affecting the airport.

One of the primary concerns raised was the urgent installa-



tion of approach lights at the airport. The group highlighted that the absence of an adequate approach light system poses operational limitations, and they sought clarity on the timeline and approvals required for

its implementation.

WWAS also stressed the need for boosting air connectivity by engaging with airlines to introduce new domestic and international routes. The discussion

covered strategies to encourage carriers to consider Surat as a viable hub, along with possibilities of expanding international cargo services. The group emphasized strengthening logistics, customs clearance, and cargo terminal facilities to enhance Surat's role in global trade.

Another critical point raised was the improvement of passenger amenities at the airport. The group urged authorities to prioritize passenger comfort and push for the airport's inclusion in the Passenger Outreach Campaign (POC) to improve overall service quality.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

Noida airport set to miss start date for commercial flights

Vinod Rajput

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GREATER NOIDA: The Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL), the agency tasked with overseeing the construction of the Noida greenfield international airport in Greater Noida's Jewar, said on Thursday that the commencement of commercial flight operations may be delayed as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is likely to issue the aerodrome licence only by April 30.

Commercial operations at the airport were earlier scheduled to start on April 17 this year. Now, a new date will be picked on March 10, during a review meeting chaired by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath.

The meeting is also likely to finalise details such as flight schedules, the number of flights, and the categories of services to be launched initially.

Meanwhile, the publication of the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) for Noida airport by Airports Authority of India (AAI), which was scheduled to take place on Thursday, was also deferred as there are

several works still pending at the airport, said officials.

The publication of AIP marks the airport's formal inclusion in global aviation records. Following the publication of AIP, other essential steps, such as ticketing services and flight scheduling, will be initiated.

Also, clearance from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security will be required before flight operations can begin, said officials. "The new date for commencement of commercial operations at Noida airport will be decided on March 10, when CM Adityanath will review the progress," said Arun Vir Singh, chief executive officer, NIAL.

International flight services may not commence on the first day of operations, and only domestic flights are expected to start that day, said officials. This is because the upper floor of the terminal building, designated for international passengers, is still under construction and lacks adequate passenger facilities.

These issues were discussed during a high-level meeting conducted by DGCA on Wednesday following a review of the overall progress on the project.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा का खाका तैयार, 20 से सीआईएसएफ संभालेगी जिम्मा

नोएडा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर अप्रैल के पहले सप्ताह से नियमित उड़ानें शुरू होने की संभावना है। इससे पहले एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को मजबूत किया जा रहा है। सुरक्षा का जिम्मा केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल सीआईएसएफ को सौंपा गया है। गृह मंत्रालय ने एयरपोर्ट के लिए 1030 सीआईएसएफ जवानों के पद स्वीकृत किए हैं। एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा तीन स्तरों पर होगी। पहला स्तर सीआईएसएफ दूसरा प्राइवेट गार्ड और तीसरा नोएडा पुलिस संभालेगी। पुलिस कमिश्नर ने अडिशनल डीसीपी मनीष कुमार मिश्रा को जेवर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का

अधिकारी नियुक्त किया है। एयरपोर्ट पर चौथा जोन बनाने की तैयारी चल रही है। नोएडा पुलिस के 12 इंस्पेक्टर और 119 पुलिसकर्मियों को एयरपोर्ट पर तैनात किया जाएगा। सभी पुलिसकर्मियों को विशेष प्रशिक्षण दिया जा रहा है। सीआईएसएफ जवानों के लिए एयरपोर्ट के पास आवास बनाए गए हैं। अगले 20 दिनों में जवान एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था संभाल लेंगे। एयरपोर्ट के शुरू होने के बाद आसपास के क्षेत्र में ड्रोन उड़ाने पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध रहेगा। पुलिस के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट के समेत हवाई गतिविधियों पर भी रोक रहेगी।





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

6 MARCH 2025

Yatri Sathi app cab offers service with mobile-free booking at airport

RAJIB CHAKRABORTY
KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

In a groundbreaking move to enhance passenger convenience, the West Bengal government has launched the Yatri Sathi app cab service at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport, Kolkata.

The initiative aims to assist international and domestic passengers who often face difficulties in booking app-based cabs due to phone battery issues or the absence of an active SIM card while travelling abroad. The Yatri Sathi app cab service has collaborated with a Bengaluru-based IT company to introduce a special booking kiosk at Kolkata Airport. Passengers without a mobile phone can visit the front office of the kiosk, where an executive



will generate a special OTP and book a cab on their behalf. The system does not require the passenger to use their own mobile number or any app-enabled device. This service comes at no additional cost, and passengers will be informed in advance about their route,

fare, and payment details before confirming the booking.

A senior official from the IT company behind the Yatri Sathi app, revealed that major airports like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Bengaluru are also being considered for

implementing this service having mobile-free booking. Many international travellers face difficulties in booking app cabs due to non-functional roaming SIMs, making this initiative highly beneficial. State minister of information technology and electronics

Babul Supriyo stated that chief minister Mamata Banerjee has emphasised the need for high-quality transport services for international passengers, business delegates, and tourists arriving at Kolkata Airport from Yatri Sathi app cab.

Speaking at the launch event, Supriyo introduced "The Clean Cab Promise," highlighting Kolkata's nostalgic connection with taxis. "Taxis have a historic and sentimental value in Kolkata. International tourists and travellers from across India have a special fondness for them. That's why we are ensuring clean and well-maintained taxis at the airport," he said. To support this, free cleaning kits have been provided to ensure cabs remain spotless. Suresh Kumar Jain, IG traffic, clarified that Yatri Sathi is not competing

with private app-based cabs but aims to provide an affordable and accessible transport solution. The initiative has already on-boarded 90,000 drivers, and additional bike taxis have also been introduced. Beyond Kolkata, the Yatri Sathi service will soon be available at Bagdogra Airport, allowing passengers without mobile phones to book cabs seamlessly.

Moreover, major railway stations, including Howrah, Sealdah, Asansol, Durgapur and Siliguri will also offer mobile-free cab booking services. This initiative is expected to redefine public transport accessibility, ensuring that passengers, especially foreign travellers and those facing mobile connectivity issues can travel hassle-free across Bengal.

Kannada actress arrested for 'smuggling' 14.8 kg gold at Bengaluru Airport

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, 5 MARCH

The arrest of Kannada film actress Ranya Rao, daughter of a senior IPS officer in Karnataka, has exposed a major gold smuggling operation. Investigations by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) revealed that the 31-year-old actress used an unusual method to evade security checks -- she attached 14 gold bars to her thighs using adhesive, wrapped them with tape, and concealed them under a crepe bandage.

Officials described her arrest as one of the biggest breakthroughs in recent gold smuggling cases.

So far, authorities have seized 17.29 kg of gold and cash in the case. This includes 14.8 kg of gold worth Rs 12.56 crore recovered at the airport, Rs 2.06 crore worth of gold from her Bengaluru residence, and apart from



that Rs 2.67 crore in cash.

Ranya Rao was apprehended on Monday night upon her arrival at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on an Emirates flight from Dubai. The DRI, acting on prior intelligence, deployed a four-member team at the airport, anticipating her arrival.

Sources revealed that she had made four trips to Dubai

in just 15 days, raising suspicions. Investigators suspect she may have been smuggling gold on multiple occasions.

Authorities say Ms Rao exploited her father's position -- Director General of Police (Police Housing Corporation) -- to avoid scrutiny at the airport.

Upon landing, she would reportedly call police personnel to pick her up, who

then escorted her home.

Officials are now probing whether any police officers were complicit in the smuggling network.

Following her arrest, the DRI raided her upscale Lavelle Road apartment in Bengaluru on Wednesday, where she paid Rs 4.5 lakh in rent. The search led to the discovery of additional gold and cash, taking the

Sources revealed that the actress had made four trips to Dubai in just 15 days, raising suspicions. Investigators suspect she may have been smuggling gold on multiple occasions.

total seizure to Rs 17.29 kg of gold and Rs 2.67 crore in cash.

Her father, Ramachandra Rao, has distanced himself from the case, stating they have not been in touch since her marriage four months ago. Ranya Rao, known for her role opposite Kannada superstar Sudeep in 'Maanikya', has also acted in other South Indian films.

She was produced in court on Tuesday and remanded to judicial custody as investigations continue into her smuggling network and possible accomplices.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

Noida airport to miss April date, second delay in its launch timeline

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Noida: The launch of Noida International Airport will be delayed beyond the targeted commissioning date in April because work on the terminal building will not be completed in time for all the clearances to come in before passenger operations can begin.

This will be the second delay for the airport, which was earlier scheduled for launch by Oct 2024.

The airport's progress was discussed at a meeting chaired at the site by directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) Faiz Ahmed Kid-

wai on Wednesday. The terminal building remains under construction. The first floor, meant for domestic passengers, is around 70% complete, but the international passenger floor above it is expected to take longer.

While this means the process of clearances will begin late for the airport, international flights may not start at the same time as domestic flights. The airport, before it can begin commercial operations, needs to have an aerodrome licence from DGCA, which according to current timelines, is unlikely to happen before April 30. It will

also require clearance from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). DGCA grants an aerodrome licence based on recommendations from Airports Authority of India and BCAS.

Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL), the state govt's special purpose vehicle overseeing the project, had earlier said the airport would start with 28 routes, 25 domestic and three international, from the first day of operations, which was set for Apr 17.

A final decision on the airport's operational timeline is expected after a meeting in Lucknow on

March 10 chaired by chief minister Yogi Adityanath. "The flight schedule, number of flights and categories of services that will be launched initially will be finalised at that meeting. A comprehensive report on the current status of Noida International Airport will be presented before the CM," said NIAL CEO Arun Vir Singh.

The meeting will be attended by Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran, Tata Projects MD and CEO Vinayak Pai, civil aviation secretary V Vualnam, Zurich International Airport MD Daniel Bircher and NIA CEO Christoph

Schnellmann. Tata Projects holds the engineering contracts for Noida airport. Zurich is the concessionaire for the airport. Officials from DGCA will also be present.

Sources said during an inspection by the chief secretary on Tuesday, it was found that the pace of construction does not align with the April deadline.

The Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP), which contains details essential for air navigation, is also yet to be published. Officials said the process would be completed by Thursday. Following the publication, essential process-

es like ticketing services and flight scheduling can begin.

The airport's runway, parallel taxiway, and entry-exit taxiways are fully complete. Nine aprons have also been constructed, while high-mast light installation is expected to be completed within this month.

Discussions were also held on Wednesday about transfer of airport security to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which typically requires a month to fully sanitise and secure an airport. The formal handover to CISF is likely to take place early April.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

6 MARCH 2025

Airport-Kilambakkam metro rail link yet to get govt nod

Work On DPR Began Over 3 Years Ago, Says Activist

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Chennai: The Chennai Airport-Kilambakkam metro rail extension project remains stuck, with Tamil Nadu govt yet to approve it, an RTI reply has revealed.

While the entire ₹63,246 crore Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) Phase 2 project was approved in 22 days and forwarded to the Union govt, the Airport-Kilambakkam extension of Phase I, costing ₹9,335 crore and meant to improve connectivity to the southern suburbs, is pending with the state finance department.

Activist Dayanand Krishnan of Tambaram, who had

RTI REPLY REVELATION

METRO PROJECT	AMOUNT (₹ IN CRORE)	DPR SUBMISSION	TIME TAKEN FOR GOVT APPROVAL
Chennai phase I extension up to Wimco Nagar	3,770	July 2010	3.5 months
Chennai phase II	63,256	Dec 2018	22 days
Coimbatore and Madurai	22,108	July 2023	7 months
Chennai phase I extension Airport-Kilambakkam	9,335	Nov 2021/Sept 2022/Dec 2022 and Feb 2025 (due to modifications)	3 years and 4 months (yet to be approved)

sought the information under the RTI act, pointed out that work on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) began more than three years ago. "We expected the state govt to approve it before the upcoming budget session (on March 14) and send it to the Centre for funding assistance. But it remains on paper," he said.

DPRs for the Coimbatore and Madurai metro rail projects, which were submitted

only in July 2023, have already been approved, while the Airport-Kilambakkam metro remains stalled. "This clearly shows that Tambaram is being sidelined," Krishnan said.

Officials attribute the delay to multiple design revisions. The initial plan included an 18-20-metre-high corridor for metro trains, but the state highways department proposed an elevated road

alongside it. That design was later ruled out. A subsequent plan for a two-tier structure, with the metro at level-3 and the road at level-2, was dropped due to high costs. The final design now proposes metro trains at level-2 and an elevated road at level-1 along GST Road and is awaiting state approval.

A DPR typically takes four months to prepare, raising questions about why revisions take years. Despite a high-power committee under former chief secretary V Irai Anbu directing all departments in Nov 2022 to finalise the DPR, bureaucratic delays persist.

As a result, nearly 25 lakh residents of Tambaram continue to struggle due to inadequate public transport. "The situation worsened with recent restrictions on govt mofussil bus access to Tambaram, highlighting the lack of urgency in improving infrastructure," said B Ganesh, a resident-activist from Varadharajapuram.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

6 MARCH 2025

Collector affirms villagers' support for Mamnoor airport development

Shiva Kumar Pinna

Warangal: Asserting that there are no obstacles to the survey for land acquisition for Mamnoor airport, Warangal district collector **Dr Satya Sharada** said villagers are eager for development and are fully supporting the government. In an interview with **TOI** on Wednesday, the collector said all possibilities are being taken into consideration for development of the airport.

Locals are hopeful that the govts will consider them for Airports Authority of India (AAI) jobs and business opportunities around and inside the airport.



Locals are hopeful that the govts will consider them for Airports Authority of India (AAI) jobs and business opportunities around and inside the airport

"The Telangana govt is keen on it, and steps will be taken to ensure its aesthetic appeal," Sharada said. "The govt's aim is to ensure that no one is made a scapegoat. All villagers have voluntarily come forward to support the airport."

"There are no obstacles to the survey for land acquisition. Only 84 acres of land in Gadipally village, of 235 acres, has been identified and the survey is still in progress. The land survey for other two villa-

ges — Nalakunta and Nakalapally — has been completed, while the survey for Gadipally in Gunturpally is ongoing," said Sharada. She stated that people from areas surrounding Mamnoor Airport have expressed their readiness to hand over the land. The district administration had issued a notification for land acquisition in December 2024, and the statutory period of 90 days is set to end in March.

The collector visited the villages and gathered information from Gunturpally villagers. She assured that the current 30-foot-wide road would be strengthened and expanded to 60 feet. This road will be easily accessible for villagers of three surrounding villages — Nakalapally, Nalakunta, and Gadipally.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

6 MARCH 2025

Flight makes landing at RGIA, flyer declared dead on arrival

Hyderabad: A flight made an emergency landing at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) early Wednesday due to a health problem of a passenger on board.

The Qatar Airways flight (QR 642) was en route from Doha to Dhaka when the pilot requested permission to land at around 3:00 am after a female passenger developed severe health complications. The passenger was taken to the airport medical facility where she was pronounced dead.

Following the necessary procedures, the flight resumed its journey at 3:42 am. The officials ensured a medical response and minimal disruption to flight operations. A probe into passenger's medical condition is underway. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

हवाई किराये में अत्यधिक वृद्धि पर लोक लेखा समिति ने जताई नाराजगी, करेगी जांच

नई दिल्ली। लोक लेखा समिति के अध्यक्ष के.सी. वेणुगोपाल ने बृहस्पतिवार को कहा कि त्योहारों और पीक सीजन के दौरान हवाई किराए में अत्यधिक वृद्धि कतई स्वीकार्य नहीं है। उन्होंने विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए से टिकट दरों में इस तरह की बढ़ोतरी को निर्यंत्रित करने का आग्रह किया। लोक लेखा समिति (पीएसी) अध्यक्ष के.सी. वेणुगोपाल ने बृहस्पतिवार को हवाई अड्डों पर यूजर डेवलपमेंट फीस (यूडीएफ) बढ़ाने की योजना पर चिंता जताई और कहा कि समिति इसकी गहन जांच करेगी। वेणुगोपाल ने पीएसी सदस्यों के साथ इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे, खेड़की दीला टोल प्लाजा और द्वारका एक्सप्रेसवे का निरीक्षण किया। इस दौरान उन्होंने हवाई अड्डा प्राधिकरण और नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक की। वेणुगोपाल ने कहा, त्योहारी सीजन में टिकटों के दाम असमान छूते हैं, यह आम लोगों के लिए बर्दाश्त से बाहर है। डीजीसीए को इन पर अंकुश लगाना चाहिए। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

तकनीकी गड़बड़ी के चलते एअर इंडिया का विमान शिकागो लौटा

नई दिल्ली/मुंबई। शिकागो से दिल्ली आ रहा एअर इंडिया का विमान तकनीकी गड़बड़ी के चलते अमेरिकी शहर वापस लौट गया। इस दौरान विमान 10 घंटे से अधिक समय तक हवा में उड़ान भर चुका था। सूत्र ने बताया कि कई शौचालयों के जाम होने के चलते विमान को वापस शिकागो लौटना पड़ा।

सूत्र ने बताया कि एअर इंडिया की ओर से संचालित बोइंग 777-337ईआर विमान में प्रथम श्रेणी के यात्रियों के लिए दो सहित 10 शौचालय हैं। इसमें प्रथम, बिजनेस और इकॉनमी श्रेणी की सीटों सहित 340 से अधिक सीटें हैं। उसने बताया कि विमान का केवल एक शौचालय ही काम कर रहा था। मामले पर एअर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि तकनीकी समस्या के कारण विमान शिकागो लौटा। यात्रियों को उनके गंतव्य तक पहुंचाने के लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की जा रही है। एजेसी

‘Aircraft Objects Bill will make GIFT City an aviation leasing hub’

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The proposed Aircraft Objects Bill is expected to propel India’s GIFT City, or Gujarat International Finance Tech-city-based International Financial Services Centre, to an aviation leasing hub along with lowering the cost for the domestic airline industry, Boeing India and South Asia President Salil Gupte told *businessline*.

businessline was the first to report in January 2025 that the Union Cabinet had approved the Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2024, to usher in further reforms in the civil aviation sector.

LEASING COST

The Bill is designed to lower leasing cost of airlines. At present, the Bill is before the Rajya Sabha; it is expected to be passed in the next session of Parliament, which is to begin on March 10, 2025.

If passed by Parliament, the resulting Act could potentially reduce airfares by ensuring a lower risk premium paid to lessors. The Act will guarantee lessors absolute rights to repossess their leased aircraft in case of a payment default by an air-



Salil Gupte, President,
Boeing India & South Asia

line or an operator. Besides, the Bill presents some variable benefits for lessors to set up shop at GIFT City, such as stronger legal certainty, streamlined asset recovery, increased investor confidence, reduced leasing costs for airlines, and a growing aviation financing ecosystem.

The Act’s enshrined benefits for the GIFT City are important for India as the majority of commercial aircraft in India are leased and another 1,700 are on order. Till now, airlines in India depended on lessors based out of Ireland or Dubai among other places. According to Gupte, the Act will not only bring in much-needed reform in the sector but also boost the prospects of the multi-billion-dollar business at the GIFT City. “The Air-

craft Objects Bill is expected to benefit India’s aviation sector by lowering costs, enhancing security, and attracting more leasing firms,” Gupte said.

“It will reduce leasing and financing costs for airlines while boosting lessor confidence in Indian carriers, expanding their financing options. Additionally, the Bill is a significant step forward for GIFT City, addressing a regulatory challenge and strengthening its position as an aviation leasing hub,” he further said. As per some industry estimates, India-based airlines would have had to bear nearly ₹10,000 crore due to high-risk premiums if a Bill such as the Aircraft Objects Bill, 2024 was not considered. On the Budget, Gupte pointed out that it aims to strengthen India’s air cargo sector by recognising its vital role in export and economic growth.

AIR CARGO INFRA

“Increased capital allocation for air cargo infrastructure development is expected to create a robust ecosystem, driving demand for air freighters,” he said. Gupte noted that India’s domestic air cargo trade is forecast to continue rapid growth at 6.9 per cent per year over the

next two decades, adding that the expansion of India’s e-commerce sector is contributing to the demand for “efficient and reliable” logistics and transportation solutions.

FREIGHTER FLEET

India’s dedicated freighter fleet nearly tripled over the past six years, from six 757 freighters in 2017 to 18 freighters, including the 737-800BCF, in 2024. In addition, he said, India remains the world’s fastest-growing commercial aviation market due to strong economic and trade growth, as well as rising household incomes and investments in infrastructure and development.

Recently, the global aerospace major in its Commercial Market Outlook (CMO) predicted that South Asia’s commercial aircraft fleet will grow nearly four-fold over the next 20 years to 2,835, propelled by the demand from India-based airlines. Accordingly, 90 per cent or over 2,500 aircraft are expected to be delivered to India-based airlines in the next 20 years, fuelled by greater demand and rise in air traffic, sustained economic growth, connectivity, and policies that support air travel liberalisation.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

Air India flight returns to Chicago due to technical issue

An Air India flight from Chicago to Delhi returned to the US after being airborne for more than ten hours on Thursday, with the airline saying the return was due to a technical issue. However, a source aware of the matter said that the aircraft had to return as many of the lavatories were clogged. The flight was operated with a Boeing 777-337 ER aircraft and returned to Chicago's ORD airport after being airborne for over ten hours, according to information available on flight tracking website [flightradar24.com](https://www.flightradar24.com).

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

IndiGo world's 2nd fastest-growing airline in seat capacity

At 10.1% growth in 2024, it is only behind Qatar Airways, which grew 10.4%: OAG

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA
New Delhi, 6 March

IndiGo Airlines is the world's second fastest-growing airline in terms of seat capacity, which went up by 10.1 per cent in 2024 over the previous year. It is only behind Qatar Airways, which grew slightly faster at 10.4 per cent in the same period, according to the latest data from Official Airline Guide (OAG) based on 20 top airlines in the world.

That's not IndiGo's only

achievement in the global aviation sweepstakes. It has become the fastest-growing airline in the world in terms of flight frequency growth, which was up 9.7 per cent in 2024, with its nearest rival Qatar Airways growing by 8.7 per cent followed by LCC Ryan Air (8.4 per cent) in the same period.

IndiGo was also fourth in the pecking order in terms of available seat kilometre growth, rising by 12 per cent, behind Chinese carriers Air China (22 per cent), China Eastern (21 per cent), and China South Airlines (13.6 per cent).

OAG points out that IndiGo holds one of the largest aircraft orders in the world with over 900 aircraft on order, and was the largest recipient of 58 new Airbus aircraft during 2024, although the airline had around 80 aircraft, which were inactive with MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) and supply chain issues.

In terms of capacity, 88.3 per cent was deployed in the domestic skies and the rest were in the international arena. While IndiGo's



World's major airline performance in different categories in 2024 (%)

Airline	Seat capacity	Flight frequency growth	ASK* growth
Qatar Airlines	10.4	8.7	
IndiGo	10.1	9.7	12.0
Ryan Air	9.2	8.4	
Air China			22.0
China Eastern Airlines			21.0
China Southern Airlines			13.6

* available seat kilometre

Source: OAG

o's domestic capacity grew by 9.6 per cent in 2024, its international capacity increased by 18.8 per cent — the top markets being the UAE (capacity grew 14.9 per cent), Saudi Arabia (16.1 per cent), and Thailand (47.7 per cent). Qatar was the only market where its capacity dropped marginally.

According to OAG, IndiGo saw its average domestic fare in 2024 come down to \$92 compared to \$101 in 2023. In the international space, the fare went up from \$267 in 2023 to \$273 in 2024.

The airline's strong hold in capacity in India's key airports can be seen from the fact that it has a 40 per cent share of total seat capacity in Delhi airport (in terms of seats, it is the largest market), 43 per cent in Mumbai, 53 per cent in Bengaluru, 65 per cent in Hyderabad, and 60 per cent in Chennai.

In the domestic skies, IndiGo's top five routes are Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Bengaluru, Bengaluru-Mumbai, Delhi-Hyderabad, and Delhi-Kolkata.

IndiGo's 1st ever long-haul flights to Manchester and Amsterdam

Expanding its international operations, IndiGo will start non-stop long-haul flights to Manchester and Amsterdam with the leased Boeing 787-9 planes from July this year. Making the announcement on Thursday, the airline said the development signals a significant step in its journey to become a global player by 2030 and also make India a global aviation hub. Also, the carrier is evaluating multiple markets in Europe for long-haul flights. The airline said there will be 3x weekly flights each to Manchester (the UK) and Amsterdam (the Netherlands).

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

6 MARCH 2025

AIR INDIA SACKS TRAINER PILOT FOR LAPSES

New Delhi, March 5: Air India on Wednesday said it has terminated the services of a trainer pilot for lapses and 10 pilots who underwent training under the trainer pilot have been removed from flying duties pending investigation.

The latest action came after a whistleblower alleged that a simulator trainer pilot had failed to properly discharge his duties during recurrent simulator training for pilots.

In a statement, the Tata Group-owned airline said a detailed probe was conducted into the allegations, which were corroborated after a review of the evidence.

Without disclosing specific details, Air India said the trainer pilot's services are being terminated.

"As a precaution, ten pilots who underwent recurrent training under the trainer pilot have been removed from flying duties pending further investigation," the airline said. Further, Air India said it voluntarily reported the matter to aviation regulator DGCA and also commended the whistleblower for stepping forward.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

■ IndiGo to Start Flights to Europe this Summer



NEW DELHI IndiGo will mount direct flights to Amsterdam and Manchester this summer, signalling

its entry into the long-haul international travel market. The budget carrier had so far limited itself to destinations within 7 hours flying distance from India. IndiGo's foray into the lucrative air travel market between India and Europe will pit it against Tata Group-backed Air India, currently the sole Indian operator of direct flights to Europe. "These new long-haul routes are steps towards inching closer to realising our shared vision to build India into a global aviation hub," said Pieter Elbers, chief executive, IndiGo. —Our Bureau



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

IndiGo makes long-haul debut with Manchester, Amsterdam

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, March 6

INDIA'S LARGEST AIRLINE by market share, IndiGo, announced on Thursday that it will launch direct long-haul flights to Manchester and Amsterdam starting in July. The routes will be operated using the wide-body Boeing 787-9 aircraft, recently acquired on a damp lease from Norse Atlantic Airways.

The Manchester service will be India's only non-stop connection to the city, as all other options



PIETER ELBERS,
CEO, INDIGO

Today, we unlock a new and very exciting chapter in IndiGo's growth journey, connecting India to the heart of Europe

include at least one stopover. These two will be the farthest destinations served by IndiGo. The low-cost airline, which has

been rapidly expanding its international network with recent additions like Seychelles and Krabi, has so far relied on codeshare agreements with other airlines to connect to larger global destinations.

Earlier this year, IndiGo entered into a damp lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways for a Boeing 787-9 aircraft, which began operations on March 1, 2025. The agreement was recently expanded to include three additional aircraft, set to join the fleet in the second half of the year.

Continued on Page 6

IndiGo makes long-haul debut with Manchester, Amsterdam

Collectively, these aircraft will enable IndiGo to make an early entry into the long-haul market and establish itself in Europe while the airline awaits the delivery of its Airbus A321XLR and A350-900 aircraft from 2027 onwards.

Pieter Elbers, chief executive officer, IndiGo said: "Today, we unlock a new and very exciting chapter in IndiGo's growth journey, connecting India to the heart of Europe. We're thrilled to announce our first-ever long-haul destinations - Manches-

ter and Amsterdam."

"India has strong ties both with the United Kingdom and the Netherlands for business and tourism; and there is a large Indian diaspora living in these countries.

"These new flights will benefit both our existing and potential customers who fly on these routes," Elbers added.

The launch of flights to Manchester (three times weekly) and Amsterdam (three times weekly) is subject to operational readiness and regulatory approvals.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

IndiGo to debut in non-stop, long-haul international flight services

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Thursday announced its entry into non-stop, long-haul international flights with the launch of services to Manchester and Amsterdam as its first European destinations – moving ahead of its earlier plans.

The airline will offer thrice weekly flights each to Manchester and Amsterdam from July 2025, “subject to completion of all operational preparedness and regulatory approvals,” the airline said in a press statement.

The airline has taken delivery of a Boeing 787-9 widebody aircraft on wet lease (leasing planes with crew) from Norwegian carrier Norse Atlantic, which will enable it to serve this route. The aircraft comprises 56 of the newly launched IndiGo Stretch seats which offer more leg room and better cushioning, along with 282 economy seats.

The airline said three more of these Boeing 787-9s will be joining the fleet in the second half of 2025. The airline with a fully narrow body fleet comprising A320s – except for some Boeing 737 MAXs leased to overcome the shortage of planes due to Pratt and Whitney engine related groundings – also has two Boeing 777 aircraft wet leased from Turkish Airlines.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

Air India flight returns to Chicago over clogged loos

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: An Air India flight from Chicago to Delhi that departed on Wednesday turned around and landed back in the American city 10 hours later after all but one of its lavatories were clogged, according to people aware of the matter.

The airline confirmed in a statement on Thursday that flight AI126 had to come back to Chicago O'Hare International Airport, citing a "technical issue". "All passengers and crew disembarked normally and have been provided with accommodation to minimise inconvenience. Alternative arrangements

THE AIRLINE CONFIRMED THAT FLIGHT AI126 RETURNED TO CHICAGO O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CITING A 'TECHNICAL ISSUE'

are being made to fly the passengers to their destination," the company said in a statement.

A person aware of the matter, who asked not to be named, said the decision to turn around was made when nine of the 10 lava-

tories on the Boeing 777-300 ER jet were backed up. "Only one of the business class lavatories was functional," this person said, adding that such problems were not uncommon on ultra long-haul flights operated by Air India.

An expert, however, disagreed and said a problem of such extent is unusual. "Although it is not uncommon for one or two vacuum toilets to get clogged because passengers often flush tissues or diapers, it is next to impossible for all lavatories to be clogged due to only passengers' fault, and in a way that it causes an emergency diversion," said Mark Martin,

continued on → 15

AIR INDIA

aviation consultant.

The person quoted above said the exact cause of the fault was not determined but suggested that the system is intricate. "An aircraft toilet uses a vacuum system to flush. When you flush, a valve opens, creating suction that pulls waste into a holding tank below the plane. The system uses very little water and a blue chemical to clean and deodorize the bowl. The waste is stored until the plane lands, when a special truck empties it at the airport," this person said.

According to flight tracking website Flightradar24, the plane turned around roughly four hours, 25 minutes after departure when it had just crossed the Greenland coast. It departed Chicago at 11am on Wednesday and landed back at around 9pm.

The specific aircraft, with the tail number VT-ALQ, has a capacity of 342 passengers, including 303 economy class seats. "Full refunds on cancellation and complimentary rescheduled are also being offered to passengers if opted by them," the airline said in a statement.

SpiceJet hit with new insolvency claims from Irish lessors, ex-pilot

Krishna Yadav

krishna.yadav@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: SpiceJet Ltd has been hit with fresh insolvency claims from three Ireland-based aircraft lessors and a former pilot over defaults on rental and employment dues, just as the financially-strained airline prepares to revive operations.

Three Irish lessors—NGF Genesis Ltd, NGF Charlie Ltd, and NGF Alpha Ltd—have alleged that SpiceJet defaulted on rental payments, with their combined claims amounting to \$12.4 million.

These entities approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) after previously serving a legal notice to the airline in December, accusing it of theft of aircraft parts, including engines, from five leased Boeing 737 freighter planes. Additionally, a former SpiceJet pilot, Devesh Bhyan, has filed a claim for ₹1.70 crore towards unpaid employment dues for March 2020 to August 2022.

During a brief hearing at the Delhi bench of the insolvency court, SpiceJet sought time to



The fresh claims add to a growing list of insolvency petitions against SpiceJet. PTI

respond as its settlement talks were underway. Consequently, NCLT adjourned its hearing of the lessors' cases until April.

In the pilot's case, NCLT directed the budget airline to file a reply and the pilot to clarify how his claims were not barred under Section 10A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). As a temporary relief to businesses affected by the pandemic years, IBC's Section 10A bars insolvency proceedings for defaults occurring on or after 25 March 2020—the day after India implemented its first curfew following the pandemic.

These fresh claims add to a growing list of insolvency petitions against the financially strained SpiceJet.

As of February, around 20 such cases had been filed with the NCLT Delhi bench, primarily by aircraft lessors, vendors as well as pilots. Among these, five have been settled and withdrawn, while two are under settlement discussions and two have been dismissed. However, seven cases are still pending.

Notably, none of the cases has yet resulted in full-fledged insolvency proceedings.

In February, two former pilots of the cash-strapped airline approached the Delhi NCLT seeking the court's intervention in declaring SpiceJet bankrupt over unpaid dues totalling ₹3 crore. The aircraft lessors in these cases have accused the airline of both defaulting on dues and alleged misappropriation of parts from leased planes.

Meanwhile, SpiceJet is working to resolve its disputes with creditors following its recent ₹3,000 crore fundraising through a qualified institutional placement of shares.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

6 MARCH 2025

AI sacks pilot trainer, 10 other pilots de-rostered

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Air India has terminated a trainer pilot for allegedly falsifying simulator training hours and de-rostered 10 pilots who received training under this person, people aware of the matter told HT, as the carrier disclosed the disciplinary action to the aviation regulator.

The company informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday about the dismissal of the head of training, and duty suspensions of the other pilots, following a whistleblower complaint.

"As protocol, the airline wrote to the civil aviation regulator—the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and informed them that the head of training was sacked by them for violations of rules," said an official familiar with the development.

The airline confirmed the action in a statement: "Recently, a whistleblower alleged that a simulator trainer pilot had failed to properly discharge his duties during recurrent simulator training for pilots. A detailed investigation was conducted and, following a review of the evidence, the allegation was corroborated. Accordingly, the said trainer pilot's services are being terminated. As a precaution, ten pilots who underwent recurrent training under the trainer pilot have been removed from flying duties pending further investigation."



The violations involved the trainer inflating the number of hours that trainees went through in the simulator. HT ARCHIVE

The airline declined to name the trainer or the pilots.

A DGCA official acknowledged receipt of the report, stating, "We have got their report getting it examined."

According to the official cited in the first instance, the violations involved the now expelled trainer inflating the number of hours that trainees went through in the simulator.

"Air India has voluntarily reported the matter to the Indian aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, as part of our voluntary disclosure practice, and has commended the whistleblower for stepping forward," the spokesperson added.

An official aware of the matter, speaking on condition of anonymity, provided additional details: "A formal complaint was lodged against a senior simulator trainer pilot, failing to perform duties and misreporting. After reviewing video foot-

age, conducting interviews and analysing simulator logs, the investigation [found] that the senior pilot's behaviour was inappropriate and against the rules."

The airline also revealed that more than 30 Air India employees have been terminated for various ethical breaches in 2024 alone, with numerous others receiving other disciplinary action.

The spokesperson explained the company's ethics framework: "Immediately following the privatisation of Air India under the Tata group, the airline implemented the Tata Code of Conduct to establish clear behavioural expectations and accelerate cultural change to that of a Tata Group Company. This included comprehensive training for all employees on Tata's ethos and ethics-related policies, such as anti-bribery, anti-corruption and whistleblowing, among others."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

6 MARCH 2025

Air India sacks trainer pilot for lapses after detailed probe

Air India has terminated the services of a trainer pilot following a whistleblower complaint regarding lapses during simulator training and grounded 10 of his trainees. “A whistleblower alleged that a simulator trainer pilot had failed to properly discharge his duties during recurrent simulator training for pilots. A detailed investigation was conducted and, following a review of the evidence, the allegation was corroborated,” the airline said. According to airline sources, the trainer pilot used to impart training for Boeing 787 aircraft. Allegedly, he had misrepresented the number of hours for which simulator training was carried out.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

Long-haul foray: IndiGo to start Manchester, Amsterdam flights from July

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

MANCHESTER AND Amsterdam will be the first long-haul destinations for India's largest airline IndiGo, with flights expected to be launched in July using the wide-body Boeing 787-9 aircraft that the carrier recently took on damp lease from Norse Atlantic Airways.

"The flights to Manchester (3x weekly) and Amsterdam (3x weekly) are expected to commence in July 2025, subject to completion of all operational preparedness and regulatory approvals. With the arrival of additional aircraft from Norse later this year, the frequencies could further grow, and in parallel, IndiGo is evaluating multiple other important markets across Europe to further expand its long-haul footprint," the airline said in a release.

In addition to the damp-leased aircraft that has already been inducted by IndiGo, the airline will be taking three more Boeing 787-9 jets from Norse Atlantic on damp lease in the second half of this year. The already-inducted wide-body jet is initially being used to operate flights between Delhi and Bangkok, and will be deployed for flights to Amsterdam and Manchester, most likely from July.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

‘व्यस्त समय में हवाई किराए में बेतहाशा वृद्धि स्वीकार्य नहीं’

नई दिल्ली, 6 मार्च (भाषा)।

संसद की लोक लेखा समिति (पीएसी) के चेयरमैन केसी वेणुगोपाल ने गुरुवार को कहा कि त्योहारों और अधिक मांग वाले समय में हवाई किराए में बेतहाशा वृद्धि किसी भी तरह स्वीकार्य नहीं है। उन्होंने विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए से हवाई टिकट की दरों में इस तरह की बढ़ोतरी को नियंत्रित करने का आग्रह भी किया।

संसदीय समिति के सदस्यों के साथ दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे का दौरा करने के बाद वेणुगोपाल ने हवाई अड्डों पर लिए जाने वाले उपयोगकर्ता विकास शुल्क (यूडीएफ) में वृद्धि पर भी चिंता जताई। उन्होंने कहा कि संसदीय समिति इस

मुद्दे की जांच करेगी। इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (आइजीआइए) के अलावा समिति के सदस्यों ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में खेड़की दौला टोल प्लाजा और द्वारका एक्सप्रेसवे का भी दौरा किया और संबंधित अधिकारियों के साथ बातचीत की। वेणुगोपाल ने हवाई अड्डे के दौरे के बाद कहा कि हमने जो सबसे महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा उठाया, वह त्योहारों और अधिक मांग के दौरान टिकट दरों में अत्यधिक वृद्धि के बारे में है जो बिल्कुल भी स्वीकार्य नहीं है।

डीजीसीए को इसे नियंत्रित करना होगा। किराए में अत्यधिक वृद्धि को नियंत्रित करने के लिए प्रावधान हैं। त्योहारों और व्यस्त समय में अधिक मांग के दौरान हवाई किराए में भारी वृद्धि को लेकर चिंता बनी हुई है।

Fresh insolvency claims crowd SpiceJet's runway

New legal battles could further complicate the cash-strapped airline's recovery

Krishna Yadav
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NEW DELHI

SpiceJet Ltd has been hit with fresh insolvency claims from three Ireland-based aircraft lessors and a former pilot over defaults on rental and employment dues, just as the financially-strained airline prepares to revive operations.

Three Irish lessors—NGF Genesis Ltd, NGF Charlie Ltd, and NGF Alpha Ltd—have alleged that SpiceJet defaulted on rental payments, with their combined claims amounting to \$12.4 million.

These entities approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) after previously serving a legal notice to the airline in December, accusing it of theft of aircraft parts, including engines, from five leased Boeing 737 freighter planes. Additionally, a former SpiceJet pilot, Devesh Bbyan, has filed a claim for ₹1.70 crore towards unpaid employment dues for March 2020 to August 2022.

During a brief hearing at the Delhi bench of

the insolvency court, SpiceJet sought time to respond as its settlement talks were underway. Consequently, NCLT adjourned its hearing of the lessors' cases until April.

In the pilot's case, NCLT directed the budget airline to file a reply and the pilot to clarify how his claims were not barred under Section 10A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

As a temporary relief to businesses affected by the pandemic years, IBC's Section 10A bars insolvency proceedings for defaults occurring on or after 25 March 2020—the day after India implemented its first curfew following the pandemic.

These fresh claims add to a growing list of insolvency petitions against the financially strained SpiceJet.

As of February, around 20 such cases had been filed with the NCLT Delhi bench, primarily by aircraft lessors, vendors as well as pilots. Among these, five have been settled and withdrawn, while two are under settlement discussions and two have been dismissed. However, seven cases are still pending.



Ireland-based aircraft lessors have accused SpiceJet of defaulting on rental dues. REUTERS

Notably, none of the cases has yet resulted in full-fledged insolvency proceedings.

In February, two former pilots of the cash-strapped airline approached the Delhi NCLT seeking the court's intervention in declaring SpiceJet bankrupt over unpaid dues totalling ₹3 crore. The aircraft lessors in these cases have accused the airline of both defaulting on dues

The airline's domestic market share dropped from 7.3% in January 2023 to 2.3% in August 2024, with 36 of its aircraft currently grounded.

According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), SpiceJet had carried just over six million passengers in 2024, holding a market share of 3.7%.

To revive its operations, the airline plans to bring 30 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft back into service over a 12-15 month period. On 29 January, SpiceJet reintroduced its first ungrounded 737 MAX into operations.

SpiceJet had recently expanded its operational fleet by 55% during the December quarter, adding 10 aircraft—one every nine days.

This initiative had enabled the airline to launch new routes and resume previously discontinued destinations.

Despite this, its operational fleet remains one of the smallest in the industry at 28 aircraft, just ahead of Akasa Air (27), while more than half of its planes remain grounded due to financial constraints and unpaid dues.

BANKRUPTCY BLUES

IN Dec, the lessors served a legal notice, accusing SpiceJet of stealing Boeing 737 freighter engines

A former SpiceJet pilot has claimed ₹1.70 crore in unpaid dues from March 2020 to August 2022

SPICEJET is working to resolve disputes with creditors after raising ₹3,000 crore through a QIP

and alleged misappropriation of parts from leased planes.

Meanwhile, SpiceJet is working to resolve its disputes with creditors following its recent ₹3,000 crore fundraising through a qualified institutional placement of shares.

SpiceJet has faced severe financial and operational challenges since the pandemic struck.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

6 MARCH 2025

Air India acts on whistleblower allegations, sacks trainer pilot

NEW DELHI: Air India on Wednesday said it has terminated the services of a trainer pilot for lapses and 10 pilots who underwent training under the trainer pilot have been removed from flying duties pending investigation.

The latest action came after a whistleblower alleged that a simulator trainer pilot had failed to properly discharge his duties during recurrent simulator training for pilots.

In a statement, the Tata Group-owned airline said a detailed probe was conducted into the allegations, which were corroborated after a review of the evidence.

Without disclosing specific details, Air India said the trainer pilot's services are being terminated.

"As a precaution, ten pilots who underwent recurrent training under the trainer pilot have been removed from flying duties pending further investigation," the airline said.



Without disclosing specific details, Air India said the trainer pilot's services are being terminated

REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Further, Air India said it voluntarily reported the matter to aviation regulator DGCA and also commended the whistleblower for stepping forward.

Details about the trainer pilot and related action could not be immediately ascertained.

On some earlier occasions, Air India had faced action from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for failing to report certain incidents and non-disclosures.

Tata Group took over loss-

making Air India from the government in January 2022. In the statement, the airline said it has implemented the Tata Code of Conduct to establish clear behavioural expectations and accelerate cultural change to that of a Tata Group company.

"This included comprehensive training for all employees on Tata's ethos and ethics-related policies, such as anti-bribery, anti-corruption and whistleblowing, among others," it added.

MPOST



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

रास्ते से शिकागो लौटा एयर इंडिया का विमान

■ पीटीआई, नई दिल्ली: शिकागो से दिल्ली आ रहा एयर इंडिया का विमान गुरुवार को 10 घंटे से अधिक की उड़ान के बाद अमेरिकी शहर लौट गया। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि विमान को तकनीकी वजह से वापस लौटना पड़ा। बताया गया कि विमान को वापस लौटना पड़ा क्योंकि कई शौचालय जाम हो गए थे। सूत्र ने यह भी कहा कि केवल एक शौचालय ही काम कर रहा था। एयर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि 6 मार्च की घटना है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

7 MARCH 2025

हवा-हवाई

फ्लाइबिग की फ्लाइट भगवान भरोसे, कंपनी के अफसर जवाब भी नहीं देते

न शेड्यूल, न किराया और न ही टिकट बुकिंग का ठिकाना

पत्रिका ब्यूरो
patrika.com

रायपुर. स्वामी विवेकानंद एयरपोर्ट रायपुर से अंबिकापुर और बिलासपुर की फ्लाइबिग फ्लाइट भगवान भरोसे चल रही हैं। टैवल्स संचालकों तक को इसका शेड्यूल नहीं मालूम है। इसके चलते यात्रियों को संतोषजनक जवाब नहीं दे पा रहे हैं। वहीं फ्लाइट के अनियमित संचालन के चलते पर्याप्त यात्री तक नहीं मिल रहे हैं।

टैवल्स एसोसिएशन फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (टाफी) के छत्तीसगढ़ अध्यक्ष रमन जादवानी ने बताया कि यह फ्लाइट रायपुर को अंबिकापुर और

कंपनी की ओर से नहीं मिला जवाब फ्लाइबिग विमानन कंपनी अर्ध देव से इस संबंध में जानकारी लेने की कोशिश की गई लेकिन उन्होंने फोन रिसीव ही नहीं किया।



बिलासपुर को जोड़ती है। लेकिन, यह सप्ताह में कब, कितने समय और कितने दिन चलती है और किराया और टिकटिंग का कोई जानकारी तक नहीं मिल पाती है। टिकट की बुकिंग करने कंपनी को मेल भेजकर जानकारी

मांगनी पड़ती है। लेकिन, सिस्टम के स्लो और सर्वर डाउन होने का हवाला दिया जाता है। विमानन कंपनी को शिकायत पत्र लिखकर व्यवस्था को सुधारने के लिए कई बार अनुरोध किया गया है।

कोई जिम्मेदार **अधिकारी नहीं**

टाफी के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष का कहना है कि तीनों शहरों के टैवल्स संचालकों ने इस फ्लाइट के संचालन को लेकर नाराजगी जताई है। साथ ही इसे ठीक करने के लिए कंपनी के अधिकारियों से संपर्क करने कहा है।

उनका कहना है कि प्रदेश में कोई भी जिम्मेदार अधिकारी नहीं होने से कंपनी के साथ ही उन्हें भी यात्रियों की नाराजगी का सामना करना पड़ता है। तीनों ही शहरों के लिए बड़ी संख्या में यात्री आवागमन करते हैं।

उड़ान को लेकर हमेशा संशय

टैवल्स संचालकों का कहना है कि पहले फ्लाइट का संचालन 5 दिन उसके बाद 3 दिन करने की जानकारी उन्हें मिली थी। लेकिन, इस समय कब, कितने समय और

सीटों की उपलब्धता के संबंध में कोई ब्यौरा नहीं है। इस कारण वे टिकट बुकिंग के लिए दिए गए स्लॉट में किराया, टाइमिंग नहीं होने के कारण यात्रियों को सर्विस नहीं दे पा रहे हैं।