



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

एयरपोर्ट एक्सप्रेस वे के लिए एनएचएआई को 22 गांवों की जमीन देगा नोएडा प्राधिकरण

■ एनएचएआई को मिलेगी जमीन, 4 हजार करोड़ की परियोजना

नोएडा, 7 अगस्त (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट तक तेज कनेक्टिविटी देने के लिए बनने वाले एलिवेटेड एक्सप्रेस वे की राह आसान हो गई है। नोएडा प्राधिकरण अपने क्षेत्र के 22 गांवों की जमीन भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचएआई) को देगा। इसी जमीन पर एक्सप्रेस वे के पिलर खड़े किए जाएंगे। करीब 50 किलोमीटर लंबे इस एक्सप्रेस वे का लगभग 27 किलोमीटर हिस्सा नोएडा में आएगा।

परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत करीब 4 हजार करोड़ रुपए है। पूरा एक्सप्रेस वे छह लेन का होगा और एलिवेटेड बनाया जाएगा। प्रोजेक्ट का एलाइनमेंट सेक्टर-44, सेक्टर-99, सेक्टर-101, सेक्टर-109 के अलावा वाजिदपुर, झट्टा, बदौली बांगर, कोंडली, गढ़ी, मोमनाथन समेत 22 गांवों से होकर गुजरेगा। ग्रेटर नोएडा के तीन गांव भी इस परियोजना का हिस्सा होंगे।

नोएडा प्राधिकरण के सीईओ कृष्ण करुणेश ने कहा कि नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लिए बेहतर सड़क संपर्क हमारी प्राथमिकता है। एनएचएआई को आवश्यक



जमीन निःशुल्क उपलब्ध कराई जाएगी, ताकि परियोजना समयबद्ध तरीके से पूरी हो और

दिल्ली-एनसीआर के लोगों को जल्द बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी मिल सके।

पुश्ता से 5 मीटर हटाकर बना रूट

सिंचाई विभाग से पुश्ता पर अनुमति नहीं मिलने के बाद एलाइनमेंट में बदलाव किया गया है। अब एक्सप्रेस वे को पुश्ता से करीब पांच मीटर दूर नोएडा की ओर बनाया जाएगा। यह आगे यमुना एक्सप्रेस विकास प्राधिकरण सेक्टर-22ई में बनी 120 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क से जुड़ेगा। एक्सप्रेस वे बनने के बाद मयूर विहार, अक्षरधाम, पड़पड़गंज, कालिंदी कुंज और

सरिता विहार के लोगों की एयरपोर्ट तक यात्रा आसान होगी। वहीं मंझवली पुल के जरिए फरीदाबाद और हरियाणा के लोगों को भी सीधी कनेक्टिविटी मिलेगी।

डीपीआर के बाद शुरू होगा निर्माण

प्राधिकरण के अनुसार एलाइनमेंट फाइनल होने के बाद अब डीपीआर तैयार की जा रही है। इसके बाद सॉयल टेस्ट होगा, ताकि निर्माण से पहले मिट्टी की भार क्षमता का आकलन किया जा सके। परियोजना का निर्माण और भविष्य का रखरखाव एनएचएआई करेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

7 AUGUST 2026

KIA-Kozhikode Flybus service from August 15

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will launch a Flybus service between Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and Kozhikode from August 15.

Two buses will operate daily via Yelahanka, Hebbal, the Nayandahalli metro station, Mysuru, Hunsur, Gonikoppa, Ponnampet, Kutta, Mananthawadi and Kalpetta.

One service will depart the airport at 10.45 pm and reach Kozhikode at 7.15 am, while the second will leave at 4.15 am and arrive at 7.30 pm.

The fare has been fixed at Rs 960 to Mysuru, Rs 1,200 to Gonikoppa, Rs 1,350 to Mananthawadi, Rs 1,400 to Kalpetta and Rs 1,500 to Kozhikode, KSRTC said in a statement.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

7 AUGUST 2026

Gadchiroli airport plan finally takes flight

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited (MADC) has initiated a fresh bidding process to appoint a specialised consultant to handle forest diversion, land revenue coordination and statutory clearances for the proposed greenfield airport in Gadchiroli after the

first round failed to attract satisfactory bids.

Following protests by farmers in Vidarbha, Maharashtra had put the project on hold despite administrative and financial sanction of 104.48 crore for land acquisition, covering 311.81 hectares across Shirapur Chak, Guruwala, Hirapur and Rakhi villages. The state is now attempting to resume the

project and has issued a second tender call to appoint a consultant for land acquisition.

According to the e-tender floated by MADC, the consultant will coordinate between MADC, district revenue authorities, the Maharashtra Forest Department, tribal welfare authorities and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The scope includes surveys, mapping, tree enumeration, forest rights compliance, compensatory land transfers, wildlife clearances and coordination with government bodies.

The consultant will conduct differential global positioning system surveys of forest, revenue and private lands under the project's Right of Way, carry out tree counting and

facilitate mandatory FRA and Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act compliance. It will also acquire private land for compensatory afforestation and manage approvals from various departments. The appointment is aimed at ensuring timely completion of regulatory processes required for the airport project before construction begins.

Patna airport extends free pick-up to 9 min, doubles parking fee

Ruchir Kumar

ruchirkumar@hindustantimes.com

PATNA : Private vehicle users at Patna's Jayprakash Narayan International airport will now get nine minutes of free access for passenger pick-up and drop-off, up from the seven-minute window, following the implementation of a revised parking fee structure under a new agency, officials said on Wednesday.

For parking up to 30 minutes, the fee for private cars with up to seven seats has doubled from ₹20 to ₹40, while the charge for vehicles with more than seven seats and autorickshaws has increased from ₹20 to ₹80. Charges for coaches, buses and trucks have been raised sharply from ₹30 to ₹200. Parking rates for two-wheelers remain unchanged at ₹10.

For parking between 30 minutes and two hours, the fee for private cars (up to seven seater) has been revised from ₹55 to ₹65, while charges for larger passenger vehicles have increased from ₹60 to ₹80. Parking charges for coaches, buses and trucks have risen from ₹70 to ₹300, while two-wheeler parking continues at ₹15.

The revised tariff, effective after nearly five years, also increases charges for commercial vehicles. Ola, Uber and other commercial cabs will now pay ₹55 for pick-up or drop-off, compared with the earlier ₹40.

The airport has also introduced a premium car parking category. Under this facility, cars parked in a designated priority area of the multi-level parking complex will be charged ₹100 for up to 30 min-



Jayprakash Narayan International airport

FOR PARKING UP TO 30 MINUTES, THE FEE FOR PRIVATE CARS WITH UP TO SEVEN SEATS HAS DOUBLED FROM ₹20 TO ₹40

utes and ₹130 for parking between 30 minutes and two hours.

Vehicles parked beyond two hours will attract an additional charge of ₹10 per hour for cars and ₹5 per hour for two-wheelers. For parking between seven and 24 hours, the fee has been fixed at ₹195 for cars and ₹45 for two-wheelers.

According to airport authorities, the revised tariff aligns Patna airport's parking charges with those at airports in the same 'B' category across the country.

Around 3,000 vehicles, including private and commercial vehicles, access the airport daily. Of these, nearly 40% of private vehicles and two-wheelers leave within the free pick-up/drop-off period, while parking charges are collected from the remaining around 1,800 vehicles each day.

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MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

FIRST-TIME BUYERS TO GET PREFERENCE

YEIDA plans 4,000 residential plots near Noida Int'l Airport

DIPIKA KIROLA

NOIDA: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) is set to launch two residential plot schemes near Noida International Airport during Navratri, offering another opportunity for homebuyers seeking to invest in the rapidly developing region.

The schemes, proposed in

Sector 5A, will offer residential plots ranging from 40 square metres to 300 square metres. Officials said the schemes are aimed at both economically weaker sections and the general public. Plots measuring 40 square metres will be reserved for workers and applicants from economically weaker sections, while plots ranging from 162 to 300 square metres will be offered to general

YEIDA eyes Navratri launch for two plots

category applicants.

Although the exact number of plots is yet to be finalised, the YEIDA board has already approved the development of around 4,000 residential plots. The authority is expected to announce the application

schedule, pricing and other eligibility criteria shortly.

In a move aimed at widening access to housing, YEIDA has revised its allotment policy. Applicants who have previously been allotted a residential plot under any housing scheme of Noida, Greater Noida or YEIDA will be barred from applying under the new schemes. The move is intended to give first-time homebuyers a

greater opportunity to secure plots. YEIDA CEO Rakesh Kumar Singh said the schemes are being finalised and will soon be registered with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA). The authority is targeting a Navratri launch.

Earlier this financial year, YEIDA launched a scheme for 973 residential plots, which attracted more than one lakh applications.





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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

7 AUGUST 2026

Man arrested with jewellery worth ₹1 crore at city airport

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, 6 August

A major gold smuggling attempt was foiled on Wednesday evening when the Bidhannagar City Police intercepted a scooter near Kolkata airport and arrested a Rajasthan resident allegedly transporting gold, diamonds and other precious ornaments worth more than ₹1 crore. He was produced in Barrackpore sub-divisional court.

According to police, the accused, identified as Ramavtar Sharma, a resident of Rajasthan, had allegedly collected the jewellery from a person near the airport and was attempting to transport it out of the airport area on a scooter. Acting on specific intelligence, officers of the NSCBI police station, under Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate,

intercepted the vehicle before it could leave the vicinity. During the search, police recovered around 400 grams of gold ornaments, estimated to be worth nearly ₹60 lakh. They also seized several hundred grams of silver along with diamond-studded jewellery and other precious stones, including rubies and emeralds. The total value of the recovered ornaments is estimated to exceed Rs 1 crore, police said.

Investigators suspect that the consignment was being transported to Burrabazar, Kolkata's principal wholesale trading hub. The scooter used in the alleged smuggling operation has also been seized. He was produced before the Barrackpore court on Thursday, where investigators got his police custody for further interrogation.

‘Logical to allow airport operators to run airlines’ Akasa Founder Dube Looks To Raise \$110Mn As Operating Costs Surge After Oil Price Rise

Saurabh Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Akasa founder and CEO Vinay Dube has backed airport operators being allowed to hold bigger stakes in airlines and run them. Akasa, which turns four on Friday, is learnt to be trying to raise about \$110 million through debt and equity as the rise in oil prices since March has sent operating costs spiralling for airlines globally, with the weakening rupee adding to the pressure in India.

Dube, however, denied being in touch with the Adani Group — India’s biggest private sector airport operator (in terms of number of airports) — for investment.

The aviation industry veteran’s stance is in contrast with that of India’s biggest airline IndiGo whose founder and MD Rahul Bhatia had recently flagged concerns over conflict of interest if the reported move to allow airport operators to own over 10% in carriers goes through.

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“We continue to be well capitalised and recently got some funds under the emergency credit line guarantee scheme. I can unequivocally say that neither we have reached out to them (Adani), nor they to us... Losses don’t worry me because financially we’re doing better than planned...”

— VINAY DUBE | FOUNDER & CEO, AKASA



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Like all Indian airlines, Akasa is also losing money. Since inception. It lost Rs 1,983 crore in FY25, almost 19% more than the previous fiscal. Are the investors worried? “No, not at all. And, los-

ses don’t worry me because financially we’re doing better than planned. Because we have planned for this and have got jet fuel in our blood. We’re hardcore planners and plan long term. Akasa has got a lot of financial discipline,” Dube said.

The airline currently has 40 aircraft in its fleet and will get three more this month. It has 186 planes on order that will be delivered till Dec 2032. “This April-June we were operating 185 daily flights and 75% of our ASKM capacity is deployed on domestic and the remaining on international routes. Further aircraft orders and whether we should go in for wide bodies and regional jets will be looked at after about 1-2 years,” Dube said. Akasa currently has 5,475 employees including 800 pilots.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

7 AUGUST 2026

Night Flybus to Kozhikode from Aug 15

Bengaluru: Air travellers heading to Kerala will soon have a direct overnight bus option from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), with Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) launching a new Flybus service between the airport and Kozhikode from Aug 15.

Designed primarily for airport passengers, the premium service will enable travellers arriving at KIA to continue their journey to north Kerala without having to enter Bengaluru city to board a bus. The service will depart from KIA at 10.45pm every day and reach Kozhikode at 7.15am. En route, the bus will stop at Yelahanka, Hebbal, Nayan-dahalli Metro station, Mysuru, Hunsur, Gonikoppa, Ponnampet, Kutta, Mananthavady, and Kalpetta, offering convenient connectivity to key destinations in Karnataka and Kerala.

KSRTC has fixed the fare at Rs 1,500 for the entire journey from Bengaluru airport to Kozhikode. Passengers travelling to intermediate destinations will have to pay Rs 960 to Mysuru, Rs 1,200 to Gonikoppa, Rs 1,350 to Mananthavady, and Rs 1,400 to Kalpetta.

The return service from Kozhikode will depart at 7.30pm and reach KIA at 4.15am, making it a convenient option for passengers catching early-morning international and domestic flights from Bengaluru. **TNN**

‘Logical to allow airport operators to run airlines’

Akasa Founder Dube Looks To Raise \$110Mn As Operating Costs Surge After Oil Price Rise

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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

फुकेट विमान टर्बुलेंस

यात्री ने डीजीसीए से की जांच की मांग

नई दिल्ली। फुकेट से दिल्ली आ रही एअर इंडिया को 4 अगस्त की उड़ान में आए तेज टर्बुलेंस को लेकर एक यात्री ने नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) से शिकायत कर पूरे मामले की जांच की मांग की है। यात्री ने एयरसेवा पोर्टल पर की शिकायत में आरोप लगाया कि उड़ान के दौरान सुबह करीब 9:30 बजे (भारतीय समयानुसार) विमान अचानक लगभग 300 फीट नीचे गिरा, जिससे कई यात्री अपनी सीटों से उछलकर कैबिन की छत से टकरा गए। यात्री के मुताबिक, उसके छह सदस्यीय परिवार में शामिल 62 साल की सास रेनु रानीवाला को पसलियों और रीढ़ में चोट आने की आशंका है, जबकि 64 साल के ससुर मुकुल रानीवाला को शरीर पर कई चोटें आईं। यात्री ने आरोप लगाया है, विमान में बुजुर्ग घायल यात्रियों के बावजूद नजदीकी हवाई अड्डे पर आपात लैंडिंग नहीं कराई गई और उड़ान को सीधे दिल्ली लाया गया। एजेंसी



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

As aviation demand surges, Safran explores expanding India presence beyond engines

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

French aerospace major Safran is exploring opportunities to expand its presence in India beyond aircraft engines as the country's rapidly growing aviation market creates demand across multiple segments of the aerospace ecosystem.

'INDIA, KEY PRIORITY'

Speaking to *businessline*, Safran India CEO and Country Head JS Gavankar said India's aviation growth story has made the market a strategic priority for the company across its business verticals, including propulsion, equipment and interiors.

"India's aviation growth story is compelling enough to attract every division of

Safran," Gavankar added.

The company's comments come at a time when Indian airlines have placed aircraft orders exceeding 2,000 planes, creating long-term demand for aeroengine, aviation components, cabin solutions and maintenance services.

At present, Safran has operations in India focused on areas that include aircraft engines and aerospace equipment, but the company sees potential for deeper engagement across the aviation value chain.

"With Indian carriers having ordered over 2,000 aircraft and a rapidly growing passenger base, the demand pull for aviation interior solutions, including MRO, is enormous," said Gavankar.

The company, however, did not disclose any specific



timeline or investment plan for the future in India.

The expansion of aircraft manufacturing and services capabilities has become a key focus area for India as the country seeks to increase domestic value addition in aviation.

Besides aircraft operations, the growth of airlines is expected to create demand for aircraft interiors, seating

systems, cabin equipment and other aviation-related products. Safran's India revenue is targeted to increase multifold over the coming years, with deeper participation across multiple business lines expected to support this growth.

"Safran will triple its revenue to exceed €3 billion by 2030, of which half will be generated by our sites in India. In the near future, Safran will double its supplier network as part of its plan to expand the supplier ecosystem in India," he said.

SOURCING ACTIVITY

Furthermore, Safran has announced plans to multiply sourcing activity from India by five times by 2030 as Indian aerospace suppliers become integrated into its global supply chain.



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IndiGo, Embraer in talks for large regional jet order



InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, is in talks with Embraer over a possible large regional jet order, sources said. IndiGo is considering purchasing dozens of Embraer E2 aircraft to replace its fleet of turboprop-powered ATRs as well as to bolster capacity, they said. The discussions are at an early stage and there's no guarantee of an order, they said. BLOOMBERG



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8 AUGUST 2026

Akasa Air ramps up ops with aircraft addition

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Akasa Air signalled quicker capacity expansion and rolled out a loyalty programme as it completed four years of operations on Friday.

Akasa Air operates 40 aircraft to 36 destinations and is the third largest domestic airline behind IndiGo and Air India.

"In the last 12 months we have added 10 aircraft and this pace will only increase. This month we are getting three aircraft," Akasa Air's Chief Executive Officer Vinay Dube said.

This year, Akasa Air has launched or announced five destinations — Navi Mumbai, Noida, Jaipur, Udaipur and Hanoi. Dube said the airline plans to add two more destinations in this fiscal.

IPO ASPIRATION

Dube said demand has held up despite higher fares amid a tough operating environment.

"In the June-end quarter, we grew short of 30 per cent which was great. Fuel cost was higher and we were unable to pass on the entire cost to passengers. However, we are pleased that demand has held up," he added.

Akasa Air's West Asia op-



erations were also less impacted compared to its bigger rivals Air India and IndiGo.

Jeddah, which is one of Akasa Air's main destination in West Asia, did not come

under attack during the conflict. Apart from normal flights, Akasa Air also operated Haj charter flights, earning valuable foreign exchange.

"We will see how the year pans out. There is still volatility in fuel and foreign exchange rates due to the war and it is too early to say on profitability for the full year. However, that said it does not change our aspiration to launch an IPO in the next 2-4 years," Dube said.

LOYALTY PROGRAMME

"As we enter our fifth year, our focus remains firmly on disciplined growth, operational excellence, employee

centricity and delivering differentiated experiences for our customers," Dube said.

Akasa Air said its loyalty programme Akasa Elevate will enable members to earn points on flights and ancillary products while providing exclusive benefits through fast and easy tier progression.

Akasa Air is also offering a limited period retro claim that will allow passengers to earn points for their travel with the airline even before the launch of Akasa Elevate.

Passengers who have flown with Akasa Air since April 1 can join Akasa Elevate and claim their points retrospectively.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo in early talks with Embraer for large regional jet order

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, the parent company of India's biggest airline IndiGo, is in talks with Embraer SA over a possible large regional jet order, according to people familiar with the matter. IndiGo is considering purchasing dozens of Embraer E2 aircraft to replace its fleet of turboprop-powered ATRs as well as to bolster capacity, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is confidential. The discussions are at an early stage and there's no guarantee of an order, they said. A deal, which could be valued at billions of dollars before customary industry discounts are applied, would be the biggest for the Brazilian manufacturer in India and brings it closer to establishing a full aircraft assembly line in the country. Embraer Chief Executive Officer Francisco Gomes Neto has previously said the planemaker needs to win orders for at least 200 of its E175 regional jets before it considers an Indian assembly facility. Spokespersons for IndiGo and Embraer did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comments.

BLOOMBERG



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

Air India pushes new framework for pilots

Air India pilots who are eligible and want to become commanders on narrow- and wide-body planes will be compulsorily required to shift to Air India Express, with the Tata Group-owned loss-making airline putting in place a new framework based on a common seniority pool, according to sources. Under the framework, senior first officers shifting to Air India Express for narrow-body Boeing 737 planes will be given a one-time bonus of ₹10 lakh and the existing commanders of these aircraft at Air India Express will be paid ₹21 lakh over a three-year period, the sources said. Upon getting the commandership, the sources said such pilots will be required to be at the operating base chosen by Air India Express for at least two years, which can be extended by up to six months. Once that period is complete, they would be allowed to choose their operating base depending on eligibility.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

कुआलालंपुर से कोच्चि की उड़ान का मामला विमान का इमरजेंसी एग्जिट खोलने की कोशिश, भारतीय यात्री गिरफ्तार

भास्कर न्यूज़ | कोच्चि

कुआलालंपुर से कोच्चि जा रही बटिक एयर की उड़ान ओडी 231 में 36 वर्षीय भारतीय यात्री जमशीर अथानिककल ने बीच उड़ान में इमरजेंसी एग्जिट का दरवाजा खोलने की कोशिश की। आरोप है कि उसने पहले इमरजेंसी एग्जिट की खिड़की का पैनल तोड़ा और फिर दरवाजा खोलने का प्रयास किया। स्थिति बिगड़ने से पहले केबिन कू और अन्य यात्रियों ने उसे काबू कर लिया। विमान के सुरक्षित कोच्चि पहुंचने पर सीआईएसएफ ने उसे हिरासत में लेकर पुलिस के हवाले कर दिया। घटना में सभी यात्री सुरक्षित रहे और मामले की जांच की जा रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

स्ट्रैटजी • विमान खरीद नीति बदल रही कंपनी इंडिगो: एयरबस की जगह एम्ब्रेयर फ्लाइट की तैयारी

बिजनेस संवाददाता | मुंबई

देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो विमान खरीद नीति में बड़ा बदलाव कर रही है। यह ब्राजील की कंपनी एम्ब्रेयर से बड़े पैमाने पर ई2 रीजनल जेट खरीदने के लिए शुरुआती बातचीत कर रही है। यह हजारों करोड़ रुपये की डील हो सकती है। आम तौर पर इंडिगो एयरबस से विमान खरीदती है। अब तक 1,390 विमानों का ऑर्डर दे भी चुकी है, जबकि बोइंग से कोई बड़ा सोदा नहीं किया है। इसलिए एम्ब्रेयर से यह चर्चा उसके पारंपरिक रुख में बड़ा बदलाव है। इंडिगो की फ्लीट 441 विमानों का है। इसमें 46

निवेश: एम्ब्रेयर ने अदाणी के साथ की है साझेदारी

इंडिगो के साथ डील से एम्ब्रेयर को भारत में असेंबली प्लांट लगाने में मदद मिलेगी। सीईओ फ्रांसिस्को गोमेस के मुताबिक, यूनिट लगाने के लिए कम से कम 200 विमानों का ऑर्डर जरूरी है। कंपनी भारत में विमान निर्माण के लिए अदाणी समूह से साझेदारी कर चुकी है।

एटीआर शामिल हैं। अगले 10 वर्षों में 900 विमान मिलने बाकी हैं। एयरलाइन इन नए जेट का इस्तेमाल एटीआर टर्बोप्रॉप विमान हटाने के लिए करना चाहती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

7 AUGUST 2026

AVERTED | DISASTER

Batik Air flight from Kuala Lumpur lands safely at Kochi

Unruly flyer sparks mid-air scare

**DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
AUG 6**

A mid-air accident was narrowly avoided on a Batik Air flight from Kuala Lumpur to Kochi when a passenger allegedly broke an emergency window panel and attempted to forcibly open the emergency exit door. The 36-year-old unruly passenger was subdued by the crew and fellow travellers, and was taken into custody by CISF personnel after the plane landed safely at Cochin International Airport.

The accused, identified as Jamsheer Athanikkal, a native of Palakkad, currently living in Sreemoolanagaram, was handed over to the Nedumbassery police, where his arrest was recorded. The incident occurred on Batik Air Flight OD231, operated by a Boeing 737 aircraft on Wednesday.

According to the FIR, the incident happened while the aircraft was cruising towards Kochi between 9.30 pm and 11.05 pm. Jamsheer, seated in 12A, allegedly began acting erratically before forcefully

• **THE COMPLAINT** was lodged by security in charge of Batik Air at Cochin airport. Police stated that the passenger may have been under the influence of alcohol or experienced a psychological episode.

ly kicking and breaking the emergency exit window panel.

According to police, Jamsheer attempted to open the emergency exit door despite knowing his actions could endanger the safety of the aircraft and everyone on board.

When cabin crew members and fellow passengers tried to restrain him, he allegedly pushed them away and issued verbal threats, causing panic inside the aircraft.

The plane landed safely at Cochin airport around 11.10 pm, where CISF airport security staff took Jamsheer into custody and handed him over to the Nedumbassery police.

The complaint was lodged by security in charge of Batik Air at Cochin airport. Police stated that the passenger may have been under the

influence of alcohol or experienced a psychological episode. However, the preliminary probe does not suggest intoxicated behaviour.

Jamsheer has been booked under Section 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (criminal intimidation), Section 11A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 (acts endangering the safety or security of an aircraft and its passengers), and Section 118(e) of the Kerala Police Act, 2011 (knowingly committing an act that causes danger to the public or a failure in public safety).



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo in talks with Embraer for jet order

BLOOMBERG
August 7

INTERGLOBE AVIATION, THE parent company of India's biggest airline IndiGo, is in talks with Embraer SA over a possible large regional jet order, according to people familiar with the matter. IndiGo is considering purchasing dozens of Embraer E2 aircraft to replace its fleet of turboprop-powered ATRs as well as to bolster capacity, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is confidential. The discussions are at



an early stage and there's no guarantee of an order, they said.

A deal, which could be valued at billions of dollars before customary industry discounts are applied, would be the biggest for the Brazilian manufacturer in India and brings it closer to establishing a full aircraft assembly line in the country, Embraer CEO Francisco Gomes Neto has previously said the planemaker needs to win orders for at least 200 of its E175 regional jets before it considers an Indian assembly facility.

Continued on Page 10

IndiGo in talks with Embraer for jet order

SPOKESPERSONS FOR INDIGO and Embraer did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comments. India is the world's third-largest market for air travel and growing rapidly, according to the industry body IATA. But with no commercial assembly in the country,

the industry relies on foreign manufacturers for their planes. IndiGo and Air India hold some of the industry's largest orders for new Airbus and Boeing jets.

Adani partnership

Embraer has already announced a tie-up with the

Adani Group to build aircraft in India. The Brazilian firm also inaugurated its India office in New Delhi last October. Separately, Embraer is in talks with Star Air, over the purchase of as many as 20 aircraft for about \$1 billion, Bloomberg News has previously reported.

IndiGo's fleet stood at 441 planes, including 46 ATR regional turboprops, according to company data. The airline still has 900 aircraft slated for delivery over the next decade and has ordered most of its planes from Airbus, making an Embraer order a significant shift.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

Akasa Air launches loyalty scheme on fourth anniversary



AKASA AIR HAS entered the airline loyalty programme space with the launch of 'Akasa Elevate'. Launched on the airline's fourth anniversary on August 7, the programme enables members to earn and redeem points on flight bookings and ancillary services. The move comes a little over two years after market leader IndiGo introduced its BlueChip loyalty programme.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

Air India pushes new framework for pilots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi/Mumbai, August 7

AIR INDIA PILOTS who are eligible and want to become commanders on narrow- and wide-body planes will be compulsorily required to shift to Air India Express, with the Tata Group-owned loss-making airline putting in place a new framework based on a common seniority pool, according to sources.

Under the framework, senior first officers shifting to Air India Express for narrow-body Boeing 737 planes will be given a one-time bonus of ₹10 lakh and the existing commanders of these aircraft at Air India Express will be paid ₹21 lakh over a three-year period, the sources said.

Upon getting the commandership, the sources said such pilots will be required to be at the operating base chosen by Air India Express for at least two years, which can be extended by up to six months.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

7 AUGUST 2026

Passenger held for trying to open emergency exit on Kochi flight

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

KOCHI: A passenger was arrested for allegedly attempting to open the emergency exit of a Kuala Lumpur-Kochi flight, damaging its window panel and threatening fellow passengers and cabin crew, police said on Thursday.

The accused was identified as Jamsheer Athanikkal, who was travelling on Batik Air flight

OD231 from Kuala Lumpur to Kochi on Wednesday. According to the FIR, the incident occurred between 9.30 pm and 11.05 pm while the aircraft was in flight.

The FIR alleged that Athanikkal tried to force open the aircraft's emergency exit, damaged its window panel and threatened fellow passengers, thereby endangering the safety of those on board. Police said he has been booked under Section 351(3) of

the BNS for criminal intimidation, Section 11A of the Aircraft Act for violating safety or security directions, and Section 118(e) of the Kerala Police Act for acts endangering public safety.

"Jamsheer Athanikkal, an Indian national from Palakkad district, allegedly damaged a window panel inside the aircraft during the flight. After landing, he was taken into custody...", the CIAL said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

Check 737 Max for cracks, FAA tells airlines

Bloomberg

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: The US aviation regulator has asked operators of 471 Boeing Co. 737 Max jets to undertake checks for cracks of a component that could undermine the structural integrity of the aircraft.

The affected area impacts a component that structurally reinforces the front-door frame

on some 737 planes, Boeing said. It requires an inspection of the fuselage panelling, according to the airworthiness directive. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said the directive, posted on Thursday, would apply from September 10. The checks apply to in-service models of the new-generation Max jet including the 8, 9 and 8200 variants.

"The FAA is issuing this AD

to address the unsafe condition on these products," the agency said, adding that the cracks could lead to the structural integrity of part of the plane to be "adversely" compromised.

Boeing said it has been working with airline customers over the past six years after identifying the issue. It says the FAA-mandated checks stem from similar inspections for older generation 737NG jets in 2021.

"The FAA Airworthiness Directive published today mandates the inspections, as it did for the 737 Next Generation," a Boeing spokeswoman said in a statement. "We support both directives and continue to support our airline customers."

The US planemaker said it has already conducted an engineering analysis and is working through changes to prevent future cracking.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

INDIGO IN TALKS WITH EMBRAER FOR REGIONAL JETS

Bloomberg

feedback@livemint.com

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., the parent company of India's biggest airline IndiGo, is in talks with Embraer SA over a possible large regional jet order, according to people familiar with the matter.

IndiGo is considering purchasing dozens of Embraer E2 aircraft to replace its fleet of turboprop-powered ATRs as well as to bolster capacity, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is confidential.

The discussions are at an early stage and there's no guarantee of an order, they said.

A deal, which could be valued at billions of dollars before customary industry discounts are applied, would be the biggest for the Brazilian manufacturer in India and brings it closer to establishing a full aircraft assembly line in the country. Embraer chief executive officer Francisco Gomes Neto has previously said the planemaker needs to win orders for at least 200 of its E175 regional jets before it considers an Indian assembly facility.

Spokespersons for IndiGo and Embraer did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comments.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

AI to restore most international flights from September 1

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Months after cutting almost 27% of global routes in response to soaring fuel costs, Air India will restore most international services from September 1 and add frequencies on several key long-haul routes.

Additional frequencies

“Though fuel prices remain higher than before the Middle East conflict and remain volatile, they have moderated from their initial peak, so as well as the restorations we will be adding additional frequencies,” AI chief executive officer Campbell Wilson wrote to employees.



AI would also add frequencies on key long haul routes.

Though the restored schedule is yet to be formally announced, Air India had said in May, that it was suspending 145 weekly international flights between June and August, affecting routes across North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, SAARC and the Far East.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

Air India revamps pilot pay, career path to curb attrition

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

In a bid to stem pilot attrition and strengthen retention, Air India has unveiled a revamped pay and career progression package that includes an 8-15% increase in fixed salary, higher flying pay for hours beyond the guaranteed 40-hour threshold, and new incentives for Boeing 737 pilots to address cockpit shortages at Air India Express.

Following its privatisation, Air India introduced a 40-hour guaranteed pay structure in 2022, well below industry leader IndiGo's 70-hour guarantee, a disparity that contributed to pilot attrition. The latest

overhaul is aimed at narrowing that gap.

While Air India's 40-hour guaranteed pay structure remains unchanged, pilots will receive an 8-15% increase in fixed pay. Air India has also increased productivity pay for flying beyond the guaranteed 40 hours translating into higher monthly earnings as pilots fly more hours.

To encourage pilots to work at low-cost carrier Air India Express, which is grappling with a shortage of crew, a Boeing 737 fleet allowance of ₹21 lakh for commanders and ₹10 lakh for senior first officers payable over three years has been introduced for the first time.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

Phuket flight episode raises questions: Experts

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

The severe turbulence that hit the Air India plane AI 2379 from Phuket to Delhi on August 5 injuring 17 on board, including four female crew members, has raised questions on cockpit crew training for weather conditions, adherence to basic rules by the crew and the behaviour of passengers.

Aviation safety consultant and former Boeing aircraft instructor Captain Mohan Ranganathan called it "very poor airmanship." Insisting that the injuries in the turbulence be called "an accident" and not an incident, Ranganathan questioned whether the pilots made a call for the seat belts to be fastened by the passengers. "The injuries suffered by many passengers and the cabin crew, who also should have been in their seats in such situations, point out that this was not done," he added.

The Captain had steered his flights to safety during challenging events like the Chennai cyclone in 1976, Singapore squall in 1994 and a typhoon in



There is a general caution given by cabin crew to passengers to leave the seat belts loosely unfastened even under normal circumstances. Details from the DFDR will help us get an accurate picture

Captain C S Randhawa, FIP president

Hong Kong the same year. He said excellent training backed by his experience helped him land the planes safely in dangerous situations.

Insisting that pilots need to be better trained, the expert said airlines fill up slots with people lacking enough expertise and experience. "In case of any such incident, the cockpit crew should have taken the plane to the nearest airport.

Why did they take it up to Delhi airport for landing? In this case, four of the cabin crew members were also injured. If any emergency happened on board, how would they be able to manage it when they are not fit?"

Explaining that the temperature in the atmosphere is displayed continuously in the cockpit gauge for the crew to monitor, the expert said they would know in advance about the approaching weather conditions. "The autopilot in the plane is on and the Manage Board needs to be moved to the Manual Board position by the pilot. The cockpit crew needs to ride the wave," he said.

Federation of Indian Pilots president Captain C S Randhawa said it must first be analysed if the pilots cautioned the passengers to put on their seat belts. "There is a general caution given by cabin crew to passengers to leave the seat belts loosely unfastened even under normal circumstances. Details from the digital flight data recorder (DFDR) will help us get an accurate picture of what happened," he said.

Form aviation authority, pilot body urges Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

STRESSING that the establishment of an independent aviation safety regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), would ensure enhanced oversight as well as safer skies for passengers, the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has written to the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Secretary urging for creating it the earliest. The communication sent on Thursday calls for the the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to be replaced.

FIP president Captain C S Randhawa told this newspaper, "Unlike the DGCA, which falls under the purview of civil aviation ministry, the CAA will be independent to take its own decisions. A body of this nature will recruit more staff and ensure better oversight."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

8 AUGUST 2026

Senior first officers must join AI Express to become commanders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi/Mumbai

Air India pilots who are eligible and want to become commanders on narrow- and wide-body planes will be compulsorily required to shift to Air India Express, with the Tata Group-owned loss-making airline putting in place a new framework based on a common seniority pool, according to sources.

Under the framework, senior First Officers (FOs) shifting to Air India Express for narrow-body Boeing 737 planes will be given a one-time bonus of ₹10 lakh and the existing commanders of these aircraft at Air India Express will be paid ₹21 lakh over three years, the sources said.

Upon getting the commandership, the sources said such pilots will be required to be at the operating base chosen by Air India Express for at least two years, which can be extended by up to six months. Once that period is complete, they would be allowed to choose their operating base depending on eligibility.



There was no official comment from Air India on the new framework.

Two senior pilots, who are with Air India Group, told PTI that the new framework has been mooted amid intense competition among airlines for hiring senior pilots, attrition and also lesser flying hours at present.

Air India has more than 3,500 pilots while Air India Express has over 2,000 pilots. Together, they have a fleet of around 300 aircraft. Air India does not have any Boeing 737 aircraft in its fleet.

Details about the number of senior first officers, as well as the count of narrow-body and wide-body pilots at Air India, could not be immediately ascertained.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

7 AUGUST 2026

Air India picks new chief

AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: Air India on Wednesday named former Ethiopian Airlines chief Tewolde Gebremariam as its CEO, tapping the industry veteran to steer the carrier's turnaround as it struggles with losses and heightened scrutiny following last year's deadly crash.

Gebremariam led Ethiopian Airlines for more than a decade, overseeing a multi-billion-dollar expansion that turned it into Africa's largest airline group, with revenue more than quadrupling and its fleet tripling during his tenure.



Tewolde Gebremariam

He also navigated Ethiopian Airlines through two of its biggest crises, the Covid-19 pandemic without government bailouts and the fatal 2019 Boeing 737 MAX crash.

Gebremariam succeeds

Campbell Wilson, the former Singapore Airlines executive appointed in 2022 to lead Air India's turnaround after its takeover by the Tata Group.

Wilson will step down on September 30 after serving his notice. Gebremariam will take charge of an airline grappling with mounting financial and operational challenges, including heightened regulatory scrutiny following the 2025 crash that killed 260 people, disruptions from the West Asia conflict and Pakistan's airspace ban, which have lengthened routes and raised fuel and operating costs.

N. Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons and Air

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

Gebremariam said, "It is a profound honour to be entrusted with leading Air India... Air India carries an incredible legacy, and the opportunity to build a world-class global airline that reflects India's extraordinary economic potential is uniquely exciting."