



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

Design glitch delays Trichy airport's new ATC tower

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Trichy: The commissioning of a new air traffic control (ATC) tower at Trichy International Airport has hit a major roadblock, as some crucial areas near the runway are not visible from the upcoming tower. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is now planning to modify work in the new tower by increasing its height marginally for better visibility and safe aircraft movement.

The eight-floor ATC block and four-floor technical blocks sanctioned at ₹60.7 crore were proposed to be built at 46m (151ft) tall, providing a 360-degree view of the airport and both ends of the runway. The new tower to replace the 65-year-old existing ATC tower was to be completed by Sept and commissioned in Dec.

Sources said the ATC block was designed before the new passenger terminal came up, so the risk of the building blocking the tower's view may have been missed. They also said the runway expansion and land acquisition plans were likely not factored in when fixing the tower's height.

"The plan has not been finalised. A no objection certificate (NoC) from our headquarters in New Delhi is awaited. We will try to commission the new ATC tower before Jan 2026," Ganeswara Rao, Trichy airport director, told TOI. Rao said interior work is still progressing.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

D2C businesses will be a pillar of growth for GMR airports: Chairman

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Direct-to-consumer (D2C) businesses will be a significant pillar of GMR Airport Ltd's (GAL) growth, said its Chairman GM Rao in the company's latest annual report.

GMR Group runs airports in Delhi, Hyderabad and Goa, which collectively accounted for 27.5 per cent of all passenger traffic in India in FY25.

Non-aeronautical businesses, such as retail, F&B and duty free, which were run separately at each airport, are being consolidated



TAKING WINGS. GMR runs airports in Delhi, Hyderabad and Goa, which accounted for 27.5% of the passenger traffic in FY25

in a single platform at the group level. GAL took over the duty free business at Delhi airport in July after securing concession rights, and it will assume control of duty free business in Hydera-

bad in the second quarter of FY26.

CARGO TERMINAL

Similarly, GAL has assumed charge of the existing cargo terminal at Delhi airport fol-

lowing the revocation of Turkish firm Celebi's security approval. "The benefits of these developments will begin to reflect from the next financial year as we add more revenue streams and drive substantial expansion in the company's overall revenues and profitability. Looking ahead, these D2C businesses are set to become an increasingly significant pillar of GAL's growth trajectory," said Rao.

Thus, the consolidation of the duty free business will result in higher volumes and better yields due to economies of scale. It is expected to bring efficiency in procurement, reduce marketing ex-

penses and generate better value. The company hopes these will improve its cash flows and creditworthiness.

Ongoing initiatives are already yielding results for the group. "Over the past two to three years, our cost of debt has decreased by more than 3.5 per cent, reflecting the growing confidence in our creditworthiness," said Rao.

NET DEBT

As of June-end, GAL had a consolidated net debt of ₹32,900 crore. On a standalone basis, the company's net debt was ₹5,900 crore. On the airport development side, GMR Group expects to

commence operations at three airports in the next two years. It plans to take over operations of Nagpur airport in the current fiscal. Around 69 per cent of work at Bhogapuram airport was completed by March-end.

"Although the original commissioning timeline was set for December 2026, the pace of progress indicates we are well on track to deliver the project significantly earlier," said Rao. "On the international front, the construction of Crete airport, in Heraklion, Greece, is also advancing steadily. This world-class facility is currently scheduled to be commissioned by February 2027."



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

16 से शुरू हो सकता है रनवे 10/28

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : तकनीकी अपग्रेडेशन से जुड़े कार्य के लिए बंद किया गया रनवे 10/28 इसी माह शुरू हो सकता है। 16 सितंबर से शुरू करने पर सभी पक्षों में सहमति बनी है। यह रनवे 15 जून को विमानों की आवाजाही के लिए बंद हुआ था। इसका असर एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेशन पर कम पड़े इसके लिए सभी एयरलाइंस की सहमति के बाद उड़ानों की संख्या में कटौती की गई थी। अब रनवे शुरू किए जाने पर उड़ानों में की गई कटौती को वापस लेने की संभावना है। तकनीकी अपग्रेडेशन से जुड़े कार्य में रनवे पर इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम (आइएलएस) को अपग्रेड किया गया है, ताकि यह कैट तीन की सुविधा यहां पायलट को मिल सके, जिससे कोहरे और कम दृश्यता की स्थिति में उड़ान संचालन संभव हो सके।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

SUPREME COURT CASE DIARY

DIAL Challenges HC Order Directing GMR Chairman to Vacate Residence

Indu Bhan

New Delhi: GMR-led Delhi International Airport (DIAL) Monday moved the Supreme Court against last week's Delhi High Court judgment that directed GM Rao, chairman of the GMR group that owns DIAL, to vacate his residential premises and hand over the 2.45-acre Pushpanjali Farms to Onkar Infotech, the present owners.

Rejecting DIAL's contention that Onkar's eviction suit was not maintainable, the HC had last week said that "the land in question which is being used only for the residential purpose of CMD of DIAL will not come under the definition of Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 as the same is not being used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

The lease being unregistered cannot be an evidence for ascertaining the time period of the lease. The defendants (DIAL and CMD) were month-to-month tenants and the lease deed stood terminated vide Notice on August 7, 2024."

In 2020, Indus Sor Urja (the erstwhile owner) had executed an unregistered agreement with DIAL and the Airports Authority of India, for the lease of the land on Pushpanjali Farms. In 2024, Onkar Infotech and Indus executed a registered sale deed on consideration of Rs 115 crore and became the owner of the Pushpanjali Farms property and all rights, title, and interest of Indus were transferred to Onkar.

Last year, Onkar issued a 15-day notice for termination of the lease of DIAL and sought vacant and peaceful possession of the premises as the lease stood terminated and DIAL and the Rao were in unlawful occupation of the premises.

However, DIAL opposed the termination, saying premises of the Pushpanjali property was used for the purpose of residency and the remaining balance was agricultural land. In the absence of any demarcation, it cannot be said that the entire land is outside the ambit of the application of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954, it contended.



Delhi HC had dismissed DIAL's plea against the eviction notice on GM Rao by the new owner of Pushpanjali Farms

AI A320 incident probe reveals damage to jet, airport infrastructure

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: An Air India Airbus A320 with 182 people on board sustained damage after veering off the runway while landing at Mumbai airport in heavy rain on July 21, before recovering to the centreline and taxiing to the bay, a preliminary investigation report by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) stated.

The AAIB, which is probing the incident, said that Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and Flight Data Recorder (FDR) data of the aircraft were being analysed, along with the tech log, pre-departure report (PDR), weather data and damage reports. The report released on Monday evening said that even while no person on board was injured, the aircraft and airport infrastructure suffered damage.

The incident took place after the flight departed Cochin at 7.30am with a take-off weight of 67.7 tonnes and 8,500kg of fuel on board. According to the preliminary report, the aircraft, operating as AI 2744 from Cochin, touched down on the right edge of Runway 27 at 9.27 am and rolled into the grassy shoulder and continued along the grass before rejoining the paved surface near the runway intersection. Despite the excursion, the aircraft later taxied under its own power to the bay and parked normally.

The investigators noted that weather conditions were poor at the time of landing. Visibility was reported at 1,200 metres with thunderstorms and rain over the airfield. Meteorological data con-



The damaged cowling of the Air India Airbus A320.

firming scattered clouds at low levels and cumulonimbus activity, the report said.

The initial assessment revealed main wheels 2, 3, and 4 were found deflated. Besides this, the engine 2's cowling was damaged, with foreign objects ingested into its bypass section, grass was lodged in both main and nose landing gears, as well as in the belly area of the aircraft and that the aft cargo panel fairing was also damaged, the reports said.

The investigators also specified in the report that the runway excursion caused collateral damage at the airport: three runway edge lights, two taxiway lights and two exit signboards, were damaged and had to be repaired before the runway was reopened.

The report stated that both pilots had valid medical clearances and licences, and their duty times complied with flight duty time limitations. Breath-analyser (alcohol) tests conducted before and after the flights were found to be negative.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

Darbhanga airport expansion plan gets ₹245-cr funding boost

Bishnu K Jha

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DARBHANGA: Efforts to upgrade Darbhanga airport to international standards have gained momentum, with the entire sanctioned amount of ₹245 crore for land acquisition now made available to the district administration.

District magistrate Kausal Kumar confirmed that the amount would be transferred to the district's Personal Deposit (PD) account. "₹10 crore has already been received, and the remaining funds will arrive by Monday. Once received, com-

pensation for 90 acres of land required for runway extension will be disbursed to the respective landowners without delay," he said.

Airport director Naveed Nazim said the Instrument Landing System (ILS) had been made operational since July this year. He added that work was underway to install the CAT II lighting system on 24 acres of land, which would significantly improve flight operations during low-visibility conditions, down to 400 metres.

The CAT II guidance and control system at Darbhanga Air Force Station is being imple-

mented under the Modernisation of Airfield Infrastructure (MAFI-2) scheme to enable safe landings in adverse weather. While the Indian Air Force (IAF) has already installed CAT II approach lights up to 300 metres on its land, civil operations require 900 metres. To bridge the gap, IAF has agreed to extend the system by installing lights on an additional 600 metres through its MAFI vendor, M/s Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL). Officials said boundary wall construction for the project was expected to be completed by the end of this month.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

कड़े नियम

नए दिशानिर्देशों से निवेशकों के सामने चुनौतियां

हवाई अड्डे के पास आशियाना बनाना हुआ मुश्किल

आशीष दुबे
ग्रेटर नोएडा, 8 सितंबर।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एअरपोर्ट के 20 किलोमीटर के दायरे में अब कोई भी निर्माण कार्य भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआइ) के मानकों के अनुरूप ही किया जा सकेगा। यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) के इस नए प्रस्ताव ने रियल एस्टेट क्षेत्र में निवेश करने वालों और आशियाना बनाने का सपना देखने वालों की चिंता बढ़ा दी है।

यीडा के सीईओ आरके सिंह ने बताया कि एअरपोर्ट के आसपास उड़ान मार्ग को बाधा मुक्त रखने के लिए यह जरूरी कदम उठाया गया है। इसके लिए एएआइ ने कलर-कोड्डेड जोनिंग मैप तैयार किया है, जो यह दर्शाता है कि कहां कितनी ऊंचाई तक निर्माण संभव होगा। अब 20 किलोमीटर के दायरे का विस्तृत सर्वे कर विशेषज्ञों की मदद से मानकों को लागू किया जाएगा। इस फैसले से सबसे अधिक फायदा उन बिल्डरों और निवेशकों को मिलेगा जिन्होंने पहले

सात भवन निर्माण परियोजनाओं को राहत

इस बीच, यीडा क्षेत्र की सात भवन निर्माण परियोजनाओं को राहत मिली है। अमिताभ कांत समिति के तहत इन सात परियोजनाओं ने बकाया 25% राशि का भुगतान कर दिया है, जिससे उनकी रजिस्ट्री का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। चार परियोजनाएं अब भी बकाया भुगतान नहीं कर पाई हैं। इनमें से दो पर न्यायालय का स्थगन आदेश है, जबकि दो मामले एनसीएलटी में विचाराधीन हैं।

ही मंजूरी प्राप्त कर ली है। पहले से स्वीकृत परियोजनाओं की कीमतों में इजाफा होने की संभावना है, क्योंकि उन्हें नए नियमों से छूट मिल सकती है। वहीं, नए निवेशकों को अब एएआइ और प्राधिकरण दोनों के नियमों का पालन करना होगा, जिससे नक्शा पास कराने की प्रक्रिया लंबी और जटिल हो सकती है।

रियल एस्टेट विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि इससे यीडा की आगामी गुप हाउसिंग और व्यावसायिक

बीस किलोमीटर दायरे में बनने

वाले निर्माण को एएआइ के मानकों का करना होगा पालन। पहले ही मंजूरी प्राप्त कर चुकी परियोजनाओं के बढ़ेगी कीमत। यीडा की नई ग्रुप हाउसिंग व व्यवसायिक भूखंड योजनाएं पर असर पड़ने की आशंका।

भूखंड योजनाओं पर भी असर पड़ेगा। भवन निर्माता ऊंची बोली लगाने से परहेज कर सकते हैं, जिससे प्राधिकरण को अपेक्षित राजस्व नहीं मिल पाएगा।

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि आने वाले समय में एएआइ मानकों के चलते निर्माण कार्यों में सावधानी और नियमन की सख्ती बढ़ेगी, जिससे हवाई अड्डे के आस-पास रियल एस्टेट की दिशा और दशा दोनों बदल सकती हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

15 Mum airport officials forced to quit for theft

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Mumbai: Oil bottles and coconuts — items that are confiscated during the airport security check, have, in a twist of fate, ended up becoming 'dangerous goods' for over 15 senior officials of Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) as they have lost their jobs for taking these goods for personal use, said aviation sources.

Last month, MIAL management allegedly forced over 15 middle management officials to resign for having pocketed these security restricted articles (SRA). These goods were marked for disposal.

SRA items are objects such as knives, batteries, toys, cello tape, chilli, lighters, e-cigarettes, coconuts, oil, and so on, which are banned in the passenger cabin and hence confiscated from flyers.

The resignations happened from Aug 1, after MIAL's HR department confronted the officials with CCTV footage taken in previous months. Some of the officials TOI spoke to claimed they were given



The resignations happened from Aug 1 after MIAL confronted the officials with CCTV footage

two choices, either submit a resignation right away or face termination. Among those who lost their jobs were officials from the terminal operations department such as senior duty terminal officer, duty terminal manager, deputy manager & senior executive.

"There was no clear communication about the strict policy for such disposals. We assumed taking an SRA item wouldn't be a major violation. For years now, none of the bosses bothered with them. It was more of a nuisance," said an official who resigned.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

IGIA's main runway may be operational from next Tuesday

New Delhi: All the four airstrips of IGI Airport could be operational next Tuesday when runway 28/10, which was closed earlier this year for instrument landing system upgrade, is expected to be back in service. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) conducted a safety assessment on the runway and will submit its documents to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. "Runway 28/10 is expected to be available for operations from Sept 16. The notice to airmen (for its closure) is till Sept 15," said a senior official.

With all four runways operational, the airport can handle upto 86 flights an hour. With its three terminals, Delhi Airport on an average handles about 2 lakh passengers and 1,400 flights daily. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

TN man enters airport with cancelled ticket, booked

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Bengaluru: A 44-year-old man was arrested at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) recently for attempting to enter the departure area with a cancelled ticket.

Althaf Hussain, a resident of Vandipettai village in Tamil Nadu, was stopped by a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officer at Terminal 2's departure gate no. 3 on the night of Sept 4. According to police, Hussain attempted to exit the departure gate but

During interrogation, Hussain and his relatives allegedly threatened the KIA police officers, stating they would complain to human rights bodies for detaining him late at night. They also accused the officials of negligence for allowing his entry into the airport in the first place

failed to provide a valid reason when questioned. On inspection, officials found that he was carrying a passport and a ticket for a Gulf Air flight to Bahrain, which had been cancelled two days prior to his intended travel date.

Upon further questioning, Hussain admitted that

the ticket had been booked for himself, his wife, and child. He cancelled it after deciding to stay in India for a few more days. He later arrived in Bengaluru with his family and entered the airport by showing the ticket at the entrance. He is said to have passed multiple security checks

using the ticket, intending to accompany his wife to the gate before returning.

Police counselled the family, explaining that entering the departure area without a valid ticket and a boarding pass is a violation of airport security protocols. However, Hussain remained defiant and issued threats, prompting CISF to file a case.

A senior officer said Hussain works as a sales executive in Bahrain while his wife is employed as a domestic helper. Hussain was arrested and later released on bail.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

Nair hosp, airport get fake threats; 2 held for hoax about 34 bombs

V Narayan & Advitya Bahl | TNN

Mumbai/Noida: Amid Ganpati festivities, hoax bomb threats were sent to govt-run Nair hospital and the city airport over the weekend. Police have lodged non-cognisable complaints in both cases.

The threats came on the heels of traffic police's helpline receiving a message on Friday that 34 "human bombs" had been planted in the city. A 50-year-old astrologer from Noida has been arrested by Mumbai police's crime branch for allegedly sending that threat to take revenge on a former friend in Bihar.

An Agripada police officer said an email warning of bombs was sent to Nair hospital's dean around 11pm on Saturday. The hospital administration and police responded swiftly. "The bomb detection and disposal found no suspicious object or evidence of explosives. Police are trying to track down the source of the email," said the officer.

The city airport received a similar email a day prior. Sahar police found that threat to be fake, too.

Police said the suspect in the hoax human bombs case, Ashwini Kumar, moved to Noida from Patna five years ago and set up an astrology busi-

ness. In 2023, a friend, Firoz Ahmed, had filed a cheating case against him in Bihar's Phulwarisharif, following which he spent four months in jail.

Nursing a deep grudge and looking for an opportunity to hit back, Kumar allegedly sent a threat message to Mumbai traffic police with Firoz's name on it, warning that 34 live bombs were planted across the city and 14 terrorists from Pakistan had infiltrated the country. The message, sent from a WhatsApp number that had Firoz's photo, claimed the attacks could impact 1 crore residents. Kumar had recently purchased the SIM.

During Kumar's arrest from his home, police recovered seven mobile phones, three SIM cards, an external SIM slot device, six memory cards and four SIM holders, which he had used to mask his identity. Preliminary interrogation revealed that Kumar had no link to any terrorist group. The crime branch also arrested a 28-year-old man who allegedly provided Kumar his Aadhaar card to buy the SIM that was used to send the threat.

Kumar lived with his retired parents, while his wife and three children have been residing separately following a domestic dispute. Neighbours described him as a recluse.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर दूसरे प्रयास में लैंड हुआ विमान

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया का विमान सोमवार शाम तकनीकी कारणों से दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर उतर नहीं सका। दस मिनट बाद दूसरे प्रयास में विमान की सुरक्षित लैंडिंग हो सकी। एअर इंडिया के विमान एआई 2910 ने मुंबई से उड़ान भरी। विमान कितने यात्री सवार थे, इसकी जानकारी नहीं मिल सकी है। विमान में सवार एक यात्री के अनुसार, पायलट ने बताया कि कुछ तकनीकी खामियों के कारण विमान पहले प्रयास में नहीं उतर सका। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

Air cargo demand up in July

Global air cargo demand grew 5.5 per cent in July. Most major trade lanes reported growth, with one significant exception: Asia-North America, where demand was down 1 per cent



year-on-year, said the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents some 350 airlines comprising over 80 per cent of global air traffic.

A sharp decline in e-commerce, after the US de minimis exemptions on small shipments expired, was likely offset by shippers frontloading goods ahead of

rising tariffs for imports to the US.

August will likely reveal the impact of shifting US trade policies. While much attention is on developments in markets connected to the US, it is important to keep a broad perspective on the global network. A fifth of air cargo travels on the Europe-Asia trade lane, which marked 29 months of consecutive expansion with 13.5 per cent year-on-year growth in July, said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

'Air travel demand bounced back sharply in August'

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India's air travel demand has rebounded sharply since August, said ixigo Group CEO Alok Bajpai, adding that the online travel agency remains cautiously optimistic about the long-term growth of the country's aviation sector.

"India is structurally a very strong market for growth. Air travel penetra-



tion is low at about 4 per cent compared to China at about 37 per cent and the US at about 85 per cent," Bajpai told *businessline*.

"Hence, we remain cautiously optimistic about the growth of the Indian aviation sector. In the long term, we continue to expect the Indian aviation sector to grow 11-12 per cent annually."

GOVT POLICIES
He said recent government policy measures may further encourage air travel.

"The GST Council's recent reforms are a significant step for boosting domestic tourism. By lowering GST rates on day-to-day consumption for the middle class, the government has effectively put more money back into the pockets of consumers, enabling them to spend on discretionary categories such as travel," said Bajpai.

"The GST reforms on hospitality for the budget and mid-market category [below ₹7,500 room rate]... will make many domestic destinations competitive and appealing to both domestic and international visitors."

Bajpai said recent disruptions had impacted the travel industry in different ways.

"Operation Sindoor and the AI-171 crash temporarily impacted demand, while the closure of Middle East airspace impacted airline capacity. Air India grounding about 15 per cent of its fleet for checks also led to capacity shortages through mid-July. As a result, between

PASSENGER TRAFFIC
According to official data, India's domestic air passenger traffic recorded its first year-on-year decline in several months, slipping 2.94 per cent in July 2025.

Notably, the fall reflected the seasonal slowdown in travel demand. Citing recent travel trends, he said that passenger traffic had normalised in August, aided by the Independence Day long weekend and early festival bookings.

Looking ahead, he said much of the sector's recovery depends on airlines adding capacity.

"IndiGo, Air India and Akasa have ambitious expansion plans. Growth had dipped to single digits last quarter due to disruptions, but we expect double-digit growth in passenger volumes to return," he said.

Besides, Bajpai pointed to a surge in international travel demand.

"Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam are seeing strong growth, helped by visa relaxations and competitive pricing. Interestingly, tier-2 to international traffic is now growing faster than tier-1 to international, driven by rising incomes and aspirations in smaller towns," he said.

On the domestic front, he emphasised India's low penetration of air travel as a key driver of long-term growth. "Once GDP per capita crosses the \$4,000 mark, discretionary spending on flights and hotels will rise further," he added.

SpiceJet completes full payment of \$24 million to Credit Suisse

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Budget airline SpiceJet on Monday said that it has completed the full payment of \$24 million to Credit Suisse. Accordingly, the airline has fulfilled in entirety the terms of the settlement agreement signed between the two parties in May 2022.

This marks the closure of a long-standing liability that pre-dates the tenure of the airline's current promoter, the airline said.

CLOSING LIABILITY

According to Debojo Maharshi, Chief Business Officer, SpiceJet, "The completion of this payment is another important step in our continued efforts to put legacy issues firmly behind us. This settlement not only brings closure to an old liability but also demonstrates our resolve and ability to meet commitments despite a challenging operating environment."

"SpiceJet today is financially stronger, more resilient, and fully focused on growth and profitability," Maharshi said.

On the date of the execution of settlement agreement in May 2022, the total

claim of Credit Suisse or SR Technics was \$41.77 million, which the parties agreed to settle for \$24 million in a structured payment plan.

The low-cost airline said it continues to take strategic

steps to strengthen its financial position, including fundraising initiatives, settlements with major lessors and creditors, and strategic expansion of its fleet and network.

No-frills airline expects to restart ops of 10 grounded planes by next April

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

SpiceJet, which flew into the red in the June quarter, expects to restart operations of 10 grounded aircraft by April 2026 as more than half of its fleet remains on the ground due to various issues.

At the end of the June quarter, the no-frills airline had just 21 operational planes out of the 56-strong fleet. Out of the operational aircraft, eight were Boeing 737-800s, six Q400s, three Boeing 737-700 and one each of Boeing 737-900 and Boeing 737 Max, according to an investor presentation.

A total of 35 planes were on the ground at the end of the June quarter. The carrier had 25 planes in operation out of the 61 at the end of March 2025.



SpiceJet said it will "unground about 10 aircraft by April 2026, including 4-5 in early winter to cater for the peak demand".

Among other efforts, the airline has secured lease agreements for 10 Boeing 737 aircraft on damp lease and those will be inducted from October.

In a damp lease, the lessor provides the aircraft, along with the maintenance, but not the crew and insurance.

"Discussions are underway for additional induction of narrow-body and wide-body aircraft during October and November 2025," it said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

Aviation Minister Naidu reviews safety issues

New Delhi: Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday held the monthly review meeting with representatives of airlines and discussed issues pertaining to safety, fleet performance and passenger facilitation. The meeting was also attended by officials from the civil aviation ministry and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. vii



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

स्पाइसजेट ने क्रेडिट सुइस को भुगतान किया

किफायती विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने सोमवार को कहा कि उसने वित्तीय सेवा फर्म क्रेडिट सुइस को 2.4 करोड़ डॉलर (करीब 200 करोड़ रुपये) का पूरा भुगतान कर दिया है। यह भुगतान तीन साल पहले हुए समझौते की शर्तों के अनुरूप किया गया है। स्पाइसजेट ने एक बयान में कहा कि मई, 2022 में हुए समझौते के समय क्रेडिट सुइस/ एसआर टेक्निक्स का कुल दावा 4.17 करोड़ डॉलर था। दोनों पक्षों ने इसे 2.4 करोड़ डॉलर पर निपटाने और किस्तों में भुगतान करने पर सहमति जताई थी।

भाषा



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

समझौता • 2022 का सेटलमेंट पूरा किया स्पाइसजेट ने क्रेडिट सुइस का 211 करोड़ रु. बकाया चुकाया

राहुल गोरेजा | नई दिल्ली

स्पाइसजेट ने क्रेडिट सुइस के साथ 24 मिलियन डॉलर (करीब 211 करोड़ रुपए) का बकाया पूरी तरह चुका दिया है। एयरलाइन ने बीएसई फाइलिंग में बताया कि यह भुगतान मई 2022 में दोनों पक्षों के बीच हुए समझौते के नियमों को पूरा करता है। स्पाइसजेट के चीफ बिजनेस ऑफिसर देबोजी महर्षि ने कहा, 'इस भुगतान को पूरा करना हमारी पिछली समस्याओं को पीछे छोड़ने के प्रयासों में अहम कदम है।' मई 2022 में जब समझौता हुआ था, तब क्रेडिट सुइस/एसआर टेक्निक्स का कुल दावा 41.77 मिलियन डॉलर (करीब 367 करोड़ रुपए) था। दोनों पक्ष 24 मिलियन डॉलर का भुगतान एक तय भुगतान योजना के माध्यम से करने पर सहमत हुए थे। 2011 में स्पाइसजेट ने विमान रखरखाव के लिए स्विस फर्म एसआर टेक्निक्स के साथ 10 साल का अनुबंध किया था। 2012 में, एसआर टेक्निक्स ने रखरखाव के लिए भुगतान वसूलने का अधिकार क्रेडिट सुइस को दे दिया था।

बीती तिमाही कंपनी को 236 करोड़ का घाटा: वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 की पहली तिमाही में स्पाइसजेट का शुद्ध घाटा बढ़कर 236.6 करोड़ रुपए हो गया। यह घाटा रखरखाव के इंतजार में खड़े विमानों, हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंधों और कम यात्री मांग के कारण हुआ। पिछले साल की इसी तिमाही में एयरलाइन ने 158.6 करोड़ का शुद्ध मुनाफा दर्ज किया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

वियतनाम की टिकट बुकिंग पर 99 प्रतिशत छूट देगी वियतजेट

नई दिल्ली। वियतनाम की विमान सेवा कंपनी वियतजेट ने सोमवार रात से मंगलवार रात तक विशेष शहरों के लिए टिकट बुक कराने पर 99 प्रतिशत तक की छूट की घोषणा की है। एयरलाइंस ने सोमवार को बताया कि 9/9 फ्लैश सेल के तहत दिल्ली, मुंबई, अहमदाबाद, कोच्चि, हैदराबाद और बेंगलुरु से वियतनाम के हनोई, हो ची मिन्ह सिटी और दा नांग शहरों की उड़ानों पर 99 प्रतिशत तक की छूट मिलेगी। यात्री भारतीय समय के अनुसार, 08 सितंबर रात 10:30 बजे से 09 सितंबर रात 9:30 बजे तक एयरलाइंस की वेबसाइट या वियतजेट एयर मोबाइल ऐप पर बुकिंग करते समय अंग्रेजी में प्रोमो कोड 'सुपरसेल99' डालकर इकोनॉमी क्लास की टिकट पर 99 प्रतिशत तक की छूट (कर एवं अन्य शुल्क को छोड़कर) का लाभ उठा सकते हैं। यह ऑफर 01 अक्टूबर 2025 से 27 मई 2026 के बीच की यात्रा के लिए उपलब्ध होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

पहले प्रयास में नहीं मिली कामयाबी, दूसरे में सुरक्षित लैंडिंग

जास, नई दिल्ली: पहली बार लैंडिंग में मिली नाकामयाबी के बाद एअर इंडिया के मुंबई से नई दिल्ली आ रही उड़ान को यहां आसमान में चक्कर लगाना पड़ा। पहली बार रनवे को छूने के बाद भी पायलट को लैंडिंग कराने में कामयाबी क्यों नहीं मिली। एअर इंडिया का कहना है कि उड़ान एआइ 2910 ने मानक प्रोटोकाल के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग को रद्द कर दिया और एक नियमित चक्कर लगाया। विमान ने अपनी दूसरी कोशिश में सुरक्षित रूप से लैंडिंग की।

मुंबई से एअर इंडिया की इस उड़ान को सोमवार शाम साढ़े पांच बजे उड़ान भरनी थी। प्रस्थान में आधा घंटा विलंब हुआ। विमान को आठ बजे नई दिल्ली में लैंडिंग करनी थी, लेकिन समय से पहले ही दिल्ली के वायु क्षेत्र में दाखिल हो गया। विमान जाफरपुरकलां के ऊपर पूर्व दिशा में मुड़ा और आइजीआई के रनवे पर सीधे लैंडिंग की कोशिश की थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

स्पाइसजेट ने क्रेडिट सुईस को 2.4 करोड़ डालर दिए

नई दिल्ली: वित्तीय संकट का सामना कर रही घरेलू विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने सोमवार को कहा कि उसने क्रेडिट सुईस को 2.4 करोड़ डालर का पूरा भुगतान कर दिया है। तीन साल पहले हुए समझौते की शर्तों के अनुरूप यह भुगतान किया गया है। क्रेडिट सुईस ने स्पाइसजेट पर कुल 4.17 करोड़ डालर का दावा किया था। (प्रेट)



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

केदारनाथ के लिए 45 % तक महंगा हुआ हेली सेवा का किराया

राज्य ब्यूरो, जागरण, देहरादून: इस माह से हेली सेवाओं के जरिये केदारनाथ जाने वाले यात्रियों को अब पहले से 45 प्रतिशत किराया अधिक देना होगा। उत्तराखंड नागरिक उड्डयन विकास प्राधिकरण ने चारधाम यात्रा के लिए हेली किराये में 45% वृद्धि की है। केदारनाथ एवं हेमकुंड साहिब के लिए हेली सेवाओं की बुकिंग 10 सितंबर से शुरू हो रही है। जबकि, हेली सेवाएं 15 सितंबर से शुरू होंगी। प्रदेश में इस वर्ष केदारनाथ धाम हवाई मार्ग में दुर्घटनाओं के बाद हेली सेवाओं को सुरक्षित बनाने का निर्णय लिया गया था। इसके लिए बनी समिति ने सुरक्षित हेली संचालन को लेकर अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार को सौंपी थी। इस रिपोर्ट पर यूकाडा व डीजीसीए के बीच बैठक भी हुई। इसके बाद हेली सेवाओं को सुरक्षित करने के लिए इनमें हेली सेवाओं के फेरे कम करने, यात्रियों की संख्या कम करने और इसके दृष्टिगत किराये बढ़ाने का निर्णय लिया गया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

20 यात्रियों का लगेज बेंगलुरु में ही छोड़कर इंदौर पहुंचा विमान

नईदुनिया प्रतिनिधि, इंदौर : इंदौर एयरपोर्ट पर रविवार शाम एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के कारण यात्रियों को कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा। बेंगलुरु से इंदौर आने वाली ठंडान आइएक्स 2014 समय से पहले पहुंची, लेकिन लगभग 20 यात्रियों का लगेज वहीं छोड़ दिया। तीन घंटे की प्रतीक्षा और हंगामे के बाद स्टाफ ने सूचित किया कि सामान सोमवार सुबह इंदौर आएगा।

विजयवाड़ा निवासी विकास जैन ने बताया कि वह परिवार सहित मोहनखेड़ा तीर्थ के धार्मिक कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने आए हैं। बेंगलुरु में चेक-इन लेट होने पर दो बैग के लिए आठ हजार रुपये अतिरिक्त वसूले गए, फिर भी सामान इंदौर नहीं पहुंचा। सोमवार को सुबह कार्यक्रम है, लेकिन जरूरी सामान न होने से परेशानी बढ़ गई है। महिदपुर निवासी मुकेश बाठिया ने बताया कि स्टाफ ने बिना भोजन और पानी के घंटों बैठाए रखा।

SpiceJet's Plans: Get Jets Off Ground, Induct Planes on Short-term Lease

Plans to get 10 grounded jets into service by April 2026 to ease fleet crunch

Our Bureau

New Delhi: SpiceJet expects to get 10 grounded Boeing planes to service by April 2026, which would offer a major lifeline to the cash-strapped budget airline. More than half of SpiceJet's fleet is currently non-operational due to lack of spare parts.

The airline said, in an investor presentation, that out of 56 planes, it currently has only 21 operational, while the rest remain grounded. Out of eight Boeing 737 Max jets, the most modern aircraft in its fleet, only one is operational. Rivals IndiGo, Air India, and Akasa Air have 349, 170, and 30 aircraft flying respectively. A shortage of planes is hindering SpiceJet's ability to mount new flights and intensify its competition with other domestic carriers. It is also squeezing the airline's operational cash flows.

SpiceJet noted that it would induct 10 Boeing 737 aircraft on short-term lease starting October.

Battles to Stay Aloft

56 planes in fleet | Only 21 operational

10 Boeing jets to be revived by April 2026

\$24m dues cleared to Credit Suisse (Sept 2025)

Rivals: IndiGo 349, Air India 170, Akasa 30 aircraft flying

₹236.6 cr net loss in Q1 FY26

₹333 cr free cash as of June-end



Discussions are also on to induct more narrowbody and widebody aircraft during October and November 2025.

These fleet additions would allow the carrier to tap a likely increased travel demand during the festival and year-end season, it said.

After raising ₹3,000 crore last year,

SpiceJet owner Ajay Singh had said the carrier would be operating 40 aircraft by March this year, and a 100-aircraft fleet by 2026-end.

However, the plan did not materialise as projected as the carrier was unable to get new aircraft while most of the fresh funding was used to clear statutory dues. The airline was left with only ₹333 crore in free cash as of June-end, per the presentation.

SpiceJet has been trying to settle with creditors. On Monday, it announced completing a \$24 million payment to Credit Suisse as part of its settlement agreed upon in May 2022.

Last week, the airline reported a consolidated net loss of ₹236.6 crore in the June quarter.

"Non-operation of certain parts of the entire aircraft fleet for awaited maintenance, coupled with airspace restrictions owing to geopolitical tensions affected the profitability of the company during the quarter," said Singh, also the airline's chairman and managing director.

SpiceJet expects 10 grounded planes in air by April 2026

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, September 8

SPICEJET, WHICH FLEW into the red in the June quarter, expects to restart operations of 10 grounded aircraft by April 2026 as more than half of its fleet remains on the ground due to various issues.

At the end of the June quarter, the no-frills airline had just 21 operational planes out of the 56-strong fleet. Out of the operational aircraft, eight were Boeing 737-800s, 6 Q-400s, 3 Boeing 737-700 and 1 each of Boeing 737-900 and Boeing 737 Max, according to an investor presentation.

A total of 35 planes were on the ground at the end of the June quarter. The carrier had 25 planes in operation out of the 61 at the end of March 2025.

In the presentation after announcing the June quarter results, SpiceJet said it will "unground about 10 aircraft by April 2026, including 4-5 in early winter to cater for the peak demand".

On September 5, the airline reported a net loss of ₹238 crore in the three months ended June, whereas it had a profit of ₹150 crore in the year-ago period.

The budget carrier, which had been facing multiple headwinds, raked in a total

TAKEOFF NEXT YEAR



■ At the end of the June quarter, airline had 21 operational planes out of the 56-strong fleet

■ A total of 35 planes were on the ground at the end of the June qtr

■ Carrier had 25 planes in operation out of 61 at March-end

income of ₹1,190.56 crore in the June quarter, lower than ₹2,067.21 crore recorded in the same period a year ago.

Carrier repays \$24mn to Credit Suisse

SpiceJet on Monday said that it has fully cleared dues of \$24 million to Credit Suisse, marking the completion of a settlement agreement signed between the two parties in May 2022. The payment resolves a long-standing liability that predates the tenure of the airline's current promoter, the low-cost carrier said in a filing with the BSE. **FE BUREAU**

Air India cancels flights from Mopa to London

■ MAJOR SETBACK FOR GOANS, BRITISH TOURISTS
■ FLIGHTS WERE TO RESUME FROM OCTOBER 26

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

In a major setback for Goan emigrants and British tourists, Air India has excluded Goa from its Winter 2025-26 schedule, despite initially announcing plans to resume direct flights from Mopa to London (Gatwick) from October 26.

In the latest development, while Air India has announced resumption of flights from Gatwick to Amritsar and Ahmedabad, bookings for the Goa-Gatwick sector have been withdrawn, confirming the route will not operate this season.

Air India, currently facing a shortage of aircraft, was expected to operate three flights per week from October 26 from Manohar International Airport, Mopa -- the operations which have been stalled since June. In fact, the airlines had last month reopened bookings for Goa using a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner for operations on Tuesdays, Fridays

LONDON DREAMS GROUNDED

- AI withdraws bookings for Goa-Gatwick sector
- Confirms the route will not operate this season
- Was expected to operate three Mopa flights per week from October 26



- Airlines had last month reopened bookings for Goa using a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner for operations on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays

AMRITSAR CALLING

Air India has announced the resumption of its direct flight services from London-Gatwick to Amritsar and Ahmedabad, strengthening connectivity between the UK and India. These routes hold importance as both Amritsar and Ahmedabad are among the most sought-after destinations for travellers with family ties in India.

and Sundays.

While cities like Amritsar and Ahmedabad see strong demand from visiting friends and relatives, Goa's seasonal, leisure-driven traffic has proven harder to sustain.

Chief Minister Pramod

Sawant and Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Tanavade had earlier urged Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu to reinstate the suspended direct flight, highlighting its importance for Goans traveling to the UK,

particularly for employment.

Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte had also got in touch with Air India which had assured that the direct flights from Mopa to Gatwick would be restored by September-end.

The direct flights, which had commenced in July 2023, had been suspended in June 2025, following the Ahmedabad plane crash.

Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, meanwhile, slammed the State government over the latest development wherein he claimed that the decision will hamper tourism.

"Goa government's claim that two airports would boost tourism and economy is crumbling as airlines drop Goa from their network lists, favouring other States instead," Alemao said.

He said with this, the tourism picture will be murkier and shaky. "Govt has filed in its policies to track tourists in the State with focus only on borrowings and not generating revenue," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

SpiceJet fully repays \$24 million to Credit Suisse

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

SpiceJet on Monday said it has completed the full payment of \$24 million to Credit Suisse, fulfilling the terms of the settlement reached more than three years ago.

On the date of execution of the settlement agreement in May 2022, the total claim of Credit Suisse/SR Technics was \$41.77 million, which the parties agreed to settle for \$24 million in a structured payment plan, as per a release.

According to the release, the settlement marks the closure of a long-standing liability pre-dating the tenure of the airline's current promoter.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

Aviation minister holds safety review meet

NEW DELHI: Civil aviation minister Rammohan Naidu on Monday held the monthly review meeting related to safety, (aircraft) fleet performance and passenger facilitation, the minister informed in a post on X. The meeting was attended by Samir Kumar Sinha, civil aviation secretary, director general of civil aviation Faiz Ahmed Kidwai and airline representatives. "We are ensuring strict adherence to safety protocols by airlines, while also facilitating smoother coordination," Naidu said



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MINT

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

SpiceJet to restart 10 grounded planes

SpiceJet, which flew into the red in the June quarter, expects to restart operations of 10 grounded aircraft by April 2026 as more than half of its fleet remains on the ground due to various issues.

At the end of the June quarter, the no-frills airline had just 21 operational planes out of the 56-strong fleet. Out of the operational aircraft, 8 were Boeing 737-800s, 6 Q400s, 3 Boeing 737-700 and 1 each of Boeing 737-900 and Boeing 737 Max, according to an investor presentation. A total of 35 planes were on the ground at the end of the June quarter.

The carrier had 25 planes in operation out of the 61 at the end of March 2025.

In the presentation after announcing the June quarter results, SpiceJet said it will "unground about 10 aircraft by April 2026, including 4-5 in early winter to cater for the peak demand".

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

9 SEPTEMBER 2025

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“unground about 10 aircraft by April 2026, including 4-5 in early winter to cater for the peak demand”. On September 5, the airline reported a net loss of Rs 238 crore in the three months ended June, whereas it had a profit of Rs 150 crore in the year-ago period.

The budget carrier, which had been facing multiple headwinds, raked in a total income of Rs 1,190.56 crore in the June quarter, lower than Rs 2,067.21 crore recorded in the same period a year ago.

Noting that it has secured

maintenance and overhaul slots to accelerate the restoration of its grounded fleet, SpiceJet, in the presentation, said a “total of 19 engines were dispatched to engine shops across the globe, including 7 engines for Boeing 737 NG aircraft, 6 engines for Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, and 6 engines for Q400 aircraft”.

Among other efforts, the airline has secured lease agreements for 10 Boeing 737 aircraft on damp lease and those will be inducted from October. Generally, in a damp lease, the lessor provides the aircraft, along with the maintenance, but not the crew and insurance. “Discussions underway for additional inductions of narrow-body and wide-body aircraft during October and November 2025,” it said in the presentation submitted to BSE.

PII

खड़े विमान परिचालन में लाएगी स्पाइसजेट

■ परिचालन में नहीं हैं कंपनी के 10 विमान ■ 56 विमानों में से चल रहे सिर्फ 21 विमान

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

जून तिमाही में घाटे में रही एयरलाइन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने कहा है कि वह अप्रैल, 2026 तक उड़ान सेवाओं से बाहर चल रहे अपने 10 विमानों का परिचालन फिर शुरू करने की योजना बना रही है।

जून तिमाही के अंत में स्पाइसजेट के 56 विमानों के बेड़े में से केवल 21 विमान ही परिचालन में थे जबकि 35 विमान तकनीकी या परिचालन कारणों से जमीन पर खड़े थे। कंपनी ने निवेशकों के समक्ष एक प्रस्तुति में कहा कि अप्रैल, 2026

तक 10 खड़े विमानों को फिर से उड़ान में लाया जाएगा। इनमें से चार-पांच विमानों की उड़ान सेवाएं इस साल सर्दियों की शुरुआत में



ही बहाल की जाएगी ताकि त्योहारी और व्यस्त सत्र की मांग को पूरा किया जा सके।

अप्रैल-जून, 2025 की तिमाही में स्पाइसजेट को 238 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध घाटा हुआ जबकि पिछले साल इसी अवधि में उसे 150 करोड़ रुपये का लाभ हुआ था।

कंपनी ने बताया कि जमीन पर खड़े विमानों की परिचालन सेवाएं बहाल करने के लिए उसने रखरखाव और मरम्मत स्लॉट सुनिश्चित कर लिए हैं। अब तक कुल 19 विमान इंजन मरम्मत के लिये दुनिया भर के केंद्रों में भेजे गए हैं जिनमें सात इंजन बोइंग 737 एनजी, छह इंजन बोइंग 737 मैक्स और छह इंजन क्यू400 विमानों के हैं।

स्पाइसजेट ने क्रेडिट सुइस को 2.4 करोड़ डॉलर का भुगतान किया

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। किफायती एयरलाइन स्पाइसजेट ने सोमवार को कहा कि उसने वित्तीय सेवा फर्म क्रेडिट सुइस को 2.4 करोड़ डॉलर (लगभग 200 करोड़ रुपये) का पूरा भुगतान कर दिया है। यह भुगतान तीन साल पहले हुए समझौते की शर्तों के अनुरूप किया गया है। स्पाइसजेट ने एक बयान में कहा कि मई, 2022 में हुए समझौते के समय क्रेडिट सुइस/ एसआर टेक्निक्स का कुल दावा 4.17 करोड़ डॉलर था। दोनों पक्षों ने इसे 2.4 करोड़ डॉलर पर निपटाने और किस्तों में भुगतान करने पर सहमति जताई थी। क्रेडिट सुइस स्विट्जरलैंड का एक अग्रणी निवेश बैंक और वित्तीय सेवा प्रदाता है। स्पाइसजेट ने कहा कि यह समझौता एक पुरानी देनदारी को खत्म करता है जो मौजूदा प्रवर्तक के कार्यभार संभालने से पहले की व्यावसायिक व्यवस्थाओं से जुड़ा था। कंपनी के मुख्य व्यवसाय अधिकारी देबोजो महर्षि ने कहा, 'इस भुगतान को पूरा करना प्रतिबद्धताओं को निभाने की हमारी क्षमता और संकल्प को दर्शाती है। यह न केवल पुराने दायित्व से मुक्ति दिलाता है बल्कि चुनौतीपूर्ण कारोबारी माहौल में आगे बढ़ने के हमारे प्रयासों को भी मजबूत करता है।'



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

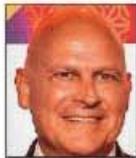
8 SEPTEMBER 2025

Flight go-arounds, returns to bay 'entirely normal': AI chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Representational pic

New Delhi: Air India chief Campbell Wilson has told employees that there is nothing alarming about the go-around and flights returning to the bay in context of the carrier's "scale and size" and said that the "the incidence rate is entirely normal".



"Over the past few months, our operations have garnered significant attention... Like all airlines, we face a variety of operational scenarios — some of which are under our control, and some that are not. When the spotlight is on us, it's crucial to offer timely, clear and accurate information and the right context. So over recent weeks we have been even more transparent than usual in reporting incidents and events, however small," the Air India MD & CEO said.

AI hopes this "transparency will, over time, help build trust". But "in the short term though, it naturally results in an uptick of news coverage, and with more than 1,200 departures every single day - nearly one every minute - across the Air India Group, it can seem like a lot. In context of our scale and size, however, the incidence rate is entirely



Air India chief Campbell Wilson said the incidence rate is entirely normal considering the airline's scale and size

normal," he said.

Tatas had acquired AI along with AI Express in Jan 2022 and returning the Maharaja's lost glory is among the toughest challenges in contemporary aviation.

So over three-and-a-half years after the return to founder Tata fold, AI is still tackling multiple challenges. The DGCA has fined AI on multiple occasions over violations.

To be fair, AI is not the only airline that has faced DGCA ire over alleged deficiencies and also every carrier faces the same from time to time.

But AI Group and IndiGo are seen as key to India's dream of becoming an aviation superpower as that requires strong home airlines.

After the Ahmedabad crash, in which 260 people died, AI has downsized its

operations after June 12 for factoring in things like enhanced aircraft checks and plans to restore all international flights from next month.

On his part, Campbell Wilson said in his message to employees that "our performance continues to improve thanks to the collective efforts across the organisation."

These, according to him, include improved on time performance and baggage handling.

"We've empowered our front-line teams with the ability to offer e-vouchers to customers in cases where a service shortfall has occurred, such as for mishandled baggage, and are also working to extend this capability to our cabin crew, enabling them to provide on-the-spot resolution to customers during their journey," he said.