



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Navi Mumbai signs as partner for Airport Expo

Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd (NMIAL) will be premium airport partner for upcoming edition of Airport 360 Expo 2026 to be held in Mumbai on April 23-24. An agreement was made between NMIAL and organiser Media Fusion. The event will focus on emerging solutions across terminal development, airside operations, ground handling, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), and passenger experience.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

1,250 Gulf-bound fruit containers stranded at Nhava Sheva port; pallets stuck at airports

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

More than 1,250 sea containers carrying fruits, such as bananas, grapes and pomegranates, meant for the West Asian markets during the holy month of Ramadan are stranded at the Nhava Sheva port near Mumbai with shipping services disrupted by the Iran war.

Pallets of fruits are also stuck at several airports as Gulf-based airlines suspended operations to the region.

Ramadan is a peak season for Indian fruits, and exporters are worried about the fate of large volumes stuck at ports and airports. The mango season is also set to begin.

According to Nhava Sheva port sources, about 1,500 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent

units) are lying in the terminal, of which around 1,250 are carrying fruits. The value of the stranded cargo could not be ascertained.

Most fruit exports from India to West Asia move through Nhava Sheva to Jebel Ali in Dubai, with a usual transit time of two-three days. Consignments, mainly of bananas, grapes and pomegranates, are stored in reefer containers that remain plugged in, ensuring the cargo stays safe for now, sources said. But a prolonged delay could be disastrous.

RAMADAN DEMAND HIT

For exporters, Ramadan is among the busiest periods as the West Asia demand surges. The war has, however, created a major disruption. Shipments have been delayed, logistics costs have

risen, and buyers are cautious about placing fresh orders.

Exporters say a large share of their annual business depends on Ramadan sales. If exports slow during this period, the produce may have to be diverted to the domestic market where prices are significantly lower and there may not be enough demand to absorb the volumes.

Sources said two ships are expected to sail to a port in Oman in the next couple of days, and some fruit consignments may be loaded onto those vessels.

AIR CARGO DISRUPTION

While the disruption is smaller as compared with sea freight, air shipments of fruits and vegetables have also been affected. India airlifts several hundred tonnes of fruits and vegetables daily

to West Asia. Flights were completely disrupted in the initial days of the conflict, though there has been some normalisation recently.

"Shipments to Oman are least affected. With Emirates resuming some flights, the capacity crunch has eased somewhat, though still far from normal. Air freight costs to Europe are 50-70 per cent higher than two weeks ago," said Kaushal Khakhar, CEO of Mumbai-based Kay Bee Exports.

According to CK Govil, CMD of Delhi-based Activair Airfreight India Pvt Ltd, many farmers who planned to export produce during Ramadan have been unable to do so. "Some airlines that are operating have increased freight rates four-five times to nearly ₹1,000 per kg for shipments to Europe and the US," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

नोएडा हवाई अड्डे से डेढ़ महीने में शुरू हो जाएंगी वाणिज्यिक उड़ानें : राम मोहन

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू किंजरापू ने सोमवार को कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश के जेवर स्थित नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से अगले डेढ़ महीने में वाणिज्यिक उड़ानें शुरू हो जाएंगी। नायडू ने राज्यसभा में प्रश्नकाल के दौरान एक पूरक प्रश्न के उत्तर में नोएडा हवाई अड्डे को नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय से पिछले सप्ताह एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त करते हुए बताया कि आम तौर पर एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद वाणिज्यिक उड़ानें शुरू होने में 45 से 60 दिन का समय लगता है। एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद ही विमान सेवा कंपनियां हवाई अड्डे से उड़ानों का शिड्यूल तय करती हैं। शिड्यूल तय करने के बाद वे उन मार्गों पर बुकिंग शुरू करेंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से जल्द भरेंगी उड़ानें, टिकट बुकिंग सेवा की तैयारी तेज

- इंडिगो, अकासा एयर और एयर इंडिया से बातचीत जारी
- एयररोड्रोम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद 45 दिन में पूरी होंगी औपचारिकताएं

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 9 मार्च (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान सेवाएं शुरू होने की दिशा में बड़ी प्रगति हुई है। एयरपोर्ट से जल्द ही टिकट बुकिंग सेवा भी शुरू किए जाने की तैयारी है। इसके लिए एयरपोर्ट संचालन कंपनी यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (यापल) की ओर से प्रमुख एयरलाइंस कंपनियों इंडिगो, अकासा एयर और एयर इंडिया से बातचीत चल रही है। सोमवार को राज्यसभा में केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किंजरापु राममोहन नायडू ने यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट को एयररोड्रोम लाइसेंस मिल चुका है और अब शेष सभी औपचारिकताएं अगले 45 दिनों में पूरी



कर ली जाएंगी। इसके बाद एयरलाइंस कंपनियों से फ्लाइट शेड्यूल प्राप्त होते ही टिकट बुकिंग सेवा शुरू कर दी जाएगी।

राज्यसभा सांसद और भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय सचिव सुरेंद्र नागर ने सदन में एयरपोर्ट से पहली उड़ान शुरू होने की स्थिति को लेकर सवाल पूछा था। इसके जवाब में केंद्रीय मंत्री ने बताया कि किसी भी एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान संचालन के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण एयररोड्रोम लाइसेंस होता है, जो अब नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को मिल चुका है। यह लाइसेंस नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने छह मार्च को जारी किया है। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने यह भी बताया कि

एयरपोर्ट का भव्य उद्घाटन प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के हाथों प्रस्तावित है। राज्य सरकार की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री को औपचारिक निमंत्रण भेजा जा चुका है। प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय से समय मिलने के बाद उद्घाटन की तिथि घोषित की जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि उद्घाटन समारोह को ऐतिहासिक बनाने की तैयारी की जा रही है। सोमवार को डीजीसीए ने औपचारिक रूप से एयररोड्रोम लाइसेंस नायल-यापल को सौंप दिया। इस दौरान नायल की ओर से सीईओ आर.के. सिंह और नोडल अधिकारी शैलेंद्र भाटिया तथा यापल की ओर से सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ शेलमैन दिल्ली पहुंचकर लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने पहुंचे। नोडल अधिकारी शैलेंद्र भाटिया ने बताया कि एयररोड्रोम लाइसेंस एयरक्राफ्ट रूल्स, 1937 के रूल-78 के तहत जारी किया गया है। यह एयरपोर्ट संचालन के लिए अंतिम और महत्वपूर्ण आधिकारिक दस्तावेज होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि अब एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान संचालन शुरू करने के लिए अंतिम तैयारियां तेजी से की जा रही हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से प्रभावित किसानों के बच्चों को रोजगार देने पर मंथन

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 9 मार्च (देशबन्धु)। यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यौडा) कार्यालय में सोमवार को नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट परियोजना से प्रभावित परिवारों के बच्चों को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने के विषय में एक महत्वपूर्ण बैठक आयोजित की गई। बैठक में एयरपोर्ट के सीईओ राकेश कुमार सिंह, संबंधित विभागों के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी और जनप्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रहे। बैठक के दौरान धीरेन्द्र सिंह ने स्पष्ट शब्दों में कहा कि जिन कृषक परिवारों ने नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण के लिए अपनी जमीन दी है, उनके बच्चों को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराना किसी प्रकार का उपकार नहीं, बल्कि उनका वैधानिक और नैतिक अधिकार है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह जिम्मेदारी एयरपोर्ट निर्माण करने वाली कंपनी



और सरकार दोनों को है कि प्रभावित परिवारों के युवाओं को प्राथमिकता के आधार पर रोजगार दिया जाए। विधायक ने कहा कि जेवर क्षेत्र के किसानों ने प्रदेश और देश के विकास के लिए अपनी बहुमूल्य भूमि दी है। ऐसे में जरूरी है कि उनके परिवारों के युवाओं को एयरपोर्ट और उससे जुड़ी परियोजनाओं में स्थानीय प्राथमिकता के आधार पर रोजगार के अवसर उपलब्ध कराए जाएं।

- यीडा कार्यालय में हुई अहम बैठक
- विधायक धीरेन्द्र सिंह बोले-यह उपकार नहीं, किसानों के बच्चों का अधिकार

उन्होंने बताया कि इस विषय को लेकर संबंधित अधिकारियों के साथ सकारात्मक और अंतिम चरण की वार्ता हुई है। उम्मीद है कि जल्द ही इस दिशा में ठोस निर्णय लिया जाएगा, जिससे प्रभावित परिवारों के युवाओं को रोजगार के अवसर सुनिश्चित हो सकें। विधायक ने कहा कि उनका प्रयास है कि जेवर क्षेत्र के किसान और उनके परिवार इस ऐतिहासिक परियोजना के वास्तविक भागीदार बनें, जिससे क्षेत्र में समृद्धि और रोजगार के नए अवसर पैदा हों।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

मंत्री ने नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस पत्र अधिकारियों को सौंपा

जागरण संवाददाता, घंटर नोएडा : केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री किजारापु राम मोहन नायडू ने सोमवार को यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन और नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड एवं यीडा सीईओ रमेश कुमार सिंह को एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस सौंपा। उन्होंने अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक कर नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के संचालन की स्थिति व कार्यों के बारे में जानकारी ली। उन्होंने अधिकारियों से कहा कि नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट देश के एविएशन सेक्टर में अहम उपलब्धि है। एशिया में क्षेत्रफल के हिसाब से सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट है। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय ने शुक्रवार को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस जारी किया था। इससे पहले बृहस्पतिवार को नागर विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो ने एयरपोर्ट के लिए सिक्योरिटी क्लोथरेंस जारी किया था। एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन की

- एयरपोर्ट के संचालन की तैयारियों की जानकारी ली
- चैत्र नवरात्र के दौरान एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन की संभावना

तिथि जल्द घोषित होने की उम्मीद है। चैत्र नवरात्र के दौरान एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन संभावित है। इसके मद्देनजर तैयारी चल रही हैं।

केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री ने अधिकारियों से कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में विकास और कनेक्टिविटी के नए अवसर विकसित हो रहे हैं। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का विश्व स्तरीय इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर एविएशन सेक्टर के विकास और विस्तार को प्रदर्शित करता है। इस अवसर पर नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लि. के नेडल अफसर एवं यीडा एसीईओ शैलेंद्र भाटिया, नागर विमानन महानिदेशक फैज अहमद क़िदवई, यापल सीओओ किरण जैन समेत अन्य अधिकारी मौजूद रहे।

केंद्रीय मंत्री ने अधिकारियों को सौंपा नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस पत्र

जागरण संवाददाता, घेटर नोएडा

केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री किंजारापु राम मोहन नयडू ने सोमवार को यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ़ श्नेलमैन और नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड एवं योडा सीईओ रकेश कुमार सिंह को एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस सौंपा। उन्होंने अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक कर नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के संचालन की स्थिति व कार्यों के बारे में जानकारी ली। उन्होंने अधिकारियों से कहा कि नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट देश के एविएशन सेक्टर में अहम उपलब्धि है। एशिया में क्षेत्रफल के हिसाब से सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट है। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय ने शुक्रवार को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस जारी किया था। इससे पहले गुरुवार को नागर विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो ने एयरपोर्ट के लिए सिक्वोरिटी क्लोयर्स जारी किया था। एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन की तिथि जल्द घोषित होने की उम्मीद है। चैत्र

एयरपोर्ट के संचालन की तैयारियों की जानकारी ली

चैत्र नवरात्र के दौरान एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन संभावित



अधिकारियों को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस सौंपते केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री। सी. योडा

नवरात्र के दौरान एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन संभावित है। इसके मद्देनजर तैयारी चल रही हैं।

केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री ने अधिकारियों से कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में विकास और कनेक्टिविटी के नए अवसर विकसित हो रहे हैं। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का

विश्व स्तरीय इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर एविएशन सेक्टर के विकास और विस्तार को प्रदर्शित करता है। इस अवसर पर नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लि. के नोडल अफसर एवं योडा एसीओ शैलेंद्र भाटिया, नागर विमानन महानिदेशक फैज अहमद किटवई, यापल सीओओ किरण जैन समेत अन्य अधिकारी मौजूद रहे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

इंदौर एयरपोर्ट के रनवे की डामर पिघली, 20 मिनट बाधित रही उड़ानें

नईदुनिया प्रतिनिधि, इंदौर : इंदौर एयरपोर्ट पर सोमवार को रनवे का डामर (बिटुमेन) पिघलने की घटना सामने आई। जानकारी सामने आते ही तुरंत उड़ानों का संचालन बंद कर सुधार कार्य कराया गया। इस दौरान दिल्ली और रायपुर से इंदौर आने वाली दो उड़ानों को भोपाल डायवर्ट करना पड़ा। यह उड़ान आधे घंटा बाद वापस इंदौर लौटी। सुधार कार्य के लिए करीब 20 मिनट उड़ानों का संचालन पूरी तरह से बंद किया गया। इंदौर एयरपोर्ट पर बीते साल फरवरी से रनवे रिपेयरिंग का काम जारी है। सोमवार सुबह 10.30 बजे के बाद नियमित निरीक्षण में रनवे के एक से डेढ़ मीटर में बिटुमेन ढीला दिखाई दिया। सूचना मिलते ही इंजीनियरिंग टीम मौके पर पहुंची और उड़ानों का संचालन बंद किया गया। सुधार कार्य के बाद उड़ानों का संचालन फिर शुरू कर दिया गया। गौरतलब है कि उड़ानों का संचालन रोके जाने से पहले सुबह की आधा दर्जन से अधिक उड़ानें आसानी से लैंड हुई थीं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Jewar airport to be inaugurated soon, says Naidu

THE GOVERNMENT SAID that Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh has been granted an aerodrome licence and it would be inaugurated soon. Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said there is a time period of 45 days to two months from the grant of aerodrome licence to the start of actual operation.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

दो दशक में 200 नए हवाई अड्डे बनाए जाएंगे

नई दिल्ली। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ने राज्यसभा को बताया कि अगले 20 वर्षों में देश में 200 और हवाई अड्डे खोले जाने की उम्मीद है। वर्तमान में प्रतिदिन लगभग पांच लाख यात्री घरेलू और 1-2 लाख यात्री अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का उपयोग कर रहे हैं। मंत्री ने कहा कि अगले पांच वर्षों में 50 और अगले 20 वर्षों में कुल 350 हवाई अड्डे बनाने का लक्ष्य है। सुरक्षा उपायों पर चर्चा करते हुए मंत्री ने बताया कि डीजीसीए के पास बह-स्तरीय और कड़े निगरानी तंत्र है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट : जल्द शुरू होगी टिकट बुकिंग

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, ग्रेटर नोएडा : नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 45 दिनों में उड़ानें शुरू हो जाएंगी। टिकट बुकिंग सेवा भी जल्द शुरू हो जाएगी। इसके लिए यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्रांति (यापल) की इंडिगो, अकासा और एयर इंडिया एयरलाइंस से बातचीत चल रही है। यह जानकारी राज्यसभा में केंद्रीय विमानन मंत्री केआर मोहन नायडू ने दी।

राज्यसभा सांसद एवं भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय सचिव सुरेंद्र नागर ने सोमवार को सदन में केंद्रीय विमानन मंत्री से जेवर एयरपोर्ट से पहली उड़ान शुरू होने को लेकर सवाल पूछा। केंद्रीय विमानन मंत्री ने कहा कि नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को डीजैसीए ने छह मार्च को यह लाइसेंस जारी कर दिया। 45 दिनों के भीतर सारी प्रक्रिया पूरी कर ली जाएगी। एयरलाइंस कंपनियों से फ्लाइट शेड्यूल तैयार करने के लिए कहा गया है। फ्लाइट्स शेड्यूल मिलने के बाद टिकट बुकिंग शुरू हो जाएगी।



एयरपोर्ट पर महंगे चाय, पानी से यात्री परेशान: राघव चड्ढा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): आम आदमी पार्टी के सांसद राघव चड्ढा ने राज्यसभा में हवाई अड्डों पर खाने-पीने की वस्तुओं, विशेषकर चाय और पानी की अत्यधिक कीमतों का मुद्दा प्रमुखता से उठाया।

श्री राघव ने कहा कि मैंने यह मुद्दा पहले भी उठाया था जिसके बाद सरकार ने कुछ चुनिंदा एयरपोर्ट्स पर इस पहलू के किफायती 'उड़ान यात्री कैफे' शुरू किए हैं जिसकी उन्होंने जमकर तारीफ की। साथ ही कहा कि कई यात्री आज भी मुझसे इस समस्या को लेकर शिकायत करते हैं। उन्होंने अपनी दो मांगों को प्रमुखता से रखते हुए कहा कि अभी, भारत में लगभग 150+



एयरपोर्ट हैं, लेकिन सिर्फ 10 से 12 एयरपोर्ट पर ही उड़ान यात्री कैफे हैं। इन कैफे को देश भर के सभी एयरपोर्ट तक बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए ताकि हर यात्री को सस्ता खाना मिल सके। उड़ान यात्री

कैफे बेहतर होगा कि चेक-इन और सिक्योरिटी के बाद, डिपार्चर एरिया के अंदर हों, जहाँ यात्री अपनी बारी का इंतजार करते हैं। चैक इन एरिया के बाहर इन कैफे के होने से यात्रियों को भारी परेशानी का सामना उठाना पड़ता है और खाने का सामान महंगा खरीदना पड़ता है इसलिए इन्हें जहाँ यात्री वेटिंग रूम में बैठे होते हैं उसके आसपास होना चाहिए।

‘Noida airport gets Aerodrome licence, commercial operations expected in 45 days’



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 9 March

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Monday said that commercial flights from Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh are expected to begin within the next one

and a half months.

Responding to a question during Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Naidu expressed happiness that the Noida airport received its aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) last week. He said that typically it takes 45 to 60

days after receiving an aerodrome licence for commercial flight operations to begin.

He explained that airlines finalise their flight schedules only after an aerodrome license is issued. "Once the schedules are finalised, airlines start ticket bookings on those routes," he added.

"The ministry is also in contact with the airline companies, and flights will begin in about 45 days. We are planning a grand inauguration ceremony," he mentioned during the session.

Naidu also informed the House that in 2014, India had 74 airports, which has now increased to 166. He said the government does not intend to stop there and plans to build more airports.

According to the plan, 50

new airports will be built in the next five years, and 200 more over the next 20 years. As a result, by 2047 the total number of airports in India is expected to exceed 350.

He said that PM Modi believes that strong aviation infrastructure is essential for a developed India. Over the past 12 years, both the number of aircraft and passengers in the country have doubled.

Currently, around 500,000 passengers travel daily on domestic routes, while about 200,000 passengers travel on international routes.

The minister also said that along with increasing the number of airports, the government is promoting seaplane operations, aircraft capable of taking off and landing on water surfaces.



Flyers flag lack of restrooms at airport Terminal 1 exit area

Divya Shree L | TNN

Chennai: Passengers arriving at Terminal 1 of Chennai airport or relatives waiting for them are finding themselves without a basic amenity outside the exit: a restroom. They either have to take the lift to the departure level, walk to the Aerohub mall, or head to another terminal to access toilets.

Despite Terminal 1 handling a large share of domestic arrivals, with around 30,000 daily footfalls, there are no restrooms directly outside the exit.

Aishvarya A P, a passenger, recalled her experience of searching for a restroom outside Terminal 1 recently when she urgently needed to use the facility, as she was on her period. "Restaurant staff told me I would have to go further outside to use one, and once you exit the terminal, re-entry is not allowed. In situations like this, it becomes especially difficult for women," she said.

Shri Sakthi, a frequent flyer, said she prefers using restrooms inside the terminal for safety reasons, but added that an external facility could help if properly maintained. "I am a diabetes patient, so access to restrooms is important. I usually carry nappies with me in case of emergencies," she said.



INCONVENIENCE FOR PUBLIC

She added that any restroom outside T1 must ensure hygiene and proper maintenance, suggesting that airports could consider technologies such as self-sanitising lavatories used in countries such as Japan.

S P Louis, a prepaid taxi driver, said the absence of a restroom near the T1 arrivals exit creates difficulties during emergencies. "For both men and women, it becomes a difficult situation. If we need to use a restroom urgently, we have to take the lift to the departures level and walk from there, which is a long process," he said.

Though the plaza constructed near the T1 arrival terminal has toilets, the delay in its inauguration renders the facility useless for now. Airport authority officials maintained that the plaza will soon be inaugurated and added that additional toilets could not be planned due to ongoing redevelopment work.

Airport anti-fleecing drive: 80 FIRs filed against cabbies

V.Narayan@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Sahar police have initiated stringent action against cab and autorickshaw drivers by booking them under extortion charges, in addition to cheating, to curb incidents of drivers threatening, fleecing and extorting money from tourists and passengers leaving the airport's international terminal (T2) and seeking public transport. Eighty FIRs have been registered in the last two months.

The decision to invoke provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for extortion was taken after Sahar police came across at least two cases in which drivers allegedly threatened passengers after the journey had begun and demanded excess fares. On March 2, a 28-year-old executive with a private firm who had arrived from Bhubaneswar was allegedly threatened by an auto driver and was seen arguing with him in the airport area around 1.30 am.

"When the security guard on duty went to inquire, the auto driver initially agreed to take the passenger to Seven Hills Hospital by meter but then threatened that the passenger would have to pay Rs 500 after getting into the vehicle or be beaten up," police said. Based on the security guard's complaint, police registered a case and arrested the auto driver, Prakash Shetty (42), under extortion charges.

POLICE HELP CENTRE: REPORT CHEATING DRIVERS

WHAT COPS DID

- > Due to rising incidents, joint commissioner of police (law and order) Satyanarayan Chaudhary supervised the formation of a police team which included DCP (Zone VIII) Maneesh Kalwaniya, ACP Rajendra Avhad and senior inspector Manoj Chalke
- > Their task was to prepare an action plan and set up a police information centre at the airport



CASES FILED

- > Sahar police station registered 80 FIRs against drivers in 2 months
- 13** cases were filed against auto rickshaw drivers

- > Among these, 2 cases involved extortion
- > Authorities started cancellation proceedings for 13 cab permits and driving licences
- 13** vehicles were seized
- 6** people have been arrested so far

ASSISTANCE FOR PASSENGERS

- > A police facilitation / information centre has been set up at P-6 parking level inside the airport
- > The centre has been operational since Jan
- > It provides travel information and brochures



- about Mumbai city to passengers
- > Banners and audio announcements are available in Marathi, English, and Hindi to guide tourists
- > One uniformed police person is stationed 24/7

His auto has been seized and a letter has been sent to the RTO seeking cancellation of his driving licence and permit, police said.

The first extortion FIR was registered on Feb 25 when a police team posed as decoy passengers and caught a cab driver who allegedly threatened a woman police officer and demanded Rs 1,700 for a ride to Colaba.

Sahar police arrested Vaibhav Bhosale (34) at the airport around 5pm after he allegedly demanded the amount for the trip and

threatened assistant sub-inspector Smitha Pednekar, who was posing as a tourist as part of a crackdown on drivers accused of overcharging passengers. "The accused threatened that I would have to pay an additional Rs 350 if I did not remain silent and then accelerated the car," police said. In another case, a woman from the US was allegedly fleeced of 200 dollars by two cab drivers during a visit to Mumbai on Jan 12. The accused, Toufique Shaikh (39) and Deshraj Yadav (50), were arrested after police tracked

them using an OSINT-based (open-source intelligence) investigation tool.

The case gained attention after the American national posted about the incident on social media on Jan 26. In her post, which went viral, she wrote: "Landed in Mumbai recently; took a taxi to the Hilton Mumbai International Airport. The driver and another man first took us to an unknown location, charged us \$200 (Rs 18,000), and then dropped us at the hotel, which was only 400 metres away. Taxi No: MH 01 BD 5405."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

■ Investigation into the crash progressing at good pace: Naidu 'AI probe report to be out very soon'

New Delhi, March 9: Civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that the AAIB probe into the fatal crash of the Air India aircraft in June last year is progressing at a very good pace, and the investigation report will be out "very soon."

Replying to a supplementary query during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Naidu said the ministry is doing its best to ensure flight operations and to bring

back Indians stranded due to the West Asia conflict.

The minister, responding to various queries, told the House that the probe report into the Air India plane crash would be out soon.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 plane operating the flight AI171 enroute to London-Gatwick crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025, killing 260 people, including 241 persons onboard. The crash is being probed by the Aircraft Accident

Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

"Regarding the AI171 crash that happened in June last year, the investigation is going at a very good pace, and all the resources that are required for AAIB, the primary agency which is looking into the investigation, the ministry is providing.

"And I would say that very soon, within the completion of the year, the report should be out," Mr Naidu said.

On the West Asia situa-

tion and the safety of flight operations, Mr Naidu said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) immediately engaged with the airlines and issued circulars.

"... You can say that they (DGCA officials) have had multiple meetings with them (airline executives) so that they can only operate when they ensure that 100 per cent safety is there when they are operating to these airports in West Asia," the civil aviation-minister said.

— PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Last-minute airspace curbs force IndiGo to divert Europe flights

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

A Manchester-bound IndiGo flight returned to Delhi after over seven hours in the air and another aircraft was diverted to Cairo after being denied overflight permission by the air traffic control in Eritrea.

IndiGo restarted wide-body flights to Amsterdam, Manchester and London on Sunday after seven days. These flights are operated by Boeing 787 planes leased from Norwegian airline Norse Atlantic. They avoid Gulf airspace, in line with the European Aviation Safety Agency recommendations.

While IndiGo's Sunday flights operated normally, a confusion over overflight permission disrupted travel plans of travellers on Monday. The aircraft operating on the Delhi-Manchester



flight returned after flying till Ethiopia, while a London-Delhi route was diverted to Cairo.

IndiGo said the Manchester-bound aircraft returned due to last-minute airspace restrictions. "We are working with relevant authorities to explore the possibilities of resuming the journey," said IndiGo.

REPATRIATION FLIGHTS
Around 90,000 passengers returned to India following partial resumption of services. While Jeddah, Muscat

Around 90,000 passengers have returned to India following the partial resumption of air services

and UAE airports are functioning, the first scheduled flight from Doha arrived in Delhi on Monday. On Tuesday, Qatar Airways plans to operate flights to Kochi, Delhi and Mumbai.

Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu said on Monday that the DGCA had engaged with all airlines, and that multiple meetings had been held to ensure safe operations. All possible steps are being taken for the repatriation of stranded passengers, he added.

Iran war can raise airlines' losses, says ICRA

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Industry-wide losses of Indian carriers could worsen in FY26 due to disruption in international traffic, weak rupee and rising crude oil price. Rating agency ICRA believes Indian airlines could report a higher-than-previously estimated net loss of ₹17,000-18,000 crore in FY26.

On Monday, the crude oil price surged past \$100 per barrel for the first time in four years with the disruption of petroleum production and supply from West Asia. Stocks of InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) and SpiceJet fell 3.4 and 6.64 per cent on Monday, mirroring the performance of other airline stocks in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Around 15-20 per cent of Indian aviation industry's revenue is generated from flights travelling through the West Asian airspace, and the



IN LIMBO. Between February 28 and March 5, Indian carriers cancelled 1,770 overseas flights

disruptions have resulted in not just revenue loss but also higher costs owing to additional airport charges and additional fuel cost due to longer routings," said Kinjal Shah, Senior V-P and co-group head (corporate ratings), ICRA Ltd.

FLIGHTS CANCELLED

Between February 28 and March 5, Indian carriers cancelled 1,770 overseas flights

₹17,000-18,000 crore in FY26," Shah added

FARE CAPS

Fuel expenses account for 30-35 per cent of airline operating expenses. Aircraft lease and maintenance expenses are dollar-denominated, and thus depreciation pushes up airline expenses. Jet fuel prices in March are up 5.7 per cent on a month-on-month basis.

"I will not be surprised if oil companies revise the rates in the middle of March. The government should now lift the cap on airfares that it had imposed at the time of the IndiGo flight disruption," a senior airline executive remarked.

Indian Oil Corporation did not respond to a query on price revision. Along with the removal of fare caps, airlines have asked the Civil Aviation Ministry for tax relief on jet fuel prices and rationalisation of airport fees and navigation charges.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Air India plane crash probe report to be out 'very soon': Minister

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that the probe into the fatal crash of the Air India aircraft in June last year is progressing at a very good pace, and the investigation report will be out "very soon". Replying to a supplementary query during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Naidu also said the ministry is doing its best to ensure flight operations and to bring back Indians stranded due to the West Asia conflict. ११



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

IndiGo flight to Manchester aborts trip, returns amid airspace closure

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 9 March

An IndiGo flight that departed from New Delhi for Manchester on Monday morning had to make a U-turn mid-air due to sudden airspace restrictions near the Eritrean border in Africa.

The flight returned to the national capital at around 2:30 PM.

"Due to the evolving situation in and around the Middle East, some of our flights may take longer routes or experience diversions. Our flight 6E 033 operating from Delhi to Manchester had to return to its origin due to last-minute airspace restrictions, owing to the ongoing situation in West Asia," an IndiGo spokesperson said.

"We are working with the relevant authorities to explore the possibilities of resuming the journey. As always, the safety and security of our customers, crew, and aircraft are of utmost importance to us," the spokesperson added.

IndiGo's Europe flights had not been operating since February 28, when the United States and Israel carried out military strikes on Iran, triggering a fresh conflict in the Middle East that led to the closure of large parts of the region's airspace.

The airline said on March 7 that it would restart its Europe operations as airlines gradually restored schedules following disruptions caused by the evolving situation in West Asia and related airspace restrictions.

However, industry executives said IndiGo's Europe flights — operated using Boeing 787 aircraft wet-leased from Norse Atlantic — are currently taking a longer route, flying south from Mumbai over Africa before crossing the Red Sea into Egypt.

This has increased the flight time to around 10 hours and 30 minutes.

Norse Atlantic, a European airline, is avoiding Middle Eastern airspace following an advisory from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) asking European carriers to steer clear of the region.

IndiGo is also unable to use the Pakistan-Afghanistan corridor because Pakistan continues to bar Indian carriers from its airspace following Operation Sindoor last year.

इंडिगो की मैनचेस्टर उड़ान दिल्ली लौटी

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 9 मार्च

सोमवार सुबह दिल्ली से मैनचेस्टर रवाना हुई इंडिगो की उड़ान को अफ्रीका में इरीट्रिया की सीमा के पास अचानक हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंधों के कारण बीच हवा में ही लौटना पड़ा। उड़ान लगभग दोपहर 2.30 बजे राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में लौटी।

इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, 'पश्चिम एशिया और आसपास बदलते हालात के कारण हमारी कुछ उड़ानों को लंबे मार्गों से जाना पड़ सकता है या उनमें बदलाव हो सकते हैं। पश्चिम एशिया में जारी स्थिति की वजह से अंतिम समय में लगाए गए हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंधों के कारण दिल्ली से मैनचेस्टर जाने वाली हमारी उड़ान 6ई 033 को अपने मूल स्थान पर लौटना पड़ा।'

प्रवक्ता ने कहा, 'हम यात्रा बहाल करने की संभावनाओं का पता लगाने के लिए संबंधित अधिकारियों के साथ काम कर रहे हैं। हमेशा की तरह हमारे ग्राहकों, चालक दल और विमान की सुरक्षा और संरक्षण हमारे लिए सर्वोपरि है।'

इंडिगो की यूरोप की उड़ानें 28 फरवरी तब से संचालित नहीं हो रही थीं, जब से अमेरिका और इजरायल ने ईरान पर सैन्य हमले किए थे। हमलों



से पश्चिम एशिया में नया संघर्ष शुरू हो गया और इस इलाके के बड़े हिस्से का हवाई क्षेत्र बंद हो गया था। विमानन कंपनी ने 7 मार्च को कहा था कि वह यूरोप का अपना परिचालन फिर से शुरू करेगी क्योंकि पश्चिम एशिया में बदलते हालात और हवाई क्षेत्र के संबंधित प्रतिबंधों के कारण आई बाधाओं के बाद विमानन कंपनी धीरे-धीरे समयसारणी बहाल कर रही है।

हालांकि उद्योग के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इंडिगो की यूरोप की उड़ानें, जो नॉर्स अटलांटिक से वेट-लीज पर (चालक दल, बीमा, रख-रखाव सुविधा आदि के साथ किराए का विमान) लिए गए बोइंग 787 विमान के इस्तेमाल से संचालित की जाती हैं, वर्तमान में लंबा रास्ता ले रही हैं। ये उड़ानें मुंबई से अफ्रीका के ऊपर दक्षिण की ओर उड़ रही हैं और फिर लाल सागर को पार करके मिस्र में प्रवेश कर रही हैं। इससे उड़ान का समय लगभग साढ़े 10 घंटे बढ़ गया है।

हवाई क्षेत्र में अचानक प्रतिबंध के कारण बीच रास्ते से करनी पड़ी वापसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

अकासा ने बिना शुल्क टिकट रद्द कराने की छूट बढ़ाई

नई दिल्ली। नवोदित विमान सेवा कंपनी अकासा एयर ने पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बीच बिना शुल्क टिकट रद्द कराने और यात्रा की तारीख में बदलाव का लाभ 31 मार्च तक की बुकिंग पर देने की घोषणा की है। अकासा ने सोमवार को जारी अपडेट में बताया कि यात्री प्रभावित मार्गों पर 31 मार्च 2026 तक की यात्रा की बुकिंग के लिए बिना किसी शुल्क के टिकट रद्द करा सकते हैं या यात्रा की तारीख में बदलाव कर सकते हैं। एयरलाइन ने बताया कि सुरक्षा स्थिति के समीक्षा के बाद अकासा ने 31 मार्च तक अहमदाबाद, बेंगलुरु, मुंबई, कोच्चि और कोझिकोड से सऊदी अरब के शहर जेद्दा की उड़ानों के परिचालन का निर्णय लिया है। बाद में स्थिति में बदलाव होने से ये उड़ानें रद्द भी हो सकती हैं। अबु धाबी तथा रियाद की उड़ानों को 11 मार्च तक और दोहा तथा कुवैत की उड़ानों को 15 मार्च तक के लिए रद्द कर दिया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

पश्चिम एशिया से 50 उड़ानों की योजना बना रही भारतीय एयरलाइंस

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार के अनुसार ईरान युद्ध से प्रभावित पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र के हवाई अड्डों से सोमवार को भारत की एयरलाइंस द्वारा 50 आने वाली उड़ानों की योजना बनाई गई है। यह ऑपरेशन की क्षमता और मौजूद परिस्थितियों के आधार पर संचालित होंगी। भारतीय एयरलाइंस एयर इंडिया, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, इंडिगो, स्पाइस जेट और अकासा एयर दुबई, अबू धाबी, रास अल खैमाह, फुजैरा, मस्कट और जेदा से उड़ानें संचालित करने के लिए तैयार हैं। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने कहा कि वह पश्चिम एशिया में बदलती स्थिति पर कड़ी नजर रख रहा है, जो भारत व पश्चिम एशिया के बीच हवाई यात्रा को प्रभावित कर रही है। तीर्थ एयरलाइंस द्वारा संचालित की गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

9 MARCH 2026

AI FLIGHT TO NEW DELHI CANCELLED

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 7

An Air India flight scheduled to depart from Chennai International Airport to New Delhi on Sunday night was cancelled after a technical snag was detected during pre-flight checks, leaving 148 passengers stranded for several hours.

The flight was scheduled to depart at 8 pm from the domestic terminal. Passengers had already completed security checks and were waiting to board by around 7 pm when the pilot identified a mechanical fault during a routine inspection of the aircraft.

Sources said the pilot immediately informed the airport control room after detecting the technical problem. Following the alert, a team of aircraft engineers inspected the plane. After a detailed assessment, they concluded that the issue could not be rectified immediately.

In view of passenger safety, Air India decided to cancel the flight. Aviation officials said the timely detection of the fault by the pilot prevented what could have potentially turned into a serious mid-air incident.

The cancellation announcement led to tense scenes at the airport, with 148 passengers gathering around the airline's service counter seeking clarification and alternate arrangements.

Among the passengers were several Members of Parliament, who expressed concern as they needed to reach New Delhi urgently to attend the upcoming Parliament session scheduled for Monday morning.

Air India officials later managed to pacify the passengers and arranged alternative travel options.

A few passengers with urgent travel requirements were accommodated on another flight to New Delhi that departed at 9:40 pm. The remaining passengers were offered options to reschedule their tickets for later flights or different dates.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

एयर इंडिया विमान हादसे की रिपोर्ट जल्द आएगी

नई दिल्ली: नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किजरापु राममोहन नायडू ने सोमवार को राज्यसभा में बताया कि पिछले वर्ष अहमदाबाद में हुए एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट एआइ171 विमान हादसा की जांच तेजी से चल रही है और इसकी रिपोर्ट बहुत जल्द जारी की जाएगी। यह जांच एयरक्राफ्ट एक्सीडेंट इन्वेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो (एएआइबी) कर रहा है। (पेट)

डीजीसीए ने एयरलाइनों की निगरानी बढ़ाई

नई दिल्ली: नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने कहा कि डीजीसीए ने एयरलाइनों की निगरानी बढ़ा दी है ताकि एयरलाइन कंपनियां नियमों का अनुपालन करें। दिसंबर में इंडिया में आए व्यवधान और पुनरावृत्ति रोकने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों के बारे में केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मोहोल ने रास में ये जानकारी दी। (पेट)



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

एयर इंडिया विमान हादसे की जांच रिपोर्ट जल्द आएगी : उड़डयन मंत्री

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : नागरिक उड़डयन मंत्री किंजरापु राममोहन नायडू ने सोमवार को राज्यसभा में बताया कि पिछले वर्ष अहमदाबाद में हुए एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट एआइ171 विमान हादसा की जांच तेजी से चल रही है और इसकी रिपोर्ट बहुत जल्द जारी की जाएगी। यह जांच एयरक्राफ्ट एक्सीडेंट इन्वेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो (एएआइबी) कर रहा है।

लंदन जा रहा बोइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान 12 जून 2025 को अहमदाबाद से उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया था। इस हादसे में विमान में सवार 241 लोगों सहित कुल 260 लोगों की मौत हुई थी। मंत्री ने कहा कि जांच एजेंसी को सभी जरूरी संसाधन उपलब्ध कराए जा रहे हैं और एक साल की अवधि पूरी होने के भीतर रिपोर्ट आने की उम्मीद है। मंत्री ने पश्चिम एशिया में जारी तनाव के कारण प्रभावित उड़ानों पर भी जानकारी दी। कहा, डीजीसीए ने एयरलाइनों के साथ कई बैठकें कर सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के निर्देश दिए हैं। गत एक सप्ताह में 90 हजार यात्री भारत लौट चुके हैं।

20 वर्षों में 200 नए हवाईअड्डे विकसित करने की योजना : सरकार ने बताया कि उग्र में बन रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट, जेवर को एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस मिल गया है और अगले 45 दिन से दो महीने के भीतर यहां से उड़ान संचालन शुरू हो सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

नियमों के अनुपालन के लिए डीजीसीए ने एयरलाइनों की निगरानी बढ़ाई

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : नगरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को कहा कि विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने एयरलाइनों की साप्ताहिक और पखवाड़े आधार पर निगरानी बढ़ा दी है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि एयरलाइन कंपनियां नियमों का अनुपालन करें।

राज्यसभा में दिसंबर 2025 में इंडिगो में हुई बड़े पैमाने पर व्यवधान की वजहों और भविष्य में ऐसी स्थिति की पुनरावृत्ति को रोकने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों के बारे में पूछे गए प्रश्न के उत्तर में केंद्रीय नगरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री मुरलीधर मोहोले ने कहा कि व्यवधान के प्राथमिक कारण अपर्याप्त नियामक तैयारी के साथ-साथ सिस्टम साफ्टवेयर में कमियां और एयरलाइन की ओर से प्रबंधन और परिचालन नियंत्रण में खामियां थीं।

मंत्री ने कहा, डीजीसीए ने एयरलाइनों द्वारा नियमों का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित



करने के लिए उपाय किए हैं, जिनमें साप्ताहिक और पखवाड़े के आधार पर बढ़ी हुई निगरानी के साथ-साथ डीजीसीए के निरीक्षक द्वारा द्विमासिक तौर शामिल हैं ताकि एयरलाइन के संचालन की बारीकी से निगरानी की जा सके, जिसमें रैस्टर, चालक दल को उपलब्धता, सिस्टम को मजबूती और एफडीटीएल आवश्यकताओं के पालन पर विशेष जोर दिया गया है। फ्लाइट ड्यूटी टाइम लिमिटेशन (एफडीटीएल) मानदंडों को नगरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) द्वारा लागू किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

IndiGo Flight Turns Back over Airspace Curbs



NEW DELHI A Manchester-bound IndiGo flight, returned to the national capital on Monday due to certain restrictions when the plane was to enter the Eritrea airspace, according to sources. —PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Air India Crash Probe Report to be Out 'Very Soon': Govt

PTI

New Delhi: Civil aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that the AAIB probe into the fatal crash of Air India aircraft in June last year is progressing at a very good pace, and the investigation report will be out "very soon".

Replying to a supplementary query during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Naidu said the ministry is doing its best to ensure flight operations and to bring back Indians stranded due to the West Asia conflict.

The minister, responding to various queries, told the House that the probe report into the Air India plane crash would be out soon.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 plane operating the flight AI171 enroute to London-Gatwick crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025, killing 260 people, including 241 persons onboard, and the crash is being probed by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

War woes: IndiGo's flight to Manchester makes a U-turn



A MANCHESTER-BOUND INDIGO flight, operated with a leased

Boeing 787 aircraft, returned to Delhi due to certain restrictions when the plane was to enter the Eritrea airspace, sources said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Airline shares battered as airfares surge

REUTERS
Hong Kong, March 9

AIRLINE STOCKS WERE hammered on Monday, while airfares soared as the US-Israeli war with Iran sent oil prices surging, sparking fears of a deep travel slump and the potential for the widespread grounding of planes. Some jet fuel prices have doubled since the start of the conflict, piling pressure on carriers already navigating tight airspace as pilots reroute to avoid the Middle East conflict and thousands of stranded passengers try to leave the region.

"Absent near-term relief, airlines around the world could be forced to ground thousands of aircraft while some of the industry's financially weakest carriers could halt operations," Deutsche analysts said. In Asia, airline shares tumbled, with the worst-hit including Korean Air Lines which slid 8.6%, Air New Zealand down 7.8% and Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific dropped 5%. In Europe, Air France KLM, British Airways-owner IAG, Wizz Air and Lufthansa fell between 2.5% and 6%, while major US airlines were down about 4% in pre-market trading.

पश्चिमी एशिया में बिगड़े हालात के बीच हवाई किराये में भारी बढ़ोतरी



जंग के साये और जोखिम

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। पश्चिमी एशिया में तनाव के बीच हवाई यात्रा काफी हद तक प्रभावित हो रही है। युद्ध के बीच कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्ग बंद हैं जिसके चलते विमानों को लंबा रूट तय करना पड़ रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति में हवाई किराए में भारी बढ़ोतरी देखने को मिल रही है। कई मार्गों पर हवाई किराया बढ़कर चार गुना हो गया है।

उधर, खाड़ी देशों में फंसे भारतीयों को निकालने के लिए संचालित की जा रही उड़ान सेवा भी बीच-बीच में रुक रही है। हमले की स्थिति में कई बार घंटों हवाई अड्डे पर या फिर हवा में इंतजार करना पड़ रहा है जिससे समय और इंधन की खपत अधिक हो रही है। इसी स्थिति के बीच हवाई यात्रा किराए में भारी बढ़ोतरी की जा रही है। खासकर खाड़ी देशों से भारत लौटना काफी महंगा हो गया है। इसलिए खाड़ी देशों में फंसे यात्रियों को ज्यादा कीमत चुकानी पड़ रही है। उधर, खाड़ी मार्गों से आने वाली सैकड़ों उड़ानें रद्द हो चुकी हैं।

खाड़ी से लौटना चार गुना तक महंगा : सोमवार को दिल्ली से आवृधाबी का हवाई टिकट 11,875 से लेकर 17 हजार तक मिल रहा था। जबकि आवृ धाबी से दिल्ली लौटने का किराया 42,990 था। दिल्ली से आवृ धाबी के बीच चलने वाली अधिकांश उड़ानें खाली चल रही हैं। जबकि उधर से आने वाले लोगों की संख्या अधिक है, जिससे मांग तेजी से बढ़ रही है। मांग अधिक होने पर किराया भी बढ़ रहा है। सुरक्षा कारणों से खाड़ी देशों से होते हुए यूरोप, अमेरिका जाने वाले विमानों को लंबा रूट अपनाना पड़ रहा है। जिससे वैश्विक स्तर पर यात्रा से जुड़े किराए में वृद्धि हुई है। दिल्ली से ब्रिटेन का हवाई किराया सामान्य दिनों में 32 से 40 हजार के बीच रहता है पर सोमवार को किराया 90,178 था। उधर, विमानन कंपनियों ने क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष से बढ़ रहे आर्थिक दबाव को लेकर नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री से मुलाकात कर बढ़ती परिचालन लागत को कम करने के लिए एक्सप्रेस ड्यूटी या जीएसटी में राहत की मांग की।

दुनिया में अब तक 27 हजार उड़ानें रद्द

मध्य-पूर्व में बढ़ते तनाव ने वैश्विक हवाई यातायात को बुरी तरह प्रभावित किया है। कई देशों ने अपना एयरस्पेस पूरी तरह या आंशिक रूप से बंद कर दिया है, जिससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का नेटवर्क बाधित हो गया। 28 फरवरी से अब तक लगभग 21 से 27 हजार उड़ानें रद्द हो चुकी हैं।

ऐसे बदला भारत से दुनिया का हवाई रास्ता



एयरस्पेस बंद करने वाले देश

मध्य-पूर्व जंग के चलते लगभग 10-12 देशों ने अपना एयरस्पेस पूरी तरह या आंशिक रूप से बंद कर दिया है।

- ईरान
- इजराइल
- इराक
- जॉर्डन
- लेबनॉन
- बहरीन
- कुवैत
- कतर
- संयुक्त अरब अमीरात
- ओमान
- सऊदी अरब

नोट-ईरान, इजराइल, इराक में पूर्ण बंदी है। यूरोपियन यूनियन एविएशन सेफ्टी एजेंसी ने 11 मार्च तक इन क्षेत्रों में उड़ानें न करने की सलाह दी है।

उतार-चढ़ाव दिखा

23 फरवरी से 8 मार्च के बीच यूएई की प्रमुख एयरलाइंस—एयर अरेबिया, एमिरेट्स, एतिहाद एयरवेज, फ्लाईदुबई और कतर एयरवेज की दैनिक उड़ानों में उतार-चढ़ाव देखने को मिला।

रद्द हुई उड़ानें

- 28 फरवरी 2026 से अब तक (9 मार्च 2026 तक) मध्य-पूर्व क्षेत्र से जुड़ी 21,000 से 27,000 उड़ानें रद्द हो चुकी हैं। इनमें से ज्यादातर दुबई, अबु धाबी, दोहा और तेहरान जैसे प्रमुख हब्स से जुड़ी हैं।
- 51,600 शेड्यूल्ड फ्लाइट्स में से आधी से ज्यादा (27,000) रद्द।
- 21,300 उड़ानें 7 प्रमुख एयरपोर्ट्स से रद्द। यह संख्या वैश्विक स्तर पर है, पर प्रभाव मध्य-पूर्व और भारत से जुड़े रूट्स पर पड़ा है।

चुनौतियां ज्यादा

1 एयरस्पेस बंद होने से विमान को लंबे रूट्स लेने पड़ रहे हैं, जिससे फ्यूल खपत 15-20% बढ़ गई है। उड़ान समय 4 घंटे ज्यादा हुआ है।

2 संघर्ष क्षेत्र में उड़ानें जोखिमपूर्ण होने से इश्योरेंस कॉस्ट बढ़ गए हैं, और एयरलाइंस को सेफ्टी प्रोटोकॉल्स सख्त करने पड़ रहे हैं।

3 क्रू सदस्य फंसने या इयूटी लिमिट्स के कारण समस्याएं, साथ ही एयरक्राफ्ट की उपलब्धता कम होने से शेड्यूल प्रभावित हो रहा है।

4 रोजाना करोड़ों का नुकसान, स्टॉक वैल्यू गिरना, और डिमांड बढ़ने से टिकट दाम 2-10 गुना तक बढ़ गए हैं।

5 एशिया-यूरोप रूट्स पर क्षमता कम होने से कार्गो और पैसेंजर टैफिक प्रभावित, साथ ही अनिश्चितता से प्लानिंग मुश्किल।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

इंग्लैंड जा रही उड़ान अफ्रीका से दिल्ली लौटी

सांसत

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। दिल्ली से मैनचेस्टर (इंग्लैंड) के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले इंडिगो के एक बोइंग 787-9 विमान को आधे रास्ते से दिल्ली लौटना पड़ा। अफ्रीकी देश इरीट्रिया के हवाई क्षेत्र बंद करने से विमान को यू-टर्न लेना पड़ा। तब तक विमान दिल्ली से करीब सात घंटे की उड़ान पूरी कर चुका था।

सोमवार को इंडिगो ने एक बयान में यह जानकारी दी। जानकारी के अनुसार, कंपनी यूरोपीय देशों की उड़ानों का संचालन नॉर्वे की नॉर्स अटलांटिक एयरवेज से लीज पर लिए विमानों से करती है। कंपनी ने बताया कि मध्य पूर्व में युद्ध के कारण उड़ानों का रूट बदलना पड़ा है। अब यूरोप के

लंदन की फ्लाइट रद्द होने से मुश्किलें बढ़ीं

मध्य पूर्व में चल रहे तनाव के कारण खाड़ी देशों की यात्राएं जहां मंहगी हुई हैं वही यूरोप जाने वाले लोगों को भी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। कई विमानों का परिचालन बंद है तो कई विमानों का रूट बदला है। लंदन से अपने पारिवारिक कार्यक्रम में हिस्सा लेने प्रयागराज आए विक्रांत को फिर से लंदन लौटने के लिए काफी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ा। उन्होंने बताया कि जब एक शादी में प्रयागराज आया तो स्थिति ठीक थी लेकिन मध्य पूर्व में युद्ध होने के कारण जाने में काफी मुश्किल हुई।

लिए उड़ानों का परिचालन अरब सागर, इथियोपिया, इरिट्रिया, लाल सागर और मिश्र से होते हुए किया जाना है।

नए रूट पर इंडिगो (नॉर्स) की उड़ान संख्या 6ई-033 ने रविवार देर रात करीब सवा एक बजे दिल्ली से मैनचेस्टर के लिए उड़ान भरी थी। बताया जा रहा है कि सात घंटे बाद

सोमवार सुबह आठ बजे के बाद विमान इथियोपिया की सीमा पार कर इरीट्रिया के हवाई क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने ही वाला था। इसी बीच इरीट्रिया ने अंतिम समय में हवाई क्षेत्र पर पाबंदी लगा दी। इससे विमान को इरीट्रिया के ऊपर उड़ान की अनुमति नहीं मिली। इस पर विमान को वापस दिल्ली लौटाने का

दो लाख रुपये तक मिल रही टिकट

दिल्ली में विदेशों के लिए टिकटों की बिक्री करने वाले पहाड़ गंज के एजेंट विजय तिवारी ने का कहना है कि मध्य पूर्व तनाव के कारण दिल्ली से लंदन सहित यूरोप के अन्य शहरों के टिकटों मंहगे हुए हैं। दिल्ली से लंदन का किराया पहले वन स्टॉप का 40 से 70 हजार रुपये के आसपास अलग-अलग विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा लिया जाता था, लेकिन अब यह 2 लाख तक पहुंच गया है। उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं, इसका असर भी टिकट पर पड़ा है, क्योंकि अब काफी घूमकर जाना पड़ रहा है।

फैसला लिया गया।

मध्य पूर्व संकट के बाद पहली उड़ान थी : जानकारी के अनुसार, ईरान पर अमेरिका-इजरायल पर हमले शुरू होने के बाद से इंडिगो की यह दिल्ली से मैनचेस्टर के लिए पहली उड़ान थी। लेकिन पहली ही उड़ान को आधे रास्ते से लौटना पड़ा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

खाड़ी देशों से आठ हजार यात्रियों की वतन वापसी

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। युद्ध के बीच खाड़ी देशों में फंसे यात्रियों को निकालने के लिए लगातार उड़ान सेवाएं संचालित की जा रही हैं। सोमवार को भारत के अलग-अलग हिस्सों से जेद्दा, अबूधाबी, दुबई, मस्कट और अन्य शहरों के बीच उड़ान सेवा संचालित की गई। सोमवार को करीब आठ हजार भारतीय वापस अपने देश पहुंचे हैं।

एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस द्वारा सोमवार को जेद्दा और मस्कट के लिए 24 निर्धारित उड़ानें संचालित की गईं। इसके साथ ही, दोनों विमानन कंपनियों ने यूएई के विभिन्न स्थानों से आने-जाने के लिए 30 से

- लोगों की सुविधा के लिए संचालित की जा रही अतिरिक्त उड़ानें
- जेद्दा, मस्कट, अबूधाबी समेत कई शहरों के लिए सेवाएं

अधिक अतिरिक्त उड़ानें संचालित कीं। उधर, स्पाइसजेट द्वारा चार अतिरिक्त उड़ानें संचालित की गईं। इंडिगो द्वारा भी खाड़ी देशों से जुड़े विभिन्न शहरों के बीच अतिरिक्त उड़ान सेवाओं को परिचालन किया गया। अनुमान है कि एक दिन के अंदर आठ से 10 हजार यात्री भारत लौटे हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

2 IndiGo flights hit by Eritrea airspace denial

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: An IndiGo flight headed from Delhi to Manchester returned to the national capital after being denied entry into Eritrean airspace, the carrier said in a statement, amid confusion over air traffic routes blocked off due to the war in West Asia.

Hours later, an IndiGo aircraft flying from London Heathrow to Mumbai was diverted to Cairo after a similar rejection by the African nation's air traffic controllers.

IndiGo said in a statement that it was "working with relevant authorities to explore the possibilities of resuming the journey".

Both flights were being operated with Boeing 787-9s leased from Norway-based Norse Atlantic Airways under a "wet-lease" — an arrangement where one airline rents aircraft to another, along with crew, maintenance and insurance.

According to Flightradar24, IndiGo 6E33 to Manchester departed from Delhi at 11.3am. Following the diversion, it returned to Delhi at 2.22pm. Meanwhile, IndiGo 6E2 departed London Heathrow around 3am IST, and it arrived in Cairo at 11.42am IST.

People familiar with the development said the issue on Monday arose due to confusion among air traffic control authorities over the aircraft operating under two air-

line identifiers. IndiGo has used these aircraft to operate its European routes. However, these flights have had to fly significantly altered routes amid the war in West Asia, with a clutch of countries off-limits. Under the revised routing, aircraft depart India over the Arabian Sea before flying further south than normal, threading through Ethiopia and Eritrea, crossing the Red Sea and Egypt before cutting into Europe.

However, a Mumbai-Amsterdam IndiGo flight was able to travel through the same route on Monday. The flight departed at 4am from Mumbai, travelled through the Eritrean airspace before landing around noon local time.

"While the flights operate under the IndiGo call sign, the aircraft belongs to Norse Atlantic. Air traffic control authorities were, however, unable to understand why a Norse Atlantic jet was flying an IndiGo call sign. As a result, it was denied entry into Eritrean airspace," an official aware of the matter said.

"The airline clarified the operational arrangement to the authorities but it couldn't be resolved immediately. Later the Indian authorities told Eritrean authorities suggested including details of the wet lease operation under Item 18 of the ATS flight plan, after which the issue was resolved," a ministry official confirmed.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

9 MARCH 2026

78 more AI int'l flights amid West Asia crisis

NEW DELHI: Air India will operate 78 additional flights on nine international routes from March 10 to 18 as the airline seeks to provide more travel options amid the disruptions due to the conflict in West Asia.

The carrier will operate 78 additional flights on 9 routes connecting New York, London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Zurich, Paris, Colombo and Male.

The Air India said it would deploy additional capacity to five key gateways in Europe as well as to New York over the next few days, supported by additional services to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. "Together, these flights add 17,660 seats on nine routes

THE CARRIER WILL OPERATE FLIGHTS ON 9 ROUTES CONNECTING NEW YORK, LONDON, AMSTERDAM, PARIS AMONG OTHERS

in both directions," it said.

Except for New York, Male and Colombo, the services will be operated with B787-8 aircraft.

For Male and Colombo, A320 neo planes will be deployed and services for New York will be operated with B777-300ER aircraft.

PTI

Trip to nowhere: IndiGo's U.K. flight returns to Delhi after 14 hours in the sky, as Eritrea flags permit issue

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

An IndiGo flight from Delhi to Manchester was forced to turn back from Eritrea after being airborne for nearly eight hours. Though the aircraft had skirted the conflict-affected Persian Gulf, the flight effectively took 14 hours and ended where it began.

The prolonged diversion was triggered by confusion at the Air Traffic Control in Eritrea over a permit filed by IndiGo, sources said.

The Boeing 787-9 aircraft, which IndiGo has leased from the Norwegian carrier Norse Atlantic Airways, took off from Delhi at



The operational arrangement of the aircraft, leased from Norwegian carrier Norse Atlantic Airways, triggered the confusion. FILE PHOTO

half past midnight on Monday. The Flight tracking website Flightradar24 shows that it avoided the entire Gulf region, entered Africa through Ethiopia and was flying over Eritrea

when it did a u-turn and started returning to Delhi. It landed in Delhi at 2.30 p.m.

IndiGo had partially resumed flights to Europe on Sunday after more than a

week, and the service to Manchester was its first since February 26. It is using a longer route over Africa to avoid the affected airspace.

Monday's diversion was triggered by confusion over the operating arrangement of the leased aircraft. While overflight permits are typically obtained by the marketing carrier, which in this case is IndiGo, it must state the carrier under whose name the aircraft is registered, which is Norse Atlantic Airways. Though the permit reflected this arrangement, air traffic authorities in Eritrea were reportedly confused by the involvement of two airlines linked to the same

aircraft, triggering the diversion.

"We are working with the relevant authorities to explore the possibilities of resuming the journey," IndiGo said in a press statement.

IndiGo's London-Mumbai flight on Sunday was diverted to Cairo for the same reason. The flight is now scheduled to depart on Tuesday, and the airline said it was arranging hotel accommodation for affected passengers. Two other IndiGo flights to Amsterdam and London that used the same route were operated without any incident.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

U.K. flight back to Delhi after 14 hours in the sky

Until now, all of IndiGo's European services had been grounded as the leased Boeing 787 aircraft fall under the jurisdiction of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency, which issued an advisory on February 28 barring its carriers from flying over 11 countries in West Asia following airstrikes between U.S.-Israel and Iran.

The episode underscores the risks of operating long-haul flights while conflict disrupts one of aviation's most critical corridors between Europe and Asia, highlighting the complex operational challenges airlines are navigating amid rapidly shifting airspace restrictions.

For passengers, the disruption can translate into flight cancellations, diversions, or significantly longer travel time, extended waiting at airports and a high degree of uncertainty around departures and arrivals, as airlines are forced to alter routes in response to evolving airspace advisories.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

AMID TENSIONS IN WEST ASIA

IndiGo's Manchester flight turns around in Africa, returns to Delhi

AN INDIGO flight heading to Manchester from the Delhi airport turned around on the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and returned to the Capital on Monday, citing "last minute airspace restrictions," the airline said. This comes amid airspace over West Asia being mostly closed off for over a week owing to tensions in the region triggered by the US-Israel-Iran conflict. As per Flightradar24, this was the first IndiGo Delhi - Manchester flight since February 26, two days before the US and Israel first launched attacks on Iran. "... Our flight 6E 033 operating from Delhi to Manchester, had to return to its origin due to last minute airspace restrictions, owing to the ongoing situation in West Asia," an IndiGo spokesperson said.

ENS



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

अहमदाबाद विमान हादसे की जल्द आएगी रपट : नायडू

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 9 मार्च।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू ने सोमवार को राज्यसभा को बताया कि पिछले साल जून में एअर इंडिया विमान हादसे की जांच रपट साल के आखिर तक आ जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा, वायुयान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो

(एएआइबी) इस हादसे की जांच त्वरित गति से जांच कर रहा है और रपट जल्द आएगी।

राज्यसभा में प्रश्नकाल के दौरान एक पूरक प्रश्न के उत्तर में नायडू ने कहा जल्द से जल्द जांच पूरी करने के लिए मंत्रालय की तरफ से इससे संबंधित सभी



पिछले सप्ताह
अलग-अलग देशों
में फंसे करीब
90,000 भारतीय
नागरिक सुरक्षित
स्वदेश लौटे हैं।

संसाधन मुहैया किए जा रहे हैं। नायडू ने कहा, बहुत जल्द, साल के अंत तक रपट आ जानी चाहिए।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के राम मोहन नायडू ने सोमवार को राज्यसभा में बताया, पिछले सप्ताह अलग अलग देशों में फंसे करीब 90,000 भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षित स्वदेश लौटे हैं। नायडू ने बताया कि

गृह मंत्रालय की तरफ से समय-समय पर यात्रा परामर्श जारी किए जा रहे हैं।

विमानन मंत्रालय तमाम एअरलाइंस की मदद से सुरक्षित उड़ानों और नागरिकों की वापसी सुनिश्चित करने में पूरी कोशिश कर रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

DGCA enhances monitoring of airlines to ensure compliance

New Delhi: The civil aviation ministry on Monday said the DGCA has increased monitoring on a weekly and fortnightly basis for critical operations of airlines along with bi-monthly visits by the watchdog's inspector at the airlines' offices to ensure their compliance with regulations. "DGCA has introduced more robust measures to ensure compliance by airlines with regulations," Union minister Murlidhar Mohol said.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Report on Air India crash 'very soon'

Civil aviation minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) probe into the fatal crash of the Air India aircraft in June is progressing at a very good pace and the investigation report will be out "very soon."

Replying to a supplementary query during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Naidu said the ministry is doing its best to ensure flight operations and to bring back Indians stranded due to the West Asia conflict.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 plane operating flight AI71 en route to London crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad on 12 June 2025, killing 260 people, including 241 persons onboard.

"Regarding the AI71 crash that happened in June last year, the investigation is going at a very good pace, and all the resources that are required for AAIB, the primary agency which is looking into the investigation, the ministry is providing," the minister said.

PTI

AIRSPACE CURB WOES

IndiGo's Manchester flight returns to Delhi, London-Mumbai diverted to Cairo

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: A Manchester-bound IndiGo flight, operated with a leased Boeing 787 aircraft, returned to the national capital on Monday due to certain restrictions when the plane was to enter the Eritrea airspace, according to sources.

Also, an IndiGo flight from London Heathrow to Mumbai was diverted to Cairo following issues related to entering Eritrea airspace, they added.

The flight to Manchester was airborne for more than six hours before it decided to turn back. By the time it landed in the national capital, the flight had been in the air for over 12 hours. It had taken off from Delhi at around 12.40 am and landed back in the national capital at about 2.30 pm on Monday, as per information available with flight tracking website Flightradar24.com.

"Our flight 6E 033 operating from Delhi to Manchester had to return to its origin due to last-minute airspace restrictions, owing to the ongoing situation in West Asia. We are working with the relevant authorities to explore the possibilities of resuming the journey," IndiGo said in a statement.

The sources said that there were some approval issues with Eritrean authorities, and after a risk assessment, it was decided that the flight would return to Delhi.

Eritrea is an African country.

Meanwhile, flight 6E2 from London Heathrow to Mumbai was diverted to Cairo (Egypt) due to the approval issues with the Eritrean authorities, the



HIGHLIGHTS

- » The flight to Manchester was airborne for more than six hours before it decided to turn back
- » By the time it landed in the national capital, the flight had been in the air for over 12 hours
- » The other flight was airborne for more than eight hours before landing at Cairo

sources said.

The flight, operated with a leased Boeing 787 plane, was airborne for nearly six hours before the decision was taken to divert to Cairo.

Overall, the flight was airborne for more than eight hours before landing at Cairo, as per information from Flightradar24.com.

One of the sources said the airline would not be operating the flight from Cairo to Mumbai on Monday as the crew had exhausted flight duty time. The airline is working to arrange visas and hotel accommodation for passengers, and the flight is expected to fly to Mumbai on Tuesday, the source added.

There was no immediate statement from the airline on the 6E2 flight.

IndiGo is operating its flights to European cities and London, except for Athens, with Boeing 787-9 planes leased from Norway's Norse Atlantic Airways.

In the wake of the Middle East conflict, regulator EASA (European Union Aviation Safety Agency) has barred aircraft, including those of Norse Atlantic, registered with it from using certain airspaces in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia.

As a result, IndiGo is now taking the longer flight route through Africa to enter Europe.

For the European flights, the airline flies over the Arabian Sea, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Red Sea and Egypt before entering Europe.

Meanwhile, the flights to Athens are operated with IndiGo's A321 XLR planes.

Generally, Indian carriers use the airspaces in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, to operate flights to Europe.

IndiGo, in the statement, also said that due to the evolving situation in and around the Middle East, some of its flights may take longer routes or experience diversions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

पश्चिम एशिया से भारत के लिए 50 उड़ानें दुबई एयरपोर्ट पर कम समय में ज्यादा उड़ानों के लिए इमरजेसी रेस्क्यू टीम बनी



ओमान के मस्कट एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों का इंतजार करते यात्री।

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

जंग के कारण पश्चिम एशियाई देशों में फंसे भारतीयों को लाने के लिए सिविल एविएशन मिनिस्ट्री तमाम भारतीय एयरलाइंस से मिलकर 50 उड़ानें भारत में लैंड कराने की कोशिश में है। मंत्रालय से साझा जानकारी के अनुसार, शनिवार को ऐसी 51 फ्लाइट्स से 8,175 यात्रियों को भारत लाया गया। वहीं, रविवार को 49 उड़ानें चलाई। मौजूदा स्थिति के

अनुसार ये भारतीय एयरलाइंस सोमवार को 50 उड़ानें ऑपरेंट कर रही है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, वैसे तो यह एयर स्पेस पर निर्भर है। लेकिन हमें जितना भी समय मिल रहा है, उसका भरपूर उपयोग कर रहे हैं। दुबई एयरपोर्ट पर तो इमरजेसी स्पेशल रेस्क्यू टीम बनाई गई है। जो यह सुनिश्चित कर रही है कि कम समय में अधिक से अधिक फ्लाइटों को ऑपरेंट कराया जा सके। ताकि यहां फंसे लोग जल्द से जल्द यहां से निकल सकें।

मैनचेस्टर जा रहा विमान बीच रास्ते दिल्ली लौटा

NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली से मैनचेस्टर जा रही इंडिगो की उड़ान 7 घंटों की उड़ान के बाद वापस दिल्ली लौट आई। इंडिगो के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि उड़ान 6E 033 ने इथियोपिया और (अफ्रीकी देश) इरीट्रिया के बॉर्डर के पास यू-टर्न लिया। वजह यह कि पश्चिम एशिया

की जग की वजह से आखिरी मिनट में एयरस्पेस पर रोक लग गई। इसके बाद पायलट को बीच रास्ते में लौटने का फैसला लेना पड़ा। सूत्रों ने बताया कि इरीट्रिया में कुछ मजबूती संबंधी समस्याएं थीं। यह विमान सोमवार सुबह दिल्ली से यूनाइटेड किंगडम (ब्रिटेन) के मैनचेस्टर के लिए निकला था।



इथियोपिया-इरीट्रिया बॉर्डर से विमान ने लिया यूटर्न, एयरस्पेस हुआ था बंद



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

इंदौर में गर्मी से रनवे का कोलतार पिघला, 2 यात्री उड़ानें भोपाल भेजीं

इंदौर (मध्य प्रदेश), 9 मार्च (प.स.): इंदौर के देवी अहिल्याबाई होलकर हवाई अड्डे पर मरम्मत कार्य के दौरान सोमवार को गर्मी बढ़ने के कारण रनवे के एक हिस्से पर कोलतार (बिटुमेन) की परत पिघलकर ढीली पड़ने के चलते 2

यात्री उड़ानों को भोपाल भेजा गया। हवाई अड्डे के एक अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी दी। हवाई अड्डे के जनसंपर्क अधिकारी रामस्वरूप यादव ने बताया, "शहर में गर्मी अचानक बढ़ गई है।

नियमित निरीक्षण के दौरान पाया गया कि तापमान ज्यादा होने के कारण रनवे के एक हिस्से पर बिछाए गए बिटुमेन की परत गर्मी के कारण पिघल



गई है और तय मानकों के मुकाबले ढीली है। सिविल इंजीनियरों के दल ने 20 मिनट के भीतर इसकी आवश्यक मरम्मत का काम पूरा कर लिया।" उन्होंने बताया कि मरम्मत के दौरान इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की 2 उड़ानों दिल्ली-इंदौर और रायपुर-इंदौर को भोपाल भेजा गया और उन्हें सूबे की राजधानी के हवाई अड्डे पर उतारा गया।

IndiGo flight faces airspace curb woes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

A Manchester-bound IndiGo flight, operated with a leased Boeing 787 aircraft, returned to the national capital on Monday due to certain restrictions when the plane was to enter the Eritrea airspace. Also, an IndiGo flight from London Heathrow to Mumbai was diverted to Cairo following issues related to entering Eritrea airspace, sources added.

The flight to Manchester was airborne for more than six hours before it decided to turn back. By the time it landed in the national capital, the flight had been in the air for over 12 hours. It had taken off from Delhi at around 12.40 am and landed

back in the national capital at about 2.30 pm on Monday, as per information available with flight tracking website Flightradar24.Com.

"Our flight 6E 033 operating from Delhi to Manchester had to return to its origin due to last-minute airspace restrictions, owing to the ongoing situation in West Asia. We are working with the relevant authorities to explore the possibilities of resuming the journey," IndiGo said in a statement.

The sources said that there were some approval issues with Eritrean authorities, and after a risk assessment, it was decided that the flight would return to Delhi. Eritrea is an African country.

Meanwhile, flight 6E2 from London Heathrow to



Mumbai was diverted to Cairo (Egypt) due to the approval issues with the Eritrean authorities, the sources said.

The flight, operated with a leased Boeing 787 plane, was airborne for nearly six hours before the decision was

taken to divert to Cairo.

Overall, the flight was airborne for more than eight hours before landing at Cairo, as per information from Flightradar24.Com.

One of the sources said the airline would not be operating the flight from Cairo to

Mumbai on Monday as the crew had exhausted flight duty time. The airline is working to arrange visas and hotel accommodation for passengers, and the flight is expected to fly to Mumbai on Tuesday, the source added.

There was no immediate statement from the airline on the 6E2 flight.

IndiGo is operating its flights to European cities and London, except for Athens, with Boeing 787-9 planes leased from Norway's Norse Atlantic Airways.

In the wake of the Middle East conflict, regulator EASA (European Union Aviation Safety Agency) has barred aircraft, including those of Norse Atlantic, registered with it from using certain air-

spaces in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia.

As a result, IndiGo is now taking the longer flight route through Africa to enter Europe.

For the European flights, the airline flies over the Arabian Sea, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Red Sea and Egypt before entering Europe.

Meanwhile, the flights to Athens are operated with IndiGo's A321 XLR planes.

Generally, Indian carriers use the airspaces in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, to operate flights to Europe. IndiGo, in the statement, also said that due to the evolving situation in and around the Middle East, some of its flights may take longer routes or experience diversions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Passenger booked for smoking Beedi on mid-air in Akasa flight

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

A passenger from Delhi has been detained by Goa police after allegedly smoking a BEEDI inside the aircraft lavatory during an Akasa Air flight from Delhi to Goa, triggering safety concerns among the crew and passengers.

The incident occurred on Saturday, March 7, aboard Akasa Air flight QP1625, which was travelling from Delhi to Goa. According to officials, the passenger—identified as Ashish—was found smoking inside the aircraft's lavatory and was also



discovered carrying a lighter, a restricted item on board commercial flights.

Cabin crew reportedly became aware of the situation after smoke was detected in the lavatory area. Aircraft lavatories are equipped with smoke detectors designed to alert the crew immediately if someone attempts to smoke during a flight.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

AI plane crash probe report will be out very soon: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that the AAIB probe into the fatal crash of the Air India aircraft in June last year is progressing at a very good pace, and the investigation report will be out "very soon".

Replying to a supplementary query during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Naidu said the ministry is doing its best to ensure flight operations and to bring back Indians stranded due to the West Asia conflict.

The minister, responding to various queries, told the House that the probe report



into the Air India plane crash would be out soon.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 plane operating the flight AI171 enroute to London-Gatwick crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025, killing 260

people, including 241 persons onboard, and the crash is being probed by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

"Regarding the AI171 crash that happened in June last year, the investigation is

going at a very good pace, and all the resources that are required for AAIB, the primary agency which is looking into the investigation, the ministry is providing.

"And I would say that very soon, within the completion of the year, the report should be out," Naidu said.

On the West Asia situation and the safety of flight operations, Naidu said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) immediately engaged with the airlines and issued circulars.

"... You can say that they (DGCA officials) have had multiple meetings with them (airline executives) so that they can only operate when they ensure that 100 per cent safety is there when they are

operating to these airports in West Asia," the minister said.

Travel advisories have also been issued to passengers to ensure that there is no confusion, he added.

"From the Ministry side, I can tell the house that whatever best we can do in terms of having safe operations and making people travel from those destinations back to India, we can do with the help of the airlines. They (airlines) have also been very considerate," Naidu said.

While noting that airlines have been thoroughly looking at slots for operating the services amid the West Asia crisis, the minister said that around 90,000 people have been able to travel to India in the last week itself.

Kathmandu (Nepal): Nepal's civil aviation continues to be a victim of oversight, negligence, and corruption. According to an article by the non-profit Nepal Economic Forum (NEF), a mix of blunders related to policy execution, and unfavourable international perception added to the mess. Since 2013, the European Union (EU) blacklisted the nation's civil aviation, a scenario that was made worse due to repeated air crashes that claimed several lives, and persistent inefficiencies at major airports. The result, according to NEF, is that these perceptions severely tarnished the country's aviation reputation. At present, more than a third of the airports in Nepal lie defunct.



Jayanta Bhattacharya
Senior Journalist

In October 2024, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli set up a five-member high-level study and recommendation committee to examine the development of a safe, reliable, and trustworthy civil aviation system in Nepal. It was chaired by a retired Supreme Court judge, Anil Kumar Sinha. Coincidentally, Sinha emerged at the political forefront, when he was appointed as a minister with multiple portfolios, in an interim government, which was formed after Oli's ouster due to students' protests. Now, with a new regime ready to take over after the national elections, Sinha reminisces about how he wanted to revive the country's civil aviation sector.

But first, one needs to remember that Nepal's aviation industry has a rich history, and significant potential, despite the numerous challenges that hinder growth and reputation. The journey began in 1949 with the first flight landing in Kathmandu, followed by the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in 1955. After two more airports were set up in Lumbini and Pokhara, more than 50 have cropped up. According to IATA data, tourism supported by aviation contributed \$542.2 million to the GDP in 2023, and employed 260,900 people. International tourists contributed \$633.7 million annually to the economy.

"Soon after my retirement, I was approached to head a high-level committee to suggest reforms. There were safety issues with many crashes. I refused as I did not have technical knowledge, but the government urged me to suggest remedies," said Justice-Minister Sinha. However, he was told that he

Nepal's planes struggle to take off

Since 2013, the nation's aviation is blacklisted by the EU



would be helped by experts, and they included a pilot with over two decades of flying experience, and a former civil aviation secretary. "I accepted the challenge. They gave three months, but logistics were missing, and there was not enough budget. We sought an extension," Sinha added.

Sinha met Oli, who was unhappy about the situation. The latter assured the former that the finance department would release the funds. The committee's scope was expanded to probe the affairs at Pokhara and Bhairahawa airports, and find out the reasons why Nepal Airlines performed abysmally. An article by ORF highlighted issues related to systemic corruption, procurement irregularities, and geopolitical constraints at Pokhara. Media reports indicated that Bhairahawa largely operated under temporary operating permits, as full global operations and route approvals remained incomplete. This limited the airlines' commitments and scheduled services.

According to the NEF, the unviability of the two airports is only a tip of the iceberg as only 18 of the more than 50 airports operate profitably. The Bhairahawa airport, which was built with an investment of \$76 million gen-

erated a revenue of (Indian) ₹132.12 million in 2023. Given these trends, it may take it more than 50 years to cover the cost of construction. Even if the traffic doubled, it can take more than 25 years for the airport to reach the break-even mark.

In the case of Pokhara, there were no commercial flights since its inception. Its revenues are minimal, and it may take at least 75 years to repay the high-interest bearing debt if commercial operations do not commence. China is in the thick of things, as it aids several projects in Nepal, partially thanks to the Oli government. As with other economic issues, Nepal's borders with two geopolitical powerhouses affects the aviation industry, according to the NEF. For example, Kathmandu uses the Indian airspace for the air commute, and flights.

"Both the recently-built international airports (mentioned above) were built by the Chinese companies. The funds for Pokhara came via Chinese loans, and the project was declared as part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by the Chinese Ambassador to Nepal. As a response to this increasing Chinese involvement, India has not provided an air route to Nepal despite mul-

ti-ple requests. Thus, the unavailability of shorter air routes has increased the flight time for the airlines, and made operation costs higher, making new airports unattractive. This flaw in aviation diplomacy has kept the two international airports under-utilised," pointed out the recent NEF article.

According to Sinha, the committee was aware of the problem areas. There were no doubts in his mind that civil aviation was vital to enhance connectivity, especially in remote areas. But the logistics and funds issues continued. The committee members were not even able to visit the two contentious airports, Pokhara and Bhairahawa. "We decided that it was not possible to continue, and we needed to submit a report based on whatever inputs we had. But as we were about to print the report the situation happened (or changed due to the Gen Z uprising that led to the ouster of Oli's regime)," explained Sinha.

"Coincidentally, the report did come out when I became the civil aviation minister (in the subsequent interim government). The interim prime minister felt that since we had spent time to identify the issues, and provide remedies, the report should be implemented. It was placed in the cabinet, which passed it," revealed Sinha. "I initiated discussions with the EU on the 'blacklisting' issue, and today 6-7 (global) aviation experts are helping the airlines companies. They are from the EU, India, and have portable simulator machines to help helicopter pilots." Sinha feels that the problem is not with the engineers and pilots, but with oversights, investigations, and implementation of the recommendations.

As talks continue with the EU, Sinha expects Nepal to be out of the blacklist, or at least the safety concern list. He met this reporter a few days before the election results were to be announced, but he was still optimistic. "When I hand over the charge to the new government, I expect to do it with constructive suggestions and perhaps, some good news," he said hopefully. Yet one is sure that this is not the end but the beginning of a new chapter. The next regime needs to show serious interest, and skilled piloting to help the sector to take off.

(The author has more than three decades of experience across print, TV, and digital media)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Aviation regulator DGCA enhances monitoring of airlines to ensure compliance with norms: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Monday said the DGCA has increased monitoring on a weekly and fortnightly basis for critical operations of airlines along with bi-monthly visits by the watchdog's inspector at the airlines' offices to ensure their compliance with regulations.

Responding to a query in the Rajya Sabha on the reasons for the large scale disruptions at IndiGo in December 2025 and action taken to prevent recurrence of a similar situation in the

future, Union minister Murlidhar Mohol said the primary causes for the disruption were over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness along with deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in management structure and operational control on the part of the airline.

"DGCA has introduced more robust measures to ensure compliance by airlines with regulations which include -- increased monitoring on weekly and fortnightly basis for critical operations along with bi-monthly

visits to the operator by DGCA's principal point-of contact inspector -- to closely monitor the airline's operations, with particular emphasis on roster integrity, crew availability, buffer adequacy, system robustness and adherence to FDTL requirements," he said in a written reply.

The Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms are implemented by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

In December 2025, the country's largest airline, IndiGo, faced massive operational disruptions that resulted in hun-



dreds of flight cancellations and impacted thousands of passengers. DGCA had also taken various regulatory actions against the airline.

Mohol, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, in a separate written reply, said a total of 550 operator and organisation-wise Level II repetitive findings were noticed by the DGCA from 2023-25, and 29 enforcement actions were taken.

As of December 31, 2025, no Level-I deficiencies are pending for closure, he said.

Level-I finding requires immediate attention and rectifica-

tion, and the timeline for closure of such a finding is seven days, whereas Level-II finding must be resolved within 30 days.

"Continued operations are not allowed with a level-I finding without its rectification. In rare cases, operations are allowed under control/ restricted environment. In case of violations, DGCA initiates enforcement actions against the airline/ organisation/ personnel which may include warning, suspension or cancellation of approval/ certificate/ licence, including imposition of financial penalty," the minister said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

इंडिगो की मैनचेस्टर उड़ान हवाई क्षेत्र संबंधी पाबंदियों के कारण दिल्ली लौटी

पंजाब केसरी/नई दिल्ली

इंडिगो की मैनचेस्टर जाने वाली एक उड़ान सोमवार को इरिट्रिया के हवाई क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने पर लगे कुछ प्रतिबंधों के कारण दिल्ली लौट आई। यह उड़ान लीज पर लिए गए बोइंग 787 विमान से संचालित हो रही थी। विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने एक बयान में कहा, 'पश्चिम एशिया में मौजूदा स्थिति के कारण अंतिम समय में हवाई क्षेत्र पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंधों की वजह से दिल्ली से मैनचेस्टर जाने वाली हमारी उड़ान 6ई 033 को अपने मूल स्थान पर लौटना पड़ा।

हम संबंधित अधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर यात्रा फिर से शुरू करने की संभावनाओं का पता लगाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।' इरिट्रिया के अधिकारियों से कुछ मंजूरी संबंधी समस्याएं थीं, और जोखिम मूल्यांकन के बाद यह निर्णय लिया गया कि उड़ान दिल्ली लाई जाए। इरिट्रिया एक अफ्रीकी देश है। यह एयरलाइन एथेंस को छोड़कर लंदन समेत अन्य यूरोपीय शहरों के लिए उड़ानें संचालित करती है और इसके लिए नॉर्वे की नॉर्स अटलांटिक एयरवेज से लीज पर लिए गए बोइंग 787-9 विमानों का इस्तेमाल करती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Manchester-bound IndiGo flight diverts to Delhi amid escalating airspace restrictions

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 9 March

An IndiGo flight bound for the United Kingdom's Manchester from New Delhi was forced to turn back mid-air on Monday after flying for nearly seven hours. The disruption was caused by last-minute airspace restrictions linked to escalating tensions in West Asia following US and Israeli strikes on Iran about 10 days ago.

While flying near the border of Ethiopia and Eritrea, the IndiGo flight, operated by Norse Atlantic Airways, turned around, flight-tracking website Flightradar24 said on X.

An IndiGo spokesperson said, "Due to the evolving situation in and around the Middle East, some of our flights may be required to take longer routes or be diverted. Our flight 6E033 from Delhi to Manchester had to return to its point of origin following last-minute airspace restrictions amid the ongoing situation in West Asia."

"We are coordinating with the appropriate authorities to assess the options for resuming the journey. As always, the safety and security of our passengers, crew, and aircraft remain our top priority," the spokesperson added in his statement.

The conflict in West Asia

that began on February 28 has continued to expand beyond Iran and Israel, with Tehran's retaliatory strikes hitting US military bases and related infrastructure across the Gulf, including in countries such as Oman, the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain.

Saudi Arabia has also accused Iran of aggression, while Tehran insists its strikes are aimed solely at US military bases as retaliation for what it describes as an unprovoked attack.

Although airspace in the region has been largely restricted, flights have continued on alternative routes, including some to and from the UAE, over the past week.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Ahmedabad Air India crash report expected by end of this year, says Minister

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 9 March

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Monday said that the final report on last year's Air India plane crash in Gujarat's Ahmedabad will be released by the end of this year.

Responding to a question during question hour in the Rajya Sabha, Naidu said the probe into the Air India crash is progressing rapidly. "The Ministry of Civil Aviation is providing all necessary resources to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is conducting the probe," the minister said, adding that the final report will be available by the end of this year.

The Air India flight AI171, on the way from Ahmedabad to London, crashed on June 12 last year. After takeoff, the aircraft failed to gain sufficient

altitude and crashed into the hostel of a government medical college near the airport. The plane caught fire.

Out of the 230 passengers on board, 229 died, along with 12 crew members. Additionally, 19 people on the ground were killed after being caught in the accident.

The preliminary investigation report into the crash was released in July last year, while the AAIB continues its detailed investigation.

In response to another supplementary question, the minister said more than 90,000 passengers travelled to and from India through the crisis-affected region in West Asia during the past week, amid the ongoing conflict involving Iran. He added that airlines are being granted permission to operate flights to affected areas only after ensuring full safety measures.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

India schedules 50 flights as West Asia crisis deepens

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 9 March

Indian carriers have planned 50 flights for Monday between India and the West Asia region amid ongoing conflict in Iran and the Gulf region.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is closely monitoring the evolving situation in West Asia affecting air travel between India and the West Asia region.

"Airlines are undertaking necessary operational adjustments in view of the prevailing conditions to ensure passenger safety and orderly conduct of flight operations," the Ministry said in a statement.

Passenger movement data for Saturday shows that a total of 51 inbound flights operated by Indian carriers arrived in India from the region carrying 8,175 passengers.

For Sunday, Indian carriers - Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Spicejet and Akasa-



have planned 49 inbound flights from airports in the region such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah, Muscat and Jeddah subject to operational feasibility and prevailing conditions.

As per the current status, Indian carriers are planning

50 flights for Monday.

Moreover Indian carriers are continuously assessing the ground situation in other airports of the region, so that more flights can be operated by Indian carriers from these places.

The Ministry remains in

“AIRLINES ARE UNDERTAKING NECESSARY OPERATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS TO ENSURE PASSENGER SAFETY AND ORDERLY CONDUCT OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

THE MINISTRY SAID IN A STATEMENT.

constant coordination with airlines and other stakeholders. Airfares are also being closely monitored to ensure that ticket prices remain reasonable and that there is no undue surge during this period.

Passengers are advised to stay in touch with their respective airlines for the latest updates regarding flight schedules. The Ministry will continue to monitor the situation closely and issue further updates as necessary.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

9 MARCH 2026

Emirates brings back 800

■ **CALCUTTA:** Three Emirates flights landed in Calcutta between midnight on Saturday and Sunday night, bringing back over 800 passengers stranded in the Gulf. The first one landed at midnight with 279 passengers and departed at 1.55am with 26 passengers. The second flight arrived at 7.46am with 288 passengers and left at 9.40am with 79 passengers, the carrier said. The third landed at 6.55pm with 247 passengers and flew back to Dubai at 8.46pm with 127 passengers. Airport officials and tour operators said these were the first Emirates flights to Calcutta since the outbreak of the war in West



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

8 suspended flights from Hindon yet to resume

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ghaziabad: Flight services at the Hindon civil terminal remain reduced months after winter disruptions forced airlines to scale down operations, with several suspended routes yet to be restored.

In Jan, daily flight movements from the terminal were cut from 20 to 12 due to cold-weather conditions affecting schedules. While airlines had indicated that operations would resume after the summer re-scheduling, the suspended routes have not returned so far.

Air India Express and IndiGo, two major airlines operating from the terminal, had halted flights to several cities from the terminal during the winter.

According to terminal director Chilka Mahesh, Air India Express is currently operating only on the Mumbai and Bengaluru routes. Until Dec last year, the airline also ran services to Kolkata, Goa, Chennai, Patna and Bhubaneswar.

IndiGo, which had suspended operations on three routes, including Indore, Kolkata and one of its Mumbai flights, is currently running services to seven cities, including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Varanasi and Patna.

There has been no official statement from Air India Express explaining the continued suspension of several routes. However, sources in the Airports Authority of India said the airline is currently refurbishing at least 18 aircraft, which may have led to reduced operations from Hindon.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Manchester-bound flight returns to Delhi after flying 13 hrs; London-Mumbai diverted to Cairo

Saurabh.Sinha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A call sign confusion led to IndiGo's flight to Manchester on Monday flying for over 13 hours and then returning to Delhi from over Africa.

The reason: The aircraft operating was a wet-leased (hired with operating crew) Norse Atlantic Boeing 787 which had got the clearance. But being operated by IndiGo and the clearance being sought to enter Eritrea airspace as "iFly" (IndiGo code) led to confusion in the air traffic control there. Eventually, the aircraft took a U-turn and flew back to Delhi, where it landed at 2.22 pm, about 13 hours after taking off at 1.14 am.

IndiGo has all the required enroute clearance for operating these planes and this was just a very costly confusion. Belonging to an EU carrier, Norse Atlantic is following the EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) bulletin to avoid West Asia completely. So unlike other carriers like Air India that overfly Saudi Ara-



bia on its routes to and from Europe/UK and North America while bypassing the current enroute no-fly zones, Norse Atlantic resumed its Europe flights for IndiGo only recently after Feb 28. Completely avoiding West Asia, it flies to Africa and then goes to Europe from Eritrea side. Ditto on the way back.

This extra-long route is creating its own issues. IndiGo's London-Mumbai flight on Sunday diverted to Cairo. It is expected to complete the journey on

Tuesday. Air India had done a payload analysis for this route that bypasses West Asian airspace by taking the oceanic route to Africa, and found it unviable.

Regarding Monday's return flight, IndiGo said in a statement: "Due to the evolving situation in and around West Asia, some of our flights may take longer routes or experience diversions. Our flight 6E33, operating from Delhi to Manchester, had to return to its origin due to last-minute airspace restrictions owing to the ongoing situation in West Asia. We are working with the relevant authorities to explore the possibilities of resuming the journey. As always, safety and security of our customers, crew and aircraft is of utmost importance to us."

EASA's "conflict zone information bulletin" has asked airlines not to "operate within the affected airspace at all flight levels and altitudes". The airspaces are of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

IndiGo's Manchester flight turns around midair after 7 hours

NEW DELHI: A Delhi-Manchester IndiGo flight was forced to return to the capital after flying for nearly seven hours on Monday, following last-minute airspace restrictions triggered by the evolving tensions in West Asia. Flight 6E33 had departed from Delhi early in the morning for Manchester in the UK. However, midway through the journey, the aircraft was forced to turn around near the Ethiopia-Eritrea border, said data from flight tracking platform Flightradar24. — TNS



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

11 airstrips identified in J&K, no UDAN routes awarded yet, govt tells Parliament

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 9

The Centre on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that 11 airstrips in Jammu and Kashmir have been identified for potential development to boost regional air connectivity, though no flight routes have yet been awarded for operations from these locations under the government's regional aviation scheme.

Responding to an unstarred question by Rajya Sabha MP Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said the airstrips listed in the Union Territory include Akhnoor, Chamb, Gurez, Jhangar, Kishtwar, Miran Sahib, Mantalai, Panzgam, Poonch, Rajouri and Udhampur.

The minister said these locations are mentioned in the documents of the UDAN

FIVE BIDDING ROUNDS HELD

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said the airstrips listed in Jammu and Kashmir included Akhnoor, Chamb, Gurez, Jhangar, Kishtwar, Miran Sahib, Mantalai, Panzgam, Poonch, Rajouri and Udhampur
- However, no routes connecting these airstrips have been awarded for the operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme flights across the first five bidding rounds of the scheme

aimed at improving regional connectivity. However, no routes connecting these airstrips have been awarded for the operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) flights across the first five bidding rounds of the scheme.

Providing details on proposed aviation infrastructure in the region, the minister said the Union government has framed the Greenfield Airports Policy-2008 for the development of new airports in the country.

Under this policy, any developer, including state govern-

ments, must identify a suitable site, conduct a pre-feasibility study and submit a proposal to the Centre seeking site clearance followed by in-principle approval.

Naidu said an expert committee from the Airports Authority of India recently carried out a site visit to the Udhampur Air Force Station to examine the feasibility of introducing civil flight operations from the defence airfield.

According to the preliminary assessment, development of a civil enclave at the location has been found feasible, subject to

regulatory clearances and the availability of land.

The government also informed the House that a committee has recently visited the Kishtwar Airfield to examine the possibility of starting civil flight operations from the site.

On the issue of rising airfares on routes connecting Delhi and J&K during winter months, the minister said the government does not regulate ticket prices as the sector operates in a deregulated environment. He said airlines are allowed to determine fares based on operational requirements while complying with provisions under the Aircraft Rules 1937.

The minister said that airfare pricing is influenced by several market factors, including seat occupancy levels, fuel costs, aircraft capacity, seasonal fluctuations, etc.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

10 MARCH 2026

Airlines lost ₹5,289 crore in FY25

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that Indian airlines posted a combined net loss of Rs 5,289.73 crore in the financial year 2024-25, according to data submitted by scheduled operators. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol was responding to an unstarred question raised by Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi. According to the data, Indian airlines incurred losses of Rs 18,606.78 crore in FY 2022-23, which narrowed significantly to Rs 924.39 crore in FY 2023-24 before widening again to Rs 5,289.73 crore in FY 2024-25.