

## Corporate Communications Directorate

ASIAN AGE

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

■ Contingency measures activated ■ Manual operation in place

### Mumbai airport hit by network outage

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, AUG. 9

Following a third-party data network outage that disrupted check-in systems, the flight operations at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) were affected on Saturday. The airport authorities stated they had activated "contingency measures" and were operating in "manual mode" to minimise disruptions.

The outage, being related to a third-party network, caused operational disruptions for several airlines operating from Mumbai. While most sys-



tems have been restored, the cascading delays could affect the connecting flights and schedules for rest of the day.

Air India also acknowledged the network failure and warned passengers of

potential flight delays. While the airline later announced that the systems had been restored, it cautioned: "residual delays may continue as operations gradually return to normal." The

airline advised travelers to check their flight status before heading to the airport.

In a post on X, Air India said, "A third-party data network outage had impacted check-in systems at Mumbai airport, thereby, delaying flight departures of airlines, including Air India. The systems have since been restored, however, some of our flights may continue to be affected for some time as the situation normalises progressively."

The airline said it has deployed additional ground staff at Mumbai airport to facilitate smoother check-ins and assist the affected travellers.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## Maldives new airport terminal, a gateway to prosperity

**Meera Srinivasan**  
Mala

“A pillar of economic independence” — that is what Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu had called the new terminal at the Velana International Airport near Male, while inaugurating it on July 26, the country’s 60<sup>th</sup> Independence day. The launch ceremony was spectacular, with synchronised fireworks lighting up the sky — a fete that put the Maldives in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Addressing a large crowd, President Muizzu spelt out the aspiration of the country of 4 lakh people, currently grappling with high external debt — it exceeded \$8 billion 2024 — and its inevitable fiscal consequences. His administration is trying to tighten its fiscal policy, alongside a full-throttle push to tourism, the country’s biggest foreign exchange earner that contributes 21 per cent to GDP.

### IDENTITY BRANDING

“For over 20 years now, there has been talk in the Maldives about not having the right gateway. As a



**STRATEGIC MILESTONE.** The swanky, terminal aims to serve 7.5 million passengers annually, over thrice its current capacity

sought-after destination drawing affluent tourists, it is important to make a good first impression, and we finally have that now,” said Abdulla Ghiyas, Chairperson of Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation or ‘Visit Maldives’ as the state-owned tourism authority brands itself.

The terminal includes 47 check-in counters, six self-service kiosks, 20 departure immigration counters, six boarding gates, and 12 aerobridges, and aims to serve 7.5 million passengers annually, or over thrice its current capacity. The largest structure in the Maldives showcases the nation’s identity through traditional motifs and wave patterns.

According to officials of

the Maldives Airport Company Ltd and Tourism Department, the facility has come up at \$585 million that the Muizzu administration raised through loans from the Saudi Fund for Development, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, plus budget allocations.

The terminal came into focus initially after former President Abdulla Yameen abruptly terminated Indian infrastructure conglomerate GMR’s contract from running the main airport of Maldives. The idea of a new terminal also fit into President Yameen’s plans to expand the main airport with a

\$800-million Chinese loan, an initiative he launched in 2016.

Muizzu’s first year in office saw a strain in Maldives-India ties. But a year later, the relationship was reset, and evident in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s state visit to the island nation last month on the occasion of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence.

India’s \$400 million currency swap in 2024, and subsequent economic assistance were “pivotal” for the country’s economic stability, Muizzu acknowledged during Modi’s visit.

Maldives tourism officials hope Indian tourists will return to the island putting behind past tensions that sparked a “Boycott Maldives” campaign in India.

Authorities have set an ambitious \$5-billion tourism revenue target this year. A 9 per cent uptick in arrivals has been recorded from January to June over the same period last year.

Meera Srinivasan is The Hindu Correspondent in Colombo.

The writer was invited by Visit Maldives for the inauguration of the new terminal at Velana International Airport

## लोकलसर्कल्स सर्वे

# 60% यात्री बोले: एयरपोर्ट पर बैग का वजन अधिक निकला

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

पिछले तीन साल (2022-25) में 10 में से 6 एयरलाइन यात्रियों ने अनुभव किया कि एयरपोर्ट पर उनके चेक-इन या कैरी-ऑन बैग का वजन घर के मुकाबले अधिक निकला। यह जानकारी लोकलसर्कल्स के सर्वे में सामने आई है। 5 अगस्त को इंडिगो एयरलाइंस के यात्री रतन ढिल्लों ने 'एक्स' पर बताया था कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर उनके 15 किलो के बैग का वजन तीन अलग-अलग वेइंग मशीन पर अलग निकला। एक पर 18 किलो, दूसरी पर 16 और तीसरी पर 15 किलो। उन्होंने सवाल किया तो बताया गया कि 15 किलो वाली मशीन गलत है, सही वजन 18 किलो है। इस पर उन्हें एक्सट्रा बैगेज के 11,900 रुपए चुकाने पड़े, जिसमें छाते के लिए 1,500 रुपए वसूले गए। एक अन्य यात्री ने बताया कि उनके बैग का वजन एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो की मशीन पर अलग-अलग निकला।

### 8% बोले- 10 बार ऐसा हुआ

#### सवाल... 1

3 साल में कितनी बार ऐसा हुआ कि चेक इन बैग का वजन घर पर किए वजन से एयरपोर्ट पर अधिक निकला?



18,456 ने जवाब दिया

- 10 से अधिक बार
- 3 से 5 बार
- 1 से 2 बार
- 6 से 10 बार
- कभी नहीं
- घर पर नहीं तोला।

#### सवाल... 2

3 साल में कितनी बार ऐसा हुआ कि कैरी ऑन बैग का वजन घर पर किए वजन से एयरपोर्ट पर अधिक निकला?



18,054 ने जवाब दिया

- 10 से अधिक बार
- 6 से 10 बार
- 3 से 5 बार
- 1 से 2 बार
- कभी नहीं
- घर पर नहीं तोला।

सर्वे में देश के 289 जिलों से 36,000 से ज्यादा यात्रियों ने हिस्सा लिया। इनमें 68% पुरुष, 32% महिलाएं थीं।

## यात्रियों की मांग- एयरपोर्ट वाली वेइंग मशीन की जांच हो

सर्वे के दौरान देशभर के हवाई यात्रियों ने मांग की है कि एयरपोर्ट्स पर इस्तेमाल होने वाली सभी वेइंग स्केल यानी तराजू को नेशनल एंक्रिडिटेशन बोर्ड फॉर टेस्टिंग एंड कैलिब्रेशन लैबोरेटरीज (एनएबीएल) से प्रमाणित लैब से जांचा-परखा जाए। एयरलाइंस के लिए इन तराजू पर वैधता की जानकारी वाला स्टिकर और जांच रिकॉर्ड दिखाना अनिवार्य किया जाए। यात्रियों ने यह भी कहा कि यह नियम एयरपोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (एएआई) के सभी एयरपोर्ट्स पर लागू होना चाहिए।

# Surat airport granted permanent 24/7 ops

**FPJ News Service**

**SURAT**

Surat International Airport has received permanent approval for 24/7 operations, effective from 5:35 PM on Friday, August 9. A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) was issued on Thursday, officially confirming the change.

Previously, the airport had limited operating hours, which restricted late-night and early-morning flights. The new permanent status means the airport is now open for air traffic services around the clock, a move that will be reflected in the national aeronautical publication (eAIP India).

The approval is a significant development for local businesses and frequent fliers who have long advocated for extended airport hours. Groups such as the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and the We Want Working Airport Group (WWAS) have consistently lobbied for enhanced staffing, security, and technical support to enable round-the-clock operations.

Nikhil Madras, President of SGCCI, noted that the lack of 24/7 operations and inter-



**While the airport received a trial 24/7 status for 90 days in May, airlines reported that practical limitations, such as staff shortages, still restricted operations**

national cargo access has hindered Surat's economic potential, despite its global links in textiles and diamonds. "All we needed was an airport that works round the clock with international cargo access," he said.

Surat Airport has demonstrated its potential, handling over 1.6 million passengers in 2024-25. While the airport received a trial 24/7 status for 90 days in May, airlines reported that practical limitations, such as staff shortages, still restricted operations. The

new permanent status aims to address these issues and encourage more late-night and early-morning flights, which are crucial for airline operations and connectivity.

Rajesh Modi, an airport activist, highlighted Surat's strategic location as a potential alternative to congested hubs like Mumbai, particularly for night parking. He also pointed to the airport's ability to handle diverted flights during "Operation Sindoor," which demonstrated its readiness in emergency situations.



**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## पटना जाने वाली उड़ान रद्द, हंगामा

ट्रान्स हिंडन। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से शनिवार को पटना जाने वाली एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान को अचानक रद्द कर दिया गया। यात्रियों के विमान में बैठने के बाद करीब ढाई घंटे तक विमान रुका रहा। फिर उड़ान रद्द करने की बात कहकर यात्रियों को उतार दिया गया। इसके बाद यात्रियों ने रनवे पर हंगामा किया। बताया जा रहा है कि पायलट के न पहुंचने के कारण उड़ान रद्द की गई है। हिंडन से शनिवार दोपहर डेढ़ बजे पटना के लिए विमान को उड़ान भरनी थी। विमान में यात्री सवार हो गए थे। करीब 100 यात्रियों को परेशानी हुई।



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## बारामती हवाई अड्डे के पास प्रशिक्षण विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त

पुणे, एजेंसी। महाराष्ट्र के पुणे जिले में बारामती हवाई अड्डे के पास शनिवार को एक प्रशिक्षण विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। घटना उस वक्त हुई, जब रेडबर्ड फ्लाइट ट्रेनिंग सेंटर का विमान एक प्रशिक्षण उड़ान के बाद उतर रहा था।

विमान उड़ते समय पायलट ने देखा कि एक टायर क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया है। पायलट ने सुबह लगभग 8 बजे आपातकालीन लैंडिंग का प्रयास किया, लेकिन टचडाउन के बाद विमान का अगला पहिया बंद हो गया और विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDU

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

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## 300 flights delayed at airport due to inclement weather

More than 300 flights were delayed and some were cancelled at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on Saturday due to adverse weather conditions. An official said there were no flight diversions at the airport, which handles around 1,300 flight movements daily. The average delay in flight departures was around 17 minutes, according to data available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com. Several airline operators posted messages on social media regarding the disruption in services. PH



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## Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKH SATYA

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

# महाराष्ट्र के बारामती एयरपोर्ट पर प्रशिक्षण विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त

**कोई हताहत नहीं**

मुंबई, लोकसत्य। महाराष्ट्र के पुणे जिले के बारामती एयरपोर्ट पर शनिवार को सुबह रेड बर्ड कंपनी का एक प्रशिक्षण विमान तकनीकी खराबी के कारण दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। लेकिन प्रशिक्षु पायलट ने दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान को किसी तरह कंट्रोल कर लिया, जिससे इस घटना में कोई हताहत नहीं हुआ। फिलहाल रेड बर्ड कंपनी के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान की मरम्मत का काम जारी है।

बारामती एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों ने बताया कि आज सुबह प्रशिक्षु पायलट विवेक यादव प्रशिक्षण विमान की लैंडिंग कर रहे थे। जब अचानक लैंडिंग के दौरान विमान में तकनीकी खराबी आ गई और आगे का पहिया निकल गया। इसके बाद विवेक यादव ने आपातकालीन



लैंडिंग का प्रयास किया। लेकिन इस दुर्घटना में विमान क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया। दुर्घटना की सूचना मिलते ही प्रशिक्षण स्थल पर अफरा-तफरी मच गई थी। एयरपोर्ट पर मौजूद कर्मचारी तुरंत मदद के लिए दौड़ पड़े। इसके बाद कंपनी के कर्मचारियों ने तुरंत विमान को एक

तरफ ले जाकर उसकी मरम्मत शुरू कर दी। विमान का अगला पंखा क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया और पहिये के पास के कुछ हिस्से भी क्षतिग्रस्त हो गए हैं। इस संबंध में रेड बर्ड की ओर से इस संबंध में कोई आधिकारिक जानकारी नहीं दी गई है।



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# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

**सर्वे में नया खुलासा**

## 'एयरपोर्ट पर लगेज का वजन गड़बड़ होता है'

6 में से 10 यात्रियों ने पिछले 3 साल में अनुभव किया कि एयरलाइन के तराजू पर बैग का वजन घर के मुकाबले ज्यादा निकला। ये बात लोकल सर्कल्स सर्वे में सामने आई। यात्रियों ने सटीक वजन माप और उचित बिलिंग की मांग की है। एयरलाइंस ने तकनीकी खामी मानते हुए जांच का आश्वासन दिया।



पिछले 3 साल (2022-2025) में कितनी बार ऐसा हुआ कि जब आपने हवाई यात्रा के लिए **चेक-इन बैग** का वजन कराया, तो एयरलाइन के तराजू पर बैग का वजन आपके घर के तराजू से ज्यादा निकला?



■ 10 से ज्यादा बार ■ 6-10 बार  
■ 3-5 बार ■ 1-2 बार  
■ कभी नहीं ■ नहीं कह सकते / घर पर कभी वजन नहीं किया

पिछले 3 साल (2022-2025) में भारत में कितनी बार ऐसा हुआ कि जब आपके **कैरी-ऑन बैग** का वजन एयरलाइन स्टाफ ने किया, तो वह आपके घर के तराजू से ज्यादा निकला?



■ 10 से ज्यादा बार ■ 6-10 बार  
■ 3-5 बार ■ 1-2 बार  
■ कभी नहीं ■ नहीं कह सकते / घर पर कभी वजन नहीं किया



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NAVODHYA TIMES

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## पुणे में ट्रेनिंग विमान की आपात लैंडिंग



पुणे, 9 अगस्त (एजेंसी): पुणे जिले के बारामती हवाई अड्डे के पास पायलट को ट्रेनिंग देने के लिए इस्तेमाल होने वाला एक विमान शनिवार को आपात स्थिति में उतरा। पुलिस ने बताया कि इस घटना में कोई भी घायल नहीं हुआ। यह घटना उस समय हुई जब 'रैडबर्ड फ्लाइट ट्रेनिंग सेंटर' का यह विमान एक प्रशिक्षण उड़ान पूरी करने के बाद उतर रहा था।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## **एयर इंडिया: अब 65 की उम्र होने तक विमान उड़ा सकेंगे पायलट**

**नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका.** टाटा ग्रुप की एयरलाइन कम्पनी एयर इंडिया के पायलट अब 65 साल एवं नॉन फ्लाईंग कर्मचारी 60 साल की आयु के बाद सेवानिवृत्त किए जाएंगे। कम्पनी ने पायलट व नॉन फ्लाईंग कर्मचारियों की सेवानिवृत्ति की आयु बढ़ाई है। वर्तमान में सभी कर्मचारियों की सेवानिवृत्ति की आयु 58 साल है। एयर इंडिया में लगभग 24 हजार का स्टाफ है। डीजीसीए की ओर से कॉमर्शियल पायलटों के लिए अनुमत अधिकतम आयु सीमा 65 साल की ही है।



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

## Corporate Communications Directorate

TIME OF INDIA

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

# Departures delayed at Mumbai airport due to data network outage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Departure flights at Mumbai airport were affected Saturday afternoon due to a data network outage that impacted the airport's systems. The weekend brings a busier airport, and as check-ins and baggage processing were done manually causing departure delays.

According to Flightra-  
dar24, departures were delayed by an average of 30-45 minutes. "The airport systems failure lasted from 4.15pm to about 5.30pm," said a source, adding the effect of the delay stretched through the evening. At 5.57pm, Air India tweeted: "A third-party data network outage impact-

## Laser beam hits IndiGo flight in TN

An IndiGo flight from Bengaluru was hit by a laser beam during its final approach to Coimbatore airport Friday night. Authorities at Coimbatore international airport notified the incident to city police for necessary action and a probe is on. An airport official said, "We informed police about the approximate location from where the laser beam was directed." "Laser beams, especially those used during events, can temporarily blind or distract pilots, especially during landing. This poses a serious safety threat to the aircraft and passengers," the official said. TNN & AGENCIES

ed check-in systems at Mumbai airport, thereby delaying flight departures of airlines, including Air India. The systems have since been restored; however, some of our flights may continue to be affected for some time as the situation normalises progressively."

A passenger posted on X

that the airport wifi was not working. Responding to the tweet, Mumbai airport said: "We're currently facing a network failure across the airport. We've activated contingencies and are working on resolving the issue with our core team. We're operating in manual mode to minimise disruptions."

# City airport expands connectivity as passenger footfall soars by 12%

Niyati.Parikh@timesofindia.com

**Ahmedabad:** If you are a frequent domestic flyer from Ahmedabad to major metros, here's some good news. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) airport is set to offer flyers enhanced connectivity to more destinations across the country, according to top sources.

A new domestic carrier is preparing to commence operations from the airport for the first time, with an inaugural service on the Ahmedabad-Bengaluru route scheduled for the first week of Sep.

Additional direct flights connecting the city to Hindon, Navi Mumbai, and Noida are also expected to take off around the end of Oct or early Nov, in line with the upcoming winter schedule announced by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Additional flights to North Goa (Mopa airport)

and Kochi are also expected, making winter travel a vibrant affair from the city airport.

"Ahmedabad has long needed stronger direct connectivity to key urban and emerging regional hubs. The addition of new routes, especially to places like Hindon, Navi Mumbai, and Noida, will significantly reduce travel time and boost convenience for

both business and leisure flyers. This kind of expanded net-

work is vital for a city that's increasingly asserting itself as a trade and tourism nucleus in western India," said a travel expert from Ahmedabad.

The increased connectivity comes at a time when the airport registered a sharp 12% year-on-year rise in passenger traffic during the April-June quarter. Over 35 lakh passengers travelled through the airport in these three months, up from about



31 lakh in the same period last year. This upward trend in footfall underlines the sustained growth in demand, supported by rising air travel across Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities in the state.

"The consistent rise in footfall at SVPI airport reflects a renewed confidence in travel both for holidays and corporate movement. Even as

summer was dull, with more direct connections now on the horizon, especially to popular leisure destinations like North Goa and Kochi, we expect stronger momentum in outbound tourism and intra-state business engagement this winter around Diwali vacation," said Manish Sharma, owner of a travel company based in Ahmedabad.

## NEW DESTINATIONS IN THE OFFING

## Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

9 AUGUST 2025

# Guwahati airport wins int'l award for its architecture

**G**uwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport has gained global recognition by securing the International Architectural Award 2025 in the Transport category. It is now among seven airports worldwide acknowledged for outstanding architecture and innovative urban planning.

Announcing the win, the airport's official handle described the infrastructure as "A tribute to the wonders of Northeast India, the infrastructure is inspired by the resilience of bamboo and the grace of foxtail orchids."

TNN





भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## पटना जाने वाली एक और फ्लाइट रद्द, वीडियो वायरल

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

साहिबबाबद (गाजियाबाद)। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की पटना जाने वाली फ्लाइट एक बार फिर रद्द हो गई, इसका वीडियो भी वायरल हो रहा है। हालांकि एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन की तरफ से इस बात की पुष्टि नहीं की गई। यात्रियों का आरोप है कि फ्लाइट में बोर्डिंग करवाने के बाद करीब तीन घंटे के इंतजार के बाद सबको नीचे उतारा गया। नाराज यात्रियों ने रनवे पर जमकर हंगामा किया, बाद में सभी को घर लौटना पड़ा।

शनिवार की दोपहर डेढ़ बजे फ्लाइट संख्या 1X2937 को उड़ान भरना था। यात्रियों का आरोप है कि फ्लाइट में बोर्डिंग करवाने के बाद उन्हें नीचे उतरना पड़ा। यात्रियों का कहना था कि विमान

यात्रियों ने रनवे पर जमकर हंगामा किया, सभी को घर लौटना पड़ा

रद्द होने की जानकारी पृष्ठ पर बताया गया कि जिस पायलट को ड्यूटी थी वह समय पर नहीं पहुंच पाया। दूसरी ओर एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन का कहना था कि एयरलाईंस ने फ्लाइट रद्द करने का कोई स्पष्ट कारण नहीं बताया। सिर्फ ऑपरेशनल संबंधित कारण बोलकर फ्लाइट रद्द कर दी गई। यह पहला मौका नहीं जब बोर्डिंग के बाद उड़ान रद्द किया गया हो, इससे पहले भी कई बार ऐसा हो चुका है। बीते दिनों कोलकाता की फ्लाइट भी रद्द की गई थी और यात्रियों ने रनवे पर जमकर हंगामा किया था। विमान के रद्द होने के सिलसिला पिछले कुछ दिनों से लगातार बना हुआ है।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HEROLD

BANGLORE

9 AUGUST 2025

# Air India to fully resume int'l flights by Oct 1

**MUMBAI, DHNS:** Coming out of the crisis involving the devastating Ahmedabad Dreamliner crash, Air India has begun a phased restoration of international operations with full resumption targeted for October 1, 2025.

The June 12 crash of a Boeing B787 Dreamliner aircraft at Ahmedabad has impacted the operations.

“Following the tragic accident, we have undertaken a series of proactive measures and conducted comprehensive checks ensuring that every flight continues to meet the highest global standards of safety and customer service,” an Air India spokesperson said.

## वर्षा का असर उड़ानों पर दिखा, विलंबित

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: शनिवार तड़के से हो रही वर्षा का असर आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट से संचालित होने वाली उड़ानों पर देखा गया। प्रस्थान से जुड़ी 63 प्रतिशत उड़ानें विलंबित रहीं। इनमें करीब करीब एक तिहाई उड़ानें ऐसी थीं, जिनके प्रस्थान में एक घंटा या इससे अधिक का विलंब दर्ज किया गया। विलंबित उड़ानों में औसत विलंब का समय करीब 20 मिनट रहा।

वहीं आगमन की बात करें तो करीब 20 प्रतिशत उड़ानें विलंब की चपेट में आईं। औसत विलंब के मामले में यहां प्रस्थान के मुकाबले स्थिति बेहतर रही। यहां औसत विलंब करीब पांच मिनट दर्ज किया गया। उधर मौसम को देखते हुए सभी प्रमुख एयरलाइंस की ओर से इंटरनेट मीडिया पर यात्रियों के लिए एडवाइजरी जारी होती रही। सभी एयरलाइंस ने

- प्रस्थान की उड़ानों में औसत विलंब करीब 20 मिनट किया गया दर्ज
- एयरलाइंस की ओर से इंटरनेट मीडिया पर जारी होती रही एडवाइजरी



उड़ानों की समय सारिणी पर नजर डालते यात्री ● सौ इंटरनेट मीडिया

यात्रियों से कहा कि वे एयरपोर्ट के लिए रवाना होने से पहले एक बार उड़ान की जानकारी ले लें। एयरलाइंस से यात्रियों से कहा कि वर्षा के कारण दिल्ली की सड़कों पर जाम व जलभराव के कारण

एयरपोर्ट तक का सफर लंबा हो सकता है, लिहाजा अतिरिक्त समय लेकर चलें।

हिंडन की उड़ान फिर आइजीआइ पर डाइवर्ट: एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की एक उड़ान को शनिवार को फिर डाइवर्जन का सामना करना पड़ा। इसकी वजह हिंडन एयरपोर्ट के बे एरिया में पार्किंग के लिए विमान को जगह नहीं मिलना रहा। बाद में एटीसी की अनुमति से विमान ने आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट से लैंडिंग की। विमान को वाराणसी से हिंडन के बीच की यात्रा करनी थी। आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग के बाद यात्री बस से हिंडन के लिए रवाना हुए। उड़ान संख्या आइएक्स2978 से जुड़े इस प्रकरण को एक यात्री एक्स पर साझा करते हुए अपनी नाराजगी जताई। बाद में एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने अपने हैंडल से इसपर खेद प्रकट किया।

# Corporate Communications Directorate

DANIK JAGRAN

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## तीन घंटे विमान में वैठाया, फिर की रद

जागरण संवाददाता, गाजियाबाद: हिंडन एयरपोर्ट सिविल टर्मिनल से पटना जाने वाली एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट संख्या 1X2937 शनिवार को बोर्डिंग के बाद रद कर दी गई। 184 सीटर विमान में सौ से अधिक सीट बुक थीं। यात्रियों का आरोप है कि उन्हें तीन घंटे इंतजार कराने के बाद सूचना दी गई। रनवे पर नाराज यात्रियों ने हंगामा भी किया।

पटना के लिए शनिवार दोपहर डेढ़ बजे फ्लाइट थी। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन का कहना था कि एयरलाइंस ने फ्लाइट रद करने का कोई स्पष्ट कारण नहीं बताया। सिर्फ आपरेशनल संबंधित कारण बताया है।

यात्रियों का कहना था कि वर्षा की वजह से सुबह जल्दी ही एयरपोर्ट पर पहुंच गए थे। बोर्डिंग करने के बाद सभी करीब तीन घंटे विमान में बैठे रहे। बीच में किसी ने भी ये नहीं बताया कि फ्लाइट कब जाएगी। फ्लाइट रद होने के बाद सभी यात्रियों को वापस लौटना पड़ा।

## इंडिगो विमान में आई गड़बड़ी, विलंब से उड़ा

लखनऊ। शनिवार सुबह  
लखनऊ से देहरादून जा रही  
इंडिगो की फ्लाइट तकनीकी



खराबी के  
कारण रोक दी  
गई। जब विमान  
उड़ान भरने के  
लिए टैक्सी वे से  
रनवे पर जा रहा  
था, तभी विमान

में हल्का झटका लगा, पायलट ने  
तकनीकी गड़बड़ी पहचान ली।  
विमान में क्रू मेंबर सहित 158 यात्री  
सवार थे। पायलट ने तुरंत एयर  
ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल को सूचना देते हुए  
विमान को रोक दिया।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## दिल्ली में सौ उड़ानें प्रभावित, मुंबई में तकनीकी खराबी से परेशानी

### संकट

मुंबई/नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। दिल्ली के आईजीआई और मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज हवाई अड्डों पर शनिवार को उड़ान संचालन बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हुआ। मुंबई में नेटवर्क फेल होने से कई एयरलाइनों के चेक-इन सिस्टम टप हो गए, वहीं दिल्ली में दिनभर हुई बारिश से करीब 100 उड़ानों में देरी हुई।

सूत्रों ने बताया, मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर यह गड़बड़ी शाम चार बजे हुई, जिसे करीब एक घंटे में सही कर दिया गया। हालांकि, इस वजह से एयर इंडिया

- बारिश के कारण हवाई सेवा पर असर पड़ा
- मुंबई में चेक-इन सिस्टम देर शाम दुरुस्त हुआ

सहित कई एयरलाइनों के चेक-इन सिस्टम बंद पड़ गए, जिससे यात्रियों को लंबा इंतजार करना पड़ा। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने 'एक्स' पर जानकारी दी कि उड़ानों पर असर कम करने के लिए संचालन मैनुअल किया गया। इससे औसतन पांच मिनट तक की देरी गई।

वहीं दिल्ली में बारिश के कारण करीब 100 विमानों के उड़ान भरने में देरी हुई। वहीं, एक दर्जन से अधिक रेलगाड़ियां भी देरी से रवाना हुईं।

## Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

9 AUGUST 2025

# NMIA seeks to be hub airport for airlines like IndiGo and Air India

**Ateeq Shaikh**

ateeq.shaikh@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has the potential to become a hub airport, where major airlines could set up base, according to Prabhat Mahapatra, the chief operating officer of NMIA. NMIA, set to begin operations post-monsoon, will be the second aviation hub in the MMR, and is set to feature parallel runways, smart terminals, and seamless connectivity.

Speaking at the Infrastructure Conclave organised by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Friday, Mahapatra said, "We have air carriers like IndiGo, who are strong and profitable. We have Air India. With these two strong air carriers in India, we see that there is potential to create transport hubs in India."

Major airlines use hub airports as their base, and direct a majority of their routes and connections through those locations. Such strategically located transfer points help travellers reach their destinations with minimum transfers. Examples of hub airports where passengers



**NMIA, set to begin operations post-monsoon, will be the second aviation hub in MMR.**

BACHCHAN KUMAR / HT PHOTO

would change aircrafts would be those in Dubai, Amsterdam, London, Hong Kong, or Singapore, for those travelling from Mumbai to the US or Canada.

Mahapatra said, "We are engaging with major carriers because we feel that India has all the ingredients to become a big hub." Addressing the gathering, he added that if NMIA, a project of the Adani Group, was to become a hub airport, India would be geographically well located to connect flights coming from the east or fast east, to the west.

According to Mahapatra, unlike New York and London which have multiple airports in the city, India was lacking in this area of aviation. "We have been focussing on the origin-destination travel. If you look at Dubai or some airports in the Middle East, they thrive on the transfer revenue," Mahapatra said.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) will be India's first region to have two airports. So far, all major Indian cities have only one airport containing either a single runway or multiple runways.

NMIA also intends to tap into potential passenger traffic beyond the MMR, into the state's rural areas. Once the airport is operational, it will enhance trade as well as improve regional air connectivity, said a representative of the NMIA.

As an example, an NMIA official said, "One thing that we have been missing at Mumbai is the regional development. An airport not only develops the city, it develops the other cities." The official explained that there are airports in cities like Kolhapur and Solapur, but due to the crowded state of the Mumbai airport, there aren't enough flights connecting such regions to the MMR.

The official said that once NMIA was operational, it could connect to such airports. "Those airports will get service and traffic and they will be energised. And that is how this will promote regional development also," the official added.

According to Mahapatra, the planned hub at NMIA holds potential for transporting cargo too. He said that the airport would have the capacity to handle cargo worth 3.2 million metric tonnes every year.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

## Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

CHENNAI

9 AUGUST 2025



### SC refuses to hear plea seeking safety audit of Air India

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea to examine Air India's safety regulatory mechanism, saying an impression must not be given that the airline is being targeted after the recent crash. A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant asked petitioner-in-person, N.K. Goswami, "Why target Air India only which recently witnessed an unfortunate tragedy? If you want some regulatory mechanism in place, then why did you not make other airlines as party in your petition?" he asked. The petitioner said that he had specifically mentioned Air India as he too was a victim of an "unfortunate incident" with the airline.

## 300+ flights delayed, rain paralyses traffic on roads

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 9

HEAVY RAINFALL wreaked havoc across Delhi-NCR on Saturday morning, dampening Rashtra Bandhan celebrations as waterlogging and massive traffic snarls left several stranded at home or stuck in their vehicles for hours on the road. At Delhi Airport, 339 departing flights were delayed, prompting airlines to issue advisories to passengers.

The rain began late Friday night, with the IMD upgrading alerts through the early hours — it issued two red alerts at 6.20 am and 7 am. By 8.30 am Saturday, Safdarjung, which is representative of the city, recorded 78.7 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours, while Pragati Maidan recorded 100.3 mm. Lodhi Road and Pusa recorded 80.7 mm and 68 mm of rainfall, respectively. From 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, IMD data showed, Safdarjung recorded 26 mm of rainfall. In the same period, Mayapuri saw 49.5 mm of rain, Ridge 40.4 mm, Pusa 32.5 mm, and Palam 22.7 mm.

Commuters, meanwhile, expressed their frustration. Neera, who was stuck near Ambedkar Nagar depot, said her car moved barely half a kilometre in an hour. "I had to go to my brother's home in Noida — a trip that usually takes 40 minutes — but it took me two hours," she said.

### Key routes clogged

The Public Works Department (PWD) received over 50 complaints of waterlogging throughout the day. Several prominent locations reported flooding — Dhaula Kuan, ITO, MB Road near the Sainik Farm stretch, Sarai Kale Khan, Defence Colony underpass, Azadpur market, Peeragarhi Chowk, and near New Delhi Railway Station.

The Pragati Maidan tunnel was closed from 9 am to 12 pm



Delhi saw chock-a-block traffic in many parts. Praveen Kishore

### A NEW RECORD

Overnight and day-long rain in Delhi-NCR brought temperatures down sharply on Saturday, with the maximum settling at 26.4 degrees Celsius—the lowest recorded for August since 1991, according to IMD. The last time the city saw a lower maximum temperature was on August 28, 1991, at 25.8 degrees.

as a precautionary measure. An official stated, "There was no water inside the tunnel, but water had accumulated near Gates 6 and 7. To prevent it from entering the tunnel, we closed it for traffic movement." The water has since been cleared, and the road reopened to traffic.

PWD officials reported that most waterlogged areas were cleared by early morning, and traffic was normal on major roads. "Some inner colony roads are still being cleared. Quick response teams were deployed at all critical points along with water pumps to manage the flooding," the official added.

Meanwhile, Minto Bridge,

which used to flood in previous years, remained clear, said officials. In Kalkaji, the Giri Nagar pumping station was flooded, prompting the opposition AAP to criticise the BJP led Delhi government over the incident and its handling of the broader crisis.

In a post on X, along with a copy of her letter to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, AAP leader Atishi wrote: "Mismanagement by the 4-eagled BJP Govt has not only submerged Delhi roads, but caused a water crisis in Kalkaji. The Giri Nagar pumping station is completely submerged. And the people of Giri Nagar, Kalkaji, Govindpuri, and Govindpuri Extn are facing several days of water crisis." Traffic towards Gurgaon was also hit after a wall collapse at the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's under-construction underground site near D-6, Vasant Kunj, beneath the Masoodpur Flyover, caused a section of Malipalpur-Mehrauli Road — from Fortis Hospital onwards — to cave in.

The Delhi Fire Services also received 18 calls related to house and wall collapses between midnight and Saturday evening. "We also received 9 calls reporting tree falls and two calls regarding waterlogging," a DFS official said.





## Corporate Communications Directorate

STATESMEN

KOLKATA

9 AUGUST 2025

### Why only Air India? SC rejects plea for independent audit of airline's safety practices

**PARMOD KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI, 8 AUGUST

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking the constitution of a committee headed by a retired top court judge to independently audit Air India's safety practices, maintenance procedures, and operational protocols.

A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi questioned the selective targeting of Air India. "Why just Air India? What about others?" the bench asked while rejecting the petition.

The plea, filed by Narendra Kumar Goswami and Laxman Prasad Goswami, was prompted by the recent crash of an Air India Boeing aircraft operating on the Ahmedabad-

The report specifically recommended stricter surveillance of airline maintenance practices, better training for technical staff, and improved enforcement of safety directives.

London route, which claimed 270 lives.

The petitioners sought an independent probe into Air India's safety and maintenance practices, and a comprehensive audit of its entire fleet by an international aviation safety agency accredited by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The move, they argued, was necessary to address deficiencies flagged in the 2024 ICAO audit report.

They also urged the Court

to direct the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) to submit a time-bound report on the Ahmedabad crash.

In April 2024, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) released its audit report on India's civil aviation sector. While India's overall compliance score was above the global average, the audit flagged deficiencies in fleet maintenance oversight, inadequate documentation of maintenance records, and gaps in the monitoring of corrective actions following safety incidents.

The report specifically recommended stricter surveillance of airline maintenance practices, better training for technical staff, and improved enforcement of safety directives.

## Airfares soar ahead of long Aug weekends

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Passengers eyeing long weekends in Aug are facing steep airfares on interstate routes as demand surges ahead of Independence Day and Sri Krishna Janmashtami. With Aug 15 falling on a Friday and Janmashtami soon after, many travellers are extending their breaks for getaways — only to see dynamic fares climbing to record highs.

Flights from Bengaluru to Mumbai are touching Rs



20,000 for certain timings, while peak-hour flights to New Delhi have also spiked sharply. Travellers say even short inter-state hops are proving to be expensive.

Abhilash K, planning a Delhi trip this month, said he had to rethink his schedule due to soaring rates. "There has been a steep increase in flight ticket fares. I was planning to travel Thursday evening, but prices are unaffordable. A 6pm flight from Kempegowda International Airport to Delhi, reaching at 9pm, is showing at Rs 24,000. Early morning departures are slightly cheaper from Bengaluru, starting at Rs 7,500 to Rs 8,000," he said.

Popular leisure routes are seeing similar hikes. On Aug 14, flights from Bengaluru to Goa are priced between Rs 12,000 and Rs 19,000. Travel industry trackers attribute the surge to a combination of limited capacity, high demand for weekend travel and last-minute bookings.

Reports also showed travel booking sites seeing a surge in bookings ranging from 25% to 30%. While airlines use dynamic pricing to adjust fares based on demand, passengers say this year's spikes are among the steepest in recent memory. Many are exploring alternatives, including overnight buses, trains, or rescheduling flights to weekdays to cut costs. With two more long weekends lined up in Aug, fares on popular routes are expected to remain high unless demand eases. Travel agents advise booking well in advance to avoid paying peak rates, especially for festival season travel.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
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TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## AI raises retirement age of pilots from 58 to 65

**New Delhi:** Air India has raised the retirement age of pilots from 58 to 65, and from 58 to 60 for all other employees.

Sources said the retirement age of erstwhile Vistara pilots was 65. "With Vistara merging into Air India last Nov, the retirement age of pilots has been raised to 65 to bring parity," a source said.

Air India has about 24,000 employees, including 3,600 pilots and 9,500 cabin crew members. It could not be ascertained whether cabin crew members' retirement age had also been raised to 65, in line with that of pilots.

It was learned that the announcement about raising the retirement age was made at the airline's town-hall, addressed by CEO and MD Campbell Wilson.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation allows commercial pilots to fly till 65.

**► Mumbai airport hit by data network outage, P 18**

"There was discontent among pilots of erstwhile Air India and Vistara over some issues, including different retirement ages. That issue has been resolved," said a source. TNN



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TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## IndiGo penalised, ordered to pay ₹1.75L for 'dirty seats'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi, recently held IndiGo Airlines liable for deficiency in service due to unhygienic and stained seats on a flight, directing a compensation of Rs 1.75 lakh.

The bench, comprising president Poonam Chaudhry and members Bariq Ahmed and Shekhar Chandra, observed on July 18 that dirty seating arrangements constituted a direct violation of consumer expectations and the airline's contractual obligations.

Holding the airline guilty of deficiency in service, the commission denied the refund plea as the complainant had travelled from Baku to Delhi. However, the commission granted the compensation of Rs 1.5 lakh for mental agony, physical pain and harassment of the complainant and Rs 25,000 as litigation expenses.

Pinki, a resident of Chanakyapuri in Delhi, along with her husband and two other family members, booked air tickets through a travel agency on Dec 27, 2024, for Rs 48,739 from Baku to Delhi. On Jan 2, 2025, she boarded the IndiGo flight and found that the seats were dirty and unhygienic. When the issue was reported to an air hostess, she expressed her helplessness to

provide clean seats. As an alternative, the air hostess offered the complainant an isolated seat in the 14th row. She also offered a sincere apology.

On Jan 13, Pinki sent a legal notice to the airline. After not receiving any satisfactory response, she approached the district commission, praying for appropriate compensation.

She submitted that the harassment and emotional distress throughout the duration of the flight caused her considerable mental anguish. She further alleged that the poor quality and detrimental service extended to the customers in the international sector amounted to misconduct and reflected the sub-standard nature of services.

The airline submitted that the issue of the unhygienic seat was immediately resolved by the cabin crew and the complainant was accommodated in a different seat. The bench, however, observed that dirty seating arrangements constituted a direct violation of consumer expectations and the airline's contractual obligations.

The commission also said that as per the civil aviation requirements, any airline registered in India is required to provide a responsive and functional grievance redressal mechanism along with a dedicated helpline number, which are in line with the Consumer Protection Act 2019.

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TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

*In Karnataka's sugar bowl, an aerospace park has carved out a sweet spot in the world's aircraft supply chain*

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The most time your Airbus A320 or Boeing 737 hits the tarmac, the wheels beneath you may have rolled out of Belagavi. This north Karnataka town, about 500 km from Bengaluru, houses a 200-acre aerospace park that keeps global aviation moving — literally. More than a quarter of the wheels used by the world's A320 and 737 fleets — about 2,000 a year — are made here. Together, these are among the most widely flown aircraft in the world, with over 22,000 in service and thousands more already ordered. Since aircraft wheels take the full impact of landing 40-60 tonnes of metal and are replaced several times a year, they are a lucrative business.

Belagavi's wheels stand out for another reason: they are one of the few aerospace components made in India with 100% of the value-add happening in-country. The journey starts with aluminium blocks from Hindalco's Anantnagar plant. They arrive at S&M — a joint venture between France's Aubert & Duval and Indian manufacturer Angas, which operates the aerospace park. Here, a massive 16,000-tonne hydro-press — perhaps the only one of its kind in India — combines high pressure and precise heat to forge the blocks into wheel shapes. That forged wheel then goes to another Angas facility where it is precision-machined to give it the precise shape and smoothness required. The park's inspection and test facilities ensure each wheel meets exacting aerospace standards before it is shipped to France, where Safran fits tyres, mounts them on landing gear, and sends them to aircraft assembly lines.

**HOMEGROWN ECOSYSTEM**  
What makes Belagavi remarkable is that all this now happens in one place. Aerospace manufacturing is usually a fragmented, cross-border affair: raw material

## Wheels up from Belagavi! How a Karnataka town keeps global flights rolling



**Spinners made for LEAP-1A engine that powers Airbus A320neo & Boeing 737 MAX**



in one country being, in another, machining elsewhere, and surface treatment somewhere else entirely. When Angas started 10 years ago, Belagavi's wheels still had to be shipped abroad for certified surface treatment — a costly India lacked at the time.

Now, the ecosystem at the Belagavi aerospace park has evolved dramatically. Germany's BIKAR Metals operates an on-site workshop for aluminium and titanium. Aerospace Processing India — a joint venture between Angas and Canada's Magna — operates a Boeing and Airbus-certified surface treatment facility. It also leads numerous other global and Indian companies that support various aspects of aircraft manufacturing. Together,

they produce around 6,000 unique aircraft parts, serving not just Airbus and Boeing but also Bombardier, Collins Aerospace, Spirit AeroSystems, Safran, GKN Aerospace, Honeywell, Saes and Saab.

### POVERTY TO INDIA RICH LIST

It's all the vision of Arvind Melliari, founder and CEO of Angas, whose take-off mirrors the aircraft his company helps build. Based in Hubballi in north Karnataka, he lost his father early and was brought up by his mother. He studied in a Kannada medium school, often sitting on the floor with just a slab. Many of the relatives who supported his education went on to become investors in Angas. He got a degree in mechanical engineering from NIT Suralok, followed by a Master's from Pennsylvania State University in the US. After a stint at Ford, Melliari's entrepreneurial journey started in 1987 when a childhood friend from Hubballi, Ajit Prabhu, suggested a venture in outsourced engineering services. The idea was to get global companies in aerospace, automotive, oil & gas and others to outsource parts of their engineering work, and have that de-

ivered out of India — just as TCS, Infosys and others delivered IT from India.

The two formed a company called Quest Global, which today is one of the world's biggest outsourced engineering services providers, with a revenue of over \$600 million, presence across 11 countries, and customers like Airbus, BMW, GE Aerospace, and Rolls-Royce. The company was valued at \$1 billion in a funding round in 2022, and Melliari and Prabhu have been estimated to have a net worth of about \$4,000,000 each now.

In 2006, Melliari set his sights on aerospace manufacturing in India. He was encouraged by the other obligations the Indian government imposed on those who sell commercial and defence aircraft to India. Since India was buying a lot of aircraft, sellers needed to invest a certain percentage of the contract value back into the Indian economy.

Melliari wanted to give back to his hometown of Hubballi, but chose Belagavi — about 90 km away and a major hub for casting aluminium — as the site for his project. He got the gov't's permission to start a special economic zone (SEZ), and

the venture started as Quest Global Manufacturing. It was rechristened Angas in 2014. In 2016, Airbus awarded Angas a contract to supply over 1 lakh titanium machined parts for their A320neo aircraft, a first for an Indian supplier and one that took Angas to a whole new level.

### SKY'S THE LIMIT

Melliari sees the aim was to increase the value-addition done locally. "If you do only forging and machining, the value-add is only 20%. The correct answer would have been the logistics cost of bringing the material and sending it back would be 54% of total cost," says Melliari. By enabling a whole range of manufacturing processes to take place within 300 metres — rather than spread out over 4,000 km — the Belagavi park helps customers significantly reduce working capital and logistics costs. Just as crucially, Melliari adds, it enhances supply chain reliability by cutting down the chances of disruption.

### Wheels 7,500 made annually for A320s & 737s with 100% value-add in India

including single-side ones such as A320, A320neo and 737, and long-range ones like A350, A330, 777 and 787.

The one other major product that has reached a very high level of in-country value-add is the front spinner on a LEAP-1A engine that powers the Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX range of aircraft. The spinner is the one-bolted part at the core of the fan that smoothly guides airflow into the engine, reducing drag and maintaining noise and air handling.

Raw material, Melliari says, is the biggest hurdle in India right now. "It is typically about 30% to 40% of the value of a product. As a country, we lack materials for the aerospace business. It's a much bigger puzzle to address because it is not one material — there's steel, alumin-

ium, titanium, incoel (nickel-chromium based superalloys that have exceptional resistance to corrosion, oxidation, and high-temperatures), and thousands of variations of these materials," he says, and adds, "That's the next journey."

### SETTING ON BELAGAVI

"Belagavi was a risk as there were no aerospace-related companies in the region and there were concerns about whether we will get enough people to move there. But it was also one of the reasons why our partners liked us because we had space for expansion with more than 200 acres of land," Melliari told TOI in a 2021 interview.

Angas has also benefited from Karnataka's history with defence aircraft and helicopter manufacturing, thanks to HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited associated with the IISc), Bharat Electronics Ltd, Ashok Bharat, former HAL chairman, has been an advisor to Angas for more than a decade now. Bharat sets Angas' visit area in Belagavi, enables them to do lots of things. "With the passage of time, the ability to do complex work will rise. Things like engine components and actuators are more complex, and the surface treatment needed is very different," he says.

### MORE COMPLEX PARTS

That's indeed the direction Melliari is taking, looking going deeper into materials. "We are going to make more investments in engine components like the front spinner, and actuation components needed in hydraulic actuators that are used in control flaps, landing gear, ailerons, rudders. India has so far mostly done infrastructure components like for wings, fuselage, etc. Engine components and actuators are more complex, and the surface treatment needed is very different," he says.

The company has already made an investment of over \$100 million, and Melliari says the business is growing at 30% and is profitable. The opportunity, he believes, is huge, because the world has hardly any engineering talent that wants to work in manufacturing, and high interest rates have raised the cost of capital there. "We have a plant in the US and in France (mostly defence made to gain experience), but if I have to add 200 people quickly, I can only do that in India," he says.

For a man who never had to explain to anyone that this was barren land, and I brought experts from Europe and US to live here, train the people. We have gone through a lot of burning and learning in this process. And today, we deliver products 100% on time with zero defects. Arvind Melliari, Angas founder and CEO. "This was barren land, and I brought experts from Europe and US to live here, train the people. We have gone through a lot of burning and learning in this process. And today, we deliver products 100% on time with zero defects," he says. For a man who never had to explain to anyone that this was barren land, and I brought experts from Europe and US to live here, train the people. We have gone through a lot of burning and learning in this process. And today, we deliver products 100% on time with zero defects," he says.



**Arvind Melliari, Angas founder and CEO**

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TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

9 AUGUST 2025

## India top mkt for Malaysia Air, eyeing non-metro cities: MD

**Saurabh Sinha**  
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**Mumbai:** India has emerged as the single biggest market for Malaysia Airlines Berhad and the carrier has added capacity in this market by pulling out its flights from the Asean and domestic networks.

Currently operating 77 weekly flights to 10 cities in India, the airline has flown 13 lakh people in & out of the country in the first half of this calendar year. It will raise the frequency to 80 weekly flights this Dec and then add more next year.

"India is the top market for us in terms of both revenue and passenger numbers among the 24 countries and

67 territories that we fly to. Australia and Europe are the second and third biggest markets for us after India,"

**Izham bin Ismail**, group MD of Malaysia Aviation Group Berhad, told TOI.



With the flying rights to metros exhausted under the existing India-Malaysia bilaterals, the airline plans to add flights to the non-metros here next year as it sees a lot of traffic potential from there too. "India is a very important market to us. And we intend to grow (in) India in the future. We are evaluating other non-metro cities where we could deploy. We have been increasing frequency on some India routes. We have a code share with In-

diGo that helps passengers connect to their domestic network," Ismail said.

He sees India as a "very promising" market with travel demands from all quarters like leisure, premium and visiting friends and relatives. "The Indian economy is growing at a truly impressive pace. Urbanisation here is on the rise. Indian carriers have over 2,000 aircraft on order. Middle class income here is growing. We see the Indian population predominantly has very stable disposable income," he said.

"So, we put more capacity into India by sacrificing our capacity into Asean & domestic Malaysia. We redirected those capacities to India. I am glad we took a bet on India at the right time," he said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

TRIBUNE

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## DGCA nod to start heli-taxi services from Dhalli: Sukhu

**SHIMLA:** The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has given the nod to commence heli-taxi services from the Dhalli heliport on the outskirts of Shimla. This was stated by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on his return from Delhi on Friday. "Our efforts have yielded positive results. We have been given permission to start heli-taxi services from the Dhalli heliport," said Sukhu, adding that Shimla to Chandigarh and Rampur to Chandigarh flights would commence soon. The Dhalli heliport was being used by VIPs for chartered flights as the Jubbarhatti airport is located nearly 25 km away. **INSIDE**

# Corporate Communications Directorate

TRIBUNE

DELHI

10 AUGUST 2025

## Heli-taxi services from Dhalli okayed

Our consistent efforts have yielded positive results, says CM Sukhu

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 9

The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has given nod to commence heli-taxi services from Dhalli heliport, situated on the outskirts of Shimla.

An indication to this effect was given by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on his return from Delhi, yesterday. "Our efforts have yielded positive results. We have been given permission to start heli-taxi services from the Dhalli heliport," said Sukhu, adding that Shimla to Chandigarh and Rampur to Chandigarh flights would commence soon.

At present, the Dhalli heliport is being used by VIPs for chartered flights. Since the Jubbarhatti airport is located 25 km from the state capital, people prefer to travel to Chandigarh to catch a flight,



At present, the heliport is being used by VIPs for chartered flights.

especially in view of the erratic and undependable nature of flights from Jubbarhatti.

The DGCA had pointed out several shortcomings ever since the Dhalli heliport was constructed, which had been addressed by the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation. However, the nod from the DGCA had been delayed, resulting in the facility

remaining unused.

On January 13, 2022, the heliport was inaugurated by former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. Constructed at a cost of Rs 18 crore, the heliport is spread over 10.3 bigha.

The three-storey heliport has all modern facilities, including a reception, ticket counter and a VIP lounge. It also has porta cabin facilities

### INAUGURATED IN 2022

- The heliport was inaugurated by former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur in 2022
- Constructed at a cost of ₹18 crore, the heliport is spread over 10.3 bigha
- The DGCA had pointed out several shortcomings at the heliport
- It has all modern facilities, including a reception, ticket counter and a VIP lounge

for passengers, parking space for 50 vehicles, helicopter decks and safety nets.

Starting of heli-taxi services would give a major boost to tourism in the state. Moreover, there are only three airports in Himachal at Bhuntar in Kullu, Gaggal in Kangra and Jubbarhatti in Shimla where only 42-seater ATR planes can land due to shorter runways.

Tourism stakeholders have been demanding heli-taxi services, especially to attract the high-end tourists. The state government had proposed to set up 15 heliports, including at Jaskot (Hamirpur), Rakkar (Kangra), Sulatanpur (Chamba), Alloo Ground (Manali), Jispa, Rangrik, Sissu (Lahaul and Spiti) and Sharbo (Kinnaur).

The task of preparing the detailed project reports (DPRs) of the heliports to be set up in Phase I along with pre-feasibility study, site study and surveys for topographical and obstacles limitation had been entrusted to Pawan Hans Limited.

In the Phase II, heliports would be set up at Auhar (Bilaspur), Dharkiyari (Sirmour), Chanshal Dhar (Shimla), Jankaur Haar (Una), Galanag (Solan), Killar and Heli (Chamba).