



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

Airport's T2 to be closed for over 4 months for revamp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

DELHI INTERNATIONAL Airport Limited (DIAL) on Friday unveiled an ambitious plan to refurbish Terminal 2 or T2 of the Capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport, which was built by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) four decades ago. T2 will undergo refurbishment to prepare for projected growth in air travel demand, it said in a statement.

The work is set to commence in the 2025-26 financial year, with completion targeted by the second quarter, it added. During the renovation, T2 will temporarily close for four to six months, with operations shifted to the newly expanded Terminal 1.

According to DIAL, the refurbished terminal will see six new passenger boarding bridges sourced from South Korea, which will be operated with autonomous docking technology for the first time in India. These bridges will also have elevated ramps for wheelchair accessibility, swing doors for better operator safety, and cushioned side covers for added aesthetics and safety. Additionally, significant upgrades to heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and fire safety mechanisms will ensure security throughout the terminal.

It further said that aesthetic



At Delhi airport on Friday. PTI

improvements to T2 will include the installation of modern ceilings and skylight designs, contributing to a more welcoming ambiance. Smart washrooms, advanced flooring, and enhanced road connectivity will further bolster passenger convenience. Canopies in the forecourt area will provide protection from adverse weather.

Operationally, T2 will see improved real-time flight tracking capabilities with the installation of high-resolution Flight Information Display Systems alongside revamped signage for clearer communication, particularly for persons with reduced mobility, the DIAL said.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said, "The refurbishment of the four-decade-old Terminal 2 is the need of the hour. We, at DIAL, are committed to enhancing the overall passenger experience by upgrading key infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and elevating passenger comfort..."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

Delhi airport's T2 terminal to be closed for revamp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DELHI airport operator DIAL on Friday said the four-decade-old Terminal 2 (T2) will be closed for four to six months in the next financial year for refurbishment works that are expected to be completed in the September quarter.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, which is also the country's busiest airport, has three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3.

Currently, T1 and T2 are used only for domestic flights. The refurbishment works of T2 are set to commence in 2025-26 with an expected completion date in Q2 of FY26, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a release. The financial year starts from April 1, 2025.

"Terminal 2 will undergo a temporary shutdown for approximately 4 to 6 months to complete these improvements. "The temporary closure of Terminal 2 is expected to cause minimal disruption to operations, as the newly developed Terminal 1 will absorb the additional load, ensuring continued service to passengers," the release said. T2 was constructed 40 years ago by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

"The decades-old terminal will undergo significant upgrades aimed at elevating the passenger experience and increasing the airport's capacity to meet future growth demands," the release said.

DIAL CEO Vidheh Kumar Jaipuria said the refurbishment of the four-decade-old T2 is the need of the hour. He also said the overall passenger experience will be enhanced by upgrading key infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and elevating passenger comfort. "With the terminal's projected passenger capacity expected to reach its peak by FY 2025-26, these enhancements will be crucial in supporting the growing demand for air travel, particularly for domestic passengers," he noted. The airport handles around 1,300 flight movements daily.



The decades-old terminal will undergo significant upgrades aimed at elevating the passenger experience and increasing the airport's capacity to meet future growth demands

DIAL said in a release

Temporary closure

The temporary closure of Terminal 2 is expected to cause minimal disruption to operations, as the newly developed Terminal 1 will absorb the additional load, ensuring continued service to passengers, stated the release. T2 was constructed 40 years ago by the Airports Authority of India. Currently, T1 and T2 are used only for domestic flights.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

Delhi to begin renovation of T2, to shift operations to T1

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi airport's Terminal 2 (T2) will remain closed for about six months for refurbishment works in the next financial year. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has unveiled an ambitious plan to refurbish Terminal 2 or T2 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport which was built by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) four decades ago. During the renovation, T2 will temporarily close for four to six months, with operations being shifted to the newly expanded Terminal 1 to minimise disruption. Sources said the refurbishment work is set to commence in the 2025-26 financial year, with completion targeted by the second quarter. The upgrades are expected to be completed by the second quarter of Financial Year 2026. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked the operator of IGI airport to undertake a comprehensive overhaul of Terminal 2 (T2). The financial year starts from



April 1, 2025.

According to DIAL, the closure will not significantly impact airport operations as Terminal 1 (T1) will accommodate the additional load of passengers. T2, which was constructed 40 years ago by the AAI, will undergo extensive renovations to improve the passenger experience and increase capacity for future growth. T1 and T2 currently serve domestic flights while Terminal 3 (T3) handles international flights. The decades-old terminal will undergo significant upgrades aimed at elevating the passenger experience and increasing the airport's capacity to meet future growth demands," said DIAL in a Press statement.

Continued on page 2

Delhi to begin renovation of T2, to shift operations to T1

From page 1

Key elements of the refurbishment include the installation of six state-of-the-art Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBBs) featuring autonomous docking technology, the first of its kind in India. These advanced PBBs will offer features such as elevated ramps for wheelchair access and adjusted cabins for a seamless experience. The terminal will also receive mechanical and electrical upgrades, including new HVAC systems for better air quality and enhanced fire safety measures. According to airport operator,

DIAL will procure six state-of-the-art Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBBs) from South Korea, incorporating advanced features including elevated ramps to assist wheelchair passengers; Adjusted cabins for a seamless passenger experience; Autonomous docking technology (first time in India); Side-covering cushions for enhanced safety and aesthetics and swing doors for operator safety and a better aesthetic appeal. The terminal's aesthetics will be upgraded with modern ceilings and skylight designs, creating a more appealing environment. The civil works

include smart washrooms, advanced flooring, and better road connectivity will improve passenger convenience. Canopies at the forecourt will ensure a dry, comfortable experience for passengers, especially during the monsoon. T2 opened in May 1986, and was initially used for international flights till July 2010, when those operations shifted to T3. After this, the terminal remained operational for only three months every year, catering to Haj flights. It was then shut for a few years, and in 2017, was renovated, and now-bankrupt airline Go First and

a few IndiGo flights started operations from here. Officials said IGI is scheduled to host the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific & Middle East Regional Assembly conference in mid-April, and officials from the ministry of civil aviation confirmed that the expanded Terminal 1 (T1) will be ready by early April to ensure that the country's largest airport gets the best display. On completion of the ongoing work, T1 will have a capacity of 40 million passengers annually. T2's renovation will begin only by the end of April or May once the ACI

conference concludes," officials confirmed. DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said the refurbishment of the four-decade-old T2 is the need of the hour. "The decades-old terminal will undergo significant upgrades aimed at elevating the passenger experience and increasing the airport's capacity to meet future growth demands," he said. DIAL CEO said the overall passenger experience will be enhanced by upgrading key infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and elevating passenger comfort. "With the terminal's

projected passenger capacity expected to reach its peak by FY 2025-26, these enhancements will be crucial in supporting the growing demand for air travel, particularly for domestic passengers," he said. Last year, the improvement work of Delhi airport's Terminal 1 was done. Functions in T1 were resumed from August 17, in phases. A large section of Terminal 1's roof collapsed in the early hours of 28 June following heavy rain, leading to the closure of the entire terminal. One person was killed and eight others were injured in the accident.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

छह महीने तक बंद रहेगा एयरपोर्ट का टर्मिनल-2

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे का टर्मिनल 2 (टी2)



इस साल अप्रैल से सितंबर तक अस्थायी तौर पर 4-6 माह तक बंद रहेगा। दिल्ली

एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर (डायल) ने बताया कि 40 वर्षों से इस्तेमाल हो रहे टी2 को नवीनीकरण व मरम्मत के लिए बंद किया जाएगा।

डायल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने बताया कि टर्मिनल पुराना हो चुका है। यात्रियों की संख्या बढ़ रही है। ऐसे में बुनियादी ढांचा उन्नत किया जाएगा। खासतौर पर घरेलू उड़ानों की मांग बढ़ रही है। भारत के सबसे व्यस्त हवाईअड्डों में से एक इस एयरपोर्ट पर तीन टर्मिनल टी1, टी2 और टी3 हैं। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

Passenger handling at Mangaluru airport up 17.3%

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) handled 22.57 lakh passengers during the calendar year 2024 against 19.27 lakh in 2023, registering a growth of 17.13 per cent.

The numbers include 15.80 lakh domestic passengers (13.24 lakh), recording growth 19.33 per cent, and 6.76 lakh (6.02 lakh) international passengers.

The airport also recorded

its highest ever number of passengers in December 2024 at 2.06 lakh since the commercial operation date of October 31, 2020. The previous highest number was 2.02 lakh in October 2024.

For the first nine months of financial year 2024-25, MIA handled a total of 17.28 lakh passengers against 14.89 lakh during the same period of 2023-24. This represented a growth of 16 per cent.

The number of domestic travellers increased by 16.8 per cent at 11.98 lakh (10.26

lakh). International travel also saw an increase of 14.3 per cent, with 5.3 lakh (4.63 lakh) passengers.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE
The scheduled commercial air traffic movements also saw a substantial increase.

In 2024, the airport handled 16,416 ATMs, compared to 13,860 ATMs in 2023, a growth of 18.44 per cent.

The general aviation traffic grew by 6.17 per cent in 2024 compared to 2023 with the airport handling 340

(319) chartered flights in 2024.

The ATMs for the first nine months of 2024-25 also showed a growth of 16 per cent at 12,116 ATMs during April-December 2024-25 against 10,448 ATMs in corresponding period of 2023-24.

A media statement said this impressive growth in passenger traffic and ATMs is a testament to MIA's continuous efforts to enhance its infrastructure, expand connectivity, and improve passenger services.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

Parandur airport project protesters arrested on the way to Chennai

TE Raja Simhan
Chennai

Even as the Centre is considering clearing the Parandur greenfield airport project, proposed as a second international airport for Chennai, villagers protesting against the project were detained on their way to the city.

Friday marked the 900th day of protest by the locals, led by the Parandur Greenfield Airport Project Protest Group and the Ekanapuram Village Residents and Farmers Welfare Federation, who fear that their livelihood would be affected by the project.

Since the greenfield airport project was announced by the State government in August 2022, protests have been on with a few villagers gathering daily in the evening to express their objection.

The protests were also organised at various locations since the project announcement.

Federation's Secretary G Subramanian said in a memorandum that the project would affect 13 villages, including Ekanapuram, Nelvoy, Valathur, Ediyarpakkam, Madapuram and Akkammapuram surrounding Parandur.



LIVELIHOOD FEARS. The proposed Parandur airport project spread over 5,746 acres will impact 13 villages in the surrounding areas

According to the memorandum, there are many contradictions in the data mentioned in the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation's (Tidco) site study, the information given in the site permit by the Centre; and the statistics in the decree and the environment permit.

On Friday, the villagers were heading towards Chennai to protest at the former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi's memorial. However, they were arrested enroute, according to a member of the federation.

LAND ACQUISITION

The ₹20,000 crore project, proposed as a second international airport for Chennai, spread over 5,746 acres will impact 20 villages. In September 2024, the State government issued land acquisition notices for a total

of 4,445 acres in Ekanapuram. The airport will have a capacity to handle 10 crore travellers annually, and is planned to be completed before 2030.

APPROVALS IN PLACE

In August, 2024, the Centre granted site clearance approval to Tidco, for development of the airport. The site clearance was granted by the Centre based on the recommendations of the steering committee comprising representatives from several stakeholder Ministries/Organisations including Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the safety regulator,

The existing Chennai airport handles over 2 crore travellers annually. After the ongoing modernisation work, it can handle 3.5 crore people a year for the next seven years.



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

Mumbai airport will not park private planes from 2025-end

FOR EFFICIENCY. Non-scheduled flights will be shifted to the Navi Mumbai Airport

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Charter and private aircraft will not be allowed to park at Mumbai airport starting from the fourth quarter of 2025.

This move is to limit and gradually shift all non-scheduled flights from Mumbai to Navi Mumbai airport to improve operational efficiency and reduce congestion at Mumbai airport.

Construction of a general aviation terminal for charter flights at Navi Mumbai airport is underway and is expected to be completed by Q4 of 2025. The Adani Group is also conducting an e-auction for the development of hangars at Navi Mumbai.

"Once the facilities are ready, existing private and charter aircraft hangars at Mumbai will be demolished and the space will be used to build aeronautical assets. Except for very few exceptions, parking will not be available for charter planes at the Mumbai airport," said Arun Bansal, CEO of Adani Air-



HEAVY TRAFFIC. Mumbai airport sees around 970-990 flight movements daily, which include 40-60 charter flights

port Holdings Ltd.

He added that those intending to operate charter flights to Mumbai would have to drop off guests and park the aircraft elsewhere. "We expect Navi Mumbai International Airport to be a preferable option," he said.

Essar, Reliance and Tata groups have hangars at Mumbai. There are two maintenance repair and overhaul hangars belonging to Air Works and Indamer.

Reliance did not respond to an email while Tata group declined to comment. An Essar official said that the com-

pany is in discussion with the airport operator on the issue.

RUNWAY AHEAD

Bansal said an open and transparent process is being followed for the auction. "We have informed all hangar operators of our intention to demolish existing facilities. We will discuss with all the operators who park their planes at Mumbai. We will assess their requirements.

Parking charges at Navi Mumbai airport will be levied as per a tariff that would be fixed by Airport

Economic Regulatory Authority," Bansal said.

In the first phase the Navi Mumbai airport will have limited parking stands as well as hangar space for non-scheduled operators. The facilities will be augmented based on demand.

At present there are around 20-25 parking bays for non-scheduled operators at Mumbai airport in addition to hangars.

Mumbai airport sees around 970-990 flight movements daily. These include 40-60 charter flights. Last year the Civil Aviation Ministry directed the airport operator to reduce peak hour movements from 46 to 44 flights to ease congestion. The capacity is even lower when the secondary runway is in use.

Shifting of all non-scheduled flights to Navi Mumbai airport will further reduce flight delays.

The general aviation terminal in Mumbai will be freed up to construct an additional taxiway. This will help in reducing runway occupancy time, Bansal said.



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

IGI Airport's Terminal II to be refurbished

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The national capital-based IGI Airport's Terminal II will undergo "comprehensive refurbishment" to increase its capacity as well as elevate passenger experience.

As per the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), the firm that maintains and operates the IGI Airport, the refurbishment process will

modernise key areas of the terminal and related infrastructure.

The refurbishment, DIAL said, is a part of its commitment to create a world-class hub for travellers across India and South-east Asia.

The refurbishment works are set to commence in FY 2025-26, and will be completed in the second quarter of that year.

Consequently, Terminal II will undergo a temporary

shutdown for four to six months to complete these improvements.

Dial stated that the temporary closure of Terminal II, is expected to cause minimal disruption to operations, as the newly developed Terminal I will absorb the additional load.

"The refurbishment of the four-decade-old Terminal II is the need of the hour. We, at DIAL, are committed to enhancing the overall passen-

ger experience by upgrading key infrastructure and improving operational efficiency, and elevating passenger comfort," DIAL's Chief Executive Videh Kumar Jaipuria said.

"With the terminal's projected passenger capacity expected to reach its peak by FY 2025-26, these enhancements will be crucial in supporting the growing demand for air travel, particularly for domestic passengers."

Delhi airport to shut T2 from April for renovation

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, January 10

Delhi airport's Terminal 2 (T2) will be shut from April onwards for about four to six months as its operator Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) will be refurbishing it.

"The temporary closure of Terminal 2 is expected to cause minimal disruption to operations, as the newly developed Terminal 1 will absorb the additional load, ensuring continued service to passengers," the GMR Group-led DIAL stated.

A certain part of T1 was opened in August last year, about two months after it was closed because a section of its roof had collapsed amid heavy rains, killing one person while injuring several others.

The refurbishment works at T2 are set to commence in the new fiscal year (2025-26), and it is expected to be completed in the second quarter of the fiscal year. "T2 will undergo a temporary shut-down for approximately 4 to 6 months to complete these improvements," it mentioned.

Under the refurbishment plan, DIAL will procure six passenger boarding bridges for the terminal. There will be multiple mechanical and electrical improvements and a new high resolution flight information display system will be deployed. DIAL will also refurbish the airside and the apron area of the



The closure is expected to cause minimal disruption, as T1 will absorb the additional load

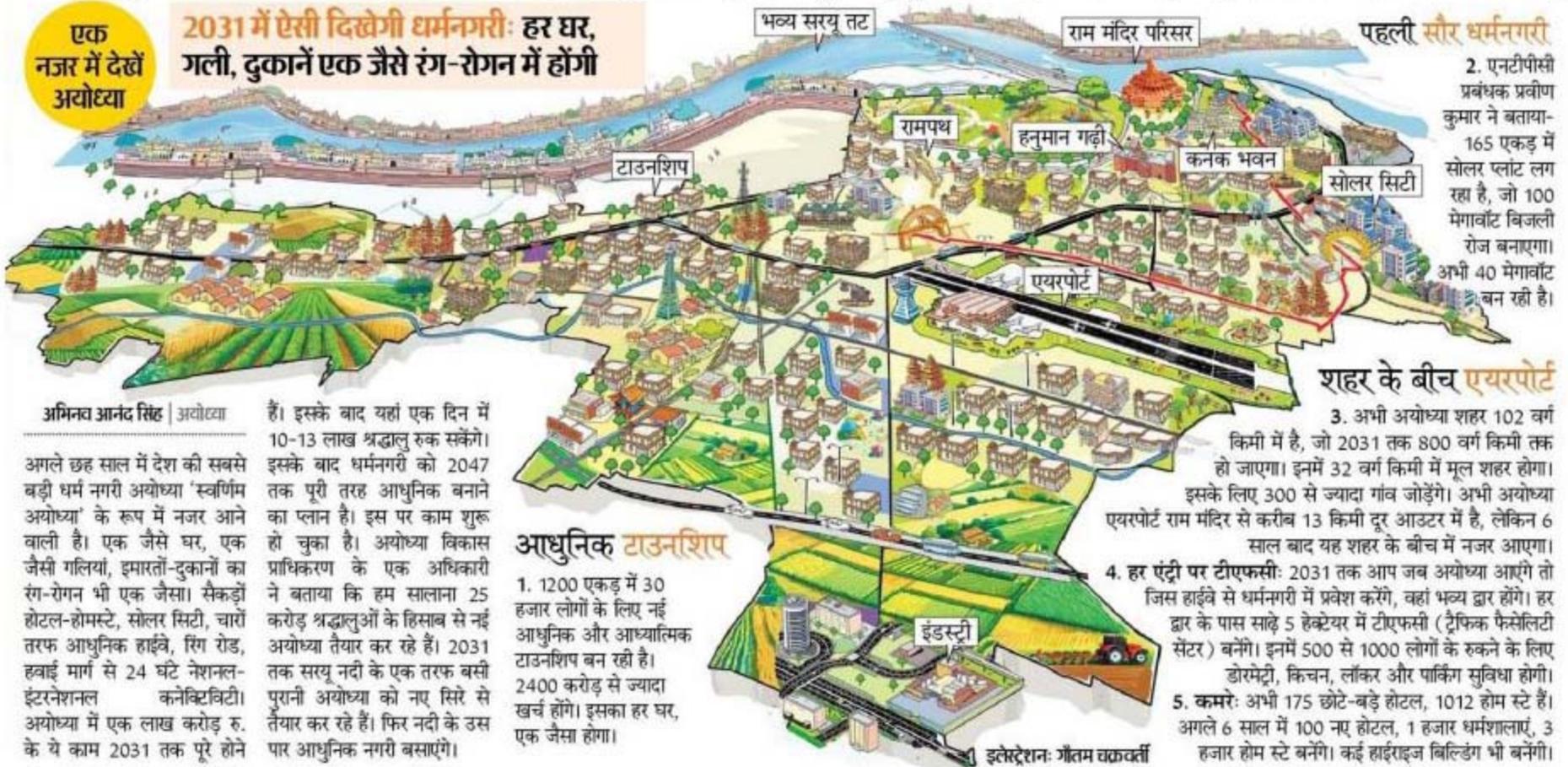
terminal.

Videh Kumar Jaipurjar, CEO, DIAL mentioned, "The refurbishment of the four-decade-old T2 is the need of the hour...With the terminal's projected passenger capacity expected to reach its peak by 2025-26, these enhancements will be crucial in supporting the growing demand for air travel, particularly for domestic passengers. This initiative is a key part of DIAL's long-term strategy to establish Delhi Airport as a leading hub for both domestic and international travelers."

स्वर्णिम अयोध्या... हर दिन 13 लाख लोगों के रुकने के इंतजाम होंगे, 24 घंटे देसी-विदेशी उड़ानें, एंटी पर भव्य फैसिलिटी सेंटर

एक नजर में देखें अयोध्या

2031 में ऐसी दिखेगी धर्मनगरी: हर घर, गली, दुकानें एक जैसे रंग-रोगन में होंगी



अग्निव आनंद सिंह | अयोध्या

अगले छह साल में देश की सबसे बड़ी धर्म नगरी अयोध्या 'स्वर्णिम अयोध्या' के रूप में नजर आने वाली है। एक जैसे घर, एक जैसे गलियां, इमारतों-दुकानों का रंग-रोगन भी एक जैसा। सैकड़ों होटल-होमस्टे, सोलर सिटी, चारों तरफ आधुनिक हाईवे, रिंग रोड, हवाई मार्ग से 24 घंटे नेशनल-इंटरनेशनल कनेक्टिविटी। अयोध्या में एक लाख करोड़ रु. के ये काम 2031 तक पूरे होने

हैं। इसके बाद यहां एक दिन में 10-13 लाख श्रद्धालु रुक सकेंगे। इसके बाद धर्मनगरी को 2047 तक पूरी तरह आधुनिक बनाने का प्लान है। इस पर काम शुरू हो चुका है। अयोध्या विकास प्राधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि हम सालाना 25 करोड़ श्रद्धालुओं के हिसाब से नई अयोध्या तैयार कर रहे हैं। 2031 तक सरयू नदी के एक तरफ बसी पुरानी अयोध्या को नए सिरे से तैयार कर रहे हैं। फिर नदी के उस पार आधुनिक नगरी बसाएंगे।

आधुनिक टाउनशिप

1. 1200 एकड़ में 30 हजार लोगों के लिए नई आधुनिक और आध्यात्मिक टाउनशिप बन रही है। 2400 करोड़ से ज्यादा खर्च होंगे। इसका हर घर, एक जैसा होगा।

2. एनटीपीसी प्रबंधक प्रवीण कुमार ने बताया- 165 एकड़ में सोलर प्लांट लग रहा है, जो 100 मेगावॉट विजली रोज बनाएगा। अभी 40 मेगावॉट बन रही है।

शहर के बीच एयरपोर्ट

3. अभी अयोध्या शहर 102 वर्ग किमी में है, जो 2031 तक 800 वर्ग किमी तक हो जाएगा। इनमें 32 वर्ग किमी में मूल शहर होगा। इसके लिए 300 से ज्यादा गांव जोड़ेंगे। अभी अयोध्या एयरपोर्ट राम मंदिर से करीब 13 किमी दूर आउटर में है, लेकिन 6 साल बाद यह शहर के बीच में नजर आएगा।

4. हर एंटी पर टीएफसी: 2031 तक आप जब अयोध्या आएंगे तो जिस हाईवे से धर्मनगरी में प्रवेश करेंगे, वहां भव्य द्वार होंगे। हर द्वार के पास साढ़े 5 हेक्टेयर में टीएफसी (ट्रैफिक फैसिलिटी सेंटर) बनेंगे। इनमें 500 से 1000 लोगों के रुकने के लिए डोरमेटी, किचन, लॉकर और पार्किंग सुविधा होगी।

5. कमरे: अभी 175 छोटे-बड़े होटल, 1012 होम स्टे हैं। अगले 6 साल में 100 नए होटल, 1 हजार धर्मशालाएं, 3 हजार होम स्टे बनेंगे। कई हाईराइज बिल्डिंग भी बनेंगी।

Illegal taxis at Hyd airport take passengers for a ride

SABA ANJUM SHAIK | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 9

Passengers at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) are being tricked and overcharged by unauthorised taxi drivers. Many travellers are raising concerns about the unauthorised cabs demanding high fares, taking longer routes and creating a stressful experience, especially at night.

A major factor adding to this issue is that many travellers do not verify the authenticity of the cab or driver before boarding, making them easy targets.

A user on 'X' platform, shared, "There is a scam going on by this operator choiscabs at the airport. Ended up paying more than what they said initially. I see many complaints against these guys."

Another frequent complaint revolves around a so-called 'local mafia' that prevents app-based cabs like Ola and Uber from accessing pickup locations. These drivers reportedly frighten app-based drivers while misleading passengers about cab availability.

"Need to check the mafia-ism of local taxi drivers. Not allowing Uber cabs to reach the pickup locations. I am told that local taxi drivers aren't allowed inside. Drivers are roaming near point D, openly telling the passengers that there are no app-based cabs and demanding exorbitant prices," shared another user.

The passengers have also raised concerns about unauthorised cabs charging unreasonably high rates, often stuffing multiple passengers into one vehicle.

A traveller on 'X' platform spoke about how his guest was overcharged and harassed. "Illegal cabs are still operating at

EXPLOITATION

A USER on 'X' platform, shared, "There is a scam going on by this operator choiscabs at the airport. Ended up paying more than what they said initially. I see many complaints against these guys."

THE PASSENGERS have also raised concerns about unauthorised cabs charging unreasonably high rates, often stuffing multiple passengers into one vehicle.

ANOTHER FREQUENT complaint revolves around a so-called 'local mafia' that prevents app-based cabs like Ola and Uber from accessing pickup locations. These drivers reportedly frighten app-based drivers while misleading passengers about cab availability.

THE DRIVER took a long route, dropping off everybody else first. It should take only 40 minutes to my home from the airport, but the driver took my guest almost 1 hour and 20 minutes.

— SHRUTI KANNAN,
a traveller



the airport. They are charging almost ₹800 per head and taking 3-4 people per cab. A guest who didn't know this was illegal used this service and during drop off, the driver started demanding him to pay ₹400 extra."

The driver took a long route, dropping off everybody else first. It should take only 40 minutes to my home from the airport, but the driver took my guest almost 1 hour and 20 minutes," said Shruti Kannan.

The situation becomes particularly concerning at night when touts are said to operate openly inside the airport premises, misleading passengers into paying inflated rates for unsafe and unauthorised rides.

Getting Ola Cabs or Uber

at Hyderabad Airport is a nightmare at night. There is a local mafia who manages the bookings. How come the touts enter the premises and conduct their business?" Mohan Rao, another user tweeted. "Unauthorised drivers are operating touting in the Ola zone with the support of Ola employees and managers who are allowing this activity. They accept money for these actions and support them," shared Eslavath Sudhakar, another user.

The failure of many passengers to verify cab details before boarding is a major reason why these scams are occurring. Travellers often fall prey to unauthorised drivers who take advantage of their urgency or lack of awareness.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

10 JANUARY 2025



Passengers queue up at the airport. FILE PHOTO

KIA earns 'Large Airport' tag after handling 40 million passengers a year

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport (BLR Airport) has surpassed the significant milestone of welcoming over 40 million passengers in a calendar year, solidifying its status as a "large airport" under the Airports Council International (ACI) standards.

Passenger traffic growth

In 2024, BLR Airport recorded 40.73 million passengers, a notable increase from 37.2 million in 2023. The airport experienced its busiest day on October 20, 2024, with over 1.26 lakh passengers, while October 17 saw a peak of 782 Air Traffic Movements (ATMs), surpassing the annual average of 723 ATMs per day.

Expanded connectivity

International flight operations saw a 21% increase, averaging 75 ATMs daily in 2024 compared to 62 in 2023.

BLR Airport added 11 new

domestic destinations and four international routes, connecting passengers to 75 domestic and 30 international destinations as of December 31, 2024.

This growth has further consolidated its position as India's third busiest airport for international passenger traffic.

Cargo business

The airport also achieved impressive growth in cargo operations, handling 4,96,227 metric tonnes (MT) in 2024 — a 17% increase compared to 2023.

International cargo volumes surged by 23% to 3,13,981 MT, driven by heightened demand for agri-perishables, pharmaceuticals, ready-made garments, and machinery parts. Domestic cargo volumes grew by 9% to reach 1,82,246 MT, with the highest single-day cargo volume of 1,884 MT recorded on July 11, 2024.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

9 JANUARY 2025

एयरपोर्ट के 15 किमी दायरे में 'परिधि घुसपैठ जांच प्रणाली' होगी लागू क्यूआरटी कर्मियों के लिए एयरसाइड पर शौर्य बैरक 20 से होगा शुरू

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी जल्द ही परिधि घुसपैठ पहचान प्रणाली शुरू करेगा। इसका दायरा एयरपोर्ट से 15 किमी परिधि होगा। इस नई परिधि घुसपैठ पहचान प्रणाली का उद्देश्य 15 कि.मी. एयरपोर्ट की परिधि से सुरक्षा उल्लंघन को रोकना है। यह प्रणाली उन्नत फाइबर-ऑप्टिक सेंसर, लेजर दीवारें, एक ग्राउंड आधारित रडार, वीडियो निगरानी और एनालिटिक्स का उपयोग करती है। पीआईडीएस के पास कोई भी हलचल होने पर कमांड एंड कंट्रोल सेंटर पर तुरंत एक अलर्ट पहुंचता है। पीआईडीएस संभावित घुसपैठ को हल्का कम वॉल्टेज वाला बिजली का झटका (गैर-घातक) भी देगा। पीआईडीएस का प्राथमिक

उद्देश्य घुसपैठियों और घुसपैठ को चित्रित करना और त्वरित प्रभाव से सुरक्षा कर्मियों को इस सम्बन्ध में अलर्ट करना है, ताकि वे संभावित खतरों पर जल्दी और प्रभावी ढंग से कार्रवाही कर सकें। अलर्ट पाते ही नियंत्रण कक्ष तुरंत हरकत में आ जाएगा और घुसपैठ वाले स्थान के सटीक निर्देशांक प्राप्त करेगा। इस स्थान को फोटो और वीडियो कैमरा से आसानी से देखा जा सकेगा। नवी प्रणाली एयरपोर्ट पर रियल टाइम सर्विलेंस को बढ़ाएगा तथा इसे और स्वचालित करेगा। पीआईडीएस को एयरपोर्ट को 15 कि.मी. की परिधि पर लगाया जाएगा। इसके साथ ही लगभग 450 उच्च-स्तरीय कैमरे और कई सेंसर भी लगाए जाएंगे।



एयरसाइड पर शौर्य बैरक

एयरपोर्ट पर क्यूआरटी सुरक्षा कर्मियों के लिए नए बैरक बनाए गए हैं। शौर्य बैरक विशेष रूप से उन सुरक्षा कर्मियों की जरूरतों के लिए डिजाइन किए गए हैं, जो एयरपोर्ट परिसर के अंदर तैनात किए जाएंगे। इसके तहत जरूरत पड़ने पर एयरपोर्ट पर किसी भी आपात स्थिति में अतिरिक्त सुरक्षा बल तैनात किया जा सकेगा। बैरक को 25 अतिरिक्त सुरक्षा कर्मियों को समायोजित करने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया है। सीआईएसएफ के महाविदेशक राजविंदर सिंह भट्टी ने पिछले साल शौर्य बैरक का उद्घाटन किया था, जो 20 जनवरी तक चालू हो जाएगा।

सीआईएसएफ कैंप में नए महिला बैरक

सीआईएसएफ कैंप में 42 नए महिला बैरक का निर्माण किया गया। इसके लिए वर्तमान महिला हॉस्टल के ऊपर दो नई मंजिलें बनाई गईं। इससे जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर सीआईएसएफ कर्मियों की महिला विंग की तैनाती को मजबूत करने में मदद मिलेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

IGIA T2 Closed for Repairs

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Delhi airport operator GMR-led DIAL Friday said that Terminal 2 (T2) at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) will be closed for four to six months during the next financial year.

“The refurbishment of the four-decade-old Terminal 2 is the need of the hour. We, at DIAL, are committed to enhancing the overall passenger experience by upgrading key infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and elevating passenger comfort,” said the CEO of DIAL, Videh Kumar Jaipuria.

“With the terminal's projected passenger capacity expected to reach its peak by FY 2025-26, these enhancements will be crucial in supporting the growing demand for air travel, particularly for domestic passengers. This initiative is a key part of DIAL's long-term strategy to establish Delhi Airport as a leading hub for both domestic and international travelers,” he added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

10 JANUARY 2025

NEW DELHI

GMR Airports' arm to sell stake in Philippines JV

GMR Airports on Thursday said one of its subsidiaries will sell stake in a joint venture in the Philippines for USD 1.365 million. According to a regulatory filing, GMR Airports International B.V. (GAIBV), has agreed to divest its 50 per cent stake in Megawide GMR Construction JV to Megawide Construction Corporation for USD 1.365 million.



A man takes a walk at Kartavya Path lawns on foggy winter morning on Friday.

RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

Dense fog envelops Delhi, air quality nears 'severe'

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Capital was in the grip of "very dense" fog early Friday, with visibility of zero around 4.30am at the Palam observatory improving to only around 100 metres at 9am and the Safdarjung observatory recording visibility of 50 metres around 5.30am, which improved to 100 metres by 8.30am, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Experts attributed the fog to calm winds, which also led to a sharp fall in the air quality, to the brink of "severe" level as the city clocked an air quality index of 397 at 4pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Fog in the morning led to a delay of over 100 flights, but there was no cancellation, airport authorities said. IMD issued a yellow alert for Saturday, warning of "moderate" to "dense" fog and light rainfall.

"Calm winds prevailed over Delhi in the early hours of the day, leading to a very dense to dense fog. A moderate fog is likely to be observed in most places on Saturday morning as well, with dense fog in isolated places," an IMD official said.

IMD classifies it as "shallow" fog when visibility is 500 metres to 1,000m, "moderate" fog when visibility is 200m to 500m, "dense" when visibility ranges



The driver of a mini truck on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway suddenly applied brakes due to low visibility, due to which it overturned and a cab coming from behind also rammed into it. The incident took place around 5.30am and both drivers survived with injuries, authorities said.

SAKIB ALI/HT PHOTO

from 50m to 200m and "very dense" when visibility falls below 50m.

Mercury falls

The minimum temperature in Delhi on Friday was 6 degrees Celsius (°C), which was around a degree below normal and over a degree higher than the 4.8°C recorded a day before.

The maximum temperature, however, recorded a sharp dip on the day, at 17.6°C, which was 1.4°C below normal and down from 21.2°C recorded a day before.

Mahesh Palawat, vice presi-

dent at Skymet meteorology, said, "Cloud cover and the blanket of fog is the primary reason for the dip in the maximum temperature. The minimum also saw a rise. When there is a layer of cloud or fog, the heat cannot escape at night and vice versa during the day."

Other weather stations across the city also recorded similar temperatures on the day. The Palam station recorded a maximum of 17°C and minimum of 7.6°C, Lodhi Road station 16.1°C and 6.4°C, and Ridge and Avana-

gar stations 17.3°C and respective minimums of 7.5°C and 7°C.

IMD has forecast light rain, accompanied by thunderstorms, on Saturday. "Very light rain or drizzle is expected to continue on Sunday morning as well. This is due to the interaction of a western disturbance and easterly winds," the IMD official said.

Air worsens

The 24-hour average air quality leading until 4pm on Friday was 397 ("very poor"), clocking a steady rise from AQIs of 357 ("very poor") and 297 ("poor") over the past two days.

As the air quality index on Thursday worsened to the "very poor" level, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR invoked Stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) to curb pollution. Stage 3 was last invoked on January 3, but was revoked on January 5 as air quality improved.

Forecasts by the Centre's Early Warning System for Delhi (EWS) have predicted Delhi's AQI to remain in the "very poor" category until Saturday, before improving to the "poor" range on Sunday and Monday, depending on light rain in the city.

"The outlook for subsequent six days is that the air quality is likely to be in poor to very poor category," the EWS bulletin said on Friday evening.



**AIR WE
BREATHE**



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

10 JANUARY 2025

{ STATE ISSUES GR }

No animal slaughter within 10 km of NMIA



The urban development dept has also formed a Aerodrome Environment Management Committee headed by MD of CIDCO.

G. Mohiuddin Jedly

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NAVI MUMBAI: With the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) set to be inaugurated on April 17, the state, through a government resolution (GR), has initiated requisite safety measures for flight operations in the project area.

As per the GR, slaughter or flaying activities are banned in the 10 km radius from the aerodrome reference point. There can be no slaughterhouses, meat shops and depositing of garbage or pollutants in the region.

The urban development department has also formed a high-level Aerodrome Environment Management Committee (AEMC) headed by CIDCO managing director and other top government officials to ensure norms are followed and reviewed constantly. The member secretary of the committee is the chief executive officer of NMIA.

As per the government order, the committee will ensure that the provisions of Aviation Act are adhered to. The Act prohibits

slaughter of animals, disposal of their skins or remains, dumping of garbage and other polluting or hazardous substances within a radius of 10km from the scenic point of an airport.

"The Committee shall strictly follow the said instructions/rules and shall take action and measures taking into consideration the instructions issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on environment from time to time. It will take decisions on measures to maintain environmental cleanliness in the area of 10 to 15 km around the airport," read the order.

A government official said, "The increase in undeveloped colonies, slaughterhouses and sewage disposal systems attracts birds and wildlife, which in turn increases the risk of bird/animal strikes on aircraft. To effectively combat such problems, the Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the setting up of an AEMC." He added that a wildlife management team will be appointed to prevent vultures or other birds from getting attracted to the region to mitigate bird strikes on aircraft.

— 'REFURBISHMENT OF THE FOUR-DECADE-OLD T2 IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR' —

IGIA plans 4-6 month shutdown of Terminal 2 for overhaul in '25

OUR CORRESPONDENT

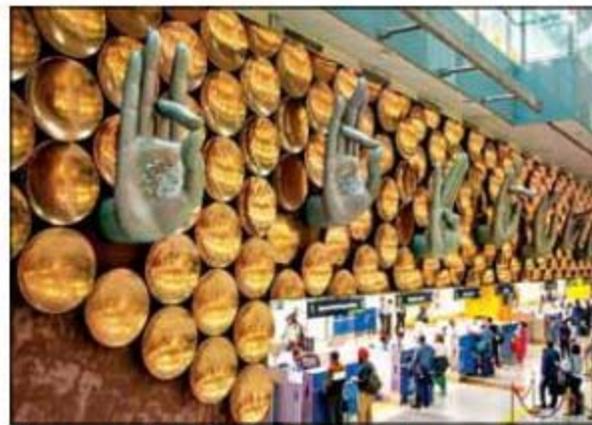
NEW DELHI: Delhi airport operator DIAL on Friday said the four-decade-old Terminal 2 (T2) will be closed for four to six months in the next financial year for refurbishment works that are expected to be completed in the September quarter.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national Capital, which is also the country's busiest airport, has three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3.

Currently, T1 and T2 are used only for domestic flights.

The refurbishment works of T2 are set to commence in 2025-26 with an expected completion date in Q2 of FY26, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a release.

The financial year starts



'The temporary closure of Terminal 2 is expected to cause minimal disruption to operations'

REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

from April 1, 2025.

"Terminal 2 will undergo a temporary shutdown for approximately 4 to 6 months to complete these improvements.

"The temporary closure

of Terminal 2 is expected to cause minimal disruption to operations, as the newly developed Terminal 1 will absorb the additional load, ensuring continued service to passengers,"

Key Points

- » The Indira Gandhi International Airport, which is also the country's busiest airport, has three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3
- » Currently, T1 and T2 are used only for domestic flights
- » The refurbishment works of T2 are set to commence in 2025-26 with an expected completion date in Q2 of FY26, DIAL said in a release

icant upgrades aimed at elevating the passenger experience and increasing the airport's capacity to meet future growth demands," the release said.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said the refurbishment of the four-decade-old T2 is the need of the hour.

He also said the overall passenger experience will be enhanced by upgrading key infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and elevating passenger comfort.

"With the terminal's projected passenger capacity expected to reach its peak by FY 2025-26, these enhancements will be crucial in supporting the growing demand for air travel, particularly for domestic passengers," he noted.

The airport handles around 1,300 flight movements daily.

the release said.

T2 was constructed 40 years ago by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

"The decades-old terminal will undergo signif-

IGI के टर्मिनल-2 को किया जाएगा और हाईटेक



मॉडर्न रूफ और स्काईलाइट डिजाइनों के साथ सुंदरता को बढ़ाया जाएगा

■ **NBT न्यूज़, IGI एयरपोर्ट** : इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को वर्ल्ड लेवल पर और भी बेहतर बनाने के लिए प्रयास लगातार किए जा रहे हैं। इसके तहत टर्मिनल-2 के आधुनिकीकरण और उसकी सुविधाओं को और अपग्रेड करके इंटरनेशनल लेवल के बनाने की योजना तैयार कर ली गई है। एयरपोर्ट के ऑपरेटर GMR एयरपोर्ट्स लिमिटेड की देखरेख में डायल (दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड) ने टर्मिनल-2 के व्यापक सुधार के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी दी है। इसे 40 साल पहले एयरपोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा बनाया गया था।

इसके बारे में जानकारी देते हुए डायल के CEO विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने कहा कि टर्मिनल-2 के रेनेवेशन का काम यहां आने वाले हवाई यात्रियों के अनुभवों को और बेहतर बनाने के उद्देश्य से शुरू किया जा रहा है। इसमें यहां पहले से उपलब्ध सुविधाओं को अपग्रेड करने और टर्मिनल की क्षमता को और बढ़ाने की योजना है। साल 2025-26 में IGI एयरपोर्ट अपने पीक पर पहुंच सकता है, जिसके लिए एयरपोर्ट तैयार किया जा रहा है।

नए साल में शुरू होने वाले महत्वपूर्ण काम : सुधारों का काम 2025-26 में शुरू होगा और इसी फाइनेंशियल ईयर के सेकेंड क्वार्टर में आधुनिकीकरण का काम पूरा होने की उम्मीद है। इसके लिए टर्मिनल-2 को लगभग 4 से 6 महीनों के लिए बंद किया जाएगा। टर्मिनल-2 के टेपेरी बंद होने के दौरान यहां से संचालित होने वाली उड़ानों का भार नया डेवलप टर्मिनल-1 संभालेगा।

अपग्रेड होने के बाद मिलने वाली प्रमुख सुविधाएं: यात्री सुविधाओं में बढ़ोतरी के लिए साउथ कोरिया से छह अत्याधुनिक नए यात्री वॉर्डिंग ब्रिज (फैब्रिक्स) खरीदने की योजना है। इनमें ऑटोमैटिक डॉकिंग टेबिनक का उपयोग होगा, जो भारत में पहली बार होगा। वील चेयर यात्रियों के लिए अत्याधुनिक रैप बनेंगे। इसके अलावा मैकेनिकल एंड इलेक्ट्रिकल सुधार भी किए जाएंगे। नए HVS सिस्टम यात्रियों के लिए हवा की गुणवत्ता और आराम को बेहतर बनाएंगे। फायर सिक्योरिटी सिस्टम को अपडेट किया जाएगा।

स्काईलाइट डिजाइन बढ़ाएंगी टर्मिनल की सुंदरता: मॉडर्न रूफ और स्काईलाइट डिजाइनों के साथ टर्मिनल की सुंदरता को बढ़ाया जाएगा। मॉनसून के दौरान यात्रियों के लिए फोरकोर्ट में कैनोपी की सुविधा होगी।

रियल-टाइम उड़ान की मिलेगी जानकारी

■ **नई सुविधाओं** में एक फ्लाइट इनफॉर्मेशन डिस्प्ले सिस्टम होगा। FIDS हाई रिजॉल्यूशन के साथ हवाई यात्रियों को रियल टाइम उड़ान की जानकारी देगा। विशेष रूप से डिजाइन किए गए संकेत कम मोबिलिटी वाले यात्रियों को अपने गंतव्य तक पहुंचाने की सुविधा को और बेहतर बनाएंगे। एयरसाइड और एप्रन एरिया को भी बड़े स्तर पर सुधार किया जाएगा।

4
से 6 महीने
के लिए किया
जाएगा बंद,
किया जाएगा
अपग्रेड

6 महीने बंद रहेगा टर्मिनल-2

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर बढ़ सकती है यात्रियों की मुश्किलें

- अप्रैल के अंत में शुरू होगा टी 2 पर नवीनीकरण कार्य
- टी 1 पर यात्रियों की क्षमता में किया जाएगा इजाफा

नई दिल्ली, 10 जनवरी (नवोदय टाइम्स): आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर टर्मिनल 2 पर होने वाले नवीनीकरण कार्य के चलते आने वाले समय में यात्रियों की मुश्किलें बढ़ सकती हैं। अप्रैल अंत या मई माह की शुरुआत में यह कार्य शुरू होगा। रिनोवेशन के कारण टर्मिनल 2 को चार से छह महीने तक के लिए बंद किया जा सकता है।

दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे में तीन टर्मिनल टी 1, टी 2 व टी 3 हैं। फिलहाल टी 1 और टी 2 का उपयोग केवल घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए किया जाता है। डायल ने कहा है कि टर्मिनल 2 का नवीनीकरण कार्य 2025-26 में शुरू होने वाला है। यह कार्य वित्त वर्ष -26 की दूसरी तिमाही में पूरा होने की उम्मीद है। डायल का कहना है कि



40 साल पहले बना था टर्मिनल टी 2

संभावना जताई जा रही है कि टर्मिनल टी-2 के अस्थायी रूप से बंद होने से ऑपरेशन में थोड़ी बहुत अड़चन आ सकती है। नया डेवलप टर्मिनल 1 अतिरिक्त भार को वहन करेगा, जिससे यात्रियों को निरंतर सेवा सुनिश्चित होगी। गौरतलब है कि टी-2 का निर्माण 40 साल पहले भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) द्वारा किया गया था। दशकों पुराने टर्मिनल में महत्वपूर्ण अपग्रेडेशन किया जाएगा

हालांकि टी 2 के बंद होने से ज्यादा फर्क नहीं पड़ेगा क्योंकि नव विकसित टी 1 अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारी उठाने में सक्षम है।

एक अधिकारी ने जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि काम पूरा होने के बाद टी-1 की क्षमता सालाना

जिसका मकसद यात्री अनुभव को बेहतर बनाना और भविष्य की विकास मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए एयरपोर्ट की क्षमता को बढ़ाना है।

यात्री क्षमता अपने चरम पर पहुंचने की उम्मीद

डायल के सीईओ विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने कहा कि चार दशक पुराने टी 2 का नवीनीकरण समय की मांग है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि प्रमुख बुनियादी ढांचे को अपग्रेड कर, परिचालन दक्षता में सुधार करके और यात्री आराम को बढ़ाकर समग्र यात्री अनुभव को बढ़ाया जाएगा। वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 तक टर्मिनल की अनुमानित यात्री क्षमता अपने चरम पर पहुंचने की उम्मीद है। हवाई यात्रा विशेष रूप से घरेलू यात्रियों की बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करने में यह महत्वपूर्ण है। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट हर रोज लगभग 1,300 उड़ानों का संचालन करता है।

4 करोड़ यात्रियों की हो जाएगी। अप्रैल के अंत या मई की शुरुआत में टी-2 का नवीनीकरण कार्य शुरू होगा। डायल के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट का टर्मिनल 2 और इसके आसपास का क्षेत्र 1980 के दशक में बनाया गया था।

100 से अधिक उड़ानों के परिचालन में हुई देरी

नई दिल्ली, 10 जनवरी (ब्यूरो): दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर शुक्रवार को घने कोहरे के कारण 100 से अधिक उड़ानों के परिचालन में देरी हुई। विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने सुबह पांच बजे चार मिनट पर सोशल मीडिया मंच एक्स पर पोस्ट डालकर यात्रियों से अपील की कि वे हवाई अड्डे पर पहुंचने से पहले उड़ानों की स्थिति के बारे में नवीनतम जानकारी हासिल करें।

हवाई अड्डे का संचालन करने वाली दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने सुबह 5.52 बजे एक्स पर पोस्ट कर बताया कि घने कोहरे के कारण उड़ानों के प्रस्थान पर असर पड़ा है। हालांकि कैट 3 का अनुपालन करने वाली उड़ानें दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से आगमन और प्रस्थान करने में सक्षम हैं। कैट 3 अनुपालन कम दृश्यता की स्थिति में उड़ानों के संचालन की अनुमति देता है। उधर, उड़ानों की स्थिति की जानकारी देने वाली वेबसाइट फ्लाइटरेडार डॉट कॉम पर उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार हवाई अड्डे पर 100 से अधिक उड़ानों के परिचालन में देरी हुई है।

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर टी2 का नवीनीकरण शुरू होगा

राजेश कुमार। नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे का टर्मिनल 2 (टी2) अगले वित्तीय वर्ष में नवीनीकरण कार्यों के लिए लगभग छह महीने तक बंद रहेगा। दिल्ली अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा लिमिटेड (डायल) ने एक महत्वाकांक्षी योजना का अनावरण किया है। इंदिरा गांधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल 2 या टी2 का नवीनीकरण किया जाएगा, जिसका निर्माण चार दशक पहले भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) द्वारा किया गया था।

नवीनीकरण के दौरान, टी-2 अस्थायी रूप से चार से छह महीने के लिए बंद रहेगा, तथा व्यवधान को कम करने के लिए परिचालन को नव विस्तारित टर्मिनल 1 में स्थानांतरित कर दिया जाएगा। सूत्रों ने बताया कि नवीनीकरण का काम वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 में शुरू होगा और दूसरी तिमाही तक पूरा होने का लक्ष्य है। वित्तीय वर्ष 2026 की दूसरी तिमाही तक उन्नयन कार्य पूरा होने की उम्मीद है। नागरिक विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने आईजीआई हवाई अड्डे के संचालक को टर्मिनल 2 (टी2) का व्यापक नवीनीकरण करने को कहा है। वित्तीय वर्ष 1 अप्रैल 2025 से शुरू होगा। डायल के अनुसार बंद होने से हवाई अड्डे के संचालन पर कोई खास असर नहीं



पड़ेगा क्योंकि टर्मिनल 1 यात्रियों के अतिरिक्त भार को संभाल लेगा। टी2, जिसका निर्माण 40 साल पहले किया गया था, यात्री अनुभव को बेहतर बनाने और क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए व्यापक नवीनीकरण से गुजरेगा। भविष्य के विकास के लिए टी1 और टी2 वर्तमान में घरेलू उड़ानों का संचालन करते हैं, जबकि टर्मिनल 3 (टी3) अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का संचालन करता है। डीआईएल ने एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कहा, दशकों पुराने टर्मिनल में महत्वपूर्ण उन्नयन किया जाएगा, जिसका उद्देश्य यात्री अनुभव को बेहतर बनाना तथा भविष्य की विकास मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए हवाई अड्डे की क्षमता को बढ़ाना है।

नवीनीकरण के प्रमुख तत्वों में भारत में अपनी तरह के पहले, स्वचालित डॉकिंग प्रौद्योगिकी से युक्त छह अत्याधुनिक यात्री बोर्डिंग ब्रिज (पीबीबी) की स्थापना शामिल है। इन उन्नत पीबीबी में व्हीलचेयर पहुंच के लिए उन्नत रैम्प और निर्बाध अनुभव के लिए समायोजित केबिन जैसी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध होंगी। टर्मिनल में (शेष पृष्ठ 9)

दिल्ली...

यात्रिक और विद्युत उन्नयन भी किया जाएगा, जिसमें बेहतर वायु गुणवत्ता और उन्नत अग्नि सुरक्षा के लिए नई एचवीएसी प्रणालियां शामिल होंगी। हवाईअड्डा संचालक के अनुसार, डायल दक्षिण कोरिया से छह अत्याधुनिक पैसेंजर बोर्डिंग ब्रिज (पीबीबी) खरीदेगा, जिसमें व्हीलचेयर यात्रियों की सहायता के लिए ऊंचे रैप सहित उन्नत सुविधाएं शामिल होंगी; निर्बाध यात्री अनुभव के लिए समायोजित केबिन; स्वायत्त डॉकिंग प्रौद्योगिकी (भारत में पहली बार); बड़ी हुई सुरक्षा और सौंदर्य के लिए साइड-कवरिंग कुशन तथा ऑपरेटर की सुरक्षा और बेहतर सौंदर्य अपील के लिए स्विंग दरवाजे भी होंगे। टर्मिनल के सौंदर्य को आधुनिक छत और रोशनदान डिजाइन, एक अधिक आकर्षक वातावरण का निर्माण। नागरिक इसमें स्मार्ट शीचालय, उन्नत फ्लोरिंग और बेहतर सड़क निर्माण शामिल हैं। कनेक्टिविटी से यात्री सुविधा में सुधार होगा। छतरियां फोरकोर्ट यात्रियों के लिए शुष्क, आरामदायक अनुभव सुनिश्चित करेगा, विशेषकर मानसून के दौरान। टी2 मई 1986 में खोला गया था, और शुरू में इसका इस्तेमाल अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर किया गया था। जुलाई 2010 तक उड़ानें बंद रहीं, फिर उनका परिचालन टी3 पर स्थानांतरित हो गया। बाद इसका मतलब यह है कि टर्मिनल प्रत्येक वर्ष केवल तीन महीने ही चालू रहा। यह कंपनी हर साल हज उड़ानों की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराती है। इसके बाद इसे कुछ वर्षों के लिए बंद कर दिया गया और 2017 में इसका जीर्णोद्धार किया गया। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि आईजीआई में हवाई अड्डा परिषद की बैठक होनी है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय (एसीआई) एशिया-प्रशांत और मध्य पूर्व क्षेत्रीय सभा अप्रैल के मध्य में सम्मेलन, और नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के अधिकारीएविएशन ने पुष्टि की है कि विस्तारित टर्मिनल 1 2020 तक तैयार हो जाएगा। अप्रैल की शुरुआत में यह सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा कि देश के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डे को सर्वोत्तम सुविधाएं मिलें।

More than 300 flights delayed due to zero visibility at airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Flight operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport were impacted on Friday with visibility dropping to 0 metre for around five hours from 4am to 9am. Though no flight was diverted or cancelled, over 300 flights were delayed, stated FlightRadar24.

An airport official said, "Several flights were also impacted due to weather conditions at origin airports from where flights came late."

RK Jenamani, senior scientist at IMD, said, "IGI Airport recorded dense to very dense fog from 3.30am to 9am when visibility was between 0 and 100 metres. Zero visibility prevailed persistently from 4am to 9am with CAT-III operations at all four runways. The runway visibility range remained within the range of 199-250 metres at all runways."

A passenger took to X to complain about the "mismanagement" with flyers being made to wait for two hours inside the aircraft due to dense fog. Pratyush Rawat wrote on X, "Boarded SG263 Delhi-Kolkata at 6am, but still grounded after 2hrs due to dense fog. There are infants and elderly onboard—this delay was foreseeable and is sheer poor planning."

In another post, he wrote, "Why board SG263 knowing dense fog delays were foreseeable? I have an infant in my lap,

A Met official said zero visibility prevailed at IGIA from 4am to 9am with CAT-III operations at all four runways

and this 2-hour flight has turned into a 6-hour ordeal. Waiting in the lounge would've been much more manageable."

A SpiceJet spokesperson said, "SpiceJet flight SG263, scheduled to operate from Delhi to Kolkata on Jan 10, was prepared for an on-time departure at 6.35am. However, the sudden onset of fog immediately after the boarding process led to an unavoidable delay. Additionally, a flight plan issue at the air traffic control system resulted in the flight not being assigned a sequence number, and a runway change further contributed to the delay. All three factors were beyond the airline's control." Regretting the inconvenience, the spokesperson added that the flight eventually departed at 8.50am.

Officials said the airport initiates low visibility procedures — measures aimed at making landing for flights easier — when visibility dips below 800 metres. During this period, CAT-I procedures are initiated for visibility above 550 metres. CAT-III A and B pilots can land when visibility is below 275 metres and even at 50 metres.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

After T1 is fully operational, 40-yr-old T2 to be revamped

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal 2, constructed 40 years ago by Airports Authority of India, will undergo a comprehensive refurbishment in fiscal 2025-26, airport operator Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said on Friday.

T2 will be shut down temporarily for four to six months to complete the project, but only after Terminal 1 becomes fully operational. "The refurbishment works will have an expected completion date in quarter two of 2025-26. The temporary closure of Terminal 2 is expected to cause minimal disruption to operations as the newly developed Terminal 1 will absorb the additional load," DIAL stated.

The reopening of T2 will also depend on how much footfall the new Noida airport can cater to, said sources.

Six passenger boarding bridges will be brought from South Korea, which will have elevated ramps to assist wheelchair passengers, adjusted cabins for a seamless passenger experience, autonomous docking technology for the first time in India, side-covering cushions for enhanced safety and aesthetics, and swing doors for operator safety and aesthetics. New heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and advanced fire safety systems will enhance security and comfort throughout the terminal.

T2 will also get modern ceilings and skylights, smart washrooms, advanced flooring and better road connectivity. Canopies at the forecourt will ensure a dry, comfortable experience for flyers, especially during the monsoon. Besides the high-resolution and improved flight information display system, specially designed signage will facilitate clear communication, including accessibility for persons with reduced mobility. The airside and apron areas will also be refurbished.

CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said, "With T2's projected passenger capacity expected to reach its peak by 2025-26, these enhancements will be crucial in supporting the growing demand for air travel, particularly for domestic passengers."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

10 JANUARY 2025

GMR Airports' arm to sell Philippines JV stake

New Delhi: GMR Airports said one of its subsidiaries will sell stake in a joint venture in the Philippines for \$1.4 million. MGCJV was engaged in execution of the engineering, procurement, and construction works of Clark Airport in the Philippines. "After completion of the EPC works of Clark Airport in 2020, MGCJV has not been carrying any operations," a filing said. AGENCIES

With over 40m flyers in 2024, KIA enters 'larger airport' club

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Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) achieved a new milestone by clocking a footfall of 40.7 million passengers in 2024, marking a 9.5% increase in passenger traffic compared to the previous year.

With this, KIA has met the Airports Council International's parameters for it to be placed on the list of the world's "larger airports".

In 2023, the Bengaluru airport had recorded 37.2 million passengers.

Referring to the increase in passenger traffic, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said in a statement: "This growth was complemented by a significant surge in daily air traffic movements (ATMs) and the launch of several new domestic and international routes."

1.2L PAX ON OCT 20

40.7m | Flyers used B'luru airport in 2024. It was 37.2m in 2023

1.2L | Record single-day passenger count at KIA on Oct 20 last year

723 | Daily average air traffic movements – landing and taking off

17% Rise in total cargo handled by KIA

The highest single-day passenger count at the airport was during the festive season on Oct 20, 2024, when over 1.2 lakh passengers passed through KIA. The average ATMs per day is 723.

► Added new routes, P 4

KIA added 11 new domestic and 4 int'l routes in 2024

► Continued from page 1

Single-day record for landings and take-offs was clocked on Oct 17, with 782 ATMs.

The achievements of 2024 solidify Bengaluru's reputation as a vital gateway for South and Central India, setting the stage for continued growth and leadership in the aviation industry. An official said: "It underscores our commitment to fostering connectivity, operational excellence, and providing an unmatched passenger experience."

Connectivity expanded significantly during the year, with 11 new domestic and four international routes added to the airport's repertoire, bringing the total destinations served by KIA to 75 domestic and 30 international by the end of 2024.

The airport welcomed new airline partners such as Virgin Atlantic, Salam Air, Manta Air, and Fly9L. Domestic carrier Indigo alone introduced 46 weekly international departures, contributing to a 21.1% growth in international passenger traffic.



UPWARD TREND

4,96,227 TONNES Total cargo processed by KIA, marking a 17% increase, compared to 2023

12 FREIGHTER AIRLINES Operate airport's cargo network on domestic and international routes

10.8 MILLION Rose stems, totalling 411 tonnes, were processed by KIA. Consignments sent mostly to Europe and Gulf countries

Airlines also increased their seat capacity, adding more than 3,700 daily seats between the IATA Summer 2024 and Winter 2024 seasons. Popular international destinations included Dubai, Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Doha, and London Heathrow, while domestic travellers frequently flew to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Pune.

Cargo operations also saw growth during 2024, with 4,96,227 metric tonnes (MT) of cargo handled in 2024 – a 17% increase over 2023. International cargo volumes grew by 23% to 313,981 MT. On July 11, 2024, the

airport recorded its highest single-day cargo volume at 1,884 MT. Key drivers included perishables, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and e-commerce shipments. KIA maintained its position as India's leading airport for perishable exports for the fourth year, handling 63,188 MT in 2023-24, which accounted for 28% of the country's and 44% of South India's total perishable air cargo.

A KIA spokesperson said: "We are poised for sustained growth, both as a key player in global air travel and as a major hub for trade and logistics."



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

घने कोहरे ने थामी रफ्तार, कई जगह दृश्यता शून्य, 100 उड़ानें प्रभावित

26 ट्रेनों पर भी असर, 16 राज्यों में दो दिन खराब मौसम का अलर्ट, पहाड़ों पर बर्फबारी और बारिश के आसार

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्ली समेत उत्तर पश्चिम से लेकर पूर्वोत्तर भारत में शुक्रवार सुबह घना कोहरा छाया रहा। कई जगहों पर दृश्यता शून्य रही। इसके कारण सड़कों पर गाड़ियां रेंगती नजर आईं। कोहरे के चलते 100 से अधिक उड़ानों पर असर पड़ा और उत्तर रेलवे में लगभग 26 ट्रेनों का संचालन प्रभावित हुआ। कई ट्रेनें घंटों देरी से चलीं। मौसम विभाग ने अगले दो दिन 16 राज्यों में घना कोहरा और मौसम खराब रहने का अलर्ट जारी किया है। जम्मू-कश्मीर और हिमाचल प्रदेश के पहाड़ों पर भारी हिमपात हो सकता है। कहीं-कहीं तेज तो कुछ हिस्सों में हल्की बारिश के भी आसार हैं।

मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक, बृहस्पतिवार रात और शुक्रवार सुबह कोहरे का सबसे ज्यादा असर उत्तर भारत पर पड़ा। दिल्ली में 100 से अधिक उड़ानों की आवाजाही में देरी हुई। देहरादून में तीन उड़ानों के आगमन में देरी हुई और दिल्ली की एक उड़ान को रद्द कर दिया गया। एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन ने यात्रियों से अतिरिक्त समय लेकर चलने और संबंधित एयरलाइंस से उड़ानों के सही समय की जानकारी लेकर ही घर से निकलने की सलाह दी। संपर्क क्रांति, फरक्का एक्सप्रेस, महाबोधि एक्सप्रेस, श्रमजीवी एक्सप्रेस समेत कई ट्रेनें एक से आठ घंटे की देरी से चलीं। ब्यूते



नई दिल्ली में शुक्रवार सुबह घने कोहरे में हेडलाइट जलाकर गुजरते वाहन।

तीन दिन राहत के आसार

अगले तीन दिनों में उत्तर पश्चिम भारत में न्यूनतम तापमान 2-3 डिग्री सेल्सियस बढ़ने के आसार हैं। इसके बाद फिर गिरावट आएगी। अगले दो दिन में मध्य भारत में पारा 3-4 डिग्री चढ़ सकता है।

घने कोहरे का अलर्ट

मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक पंजाब, हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़, दिल्ली व राजस्थान के कुछ हिस्सों में 12-13 जनवरी व पूर्वी यूपी में 11 जनवरी को घना कोहरा रह सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण, दिल्ली

सिंगापुर जा रहे विमान में आई तकनीकी खामी, चेन्नई लौटा

चेन्नई। सिंगापुर जाने वाली एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में तकनीकी खराबी के कारण उसे चेन्नई लौटना पड़ा। उड़ान के बाद बीच हवा में पायलटों को जैसे ही गड़बड़ी का पता चला उन्होंने बिना देर किए विमान को वापस चेन्नई हवाईअड्डे पर सुरक्षित उतार लिया। सभी यात्री सुरक्षित हैं। चेन्नई-सिंगापुर फ्लाइट एआई-346 के पायलटों ने तकनीकी दिक्कत का पता चलते ही लौटने के लिए हवाईअड्डे से संपर्क साधा। विमान में करीब 170 यात्री सवार थे। एजेसी

SpiceJet to bring back into service 10 more aircraft

Rohit Vaid

New Delhi

Budget airline SpiceJet plans to bring back 10 aircraft, including four Boeing 737 MAX planes, into service by mid-April 2025 to further its network and operational capabilities, according to the airline.

NEW ADDITIONS

This initiative will significantly increase the current fleet size of 28 aircraft even as some aircraft are re-delivered to lessors during the same period, the airline said in a statement on Friday.

Since October 2024, SpiceJet has added 10 planes to its fleet, comprising three previously grounded aircraft brought back into service and seven inducted on lease.

Over the past three months, SpiceJet's network expansion strategy has resulted in the addition of more than 60 new flights.

GROWTH PATH

"Our plan to bring 10 aircraft back into service by mid-April is a reflection of SpiceJet's unwavering commitment to its growth and operational excellence," Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet said in the statement.

"SpiceJet is on a strong path to recovery and growth, and we remain focused on providing reliable and affordable air travel to millions of Indians."

Last month, SpiceJet signed an agreement with StandardAero Inc, a leading US-based engine MRO, for



SpiceJet's network expansion strategy has resulted in the addition of more than 60 new flights

the restoration of its grounded MAX fleet.

This agreement, the airline said followed successful partnerships with CFM International, Inc, the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) for LEAP-1B engines, and a key lessor, paving the way for the un-grounding and return to service of three Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

In the past two months, SpiceJet has resolved disputes with several major lessors and partners, including Export Development Canada, Engine Lease Finance Corporation, Babcock & Brown Aircraft Management, Aircastle (Ireland), Wilmington Trust SP Services (Dublin) Ltd, Shannon Engine Support Ltd among others demonstrating its commitment to operational stability and growth.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

Akasa Air pilots seek probe into hiring practices

A section of Akasa Air pilots has written to the civil aviation ministry seeking a probe into the airline's hiring practices, alleging rostering issues and other lapses. These pilots have claimed that some operating crew do not report to work on time and there are issues with reporting of on-time performance. On Thursday, the section of the pilots sent an e-mail to Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, Civil Aviation Secretary, and Director General of Civil Aviation. In the e-mail, they have sought an investigation into the airline's hiring practices, claiming that hiring was being done at the whims of a chosen few. PPI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

दिल्ली में घना कोहरा, 150 से ज्यादा उड़ानें, 55 ट्रेनें प्रभावित



भास्कर न्यूज़|नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली में शुक्रवार सुबह घना कोहरा छाए रहने के कारण विजिबिलिटी शून्य हो गई, जिससे हवाई और रेल परिचालन प्रभावित हुआ। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर करीब 150 से अधिक उड़ानों और 55 ट्रेनों के आवागमन पर निर्धारित समय से विलंब दर्ज किया गया।

केंद्रीय प्रदूषण एवं नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अनुसार,

शुक्रवार सुबह 6:30 बजे औसत एव्यूआई 408 दर्ज किया गया। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के अनुसार, कोहरा इतना गहरा था कि विमानों के उड़ान भरने और उतरने में बड़ी दिक्कतें आईं। सुबह के समय औसतन विजिबिलिटी 50 मीटर से भी कम रही, जबकि रनवे पर विजिबिलिटी शून्य तक गिर गई। घरेलू उड़ानों में 45 मिनट से 2 घंटे तक की देरी, जबकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में 1 से 3 घंटे तक की देरी दर्ज की गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

10 JANUARY 2025

कुल्लू की फ्लाइट रद्द, बेंगलुरु की डेढ़ घंटे लेट

जयपुर | गुरुवार को कुल्लू की फ्लाइट रद्द रही। अलायंस एयर की जयपुर से कुल्लू की फ्लाइट 9आई-805 सुबह 8:15 बजे रवाना होती है, जो संचालन कारणों के चलते रद्द कर दी गई। यात्रियों ने हंगामा किया तो एयरलाइंस ने रिफंड और आगामी दिनों में यात्रा का विकल्प दिया। एयर इंडिया की बेंगलुरु की फ्लाइट आईएक्स-2875 जयपुर से सुबह 11 बजे की बजाय दोपहर 12:30 बजे गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

10 JANUARY 2025

Oman Air keeps passengers wait onboard for 3 hrs

SABA ANJUM SHAIK | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 9

Passengers onboard Oman Air flight WY 232 at the Shamshabad airport faced severe inconvenience after being kept waiting in the aircraft for over three hours, without water or air conditioning, and then deboarded after a long delay. Families with young

children and elderly passengers reportedly faced distressing conditions with no help from the airlines to offboard them during the delay.

The situation got worse when passengers were finally asked to deboard, only to be stuck in buses that were meant to take them to the terminal for another hour. Videos shared on social media

● **AFTER A** wait of four hours, passengers were moved to the waiting area at RGI airport, but by 10 pm, there was still no information about an alternative flight that was arranged for them.

revealed that the pilot informed passengers that the aircraft was “not tech-

nically fit to fly.”

“We were told the flight was not technically fit to fly, and yet we were kept waiting for hours without any clear explanation,” a passenger shared.

“Families with young children and elderly passengers were struggling, and there was no support from the airline. We were given no information about what was going on

or when we would be taken off the plane,” a passenger described.

“We’ve been waiting here for three hours with no access to the waiting room. Families with small children are struggling,” one passenger shared.

“The airline’s failure to provide communication or basic amenities is deeply disappointing,”

shared another passenger.

D. Apparao, sub-inspector RGI police station, said that the flight was delayed and cancelled because of the technical glitch.

After a long wait, passengers were moved to the waiting area, but by 10 pm, there was still no information about an alternative flight.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

सिंगापुर जा रहा एयर इंडिया का विमान चेन्नई लौटा

चेन्नई : सिंगापुर जा रहा एयर इंडिया का एक विमान शुक्रवार को चेन्नई लौट आया। पायलट को उड़ान के दौरान तकनीकी खराबी का पता चला। पायलट ने सूचित किया और विमान को वापस मोड़ लिया। 170 सवारों के साथ विमान ने सुरक्षित लैंडिंग की। यात्रियों को सिंगापुर भेजने के लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की गई। (प्र)

SpiceJet set to bring 10 planes back to service amid dip in operations

• The return of these planes will boost the carrier's fleet to 38 aircraft

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, January 10

FINANCIALLY TROUBLED LOW-COST carrier SpiceJet on Friday said it plans to bring back 10 of its grounded aircraft to service by mid-April 2025. The move aims to expand the airline's fleet to 38 aircraft, up from its current size of 28. The new additions will include four Boeing 737 MAX aircraft while the remaining units will be sourced from the airline's fleet of Boeing 737s and Q-400s.

The announcement comes at a critical time for SpiceJet, as its operational performance has seen a decline. According to data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the airline's total number of departures dropped 30% to 4,408 in November 2024, compared to 6,311 in January 2024. Passenger numbers also plummeted 38% to 576,143 in November 2024, as against 930,495 in January 2024.

This is another effort by the Gurugram-headquartered airline to recover from a series of operational challenges. The airline had earlier raised ₹3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) to bolster its financial position. Since October 2024, SpiceJet has already added 10 aircraft, comprising three previously grounded planes and seven leased units, the company said.

RECOVERY ROAD

■ The airline's total number of departures dropped 30% to 4,408 in Nov 2024 from 6,311 in Jan 2024

■ Passenger numbers also plummeted 38% to 576,143 in Nov 2024

■ The grounding of aircraft has been a big factor in the fall in operations



AJAY SINGH,
CMD, SPICEJET

SpiceJet is on a strong path to recovery, and we remain focused on providing reliable and affordable air travel

Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director of SpiceJet, expressed confidence in the airline's recovery, stating, "SpiceJet is on a strong path to recovery and growth, and we remain focused on providing reliable and affordable air travel to millions of Indians". The airline did not respond to FE's query on how it will decide to bring back which aircraft to service, till the time of going to the press.

The grounding of aircraft has been a major factor behind the decline in the airline's operations. Even with the addition of 10 aircraft, 53 of its planes will remain grounded. SpiceJet's website lists a fleet size of 91 aircraft, highlighting the significant gap between its current operational fleet and total aircraft at its disposal.

Despite the challenges, the airline reported a total of 51,558 departures and more than 7 million passengers carried in the first 11 months of 2024.

In recent months, SpiceJet has also signed agreements with Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) providers and resolved disputes with several

major lessors and partners.

The low-cost carrier has recently signed an agreement with US-based engine MRO provider StandardAero, which will assist in the restoration of the airline's grounded MAX fleet. It has also resolved disputes with several major lessors and partners, including Export Development Canada, Engine Lease Finance Corporation, Babcock & Brown Aircraft Management, Aircastle (Ireland), Wilmington Trust SP Services (Dublin), Shannon Engine Support, among others demonstrating its commitment to operational stability and growth.

In addition, SpiceJet has partnered with CFM International, the manufacturer of LEAP-1B engines and a key lessor to support the return of its Boeing 737 MAX aircraft to service.

While the airline's announcement was initially met with optimism, SpiceJet's stock experienced a steep decline in Friday's trading session. The share price dropped by 6.95%, hitting an intraday low of ₹49, and closed the day 5.70% lower at ₹49.60.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

Return to pre-Covid delivery highs within reach, says Airbus

AIRBUS EXPECTS TO return to delivery levels last seen before the pandemic in the "foreseeable future" as the planemaker presses its advantage against a weakened rival Boeing and benefits from surging aircraft demand. The planemaker handed over 766 jets in 2024, it said late on Thursday.

Unbundling returns: Where will low-fare airlines stop?

The low-fare revolution is now coming to bite the airline market. Let me elaborate. A report titled *The Sky's the Limit*, by a United States (US) Senate sub-committee on the airline industry's practice of "unbundling" — as many charges as possible in a way that these ancillary fees have become a critical revenue stream — criticises carriers for levying new charges besides ticket price. Be it seat preference, food, water, or check-in baggage, extra charges are being levied for virtually anything.

This strategy, known as unbundling, has spread to almost every airline. The so-called ancillary fees have become a vital revenue stream. According to the report, unbundling has "insidiously raised the cost of flying" for consumers, forcing them to pay to be seated next to their minor children or have carry-on luggage.

The report argues that US-based airlines like United, Delta, Spirit, Frontier and American Airlines have generated billions of dollars in revenue from ancillary fees while travellers confront increasingly complex fees, with fewer options for avoiding them, obscuring the total cost of travel. The report says that the five airlines collectively earned \$12.4 billion in revenue from seat charges between 2018 and 2023 and that, in 2023, United earned \$1.3 billion, more than the \$1.2 billion it earned from carry-on baggage fees.

It is well known that low-fare airlines in India, too, have increasingly piled on similar ancillary charges on fliers.

Most recently, there was an uproar when airlines started charging for seat selection when one checks in through the web. Earlier, only seats that had extra space — such as the first row or emergency — were chargeable, but of late, IndiGo, and the others following its lead, have started charging ₹450 and above for any aisle or window seat on the aircraft, leaving only middle seats to be assigned freely. In several cases, families with young children are told they will have to pay extra to be seated together — something that was taken for granted just some

years back. This has not gone down very well with passengers who have alleged that this is tantamount to fleecing.

Equally galling is the strategy of combining the sale of food and beverage items on board. On an IndiGo flight soon after the practice started, I was told I had to pay for a snack that I did not want when I asked to buy a Sprite. This amounts to complete coercion.

I learnt from airline insiders that such measures are being looked upon as new revenue strategies that are delivering good results. Ancillary revenues for airlines such as IndiGo have been steadily rising — its ancillary revenues have grown at a faster clip than its passenger ticket revenues. In 2023-24, ancillary revenues grew by 21% year-on-year, reaching a sizable ₹1,875 crore, and accounted for 2.6% of total revenue. Since India has no regulator, or rather, has only an inadequately equipped safety regulator, airlines are getting away with newer and more innovative charges.

The airlines argue that unbundling is being done in good faith, with the intention of offering the lowest possible fare to those who are indifferent or do not need any extras on their journey. So, if a passenger doesn't care which seat he or she ends up sitting on and is indifferent to all the other small comforts on offer, he should pay a lower amount than those who seek these frills.



Anjali Bhargava

This strategy is not something new in the sector. As far back as 2005-06, low-fare airlines in India had started charging for water served on flights, by offering small mineral water bottles. This led to a massive uproar among fliers in India, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (the safety regulatory) mandated that all airlines must serve water for free on flights (now served in paper cups that barely hold a single gulp of water). In 2005-06, airlines had also started levying a charge for wheelchair assistance, which was rescinded after the safety regulator intervened.

The question that arises is where the line is to be drawn on such practices. Although not yet a practice in India, many low-fare airlines around the world charge for checked-in baggage and every extra kilo is chargeable. If the airlines charge for every extra kilo carried on board, why shouldn't a passenger's body weight be taken into account? I can argue that the passenger sitting on the seat next to me weighs at least 25 kilograms more than me and should pay accordingly.

Let me end by reminding readers of the storm Ryanair chief executive officer Michael O'Leary kicked up some years ago, in his characteristically flamboyant style. Leary had said that he was considering charging passengers for the use of lavatories on his planes (pay-for-pee, as it was crassly termed) and elaborated in some detail on why he thinks it would be justified. Faced with loud protests, this did not come to pass then, but industry observers argue that the way things are going, Leary might have been prescient. With airlines in India and globally looking to squeeze any revenue they can out of a growing yet voiceless and hapless cohort, this ridiculous-sounding day may be closer than we think.



Be it seat preference, food, water, or check-in baggage, extra charges are being levied for virtually anything. HT PHOTO



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

SPICEJET TO FLY 10 GROUNDED AIRCRAFT INCLUDING 4 B737 MAX BY MID-APRIL

MUMBAI: Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Friday announced plans to bring back into operations 10 of its grounded aircraft, including four Boeing B737 Max, by mid-April. The airline said it has added 10 planes to its fleet since October 2024 — three grounded aircraft that were brought back into service and seven inducted on lease. The move comes close on the heels of SpiceJet signing a pact with US-based engine MRO StandardAero Inc last month for the restoration of its grounded MAX fleet.

SECTION OF AKASA AIR PILOTS FLAGS HIRING, ROSTERING ISSUES, SEEKS PROBE

MUMBAI: A section of Akasa Air pilots has written to the Civil Aviation Ministry seeking a probe into the airline's hiring practices, alleging rostering issues and other lapses. Among others, these pilots have claimed that some operating crew do not report to work on time and claimed that there are issues with reporting of On-Time Performance. On Thursday, the section of the pilots sent an e-mail to Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, Civil Aviation Secretary, and Director General of Civil Aviation, flagging various issues at the airline.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

**SpiceJet to add 10
aircraft by April 2025**

New Delhi: SpiceJet said on Friday it will unground 10 aircraft by mid-April 2025 to strengthen its network and operational capabilities. These will include four Boeing 737 MAX planes. This initiative will increase the airline's current fleet size of 28 aircraft. *ENS*



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

खराब एअर इंडिया विमान वापस लौटा

■ **भाषा, चेन्नै** : चेन्नै से सिंगापुर जाने वाली 'एअर इंडिया' की एक फ्लाइट में शुक्रवार को खराबी आ गई। इसके बारे में पता लगने के बाद पायलट ने वापस लौटने के लिए हवाई अड्डे से संपर्क किया। विमान को सुरक्षित तरीके से एयरपोर्ट पर उतार लिया गया। इस दौरान सभी यात्री और चालक दल के सदस्य सुरक्षित रहे।

पायलटों की नियुक्ति पर जांच की मांग

■ **भाषा, मुंबई** : अकासा एयर (Akasa Air) के पायलटों के एक समूह ने गुरुवार को नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय को ई-मेल भेजकर एयरलाइन की भर्ती प्रक्रियाओं की जांच की मांग की है। पायलटों ने दावा किया गया है कि कुछ चुनिंदा लोगों की मर्जी से भर्ती की जा रही है।



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NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

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कोहरे के कारण इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट यात्रियों को काफी दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ा। डायल ने यात्रियों से अपील की है कि वे उड़ानों की नवीनतम जानकारी के लिए संबंधित विमानन कंपनी से संपर्क करें। डायल पर यात्रियों को हुई किसी भी असुविधा के लिए खेद जताया है। इंडिगो ने लोगों से अपील करते हुए कहा कि हवाई अड्डे तक की अपनी यात्रा के लिए अतिरिक्त समय लेकर चलें। रनवे पर खड़ा विमान व फ्लाइटों की समय सारिणी देखते यात्री।



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THE PIONEER

DELHI

11 JANUARY 2025

SpiceJet to fly 10 grounded aircraft by mid-April

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Friday announced plans to bring back into operations 10 of its grounded aircraft, including four Boeing B737 Max, by mid-April.

The airline said it has added 10 planes to its fleet since October 2024 -- three grounded aircraft that were brought back into service and seven inducted on lease.

The move comes close on the heels of SpiceJet signing a pact with US-based engine MRO StandardAero Inc last month for the restoration of its grounded MAX fleet.

SpiceJet has 28 aircraft, of the total 62 in the fleet, in operations, comprising 20 B737, six De Havilland Canada DHC-8 Dash 8 and two Airbus A320, as on January 10 as per flight tracking website planespotter.Com.

The remaining 34 aircraft -- 16 B737s and 18 De Havilland Canada DHC-8 Dash 8 -- are on the ground due to various reasons, as per the website.

The return of 10 grounded



aircraft back into operations will help the airline significantly increase its current fleet of 28 aircraft, even as some of these planes are redelivered to lessors during the same period, SpiceJet said.

Over the past three months, SpiceJet said its network expansion strategy has resulted in the addition of more than 60 new flights, further enhancing connectivity and service options for its passengers.

This pact with StandardAero Inc followed successful partnerships with CFM International, Inc, the OEM for LEAP-1B engines, and a key lessor, paving the way for the un-grounding and return to service of three Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, SpiceJet said.

Flights rescheduled anticipating poor visibility on Bhogi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Anticipating poor visibility on the day of Bhogi celebrations due to burning of waste and tyres, airlines have rescheduled arrival and departure of their early morning flights at Chennai airport on Jan 13.

Sources said Oman Air, Etihad, Air Asia and a few other international carriers have rescheduled their early morning flights.

Air Asia, which operates flights between Chennai and Kuala Lumpur, has rescheduled its flights for three days until Jan 15. The flight from Kuala Lumpur, originally scheduled to land in Chennai at 7.25 am, has been rescheduled to land at 9.35am. The flight, which was scheduled to depart at 8.05am, will depart at 10.15am on those three days. An Air Asia spokesperson said this was to avoid difficulty in landing at Chennai airport in smog conditions.

Airport authorities said that flights getting diverted and delayed on Bhogi due to smog impeding visibility for pilots is a regular phenomenon, despite efforts to create awareness in the surrounding areas not to burn waste.



File Photo

DESPITE WARNING

C Mohan, a retired airlines official, said the menace of burning waste near the airport had decreased significantly due to measures undertaken by respective civic corporations and police. However, an airport source said airlines not having accredited pilots to operate under poor visibility conditions was also a reason for rescheduling the flights. "There are only a few pilots who can operate under visibility conditions of less than 400m. So, airlines, trying to hide their shortcomings, put the blame on airport authorities," added the source.