

Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

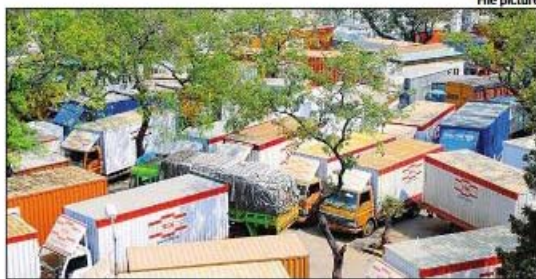
10 OCTOBER 2026

AAI buys 19 acres to ease truck traffic near airport cargo terminal

Expect Less Jam On GST Road Soon

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Chennai: Congestion on the GST Road is expected to decrease considerably as the Airports Authority of India has acquired 19.06 acres of land behind the Meenam-bakkam metro station for ₹278 crore to enhance the parking facilities for goods



PACKED: Hundreds of trucks are parked daily on the roadside due to a shortage of parking space around the cargo terminal

carriers that make a beeline for the Chennai airport's cargo terminal.

Hundreds of trucks are

parked daily on the roadside due to a shortage of parking space around the cargo terminal. AI Assets Holding

Ltd officially transferred the land parcel to AAI on Monday. This land was once a residential colony of erstwhile Indian Airlines employees.

"There is a stadium in the colony, which would be immediately converted into a parking lot for vehicles that come to deliver and pick up goods from the cargo terminal. Some demolition work is needed to increase parking space further. Three different proposals are under review to develop the 19.06 acres, keeping the long-term needs of the airport in mind," said an AAI official.

Chennai airport's cargo terminal handles about 400 tonnes of export and 800 tonnes of import cargo daily, nearly 30% more than last year. The cargo terminal sees a rush of goods carriers between 3pm and 8pm for at least four days a week.

Traffic on GST Road is affected in the evening as trucks and private buses park on both sides near the airport. The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) has been urging AAI to shift the cargo terminal to the rear side of the airport to reduce congestion.

Corporate Communications Directorate

AHMEDABAD MIRROR

AHMEDABAD

10 OCTOBER 2026

Customs seize five gold biscuits worth Rs 88.97 lakh

Dubai passenger concealed 582.7 gms of gold inside trouser pocket at airport

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
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Posts @ahmedabadmirror

Customs officials have seized five gold biscuits worth Rs 88.97 lakh from a passenger arriving from Dubai at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Friday. The 43-year-old passenger from Bharuch allegedly concealed 24-carat gold in a plastic wrapping inside his trouser pocket.

According sources, the passenger arrived aboard Flydubai flight FZ437. His suspicious movements and unsatisfactory responses during questioning prompted officials to subject him to further screening.

Although his baggage had passed through the green channel, a door-frame metal detector flashed a red signal when he was asked to walk through it, raising suspicions.

A subsequent physical search led to the recovery of five gold biscuits weighing 582.7 grams. The seized gold was valued at Rs 88,97,829.

The latest seizure comes around a



month after Customs officials investigated two passengers from Surat who had arrived from Dubai in a separate gold-smuggling case.

The seizure comes amid continued fluctuations and an overall rise in gold prices in international markets, with the impact also being felt in Ahmedabad's retail jewellery market. Market sources said customers purchasing 10 grams of gold jewellery in Ahmedabad could pay approximately Rs 1,54,500, including 3% GST and a bill, while the price without a bill was around Rs 1,51,500. Gold prices have fluctuated but generally moved upwards over the past week. Prices reportedly rose by around Rs 1,700 to Rs 2,000 in the preceding 48 hours.

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

Upgrade plan: Airlines ask Mumbai airport for T 1 structural safety reports

CLEAR PLAN. Airlines body also asked for a detailed redevelopment plan, including its scope and firm timelines

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Airlines have asked Mumbai airport to share structural safety reports of Terminal 1 (T1) ahead of the October 13 meeting to firm up reduction of flights.

The meeting is being held on the intervention of the Civil Aviation Ministry which put on hold reduction of 265 international flights from October 26. On October 1 Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) proposed reduction of the flights in view of planned redevelopment of T1 due to safety concerns.

In a letter to MIAL, the Airline Operators Committee (AOC) asked for an update on structural safety of T1. "There have been references to structural safety of T1 by MIAL at various forums. The AOC would like to review independent consultant reports that established such concerns," it has said.

The airlines also asked for a de-



UPCOMING RENOVATION Mumbai airport has planned to redevelop a portion of terminal 1B from January 2027 REUTERS

tailed redevelopment plan for T1, including its scope, phase-wise execution plan and firm timelines.

While airlines are supporting safe and timely development of T1, AOC has requested for details of actual capacity utilisation of Terminal 1 and 2 along with declared capacity.

"The AOC member airlines wish to place on record that the proposed 33 per cent reduction (of flights) has not been discussed with or agreed by the AOC committee or the affected

AOC member airlines and is currently being proposed as an unilateral measure," it said.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE

MIAL in its October 1 letter had said airlines were called for stakeholder meeting on September 16. "A number of airline partners chose not to participate in the meeting. MIAL nevertheless remains committed to continued stakeholder engagement and reiterates that the development

programme and implementation timelines remain unchanged," it said.

Mumbai airport plans to redevelop a portion of Terminal 1B from January. The airport said the 60-year-old Terminal is in need of repairs. It said the partial closure of Terminal 1B will not impact 90 per cent of city's air traffic. Further, it said the airlines have been an option to temporarily relocate operations to Navi Mumbai.

"With Navi Mumbai International Airport now operational and capable of providing an alternative option for airlines and travellers, the planned closure and phased demolition of T1 can no longer be deferred," it added.

Navi Mumbai Airport is offering a 100 per cent discount on landing fees for new international flights. In addition, it plans to offer cash vouchers to international passengers to offset the difference in the User Development Fee levied at Navi Mumbai and Mumbai airports.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

10 OCTOBER 2026

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट देश के टॉप-15 में, लेकिन सालभर में 68 हजार यात्री घटे; फ्लाइट्स भी 15 प्रतिशत कम

जुलाई के मुकाबले अगस्त में 14 हजार यात्री और 206 फ्लाइट मूवमेंट बढ़े, देश में 14वें स्थान पर पहुंचा

जयपुर | जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट अगस्त में देश के 15 सबसे व्यस्त एयरपोर्ट की सूची में फिर शामिल हो गया। जुलाई के मुकाबले करीब 14 हजार यात्री बढ़े, लेकिन पिछले साल अगस्त से तुलना करें तो तस्वीर उलट है। इस बार 68 हजार यात्री कम रहे और फ्लाइट संचालन भी 14.8% घट गया। यानी महीने-दर-महीने सुधार के बावजूद एयरपोर्ट पिछले साल के स्तर तक नहीं पहुंच पाया। अगस्त 2026 में जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से 3.67 लाख यात्रियों का आवागमन हुआ, जबकि जुलाई में 3.53 लाख यात्री थे। इस तरह एक महीने में करीब 4% बढ़ोतरी हुई। हालांकि अगस्त 2025 में 4.35 लाख यात्रियों ने सफर किया था। सालाना आधार पर यात्रीभार में 15.5% की गिरावट दर्ज हुई। जून में टॉप-15 से बाहर रहा जयपुर एयरपोर्ट अगस्त में 14वें स्थान पर पहुंच गया।

फ्लाइट मूवमेंट: एक महीने में 206 बढ़े, सालभर में 490 घटे

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर जुलाई में 2615 फ्लाइट मूवमेंट हुए थे, जो अगस्त में बढ़कर 2821 हो गए। हालांकि पिछले साल अगस्त में 3311 मूवमेंट हुए थे। यानी इस बार 490 कम रहे। अगस्त में रोज औसतन 91 फ्लाइट मूवमेंट हुए, यानी प्रतिदिन करीब 45 से 46 डिपार्टर। एविएशन सेक्टर में ईंधन की बढ़ती लागत, महंगे हवाई किराए और एयरलाइंस की ओर से फ्लाइट कटौती को यात्रीभार घटाने की संभावित वजह माना जा रहा है। अब पर्यटन सीजन शुरू होने के साथ अक्टूबर से दिसंबर के बीच यात्रीभार और फ्लाइट संचालन में सुधार की उम्मीद है। हालांकि सवाल है कि पर्यटन सीजन में जयपुर से नई फ्लाइटें शुरू नहीं हुईं और बंद रूट बहाल नहीं हुए तो क्या यात्रीभार पिछले साल के स्तर तक पहुंच पाएगा?

अगस्त 2025 में सबसे ज्यादा यात्री

अवधि	यात्रीभार	फ्लाइट मूवमेंट
अगस्त 2025	4.35 लाख	3311
जुलाई 2026	3.53 लाख	2615
अगस्त 2026	3.67 लाख	2821
सालाना बदलाव	15.5%	14.8%



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICAL

HYDERABAD

10 OCTOBER 2026

Noida airport named after Modi

**DC CORRESPONDENT
WITH AGENCY INPUTS**
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, OCT.
9

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Friday approved a proposal to rename the Noida International Airport at Jewar as 'Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said. Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Adityanath described the airport as a major gift to Uttar Pradesh and expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister. "The Council of Ministers of Uttar Pradesh expresses its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

for gifting the state the Noida International Airport at Jewar. The Cabinet has approved a proposal to name it Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar," he said. Adityanath said the airport was set to become the state's largest and a major aviation hub in the country. The Cabinet also expressed appreciation for Modi's leadership and continued commitment to Uttar Pradesh. "The Council of Ministers reiterates its resolve to work continuously with full dedication, energy and commitment to realise the vision of a developed UP and a developed India by

2047," he said. Modi laid the foundation stone for the greenfield airport on November 25, 2021, and inaugurated its first phase on March 28, 2026. Commercial flights began on June 15. Developed under a public-private partnership between the Uttar Pradesh government and Zurich Airport International AG, it is the Delhi-NCR region's second international airport and aims to strengthen regional logistics and connectivity. The first phase covers approximately 1,334 hectares, or more than 3,300 acres. Expansion plans envisage an area exceeding 5,000 hectares, with the project billed as

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGLORE

10 OCTOBER 2026

KIA to begin simultaneous runway departures next year

Operations to boost
hourly air traffic by 50%

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Simultaneous departures from both runways at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) are expected to begin next year, as air traffic control (ATC) equipment integration, safety verification and the development of operating procedures remain underway.

While Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operator, has not announced an official deadline for the semi-mixed mode operations to kick off, BIAL representatives had informally shared with *DH* that the procedures would likely begin in September 2026. However, well-placed sources now say the process would take longer, with commissioning expected only early next year.

"The equipment installation is complete, but integration into the ATC automation system and verification and testing are in progress. Once all the problems are resolved,

we are hoping it will be commissioned early next year," an Airport Authority of India (AAI) official told *DH*.

The delay comes even as the Bengaluru airport has begun trials of its new Point Merge system, an air traffic management procedure introduced in September.

The system is designed to streamline arriving aircraft by organising them along structured routes before directing them towards the runway, helping controllers manage traffic more efficiently.

However, the Point Merge system for managing arrivals is distinct from the infrastructure and procedures required to enable simultaneous departures from both runways.

The equipment for simultaneous departures, including Surface Movement Radars (SMRs), is intended to monitor aircraft movements and alert controllers to deviations from designated flight paths. A new ATC automation system will also provide safety alerts to help controllers manage si-

RUNWAY UPGRADE

Two in operation

- Currently, KIA has two runways: north and south
- Runways are operated in a staggered manner
- South runway handles departures during peak hours
- North runway handles departures during non-peak hours

Capacity boost

- Hourly air traffic movements expected to increase from 60 to 90
- Daily aircraft movements currently at 700, down from 840 amid West Asia tensions

What's changing? Simultaneous departures from both runways expected to begin early next year



The airport now operates its two runways in a staggered manner. *DH* PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

multaneous operations.

The official said procedures were being developed cautiously, with initial trials for the partial runway progressing successfully, despite changing wind directions acting as a hurdle.

Simultaneous runway operations carry risks if an aircraft deviates from its designated path and moves closer to another aircraft taking off or landing on the adjacent runway. The new surveillance equipment and automation system are expected to help controllers detect and respond to such situations.

Currently, the airport operates its two runways in a staggered manner. "During peak hours, the south runway is used for departures, while the north runway is used during non-peak hours. Simultaneous departures, along with other improvements, can increase the airport's air traffic movements (ATM) from 60 ATMs per hour to 90," he added.

Currently, the airport sees around 700 ATMs per day, after air traffic was impacted by the West Asia tensions, bringing down the number of ATMs from 840.

Once the semi-mixed mode operations are introduced, it could take around two years for operations to stabilise fully as procedures are refined and operational challenges addressed.

The airport is working closely with relevant regulatory authorities to introduce Point Merge and semi-mixed mode operations as part of a phased approach to optimising its dual-runway system, said a BIAL representative, adding that semi-mixed mode operations remain subject to the necessary regulatory clearances.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGLORE

10 OCTOBER 2026

UP airport to be renamed after PM Modi

LUCKNOW, DHNS: The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday decided to rename the Jewar Airport in Greater Noida after Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The state cabinet approved a proposal to rename the airport Narendra Modi International Airport at its meeting here.

The meeting, which was presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, also adopted a resolution hailing Modi's leadership and contributions on completing 25 years of public service.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

नरेन्द्र मोदी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहचान होगा प्रवेश द्वार



नरेन्द्र मोदी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट नोएडा जेवर को वैश्विक विमानन नेटवर्क में पहचान दिलाने वाले कोड के तीन अक्षर प्रवेश द्वार के पास विशेष डिजाइन में जागरण

जागरण संवाददाता जेवर: नरेन्द्र मोदी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहचान के साथ यात्रियों के स्वागत के लिए तैयार है। शुक्रवार को एयरपोर्ट का नाम नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से बदलकर प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नाम पर रखे जाने का फैसला हुआ। एयरपोर्ट को वैश्विक विमानन नेटवर्क में अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहचान लिए प्रवेश द्वार के पास तीन अक्षरों वाले कोड डीएक्सएन को खास डिजाइन में स्थापित किया गया है। कोड के तीनों अक्षरों को इस तरह तैयार किया गया है कि चारों दिशाओं से देखने पर कोड स्पष्ट दिखाई दे। एयरपोर्ट परिसर में स्थापित यह कोड यात्रियों के स्वागत के साथ ही

अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमानन जगत में एयरपोर्ट की पहचान को भी प्रदर्शित करता है।

टिकट बुकिंग, उड़ानों की जानकारी और सामान की टैगिंग जैसी प्रक्रियाओं में इन कोड का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। डीएक्सएन कोड के जरिये नरेन्द्र मोदी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट नोएडा जेवर को वैश्विक विमानन नेटवर्क में अलग पहचान दिलाई है। यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के रास्ते दिल्ली मुंबई लिंक एक्सप्रेसवे के रास्ते प्रवेश करने वाले यात्रियों के लिए एयरपोर्ट के प्रवेश द्वार के पास विशेष डिजाइन में कोड की स्थापना से परिसर को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्वरूप दिया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

Several hurt in Saudi Arabia airport attack

Associated Press

CAIRO

Amid growing hostilities with the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, Saudi Arabian officials on Saturday said the airport in capital Riyadh was attacked again and evacuated. A missile struck a complex housing terminals 3 and 4 for domestic flights at the Riyadh airport and many people were wounded, an official said.

The latest attack comes days after three Saudi Arabian citizens were killed as the kingdom faces an ex-

U.S. President Trump says he is evaluating whether to join Saudi Arabia's strikes against Houthi rebels

traordinary series of assaults in the new front in the Iran war.

U.S. President Donald Trump told presspersons he was evaluating whether the U.S. should join Saudi Arabia's strikes against the Houthi rebels.

FULL REPORT ON

» PAGE 14

NIA to investigate attack on Indian pilot of flydubai plane

Investigation agency files FIR under anti-hijacking and UAPA laws after Centre says the incident has 'grave national and international ramifications' and the 'larger conspiracy' must be unearthed

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered a case in connection with the alleged mid-air hijacking attempt of an Israel-bound flydubai flight and the attack on its Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar on September 30.

The agency has invoked Section 3 of the Anti-Hijacking Act and Section 16, read with Section 15(1)(a), of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The first information report (FIR) identifies the accused who attacked Captain Machchhar as the "Omani First Officer of flydubai flight no. 1073".

Recounting the sequence of events, the FIR states that the Omani co-pilot stabbed Captain Machchhar in an apparent attempt to hijack the aircraft or crash it. Mr.



Captain Machchhar was airlifted to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, where he is recuperating at a hospital. AP

Machchhar sustained deep cuts to his head and hands. The incident occurred in the Saudi Arabian airspace near the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border.

The government referred the matter to the investigation agency for registration of a case and investigation, citing the "grave national and international ramifications" of the attack, and the need to

investigate the possible "larger conspiracy." As part of the investigation, the agency may record statements of eyewitnesses, examine any statements made by the accused, and analyse flight data to establish the sequence of events.

The statement of Captain Machchhar might also be recorded. According to information received by

the government, the flydubai flight departed from Dubai, UAE at 7.05 a.m. on September 30, carrying 174 passengers and six crew members.

At 9.21 a.m., the airplane reportedly descended rapidly and turned back into the Saudi airspace while flying near the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border. Passengers reported that the first officer stabbed Captain Machchhar but was overpowered and restrained by passengers and crew members.

The other pilots on board subsequently landed the airplane safely at Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Airport in Tabuk, northwestern Saudi Arabia, around 10.45 a.m.

The Saudi authorities later arrested the first officer. Captain Machchhar was airlifted to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, where he is recuperating at a hospital.

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

Missile strikes passenger terminal at Riyadh airport

Associated Press
CAIRO

The airport in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, was attacked again on Saturday and evacuated, two regional officials said, just days after three Saudi citizens, including a pilot, were killed as the kingdom faces an extraordinary series of assaults in the new front in the Iran war.

U.S. President Donald Trump told presspersons he was evaluating whether the U.S. should join Saudi strikes against the Houthi (Ansar Allah) rebels in neighbouring Yemen who have claimed this week's attacks on King Khalid International Airport as well as other Saudi airports, military facilities and oil infrastructure.

"We may. We're going to look at it," Mr. Trump said.



Thick black smoke and flames rising from a fire at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

"We just found out about the recent attack. So we'll make a decision. We move very quickly."

In the latest attack, a missile struck a complex housing terminals 3 and 4 for domestic flights at the Riyadh airport and many people were wounded, an

official said. Saudi civil aviation authorities said operations at the airport had been suspended and the number of wounded and damage were being assessed. An official notice to aviators said the suspension was through midnight. The airport had a heavy police presence, with all entrances blocked, and lights around the complex were dimmed.

Flights diverted elsewhere, the Flightradar24 tracker said. Countries including the United States, Britain, Germany, Australia and Canada warned citizens to avoid the airport.

Meanwhile, Saudi authorities warned the public that "filming, publishing or sharing information related to countering missiles and drones and their impact sites exposes you to legal liability".

Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

Fresh attack hits Saudi Arabian capital's airport

SAMY MAGDY ■ Cairo

The airport in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, was attacked again on Saturday and evacuated, two regional officials said, two days after three Saudi citizens including a pilot were killed as the kingdom faces an extraordinary series of assaults in the new front in the Iran war.

A missile struck a passenger terminal and many people were wounded, one of the officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to speak to the media. Ambulances were seen rushing toward the airport.

Flights to Riyadh diverted elsewhere, the *Flightradar24* tracker said, almost four hours after the last flight landed at 2.05 pm Kuwait Airways said it was cancelling flights because the airport had closed. Canada's embassy advised citizens to avoid all travel to the airport, noting "ongoing military activity."

King Khalid International Airport has been targeted multiple times in the week since a Saudi-led coalition launched a major military offensive against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in neighbouring



Yemen. The Houthis claimed responsibility for the earlier attacks, including one Wednesday that killed a Sudanese national.

There was no immediate Houthi statement on Saturday. The Saudi government-run Centre for International Communication, which oversees foreign media in the kingdom, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

A Riyadh resident, Ahmed Sayed, told *The Associated Press* he heard at least two loud explosions that rocked the capital.

The airport issued a terse alert telling passengers to check their flight status with airlines before

heading to the airport. At least 225 flights at the airport had been cancelled over the past 24 hours, according to flight-tracking site FlightAware.

Fighting in Yemen between the Houthis and Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces has escalated, with the Saudi-led coalition providing air support for Government forces in an attempt to reverse recent Houthi gains along the Red Sea.

The rebels' gains gave them better surveillance of shipping on a corridor that's a crucial alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran has been attacking ships.

Though the Houthis have told the AP and others they are only targeting Saudi shipping as part of a blockade in retaliation for one imposed on them, concerns about wider attacks persist. The Houthis previously attacked other ships after the war in Gaza began, calling it solidarity with Palestinians. A US bombing campaign ended that.

The Saudis have sought support from the US and other allies as its airports, military facilities and oil infrastructure have come under attack. Officials said US assistance has included intelligence sharing, target identification and planning for the latest offensive.

On Friday, as he left the White House, US President Donald Trump was asked about the attacks on the Riyadh airport and told reporters, "It's not good" and "I'm not happy." But there has been no immediate sign of US military support to respond to the attacks.

The Saudi and Omani foreign ministers spoke by phone about the importance of "supporting diplomatic solutions to de-escalate tensions" in the region, the kingdom said Saturday. Oman, which lies across the Strait of Hormuz from Iran, has played a mediator role at times in the

region. Meanwhile, Saudi authorities warned the public this week that "filming, publishing or sharing information related to countering missiles and drones and their impact sites exposes you to legal liability."

This week, the Houthis warned global airlines "for the last time" about the potential consequences of operating in Saudi airspace, which they described as a theatre for their military operations.

Air India, FlyDubai, Lufthansa Group and Pakistan International Airlines have been among the airlines suspending flights to and from Riyadh and other Saudi airports for the next few days.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency has expanded its guidance on Saudi airspace, noting the Houthis' ability to strike targets deeper inside the kingdom, including Riyadh, and a "greater focus on aviation infrastructure."

The missile and drone attacks and interception efforts "create an increased risk of misidentification of civil aircraft," it said.

In Thursday's attack, the Saudi national carrier said one of its aircraft was damaged while it was on the ground, with no passengers on board. (AP)



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STATESMEN

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

AAI Strengthens Stakeholder Coordination for Seamless Passenger Journey



As part of the nationwide "Yatri Seva Abhiyan 2026", the Airports Authority of India (AAI), under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, undertook a focused initiative to strengthen coordination among airport stakeholders and enhance the seamless movement of passengers across different stages of their journey. The initiative emphasised closer coordination between airlines, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Customs and Immigration authorities, Ground Handling Agencies (GHAs), concessionaires, housekeeping teams and transport service providers, wherever applicable.



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DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

AAI Airports undertake Comprehensive Facility and Service Quality Audit



Continuing the nationwide "Yatri Seva Abhiyan 2026", the Airports Authority of India (AAI), under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, undertook a comprehensive audit of passenger facilities and service quality across its airports. The initiative focused on assessing the end-to-end passenger experience and identifying areas for improvement across key airport facilities and services. The audit covered critical passenger-facing parameters including cleanliness, seating arrangements, signage, drinking water facilities, toilets, baggage services, digital services and food & beverage (F&B) facilities. Airport teams reviewed these facilities to assess their availability, functionality, accessibility and overall quality, with the objective of ensuring a consistent and comfortable experience for passengers.



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DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

AAI Reinforces Passenger-Centric Service Culture



Continuing the nationwide "Yatri Seva Abhiyan 2026", the Airports Authority of India (AAI), under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, undertook a focused initiative to strengthen service excellence and passenger-centric behaviour among frontline airport personnel. The initiative emphasised the importance of courtesy,

empathy and clear communication in creating a positive and welcoming experience for air travellers. Special emphasis was placed on passenger-first behaviour, along with grooming and uniform standards for frontline personnel.



Corporate Communications Directorate

TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

10 OCTOBER 2026

Yogi names new airport in Noida after Modi

J.P. YADAV

New Delhi: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday announced his government's decision to name the newly inaugurated Noida International airport after Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The move was seen as an attempt to mend ties with the BJP's central leadership ahead of the Assembly elections early next year. Adityanath is widely believed to harbour ambitions of a larger national role eventually and a third consecutive term as chief minister in the immediate future. There have been murmurs for long about Adityanath being a potential rival to Union home minister Amit Shah in the race to succeed Modi.

The airport is the second major public asset to be named after Modi. In February 2021, the Gujarat government renamed Ahmedabad's Motera cricket stadium as Narendra Modi Stadium.

In an unusual move, Adityanath personally announced the state cabinet's decision to rename the airport, underscoring the political significance attached to the renaming. He said the move marked 25 years of Modi's public life and was an expression of the state government's gratitude to the Prime Minister for his

"guidance and contribution" to Uttar Pradesh's development.

"The council of ministers of Uttar Pradesh expresses its gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving the state the Noida International airport at Jewar. The cabinet has approved a proposal to name it Narendra Modi International Airport, Noida-Jewar," Adityanath told reporters.

Lavishing praise on Modi, the chief minister said Uttar Pradesh took pride in the fact that the Prime Minister represented the state in Parliament. Under Modi's leadership, Adityanath said, the state had entered a "new phase of development", with heritage



Narendra Modi. (PTI)

conservation and infrastructure expansion progressing together.

Adityanath described the airport as a major aviation hub that would boost the state's economy, industry, tourism and global connectivity. Modi inaugurated the Noida airport

on March 28, while commercial operations began on June 15. Developed as a multimodal transport hub in the National Capital Region, the airport is intended to ease pressure on Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport.

Adityanath also credited Modi's "administrative experience and vision" with transforming governance in Uttar Pradesh since he became chief minister in 2017. "Prior to 2017, UP grappled with administrative inefficiency, insecurity among the people and lack of basic amenities," he added.

The repeated expressions of gratitude to Modi were read as an attempt to woo the party's leadership, without

whose active cooperation Adityanath's ambition to win a record third term and a larger national role would be difficult to realise.

BJP insiders said Adityanath needed the firm backing of the party and the wider Sangh Parivar's organisational support to undercut the accumulated anti-incumbency of two terms.

"The party organisation is dominated by Modi and Shah. The party's top decision-making body — the parliamentary board — will only clear Adityanath's name for a third term if the BJP wins the polls," a BJP leader said.

Although Modi repeatedly describes himself as a man on

a "mission" rather than driven by "personal ambition", his tenure has witnessed a growing cult of personality around him, evoking comparisons with the Congress under former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The naming of major public assets after a living leader has been a notable feature of both periods. In 1982, the indoor stadium built in Delhi to host the Asian Games was named after Indira while she was Prime Minister. A multi-purpose sports ground in Vijayawada was named after her in 1969 following her visit to the city, while a park in Hyderabad was also christened after her in 1978.



Corporate Communications Directorate

TRIBUNE

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

Modi likely to virtually unveil Leh airport terminal on Oct 15

ADIL AKHZER

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to virtually inaugurate the newly constructed terminal building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee (KBR) Airport in Leh, Ladakh, on October 15, official sources said.

Sources told *The Tribune* that all preparations for the inauguration have been completed and the terminal is ready for operations. The facility is expected to be opened to the public immediately after its inauguration.

The state-of-the-art terminal, spread across nearly 23,000 square metres, has been designed as a three-level struc-

ture and is being developed in two phases at an estimated cost of over Rs 600 crore.

Officials said the first phase includes 20 check-in counters, an inline baggage handling system (BHS), a 700 kWp rooftop solar power plant, two arrival baggage carousels, 15 lifts and 12 escalators.

Under the second phase, the existing terminal building will be demolished to make way for a new apron, four additional aircraft parking bays and three

aerobridges. According to officials, the four new bays will significantly boost the airport's operational capacity, enabling it to handle up to 54 flights a day compared to the current 18.

"The new terminal building is designed to cater to 3.5 million passengers annually and can handle up to 2,000 passengers per hour during peak hours, with capacity for 1,000 arrivals and 1,000 departures," officials said. One of the project's key features is the large-scale use of geothermal technology for gradient floor heating, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country. Leh currently hosts Ladakh's only operational commercial airport.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

9 OCTOBER 2026

सऊदी • हवाई अड्डों पर हमले

रियाद के लिए उड़ानें 10 अक्टूबर तक रद्द

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली/रियाद

सऊदी अरब के रियाद व अम्मा एयरपोर्ट पर हूती विद्रोहियों के हमलों में 3 लोगों की मौत हो गई। इसके बाद एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, एअर इंडिया और अकासा एयर ने रियाद की उड़ानें 10 अक्टूबर तक रद्द कर दी हैं। इंडिगो ने उड़ानें 9 अक्टूबर तक निलंबित की हैं। गुरुवार को भी एअर इंडिया की एआई2243 उड़ान दिल्ली लौट आई और बाद में रद्द कर दी गई। अकासा एयर ने भी कोच्चि-रियाद क्यूपी523 व रियाद-कोच्चि क्यूपी524 उड़ानें रद्द की हैं। उधर, भारतीय दूतावास ने सऊदी अरब में रह रहे भारतीय नागरिकों से सतर्क रहने और प्रशासन के निर्देशों का पालन करने की अपील की है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGLORE

10 OCTOBER 2026

AI Express to add five routes from Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Air India Express will introduce five routes from Bengaluru as part of its winter schedule from October 25, expanding connectivity to domestic and international destinations.

The airline will launch daily flights from Bengaluru to Kathmandu, making the Nepalese capital a new international destination from the city. The service will operate seven times a week.

On the domestic front, the airline is set to introduce daily flights to Goa's Manohar International Airport in Mopa, Jodhpur and Madurai. Flights between Bengaluru and Coimbatore will operate twice daily, with 14 services a week.

The additions form part of the airline's largest-ever winter schedule, which will be rolled out in phases from October 25. The network will cover 65 stations and 220 routes, with more than 40 new routes being introduced across domestic and international markets, the airline said in a statement.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

उड़ान संख्या एआइ 2428 पर टिकी थीं लोगों की नजरें

गीतम कुमार मिश्रा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: मुंबई से दिल्ली आ रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान संख्या एआइ 2428 शनिवार को आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर चर्चा का केंद्र बनी रही। विमान की लोकेशन पर एयरपोर्ट के अंदर और बाहर मौजूद लोगों, सुरक्षाकर्मियों और मोडियाकर्मियों की नजरें टिकी थीं। सभी को इंतजार था कि विमान कब लैंड करेगा और उसमें सवार काकरोच जनता पार्टी (सीजेपी) के संस्थापक अभिजीत दीपके और उनके साथी सीवर दास व आशुतोष रंका कब बाहर आएंगे।

- पुलिस के विमान में घुसने का सीजेपी संस्थापक अभिजीत दीपके ने किया विरोध
- कहासुनी के बीच लगने लगे इंकलाब जिंदाबाद व भारत माता की जय के नारे

विमान की लैंडिंग के बाद भी यात्रियों को करीब 20 मिनट तक अंदर ही इंतजार करना पड़ा।

विमान ने निर्धारित समय पर टर्मिनल-3 पर लैंडिंग की। रनवे से एप्रन पर पहुंचते ही दिल्ली पुलिस के अधिकारी और जवान यात्रियों के

बाहर निकलने से पहले केबिन में दाखिल हो गए। पुलिस को सामने देख अभिजीत दीपके ने विरोध जताया। इसी दौरान कहासुनी शुरू हो गई और विमान के अंदर इंकलाब जिंदाबाद व भारत माता की जय के नारे गूजने लगे। यात्रियों के अनुसार, विमान के अंदर हुए घटनाक्रम का कुछ लोगों ने वीडियो बनाने की कोशिश की तो पुलिस ने उन्हें रोक दिया। आरोप है कि कुछ यात्रियों से वीडियो डिलीट भी करवाए गए। हालांकि, कुछ लोगों के पास घटनाक्रम के वीडियो सुरक्षित रहे।

टर्मिनल-3 पर इकोनामी या

बिजनेस क्लास को लेकर बहस: विमान से उतरने के बाद अराहवल हाल और टर्मिनल-3 के बाहर भी इस घटनाक्रम को लेकर चर्चा होती रही। करीब 20 मिनट तक विमान में इंतजार करने वाले कुछ यात्री नाराज दिखे। वहीं, फोरकोर्ट क्षेत्र में मौजूद लोगों के बीच अभिजीत दीपके और उनके साथियों की सीटों की श्रेणी को लेकर बहस छिड़ गई। कुछ लोगों का दावा था कि तीनों बिजनेस क्लास में सफर कर रहे थे, जबकि दूसरों ने इस दावे को गलत बताया था। इसे दुष्प्रचार करार दिया। दोनों पक्षों में टेर तक बहस होती रही।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

निराशा में विमान अपहरण करने वाले



हास्य-व्यंग्य कैप्टन मच्छर को तो आप जानते ही होंगे। वही, जिन्होंने फ्लाई दुबई के विमान और सौ से अधिक यात्रियों की जान बचाई। उन पर साथी पायलट हम्मामी ने हमला किया था। मच्छर की जाँवाजी और हिम्मत के लिए उन्हें सारी दुनिया से शाबाशी मिली, लेकिन कुछ लोगों के मुँह में दही जमा हुआ था। इनमें अपने विपक्षी दल भी शामिल थे, लेकिन खुशी की बात है कि पितृ पक्ष समाप्त होते ही उनके वयान भी आ गए।

एक पार्टी ने कहा, 'देखने वाली बात यह है कि कैप्टन मच्छर कहाँ के हैं। उसी गुजरात के जहाँ के महात्मा गांधी थे। वही गांधी जी, जिन्होंने आजादी दिलाई। जिनकी जयंती दो अक्टूबर को होती है। और इसी दो अक्टूबर के कारण 'दृश्यम' फिल्म के तीन पार्ट बन गए। उन महात्मा गांधी में गुजरात की मिट्टी की तासीर थी। उस तासीर का ही कमाल था कि ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य को अपना खूँटा उखाड़कर भागना पड़ा। कैप्टन मच्छर में भी उसी मिट्टी की तासीर है। इसीलिए उन्होंने आसमान में खूँटा गाड़ दिया। अतः फ्लाई दुबई के विमान और उसके यात्रियों को बचाने का श्रेय उस खूँटे...मतलब तासीर को दिया जाना चाहिए।' एक और पार्टी ने भाजपा पर हिंदूवादी पार्टी होने आरोप लगाया और कहा कि 'प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की कार्यशैली, उठने-बैठने और बोलचाल, हर जगह हिंदुत्व हावी रहता है। यह घटना भी उसी



कमल किशोर सक्सेना

पड़ोसी देश पाकिस्तान को फ्लाई दुबई के विमान के अपहरण की घटना के असफल हो जाने का गहरा सदमा लगा है

मानसिकता का प्रमाण है। फ्लाई दुबई के विमान का मुख्य पायलट हिंदू था जबकि सह-पायलट मुस्लिम। सोचिए ऐसा क्यों। दरअसल मोदी जी ने पिछली दुबई यात्रा में वहाँ से तेल खरीदना इसी शर्त पर स्वीकार किया कि वह अपनी एयर लाइन में हिंदू को मुख्य पायलट बनाएगा। उनका वश चलता तो किसी मुस्लिम को हवाई जहाज में नौकरी ही न मिलती। इस घटना से सिद्ध हो गया कि अल्पसंख्यक केवल भारत में ही नहीं, पूरी दुनिया में असुरक्षित हैं। यहाँ तक कि उन देशों में भी, जहाँ वे बहुसंख्यक हैं।

एक और दल के प्रवक्ता ने भरे गले से कहा कि 'कोई भी अवसर हो, भाजपा अपना धार्मिक एजेंडा नहीं छोड़ती। हिंदू पायलट के हनुमान चालीसा पढ़ने को इतने जोर-शोर से प्रचारित किया गया कि साथी मुस्लिम पायलट की सारी पढ़ाई-लिखाई धरी रह गई। वह बेचारा तो मासूम था। चौतीस हजार फीट की ऊँचाई पर, हाथ में

कुल्हाड़ी लेकर मानवता का पाठ ही तो पढ़ा रहा था, लेकिन श्रीराम के सेवक हनुमान के नक्काशखाने में उसकी आवाज को तूती बना दिया गया।' एक क्षेत्रीय दल ने आरोप लगाया कि 'भाजपा सरकार हर मोर्चे पर विफल है। युवा बेहतर हैं। इसलिए वे पलायन कर रहे हैं। देश के बाहर नौकरी करने को विवश हैं। यदि अपने देश में नौकरी की व्यवस्था होती तो इतना काबिल पायलट मच्छर दुबई में जाकर नौकरी क्यों करता। अब अगर सरकार की आंख में जरा भी पानी बचा हो तो मच्छर के लिए अपने देश में ही काम की व्यवस्था करे, वरना इसी तरह देश की प्रतिभाएं एक-एक कर विदेश चली जाएंगी।'

पड़ोसी देश पाकिस्तान को विमान अपहरण की घटना के असफल हो जाने का गहरा सदमा लगा है। वहाँ आतंकवादी संगठनों, विमान अपहरण विशेषज्ञों, सेना और आइएसआइ के प्रतिनिधियों की आपातकालीन बैठक हुई जिसमें सबसे पहले एक-दूसरे के लिए मर्सिया पढ़ा गया। फिर फ्लाई दुबई के सह-पायलट की नाकामी पर उसे तमाम लानतें भेजी गईं। इसके अलावा विमान अपहरण में करियर बनाने के इच्छुक प्रतिभाशाली युवकों के लिए एक गाइडलाइन जारी की गई। इस गाइडलाइन के तहत प्रशिक्षण के दौरान कांधार विमान अपहरण कांड के वीडियो और उस घटना पर बनी फिल्म देखने की सलाह दी गई, ताकि वे उससे कुछ सीख सकें।

response@jagran.com

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

रियाद हवाई अड्डे पर फिर हमला

काहिरा, एपी: सऊदी अरब की राजधानी रियाद स्थित किंग खालिद अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर शनिवार को एक बार फिर हमला हुआ। मिसाइल घरेलू उड़ानों के टर्मिनल तीन और चार वाले परिसर से टकराई, जिसमें कई लोग घायल हो गए। हमले के बाद हवाई अड्डे को खाली कराया गया और उड़ान संचालन निलंबित कर दिया गया। घायलों की संख्या और नुकसान का आकलन किया जा रहा है। अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने कहा कि अमेरिका सऊदी अरब के साथ मिलकर यमन में ईरान समर्थित हूती विद्रोहियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने पर विचार कर रहा है।

सऊदी अरब में हमलों में तेजी ऐसे समय आई है, जब सऊदी नेतृत्व वाला गठबंधन हूतियों के खिलाफ सैन्य अभियान चला रहा है। हाल के हमलों में तीन सऊदी नागरिकों की मौत भी हुई थी।

हमले में कई घायल, हवाई अड्डे को खाली कराया गया, उड़ानें निलंबित, हूतियों के खिलाफ सऊदी का साथ दे सकते हैं ट्रंप

उड़ानों पर भी इसका असर पड़ा है। उड़ान निगरानी वेबसाइट फ्लाइटअवेयर के अनुसार, रियाद हवाई अड्डे पर पिछले 24 घंटों में 225 उड़ानें रद्द हुईं।

एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने रियाद की उड़ानें रद्द करने की अवधि बढ़ाई : प्रेटर के अनुसार, सऊदी अरब में बदलते हालात के मद्देनजर एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने रियाद आने-जाने वाली उड़ानों का परिचालन रद्द रखने की अवधि बढ़ा दी है। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ानें 14 अक्टूबर तक, जबकि एअर इंडिया की उड़ानें 15 अक्टूबर तक रद्द रहेंगी।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

10 OCTOBER 2026

17 हजार फीट पर ओलावृष्टि में फंसा था इंडिगो का विमान, नोज क्षतिग्रस्त

जागरण संवाददाता, लखनऊ : पटना से 104 यात्रियों को लेकर लखनऊ आ रहा इंडिगो का विमान बुधवार को करीब 17 हजार फीट की ऊंचाई पर ओलावृष्टि में फंसा गया था। खराब मौसम के बीच हुई ओलावृष्टि से विमान के आगे का नुकीला हिस्सा (नोज) क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया था। विमान शाम 4:12 बजे चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित उतरा, लेकिन लैंडिंग के बाद पायलट ने नोज को क्षतिग्रस्त पाया। इसके बाद विमान को तत्काल ग्राउंडेड कर दिया गया और उसकी आगे की सेवा निरस्त कर दी गई। एयरलाइन की तकनीकी टीम ने गुरुवार को विस्तृत जांच रिपोर्ट नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को सौंप दी। इंडिगो का विमान 6ई-925

- 104 यात्रियों को लेकर बुधवार शाम लखनऊ पहुंचा था विमान
- तकनीकी टीम ने डीजीसीए को सौंपी जांच रिपोर्ट

बुधवार दोपहर पटना से लखनऊ के लिए रवाना हुआ था। उड़ान के दौरान मौसम अचानक खराब हो गया। पायलट के अनुसार, इस दौरान बिजली चमकने के साथ तेज हवाएं चलीं और विमान को ओलावृष्टि का सामना करना पड़ा। विमान के लखनऊ पहुंचने के बाद तकनीकी टीम ने इसकी जांच की। प्रारंभिक जांच में नोज को नुकसान पहुंचने की पुष्टि हुई। इंजीनियरों ने क्षतिग्रस्त नोज को बदल दिया है। हालांकि मरम्मत के बाद विमान को तुरंत सेवा में नहीं लिया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

10 OCTOBER 2026

एअर इंडिया, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और अकासा एयर ने बढ़ाया फ्यूल सरचार्ज, महंगी होगी यात्रा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : एअर इंडिया, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और अकासा एयर ने ईंधन की बढ़ती लागत के बीच फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ाने की घोषणा की है। नई दरें नौ अक्टूबर से लागू होंगी। इससे घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के टिकट महंगे हो सकते हैं। एयरलाइनों का कहना है कि सरचार्ज बढ़ाने का उद्देश्य विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी से

परिचालन लागत पर पड़ रहे असर की भरपाई करना है। एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज में 101 रुपये से 301 रुपये तक की बढ़ोतरी की है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए यह वृद्धि पांच से 15 अमेरिकी डालर तक है। दोनों एयरलाइनों ने इससे पहले अप्रैल में भी सरचार्ज में संशोधन किया था।

एअर इंडिया के अनुसार, घरेलू उड़ानों में दूरी के आधार पर नया सरचार्ज 400 रुपये से 1,200 रुपये तक होगा। 0-500 किलोमीटर की उड़ान के लिए 400 रुपये, 501-1,000 किलोमीटर के लिए 600 रुपये, 1,001-1,500 किलोमीटर के लिए 850 रुपये और 1,501 किलोमीटर या उससे अधिक दूरी के लिए 1,200 रुपये सरचार्ज लगेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

9 OCTOBER 2026

जयपुर से जाने वाली दो फ्लाइट लेट, यात्री परेशान

जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से इन दिनों फ्लाइट संचालन तब समय पर नहीं हो रहा है। इसके चलते यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। गुरुवार को भी दो फ्लाइट देरी से रवाना हुईं। स्पाइसजेट की जयपुर से सुबह 7.55 बजे दुबई जाने वाली फ्लाइट सुबह 10.45 बजे दुबई के लिए रवाना हुई। इसी प्रकार एयर इंडिया की जयपुर से दोपहर 1.40 बजे दिल्ली जाने वाली फ्लाइट दोपहर 2.40 बजे दिल्ली के लिए रवाना होगी।

ADVANCE BOOKING PRICE ADVANTAGE FADING

No Worm for Early Birds on Domestic Air Ticket Counter

No Change Anytime Soon

►► From Page 1

Data shows much higher revenue for airlines from flying the same numbers of seat capacity on domestic routes in recent times, reflecting higher airfares. IndiGo's reported data shows its revenue per available seat kilometre (RASK) has risen over 50% since Jet Airways collapsed. While the airline had a RASK of 3.7 in the summer of 2018, the same metric now stands at 5.86. RASK measures how much revenue an airline generates for every available seat-kilometre flown.

FUEL WORRIES

There is little indication that this pricing power will ease anytime soon.

A former leadership executive of an airline, who did not want to be named, fears 2027 could also be a year of higher fares for the travelling public, with not enough capacity coming in. He noted that daily domestic flight capacity has fallen from around 3,200 flights to around 2,800-3,000 now, following the fuel price increase and airspace restrictions. Had there been no war, the upcoming winter schedule could have seen this number go beyond 3,400 flights per day, pushing airlines to offer relatively cheaper fares. But fuel prices could keep that capacity from returning, even if the conflict eases.

Fewer flights, less competition fuelling shift in pricing

Tarun Shukla

New Delhi: For years, airlines typically followed a simple proposition: reward passengers with cheaper fares if they booked early and charge a premium to those booking at the last minute. That advantage may be vanishing, with domestic carriers keeping fares high months ahead.

Take the prime Delhi-Mumbai route, for example. Passengers trying to book a flight for the next day are getting an economy one-way fare of ₹6,200 from Akasa Air, ₹6,500 from IndiGo and ₹6,900 from Air India.

The same fares apply to bookings for February 2027 — flights that just a few months earlier would have been easily available for around ₹3,800.

Simply put, airlines are changing the rules of pricing in a market dominated by IndiGo and Air India group—who account for 70% and 25%, respectively—leaving Akasa and SpiceJet with much smaller shares. With fewer flights and less competition, the early-bird fare may be disappearing from India's domestic routes.

REDUCED CAPACITY

"It's only a domestic market trend," said Manoj Samuel, CEO of Mumbai-based Riya Travel and Tours India, which handles a large amount of corporate travel, including for blue-chip technology firms, referring to the changed revenue management practice. "You can still get return tickets to Bangkok for ₹26,000."

So why this new pricing strategy? According to Samuel, the early-bird advantage has gone partly because the capacity has reduced. "IndiGo has cut capacity (number of flights) and Air India is not scaling up," he said.

Everyone Pays the Same

ONE-WAY ECONOMY AIRLINE FARES FOR DELHI-MUMBAI

Bookings made for next day	For Feb 2027
Akasa Air	₹6,200
IndiGo	₹6,500
Air India	₹6,900



Earlier, these tickets bought early could have cost around ₹3,800



FLIGHT ADVANCE BOOKINGS COSTLIER DUE TO

Reduced
airline
capacity

Less competition
in domestic
market

New pricing strategy triggered
by US-Iran war uncertainty, its
impact on fuel prices

The new pricing strategy also suggests airlines are unsure how long the current US-Iran war—which has pushed jet fuel prices more than 30% higher year on year—will last.

They are, therefore, unwilling to sell forward tickets at cheaper rates. Also, with little competition in the Indian market, there is no pressure on them to follow suit, experts said.

The collapse of Jet Airways and Go First, along with merger of Vistara and AirAsia India into Air India group, over the last seven years has led to even fewer choices for passengers.

No Change Anytime Soon ►► 7



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ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

Attack on Flydubai Pilot: NIA Files Case under Anti-Hijacking Act, UAPA



The National Investigation Agency has registered a case under the relevant provisions of the Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016, and the UAPA, 1967 to probe mid-air cockpit attack on Captain Smit Machchar aboard a flydubai flight.



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FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

Air Express, Air India extend cancellation of Riyadh flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, October 10

AIR INDIA EXPRESS and Air India have extended the cancellation of flights to and from Riyadh amid the evolving situation in Saudi Arabia, officials said on Saturday. While Air India Express has cancelled the services till October 14, Air India has cancelled the flights till October 15, the officials said.

Both airlines on Thursday announced cancelling Riyadh flights till October 10. The officials said the airlines are closely monitoring the situation and assessing the development in the region. Air India Express and Air India are offering full refunds on cancellation to affected passengers. One of the officials said Air India Express is also providing free rescheduling for the passengers.

Air India Express operates 16 weekly flights to Riyadh from four Indian cities — Bengaluru, Kochi, Kannur and Kozhikode. Air India operates seven weekly flights to Riyadh from Delhi and Mumbai.

On Friday, Akasa Air said it was cancelling Riyadh flights till October 11. Earlier this week, Saudi Arabia's two airports in Riyadh and Abha came under attack, reportedly by Houthi militants.

In recent days, there has been an escalation in the hostilities between the Iran-backed Houthi group and Saudi Arabia. There have been attacks with armed drones and missiles.

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FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

India's anti-terror agency to probe flydubai attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, October 10

ANTI-TERROR AGENCY NIA has registered a case to probe and unearth the larger conspiracy behind last month's mid-air attack on Captain Smit Machchhar inside the cockpit of an Israel-bound flydubai flight, officials said on Saturday.

It was reported that on September 30, 2026, the Omani first officer of flydubai flight no 1073 stabbed the Indian pilot, Captain Machchhar, mid-air "in an apparent attempt to hijack or cause it to crash", according to the First Information Report (FIR) filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on October 9. The FIR mentions the "Omani first officer" as the

BIG CONSPIRACY



■ The case was filed on the direction of the Home Ministry, considering the gravity of the offence

accused. The NIA has invoked Section 3 (hijacking) of the Anti Hijacking Act, 2016 and Section 16 read with Section 15(1)(a) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, officials said.

Machchhar sustained criti-

cal injuries after he was stabbed by the Omani co-pilot inside the cockpit of the flydubai flight heading from Dubai to Tel Aviv. The incident occurred in the "Saudi airspace while flying near the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border". The case was filed on the direction of the Home Ministry, considering the gravity of the offence and the need to unearth the larger conspiracy, the officials said.

"The central government has received information that flydubai flight no 1073, which was being piloted by Indian national pilot Captain Smit Machchhar and an Omani first officer, departed from Dubai on September 30, 2026 at 7.05 am with 174 passengers and six crew members," they said.



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

रियाद हवाई अड्डे पर जोरदार धमाका, उड़ानें रद्द

नई दिल्ली/रियाद, एजेंसी। रियाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर शनिवार को जोरदार धमाका हुआ। इसके बाद आनन-फानन में कुछ यात्रियों को वहां से बाहर निकाला गया। इस बीच, एतिहाद और कतर एयरवेज ने अपनी कई उड़ानें रद्द कर दी हैं। इनमें कुछ को सोमवार तक के लिए रद्द किया गया है।

घटना के बाद एक दर्जन से अधिक एंजलैस वाहन हवाई अड्डे के आसपास देखे गए। यह जानकारी एक चरमदीय और मामले की जानकारी रखने वाले लोगों ने दी। हालांकि, सऊदी सरकार के सूचना कार्यालय और सऊदी नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण ने घटना के संबंध में कुछ नहीं कहा। फ्लाइट ट्रैकिंग साइट



'फ्लाइटराइड24' के अनुसार, धमाके के बाद से रियाद जाने वाले सभी यात्री विमानों को या तो रद्द कर दिया गया है या उन्हें दूसरे स्थान पर भेजा गया है। यात्रियों को हवाई अड्डे पर आने से पहले अपनी एयरलाइन से संपर्क करने और

एयर इंडिया ने उड़ानें निरस्त रखने का फैसला लिया

नई दिल्ली। मध्य पूर्व में बढ़ते तनाव और सुरक्षा कारणों को देखते हुए एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने सऊदी अरब के रियाद आने-जाने वाली उड़ानों को रद्द करने की अवधि बढ़ा दी है। अधिकारियों ने शनिवार को बताया कि एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने 14 अक्टूबर तक और एयर इंडिया ने 15 अक्टूबर तक अपनी उड़ानें रद्द कर दी हैं। दोनों एयरलाइंस ने गुरुवार को 10 अक्टूबर तक रियाद की उड़ानें रद्द करने की घोषणा की थी। अफसरों ने बताया कि एयरलाइंस हालात पर नजर बनाए हुए हैं। कंपनी ने बताया कि एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और एयर इंडिया प्रभावित यात्रियों को पूरा रिफंड दे रही हैं।

फ्लाइट की वर्तमान स्थिति देखकर निकलने के लिए कहा गया है। रियाद हवाई अड्डे के ऊपर एक हेलिकॉप्टर को भी उड़ते देखा गया है। बीते सप्ताह भी एयरपोर्ट पर हमले हुए थे। इनमें चार की मौत हो गई थी। वहीं, कई लोग घायल हो

गए थे। हवाई अड्डे पर हमला ऐसे समय हुआ है, जब रियाद में ऊर्जा और निवेश से जुड़े बड़े कार्यक्रम होने वाले हैं। हालांकि, आयोजकों ने शनिवार को कहा कि सम्मेलन तय योजना के अनुसार ही होंगे।

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

Air India questions police protocol after detentions aboard

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Three Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) activists, Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, were detained aboard Air India flight AI 2428 after it landed in Delhi on Saturday, ahead of the party's proposed protest at Jantar Mantar. The detention reportedly caught even the airline by surprise, it is reliably learnt.

In what airport security personnel described as an unusual move, senior Delhi Police personnel, accompanied by senior Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officials, boarded the aircraft to take the activists into custody.

The flight, which departed from Mumbai at 8 a.m. and arrived in Delhi at 10.20 a.m., had its parking bay changed on the CISF's instructions before landing, a move that took the airline's security team by surprise.

The detentions took place shortly after the air-

craft arrived in Delhi. The police informed the activists that permission for their proposed protest had been denied.

The sequence of events has raised questions about the protocols governing the entry of police personnel into an aircraft, the circumstances under which such access is permitted and the coordination required between law-enforcement agencies, airport security and the airline.

Air India has written to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, seeking clarity on the applicable guidelines, the circumstances under which police personnel were permitted to board the aircraft and the apparent lack of advance coordination with the airline.

The Aircraft (Security) Rules, 2023, provide for airlines to control access to aircraft.

Security sources said the CISF has access to airline passenger manifests, but the rules governing police entry into aircraft remain unclear.

Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

NIA registers FIR to probe conspiracy in Flydubai cockpit attack

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
■ New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered a First Information Report under Section 3 of the Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016, and Sections 16, 18 and 20 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to investigate the mid-air attack on Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar aboard a Flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv.

The FIR, filed on the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs, names the Omani first officer as the accused. It invokes provisions covering

hijacking, terrorist acts, conspiracy and membership of a terrorist organisation. Officials said the agency will examine possible lone-wolf terror motives, radicalisation networks, the manner in which the plot was planned, and any wider conspiracy, including links that could point to an intended attack involving India.

Flydubai Flight FZ1073 departed Dubai International Airport at 7:05 am Gulf Standard Time on September 30, carrying 174 passengers, mostly Israelis, and six crew members. Captain Machchhar, an Indian national with more



than a decade of commercial flying experience, was at the controls with the Omani first officer. Approximately two-and-a-half hours into the

journey, near the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border, the first officer attacked the captain inside the locked cockpit, inflicting deep cuts to his head and hands.

Passengers later reported that the assault appeared to be an attempt to seize control of the Boeing 737 or deliberately crash the aircraft. The jet plunged more than 17,000 feet in under two minutes, briefly sending emergency codes including the hijack squawk 7500. Despite severe injuries and while still under attack on the cockpit floor, Captain Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door. Passengers and cabin crew rushed in, overpowered and restrained the first officer.

Two off-duty Flydubai pilots who were travelling as

passengers took control and landed the aircraft safely at Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Airport in Tabuk, northwestern Saudi Arabia, around 10:45 am.

Saudi authorities arrested the first officer and later handed him over to UAE officials, who are still investigating the case. Reports name the accused as 29-year-old Omani national Hamam al-Hammami, also spelt Hammam al-Hammami.

Reports say Oman Air had earlier removed him from flying because of concerns about extremist material and radical views. Despite this,

Flydubai later hired him and allowed him to fly the Dubai-Tel Aviv route. UAE officials have called the incident a terrorist act. Israeli authorities say there are signs of Islamist radical indoctrination and suicidal intent, and that the restrained first officer kept asking to be killed.

Captain Machchhar is in Dubai with serious injuries, but he is stable and recovering. During a video call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he described lying injured as the plane descended and making one last effort to open the door.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

NIA registers FIR to probe conspiracy...

He said he was fighting for his life but would not let others die. Both Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised his actions for preventing a disaster.

The NIA can investigate this case under the National Investigation Agency Act because the victim is an Indian citizen and the offences are listed in the Act, even though the incident happened outside India.

"Investigators plan to request the cockpit voice recorder, flight data recorder, and the suspect's electronic devices with help from Saudi Arabia and the UAE. They will also review the first officer's background, digital activity, work history, and any links to radicalisation to determine whether the attack was planned and part of a larger network", sources familiar with the probe said.

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SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

10 OCTOBER 2026

त्योहारी सीजन से पहले एअर इंडिया का बड़ा झटका, बढ़ा फ्यूल सरचार्ज

नई दिल्ली। देश में त्योहारी सीजन की शुरुआत से ठीक पहले हवाई यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों की जेब पर बड़ा बोझ पड़ने जा रहा है। विमानन कंपनी एअर इंडिया और उसकी किफायती सेवा देने वाली सहयोगी एयरलाइन एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने अपनी घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज (ईंधन शुल्क) में बढ़ोतरी करने का बड़ा ऐलान किया है। कंपनी द्वारा जारी की गई नई दरें 9 अक्टूबर से प्रभावी रूप से लागू हो जाएंगी।

एयरलाइन प्रबंधन ने यह फैसला वैश्विक बाजार में एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) यानी विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में लगातार हो रहे उतार-चढ़ाव और हालिया तेजी को देखते हुए लिया है। ईंधन शुल्क में किए गए इस संशोधन के बाद 9 अक्टूबर या उसके बाद सफर करने वाले यात्रियों को अपने टिकट के लिए अधिक कीमत चुकानी होगी। एअर इंडिया द्वारा तय किए गए नए ढांचे के



अनुसार, घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए यात्रियों को प्रति टिकट 400 रुपये से लेकर 1,200 रुपये तक अतिरिक्त फ्यूल सरचार्ज देना होगा। यह शुल्क यात्रा की दूरी और रूट के आधार पर तय किया जाएगा, जिससे लंबी दूरी का सफर करने वाले यात्रियों का बजट सबसे ज्यादा बिगड़ेगा। वहीं, अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज में 55 अमेरिकी डॉलर से लेकर 215 अमेरिकी डॉलर

(लगभग 4,500 रुपये से 18,000 रुपये) तक की भारी बढ़ोतरी की गई है, जो अलग-अलग देशों और सेक्टरों के हिसाब से लागू होगी। विमानन कंपनी का कहना है कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर जारी भू-राजनीतिक तनाव और वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजार पर बने दबाव के कारण पिछले कुछ महीनों में एटीएफ की कीमतों में भारी अस्थिरता देखी गई है। किसी भी एयरलाइन के कुल परिचालन खर्च

(ऑपरेटिंग कॉस्ट) में अकेले जेट फ्यूल की हिस्सेदारी लगभग 40 फीसदी होती है। ऐसे में ईंधन के दाम बढ़ने से एयरलाइंस की परिचालन लागत में बड़ा इजाफा हुआ है, जिसकी भरपाई के लिए फ्यूल सरचार्ज में संशोधन करना अनिवार्य हो गया था। गौरतलब है कि एअर इंडिया से पहले देश की सबसे बड़ी बजट एयरलाइन इंडिगो भी विमान ईंधन की बढ़ती लागत का हवाला देकर अपने फ्यूल सरचार्ज में बढ़ोतरी कर चुकी है। आगामी दुर्गा पूजा, दिवाली और छठ पूजा जैसे प्रमुख त्योहारों के कारण देश भर के रूटों पर पहले से ही हवाई टिकटों की मांग और किराए चरम पर हैं। अब एअर इंडिया के इस फैसले से कानपुर, लखनऊ और अन्य क्षेत्रीय शहरों से उड़ान भरने वाले यात्रियों समेत पूरे देश के हवाई यात्रियों के लिए त्योहारी सीजन में घर जाना और सफर करना बेहद महंगा साबित होने वाला है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

NIA files FIR to probe flydubai incident

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New Delhi: National Investigation Agency has filed an FIR under the Anti-Hijacking Act and UAPA to probe the failed hijacking of a flydubai aircraft. On Sept 30, the flight's Omani co-pilot, Hamam al-Hammami, had stabbed Indian captain Smit Machchar inside the cockpit.

The move follows a central govt directive to probe the possible implications of the attack, thwart future bids and detect any cells active in connection with the incident.

"The gravity of the offence, its grave national and international ramifications and the need to unearth the larger conspiracy require a thorough probe by the NIA," the agency said in the FIR, describing the incident as an

apparent attempt to hijack or crash flydubai Flight 1073.

The move comes amid al-Qaida in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) endorsing the incident in the latest issue of its magazine Nawa-e-Gazwa-e-Hind. AQIS framed the co-pilot's actions as a response to Hamas commander Muhammad Deif's call to reclaim Al-Aqsa Mosque and linked them to Bin Laden's rhetoric.

Last week, al-Bayan, another publication linked to the terror outfit, called for a "ten times greater attack than 9/11" and the end of the "American empire". Neither publication, however, claimed responsibility for the attack.

AQIS said the attempt had created psychological fear and economic strain for the United States, Israel and their allies despite falling short of its primary goal.

Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

11 OCTOBER 2026

As Air India losses soar, Gulf carriers offer lessons in navigating turbulence

SWAMINOMICS



SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

I recently flew Air India, and it was a pleasure. The cabins were roomy and the service excellent. Airline food is usually terrible, but this time the lamb chops were delicious.

Tata has transformed the airline.

But Air India's financial performance is horrifying. In 2025-26, the Air India group, including Air India Express, lost Rs 22,238 crore on a total income of Rs 71,870 crore. Losses were equivalent to 31% of revenue. An improvement in service has been accompanied by astronomical losses.

We have seen this paradox before. Vijay Mallya's Kingfisher Airlines won plaudits for luxury and service, yet accumulated losses until it collapsed in 2012. The Tatas have vastly deeper pockets, better management, and greater staying power. But the cautionary lesson remains.

Compare Air India with three Gulf carriers, all lauded for excellent cabins and service, and all government-owned. Emirates made a net profit of \$5.4 billion in 2025-26, Qatar Airways Group \$1.9 billion, and Etihad \$698 million in calendar 2025. Emirates achieved a 15% net profit margin. Clearly, excellent service and profitability are not incompatible. Nor does government ownership necessarily mean incompetence.

Air India can blame geopolitics for some losses. Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian airlines in April 2025, forcing costly detours on flights to Europe and North America. Air India estimated the annual damage at Rs 4,000-5,000 crore, including extra fuel, crew costs, aircraft utilisation and lost commercial opportunities. That is serious money, but less than one-quarter of the group's losses.

The Gulf war, beginning in Feb 2026, created further problems. Aviation fuel prices almost doubled within weeks, while restrictions and dangers in West Asian airspace forced additional diversions. The full impact will be felt in 2026-27. But government measures are cushioning domestic fuel costs.

Foreign exchange losses jumped from Rs 1,545 crore to Rs 7,388 crore in FY26, partly because of a sharp rupee depreciation. The rupee may hold its value this year, so predictions of higher losses would be premature. Some of these are technical, non-cash losses.

Air India has one enormous advantage over the Gulf airlines: access to a gigantic domestic market that is growing fast. The Gulf airlines have tiny home markets and depend overwhelmingly on international traffic. But so far, Air India has not integrated its domestic and international networks to reap economies of scale and fuller capacity utilisation.

Both Air India and Air India Express (its no-frills subsidiary) are bleeding. The full-service airline lost Rs 15,368 crore in FY26, while its low-cost subsidiary lost Rs 6,767 crore. Both airlines operate domestic and international services.

IndiGo, which commands two-thirds of India's domestic market, reported a loss of Rs 2,394 crore in FY26, largely reflecting foreign-exchange and exceptional charges. Excluding these, it earned a decent

adjusted profit of Rs 7,503 crore, though it faced the same Indian taxes, airport charges, regulations and domestic fuel costs as Air India.

IndiGo is a no-frills airline that operates a relatively standardised fleet and emphasises quick aircraft turnaround. Air India has a different aim — to become even better than the Gulf airlines, and to be on a par with Singapore Airlines, which owns 25.1% of Air India. Singapore Airlines' reputation for quality is such that it can charge the highest prices and yet fly full. Air India must be given time, at least a decade, to reach its goal. But it has got off to a terrible financial start.

The success of Gulf carriers rests not merely on luxurious seats. They have mastered several disciplines, operating efficient hubs that connect passengers seamlessly, maintaining strong international networks and maximising aircraft utilisation. Despite rising jet fuel prices and cancellations due to airspace closures, they have managed to ride out the turmoil.

Geopolitical problems are unlikely to end anytime soon. Pakistan is unlikely to lift the embargo on its

airspace, and troubles in the Gulf may disrupt traffic for a long time. One strategic answer could be to shift the main hub of Air India from Delhi to Mumbai. The route from Europe to Mumbai is less affected by the Gulf war, and costly re-routing is not needed. That is also true of traffic to Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kochi. These new hubs should be integrated seamlessly with the domestic network to reach every city in India. The future of civil aviation in India is very bright. Domestic traffic is expected to double in the next decade, while Singapore Airlines and the Gulf airlines will have to rely almost entirely on international travellers.

What else should the Tatas do? Simply, do everything better than your rivals. Punctuality, baggage handling, aircraft availability and seamless connections matter as much as gourmet meals.

The Tatas deserve credit for restoring pride to a once-moribund national airline. They have invested heavily in new aircraft and improved the corporate culture. On some routes, flying is a pleasure. But financial profitability cannot wait forever. ■