



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

6 APRIL 2026

AAI APPROVES UNDERPASS AT BEGUMPET

NABINDER BOMMALA | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 5

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has approved a 600-metre, six-lane underpass beneath the Begumpet airport runway, clearing a key hurdle for the proposed elevated corridor project, a Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority official said.

The underpass forms part of the 5.4-km elevated corridor from Paradise Junction to Military Dairy Farm Road on NH-44. The corridor will pass through Secunderabad, Tadbund and Bowenpally. Underpass has been planned as an elevated structure is not feasible on or near the airport runway, and to avoid a sharp turn in Tadbund.

AAI nod for Begumpet airport underpass plan

600-m underpass to boost corridor work after approval

NABINDER BOMMALA | DC
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The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has approved a 600-metre, six-lane underpass beneath the Begumpet airport runway, clearing a key hurdle for the proposed elevated corridor project, a Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority official said.

The underpass forms part of the 5.4-km elevated corridor from Paradise Junction to Military Dairy Farm Road on NH-44. The corridor will pass through Secunderabad, Tadbund and Bowenpally before terminating at Dairy Farm Road. The underpass has been planned as an elevated structure is not feasible on or near the airport runway, and to

RUNWAY LINK

- Part of 5.4-km corridor from Paradise Junction to Dairy Farm Road.

- Route passes through Secunderabad, Tadbund and Bowenpally.

- AAI approval clears key hurdle for project

- Underpass chosen as elevated structure not feasible near runway

- **LAND ACQUISITION:** 42 acres defence, 13 acres private

- Work on acquiring required land is currently underway

- **PROJECT COST:** ₹5,106 crore; NDB to fund 70%



avoid a sharp turn in Tadbund.

"The major hurdle to the proposed construction of the elevated corridor has been cleared as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) recently

granted approval," the HMDA official said.

Land acquisition for the corridor involves 42 acres of defence land and 13 acres of private land, with work underway.

The HMDA is executing

two elevated corridors — Paradise Junction-Shamirpet and Paradise Junction-Dairy Farm Road — with the Begumpet airport underpass forming part of the latter. Together, the projects require 114 acres of defence land and 78 acres of private land.

The New Development Bank will fund the projects. The total project cost is ₹5,106 crore, of which the bank will provide ₹3,574 crore (around 70 per cent), while the state government will bear the remaining ₹1,532 crore, as per the preliminary project proposal report.

A similar underpass project beneath the runway at Varanasi International Airport in Uttar Pradesh has also received approval.

'Help airlines launch global flights from other hubs'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the West Asia conflict impacting air traffic, a Parliamentary panel has urged the Central government to incentivise Indian airlines to launch and expand widebody services from emerging and secondary hubs like Bengaluru and Chennai to Europe and North America within a year and "progressively reduce" dependence on Gulf transit.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture said roughly half of India's international passenger traffic currently transits through Gulf hubs.

The airspace closure in Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE and Israel that started on February 28 shut down the primary air corridor linking Asia, Europe, and Africa, forcing airlines to reroute westbound flights via the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean airspace.



Parliamentary panel proposes

- Roughly half of India's international passenger traffic currently transits through Gulf hubs
- Airspace closure in Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE and Israel that started on Feb 28 shut down primary air corridor linking Asia, Europe, Africa
- Airlines should launch, expand widebody services from emerging, secondary hubs to Europe and N America
- Develop comprehensive inter-ministerial Aviation Resilience and Diversification Framework
- Conclude overflight, traffic-right arrangements with non-Gulf nodes for when Gulf hubs are compromised

This has added two to four hours of flight time and substantially increased fuel consumption, the committee, headed by JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha, said in its report tabled in Parliament late March.

It urged the government to develop a comprehensive inter-ministerial Aviation Resilience and Diversification Framework (ARDF) in coordination with the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, External Affairs and Home Af-

fairs, the Airports Authority of India, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to tackle eventualities in such a scenario.

The frameworks should "incentivise" Indian carriers to launch and expand direct wide-body services from emerging and secondary hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune to Europe and North America within 12 months, "progressively reducing dependence

on Gulf transit", the report said.

Scrutinising the Demands for Grants (2026-27) for the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the report recalled that Turkish Airlines continued operations via Istanbul, and European carriers Air France, Lufthansa and British Airways maintained US-India connectivity by entirely avoiding the Gulf airspace, "demonstrating the viability of non-Gulf routing".

It also said overflight and traffic-right arrangements with non-Gulf nodes — Istanbul, Athens, Frankfurt in Europe; Nairobi in Africa; and Singapore in South-East Asia — to provide contingency connectivity when Gulf hubs are compromised should be concluded.

The government has already identified 'safe airports', including Muscat, Fujairah, Ras al Khaimah, Jeddah, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi for consolidation and evacuation, a model that should be institutionalised, it said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Noida airport gets aerodrome, security clearances to start ops

REGULATORY GO-AHEAD. DGCA green light comes after final nod from Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

After missing several completion deadlines, the Noida International Airport (NIA) has now secured both aerodrome and security clearances, moving the greenfield airport at Jewar a step closer to start commercial domestic operations.

On Friday, the airport received its aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), certifying that the facility meets regulatory requirements related to operational procedures, safety systems, infrastructure, navigation aids and emergency response.

PASSENGER SERVICE

The development comes a day after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) granted final security clearance for domestic passenger operations as well as domestic and international cargo services.

businessline had reported on Friday (March 5) that the



FACILITY READINESS. All major infrastructure required for operations is now complete, says NIA

airport had secured the crucial security clearance from BCAS, marking a major milestone in its operational readiness.

In technical parlance, the licence confirms that the airport's airside infrastructure, flight operations procedures and safety systems comply with DGCA's Civil Aviation Requirements.

Notably, the next regulatory step will involve approval of the Aerodrome Security Programme by BCAS.

Once this is cleared, authorities will coordinate with airline partners to plan

the formal inauguration and commencement of commercial operations.

A major operational milestone had already been achieved in December 2024 when IndiGo conducted a validation flight using an Airbus A320 to test the airport's approach procedures, navigation aids and air traffic control systems.

KEY MILESTONE

"Receiving the aerodrome licence is a key milestone in our journey. It reflects the strong collaboration with our partners and the rigor-

ous work undertaken to ensure readiness for commercial operations," Christoph Schnellmann, Chief Executive Officer of Noida International Airport, said.

MOBILITY SERVICES

As per NIA, all major infrastructure required for operations is now complete, and essential concessions have been awarded across mobility services, ground handling, in-flight catering, aviation fuel, cargo, retail, food and beverage, and the airport hotel.

Besides, communications and navigation systems have been commissioned by the Airports Authority of India.

Last month, Schnellmann told *businessline* that the operational readiness process would involve finalising airline networks and route plans, as well as completing slot filing and approval procedures with the DGCA and other stakeholders.

Once slots are approved, airlines typically begin commercial preparations such as opening ticket sales and initiating customer outreach

ahead of launch.

In terms of the city side, the airport is preparing surface connectivity to support passengers from the first day of operations.

Schnellmann had pointed out that the mobility options will include intercity and long-haul bus services, airport taxis and cab aggregators, supported by intelligent traffic management systems to regulate traffic flow.

Looking ahead, he said long-term connectivity could be strengthened through a proposed Regional Rapid Transit System link from Ghaziabad and a planned high-speed rail corridor between Delhi and Varanasi, with a stop at the airport.

STRATEGIC DEAL

On airline partnerships, IndiGo will be the launch carrier at NIA. The airport has also entered into a strategic partnership with Akasa Air, which plans to operate both domestic and international services, while Air India Express is set to begin flights as well.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Int'l arms-terror module: 2 held from IGI airport

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Monday said they have arrested two key operatives of a transnational arms trafficking and terror module. The accused were arrested from IGI Airport and have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. DCP (crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said the arrests are linked to a larger module operated by fugitive accused Shahbaz Ansari.

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

6 APRIL 2026

पूर्वांचल का तीसरा एयरपोर्ट सोनभद्र में बनेगा

निर्माण के लिए मिले 23 करोड़ रुपये

वाराणसी। सोनभद्र के म्योरपुर में पूर्वांचल का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट बनेगा। इसके लिए शासन की ओर से 23 करोड़ रुपये का बजट जारी किया गया है। निर्माण शुरू करने के लिए कागजी औपचारिकताएं पूरी की जा रही हैं। इसी महीने से निर्माण शुरू होने के आसार हैं। इस एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण आजमगढ़ एयरपोर्ट की तर्ज पर होगा। यहां से क्षेत्रीय और

नॉन कनेक्टिंग विमानों का संचालन होगा। सोनभद्र के म्योरपुर में एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण साल 2022 से कराया जा रहा है। पूर्व में यहां पार्किंग के लिए चिह्नित जमीन पर विवाद के कारण स्टे लग गया था। दिसंबर 2025 में हाईकोर्ट ने इस जमीन से स्टे हटा लिया।

यही नहीं शासन की ओर से इस एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण के लिए 23 करोड़ रुपये का बजट भी जारी कर दिया गया है। वाराणसी एयरपोर्ट के अधिकारियों की निगरानी में यहां काम कराया जाएगा। एयरपोर्ट



अधिकारियों के अनुसार सोनभद्र एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण आजमगढ़ की तर्ज पर कराया जाएगा। यहां से क्षेत्रीय विमान और नॉन कनेक्टिंग

फ्लाइट्स का संचालन होगा। सभी औपचारिकताएं पूरी करने के बाद इसी महीने से निर्माण कार्य शुरू होने के आसार हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

6 APRIL 2026

Air India suspends flights to Israel till May 31

JERUSALEM, April 5: Amid the ongoing war in West Asia, Air India has suspended its flights to Israel till May 31.

An Air India executive confirmed to PTI that the airline has suspended flights on the New Delhi-Tel Aviv route till May 31.

Most of the leading airlines have suspended their operations on the Tel Aviv route with only Israeli carriers like El Al, IsraAir, Arkia and Air Haifa operating under severe restrictions.

The suspension of flights has caused major worries among more than 40,000 Indians living in Israel who wish to travel to India for personal or professional reasons, or even to escape the escalating tensions in the region.

Indians looking to leave Israel have to go through Jordan or Egypt by entering the two countries through the land crossings.

The Indian mission in Tel Aviv has been assisting those looking to travel through various means.

The embassy has also maintained regular contact with the community during the period, opening a 24x7 emergency line and also launching a massive registration drive.

Ambassador J P Singh and the embassy team on Saturday held virtual discussion with Indian workers and students across Israel to listen to their concerns, assuring them of "constant support during the ongoing crisis, and beyond", the mission said on its social media handle.

The direct flight service between New Delhi and Tel Aviv was re-launched on January 1 with four weekly flights, utilising the advanced Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

However, flights have been disrupted ever since the US and Israel jointly attacked Iran on February 28.

The retaliation by the Islamic Republic extended the war to the entire Gulf region. The conflict has taken a major toll on energy supply chains, especially across the Strait of Hormuz. - PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Airbus launches tech centre in Bengaluru

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries M B Patil on Friday launched the Airbus India Technology Centre at Titanium Tech Park near Kadugodi, Bengaluru.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu joined the event virtually.

Speaking at the launch, Patil said the centre can accommodate more than 5,000 employees. He said the facility is the company's second-largest digital centre and its third innovation centre globally.

The centre would contrib-

ute to the growth of the aerospace, defence and information technology sectors in the state.

Karnataka contributes nearly 60 per cent to India's aerospace and defence sectors. The State has more than 400 aerospace and defence companies, he added.

With inputs from businessline intern Tejaswini S



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

SpiceJet's Gulf focus leaves it most exposed to West Asia turmoil

Amit Vijay Mohile
Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Budget carrier SpiceJet's overseas network, though relatively small, is the most geographically concentrated among Indian airlines, with all 22 of its daily international flights in March operating to Gulf destinations, leaving the carrier proportionally the most exposed to disruptions in West Asian airspace.

The schedule data from Cirium, which is a leading provider of comprehensive aviation data, tracking over 99 per cent of global commercial flights, show the SpiceJet is the only major Indian carrier whose entire international network is concentrated in a single geographic corridor, with Dubai, Fujairah and Sharjah being the key destinations after the airline suspended operations to Bangkok,

Phuket and Kathmandu.

The airline has about 154 scheduled flights a day, meaning international services account for roughly 14 per cent of its network; its entire international operation is currently dependent on the Gulf corridor.

WIDE NETWORKS

Other Indian carriers maintain more diversified international networks. Cirium data show IndiGo has 267 international flights daily, of which 135 are to Gulf destinations, while Air India has 158 international flights, with 36 to the Gulf.

Air India Express, whose business model is heavily focused on the region, has 125 international flights daily with about 112 serving Gulf routes, while Akasa Air schedules 21 international flights, 17 of which are to Gulf destinations.

Aviation analysts monitoring the sector suggest that such concentration, while ef-



SHOCK EXPOSURE. Aviation analysts monitoring the sector suggest that such concentration, while efficient in stable markets, leaves little room for flexibility during geopolitical crisis

cient in stable markets, leaves little room for flexibility during geopolitical shocks.

"Diversification acts as a natural hedge in aviation," noted an industry analyst. "While concentration can drive yields in normal times, it quickly turns into a strategic bottleneck when tested by geopolitics."

AIRSPACE DISRUPTIONS

SpiceJet, however, played down concerns that the situation poses a significant operational or financial risk. "International operations

account for barely about 10 per cent of our total flights. The network has recently been comprehensively restructured with a clear focus on high-yield domestic routes," a SpiceJet spokesperson said.

Dubai is central to SpiceJet's international strategy. The Mumbai-Dubai and Delhi-Dubai routes are the airline's primary profit drivers. These routes, along with services connecting Tier-2 cities such as Kozhikode and Kochi to Dubai have historically maintained strong load

factors and have been key to the airline's revival strategy.

Dubai's aviation and daily operations are currently facing significant disruptions due to the escalating West Asia crisis. As of March 6, 2026, the situation is fluid with a gradual, phased resumption of flights following widespread regional airspace closures. Flight Operations Status has now moved to partial resumption, with operations at Dubai International and Al Maktoum International airports partially resumed after a near-total shutdown earlier this week.

According to the airline, demand rebounded quickly after the reopening of airspace in the region.

STRONG DEMAND

"Following the reopening of the airspace, demand has been very strong, and we have been operating special flights to the UAE. Dubai and the wider West Asia continue to remain an important and

robust market for Indian carriers, and we remain confident about the long-term prospects," the spokesperson added.

The airline also rejected suggestions that recent airspace restrictions had hurt revenues. "There has been no revenue loss due to the brief airspace closure," the spokesperson said.

SpiceJet also pointed to structural limits on expansion on the India-UAE corridor, noting that bilateral air service agreements are already fully utilised.

"The bilateral seat entitlements between India and the UAE are fully utilised". On broadbasing its international operation, the airline spokesperson said, "SpiceJet holds traffic rights to multiple international destinations. Capacity can be re-deployed across both international and domestic routes, if required, in line with operational and commercial considerations."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BANGALORE MIRROR

BANGALORE

6 APRIL 2026

Hoax threat triggers bomb scare on Bengaluru-Delhi flight

Following a bomb threat reported onboard, passengers travelling from Bengaluru to Delhi on an IndiGo flight underwent a tense situation on Saturday at 7 pm. As per the officials, the incident attracted an emergency evacuation at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru. Authorities made quick efforts to evacuate the passengers, and shortly after, they confirmed that the threat was a mere hoax.

As per reports, a passenger came across a piece of tissue paper inside the aircraft's washroom which triggered the alert. As per the claim in the note on

the tissue paper, it mentioned a prospective explosive device on board. Soon after its discovery, crew members onboard were alerted and they progressed to handling the situation, deploying standard safety procedures. Air Traffic Control authorities were alerted by the pilot quickly, and the process of safe deboarding commenced thereafter.

Bomb disposal squads and security agencies conducted a detailed sweep of the aircraft and found no suspicious objects or prospective explosive device as claimed in the note, after which they confirmed the hoax. Once declared safe to board, passengers resumed their journey and reached their destination. Authorities have launched an investigation to identify persons involved in crafting the fake bomb threat at the airport. — **BMB**



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

6 APRIL 2026

हज का मुकद्दस सफर: फ्लाइट्स शेड्यूल जारी जयपुर से 19 से उड़ान भरेंगे यात्री, 9 स्पेशल फ्लाइट्स मदीना जाएंगी

जयपुर | हज यात्रा-2026 के लिए तैयारियां तेज हो गई हैं। जयपुर से 19 अप्रैल से यात्रियों के लिए स्पेशल फ्लाइट्स का संचालन शुरू होगा। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के अनुसार इस बार कुल 9 फ्लाइट्स 19 से 28 अप्रैल के बीच संचालित होंगी।

20 अप्रैल को छोड़ अन्य सभी दिनों में रोजाना एक फ्लाइट जयपुर से सीधे मदीना रवाना होगी, जिससे यात्रियों को बेहतर और डायरेक्ट कनेक्टिविटी मिलेगी। जानकारी के अनुसार इन फ्लाइट्स का संचालन फ्लायनास एयरलाइंस करेगी।

सभी हज फ्लाइट्स का आवागमन जयपुर एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-1 से होगा। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन की ओर से टर्मिनल-1 पर अतिरिक्त चेक-इन काउंटर बनाए जाएंगे।

इसके अलावा यात्रियों की सहायता और मार्गदर्शन के लिए विशेष स्टाफ की तैनाती की जाएगी। पार्किंग और पिक-अप-ड्रॉप जोन को भी व्यवस्थित किया जा रहा है, जिससे आवागमन सुगम रहे। वापसी की फ्लाइट्स 5 से 13 जून के बीच संचालित होंगी, जो जेद्दा से जयपुर आएंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

6 APRIL 2026

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Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

एअर इंडिया के सीईओ कैंपबेल का इस्तीफा

नई दिल्ली, रायटर : एअर इंडिया के सीईओ कैंपबेल विल्सन ने अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया है। पिछले साल हुए विमान हादसे में 260 लोगों की मौत के बाद से एयरलाइन लगातार घाटे और कड़ी नियामक जांच का सामना कर रही है। एक मीडिया रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि विल्सन फिलहाल नोटिस पीरियड में हैं। अभी यह पता नहीं लगा सका कि टाटा समूह ने उनका उत्तराधिकारी नियुक्त किया है या नहीं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

6 APRIL 2026

एअर इंडिया ने इजरायल के लिए उड़ानें 31 मई तक निलंबित कीं

यरुशलम, ग्रेट: पश्चिम एशिया में चल रही जंग के बीच एअर इंडिया ने इजरायल के लिए अपनी उड़ानें 31 मई तक निलंबित कर दी हैं। अधिकांश प्रमुख एयरलाइनों ने तेल अवीव मार्ग पर अपनी सेवाएं सस्पेंड की हुई हैं।

केवल इजरायली कैरियर जैसे ईएल एएल, इस्त्रा एयर, आर्किया और एयर हाइफ्र ही कड़ी पाबंदियों



के तहत संचालन कर रहे हैं। एअर इंडिया के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि एयरलाइन ने नई दिल्ली-तेल अवीव मार्ग पर उड़ानें 31 मई तक निलंबित कर दी हैं। उड़ानों के निलंबन ने इजरायल

में रहने वाले 40,000 से अधिक भारतीयों के बीच चिंता बढ़ा दी है, जो क्षेत्र में बढ़ते तनाव से बचने या पेशेवर कारणों से भारत यात्रा करना चाहते हैं। इजरायल छोड़ने के इच्छुक भारतीयों को भूमिगत सीमा पार कर जार्डन या मिस्र जाना होगा। तेल अवीव में भारतीय मिशन उन लोगों की सहायता कर रहा है, जो यात्रा करना चाहते हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

6 APRIL 2026

18 daily flights at Leh airport to boost tourism: Ladakh L-G

PTI

LEH

Flights at Leh airport have increased from eight to 18 per day to boost air connectivity ahead of the peak tourism season, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said on Sunday.

He said two more flights are expected to begin operations soon, providing flexibility for visitors to plan their journeys, and invited holiday-makers to experience Ladakh for an "unforgettable" trip.

"Ladakh is all set to welcome a larger number of visitors than before. Pleased to announce a major boost to air connectivity with Leh, as the tourist season begins in Ladakh," Saxena said.

"With our concerted efforts, the flight operations at Leh Airport have significantly increased from eight flights to 18 flights a day, as on April 2, connecting major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Srinagar and Chandigarh. Two more flights are expected to begin operations soon, thereby providing greater flexibility to visitors to plan their journey," the L-G took to X.

अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई किराया 150 फीसदी तक बढ़ गया



नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। पश्चिमी एशिया में जारी युद्ध के बीच कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में हो रही बढ़ोतरी की असर हवाई किराए पर दिखने लगा है। घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के किराए में लगातार बढ़ोतरी हो रही है।

दिल्ली, मुंबई और बेंगलुरु जैसे शहरों से न्यूयॉर्क, शिकागो, लंदन, फ्रैंकफर्ट और अन्य शहरों का हवाई किराया 50 से 150 फीसदी तक बढ़ गया है। अमेरिका-इजरायल और ईरान जंग के बाद से अब तक कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर हवाई टिकट काफी महंगा हो गया है। वहीं कुछ घरेलू मार्गों पर युद्ध शुरू होने से पहले के सामान्य दिनों के मुकाबले किराया 70 फीसदी तक बढ़ गया है।

■ दिल्ली से शिकागो का किराया 80 हजार से सवा दो लाख रुपये पहुंचा

न्यूयॉर्क, शिकागो, लंदन, फ्रैंकफर्ट व अन्य शहरों के लिए हवाई किराया से 50 से 150 फीसदी तक बढ़ा है। अप्रैल में अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में करीब 115 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

इसके बाद से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का किराया तेजी से बढ़ा है। इसका अंदाजा ऐसे भी लगाया जा सकता है कि दिल्ली से शिकागो का स्पॉट एयरफेयर 100 फीसदी से अधिक बढ़ गया है। पहले यह किराया 80 हजार से सवा लाख रुपये के बीच में होता था जो अब बढ़कर सवा दो लाख रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। दिल्ली से न्यूयॉर्क का स्पॉट किराया 80-120 फीसदी तक बढ़ गया है। बेंगलुरु से सैन फ्रांसिस्को का स्पॉट किराया 60 फीसदी से ज्यादा बढ़ा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

एयर इंडिया सीईओ का पद से इस्तीफा

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। एयर इंडिया के सीईओ कैपबेल विल्सन ने सोमवार को अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया है।

मालूम हो कि एयर इंडिया पिछले काफी समय से लगातार हो रहे घाटे और पिछले साल गुजरात के अहमदाबाद में हुए एक बड़े विमान हादसे के बाद बढ़ी नियामक जांच का सामना कर रही है। हादसे में 260 लोगों की जान चली गई थी। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक विल्सन वर्तमान में अपनी नोटिस अवधि पूरी कर रहे हैं।

हालांकि, यह स्पष्ट नहीं हो पाया है कि टाटा समूह की कंपनी ने उनके उत्तराधिकारी की तलाश पूरी कर ली है या नहीं।

Crash, plane crunch weigh on air traffic

Dipali Banka

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MUMBAI: India's domestic air passenger traffic growth was already cooling from the highs of post-pandemic revenge travel. Last fiscal is estimated to have been the worst since then because of multiple setbacks—grounded planes, frequent disruptions and heightened regulatory scrutiny after the country's worst air crash in decades.

Air passenger traffic rose 1.6% between April and February, according to ICRA Ltd's note published last month. The ratings agency estimates an up to 3% growth in fiscal year 2026 (FY26).

The number of Indians flying grew by 59% and 56% in FY22 and FY23, respectively, according to data from the civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

This growth slowed to 16% in FY24 and 7.6% in the following year.

The slowdown, however, does not represent a lack of demand. Passenger load factor, a measure of occupancy levels in a flight, remained elevated at around



Domestic passenger traffic has risen from 53.5 million in FY21 to 165.4 million in FY25. AFP

93%, ICRA said. And all airlines have lined up aggressive expansion.

The fatal Air India crash in June 2025 triggered heightened regulatory scrutiny and stricter safety checks across the industry. This led to lower aircraft utilisation and operational delays.

According to ICRA, 13-15% of the industry's fleet remained grounded as of February 2026, primarily due to engine failures and supply chain constraints. This has directly reduced the number of planes in operation, limiting capacity addition even as demand remained robust.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

6 APRIL 2026

Akasa Air starts daily B'luru-Darbhanga fights

Bishnu K Jha

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DARBHANGA: Boosting regional air connectivity, Akasa Air has launched a new daily direct flight service between Bengaluru and Darbhanga under the summer schedule effective from April 5 to October 23, 2026.

According to Darbhanga airport director Dilip Kumar, the newly introduced flight QP1513

will depart from Bengaluru at 9.40 am and arrive in Darbhanga at 12.15 pm, while the return flight QP1514 will leave Darbhanga at 12.50 pm and reach Bengaluru at 3.30 pm.

Sharing operational details for Sunday, Kumar said the airport recorded a total of 18 flight movements, including nine arrivals and nine departures. "A total of 2,821 passengers were handled today, with 1,415 arriv-

ing and 1,406 departing," he said.

He further informed that the newly introduced Akasa flight witnessed strong occupancy on its inaugural day, with 160 passengers arriving and 164 departing on the sector.

The addition of this route is expected to significantly enhance connectivity between north Bihar and southern India, catering to both business and migrant passengers while easing

travel for residents of the Mithila region. Meanwhile, in a press release, Darbhanga MP Gopal Jee Thakur said that Darbhanga airport was inaugurated on November 8, 2020, under the UDAN Scheme. and that time, flight services between Darbhanga and Bengaluru were started by SpiceJet. But, after the service was discontinued, people in the region faced inconvenience which will ebb now.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Court denies relief to airport staffer booked for harassing Korean woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday refused to quash a First Information Report (FIR) registered against a 25-year-old ground staff member hired on a contract basis for security checks at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, on the allegation of sexually harassing a Korean woman under the guise of conducting additional security verification.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by the accused Mohammed Affan Ahmed, a

The accused person allegedly subjected her to an intrusive and inappropriate physical search at the Kempegowda International Airport

resident of Thomas Town in Bengaluru.

Additional verification
As per the complaint, the accused stopped the 32-year-old victim, a businesswoman, for additional verification, citing an issue with the check-in baggage and ticket, after she had undergone immigration clearance for an

international journey.

It was alleged that the accused took her to a men's washroom under the pretext of further inspection.

'Without consent'

The accused allegedly subjected her to an intrusive physical search without her consent and touched her inappropriately despite her objection.

The airport police had registered the FIR under Section 75(1)(i) (sexual harassment) of Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita based on the complaint lodged by the victim on January 19, 2026.

MINT

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Crash, plane crunch drive traffic pain for airlines

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India's domestic air passenger traffic growth was already cooling from the highs of post-pandemic revenge travel. Last fiscal is estimated to have been the worst since then because of multiple setbacks—grounded planes, frequent disruptions and heightened regulatory scrutiny after the country's worst air crash in decades.

Air passenger traffic rose 1.6% between April and February, according to Ica Ltd's note published last month. The ratings agency estimates an up to 3% growth in fiscal year 2026 (FY26).

The number of Indians flying grew by 59% and 56% in FY22 and FY23, respectively, according to data from the civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

This growth slowed to 16% in FY24 and 7.6% in the following year.

The slowdown, however, does not represent a lack of demand. Passenger load factor, a measure of occupancy levels in a flight, remained

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Capacity curbs, disruptions weigh on FY26 passenger traffic growth

FROM PAGE 1

elevated at around 93%, Ica said. And all airlines have lined up aggressive expansion.

The fatal Air India crash in June 2025 triggered heightened regulatory scrutiny and stricter safety checks across the industry. This led to lower aircraft utilisation and operational delays. The operational meltdown in December at India's largest carrier, IndiGo, led the DGCA to cut 10% of its daily flights.

Another major drag has been aircraft availability. According to Ica, 13-15% of the industry's fleet remained grounded as of February 2026, primarily due to engine failures and supply chain constraints. This has directly reduced the number of planes in operation, limiting capacity addition even as demand remained robust.

International passenger traffic, a major growth driver over the past two years, has taken a hit. Growth has been affected by the closure of Pakistani airspace and restrictions in West Asia airspace due to the US-Iran war, forcing airlines to reroute long-haul flights. The war has also driven up fuel costs, resulting in higher fares and additional surcharges.

Indian airlines carried 30.3 million international passengers in the first 10 months of FY26, a year-on-year increase of 8.5%, compared to a stronger 14.1% growth in FY25.



Domestic passenger traffic has risen from 53.5 million in FY21 to 165.4 million in FY25. **SOURCE:**

Domestic passenger traffic has risen from 53.5 million in FY21 to 165.4 million in FY25. Even with 3% growth in FY26, total passenger traffic would increase to around 170.3 million.

"While the start of the year was relatively strong, multiple disruptions—including the Pahalagam incident in April, India-Pakistan tensions in May, the Air India crash in June, the IndiGo crisis in December, and the West Asia conflict in March—have weighed on sector growth in FY26," said Jainam Shah, aviation analyst at Equirus Securities.

During the same period, Indian Railways, the preferred mode of transport for most Indians, reported a 3.54% increase in passengers to 7,410 million in FY26.

Despite the slowdown, India's top airlines are planning major expansion. Currently, IndiGo has 440 planes, the Air India Group has 291, Akasa Air has 37, and SpiceJet has about 35, taking the total fleet to 803 aircraft.

Over the next nine years, these airlines expect to add more than 1,000 planes. By 2035, IndiGo plans to add 900 aircraft, Air India 541, and Akasa Air 189.

Equirus's Shah said passenger demand is likely to remain strong enough to fill these new planes. However, it is uncertain whether all the aircraft on order will actually be delivered by 2035, and this will need close monitoring.

Ica expects the aviation industry to report losses of ₹17,000-18,000 crore in FY26, with only some improvement in FY27. It has also changed its outlook for the sector to negative from stable due to ongoing uncertainties.

However, some analysts still believe the outlook for FY27 is stable. "Looking ahead, the FY27 outlook appears stable, subject to geopolitical developments," Shah said. "In a normal scenario, industry growth is likely to remain in the high single digits, driven more by aircraft supply than demand, as underlying demand continues to be robust, reflected in healthy passenger load factors. Accordingly, airlines should prioritize faster aircraft inductions to bridge the supply gap."



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Wilson resigns as Air India CEO, on notice period

The tenure of Campbell Wilson, hired from Scoot in May 2022, was to end in July 2027

Dipal Banka
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MUMBAI

Air India chief executive Campbell Wilson has stepped down from the helm of India's second-largest airline, and is currently serving his notice period, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Mint independently could not ascertain when Wilson's notice ends, or whether the Tata Group has found a successor to steer the airline. An email sent to Air India seeking comment went unanswered.

The Tata Group had hired Wilson from Singapore Airlines' low-cost unit Scoot in May 2022, less than four months after the conglomerate acquired the government-run airline for ₹18,000 crore. His tenure was to end in July 2027.

Following the acquisition, the Tata Group merged Vistara, a 51:49 joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines Ltd, with Air India. Consequently, Singapore Airlines became a 25.1% shareholder in Air India, while Tata Sons owns 74.9%.

However, in Wilson's third year at the airline, things took a turn for the worse on 12 June, when an Air India flight from Ahmedabad to London crashed shortly after takeoff. This led to increased scrutiny, inspections and a temporary grounding of several aircraft, straining operations.

Subsequently, India-Pakistan conflict led to the closure of Pakistan's airspace, hurting Indian airlines' international flights. The war in West Asia compounded challenges, driving up fuel costs, extending flight durations, and limiting viable routes.

Four years into its turnaround under the Tata fold, Air India's \$400 million aircraft retrofit programme is two years behind schedule, Wilson told Mint earlier. The delay has slowed fleet upgrades and international expansion, though the airline says costs remain on track and most designs are finalized.

In FY25, Air India's standalone revenue rose 13% to ₹61,080 crore. Under Wilson, it cut losses to ₹3,976 crore from ₹5,031 crore a year earlier. Air India's standalone borrowings (excluding lease liabilities) stood at ₹29,713 crore, down over 8% from ₹32,465 crore in FY24.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Air India suspends Israel flights till May 31 amid war; Indians stranded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Amid the ongoing war in West Asia, Air India has suspended all its flights to Israel. An Air India official said that the flights on the New Delhi-Tel Aviv route were suspended till May 31. Over 40,000 Indians in Israel face challenges due to suspended flights, forcing many to travel via Jordan or Egypt.

Meanwhile, the Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv has stepped up support, maintaining constant contact with the community, opening a 24x7 emergency helpline, and launching a large-scale registration drive. Ambassador JP Singh and his team recently



held a virtual meeting with Indian workers and students, listening to their concerns and assuring them of continuous assistance during the crisis and beyond.

Air India and Air India Express together are operating scheduled and non-scheduled flights, to and from the West Asia region regularly to specific destinations. Most of

the leading airlines have suspended their operations on the Tel Aviv route with only Israeli carriers like El Al, IsraAir, Arkia and Air Haifa operating under severe restrictions. The direct flight service between New Delhi and Tel Aviv was relaunched on January 1 with four weekly flights, utilising the advanced Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

However, flights have been disrupted ever since the US and Israel jointly attacked Iran on February 28.

The retaliation by the Islamic Republic extended the war to the entire Gulf region. The conflict has taken a major toll on energy supply chains, especially across the Strait of Hormuz.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

6 APRIL 2026

Air connectivity boost for Leh with 18 flights a day to enhance tourist footfall

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, 5 April

With the onset of the tourist season, air connectivity to Ladakh has received a major boost as daily flight operations at Leh's Kushok Bakula Rimpoche Airport have increased sharply from eight to 18 flights from 1 April.

These operations include two chartered flights to Delhi and Chandigarh, along with regular scheduled services connecting Leh with major destinations such as Delhi, Mumbai, Srinagar, and Chandigarh.

Lt. Governor VK Saxena on Sunday welcomed the increase in flight frequency and reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and connectivity in Ladakh. "Ladakh is all set to welcome a larger number of visitors than before," the LG wrote on X.

The LG highlighted that the new terminal building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, which is nearing completion, will significantly enhance passenger handling capacity and provide a modern travel experience, thereby boosting tourist footfall in the region.

Reaffirming his vision, the LG stated that continuous efforts are being made to position Ladakh as one of the best tourist destinations in the country, with a focus on sustainable and well-planned development.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

6 APRIL 2026

B'luru-Delhi flight gets hoax bomb threat, sparks panic

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Panic gripped 183 passengers, crew members, and airport authorities at Kempegowda International Airport Saturday evening after a bomb threat was reported on a Bengaluru-Delhi flight. The threat was later declared a hoax.

IndiGo flight 6E-870 had completed boarding and was about to depart when the incident occurred.

Around 7.50pm, a passenger seated in 26D found the word "bomb" written on a tissue in the lavatory and alerted the cabin crew. The flight was halted immediately, and emergency protocols were triggered. The Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) was activated, and all passengers were evacuated. Security teams conducted a thorough search according to the standard operating procedures.

After detailed checks, officials confirmed there was no threat. The flight was delayed by nearly two hours before departing. Police suspect mischief by a passenger and have launched an investigation.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Air India CEO resigns amid mounting losses

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Air India CEO **Campbell Wilson** has resigned amid mounting losses and a slower-than-expected turnaround of the airline the Tata Group took back in its fold over four years ago. Wilson, whose resignation was accepted by the airline board last week, will stay till a successor is found and is serving his notice period. And that is likely to happen once the final report into last June's AI 171 Ahmedabad crash is out.

Wilson had joined AI in July 2022 for a five-year term. The Tata Group had started looking for his successor a

few months back. AI was not in the best of health after remaining a PSU since its nationalisation in 1953 till 2022, when it was finally sold to the Tatas, along with AI Express.



While supply chain disruptions caused by Covid led to older planes' makeovers getting delayed along with induction of newer ones, airspace restrictions meant longer routes and mounting expenses. Last month, IndiGo CEO Pieter Embers had also resigned. IndiGo has named his successor, who is expected to join by Aug.

Air India, where the hunt for a new CEO began long before that at IndiGo, still awaits its new Maharaja.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Halwara-Delhi flight timings revised

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, APRIL 6

Air India has updated the flight schedule for its upcoming daily services between Delhi (IGI Airport) and Halwara Airport (Ludhiana). The move reportedly comes following demand and feedback by Ludhiana residents.

Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu announced the revised timings on social media. The new schedule would become effective from May 15, with two daily non-stop flights operating in each direction using Airbus

A320 aircraft. The approximate flight duration would be around 1 hour 15 minutes.

The Delhi-Halwara flight (AI 481) will take off from Delhi at 8.35 am and reach Halwara at 9.45 am daily, while another flight (AI 483) will take off from Delhi at 12.55 pm and land at Halwara at 2.10 pm daily.

The Halwara-Delhi flight (AI 482) will take off from Halwara at 10.25 am and reach Delhi at 11.40 am daily, while another flight (AI 484) will take off from Halwara at 2.40 pm and land at Delhi at 3.55 pm daily.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

7 APRIL 2026

Delhi-Shimla-D'salaflight: Govt signs pact with Alliance Air

SHIMLA, APRIL 6

Himachal Pradesh has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Alliance Air Ltd to operate daily scheduled flights on the Delhi-Shimla and Shimla-Dharamsala routes, aiming to significantly enhance regional connectivity and tourism. Director of Tourism and Civil Aviation Vivek Bhatia said the initiative would establish a direct air corridor linking the national capital with the state capital. TNS