



Corporate Communications Directorate

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HYDERABAD

11 APRIL 2025

AAI TO FINALISE SECOND AIRPORT SITE FOR B'GLURU

M.B GIRISH | DC
BENGALURU, APRIL 10, 2025

A multidisciplinary team of Airports Authority of India (AAI) led by general manager (operations) Vikram Singh inspected three locations for the construction of second international airport near Bengaluru city from April 7 to 9 and the team will point out a suitable location within a month.

Minister of large and medium scale industries M.B. Patil on Thursday said the team inspected two locations near Kanakapura and one on Nelamangala-Kunigal road about 50-km from Bengaluru city. Once they submit the report, the state government will rope in expert consultants including Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Kohn Pedersen Fox, among others who will then study passenger load, cargo load, suitability, connectivity, financial viability among other factors.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

11 APRIL 2025

Airport sector to attract investment of ₹1 lakh crore over 4-5 years: ICRA



ANI
NEW DELHI

India's airport sector is set for a major boost, with capital expenditure (capex) of more than Rs 1 lakh crore expected over the next four to five years, according to a report by rating agency ICRA.

The report highlighted that the sector will continue to see substantial investments due to capacity bottlenecks at several airports. The projected investments will go into developing greenfield airports and

expanding existing ones.

It said "Given the capacity bottleneck faced by a few airports, the sector will continue to witness substantial capex. Investments of more than Rs. 1,00,000 crore are expected over the next 4-5 years, including greenfield airports".

Greenfield projects include upcoming airports in Jewar (Noida), Navi Mumbai, Bhogapuram, and Parandur (Chennai). Meanwhile, brown-field expansions are planned at key airports such as Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin, Mumbai, and Nagpur. Additionally, several airports under the Airports Authority of India (AAI) will also undergo upgradation.

The report has also projected that airport passenger

traffic in India will witness healthy growth in the coming years. Passenger traffic is expected to rise by around 7-9 per cent year-on-year to reach 440-450 million in FY2026.

This follows an estimated 10 per cent growth in FY2025, taking total passenger traffic to 412-415 million.

The revenue of the sample set of airports tracked by ICRA is also likely to grow significantly--by about 18-20 per cent year-on-year in FY2026.

Despite the ongoing investments, the sector's financial health is expected to remain strong. Debt coverage metrics are projected to stay comfortable, with an interest coverage ratio above 5 times and a debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) above 3.5 times in FY2026.



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MUMBAI

11 APRIL 2025

Int'l airport at Sira may not be viable, says MB Patil

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

Even as demand to establish second International Airport for Bengaluru at Sira in Tumakuru district gains momentum and Home Minister G Parameshwara supporting the cause, Infrastructure Minister M B Patil on Thursday indicated that it may not be viable.

If the airport comes up at Sira, it will become a district or a regional airport and not an international airport for Bengaluru, Patil said.

A number of legislators cutting across party lines have recently signed a petition to the Chief Minister and Union Civil Aviation Minister to set up the proposed airport at Sira -- about 120 km from Bengaluru, in a campaign spearheaded by senior Congress leader and MLA T B Jayachandra.

Union Minister of State and Tumakuru MP V Somanna too has lent voice to it.

The state government has already shortlisted three locations for the city's second airport -- two on Kanakapura Road near Harohalli and one on Kunigal Road in Nelamangala, and the Airports Authority of India

(AAI) team has inspected these sites in the last couple of days.

"If the airport has to come up at Sira -- Jayachandra is a senior, I respect him -- it won't be an international airport for Bengaluru, it will become airport for Tumakuru and Chitradurga districts," Patil said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "I have even said that we are considering a district airport for Tumakuru, Sira and Chitradurga region."

Responding to a question on demand to set up an airport at Sira, the Minister however, maintained that it will be discussed with consultants, who will prepare the report.

Highlighting that airport developers coming forward to develop the airport at the site finalised is

an important factor and that they decide based on viability, he said. "I too have a wish for an international airport to come up at Vijayapura (his native), is it possible?" he asked.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in Tumakuru, Parameshwara, who hails from the district said, he will be happy if the airport comes up at Sira or Koratagere or any other place in the region, as it will help growth.

AAI has inspected sites near Kanakapura Road and on Kunigal Road in Nelamangala. Parameshwara said adding, "They have inspected there, they will have their own parameters based on which they will give recommendation. They have not come to Sira for inspection, if they consider it, it will be helpful."



Amid Cong turf war, MB Patil rules out Sira for 2nd airport

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Bengaluru: Infrastructure development minister MB Patil, who also holds the industries portfolio, moved to end an intensifying turf war in governing Congress over the location of Bengaluru's proposed second international airport, by indicating that Sira in Tumakuru district would not be a viable venue for the project.

His comments come after a section of Congress members wrote to chief minister Siddaramaiah and the aviation minister, urging them to build the greenfield airport at Sira. The letter landed just when a team from Airports Authority of India (AAI) was wrapping up a three-day inspection of three shortlisted locations—two near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district (Somanahalli and Sokkanahalli), and one between Kuniagal and Nelamangala.

'Won't be international'

"If the airport is located at Sira, it will become a district or a regional airport and not an international airport for Bengaluru," Patil said Thursday, while clarifying that the proposal is still in its early



FLIGHT PATH: Airports Authority of India officials inspect one of the three shortlisted sites for the second Bengaluru international airport

stages. "The AAI team has conducted its inspection and a long procedure follows. We will hire consultants to study feasibility and business viability and the cabinet will take a call since tenders to develop the airport will ensue."

Patil said since the main objective is to take the load off Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), the second airport should ideally be located within Bengaluru and preferably at the southern end of the city since KIA is in the north.

Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar is backing Kanakapura, his home constituency, as the ideal site for the project, but a growing

faction of Congress MLAs is pushing for alternative locations, notably Sira. Home minister G Parameshwara was the first to pitch Tumakuru district as an ideal location and he found support in former minister TB Jayachandra, who wrote to Siddaramaiah and civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu proposing Sira as the location. Some 42 MLAs signed the letter.

"Jayachandra's letter reflects popular opinion," said Parameshwara. "The Centre must consider the demand since Tumakuru district has developed industrial areas and a helicopter manufactur-

ing unit. The project will proceed based on consensus. Nobody can hijack it."

Jayachandra too was confident the govt will favourably view their request since "more than 100 MLAs" were in favour of Sira. "Shivakumar is our deputy CM and a pan-Karnataka leader but vision for development should be above narrow political gains and local interests," Jayachandra said. "I am confident of convincing him about the advantages of having the second airport at Sira."

Farmers oppose Nelamangala

Meanwhile, the decision to shortlist Nelamangala as a location has triggered strong opposition from legislators and farmers, who fear large-scale land acquisition and damage to agriculture.

"While we have come to terms with land acquisition for the Kwin City project, we cannot afford to lose any more," said Shreenivasiah N, Nelamangala MLA. "I have already written to the CM, deputy CM and infrastructure development minister, registering our opposition... Representatives of farmers also have submitted a memorandum against the project to the AAI team."

IGI Airport aims to be a global hub in next 2 years

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The national capital's IGI Airport aims to become a major hub facility in the next two years on the back of rising international passenger traffic and upcoming facilities, said a senior official of Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL).

According to DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria, the airport is on its way to achieving passenger traffic and destination parameters meant for a hub airport.

Currently, DIAL operates and maintains the IGI Airport.

A hub airport synergises both the domestic and international operations in a manner that passengers can transit from one to the other in a seamless manner.

INFRASTRUCTURE GAP

Presently, there are no international hub airports in the country.

This has led to a substantial volume of passenger traffic from India to transit via the Middle East and South-east Asia to reach far-off destinations.

Speaking at an event here, Jaipuria said that the benchmarks for an Indian hub airport were arrived at from a study that was conducted by a consultancy on hubs across the world.

As per the parameters to become a hub, IGIA needs to service 24 million international passenger traffic.

The airport, Jaipuria said, had serviced about 21.6 million in FY25.

"We expect to go beyond 24 million international passengers in the next two years," he said.

Besides, he cited that the airport caters to flights connecting 150 destinations, with over 70 being international airports.

Jaipuria mentioned that

the growth of India-based airlines in the international segment, coupled with the intake of widebody aircraft, is leading to the creation of a hub airport in Delhi.

"Right now, 50 per cent of total international passengers are coming from Indian carriers," Jaipuria said at an event held here on Friday.

Further, he cited that the focus will now be on increasing connectivity to North America and Europe, as well as Asia Pacific.

ENSURE CONNECTIVITY

"Meetings are on with airlines and airports in this region, and we have signed an MoU to ensure connectivity with Auckland Airport. And there is a lot of interest from their side," he said.

"We are awaiting the right kind of aircraft for improving connectivity to the APAC region."

Furthermore, he said that IGIA cannot be compared to mega aviation hubs like Dubai and Singapore, as these airports are 100 per cent dependent on international passengers.

"They don't have any domestic passengers. However, IGIA is comparable to American airports," he said.

Additionally, he said that facilities that were developed in Phase 3A of the airport's expansion plan, such as the I-to-I (international to international) transfer area, have been tripled. "That (expansion of I to I area) is helping us," Jaipuria said, pointing out that other facilities, such as early baggage storage, have also been developed.

CONDUCTING TRIALS

In addition, he said that DIAL is conducting trials for a smooth transfer of cabin baggage from Terminal 3 to Terminal 1 for passengers arriving from international destinations and having a connecting flight from T1.

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट 2 साल में ग्लोबल हब के मानदंडों तक पहुंच सकता है : डायल

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 11 अप्रैल

अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्री ट्रैफिक में लगातार वृद्धि और कनेक्टिंग उड़ानों में खासे सुधार की वजह से उम्मीद है कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट अगले दो साल में वैश्विक हब के कई मानदंडों को पूरा कर लेगा। दिल्ली इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) के मुख्य कार्य अधिकारी विदेह कुमार जयपुरियार ने शुक्रवार को यह जानकारी दी।

एक वैश्विक परामर्श अध्ययन ने उन प्रमुख मानदंडों की पहचान की है, जिन्हें अंतरराष्ट्रीय हब के रूप में पात्रता हासिल करने के लिए दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट को पूरा करना होगा - और दिल्ली उन लक्ष्यों के करीब पहुंच रही है।

जयपुरियार ने संवाददाता सम्मेलन के दौरान कहा, 'परामर्श फर्म ने दुनिया भर में हब का संचालन किया और भारतीय हब के



हमें उम्मीद है कि अगले साल तक हम प्रति वर्ष 2.4 करोड़ अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों का आंकड़ा पार कर लेंगे : जयपुरियार

लिए बेंचमार्क तैयार किया। इसने कहा कि वैश्विक हब बनने के लिए दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर करीब 2.4 करोड़ का अंतरराष्ट्रीय ट्रैफिक होना चाहिए। जब यह अध्ययन किया गया था, तब हमारा अंतरराष्ट्रीय ट्रैफिक तकरीबन 1.8 करोड़ था।

पिछले साल, 2024-25 में हम करीब 2.16 करोड़ तक पहुंच गए। हमें उम्मीद है कि अगले एक से दो साल में हम प्रति वर्ष 2.4 करोड़ अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों का आंकड़ा पार कर लेंगे।'

उन्होंने कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय कनेक्टिंग ट्रैफिक, जो हब की ताकत का प्रमुख संकेतक है, में भी महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति नजर आई है। मुख्य कार्य अधिकारी ने कहा, 'अध्ययन में यह भी पाया गया कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय कनेक्टिंग ट्रैफिक - चाहे वह घरेलू से अंतरराष्ट्रीय (डी-आई) हो या अंतरराष्ट्रीय से अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आई-आई) और अंतरराष्ट्रीय से घरेलू (आई-डी) ऊपर बताए गए 2.4 करोड़ ट्रैफिक में से 70 लाख होना चाहिए, जो कुल अंतरराष्ट्रीय ट्रैफिक का 33 प्रतिशत होगा। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट वर्तमान में 60 लाख अंतरराष्ट्रीय कनेक्टिंग ट्रैफिक को संभालता है। इसलिए यह एक बड़ा सुधार है।'



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

Delhi Airport set for 'global hub' tag in 2 years, says CEO

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 11 April

Delhi Airport is expected to meet global hub criteria in the next two years, driven by a steady rise in international passenger traffic and a significant improvement in connecting flights, said Videsh Kumar Jaipuriar, chief executive officer (CEO), Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Friday. A study by a global consultancy recently identified key benchmarks Delhi Airport must meet to qualify as an international hub, and Delhi is closing in on the targets.

Speaking at a press conference, Jaipuriar said, "The consultancy conducted (a study on) hubs across the world and came out with a benchmark for Indian hubs. To become a global hub, it said, the Delhi Airport should have international traffic of around 24 million. When the study was conducted, our international traffic was about 18 million. Last year, 2024-25, we clocked about 21.6 million. We are expecting that in the next one to two years, we will go beyond 24 million international passengers per year."

He further said that international con-

necting traffic — a key indicator of hub strength — has also shown significant progress. "The study also found that the international connecting traffic — domestic to international (D-I), international to international (I-I), and international to domestic (I-D) — should be 7 million out of the aforementioned 24 million, which would be 33 per cent of the total international traffic. The Delhi Airport currently handles 6 million international connecting traffic. So, this is a major improvement."

A study by a global consultancy recently identified key benchmarks Delhi Airport must meet to qualify as an international hub, and Delhi is closing in on the targets

"We are heading in the right direction. As the connectivity is increasing, and as wide-body planes of Indian carriers are also coming in, we expect that we will reach these benchmarks in the next 1.5-2 years," he said, adding that the airport has taken steps to enhance inter-terminal connectivity to support the growing volume of transfers between domestic and international flights. "Even today, we are ready for inter-terminal connectivity. While we are reopening terminal-1 (on April 15), we are also deploying an additional number of buses to ensure that the frequency of buses is less than 10 minutes."

Improving the experience of I-D transfer

passengers is a key focus. "Currently, the direct transfer of bags for D-I and D-D passengers is seamless. We have worked out a trial of seamless baggage transfer for I-D passengers, which has been approved. Once that is successful, the I-D passenger can come out of the terminal and then go take his or her domestic flight at another terminal. So, we are working on ensuring that between the two terminals (Terminal 1 and Terminal 3), the connecting time is not more than 120 minutes, and that is something which we have also committed to the Ministry of Civil Aviation," he said.

He acknowledged that there were still some operational challenges, especially in the case of D-I transfer passengers which leads to them having to undergo security checks twice. He explained that differing security norms add complexity to the process.

"The security protocols for domestic and international passengers are different. In domestic flights, *kirpan* (small, curved sword or knife worn by Sikhs as a symbol of faith) is allowed to be carried in baggage. But *kirpan* is not allowed on international flights. So, while taking an international flight from Delhi, you need to go through another security check which is in line with the international protocol. This is a puzzle that we are trying to solve," he added.

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को दो नए रेलमार्ग से जोड़ने पर बनी सैद्धांतिक सहमति



ग्रेटर नोएडा, 11 अप्रैल (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट जेवर को दिल्ली-हावड़ा और दिल्ली-मुंबई रेलमार्ग से जोड़ा जाएगा। दिल्ली-हावड़ा रेल मार्ग पर यह चोला और खुर्जा और दिल्ली-मुंबई रेलमार्ग पर पलवल के पास जुड़ेगा। इन रूट की रेलवे मंत्रालय से मंजूरी मिल गई है। अब इसको विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट (डीपीआर) उत्तर मध्य रेलवे बना रहा। उत्तर मध्य रेलवे ने रूट को लेकर यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे प्राधिकरण और नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (नियाल) से सहमति मांगी है। जिस पर यमुना प्राधिकरण ने सेक्टर 5ए, 5, 6, 7, 8 होते हुए खुर्जा से 130 मीटर चौड़ी सड़कें उपर से एयरपोर्ट के दक्षिणी, उत्तरी और पूर्वी दिशा से चोला तक रेलमार्ग के रूट पर सहमति दे दी है। पहले रेलमार्ग का रूट नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग से होकर प्रस्तावित था। इससे यमुना प्राधिकरण के कई सेक्टर बीच में आ रहे थे। जिस पर यमुना प्राधिकरण और नियाल को इस रूट पर आपत्ति थी। उत्तर मध्य रेलवे प्रयागराज ने प्राधिकरण और नियाल की आपत्ति पर रेलमार्ग का नया रूट प्रस्तावित कर प्राधिकरण की सहमति मांगी। प्राधिकरण की सहमति मिलने पर उत्तर मध्य रेलवे डीपीआर तैयार कर रेलवे मंत्रालय को भेजेगा। दो नए रेलमार्ग से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को जोड़ने पर 2350 करोड़ रूपए खर्च होगा।

यमुना प्राधिकरण ने पहले रेल मंत्रालय को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को रेलमार्ग से जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव भेजा था। एयरपोर्ट को दिल्ली-हावड़ा और दिल्ली-मुंबई रेलमार्ग से जोड़ने पर सहमति बन

- दिल्ली-हावड़ा और दिल्ली-मुंबई रेलमार्ग से जोड़ने के लिए रेलवे मंत्रालय ने दी सैद्धांतिक सहमति
- उत्तर मध्य रेलवे ने रूट को लेकर यमुना प्राधिकरण और नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट मांगी सहमति
- एयरपोर्ट के दक्षिण, उत्तर और पूर्वी दिशा से रेलवे ट्रैक बनाने पर प्राधिकरण ने दी सहमति

गई। इसके लिए दो रूट बनाए जाएंगे और जेवर में बड़ा रेलवे स्टेशन बनाया जाएगा। इसकी डीपीआर उत्तर मध्य रेलवे प्रयागराज बना रहा। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से प्रस्तावित रेलवे रूट के एलाइनमेंट में बदलाव किया गया है। तकनीकी कारणों से इसे भूमिगत न बनाकर भूमि की सतह पर बनाने का फैसला किया गया है। रेलवे ट्रैक एक्विजिशन हब के सभी रनवे एक ओर रखते हुए दक्षिणी हिस्से से गुजरेगा। इससे यात्रियों और कार्गो दुलाई में सुविधा होगी। यह दिल्ली-मुंबई और दिल्ली-हावड़ा रेलवे रूट को वाया नोएडा एयरपोर्ट कनेक्ट करेगा। इसे भूमिगत न बनाकर भूमि सतह पर बनाया जाएगा।

उत्तर मध्य रेलवे, यमुना प्राधिकरण व नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की विकासकर्ता कंपनी यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्रा. (यापल) के बीच सहमति बन चुकी है। उत्तर मध्य रेलवे ने



इसको विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट तैयार की है। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को सड़क के साथ रेलवे कनेक्टिविटी भी दी जाएगी।

नए रेलमार्ग के बनने से जेवर के निवासियों को दिल्ली, कोलकाता, मुंबई, हरियाणा, राजस्थान समेत तमाम राज्यों तक पहुंच आसान हो जाएगी। दिल्ली-कोलकाता रेलमार्ग के बराबर में डेडीकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर भी है। चोला रेलवे स्टेशन के पास यह प्रस्तावित नए रेलमार्ग से जुड़ जाएगा। न्यू दादरी में ईस्टर्न और वेस्टर्न डेडीकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर मिल रहे हैं।

इस तरह दोनों रेलमार्ग को जोड़ा जाएगा

दिल्ली-मुंबई रेलमार्ग से एयरपोर्ट को जोड़ने के लिए पलवल से लाइन आएगी। रेलवे इस पर पहले से काम कर रहा है। पलवल से जेवर एयरपोर्ट वाया खुर्जा चोला तक यह लाइन बनाई जाएगी। पूरा रेलमार्ग का एलाइनमेंट मिलाकर पलवल से चोला तक इसकी दूरी करीब 68

यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे और नियाल के तरफ से इस रूट को सैद्धांतिक सहमति दे दी गई है। रेलमार्ग का एलाइनमेंट सेक्टर 5ए, 5, 6, 7, 8 से जेवर एयरपोर्ट दक्षिणी हिस्से तैयार किया गया है। इस एलाइनमेंट से करीब चार से पांच आवास शिफ्ट करने होंगे। प्राधिकरण प्राधिकरण से रेलमार्ग इस एलाइनमेंट को सहमति दे दी गई है।
डॉक्टर अलगवीर सिंह, मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

किलोमीटर है। पलवल से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट 29 किलोमीटर है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को दिल्ली हावड़ा रेलमार्ग से जोड़ने के लिए चोला रेलवे स्टेशन तक लाइन बिछाई जाएगी। यह कॉरिडोर करीब 16 किलोमीटर का होगा। इसके बनने से एयरपोर्ट दिल्ली-हावड़ा मार्ग से जुड़ जाएगा। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट दिल्ली हावड़ा रेलमार्ग पर दो जगह चोला और खुर्जा रेलवे स्टेशन पर जुड़ेगा।

एयर कार्गो को फायदा मिलेगा

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के पूर्व दिशा में कार्गो टर्मिनल बन रहा है। रेलवे ट्रैक के जरिये माल की दुलाई चोला स्टेशन तक सुगम हो जाएगी। दिल्ली-हावड़ा और दिल्ली-मुंबई रेलमार्ग का कार्गो भी एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंच सकेगा।

दिल्ली तक चलाई जा सकती हैं स्पेशल ट्रेन

इस रेलवे कॉरिडोर के सहारे नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से वाया चोला होते हुए आनंद विहार दिल्ली तक स्पेशल ट्रेन चलाई जा सकेंगी।

आर्बिटर रेल भी नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से जुड़ेगी दिल्ली के चारों ओर आर्बिटर रेल चलाई जानी है। यह आर्बिटर रेल भी नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के पास से होकर गुजरेगी। इसको भी जेवर में प्रस्तावित रेलवे स्टेशन से जोड़ा जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

11 APRIL 2025

RGIA WINS TOP HONOUR FOR 4TH TIME

M. SRINIVAS I DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has once again earned top honours in the prestigious Skytrax rankings, securing the award for best airport staff in India and south Asia for the fourth time. The airport is operated by the GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL).

The award was announced at the Passenger Terminal Expo in Madrid, Spain, recognising the organisation's consistent commitment to passenger experience, hospitality and efficiency.

The accolade followed a rigorous audit of staff service, including attitude, friendliness and responsiveness across all customer touch points. Speaking on the honour, GMR Hyderabad International Airport CEO Pradeep Panicker said, "It reflects the dedication and professionalism of our staff and stakeholders who work tirelessly to deliver exceptional service. Our teams anticipate passenger needs and offer personalised care to create memorable experiences."

The airport has implemented passenger-centric innovations, including city-side check-in, digital solutions that minimise wait times.

Runway repair sparks delays at IGI, flyers suffer

Neha LM Tripathi

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Passengers at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in Delhi are facing significant flight delays and disruptions following the closure of one of the airport's four runways for maintenance work that began on Tuesday.

Airport officials confirmed that Delhi Airport, India's busiest air terminal, is handling approximately 200 fewer flights daily since April 9 when runway 28/10 was closed for upgrades.

"The airport handles around 46 arrivals every hour. Since runway 28/10 [closed], as of now, maximum of 36 arrivals are being handled," an official told HT, asking not to be named.

Accounts by several passengers suggested that airline operations may not have adjusted to the closure — which was a planned shutdown announced in February — with many left stranded at the terminal or on fully boarded flights with delayed departures.

"Booked a flight for 8.40. They preponed it to 6.40. It's 7.40 and we are sitting on the runway since an hour. What is this service @airindia @DelhiAirportGMR AAI Official," one frustrated traveller posted on social media.

Another passenger complained: "Passengers are struggling and sitting stranded in the @IndiGo6E flight 6E 5057 for almost 30 mins at Delhi airport... Flight is delayed by more than 2 hrs without any update."

The situation worsened on Friday when bad weather conditions compounded the existing capacity constraints. According to Flightradar24, a live flight tracking website, arrivals were delayed by up to 81 minutes and departures by 102 minutes. Airport officials reported that 40 flights had to be diverted between 6.30pm and 10pm on Friday.

Several carriers, including IndiGo and Air India, have issued travel advisories informing passengers that the maintenance work would continue until July and urging them to monitor their flight status.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jai-

OFFICIALS SAID THE AIRPORT IS HANDLING APPROXIMATELY 200 FEWER FLIGHTS DAILY SINCE APRIL 9

purjar had announced in February that runway 28/10 would be temporarily closed for four to five months to upgrade the Instrument Landing System (ILS) to CAT III B standards, a change that will allow flight operations during low-visibility conditions, which frequently occur during Delhi's foggy winters.

On Friday, Jaipurjar told reporters that the runway would be operational by September, well before the winter peak travel period, ensuring the upgraded runway would be available during the fog season.

Delhi airport handles over 1,200 flights daily and operates four runways: 27-09, 28-10, 29L-11R, and 29R-11L, with the latter inaugurated in 2023.

Airline officials maintained they had prepared for the closure. "The airport had informed the airlines about the runway closure well in advance so they could plan accordingly," said one airline official.

Another official explained: "Since the closure is a planned activity, airlines put strategies in place considering the Calculated Take-Off Time (CTOC) to reschedule flights in advance."

Despite these preparations, delays persist. "With one main runway unavailable, flights are seeing delays of around 20 to 30 minutes, some even up to 45 minutes," another airline official acknowledged.

Aviation expert Mark D Martin expressed surprise at the situation: "It is surprising that an airport like Delhi, with three operational runways, is seeing such delays. Mumbai, with two runways, manages about 48 aircraft movements per hour. Terminal congestion may be a bigger issue. Terminal 4 should have been operational by now, as per the master plan."

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

SECURITY PROCESSES ARE BEING UPGRADED WITH TRIALS OF FULL BODY SCANNERS

'IGI Airport aims 24 mn annual int'l passenger traffic in 1-2 yrs'

NEW DELHI: Delhi airport is expected to handle over 24 million international passengers annually within the next one to two years, up from the current figure of 22 million. Of this, around 5.5 million are connecting passengers, according to Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria.

To support this growth, the airport is focusing on enhancing air connectivity to the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand. A memorandum of understanding has already been signed with Auckland Airport as part of the initiative. IGIA currently connects to 70 international



destinations and continues to expand its global network.

"We are well advanced into becoming a global gateway," Jaipuria said at a briefing in the national capital. IGIA is the

HIGHLIGHTS

- » To support this growth, the airport is focusing on enhancing air connectivity to the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand
- » A memorandum of understanding has already been signed with Auckland Airport as part

country's busiest airport and is operated by DIAL, which currently manages three terminals — T1, T2, and T3. Terminal 2 will be shut for maintenance from April 15, and all flights

of the initiative. IGIA currently connects to 70 international destinations and continues to expand its global network

- » DIAL is also conducting trials for seamless cabin baggage transfers between Terminal 3 and Terminal 1 for passengers arriving from international destinations

currently operating from there will be shifted to T1 until further notice.

As part of broader operational upgrades, DIAL is conducting trials for seam-

less cabin baggage transfers between Terminal 3 and Terminal 1 for passengers arriving from international destinations and connecting to domestic flights. At present, international passengers must complete immigration and customs at their first port of entry and then physically carry their baggage for check-in at T1.

Under the new system being trialled, baggage will be dropped off at T3 after customs clearance and transferred through the airside to T1 by the concerned airline, removing the need for passengers to transport it themselves. T3 and T1 are located some distance apart, and currently require

passengers to travel by road between terminals.

Additionally, DIAL has committed to the Ministry of Civil Aviation that transfer of passengers from T1 to T3 for connecting flights will be completed within 120 minutes. The airport is also working with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to improve check-in facilities at metro stations, currently available at New Delhi and Shivaji Stadium stations.

Security processes are being upgraded with trials of full body scanners and Computed Tomography X-ray (CTX) machines, expected to reduce frisking and hand baggage screening times. AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

Inclement weather disrupts take-offs and landings at IGIA, 15 flights diverted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

OVER 15 flights were diverted at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport on Friday evening due to a dust storm that ripped through the city and its surrounding areas.

"Due to inclement weather conditions in Delhi, some of the flights at Delhi Airport are impacted. Passengers are advised to contact their respective airlines for the latest flight updates," airport operator DIAL said in a post on X.

IndiGo also said that the national capital region and Jaipur are experiencing a dust storm, affecting takeoffs and landings and potentially causing air traffic congestion. This may lead to delays or diversions, the airport operator said in the post.

"Although the dust storm has passed, its effects continue to impact flight operations in Delhi and Jaipur. Delays and schedule changes may be expected as airports work to stabilise operations. If you're scheduled to travel, we recommend checking your flight status frequently. If needed, explore flexible rebooking options on our website. We're actively monitoring the situation and working to re-



If you're scheduled to travel, we recommend checking your flight status frequently. If needed, explore flexible rebooking options on our website — indiGo says

store normal operations as soon as possible. We appreciate your continued support and understanding," the airline said.

Air India also issued a travel advisory for their passengers stating that heavy thunderstorms and gusty winds have affected flight operations across parts of Northern India, due to which Air India flights from Delhi have either been diverted or delayed. "Some of our flights to and from Delhi are being delayed or diverted, which is likely to impact our overall flight schedule," the airline said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

Will handle 24 million passengers annually in two years, says DIAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DELHI airport expects to handle more than 24 million passengers annually in the next 1-2 years and is working on having more connectivity to the Asia Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand, a top official said on Friday.

Currently, the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) handles around 22 million passengers annually and of the total, 5.5 million are connecting passenger traffic.

DIAL CEO Vidh Kumar Jaipuria said the airport is in discussions to enhance air connectivity to the Asia Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand. Among other initiatives, a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Auckland airport.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates IGIA in the national capital and has connections to 70 international destinations at present. "We are well advanced into becoming a global gateway," Jaipuria said at a briefing here.

Currently, the annual passenger traffic is around 22 million. Now, there are three operational terminals - T1, T2 and T3. As



part of the expansion plan, the terminal 1 of the will be completely opened from April 15, while Terminal 2 will be closed from next month due to mandatory refurbishment work.

The Terminal 3 serves 4.3 cores already. DIAL expects T1 to serve 4 crore passengers annually since the building has been expanded from 55,740 sq m to 2.6 lakh sq m. Along with the increased area, the authorities have also installed advanced equipment to enhance the passengers' experience.

"The expansion and modernisation of T1 have been completed as part of the Phase 3A expansion project. The expanded world-class integrated T1 of Delhi Airport was dedicated to the nation in March last year," DIAL said in a release.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

15 से अधिक उड़ानें डायवर्ट की गईं

जानकारी के अनुसार इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय रयरपोर्ट (आईजीआईए) पर 15 से अधिक उड़ानों को डायवर्ट किया गया। एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर डायल ने शाम 7.15 बजे एक्स पर एक पोस्ट में कहा, 'दिल्ली में खराब मौसम के कारण, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर कुछ उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं। यात्रियों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उड़ान संबंधी नवीनतम अपडेट के लिए अपनी संबंधित एयरलाइनों से संपर्क करें। इंडिगो ने कहा कि दिल्ली और जयपुर में घूल भरी आंधी चल रही है, जिससे उड़ान और लैंडिंग प्रभावित हो रही है और संभावित रूप से हवाई यातायात जाम हो रहा है। ऑपरेटर ने पोस्ट में कहा कि इससे देरी या डायवर्जन हो सकता है। भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) ने दिल्ली और आसपास के एनसीआर के लिए ऑरेंज अलर्ट जारी किया है, जिसमें आने वाले घंटों में खराब मौसम की स्थिति की चेतावनी दी गई है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

आईजीआई 7वीं बार बना भारत व दक्षिण एशिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) :दिल्ली का इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा (आईजीआई) एक बार फिर अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भारत का गौरव बना है। स्काईट्रैक्स वर्ल्ड एयरपोर्ट अवार्ड्स 2025 में आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट को भारत और दक्षिण एशिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट घोषित किया गया है। यह सम्मान उसे लगातार सातवें वर्ष मिला है, जो एक बड़ी उपलब्धि मानी जा रही है। इस ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि की घोषणा स्पेन के मैड्रिड में आयोजित 'पैसेंजर टर्मिनल एक्सपो' के दौरान की गई, जहां डायल को यह प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार सौंपा गया। डायल यानी दिल्ली



इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड, आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट के संचालन और प्रबंधन की जिम्मेदारी निभाती है। केवल दक्षिण एशिया ही नहीं, बल्कि वैश्विक स्तर पर भी आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट ने अपनी छाप छोड़ी है। 70 मिलियन से अधिक यात्री क्षमता वाली श्रेणी में इसे दुनिया के टॉप 10 एयरपोर्ट में आठवां स्थान मिला है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAI PUR

11 APRIL 2025

स्काईट्रैक्स अवॉर्ड्स

दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट

सिंगापुर का चांगी एयरपोर्ट नंबर वन, दोहा का हमाद दूसरे स्थान पर फिसला



पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

सिंगापुर. स्काईट्रैक्स वर्ल्ड एयरपोर्ट अवॉर्ड्स 2025 में सिंगापुर का चांगी एयरपोर्ट एक बार फिर दुनिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट चुना गया है। यह 13वाँ बार है जब चांगी ने यह खिताब हासिल किया है। इसके साथ ही एयरपोर्ट को दुनिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ डाइनिंग अनुभव, सबसे स्वच्छ वॉशरूम, और एशिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट भी घोषित किया गया। यह रैंकिंग यात्रियों के अनुभव, सुविधा, सफाई और सेवाओं के व्यापक मूल्यांकन पर आधारित होती है।

टॉप 10 एयरपोर्ट्स

रैंक	एयरपोर्ट	देश
01	चांगी	सिंगापुर
02	हमाद	कतर
03	हनेडा	जापान
04	इंचियोन	द. कोरिया
05	नारिता	जापान

भारत: प्रदर्शन शानदार...

दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को भारत व दक्षिण एशिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट घोषित किया गया। हैदराबाद एयरपोर्ट को सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्टाफ सेवा और बेंगलुरु एयरपोर्ट को भारत का सर्वश्रेष्ठ रीजनल एयरपोर्ट चुना गया।

हमाद एयरपोर्ट पिछड़ा... पिछले साल पहले स्थान पर रहा दोहा का हमाद एयरपोर्ट इस बार दूसरे नंबर पर खिसक गया। हालांकि, दुनिया की सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट शॉपिंग व मध्य-पूर्व का सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट जैसे खिताब बरकरार रखे। टोक्यो हनेडा को तीसरा स्थान मिला, जिसे दुनिया का सबसे साफ एयरपोर्ट, सर्वश्रेष्ठ घरेलू हवाईअड्डा के लिए सराहा गया। इंचियोन ने चौथा स्थान पाया और दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ एयरपोर्ट स्टाफ का खिताब जीता।

Trials start for airside baggage transfer of connecting passengers from T3 to T1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has begun conducting trials for transferring check-in baggage of connecting passengers between T3, IGIA's only international terminal, and the all domestic T1. Next week, T1 will get fully operational and then T2 will be shut for repairs. However, with an air train still a few years away, transfers between T3 and T1—at a time when connecting traffic is on the rise thanks to massive network expansion by Air India group and IndiGo—remain a major hassle for passengers.

To make domestic-international or vice versa transfers between T3 and T1 less painful, DIAL plans to ensure transfer of some connecting passengers' baggage on the airside without travellers having to tow them along.

Presently, international travellers at Delhi airport have to complete their immigration and customs clearance have to check in the baggage again for connecting flights. "DIAL is conducting trials for



File photo

DIAL has told the civil aviation ministry that transfer of connecting passengers from T1 to T3 will be completed in 120 minutes

smooth transfer of baggage from T3 to T1 for connecting passengers arriving from international destinations," DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said on Friday.

Once the new system is in place, post customs clearance, passengers will not have to carry baggage to T1. They can drop the baggage at T3, and the airline concerned will transfer it to T1 through the airside, Jaipuria said. DIAL has told the civil aviation ministry that transfer

of connecting passengers from T1 to T3 will be completed in 120 minutes. The number of transfer traffic is expected to rise and with the 7-km distance between T1 and T3 not connected by an air train, smooth connections may be a distant dream. "However, we have committed to the govt that it will be ensured that passengers coming out of T1 can board a flight from T3 in 120 minutes," he said.

About the main runway (28/10) that has been closed for upgrading instrument landing system (ILS) on one end, he said, this work will be completed by Sept 2025, before the fog season sets in. "Post this work, both ends of 28/10 will be CAT III compliant and be able to handle landings in dense fog till visibility is 50 metres," he said.

Meanwhile, DIAL has set a target of making IGIA India's first "global gateway" hub in the next 1-2 years as its main home airlines — Air India group and IndiGo — implement massive international network plans. Jaipuria said IGIA is currently handling over 2 crore international passengers annually of which 55 lakh are connecting.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

11 APRIL 2025

2 neelgai rescued, combing op at Hisar airport 'ends'

DEEPENDER DESWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, APRIL 10

Weeks after persistent concern over wild animals posing a threat to airport operations, Haryana Forest and Wildlife Department authorities — along with a team from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun — rescued two nilgai (blue bulls) from the premises today.

With just days left for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to inaugurate flights from the newly set up airport in Hisar, the authorities have launched extensive operations to clear the airport of wild ani-



A nilgai near the airport in Hisar on Thursday. PHOTO: ASHOK KUNDU

mals. The airport is walled in 2,000 acres though it has a total of 7,200 acres.

Sources said that nearly 500 personnel of various departments launched a search

operation day and night and also used fireworks. The sources said that the entire 2,000 acre walled area was searched twice today to doubly ensure that no wild ani-

mal is left behind.

Sources now claim that the airport complex has been sanitised of wildlife. However, no government official has come on record to confirm the completion of the operation, leaving room for uncertainty.

The airport, which received its aerodrome licence on March 28, is built on land formerly occupied by the Government Livestock Farm (GLF)—a once-forested area teeming with wildlife. Animals, including nilgai, wild boars, jackals, stray dogs and rabbits, were reportedly trapped within the premises after the construction of a

boundary wall that cost the state around Rs 22 crore.

Wildlife activists have raised questions over the lack of rehabilitation plan for wildlife ahead of the construction work.

Though the local authorities earlier claimed no wild animal is inside the walled area, it turned out to be false later on. Subsequently, G Anupama, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife, on April 7 issued an urgent directive to mobilise all available resources for the removal of wild animals from the airport campus.

Trump's tariff policy confusion could leave aircraft deliveries in limbo

Reuters

Montreal/Chicago

Cars, consumer goods and industrial equipment have been delayed at ports, stuck on rail cars, and languished in warehouses at times over the last few months due to the White House's 'on-again, off-again' tariff policy.

Planes and their engines are usually ordered by US buyers years in advance, and tariff confusion risks delaying shipments of both, even if the industry has not been directly targeted for duties, sources told *Reuters*. The frequent changes and added costs are stressing a supply chain that has wrestled with shortages of parts and labour.

Outside Montreal, workers at Airbus' Canadian plant assembled a single-aisle A220 jet over the last several months, even as the shifting tariff policy made it unclear whether the plane would go to its intended customer, Delta Air Lines, with or without a 25 per cent duty.

The rapidly changing landscape means Delta might receive the 130-seat plane without tariffs, or could owe duties to the US government for parts made outside the US. The aircraft is expected to be delivered in June, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium.

Delta and Airbus declined comment on whether the A220 jet would be subjected



ADVERSE IMPACT. Planes and their engines are usually ordered by US buyers years in advance, and tariff confusion risks delaying shipments of both REUTERS

to the levy. Tariffs have rarely been an issue for aerospace. Aside from an 18-month transatlantic tariff war over Airbus and Boeing subsidies in 2020 and 2021, the industry has operated under a 1979 treaty guaranteeing zero-duty trading that includes the US and Canada, but not Mexico.

But US President Donald Trump's frequent tariff changes during the assembly of the A220 jet illustrate how his strategy adds risks for planemakers and airlines alike. In February, as Airbus employees in Mirabel, Quebec, worked on the plane's interior near the start of the assembly line, a source said, Trump threatened a 25 per cent tariff on goods imported from Canada and Mexico.

The levy would have

raised the cost for Delta substantially on a plane worth about \$40.5 million, according to Cirium delivery data from 2024.

SHIFTING STANCES

Just before that tariff was to go into effect, Trump delayed it for 30 days, and then said goods compliant with the Trump-negotiated US-Mexico-Canada Agreement would be exempt from duties. Those requirements forced Canadian aerospace firms to scramble to sort out paperwork they had not previously needed.

This particular plane, recently painted in Delta's colours, was believed to comply with the 2020 agreement, and hence exempt from tariffs, sources said. Canada's Bombardier has said its jets are compliant, and they have

been delivered to US clients without duties, per one of the sources. But the confusion was so great that at a recent factory meeting, Airbus told workers the tariff situation was complex and constantly evolving, according to a source.

Tariffs could also lead to heated negotiations between manufacturers and airlines over who pays. Delta said on Wednesday it would defer deliveries instead of paying tariffs as it tries to control costs in the face of slowing travel demand.

"The one thing that you need to know we're very clear on is that we will not be paying tariffs on any aircraft deliveries," CEO Ed Bastian told analysts. "We've been clear with Airbus on that, and we'll work through and see what happens."

As of the end of 2024, Delta estimated it would receive 43 aircraft from Airbus. A number of those jets were expected to come from its production lines outside the US.

Airbus' CEO Guillaume Faury warned it could prioritise deliveries to non-US customers if tariffs were to disrupt imports.

After Trump announced a 90-day pause on many tariffs on Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent suggested Canada would face a 10 per cent tariff along with other countries, before a White House official clarified there was no change.

भास्कर खास

एयरलाइंस का ट्रैवल प्रोग्राम- डेस्टिनेशन अननोन, मिनटों में बिक रहे टिकट

इस फ्लाइट में बैठने वालों को मंजिल पता नहीं, थीम के आधार पर बुकिंग; यादगार अनुभव दे रहा अनजान जगह का पर्यटन

भास्कर न्यूज | कोपेनहेगन

कल्पना कीजिए कि आप बैग पैक करें, एयरपोर्ट पहुंचें और ऐसी फ्लाइट में बैठ जाएं जिसकी मंजिल तक नहीं पता। यह अनुभव डरावना हो सकता है, पर कुछ लोगों के लिए रोमांचक भी होता है। स्वीडन की स्कैंडिनेवियन एयरलाइंस (एसएएस) ने अप्रैल में दूसरी 'डेस्टिनेशन अननोन' फ्लाइट चलाई। यह फ्लाइट पर्यटकों को कोपेनहेगन से स्पेन के सेविल शहर ले गई। इस मिस्ट्री फ्लाइट के टिकट सिर्फ चार मिनट में बिक गए थे। एसएएस ने यात्रियों और केबिन क्रू को आखिरी वक्त तक मंजिल नहीं बताई। केवल पायलट को ही पता था कि फ्लाइट कहां जा रही है। यात्रियों को एयरपोर्ट पर 'मिस्ट्री फ्लाइट' और 'अननोन शेंगेन' जैसे बोर्ड दिखे। इस प्रोग्राम में यात्री टिकट खरीदते हैं लेकिन उन्हें यह नहीं बताते कि वे कहां जा रहे हैं। बोर्डिंग पास पर भी 'अननोन डेस्टिनेशन' लिखा होता है। यह जानकारी या तो उड़ान के दौरान दी

यह पारंपरिक ट्रैवल से अलग, अनिश्चितता चाहने वालों के लिए बेहतर



फ्लाइट बोर्ड पर भी गंतव्य की जानकारी नहीं देते।

ट्रैवल एक्सपर्ट जैफरी फैफर कहते हैं, 'यात्रा में रोमांच व अनिश्चितता पसंद करने वालों के लिए 'मिस्ट्री फ्लाइट' बेहतर विकल्प है। टिकट बुक करने के बाद गंतव्य की जानकारी न होना यात्रियों को नया अनुभव देता है। यह पारंपरिक ट्रैवल से अलग है। एयरलाइंस भी इसे ब्रांड प्रमोशन व लॉयल्टी प्रोग्राम को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इस्तेमाल कर रही हैं। सीमित टिकट व अनोखे अनुभव के चलते यह ट्रेंड तेजी से लोकप्रिय हो रहा है। हालांकि यह ध्यान रखना जरूरी है कि जिन देशों में फ्लाइट जा सकती है, उनके लिए वीसा पहले से लिया जाए। हर एयरलाइन की अपनी शर्तें होती हैं, इसलिए नियम पढ़ना जरूरी है। ट्रैवल इंश्योरेंस भी लेना होगा क्योंकि हमें गंतव्य की जानकारी नहीं होती।'

जाती है या लैंडिंग के बाद। एसएएस ने प्रोग्राम की शुरुआत 2024 में की थी। पहली फ्लाइट कोपेनहेगन से एथेंस गई थी। इस बार सेविल पहुंचने पर सैलानियों को स्थानीय संस्कृति से रूबरू कराया गया। सेविल के ऐतिहासिक स्थलों का टूर, फ्लेमिंगो डांस से प्रेरित कार्यक्रम और स्थानीय व्यंजनों का मजा उठाने जैसी गतिविधियां

रखीं। इसे कस्टमाइज्ड टूर की तरह डिजाइन किया गया, जिससे यात्रियों को एक अनोखा अनुभव मिला। गंतव्य देश व टिकट के दाम एयरलाइन व प्रोग्राम पर निर्भर करते हैं। एसएएस की फ्लाइट्स में यूरोबोनस पॉइंट्स से टिकट बुक होता है। कम पॉइंट्स वाले अतिरिक्त पॉइंट्स खरीद सकते हैं।

-शेष पेज 10 पर

इस फ्लाइट में....

इसकी फ्लाइट्स सिर्फ शेंगेन क्षेत्र के 29 देशों में जाती हैं, जिससे वीसा की समस्या नहीं होती। वहीं, लुफ्थांसा एयरलाइंस के 'सरप्राइज' प्रोग्राम में यात्री थीम के आधार पर टिकट बुक करते हैं। जैसे 'नेचर', 'सन एंड सैंड', व 'रोमांस' आदि। 'नेचर' में ओस्लो, जेनेवा, स्टॉकहोम, जबकि 'रोमांस' थीम में पेरिस, रोम, वेनिस शामिल हैं। ट्रैवल प्लानर्स के मुताबिक लोग इस विस्मय भरे अनुभव से जुड़ने के लिए खासे उत्सुक हैं, चाहे योजना उनके हिसाब से न हो।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

11 APRIL 2025

AI pilot dies after landing

An Air India Express pilot in his late 30s died in Delhi on Wednesday after suffering a medical emergency shortly after landing a flight from Srinagar. Sources said the pilot began feeling unwell after arrival at Delhi airport and was rushed to hospital, where he later passed away. "We deeply regret the loss of a valued colleague and are extending all possible support to the family," the airline said in a statement on Thursday. Further details remain unavailable.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

11 APRIL 2025

Kerala Tourism, Malaysia Airlines forge strategic partnership to boost East Asian inbound travel

Malaysia Airlines, in collaboration with Kerala Tourism, launched a major initiative to explore the vast East Asian markets as part of the 'Look East' campaign. The effort includes a specially curated familiarisation (FAM) trip for tour operators and social media influencers from eight countries

OUR CORRESPONDENT

On April 10, Malaysia Airlines, in collaboration with Kerala Tourism, launched a major initiative to explore the vast East Asian markets as part of the 'Look East' campaign. The effort includes a specially curated familiarisation (FAM) trip for tour operators and social media influencers from eight countries, alongside a dedicated B2B meet to foster strategic tourism partnerships.

Inaugurating the 'B2B Meet' and 'FAM Trip', Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas termed the initiative as a strategic step that would ramp up footfall of tourists to Kerala from China, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Vietnam and Laos.

"Through the collaboration with Malaysia Airlines, Kerala Tourism is taking a giant leap towards the strategic vision of expanding Kerala's outreach globally," the Minister said while addressing the gathering.

Noting that the tie-up is a significant milestone, Riyas said it opened 'a new direction for Kerala Tourism to explore new markets.'

Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Mayor Arya



Rajendran, District Panchayat President P Suresh Kumar, Kerala Tourism Secretary Biju K; Dersensish Aresandiran, Chief Commercial Officer of Airlines at Malaysia Aviation Group and Kerala Tourism Director Sikha Surendran, were also present.

"Now, we will enjoy increased connectivity to Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand," the Minister said. The Minister urged the industry leaders and stakeholders to seize the opportunity and welcome more tourists from this region.

Riyas recalled that cutting across party lines, the members of the Kerala Legislative

Assembly have unanimously congratulated Kerala Tourism on the initiative. The declaration regarding the strategic partnership between the Government of Kerala and Malaysia Airlines as part of the 'Look East' policy was made on the occasion.

Biju K said the 'Look East' initiative is not just a marketing drive for the benefit of one side; instead, it has been conceived as a win-win partnership. Tourism stakeholders, including airlines, the hospitality industry, tour operators and service providers are the key partners in this collaborated endeavour.

"This campaign is also a vital step in increasing aware-

Sikha Surendran made a detailed presentation on Kerala Tourism, highlighting its unique offerings to tourists

ness about Kerala's diverse offerings in the Asian tourism market. We are launching the campaign by hosting a delegation comprising nearly 75 distinguished guests from eight countries, social media influencers and 40 outbound tour operators from China, Japan,

Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Vietnam and Laos," he explained.

Biju said the delegation will engage with various stakeholders, members of the local community, cultural practitioners and artisans. Besides, the 'B2B Meet' was organised to foster collaborations within the tourism sector.

Dersensish Aresandiran said, "Thiruvananthapuram is emerging as a strategic outbound hub and Malaysia Airlines is proud to be the first premium Southeast Asian airline to operate wide-body aircraft to the city. We aim to increase flight frequency to four or five weekly services, eventually moving to

daily operations."

"This is more than a route development - it's a long-term investment in Kerala's tourism potential. Through this partnership, we hope to connect Kerala with East Asia, Australia and beyond, showcasing the best of Malaysian hospitality and Kerala's unique charm," he added.

He further shared that the airline has brought its top global trade partners to experience Kerala firsthand, further strengthening the potential for increased inbound tourism through Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia Airlines continues to enhance its service offerings, including seamless connectivity, state-of-the-art aircraft, diverse

inflight dining and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Sikha Surendran made a detailed presentation on Kerala Tourism, highlighting its unique offerings to tourists.

The 'Look East' campaign is part of Kerala Tourism's initiative with Malaysia Airlines to look beyond the traditional markets of Kerala and tap the emerging tourism markets in East Asia.

'Kerala Travel Mart Society' Secretary Swaminathan S and 'South Kerala Hoteliers Forum' Secretary General Prasad Manjali also made presentations at the event. Major stakeholders, including tour operators and hoteliers, also attended.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

T2 MAINTENANCE

IndiGo flights to operate from T1 starting April 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIGO will relocate all its flights operating from Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal 2 to Terminal 1 in Delhi starting April 15, the airline said on Thursday. The move comes as maintenance work is set to begin at Airport's Terminal 2 and will remain in effect until further notice.

"In view of a planned maintenance activity, flights previously scheduled from Delhi Terminal 2 have now been reassigned to Terminal 1 starting April 15, 2025. We kindly request you to check the terminal details and your flight status on our website before heading to the airport, as there may be changes to flight schedules as well. Rest assured, we are working diligently to ensure a seamless transition and a smooth travel experience for you. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation," the airline said in a post on X.

The shift is expected to streamline operations and avoid disruptions during the construction period. IndiGo has advised passengers to check their terminal details before departure and arrive early.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

Weather mayhem: 61 die in Bihar, 20 flights diverted in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

While a sudden change in weather brought respite for people from the scorching heat in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh on Friday, lightning strikes and hailstorms in Bihar have claimed 61 lives in the last 24 hours, officials said. At least 20 flights were diverted in Delhi due to inclement weather conditions even as outage was reported from different areas in the national capital.

In Bihar, 39 people died due to hailstorms and rain-related incidents, while lightning strikes claimed 22 lives.

Twenty-five deaths had been reported on Thursday evening, and the death toll mounted to 61 after collation of data from various Bihar districts, they said.

A report said three persons were injured when a scaffolding of an under-construction building in Chander Vihar in trans-Yamuna area of Delhi crashed due to gusty winds.

In Bihar, Nalanda reported the highest number of fatalities at 23, followed by Bhojpur (six), Siwan, Gaya, Patna and Sheikhpura (four each), Jamui (three) and



Visitors during a dust storm at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi

PTI

Jehanabad (two), Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Arwal, Darbhanga, Begusarai, Saharsa, Katihar, Lakhisarai, Nawada and Bhagalpur districts reported one death each.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

offered condolences over the deaths and announced ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

In the national capital, the maximum temperature settled at 35.8 degrees Celsius,

marking a dip of 3.8 notches from Thursday's high of 39.6 degrees Celsius.

Strong dust storms and gusty winds hit Delhi this evening, prompting the MeT department to warn of adverse weather conditions in the coming hours and issue an "orange" alert for Delhi-NCR.

At least 20 flights were diverted at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here due to inclement weather.

"Due to inclement weather conditions in Delhi, some of the flights at Delhi Airport are impacted. Passengers are advised to contact their respective airlines for the latest flight updates," airport operator DIAL said in a post on 'X' at 7.15pm.

IndiGo said Delhi and Jaipur are experiencing a dust storm, affecting takeoffs and landings and potentially causing air traffic congestion. This may lead to delays or diversions, the operator said in the post.

While two weather stations - Ridge and Ayanagar — in Delhi on Thursday recorded heatwave conditions with temperatures settling above 40 degrees Celsius, on Friday all monitoring stations in the city recorded a high below the 40-degree mark.

Continued on >> P2

Weather mayhem: 61 die in Bihar, 20 flights diverted in Delhi

Continued from >> P1

The IMD has predicted thunderstorms with rain in Delhi on Saturday. In Uttar Pradesh, light rain accompanied by strong winds in several districts of the western part of the state on Friday evening brought a much-needed relief from the recent spell of intense heat.

In Moradabad, five students from a private university sustained injuries after being struck by lightning.

The university's media in-charge MP Singh said, "Five male students pursuing various graduate programmes were on way back to their hostel on Thursday night when it started raining. Seeking shelter under a tree, the students were unfortunately struck by lightning."

The sudden change in weather patterns brought considerable relief from scorching heat across the state as the maximum daytime temperature recorded

an average drop of approximately five degrees Celsius.

State capital Lucknow recorded a high of 32.9 degrees, 4.3 notches below the normal. Fatehpur and Banda recorded the highest maximum in the State at 40.6 degrees each.

The Meteorological Department reported that a number of areas, including Saharanpur, Moradabad and Hapur, witnessed lightning and hailstorms in isolated pockets during the intervening night of April 10 and 11.

In Uttarakhand, heavy rain lashed the Nandprayag area of Chamoli district following which debris generated by the reconstruction of a national highway gushed into several shops and hotels, damaging goods kept inside them, officials said.

While advising people to stay indoors, secure windows and doors, and avoid

unnecessary travel, the IMD also outlined possible impacts of the severe weather, cautioning that strong winds and hail may damage plantations, horticulture, and standing crops. A report from Shimla said light to moderate rains lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh while high altitude tribal areas received light snowfall on Friday.

Dharamshala was the wettest with 37mm rain, followed by Dalhousie at 21mm, Gohar at 19.0mm, Kangra at 14.2mm, Pandoh at 14.0mm, Paonta Sahib at 13.6mm, Karsog at 13.1mm, Mandi at 8.0mm, Sangla at 7.4 mm, Shimla at 7mm and Guler at 5.6 mm.

Shimla, Sundernagar, Jubberhatti, Jot, and Kangra saw thunderstorms while heat wave conditions prevailed in Sundernagar and Dharamshala, and severe

heat waves in Bhuntar, the local MeT station said.

The Lahaul and Spiti Police has asked commuters to assess the weather conditions before travelling as snowfall was witnessed at various places in the district.

The MeT station has issued 'yellow' warning of thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places in Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour on April 12 and predicted dry weather in the state till April 17.

The maximum and minimum temperatures dropped marginally and Una was the hottest with 36.2 degrees while Keylong was the coldest with a low of 2.0 degrees.

With fresh rains, the monthly rain deficit in April has reduced from 99 to 90 per cent and seasonal rainfall deficit from March 1 to April 11 was 43 per cent.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

दिल्ली में आंधी ने बिगाड़ा हवाई ट्रैफिक का संतुलन 42 फ्लाइट्स को अन्य शहरों में कराया गया लैंड

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : दिल्ली-एनसीआर में आई तेज आंधी और मौसम की बेरुखी ने शनिवार को इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट (आईजीआई) पर हवाई यातायात की कमर तोड़ दी। एक के बाद एक विमानों को सुरक्षित रूप से लैंड करने के लिए एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी) को बड़ा फैसला लेना पड़ा और इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि दिल्ली पहुंच रही 42 उड़ानों को अन्य शहरों के एयरपोर्ट्स की ओर मोड़ना पड़ा। सबसे पहले जयपुर को विकल्प के तौर पर चुना गया जहां 9 फ्लाइट्स को लैंड कराया गया। लेकिन जब

वहां भी मौसम ने करवट ली, तो लखनऊ, अमृतसर, चंडीगढ़, देहरादून और वाराणसी जैसे शहरों को राहत हब के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया गया। अमृतसर में 8, चंडीगढ़ में 7, लखनऊ में 9, वाराणसी में 2 और देहरादून में 1 फ्लाइट को आपात लैंडिंग की अनुमति दी गई। एटीसी अधिकारियों के अनुसार, हवा की रफ्तार और रनवे विजिबिलिटी में आई गिरावट के चलते उड़ानों को होल्ड में रखना संभव नहीं था, इसलिए डाइवर्जन ही एकमात्र सुरक्षित विकल्प था। मौसम का यह कहर सिर्फ आने वाली फ्लाइट्स तक

सीमित नहीं रहा। जिन उड़ानों को उस समय टेक-ऑफ करना था, उन्हें घंटों इंतजार करना पड़ा। रनवे पर लगातार लैंडिंग और होल्डिंग के कारण एयर ट्रैफिक में भारी भीड़ हो गई और देरी का असर देर रात तक जारी रहा। वातावरण सामान्य होने के बाद भी विमान सेवाओं की रफ्तार पकड़ने में वक्त लगा। लैंडिंग स्लॉट की कमी और ग्राउंड ऑपरेशन पर दबाव के चलते एक घंटे तक की देरी आम हो गई। इस असाधारण स्थिति को देखते हुए दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट (डायल) और तमाम प्रमुख एयरलाइंस की ओर से यात्रियों को समय पर अलर्ट भेजे गए।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

30 मिनट तक आसमान में मंडराता रहा विमान, थमी सांसों

इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई 5298 दिल्ली-रांची के बीच झेला खतरनाक टर्बुलेंस, सुरक्षित लैंडिंग के बाद यात्रियों ने ली चैन की सांस

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : गुरुवार का दिन दिल्ली से रांची की उड़ान भरने वाले इंडिगो फ्लाइट 6ई-5298 के यात्रियों के लिए कभी न भूलने वाला अनुभव बन गया। दोपहर 1:20 बजे जैसे ही विमान ने दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरी, किसी को अंदाजा नहीं था कि 350 किलोमीटर बाद आकाश में वो सब होने वाला है जो यात्रियों को जिंदगी भर याद रहेगा।

करीब 2:20 बजे, जब विमान 40,000 फीट की ऊंचाई पर था, मौसम अचानक बिगड़ गया। घने बादलों और तूफानी हवाओं के बीच विमान भयंकर टर्बुलेंस में फंस गया। यात्री सत्य प्रकाश ने बताया, अचानक



विमान कांपने लगा, चारों तरफ सफेद धुंध और बादलों की मोटी परत थी, कुछ भी साफ नजर नहीं आ रहा था। ऐसा लग रहा था जैसे हम किसी अनजान तूफान में फंस गए हैं।

विमान जैसे ही बार-बार झटका खाने लगा, यात्रियों के बीच चीख-पुकार मच गई। कुछ लोग दुआएं पढ़ने लगे, तो कुछ की आंखों में आंसू थे। सत्य प्रकाश कहते हैं, मेरे लिए ये

अनुभव बिल्कुल नया और बेहद डरावना था। कई यात्रियों को तो ऐसा लग रहा था जैसे जिंदगी का आखिरी दिन हो। करीब 2:45 बजे स्थिति और भयावह हो गई। यात्रियों के साथ-साथ केबिन कू तक बेचैनी में आ गए। लेकिन इस डर के माहौल में कू मेंबर तान्या ने अपने अदम्य साहस का परिचय दिया। तान्या ने यात्रियों के पास जाकर न सिर्फ उन्हें ढांडस बंधाया, बल्कि माहौल को सामान्य बनाने के लिए हरसंभव कोशिश की। उन्होंने कहा, आप धबराइए नहीं। हम इससे भी बदतर हालात से सुरक्षित बाहर निकले हैं। पायलट अनुभवी हैं, हम सब मिलकर इस स्थिति का सामना करेंगे।

पायलट की सूझबूझ से बची दर्जनों जिंदगियां...

करीब 3:38 बजे, पायलट ने एक बार फिर अपने अनुभव और धैर्य का परिचय देते हुए बिरसा मुंडा एयरपोर्ट रांची पर विमान को सुरक्षित उतार दिया। विमान के पहिए जमीन छूते ही पूरे विमान में तालियों और राहत की सांसों की आवाज गूँज उठी। सत्य प्रकाश ने बताया, लैंडिंग के बाद पायलट ने घोषणा की कि मौसम की स्थिति बेहद खराब थी और विजिलेंसिटी लगभग शून्य थी। लेकिन हमने संयम और टीमवर्क से इस परिस्थिति को पार किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

12 APRIL 2025

Pilot death: DGCA probes if he got timely medical help

Saurabh.Sinha
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New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sought all details related to the death of a young Air India Express pilot at Delhi Airport on Wednesday shortly after safely operating a flight from Srinagar. The airline is learnt to have given all the details to the regulator. Pilot friends of late first officer Armaan (36) have sought a probe into the circumstances leading to his demise.

"We will be seeing whether the late pilot got the right medical services at Delhi Airport and in what time, among other aspects," said a senior DGCA official. "The entire chain of events will be looked into," said a senior aviation ministry official.

A probe is necessary as there are differing accounts on when the 36-year-old first got medical help and whether he could have been saved. While multiple pilots say "despite the critical situation, no ambulance or medical team arrived for over 45 minutes," Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) says it took about 10 minutes.

"Captain Armaan had collapsed just outside the cockpit after operating Air India Express flight IX 1171 from Srinagar to Delhi. He showed signs of acute physical distress, including vomiting and loss of consciousness. In the fall, he sustained a head injury after hitting a service cart," his friends and multiple pilot colleagues say. Armaan was declared dead at the hospital about 90 minutes later.

AI Express has requested "all concerned to respect privacy at this time and avoid unnecessary speculation while we commit to assisting the relevant authorities in due process."

Images generated using AI for illustrative purposes only

Peg to differ: Altitude and alcohol don't mix well

Another day, another 'pee-gate' triggers fresh debate on the need to control drinking at airports, and on flights

Earlier this week, a 24-year-old Indian passenger urinated on a Japanese co-passenger onboard a Delhi-Bangkok flight. Social media called it 'Pee-Gate 2.0' – a shameful reminder of the November 2022 incident, when a senior executive with a multinational financial services company urinated on a woman on a Delhi-New York flight.

Both incidents happened in the business class, which offers in-flight alcohol. In both incidents, the perpetrators were inebriated – enough to be considered unable to handle a drink.

NO CAP ON DRINKING

We may not want to admit it, but the average Indian has a problematic relationship with alcohol and free access in the confines of a plane is evidently risky.

For instance, on December 20, 2024, Air India Express launched its inaugural flight from Surat to Bangkok. During the



#TalkingPoint

four-hour journey, 175 passengers reportedly consumed approximately 15 litres of alcohol before the plane landed in the Thai capital. While there weren't any untoward incidents, there was a call to regulate complimentary alcohol on international flights from India.

MID-AIR CHAOS AND ALCOHOL

Post COVID, with air-travel picking up around the world, airlines and airports have been offering premium add-ons on full-service flights and lounges with unlimited alcohol. But not enough checks and measures are in place to tackle intoxicated passengers on board. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) however has put the onus of deciding on how much alcohol they want to serve in which sector on the airlines. TNN

sonamchandwani5

What should air India do here? Teach him basic manners? Civic sense? It's people who need to learn and understand not the management they are being defamed for no reason. I still feel air India is better than indigo they still serve food provide basic service in international flights. Try indigo and you will fly air India trust me

Cabin crew is trained to identify potential cases of intoxication and take guard. But often, male passengers refuse to comply. It is especially difficult when they travel in all-male groups or solo

– Anjali Sen, former employee of a private airline

APRIL 10, 2025

Air India in another 'pee-gate' row: Business class passenger urinates on fellow traveller, banned for 30 days

A wider acceptance of alcohol consumption in public settings may be more commonplace. But drinking socially is also drinking responsibly. Indian passengers often tend to forget that

– Seema Jaiswal, entrepreneur, frequent flyer

Air India's response

Air India confirmed the April 2025 incident, stating that the crew adhered to all established procedures and reported the matter to the relevant authorities. The airline mentioned that the crew issued a warning to the unruly passenger and offered assistance to the aggrieved to file a grievance with authorities in Bangkok, which was declined at the time. An independent committee will assess the incident to determine any further action. Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said, "If there is any wrongdoing, we will take necessary action."



What the rules say

The DGCA Aircraft rule 24 states that no person may operate or attempt to operate an aircraft within eight hours of consuming alcohol. For passengers on international flights, the airlines can serve alcohol, but they have their own policies on this. On flights lasting less than four hours, no more than two drinks should be served to a passenger, and once three drinks are served, there must be a break of at least three hours before serving additional drinks.

Air India Policy:

After being penalised by the DGCA, Air India revised its alcohol policies in 2023

- Guests aren't permitted to drink alcohol unless served by cabin crews

- Cabin crew to be trained to identify inebriated passengers
- Service must be tactful, refusing to serve further alcohol if it is potentially unsafe
- Special training was given to the crew to help recognise and manage possible cases of intoxication

Source: Agencies

APRIL 24, 2023

Man faces legal heat for urinating on NYC-Delhi flight co-passenger

Ugh. We really have a drinking problem. Don't let drunks board flight. Breathalyzer at boarding. And don't serve alcohol on flight.

Gargi @GargiVac

Save everyone from the nuisance of the Indian drunk. The number of times I've had to deal with drunk Indian men on flights



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

11 APRIL 2025

AI pilot dies of cardiac arrest after landing flight

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: An Air India Express pilot suffered a cardiac arrest at IGI Airport on Wednesday shortly after safely operating a flight from Srinagar and passed away.

First officer Armaan, who was about 36 years of age and had recently got married, had operated the Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi flight on Wednesday. After landing in Delhi, he went to the aircraft lavatory where he vomited.

He collapsed in the forward galley and was taken to the airport medical centre by cabin crew and ground staff. He was then taken to a private hospital in Vasant Kunj but could not be saved.

"We deeply regret the loss of a valued colleague due to a medical condition. Our thoughts are with the family during this time of profound

RECENTLY WED

> Armaan (36) had flown for less than 12 hrs in past week



> Airline Pilots' Assn said there's an urgent need for transparent regulations that prioritise rest for pilots

> Several pilots say they have been pleading for less strenuous working conditions for a long time

grief. We are extending all possible assistance to them as we all cope with this tremendous loss. We request all concerned to respect privacy at this time and avoid unnecessary speculation while we commit to assisting the relevant authorities in due process," an Air India Express spokesperson said.

► Continued on P 8

'Need to prioritise rest for pilots'

► Continued from P1

Armaan, who went by his first name only, had joined AI Express in 2023 from SpiceJet. He had flown for less than 12 hours in the last seven days, it is learned.

The Airline Pilots' Association of India said in a statement that there's an urgent need to put in place transpar-

ent regulations that prioritise rest for pilots, safety and humane scheduling practices. The association, which represents over 800 pilots of various Indian carriers, has stressed the need for having comprehensive mental health support systems within airline organisations and not merely as checkboxes but as active, accessible, and stigma-free services.

ALPA says the untimely death of captain Armaan's death raises troubling questions about pilot welfare, mental health, and working conditions in the Indian aviation industry.

While not linking Armaan's tragic death to fatigue, several pilots say they have for a long time been pleading for less strenuous working conditions in India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

11 APRIL 2025

Mumbai flight delayed by 90 mins as pilot detects snag

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: An IndiGo flight scheduled to depart from Chennai to Mumbai was delayed by one and a half hours on Thursday morning after the pilot detected a mechanical issue prior to take off. The flight, carrying 182 passengers and seven crew members, was set to depart at 4.55am from Chennai's domestic terminal.

As part of routine pre-take off procedures, the pilot conducted engine checks and identified a mechanical problem just before the aircraft began taxiing to the runway.

Recognising the potential risk, the pilot alerted the airport control room, halting further preparations for departure.

Ground engineers boarded the plane to carry out necessary repairs while all passengers remained seated inside the aircraft. The issue was resolved in around 90 minutes, and the flight was cleared for departure. It took off at around 6.30 am.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

11 APRIL 2025

Jumbo freighter makes pitstop in city

Chennai: National Airlines' Boeing 747-400 freight carrier made a stop at Chennai International Airport on Tuesday, arriving from Birmingham, UK, en route to Incheon, South Korea, to carry cargo from the city. The aircraft took off with 116 tonnes of cargo to Incheon. This high-capacity movement underscores Chennai's importance as a strategic cargo hub in South Asia. Authorities said that jumbo freighters landing in Chennai is not very uncommon, as the city skies previously witnessed a similar flight as recent as January this year. **78**