



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Madurai Airport gets international status

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Chennai

The Centre on Tuesday declared Madurai airport in Tamil Nadu as an international airport. The announcement comes on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tamil Nadu to participate in an NDA rally in Tiruchirapalli on Wednesday.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved the declaration of Madurai airport as an international airport.

Elevating Madurai airport to international status would enhance regional connectivity, promote trade and drive economic development in the region. The airport's potential to attract international pilgrims and businesses aligns with the city's historical prominence, according to an official release.

CRUCIAL GATEWAY

Madurai airport is one of the oldest airports in the State. It serves as a crucial gateway to southern Tamil Nadu and plays a pivotal role in promoting tourism and pilgrimage, contributing to the region's overall growth.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the three largest cities in Tamil Nadu are Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai, and people have long aspired to have an international airport in Madurai.

"Keeping Madurai's aspirations in mind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the



A view of the Madurai Airport

decision in the Union Cabinet to approve Madurai airport as an international airport. This will bring a major change in the development of Madurai and Tamil Nadu," he said.

P Muthu Kumar, Airport Director, Madurai airport, said the airstrip had been operational since 1942, when it was used to transport newspapers from Chennai. The airport was operationalised as a civil airport in 1952 and began commercial operations in 1957.

MORE CHOICES

The international status means more number of Customs and Immigration personnel will be deployed and the facility will attract international airlines to operate with more choices to the travelling public, he told *businessline*. In 2011, the airport was declared a Customs airport, enabling international operations. The first international flight from Madurai took off to Sri Lanka in September 2012.

At present, Madurai has 242 scheduled aircraft movements a week and is connected to cities such as Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. On the international front, the airport has direct flights to Colombo, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) also commenced 24-hour operations at Madurai airport from October 1, 2024, he said.

In 2024-25, the airport handled 13,513 aircraft movements and 1.39 million passengers, including 1.16 million domestic passengers and 0.23 million international passengers.

With a runway length of 2,285 m, suitable for A-321 type aircraft, Madurai airport offers airside infrastructure that includes 12 parking bays and a CAT-I Instrument Landing System (ILS).

The airport is also equipped with international cargo facilities, Customs, immigration, Airport Health Organisation and plant quarantine services.

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन को लेकर यापल के सीईओ मुख्यमंत्री योगी से मिले

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 10 मार्च (देशबन्धु)। उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ से मंगलवार नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (जेवर) के

- मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ को सौंपा गया महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज
- अब सुरक्षा मंजूरी के बाद शुरू होगी वाणिज्यिक उड़ानें

प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने मुलाकात की और भारत सरकार की नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) द्वारा जारी एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस औपचारिक रूप से प्रस्तुत किया। यह कदम एयरपोर्ट के व्यावसायिक संचालन और उद्घाटन की दिशा में एक ऐतिहासिक मील का पत्थर साबित हुआ है। मुलाकात में यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन सहित वरिष्ठ अधिकारी शामिल थे। उन्होंने मुख्यमंत्री को परियोजना की नवीनतम प्रगति, आगामी चरणों और तकनीकी तैयारियों की विस्तृत जानकारी दी। लाइसेंस प्राप्त होने के बाद अब अंतिम नियामकीय प्रक्रियाएं तेजी से चल रही हैं। वर्तमान में एयरोड्रम सिक्योरिटी प्रोग्राम ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिक्योरिटी (बकास) के पास समीक्षा के लिए लंबित है। इस सुरक्षा मंजूरी के मिलते ही एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन सभी संबंधित एजेंसियों के साथ समन्वय कर उद्घाटन की तारीख और वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों की शुरुआत तय करेगा।

जेवर एयरपोर्ट : दिल्ली-एनसीआर का नया उड़ान केंद्र
गाँतमबुद्ध नगर जिले के जेवर में विकसित हो रहा नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट एक विश्वस्तरीय ग्रीनफील्ड हवाई अड्डा है, जो राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (एनसीआर) और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश को वैश्विक स्तर पर जोड़ेगा। यह परियोजना स्विस कंपनी ज्यूरिख इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट एजी की विशेषज्ञता और भारतीय आतिथ्य के अनुभूति मिश्रण से तैयार की जा रही है।

एयरपोर्ट का विकास चार चरणों में हो रहा है- पहला चरण- एक रनवे और एक टर्मिनल भवन तैयार, क्षमता : 1.2 करोड़ यात्रियों प्रतिवर्ष।

दूसरा चरण : क्षमता बढ़ाकर 3 करोड़ यात्रियों तक।

तीसरा और चौथा चरण : कुल



क्षमता 7 करोड़ यात्रियों तक पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य।

पहले चरण की प्रमुख सुविधाएं

टर्मिनल क्षेत्रफल : लगभग 1.38 लाख वर्गमीटर

48 चेक-इन काउंटर, 9 सुरक्षा जांच लेन, 9 इमिग्रेशन काउंटर

घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय लाउंज

10 एयरोब्रिज, 28 विमान पार्किंग स्टैंड।

प्रति घंटे 30 उड़ानों की क्षमता वाला रनवे, इसके अलावा, आधुनिक कार्गो और लॉजिस्टिक्स हब भी तैयार हो रहा है, जिसकी प्रारंभिक क्षमता 2.5 लाख टन प्रतिवर्ष होगी और भविष्य में इसे 15 लाख टन तक बढ़ाया जाएगा।

अत्याधुनिक तकनीक और पर्यावरण अनुकूल डिजाइन

यात्रियों को तेज, सुगम और सुरक्षित अनुभव देने के लिए एयरपोर्ट पर कई नवीनतम सुविधाएं लागू की जा रही हैं- डिजिटीयाना आधारित बायोमेट्रिक सिस्टम, सेल्फ बैगेज ट्रॉप, डिजिटल पैसेंजर प्रोसेसिंग, सतत विकास के लक्ष्य के तहत एयरपोर्ट नेट जीरो उत्सर्जन की दिशा में काम कर रहा है। इसमें सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्र, वर्षा जल संचयन और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन चार्जिंग स्टेशन जैसी हरित सुविधाएं शामिल हैं।

एयरोड्रम सिक्योरिटी प्रोग्राम की मंजूरी क्यों!

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को एयरोड्रम सिक्योरिटी प्रोग्राम की मंजूरी मिलना उड़ान संचालन शुरू होने की दिशा में एक बहुत बड़ा और जरूरी कदम माना जाता है। इससे एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को सरकार की आधिकारिक स्वीकृति मिल जाती है। इसके बाद एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान शुरू होने की प्रक्रिया तेज हो जाती है। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से पहले चरण में

मुख्य रूप से घरेलू उड़ानें शुरू होने की संभावना है। शुरुआती समय में उन शहरों को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है जहां यात्रियों की संख्या ज्यादा होती है और बड़े हवाई अड्डों से कनेक्टिविटी मजबूत हो सके।



इससे क्या फायदा होता है

उड़ान शुरू होने का रास्ता साफ : जब एयरपोर्ट का सिक्योरिटी प्रोग्राम मंजूर हो जाता है तो यह माना जाता है कि एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों, विमान और कार्गो की सुरक्षा के लिए सभी जरूरी इंतजाम मौजूद हैं। इसके बाद एयरपोर्ट संचालन की प्रक्रिया आगे बढ़ सकती है।

सुरक्षा एजेंसियों की तैनाती आसान : मंजूरी के बाद एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के लिए केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (सीआईएसएफ) या अन्य सुरक्षा एजेंसियों की तैनाती की प्रक्रिया तेज हो जाती है।

एयरलाइंस के लिए भरोसा : एयरलाइंस कंपनियां तभी अपने विमान संचालन की योजना बनाती हैं जब एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था पूरी तरह प्रमाणित हो। इससे इंडिगो, एयर इंडिया और अकासा एयर जैसी कंपनियों के लिए उड़ान शुरू करना आसान हो जाता है।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों का पालन: यह मंजूरी दिखाती है कि एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मानकों के अनुरूप है और यहां अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के संचालन का

रस्ता भी तैयार हो सकता है।

आगे क्या-क्या होना बाकी होता है : एयरोड्रम सिक्योरिटी प्रोग्राम के बाद आमतौर पर ये प्रक्रियाएं पूरी होती हैं- एयरपोर्ट का ऑपरेशनल लाइसेंस-नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय से एयरलाइंस की स्लॉट और रूट मंजूरी, टिकट बुकिंग शुरू होना, ट्रायल और कामर्शियल उड़ानें।

पहले चरण में इन शहरों के लिए उड़ानें संभव

मुंबई : देश का सबसे बड़ा एयर ट्रेफिक हब होने के कारण यहां के लिए उड़ान शुरू होना लगभग तय माना जाता है।

बंगलुरु : आईटी और बिजनेस यात्रा



के कारण इस रूट पर काफी मांग रहती है।

हैदराबाद : टेक्नोलॉजी और उद्योग से जुड़े यात्रियों के लिए अहम कनेक्टिविटी।

कोलकाता : पूर्वी भारत से कनेक्टिविटी मजबूत करने के लिए यह महत्वपूर्ण रूट होगा।

अहमदाबाद : व्यापारिक यात्रा और औद्योगिक संपर्क के लिए अहम।

लखनऊ और वाराणसी : उत्तर प्रदेश के प्रमुख शहरों से कनेक्टिविटी के लिए छोटी दूरी की उड़ानें भी शुरू हो सकती हैं।

कौन-कौन सी एयरलाइंस शुरू कर सकती हैं उड़ान

संभावना है कि शुरुआती उड़ानें इंडिगो, एयर इंडिया और अकासा एयर कंपनियों से शुरू हों।

आगे अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें : पहले चरण के बाद दुबई, सिंगापुर और दोहा जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट भी जोड़े जा सकते हैं, क्योंकि इन शहरों के लिए भारत से सबसे ज्यादा यात्री यात्रा करते हैं। शुरुआत में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से देश के बड़े मेट्रो शहरों के लिए उड़ानें शुरू होंगी, ताकि जल्दी से ज्यादा यात्रियों को कनेक्टिविटी मिल सके। बाद में धीरे-धीरे अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट भी जोड़े जाएंगे।

दिल्ली-वाराणसी हाई स्पीड ट्रेन से जुड़ेगा नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट

- एनएचएसआरसीएल टीम ने यीडा अधिकारियों के साथ किया एलाइनमेंट पर मंथन
- जेवर एयरपोर्ट के जीटीसी में बनेगा भूमिगत स्टेशन
- सराय काले खां से एयरपोर्ट तक 21 मिनट में सफर का दावा

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 10 मार्च (देशबन्धु)। दिल्ली से वाराणसी तक प्रस्तावित हाईस्पीड ट्रेन परियोजना को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से जोड़ने की प्रक्रिया तेज हो गई है। मंगलवार को नेशनल हाईस्पीड रेल कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (एनएचएसआरसीएल) की टीम यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) कार्यालय पहुंची और एयरपोर्ट के आसपास विकसित हो रहे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर तथा ट्रेन के एलाइनमेंट को लेकर अधिकारियों के साथ विस्तृत चर्चा की।

यीडा के सीईओ शैलेंद्र भाटिया ने बताया कि दिल्ली-वाराणसी हाईस्पीड रेल कॉरिडोर के लिए गौतमबुद्ध नगर में दो स्टेशन प्रस्तावित किए गए हैं। पहला स्टेशन नोएडा के सेक्टर-148 में बनाया जाएगा, जबकि दूसरा स्टेशन जेवर में बन रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सेंटर (जीटीसी) में भूमिगत बनाया जाएगा। इस रूट को केंद्रीय बजट में मंजूरी मिल चुकी है। बैठक में



एनएचएसआरसीएल के प्रिंसिपल चीफ प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर सुधीर कुमार गुप्ता अपनी टीम के साथ मौजूद रहे। उन्होंने एयरपोर्ट के आसपास तैयार हो रहे डॉचागत विकास और प्रस्तावित परियोजनाओं की जानकारी ली। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट के जीटीसी में पहले से ही मेट्रो और नमो भारत ट्रेन के भूमिगत स्टेशन प्रस्तावित हैं। इसके अलावा चोला से रूंधी तक ट्रैक बिछाकर भी एयरपोर्ट को जोड़ा जाएगा।

बैठक का उद्देश्य यह सुनिश्चित करना था कि भविष्य में हाईस्पीड ट्रेन का भूमिगत स्टेशन बनाए जाने पर पहले से प्रस्तावित या निर्माणाधीन परियोजनाएं प्रभावित न हों। साथ ही सभी परियोजनाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए स्टेशन को हाईस्पीड रेल परियोजना को डीपीआर में शामिल किया जा सके। परियोजना के तहत दिल्ली के सराय काले खां से नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट तक करीब 70 किलोमीटर का



सफर हाईस्पीड ट्रेन से मात्र 21 मिनट में पूरा होने का दावा किया जा रहा है। प्रस्ताव के अनुसार रेलवे ट्रैक नोएडा और ग्रेटर नोएडा एक्सप्रेस वे के बीच के हिस्से में एलिवेटेड बनाया जाएगा और यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के रास्ते एयरपोर्ट के जीटीसी तक पहुंचेगा। अधिकारियों के अनुसार नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट देश का पहला ऐसा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा होगा, जो सीधे हाईस्पीड ट्रेन से जुड़ा होगा। एयरपोर्ट को मेट्रो, नमो भारत ट्रेन के अलावा दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेस वे, यमुना-गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे, एनएच-34, एनएच-91 और ईस्टर्न पैरीफेरल एक्सप्रेस वे से भी जोड़ा जा रहा है। इससे यात्रियों को बहुस्तरीय कनेक्टिविटी मिलने की उम्मीद है।

यीडा के सीईओ आरके सिंह ने बताया कि बैठक का मुख्य उद्देश्य एनएचएसआरसीएल की टीम को एयरपोर्ट के आसपास विकसित हो रहे इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर से अवगत कराना था, ताकि किसी भी परियोजना को प्रभावित किए बिना हाईस्पीड ट्रेन के भूमिगत स्टेशन को डीपीआर में शामिल किया जा सके।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

10 MARCH 2026

Navi Mumbai signs as partner for Airport Expo

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

Cargo services see 30% drop at B'luru airport

Priority for
perishable goods;
non-essentials
piling up

BENGALURU, DHNS

The West Asia crisis has also hit the cargo services at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). "Compared to the corresponding period last year, we have witnessed a nearly 25 to 30% drop in daily cargo tonnage since the escalation began," a cargo personnel at the airport said.

He noted that managing the backlog of stranded export cargo has become a big challenge for warehouse management. "We are prioritising perishable goods, but non-essentials are piling up. We are exploring options to divert some of Bengaluru's cargo to hubs like Singapore or Colombo to bypass the crisis zone," he added.

"Airlines are forced to carry extra fuel for the longer



A vehicle deployed for cargo services at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Monday.

DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

routes, which directly impacts the payload or the maximum cargo weight the plane can carry. In some cases, we had to offload cargo at the last minute to accommodate the extra fuel weight," the staff explained.

"There are plans at the management level to waive or reduce storage fees for exporters whose goods are stuck due to these cancellations," he said.

The tension in West Asia and airspace restrictions led to cancellation of 19 flights from the KIA on Monday.

According to airport source-

es, nine arrivals and ten departures were cancelled on March 9. Key affected include high-traffic routes such as Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai, and Doha.

The Bangalore International Airport Limited has established a dedicated help desk at Terminal 2 to assist commuters.

Passengers bound for Jeddah were among the worst hit on Monday. "My flight is rescheduled for tomorrow. We are sitting here with no clarity on when the airspace will reopen," said Rahamatullah, a passenger.

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की दिल्ली, गुरुग्राम व फरीदाबाद से होगी कनेक्टिविटी

जगरण संग्रहाता जेवर : केंद्र सरकार की आर्थिक मामलों की कैबिनेट समिति (सीसीईए) ने मंगलवार को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की दिल्ली मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे से ग्रीनफील्ड कनेक्टिविटी परियोजना की संशोधित लागत 3,630.77 करोड़ को मंजूरी दे दी। प्रस्तावित 31.42 किलोमीटर लंबे कारिडोर दक्षिण दिल्ली, फरीदाबाद और गुरुग्राम से हवाई अड्डे तक सीधा और हाई स्पीड संपर्क प्रदान करेगा। इससे एनसीआर में आर्थिक विकास और लाजिस्टिक्स दक्षता को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। प्रस्तावित कारिडोर ईस्टर्न पैरिफेरल एक्सप्रेसवे, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे और डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कारिडोर (डीएफसी) को पार करेगा, जिससे बहु-मॉडल परिवहन संभव होगा।

पहले 31.42 किमी लंबे ग्रीनफील्ड



दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे से नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को जोड़ने के लिए जेवर क्षेत्र में तैयार किया जा रहा है लिंक एक्सप्रेसवे • जगरण

रोड के निर्माण पर कुल 2414 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होने थे, लेकिन फरीदाबाद मास्टर प्लान 2031 के अधिसूचित शहरी क्षेत्र से सड़क का 7.8 किलोमीटर का हिस्सा आ रहा है, इसलिए एलिवेटेड रोड बनने का

फैसला किया गया था, इससे परियोजना की लागत में बढ़ोतरी हो गई। कैबिनेट की समिति से संशोधित बजट को मंजूरी मिलने के बाद परियोजना का काम तेजी से पूरा होने की उम्मीद है।

दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे के दिल्ली-फरीदाबाद-बल्लभगढ़-सोहना से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक कनेक्टिविटी देने के लिए 31.42 किमी लंबी ग्रीनफील्ड रोड तैयार की जा रही है। इसका लगभग नौ किलोमीटर का हिस्सा उत्तर प्रदेश की सीमा में तैयार हो चुका है, लेकिन हरियाणा की सीमा में बन रही रोड का 7.8 किमी का हिस्सा फरीदाबाद मास्टर प्लान 2031 के अधिसूचित शहरी क्षेत्र में आ गया है, जहां भविष्य में क्षेत्र में घनी आबादी के साथ ही बड़ा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकसित होना है।

मास्टर प्लान में कोई व्यवधान न आए इसे देखते हुए इस परियोजना का लगभग 11 किलोमीटर हिस्सा एक एलिवेटेड हाईवे के रूप में विकसित किया जाना है, जो डीएनडी-बल्लभगढ़ बाईपास और

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के बीच ग्रीनफील्ड कनेक्टिविटी का एक अहम हिस्सा है, जोकि इसे दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे से जोड़ेगा।

एलिवेटेड रोड के निर्माण पर लगभग 700 करोड़ रुपये अतिरिक्त खर्च होना है। मंगलवार को केंद्रीय कैबिनेट की समिति ने ग्रीनफील्ड कनेक्टिविटी के निर्माण के लिए 3630.77 करोड़ रुपये संशोधित लागत को हाइब्रिड एन्युटी मोड (एचएएम) के तहत मंजूरी दे दी है। इस परियोजना के पूरा होने से नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की दिल्ली मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे से सीधे कनेक्टिविटी हो जाएगी। अभी एयरपोर्ट की ईस्टर्न पैरिफेरल एक्सप्रेसवे, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के अलावा डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कारिडोर से भी मल्टीमॉडल कनेक्टिविटी हो जाएगी।

Access boost to Jewar airport

Direct link between Jewar airport and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

APPROVED PROJECT

7.8km elevated road to Jewar's Noida International Airport from the Faridabad-Ballabgarh-Sohna spur of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

COST OF 7.8KM ELEVATED CORRIDOR

₹689.24 cr Haryana government to bear ₹450 crore

URBAN ALIGNMENT

Corridor passes through notified urban limits under Faridabad Master Plan 2031



Cabinet nod for F'bad to Jewar airport link

Soumya Chatterjee

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet on Tuesday approved a modification to a greenfield expressway to include an 11km-long elevated stretch between Jewar's Noida International Airport and Faridabad at a revised cost of ₹3,631 crore.

The road was originally planned as an at-grade corridor and work had already begun under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, the Centre's flagship highway development programme aimed at building and upgrading key economic corridors across the country.

According to a press release, the cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a revised total capital cost of ₹3,631 crore for the construction of the greenfield expressway. The elevated stretch between the DND-Ballabgarh bypass and Jewar airport would cost ₹689.24 crore, of which the Haryana government will bear ₹450 crore.

Officials said about 7.8km corridor passes through notified urban limits under the Faridabad Master Plan 2031, prompting

the decision to build this portion as an elevated stretch to accommodate planned high-density urban development and future infrastructure expansion.

The elevated corridor will link Jewar airport with the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway's Faridabad-Ballabgarh-Sohna spur, improving regional connectivity and access to the upcoming airport in Jewar. The government said the project is expected to unlock the full potential of the Jewar airport-Delhi-Mumbai Expressway corridor while supporting sustainable urban development in Faridabad.

Union information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the corridor will significantly improve connectivity to Jewar airport.

"With this road, Jewar airport's connectivity will be established with the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, the Yamuna Expressway, the Mumbai-Delhi Expressway (Delhi-Faridabad-Ballabgarh-Sohna spur), and the Dedicated Freight Corridor," Vaishnaw said.

"As Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always emphasised, we have to have multi-modal connectivity in which every mode can benefit

from other modes. With that Gati Shakti mindset, this project was approved by the Cabinet today," he added.

The cabinet also approved several other projects related to infrastructure and rural water supply, including the upgrade of the Madurai airport in Tamil Nadu to an international aviation hub.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had last Friday granted an aerodrome licence to the upcoming Noida International Airport, clearing the final regulatory hurdle ahead of its launch and paving the way for operations to begin within 45 days.

In its first phase, the airport will feature a single runway and a terminal capable of handling 12 million passengers annually. The facility is expected to expand in phases to accommodate up to 70 million passengers in the future.

The licence certifies that the airport meets the safety and operational standards prescribed by the aviation regulator. According to a government statement, the airport has been licensed under the "Public Use" category for all-weather operations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Cabinet okays ₹4k-cr rly projects; int'l status for Madurai airport

HT Correspondent

neha.tripathi@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved two railway infrastructure projects worth around ₹4,474 crore aimed at expanding line capacity and improving connectivity in eastern India.

The projects include the construction of a fourth railway line between Sainthia and Pakur, and between Santragachi and Kharagpur.

According to a government statement, the increased line capacity is expected to significantly enhance mobility, improve operational efficiency and strengthen service reliability

of Indian Railways. The multi-tracking proposals are also expected to streamline operations and reduce congestion on busy routes.

"These projects will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services," the statement said.

The two projects will cover five districts across West Bengal and Jharkhand and will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 192 km.

"The approved multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to around 5,652 villages, with a population of about 14.7 million," the government said.

The routes covered under the projects are important corridors for the transportation of key commodities such as coal, stone,

dolomite, cement, slag, gypsum, iron and steel, foodgrains, petroleum products and containers.

Separately, the Cabinet also approved the declaration of Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu as an international airport.

The government said the move is expected to strengthen regional connectivity and boost tourism and trade in southern Tamil Nadu.

"Elevating Madurai Airport to international status would enhance regional connectivity, promote trade and drive economic development in the region," the statement said.

Meanwhile, PM Modi will inaugurate and dedicate to the nation several key development projects in Kerala on Wednesday during his visit to the state.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Nod for ₹689-cr. cost hike for road to Noida airport

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Tuesday approved a ₹689-crore hike in the capital cost of building greenfield connectivity between the Noi-

da International Airport and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. The revised cost is ₹3,630 crore, up from the earlier approved cost of ₹2,942 crore, and the project will be developed on Hybrid Annuity Mode in U.P. and Haryana.

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने 3630 करोड़ से अधिक के संशोधित खर्च की मंजूरी दी

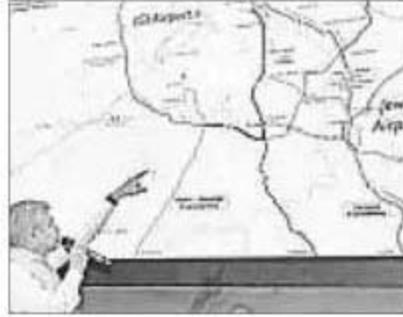
फरीदाबाद से 20 मिनट में पहुंचेंगे जेवर हवाई अड्डा

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 10 मार्च।

नोएडा में बने रहे जेवर हवाई अड्डे की देश के अन्य भागों से बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी के लिए सरकार नए एक्सप्रेसवे और राजमार्ग बना रही है। इसी कड़ी में फरीदाबाद से जेवर हवाई अड्डे तक एक ग्रीनफील्ड एक्सप्रेसवे भी बनाया जा रहा है। इस एक्सप्रेसवे के पूरा होने के बाद फरीदाबाद और जेवर के बीच की दूरी महज 15-20 मिनट में तय की जा सकेगी।

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण को केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल से मंगलवार को इस एक्सप्रेसवे के 7.8 किलोमीटर लंबे एक खंड को उपरिगामी बनाने की मंजूरी मिल गई है। उपरिगामी गलियारे के लिए सेक्टर-65 के पास पिलर निर्माण का काम पहले ही शुरू हो चुका है। इस परियोजना के तहत कुल 31.42 किलोमीटर लंबे ग्रीनफील्ड गलियारे का निर्माण होगा। छह-लेन वाला एक्सप्रेसवे बल्लभगढ़ से जेवर के दयानतपुर गांव तक फैला होगा और चंदावली, सोतई, बहवलपुर, फरफूदा, पनहेरा खुर्द, नरहवली, महमदपुर, हीरापुर, मोहना और चैनसा जैसे गांवों से होकर गुजरेगा।

वहीं इस गलियारे का लगभग 11 किलोमीटर का हिस्सा उपरिगामी मार्ग के रूप में विकसित किया जाएगा। यह गलियारा दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे, ईस्टर्न पेरिफेरल एक्सप्रेसवे, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे और डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट गलियारे से जुड़कर यातायात को तेज और सुविधाजनक बनाएगा। परियोजना की कुल



उपरिगामी गलियारे के लिए सेक्टर-65 के पास पिलर निर्माण का काम पहले ही शुरू हो चुका है। इस परियोजना के तहत कुल 31.42 किलोमीटर लंबे ग्रीनफील्ड गलियारे का निर्माण होगा। जिसमें से लगभग 11 किलोमीटर का हिस्सा उपरिगामी मार्ग के रूप में विकसित किया जाएगा।

अनुमोदित लागत लगभग 3,630.77 करोड़ रुपए है, जिसमें उपरिगामी गलियारे का अतिरिक्त खर्च भी शामिल है।

प्रस्तावित गलियारे की अतिरिक्त लागत 689.24 करोड़ रुपए है और हरियाणा सरकार ने इसमें 450 करोड़ रुपए वहन करने पर सहमति जताई है। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इसके पूरा होने से हवाई अड्डे तक पहुंचने का समय काफी घट जाएगा, माल और यात्री परिवहन अधिक सुगम होगा और क्षेत्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था को भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

नोएडा-ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे पर जाम से राहत दिलाने की तैयारी

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
नोएडा, 10 मार्च।

नोएडा-ग्रेटर नोएडा एक्सप्रेसवे पर नोएडा क्षेत्र में इन दिनों दिनभर जाम जैसी स्थिति बनी रहती है। आने वाले महीनों में जेवर स्थित नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का संचालन शुरू होने के बाद इस एक्सप्रेसवे पर यातायात का दबाव और बढ़ने की आशंका है।

ऐसे में यातायात दबाव को कम करने के लिए यमुना पुश्ता मार्ग को वैकल्पिक मार्ग के रूप में विकसित करने की तैयारी तेज कर दी गई है। मौजूदा समय में यमुना के किनारे बनी करीब 45 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क के भूमि अधिग्रहण और निर्माण से जुड़े कार्य लंबे समय से अट-के हुए हैं, जिन्हें अब पूरा करने की दिशा में प्रयास तेज किए गए हैं।

करीब साढ़े 11 किलोमीटर लंबे यमुना पुश्ता मार्ग की मरम्मत और पुनर्निर्माण पर लगभग 30 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होने का अनुमान लगाया गया है। चूंकि इस मार्ग की निगरानी उत्तर प्रदेश सिंचाई विभाग के पास है, इसलिए विभाग ने मरम्मत के लिए यह

अनुमान तैयार कर नोएडा प्राधिकरण को जांच के लिए भेजा है। अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, यदि इस पुश्ता मार्ग को सेक्टर-150 तक बढ़ाया जाता है तो यह नोएडा-ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे पर बढ़ते वाहनों के दबाव को कम करने में मदद करेगा। साथ ही यह मार्ग ग्रेटर नोएडा और जेवर स्थित नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे तक पहुंचने के लिए एक वैकल्पिक रास्ता भी उपलब्ध कराएगा। हालांकि जेवर हवाई अड्डे के लिए यमुना पुश्ता मार्ग पर अलग से छह लेन का उपरिगामी मार्ग बनाने का प्रस्ताव भी है, लेकिन

इसके निर्माण में दो साल से अधिक समय लगने की संभावना है। प्राधिकरण के महाप्रबंधक एसपी सिंह के मुताबिक, नोएडा एक्सप्रेसवे के साथ सेक्टर मार्ग के अधूरे हिस्सों के निर्माण के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण की योजना बनाई है। पुश्ता रोड मार्ग मरम्मत और सेक्टर रोड के निर्माण से नोएडा-ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे पर यातायात दबाव को कम करने में मदद मिलेगी। सिंचाई विभाग के मुताबिक, प्राधिकरण की तरफ से मंजूरी और धनराशि उपलब्ध कराने के बाद आगे की प्रक्रिया शुरू कराई जाएगी।

हवाई अड्डा
पहुंचना आसान
बनाएगा यमुना
बांध मार्ग।

मुख्यमंत्री को प्रस्तुत किया गया हवाई अड्डे का संचालन लाइसेंस

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
ग्रेटर नोएडा, 10 मार्च।

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने मंगलवार को मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ से मुलाकात कर भारत सरकार की ओर से जारी संचालन (एयरोड्रम) लाइसेंस प्रस्तुत किया। इसके साथ ही जेवर स्थित हवाई अड्डे के संचालन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम पूरा हो गया है। इस लाइसेंस के बाद अब हवाई अड्डे के उद्घाटन और वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों की शुरुआत की प्रक्रिया आगे बढ़ेगी।

हवाई अड्डे के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी क्रिस्टोफ स्नैलमैन समेत अधिकारियों के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने इस मुलाकात के दौरान मुख्यमंत्री को परियोजना की प्रगति और आगामी चरणों की जानकारी भी दी। अधिकारियों के अनुसार, एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद अब नियामकीय स्वीकृतियों की अंतिम प्रक्रिया जारी है। हवाई अड्डे का एयरोड्रम सिक्वोरिटी प्रोग्राम इस समय ब्यूरो आफ सिविल एंवाय्रनमेंट सिक्वोरिटी के पास समीक्षा के लिए लंबित है। अब हवाई अड्डा प्रबंधन सभी संबंधित एजेंसियों के साथ समन्वय कर औपचारिक उद्घाटन और वाणिज्यिक संचालन की तिथि तय करेगा।

LOKSATYA

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस सीएम को सौंपा

लखनऊ, लोकसत्या। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने मंगलवार को मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ से मुलाकात कर केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से जारी एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस प्रस्तुत किया। इसके साथ ही जेवर स्थित नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के संचालन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम पूरा हो गया है। इस लाइसेंस के बाद अब एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन और वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों की शुरुआत की प्रक्रिया आगे बढ़ेगी। एयरपोर्ट के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन समेत वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने इस मुलाकात के दौरान मुख्यमंत्री को परियोजना की प्रगति और आगामी चरणों की जानकारी भी दी।

अधिकारियों के अनुसार



एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद अब नियामकीय स्वीकृतियों की अंतिम प्रक्रिया जारी है। एयरपोर्ट का एयरोड्रम सिक्वोरिटी प्रोग्राम इस समय ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिक्वोरिटी के पास समीक्षा के लिए

लंबित है। सुरक्षा से जुड़ी यह मंजूरी मिलते ही एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन सभी संबंधित एजेंसियों के साथ समन्वय कर औपचारिक उद्घाटन और वाणिज्यिक संचालन की तिथि तय करेगा। गौतमबुद्ध नगर के जेवर में

- इस लाइसेंस के बाद अब एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन और वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों की शुरुआत की प्रक्रिया बढ़ेगी आगे

विकसित हो रहा नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश को देश और दुनिया के प्रमुख शहरों से जोड़ने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण ग्रीनफील्ड हवाई अड्डा है। इस एयरपोर्ट को विश्वस्तरीय सुविधाओं के साथ विकसित किया जा रहा है, जहां स्विट्स दक्षता और भारतीय आतिथ्य का समन्वय देखने को मिलेगा। एयरपोर्ट के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन हैं। एयरपोर्ट का विकास चार चरणों में किया जा रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Noida Airport CEO meets Yogi & presents aerodrome licence

LUCKNOW: Noida International Airport Chief Executive Officer, Christoph Schnellmann, met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Tuesday and presented the aerodrome licence issued by the Centre.

According to a state government statement, the delegation, led by Schnellmann, also briefed Adityanath about the project's progress, its inauguration and the commencement of commercial flight operations.

The greenfield project at Jewar is being developed by

the Uttar Pradesh government in a (Public-Private-Partnership) PPP model.

Following the issuance of the aerodrome licence, the process related to the airport's inauguration and the commercial services will move forward, the statement said.

Officials informed the chief minister that the airport's aerodrome security programme is currently under review by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

Once the security clearance is granted, the airport

management will coordinate with the concerned agencies to finalise the date for its formal inauguration and the launch of commercial operations.

The Noida International Airport, being developed in Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, is a major greenfield project aimed at strengthening connectivity between the National Capital Region, western Uttar Pradesh and major cities across India and the world, the statement said.

The airport is being developed in four phases. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

₹3.6K cr plan to link Jewar Airport with S Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved a revised estimated capital cost of ₹3,630.77 crore for the construction of a greenfield elevated road corridor that will connect the upcoming Jewar Airport in Noida with the Delhi-Faridabad-Ballabgarh-Sohna spur of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the project would be implemented under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) and executed across the states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. According to the minister, the approval of the revised cost will facilitate the development of an important transport link aimed at strengthening connectivity to the new international airport being developed at Jewar.

The proposed corridor will have a total length of 31.42 km and is expected to provide direct, high-speed road connectivity from South Delhi as well as major urban centres such



GREENFIELD ELEVATED ROAD CORRIDOR

- CCEA approves cost of ₹3,630.77 cr
- To connect Jewar International Airport in Noida with Delhi-Faridabad-Ballabgarh-Sohna spur of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway
- Project to be executed across states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana
- Corridor will have a length of 31.42 km; 11 km will be developed as elevated highway
- Cost for elevated segment ₹689.24 cr
- Haryana to contribute ₹450 cr

as Faridabad and Gurugram to the upcoming airport. Officials said the project would improve access to the airport and help enhance logistics efficiency across NCR.

The corridor will intersect with several major transport infra, including Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Yamuna Expressway, and the Dedicated Freight Corridor. This inte-

gration of multiple transport networks is expected to ensure seamless multimodal connectivity, thereby improving regional transportation efficiency and facilitating smoother movement of both passenger and freight traffic.

Of the total project length, around 11 km will be developed as an elevated highway. This elevated stretch will form a crucial part of the greenfield connectivity between DND-Ballabgarh bypass and Jewar airport corridor linked to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

The additional cost for constructing the elevated segment has been estimated at ₹689.24 crore. The Haryana government has agreed to contribute ₹450 crore towards this component of the project. The corridor passes through areas earmarked for urban expansion under the Faridabad Master Plan 2031.

The government said the expressway is a strategic infrastructure project that will strengthen connectivity between the Jewar Airport and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway network.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

CEO presents Noida airport licence to Yogi; displaced farmers demand jobs

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

WHILE Noida International Airport Chief Executive Officer Christoph Schnellmann met Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday and presented the aerodrome licence issued by the Centre, local farmers displaced by the project intensified their demand for jobs for their children.

The Noida International Airport is expected to begin operations by the end of March. Following the issuance of the aerodrome licence, the process related to the airport's inauguration and the launch of commercial services will move forward, a statement issued by the state government said. According to the statement, the delegation led by Schnellmann also briefed the chief minister on the progress of the project.

The greenfield airport project at Jewar is being developed by the Uttar Pradesh government under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. Officials informed the chief minister that the airport's aerodrome security programme is currently under review by the Bureau of

PROJECT UPDATE

Airport operations likely to begin by March end	Phase one includes runway and terminal
Capacity around twelve million passengers annually	Terminal includes check-in security immigration counters



ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING DIGIYATRA BIOMETRIC PROCESSING

Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). Once security clearance is granted, the airport management will coordinate with the concerned agencies to finalise the date for its formal inauguration and the start of commercial operations.

The airport is being developed in four phases. In the first phase, one runway and one passenger terminal building have been constructed with an an-

nual passenger handling capacity of around 12 million passengers. The terminal building covers about 1.38 lakh square metres and will include 48 check-in counters, nine security screening lanes and nine immigration counters. Domestic and international lounges are also being developed for passenger convenience. The airport will have 10 aerobridges and 28 aircraft parking stands, while the runway has been designed to handle around 30 flight operations per hour.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA from Jewar Dharendra Singh, demanded jobs for 334 eligible beneficiaries through the airport's concessionaire.

The CEO said that under the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme, beneficiaries would receive employment aligned with their skills and qualifications.

Under Phase I of the project, the state government had handed over 1,334 hectares of land in Jewar to Yamuna International Airport Private Limited. Landowners were compensated at ₹2,500 per square metre, but farmers say they are still awaiting the promised jobs.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर हर घंटे 30 प्लेन भर सकेंगे उड़ान

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, ग्रेटर नोएडा

एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्रालि के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ स्नेलमैन की अगुवाई में एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने मंगलवार को लखनऊ में मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ से मुलाकात की। उन्होंने कहा कि नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के संचालन की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम पूरा हो गया

है। अब उद्घाटन और उड़ानों की शुरुआत की प्रक्रिया आगे बढ़ेगी। उन्होंने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट में 48 चेक इन काउंटर, नौ सुरक्षा जांच लेन और 9 इमिग्रेशन काउंटर बनाए गए हैं। रनवे पर प्रति घंटे लगभग 30 उड़ानों के संचालन की क्षमता विकसित की गई है। यापल के सीईओ ने मुख्यमंत्री के सामने केंद्र सरकार द्वारा जारी एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस प्रस्तुत किया।

हाईस्पीड ट्रेन प्रॉजेक्ट की बढ़ी रफ्तार

दिल्ली से वाराणसी तक चलने वाली हाईस्पीड ट्रेन की दिशा में काम शुरू हो गया। इसे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से जोड़ने के लिए मंगलवार को नेशनल हाईस्पीड रेल कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (NHSRCL) की टीम यमुना अर्थॉरिटी पहुंची। टीम

ने अफसरों के साथ एलाइनमेंट, एयरपोर्ट के पास स्टेशन बनाने और अन्य इफास्ट्रक्चर विकसित करने पर चर्चा की। एयरपोर्ट स्टेशन अंडर ग्राउंड बनाया जाना प्रस्तावित है। अब इन सभी बिंदुओं को डीपीआर में शामिल किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

जेवर हवाई अड्डे के सड़क संपर्क के लिए 3,630.77 करोड़ मंजूर

नई दिल्ली : केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने मंगलवार को उत्तर प्रदेश में जल्द शुरू होने वाले जेवर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के लिए सड़क संपर्क विकसित करने को 3,630.77 करोड़ रूपए की कुल संशोधित पूंजीगत लागत को मंजूरी दे दी है। एक आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, 31.42 किलोमीटर लंबी यह प्रस्तावित परियोजना और इसका गलियारा दक्षिण दिल्ली, फरीदाबाद और गुरुग्राम से हवाई अड्डे तक सीधा और तीव्रगामी संपर्क प्रदान करेगा। सीसीईए ने उत्तर प्रदेश और हरियाणा में 'हाइब्रिड एन्वूइटी मोड' पर दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेसवे के दिल्ली-फरीदाबाद-बल्लभगढ़-सोहना मार्ग से हवाई अड्डे तक नवनिर्मित संपर्क के निर्माण को 3,630.77 करोड़ रूपए की इस संशोधित लागत को स्वीकृति दी है।

मदुरै हवाई अड्डा अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय

नई दिल्ली : मंत्रिमंडल ने तमिलनाडु के मदुरै हवाई अड्डे को अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा घोषित करने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी। केंद्रीय सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने कहा कि यह निर्णय मदुरै के लोगों की आकांक्षाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए लिया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि मदुरै हवाई अड्डे को अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा घोषित करने के नीतिगत निर्णय से दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों से इस मंदिरों के शहर को हवाई संपर्क प्राप्त करने में मदद मिलेगी। इसके आसपास स्थित विशाल औद्योगिक संकुल को भी लाभ होगा। कई एयरलाइन कंपनियों ने हवाई अड्डे से अपनी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें शुरू करने में रुचि दिखाई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

NOIDA AIRPORT NEARS OPERATIONAL LAUNCH

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a revised capital cost of ₹3,630.77 crore for a 31.42 km greenfield connectivity corridor linking South Delhi, Faridabad, and Gurugram to Jewar International Airport via the Delhi-Faridabad-Ballabhgarh-Sohna Spur of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. The corridor, 11 km of which will be elevated, intersects the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Yamuna Expressway, and Dedicated Freight Corridor, facilitating multimodal transport. The elevated segment costs an additional ₹689.24 crore, with Haryana contributing ₹450 crore. The connectivity project supports economic growth and logistics efficiency in the National Capital Region as Noida International Airport moves closer to operational launch after receiving an aerodrome licence from DGCA and security clearance from BCAS. The airport's first phase covers 1,300 hectares with one runway and terminal, handling 1.2 crore passengers annually. Operational readiness under ORAT is ongoing, with commercial flights and formal inauguration expected after final approvals.

CCEA approves revised cost for connectivity corridor to Noida Airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually flag off two Amrit Bharat trains, two express trains and one passenger train from Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu along with another passenger train from Ernakulam in Kerala on Wednesday, the Railway Ministry said on Tuesday. The inaugural run of these trains is scheduled from their respective originating stations — Nagercoil, Podanur, Rameswaram, Tirunelveli, Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu and Palakkad Junction in Kerala.

"The new train services will collectively benefit millions of passengers across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Jharkhand. The occasion will also see the inauguration of three redeveloped Amrit stations in Kerala and the dedication of the Shoranur-Nilambur railway line electrification project to the nation," a press statement from the Ministry said.

The Southern Railway zone said the inaugural run of the Palakkad-Pollachi train service, flagged off by Modi, will start at 1.15 pm from Palakkad, strengthening rail connectivity between Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The other trains — two Amrit Bharat, two Express and one passenger train — will tentatively depart for their inaugural run at 5.30 pm from their respective sta-



tions. The Railway Ministry has yet to notify dates for the regular run of these trains.

The Ministry said the Podanur-Dhanbad Amrit Bharat Express — a weekly, non-air-conditioned and affordably-priced train — will depart from Podanur Junction every Saturday morning and arrive at Dhanbad by Monday early morning during its regular run. The return service will run every Monday from Dhanbad. Officials said that travelling through Salem, Renigunta, Vijayawada, Jharsuguda and Ranchi, it will touch every major node of the corridor that connects South India's industrial spine to the East's energy belt.

Regarding the second Amrit Bharat Express, the Ministry said the Nagercoil-Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express is this region's first direct Amrit Bharat link to Telangana, passing through over 20 districts across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. "It is a train that will carry students from Kanyakumari to colleges in Hyderabad, workers from the Kerala-Tamil Nadu coast to the job markets of the Deccan and families separated by the geography of opportunity back to each other.

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला, केंद्रीय विमानन मंत्री नायडू और सीएम भजनलाल के बीच चर्चा प्रदेश में तलाशी जाएंगी नए एयरपोर्ट की संभावनाएं

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

जयपुर. लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला, केन्द्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री किंजरापु राममोहन नायडू, मुख्यमंत्री भजनलाल शर्मा और नागरिक उड्डयन राज्य मंत्री गौतम कुमार दक ने शनिवार को यहां स्टेट हैंगर में प्रदेश के नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र को लेकर बैठक की।

बैठक में डीग-कुम्हेर, सिरोही सीकर और भिवाड़ी में नए ग्रीनफील्ड एयरपोर्ट बनाने की संभावना तलाशने



पर सहमति बनी। बैठक में लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला ने कहा कि राजस्थान बड़ा भौगोलिक क्षेत्र वाला प्रदेश है। इसलिए धार्मिक, पर्यटन, शिक्षण एवं

वाणिज्यिक स्थलों पर सुगम पहुंच के लिए नवीन हवाई पट्टी और घरेलू एयरपोर्ट की संभावनाओं पर काम किया जाना बेहद जरूरी है। केन्द्रीय

नागर विमानन मंत्री ने प्रदेश में हवाई सेवाओं के बेहतर संचालन एवं नियंत्रण के लिए स्वतंत्र निदेशालय के गठन का सुझाव दिया।

Civil Aviation Minister launches AAI's digital platform for airport infrastructure project monitoring and airport directory dashboard

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 10 March

Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, on Tuesday launched an Integrated digital monitoring platform developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to strengthen real-time monitoring, transparency, and data-driven decision making across India's rapidly expanding aviation ecosystem.

The platform integrates two complementary digital modules—BIM based Project Monitoring System (BPMS) for infrastructure development and the Online Airport Directory Dashboard (Digital Cockpit) for operational analytics—creating a unified digital ecosystem for comprehensive monitoring of airport infrastructure and operational performance across



the country. At the core of the platform is the BIM based Project Monitoring System (BPMS), a state-of-the-art module built on Building Information Modelling (BIM) and supported by AI-enabled data analytics.

BPMS provides a unified and real-time view of airport development and modernization projects undertaken by AAI. The system consolidates project data from planning through execution into a single digital interface, enabling seamless

coordination among multiple stakeholders involved in large-scale infrastructure projects.

With airport expansion and modernization works being undertaken across diverse geographical locations and involving complex technical and contractual frameworks, BPMS enables real-time monitoring of both physical and financial progress through interactive dashboards, analytical charts, automated reporting tools, and alert mechanisms.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

10 MARCH 2026

19 Gulf flights cancelled at KIA

Bengaluru: Flight operations at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) continued to be disrupted Monday, affecting services to key West Asian destinations. Airport authorities confirmed that a total of 19 flights were cancelled during the day (nine arrivals and 10 departures).

The cancellations impacted major sectors such as Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dam-

mam, Dubai, and Doha, causing inconvenience to passengers travelling between Bengaluru and the Gulf region. Officials said the disruptions were linked to airspace limitations affecting flight routes. Airlines are assisting affected passengers with rescheduling and alternative travel arrangements, while airport authorities are monitoring the situation closely. **TNN**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Nod to ₹3,631-cr elevated road to connect Faridabad, Jewar airport

Corridor to link Delhi-Mumbai Expressway with Noida International Airport

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, MARCH 10

In a major infrastructure push aimed at strengthening regional connectivity in the National Capital Region (NCR), the Union Cabinet has approved the construction of an elevated road corridor connecting Faridabad with the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar.

The project, estimated to cost Rs 3,631 crore, will provide a direct and high-speed route between the airport and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, improving access for commuters from Haryana and other NCR cities.

Officials said the pro-

HOW STATE WILL BENEFIT
■ Faster connectivity from Faridabad and Gurugram to Jewar airport
■ Reduced travel time for passengers and cargo
■ Boost to Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor region
■ Improved logistics for industries in National Capital Region

posed corridor will be 7.8 km long and will significantly reduce travel time to the upcoming airport, which is expected to emerge as one of the country's largest aviation hubs.

The elevated road will also intersect with several major transport networks, including the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, Yamuna Expressway, and

the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC). Authorities believe this integration will enhance both passenger and cargo movement across the region.

According to officials, the corridor will particularly benefit residents and businesses in Faridabad, Gurugram and nearby areas of Haryana, offering faster connectivity to the airport

once it becomes operational.

Infrastructure experts say the project will also support economic activity along the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and adjoining industrial zones by improving logistics efficiency and mobility.

With the Union Cabinet's approval now in place, the project will move to the next stage of detailed planning and tendering before construction begins.

Officials expect the corridor to play a key role in strengthening connectivity between Haryana and the new airport, while also easing pressure on existing road networks in the NCR.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

TOUGH | PHASE

Airline faced massive operational disruptions in Dec. 2025

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers quits

New Delhi, March 10: IndiGo chief executive officer (CEO) Pieter Elbers resigned on Tuesday, citing personal reasons, and airline has relieved him with immediate effect, a development that comes three months after massive operational disruptions triggered widespread public outrage and regulatory actions.

Co-founder and managing director Rahul Bhatia will manage the affairs of IndiGo on an interim basis untill a new person is appointed, which airline



said is expected shortly.

The resignation of Elbers, who has been at the helm of IndiGo as CEO since September 6, 2022, has come abruptly, and while citing personal reasons for the decision, he had also requested the airline to waive the notice

period.

"With immediate effect, Pieter Elbers will be stepping down as InterGlobe Aviation Limited's (IndiGo) CEO," InterGlobe Aviation said in a release on Tuesday and thanked him for his contribution and service, as well as wished him well in his future endeavours.

In his resignation letter, Elbers, a Dutch national, said it has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as the CEO for the past few years, since September 2022, and being

a part of IndiGo family.

The resignation comes three months after IndiGo faced massive operational disruptions, mainly between December 3 and 5 2025 - a period during which 2,507 flights were cancelled, and 1,852 flights were delayed, impacting over 3 lakh passengers at airports across the country.

In the release, Bhatia said that having founded and nurtured IndiGo for twenty-two years, "IndiGo will continue to sharpen its strategic focus on serving the country" — PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

IndiGo CEO Elbers resigns; Rahul Bhatia to take interim charge

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Airline major InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, on Tuesday said its Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers has resigned with immediate effect.

Elbers, a former CEO of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, had taken over at IndiGo in September 2022, succeeding Ronojoy Dutta.

Elbers oversaw the airline's international expansion, the roll-out of premium products, placing large orders for jets and the induction of leased wide-body 787 aircraft as the carrier entered its next phase of growth.

His departure comes months after the airline faced widespread flight disruptions and cancellations that left thousands of passengers stranded and drew regulatory scrutiny.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation had issued a caution to Elbers for inadequate overall oversight of flight operations and crisis management.

Managing Director and Co-founder Rahul Bhatia will assume interim management of the airline until a new CEO is appointed.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Fuel price surge pushes Centre to review domestic airfare caps

CRISIS SUPPORT. Government to extend non-financial help to airlines hit by the West Asia disruptions

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Centre is reviewing the existing domestic air fare cap amid rising aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices as well as mounting operational pressures on airlines due to the ongoing crisis in West Asia, sources told *businessline*.

According to sources, the Centre is holding consultations with the industry to arrive at a workable solution as airlines continue to grapple with higher fuel costs, longer flight routes and rising insurance premia.

The Centre had imposed a cap on airfares in early December 2025 after taking cognisance of the unusually high fares amid flight disruptions at IndiGo.

At that time, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had invoked its regulatory powers to en-



OUT OF REACH. Jet fuel costs in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai rose 5.81 per cent in the latest revision

sure fair and reasonable fares across affected routes.

Currently, the cap has been set at ₹7,500 for routes up to 500 km, ₹12,000 for sectors between 500 and 1,000 km, ₹15,000 for routes between 1,000 and 1,500 km and ₹18,000 for sectors above 1,500 km.

However, the fare cap does

not apply to business class travel and flights operated under UDAN.

FINANCIAL WOES

Meanwhile, the Centre has decided to extend non-financial support measures to airlines affected by disruptions in the West Asia corridor, sources added.

Airlines had flagged multiple operational and financial challenges to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, including difficulties in route planning and coordination, as they attempt to restore flight connectivity to the West Asia region and beyond.

The crisis in West Asia forced airlines to take longer routes over the Red Sea and Egypt to reach destinations in Europe and North America. The detours have resulted in higher fuel burn and longer flight durations, thereby increasing operating costs.

Airlines are also facing higher insurance premiums as insurers have imposed additional charges due to the heightened regional risks.

Industry estimates suggest that airlines are paying an extra ₹30-40 lakh per narrowbody flight and up to ₹1

crore for widebody operations.

JET FUEL COSTS

If these additional costs are passed on to passengers, airfares could increase by ₹20,000-35,000 per passenger on certain routes. Rising fuel prices are adding to the financial pressure on airlines. Jet fuel costs across four major metro cities — Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai — rose 5.81 per cent, or ₹5,215.50 per litre, in the latest revision.

In Delhi specifically, the price increased by ₹5,244.75 on March 1, representing a rise of about 5.74 per cent, compared with the February 1 levels.

These prices include Central Excise Duty and State Value Added Tax, and are revised by oil marketing companies on the first day of every month.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Air Canada to boost Delhi flights till April-end

Mumbai: Air Canada is doubling its frequency on the Toronto-Delhi route till April-end to cater to high passenger demand. It announced it will fly twice daily on the route in view of the capacity constraint caused by West Asia conflict. The conflict in West Asia has disrupted travel plans of travellers globally as Dubai, Doha and Abu Dhabi function as key aviation hubs. Airlines are trying clear the extra rush by deploying additional flights to major destinations. While Air India is operating extra flights to Europe and the US, Air France too is operating two extra services from Paris to Delhi and Mumbai next week. OUR BUREAU



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers resigns; Rahul Bhatia to take interim charge

BIG DEPARTURE. Aviation veteran steps down citing personal reasons; Co-founder to oversee ops temporarily

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Airline major InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, on Tuesday said its Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers has resigned with immediate effect.

Elbers, a Dutch aviation veteran and former Chief Executive of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, had taken over as CEO of IndiGo in September 2022, succeeding Ronojoy Dutta.

During his tenure, he oversaw the airline's international expansion, the roll-out of premium products, placing massive orders for jets and the induction of leased wide-body 787 aircraft as the carrier entered its next phase of growth.

His departure comes months after the airline faced widespread flight disruptions and cancellations across the country that left thousands of passengers

stranded and drew regulatory scrutiny. The episode had fuelled speculation within the aviation sector that Elbers could be on his way out of the airline's top role.

At the time, aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed financial penalties amounting to ₹22.20 crore on IndiGo, following an inquiry into large-scale flight disruptions reported last year.

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

Besides, the regulator issued cautions and warnings to several senior officials of InterGlobe Aviation. These included a caution to Elbers for inadequate overall oversight of flight operations and crisis management.

The enforcement action followed an inquiry conducted by a four-member committee constituted by the DGCA after IndiGo reported the cancellation of 2,507 flights and delays to 1,852



BOWING OUT. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers

flights between December 3 and 5, 2025. The disruptions affected more than three lakh passengers across the country.

It is understood that Elbers tendered his resignation citing personal reasons.

On its part, IndiGo's Board of Directors thanked Elbers for his contribution and service to the organisation and wished him well in his future endeavours.

Following Elbers' resignation, IndiGo Managing Director and Co-founder Rahul Bhatia will assume interim management of the airline

until a new CEO is appointed.

The company stated that the process of identifying a new leader is expected to conclude shortly.

In an internal communication to employees, Bhatia said the events of last December were unacceptable and had placed an undeserved burden on both customers and staff.

He acknowledged that frontline teams bore the weight of these challenges through for no fault of their own and expressed gratitude for the "sleepless nights" spent by colleagues to restore operational integrity, describing the team's resilience as the heart and spirit of the airline.

Meanwhile, Vikram Singh Mehta, Chairman of the Board of IndiGo, said Bhatia's return to operational leadership would help strengthen the company's culture and reinforce operational excellence.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

"Rahul returns to assume management of the affairs of the airline to strengthen the company's culture, reinforce operational excellence and deepen its commitment to delivering exceptional service of care, reliability and professionalism to its customers," Mehta said.

Bhatia said he felt a deep sense of personal commitment and responsibility towards the airline and its stakeholders after having founded and nurtured IndiGo for more than two decades.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

A-I introduces fuel surcharges amid rising oil prices

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 10 March

Air India on Tuesday announced a phased introduction of fuel surcharges on domestic and specific international tickets starting March 12, citing a sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices following supply disruptions linked to fresh conflict in the Gulf region. The airline said ATF, which accounts for nearly 40 per cent of operating costs, has seen a steep escalation in prices since early March due to supply interruptions. The cost pressure is further amplified in India by high excise duty and value-added tax on ATF in major metro cities such as Delhi and Mumbai, which increases the overall operating burden on airlines, it added.

Under the first phase, applicable to all new bookings made from March 12 onwards, the airline will introduce a fuel surcharge of ₹399 on domestic flights as well as routes to neighbouring South Asian countries that are part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. These routes did not previously attract any fuel surcharge.

The airline will also introduce a new surcharge of \$10 on flights to West Asia or the Middle East, where no fuel surcharge was applied earlier.

On Southeast Asia routes, the surcharge will increase to \$60 from \$40 currently, while flights to Africa will see the surcharge rise to \$90 from \$60.

In the second phase, which will apply to bookings made from March 18 onwards, the airline will increase fuel surcharges on long-haul routes. The surcharge on flights to Europe will rise to \$125 from \$100, while the surcharge on flights to North America and Australia will increase to \$200 from \$150.

A third phase covering Far East markets such as Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea will be announced later, the airline said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Crude oil even at \$90 is 'unsustainable': SpiceJet chairman



Indian airlines may need to rethink expansion plans as crude oil prices hover at unsustainable levels, even at \$90 a barrel, budget carrier SpiceJet Ltd.'s chairman warned.

"We don't know where things are really going," Ajay Singh, who's also the managing

director at SpiceJet, said in an interview with *Bloomberg Television's* Haslinda Amin on Tuesday. Fares in domestic routes are unlikely to stay steady as Indian airlines "will have no choice but to impose a fuel surcharge." Indian carriers have hiked prices on long-haul routes by 15 per cent, *Bloomberg News* reported Monday. Airlines will have to pass on some of the higher costs given how price sensitive the Indian market is, Singh added, signaling that local fares may climb up as well. Local operators are among the hardest hit due to their heavy reliance on Gulf routes and surging fuel costs, compounded by restrictions on Pakistan airspace.

BLOOMBERG

Months after IndiGo meltdown, CEO resigns; Bhatia to take interim role

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 10 March



Pieter Elbers
IndiGo CEO

IndiGo leadership changes since inception

Leader	Role	Tenure	Months
Bruce Ashby	CEO	Aug 2005 - Nov 2008	39
Aditya Ghosh	President	Nov 2008 - Jul 2018	116
Rahul Bhatia	Interim CEO	Aug 2018 - Jan 2019	6
Ronojoy Dutta	CEO	Jan 2019 - Sep 2022	44
Pieter Elbers	CEO	Sep 2022 - Mar 2026	42
Rahul Bhatia	Interim CEO	Mar 10, 2026 - Present	-

Source: IndiGo

About three months after IndiGo went into an operational meltdown that led to the cancellation of thousands of flights, the airline on Tuesday announced that its chief executive officer (CEO), Pieter Elbers, had resigned with immediate effect due to "personal reasons" and promoter Rahul Bhatia was set to act as interim CEO.

Bhatia, who is also managing director (MD) of IndiGo, in the "interim will assume management of the affairs of the airline until such time that the company announces the arrival of a new leader, which is expected in short order," the airline said in a statement.

IndiGo cancelled over 4,200 flights between December 1 and December 9. The meltdown was triggered by the airline's inability to manage its pilot duty roster after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) fully implemented stricter duty regulations in November. The regulations increased weekly rest requirements and reduced the hours pilots can fly at night.

In an email to employees on Tuesday

evening, Bhatia acknowledged the disruption caused by the crisis. "What happened last December should never have taken place... Our customers didn't deserve it and nor did all of you, especially the frontline employees who bore most of the brunt for no fault of theirs."

"I wish to place on record my indebtedness to all my colleagues who carried the company's cross with grace and dignity, and ploughed through sleepless nights to restore IndiGo's operational integrity. You are indeed the living spirit of IndiGo!" he added.

Following the December operational crisis at IndiGo, the DGCA imposed a penalty of ₹22.2 crore on the

airline after an investigation found serious deficiencies in operational planning and crew management that led to widespread flight disruptions.

The fine included ₹1.8 crore in penalties for six instances of regulatory non-compliance and an additional ₹20.4 crore calculated as a daily penalty of ₹30 lakh for 68 days for continued violations related to crew rostering and flight duty time limitation norms.

Apart from the monetary penalty, the DGCA also took several enforcement actions against the airline's management and operational structure.

Elbers, who had taken over as CEO in September 2022, wrote to Bhatia on Tuesday that he was stepping down due

to "personal reasons" and requested that his notice period be waived.

"It has been both an honour and privilege to serve as IndiGo's CEO these past years... and being a part of the great IndiGo family, its beautiful growth story and the steps we have made together," he said in his resignation email. He added that he would remain available to assist in any transition, if required.

Announcing the leadership change, the company said its board of directors thanked Elbers for his contribution and service to the organisation and wished him well in his future endeavours. IndiGo Chairman Vikram Singh Mehta said Bhatia's return to manage the airline's affairs would help strengthen the company's culture. It would also reinforce operational excellence and deepen its commitment to delivering reliable service to customers.

Bhatia, in a statement released by the airline, said he felt a "deep sense of personal commitment and responsibility" towards the airline's customers, employees, shareholders and other stakeholders.

More on business-standard.com

Akasa Air unveils scheme to retain pilots amid hiring war

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 10 March



Akasa Air on Monday unveiled a new long-term incentive plan (LTIP) where it would offer ₹25 lakh to captains and trainee captains, as the airline seeks to curb poaching of its cockpit crew by rivals, *Business Standard* has learnt.

In an email to its pilots on Monday, Akasa Air director of flight operations Sanket Limaye said the airline was launching the second edition of its LTIP. Under this, captains (all grades) and trainee captains will be eligible for incentives of ₹25 lakh. And, senior first officers will be eligible for ₹10 lakh.

The incentive will not be paid upfront but will be disbursed in three instalments over the next three years — 15 per cent by August 31, 2027, 25 per cent by August 31, 2028, and the rest 60 per cent by August 31, 2029.

It would be subject to the pilot remaining in employment with the airline on the respective payout dates.

Limaye said the second edition of the LTIP is designed to re-

What the plan offers

- Captains (all grades), trainee captains will be eligible for incentives of ₹25 lakh
- Pilot's designation as of Aug 1, 2026, will determine payout bracket
- Incentive to be disbursed in 3 instalments over the next 3 years

cognise pilots' commitment to building the airline "for generations to come." Akasa Air did not respond to *Business Standard's* queries regarding this matter.

Under the scheme, a pilot's designation as of August 1, 2026, will determine the payout bracket.

"As we continue to grow, we remain committed to sharing our success with those who make it possible," Limaye told the pilots.

Akasa had launched the first edition of the LTIP in 2024 when aircraft deliveries had slowed, resulting in several pilots remaining without regular flying assignments.

The scheme was introduced at that time to retain trained cockpit crew during the period of constrained fleet growth. The first edition was scheduled for implementation between August 2024 and August 2026. The fresh incentive programme comes at a time when competition for experienced pilots in India's rapidly expanding aviation sector has intensified. And, airlines are now seeking to strengthen their cockpit ranks as fleets grow and networks expand.

Akasa Air has 35 aircraft — all Boeing 737 Max — in its fleet, nine of which have been added since January 2025. In contrast, Air India Express has a fleet of 105 aircraft and inducted 15 Boeing 737 Max planes since January 2025, according to *planespotter.net*.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

इंडिगो के सीईओ ने दिया इस्तीफा

भारत की प्रमुख विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो में व्यापक स्तर के परिचालन संकट के लगभग तीन महीने बाद, कंपनी के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) पीटर एल्बर्स ने 'व्यक्तिगत कारणों' का हवाला देते हुए तत्काल प्रभाव से इस्तीफा दे दिया है। कंपनी ने मंगलवार को इसकी घोषणा की। विमानन कंपनी के प्रवर्तक और प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया फिलहाल अंतरिम सीईओ के रूप में काम करेंगे।

कंपनी के बयान के अनुसार, जब तक नए प्रमुख की नियुक्ति नहीं होती, तब तक इंडिगो के भाटिया ही विमानन कंपनी के प्रबंधन की जिम्मेदारी संभालेंगे। उम्मीद है कि जल्द ही नए सीईओ की घोषणा की जाएगी। दिसंबर महीने में इंडिगो को बड़े परिचालन संकट का सामना करना पड़ा था, जिसके कारण 1 से 9 दिसंबर के बीच 4,200 से अधिक उड़ानें रद्द करनी पड़ी थीं। यह स्थिति तब पैदा हुई जब विमानन कंपनी

पायलटों की ड्यूटी रोस्टर का प्रबंधन ठीक तरह से नहीं कर पाई।

दरअसल, नवंबर में डीजीसीए ने पायलट के लिए सख्त ड्यूटी नियम पूरी तरह लागू किए थे। इन नए नियमों के तहत पायलट की साप्ताहिक छुट्टी का समय बढ़ा दिया गया और रात में उड़ान भरने के घंटों को कम कर दिया गया। मंगलवार शाम कर्मचारियों को भेजे गए ई-मेल में राहुल भाटिया ने इस संकट से हुई परेशानियों की बात स्वीकार की।

बीएस

अकासा : पायलटों के लिए प्रोत्साहन योजना

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 10 मार्च

पायलटों को लुभाने की प्रतिस्पर्धियों की कोशिशों के बीच अकासा एयर ने नई दीर्घकालिक प्रोत्साहन योजना का ऐलान किया है। इसके तहत कॉकपिट क्लू को कंपनी में बनाए रखने के लिए कैप्टन और ट्रेनी कैप्टन को 25 लाख रुपये तक का भुगतान किया जाएगा। बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड को यह जानकारी मिली है।

सोमवार को पायलटों को भेजे गए ईमेल में अकासा एयर के निदेशक (उड़ान परिचालन) संकेत लिमये ने कहा कि विमानन कंपनी अपनी दीर्घकालिक प्रोत्साहन योजना (एलटीआईपी) के दूसरे संस्करण की शुरुआत कर रही है। इसके तहत कैप्टन (सभी श्रेणी वाले) और ट्रेनी कैप्टन 25 लाख रुपये के प्रोत्साहन के लिए पात्र होंगे, जबकि सीनियर फर्स्ट ऑफिसर 10 लाख रुपये के

लिए पात्र होंगे।

यह प्रोत्साहन तुरंत नहीं दिया जाएगा, बल्कि अगले तीन वर्षों के दौरान तीन किस्तों में - 31 अगस्त, 2027 तक 15 प्रतिशत, 31 अगस्त, 2028 तक 25 प्रतिशत और शेष 60 प्रतिशत 31 अगस्त, 2029 तक दिया जाएगा। यह इस बात पर निर्भर करेगा कि पायलट संबंधित भुगतान तिथियों के समय विमानन कंपनी के साथ बने रहें।

लिमये ने कहा कि एलटीआईपी का दूसरा संस्करण पायलटों द्वारा विमानन को 'आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए' बनाने की प्रतिबद्धता की पहचान के लिहाज से तैयार किया गया है। अकासा एयर ने इस मामले में बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड के सवाल को जवाब नहीं दिया।

योजना के तहत 1 अगस्त, 2026 तक पायलट के पद से भुगतान श्रेणी का निर्धारण होगा। लिमये ने पायलटों से कहा, 'जैसे-जैसे हम बढ़ रहे हैं, हम अपनी



नई योजना के तहत कॉकपिट क्लू को कंपनी में बनाए रखने के लिए कैप्टन और ट्रेनी कैप्टन को 25 लाख रुपये तक का भुगतान किया जाएगा

सफलता को उन लोगों के साथ साझा करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं, जो इसे संभव बनाते हैं।'

अकासा ने एलटीआईपी के पहले संस्करण की शुरुआत साल 2024 में तब की थी, जब विमानों की डिलिवरी धीमी हो गई थी। इसके परिणामस्वरूप कई पायलट नियमित उड़ान कार्यभार के बिना ही रह गए

थे। यह योजना ऐसे समय में शुरू की गई थी ताकि प्रशिक्षित कॉकपिट क्लू को बेड़े की सीमित वृद्धि वाली अवधि के दौरान बरकरार रखा जा सके। पहला संस्करण अगस्त 2024 और अगस्त 2026 के बीच लागू होना था।

यह नई प्रोत्साहन योजना ऐसे समय में आई है, जब देश के तेजी से बढ़ते विमानन क्षेत्र में अनुभवी पायलटों के लिए प्रतिस्पर्धा तेज हो गई है। ऐसा इसलिए कि विमानन कंपनियां बेड़े के बढ़ने और नेटवर्क के विस्तार के साथ अपने कॉकपिट कर्मियों को मजबूत करना चाहती हैं।

अकासा एयर के बेड़े में 35 विमान हैं और ये सभी बोइंग 737 मैक्स हैं। इनमें से 9 विमान जनवरी 2025 के बाद से जोड़े गए हैं। प्लेनस्पॉटर्स के अनुसार इसके विपरीत एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के बेड़े में 105 विमान हैं और जनवरी 2025 से 15 बोइंग 737 मैक्स विमान शामिल किए गए हैं।

सीएम भजनलाल, स्पीकर ओम बिरला, उड्डयन मंत्री नायडू ने किया शिलान्यास

कोटा में दो साल में बनेगा एयरपोर्ट, एयरबस उतर सकेंगे

भास्कर न्यूज़ | बूंदी/कोटा

कोटा-बूंदी में शनिवार को लोकसभा स्पीकर ओम बिरला, सीएम भजनलाल शर्मा और केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू ने ग्रीन फील्ड एयरपोर्ट का शिलान्यास किया। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी भी वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग से जुड़े। 440 हेक्टेयर में 1507 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से बनने वाला एयरपोर्ट दिसंबर 2027-28 तक पूरा हो जाएगा। सीएम ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जो कहते हैं, वह करते हैं। कांग्रेस शासनकाल में पेपर लीक की घटनाओं से युवाओं के सपने टूटे थे, लेकिन वर्तमान सरकार के दो साल के कार्यकाल में एक भी पेपर लीक नहीं हुआ। पेपर लीक मामले में 400 से अधिक आरोपी जेल में हैं।

हाड़ौती के विकास की राह खुलेगी



शनिवार को कोटा में एयरपोर्ट का शिलान्यास करते लोकसभा स्पीकर ओम बिरला, मुख्यमंत्री भजन लाल और उड्डयन मंत्री के.राममोहन नायडू।

वीसी से जुड़े पीएम: कहा- 2023 का वादा पूरा हो रहा

वर्चुअल माध्यम से शिलान्यास समारोह को संबोधित करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने कहा, नवंबर 2023 में जब मैं कोटा आया था, तब वादा



किया था कि कोटा का एयरपोर्ट केवल सपना बनकर नहीं रहेगा, बल्कि यह साकार होगा। आज वह क्षण आ गया है, जब कोटा एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण कार्य शुरू होने जा रहा है। इसके बनने से हाड़ौती के विकास के नए द्वार खुलेंगे।

शिक्षा, रोजगार और पर्यटन का विकास तेज होगा : सीएम

मुख्यमंत्री भजन लाल शर्मा ने कहा कि एयरपोर्ट से कारोबार, रोजगार और पर्यटन का विकास तेजी से होगा। यहां कृषि और बेहतर सड़क-रेल कनेक्टिविटी पहले से ही मजबूत है। एयर कनेक्टिविटी से हाड़ौती क्षेत्र के विकास को नई गति मिलेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि पीएम ने राजस्थान को बड़ा तोहफा दिया है।

कोटा देश ही नहीं, इंटरनेशनल नेटवर्क से भी जुड़ेगा : बिरला

इस मौके पर स्पीकर ओम बिरला ने कहा कि कोटा-बूंदी एयरपोर्ट एक निर्माण परियोजना नहीं, बल्कि हाड़ौती की आर्थिक आकांक्षाओं का प्रतीक है। उद्योग, व्यापार और पर्यटन क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए बेहतर हवाई कनेक्टिविटी की कमी थी। अब कोटा देश ही नहीं, अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क से भी जुड़ सकेगा। कोटा आईटी का नया हब भी बनेगा।

कोटा एयरपोर्ट प्रोजेक्ट एक नजर में...

लागत	1507 करोड़
भूमि	440 हेक्टेयर
रनवे	3200 मीटर
क्षमता	20 लाख यात्री/वर्ष
टर्मिनल	20,000 वर्गमीटर

- रनवे: 3200 मी. लंबा, 45 मी. चौड़ा
- A-321 जैसे बड़े विमान उतरेंगे
- 2027-28 तक इसका संचालन
- हाड़ौती के यात्री जयपुर आते हैं। ऐसे में जयपुर में दबाव कम होगा।

राजस्थान को फायदा

- पर्यटन बढ़ेगा (बूंदी, चंबल, रणथंभौर) और उद्योग व व्यापार के लिए कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ेगी।

संडे बिग स्टोरी समर शेड्यूल 29 से, पिछले साल से ज्यादा फ्लाइट होंगी 15 फ्लाइट्स बंद हो सकती हैं; जैसलमेर, जोधपुर-बीकानेर की कनेक्टिविटी टूटेगी



एविएशन रिपोर्टर | जयपुर

जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 29 मार्च से फ्लाइट संचालन का पूरा शेड्यूल बदल जाएगा। इस दिन से समर फ्लाइट शेड्यूल लागू होगा, जिसके तहत करीब 15 फ्लाइट्स बंद होने की आशंका है। अभी योजना 26 शहरों के लिए औसतन 66 फ्लाइट्स संचालित होती हैं, लेकिन समर शेड्यूल में संख्या घटकर 53 रह सकती है। इसमें जैसलमेर, जोधपुर और बीकानेर की फ्लाइट बंद होने की संभावना है। यानी 23 शहरों के लिए ही फ्लाइट संचालित होंगी। दो फ्लाइट नवी मुंबई और गुवाहाटी के लिए शुरू हो सकती है, लेकिन यहां के लिए 1-1 फ्लाइट पहले से संचालित है। हालांकि 2025 के समर शेड्यूल से इस बार 6 फ्लाइट ज्यादा होंगी, साथ ही 100 से ज्यादा एयरक्राफ्ट का मुवमेंट होगा।

हर साल मार्च के अंतिम रविवार से समर शेड्यूल लागू होता है। राजस्थान में सितंबर से मार्च तक पर्यटन सीजन रहता है, जबकि गर्मियों में पर्यटकों की संख्या कम हो जाती है। इसका असर फ्लाइट संचालन पर भी पड़ता है। नए शेड्यूल में कई शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट्स की संख्या घटेगी, जबकि गुवाहाटी के लिए कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ेगी। हालांकि अभी डीजीसीए ने समर शेड्यूल को अंतिम मंजूरी नहीं दी है, इसलिए फ्लाइट्स की संख्या में बदलाव संभव है।

मुंबई की 14 में से 5 फ्लाइट बंद हो सकती हैं: समर शेड्यूल में सबसे ज्यादा असर मुंबई रूट पर दिख सकता है। अभी जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए 14 फ्लाइट्स संचालित होती हैं, लेकिन इनमें से 5 फ्लाइट्स बंद होने की संभावना है।

इन 15 उड़ानों पर लगेगा ब्रेक...

शहर	फ्लाइट	समय
मुंबई	6ई-5035	सुबह 7:20 बजे
मुंबई	6ई-251	सुबह 10:55 बजे
मुंबई	एसजी-691	दोपहर 2:45 बजे
मुंबई	एसजी-651	शाम 6:15 बजे
मुंबई	एसजी-251	रात 12:50 बजे
दिल्ली	आईएक्स-1289	शाम 6:55 बजे
बंगलुरु	6ई-373	रात 9:55 बजे
कोलकाता	6ई-6427	रात 10:10 बजे
चेन्नई	6ई-5362	सुबह 9:55 बजे
चंडीगढ़	6ई-7742	सुबह 5:50 बजे
देहरादून	6ई-7468	शाम 5:25 बजे
इंदौर	6ई-7154	सुबह 11:45 बजे
जोधपुर	6ई-7405	सुबह 10:30 बजे
जैसलमेर	6ई-7675	सुबह 9:20 बजे
बीकानेर	9आई-833	सुबह 8:50 बजे

2025 में कनेक्टिविटी
विंटर/शहर समर/शहर
72/26 48/20

2024 में कनेक्टिविटी
विंटर/शहर समर/शहर
65/34 61/30

कहां की कितनी कम होंगी

शहर	विंटर	समर
मुंबई	14	10
दिल्ली	7	6
बंगलुरु	6	5
हैदराबाद	3	3
कोलकाता	4	3
चेन्नई	2	1
चंडीगढ़	4	3
देहरादून	2	1
इंदौर	3	2

वे 2 नई
फ्लाइट शुरू
होंगी

• 11:05 बजे
जयपुर-नवी
मुंबई - 6ई-
2719

• 5:00 बजे
जयपुर-
गुवाहाटी
-आईएक्स-
1369. (दोनों
शहरों के लिए
एक-एक
फ्लाइट पहले
से संचालित
है)

7 शहरों की फ्लाइट
में कोई बदलाव नहीं
अहमदाबाद 4
उदयपुर 2
पुणे 2
लखनऊ, सूरत, बेलगाम और
कुल्लू के लिए 1-1 फ्लाइट
का संचालन जारी होने की
संभावना है।

टी-20 वर्ल्ड कप फाइनल का क्रेज

इंडिगो ने अहमदाबाद फ्लाइट का किराया 3 गुना किया, रेलवे चलाएगा वर्ल्ड कप स्पेशल ट्रेन

जयपुर | टी-20 वर्ल्ड कप का फाइनल रविवार को अहमदाबाद में खेला जाएगा। इसको लेकर जयपुर के क्रिकेट प्रेमियों में भी ख़ासा उत्साह है। ऐसे में जयपुर से अहमदाबाद जाने वाली फ्लाइट्स का किराया बढ़ गया है। जयपुर से अहमदाबाद के लिए इंडिगो की योजना 4 फ्लाइट संचालित होती है। शनिवार और रविवार की उड़ानों का किराया 13,764 रुपए कर दिया गया। जबकि आमतौर पर 4500 से 5000 रुपए तक होता है। यानी तीन गुना किराया लिया जा रहा है। इसके बावजूद रविवार सुबह की फ्लाइट शुरुवार और दोपहर की फ्लाइट शनिवार सुबह तक फुल हो गई।

अहमदाबाद की ट्रेनें फुल, दर्शकों को लेने साबरमती से आई ट्रेन वर्ल्ड कप के चलते अहमदाबाद की ट्रेनें भी फुल हैं। रेलवे के सीपीआरओ अमित सुदर्शन ने बताया कि नई दिल्ली से साबरमती के लिए शनिवार देर रात 11:45 बजे वर्ल्ड कप स्पेशल ट्रेन रवाना हुई, यह रविवार अलसुबह 4:50 बजे जयपुर से अहमदाबाद गई। इससे दिल्ली, जयपुर और आसपास के क्षेत्रों से अहमदाबाद जाने वाले यात्रियों को राहत मिली। ट्रेन 04062 नई दिल्ली-साबरमती स्पेशल रविवार दोपहर ढाई बजे साबरमती पहुंचेगी। ट्रेन में 5 सेकंड और 12 थर्ड एसी कोच हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

9 MARCH 2026

मुंबई की फ्लाइट 6 घंटे लेट, रातभर एयरपोर्ट पर रहे यात्री

शारजाह, दुबई की 3 उड़ानें रद्द

जयपुर | इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर स्पाइसजेट की मुंबई जाने वाली फ्लाइट में देरी के कारण यात्रियों को रातभर इंतजार करना पड़ा। फ्लाइट का समय दो बार बदले जाने से यात्री करीब छह घंटे तक एयरपोर्ट पर परेशान होते रहे।

एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों के अनुसार स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट संख्या एसजी-251 को जयपुर से रात 1:25 बजे मुंबई के लिए रवाना होना था, लेकिन तकनीकी कारणों से उड़ान में देरी हो गई। एयरलाइन

ने पहले फ्लाइट का समय आगे बढ़ाया और बाद में दोबारा री-शेड्यूल किया। आखिरकार फ्लाइट करीब छह घंटे की देरी से सुबह 7:15 बजे मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुई।

उधर, ईगन-इजरायल तनाव के कारण जयपुर से खाड़ी देशों की 3 उड़ानें रविवार को रद्द रहीं। एयर अरबिया की शारजाह जाने वाली जी9-436, एयर इंडिया की दुबई उड़ान आईएक्स-195 और स्पाइसजेट की दुबई फ्लाइट एसजी-57 का संचालन नहीं हो सका, जिससे यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा।

India schedules 50 flights as West Asia crisis deepens

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 9 March

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

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

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

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

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



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

As per the current status, Indian carriers are planning

50 flights for Monday.

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

The Ministry remains in

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

THE MINISTRY SAID IN A STATEMENT.

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

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

इंडिगो संकट के तीन माह बाद सीईओ का इस्तीफा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: तीन महीने पहले परिचालन संबंधी दिक्कतों का सामना करने के बाद विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) पीटर एल्बर्स ने मंगलवार को अचानक निजी कारणों का हवाला देते हुए इस्तीफा दे दिया। नए सीईओ की नियुक्ति तक एयरलाइन के प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया अंतरिम व्यवस्था के तहत इंडिगो के प्रबंधन का कामकाज देखेंगे।

एल्बर्स का इस्तीफा अचानक आया है। वह छह सितंबर, 2022 से इस पद पर काम कर रहे थे। उन्होंने विमानन कंपनी से नोटिस

पीरियड (इस्तीफे के बाद काम करने की अनिवार्य अवधि) से छूट देने का भी अनुरोध किया था। अपने इस्तीफे में डच नागरिक एल्बर्स ने कहा, 'पिछले कुछ वर्षों से सीईओ के रूप में सेवा करना मेरे लिए सम्मान और सौभाग्य की बात रही है।' उन्होंने कहा, "यदि कंपनी चाहे तो मैं किसी भी तरह के कार्यभार हस्तांतरण या बदलाव के लिए उपलब्ध रहूंगा। मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से आपको और इंडिगो के बोर्ड को मुझे दिए गए समर्थन के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा।" यह इस्तीफा तब आया है जब तीन महीने पहले एयरलाइन को बड़े पैमाने

पर परिचालन संबंधी गड़बड़ियों का सामना करना पड़ा था। पिछले साल तीन से पांच दिसंबर के दौरान इंडिगो की 2,507 उड़ानें रद्द की गई थीं और 1,852 उड़ानें अपने तय समय से देर से उड़ी थीं। इस व्यवधान से देश में हवाईअड्डों पर तीन लाख से अधिक यात्री प्रभावित हुए थे। जनवरी में विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए ने इन गड़बड़ियों के लिए कंपनी पर कुल 22.20 करोड़ का जुर्माना लगाया था। नियामक ने नियमों का पालन नहीं करने पर तत्कालीन सीईओ एल्बर्स और दो अन्य वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों को चेतावनी भी दी थी।

इंडिगो संकट के तीन महीने के बाद सीईओ पीटर एल्बर्स का इस्तीफा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेद्र: तीन महीने पहले परिचालन संबंधी दिक्कतों का सामना करने के बाद विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) पीटर एल्बर्स ने मंगलवार को अचानक निजी कारणों का हवाला देते हुए इस्तीफा दे दिया। नए सीईओ की नियुक्ति तक एयरलाइन के प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया अंतरिम व्यवस्था के तहत इंडिगो के प्रबंधन का कामकाज देखेंगे।

एल्बर्स का इस्तीफा अचानक आया है। वह छह सितंबर, 2022 से इस पद पर काम कर रहे थे। उन्होंने विमानन कंपनी से नोटिस पीरियड (इस्तीफे के बाद काम करने की अनिवार्य अवधि) से छूट देने का भी अनुरोध किया था। अपने इस्तीफे में डच नागरिक एल्बर्स ने कहा, 'पिछले कुछ वर्षों (सितंबर 2022 से) से सीईओ के रूप में सेवा करना मेरे लिए सम्मान और सौभाग्य की बात रही है।' उन्होंने कहा, "यह विकास की एक खूबसूरत कहानी है और हमने मिलकर जो भी कदम उठाए हैं, वे सराहनीय हैं।"

- ▶ नई नियुक्ति तक कंपनी के प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया संभालेंगे प्रबंधन का काम
- ▶ परिचालन संबंधी दिक्कतों के चलते डीजीसीए ने लगाया था 22 करोड़ का जुर्माना



पीटर एल्बर्स। फाइल

उन्होंने कहा, "यदि कंपनी चाहे तो मैं किसी भी तरह के कार्यभार हस्तांतरण या बदलाव के लिए उपलब्ध रहूंगा। मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से आपको और इंडिगो के

बोर्ड को मुझे दिए गए समर्थन के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा।" यह इस्तीफा तब आया है जब तीन महीने पहले एयरलाइन को बड़े पैमाने पर परिचालन संबंधी गड़बड़ियों का सामना करना पड़ा था। पिछले साल तीन से पांच दिसंबर के दौरान इंडिगो की 2,507 उड़ानें रद्द की गई थीं और 1,852 उड़ानें अपने तय समय से देर से उड़ी थीं। इससे तीन लाख से अधिक यात्री प्रभावित हुए थे।

प्रबंध निदेशक ने लिखा- राहुल उर्फ मैं हूँ ना : इंडिगो के सह-संस्थापक और प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया ने मंगलवार को कर्मचारियों से कहा कि वह एयरलाइन के मामलों का प्रबंधन गहरी जिम्मेदारी की भावना के साथ करेंगे और यह भी कहा कि पिछले दिसंबर में जो हुआ वह कभी नहीं होना चाहिए था। उन्होंने कंपनी के कर्मचारियों के लिए एक संदेश जारी किया और अंत में 'राहुल उर्फ मैं हूँ ना' लिखा। 'मैं हूँ ना' 2004 में रिलीज हुई शाहरुख खान अभिनीत एक बालीवुड ब्लाकबस्टर फिल्म थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

10 MARCH 2026

जयपुर से खाड़ी देशों की 3 फ्लाइट्स रद्द

नवज्योति, जयपुर। ईरान-इजरायल युद्ध का असर अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर लगातार देखा जा रहा है। सोमवार को जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से खाड़ी देशों के लिए संचालित होने वाली तीन फ्लाइट्स रद्द कर दी गई। एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन के अनुसार अबूधाबी और दुबई जाने वाली उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं। जानकारी के मुताबिक एतिहाद एयरवेज की जयपुर से अबूधाबी जाने वाली फ्लाइट, जो रात 3.15 बजे रवाना होती है, उसे रद्द कर दिया गया। इसके अलावा एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की सुबह 8.45 बजे जयपुर से दुबई जाने वाली फ्लाइट भी सोमवार को संचालित नहीं हो सकी। वहीं एतिहाद एयरवेज की ही रात 9.30 बजे अबूधाबी के लिए जाने वाली दूसरी फ्लाइट भी रद्द रही।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

PROMOTER RAHUL BHATIA NAMED INTERIM CEO

IndiGo CEO Elbers Quits 3 Months after Turbulence

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Pieter Elbers stepped down as IndiGo CEO on Tuesday following the operational breakdown last December that forced India's largest airline to cancel more than 5,000 flights, stranding thousands of passengers and forcing the government to get into crisis-control mode.

Rahul Bhatia, promoter of InterGlobe Aviation — the airline's parent — will act as interim CEO. The company has already identified a new CEO, said people aware of the development.

An internal probe by the IndiGo board pointed to failure of the top management to adequately plan for new pilot rest rules, triggering the operational crisis. "He had lost moral authority to lead the company after such a fiasco," a top executive said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation

had limited the number of landings a pilot can perform between 12 am and 6 am while increasing weekly rest requirements.

Elbers and chief operating officer Isidro Porqueras were not available in the country when the crisis erupted in early December.

"What happened last December should have never taken place," Bhatia wrote in an email to employees.

"Neither our customers, nor our frontline employees, who bore most of the burnt, deserve it. I join hands with all of you today to ensure that we regain our right of choice with our customers," he told staff, signing off with the line "Main Hoon Na."

In 2019, when IndiGo cofounder Rakesh Gangwal raised corporate governance issues, Bhatia had used the same phrase as a form of reassurance, while responding to shareholder queries at an AGM.



Prominent Figure ▶▶ 5

Prominent Figure

▶▶ From Page 1

IndiGo had chosen Elbers, a former CEO of Dutch carrier KLM, in 2022 to drive its transformation from a largely India-focused airline to a global carrier. His contract was till 2027.

At IndiGo, Elbers had been a prominent figure, emerging as its public face and posting photos of himself wearing traditional Indian attire at festival time. He had reshuffled the airline's top deck, forcing out

many IndiGo lifers and replacing them with younger executives as part of building a new set of leaders.

Analysts remain upbeat about IndiGo's prospects despite the December disruption and the Iran war, which is fuelling a surge in oil prices besides impacting operations to the Gulf and the West.

Rating agency Crisil said IndiGo had shown a swift recovery in operations, supported by several corrective measures, including enhanced manpower deployment, while upgrading the company's borrowing facilities from 'under watch' to AA- and A1+ with a positive outlook.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

DGCA Clears Haveus' MRO Expansion

MUMBAI Aviation MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) provider Haveus Aerotech on Tuesday said it has received approval from DGCA to expand services at Bengaluru and Delhi facilities. The Gurugram-based company has secured the aviation regulator's approval for its Bengaluru facility to handle specialised galley, avionics and life-saving equipment, while its Delhi facility has also received approval for environmental and temperature-controlled cargo containers – a first for any MRO in India. –PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Indian Airlines Test the War Skies with Limited West Asia Services

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Indian carriers are gradually restoring limited operations to parts of West Asia while keeping several routes suspended, as airlines reassess safety and airspace risks amid the continuing Iran war.

Air India and Air India Express said they would together operate 14 flights to and from Jeddah on Tuesday while Air India Express will run another 14 flights to and from Muscat the same day.

The Tata Group-owned carriers are also planning "32 additional non-scheduled flights to and from many destinations in the UAE on March 10, subject to slot availability, regulatory approvals and the evolving situation," the airline said in a statement.

Budget airline Akasa Air said in a travel update on Tuesday that it will operate select flights to and from Jeddah from cities such as Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kochi, and Kozhikode till March 31 after a "comprehensive safety review and the current assessment of the situation



in West Asia."

SpiceJet said it will operate additional flights from Dubai to cities including Pune, Jaipur, Madurai, Kozhikode, Ahmedabad, Delhi, and Mumbai on Wednesday to support passenger movement.

However, several routes remain suspended.

Akasa said operations to Riyadh will remain halted until Wednesday, while services from Abu Dhabi, Doha and Kuwait are suspended until March 15. The airline has also extended a waiver on cancellation and rescheduling charges for affected passengers till the month-end, allowing them to opt for a full refund or change travel dates without additional cost.

AI to Hike Fares on Jet Fuel Price Surge

NEW DELHI Air India passengers will have to start paying more with the carrier introducing a ticket surcharge to compensate for soaring jet fuel prices due to the Iran war, according to the Tata Group-owned company. Jet fuel prices have surged more than 56% since late February – just before joint US and Israeli air strikes on Iran and the latter's retaliation on its neighbours – placing enormous financial strain on carriers globally.

For Indian airlines, where fuel accounts for 35-40% of operating costs, the ripple effect has been immediate. Major West Asian hubs have faced widespread disruptions, forcing carriers to reroute flights across Europe, India, Asia, and Australia. Meanwhile, British Airways said it has cancelled all flights to and from Abu Dhabi until later this year. – **Our Bureau**

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Elbers quits as IndiGo CEO, Bhatia to hold the fort for now



Pieter Elbers (left); IndiGo's MD Rahul Bhatia

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, March 10

PIETER ELBERS ON Tuesday stepped down as the chief executive officer of IndiGo, the airline said, with the board accepting his resignation and relieving him from service with immediate effect.

Elbers' departure comes a few months after the airline faced widespread operational disruptions in December, when delays and cancellations affected thousands of flights across the country. IndiGo later apologised to passengers and attributed the disruptions to delays in adjusting crew rosters to comply with stricter government rules on pilot fatigue.

In a statement, IndiGo said its board of directors took note of Elbers' resignation at a meeting held on Tuesday and agreed to waive his notice period. Elbers, in his resignation letter to the board, cited personal reasons for stepping down and requested that the notice period be waived.

Continued on Page 5

Elbers quits as IndiGo CEO

"AS PER OUR conversation, due to personal reasons, I herewith submit my resignation from the position of CEO of IndiGo with effect from March 10. I would request that notice period may be waived off," he said in the letter. The airline said its managing director, Rahul

Bhatia, will assume interim charge of operations until further arrangements are made. Bhatia's InterGlobe Enterprises is the largest shareholder in IndiGo's parent company, InterGlobe Aviation, holding a 35.69% stake as of December.

Shares of IndiGo parent

InterGlobe Aviation closed 3.46% higher on Tuesday at ₹4,382.45 on the BSE.

Elbers had taken over as the airline's CEO in September 2022.

The airline has not announced a timeline for appointing a new CEO.



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AIR INDIA, AIX REIMPOSE FUEL SURCHARGE



AIR INDIA
AND Air India
Express will
start levying
a fuel
surcharge of

Rs 399 on each domestic flight ticket from March 12 and also hike the charge for international bookings due to a steep rise in jet fuel prices amid the Middle East conflict. The new fuel surcharges will be implemented in a phased manner. In the first phase, a fuel surcharge of ₹399 per domestic flight ticket would be imposed from March 12, and the same will also be applicable for SAARC flights.

Airlines expand direct Europe-Asia routes

● Capacity shifts as geopolitical tensions disrupt major Gulf aviation hubs

YARUQHULLAH KHAN
New Delhi, March 10

EUROPEAN AND SOUTH-EAST Asian carriers are expanding direct flight connections between Europe and Asia as geopolitical tensions in West Asia disrupt one of the world's busiest aviation corridors and constrain the operations of Gulf airlines.

Airlines including Lufthansa, Singapore Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Air India have increased services or announced new routes in recent weeks as flights through major West Asian hubs face operational disruptions.

Lufthansa has launched five weekly flights between Frankfurt and Kuala Lumpur, marking the first direct service to Malaysia from any Lufthansa Group home market. Air Canada is operating double-daily flights between Toronto and Delhi until the end of April, while Air France has added two additional flights from Paris to Delhi and Mumbai for the next few weeks to accommodate higher demand caused by capacity constraints.

Cathay Pacific has expanded its European network to 11 destinations with the launch of

AMID WEST ASIA DISRUPTIONS

■ Lufthansa has launched five weekly flights between Frankfurt and Kuala Lumpur

■ Air Canada is operating double-daily flights between Toronto and Delhi until the end of April

■ Air France has added 2 more flights from Paris to Delhi & Mumbai for the next few weeks

■ Air India has added 78 flights between March 10 - 18 on routes to New York, London, Frankfurt, Paris

■ Cathay Pacific has expanded its European network to 11 destinations



routes to Munich and Brussels, increasing its weekly European flights from 78 to 93. China Eastern Airlines has also strengthened its presence, operating non-stop services from Shanghai to 12 European airports, accounting for roughly 83% of Europe-China capacity.

Singapore Airlines has confirmed 2,270 weekly passenger flights for the summer 2026 season, restoring 86% of its pre-pandemic capacity with expanded services to Frankfurt, Paris and Rome. Air India has added 78 flights between March 10 and March 18 on routes to New York, London, Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam and Zurich, creating 17,660 additional seats on services that bypass West Asian airspace.

The capacity adjustments follow military strikes by the US and Israel on Iran and subsequent retaliatory actions that have led to widespread airspace

closures across parts of West Asia. Major hubs such as Dubai International, Abu Dhabi's Zayed International and Doha's Hamad International have faced significant disruptions, grounding flights operated by Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad for several days.

Since the onset of the conflict, more than 27,000 flights have been cancelled globally, affecting around 1.5 million passengers and forcing airlines to suspend or reroute services.

Linus Benjamin Bauer, founder of aviation consultancy BAA & Partners, said the disruption offers temporary advantages for airlines operating direct routes. He added that Asian carriers could benefit from stronger fares and cargo demand but noted that "fundamentally, this is a redistribution of aviation demand, not a structural reorganisation of the global aviation network".



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Asia airlines hike fares, eye groundings

BLOOMBERG
March 10

AIRLINES IN ASIA are raising ticket prices and mapping out contingency plans that include grounding planes as the escalating Middle East conflict threatens to trigger the worst oil shock since the 1970s.

Indian carriers have hiked prices on long-haul routes by 15% and are considering further increases, people familiar with the matter said. In Vietnam, state media warned airfares could increase as much as 70% given the country's reliance on imported jet fuel.



Meanwhile, Hong Kong Airlines said Tuesday it will raise fuel charges from March 12 across a range of routes. That includes a HK\$5 increase in the surcharge on mainland China flights and HK\$150 for long-haul trips to places like North America.

Airlines in the region aren't as well hedged against high oil prices as rivals in Europe or the US, making them more vulnerable to sudden surges in jet fuel prices. That's prompted low-cost Southeast Asian carriers to start gaming out scenarios where they would ground planes if jet fuel becomes unaffordable or inaccessible, according to people familiar with the matter. "Does it make sense to keep flying planes when every plane you fly loses you money?" Chairman Ajay Singh, chairman of the no-frills carrier SpiceJet said on Bloomberg TV.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

10 MARCH 2026

जयपुर से खाड़ी देशों की 3 फ्लाइट्स रद्द

नवज्योति, जयपुर। ईरान-इजरायल युद्ध का असर अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर लगातार देखा जा रहा है। सोमवार को जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से खाड़ी देशों के लिए संचालित होने वाली तीन फ्लाइट्स रद्द कर दी गईं। एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन के अनुसार अबूधाबी और दुबई जाने वाली उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं। जानकारी के मुताबिक एतिहाद एयरवेज की जयपुर से अबूधाबी जाने वाली फ्लाइट, जो रात 3.15 बजे रवाना होती है, उसे रद्द कर दिया गया। इसके अलावा एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की सुबह 8.45 बजे जयपुर से दुबई जाने वाली फ्लाइट भी सोमवार को संचालित नहीं हो सकी। वहीं एतिहाद एयरवेज की ही रात 9.30 बजे अबूधाबी के लिए जाने वाली दूसरी फ्लाइट भी रद्द रही।



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

10 MARCH 2026

DGCA enhances monitoring of airlines: Govt

PTI

NEW DELHI

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

Responding to a query in the Rajya Sabha on the reasons for the large-scale disruptions at IndiGo in December 2025 and the action taken to prevent a recurrence, Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol said the primary causes were over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness, deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in the airline's management structure and operational control.

ORDEAL | Flight 6E-2 coming from London was taken to Cairo; another plane flying to Manchester returned after 14-hr trip

IndiGo pax stuck in plane for 7 hrs after diversion

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The ongoing war continues to upend air travel plans, leaving flyers in the middle of nowhere. Two IndiGo flights – one flying to London from Delhi and another coming to the city from the UK – were impacted in the latest disruption, several hours after the airline resumed its European operations after a week.

The flight 6E-2, which was coming from the UK, remained stranded in Egypt, leaving over 300 passengers stuck inside the stationary aircraft for over seven hours. The Indian embassy in Egypt had to intervene and convince the local authorities to allow deplaning.

The FPJ succeeded in speaking to the passengers on board the stuck flight. One of them was Atharva Puranik, a London-based filmmaker flying to shift back to Mumbai. Sharing his ordeal, he said, “The captain informed us that we will be provided accommodation in Cairo as the aircraft cannot fly towards Mumbai. Even after hours, we weren’t allowed to exit. Adding to the misery, the crew behaved so casually like it was just another day for them.”

As per the latest update that trickled on Monday, the passengers were made to wait inside the terminal building waiting to be taken to their respective hotels, while their clearances were being sorted according to their nationality. While IndiGo did not respond



Passengers stranded at the Cairo airport

to any queries till the time of going to press, sources said the flight will proceed to Mumbai today.

According to sources, the issue stemmed from non-availability of valid visas with the passengers as they were not supposed to land in Egypt. Moreover, as the diplomatic procedure took longer, it exhausted the flight duty hours of the crew on board. According to the passengers who spoke to the FPJ, the crew initially informed them that they were returning to London, but then said they were taking a refuelling stop at Cairo and will subsequently proceed to Mumbai. However, the passengers were left stranded inside the aircraft as

the airline negotiated with regional authorities to allow the passengers to deplane.

The flight 6E-2 had departed London’s Heathrow airport for Mumbai at 3am Indian Standard time on March 9. According to flight tracking platforms, the aircraft took a U-turn from over the Red Sea at around 8.50am and ultimately landed at the Cairo International Airport at 11.51am.

Another IndiGo flight 6E-33, that took off from Delhi at 12.39am to fly to Manchester, suffered a similar fate. After nearly eight hours in the air and reaching the edge of the Red Sea near Djibouti, the aircraft was denied entry into Eritrean airspace. The aircraft

 The captain informed us that we will be provided accommodation in Cairo as the aircraft cannot fly towards Mumbai. Even after hours, we weren’t allowed to exit. Adding to the misery, the crew behaved so casually like it was just another day for them

Atharva Puranik

Pax on flight 6E-2

Over 88,000 people flown back from Gulf

More than 88,000 pax have been flown back from the Middle East by Indian and foreign airlines in the past week. The situation has led to the cancellation of more than 2,600 flights operated by Indian airlines since Feb 28. On Monday, the Mumbai airport saw the cancellation of 71 flights, including 35 arrivals and 36 departures. So far, about 830 flights to and from the airport have been cancelled.

landed back in Delhi at 2.28pm. IndiGo said the plane had to return due to last-minute airspace restriction, given the ongoing situation in West Asia.

Unlike European carriers which can reroute over Pakistan, Indian airlines remain barred from Pakistani airspace. IndiGo resumed its Europe operations from Sunday by rerouting via Djibouti in Africa, making the Mumbai-London route 28% longer.



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विमान परिचालन में हुई देरी पर हंगामा

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। विमान परिचालन में हुई देरी पर दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर मंगलवार की सुबह हंगामे की स्थिति बन गई। यात्रियों ने आरोप लगाया कि उन्हें विमान कंपनी की ओर से उड़ान में देरी को लेकर समय से सूचना नहीं दी गई।

दिल्ली से कोलकाता के लिए उड़ान भरने वाली इस विमान सेवा को 7.25 बजे दिल्ली से उड़ान भरकर करीब 9.45 बजे कोलकाता पहुंचना था। लेकिन, इसे 9.40 बजे के लिए रीशिड्यूल कर दिया गया। यात्रियों ने कहा कि इसके बारे में जानकारी दी गई।



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हवाई टिकट का रिफंड पाना हुआ मुश्किल

विशेष

अठण चट्टा

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। मध्य पूर्व में जारी तनाव के बीच बड़ी संख्या में उड़ान सेवाएं रद्द हो रही हैं, जबकि कई यात्री भी अपनी बुकिंग रद्द करवा रहे हैं। लेकिन ऐसी स्थिति में टिकट का किराया वापस (रिफंड) पाना मुश्किल हो गया है।

खासकर ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल कंपनियों से बुकिंग कराने वालों को ज्यादा परेशानी हो रही है। कंपनियां समय पर पैसा नहीं लौटा रही हैं, या फिर 10-20 प्रतिशत तक शुल्क के नाम पर काट रही हैं। 28 फरवरी के बाद से उड़ानें रद्द होने या बुकिंग रद्द करवाने के मामले तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं। ऐसे मामलों में विमानन कंपनियों से सीधे बुकिंग करवाने वालों को पूरा रिफंड मिल रहा

26 मार्च से रिफंड को लेकर नए नियम



करेंगी कि रिफंड की प्रक्रिया 14 कार्य दिवसों के भीतर पूरी हो जाए।

टिकट रिफंड को लेकर 26 मार्च से नए नियम जारी होने जा रहे हैं। इसके तहत डीजीसीए ने हवाई टिकट वापसी नियमों को यात्रियों के अनुकूल बनाया है। नए नियमों के तहत बुकिंग के 48 घंटे में बदलाव करने पर कोई अतिरिक्त शुल्क नहीं लगेगा। एयरलाइंस सुनिश्चित

है, लेकिन ट्रेवल कंपनियों से बुकिंग कराने वाले परेशान हैं। ऐसे मामलों को लेकर नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय द्वारा सक्रिय किए गए कंट्रोल रूम और मंत्रालय के सोशल मीडिया हैंडल पर शिकायतों की संख्या सबसे ज्यादा है।

समय पर रिफंड नहीं, काटा गया शुल्क : मंगलवार को अश्विनी वांशिष्ठ नाम के यूजर ने मंत्रालय के सोशल मीडिया एक्स हैंडल पर शिकायत की कि विमान कंपनी उनके

टिकट का पूरा रिफंड सात मार्च को लौटा चुकी है। कंपनी की ओर से यह जानकारी दी गई है, लेकिन अब तक ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल प्लेटफॉर्म ने धनराशि वापस नहीं की है। इस पर मंत्रालय ने कंपनी को तत्काल धनराशि लौटाने का निर्देश दिया।

-एश्वर्या अदिति सिन्हा नामक यात्री ने लिखा कि मैंने लखनऊ से दुबई के लिए टिकट बुक की थी, जिस एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने रद्द कर दिया।

विमानन कंपनी ने पूरा रिफंड देने की बात कही, लेकिन ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल कंपनी ने 1095 रुपये काटकर मुझे 16962 वापस किए। इस पर मंत्रालय की तरफ से कहा गया कि आपकी शिकायत आगे की कार्रवाई के लिए विमानन कंपनी को साझा की गई है।

डीजीसीए ने विमानन कंपनियों को सख्त निर्देश दिए : बीते समय में नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने टिकट रिफंड को लेकर एयरलाइंस को सख्त निर्देश दिए हैं। इसके बाद विमानन कंपनियों ने रिफंड की स्थिति में थोड़ा सुधार किया है। लेकिन अब उन यात्रियों को सबसे ज्यादा परेशानी हो रही है, जिनके टिकट ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल कंपनियों को ई-प्लेटफॉर्म के जरिए बुक कराए गए हैं। कंपनियां जो रकम काट रही हैं, उसका कोई आधार भी नहीं बताया जा रहा है।



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एयर इंडिया के टिकट 12 मार्च से होंगे महंगे

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष के कारण एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के हवाई टिकट 12 मार्च से महंगे होंगे। कंपनी सभी घरेलू फ्लाइट टिकट पर 399 रुपये घट्टल सरचार्ज लगाएगी। इसके अलावा अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए भी सरचार्ज बढ़ाया जाएगा। विमान ईंधन एटीएफ की कीमतों में तेजी आने पर कंपनी ने यह फैसला किया है। मंगलवार को जारी बयान में कहा गया कि नई अधिभार प्रणाली चरणबद्ध तरीके से लागू की जाएगी।



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एयरलाइन कंपनी इंडिगो के सीईओ ने इस्तीफा दिया

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन कंपनी इंडिगो के सीईओ पीटर एल्बर्स ने इस्तीफा दे दिया है। यह इस्तीफा ऐसे समय हुआ है, जब कुछ महीने पहले इंडिगो की बड़ी संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द होने से हजारों यात्री प्रभावित हुए थे। इसे हाल के सबसे बड़े विमानन संकटों में से एक माना गया।

कंपनी ने मंगलवार को बताया कि इंडिगो के एमडी राहुल भाटिया फिलहाल अंतरिम रूप से एयरलाइन के प्रबंधन की जिम्मेदारी संभालेंगे। इसके बाद भाटिया ने कर्मचारियों को संदेश भेजकर कहा कि वह एयरलाइन के कामकाज को पूरी जिम्मेदारी के साथ संभालेंगे। उन्होंने भरोसा दिलाया कि संचालन को और बेहतर बनाया जाएगा तथा ग्राहकों को बेहतर सेवा दी जाती रहेगी। उन्होंने मजाकिया अंदाज में यह भी लिखा 'मैं हूँ ना।'

दिसंबर में ठप हुई थी सेवाएं: ध्यान रहे कि बीते वर्ष दिसंबर में इंडिगो की बड़ी संख्या में उड़ानें रद्द होने से



एयरलाइन का संचालन प्रभावित हुआ था इनके कार्यकाल में

देशभर में यात्रियों में भारी नाराजगी देखने को मिली थी। इसके बाद नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय को सख्ती से कहना पड़ा था कि एयरलाइन के खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई की जाएगी। क्योंकि विमानन कंपनी नए पायलट विश्राम नियमों को लेकर पर्याप्त इंतजाम नहीं कर पाई थी, जबकि विमानन कंपनी को नियमों को लागू करने के लिए पर्याप्त समय दिया गया।

मिला था नोटिस : डीजीसीए ने दिसंबर में एल्बर्स को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया था। नियामक का कहना कि एयरलाइन के संचालन को भरोसेमंद बनाए रखने की जिम्मेदारी निभाने में सीईओ विफल रहे।

3 months after IndiGo crisis, CEO moves out

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: Pieter Elbers, the CEO of India's largest domestic airline IndiGo resigned from the post on Tuesday, the airline said in a statement, with the decision likely being a fallout of the crisis the airline witnessed in December, according to a person familiar with the matter and the message between the lines in founder and managing director Rahul Bhatia's mail to employees after stepping in as interim CEO.

In December, the airline's inability to meet mandatory flight duty time limitations (FDTL) norms, which regulate duty hours for crew, resulted in the cancellation of at least 5,500 flights, roiling not just IndiGo but the entire sector. The civil aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), issued a warning to the airline and also levied a penalty on it.

"The airline conducted an internal in-depth investigation and even took help from independent experts to find the reason behind the poor planning of the FDTL rules. The resignation seems to be a fallout of the airline's investigations," added the first person cited above, asking not to be named.

"What happened last December should never have taken place. Our customers didn't deserve it and nor did all of you, especially the frontline employees who bore most of the brunt for no fault of theirs... I wish to place on record my indebtedness to all my colleagues who



Pieter Elbers

carried the company's cross with grace and dignity, and ploughed through sleepless nights to restore IndiGo's operational integrity," Bhatia wrote in his mail soon after taking over.

Last month, IndiGo replaced the airline's head of Operations Control Centre (OCC), appointing Captain Rohit Rikhye in place of Jason Herter. The DGCA had also asked the carrier to dismiss the services of a senior vice president over the chaos.

On December 12, IndiGo said its board had approved the appointment of Chief Aviation Advisors LLC, led by aviation expert John Illson, to conduct an independent review of the disruption and its contributing factors.

The decision was recommended by a Crisis Management Group constituted by the airline's board, which said the independent expert reviewer would submit a comprehensive report to the board upon completion.

In a letter to the board, Elbers, who has been CEO since September 2022, said he was resigning "due to personal rea-

continued on → 9

INDIGO CEO RESIGNS

sons".

IndiGo's fleet expanded significantly in his watch, from 302 aircraft serving 75 domestic and 22 international destinations to 440 aircraft serving 96 domestic and 44 international destinations.

India also hosted the 81st annual general meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) under Elbers' chairmanship. During his tenure, IndiGo also placed its first order for widebody aircraft and launched IndiGo Stretch, a business-class product aimed at premium passengers.

However, the period also saw regulatory scrutiny and operational setbacks for the airline. In January 2024, DGCA imposed a ₹1.2 crore penalty on IndiGo after passengers were seen eating on the airport apron in Mumbai following a diversion, an incident the regulator termed a violation of apron discipline.

More recently, the December 2025 disruption prompted the regulator to later impose a record penalty of more than ₹22 crore on the airline and order systemic corrections.

Prior to joining IndiGo, Elbers served as president and chief executive of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines for eight years. His tenure with IndiGo was set to expire in September 2027.

"Rahul returns to assume management of the affairs of the airline to strengthen the company's culture, reinforce operational excellence and deepen its commitment to delivering exceptional service of care, reliability and professionalism to its customers," Vikram Singh Mehta, chairman of the airline's board, said in the statement.

"Having founded and nurtured IndiGo for 22 years, I feel a deep sense of personal commitment and responsibility towards our nation, and towards the airline's customers, employees, shareholders and all other stakeholders," Bhatia added in the statement.

In his mail to employee, he said he was joining hands with them "to ensure that we regain our right of choice with our customers and earn the distinction of being the pride of India by connecting her people across the length and breadth of the country, and beyond."

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

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

aircraft, triggering the diversion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Three months after flight disruptions, IndiGo CEO resigns

Sukalp Sharma

New Delhi, March 10

THREE MONTHS after IndiGo, India's largest airline, faced an unprecedented operational disruption that brought civil aviation operations across India to their knees, the carrier's CEO, Pieter Elbers, resigned on Tuesday with immediate effect, according to stock exchange filings and a release issued by IndiGo.

The airline's promoter and managing director, Rahul Bhatia, will step in to assume management of the airline's affairs until the appointment of a new CEO, "which is expected in short order", IndiGo said.

In his letter of resignation, Elbers — credited for IndiGo's



Pieter Elbers was IndiGo CEO since September 6, 2022. FILE

"internationalisation" — cited personal reasons for leaving the airline that he helmed for over three years.

Early December, the airline was hit by an operational meltdown, leading to thousands of flight cancellations over a few days. The crisis, brought about by improper and inadequate

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IndiGo

planning for new and more stringent pilot duty and rest duration rules, had damaged the reputation of the airline, which had an unblemished record in terms of operational reliability for its nearly two decades of existence. IndiGo, which had a domestic market share of around 65%, faced massive backlash from lakhs of affected flyers, with the government also taking a tough view.

Bhatia, in a communication to employees on Tuesday, wrote that the December crisis should never have happened. "What happened last December should never have taken place... Our customers didn't deserve it and nor did all of you, especially the frontline employees who bore most of the brunt for no fault of theirs... I wish to place on record my indebtedness to all my colleagues who carried the Company's cross with grace and dignity, and ploughed

through sleepless nights to restore IndiGo's operational integrity. You are indeed the living spirit of IndiGo," Bhatia is learnt to have written in his email, which he signed off as "Rahul (alias 'Main Hoon Naa')."

Bhatia also told employees that he is fully committed to strengthening the airline's culture and reinforcing operational excellence. "Let us stay focused and accountable, remain fiercely united and committed to the cause, and continue to do what we do best -- offer affordable fares, and a courteous and hassle-free travel experience to our customers," Bhatia is learnt to have said.

Elbers, who has 30 years of aviation business under his belt, had been IndiGo CEO since September 2022, just as the airline came out of the pandemic. Prior to joining IndiGo, he was the President & CEO of Dutch carrier KLM for eight years. His tenure at IndiGo saw the airline expand its network beyond India, a strategy Elbers liked to call "internationalisation".



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

QUOTE OF THE DAY

We don't know where things are really going. Fares in domestic routes are unlikely to stay steady as Indian airlines will have no choice but to impose a fuel surcharge.

AJAY SINGH
CHAIRMAN & MD,
SPICEJET



IndiGo CEO Elbers resigns just months after Dec chaos

Founder and managing director Rahul Bhatia has stepped in as the airline's interim chief

Dipali Banka & Abhishek Law
MUMBAI/DELHI

IndiGo's chief executive officer (CEO) Pieter Elbers resigned from the airline on Tuesday, in an abrupt leadership change coming three months after poor planning led to one of India's worst civil aviation crises, which saw the airline cancel over 4,500 flights in the first week of December.

On Tuesday, InterGlobe Enterprises Ltd, which runs IndiGo, informed the exchanges that Elbers had resigned with immediate effect, prompting the founder and managing director, Rahul Bhatia, to step in as the interim boss.

Significantly, this is the second time Bhatia has served as an interim CEO, following his first stint in 2018.

"As per our conversation, due to personal reasons, I herewith submit my resignation from the position of CEO of IndiGo with effect from today. I would request that the notice period may be waived off," Elbers said in his resignation letter.

Elbers resigned months after a pilot-scheduling crisis forced 4,500 flight cancellations and stranded thousands last December, amid the airline's struggle to comply with newly introduced pilot duty and rest regulations.

That led to a stern warning from the country's civil aviation minister, the directorate general of civil aviation launched a probe, and cut the airline's daily flights by 10%. In the immediate weeks after the crisis in the first week of December, Elbers often spent many hours at the country's civil aviation regulator's office.

On Tuesday, Bhatia wrote to IndiGo employees, stating that the December crisis should not have happened.

"What happened last December should never have taken place... Our customers didn't deserve it, and nor did all of you, especially the frontline employees who bore most of the brunt

Growth run

IndiGo's fleet size, revenue and profitability surged as the airline expanded aggressively under Pieter Elbers.



for no fault of theirs," wrote Bhatia.

Queries sent to IndiGo remained unanswered till press time.

Elbers' exit comes at a difficult time for the airline and the aviation industry. Tensions in West Asia have disrupted international routes, many of which are

airline's profitability.

"The timing of Pieter Elbers' departure is significant because it comes soon after the operational disruptions seen in December. While the airline had begun stabilising operations, the leadership change raises questions

LEADERSHIP RESET

THE Dec disruption stemmed from a pilot-scheduling crisis linked to new duty and rest rules

IT triggered DGCA action, including a 10% cut in IndiGo's daily flights and an official probe

BHATIA said the crisis "should never have happened", noting the impact on flyers, frontline staff

UNDER Elbers, IndiGo improved its dominance, with market share rising from 58% to 63.6%

among IndiGo's higher-yield markets.

At the same time, rising aviation fuel prices are pushing up costs, creating what experts describe as a double squeeze on the airline even as it tries to control expenses and recruit more pilots to meet regulatory requirements. All this combined could weigh on the

about continuity at a time when the airline is dealing with multiple external pressures," said Gagan Dixit, senior vice-president oil and gas and aviation at Elara Securities.

One of Elbers' biggest contributions was accelerating IndiGo's international expansion. Under his leadership, inter-

national capacity grew to roughly 30% of the airline's total capacity, marking a major shift for a carrier that was once largely domestic, according to Dixit.

"With co-founder Rahul Bhatia stepping in to oversee the airline temporarily, the key question now is who the next CEO will be and whether that person can continue the international expansion strategy that was underway," the Elara analyst said.

Elbers took over the helm as chief executive in September 2022, succeeding Ronojoy Dutta, who had led the airline through the pandemic but also left behind strategic and operational challenges. Before joining IndiGo, Elbers spent decades at KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, where he built a reputation for expanding international networks, and his appointment was widely seen as a push to strengthen global ambitions.

During his tenure, the airline expanded rapidly. IndiGo's fleet grew from 304 aircraft in FY23 to 440 by December 2025. Its network also widened from 78 domestic and 26 international destinations to 96 domestic and 44 international destinations over the same period.

The airline has also seen its revenue from operations rising from ₹12,498 crore in the September 2022 quarter to around ₹23,472 crore in the December quarter of FY26.

The carrier has also tightened its grip on the domestic market. IndiGo's market share has risen from around 58% when Elbers joined to 63.6% in January, according to DGCA data, even though the airline briefly saw its share slip to about 59% in December following a severe operational disruption.

Elbers was among the highest-paid airline CEOs in India, earning a salary of ₹42.9 crore in FY25, according to company disclosures.

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For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

MINT

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026



Air lines in the Middle East are waiting to see when they might be able to return to regular operations.

Airlines reviewing growth plans as war triggers fuel surges

BYSTONIE
feedback@mint.com

Until last month, airlines couldn't get new aircraft fast enough, with both Airbus SE and Boeing Co. struggling to keep up with surging demand.

The 10-day war in Iran has upended that outlook, as carriers weigh the implications on travel demand, the cost of fuel and their ability to navigate hostile skies. Planners and aircraft leasing firms are worried that some of their customers may push back deals, according to people familiar with the matter.

Discussions on future aircraft deals and leasing contracts, which provide airlines with aircraft sooner than outright purchases, have been put on temporary hold as some carriers in the Gulf and farther afield in Asia face operational difficulties, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the talks were private.

Airlines in the Middle East are waiting to see when they might be able to return to regular operations and assess the financial impact of the war before they make final decisions, according to people familiar with the companies' thinking. Some Asian carriers, including Lion Air, Garuda Indonesia and AirAsia, are also reviewing timelines for large jet purchases, the people said.

Some of the airlines are also considering pausing deliveries, wrong-footed by the Iran conflict that's triggering a sharp spike in jet-fuel prices, said the people.

Emirates, Lion Air and Garuda Indonesia did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Boeing said it defers to customers on the matter and Airbus said it is communicating with airlines on specific needs and the talks remain confidential.

Flydubai said it could not confirm any halt in talks or deliveries. Etihad said it would

maintain its orderbook and not delay deliveries, while Qatar Airways said its "decision-making throughout this period is guided first and foremost by safety considerations."

AirAsia said it recently made temporary adjustments to fare and fuel surcharges across its network, following the recent increase in global jet fuel prices.

Because getting out of delivery contracts is difficult, deferrals are one tool that airlines consider to spread out the financial burden of expanding their fleet.

While carriers would normally need to pay penalties for delaying when they take aircraft, they might in this case declare force majeure, a clause that allows them to halt contracted deliveries without facing a fine, the people said.

About 14% of Boeing's backlog is from Middle Eastern airlines, according to Jefferies' analyst Sheila Kahyaoglu. The

Some of the airlines are also considering pausing deliveries, wrong-footed by the Iran conflict

US planemaker is especially exposed to the Middle East with its widebody order book with almost half of the orders for the upcoming 777X jet and a third of the 787 Dream-

liner purchases from carriers in the region.

"Given the ongoing conflict, Middle East carriers may not be able to take deliveries of on order aircraft in the near term," Kahyaoglu wrote in a note.

Boeing shares fell 2.9% to \$224.26 as of 3:51 p.m. New York time.

The aviation industry had entered the year with an upbeat outlook. Global airlines stood to earn a record \$44 billion this year, with an estimated 5.2 billion passengers taking to the skies, the International Air Transport Association said in December in its annual forecast. But profit margins at airlines have historically been thin amid high costs, cut-throat competition and geopolitical dislocations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

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Boeing 737 runs into wiring headwind

Boeing said on Tuesday first-quarter deliveries of its narrow-body 737 MAX jets could face delays due to wiring flaws, the latest hiccup for the troubled planemaker as chief executive officer Kelly Ortberg looks to improve its reputation.

"Our 737 program is performing rework on a group of airplanes to fix wires that have small scratches due to a machining error," Boeing said, adding that production of its new MAX jets continue at the existing rate.

Boeing said all in-service 737 MAX planes can operate safely and that the issue won't impact its year-end total delivery. This comes after company said it delivered 51 jets in February, the highest for the month since 2018.

REUTERS

MONTHS AFTER OPS CHAOS, INDIGO CEO ELBERS QUILTS

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers resigned on Tuesday, citing personal reasons, and the country's largest airline has relieved him with immediate effect, a development that comes three months after massive operational disruptions triggered widespread public outrage and regulatory actions.

Co-Founder and Managing Director Rahul Bhatia will manage the affairs of IndiGo on an interim basis till a new person is appointed, which the airline said is expected shortly.

The resignation of Elbers, who has been at the helm of IndiGo as CEO since September 6, 2022, has come abruptly, and while citing personal reasons for the decision, he had also requested the airline to waive the notice period.

"With immediate effect, Pieter Elbers will be stepping down as InterGlobe Aviation Limited's (IndiGo) CEO," InterGlobe Aviation said in a release on Tuesday and



TURBULENCE

» Co-Founder and Managing Director Rahul Bhatia will manage the affairs of IndiGo on an interim basis till a new person is appointed

» The resignation of Elbers, who has been at the helm of IndiGo as CEO since September 6, 2022, has come abruptly, and while citing personal reasons for the decision, he had also requested the airline to waive the notice period

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IndiGo CEO

thanked him for his contribution and service, as well as wished him well in his future endeavour.

In his resignation letter, Elbers, a Dutch national, said it has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as the CEO for the past few years, since September 2022, and being a part of the great IndiGo family, "it's a beautiful growth story and the steps we have made together in this".

"If the company so desires, obviously, I will be available for any handover or transition otherwise. I would like to thank you personally, and IndiGo's Board, for the support extended to me," he said.

The resignation comes three months after the airline faced massive operational disruptions, especially between December 3 and 5 last year -- a period during which 2,507 flights were cancelled, and 1,852 flights were delayed, impacting over 3 lakh passengers at airports across the country.

In January, aviation watchdog DGCA slapped penalties totalling Rs 22.20 crore for the massive flight disruptions in December, and had warned Elbers and two other senior executives for non-compliance.

The regulator had also directed the airline to furnish a Rs 50-crore bank guarantee to ensure long-term systemic corrections.

According to the airline, Bhatia shall, in the interim, assume management of the affairs of the airline until such time that the Company announces the arrival of a new leader, which is expected in short order.

In the release on Tuesday, Bhatia said that having founded and nurtured IndiGo for twenty-two years, "I feel a deep sense of personal commitment and responsibility towards our nation, and towards the airline's customers, employees, shareholders and all other stakeholders".

"While placing culture, service excellence and stakeholder trust at the forefront of its operations, IndiGo will continue to sharpen its strategic focus on serving India and her people with an airline that is professionally managed, operationally reliable and globally respected," he said in the release.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Air India orders probe as former crew member posts video from cockpit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Air India on Tuesday said it has ordered an internal investigation into an incident involving one of its former cabin crew members after a short video clip showing her seated inside the cockpit went viral on social media.

A 20-second reel titled "Welcome to the heart of the aircraft-cockpit" was posted on Instagram by the former staffer. The video was later deleted, an Air India source said.

In a statement, the airline said, "We are aware of a video circulating on social media that shows a former Air India cabin crew member seated inside the cockpit. Air India has strict protocols governing access to the cockpit, and any deviation from these standards is treated with utmost seriousness. While we are verifying the authenticity of the video, we

have initiated an internal investigation to establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the video."

The statement added, "Appropriate action will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation to ensure complete adherence to all safety and operational protocols. At Air India, the safety and wellbeing of our passengers and crew remain our top priority."



A post on X by Nikhil Saini questioned how an air hostess was allowed inside the cockpit while making

reels. "Is this really allowed? Feels quite disturbing to see something like this when passenger safety is supposed to be the top priority," he wrote. Earlier, the DGCA had imposed a fine of ₹30 lakh on Air India for a similar breach on its Delhi-Dubai flight (AI 195). The licence of the flight captain was also suspended.

Airfares set to increase as Air India hikes jet fuel surcharge up to \$50

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AIRFARES are set to rise after Air India on Tuesday announced an increase in fuel surcharges ranging from ₹399 to ₹4,600 (\$50) amid the ongoing conflict between the US-Israel coalition and Iran in West Asia.

The Tata Group airline said it will implement a three-phase expansion of fuel surcharges across its domestic and international flights, including those operated by Air India Express, as aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices surge due to supply disruptions in the Gulf region.

"Since early March 2026, ATF, which accounts for nearly 40% of an airline's operating costs, has seen significant price escalation due to supply interruptions. In India, this pressure is amplified by high excise duty and VAT on ATF in major metro cities such as Delhi and Mumbai, magnifying the cost impact



SURCHARGES APPLICABLE TO DOMESTIC, OVERSEAS FLIGHTS

The Tata group airline announced a three-phase expansion of fuel surcharges across its domestic and international flights, including those operated by Air India Express, driven by surging aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices.

and placing strain on airline operating economics," Air India said in a statement.

The average price of jet fuel in the 11 months until February 2026 stood at ₹91,173 per kilolitre (KL), but in March it rose by 6% to ₹96,638 per KL.

Under the first phase, applicable to new bookings from March 12, 2026, the fuel surcharge for domestic and SAARC flights has been revised to ₹399. Previously,

there was no fuel surcharge on these routes.

For the West Asia/Middle East region, where there was also no surcharge earlier, the airline has introduced a fuel surcharge of \$10.

In Southeast Asia, the surcharge has been increased to \$60 from \$40, and this will also apply to Singapore from this phase. For Africa, the surcharge has been raised to \$90 from \$60.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Airlines face operational headwinds

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE West Asia conflict threatens to derail India's civil aviation growth story. A surge in oil prices, airspace closures in the Gulf region, cancellations on busy routes and depreciation of rupee are likely to weigh on airlines' revenue and operating margins.



Sunny Agrawal, head of fundamental research at SBI Securities, told TNIE airspace closures in West Asia are impacting global operations of Indian carriers.

He added that Indian carriers are having to take longer routes to fly to several destinations in Central Asia and Europe, leading to a loss of market share to Euro-

pean carriers such as Lufthansa. "The Middle East accounts for 35-40% of IndiGo's global capacity and 20% of its total capacity. The extent of revenue impact will depend on how long crisis lasts. Margins in Q4 are likely to be affected by multiple factors such as higher ATF prices, rupee fall and negative operating leverage due to the curtailment of international capacity."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

IndiGo CEO resigns after Dec disruption

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THREE months after operational disruptions at IndiGo that crippled India's aviation sector, Pieter Elbers has stepped down as CEO of InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) with immediate effect. The airline's promoter and MD Rahul Bhatia has taken interim charge of the company's management.

IndiGo cancelled over 5,000 flights in the first half of December 2025 due to a severe crew shortage, especially pilots as the airline could not implement re-

vised Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms. This action stranded lakhs of passengers at airports, prompting Centre to intervene.

Following the crisis, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed a penalty of ₹22.20 crore on the airline and issued show-cause notices to senior management, including Elbers. The disruption is reported to have resulted in a financial impact of ₹2,000



crore for IndiGo.

Elbers in his resignation letter said his decision was due to personal reasons and described his time at IndiGo as an "honour and privilege." IndiGo said Bhatia will manage affairs until the company announces the arrival of a new leader, which is expected in short order. "Rahul returns to assume management of the airline to strengthen the company's culture and reinforce operational excellence, reliability

and professionalism to its customers", said chairman of the Board, Vikram Singh Mehta.

Bhatia in an internal mail to IndiGo staff said what happened last December should never have taken place. "Our customers didn't deserve it, nor did all of you, especially front-line employees who bore most of the brunt for no fault of theirs," he said. Elbers took charge as IndiGo CEO in September 2022. Under his leadership, the airline surged to become one of the world's most valuable carriers.

इंडिगो के CEO पीटर एल्बर्स का इस्तीफा



■ पीटीआई, नई दिल्ली

इंडिगो के सीईओ पीटर एल्बर्स ने मंगलवार को अपने पद से निजी कारणों का हवाला देकर इस्तीफा दे दिया। कंपनी ने बताया कि इंडिगो की मूल कंपनी इंटरग्लोब एविएशन के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर राहुल भाटिया फिलहाल अंतरिम तौर पर

मूल कंपनी के MD अंतरिम तौर पर काम संभालेंगे

एयरलाइन के कामकाज की जिम्मेदारी संभालेंगे। नए सीईओ की नियुक्ति जल्द किए जाने की

उम्मीद है। इंटरग्लोब एविएशन के चेयरमैन विक्रम सिंह मेहता ने कहा कि राहुल भाटिया कंपनी के संचालन को मजबूत करने और ग्राहकों को भरोसेमंद सेवा देने की दिशा में काम करेंगे। गौरतलब है कि कुछ महीने पहले इंडिगो को बड़े स्तर पर परिचालन संबंधी दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ा था, जिसके बाद यह बदलाव सामने आया है।



पीटर एल्बर्स, इंडिगो के CEO

कॉकपिट में बैठी दिखी पूर्व एयर होस्टेस, जांच शुरू

एयर इंडिया ने सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल एक विडियो को लेकर जांच शुरू की है। विडियो में एयर इंडिया की एक पूर्व एयर होस्टेस उड़ान के दौरान विमान के कॉकपिट में बैठी दिखाई दे रही है। एयरलाइन ने मंगलवार को कहा कि मामले की जांच की जा रही है। विडियो में एक अन्य व्यक्ति कॉकपिट और बाहर के दृश्य की रिकॉर्डिंग कर रहा है। नियंत्रकों के मुताबिक, कैप्टन क्रू को कॉकपिट क्रू की सीट पर बैठने की अनुमति नहीं है। एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि किसी भी लापरवाही को गंभीरता से लिया जाता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers resigns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers has resigned, more than three months after the country's largest airline experienced its worst-ever operational meltdown. The resignation will be effective immediately.

Managing Director Rahul Bhatia has assumed management of the airline on an interim basis. "We wish to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Company, at its meeting held today, i.e., March 10, 2026, inter-alia, took note of the resignation tendered by Mr. Pieter Elbers,



PTI

Chief Executive Officer. He will be relieved from the service of the Company effective close of business hours on March 10, 2026," the airline said in the statement.

"With immediate effect, Pieter Elbers will be stepping down as InterGlobe Aviation Limited's (IndiGo) CEO," the company added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

11 MARCH 2026

Air India to levy fuel surcharge on tickets

ASHOKE RAJ
■ New Delhi

Air India on Tuesday announced that it will introduce a phased fuel surcharge on both domestic and international routes, citing a steep rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices triggered by the ongoing tensions between Iran and the United States in the Middle East.

The airline said the increase will be implemented in three stages and acknowledged that the move could push up ticket prices. However, it described the step as unavoidable, attributing the decision to factors beyond its control.

According to the Air India, without revising fuel surcharges some routes could become commercially unsustainable. "Absent such fuel surcharges, it is likely that



some flights would be unable to cover operating costs and would have to be cancelled," the airline said in a statement.

Under the revised structure, flights to West Asia or the Middle East will attract a fuel surcharge of \$10. On African routes, the surcharge will rise by \$30 to reach \$90, while flights to Southeast Asia will see the surcharge increase by \$20, taking it to \$60. The airline said the revised rates are part of a broader plan to manage operational costs amid surging fuel prices.

भारत में हवाई यात्रा महंगी होगी, ईंधन पर अधिभार



नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष के कारण विमान ईंधन एटीएफ की कीमतों में तेजी आने पर एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस 12 मार्च से प्रत्येक घरेलू उड़ान के टिकट पर 399 रुपये का ईंधन अधिभार लागू करेंगी। इसके अलावा अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए भी ईंधन अधिभार बढ़ाया जाएगा। इससे हवाई यात्रा महंगी हो जाएगी। मंगलवार को जारी बयान में कहा गया कि नई अधिभार प्रणाली चरणबद्ध तरीके से लागू की जाएगी। पहले चरण में, 12 मार्च से घरेलू और दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्रीय सहयोग संगठन के लिए उड़ानों पर 399 रुपये प्रति टिकट का ईंधन अधिभार लागू होगा। बयान में कहा गया कि पश्चिम एशिया की उड़ानों के लिए अधिभार 10 डॉलर, अफ्रीका के लिए 90 डॉलर और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया के लिए 60 अमेरिकी डॉलर होगा। यह सभी बदलाव 12 मार्च से प्रभावी होंगे, जिसमें सिंगापुर की उड़ानें भी शामिल हैं। वर्तमान में सिंगापुर सेवाओं पर कोई ईंधन अधिभार नहीं है। बयान में कहा गया, 'एयर इंडिया समूह ने आज अपने घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर ईंधन अधिभार को चरणबद्ध तरीके से बढ़ाने की घोषणा की, जो खाड़ी क्षेत्र में भू-राजनीतिक स्थिति के कारण जेट ईंधन की कीमतों में तेज वृद्धि के कारण आवश्यक हो गया है।'

Pieter Elbers steps down as IndiGo CEO; Rahul Bhatia to lead airline on interim basis



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, 10 March

Pieter Elbers has stepped down as Chief Executive Officer of InterGlobe Aviation Limited, which operates India's largest airline 'IndiGo', with immediate effect, the company announced on Tuesday.

The airline's Board of Directors thanked Elbers for his service and contributions to the organisation and wished him

well in his future endeavours.

Rahul Bhatia, Managing Director of IndiGo, will assume interim management of the airline's affairs until a new chief executive is appointed.

Announcing the development, Board Chairman Vikram Singh Mehta said Bhatia's return to day-to-day management would help strengthen the company's culture, reinforce operational excellence and deepen its commitment to delivering reliable service to customers.

Bhatia, who co-founded the airline more than two decades ago, said he felt a strong sense of responsibility towards the airline's customers, employees, shareholders and other stakeholders.

He added that IndiGo would continue focusing on service excellence, operational reliability and strengthening its position as a globally respected airline.

IndiGo, one of the world's fastest-growing carriers, operates a fleet of over 400 aircraft with more than 2,200 daily flights, connecting 95 domestic and 40 international destinations. The airline carried 124 million passengers in 2025 and was named the Best Airline in India and South Asia at the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2025.



IndiGo CEO resigns with immediate effect, 3 mths after schedule collapse

Saurabh.Sinha
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New Delhi: IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers Tuesday resigned from the airline with immediate effect, three months after the carrier's unprecedented domestic schedule collapse last Dec



that had left lakhs of passengers stranded at airports across its network. Airline founder & MDRahul Bhatia will be the interim CEO till a replacement is found.

Making his disappointment about the Dec chaos clear, Rahul Bhatia said in an internal mail to employees sent on Tuesday: "What happened last Dec should never have taken place.... Our customers didn't deserve it and nor did all of you, especially the frontline

employees who bore most of the brunt for no fault of theirs.... I wish to place on record my indebtedness to all my colleagues who carried the company's cross with grace and dignity, and ploughed through sleepless nights to restore IndiGo's operational integrity."

Now both of India's biggest airlines — IndiGo and Tata Group's Air India — are scouting for new CEOs. While promoters of the latter are concerned at the slow progress in revival, that of the former are upset at the rapid schedule collapse last Dec. The IndiGo chaos — which happened at a time when Russian President Putin was in Delhi for a state visit — had left stranded passengers extremely angry, with some still awaiting refunds for the cancelled flights.

It left govt furious and Bhatia, then recuperating from a surgery in Switzerland, was al-

so extremely upset. While action against some post holders and fines on IndiGo have been initiated, the CEO's resignation is seen as the biggest move by the airline triggered by the Dec chaos.

Now both of India's biggest airlines— IndiGo and Air India are scouting for new chief executives

Signed as "Rahul alias (Main Hoon Na)", the founder's mail to employees says: "I step into my expanded role of managing the affairs of IndiGo with a deep sense of responsibility not only to the company's customers and its shareholders, but to every employee who powers this airline. I see the resilience in the effort you put in, and I greatly value your dedication... fully committed to strengthening our culture,

reinforcing operational excellence, and ensuring that we continue to deliver exceptional service and value to our customers."

The action had been planned for some time but the airline brass was waiting for operations to stabilise. "They have to run the airline and couldn't have removed those found responsible in one go," said senior govt official briefed on the matter. Elbers' resignation letter to Rahul Bhatia reads: "...due to personal reasons, I herewith submit my resignation from the position of CEO of IndiGo with effect from (Tuesday). I would request that notice period may be waived off.... If the company so desires, obviously, I will be available for any handover or transition otherwise." Elbers had taken over in Sept 2022, when post Covid the domestic leader was eyeing international expansion.

IndiGo CEO steps down, MD Bhatia to take interim charge

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 10

IndiGo chief executive officer Pieter Elbers has resigned from his post, with the airline's co-founder and managing director Rahul Bhatia set to assume interim charge of the company's affairs, according to a regulatory filing made on Tuesday.

The development comes nearly three months after the airline witnessed widespread flight disruptions that left over three lakh passengers stranded across the country, and triggered regulatory action. In a filing to the stock exchanges, IndiGo said its board of directors, at a meeting held on Tuesday, took note of Elbers' resignation.

He will be relieved from his duties at the close of business hours the same day, after which

'MAIN HOON NAA', INTERIM CHIEF ASSURES STAFF

IndiGo co-founder and MD Rahul Bhatia on Tuesday assured the staff that he would be managing the airline's affairs with a deep sense of responsibility, adding that what happened last December should never have taken place. He signed off in the message as "Rahul, alias *Main Hoon Naa*".



Outgoing IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers

Bhatia will temporarily oversee the airline's management. Elbers had taken over as CEO in September 2022, and led the airline during a period of fleet expansion and international growth. The airline came under intense scrutiny following operational disruptions in December last year.

The crisis prompted inter-

vention by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which imposed penalties totalling Rs 22.20 crore on IndiGo, and initiated additional corrective measures.

In his resignation letter addressed to Bhatia, Elbers cited personal reasons for stepping down, and requested that his notice period be waived.