

Airports face user fee cuts for poor passenger service

Regulatory body to devise uniform standards for all airports; parameters include wait time, check-in time, security screening, availability of help desks, time to travel between terminals

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Airports may face deduction in user development fees collected from air travellers if passenger amenities fall short, the country's airport tariff regulator has proposed in its first draft of performance standards focused on passenger experience.

"It is high time that there was a mechanism to evaluate airports on service delivery benchmarks, especially when airport infrastructure is being funded by users to a large extent," Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) Chairman S.K.G. Rahate said at a public consultation here on a paper on performance standards for airports.

Third-party audit

In a first, the AERA plans appoint a third party to monitor the service delivery. At present, airports carry out an audit of the services through a third-party hired by them.

Service delivery parameters that will be considered include wait time at security queues at terminal gate, check-in time, se-



Performance standards: The draft focuses on key amenities, and has provided a checklist that airports will adhere. FILE PHOTO

curity screening inside airport, availability of help desks, time taken to travel between various terminals, cloakroom, sensory rooms for travellers with special needs, as well as availability of e-gates, Digi Yatra, and self-baggage drop. Cleanliness levels, conduct of airport staff, and availability of WiFi will also be looked into. The draft also focuses on amenities for persons with reduced mobility, and has provided a checklist that airports will have to follow, which includes accessible airport approach and washrooms, and designated seating.

At the Delhi airport,

domestic passengers pay ₹129 as the user development fee, and international flyers pay ₹650 when travelling economy class and ₹810 for business class travel. The Bengaluru airport charges ₹550 for domestic travellers and ₹1,500 for international passengers. The fee at the Mumbai airport is ₹175 for domestic travellers and ₹695 for those travelling abroad.

Failure to meet performance metrics could result in a reduction of up to 5% on the tariff collected by airports such that it results in a reduced user development fee. In airports where user fees are not levied, the AERA proposes to lower

aircraft landing charges. The cut in tariff will be determined after a six-month review.

High performance in certain parameters could result in a bonus of up to 1.25% on the tariff through a credit system that will be used to offset applicable penalties from the AERA.

While concessionaire agreements signed between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and private entities (which are leased airports under public-private partnerships for operations, management and development) do have service benchmarks, this is the first attempt to create a uniform set of standards for all airports.

Mr. Rahate told *The Hindu* that penalising airports through a cut in user development fee resulting in savings for air travellers was in line with the passenger focus of the entire move. Such a mechanism would be integrated into the tariff determination process that is undertaken for a five-year cycle for major airports.

There are over 30 major airports in the country, which altogether handle more than 90% of the passenger traffic.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Lightning strike disrupts Raipur airport navigation, diverts flights

Raipur, Sept. 10: An aircraft navigation system at the Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur was damaged after being struck by lightning on Wednesday evening, disrupting flight operations, an official said.

As many as five IndiGo flights were diverted to various nearby airports due to the damage to the DVOR (Doppler VHF Omnidirectional Range) system, he said.

"All flight landings have been suspended due to the DVOR system get-

ting hit by a lightning bolt this evening. As a result, five IndiGo flights that were scheduled to land at the Raipur airport were diverted to nearby airports, including Nagpur and Bhubaneswar," the official said.

"Repair works are underway and flight operations from the airport are likely to resume by tomorrow (Thursday)," he informed.

A ground-based radio navigation system, DVOR helps aircraft determine their position and direction relative to a destination. — PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Airport operator to be accountable for 3rd-party service standards: AERA chief

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 10 September

An airport operator will be responsible for maintaining overall service standards at an airport, including those delivered by third-party service providers, under new rules being framed by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), its Chairman SKG Rahate told aviation stakeholders at a meeting on Wednesday, *Business Standard* has learnt.

Third-party service providers at an airport include ground handlers, caterers, retailers, cargo agents, and cab operators.

Rahate was speaking at a meeting with stakeholders wherein AERA's draft regulation, issued on September 2, was discussed. The regulation seeks to link airport service quality with the tariffs — such as user development fees and aircraft parking charges — collected by airport operators from other stakeholders such

as passengers and airlines.

The draft lays down 32 objective and 18 subjective performance parameters, covering baggage delivery times, queue lengths, washroom cleanliness, and availability of facilities such as trolleys and wheelchairs. Airports that fail to meet prescribed benchmarks could see a reduction in tariffs, while those that exceed targets may be eligible for incentives. The "carrot and stick" model is intended to ensure accountability as airports are natural monopolies where passengers have limited choices.

When some airport operators questioned how they could be held accountable for the services of third-party providers, Rahate said:

"The fundamental principle is that these performance standards are passen-

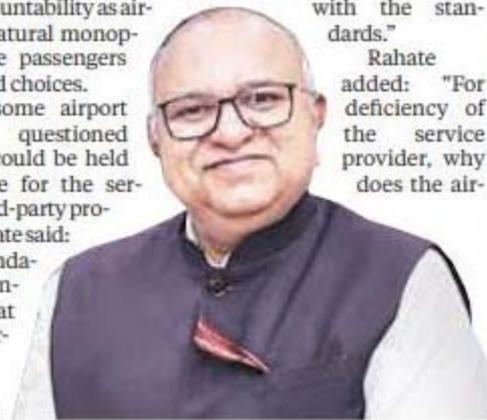
ger-centric. The passenger does not care that certain processes are being handled by the airline, and then other infrastructure is being provided by the airport operator. When you and I are travellers, how do we form an opinion about an airport? We go to the airport, we see the overall service, and then we grade the airport. It is difficult to segregate. So, the airport is the hub and the node, and the other service providers have to fall in line with the standards."

Rahate added: "For deficiency of the service provider, why does the air-

port operator have to bear the brunt? Well, here we have adopted the concept that the airport is the hub, and the airport is the primary service provider when it comes to users, particularly passengers. Then, there are other users like airlines."

"When an airport is the hub, we are giving that responsibility to the airport operator. Of course, in the rebate mechanism, we will decide whether for the deficiencies of other service providers, we may try to provide a provision that the airport can get compensated or be reimbursed by the service provider. We can't notify different parameters for different service providers. It has to be for the airport as the central hub and the other service providers will have to fall in line," he said.

A representative of the Adani Group — which manages eight airports and has one more under construction — urged AERA to implement the standards in phases.



‘हवाईअड्डा प्रबंधन ही सेवाओं का जवाबदेह’

दीपक पटेल

हवाईअड्डे के परिचालकों को हवाईअड्डे पर दी जाने वाली सभी सेवाओं के प्रबंधन के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया जाएगा जिसमें थर्ड-पार्टी सेवा प्रदाताओं द्वारा दी जाने वाली सेवाएं भी शामिल हैं। भारतीय विमानपत्तन आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण (ईआरए) द्वारा बनाए गए नए नियमों के मुताबिक ऐसा किया जाएगा। बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड को जानकारी मिली है कि ईआरए के अध्यक्ष एस के जी रहाटे ने विमानन क्षेत्र से जुड़े हितधारकों के साथ हुई बैठक में यह बात कही है।

हवाईअड्डे पर थर्ड-पार्टी सेवा प्रदाताओं में ग्राउंड हैंडलर, कैटरर, रिटेलर, कार्गो एजेंट और कैब परिचालक शामिल होते हैं। रहाटे, इस बैठक में 2 सितंबर को जारी किए गए ईआरए के मसौदा



नियमन पर बात कर रहे थे। इस मसौदे का मकसद हवाईअड्डे की सेवा की गुणवत्ता को उसके शुल्क से जोड़ना है। ये शुल्क, मसलन यूजर डेवलपमेंट फीस और विमान पार्किंग शुल्क, हवाईअड्डा परिचालक द्वारा अन्य हितधारकों यानी यात्रियों और विमानन कंपनियों से वसूले जाते हैं।

इस मसौदे में 32 उद्देश्यपूर्ण और 18 अनुभव वाले प्रदर्शन मापदंड तय किए गए हैं। इनमें सामान मिलने का समय, कतार की लंबाई, शौचालय की सफाई और ट्रॉली तथा व्हीलचेयर जैसी सुविधाओं की उपलब्धता शामिल हैं। जो हवाईअड्डे इन तय मापदंडों को पूरा नहीं कर पाएंगे, उनके शुल्क में कटौती की जा सकती है। वहीं, जो इन लक्ष्यों से आगे निकल जाएंगे, उन्हें इनाम दिया जाएगा।

जब कुछ हवाईअड्डा परिचालकों ने यह सवाल किया कि वे किसी थर्ड पार्टी सेवा प्रदाताओं की सेवाओं के लिए कैसे जिम्मेदार ठहराए जा सकते हैं तब इस पर रहाटे ने कहा, ‘बुनियादी सिद्धांत यह है कि इन प्रदर्शन मानकों के केंद्र में यात्री हैं। यात्री को इस बात से कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता कि कुछ प्रक्रियाएं विमानन कंपनियां पूरी कर रही हैं और कुछ सुविधाएं हवाईअड्डा परिचालक दे रहा है।’



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

एयरपोर्ट : जयपुर-बीकानेर फ्लाइट शुरू हुई, पहले दिन 55 फीसदी से अधिक यात्रीभार रहा

सिटी रिपोर्टर | जयपुर

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से मंगलवार को जयपुर-बीकानेर-जयपुर के बीच डायरेक्ट फ्लाइट का संचालन हुआ। अब जयपुर-बीकानेर-जयपुर के लिए हवाई यात्रियों को मंगलवार और गुरुवार को फ्लाइट मिलेगी। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार अलायंस एयर की फ्लाइट संख्या 9आई-833 जयपुर से शाम 5:15 बजे रवाना हुई। जो 1.15 घंटे में शाम 6:30 बजे बीकानेर



पहुंची। वहीं वापसी में फ्लाइट संख्या 9आई-834 बीकानेर से शाम 6:55 बजे रवाना होकर 8:10 बजे जयपुर पहुंची। गौरतलब है कि 70 सीटर फ्लाइट में पहले दिन 55 फीसदी से अधिक यात्रीभार रहा।

Kozhikode airport set to soar with new carriers

HD Bureau

KOCHI

Karipur is poised for a substantial revival as Kozhikode International Airport gears up for a notable expansion of services.

FLY91 and Aakasa Air are readying new domestic routes starting in October, while Saudi Air is slated to return by the close of the month. Meanwhile, Sri Lankan Airlines is conducting a financial assessment ahead of a potential link-up. Kozhikode Airport Set to Soar with New Carriers.

FLY91 will inaugurate services on the Goa-Kozhikode-Agatti sector, with ambitions to extend to Dubai and Saudi Arabia later. Aakasa Air will launch daily Mumbai-Kozhikode flights from 1 October, offering a vital new corridor between India's financial hub and the Malabar coast.

Saudi Air, which suspended operations following



With the planned expansions, flight numbers are expected to climb to 96, moving closer to the pre-crash level of over 100 daily services

the 2020 crash, is scheduled to resume operations by the end of October, initially on the Kozhikode-Riyadh route, and potentially adding Jeddah services once larger aircraft are permitted.

Established carriers are also scaling up operations. IndiGo will resume its Kozhikode-Kochi-Agatti se-

rvices from 11 October. Air India Express plans additional flights on the Kozhikode-Bengaluru-Hyderabad sector, including three weekly Bengaluru return services on peak days and enhanced Hyderabad connectivity, particularly from Fridays through Wednesdays. Flynas has already

ramped up its Riyadh link, operating daily flights through September, to transition into full-week services from 1 October. SpiceJet is also exploring a chartered service between Kozhikode and Fujairah.

Current operations at Karipur tally 80-86 daily services, about half inbound and half outbound, mostly international, covering routes to Sharjah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Al Ain. With the planned expansions, flight numbers are expected to climb to 96, moving closer to the pre-crash level of over 100 daily services.

The developments are not just about numbers; they signal a broader shift. The introduction of FLY91 and Aakasa Air will significantly boost connectivity across India, enabling direct flights to prominent hubs like Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

{ **RELIEF FOR FLIERS** } TERMINAL-2 TO OPEN ON OCT 26

Upgraded IGI runway to open on Tue



The announcement comes after months of flight disruptions caused by the closure of Runway 10 for upgrades.

HT ARCHIVE

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Fliers this winter may finally find some relief at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, with the upgraded runway expected to reopen on September 16 and the refurbished Terminal 2 set to resume operations on October 26, people aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

The announcement comes after months of disruption caused by the closure of Runway 10 for upgrades to CAT IIIB standards, which are essential for safe landings in dense fog. Since mid-June, when the runway was shut for the second time this year, nearly 200 flights a day have been affected.

"The DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) will soon

conduct its final audit of Runway 10, after which it will be operational by September 16," said one of the people familiar with the matter.

Terminal 2, which can handle 15 million passengers annually, will reopen soon after.

While the upgrade will not increase its capacity, the refurbishments include a new flooring, aerobridges, washrooms, and structural repairs.

"T2 will be made operational mostly by October 26, ensuring smooth travel during the peak winter season," the official added.

Runway 10, located at the Dwarka end of the 10/28 strip, was first closed in April but had to reopen within weeks after strong easterly winds reduced the hourly arrival rate from 42 to 32 flights, causing operational

chaos. The Union ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) intervened, instructing the airport operator Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) to resume services. Upgrade work resumed in June.

Since June 15, DIAL has been cancelling 114 flights daily and rescheduling another 86 to non-peak hours.

"The airport handles about 1,450 flights every day. The cancellations account for 7.8% of operations, slightly above the usual 3-4%," DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said earlier.

Delhi airport, the country's busiest, has four runways—27/9, 28/10, 29R/11L, and 29L/11R—and three terminals with a combined annual passenger capacity of 109 million.

Terminal 1 handles 40 million passengers, while T2 has a capacity of 15 million.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

INDIGO TO BEGIN FLIGHT OPS FROM PURNIA AIRPORT FROM SEPT 15

Aditya Nath Jha

hpatna@hindustantimes.com

PURNIA : IndiGo has announced the launch of direct flight services between Kolkata and Purnea, making the Bihar town its 94th domestic destination. The service, commencing on September 15, will also mark the inauguration of Purnia Airport, developed under the UDAN regional connectivity scheme.

Star Air has also announced its inaugural flight service between Ahmedabad and Purnia on September 15 thrice a week.

In a press statement issued on Tuesday, IndiGo said the airline will operate thrice weekly flights — on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays — with its ATR aircraft. This makes IndiGo the first airline to begin commercial operations from Purnea, a significant step in boosting regional air connectivity in Bihar after Patna, Gaya, and Darbhanga.

Vinay Malhotra, Head of Sales at IndiGo, said, "We are proud to further strengthen regional connectivity with the addition of Purnea to our network. An emerging centre for trade and industry, Purnea will now have direct flights to Kolkata. Purnea is preparing for the commercial launch of its airport under the UDAN scheme. The introduction of air travel will strengthen the region's infrastructure to support its agriculture and food processing sector as well".

According to the schedule, Flight 6E 7924 will depart from Kolkata at 12:30pm and land in Purnia at 1:40pm.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

700 Indians stranded after airport in Nepal capital shuts down

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Nearly 700 Indian passengers were left stranded after the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu shut down for flights on Tuesday due to safety concerns following protests across Nepal.

“Four out of the six flights scheduled to bring back passengers from Kathmandu were cancelled after the airport was closed around 1 p.m. on Tuesday. Nearly 700 air travellers are stranded. We are seized of the matter and in touch with airlines and the Ministry of External Affairs,” a senior government official told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

IndiGo and Air India announced that its flights for the day had been cancelled. IndiGo and SpiceJet announced their flights on Wednesday were also being cancelled.

A passenger scheduled to fly back on IndiGo’s 2

IndiGo, Air India and SpiceJet announced that their flights on Wednesday were also being cancelled

p.m. flight said the airline and airport abandoned them at the boarding gate.

“The airline staff told us to go through immigration after we reached the boarding gate, effectively asking us to leave the airport staff. We found our baggage thrown around near the baggage reclaim area. But leaving the airport would be foolhardy right now,” Preeti Choudhury told *The Hindu*.

She said plumes of smoke could be seen outside the airport possibly from tear gas shells used to disperse protesters. IndiGo and Air India aircraft were seen hovering over the airport and then returning without landing. Military trucks were seen arriving on the apron and at least one helicopter took off.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

पंतनगर-जेवर के बीच उड़ान सेवा अक्टूबर से होगी शुरू

- कार्यवाहक एयरपोर्ट निदेशक ने बताया कि ये सभी उड़ानें रोजाना की जाएंगी संचालित

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। पंतनगर

कुमाऊं के लिए हवाई संपर्क को और मजबूत करते हुए पंतनगर एयरपोर्ट से जेवर (नोएडा) के लिए सीधी उड़ान सेवा अगले माह से शुरू होने जा रही है। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन द्वारा जारी नई सारिणी के अनुसार, 26 अक्टूबर से प्रतिदिन तीन उड़ानें पंतनगर-जेवर रूट पर संचालित होंगी, जबकि एक और उड़ान आगामी जनवरी से जुड़ जाएगी।

अक्टूबर से तीन उड़ानें रोजाना इंडिगो और फ्लाइविंग एयरलाइंस की उड़ानें इस रूट पर संचालित की जाएंगी। इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई7667: जेवर से प्रातः 11:10 बजे पंतनगर पहुंचेगी और 11:30 पर जेवर के लिए रवाना होगी।



फ्लाइविंग फ्लाइट एस9-0302: दोपहर 12:15 बजे जेवर से पंतनगर पहुंचेगी और 12:35 पर वापस जेवर के लिए रवाना होगी। इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई7156: अपराह्न 3:45 बजे पंतनगर पहुंचेगी और 4:05 बजे जेवर के लिए उड़ान भरेगी। इसके अलावा, 26 जनवरी से इंडिगो की एक और उड़ान (6ई7324) इस रूट पर शुरू होगी। यह उड़ान दोपहर 1:00 बजे पंतनगर पहुंचेगी और 1:30 बजे जेवर के लिए रवाना होगी। कार्यवाहक एयरपोर्ट निदेशक अरुण गुप्ता ने बताया कि ये सभी उड़ानें रोजाना संचालित की जाएंगी, जिससे कुमाऊं से दिल्ली-एनसीआर तक की यात्रा और भी सुगम हो जाएगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

PM to visit Bihar's Purnea district : Deputy CM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Bihar's Purnea district next week to inaugurate an airport and launch development schemes worth around ₹45,000 crore, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said on Wednesday. Choudhary spoke to journalists in the north Bihar town after reviewing preparations for the PM's tour scheduled on September 15.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

SC stays court's order directing GMR Group to vacate farmhouse

Abhinav.Garg@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed an order of Delhi High Court directing Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) and other GMR Group entities to vacate a farmhouse in Pushpanjali Farms in southwest Delhi.

The sprawling property, spread over 3.8 acres with a 30,000 sq ft house, is currently being used by GMR Group chairperson GM Rao.

A bench of justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria granted an interim stay while issuing notice to Onkar Infotech on an appeal filed by DIAL, and posted the matter for Oct 29.

During the hearing, the bench asked DIAL if it was willing to vacate the premises "given sufficient time", but senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi pointed out that a monthly rent of Rs 60 lakh was being paid regularly and the lease could be extended until March 2028.

"He is not taking the rent happily, he is taking it with a pinch of salt," the court responded when Singhvi claimed that the new owner should not mind continuing with the present tenant.

Singhvi questioned how a "summary order be passed" in the case and invoked the Delhi Lands (Restriction on Transfer) Act, 1972. "The Act bars moving civil courts, yet HC examined the matter summarily under the Commercial Courts Act. It short-circuited crucial issues," he said, and maintained that the land in question is recorded as agricultural and disputes over it "remain triable".

Rebutting the claim, senior advocates C A Sundaram and P S Patwalia opposed any interim relief and contended that "usage of land is a key issue". Appearing for the current owner of the estate, Onkar Infotech, the counsels cited Supreme Court rulings relied upon by HC in its verdict to underscore that

the premises were being used as a residence.

Sundaram added that GMR Group conceded the property was being used as a residence, even if it was characterised as agricultural, and argued since the lease period expired in March, DIAL was in unlawful occupation of the farmhouse. Patwalia told the court that GMR Group wanted to buy the farmhouse for its chairman, but it was Onkar Infotech that purchased it, saying it was "an ego issue" for the CMD.

Last week, HC directed DIAL and GMR Group to vacate the premises following a petition by Onkar firm, also noting that the

DIAL COUNSEL SAYS

The Act bars moving civil courts, yet HC examined the matter summarily under the Commercial Courts Act. It short-circuited crucial issues and the property is agricultural land

lease between the erstwhile owner of the property, Indus Sor Urja Pvt Ltd, and DIAL was unregistered. In 2024, Onkar Infotech bought Pushpanjali Farms from Indus for Rs 115 crore through a registered sale deed and demanded possession, giving a 15-day notice to end the lease.

DIAL, however, claimed Pushpanjali property to be agricultural land for which the no-objection certificate or permission was not obtained from the authorities concerned under the Delhi Lands (Restrictions on Transfer) Act, 1972, read with Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954, for registration of the lease deed. HC rejected the argument, pointing out it was used only for the residential purpose of the DIAL CMD, and not for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

Trapped in chaos: B'lurean stuck at Kathmandu airport

Nithya.Mandyam
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: What was meant to be a spiritual journey to the Himalayas turned into a nightmare for 38-year-old Rajani Maski and her husband Raghuv eer Yavagal from Bengaluru. Maski, who travelled with a group of 130 devotees from Isha Foundation to Mansarovar, is now stranded at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport for over 24 hours, caught in the middle of Nepal's escalating political unrest.

"The airport gates are shut, they won't let us out, and the military and police are pushing us back inside. There is no food, no water, and no shops open to even buy something to eat," she told TOI. Like her, there are scores of people from Karnataka, especially Bengaluru, stranded in Nepal, waiting for help to return home.

Rajani and her husband were in Mansarovar, Nepal, for the past 10 days as part of a pilgrimage tour. "About 130 people travelled from Bengaluru on Aug 24 to Mansarovar and returned to Kathmandu on Monday at 10.30pm. But instead of pe-



STUCK: 500-1,000 travellers are stranded at Kathmandu airport, with 200 alone from Karnataka, said Rajani

“We are stuck in a closed room like prisoners. People are panicking, some are crying and others are falling sick. There is only one charging point for everyone, which makes it even more difficult to stay connected with our families back home



Rajani Maski | TRAVELLER FROM B'LURU

ce, we were welcomed by chaos on the streets.”

Rajani said, “There was smoke everywhere, and wooden planks and tyres were burning. There weren't many people on the streets, but a sense of fear lingered in the air.” She and her husband left for the airport on Tuesday, hoping to catch a 1pm flight to Bengaluru. However, their hopes vanished when they arrived at the terminal to

K'taka ensuring safe return of passengers

In the wake of largescale country-wide protests by students and youngsters gradually turning violent, chief minister Siddaramaiah has directed chief secretary Shalini Rajaneesh to ensure safe passage for stranded Kannadigas and safely bring them back to the state. The chief secretary has initiated discussions with authorities concerned to take up necessary measures.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson from Isha Foundation said: “All yatrins are safe and our team is taking care of them. We are in touch with the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu and are coordinating for their return.”

find shuttered gates, cancelled flights, and heavy barricades. Close to 500 to 1,000 passengers were packed into the airport, with nearly 200 from Karnataka alone, she claimed.

Several stranded passengers have been trying to book hotel rooms outside the airport. “Many are debating whether to leave the airport and find safer shelter, but the streets are chaotic,” she said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

एअर इंडिया-इंडिगो की अतिरिक्त उड़ानें

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो काठमांडो में फंसे भारतीयों को वापस लाने के लिए अतिरिक्त उड़ानें संचालित करेंगी। उन्होंने कहा, एयरलाइनों को किराया उचित रखने की सलाह दी गई है। नायडू ने बुधवार को सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में कहा, नेपाल में हवाई अड्डे बंद होने के कारण, कई यात्री काठमांडू से वापस नहीं लौट पाए। काठमांडो में हवाईअड्डे के खुलने के साथ ही, उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो के साथ समन्वय करके, बुधवार शाम और अगले कुछ दिनों में अतिरिक्त उड़ानों की व्यवस्था की है। बृहस्पतिवार से निर्धारित सेवाएं भी शुरू हो जाएंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Nepal airport reopens, India to operate additional flights to evacuate citizens

ARCHIS MOHAN & SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

New Delhi, 10 September

The Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in Kathmandu on Wednesday evening resumed operations, paving the way for the return of Indian nationals stranded in strife-torn Nepal. Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Wednesday that Air India and IndiGo will operate additional flights to Kathmandu to bring back people stuck in the Nepal capital. The minister also said that airlines have been advised to keep their fares within reasonable levels.

"Due to airport closure in Nepal, many home-bound passengers were unable to return from Kathmandu... With the opening of the airport operation in Kathmandu, @MoCA_GoI, in coordination with Air India & IndiGo, has arranged additional flights this evening & over the next few days, alongside scheduled services resuming tomorrow," Naidu said in a post on X. Over the past 24 hours, several Indian state governments, including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, have urged

the Centre and the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu to ensure the safety of the Indian nationals and arrange their evacuation. Many states have also launched special cells to assist their residents stranded in the violence-hit country. The Andhra Pradesh government has put an Indigo aircraft on standby in Delhi to evacuate 217 natives of the state by Thursday afternoon, state government officials said.

India's Ministry of External Affairs has also reached out to the Indian citizens stuck in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China as they were undertaking the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, organised by private tour operators, via Nepal. A delegation of officials from Nepal, which has been in New Delhi to discuss issues facing the neighbouring country's farm sector, would also be able to return to Nepal, sources said. The Tribhuvan airport had stopped air services on Tuesday and Wednesday following violent anti-government protests.

We are proud of our Constitution: CJI on turmoil in Nepal

Violent unrest in neighbouring Nepal and the constitutional breakdown in Bangladesh last year found mention in the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai, hearing the presidential reference on whether the court could impose timelines for governors and the president to deal with Bills passed by assemblies, made the remarks during the day-long hearing.

"We are proud of our Constitution. See what is happening in our neighbouring states, Nepal, we saw..." the CJI remarked.

"Yes, Bangladesh also..." Justice Vikram Nath said, while referring to similar protests that plagued Bangladesh last year.

Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned in the face of massive anti-government demonstrations on Tuesday, shortly after hundreds of agitators entered his office demanding his resignation for the death of at least 19 people in police action during Monday's protests over corruption and a social media ban. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

एयर इंडिया का एयर अस्ताना के साथ कोड शेयर समझौता

नई दिल्ली। टाटा समूह की विमान सेवा कंपनी एयर इंडिया ने कजाकिस्तान की प्रमुख एयरलाइंस एयर अस्ताना के साथ कोड शेयर समझौता किया है। एयर इंडिया ने बुधवार को बताया कि इस समझौते से दोनों एयरलाइंस के यात्रियों को ज्यादा विकल्प मिल सकेंगे। इसका मतलब है कि भारत से अलमाटी की उड़ानों पर एयर इंडिया का कोड होगा। यानी एयर इंडिया की वेबसाइट से अस्ताना के नेटवर्क पर टिकट बुक करा सकेंगे। मुंबई और दिल्ली के रास्ते अलमाटी जाने वाले एयर इंडिया के यात्रियों को अब एक ही टिकट बुक करानी होगी और एक ही चेक-इन में वे पूरी यात्रा कर सकेंगे। एयर इंडिया के प्रबंध निदेशक कैम्बेल विल्सन ने कहा कि इस कोड शेयर समझौते से कजाकिस्तान के साथ हवाई संपर्क मजबूत होगा। यह एक ऐसा बाजार है जो तेजी से बढ़ रहा है और जिसमें पर्यटन की काफी संभावनाएं हैं। इससे पर्यटन के लिए अलमाटी जाने वाले लोगों के अलावा दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान को भी लाभ होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

AI, Indigo cancel some Nepal flights

New Delhi, Kathmandu, Sept. 9: Air India and IndiGo are among the airlines that cancelled their flights connecting Kathmandu on Tuesday as the airport in Nepal's capital has been temporarily closed amid anti-government protests in the neighbouring nation. Nepal Airlines also cancelled its flight from Delhi to Kathmandu on Tuesday.

—PTI

Air India, IndiGo Ramp Up Kathmandu Flights

Additional services resume after Nepal airport reopens

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Air India and IndiGo will operate additional flights to Kathmandu to repatriate stranded passengers following the reopening of the international airport in Nepal's capital on Wednesday. The airport suspended operations the day before following violent Gen Z-led protests.

"With the opening of the airport operation in Kathmandu, @MoCA_GoI, in coordination with Air India & IndiGo, has arranged additional flights this evening & over the next few days, alongside scheduled services resuming tomorrow. Airlines have been advised to keep their fares within reasonable levels," civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu posted on X.

Hundreds of Indian travelers had been unable to return home as the Tribhuvan International Airport halted opera-



Passengers at Tribhuvan Airport in Kathmandu after its reopening

tions on Tuesday when youth-led demonstrations spilled into the streets of Kathmandu, disrupting public life and raising safety concerns. The swift mobilisation of flights is aimed at clearing the backlog while keeping fares in check.

Air India mounted special services to clear the backlog. "Air India is operating special flights today and tomorrow from Delhi to Kathmandu and back to help passengers who have been stranded due to the recent developments in Nepal. Our scheduled operations will also resume from tomorrow," the airline said, adding it was working with government agencies to facilitate travel.

Nepal has been gripped by unprecedented youth-driven

demonstrations over unemployment, political corruption, and disenchantment with the ruling political establishment. The unrest has paralysed daily life in Kathmandu, forced a temporary airport shutdown and heightened concerns in the region about instability in the Himalayan nation.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued an advisory asking Indians to defer travel until stability returns. "Indian citizens presently in Nepal are advised to shelter in their current places of residence, avoid going out onto the streets and exercise all due caution. They are also advised to follow local safety advisories from Nepal authorities as well as the Embassy of India in Kathmandu," the MEA said.

EQUIVALENT TO 5 YEARS' REMUNERATION SpiceJet Pays ₹32-cr Advance to Ajay Singh Amid Financial Trouble

Interest-free amount will be adjusted from his salary, says airline

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh has received an advance payment of ₹32 crore from the budget airline. The interest-free amount is almost equivalent to Singh's total remuneration for the next five years and it would be adjusted from his salary, SpiceJet said in its FY25 annual report. The advance payment is in addition to the ₹7.2 crore paid to Singh as remuneration for the last fiscal year.

A SpiceJet spokesperson said the advance was extended in line with the company's policies and is not prejudicial to the interest of the company.

"This was not a grant or a special dispensation but a simple advance as per policy, which is being adjusted from monthly salary. The advance is being already repaid, and the balance continues to be recovered in a structured manner," the spokesperson said.

SpiceJet's advance payment to its promoter comes at a time when the airline is struggling financially with more than half of its fleet grounded, hindering its ability to compete against rivals besides squeezing operational cash flows. The airline's market share in the domestic sector fell to a historic low of 1.9%.

While SpiceJet had raised ₹3,000 crore from institutional investors last year and had promised to scale up to 40 aircraft by March, further increasing it to 100 by 2026-end, it hasn't been able to do so due to supply chain shortage and parts supplier and lessors turning cautious due to the airline's pending dues.

Out of the 54 aircraft in its fleet, it has only 21 aircraft operating and is left with only ₹333 crore in free cash as of June-end. A large portion of that has been used primarily for clearing statutory dues like goods and services tax



(GST), tax deducted at source (TDS), and provident fund.

The spokesperson said all dues concerning provident fund and TDS have been cleared.

"Promoter taking advance salary when the company is under financial stress is not a good governance practice. The board can put out a dissent note in such cases," said Shiriram Subramanian, MD of proxy advisory firm InGovern Research.

The financial troubles have also been hampering SpiceJet's daily operations with its on-time performance being the poorest and cancellation rate the highest among all airlines in July.

It has a token presence on top metro routes like Delhi-Mumbai.

SpiceJet said it has been able to settle with lessors and business partners. For a few lessors, it has been able to restructure their debt into equity. On Monday, it said that it has completed a payment of \$24 million to Credit Suisse as part of its settlement agreed upon in May 2022. The airline is also trying to increase capacity in the winter season by inducting 10 Boeing 737 aircraft on short-term lease while discussions are underway for additional inductions of narrowbody and widebody aircraft during October and November 2025.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

LUCKNOW

4 Nepal-bound flights diverted

IndiGo, FlyDubai, and Thai Lion flights from Delhi/Dubai/Bangkok landed at Amausi Airport due to Kathmandu unrest. Passengers provided amenities pending situation normalization.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

विमान सेवा प्रभावित, चार उड़ानें लखनऊ डायवर्ट

लखनऊ। काठमांडू में जारी विरोध प्रदर्शनों का असर हवाई यात्रा पर भी पड़ा है। काठमांडू के त्रिभुवन अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर स्थिति खराब होने के कारण तीन अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को लखनऊ के चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर डायवर्ट किया गया है। लखनऊ में तीनों विमानों में ईंधन भरने के बाद उनको वापस यात्रा प्रारंभ करने वाले एयरपोर्ट रवाना कर दिया गया। वहीं, एक विमान को लखनऊ वायु क्षेत्र से ही दिल्ली डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों ने बताया कि इंडिगो का विमान 6ई-1153 दिल्ली से जा रहा था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Air India and IndiGo to operate special flights

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Air India and IndiGo will be operating special flights to Kathmandu to bring back stranded Indians following violent protests that resulted in the airport shutting down for over 24 hours since Tuesday afternoon.

“Many home-bound passengers were unable to return from Kathmandu. With the opening of the airport operation in

Kathmandu, @MoCA_GoI, in coordination with Air India & IndiGo, has arranged additional flights this evening & over the next few days,” Minister for Civil Aviation K. Ram Mohan Naidu wrote in a post on X.

Meanwhile, Kathmandu’s Tribhuvan International Airport resumed flight operations and various airlines announced resumption of flight services from Thursday.

{ AVIATION REFORM, AMID RESISTANCE }

A new licensing system that will shake up pilot training

Anjali Bhargava



Indian aviation finds itself at the crossroads—again. Currently, the country of 1.4 billion is being serviced by a total of 850-odd aircraft (many are grounded due to various constraints at any point) but by 2040, based on the aircraft on order, another 1,200 should be added to the country's total fleet strength.

The shortage of commanders and pilots to operate this fleet is already at around 15-20% as per industry estimates, and is expected to rise as airlines begin to induct their new aircraft. Consulting firm CAPA has estimated that India will need another 10,000 new captains in the next decade, till 2034. Airbus has further projected that the country—based on its present aircraft orders—will require 34,000 new pilots by the year 2040.

Individual airlines are also fearing an acute shortage that could throw their plans awry as they go forward. IndiGo, the country's largest airline, which currently has around 5,300 commanders and first officers (with around 400 under training at any point) expects to double this by 2030 based on current fleet induction plans. The Tata group has recently announced plans to set up a new academy to prepare crew for its own growing needs for all the carriers under their

fold. Airline executives also say that unlike in the past when commanding an aircraft was considered a glamorous and a coveted career, today's young people have a plethora of options with equally lucrative salaries. "We have seen the enthusiasm wane when we make campus pitches", says a senior IndiGo manager.

To overcome this yawning gap, airlines have thrown their weight behind a new pathway—a multi-crew pilots licence—which would alter the way pilots are trained in India currently. The existing system of training and readying pilots is such that pilots train on smaller aircraft and earn a commercial pilot's licence (CPL). CPL licence holders then have to undergo extensive training to work in a commercial airliner.

India has long had a shortage of CPL training organisations and a large number of aspirants travel overseas to the US and other countries to earn the licence. After this they apply and hope to get picked up by one of the Indian commercial airlines to undergo extensive training to be fit to fly as first officer. While CPL training within India has gone up, the current process is likely to worsen the shortage as can be seen from the data. In 2020, 574 CPL licences were issued. This number rose by 49%, 35% and 47% for the next three years but 2024 has seen a drop in the number of CPL licences issued.

The multi-crew licence was

introduced by ICAO in 2006 and is now accepted in almost 50 countries including several European ones, UAE, UK and many in South East Asia including Malaysia and Thailand. While India has so far desisted from joining the many countries who have adopted this, in July the director general of civil aviation (DGCA) set up a committee to examine the move. The matter was previously examined in detail by a committee set up in 2017, which recommended permitting multi-crew licensing and suggested ways of improving the existing licensing system as well. With the pandemic, the entire matter was put on the back burner but in view of the growth in aviation post pandemic, the expected crew shortage has fuelled a relook.

Why airlines argue it's the way forward

The multi-crew licensing system is an airline-led programme involving three entities: the airline, the flying training organisation (FTO) and the Aircraft Training Organisation (which provides simulator training) and is a competency based programme that allows the copilot to train in a multi-crew environment right from the beginning of their training. Instead of starting on a small, single engine aircraft, the new licence qualifies the holder to perform co-pilot duties on aeroplanes operated with more than one pilot.

What this effectively means is that the trainee will do 40-80 hours of basic flying (some solo and cross country) and then will



Airlines have thrown their weight behind a new pathway, a multi-crew pilots licence, which would alter the way pilots are trained. PTI

do almost 140-180 hours of intense simulator based training. "As things stand, a pilot undergoing training learns what he requires to know in about 70 hours of flying on a single engine plane and then he flies around with little clear purpose to tot up his hours to 200 but the learning is very little", explains a senior IndiGo executive.

In contrast, the MPL allows "competency based training" which would train the pilot as per the specific airline's needs in the nine competencies required right from day one instead of "wasting time chalking up flying hours". A senior Air India executive says that MPL will improve safety practices as currently airlines typically put CPL holders

airlines who are trying to squeeze out more profits from a business known for its thin margins although airlines argue that the cost saving if any at all would be negligible. In fact they argue that the airline would be more deeply vested and invest more time and effort in each candidate since MPL is an airline led programme.

"Pilots need actual flying experience and such extensive use of simulators cannot replace the actual flying" says Jati Dhillon, a former senior commander and managing director of GATI, a flying school. He argues that the fact that countries like the US and Canada do not allow MPL means that it is a sub-optimal solution to a problem of scarcity.

Dhillon fears that the move to MPL could spell the death knell for the 38-odd FTOs across India including the government owned IGRUA, an argument the airlines rubbish. They argue that the CPL system would still continue and that flying schools can produce more CPL holders with the same number of aircraft since candidates only need to do around 70 hours of flying instead of 200. "On the contrary, before a candidate goes in for a MPL licence, he in any case has to do 70 hours of flying in a smaller aircraft so the system would exist in parallel", says an airline executive.

Several senior commanders including former IAF personnel echo the view that MPL graduates risk becoming "flight managers" for a specific aircraft type rather than fully developed aviators with a keener and nuanced

understanding of piloting in real life situations.

"If we want to place good managers in the cockpit instead of skilled aviators, then this might be the way to go", says a senior Air India commander who has been a flight instructor for years now. He argues that too much reliance on automation has its own pitfalls, as we have seen of late in several safety incidents and accidents.

According to a former DGCA chief, this is nothing but the classic divide between the old and the new and the usual resistance to change. "MPL training relies more heavily on simulator and multi-crew training, with less solo flying in actual aircraft and will lead to reduced manual flying skills. Many of the old guard oppose an overdependence on automation and would rather stick to the tried and tested model", he explains. Resistance to change, he says, is at the crux of this but to argue that it is not tested is not true since the licensing system has been working across countries and airlines since 2013 with no clear negative repercussions.

Other glaring gaps

While MPL is being viewed as a "fait accompli" since the matter was studied by a committee in 2017 that endorsed it, the regulatory and oversight framework needs to be worked out carefully, say airline executives.

Meanwhile, commanders and crew across airlines point to many other reforms that need to be looked into by DGCA including the system of expiry of pilot

licences. In some ICAO member countries, the authorities issue non-expiring licences and the regulator only has to ensure that the licence holder meets the recency and competency criteria. "This would obviate a lot of harassment faced by crew currently as getting one's licence renewed by DGCA officials is a big pain point and a leverage for the officials involved", says a senior commander. This is also an area of petty corruption as many DGCA officers use this to arm twist, seek small monetary favours from or generally harass a pilot.

Another demand and recommendation of the 2017 committee is that DGCA follow the system established by ICAO regarding type-ratings/class ratings for both aeroplanes and helicopters, which is based on single-pilot and two/multi-pilot operation instead of type-rating for individual aircraft, based on weight categories of aircraft. This will also obviate the need for individual type-rating for every aircraft, which causes additional workload.

Crew and other airline executives allege that several of the proposed reforms remain on paper as the DGCA and its officials do not want to lose their relevance and control and would like to maintain the status quo. But, as the saying goes, in an ever changing world, change is the only constant.

Anjali Bhargava writes about governance, infrastructure, and the social sector.

The views expressed are personal



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

As airport reopens, AI and IndiGo add flights

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: With Nepal's Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) reopening on Wednesday after being shut due to unrest in the country, Indian airlines will commence operating both scheduled and additional flights.

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu posted on X and said, "Due to airport closure in Nepal, many home-bound passengers were unable to return from Kathmandu. With the opening of the airport operation in Kathmandu, @MoCA_Gol, in coordination with Air India & IndiGo, has arranged additional flights this evening & over the next few days, alongside scheduled services resuming tomorrow. Airlines have been advised to keep their fares within reason-

able levels. We remain committed to supporting our passengers while ensuring their safe travel during this time."

Officials aware of the development said charter flights by a few Indian states were also planned to rescue passengers stranded in Nepal. "Most of the stranded passengers are from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh," one official said. Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "The first flight, an Air India flight 221, departed Delhi at 8.30 pm and is expected to land in Nepal at 10.20 pm local time. The remaining flights will operate from Thursday morning."

"The challenge was to bring the airport and ground staff to the airport. They were, however, escorted by the military in order to be able to reopen the airport," he added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025



The agreement grants HAL a non-exclusive, non-transferable licence to SSLV technology. www

HAL inks SSLV tech transfer agreement

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday signed a technology transfer agreement for the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). The SSLV is a three-stage launch vehicle designed to place satellites weighing less than 500kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Under the contract, HAL will absorb the technology in the first two years, followed by a 10-year production phase, the company said in a press release. The agreement grants HAL a non-exclusive, non-transferable licence to the SSLV technology, covering design, manufacturing, quality control, integration, launch operations, post-flight analysis, training, and support. HAL will be responsible for mass production of SSLVs to cater to domestic and global demand, it added. "HAL will work closely with IN-SPACe, ISRO, and NSIL to absorb, indigenise, and commercialise the SSLV technology, ensuring the highest standards of quality and reliability in small satellite launch services," HAL CMD D. K. Sunil said. PTI



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

दूसरे दिन भी पुणे से देरी से आई फ्लाइट

जयपुर @ पत्रिका. जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर पुणे से रात में आने वाली फ्लाइट का संचालन लगातार प्रभावित हो रहा है, जिससे यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइन की रात 9:50 बजे पुणे से जयपुर आने वाली फ्लाइट सोमवार को करीब पौने एक घंटे की देरी से जयपुर पहुंची। यह लगातार दूसरा दिन था जब यह फ्लाइट देर से आई। एयरलाइन ने देरी की वजह ऑपरेशनल बताई है। इसके अलावा, इंडिगो एयरलाइन की बेंगलूरु से शाम को आने वाली फ्लाइट भी आधे घंटे की देरी से जयपुर पहुंची। वहीं, जयपुर से शाम 6:40 बजे नई दिल्ली जाने वाली फ्लाइट भी निर्धारित समय से आधे घंटे की देरी से रवाना हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

इंडिगो एयरलाइन्स की उड़ान को आपात स्थिति में लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर पड़ा उतरना

स्वतंत्र भारत ब्यूरो लखनऊ। मंगलवार दोपहर दिल्ली से काठमांडू जा रही इंडिगो एयरलाइन्स की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ान को आपात स्थिति में लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर उतारना पड़ा। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों ने बताया कि नेपाल में सोशल मीडिया बैन होने से चल रहे बवाल की वजह से काठमांडू एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को विमान संचालन बंद कर दिया गया। इसकी वजह से अन्य स्थानों से काठमांडू जाने वाले विमान वहाँ एयरपोर्ट पर नहीं उतर सके, बल्कि उन्हें अन्य एयरपोर्ट पर डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। जिसके चलते मंगलवार को दिल्ली से काठमांडू पहुंची इंडिगो की उड़ान संख्या 6ई-1153 दोपहर लगभग 2-30 बजे काठमांडू एयरपोर्ट के रनवे पर नहीं उतर सकी, बल्कि उसे लखनऊ डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। जिसकी वजह से वह काठमांडू एयरपोर्ट के ऊपर हवा में चक्कर लगाने के बाद लखनऊ चली आयी। विमान में उस समय कुल 160 यात्री और छह चालक दल के सदस्य सवार थे। इसी तरह दुबई से काठमांडू जा रही फ्लाई

दुबई की उड़ान एफजेड 539 को डायवर्ट कर लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर दोपहर 3.25 बजे उतारा गया। वहीं मुम्बई से काठमांडू जा रही इंडिगो की उड़ान 6ई-1157 को डायवर्ट कर लखनऊ उतारा गया और फिर इसे दिल्ली भेज दिया गया। जबकि बैकाक के डॉन मुआंग अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से काठमांडू जा रही थाई लायन एयर की उड़ान टीएलएम- 220 को दोपहर 3.05 बजे लखनऊ में उतारा गया। फिलहाल अभी यह उड़ने लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर खड़ी है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल से समन्वय कर विमान को सुरक्षित रूप से लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड कराया गया। यात्रियों की सुरक्षा को लेकर एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन पूरी तरह सतर्क रहा। सभी विमानों के यात्री और चालक दल सुरक्षित हैं। एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों को हर संभव सुविधा मुहैया कराने का आश्वासन दिया है। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों के मुताबिक, काठमांडू एयरपोर्ट पर स्थिति सामान्य होने के बाद उड़ान आगे खाना हो सका।



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THE STATESMAN

DELHI

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

Four international flights bound for Kathmandu diverted to Lucknow

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, 9 September

At least four international flights going to Kathmandu have been diverted to Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow on Tuesday due to violence in Nepal.

According to airport sources here, Indigo Airlines flight 6E-1153, going from Delhi to Kathmandu, was diverted at 2:30 p.m. There were 160 passengers and six crew members on board the plane.

After circling for some time over Kathmandu airport, the plane was diverted towards Lucknow. In coordination with the air traffic control, the plane landed safely at Lucknow airport. The FlyDubai flight FZ-539 from Dubai to Kathmandu was diverted and landed at Lucknow airport at 3:25 pm. IndiGo flight 6E-1157 from Mumbai to Kathmandu was diverted and landed at Lucknow and then sent to Delhi.



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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

Air India, IndiGo cancel Kathmandu flights

AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: Air India and IndiGo on Tuesday temporarily suspended all flights to and from Kathmandu in view of the upheaval in Nepal.

The decision came after the temporary closure of Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport that left many travellers, including Indians, stranded. Three Indian flights bound for Nepal were diverted to Delhi and Lucknow.

An Air India spokesperson said four to-and-fro flights between Delhi and Kathmandu were cancelled on Tuesday. IndiGo said it had cancelled all flights to Kathmandu, where the Himalayan nation's primary international airport is located.

"In view of the current situation prevailing in Kathmandu, the following flights AI2231/2232, AI2219/2220, AI217/218 and AI211/212 op-

erating on the Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi route have been cancelled today. We are closely monitoring the situation and will share further updates. At Air India, the safety of our passengers and crew remains the top priority," the airline spokesperson said.

Air India operates six flights to and from Kathmandu. Before the cancellations, two flights had made to-and-fro journeys between Delhi and Kathmandu.

Among the four other flights, one had reached the Nepal capital but returned to Delhi after failing to get landing clearance.

A source told news agency PTI that another flight turned back after noticing smoke at Kathmandu airport.

Two IndiGo flights, Delhi-Kathmandu and Mumbai-Kathmandu, were diverted to Lucknow after failing to receive clearance at the airport in Nepal.

In an X post, IndiGo issued the following travel advisory: "In view of the prevailing situation in Kathmandu, the airport has been closed for operations. Consequently, all flights to and from Kathmandu stand suspended as of now.

"If your travel is impacted, you may conveniently opt for an alternate flight or claim a refund by visiting our website. We are closely monitoring the developments and coordinating with local authorities to resume operations at the earliest. Customers are advised to keep checking our official channels for the latest advisories and updates."

Nepal Airlines also reportedly cancelled flights on the Delhi-Kathmandu route.

Many passengers were stranded at Kathmandu airport. A social media user complained on X: "My wife and many other passengers are stuck at the airport. Need urgent assistance, airport shut down."



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

AI, IndiGo run special flights to help Indians return home

New Delhi: Indians stranded in Nepal will have special flights operated by Air India and IndiGo to choose from along with regular services if they want to fly back home, aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Wednesday after the Kathmandu airport reopened.

The Union govt asked airlines to cap fares "at reasonable levels", pre-empting the possibility of dynamic pricing kicking in as demand peaks. An AI flight took off from Delhi Wednesday night and is expected back early Thursday.

"...With the opening of the airport operation in Kathmandu, the aviation ministry in coordination with Air India & IndiGo, has arranged additional flights Wednesday evening & over the next few days, alongside scheduled services resuming Thursday," Naidu wrote on X.

Air India Express, which has a daily flight between Bengaluru and Kathmandu, offered guests booked to travel to or from Nepal up to Sept 17, 2025, the flexibility to freely reschedule their journeys to any future travel date with a complete waiver of change fees or any fare difference. TNN



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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

MEA issues advisory as unrest rocks Nepal

SpiceJet cancels all Sep 10 flights, IndiGo suspends Kathmandu ops until further notice

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9
India on Tuesday issued a strong advisory to its citizens in view of the worsening situation in Nepal, where violent protests since yesterday have claimed several young lives.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it was "deeply saddened by the loss of many young lives" and urged all sides in Nepal to "exercise restraint and address issues through peaceful means and dialogue."

Noting that authorities had imposed curfew in Kathmandu and several other cities, the MEA advised Indian nationals in Nepal to stay indoors and follow local safety advisories. "Indian citizens presently in Nepal are advised to shelter in their current places of residence, avoid going out onto the streets and exercise all due caution," the statement said. It also urged Indians to defer non-essential travel to Nepal until the situation stabilises.

For assistance, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu has made available two helpline numbers (+977-980 860 2881 and +977-981



A protester carries a weapon, snatched from the police, outside Parliament in Nepal. PTI

AMID UPSURGE IN VIOLENCE, SSB ON HIGH ALERT ALONG FRONTIER

New Delhi: With political turmoil engulfing Nepal, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), which guards India's frontiers with the Himalayan kingdom, has been put on high alert. As per sources, the situation is under control as no untoward incident has been reported near the India-Nepal frontiers. "We are keeping a close watch even though the violence is happening on the other side of the frontier," an official said on conditions of anonymity. — 116

032 6134), which can also be reached via WhatsApp.

The unrest has severely hit travel as Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport has been shut down. Indian airlines have announced cancellations

and waivers for affected passengers.

Air India said passengers with confirmed bookings to or from Kathmandu until September 11, on tickets issued up to September 9, would be eligible for a one-time waiver

on rescheduling charges.

SpiceJet cancelled all flights to and from Kathmandu for September 10, informing passengers through SMS and email. IndiGo also suspended its Kathmandu operations

ARMY TO TAKE CHARGE OF SECURITY

■ The Nepal army on Tuesday said that it will take charge of security operations from 10 pm, hours after prime minister K P Sharma Oli resigned following 27 hours of violent protests in Kathmandu and other parts of the country.

■ In a statement issued by the Directorate of Public Relations and Information, the army said that "some groups are taking undue advantage of the difficult situation and causing severe damage to ordinary citizens and public property".

■ It warned that all security mechanisms, including the Nepal army, will be mobilised to contain the violence if such activities continue.

■ The Nepal army also appealed for public cooperation. In a video message, army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel asked the protesting groups to suspend their agitation and engage in dialogue.

until further notice, offering passengers the option of alternate flights or refunds.

Airlines said they were closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with local authorities to restore services as soon as possible.