



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

9 APRIL 2025

AAI team inspects 2 locations in south B'luru for 2nd airport

To assess third proposed site near Nelamangala today

BENGALURU, DHNS:

A delegation from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) inspected two locations along Kanakapura Road in south Bengaluru on Tuesday, which have been shortlisted for building the second international airport in the city.

Both locations — mostly agricultural and barren land — are adjacent to each other.

The team is expected to visit the third location, situated along the Nelamangala-Kunigal Road, on Wednesday.

The inspection, part of the pre-feasibility survey, was undertaken in the villages of K Chudahalli, Karenahalli, Veerasandra and Sadanapa-

lya among others.

These villages are located about 10 km beyond NICE Road and are adjacent to NH 948.

The team climbed two hilly areas — one on foot and the other by car — to get a bird's eye view of the location and assess the topography.

The AAI team was led by Vikram Singh, general manager (operations). It was accompanied by deputy commissioner of Ramanagara district Yeshwanth V Gururkar and special deputy commissioner of Karnataka Industries Area Development Board (KIADB) Dayanand Bhandari.

During the inspection, AAI officials inquired about



An official briefs the team from the Airports Authority of India during an inspection of the sites proposed for Bengaluru's second airport, at Karenahalli on Kanakapura main road in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

the presence of water and gas lines, as well as air polluting industries in the vicinity.

Topography

They also studied the high-rise buildings in the vicinity and the proposed pathways to the airport. There were concerns about the topography of the area, particularly the hilly terrain.

In response, state officials assured the team that these

were just hillocks that could be easily levelled and that there were no rocks.

They also proposed merging parts of the two shortlisted locations in south Bengaluru to avoid the hilly terrain that could potentially pose challenges.

The officials promised that the area had over 5,000 acres of undeveloped land, a large portion of which belonged to the government.

Minister briefed

Later in the day, the AAI team called on Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil for a debriefing and courtesy meeting.

"Once the team completes the study, we will undertake a feasibility study and prepare a detailed project report. We will consult experts who have built large airports in different cities across India. The proposal will be discussed in the Cabinet meeting," the minister told reporters.

"Bidadi and Harohalli are not being considered for the second airport," Patil clarified.

Township at Bidadi

"We have shown locations along Kanakapura Road. Another location is near Nelamangala, which is within the 50-km radius of Vidhana Soudha. In Bidadi, deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar is planning to build a township," he said.



Time to fly: More passengers fly out to various tourist destinations during summer. The Airports Authority of India will open more check-in counters to ease the congestion at the international terminal of the Chennai airport. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Air travel set to peak this summer as airlines line up more flights

In February, the Chennai airport handled 4.7 lakh international passengers and nearly 14 lakh domestic passengers. The number is set to increase in April and May. Anticipating the rush, airlines have added 200 flights to popular destinations within the country and abroad

CITY MATTERS

Sunitha Sekar

After December, the summer is the time when air travel peaks. People frantically check flight fares, driving hours, and put together last-minute holiday plans. In February, the Chennai airport handled around 4.7 lakh international air passengers and nearly 14 lakh domestic passengers. This number is set to increase in April and May. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) will open more check-in counters to ease the congestion at the international terminal.

Compared with the winter schedule, airlines have added 200 flights this summer to popular destinations in the country and abroad. Among them are Delhi, Guwahati, Goa, Varanasi, Madurai, Kochi, Hyderabad, Jaffna, Colombo, Muscat, and Kuwait. With the temperature beginning to soar, those living in the city are preparing to head out to escape the heat and unwind. For those planning to fly out, airfares have not skyrocketed yet, as it did in the December season.

Offbeat destinations

Travel agents say many people may make use of the steady fares and take the additional flights. Travellers make quick trips to Udhagamandalam, Kodaikanal, Kashmir, Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Goa, Singapore, Malaysia, or Thailand. But they can consider offbeat destinations in and outside India. Air travel and connectivity have evolved significantly. Though there are no direct flights to a few of the offbeat locations, many travellers do not mind transit. From Azerbaijan to Bhutan and from Assam to the Arakku Valley, there are a few lesser explored destinations, the agents say. For international travel though, it is

For those planning to fly out of the city, airfares have not skyrocketed yet, as it did in the December season

ideal to book tickets in advance.

T. Devaki, chairperson of Travel Agents Association of India, Southern Region, says that for those who don't mind spending a little more, Bhutan is a great choice. "Bhutan has a pleasant climate now and it is not as commercial and crowded as many other locations. Be it Paro Taktsang, Punakha Dzong, Thimphu, or Dochula Pass, the country has some stunning locales. Travellers can easily spend 7-10 days and return to the city," she adds. Flying to Kolkata and then heading to Bhutan would be a better option to travel from Chennai.

Easy to get visas

Azerbaijan and Georgia have a blend of pleasant weather, stunning architecture, and cultural heritage. Sriharan Balan, managing director of Madura Group, says, "Azerbaijan is becoming more popular. It is fairly easy to get a visa and people get a feel of Europe at a much lesser price. In Azerbaijan, one gets to see a historic city and ancient mosques, whereas in Georgia, one can see cathedrals and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Georgia has a vibrant nightlife too," he adds. For both Azerbaijan and Georgia, travellers from Chennai will have to transit at Sharjah.

For those looking to step into off-the-beaten-path destinations within the country, travelling to the northeastern region is a great option. S. Jeyasekaran of the Travel Agents Association of India, Southern Region, says, "Since the access to the region is not so easy, it is not crowded, and has preserved its serenity, and one can view the nature at its best. There are several hidden gems in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya especially," he says.

From Chennai, one can fly to Guwahati and then drive down to the respective locations in these States. Be it Tawang, Ziro Valley, Tezu, Nuranang Falls, Bum La Pass, or Sela Pass, Arunachal Pradesh is replete



Since the access to the northeastern region is not so easy, it is not crowded, and has preserved its serenity... There are several hidden gems in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya especially

S. JEYASEKARAN,
Travel Agents Association of India, Southern Region

with stunning landscapes. In Meghalaya, one can visit Dawki, Cherrapunji, Nohkalkai Falls, Umiyam Lake, and Elephant Falls.

"If one has a little more time, Assam is another place which should not be missed. The Kaziranga National Park, the Dibrusaikehowa National Park, Majuli, or Silchar are the locations that one would remember even decades later. Usually, couples who don't mind the travel or lone travellers who would love to explore, trek, or walk can head to the northeastern region this summer," he adds.

Close-by getaway

Travellers who have only a couple of days in hand, but looking for an affordable and laid-back getaway close by, can drive down to Meppadi, view the Kanthanpara Waterfalls, Chembra Peak, or visit the tea gardens. Apart from Meppadi, Mr. Jeyasekaran says, the Kolli Hills is another beautiful place to explore. "It is a seven-hour drive to Kolli Hills and a ten-hour drive to Meghmalai from Chennai. While the drive may be long, it is worth visiting both locations for their landscapes and waterfalls. Many who prefer trekking head to these locations," he adds.

Some of the other small quiet locations are Vythiri and Lakkidi near Wayanad in Kerala, the Arakku Valley in Andhra Pradesh, and Kemmangundi in Karnataka.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

9 APRIL 2025

AAI checks 2 sites for 2nd city airport; 3rd location today

Bengaluru: A team from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has begun inspecting the three proposed sites for Bengaluru's second airport, as the city's current aviation infrastructure nears capacity. On Tuesday, the team visited two sites off Kanakapura Road. The third site, located along the Nela-mangala-Kunigal Road, will be inspected on Wednesday.

The visit, from April 7 to 9, follows a Rs 1.2 crore payment made by state govt to AAI for a feasibility assessment. Each site spans over 4,500 acres, with the govt committed to providing the necessary land. "With the 150-km airport restriction set to expire by 2033, we are accelerating the process," said industries and infra development minister MB Patil. 798



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

9 APRIL 2025

Apex court nixes AAI plea against HC height ruling on Chembur slum rehab

Swati.Deshpande
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Mumbai: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against a Feb Bombay High Court judgment that permitted a high rise in a slum rehabilitation project in Laldonger, Chembur.

HC directed AAI to issue a no objection certificate (NOC) for height clearance to builders, noting an appellate committee had already approved the height, and it could not be reversed over minor discrepancies in undertakings and certificates.

Aggrieved by the HC order, AAI went to Supreme Court to appeal. Supreme Court on April 7 dismissed AAI's special leave petition. The SC bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Joydalya Bagchi said, "We are not inclined to interfere" with the high court judgment.

The project has 10 proposed towers, four rehabilitation buildings to accommodate 700



The high court directed AAI to issue an NOC for height clearance to builders

slum dwellers, and three free sale towers. Two rehab buildings were constructed up to 15 floors and two free sale buildings up to 14 floors, HC was told.

Three builders—Paradigm Dotom Buildheights LLP, Jai Bhagwati Developers & Builders, and R K Madhani & Co—executed a joint venture in 2010 to carry out the slum rehabilitation project on a 3.3-acre Chembur plot. Last year, the builders petitioned HC again-

st AAI's order asking for a fresh application based on rules that came into existence in 2020. The developers said they sought a height nod from AAI and the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) for construction up to 84.92 metres above the mean sea level (AMSL), which was approved in 2016 by an appellate panel of the civil aviation ministry subject to an undertaking. They undertook to abide by "risk mitigation measures", including no-

tifying the airport operator before construction penetrates the "obstacle limitation surface".

AAI in its special leave petition said if the HC judgment is not set aside, it would face great hardship. It stated a revised NOC for height clearance could not be issued given that "considerable time had lapsed" and the height clearance request needs to be "reassessed" under present rules.

The HC division bench of Justices Girish Kulkarni and Advait Sethna in its Feb 17 judgment said the AAI decision was "too pedantic", given that the height was approved by the appellate committee on July 11, 2016. "Merely because the petitioners (builders) failed to provide the name of the signatory on the undertaking and the addresses of the witnesses who only signed the undertaking furnished by the petitioners to the AAI, such ministerial lapse cannot be held to disentitle them from the benefits of the revised NOC," HC held.

गाजियाबाद से एयरपोर्ट होते हुए न्यू आगरा तक जाएगी नमो भारत

आगामी बोर्ड बैठक में रखा जाएगा प्रस्ताव, आगरा-मथुरा क्षेत्र में 14.6 लाख लोगों के रहने की व्यवस्था के साथ तैयार होगी ग्रीनफील्ड टाउनशिप

माई सिटी रिपोर्टर

ग्रेटर नोएडा। मथुरा-आगरा के बीच बसने वाले ग्रीनफील्ड टाउनशिप न्यू आगरा को 14.6 लाख लोगों के रहने के लिए बसाने की योजना तैयार कर ली गई है। यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यूवीडा) के व्यापक सर्वेक्षण और परामर्श के बाद सलाहकार ने न्यू आगरा की डीपीआर तैयार कर ली है।

सबसे अहम बात यह है कि गाजियाबाद से एयरपोर्ट तक जाने वाली नमो भारत ट्रेन अब न्यू आगरा तक दौड़ लगाएगी। इस नए शहर में औद्योगिक, वाणिज्यिक और पर्यटन

9000

हेक्टेयर में विकसित होगा न्यू आगरा

8.5

लाख रोजगार के अवसर पैदा होने की है उम्मीद

से जुड़े विकास के जरिये लगभग 8.5 लाख व्यक्तियों के लिए रोजगार पैदा होने की उम्मीद है। चंडीगढ़ की तर्ज पर ली कोर्बुसिए के हाथों डिजाइन न्यू आगरा को

ताजमहल के पास होगा ताज ट्रेपेजियम जोन

■ ताजमहल के आस-पास पर्यावरण के प्रति संवेदनशील क्षेत्र का ख्याल रखते हुए ग्रीन श्रेणी के उद्योगों को अनुमति दी जाएगी। पर्यटन और मनोरंजन के लिए प्रमुख क्षेत्र होगा। यहां पर थीम पार्क, लक्जरी होटल, रिसॉर्ट व आधुनिक सम्मेलन और प्रदर्शनी केंद्र बनेंगे। डिजिटल और ग्रीनवर्सल स्टूडियो भी होंगे। इसके अलावा थीम पार्क में भारतीय धरोहर, भविष्यवादी थीम और वर्चुअल और ऑगमेंटेड रियलिटी का उपयोग होगा, जिससे लोगों को पूरी तरह से एक डिजिटल वातावरण का अनुभव मिलेगा।

बसाने के साथ ही इसको कनेक्टिविटी को मजबूत करने की भी योजना है।

न्यू आगरा अर्बन सेंटर को नमो भारत (रेपिड रेल) के जरिये नोएडा इंटरनेशनल

एयरपोर्ट से जोड़ा जाएगा। इसके लिए न्यू आगरा के जोनल प्लान में यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के किनारे 13.1 किमी लंबा ट्रैक विछाने का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया गया है। करीब 9 हजार

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मास्टर प्लान फेज-2 की मंजूरी के बाद प्राधिकरण ने न्यू आगरा अर्बन सेंटर का जोनल प्लान तैयार कर लिया है। शहर की एयरपोर्ट तक नमो भारत से कनेक्टिविटी का प्रस्ताव भी तैयार हुआ है। जोनल प्लान को आगामी बोर्ड बैठक में रखा जाएगा। - डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह, सीईओ, यमुना प्राधिकरण

हेक्टेयर में विकसित होना वाला न्यू आगरा मल्टी मॉडल लाजिस्टिक व ट्रांसपोर्ट का हब भी बनेगा।

गाजियाबाद से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक नमो

भारत रेल का संचालन प्रस्तावित है। 72.4 किलोमीटर लंबे ट्रैक पर 22 स्टेशन की डीपीआर पर केंद्र सरकार की आपत्ति के बाद दोबारा इसे तैयार किया गया है।

न्यू आगरा के जोनल प्लान में नमो भारत के जरिए एयरपोर्ट को न्यू आगरा अर्बन सेंटर तक जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया है। 165 किलोमीटर लंबे यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे पर एयरपोर्ट करीब 34 किलोमीटर पर है, यहां से न्यू आगरा तक 13.1 किमी लंबा ट्रैक बिछाकर एयरपोर्ट तक सीधी कनेक्टिविटी पर विचार किया जा रहा है। यह प्रस्ताव प्राधिकरण की आगामी बोर्ड बैठक में रखा जाएगा।

न्यू आगरा अर्बन सेंटर का मास्टर प्लान

श्रेणी	क्षेत्रफल (हेक्टेयर में)	प्रतिशत
आवासोप	2501	27.7
औद्योगिक	1812.8	20.11
सड़क व इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर	1139.02	12.6
ग्रीन रिवर बफर	823.7	8.2
ग्रीन	485.72	5.4
मिक्स लैंड	447.01	5
व्यावसायिक	340.09	3.8
मनोरंजन	322.48	3.6
वन	307.28	3
व्यावसायिक टूरिज्म	142.45	1.6
संस्थागत	244.13	2.7
पीएसपी टूरिज्म	172.5	2

RUNWAYS OF OPPORTUNITY

A string of airports in the Gangetic plains aims to change the face of travel and trade. The first of a two-part series on regional connectivity



An aerial view of how the Noida International Airport will look when it is ready

PHOTO: NOIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

SIBIRHOY BHATTACHARJEE
New Delhi, 9 April

A logistical markup happening across three of India's most populated states — Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar, and West Bengal — is slated to push the country's economic growth significantly higher. The most visible manifestation of this will be the inauguration of Noida International Airport in Jewar (UP), barely 88 km from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, scheduled this summer.

Other nodes, too, are coming up in quick succession across the Gangetic plains, transforming the pace of connectivity across the region. True to form, though, these are happening in an uncoordinated fashion. While airports and metro links will multiply rapidly, rail links are way behind in making good on the potential of the densely populated region spanning these three states. Their combined area of 4.24 lakh sq km, a multi-trail of irregularly built cities and census towns, is an expanse matching that of all four southern states.

The next to take off after the Noida airport could be the already operational Andal airport in West Bengal, which the JSW Group now plans to develop. Bihar, the slowest off the blocks, will see the renovated Patna airport inaugurated later this year. Besides these, there are a

number of other airports in the pipeline. While each of these projects has progressed slower than its original timelines, the critical mass is now in place. These emerging links can change the economic geography of the region that has few gateways to the west and south of the country, and would mean a big deal for the locked-in population of these states. Let us examine the state of air connectivity first.

From the tarmac
The biggest of the projects is the Noida International Airport. According to Tata Projects, the contractor for the project being developed by Zurich Airport International, the airport will have an initial capacity of 12 million passengers annually and a final capacity of 70 million, making it one of India's largest. While the first phase of the project was scheduled to be operational by November 2024, the delay has been minimal.

At the other end of the Gangetic plains is the Andal airport, about 80 km from Kolkata, and which is already functional with 16-odd flights daily. For the densely populated southern region of the state, the airport has come as a boon. What made news recently was the announcement by JSW Chairman Sajjan Jindal that he will pick up an equity stake in the airport. "This would be our first entry into the airport business," Jindal said in Kolkata.

As a *Business Standard* report noted, the investment through the group company, JSW Infrastructure, would mean buying a stake from private investors in the Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Ltd (BAPL), the company that runs the airport. The West Bengal government owns a 26 per cent stake in BAPL, while Singapore's Changi Airport has 33 per cent. The state has now begun to explore airport alternatives, such as scaling up operations from Bagdogra, which connects both Dujeeing and Gangtok.

Airports are getting traction in these belts. Bihar already has two fully functional airports other than Patna. At

FLIGHT PATHS

- **Noida International Airport set to open this summer** with an initial capacity of 12 million passengers, scaling up to 70 million
- **Andal airport near Kolkata is already functional** and may become a cargo hub with JSW Group planning an equity stake in the project
- **Patna airport has been upgraded to handle 10 million passengers** annually, but runway constraints limit further expansion
- **Darbhanga and Gaya airports in Bihar have improved access** for the state's migrant and religious tourist population
- **Cargo remains a bottleneck:** UP and Bihar have just two cargo terminals each; West Bengal has one. Jewar is slated to become a major cargo hub
- **Land acquisition and logistics infrastructure remain a challenge,** particularly in Bihar and West Bengal

Gaya, serving the Buddhist circuit with international flights to Bangkok and Yangon, and at Darbhanga. Both of these have sharply cut back travel time for the state's substantial migrant population. People from the Patna belt, a locus of large out-migration, no longer need to travel five hours to catch a flight from Patna. They use Darbhanga instead. On ordinary days, a ticket to Delhi or Ahmedabad typically costs ₹5,000. While the cost is much higher than a train's AC sleeper class (₹1,100), the travel time and the long waiting period for tickets, never less than a week, makes up for the price difference for travellers.

The challenges for the airports' growth, however, comes from making land available and ensuring cargo operations.

Old challenges persist
Andal airport has a rich hinterland, including a deep coal belt, that has created a ring of large cities in the region, all of which are chafing at the poor connectivity out of those towns. The heavily urban population has to depend mostly on rail links to connect with Kolkata in the east, or to faraway Delhi on the west. Despite its potential, old risks could stymie the project. Jindal cautioned that land issues could flare up. "We want a clean slate," he said.

West Bengal is also peppered with old military airstrips, which have been shuttered as no land was available to make them commercially viable.

Up the river, the expansion of Patna airport has also been stuck so far due to land issues. The Airports Authority of India, which operates it, has found it cannot expand the runway, which is currently just over 2 km long. Instead, it has added a parallel taxi track to offer every metre of the strip for the aircraft to land or take off. The government-run company has done better in refurbishing the terminal, almost building it afresh, and more than tripling its handling capacity from 3 million to up to 10 million passengers annually. The new-look airport was scheduled to be inaugurated in January this year, but the

timeline has been revised to April. International flights, a long-standing demand of the state's residents, are expected to resume with the new facility.

Both BAPL and Patna will need to provide space for larger cargo operations, as demand from cities for lower logistics costs in the region rises sharply. A December 2024 study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), titled "Framework for Assessment of Logistics Cost In India", notes: "Logistics cost has implications on the country's manufacturing sector, export competitiveness, and global positioning." One of those costs is that of making available land parcels easily.

Some of these obstacles are the reasons the latest annual version of the Logistics Ease Across Different States 2024 report of the commerce and industry ministry still clubs Bihar and West Bengal in the second and third rung of their groups in terms of performance on logistics. Among landlocked states, UP does well as an achiever, along with Haryana, Telangana and Uttarakhand. But it too has miles to go to open up connectivity.

For airports to become viable commercial centres, they need land for logistics operations. Both Bihar and UP have just two air cargo terminals each, while West Bengal has only one. Crisil data shows that as of July 2024, the

government had operationalised 84 airports and 579 routes under its "Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik" (roughly "May India's common citizen also fly by air") scheme to increase regional penetration. "While the impact is small at present, with air traffic in these airports contributing about 2 per cent of domestic air traffic, these regional routes will be important as they provide feeder traffic to the metro airports," Crisil said.

What about cargo hubs?
The outlook for cargo hubs is also expected to change, albeit gradually. Airports, like the one at Patna and the newly inaugurated one at Ayodhya, are meant primarily for passengers. Jewar, however, is expected to be India's largest cargo hub, as UP pushes itself as a manufacturing centre. Biltla in Bihar is also expected to focus on cargo, allowing the state to finally see its potential as a food processing giant materialise. In Budget FY26, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that a food processing institute would be set up in Bihar. The importance of Andal will also be as a cargo hub.

Expansion of the cargo business is expected to remove a critical bottleneck wherein almost 90 per cent of Indian air cargo is handled by just six airports, all of them in metros. The "Air Cargo Outlook 2025-2029" report, issued by Trade Data Services, a research resource operated by logistics consulting firm Trade and Transport group, projects Indian air cargo to hit about 6 million tonnes (MT) by the end of this decade, up from about 3.7 MT in 2025. The data, though, is based on projections of growth of e-commerce, which is not the key business driver of airports on the northern Indian plains. Cargo companies like Dubai-based Solih Air, which is planning to tap into the Indian cargo market, are focusing on Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

As the NCAER report of last year notes, "In India, logistics costs are perceived to be disproportionately high, impacting manufacturing growth and economic competitiveness."

The ring of airports along the Gangetic could begin to meaningfully change those numbers.

Tomorrow: Rapid Rail Transit System — the funding question



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

9 APRIL 2025

IndiGo staffer dies after cab crashes into stationary bus on airport road



The front portion of the cab was completely crushed.

Driver and colleague injured; probe on

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 24-year-old IndiGo customer service executive died after the office cab she was travelling in crashed into the rear of a parked bus on the international airport road in the early hours

of Monday, police said.

Sneha I, a native of Madurai, Tamil Nadu, succumbed to her injuries at a nearby hospital. The cab driver, Vinay, 28, and a fellow IndiGo employee, Kausar Khanum, 21, sustained injuries, but are said to be out of danger.

The Chikkajala traffic police said the accident occurred between 4.30 am and 4.45 am near the ITC Factory, while the cab was en route to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

Sneha and Khanum were picked up from their designated

point in Dwarka Nagar near Bagalur Main Road. Vinay was their regular cab driver, a police officer said.

“Seeing the signal turn red, Vinay reportedly took the service road and was speeding towards the airport. Vinay did not notice a private bus that was parked on the side to pick up employees of a company in Doddaballapur, leading to the crash,” the officer added.

The front portion of the cab was completely crushed.

Sneha and Vinay sustained

head injuries, while Khanum suffered minor injuries.

They were rushed to a private hospital in Hebbal via a toll ambulance. Sneha died around 7.40 am.

The police have registered a case against both the bus driver — for illegal parking on the service road — and Vinay for rash and negligent driving.

An investigation is underway, and medical reports are awaited to determine whether Vinay was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident.

Airline's statement

“We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our colleague and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones. We are distressed by the accident, and our thoughts, prayers, and support are with those affected during this incredibly difficult time,” IndiGo said in a statement.

The airline assured full cooperation with investigating authorities and support for those impacted.

जेवर से नए आगरा तक नमो भारत ट्रेन चलाने की तैयारी



प्रटर नोएडा, चरिष्ठ संवाददाता। जेवर में बन रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से नए आगरा तक नमो भारत ट्रेन चलाने की तैयारी है। इसके लिए न्यू आगरा अर्बन सेंटर के जोनल प्लान में यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के किनारे 131 किलोमीटर लंबा ट्रैक बिछाने का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया गया है।

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिकारी ने बताया कि वर्तमान में गाजियाबाद से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक नमो भारत ट्रेन चलाने की तैयारी है। 72.4 किलोमीटर लंबे ट्रैक पर 22 स्टेशन की डीपीआर तैयार हो चुकी है, जिसे आपूर्ति के बाद संशोधित कर दोबारा केंद्र सरकार को भेजा गया है। अब प्राधिकरण ने न्यू आगरा का जोनल प्लान तैयार किया है। इसमें नमो भारत के जरिए नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को न्यू आगरा अर्बन सेंटर तक जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव है। यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे 165 किलोमीटर लंबा है। इसके जीरो प्वाइंट से 34 किलोमीटर पर एयरपोर्ट

ताजमहल के आसपास का क्षेत्र प्रदूषण मुक्त होगा

ताज ट्रेपेजियम जोन (टीटीजेड) के तहत ताजमहल के आसपास के क्षेत्रफल को प्रदूषण रहित बनाया जाएगा। यहां पर कोई भी ऐसी गतिविधि नहीं होगी, जिससे ताजमहल की सुंदरता पर किसी भी प्रकार का असर पड़े। ग्रीन औद्योगिक इकाइयों को वरीयता देने पर विचार हुआ है। यहां पर सिर्फ प्रदूषण रहित इकाइयां ही स्थापित की जाएंगी।

66 न्यू आगरा अर्बन सेंटर को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से नमो भारत के जरिये जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव है। जोनल प्लान को आगामी बोर्ड बैठक में रखा जाएगा। - डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह, सीईओ, यमुना प्राधिकरण

बन रहा है। यहां से न्यू आगरा तक 131 किलोमीटर लंबा ट्रैक बिछाकर एयरपोर्ट तक सीधी कनेक्टिविटी पर विचार किया जा रहा है। यह प्रस्ताव प्राधिकरण की आगामी बोर्ड बैठक में रखा जाएगा। यहां से मंजूरी मिलने के बाद इसे जमीन पर उतारने की तैयारी शुरू होगी।

Parandur airport gets the final approval, T.N. to float bids for the project shortly

The proposed airport will be nearly 42 km from the existing airport in Meenambakkam. With three mid-field airport terminal buildings, the project is estimated to be built at a cost of ₹27,400 crore

Sunitha Sekar
Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

Chennai's second airport at Parandur has finally received the in-principle approval from the Centre, sources aware of the development told *The Hindu*.

The Tamil Nadu government will soon go ahead and float bids for this project.

On March 28, the Tamil Nadu government was informed that the Steering Committee recommended the project and sent it to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the final approval.

The Parandur project needed a two-stage approval from the Ministry of Civil Aviation—the site clearance and the in-principle approval. After the site clearance came through in August 2024, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) had sent the application in September for the grant of in-principle approval. Seven months after the applica-



Much-awaited nod: The site for the new airport at Ekanapuram. It will be built on 2,172 hectares and will have two parallel runways. FILE PHOTO

tion was examined and after quite a few queries were raised, the announcement of grant of approval came on Tuesday.

The proposed airport will be nearly 42 km from the existing Chennai airport in Meenambakkam. With three mid-field airport terminal buildings, the Parandur project is estimated to be built at a cost of ₹27,400 crore.

The phase I project cost is ₹11,445 crore and TIDCO targets to begin the construction of the project by January 2026 and finish it in about two years. The total land area identified for this project is 2,172.72 hectares and the proposed airport will be built with two parallel runways.

This airport has been planned for code 4F and future aircraft trend re-

quirements, sources said. The phase I terminal will be spread over an area of 3,51,380 sq.metres.

“Nearly 95% of the tender has been drafted, and a few things have to be finalised. After it is ready, the tenders will have to be sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation as per the procedure. Once they give a go-ahead, it can be floated,” a source said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर रनवे अपग्रेड का असर विमानों पर पड़ेगा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : अगर आप आने वाले दिनों में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने की तैयारी कर रहे हैं, तो ये खबर आपके लिए बेहद जरूरी है। देश के सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डों में शामिल इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (आईजीआई) पर इन दिनों रनवे अपग्रेड का काम जोरों पर चल रहा है। इसका सीधा असर आपकी फ्लाइट के समय पर पड़ सकता है, देरी, री-शेड्यूलिंग और यहां तक कि कैंसिलेशन भी संभव है।

इंडिगो समेत कई एयरलाइंस ने अपने यात्रियों को इस बाबत अलर्ट किया है। इंडिगो ने सोशल मीडिया पर एक पोस्ट में बताया कि, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर रनवे अपग्रेडेशन कार्य जुलाई 2025 तक चलेगा। इस दौरान आपकी फ्लाइट की टाइमिंग प्रभावित हो सकती है। कृपया एयरपोर्ट के लिए रवाना होने से पहले हमारी वेबसाइट या ऐप पर फ्लाइट का स्टेटस जरूर चेक करें।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

डबोक एयरपोर्ट: शटरिंग के दौरान श्रमिकों पर गिरे सरिए, तीन घायल

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

उदयपुर, महाराणा प्रताप एयरपोर्ट डबोक में मंगलवार देर रात निर्माणाधीन एलिवेटेड रोड की शटरिंग के दौरान सरिए गिरने से 3 श्रमिक घायल हो गए। घायलों का अस्पताल में उपचार कराया। एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों के मुताबिक उनकी हालत में सुधार होने पर सुबह उन्हें

छुट्टी दे दी गई। जानकारी के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट पर निर्माणाधीन एलिवेटेड रोड की छत भराई से पहले लोहे के सरिए और फाइव लगाए गए थे। इस दौरान अचानक लोहे के झूलते सरिए और फाइव नीचे खड़े कुछ मजदूरों पर गिर गए। इसमें 3 मजदूरों के चोटें आईं। सूचना पर एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के कर्मचारी मौके पर पहुंचे। घायलों को तुरंत हॉस्पिटल ले जाया गया।

Airport Theory: What is the 'risky' trend taking over social media

Pics: iStock



Google Trends shows a surge in searches for 'airport theory TikTok' and 'what is airport theory' since March this year

While a few travellers have recently posted videos of themselves testing the 'airport theory' on social media, some netizens have reacted

Anagha Sawant

A new social media trend is taking off, thrilling some travellers while worrying others. The trend – the 'airport theory' challenge – dares travellers to arrive at the airport with barely enough time to spare before their flight's gate closes.

X user Betsy Grunch recently shared a video testing the airport theory by arriving just 30 minutes before boarding. She clarified it wasn't intentional but took the chance to try the viral concept. Luckily, she made it to the gate on time. According to news reports, travellers are deliberately arriving just 15-30 minutes before gate closure, turning a routine airport visit into a high-stakes race.

Risks involved

- High chance of missing your flight
- No buffer time for unexpected delays
- Long security queues or baggage checks could ruin your plans



Pro Sleepist @cryshots

That TikTok airport theory trend is so stupid. I'd rather loiter at the airport lounge than get to the airport for boarding time



Lolo @lolosmith98

I will literally never play with Airport theory again. I have trauma.

How it works

Travellers who follow the 'airport theory' rush through terminals, quickly passing security in a frantic attempt to catch their flight. It suggests that by minimising luggage, checking in online, and using fast-track lanes, you can be through the airport in just 15 minutes. On TikTok, influencers like Michael DiCostanzo have shared videos of their last-minute dashes through major hubs like LAX and Atlanta International Airport – making the impossible look almost doable.

Why travellers follow this trend

- To skip the wait and head straight to boarding
- Less time at the airport means fewer temptations to splurge on
- To avoid crowds in congested terminals
- The excitement of making it just in time adds an adventurous twist to travel

Experts warn

Jay Bhatia, vice president of the Travel Agents Association of India, cautions travellers about the financial risks. He says, "Being marked as a no-show could result in losing your entire itinerary, and rebooking may incur hefty penalties. To avoid such costs, travellers should follow practical travel habits—arriving at least two hours before domestic flights and three hours before international departures." "The trend adds pressure on airport staff, causing chaos during peak travel. Unforeseen delays like security checks or traffic worsen the risks," says Jyoti Mayal, chairperson of the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council. "Statistics show monthly 3-5% of passengers miss their flights, impacting airlines and airports with disruptions, dissatisfied customers, and logistical challenges," she adds.

While it aims to cut waiting times, air travel's unpredictability makes it impractical and stressful

– Jyoti Mayal, chairperson of the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council

IGI May See Flight Delays As One Runway Is Closed

Instrument Landing System Upgrade To Take Four Months

Saurabh.Sinha
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New Delhi: Passengers flying in and out of the Delhi airport may witness flight delays over the next four months as the airport's main runway (28/10) has been shut down for instrument landing system upgrade (ILS) on one end. This has been done to cater to CAT III operations in the coming winter season in order to enhance handling capacity.

Flight delays will be more when wind direction (easterlies) leads to aircraft landing from Dwarka side and taking off towards Vasant Vihar — instead of the other way round when westerlies are blowing.

Runway 28/10 was closed on Tuesday (April 8). Now when easterlies blow as has been the case since Tuesday, departures can happen from two runways (09 and 11 left or 11L) and arrival only on one (11 right or 11R) because of the orientation of the runways.

“On the other hand when



The work is under way to cater to CAT III operations in the coming winter season in order to enhance handling capacity at the airport

westerlies blow — which is the case mostly — runway 27 can be used in mixed mode to handle both arrivals and departures while runway 29L and 29R are used for only arrivals and departures, respectively,” said people in the know, adding, “Easterly winds are a temporary phenomenon in this time of the year, likely to change as per Met department in a day or two.”

A flight getting delayed

at the airport will mean consequential delays on all the other sectors that particular aircraft has to operate that day. And being India's busiest airport, the number could be significant.

Airlines have accordingly started warning passengers. “Runway upgradation work is currently underway at IGIA and is expected to continue until July. During this period, flight schedules

may get impacted and we advise all customers to closely monitor their flight status on our website or app before heading to the airport,” IndiGo said on X on Wednesday.

The Delhi airport operator said on X that it “is currently undergoing essential runway upgrades, reflecting our long term commitment to enhancing airport infrastructure and improving travel experiences. We are working closely with all stakeholders to minimise any potential impact on flight operations. Passengers are advised to check with their respective airlines for latest flight updates. We regret any inconvenience caused and thank you for your understanding and support.”

Runway 28/10 is expected to remain closed till July-end. “The end of runway 28 on Dwarka side did not have CAT III B. The ILS is being upgraded and then both ends of runway 28 will allow landings during low visibility,” Delhi International Airport Ltd CEO Videh Kumar Jai-puriar had said this in Feb.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

AI passenger pees on fellow traveller on Bangkok flight

New Delhi/ Mumbai, April 9: An Air India passenger allegedly urinated on a fellow passenger during a flight from the national capital to Bangkok on Wednesday, according to sources. As an interim measure, the sources said Air India has put the male passenger in the no-fly list for one month.

In a statement, the Tata Group-owned airline said an incident of "unruly passenger behaviour" was reported to the cabin crew operating flight AI2336 from Delhi to Bangkok on Wednesday.

"The crew followed all laid down procedures, and the matter has been reported to the authorities. In addition to warning the unruly passenger, our crew offered to assist an aggrieved passenger to take up a grievance with authorities in Bangkok, which was declined at the time," Air India said.

However, the airline did not elaborate on the unruly passenger behaviour.

The sources said the passenger allegedly urinated on a co-passenger, reportedly a senior executive at a multinational company, and both the passengers were travelling in the business class. The airline has reported the matter to the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA), they added.

When asked about the incident, civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said the ministry will take note of the incident and speak to the airline.

"If there is any wrongdoing, we will take necessary action," Mr Naidu said on the sidelines of an event in the national capital.

According to Air India, the standing independent committee will be convened to assess the incident and determine the action, if any, to be taken against the unruly passenger.

"Air India continues to follow the SOPs as laid out by DGCA in such matters," the statement said. — PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

विमान में यात्री पर किया पेशाब, मंत्री बोले- होगी कार्रवाई



नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली से बैंकॉक जा रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान (एआई 2336) के बिजनेस क्लास में बुधवार को एक यात्री ने निजी कंपनी के बड़े अधिकारी पर पेशाब कर दिया। एअर इंडिया ने घटना की पुष्टि की है।

पीड़ित ने हालांकि शिकायत दर्ज नहीं कराई। घटना तब हुई, जब विमान बैंकॉक में उतरने वाला था। मामला तूल पकड़ने पर आरोपी ने पीड़ित से माफी मांग ली। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि इस मामले में एयरलाइन से बात की जाएगी और आरोपी के खिलाफ आवश्यक कार्रवाई होगी। बता दें कि विमान में यात्री पर पेशाब करने का यह पहला मामला नहीं है। इससे पहले नवंबर, 2022 में एअर इंडिया की न्यूयॉर्क-दिल्ली उड़ान में शंकर मिश्रा नामक यात्री ने महिला यात्री पर पेशाब कर दिया था। ब्यूरो

कुछ वक्त के लिए डेल्टा से आगे निकली इंडिगो

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 9 अप्रैल

देश की सबसे बड़ी विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने आज वैश्विक स्तर के दबदबे को झटका दिया। इसने कुछ समय के लिए अमेरिका की डेल्टा एयर लाइंस को पीछे छोड़ दिया और बाजार पूंजीकरण के लिहाज से दुनिया की सबसे मूल्यवान एयरलाइन बन गई। ब्लूमबर्ग के आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी मिली है।

दिन के कारोबार के दौरान इंडिगो के

बाजार पूंजीकरण के लिहाज से डेल्टा को पिछाड़ा

शेयर की कीमत मजबूती के साथ बढ़ते 5,265 रुपये के शीर्ष स्तर तक पहुंच गई। दोपहर करीब 2.30 बजे विमानन कंपनी ने 23.24 अरब डॉलर के बाजार पूंजीकरण के साथ वैश्विक स्तर पर शीर्ष स्थान हासिल कर लिया और डेल्टा के 23.18 अरब डॉलर के बाजार पूंजीकरण को कुछ पीछे छोड़कर आगे निकल गया।

यह बढ़त कुछ समय तक ही रही और बाजार बंद होने तक इंडिगो का मूल्यांकन 23.16 अरब डॉलर तक लुढ़क गया, जो डेल्टा से बस एक पायदान नीचे था। जैसा कि आंकड़ों से पता चलता है। बाजार पूंजीकरण के लिहाज से इंडिगो दुनिया की दूसरी सबसे मूल्यवान विमानन कंपनी है।

यह किसी ऐसी विमानन कंपनी के लिए बड़ी उपलब्धि है, जिसने अगस्त 2006 में ही वाणिज्यिक परिचालन शुरू किया था। डेल्टा साल 1929 से उड़ान भर रही है। केवल छह साल पहले डेल्टा का

बाजार मूल्य 36.67 अरब डॉलर था, जबकि इंडिगो का 7.72 अरब डॉलर था।

विमानन क्षेत्र का विश्लेषण करने वाली कंपनी सिरियम के अनुसार इंडिगो प्रति सप्ताह 15,768 उड़ानें संचालित करती है, जो पिछले साल अप्रैल की तुलना में 12.7 प्रतिशत अधिक है। डेल्टा प्रति सप्ताह 35,144 उड़ानें संचालित करती है, जो पिछले साल इसी महीने की तुलना में 6.6 प्रतिशत अधिक है। साल 2024 के आखिर तक इंडिगो के पास 437 विमानों का बेड़ा था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

Man pees on co-passenger on Delhi-Bangkok A-I flight

A passenger travelling in the business class of an Air India flight from Delhi to Bangkok on Wednesday allegedly urinated on a senior corporate executive, aviation industry sources said.

This is the third such incident on-board a flight since 2022.

The senior executive, sources said, works for a leading multinational corporation in the automobile sector. Air India confirmed the incident in a statement but did not disclose the identities of either the accused or the victim. The airline's spokesperson said, "Air India confirms that an incident of unruly passenger behaviour was reported to the cabin crew

operating flight AI2336, from Delhi to Bangkok, on 9 April 2025. The crew followed all laid down procedures, and the matter has been reported to the authorities."

"In addition to warning the unruly passenger, our crew offered to assist an aggrieved passenger to take up a grievance with authorities in Bangkok, which was declined at the time. The standing Independent Committee will be convened to assess the incident and determine the action, if any, to be taken against the unruly passenger. Air India continues to follow the SOPs as laid out by DGCA in such matters," the spokesperson added.

BS REPORTER

IndiGo beats Delta to briefly become world's most valuable airline

Nudges past Delta's \$23.18 bn with mcap of \$23.24 bn

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 9 April

IndiGo, India's largest airline, flirted with global supremacy on Wednesday as it briefly overtook US-based Delta Air Lines to become the world's most valuable airline by market capitalisation, according to *Bloomberg* data.

Riding high on a rally, IndiGo's share price soared to a peak of ₹5,265 during the day. At around 2.30 pm, the airline claimed the top global spot with a market capitalisation of \$23.24 billion — nudging past Delta's \$23.18 billion. The lead was short-lived and by market close IndiGo's valuation slipped to \$23.16 billion, just a notch below Delta's, the data showed. IndiGo is the world's second most valuable airline by market capitalisation.

It's a notable achievement for an airline that started commercial operations only in August 2006. Delta has been flying since 1929.

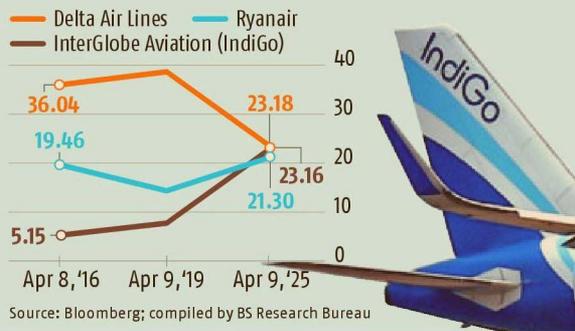
Just six years ago, Delta's market value was \$36.67 billion, while IndiGo's was \$7.72 billion. IndiGo operates 15,768 flights per week — up 12.7 per cent compared to April last year, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium.

Delta operates 35,144 flights weekly, 6.6 per cent higher than the corresponding month last year.

As of the end of 2024, IndiGo had a fleet of 437 aircraft. With massive orders placed with Airbus, the airline has locked in deliveries

FLYING HIGH

Top 3 global airlines by market cap (\$ bn)



through 2035. It is scheduled to receive 925 new aircraft from the European plane manufacturer over the next decade. To meet the growing demand in the country's air travel market, Indian carriers have placed multiple aircraft orders since 2023. In February 2023, Tata-run Air India group placed an order for 470 planes: 250 with Airbus, and 220 with Boeing. In June 2023, IndiGo made the world's largest aircraft order by signing a deal for 500 narrow body A320neo family planes from Airbus.

In January 2024, new airline Akasa Air placed an order for 150 B737 Max aircraft with Boeing. Three months later, IndiGo placed its first-ever order for wide-body aircraft, securing 30 A350 planes from Airbus, marking a significant step towards expanding its international operations and network. In October 2024, Air India placed an order for 85

more planes with Airbus.

Air India group and IndiGo hold more than 90 per cent of the domestic passenger market right now.

India is expected to become the centre of world aviation in 15 years due to capacity and professionally run airlines, said Edward Delahaye, head of customer accounts for India and South Asia at Airbus, in February 2024.

India has about 800 commercial aircraft in its skies and the majority of them are from European plane-maker Airbus. "If you add domestic traffic growth, the GDP [gross domestic product] growth in the country, recapturing a lot of international traffic from other international airports, and establishing India as a connecting place in the world, I think the prospects of Indian aviation are very bright, well beyond what we are seeing today," Delahaye said

इंडिगो के शेयर ने छुआ नया आसमान

दीपक कोरगांवकर और
राम प्रसाद साहू
मुंबई, 8 अप्रैल

इंडिगो एयरलाइन का परिचालन करने वाली इंटरग्लोब एविएशन का शेयर मजबूत आउटलुक की वजह से मंगलवार को दिन के कारोबार में बीएसई पर 4 फीसदी चढ़कर 5,199.50 रुपये के सर्वाधिक ऊंचे स्तर पर पहुंच गया। आखिर में यह 3.4 फीसदी की तेजी के साथ 5,157 पर बंद हुआ।

पिछले एक महीने में देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन कंपनी का शेयर करीब 12 प्रतिशत चढ़ा है। जनवरी से मार्च तिमाही में मजबूत यात्री वृद्धि परिदृश्य की उम्मीद और कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में गिरावट की वजह से इस शेयर में तेजी आई है।

आईसीआईसीआई सिक्वोरिटीज में विश्लेषक अंशुमन देब का मानना है कि इंटरग्लोब एविएशन (इंडिगो) को उम्मीद से बेहतर किराए, कच्चे तेल, पैसेंजर लोड फैक्टर के समावेश से फायदा होगा और वह वित्त वर्ष 2025 की चौथी तिमाही में 2,300 करोड़ रुपये का मजबूत शुद्ध लाभ दर्ज करेगी। इससे वित्त वर्ष 2025 के लिए विदेशी मुद्रा को छोड़कर कर पूर्व लाभ को बढ़ाकर 8,600 करोड़ रुपये करने में मदद मिलेगी।

ब्रोकरेज ने लागत प्रतिस्पर्धी क्षमता, मजबूत ऑर्डर बुक और बैलेंस शीट में सुधार के साथ इंडिगो पर सकारात्मक रुख अपनाया है। एमके रिसर्च ने चौथी तिमाही के पूर्वानुमान में भरोसा जताया है कि इंडिगो मजबूत वित्तीय नतीजे दर्ज करेगी और तिमाही में उसके वित्तीय परिणामों पर विदेशी मुद्रा का प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा। ब्रोकरेज को उम्मीद है कि लोड फैक्टर सालाना आधार पर 70 आधार अंक तक बढ़कर 87 प्रतिशत हो जाएगा



विमानन कंपनी का दमदार रहा प्रदर्शन

■ पिछले एक महीने में, देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन कंपनी का शेयर करीब 12 प्रतिशत चढ़ा है

■ कंपनी प्रबंधन का मानना है कि मौजूदा दमदार मांग वृद्धि आगामी तिमाहियों में भी बनी रहेगी

और क्षमता/राजस्व (एसके और आरपीके) में पिछले साल की तिमाही के मुकाबले 20 और 21 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होगी। ब्रोकरेज फर्म के सबरी हजारीका और आर्य पटेल का कहना है कि रुपया अमेरिकी डॉलर के मुकाबले थोड़ा मजबूत होकर बंद हुआ जिसका मतलब है कि विदेशी मुद्रा में कोई नुकसान नहीं हुआ और इंडिगो को मामूली लाभ हुआ।

वित्त वर्ष 2025 की तीसरी तिमाही में रुपये में गिरावट की वजह से अधिक विदेशी मौद्रिक नुकसान, ऊंचे पट्टा खर्च, विमानों के परिचालन

से बाहर रहने और हवाई अड्डा शुल्क आदि के कारण एंबिटा सपाट रहा।

हालांकि तीसरी तिमाही में राजस्व सालाना 14 फीसदी के साथ अनुमान से बेहतर रहा क्योंकि इसे यात्रियों की संख्या में सालाना 13 फीसदी की वृद्धि से मदद मिली। कंपनी ने कई नए रिकॉर्ड बनाए। उसने रोजाना 2,200 दैनिक उड़ानें संचालित कीं और तिमाही के दौरान 3.11 करोड़ यात्रियों को सेवा मुहैया कराई।

कंपनी प्रबंधन का मानना है कि यह दमदार मांग वृद्धि आगामी तिमाहियों में भी बनी रहेगी। कार्गो परिचालन के विस्तार से भी सहायक राजस्व को मदद मिलने की उम्मीद है। प्रबंधन ने मजबूत मांग परिदृश्य और इंडिगो द्वारा चौथी तिमाही में एसके (प्रति किलोमीटर उपलब्ध सीट) में सालाना आधार पर 20 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि के साथ क्षेत्र के अनुमानों को पीछे छोड़ने की बात कही है।

घरेलू बाजार के अलावा, अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में विस्तार और प्रीमियमिजेशन अतिरिक्त सकारात्मक बदलाव हैं। कोटक रिसर्च ने पिछले महीने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा था कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय लंबी दूरी का बाजार इंडिगो के लिए बड़ा और कम पैट वाला बाजार है और समय के साथ इसमें बड़ा लाभ हो सकता है। ब्रोकरेज के आदित्य मोंगिया के नेतृत्व में विश्लेषकों का मानना है कि एयरलाइन कई मामलों में बढ़त बनाए हुए है जिनमें कोडशेयर के माध्यम से प्राप्त अनुभव, नैरो-बॉडी विमानों के अलावा अन्य विमान और पूल वॉल्यूम के लिए घरेलू नेटवर्क की ताकत शामिल है।

ब्रोकरेज ने लंबी दूरी की अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रा से आने वाली वित्त वर्ष 2027 की आय में 10 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि (पहले 5 प्रतिशत की तुलना में) को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपने मूल्यांकन को 21 गुना से बढ़ाकर 22 गुना कर दिया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

दुनिया की सबसे मूल्यवान एयरलाइन बनी इंडिगो



मुंबई | इंडिगो बुधवार को कुछ समय के लिए दुनिया की सबसे मूल्यवान एयरलाइन बन गई। इसका मार्केट कैप अमेरिकी कंपनी डेल्टा एयरलाइंस से ऊपर निकलकर 2.01 लाख करोड़ रु. तक पहुंच गया। जबकि डेल्टा का 2.01 लाख करोड़ था। हालांकि शाम तक इंडिगो की वैल्यू घटकर 2 लाख करोड़ रुपए रह गई।

TheDailyGuardian

epaper.thedailyguardian.com
10 Apr 2025 - Page 7

Airbus-Mahindra to build H130 fuselages

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Airbus and Mahindra Aerostructures on Wednesday signed a contract for manufacturing H130 helicopter fuselage, according to a statement from the Civil Aviation Ministry.

Minister for Civil Aviation, Ram Mohan Naidu, chaired the signing ceremony, the ministry said.

This manufacturing contract marks a pivotal moment in India's aviation journey, further strengthening the global confidence in the country's industrial potential, the ministry said.

The ministry added that the partnership between Mahindra Aerostructures and Airbus underscores India's progress in the aviation sector and the government's steadfast commitment to the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Highlighting India's rapid aviation growth, the Minister shared that India is set to become one of the world's largest civil aviation markets, with over 2,200 aircraft expected to join the fleet in the next 20 years.

By 2030, India will handle



630 million passengers annually, growing at a CAGR of 6-8 per cent.

Over the next 10-15 years, the domestic aerospace manufacturing market can grow to a USD 10 billion industry, encompassing structural components, avionics systems, and more, he said.

The Minister also acknowledged the exemplary contribution of Indian MSMEs and startups, which supply over USD 2 billion worth of aircraft components annually to global OEMs like Airbus and Boeing.

The event builds on the momentum from a February 2025 meeting chaired by the minister, focusing on accelerating aircraft component manufacturing in India. Attended by senior officials, industry leaders, and experts, the meeting aimed

to chart a unified roadmap for bolstering domestic production and enhancing global competitiveness.

Secretary, MoCA, Vumlunmang Vualnam in his address emphasized how the H130 fuselage contract will not only bring cutting-edge technologies and jobs to India but also catalyze the development of domestic MRO capabilities and a robust manufacturing base. The two Final Assembly Lines in India; one for the C295 military aircraft, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez, and the upcoming H125 helicopter assembly line stand as beacons of India's thriving aerospace ecosystem and its strategic partnership with global players like Airbus, the ministry added.

The Daily Guardian

epaper.thedailyguardian.com
09 Apr 2025 - Page 2

HARYANA GEARS UP FOR PM MODI VISIT ON APRIL 14

PM to inaugurate state's first commercial airport in Hisar and lay foundation stone of 800-MW thermal power unit in Yamunanagar

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

Haryana gears up for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state on April 14, a day that promises to fuse infrastructure milestones, religious symbolism, and political outreach. Timed strategically with Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti, Modi's visit—the second since the BJP's sweeping victory in the October 2024 Assembly polls and recently concluded municipal elections—carries profound significance for both Haryana and the ruling party.

During the day long visit the Prime Minister will inaugurate the state's first commercial airport in Hisar and lay the foundation stone for an 800-megawatt thermal power unit in Yamunanagar markings dual thrust toward development and socio-political consolidation. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, addressing

VISIT BIG GIFT TO HARYANA'S PEOPLE: CM SAINI

- Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, addressing the media after reviewing preparations, hailed the visit as a "big gift" to Haryana's people.
- "Through these development works, the Prime Minister will connect 'Viksit Haryana' with 'Viksit Bharat'," Saini said
- In Hisar, Modi will flag off the maiden flight to Ayodhya from the newly opened Maharaja Agrasen Airport,



ending decades of waiting for domestic air connectivity in western Haryana.

the media after reviewing preparations, hailed the visit as a "big gift" to Haryana's people.

"Through these development works, the Prime Minister will connect 'Viksit Haryana' with 'Viksit Bharat'," Saini said emphasizing the transformative potential of the projects. In Hisar, Modi will flag off the maiden flight to Ayodhya from the newly opened Maharaja Agrasen Airport, ending decades of waiting for domestic air connectiv-

ity in western Haryana.

The choice of Ayodhya as the first destination adds a layer of religious resonance, aligning with the BJP's broader ideological narrative. Meanwhile, the Yamunanagar event will see Modi lay the foundation for an 800-megawatt unit at the Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant, a Rs 7272 crore project spearheaded by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). Agriculture Minister Rana described it as a

"milestone in Haryana's development," project completion by 2028. This addition will boost the state's power capacity from 2,582 MW to 3382 MW, addressing the growing energy demands of an industrializing region. PM Modi's visit underscores the BJP's broader vision of developed India, with Haryana as a key pillar. "These gifts of development will benefit not just Haryana but the entire country," Saini asserted, echoing the party's "Viksit Bharat" pledge. The

BJP's decision to schedule the visit on April 14—Dr. BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary—is no mere coincidence. It's a calculated move to strengthen ties with the Scheduled Caste (SC) community, a key demographic that raised concerns over alleged constitutional overreach during the 2024 elections. BJP state president Mohan Lal Badoli called it "a matter of great pride for Haryana," noting, "Modi ji keeps Haryana so close to his heart." The visit, following the party's "triple-engine government" success—control at the Centre, state, and local levels—serves as both a thank-you to voters and a reassurance to SC constituents.

The Hisar airport will serve residents of Hisar, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Rohtak, Jind, Bhiwani, and Charkhi Dadri, slashing travel times to Delhi and beyond, while the Yamunanagar power unit promises economic growth and job creation.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

वैकाक जा रहे एअर इंडिया के विमान में यात्री ने सहयात्री पर की पेशाब

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: एअर इंडिया के एक यात्री ने नई दिल्ली से वैकाक जा रही एक उड़ान में एक सहयात्री पर पेशाब कर दी। एअर इंडिया ने यात्री के इस गलत व्यवहार की सूचना नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय को दे दी है। केंद्रीय उड्डयन मंत्री ने मामले पर संज्ञान लिया है। दोनों यात्री बिजनेस क्लास में यात्रा कर रहे थे। पीड़ित सहयात्री एक बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी में चरिष्ठ कार्यकारी अधिकारी है। हालांकि, एअर इंडिया ने आरोपित यात्री को एक महीने के लिए नो-फ्लाई सूची में डाल दिया है।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने कहा, मंत्रालय इस घटना का संज्ञान लिया है और एयरलाइन से बात करेगा। यदि कोई गड़बड़ी हुई है तो कार्रवाई करेंगे। एअर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि एयरलाइन इस बात की पुष्टि करता है कि बुधवार को दिल्ली से वैकाक जाने वाली उड़ान एआइ 2336 का संचालन करने वाले केबिन क्रू को इस घटना की सूचना दी गई थी। उसके चालक दल ने पीड़ित यात्री

- नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री ने कहा, गड़बड़ी हुई है तो कार्रवाई करेंगे
- एअर इंडिया ने कहा, प्रक्रिया के तहत अधिकारियों को सूचना दी

को वैकाक में अधिकारियों के समक्ष शिकायत उठाने में सहायता की पेशकश की, हालांकि उसने शिकायत नहीं की। प्रवक्ता ने कहा, घटना का आकलन करने और आरोपित यात्री के खिलाफ कार्रवाई तय करने के लिए स्थायी स्वतंत्र समिति बुलाई जाएगी।

एअर इंडिया की उड़ान में यात्री द्वारा पेशाब का यह पहला मामला नहीं: बता दें कि इससे पहले नवंबर 2022 में भी ऐसा ही एक मामला सामने आया था। जब एअर इंडिया की न्यूयार्क से दिल्ली जाने वाली फ्लाइट में शंकर मिश्रा नामक यात्री ने एक महिला यात्री पर पेशाब कर दिया था। उस वक्त आरोपित ने यात्रा में चार बार शराब पी थी। इसके बाद आरोपित को बेंगलुरु से गिरफ्तार किया गया था और कोर्ट ने उसे न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया था।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

■ AAIB Sets up Flight Recorders Laboratory



NEW DELHI Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has set up a flight recorders laboratory

that will help it in carrying out more effective probes into accidents. Civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu inaugurated the laboratory in the AAIB premises in the national capital on Wednesday. Aircraft have Flight Data Recorders (FDRs) and Cockpit Voice Recorders (CVRs). They provide thorough data about the planes concerned and are very helpful during accident investigations. AAIB director general GVG Yugandhar said it not only does the investigation but also prevents accidents. FDRs and CVRs are very important for investigations, he added.

AI Passenger Urinates on Co-Flyer on Delhi-Bangkok Flight

PTI

New Delhi | Mumbai: An Air India passenger allegedly urinated on a fellow passenger during a flight from Delhi to Bangkok on Wednesday, according to sources.

As an interim measure, the sources said Air India has put the male passenger who allegedly urinated on the fellow passenger in the no-fly list for one month.

In a statement, the Tata Group-owned airline said an incident of “unruly passenger behaviour” was reported to the cabin crew operating flight AI2336 from Delhi to Bangkok on Wednesday.

“The crew followed all laid down procedures, and the matter has been reported to the authorities. In addition to warning the unruly passenger, our crew offered to assist the aggrieved passenger to take up grievance with authorities in Bangkok, which was declined at the time,” Air India said.

However, the airline did not elaborate on the unruly passenger behaviour.

The sources said the passenger allegedly urinated on a co-passenger, reportedly a senior executive at a multinational company, in the business class section of the flight. The airline has reported the matter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), they added.

When asked about the incident, civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said the ministry will take note of the incident and speak to the airline.

“If there is any wrongdoing, we will take necessary action,” Naidu said on the sidelines of an event in the national capital.

According to Air India, an independent committee will be convened to assess the incident and determine the action, if any, to be taken against the unruly passenger.

“Air India continues to follow the SOPs as laid out by DGCA in such matters,” the statement said.

DGCA norms are in place to tackle on-board disruptive and unruly behaviour by passengers. These include setting up an internal committee by the airline concerned to decide on the action to be taken against the unruly passenger.

The airline has reported the matter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

IndiGo Soars Above Delta to Briefly be World's Most Valuable Airline by Mcap

Market value hits a record high of \$23.45 b, crossing Delta Air Lines' mcap of \$23.18 b

Kairavi Lukka

Mumbai: InterGlobe Aviation, parent of IndiGo, became the world's most valuable listed airline in Wednesday's trading, albeit briefly, pipping American airline giant Delta Air Lines — the world's largest by revenue.

The company's market value hit a record high of \$23.45 billion on Wednesday, crossing Delta's market cap of \$23.18 billion of Tuesday. At close, InterGlobe's market cap was \$23.1 billion.

The stock rose to a record high of ₹5,265 before ending 0.7% higher at ₹5,194.9 on Wednesday.

The market value of both the airlines is neck and neck. Delta Air's revenues are nearly eight times that of InterGlobe. The recent strength in InterGlobe shares and the decline in Delta Air shares led to the gap in the market cap narrowing. InterGlobe shares have risen 13% so far in 2025, while Delta Air is down 35% in the period.

Analysts say the company has been a favourite even in a declining market because of its dominant market share and falling oil prices.

"IndiGo remains a structural story, which is a play on Indian macros, like the rising middle class population, and changes in transportation preferences from railways to aircrafts," said Sabri Hazarika, senior research analyst-institutional research, Emkay Global.

New Highs

Airline	M-Cap*	Revenue from Biz - Total**	Net Income after Tax**
Delta Air Lines	23,177	61,643	3,457
InterGlobe Aviation	23,156	8,326	987
Ryanair Holdings	20,537	14,581	2,079
United Airlines Holdings	18,380	57,063	3,149
Air China	15,277	23,170	-341
Southwest Airlines	14,204	27,483	465
International Consolidated	13,964	34,726	2,956
Singapore Airlines	13,317	14,142	1,950

*InterGlobe Mcap based on Wed closing; rest based on Tuesday closing. **Based on FY24

SOURCE: EIKON / Compiled by: ETIG Database

ANALYSTS SAY

Valuations may only re-rate as long as there is no slowdown in the business. Some peg price target at ₹6,000-6,140

IndiGo has the highest share in the Indian market, at about 64% in February, as per a DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) report. IndiGo has also benefited because of the troubles at SpiceJet.

Hazarika sees a 15-16% earnings on a compounded basis and its valuations may only re-rate from these levels as long as there is no slowdown in the business. His price target of ₹6,000 implies an upside of 15.5% from current levels.

Dharan Shah, founder of Tradonomy Research, said the company's current market capitalisation is at about 2.5 times its sales, which is not overvalued compared with other domestic businesses in the same sector in India.

"So even a 50% increase in airline traffic over the next 5 years could rapidly elevate profitability," he said. "The overhang from the promoter selling is also done with, and we are now very bullish on IndiGo, with a price target of ₹6,140."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

XLR deliveries expected this year, says IndiGo CEO Pieter

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO
Mumbai, April 9

INDIGO IS EXPECTED to receive delivery of the Airbus A321-XLR aircraft in the current financial year, said chief executive officer (CEO) Pieter Elbers on Wednesday. IndiGo has more than 60 orders of the A321-XLR from Airbus. The aircraft will enable flying on longer routes from India to destinations located in Europe and central Asia, something the airline

was constrained in doing at the moment. "We are discussing with Airbus the exact date and timing of the delivery of XLRs. We are positive that we will get them in this financial year. For us to have the XLR is an exciting moment. We are flying from Mumbai to Nairobi, but we cannot fly from Delhi to Nairobi in terms of operational capabilities. We can fly from Delhi to Nairobi with the XLR, which will open up a whole range of network opportunities," Elbers said.

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

IndiGo overtakes Delta, briefly

INDIGO BRIEFLY

BECAME the world's most valuable airline on Wednesday, surpassing Delta with a market cap of \$23.24 billion as its shares touched 5,265. By market close, its valuation dipped to \$23.16 billion, just below Delta's. IndiGo now ranks second globally by market cap—a remarkable feat for an airline that began in August 2006. Just six years ago, Delta was worth \$36.67 billion, while IndiGo stood at \$7.72 billion.



Top global listed airlines by market cap (in \$ billion)

Delta Air Lines	23.18
InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo)	23.15
Ryanair Holdings	21.41
United Airlines Holdings	18.46
Air China	15.27
International Consolidated Airline	13.98
Southwest Airlines	14.20
Singapore Airlines	13.23
China Southern Airlines	12.42
Turk Hava Yollari AO	11.21

Source: Bloomberg

Airbus to buy \$2 bn of parts from India each year by 2030

MIHIR MISHRA
April 9

AIRBUS PLANS TO bolster its sourcing from India to \$2 billion a year by 2030 — a jump of almost 43% from the current levels — as it eyes growing sales in the South Asian nation's booming aviation market.

"We have a target," Remi Maillard, president and managing director of Airbus in India and South Asia, told reporters in New Delhi, adding that this quantum of sourcing will be achieved "well before 2030."

The Toulouse, France-based firm sourced \$1.4 billion of products from India in 2024, an increase of 40% from the previous year, Maillard said. That compares with \$500 million worth of procurement from India in 2019, he said.

The decision to boost sourcing reflects India's growing importance, with its domestic aviation market ranked the world's third largest. Airbus in 2022 estimated India will need 2,210 new aircraft over the next 20 years. Indian carriers have a pending order book of about 1,800 aircraft — one of the world's largest order pipelines — with Airbus and rival Boeing.

The growth in sourcing from India is unprecedented despite the numerous approvals and procedures that are required, he said.

SCALING HIGH



- India's aviation market is now the 3rd largest globally
- \$1.4 bn sourced in 2024 — up 40% from 2023
- Airbus partners with Mahindra Aerostructures for H130 fuselage
- Deliveries from Mahindra to begin March 2027

Airbus is one of the biggest suppliers to IndiGo and Air India, two of the country's largest carriers.

Maillard, who was speaking at an event to announce a partnership with Mahindra Aerostructures, said the Indian company will manufacture fuselage for its single engine H130 helicopters.

Mahindra Aerostructures will start deliveries to Airbus from March 2027, the Indian company said in a statement.

—BLOOMBERG





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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

NBFCs to benefit from gold loan norms

NARAYANAN V
Chennai, April 9

THE RESERVE BANK of India's (RBI) draft guidelines to harmonise gold loan regulations across lender categories will help gold loan NBFCs gain a level playing field with banks, which currently benefit from cheaper funds, higher loan-to-value ratios, and lower disclosure requirements, say industry insiders.

According to the draft, norms for lending against gold must be part of lenders' credit and risk management policies, including single-borrower and sectoral limits for gold loan portfolios. All loans must be linked to the borrower's repayment capacity, supported by proper credit appraisal and due diligence. Lenders are also required to put systems in place to monitor end-use of loans and main-

tain records.

"The RBI's decision to harmonise gold loan rules and regulations will be beneficial for all stakeholders, especially gold loan NBFCs," said VP Nandakumar, MD and CEO of Manappuram Finance.

"NBFCs have always been at a disadvantage compared to banks, as the latter have access to cheaper funds, are eligible to offer gold-based agricultural loans, enjoy higher loan-to-value ratios, and benefit from favourable renewal policies. This scenario will change following the central bank's latest decision," he added.

The draft comes at a time when gold loans are rising sharply amid tightening credit in the unsecured and microfinance segments, and a rally in gold prices. Outstanding gold loans by banks and NBFCs jumped 77% year-on-year to ₹1.78 lakh

crore as of January 2025.

KG Anil Kumar, chairman and managing director of Kerala-based ICL Fincorp, said the draft is essentially a consolidation of existing RBI gold loan guidelines. He noted that while NBFCs were earlier orally instructed to publish gold auction notices in newspapers the requirement is now formalised. "From 75% LTV ratio to transparent gold loan auctioning, all the guidelines are already followed by NBFCs, now even banks need to follow them."

Shares of Muthoot Finance fell 12% after the governor announced that draft guidelines would be issued. Manappuram Finance and IIFL Finance were also down 3-8% during the day. However, the stocks pared losses after the governor clarified that the move was not a tightening, but a rationalisation.

Will aviation disputes be easier to resolve?

What does the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 entail? What is the Cape Town Convention and Protocol? Will the Bill make it easier for lessors to repossess aircraft? What has been the response from the leasing industry?

EXPLAINER

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

Parliament last week passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025. The proposed legislation establishes a legal framework to resolve disputes between airlines and lessors over high-value aviation assets, such as aircraft, helicopters, and engines. The legislation aims to align India's aviation laws with international standards, in order to boost investor confidence amid rapid fleet expansion by IndiGo and Air India. Once enacted, the law will streamline processes, allowing lessors to repossess aircraft for unpaid dues, avoiding lengthy court proceedings like those seen with GoFirst's 2023 shutdown. However, the industry remains worried over the lack of ease of doing business as well as complicated tax laws in the country.

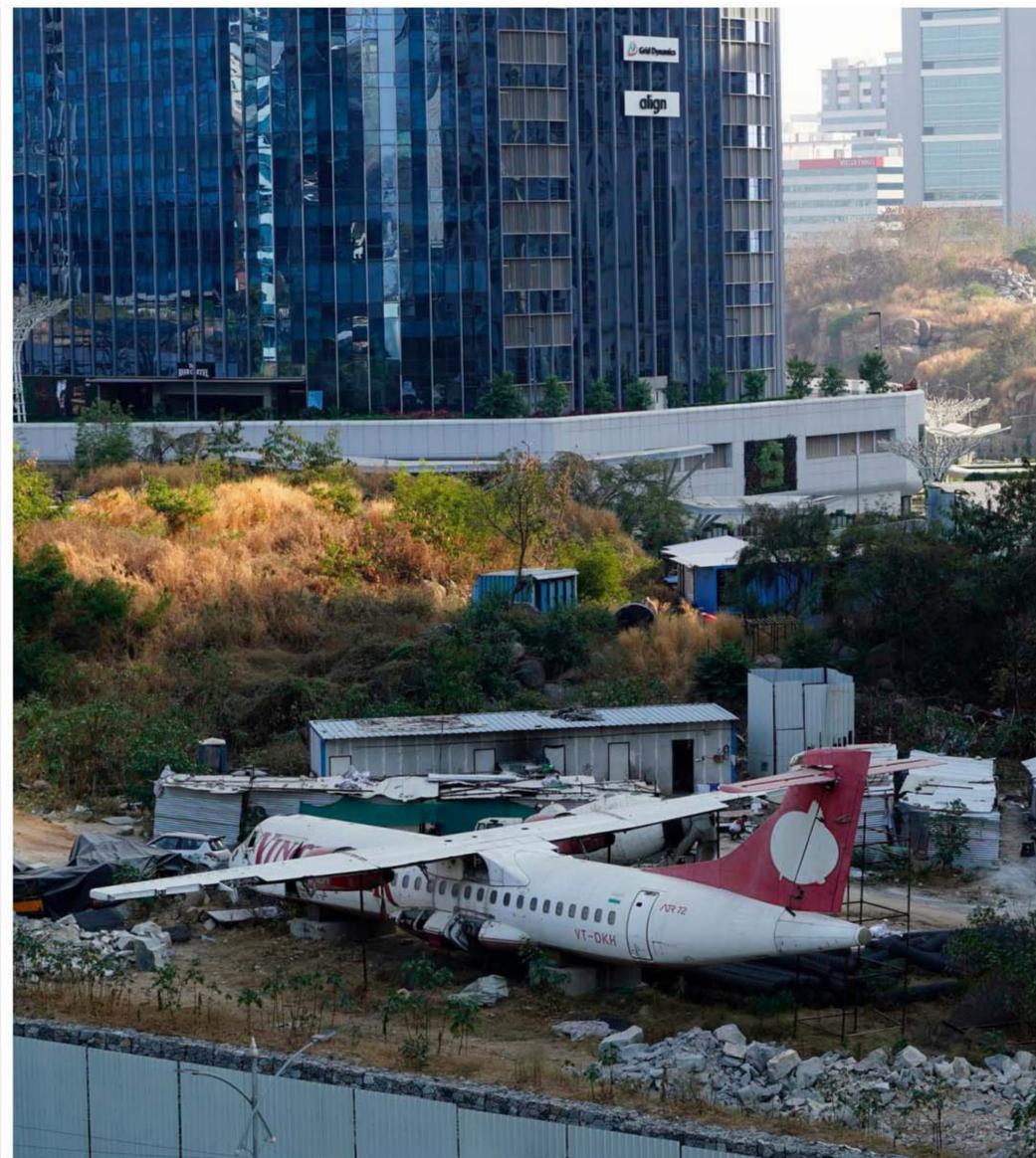
What is the Bill and what are its provisions?

The Bill implements the Cape Town Convention and Protocol, which is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations aviation watchdog, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in 2001 and signed by India in 2008 following a Cabinet approval. The Cape Town Convention and Protocol standardises transactions involving aviation assets such as aircraft and engines, and provides remedies for creditors in cases of financial default by airlines towards the lessors they rent aircraft from.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu said that the Bill will "provide a significant boost to the leasing industry, which is the need of the hour." This he said would be made possible by providing much needed legal clarity, while referring to past disputes such as those involving SpiceJet and the now defunct GoFirst, where the absence of a uniform legislation often led to challenges in interpreting the Cape Town Convention and Protocol by courts. It also led to difficulties for lessors in re-possessing their assets rented to airlines. The Minister also said that airlines have informed him that such a legislation could bring down leasing costs by 8-10%, which he claimed would offer a trickle-down advantage for passengers through lower airfares. The Minister said that the Bill has the potential to promote domestic leasing in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) City in Ahmedabad.

The Bill designates the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as the Registry Authority for the purposes of the Convention. Such an authority is responsible for the registration and de-registration of aircraft. The Bill also empowers the DGCA to issue directions to implement the Convention. It lays down the obligations of debtors, such as airlines, which include submitting a record of dues to the DGCA. It also defines remedies available in case of a default in payment that includes the right to take back possession of the asset within a period of two calendar months or a mutually agreed upon period, whichever is earlier. The Bill will also have an overriding effect, which means that if there is any inconsistency between the Bill and any other law, the provisions of the Bill will prevail.

Why has the Bill been introduced?
The Bill was introduced to address



Complex legalities: An abandoned Kingfisher Airlines aircraft rests near Knowledge City, Serilingampally in Hyderabad on February 24. SIDDHANT THAKUR

long-standing challenges in India's aviation sector, particularly the legal uncertainties faced by international lessors and creditors.

The necessity of such a law was witnessed at the time of the closure of Kingfisher Airlines and GoFirst as well as in disputes involving SpiceJet. Despite India's accession to the Cape Town Convention in 2008, the lack of implementing legislation meant that domestic laws, such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), often conflicted with international standards. This led to difficulties in repossessing aircraft during airline insolvencies, as seen in the case of GoFirst (2023). These inconsistencies increased risks for lessors and lowered India's compliance score on the Aviation Working Group's (AWG) Cape Town Convention Index (previously at 50, now improved to 62, with a target of 90).

The Bill aims to resolve these issues by providing legal clarity, aligning India with global norms, and reducing the financial burden on airlines.

For instance, during the shutdown of GoFirst, which sought voluntary insolvency before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in May 2023, the court granted the airline protection under moratorium from adverse actions by lessors, lenders, airports and oil

companies. This prevented the lessors from de-registering their aircraft and removing the planes from India within the permissible five-day period.

Later, they also faced challenges with respect to accessing aircraft for carrying out maintenance to ensure airworthiness, and also found themselves repaying exorbitant dues owed by the airline to airport operators for expenses incurred on counter and office space, ground and cargo handling apart from aircraft parking costs.

How has the decision been received by the leasing industry?

The Bill has been broadly welcomed by the industry as far as disputes and concerns over ability to repossess aircraft go, though some say it is like "closing the stable door after the horse has bolted," referring to the challenges posed by GoFirst, SpiceJet and Kingfisher Airways.

Executives in the international leasing industry explain that the claims promoted of reduced leasing costs as a result of the proposed law are not entirely true as the creditworthiness of an airline, its financials and volume of orders are the real driving factors, especially for airlines like Air India and IndiGo, as the industry is bullish about their growth prospects. However, smaller airlines and start-ups

may benefit through a 10% rebate in interest rates offered by the EXIM bank for financing of aircraft leasing.

Similarly, airline executives state that claims of a likely respite in airfares are exaggerated as ticket prices are driven by market forces of demand and supply for air travel, and that costs incurred by airlines don't drive the fares.

However, the Bill will lower the risk of doing future business in India, which will impact an airline's net income.

But the industry is worried about India's complicated taxation regime. Many lessors of a large airline have been speaking in hushed tones about IT notices being slapped on them for operating through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) to lease airplanes as they are not allowed to have a permanent establishment in India.

The industry feels the government is arm-twisting international lessors to set up a local arm at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, where the government aims to create its own ecosystem for domestic leasing.

An executive from a major leasing company, speaking anonymously, described the Indian taxation regime as "whimsical, suspicious, and inconsistent," citing these issues as key reasons for the lukewarm response from the leasing industry to GIFT City.

THE GIST

Parliament last week passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025. The proposed legislation establishes a legal framework to resolve disputes between airlines and lessors over high-value aviation assets, such as aircraft, helicopters, and engines.

The Bill was introduced to address long-standing challenges in India's aviation sector, particularly the legal uncertainties faced by international lessors and creditors.

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THE HINDU

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

Airbus, Mahindra ally for helicopter fuselages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

European aerospace manufacturer Airbus said it has awarded a contract for making the main fuselage assembly of the H130 helicopter to Mahindra Aerostructures Pvt. Ltd. in India.

Mahindra will produce the H130's main fuselage assembly which will then be shipped to Airbus Helicopters' facilities in Europe. The manufacturing will start immediately with the first cabin assembly set for March 2027 delivery.

The H130 is an intermediate single-engine helicopter used for passenger transport, tourism, business aviation, medical airlift and surveillance.



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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10 APRIL 2025

[PUT ON NO-FLY LIST]

Air India flyer urinates on co-passenger

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: An Indian national has been placed on Air India's no-fly list for a month after allegedly urinating on a co-passenger while seated in business class on a flight to Bangkok.

The incident occurred on Air India's AI-2336 flight from Delhi to Bangkok on Wednesday. According to people familiar with the matter, the passenger immediately apologised for his behaviour.

Internal documents identified the victim as Hiroshi Yoshizane, managing director of Bridgestone India, who has not yet pressed charges.

An Air India spokesperson confirmed the "unruly passenger behaviour" on flight AI2336

INTERNAL DOCS IDENTIFIED THE VICTIM AS HIROSHI YOSHIZANE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BRIDGESTONE, INDIA

on April 9.

"The crew followed all laid-down procedures, and the matter has been reported to the authorities. In addition to warning the unruly passenger, our crew offered to assist an aggrieved passenger to take up a grievance with authorities in Bangkok, which was declined at the time," the spokesperson

said.

"Air India continues to follow the SOPs (standard operating procedures) as laid out by DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) in such matters," the spokesperson added.

According to officials familiar with the incident, it occurred during descent when the passenger in seat 2D urinated on the co-passenger sitting in seat 1D. "The cabin crew learned about the matter from the passenger sitting in 1D," one official said.

The passenger in seat 2D, identified as Tushar Masand, was relocated to seat 14C and given a warning while the crew assisted the affected passenger.

"Masand apologised for his behaviour," an airline official said.

When asked by the crew, both passengers involved declined to file a complaint with the airline. "Not only Yoshizane, the airline asked all the business class passengers if they wanted to raise a complaint against Masand; however, all of them declined," a second official said.

"Yoshizane remained calm throughout, whereas Masand repeatedly apologised to him. When asked if he wanted to pursue the matter, Yoshizane said that he didn't want to waste time after landing," the official concluded.

A ministry official said, "The incident is very unfortunate and is being dealt with priority. The investigator in-charge will be handling the matter as per global practices."



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

Airbus ties up with Mahindra to expand India sourcing to \$2 bn

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Airbus will increase its sourcing from India to \$2 billion well before 2030, bolstering the country's manufacturing ambitions through a new partnership with Mahindra Aerostructures to produce H130 helicopter fuselages.

The partnership, announced on Wednesday in the presence of civil aviation minister Ramnathan Naidu and secretary Vumlung Vualnam, will see Mahindra Aerostructures Pvt. Ltd. (MASPL) manufacture and assemble the main fuselage for H130 helicopters, with deliveries commencing by March 2027.

"Industrialisation will commence immediately, with the first cabin assembly scheduled for delivery by March 2027," an Airbus spokesperson said. The completed fuselages will be transported to Airbus helicopters' facilities in Europe for final integration. The collaboration strengthens India's push to become a global aviation manufacturing hub. "India wants to take a lead in aviation manufacturing... we want to achieve a \$400 billion industry by the end



Rémi Maillard, president and managing director of Airbus in India and South Asia.

of the decade," Naidu said.

"The way to build this up is to increase our manufacturing system step by step. We are getting closer... today the final assembly line of an aircraft has at least one part manufactured in India."

Naidu highlighted that approximately 200 MSMEs and startups currently have a strong foothold in the country's manufacturing ecosystem. "This collaboration strengthens this ecosystem. I believe that we all have to make significant efforts so that aviation can grow multifold in the country," he added.

Rémi Maillard, president and managing director of Airbus in

India and South Asia, emphasised the company's strategic commitment to India. "We have a strategic plan for India and we are implementing it to develop a holistic aerospace ecosystem across all dimensions: assembly, manufacturing, engineering, innovation, digital and training," Maillard said.

"The H130 fuselage manufacturing contract underscores Airbus' confidence in the growing industrial excellence of the Indian supply chain, which offers the right mix of competencies and competitiveness."

Dr Anish Shah, group CEO & MD of Mahindra Group, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership. "We are delighted to deepen our longstanding partnership with Airbus through this pivotal aerostructures contract. It is an honour for us to build on our proven track record with Airbus. This collaboration highlights our commitment to supporting the Government of India's flagship 'Make in India' programme."

Airbus' India sourcing has grown substantially in recent years, reaching \$1.4 billion in 2024, up from \$1 billion in 2023 and \$500 million in 2019.



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NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

IndiGo की मार्केट वैल्यू में इजाफा

■ **NBT रिपोर्ट :** IndiGo ने एक बड़ा मुकाम हासिल किया है। पिछले कुछ महीनों में शेयरों में जबर्दस्त तेजी की वजह से थोड़े समय के लिए ये दुनिया की सबसे कीमती एयरलाइन बन गई। इकोनॉमिक टाइम्स के मुताबिक, मंगलवार को बाजार बंद होने तक कंपनी का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन लगभग 2 लाख करोड़ रुपये था, जो Delta Airline और Ryanair Holdings से भी अधिक है।

एयर इंडिया की दिल्ली-बैकॉक फ्लाइट में फिर पेशाबकांड



2022 और 2023 में भी आ चुके हैं पेशाबकांड के दो मामले

नई दिल्ली, 9 अप्रैल (नवोदय टाइम्स): एयर इंडिया की दिल्ली से बैकॉक जाने वाली फ्लाइट एआई 2336 में नशे में धुत एक यात्री ने पेशाब कर दिया। यह घटना 2022 और 2023 में हुई पेशाब कांडों की श्रृंखला में एक और मामला है। वर्तमान मामले में, यात्री ने

दरज करने से मना कर शिकायत दी थी, लेकिन मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए शिकायत दर्ज करवाई गई।

बताया गया कि जब फ्लाइट एआई 2336 बैकॉक लैंड कर रही थी, उसी समय बिजनेस क्लास में सफर कर रहे एक निजी कंपनी के सीनियर अधिकारी पर आरोपी ने पेशाब कर दिया। एयर इंडिया ने इस घटना

की पुष्टि की है और कहा है कि केबिन क्रू ने यात्री को मदद देने की कोशिश की, लेकिन उन्होंने शिकायत दर्ज कराने से इंकार कर दिया। घटना के बाद आरोपी

नशे में धुत आरोपी ने घटना के बाद यात्री से मांगी माफी

यात्री ने पीड़ित से माफी भी मांगी है।

एयर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता के अनुसार, बुधवार को दिल्ली से बैकॉक जाने वाली फ्लाइट में केबिन क्रू को एक यात्री के अनुशासनहीन व्यवहार की जानकारी मिली। जब यात्री ने बैकॉक में शिकायत दर्ज करवाने में सहायता मांगी, तो उसने मना कर दिया। अब इस घटना की जांच के लिए एक स्वतंत्र स्थायी समिति का गठन किया जाएगा, जो यह तय करेगी कि उस यात्री के खिलाफ क्या कार्रवाई की

जानी चाहिए। एयर इंडिया ने भरोसा दिलाया कि वह नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय द्वारा तय किए गए मानकों और प्रक्रियाओं का पालन करेगा। यह पहला मामला नहीं है जब हवा में पेशाब कांड हुआ है। इससे पहले, 6 नवंबर 2022 को न्यूयॉर्क से दिल्ली आने वाली एक फ्लाइट में बिजनेस क्लास में बैठे व्यक्ति ने एक बुजुर्ग महिला पर पेशाब किया था। उस घटना में आरोपी ने शराब का अत्यधिक सेवन किया था और बाद में उसे बेंगलुरु से गिरफ्तार किया गया था।

कोर्ट ने उसे न्यायिक हिरासत में भेजा था, हालांकि बाद में उसे जमानत मिल गई थी। 24 जून 2023 को मुंबई से दिल्ली आ रही एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में राम सिंह नाम के एक यात्री ने पहले विमान में पेशाब किया और फिर शीघ्र भी किया। उसने क्रू मेंबर्स के रोकने पर उनसे विवाद भी किया। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर उतरने के बाद उसे गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

Man 'urinates' on co-passenger on Air India plane, apologises

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In yet another case of in-flight inappropriate behaviour, an Air India passenger is said to have urinated on a fellow male passenger on Wednesday while travelling business class in an Air India Flight AI 2336 en route from Delhi to Bangkok.

According to sources, the victim is said to be a senior executive from a large company, and the erring passenger reportedly apologised for his action.

The latest case has revived memories of a similar incident that occurred in 2022 when Mumbai resident Shankar Mishra had allegedly urinated on an elderly co-passenger woman on a New York-Delhi Air India flight on November 26 that year.

In a statement, Air India said that an incident of "unruly passenger behaviour" was reported on its Delhi-Bangkok flight on April 9 and the matter was reported to authorities (DGCA).

Asked about the incident, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said his ministry will take note and speak to the airline. "If there is any wrongdoing, we will take necessary action," Naidu said on the sidelines of an event in the national capital.

The airline issued a statement confirming the incident and said that the crew followed all laid-down procedures. "Air India confirms that an incident of unruly passenger behaviour was reported to the cabin crew operating flight AI2336 from Delhi to Bangkok on April 9, 2025. The crew followed all laid-down procedures, and the matter report-

ed to the authorities," it said in the statement.

Air India said the accused was warned by the crew, and the victim — said to be an employee of a prominent multinational company — was assisted in taking up the grievance with Bangkok authorities.

"In addition to warning the unruly passenger, our crew offered to assist the aggrieved passenger to take up a grievance with authorities in Bangkok, which was declined at the time. The standing Independent Committee will be convened to assess the incident and determine the action, if any, to be taken against the unruly passenger. Air India continues to follow the SOPs as laid out by DGCA in such matters," the statement added.

On November 26, 2022, an inebriated Shankar Mishra urinated on the woman co-passenger on an Air India flight from New York to Delhi. Mishra worked as a vice president for Wells Fargo in India, a multinational financial services corporation headquartered in California.

Mishra was charged with sexual harassment and obscenity by Delhi Police in January 2023. After he was booked for the act, the airline barred him from flying for 30 days.

Ten days later, another similar episode was reported on a Paris-New Delhi flight, where a "drunk" male passenger allegedly urinated on a female passenger's blanket.

In June 2023, an Air India passenger on a Mumbai-Delhi flight was detained for allegedly defecating and urinating on the floor of the in-flight plane.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

10 APRIL 2025

परेशानी: उड़ान नहीं भर पाने पर यात्री दूसरी फ्लाइट में शिफ्ट

दिल्ली-रायपुर की फ्लाइट में तकनीकी खराबी, चार घंटे तक फंसे रहे यात्री

पत्रिका ब्यूरो
patrika.com

रायपुर . स्वामी विवेकानंद एयरपोर्ट रायपुर आने वाली फ्लाइट में तकनीकी खराबी के चलते दिल्ली से उड़ान नहीं भर सकी। इसके चलते यात्रियों को चार घंटे तक परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ा। फ्लाइट में खराबी आने के बाद भी पायलट और क्रू मेंबर द्वारा करीब 2 घंटे तक फ्लाइट में बिठाकर रखा गया। हालांकि इसे सुधारने का प्रयास किया गया। इसमें असफल होने पर सभी को दोपहर 2.30 बजे दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल भवन में बिठाकर रखा गया। यात्रियों द्वारा नाराजगी जताने पर इंडिगो एयरलाइंस प्रबंधन की ओर से स्नेक्स देकर यात्रियों के गुस्से को शांत करने का प्रयास किया गया। यात्रियों के आक्रोश को देखते हुए दूसरी फ्लाइट की व्यवस्था कर शाम

विमान में सांसद और दो विधायक भी थे



4.30 बजे दूसरी फ्लाइट को रायपुर के लिए रवाना किया गया, जो शाम 6.30 बजे रायपुर पहुंची।

प्रबंधन पर जताई नाराजगी : फ्लाइट में सवार सांसद, विधायक सहित अन्य यात्रियों ने इंडिगो एयरलाइंस प्रबंधन पर नाराजगी जताने हुए वस्तुस्थिति की जानकारी नहीं देने का आरोप लगाया। साथ ही

इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट दोपहर 12.30 बजे दिल्ली से उड़ान भरने के लिए रनवे पर जाने ही वाली थी। पार्किंग एरिया में पायलट को तकनीकी खराबी की जानकारी मिली। लेकिन, इसकी जानकारी यात्रियों को नहीं दी गई। इसमें जांजगीर-चांपा सांसद कमलेश जांगड़े, कोंडागांव विधायक लता उसेंडी और रायपुर ग्रामीण विधायक मोतीलाल साहू भी थे।

गुमराह कर 2 घंटे फ्लाइट में और उसके बाद 2 घंटे तक दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल में बेंटाकर रखने पर आक्रोश जताया। उन्होंने बताया कि फ्लाइट की सभी सीटें फुल थीं। वह टर्मिनल -1 से जहाज में खोई हो चुके थे। लेकिन करीब डेढ़ घंटे बाद भी प्लेन टेक ऑफ न कर एयरपोर्ट के एग्न में ही खड़ा (ग्राउंड) रहा।

Peegate redux: Biz class flyer on AI Bangkok flight urinates on co-passenger

Saurabh.Sinha
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New Delhi: A business class passenger in the second row of an Air India Airbus A320 flying from Delhi to Bangkok Wednesday urinated on a fellow traveller in the front row just before the aircraft landed, reviving unpleasant memories of the airline's first brush with 'peegate' on a New York-Delhi flight in Nov 2022.

Air India barred the alleged offender from taking any of its flights for 30 days, pending further action to be decided by an independent panel.

Sources said the flyer, like many others on the flight, was served alcohol as part of cabin services for international flights, "but wasn't sloshed". Cabin crew gave "assistance" to the victim, who didn't file a complaint after

BARRED FOR A MTH

► AI-2336 took off from Delhi after 2am. Incident happened nearly 4 hrs later, **just before landing** in Bangkok. Pending further action, flyer barred from AI flights for 30 days

► All aircraft lavatories were **functional** and offending **passenger was warned**, AI said

► 1st 'peegate' incident (Nov 2022), too, involved a biz class flyer. He was later **arrested and lost his corporate job**

the offender apologised and was shifted to another seat.

"Air India confirms that an incident of unruly passenger behaviour was reported to the cabin crew operating flight AI-2336, from Delhi to Bangkok, on April 9," an Air India spokesperson said.

► **No complaint, P 6**

Peegate: No complaint filed by victim

► **Continued from P1**

The aircraft lavatories were functional. In addition to warning the unruly passenger, our crew offered to assist an aggrieved passenger to take up a grievance with authorities in Bangkok, which was declined at the time," the spokesperson said.

"The standing independent committee will be convened to assess the incident and determine the action, if any, to be taken against the unruly passenger. AI continues to follow the standard operating procedures laid out by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in such matters."

AI-2336 had taken off from Delhi a little after 2am and landed in Bangkok over four hours later.

The Nov 2022 incident, too, involved a business class passenger who urinated on an elderly lady. At that time, the offender was first barred from flying AI for 30 days and then put on the no-fly list for another four months. Police lodged a case against him and he was arrested in Bengaluru. He later lost his corporate job.

Since that case, AI has become stricter with its liquor-service policy.

Before the Nov 2022 'peegate', full-service carriers that fly abroad like AI, and previously the erstwhile Jet Airways, were more accommodating than foreign counterparts when it came to meeting passengers' demands for drinks.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

9 APRIL 2025

Bomb threat note disrupts Air India's London-A'bad flight

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Passengers on Air India flight AI 172 from London Gatwick to Ahmedabad endured a harrowing experience on Tuesday after a bomb threat note was found in the aircraft's lavatory shortly before landing. A full emergency was declared at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPI) at 8.13am, and the aircraft landed safely at 8.35am. A threat note scribbled on a piece of paper was discovered during the latter part of the flight, prompting an immediate alert to ground security agencies.

An SVPI airport spokesperson said, "A threat note was discovered in an aircraft en route from Gatwick (LGW) to Ahmedabad (AHM). As a precaution, a full emergency was declared at Ahmedabad Airport at 0813 hrs. The flight landed safely at 0835 hrs. Airport operations remain unaffected. SVPIA is actively coordinating with the airline and security agencies. The safety of passengers and staff remains our top priority."

Upon landing, the aircraft was moved to an isolation bay, and passengers were escorted to a secured holding area within the terminal. Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) personnel carried out a detailed inspection of the aircraft, luggage, and cargo hold.



FLYERS DETAINED FOR CHECKS

"As part of the investigation, handwriting samples of passengers were collected to match with the threat note. All belongings were scanned again, and passenger interviews were conducted by airport security and police personnel," said a source privy to the development.

After nearly seven hours of thorough screening and security checks, the aircraft was declared safe at around 3.30pm. Authorities confirmed that the threat was a hoax. Passengers were allowed to leave the airport shortly thereafter.

While the incident caused considerable distress to those on board, airport operations continued as usual, and other flights remained unaffected.

An FIR was registered at the airport police station, and investigations are underway to identify the source of the note. In 2024, India witnessed a rise in bomb threats, with the ministry of civil aviation reporting 728 such incidents, 714 of which targeted domestic airlines. From April 2024 till April 2025, Ahmedabad airport saw 30 such incidents.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

9 APRIL 2025

'No surveillance cams in flights to spot hoax bomb note planters'

V.Narayan@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The city airport police have registered four cases of hoax bomb threat notes found in flights since June last year, with perpetrators taking advantage of the absence of onboard surveillance systems. In the latest incident, on Monday, a Jaipur-Mumbai IndiGo aircraft made an emergency landing at the city airport after a cabin crew member found a bomb threat note in the galley area.

On Tuesday, Airport police registered an FIR against an unknown individual for creating panic onboard the Jaipur-Mumbai flight.

Pointing out the rise in threatening messages found in aircraft lavatories among other locations, a senior police officer said the miscreants exploit the lack of cameras inside the aircraft to create disturbances. "They seem to enjoy spreading panic amid the crew and co-passengers. These flyers could also be someone who may have a grudge against the airline over some past incident," added the officer.

On Monday, the IndiGo flight departed Jaipur at 7.05pm and was scheduled to arrive in Mumbai at 8.15pm.

About 20 minutes before its scheduled landing, cabin crew member Bhumika Joshi (19) found the note in the galley area stating, 'Open it... Surprise, Bomb is waiting for you. Guys, not a joke'. In her statement to police, Joshi said: "I was serving food packets when I found the note on the aircraft safety galley tabletop...I immediately informed the senior crew LM Amral..."

Police said the crew alerted the captain, resulting in security inspections prior to landing. Enhanced security protocols were implemented at the city airport and the aircraft, carrying 225 passengers, landed at 8.50pm. Extensive searches proved the threat to be false.

Earlier, on March 10, a New York-bound Air India flight returned to Mumbai after a bomb threat scribbled on toilet paper was found in its washroom. In June 2024, similar handwritten notes were found in two Mumbai-bound Vistara flights — one from Thiruvananthapuram and the other from Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. All three threats were found to be false after comprehensive searches.

Police are yet to make an arrest in these four cases.