



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

10 JUNE 2025

New terminal: AAI seeks timeline for pending tasks

Ruchir Kumar

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PATNA: Dissatisfied with the pace of work, the chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has sought an action-taken report (ATR), with timeline to complete all unfinished tasks at the new integrated building of the Jayprakash Narayan International (JPNI) airport in Patna that became operational on June 3, after its formal inauguration by the prime minister on May 29.

Among the major works pending are the construction of the remaining four of the five passenger boarding bridges (PBB), also known as aero-bridges, and five of the total 11 parking bays. AAI expects them to be ready in the next six months, after demolishing the old terminal building.

The new terminal building, built at over ₹1,200 crore, has come in for severe criticism over its poor planning, execution and pending work, as well as the

haste by AAI in taking over the unfinished building.

AAI chairman Vipin Kumar, on June 7, shot off an email to his lower formations, seeking a status of all unfinished work and timeline for their completion.

AAI has sought specific details about passenger baggage arrival timings, maintenance and cleanliness, condition of toilets, including water supply in taps, serviceability of sensors, besides overall passenger comfort, including air conditioning, signage and functionality of essential passenger services.

The airport director of Patna has also been tasked to identify gaps, impacting passenger satisfaction, and take immediate corrective actions to resolve them.

The AAI headquarters had even threatened to blacklist the Telangana-based firm executing the work at the new terminal, as it was dissatisfied with the manner the work was being done, said people familiar with the development.

Several deficiencies have been pointed out inside the terminal building. To mention a few, some washrooms do not have water supply or their pipelines are choked, sensor-fitted taps with soap dispenser and urinals are faulty, hand driers do not have power connection, seats of western commode are broken, mirrors and tiles are either cracked or broken, water seeps from the ceiling leading to dampening of the false ceiling, the footrest of India-style lavatories are at a lower level than the floor. There were complaints of poor finishing, as unfilled gaps exist between sanitary fittings and the tiles on walls and floors.

Many sensor-fitted sliding doors were also non-functional, primarily due to lack of power connection.

Water seepage has also been reported from the basement in the baggage area and near the mural depicting the Chhath festival in the arrival hall of the terminal building, besides a gap in

the mushroom-shape false ceiling in the departure area.

An advance security team of the PM from the Special Protection Group had asked AAI to furnish a structural stability certificate after it found a section of the false ceiling sagging near the escalator of the security hold area (SHA) at the departure area.

They also pointed to gaps around the railings of the escalator in the SHA and lack of staircase alongside escalator for emergency evacuation.

The X-ray baggage scanning machines at the SHA did not have an automatic tray retrieval system (ATRS), which was approved for the new terminal.

Issues have recently been flagged regarding the lack of uniform air conditioning system in the new terminal.

Efforts to reach the AAI chairman for comments through calls and text messages on Monday proved futile. The AAI also did not respond to queries emailed by HT on May 27 and June 6.



Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

10 JUNE 2025

HC nod for Turkish co to take inventory at city airport

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Chennai: Madras high court has allowed Turkey-based company, Celebi Ground Services, to enter the Chennai airport premises for taking an inventory after getting prior approval from airport authorities.

Justice Abdul Quddhose issued an interim order to this effect on Monday, on a petition filed by Celebi Ground Services Chennai Pvt Ltd, challenging cancellation of concession agreement by Airport Authority of India (AAI) following the cancellation of its security clearance by BCAS under ministry of civil aviation on May 26.

When the plea came up for hearing, senior advocate P SRaman, representing the company, submitted that it had invested huge amounts of money in its equipment and software and that the AAI was attempting to appoint third parties who would exploit these instruments. The sudden cancellation of the agreement caused a huge financial loss to the company, and it was done due to vendetta, he added. He wanted the court to pass an interim injunction restraining the AAI from creating any third-party rights.

Solicitor-general Tushar Mehta, representing AAI, submitted that it was necessary to appoint a third party for smooth functioning of the airport.

To this, Raman informed the court that relief was granted by Bombay high court in a similar petition. Opposing the argument, Mehta submitted that the facts of the present case were different from those of the one pending before the Bombay HC. Recording the submissions, the court directed AAI to file counter to the petitions and adjourned hearing to July 7.

Assembly resolution to rename Mohanbari airport after Dr Hazarika

PM to inaugurate Bard's year-long centenary celebrations at Khanapara on Sept 7

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 9: The Assam Legislative Assembly on Monday passed the resolution, introduced by Minister Jogen Mohan, to rename the Mohanbari airport in Dibrugarh after legendary singer and music maestro Dr Bhupen Hazarika.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the decision to rename the airport is part of the year-long celebration of Dr Hazarika's birth centenary.

"We are committed to preserve the legacy of Sudhakantha Dr Bhupen Haz-

arika. A 50-member committee has already been formed to oversee the celebrations throughout the year," Sarma said, while addressing the House.

The Chief Minister also announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would formally inaugurate the centenary celebrations during a grand event scheduled at Khanapara on September 7. During the event, around 1,000 young boys and girls will sing Dr Hazarika's iconic song *Asom Amar Rupahi*.

» SEE PAGE 2



File photo: Mohanbari airport

Assembly resolution ...

(Contd from page 1)

As part of the celebrations, tribute-paying ceremonies will be organized across Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Mumbai. The closing ceremony will be held in New Delhi on September 8, 2026.

Several other initiatives to honour Dr Hazarika were also announced by the Chief Minister. These include a proposal to institute a chair in his name at Banaras Hindu University, release of a commemorative coin, and a book chronicling key events in his life, authored by Anuradha Sarma Pujari.

"This book will be translated into 23 Indian languages and four lakh copies will be distributed among school and college libraries across the country.

Additionally, we will publish 10 to 12 lakh copies for distribution to households across Assam," Sarma said.

He further encouraged legislators and the people of Assam to organize events in memory of the revered icons throughout the year.

Chief Minister Sarma also revealed that residents of Tezpur have requested the government to rename the Tezpur airport after Dr Bhupen Hazarika. However, the government is considering naming it 'Jyoti-Bishnu Airport' in honour of cultural stalwarts Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha.

"A resolution in this regard will be adopted in the coming days," he said.

Highlighting the govern-

ment's efforts to promote Assam's heritage, Sarma pointed to previous initiatives like the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan and the recognition of Charaideo Maidam as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He also announced the upcoming installation of a statue of Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi at Guwahati airport.

In their speeches, several Opposition and ruling party leaders supported the resolution and suggested various additional measures.

Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia proposed the launching a free website to archive Dr Hazarika's works, instituting a scholarship, starting a six-month course on his life and philosophy, making a biopic, and es-

tablishing a regional film institute and a cultural complex at Naoboicha.

Sivasagar MLA and Rajior Dal president Akhil Gogoi supported the resolution and recommended the setting up of a world-class museum, a South East Asia-level music award, and digitally preserving Dr Hazarika's works to further honour his contributions.

The session witnessed the participation of several MLAs, including Atul Bora, Padma Hazarika, Mrinal Saikia, Keshab Mahanta, Diganta Barman, Bimal Borah, Dr Ranoj Pegu, Ramkrishna Ghosh, Prithiraj Rava, Gobinda Basumatary, Rafikul Islam, and Durga Das Boro. Some members also paid tributes to Dr Hazarika by singing a few lines of his from iconic songs.



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AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

11 JUNE 2025

खजुराहो एयरपोर्ट पर प्रशिक्षण विमान की आपात लैंडिंग कराई



खजुराहो। मध्य प्रदेश के खजुराहो एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को एक प्रशिक्षण विमान की आपातकालीन लैंडिंग कराई गई। भारतीय उड़ान अकादमी के इस विमान का पिछला पहिया (लैंडिंग गियर) नहीं खुल रहा था, जिसके बाद पायलट ने एटीसी को सूचना दी। सूचना मिलते ही विमान में घर्षण के कारण आग लगने से बचाव के लिए फोम का छिड़काव करने समेत सभी सावधानियां बरती गईं। दो घंटे हवा में रहने के बाद पायलट ने दोपहर 3:40 बजे विमान की आपातकालीन लैंडिंग कराई। ब्यूरो



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DANIK NAVJOYTI

JAIPUR

9 JUNE 2025

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से नहीं बढ़ रहा फ्लाइट संचालन



नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से फ्लाइट संचालन अब तक नहीं बढ़ सका है। वर्तमान में दिनभर में केवल दो फ्लाइट ही संचालित हो रही हैं, जिनमें एक दिल्ली और दूसरी बैंगलुरु के लिए है। सुबह 9.30 से शाम 6 बजे के बीच फ्लाइट्स की संख्या बेहद कम बनी हुई है। जबकि नोटम हटने के बाद उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ने की उम्मीद थी, लेकिन अब तक संचालन में कोई वृद्धि नहीं हुई। पर्यटन सौजन्य चलने के बावजूद जयपुर से धर्मशाला, जम्मू, लेह, सूरत और पटना जैसे शहरों के लिए फिलाहल सीधी उड़ानें उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। ऐसे में यात्रियों को खासी असुविधा हो रही है और एयरलाइंस से उड़ान संचालन बढ़ाने की मांग उठ रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

10 JUNE 2025

In Dibrugrah, it's Hazarika airport now

The Assam Legislative Assembly unanimously resolved to rename Dibrugarh Airport as Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Airport in a special session. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced this as a fitting tribute to the Bharat Ratna recipient. The renaming kicks off year-long birth centenary celebrations for Dr. Hazarika, starting September 8 with 1,000 youth singing 'Axom Amar Rupahi' in Guwahati. Events will also be held in Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Maharashtra, culminating in a mega event at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on September 8, 2026. A book on Dr. Hazarika will be translated into 23 Indian languages for nationwide distribution.

- Digyoti Lahkar

Newark airport videos: Delhi formally takes up matter with US Embassy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

THE MINISTRY of External Affairs has formally raised the matter with the US Embassy in New Delhi in the wake of social media videos purportedly showing an Indian national being handcuffed and pinned to the ground at the Newark airport.

The Indian Consulate in New York has also been in touch with the US authorities to ascertain the details of the incident, as per sources. Posted on X by Indian-American entrepreneur Kunal Jain, the videos and photographs showed an unidentified young man being restrained by officers from the Port Authority Police Department (PAPD), the agency responsible for law enforcement across major transport hubs in New York and New Jersey Sunday night. Jain had tagged the Indian Embassy in Washington DC and

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in his series of posts.

During a call from The Indian Express to Port Authority Police Department at Newark International Airport, an officer said that "the PAPD doesn't get involved in deportations".

"The Ministry has formally raised the matter with the US Embassy in New Delhi. Our Embassy in Washington DC and the Indian Consulate in New York have also been in touch with the US authorities to ascertain the details," sources in the Ministry said.

"We have so far have not received any details about the incident or the circumstances under which he was restrained, the flight he had to board or boarded and his final destination," sources said, adding that the ministry will continue to follow up on the matter. There is still no information if the person has left Newark or has arrived in India, as per those aware of the matter.



US defends immigration policy amid outcry over Indian student's treatment at Newark airport

US cannot and will not tolerate illegal entry, abuse of visas: Embassy

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: The United States has reiterated its commitment to welcoming legitimate travellers while taking a firm stance against violations of its immigration laws, amid growing outrage in India following the emergence of a video showing an Indian student being restrained and allegedly deported at Newark Liberty International Airport. "The United States continues to welcome legitimate trav-



ellers to our country. However, there is no right to visit the United States. We cannot and will not tolerate illegal entry, abuse of visas, or the violation

“THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO WELCOME LEGITIMATE TRAVELLERS TO OUR COUNTRY”

of US law,” read a post shared by the US Embassy in India on social media platform X on Tuesday.

The statement came in the wake of a video circulated widely online showing a

young Indian man handcuffed and pinned to the ground by several Port Authority police officers at Newark Airport. The footage, posted by Indian-American entrepreneur Kunal Jain, sparked outrage and renewed debate over the treatment of Indian nationals by US immigration authorities.

“I witnessed a young Indian student being deported from Newark Airport last night – handcuffed, crying, treated like a criminal,” Jain wrote. **Continued on P4**

ing to translate, as the man was speaking in Haryanvi, but was not permitted to intervene. “Instead, more officers were called in,” he told NDTV. “Eventually, they tied his legs and hands. At that moment, I literally started crying.”

Jain added that the man had shown signs of distress and minor aggression, prompting airline authorities to refuse him boarding. “The pilot deemed him a threat to fellow passengers,” he said, adding that the student’s parents likely had no knowledge of his ordeal.

Responding to the video, the Consulate General of India in New York stated it was in contact with local authorities. “We have come across social media posts claiming that an Indian national is facing difficulties at Newark Liberty International Airport. We are in touch with local authorities in this regard,” the consulate said on X, adding that it remains committed to the welfare of Indian nationals.

The incident has triggered strong political reactions in India. The Congress party accused the Indian government of failing to act in the interest of its citizens abroad. “Protecting the honour of India and Indians is one of the most important responsibilities of the Prime Minister,” party leader Jairam Ramesh said, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to raise the issue with US President Donald Trump.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete, speaking at a press conference, claimed this was not an isolated case. “Indian students are being treated like criminals. They are being deported, handcuffed, and denied basic dig-

nity,” she said.

She also pointed to previous cases involving deportations and alleged mistreatment, asserting that such incidents highlight a lack of diplomatic pushback. “When will the Prime Minister rise to the occasion and protect the dignity of Indians abroad?” Shrinete asked.

WITH AGENCY INPUTS

US defends

“He came chasing dreams, not causing harm. As an NRI, I felt helpless and heartbroken. This is a human tragedy.”

In subsequent posts and interviews, Jain identified the man as a student who appeared disoriented and unable to communicate clearly with airport officials. Jain said he attempted to help by offer-



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RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

11 JUNE 2025

जम्मू एयरपोर्ट को उड़ाने की थी साजिश

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। देश की सुरक्षा के लिए जिम्मेदारी एनएसजी के महानिदेशक भृगु श्रीनिवासन ने पाकिस्तान की एक नापाक हरकत का पर्दाफाश किया है। उन्होंने बताया, ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के दौरान पाकिस्तानी सेना ने जम्मू एयरपोर्ट को उड़ाने की साजिश रची थी। इसके लिए पाकिस्तानी ड्रोन 20 किलो विस्फोटक लेकर आया था, जिसे एनएसजी और सुरक्षा बलों ने मिलकर निष्क्रिय कर दिया था।

दिल्ली में हुए एक सेमिनार में महानिदेशक भृगु श्रीनिवासन ने यह खुलासा किया। इस सेमिनार ने दुनियाभर के कई देशों

ने हिस्सा लिया। सेमिनार की अध्यक्षता केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री नित्यानंद राय ने की।

■ एनएसजी ने किया
पाकिस्तान की नापाक
हरकत का पर्दाफाश



वहीं सेमिनार में मौजूद लोगों को संबोधित करते हुए ऑपरेशन सिंदूर पर कई खुलासे किए गए। श्रीनिवासन ने सेमिनार में कहा, आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई में जो दक्षता एनएसजी के पास है, वही ताकत अब राज्यों

की सुरक्षा एजेंसी को भी मुहैया कराई जाएगी। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय के उस फैसले को आज

एक समझौते के जरिए प्रभावी कर दिया गया, जिसमें एनएसजी देश के सभी राज्यों की सुरक्षा एजेंसियों को ट्रेनिंग देगी। सभी राज्यों की ओर से दिल्ली पुलिस आयुक्त संजय अरोड़ा ने समझौते का आदान प्रदान किया। केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री नित्यानंद राय ने

कहा कि एनएसजी आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई में व्यापक योजना पर काम कर रही है। देश के कई महत्वपूर्ण ठिकानों को खतरे से सुरक्षित करने का एक विशेष अभियान भी एनएसजी ने चलाया हुआ है।



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TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

11 JUNE 2025

Airlines want user charge waived at Srinagar airport to boost travel

New Delhi: As scheduled flights to and from Srinagar have halved post the Pahalgam attack and the number of air travellers reduced to about a third, India's biggest carriers have requested govt to stop charging airport and security fees of Rs 1,250 from passengers to lower travel cost and fill up flights, reports **Saurabh Sinha**.

The Federation of Indian Airlines — which represents Air India,

IndiGo and SpiceJet — on May 29 wrote to aviation secretary Samir Kumar Sinha: “Currently, every departing passenger pays Rs 1,050 as the user development fees and Rs 200 as aviation security fee, plus GST.... request govt (to) waive both for every departing passenger from Srinagar airport for one year with immediate effect. It will boost air travel demand to and from Srinagar airport.”



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

11 JUNE 2025

IndiGo to launch direct flights from Mumbai to Almaty, Tashkent, Tbilisi

Domestic carrier IndiGo on Tuesday said it was set to enhance its international capacity to Central Asia with the launch of direct flights to three key destinations — Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), and Tbilisi (Georgia). The airline said it would start operations from Mumbai to Almaty on July 1, followed by flights to Tashkent from August 1, and to Tbilisi from August 2. IndiGo had launched flights to these cities from Delhi in 2023. It will operate four weekly flights to both Tashkent and Almaty, and three weekly flights to Tbilisi, enhancing connectivity between India and the growing markets of Central Asia.

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

11 JUNE 2025

India Inc to double capex to \$850 bn in 5 yrs: S&P report

Power & transmission, airline companies to lead investment drive

DEV CHATTERJEE
Mumbai, 10 June

Corporate India is embarking on an ambitious investment drive, with capital expenditure (capex) expected to double to \$850 billion over the next five years, according to a report by S&P Global Ratings. Indian power & transmission, airlines, and green hydrogen sectors would spearhead the spending, the report said.

Driven by strong balance sheets, robust operating cash flows, and favourable government policy, Indian companies are aiming to scale up operations in what could be a defining expansion phase. The top-100 listed companies, with a combined revenue of \$1 trillion and \$150 billion in Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) in 2024-25 (FY25), were expected to fund most of the investment internally, keeping leverage in check, the report said. Unlisted renewable energy and airline companies with large capex plans were also taken into consideration by the firm to prepare the report.

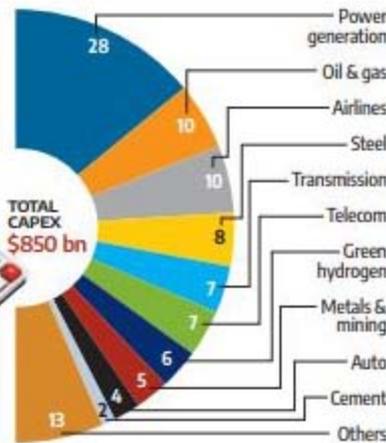
"Companies are investing to capture growth, supported by macro tailwinds and deeper domestic funding markets," S&P analysts wrote, ad-

Spending plans

Expected share of capex sector-wise till 2030 (%)



Sources: Crisil Intelligence, S&P Global Ratings



ding: "Execution will be key to avoiding balance sheet slippage."

The power & transmission sector would account for roughly \$300 billion in new investment — more than a third of the total projected capex. Renewable energy projects and grid infrastructure are expected to dominate the agenda as India pursues its 500 Gw (gigawatt) renewable capacity target by 2030. NTPC Ltd, Tata Power, and Power Grid Corp are set to lead

the charge. The Adani group has already announced \$20 billion annual capex in the next five years while the Tata group is planning to invest \$120 billion, mainly in airlines, semiconductors and electronic sectors.

Debt levels in the power sector are likely to rise — NTPC and Tata Power could see debt-to-Ebitda ratios increase by about 1x — S&P said the credit profiles of major players remained within tolerable limits.

Airlines were another major investment engine, the report said. Indian carriers led by IndiGo and Air India are set to spend \$75 billion to \$100 billion on new aircraft, tripling fleet size by 2035. Much of this would be lease-financed, helping limit the pressure on balance sheets. Indigo was seen absorbing the expansion with relative ease while Air India and SpiceJet might face more strain, the report added.

Traditional sectors like steel, cement, oil & gas, and auto are projected to contribute \$250 billion in cumulative capex. Steel and cement alone were ramping up capacity by 25 million tonnes (mt) and 35 per cent, respectively, though their investment would be more gradual and reliant on internal accruals, the report said.

Emerging sectors such as green hydrogen, semiconductors, and battery plants were poised to attract \$50 billion-\$100 billion in investment, led by giants like the Adani group and Tata Electronics. However, funding needs for these high-capex sectors would likely require more external debt.

Airports might see investments rise to \$35 billion, particularly if greenfield projects and privatisation efforts proceeded as planned.



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FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

11 JUNE 2025

IndiGo launches three new routes

INDIGO ON TUESDAY said it is set to enhance its international capacity to Central Asia with the launch of direct flights to three key destinations – Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), and Tbilisi (Georgia). – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

10 JUNE 2025

LUCKNOW

Srinagar flights to resume from July 1



Direct flights between Lucknow and Srinagar will resume from July 1, following a halt due to the Pahalgam terror attack. Responding to passenger demand, IndiGo has started bookings for the service, which will cover the distance in approximately two hours.



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

11 JUNE 2025

चारधाम में हेलीकॉप्टर हादसों की जांच शुरू

नई दिल्ली। चारधाम यात्रा के दौरान हेलीकॉप्टर हादसों को लेकर डीजीसीए के निर्देश पर जांच शुरू हो गई है। जांच में पता लगाया जा रहा है कि हादसों के पीछे की वजह क्या रही। जांच में ऐसी किसी गड़बड़ी का पता चलता है तो फिर हेलीकॉप्टर ऑपरेटर पर कार्रवाई की जा सकती है। परिचालन संबंधी गड़बड़ी की बात सामने आने पर पायलट और ऑपरेटर पर कार्रवाई हो सकती है।

DGCA to conduct radio communication exam for pilots from November

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

The exam for testing the radio communication skills of aspirants to the aviation sector will be administered by the Directorate General (DGCA) of Civil Aviation starting November, according to a senior official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

In the past, the examination has been plagued by malpractices and arbitrariness, forcing many to either pay hefty bribes or take the exam overseas.

The conduct of the exam – taken by pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers and flight dispatchers for procuring a licence for Radio Telephony Restricted (Aeronautical) – will shift from the Wireless Planning and Coordination Cell (WPC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) from Novem-

ber so that all the tests come under the administrative control of the DGCA. “The move will ensure a single-window clearance for pilot aspirants and other personnel as well as streamline the exam taking process,” a senior official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The Ministry has now appointed a committee to prescribe a syllabus for the RTR exam, and will notify rules shortly.

Bribery allegations

The exam has long been dreaded by the pilot community because of rampant corruption, including alleged bribery and swapping of answer papers.

This was partly fuelled by inconsistencies such as a lack of a published syllabus and trained personnel for conducting the exam.

One aspiring pilot recounted paying ₹2 lakh as a bribe, while another said he flew to Canada to appear for the RTR exam as it sees a large number of rejections in India. The cost of flight tickets was less than the bribe he may have had to pay, he said.

“The DGCA must ensure that the transfer of the exam doesn’t merely result in a shift from one corrupt control centre to another. It must follow the International Civil Aviation Organization’s Annex 1 Standards and Recommendations for licensing of personnel as India is the only country that makes life miserable for aviation personnel by conducting multiple exams. There is an opportunity for India to ensure our pilots remain within the country,” said Mohan Ranganathan, a former examiner on Boeing 737s.

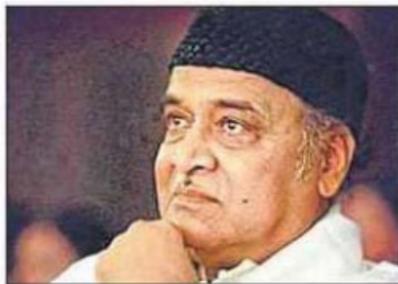
Rename Dibrugarh airport after Hazarika: Assam

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GUWAHATI: The Assam assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the central government to rename the Dibrugarh airport in honour of eminent poet, composer and singer Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika.

State transport minister Jogen Mohan moved the resolution rec-



Bhupen Hazarika

ommending that the Centre rename the Dibrugarh airport as

“Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika Airport, Dibrugarh” during the day-long special session convened for this purpose.

The resolution was adopted as several members punctuated their speeches with songs of Hazarika, with BJP minister Prasanta Phukan to CPI(M) legislator Manoranjan Talukdar singing iconic numbers of the “Bard of Brahmaputra”.

In a post on X, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said: “It

gives me great joy to share that the Assam assembly has unanimously passed the resolution to rename Dibrugarh airport as Dr Bhupen Hazarika airport. This will be a befitting tribute to the legacy of the Bharat Ratna, whose contributions to Assam and Bharat are unparalleled.”

The CM announced that the state has planned a series of year-long celebrations to mark the birth centenary of Hazarika this year.

Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

10 JUNE 2025

DGCA may curtail Char Dham chopper ops

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New Delhi: Chopper operations for the ongoing Char Dham yatra in Uttarakhand may be curtailed following a spate of crashes in recent weeks. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Monday said it has “ordered special audits and enhanced surveillance for helicopter operators involved in shuttle services and charter operations in Uttarakhand.”

Past one month alone has seen four crashes and the regulator has decided to get cracking on erring operators. “As a precautionary measure, DGCA is reviewing the necessity of curtailing helicopter operations to Char Dham if required,” it said in a statement.

Oversight on Char Dham helicopter oper-



4 CRASHES IN A MONTH

ations have been enhanced by “actively monitoring live camera feeds provided by Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Au-

thority at Kedarnath. Any deviation from standard operating procedures by helicopter operators is detected in real time, allowing for immediate corrective measures,” the statement read.

On Monday, two helicopter operators conducting shuttle and charter services to Kedarnath were found to have failed to adhere to SOPs. “As a result, action was taken, and their operations were suspended for two hours. DGCA has zero tolerance policy for safety violations, and Kestrel Aviation in Uttarakhand has been suspended with immediate effect pending investigation. This is further to suspension of operations of another operator for safety violations in May 2025,” the statement added.

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TRIBUNE

DELHI

11 JUNE 2025

CM launches flight services between Hisar, Chandigarh

DEEPENDER DESWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JUNE 9

Less than two months after the launch of air service from Maharaja Agrasen Airport, Hisar, to Ayodhya, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today inaugurated the air service to Chandigarh.

The Chief Minister said that air services would be expanded in a phased manner and would also be started from Hisar to Jaipur, Jammu and Ahmedabad soon.

Saini said it is a proud day for Haryana because this is the state's first airport, which was dedicated to the people of Haryana by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The PM flagged off the air service from Hisar to Ayodhya on April 14.

The CM said that Hisar would emerge as a hub of industry in the coming time, and various types of facilities would be available here, leading to rapid development of the area.

Attacking the Congress, the CM said that the Congress is full of "lamehorses". He stated that the horses meant for the wedding procession were already sent back by the people in the Assembly elections. "People have seen that such horses are not successful, and the real race horses are with



Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini flags off the Hisar-Chandigarh air service in Hisar on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said while claiming that the Congress organisation was in a mess.

Taking a dig at the Opposition, the Chief Minister said that earlier, Opposition leaders used to say that Maharaja Agrasen Airport was only an aerodrome and there was no certainty that flights would operate from here. "But the government has fulfilled its promise and started air service

from Hisar airport, which will continue to expand," he said. Saini said that there has been a systemic change under the leadership of the Prime Minister, and poor children are getting government jobs based on their hard work. In Haryana too, during the past 11 years, deserving candidates have received jobs transparently, whereas earlier, jobs were distributed through the 'kharchi-parchi' system.

He further said that in the past 11 years, efforts have been made to open a college every 20 km in Haryana so that girls do not have to travel far for higher education. Moreover, 15 medical colleges have been made in the state and work is ongoing on the remaining. In 2014, there were only 700 MBBS seats, which have now increased to around 2,500, and this number will reach 3,500 by 2029.

Civil Aviation Minister Vipul Goel said that the air service is not just limited to air travel, but it would also boost the economic and industrial development of the entire region. It would benefit not only Hisar but also neighbouring states like Rajasthan and Punjab. He said this flight service would strengthen industries in Hisar and the city would establish its identity as a major industrial centre in the coming time.