



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

9 FEBRUARY 2025

Second airport: We may send two proposals, says MB Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS

Industries & Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil indicated on Saturday that the government may even propose two locations to the Centre for the proposed second Bengaluru airport.

Locations along the Nelamangala-Mangaluru National Highway (NH-75) and Kanakapura Road, stretching towards Mysuru Road, have emerged as front-runners for the second airport.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru City Development portfolio, is reportedly in favour of building the new airport in the city's southern



Industries Minister M B Patil in Bengaluru on Saturday.

DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

direction while Home Minister G Parameshwara wants it closer to his home district of Tumakuru.

"By February 17, after the Invest Karnataka summit, we may send one or even two

proposals to the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The AAI will screen what we send and then let us know which site is suitable. There is still much to do," Patil told reporters. "If both proposals are okayed, then we will decide based on the interest of the state."

Patil specified that there was no confusion about the second airport. "I am personally monitoring this," he said. "We have made a shortlist of four sites. Of them, we are particularly focusing on two sites. We have briefed the chief minister once. Another round of briefing will be held," the minister said, refusing to disclose the shortlisted sites.

► **MB Patil, Page 6**

Second airport: We may send two proposals, says MB Patil

MB Patil, from Page 1

"When we decide (on the location), we will spell out the reasons transparently," he said.

Karnataka started doing its homework on building a second airport for Bengaluru in June 2024. "We have started work because it will take 7-8 years to complete," he said. "The clause that no other airport can come up within a 150-km radius of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) ends in 2033. Also, the KIA will meet its capacity of 100 million passengers by 2030," he said.

The location of the new airport must be viable from the investors point-of-view, Patil argued.

"Say, if I take the airport to Vijayapura and provide land, will investors come? Investors such as Ambani, Tata, Adani, Bengaluru International Airport Ltd (BIAL) or whoever...they will look at viability. We gave BIAL a 25-year exclusivity clause only for its viability," Patil said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

9 FEBRUARY 2025

AAI completes design and flight procedures for Navi Mumbai and Jewar airports

Airports Authority of India (AAI) announced the successful completion of airspace design and flight procedures for the Navi Mumbai International Airport and Noida International Airport (Jewar).

This achievement underscores AAI's expertise in managing complex airspace configurations, especially for airports situated near some of the busiest aviation hubs in the country. As India's Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP), AAI is entrusted with the management of Air Navigation Services across the nation, including at the upcoming airports at Navi Mumbai and Noida (Jewar).

For accomplishment the objective AAI collaborated with M/s Boeing India which provided invaluable support through comprehensive simulation and conflict analysis. Shri Vipin Kumar, Chairman,

AAI, said that "In the context of the on-going strategic partnership between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Boeing India, experts from Boeing collaborated with the AAI Flight Procedure Design team to assess and confirm the arrival and departure protocols for the new airports being developed in Jewar (Noida) and Navi Mumbai.

The joint efforts have facilitated the safe and efficient integration of operations at these new airports with existing operations in Delhi IGI and Mumbai CSMIA airports. The anticipated increase in air traffic in both terminal areas will be managed in a way that conserves fuel and track miles for airlines, while also alleviating the workload for air traffic controllers and maintaining safe separation between aircraft at neighbouring international airports.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

9 FEBRUARY 2025

MNF opposes Mizoram Govt's 'move' to hand over Lengpui Airport to IAF

ZODIN SANGA

AIZAWL, Feb 8: The Opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) on Saturday vowed to prevent the Lengpui Airport from being handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Amid the ongoing controversy over the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM)-led Government's plan to transfer the State's lone airport to the IAF, a team of MNF legislators led by Leader of Opposition Lalchhandama Ralte, visited the Lengpui Airport today.

Speaking to reporters, Ralte said both the MNF and the Congress governments had worked hard to establish the airport, and successive administrations had borne its operational costs.

"When the ZPM assumed power in December 2023, one of the first initiatives of Chief Minister Lalduhoma was to propose handing over

our airport to the IAF, which is shameful," Ralte said.

"Former Chief Ministers Lal Thanhawla (Congress) and Zoramthanga (MNF) managed to retain ownership of the airport despite financial challenges. This proves the ZPM Government's total financial failure," he said.

Ralte warned of multiple consequences in the event of the IAF taking control of the Lengpui Airport.

"Across India, 27 IAF-controlled airports have civilian enclaves. These bases prioritise military operations, including fighter jet and transport plane activities. Given Mizoram's strategic location near China, Lengpui could be developed into a jet fighter base like Pune, Tezpur, Bagdogra, and Srinagar," Ralte pointed out.

"Frequent fighter jet sorties and airspace restrictions could reduce flight frequen-

AIRPORT IMPASSE: FEAR OF LOSS OF LOCAL CONTROL

Given Mizoram's strategic location near China, Lengpui may be developed into a jet fighter base like Pune, Tezpur, Bagdogra, and Srinagar

Frequent fighter jet sorties and airspace restrictions may reduce flight frequency, impacting Mizoram's economic progress

Lengpui and its surroundings, including Aizawl, may become high-priority targets during conflict due to the airport's position as a military installation

cy, impacting Mizoram's economic progress. Noise pollution from military aircraft will also disrupt Aizawl and the nearby areas," the MNF leader maintained

"Lengpui and its surroundings, including Aizawl, could become high-priority targets in times of conflict due to the airport's strategic importance as a military installation, Ralte said, while asserting that the people of Mizoram would never allow their airport to be taken over by the IAF.

The Leader of Opposition added that the previous MNF Government had already proposed constructing a sec-

ond runway and submitted its detailed project report (DPR) to the Centre.

"With India's Act East Policy in focus, our dream is to upgrade Lengpui into an international airport. That will never happen if the IAF takes control of it," he said.

Echoing him, MNF legislator Lalrintluanga Sailo vowed to fight against the move.

Meanwhile, the NGO Co-ordination Committee (NGOCC), a conglomerate of major civil societies and student organisations, met Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Friday and reiterated their opposition to the State Govern-

ment's plan to hand over the Lengpui Airport to the IAF, a release issued by the NGOCC stated.

The NGOCC leaders told the Chief Minister that they had already issued a statement on August 9 last year, opposing the proposed transfer of the airport. On Friday, they formally submitted their objections in writing.

"We urged the Chief Minister not to hand over the airport's authority to the IAF. Even if maintaining the airport is a financial burden, we appealed to him to explore other options rather than transferring it to the IAF," they said.

Where will the second international airport be?

Leaders vie for their chosen spots to be where the new airport will come up, but so far no decision has been taken

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A political tug-of-war has begun among influential leaders within the ruling party regarding the construction of a second international airport in Bengaluru. Following Home Minister Dr. G Parameshwara's suggestion that an international airport in Tumakuru would be beneficial for connecting 21 districts, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "I wish for a new airport in my hometown." However, he clarified that decisions

regarding the airport's location would not be in their hands. "The airport construction process involves multiple considerations. The final decision on whether the airport should be in Bidadi, Nelamangala-Solur, or Tumkur will be made by the Airport Authority," he stated. Reacting to Shivakumar's statement, Parameshwara remarked, "Whether the airport is built in Bidadi or Tumakuru, the advantages will be the same."

It may be noted that the state government's proposal for a second international airport in Bengaluru has received positive feedback from the central government, but the decision regarding its location remains a contentious issue. The competition between Tumakuru, Bidadi, and Nelamangala-Solur for the airport site has led to delays in finalising the location.

In light of increasing passenger traffic and air traffic congestion at Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL),

there has been growing demand for a second airport. The state government is pushing for approval from the central government, even as Tamil Nadu seeks to seize the opportunity for its own development. However, the state has not yet been able to finalise the location of the second airport.

Final decision pending: Shivakumar

Shivakumar told reporters, "I wish for an airport in my hometown, but it is not that simple. There are several factors that must be considered in airport construction. The final decision regarding the location of the airport will be made by the Airport Authority." The matter is under discussion in cabinet meetings, with Industry Minister MB Patil leading a site inspection. "After discussions with the Chief Minister and me, the Cabinet will decide on the location, after obtaining the necessary permissions from the authorities," Shivakumar added. Responding to claims that former leaders HD Deve Gowda and HD Kumaraswamy are attempting to gain credit for the second airport, Shivakumar remarked, "When they were in power, they didn't make any efforts for a second airport. Now we are taking the initiative. They are trying to push for it from their local landowners, and I too will ensure that my local landowners push for it."



Cabinet will decide on location after obtaining from authorities

170 मेगावाॉट का प्रोजेक्ट, सरकार को 2.15 रु./यूनिट दर पर मिलेगी बिजली समिट में होगा देश की सबसे सस्ती बिजली का एग्रीमेंट; मेहमानों के लिए एयरपोर्ट पर 3 लाॅन्ज



24-25 फरवरी...भोपाल

पॉलिटिकल रिपोर्टर | भोपाल

मप्र के नीमच में 170 मेगावाॉट के सोलर प्रोजेक्ट से मप्र और रेलवे को देश की सबसे सस्ती बिजली मिलने वाली है। हाल ही में हुई नीलामी में वारी इंजीनियरिंग ने प्रति यूनिट दर सबसे कम 2 रुपए 15 पैसे रखी है। अब इस वारी इंजीनियरिंग के साथ ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर समिट में 24 फरवरी को

पाॅवर पचेज एग्रीमेंट होगा। यह वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में मप्र के लिए बड़ा कदम है। इससे पहले 2 रुपए 48 पैसे दर आई है। समिट में इसके अलावा वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा को लेकर अलग-अलग सत्र रखे गए हैं। यह प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तरह होंगी। मीटिंग में तय होगा कि नीलामी से पहले क्या बदलाव लाए जा सकते हैं। शर्तें क्या होंगी? समिट में इस तरह की पहल पहली बार है। इसमें अदाणी समूह भी शामिल हो सकता है। सबसे कम आई उपरोक्त दर सोलर एनर्जी कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड ने अप्रूव्ड लिस्ट ऑफ मॉडल्स एंड मैनुफैक्चरर्स लागू करने के बाद तय की है।

आने-जाने के लिए तीन लाउंज बनेंगे... भोपाल के साथ इंदौर भी पहुंचेंगी इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट



ऐसा होगा वीआईपी लाउंज।

• मेहमानों के लिए राजाभोज एयरपोर्ट भोपाल में 3 वीआईपी लाउंज बनाए जा रहे हैं। इसमें बड़े उद्योगपति, केंद्रीय मंत्री व अन्य लोग बैठ सकेंगे। एक लाउंज आने और एक जाने के लिए होगा। एमपी आईडीसी ने डिजाइन तैयार कर लिया है।

• चूंकि एक अक्टूबर से भोपाल एयरपोर्ट पर 24 घंटे आपरेशन शुरू हो गया है, इसलिए कुछ इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट भोपाल आएंगी तो कुछ इंदौर भी पहुंचेंगी। इंदौर पहुंचने वाले उद्योगपतियों को छोटे विमान अथवा हेलीकॉप्टर की मदद से भोपाल लाया जाएगा।

राजकोट टर्मिनल • मुंबई से पहली फ्लाइट से आए यात्रियों का गरबा से स्वागत किया हीरासर एयरपोर्ट के नए टर्मिनल का उद्घाटन, इमिग्रेशन मंजूरी के बाद इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट शुरू होंगी: रूपाला

भास्कर न्यूज़ | राजकोट

राजकोट-अहमदाबाद हाईवे पर चोटिला के पास हीरासर में राजकोट इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट स्थित है। यहां ₹326 करोड़ की लागत से निर्मित अत्याधुनिक नए टर्मिनल का रविवार को लोकार्पण किया गया। इस दौरान गुजरात और काठियावाड़ की पहचान माने जाने वाले गरबा के अलावा भांगड़ा करके यात्रियों का स्वागत किया गया। 23,000 वर्ग मीटर क्षेत्र में बना आधुनिक टर्मिनल देखने लायक है। यात्रियों ने कहा कि बिजनेस क्लास और विदेशी



यात्रियों को आकर्षित करने के लिए इस प्रकार के हवाई अड्डे की वास्तव में आवश्यकता थी। इस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे को सीमा शुल्क विभाग से मंजूरी मिल गई है, जिससे राजकोट के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें प्राप्त करने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है।

लोकसभा सांसद पुरुषोत्तम रूपाला ने कहा कि राजकोट

अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे को वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने सैद्धांतिक रूप से सीमा शुल्क मंजूरी दे दी है। एक-दो दिन में आधिकारिक घोषणा कर दी जाएगी। इमिग्रेशन विभाग की मंजूरी भी ली जाएगी। एक बार सीमा शुल्क संबंधी बुनियादी ढांचा तैयार हो जाए तो इमिग्रेशन अनुमोदन प्रक्रिया भी शीघ्र पूरी होगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

9 FEBRUARY 2025

Drone spotted inside airport

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

The Sahar police have booked an unidentified individual for flying a drone within restricted airport premises. According to the FIR, the drone was first spotted by a pilot in an airside area of Terminal 2 on Friday morning. Subsequently, an airport security personnel informed the Anti-Terrorist Squad, which was patrolling the airport, that a drone-like object had been spotted in the apron area, taxiway and runway. The authorities managed to seize the gadget, but could not find who was operating it.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

9 FEBRUARY 2025

Flights diverted from city airport due to dense fog

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

A few flights were diverted from the Chennai airport on Saturday morning due to dense fog.

After 6 a.m., the visibility started to dip to 800 m and, by 7 a.m., it dropped to 200 m. The visibility level improved after 8 a.m., and flight operations reverted to normal after 9 a.m. When the visibility was hit, four flights, including those from Muscat, Pune, and Singapore, were diverted from the airport.

The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, had re-

corded moderate to dense fog in Chennai and its neighbourhoods between 7.30 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. on Saturday.

Officials said the surplus rainfall and the extended northeast monsoon had led to excess moisture in the atmosphere. Diurnal temperature variation was one of the reasons cited for radiation fog. Weather experts said fog in February was less common in Nungambakkam and Meenam-bakkam. The RMC has predicted the possibility of mist or haze cover at isolated pockets in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry during the morning hours for two days.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

10 FEBRUARY 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की उड़ान पर मुहर, एयरस्पेस में तय हुआ रूट

नोएडा, (पंजाब केसरी): नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान के लिए भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) ने एयरस्पेस तैयार लिया है। एयरपोर्ट के व्यावसायिक संचालन के लिए यह बड़ी महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। एएआई ने बीते 9 दिसंबर को उड़ान को सत्यापित करते हुए हवाई क्षेत्र के डिजाइन और उड़ान प्रक्रियाओं पर मुहर लगा दी है। इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट परियोजना के लिए एयरस्पेस और इंस्ट्रुमेंट फ्लाइट प्रोसीजर (आईएफपी) को तैयार किया गया है। उम्मीद जताई जा रही है कि अब जल्द ही नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने वाली विमानन कंपनियां अपने गंतव्यों की घोषणा कर सकती हैं। इसके साथ ही अप्रैल से उड़ान शुरू करने के लिए टिकटों की बुकिंग भी शुरू हो सकती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

10 FEBRUARY 2025

Mizoram govt bid to hand over airport to IAF stirs political row

HC Vanlalruata | TNN

Aizawl: Mizoram's main opposition, Mizo National Front (MNF), vowed to prevent Lengpui airport in state capital from going into the hands of Indian Air Force even as Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) govt has been making efforts to hand over the lone airport to IAF. A team of MNF legislators, led by opposition leader Lalchhandama Ralte, visited the airport on Saturday.

Ralte said both MNF and Congress govts had put lot of efforts in establishing the state's first airport and successive govts ran the airport. "When ZPM assumed office in Dec 2023, one of the first things that CM Lalduhoma did was proposing the handing over of our airport to IAF, which is shameful," he said.

"Previous CMs Lal Thanhawla (Congress) and Zoramthanga (MNF) were able to retain ownership of the



Opposition MNF highlighted adverse consequences — like civilian-military conflict — if Lengpui airport in state capital is handed over to IAF

airport despite financial difficulties. This shows ZPM govt's total financial failure," he said while highlighting adverse consequences — like civilian-military conflict — if the airport is handed over to IAF.

"Across India, 27 IAF-controlled airports have civilian enclaves. These bases often prioritise military operations, including jet fighter and transport plane activities. Locations such as Pune, Tezpur, Bagdogra, and

Srinagar serve as examples. With Mizoram's strategic location near China, it is likely that Lengpui will be developed into a jet fighter base," he said, adding, "Frequent fighter jet sorties and air-space restrictions could limit civilian flight operations, affecting flight frequency and impacting Mizoram's economic progress. Noise pollution from fighter jets would also disrupt nearby areas, including Aizawl."

"Lengpui and its surrounding areas, including Aizawl, could become high-priority targets during conflicts due to the airport's strategic importance as a military installation. People of Mizoram will never allow their beloved airport to go into the hands of IAF," he added.

Ralte said previous MNF govt had already proposed construction of a second runway. The detailed project report of this had already been submitted to Centre.

Fog after 6am hits flights to city all day

First Time In Feb, Say Authorities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Flights of British Airways from London, Oman Air from Muscat, and Singapore Airlines from Singapore were diverted to Hyderabad as fog engulfed the airside, reducing visibility to 300m

Chennai: Poor visibility at Chennai airport, caused by foggy conditions, disrupted operations and affected the schedule of nearly 50 arriving and departing flights on Saturday morning. The cascading effect continued into the late afternoon.

Flights of British Airways from London, Oman Air from Muscat, and Singapore Airlines from Singapore were diverted to Hyderabad as fog engulfed the airside, reducing visibility to 300 metres. A Qatar Air flight from Doha was diverted to Bengaluru, while a Sri Lankan Airlines plane from Colombo and an Indigo aircraft from Kuala Lumpur were diverted to Coimbatore. Domestic flights from Pune and Port Blair were diverted to Tirupati.

Additionally, the arrival of an Air Asia flight from Kuala Lumpur was delayed by

two hours, while an Indigo flight from Singapore landed an hour later than scheduled. Similarly, an Indigo flight from Abu Dhabi and an Emirates flight from Dubai were delayed by 45 minutes, and an Etihad flight from Abu Dhabi was delayed by 90 minutes.

Airport authorities said that runway visibility, which was at 1,000 metres until 6am, had reduced to 600 metres at 7am. Between 7.30am and 8.30am, the visibility further dropped to 200 metres, making it extremely difficult for pilots to land and take off from the runway.

Due to the delays in arriving flights, the departure schedule was also disrupted. Although runway visibility improved to 1,000 metres after 9am, the cascading effect of the disruption lasted until late afternoon. The Oman Air flight, which was diver-

ted to Hyderabad, returned around 12.30 pm, but the departure from Chennai to Muscat was rescheduled to Sunday at 1.30am. Passengers who reached the airport were provided with hotel accommodation. Meanwhile, an Indigo flight between Kochi and Chennai was cancelled due to disruptions in flight operations.

Airport authorities said this was the first time they faced disruptions in operations due to fog in Feb. "Usually, only during Bhogi and Diwali celebrations do we face difficulty due to smoke from firecrackers and burning waste. Also, it is strange that visibility is clear until 6 am and then the fog forms. We have sought the met dept's advice for the upcoming days," says an official. On Feb 4, flight operations were also disrupted at Chennai due to fog.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

9 FEBRUARY 2025

50 flights hit at Chennai airport due to fog

The poor visibility at Chennai airport, caused by foggy conditions, disrupted operations and affected the schedule of nearly 50 arriving and departing flights on Saturday morning. The cascading effect continued into the late afternoon. Airport authorities said this was the first time they faced disruptions in operations due to fog in Feb. Meanwhile, Meteorologists said foggy mornings may continue in the city. **P4**



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

10 FEBRUARY 2025

Airlines tailor fresh offerings to meet surge in corporate travel

STEPPING UP. New services, product tweaks aim to tap into the evolving needs of SMEs and business travellers

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Corporate travel is on the rise amid sustained economic growth, and airlines are responding to the higher demand with product tweaks and new features.

While IndiGo will soon launch its business-class product on the Delhi-Chennai route, Air India is targeting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with a separate portal and attractive pricing.

"The SME portal is going to really help improve our penetration of corporations because SMEs are hard to penetrate. They are small and fragmented. So we are now encouraging them to come and book directly with us through the portal, and we are providing very attractive terms and pricing," Air India's chief commercial officer Nipun Aggarwal said in a recent



SHIFTING GEARS. From flexible pricing to loyalty benefits, airlines are fine-tuning their services to meet rising demands

interaction.

Strengthening of sales team, expanded network and consistency in product, post Vistara merger, is also helping Air India grow its corporate business. It has added 1,700 plus corporate clients in the past few years.

IndiGo's CEO Pieter Elbers said the airline's business class product has received a positive response following its roll-out last

November. "We are encouraged by the results. The combination of a business class and a loyalty programme is very strong asset," Elbers said.

STRONG UPTICK

International airlines too are seeking a pie of the business as improved economic outlook is leading to more travel. Auto and FMCG sectors have seen a pick up in

sales in the December. Gross foreign direct investment and exports from India too have shown growth.

Last September, Malaysia Airlines revamped its corporate travel product enabling customers to earn and burn reward points for upgrades, extra baggage allowance among others. The airline also expanded its offerings to cater to SMEs with preferential fares and personalised support.

Dersenish Aresandiran, Chief Commercial Officer, Malaysia Aviation Group, said India is a key market for the airline. "Our corporate travel programme is designed to meet the evolving needs of Indian businesses by delivering seamless and rewarding travel experience," he added.

Air Mauritius is offering incentives to travel agents to push meetings, conferences and events in the island nation. As a part of its scheme, agents are being

offered ₹500-1,000 per flown passenger depending upon the size of the group.

"Direct connectivity and increased capacity have created a strong uptick for destinations like Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and this is good news for the corporate MICE segment," said Indiver Rastogi, President and Global Head, business travel of Thomas Cook India and SOTC.

Overall, Thomas Cook India has seen 13 per cent year-on-year growth in its business travel segment.

Industry executives say there is no let-up in corporate travel despite increase in hotel rates and airfares over pre-Covid period.

"Strong economic growth and political stability are driving business travel with our data showing a 6-8 per cent growth in bookings for H2 2024 versus H2 2023," said Sunny Sodhi, Managing Director, FCM India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

9 FEBRUARY 2025



Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) F35 fighter jet arrives at the Yelahanka Airbase ahead of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO BY K. JANARDHAN

Aero India to spotlight homegrown aviation tech

HAL's indigenously developed light utility helicopter to take centre stage

SHANTANU HORNAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

What aviation enthusiasts will witness at 'Aero India 2025,' slated for February 10-14 at the Yelahanka Air Force Station, are indigenously developed technologies.

Prominent among these is the display by the CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, which includes the 2.5-Meter Continuous Wind Tunnel. This project is expected to be completed by July 2025.

"We have received in-principle approval and will seek final clearance from the competent government authority. Developed in collaboration with ISRO, DRDO, and CSIR-NAL, this facility will support futuristic aerospace programs," said R Venkatesh, Chief Scientist and Head of the Project and Business Management Directorate (PBMD) at CSIR-NAL.

Additionally, NAL's industry partner, MagicMyna, will showcase an agricultural hexacopter, developed through a technology transfer to the startup. This hexacopter can be used for last-mile delivery.

"NAL has issued the expression of interest for the joint development of light ammunition UAV, a kamikaze drone with a 900 km endurance and 25-30 kg payload, powered by our indigenous 30HP Wankel engine, addressing the nation's reliance on imported jet engines. The actual engine is displayed at our stall," added Venkatesh.

HAL's LUH on display

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) indigenously designed and developed Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) will take



Indigenously developed 30HP Wankel Engine. CREDIT: NAL



Inertial Measurement Units Sensor developed by Yaanendriya, a startup incubated at ARTPark at IISc. CREDIT: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



centre stage. With 'Flight of Self-Reliance' as the central theme of the India Pavilion, HAL will display a functional full-scale engineering demonstrator of the Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) Warrior, along with HAL's entry into civil aviation: the Advanced Light Helicopter Next Generation (ALH NG).

For the first time, a 1:1 model of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) will also be showcased at the Pavilion.

HAL's indoor pavilion will feature state-of-the-art avionics systems such as the Mission Management System, Digital Map Generator, Data Link-Communication System, IFF & CFI, and an Indigenous Communication Complex with an Audio Management System, Audio Warning System, and Radio Control Panels.

Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

10 FEBRUARY 2025

जयपुर से बेंगलुरु की फ्लाइट पांचवें दिन भी हुई रद्द

जयपुर। जयपुर से बेंगलुरु जाने वाले पैसेंजर को जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर परेशान होना पड़ रहा है। इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की बेंगलुरु जाने वाली फ्लाइट रविवार को लगातार पांचवें दिन भी आखिरी वक्त पर रद्द हो गई। इसके बाद फ्लाइट के टिकट्स बुक करने वाले पैसेंजर्स को परेशान होना पड़ा। हालांकि एयरलाइंस कंपनी द्वारा सभी को रिफंड दिया गया है। आखिरी वक्त पर फ्लाइट कैंसिल होने की वजह से काफी यात्री अपने निर्धारित वक्त पर गंतव्य तक नहीं पहुंच सके। जयपुर से बेंगलुरु के लिए टिकट बुक करने वाले यात्रियों ने बताया कि इंडिगो एयरलाइंस द्वारा आखिरी वक्त पर टिकट कैंसिल किया गया है। सरकार को इस मामले पर कोई ठोस निर्णय लेना चाहिए।

Soaring ahead: Aviation boom

India's air transport sector is rapidly growing, fuelled by rising passenger demand and government initiatives

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As one of the fastest-growing aviation markets globally, India's air transport sector has undergone significant transformations in recent years. Driven by increasing passenger demand, government initiatives, and technological advancements, this feature explores the key trends, challenges, and prospects for the Indian air transport market.

According to data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), India witnessed a remarkable recovery in air travel in 2024, with domestic passenger traffic surpassing 161 million. This resurgence can be attributed to several factors, including

The Indian air transport market is poised for sustained growth. By 2030, it is projected that India will become the third-largest aviation market globally

the expanding middle class and a surge in leisure travel as individuals resumed vacations and family visits. International passenger traffic also rose substantially, with 30 million passengers traveling abroad, reflecting robust demand for international routes. Major airports recorded record-high traffic numbers, further underscoring the sector's recovery and growth.

The Indian government continues to prioritise air connectivity expansion through initiatives like the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme, which aims to make air travel more affordable and accessible. This program has led to the establishment of new regional airports and the launch of several underserved routes, significantly enhancing connectivity to remote areas. Over 619 routes have been operationalised under UDAN, encompassing 88 airports.

The industry anticipates Budget 2025-26

will bring new announcements to bolster this initiative further. Living up to expectations, the government unveiled an ambitious vision for UDAN's future, planning to expand the scheme to 120 new destinations and aiming to cater to an additional four crore passengers over the next 10 years. For FY26, the government has allocated ₹2,400 crore to the Civil Aviation Ministry, including ₹540 crore earmarked specifically for the UDAN scheme. Additionally, major airlines have expanded their fleets, introducing new aircraft to meet rising demand. The growth of low-cost carriers has also contributed to making air travel more affordable, further boosting passenger numbers.

In 2024, the Indian air transport market embraced technological advancements that enhance operational efficiency and passenger experience. Airlines and airports have implemented contactless travel solutions, including automated check-in kiosks, digital boarding passes, and biometric security checks, streamlining the travel process and improving customer satisfaction.

Sustainability has emerged as a key focus, with airlines investing in newer, more fuel-efficient aircraft to reduce carbon emissions.

The use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) is gaining traction, with Indian carriers collaborating with global partners to develop and implement these eco-friendly alternatives.

Looking ahead, the Indian air transport market is poised for sustained growth. By 2030, it is projected that India will become the third-largest aviation market globally,

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH ANTICIPATED

The Indian aviation sector is poised for considerable expansion in 2025,

PROJECTED PASSENGER TRAFFIC

Domestic passenger traffic is projected to grow by 7-10 per cent in FY25, reaching 164-170 million, while international traffic is expected to rise by 15-20 per cent, supported by new e-visa policies,

FLEET EXPANSION

Airlines are expanding their fleets to meet rising demand, while advancements in technology initiatives are shaping the future of air travel

OUTLOOK FOR 2025

with the potential to handle over 500 million domestic and international passengers annually. The government's focus on enhancing airport infrastructure, increasing investment in air traffic management systems, and promoting regional connectivity will be crucial in realising this vision.

While challenges persist, the sector's resilience and adaptability position it well for a prosperous future, making air travel an essential component of India's evolving transportation landscape. Airlines are expanding their fleets to meet rising demand, while advancements in technology and sustainability initiatives are shaping the future of air travel. Additionally, public-private partnerships are playing a key role in modernising airports and improving passenger experience through innovation and enhanced efficiency.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

9 FEBRUARY 2025

Hyd-Prayagraj flight delayed for 5 hrs due to tech glitch

Hyderabad: A flight from Hyderabad to Prayagraj was delayed for nearly six hours on Friday due to technical problems, leaving several passengers, including VIPs, stranded at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA).

The SpiceJet flight, scheduled for Friday morning, was grounded after the pilot reported technical problems. The stranded passengers complained of lack of clarity from airline officials during the long wait.

Recently, SpiceJet launched special flights between Hyderabad and Prayagraj on Feb 1 to facilitate easy travel for the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela. These special flights will continue till Feb 27.

The Maha Kumbh Mela, currently underway at the Triveni Sangam, is the world's largest religious congregation at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers. The event, which began on Jan 13, has already attracted over 40 million pilgrims and will continue till Feb 26. TNN