



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Noida International Airport set to handle six million passengers in first year

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) is expected to handle around six million passengers in its first year of commercial operations, sources told *businessline*.

The airport is expected to commence domestic as well as cargo operations from the fourth quarter of 2025.

Industry insiders told *businessline* that NIA's management has made several presentations to relevant authorities regarding its completion deadline and launch preparations.

USER TAX

In a related development, the Airports Economic Regu-

latory Authority (AERA) has issued an *ad hoc* tariff order enabling NIA to collect a User Development Fee (UDF) of ₹490 (plus taxes) from departing domestic passengers and ₹980 from departing international passengers.

Besides, arriving domestic passengers will have to pay ₹210, while international arrivals will be charged ₹420, plus taxes.

The interim tariff order will remain in force until March 31, 2026, or until a final order is issued.

Last month, NIA's Chief Executive Officer Christoph Schnellmann told *businessline* that the aeronautical infrastructure at the airport is now complete.

In addition, Schnellmann

noted that the Airports Authority of India is currently installing and commissioning equipment in the air traffic control tower.

"In parallel, a comprehensive Operational Readiness, Activation and Transition (ORAT) programme is being implemented to ensure all systems, processes and personnel are fully prepared for operations," he said.

In July, *businessline* reported that NIA had initiated 'terminal trials' as a part of ongoing 'ORAT', which is a critical phase that signals the start of final preparations before the airport becomes fully functional.

The full-fledged terminal trials have been testing passenger processes, systems'

integration and coordination among various airport partners.

"Our next major milestone is the issuance of the aerodrome licence by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)," said Schnellmann.

Airports face user fee cuts for poor passenger service

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

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

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

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

Third-party audit

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

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



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

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

At the Delhi airport,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Navi Mumbai International Airport – Mumbai's new gateway across the harbour

BUSINESS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 10: The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), set to open by the end of September at Ulwe near Panvel, is reshaping the geography of India's busiest aviation hub. With new bridges, highways, and metro lines converging on it, the airport promises to transform how people experience air travel.

As its steel arches and glass façades rise in the sunlight, NMIA represents more than just another terminal. According to a press release, it is a second crown jewel for Mumbai, a city that has long depended solely on the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Santacruz.

Once operational, NMIA will elevate Mumbai into the league of global cities like New York, London, and Dubai, which manage

multiple airports serving millions each year. For travellers, the addition offers relief from congestion, the promise of quicker journeys, and the spread of growth across the harbour into Navi Mumbai, Pune, Raigad, and the Konkan belt.

The airport site spans more than 1,160 hectares near Panvel, an area transformed into a modern aviation hub with the capacity to eventually serve up to 90 million passengers annually. Its runways are designed for both domestic and international traffic, while its location connects it seamlessly to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, the Goa highway, and the JNPT port. NMIA has the space to grow and to serve not only Navi Mumbai's townships but also the wider hinterland of Thane, Pune, and western Maharashtra.

Building NMIA has required extraordinary engineering. Hills

were tunnelled through, rivers diverted, villages relocated, and uneven terrain flattened. But authorities recognise that the success of the airport depends not just on runways and terminals but on the wider civic ecosystem.

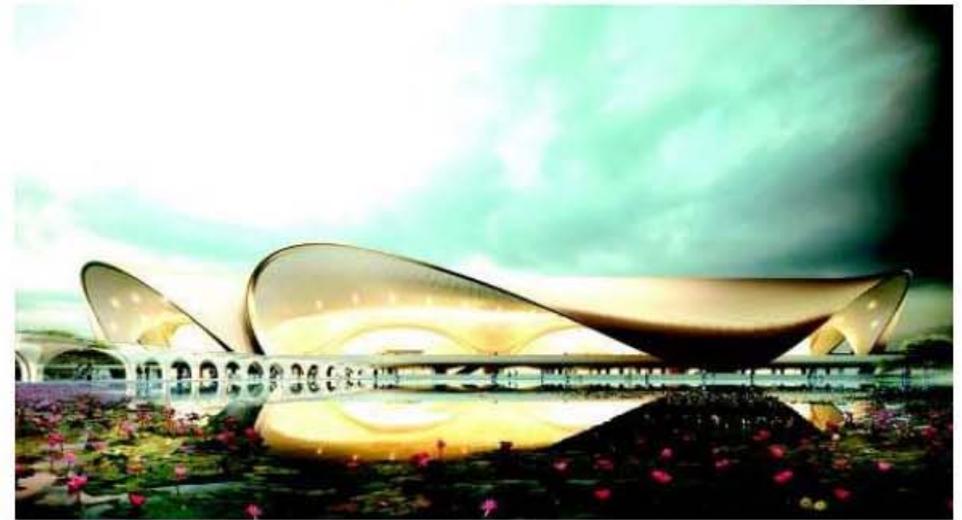
CIDCO is constructing a 9 km elevated corridor to funnel traffic directly into the airport. MSRTC is planning airport express buses from Thane, Dadar, Vashi, and Panvel, potentially using electric fleets to reduce emissions. Metro connectivity is on the horizon too: Line 1, currently linking Belapur to Pendhar, is expected to extend toward Ulwe, while Panvel station is being developed as a regional hub for passengers arriving from Pune and the Konkan.

NMIA's impact stretches beyond aviation. Already, its presence is transforming Navi Mumbai's skyline, with new business parks,

residential complexes, and logistics hubs rising in Kharghar, Ulwe, and Panvel. Developers market these areas as the next frontier of urban growth, bringing jobs, homes, and opportunities closer together. For Mumbai as a whole, the airport signals a decentralisation of economic activity, with momentum shifting eastward.

Globally, major cities operate multiple airports to balance capacity and resilience. London has Heathrow and Gatwick, New York has JFK, Newark, and LaGuardia. With NMIA complementing CSMIA, Mumbai too will join this club. The move is not only about prestige but also about future-proofing. As India's busiest aviation hub, Mumbai urgently needs added capacity to handle surging passenger numbers.

For Mumbaikars, however, the meaning is simpler. After decades



of relying on a single airport, the arrival of NMIA represents relief and renewal: shorter commutes, easier skies, and a chance to

spread growth more evenly. If the supporting roads, rails, and civic amenities keep pace, NMIA will be more than a second airport. It

will be a second chance for Maharashtra to showcase how infrastructure and urban planning can grow in harmony.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

देश के पांच और हवाईअड्डों पर त्वरित आव्रजन, 30 सेकंड में मिलेगी मंजूरी

गृह मंत्री शाह ने कहा-यात्रियों को मिलेगी लंबी कतारों से मुक्ति

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने बृहस्पतिवार को लखनऊ समेत पांच और हवाईअड्डों पर फास्ट ट्रेक इमिग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम (एफटीआई-टीटीपी) की शुरुआत की। इसके तहत पूर्व-सत्यापित भारतीय नागरिकों व प्रवासी भारतीय (ओसीआई) कार्डधारकों की आव्रजन प्रक्रिया तेज और बाधामुक्त होगी। शाह ने कहा, यात्रियों को लंबी कतारों से मुक्ति मिलेगी और सिर्फ 30 सेकंड में आव्रजन मंजूरी मिल जाएगी।

लखनऊ के साथ तिरुवनंतपुरम, तिरुचिरापल्ली, कोझिकोड व अमृतसर में एफटीआई-टीटीपी का वर्चुअल माध्यम

से शुभारंभ करते हुए शाह ने कहा, यात्रियों को अब मैनुअल जांच का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा। उन्होंने कहा, यह परियोजना पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी के स्प्रीड, स्केल और स्कोप यानी गति, पैमाने और दायरे के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप है। यह पहल न सिर्फ यात्रियों की सुविधा बढ़ाएगी, बल्कि उन्हें देश में हो रहे बदलावों से परिचित होने का अवसर भी प्रदान करेगी। शाह ने कहा, यह सुविधा अब देश के 13 हवाईअड्डों पर उपलब्ध है। दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे से शुरू होने के बाद इसे मुंबई, चेन्नई, कोलकाता, बंगलूरु, हैदराबाद, अहमदाबाद व कोचीन में लॉन्च किया गया।



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Fast track immigration at five more airports

Our Bureau
New Delhi

In a move to enhance the ease of travel, the Ministry of Home Affairs has expanded the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) to five more airports: Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchi, Kozhikode and Amritsar, as the number of overseas travellers visiting India has gone up to 2 crore — a jump of 31 per cent over the last 10



Union Home Minister
Amit Shah

years.

This brings the total number of airports offering the seamless immigration facility to 18.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The programme, aimed primarily at Indian citizens and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders, allows immigration clearance in under 30 seconds, eliminating the need for manual checks and long queues. It was first launched in 2024 at the Delhi airport and has since been rolled out at major hubs, including Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Kochi and Ahmedabad.

Inaugurating the expanded roll-out via video conference, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the programme represents a step forward in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "speed, scale and scope" in public services. "This facility not only enhances travel convenience but also introduces travellers to the pace of transformation in the country," Shah said.

The Home Minister also announced plans to integrate the FTI-TTP at upcoming airports in Navi Mumbai and Jewar, Greater Noida, as part of the government's broader strategy to modernise border control and passenger experience.

"We are not just providing comfort — we're ensuring

national security is maintained while reducing delays. Around 3 lakh people have already registered on the portal, and 2.65 lakh have used the facility while travelling," he noted. He urged the authorities to integrate the registration process with passport and OCI issuance to encourage greater participation.

The facility, implemented via the portal <https://ftitp.mha.gov.in>, allows travellers to register online. Biometrics can be submitted at FRRO offices or during airport transit.

At the airport, registered travellers simply scan their boarding pass and passport at the e-gate, where biometric verification is conducted before automatic immigration clearance.

India's rising global travel footprint underlines the programme's relevance. According to data shared by Shah, foreign arrivals to India have increased by 31 per cent over the past decade — from 1.53 crore in 2014 to nearly two crore in 2024.

Outbound Indian travellers also rose significantly, from 3.54 crore in 2014 to 6.12 crore in 2024, a push of 73 per cent. Combined, international travel traffic grew by 60 per cent over the decade.

The next goal, Shah added, is to ensure that every Indian citizen and OCI cardholder benefits from this transformative facility.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने वीसी से किया उद्घाटन पांच हवाईअड्डों पर शुरू हुआ फास्ट ट्रैक इमीग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

केंद्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री अमित शाह ने गुरुवार को वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग (वीसी) के जरिए लखनऊ, तिरुवनंतपुरम, त्रिची, कोझिकोड और अमृतसर हवाईअड्डे पर फास्ट ट्रैक इमीग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम (एफटीआई-टीटीपी) का उद्घाटन किया।

इस अवसर पर शाह ने कहा, इस सुविधा से न सिर्फ प्रवासियों की सुविधा बढ़ेगी, बल्कि हमें देश में होने वाले परिवर्तनों से उनका परिचय कराने का भी मौका मिलेगा। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के स्वप्न - स्पीड, स्केल और स्कोप - को इस प्रोग्राम में समाहित कर प्रवासियों की सुविधा को बढ़ाने के प्रयास का अगला चरण आज से शुरू हो रहा है। एफटीआई-टीटीपी के साथ आज



से हवाईअड्डों पर सीमलैस इमीग्रेशन की सुविधा मिलेगी। सिर्फ सुविधा देने से हमारा उद्देश्य पूरा नहीं होगा, बल्कि हमें यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि अधिक से अधिक यात्रियों को इसका फायदा मिले। इसके लिए पासपोर्ट और ओसीआई कार्ड जारी करते समय ही हमें रजिस्ट्रेशन करने की संभावना पर काम करना होगा। अगर हम ऐसा कर सकते हैं तो यात्रियों को दोबारा फिंगरप्रिंट और दस्तावेजों के लिए आने की जरूरत नहीं रहेगी और वे जब भी यात्रा करना चाहें तो पासपोर्ट का उपयोग कर सकेंगे।

लखनऊ समेत पांच और हवाई अड्डों पर फास्ट ट्रेक इमीग्रेशन की सुविधा हुई शुरू

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने गुरुवार को लखनऊ, तिरुअनंतपुरम, त्रिची, कोझिकोड और अमृतसर हवाई अड्डे पर फास्ट ट्रेक इमीग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम का वीडियो कांफ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से शुभारंभ किया। इससे इन हवाई अड्डों पर निर्बाध आवाजन की सुविधा मिलेगी। इससे पहले दिल्ली, मुंबई, चेन्नई, कोलकाता, बंगलुरु, कोचीन और अहमदाबाद हवाई अड्डे पर यह सुविधा शुरू हो चुकी है। शाह ने कहा कि इस प्रोग्राम के तहत रजिस्ट्रेशन करने के बाद 30 सेकेंड में इमीग्रेशन की प्रक्रिया पूरी हो जाती है।

अमित शाह ने अधिक से अधिक यात्रियों को इसका फायदा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए पासपोर्ट और ओसीआइ कार्ड जारी करते समय ही इसके पंजीकरण की



- अमित शाह ने वीडियो कांफ्रेंसिंग के जरिये फास्ट ट्रेक इमीग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम शुरू किया
- प्रोग्राम के तहत रजिस्ट्रेशन करने के बाद 30 सेकेंड में इमीग्रेशन की प्रक्रिया पूरी हो जाती है

संभावना पर काम करने पर जोर दिया। इससे यात्रियों को दोबारा फिंगरप्रिंट और दस्तावेजों के लिए आने की जरूरत नहीं रहेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे भारतीय

नागरिकों के साथ-साथ ओसीआइ कार्डधारकों को भी फायदा होगा। नवी मुंबई और जेवर हवाई अड्डे को बनाने के साथ ही इस प्रोग्राम से जोड़ने की योजना गृह मंत्रालय ने बनाई है। अमित शाह ने कहा कि इस प्रोग्राम के शुरू होने के बाद यात्रियों को लंबी लाइन, मैनुअल चेकिंग और बिना देरी के मात्र 30 सेकेंड में इमीग्रेशन क्लीयरेंस मिल जाता है। पिछले साल शुरू की गई इस योजना के तहत अब तक लगभग तीन लाख यात्रियों ने पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण किया है। इनमें से दो लाख 65 हजार यात्रियों ने यात्रा के समय इसका उपयोग भी किया है। हमें इस संख्या में निरंतर बढ़ोतरी का प्रयास करना चाहिए। इस सुविधा का लाभ लेने के लिए यात्रियों को पहले एफटीआइ-टीपी आनलाइन पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण कराना है।

लखनऊ समेत पांच और हवाई अड्डों पर फास्ट ट्रेक इमीग्रेशन की सुविधा शुरू

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने गुरुवार को लखनऊ, तिरुअनंतपुरम, त्रिची, कोझिकोड व अमृतसर हवाई अड्डे पर फास्ट ट्रेक इमीग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम का वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग से शुभारंभ किया। दिल्ली, मुंबई, चेन्नई, कोलकाता, अहमदाबाद, बंगलुरु, कोचीन हवाई अड्डे पर यह सुविधा पहले से है। शाह ने कहा, नवी मुंबई व जेवर हवाई अड्डे को भी इस प्रोग्राम से जोड़ने की योजना गृह मंत्रालय ने बनाई है।

अमित शाह ने कहा, इस प्रोग्राम के तहत यात्रियों को लंबी लाइन, मैनुअल चेकिंग व बिना देरी के मात्र 30 सेकेंड में इमीग्रेशन क्लियरेंस मिल जाता है। उन्होंने अधिक से अधिक यात्रियों को इसका फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए पासपोर्ट व ओसीआइ कार्ड जारी करते समय ही इसके पंजीकरण की संभावना पर काम करने पर जोर दिया। इससे यात्रियों को दोबारा फिंगरप्रिंट व दस्तावेज के लिए

अमित शाह ने वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिये फास्ट ट्रेक इमीग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम शुरू किया

प्रोग्राम के तहत रजिस्ट्रेशन करने के बाद 30 सेकेंड में इमीग्रेशन की प्रक्रिया पूरी हो जाती है

तिरुअनंतपुरम, त्रिची, कोझिकोड और अमृतसर हवाई अड्डे भी इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल



अमित शाह।

फाइल

आने की जरूरत नहीं रहेगी। उन्होंने कहा, गत वर्ष शुरू की गई इस योजना के तहत अब तक तीन लाख यात्रियों ने पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण किया है। इनमें से दो लाख 65 हजार यात्रियों ने यात्रा के समय इसका उपयोग भी किया है। हमें इस संख्या में निरंतर वृद्धि का प्रयास करना चाहिए।

किस तरह मिलेगी यह सुविधा: इस सुविधा का लाभ लेने के लिए यात्रियों को एफटीआइ-टीटीपी आनलाइन पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण कराना होगा। अपने विवरण के साथ जरूरी दस्तावेज पोर्टल पर

अपलोड करने होंगे। पंजीकृत आवेदकों का बायोमेट्रिक विदेशी क्षेत्रीय पंजीकरण कार्यालय या हवाई अड्डे से गुजरते समय लिया जाता है। पंजीकृत यात्री को एयरलाइंस द्वारा जारी बोर्डिंग पास को ई-गेट पर स्कैन करना होता है और फिर अपने पासपोर्ट को स्कैन करना होता है। आगमन और प्रस्थान स्थल पर लगे ई-गेट पर यात्री के बायोमेट्रिक को प्रमाणित किया जाता है। इस प्रमाणीकरण पर ई-गेट अपने आप खुल जाता है और आब्रजन स्वीकृति मिल जाती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE IN JUST 30 SECONDS

Faster Immigration from 5 More Airports

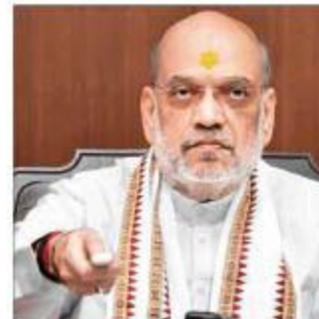
Travellers will no longer experience long queues or manual checking

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), which accelerates the immigration process of pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders, in five more airports — Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode and Amritsar.

The special initiative was first rolled out at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here in July 2024 and two months later in seven more airports — Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad.

After launching FTI-TTP in five airports, Shah said travellers will no longer experience long queues or manual checking and will receive immigration clearance in just



ACCELERATING PROCESS

Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme accelerates immigration process of pre-verified Indian nationals & OCI card holders

30 seconds without delays.

"Fast Track Immigration: Trusted Traveller Programme makes immigration simpler, faster and hassle-free," Shah said at a special programme held virtually.

So far, three lakh people have registered, of which 2.65 lakh have availed the facility. The programme ensures faster immigration clearance. Several thousand passengers have been granted faster immigration clearance through e-gates till now, officials added.

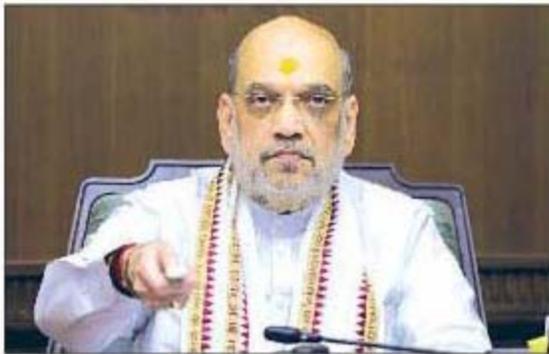


So far, three lakh people have registered, of which 2.65 lakh have availed the facility

शाह ने हवाई सफर को और आसान बनाने की शुरुआत की

केंद्र सरकार ने यात्रियों के लिए हवाई सफर को और आसान बनाने की दिशा में बड़ा कदम उठाया

अब 12 हवाई अड्डों पर मिलेगी फास्ट ट्रैक इमिग्रेशन सुविधा



एजेसी नई दिल्ली

केंद्र सरकार ने यात्रियों के लिए हवाई सफर को और आसान बनाने की दिशा में बड़ा कदम उठाया है। केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित शाह ने 'फास्ट ट्रैक इमिग्रेशन- ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम' को देश के 5 और हवाई अड्डों पर शुरू किया। इसके तहत भारतीयों और ओवरसीज सिटीजन ऑफ इंडिया (ओसीआई) कार्डधारकों को इमिग्रेशन प्रक्रिया में लंबी कतारों से छुटकारा मिलेगा और वे ई-गेट से जल्दी क्लियरेंस पा सकेंगे।

यह योजना सबसे पहले जुलाई 2024 में इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से शुरू हुई थी। 12 महीने में मुंबई, चेन्नई, कोलकाता, बेंगलूरु, हैदराबाद, कोचीन, अहमदाबाद में लागू किया।

अब इस सुविधा को लखनऊ, तिरुवनंतपुरम, तिरुचिरापल्ली, कोझिकोड और अमृतसर एयरपोर्ट पर भी लागू कर दिया गया है।

अमेरिका की तर्ज पर बनी यह योजना

यह योजना अमेरिका के ग्लोबल एंटी प्रोग्राम की तर्ज पर बनाई गई है। वहां देश में प्रवेश के समय तेजी से क्लियरेंस मिलती है। अब इस व्यवस्था के जरिए यात्रियों को ई-गेट से गुजरने पर तुरंत इमिग्रेशन क्लियरेंस मिल जाएगा।

ऑनलाइन मिलेगी सेवा

केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित शाह ने इस संबंध में बताया कि योजना के तहत यात्री ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर सकते हैं। इसके लिए सरकार ने कई प्रतिबंध भी लागू किए हैं। आवेदन करने वाले नागरिक को उन्हें पासपोर्ट की न्यूनतम वैधता छह महीने होने चाहिए। आवेदन स्वीकृत होने के बाद यात्री को बायोमेट्रिक विवरण (फिंगरप्रिंट और चेहरे की तस्वीर) देने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे या नजदीकी विदेशी क्षेत्रीय पंजीकरण कार्यालय (एफआरआरओ) जाना होगा। सफल सत्यापन के बाद यात्री को व्हइट लिस्ट ऑफ ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर्स में शामिल किया जाएगा। इसके बाद आगे की कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित की जाएगी।

ओवरसीज सिटीजन ऑफ इंडिया कार्डधारकों को इमिग्रेशन प्रक्रिया में लंबी कतारों से छुटकारा मिलेगा



अब तक 3 लाख लोग योजना से

गृहमंत्री शाह ने वर्युअल कार्यक्रम के दौरान कहा कि फास्ट ट्रैक इमिग्रेशन से यात्रियों को तेजी, सुरक्षा और बिना परेशानी के अंतरराष्ट्रीय सफर का अनुभव मिलेगा। अभी तक तीन लाख लोगों ने इस योजना के लिए पंजीकरण कराया है, जिनमें से करीब 2.65 लाख यात्रियों ने इस सुविधा का लाभ भी उठाया है।

देश का पहला हवाई अड्डा बना लखनऊ

फास्ट ट्रैक इमिग्रेशन सेवा की शुरुआत से लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट ने एक बड़ा मौल का पत्थर हासिल किया है। इस सुविधा को टर्मिनल-3 पर यात्रियों के लिए खोला गया है। अब तक यात्रियों को इमिग्रेशन प्रक्रिया में लंबा समय लाना जाता था, जिससे भीड़ और असुविधा की स्थिति बनती थी। लेकिन अब यह प्रक्रिया सुगम और तेज हो जाएगी।

21 एयरपोर्ट तक विस्तार की योजना तैयार

केंद्र सरकार की योजना है कि इस प्रोग्राम को चरणबद्ध तरीके से देश के 21 बड़े हवाई अड्डों तक पहुंचाया जाए। पहले चरण में भारतीय नागरिकों और ओसीआई कार्डधारकों को सुविधा दी जा रही है। दूसरे चरण में इसे विदेशी यात्रियों तक बढ़ाया जाएगा। इस कार्यक्रम को लागू करने की जिम्मेदारी ब्युरो ऑफ इमिग्रेशन (बीओआई) के पास होगी। शुरुआती चरण में यह योजना खिल्कुल मुफ्त है। यात्रियों को किसी अतिरिक्त शुल्क का भुगतान नहीं करना होगा। गृहमंत्रालय ने यात्रियों के लिए एक हेल्पडेस्क ईमेल आईडी भी जारी की है, ताकि उन्हें आवेदन या प्रक्रिया में किसी तरह की दिक्कत हो तो मदद मिल सके।

Home Minister launches faster immigration clearance at 5 airports

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), which accelerates the immigration process for preverified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders, at five more airports.

After launching the FTI-TTP at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode and Amritsar airports, Mr. Shah said travellers would no longer experience long queues or manual checking and would receive immigration clearance in just 30 seconds without delays.

He said the programme had been launched in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of



Amit Shah inaugurating the programme at five more airports through video conferencing in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

“speed, scale and scope”. The special initiative was first rolled out at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in July 2024, and two months later, extended to Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad.

Mr. Shah said the facility would not only enhance the convenience of travellers but also provide an op-

portunity to introduce them to the changes taking place in the country.

Mr. Shah said with the FTI-TTP, seamless immigration facilities would be available at the designated airports and emphasised that merely providing convenience was not enough, action must be taken to ensure that the maximum number of travellers bene-

fited from it.

“To achieve this, efforts should be made to enable registration at the time of issuing passports and OCI cards,” he said, adding that if this could be implemented, travellers did not need to return for fingerprinting or documentation and they could travel using their passports whenever they wished.

“OCI cardholders will benefit the most,” he said, adding that the Home Ministry has planned to integrate this programme with the upcoming Navi Mumbai and Jewar airports.

About three lakh travellers have registered on this portal, of which 2.65 lakh have utilised it and efforts should be made to increase this number, he said. The FTI-TTP will eventually be launched at 21 major airports in the country.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

NANDED AIRPORT RESUMES OPS AFTER RUNWAY POTHOLES FILLED

MUMBAI: Services of the Guru Gobind Singh Ji airport in Nanded were resumed on Wednesday after the Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation (MADC) completed filling potholes on the runway, which were flagged during an audit 20 days ago, leading to the closure of the airport.

On August 22, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had announced the closure of the airport due to certain lapses flagged during a routine audit, including potholes on the runway, lack of power backup and inadequate fire safety tenders. Following this, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Chavan took up the matter with the CM Devendra Fadnavis and MADC. "Nanded is an important destination and I am happy that work has been completed," Chavan said.

CM Devendra Fadnavis tweeted on X, "Glad to inform that Nanded Airport operations resumed from today! The airport turned around in record time of 20 days, carrying out runway repairs to resume full flight operations to 6 destinations across the country operated by Star Airlines. This reflects our commitment to passenger convenience and safety." **YOGESH NAIK**



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

As airport reopens, AI and IndiGo add flights

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

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

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

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

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

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Now, Fast Track Immigration at 5 more airports

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday virtually launched the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode, and Amritsar airports. Senior officers, namely the Union Home Secretary and the Director of the Intelligence Bureau, were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shah said the new facility not only enhances the convenience of travellers but also showcases India's progress in modernising its infrastructure. He added that the programme embodies Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Speed, Scale, and Scope", ensuring technol-



Amit Shah inaugurates the FTI-TTP

MPOST

ogy becomes a trust multiplier in public service delivery.

The minister emphasised that FTI-TTP provides smooth immigration clearance at the airport, cutting down wait times and eliminating the necessity of manual screening. Passengers utilising the facility can go through immigration in

Passengers utilising the facility can go through immigration in 30 seconds

30 seconds. Shah emphasised that to achieve maximum benefit, registration under the programme must be linked with the issuance of a passport and OCI card, saving passengers further documentation and fingerprinting procedures.

Emphasising the twin aim of convenience and security, Shah informed that the FTI-TTP enhances border management with enhanced passenger experience. The scheme, initiated in Delhi in 2024, has since been rolled out to Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Kochi, and Ahmedabad. With

today's addition, the facility is now in place at 13 airports, with plans to roll it out to future airports in Navi Mumbai and Jewar.

Shah revealed that nearly three lakh travellers have registered for the programme, of which 2.65 lakh have already used it. He urged efforts to further expand this user base so that both Indian citizens and OCI cardholders can benefit widely.

Placing the initiative in a broader context, Shah noted that international passenger traffic has risen sharply under Modi's leadership. 3.54 crore Indian citizens visited overseas in 2014, which increased by 73 percent to 6.12 crore in 2024. Likewise, foreign tourists to India increased from 1.53 crore in 2014 to approximately 2 crore in 2024.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025



Shah launches fast-track immigration at 5 airports

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday inaugurated the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), which fast-tracks immigration for pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders, at five more airports across the country.

The facility was launched at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Kozhikode, and Amritsar airports. Speaking at the launch through video conferencing, Shah said the programme will not only enhance the convenience of travellers but also give them a glimpse of the changes taking place in the country.

"The next stage of enhancing travellers' convenience, aligning with PM Narendra Modi's

vision of speed, scale and scope, starts today with this programme," he said. Shah added that the Prime Minister has always emphasised that technological tools must also act as a "trust multiplier," and termed the initiative a significant step in that direction.

"With the FTI-TTP, seamless immigration facilities will now be available at the airports. Merely providing convenience is not enough, we must ensure that the maximum number of travellers benefit from it. To achieve this, efforts should be made to enable registration at the time of issuing passports and OCI cards," Shah said.

He further said that once implemented, travellers would not need to return for fingerprinting or documentation and could travel using their passports whenever they wish.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Upgraded IGIA runway set to reopen, flight ops to be smooth during winters

S LALITHA @NewDelhi

THE Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is on track to meet its September 15 deadline to open one of its runways, which was closed for operations three months ago. The need to carry out upgradation was taken up so that the runway would be ready to operate flights without any disruption during foggy conditions this winter.

Runway 10/28 was declared non-operational from June 15 by the operator Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) to ensure one of the ends of the runway could become a CAT-III compliant one by upgrading its Instrumentation Landing System (ILS). This would ensure that flights can land even in extremely low visibility conditions. A total of 114 flights were cancelled and 86 rescheduled in light of the closure.

"We are looking at opening the runway by September 15. We are awaiting clearance for our proposal submitted to our



regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)," a senior airport official told TNIE. A DGCA source said, "We have received the request from the airport authorities. We are still examining it."

"A massive relief is in store for flyers as heavy fog annually disrupts thousands of flights during December and January. Travel plans during the holiday season go for a toss," the official added. ILS uses radio signals to provide pilots with precise lateral and vertical guidance on how to approach the runway when visibility is poor. "A CAT-III ILS permits landing of a flight even when the runway

visual range is up to 50 m," said an official. Delhi airport has three other operational runways which are already CAT-III compliant. "We will start off with operating the runway as a CAT-1 compliant one, then upgrade it to CAT-2, and by December this year it will have progressed to a CAT-3 compliant runway," explained an airport source.

Meanwhile, two terminals (T1 and T3) are operational, while T2 is closed for maintenance work. "Refurbishment is under way at T2, and we are expecting it to be completed by the end of September," said another airport official.

पक्षियों से फ्लाइट को खतरा, किया जागरूक

IGI एयरपोर्ट के आसपास के स्कूल और कॉलेज में पहुंचकर स्टूडेंट्स को जागरूक किया

■ नवीन निश्चल, एयरपोर्ट

फ्लाइट से पक्षियों के टकराने के मामले कई बार सामने आ चुके हैं। इससे पक्षियों की जान तो जाती ही है, फ्लाइट को भी बड़ा नुकसान होता है। उसमें सवार यात्रियों की जान मुश्किल में पड़ सकती है। इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग करनी पड़ती है। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए IGI एयरपोर्ट के आसपास के स्कूल और कॉलेज में स्टूडेंट्स के बीच टीम ने पहुंचकर उन्हें जागरूक करने का अभियान शुरू किया है। याइलड लाइफ हार्ड मैनेजमेंट की टीम स्टूडेंट्स को बता रही है और सावधान कर रही है कि पक्षियों को यो दाना ना डालें। अपने स्कूल, कॉलेज के कैम्पस में, घर के



आसपास भी। क्योंकि उनके आसपास IGI एयरपोर्ट के कई रनवे पड़ते हैं। जहां से सैकड़ों फ्लाइट उड़ान भरती है और सैकड़ों

लैंड भी होती है। अगर वो पक्षियों को दाना डालेंगे तो पक्षियों का झुंड आना शुरू हो जाएगा। जिससे विमान को इससे खतरा बढ़ जाएगा। इस अभियान के तहत एयरपोर्ट से पास दिल्ली ARSD कॉलेज, बागडोला और नसीरपुर के MCD प्राइमरी स्कूल में मैनेजमेंट की टीम पहुंचकर स्टूडेंट्स को गाइड कर चुकी है। जानकारी के अनुसार कॉलेज के स्टूडेंट्स को बताया गया कि उनके पास IGI का रनवे नंबर 09/27 नजदीक स्थित है। खुले में, कचरे के ढेर में, पानी के जमे हुए जगहों पर पक्षियों को खाना खिलाते, दाना डालने से किस तरह खतरा बन सकता है।



File Photo

इस साल छह महीने में 41 हादसे सामने आ चुके हैं

जानकारी के अनुसार, इस साल जून तक पक्षियों से टकराने के 41 मामले सामने आ चुके हैं। एक बार तो IGI एयरपोर्ट पर 5 साल के अंदर (2018 से 2023 के बीच) पक्षी के टकराने के 705 मामले आ गए थे। ये हादसे देश के 29 राज्यों के एयरपोर्ट पर होने वाले हादसे से भी ज्यादा निकले थे। पक्षी के टकराने के कारण इंजन में, पंख में, खिड़कियों में खराबी आ सकती है। इंजन फेल हो सकता है, आग लग सकती है, विमान पर कंट्रोल रखने में परेशानी हो सकती है। पक्षी अगर इंजन में फंस जाए तो दुर्घटना का कारण बन सकता है।

कबूतरों के फीडिंग पर MCD करेगी गाइडलाइंस तैयार

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: मुंबई में जिस तरह कबूतरों को पब्लिक प्लेस पर फीडिंग करने पर मुंबई म्युनिसिपल कॉरपोरेशन ने रोक लगाई है, उसी तरह से दिल्ली में भी कबूतरों के फीडिंग पर एमसीडी रोक लगाने की तैयारी कर रही है। लेकिन, रोक लगाने से पहले इसके लिए गाइडलाइंस तैयार की जाएंगी। इसके बाद फीडिंग पर रोक लगाई जाएगी। एमसीडी मुंबई म्युनिसिपल कॉरपोरेशन की गाइडलाइंस की तर्ज पर ही नई गाइडलाइंस तैयार करेगी।

मुंबई की तर्ज पर नई गाइडलाइंस तैयार की जाएगी

एमसीडी पब्लिक हेल्थ विभाग के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी के अनुसार एमसीडी ने कबूतरों को पब्लिक प्लेस में फीडिंग पर रोक लगाने की कवायद शुरू की थी। लेकिन, मुंबई म्युनिसिपल कॉरपोरेशन (बीएमसी) ने इस संबंध में जो कदम उठाए, उससे कई लोग नाराज हो गए। कबूतरों के प्रतिबंध के आदेश के खिलाफ लोगों ने मुंबई हाई कोर्ट में याचिका दी, जो कोर्ट में विचारार्थिन है। कोर्ट के आदेश के अगर मुंबई म्युनिसिपल कॉरपोरेशन कबूतरों के फीडिंग को लेकर अगर गाइडलाइंस तैयार करता है, तो उसी गाइडलाइंस की तर्ज पर एमसीडी भी नई गाइडलाइंस तय करेगी।



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**5 और एयरपोर्ट पर
फास्ट ट्रेक इमिग्रेशन**
लखनऊ, अमृतसर, तिरुचिरापल्ली,
कोझिकोड, तिरुअनंतपुरम एयरपोर्ट
पर 'फास्ट ट्रेक इमिग्रेशन' शुरू





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अमित शाह का हवाई अड्डों पर त्वरित आत्रजन मंजूरी कार्यक्रम

नयी दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने बृहस्पतिवार को पांच और हवाई अड्डों पर 'फास्ट ट्रेक इमिग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम' (एफटीआई-टीटीपी) की शुरुआत की, जो पूर्व-सत्यापित भारतीय नागरिकों और प्रवासी भारतीय (ओसीआई) कार्ड धारकों के लिए आत्रजन संबंधी प्रक्रिया में तेजी लाता है। लखनऊ, तिरुवनंतपुरम, तिरुचिरापल्ली, कोझिकोड और अमृतसर हवाई अड्डों पर एफटीआई-टीटीपी की शुरुआत करने के बाद शाह ने कहा कि यात्रियों को अब लंबी कतारों या जामा तलाशी का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा और उन्हें बिना किसी देरी के केवल 30 सेकेंड में आत्रजन मंजूरी मिल जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि यह कार्यक्रम प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के "स्पीड (गति), स्केल (पैमाने) और स्कोप (दायरे)" के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप शुरू किया गया है।



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घने कोहरे में होगी सुरक्षित लैंडिंग आईजीआई पर एडवांस रनवे तैयार

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : देश के सबसे व्यस्त इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट) से सफर करने वाले यात्रियों के लिए राहत की खबर है। अब सर्दियों के दौरान धुंध और घने कोहरे में भी उड़ानों का संचालन प्रभावित नहीं होगा। एयरपोर्ट के रनवे 10/28 को श्रीबी मानकों के अनुसार अपग्रेड कर दिया गया है, जिससे कम दृश्यता की स्थिति में भी सुरक्षित लैंडिंग संभव होगी। अधिकारियों के अनुसार डीजीसीए जल्द ही रनवे का अंतिम ऑडिट करेगा और 16 सितंबर से यह रनवे पूरी तरह चालू हो जाएगा। गौरतलब है कि इस साल जून से रनवे बंद होने की वजह से योजना करीब 200 उड़ानें प्रभावित हो रही थीं। अप्रैल में भी यह रनवे बंद हुआ था, जिसके चलते तेज हवाओं और परिचालन दिक्कतों के कारण प्रति



घंटे सिर्फ 32 उड़ानें ही लैंड कर पा रही थीं, जबकि क्षमता 42 की थी। इससे एयरपोर्ट संचालन को भारी नुकसान उठाना पड़ा। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के हस्तक्षेप के बाद दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) को रनवे दोबारा खोलने के आदेश दिए गए थे। इस बीच, यात्रियों को एक और बड़ी सुविधा मिलने जा रही है। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट का टर्मिनल-2 अब नए रंग-रूप में तैयार हो चुका है और 26 अक्टूबर से दोबारा खोल दिया जाएगा।



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एनबीसीसी : 3,700 करोड़ की परियोजना समझौता



नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : एनबीसीसीने जयपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे, टोंकरोड, जयपुरके पास प्रतिष्ठित राजस्थान मंडपम और संबद्ध अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं के विकास के लिए राजस्थान स्टेट इंडस्ट्रियल डेवलपमेंट एंड इन्वेस्टमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (आरआरआईसीओ) के साथ आधिकारिक तौर पर समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए। लगभग 3,700 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य की यह परियोजना भारत सरकार और राजस्थान सरकार के बीच साझेदारी में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि को रेखांकित करती है। जयपुरमें समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर समारोह में मुख्यमंत्री भजन लाल शर्मा, उद्योग मंत्री कर्नल राज्यवर्धन सिंह राठौर, मुख्य सचिव सुधांशु पंत, मुख्यमंत्री के अपर मुख्य सचिव शिखर अग्रवाल और आरआरआईसीओके अध्यक्ष एवं एनबीसीसी के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक के.पी. महादेवास्वामी सहित कई गण्यमान्य जन उपस्थित रहे। यह उच्च स्तरीय आयोजन क्षेत्र के आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक विकास के लिए परियोजना के कार्यनीतिक महत्व को रेखांकित करता है। एनबीसीसी (इंडिया) लिमिटेड, जिसे विशिष्ट निष्पादन एजेंसी के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है। मास्टरप्लानिंग, वास्तुशिल्प डिजाइन, इंजीनियरी, निर्माण और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानक विपणन के माध्यम से 95 एकड़ के प्रमुख भूखंड के रूपांतरण कानेतृत्व करेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

नए नियम बनेगा एयरपोर्ट पर थर्ड-पार्टी सेवाओं के लिए ऑपरेटर होंगे जिम्मेदार

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका. एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटरों को हवाईअड्डे पर दी जाने वाली सभी सेवाओं के प्रबंधन के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया जाएगा, जिसमें थर्ड-पार्टी सेवा प्रदाताओं की ओर से दी जाने वाली सेवाएं भी शामिल होंगी। भारतीय विमानपत्तन आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण (ईआरए) की ओर से बनाए जाने वाले नए नियमों के तहत ऐसा किया जाएगा। ईआरए के अध्यक्ष एस के एस के जी रहटे ने विमानन क्षेत्र से जुड़े हितधारकों के साथ हुई बैठक में यह बात कही है। हवाईअड्डे पर थर्ड-पार्टी सेवा प्रदाताओं में गार्डन हैंडलर, कैंटर, रिटेलर, कार्गो एजेंट और कैंब परिचालक शामिल होते हैं। नए नियमों का मकसद हवाईअड्डे की सेवा की गुणवत्ता को उसके शुल्क से जोड़ना है। ये शुल्क, मसलन यूजर डेवलपमेंट फीस और विमान पार्किंग शुल्क, हवाईअड्डे परिचालकों की ओर से यात्रियों और विमानन कंपनियों से वसूले जाते हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट ढाई घंटे देरी से रवाना हुई गुवाहाटी जाने वाली फ्लाइट

जयपुर@पत्रिका. जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट्स का शेड्यूल गड़बड़ाया हुआ है। बुधवार को भी ऐसा ही देखा गया। दरअसल, एअर एशिया एयरलाइन की रात 9:20 बजे आने वाली फ्लाइट एक घंटे देरी से जयपुर पहुंची। शाम 6:05 बजे गुवाहाटी से आने वाली फ्लाइट आधा घंटे देरी से, मुंबई से शाम 6 बजे आने वाली फ्लाइट पौने घंटे की देरी से जयपुर पहुंची।

इधर, जयपुर से शाम 6:50 बजे गुवाहाटी जाने वाली एअर इंडिया एयरलाइन की फ्लाइट ढाई घंटे देरी से जयपुर से रवाना हुई। ऐसे ही शाम 6:35 बजे मुंबई जाने वाली एअर इंडिया एयरलाइन की फ्लाइट 45 मिनट की देरी से रवाना हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

पांच और हवाई अड्डों पर त्वरित आव्रजन मंजूरी कार्यक्रम शुरू

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने बृहस्पतिवार को पांच और हवाई अड्डों पर 'फास्ट ट्रैक इमिग्रेशन-ट्रस्टेड ट्रेवलर प्रोग्राम' (एफटीआई-टीटीपी) की शुरुआत की जो पूर्व-सत्यापित भारतीय नागरिकों और प्रवासी भारतीय (ओसीआई) कार्ड धारकों की आव्रजन प्रक्रिया को तेज करता है। यह विशेष पहल सबसे पहले जुलाई 2024 में इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर शुरू की गई थी तथा दो महीने बाद इसे सात और हवाई अड्डों-मुंबई, चेन्नई, कोलकाता, बेंगलुरु, हैदराबाद, कोच्चि और अहमदाबाद में शुरू किया गया।

Great escape! Arrivals at IGI tell tales of curfew, chaos, close call

Devanshi Mehta
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New Delhi: The polished floors of Terminal 3 at Indra Gandhi International Airport have seen their share of emotional reunions, but Thursday's arrivals felt different. Weary passengers, their faces showing relief, clutched hastily packed bags. Their conversation topic was not a foreign holiday, but the tumult in Nepal, of the smoke-filled streets, cancelled flights and desperate escapes.

Khyati, 30, a resident of Dwarka, showed a video she recorded from her hotel window in Kathmandu. Smoke billowed in the frame as groups wielding sticks moved on the street. "There was so much fire and smoke," she recalled to TOI. "There were 48 of us Indians stuck inside. The hotel staff urged us not to step out. In fact, there was a curfew on, so we realised that the only way to stay safe was to remain indoors."

The business trip to Nepal from Delhi did not promise any adventures for Khyati, an event manager. She expected to return home after Sept 18. But as violence spread in Kathmandu, she had to cut short her plans. "The airport was only half an hour away but it was inaccessible. We were lucky to get tickets and make it out. Many Indians are still stuck there," she said. In Dwarka, her family anxiously awaited updates from



SIGH OF RELIEF

"With no food, we were stuck at the Kathmandu airport with 150 other Indians. We can't believe we made it back home," says 54-year-old SK Dixit

All SMILES

After several hours of anxiety, Joshi (in saffron dress) met his elderly parents and was greeted with a big smile from his father (wearing cap)



Kathmandu. "My brother and sister kept asking me when I would return but I had no answers," Khyati said. "We even

feared electricity would be cut off in a few days."

Nearby stood Dr Swati Dixit with her elderly pa-

rents, her father cradling her baby in his arms. Head of a medical technology lab at a private university, she



Photos: Anushka Kogta

FIGHTING FEAR

Khushboo is safe now, but fears for her family as they are still stuck in Nepal

CHAOS CAPTURED

Khyati, a Dwarka resident, shows on her phone the smoke and stick-wielding crowds she captured from her hotel in Kathmandu



had travelled to Nepal for a climate change conference. There she found herself in a cataclysmic storm. "How

could we have expected this to happen?" her mother asked, exhaustion evident in her voice. "We reached Nepal

from Agra on Sept 5 and our return flight was scheduled for Sept 9. After our flight got cancelled, we didn't know what to do."

Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport became a makeshift refugee camp for stranded travellers. "There were around 200 Indians stuck at the airport. We all decided we wouldn't leave unless we were reassured that we would make it back home safely," Dr Dixit explained. "There was no food, nothing was available. Luckily, I had some local contacts in Nepal who somehow managed to get us food at the airport."

The scientist felt haunted. "I didn't know I would be putting the lives of my family members at risk," she shuddered. "Full-blown violence was unleashed across the city. I had taken my family with me because we wanted to visit the Pashupatinath Temple."

Pacing the gates from No. 4 to 5 to 6, Bimal Raj Joshi, 37, a Nepal national, carefully scanned the arrival of every passenger. His elderly parents in Nepal had been scheduled to reach Delhi for treatment at a private hospital. "They were not doing well at all. My father is 68 year old, my mother 66. They were supposed to arrive a few days ago," said a worried Joshi. "They got stuck there because of the conflict. I am worried not only about the violence but also because they need medical attention."

Joshi was tangibly relieved when he finally spotted his parents. Less stressed after that, he reflected, "It is heartbreaking to see the place where I grew up now burning and hit by violence. I think the Gen Z protest is valid and corruption needs to be fought, but this violence was scary."

Khushboo, 20, herself part of the generation at the heart of Nepal's unrest, offe-

TIMES Special



red her perspective. "While I am here in Delhi safe and sound, my parents and family are in Jhapa back home," she said. "Violence hasn't reached that region yet, but there is a fear. I couldn't stay back due to work here and can only hope peace is restored soon."

An Indian from Visakhapatnam, working in the US, clutched his backpack. A trekking trip to Nepal had left him haggard. "My wife and kids were so worried... I lost my luggage too. I only want to get back home as soon as I can," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Fast track immigration prog to be extended to 5 more airports today

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Further expanding the 'Fast Track Immigration — Trusted Traveller Program' (FTI-TTP)—which uses biometric authentication to enable faster immigration of pre-verified flyers through automated e-gates—home minister Amit Shah will on Thursday launch the facility at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Trichy and Amritsar international airports.

The program was launched at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here on June 22, 2024. Earlier this year, it was extended to seven more international airports — covering the

Home minister Amit Shah will on Thursday launch the facility at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Trichy and Amritsar international airports

key cities of Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad.

Shah will conduct the inauguration programme for five more airports via video-conferencing, taking the total number of airports covered so far to 13. The plan is to further expand it to cover 21 major air-

ports of the country.

The FTI-TTP programme is a significant initiative under the 'Viksit Bharat'@2047 vision. Both Indian citizens and 'overseas citizen of India' cardholders can avail of the facility free of cost. The plan is to eventually extend it to foreign nationals as well.

To enroll in the program, applicants need to complete online registration by filling in their details and uploading the required documents on the portal <https://ftittp.mha.gov.in>.

The biometric data of registered applicants is captured either at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office, or while passing through the airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

5 more airports on Fast Track Immigration list

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Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

एअर इंडिया की सिंगापुर उड़ान में खराबी, 200 यात्रियों को उतारा

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया के सिंगापुर जाने वाले एक विमान में तकनीकी खराबी आने से 200 से अधिक यात्रियों को काफी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। फिर एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों को दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर ही उतार दिया। बोईंग 787-9 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान की उड़ान संख्या एआई-2380 को बुधवार रात 11 बजे दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरनी थी, लेकिन एसी खराब थी। विमान में गर्मी में 2 घंटे यात्री बैठे रहे। छह घंटे बाद वे रवाना हो सके। व्यूरो



काठमांडो जाने वाली स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट 7 घंटे देरी से रवाना

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे से स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट से बृहस्पतिवार को काठमांडो जाने वाले यात्रियों को खासी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। टेलपाइप में आग लगने की आशंका के कारण विमान को वापस पार्किंग वे लौटना पड़ा। उड़ान ट्रेकिंग वेबसाइट के मुताबिक स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट एसजी 041 सुबह 8:10 बजे की जगह लगभग सात घंटे देरी से दोपहर लगभग 3 बजे रवाना हुई और शाम लगभग 5:10 बजे काठमांडो पहुंची। एक यात्री ने बताया कि एक घंटे बगैर एसी विमान में बैठना पड़ा था। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Domestic airlines plan China ops, await nod from Chinese authority

ON THE RADAR. Shanghai and Guangzhou are the top Chinese destinations that interest Indian carriers

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India's domestic airlines are set to commence operations to China in the upcoming winter schedule, with Shanghai and Guangzhou being at the top of their radar, industry sources told *businessline*.

According to them, the Centre has already given its consent to airlines such as Air India and IndiGo to operate flights to China. These flights, sources cited, will likely commence during the winter schedule, which is applicable from October 26, 2025. "The Kolkata-Guangzhou route and another route from either Mumbai or Delhi to Shanghai are expected to be the first to be operated by India-based airlines," sources told *businessline*.

"As of now, India-based airlines await 'operational authorisation' from the Chinese authority."

Sources had earlier told *businessline* that three



GREEN SIGNAL. The Centre has already given its consent to Air India and IndiGo to operate flights to China

Chinese airlines, including a cargo operator, have applied for "operational authorisation" from India's aviation safety authority to restart direct flights between China and India.

CONCRETE STEPS

These moves signal the first concrete steps by both Indian and Chinese carriers to re-enter each other's market after a five-year suspension of services.

Prior to Covid-19 pandemic, airlines from both countries operated direct

flights to several destinations, including Shanghai, Guangzhou, New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

However, services were suspended in early 2020 and never resumed even as flights to Hong Kong restarted. The situation was further complicated by the military clashes in Galwan Valley of Ladakh in mid-2020, leading to a prolonged freeze in direct operations.

Nevertheless, the current developments assume significance after Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, during a recent bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Tianjin, said, "An atmosphere of peace and stability has been established after disengagement at the border... The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has resumed, and direct flights between the two countries are also being started."

TOURIST VISAS

Besides, India's embassy in Beijing has resumed issuing tourist visas to Chinese citizens after a gap of five years.

Industry insiders told *businessline* that reopening direct routes will be a major boost for bilateral trade, tourism and business travel.

Historically, services to China recorded healthy load factors, often reaching up to 90 per cent.

Besides, direct flights are expected to help plug revenue leakages to competing international carriers and retain earnings within the two countries.

As per estimates, current

passenger traffic between India and China stands at about one million annually via one-stop connections.

The introduction of direct flights could potentially raise that figure to nearly three million, driven by a healthy mix of tourists, students and business travellers.

AIRPORT SLOTS

In terms of preparedness, sources said that after the receipt of "operational authorisation", airlines will then apply for airport slots.

These slots, sources pointed out, will be allocated under a special arrangement between India and China, with services capped at 2019 levels.

Notably, this mechanism is being put in place to avoid delays stemming from a revised air services agreement.

Last month, sources told *businessline* that India had sent a high-level team of officials to China to smoothen out the last remaining hurdles to direct flight connectivity.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Air India, IndiGo to operate addl flights to Kathmandu

Air India and IndiGo will operate additional flights to Kathmandu to bring back people stranded in the Nepal capital, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Wednesday.

The minister also said that airlines have been advised to keep their fares within reasonable levels.

“Due to airport closure in Nepal, many home-

bound passengers were unable to return from Kathmandu.

“With the opening of the airport operation in Kathmandu, @MoCA_GoI, in coordination with Air India and IndiGo, has arranged additional flights this evening and over the next few days, alongside scheduled services resuming tomorrow,” Naidu said in a post on X.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

■ AI Cargo Head Ramesh Mamidala Resigns



Air India's head of cargo Ramesh Mamidala has resigned, said people familiar with the matter, amid a broader restructuring of the freight business by the Tata Group-owned airline, reports **Forum Gandhi**. Mamidala, who joined in March 2023, has stepped down at a time when cargo has emerged as one of the few growth engines at Air India.

Airline says induction of new planes to boost operational reliability & reach

SpiceJet in a rapid descent

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, September 11

IF HARD NUMBERS tell a story, low-cost private airline SpiceJet seems to be flying dangerously low these days. And rapidly falling market share is just one part of the story. In July this year, the Ajay Singh-promoted company saw its domestic share fall to an all-time low of 1.9%, compared to Akasa Air's 5.5%. The three-year-old Akasa has also soared past SpiceJet to become the country's third-largest airline by revenue.

The fall has been steep, indeed. SpiceJet, in fact, ferried 2.46,000 passengers on its domestic routes in the whole of July. The number is even lower than the weekly passenger count of the airline 10 years ago. SpiceJet is left with only ₹300-odd crore in free cash as of June-end, compared with ₹700 crore in March 2025.

The drop in market share coincided with the company slipping into the red in the June quarter after two consecutive quarters of profits. It recorded a loss of ₹234 crore in Q1 FY26 as against a profit of ₹158 crore recorded in the same quarter a year ago. Revenue has plunged 40% to ₹1,200 crore in the same time frame.

That's not all. From 100 aircraft in 2015, SpiceJet's fleet has dwindled to 56 in June-end, out of which opera-

HIT BY TURBULENCE



tional fleet is less than half at just 21, with nearly a third consisting of the small Bombardier Q400 limited range aircraft.

Investors have also shown loss of hope. SpiceJet's stock has tanked 61% in a year. It hit a 52-week low on the BSE in August to ₹31.25 while the benchmark Sensex has corrected by 1.3% during the same period.

The airline's employees are losing out, too. Several of its employees were yet to receive their salaries for July and August. SpiceJet says as of September 7, more than 60% of the employees received their August salary, and the balance is being cleared in line with the schedule.

In a detailed response to FE's queries, SpiceJet said its domestic market share needs to be seen in the context of the overall network strategy. "Around 50% of our capacity is currently deployed in international markets," a company spokesperson said responding to FE queries. "SpiceJet's primary focus is on profitable and sustainable growth, delivering value to our stakeholders and ensuring on-time performance. Market share is a natural outcome of these priorities and will strengthen as we induct more aircraft," he added.

Continued on Page 7

SpiceJet in a rapid descent

THE AIRLINE'S GROUNDED fleet of 35 planes (up from 30 in September 2024) comprises the single-aisle Boeing 737 family aircraft, which is its flagship. However, SpiceJet stated that its operational fleet will be enhanced by the end of FY26. The company is aiming to more than double its active fleet to 45 in the same period.

"We have finalised lease agreements for 10 Boeing 737 aircraft, with inductions commencing October 2025. These measures will significantly boost our operational reliability and network reach in the months ahead," said the spokesperson.

A total of 19 engines have been dispatched by SpiceJet to engine shops across the globe, including 7 engines for Boeing 737 NG aircraft, 6 engines for Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, and 6 engines for Q400 aircraft.

"This number of grounded planes will progressively reduce as overhauled engines are received and re-inductions are completed," the spokesperson added.

The airline currently operates direct flights between 127 city pairs, and targets to close FY26 with 275 daily flights. Discussions are underway for additional



inductions of narrow-body and wide-body aircraft during October and November 2025, the company said.

"SpiceJet's qualified institutional placement (QIP) of ₹3,000 crore shall allow repayment of outstanding dues and induction of aircraft on ground, which has commenced. We reckon a recovery shall be gradual with a full turnaround to be a key monitorable," said Nuvama Research in its latest report.

"Like in some other industries, during lean periods, SpiceJet follows a phased disbursement schedule that continues over a few days. Our employees are well aware of this schedule, which has been a consistent practice, and there has been no change or deviation from the practice," the spokesperson added.





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025



Star Air resumes flight services from Nanded

PTI
MUMBAI

Regional airline Star Air on Wednesday said it has resumed its flight services from Guru Gobind Singh Ji Airport in Nanded, Maharashtra, which were temporarily discontinued after safety regulator DGCA flagged concerns about runway operations on Aug 22.

Star Air is the sole scheduled airline flying from Nanded airport, which is under the management of the

Maharashtra Government's airport development arm, MADC.

Flight operations at the airport had been temporarily suspended for the last 20 days after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) flagged safety lapses during a routine audit, Star Air said.

Due to the swift and coordinated measures taken by the DGCA and Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC), comprehensive safety protocols were implemented, including

expedited repair and strengthening of the runway in record time to ensure the highest standards of operational safety, the airline said.

"The DGCA has once again demonstrated its commitment to ensuring aviation safety in India. Their timely intervention and vigilance reflect the highest global benchmarks in safeguarding both travellers and airlines," Star Air CEO Simran Singh Tiwana said. Star Airline operates 10 flights per day from Nanded Airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Addl flights for stranded Indians



Air India and IndiGo will operate additional flights to Kathmandu to bring back people stranded in the Nepal capital Kathmandu, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Wednesday. The minister also said that airlines have been advised to keep their fares within reasonable levels.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

बिहार के मुंगेर से उड़ान भरेंगे 10 सीटर विमान

मुंगेर। मुंगेर में हवाई अड्डा की
विस्तारीकरण योजना को लेकर की
जा रही कवायद गति पकड़ने लगी



है। अथॉरिटी
ऑफ इंडिया से
ओएलएस सर्वे
के लिए तीन
सदस्यीय टीम
गुरुवार को हवाई
अड्डा पहुंची।

एएआई के जीआईएस के सीनियर
एनालिस्ट योगेंद्र कुमार के नेतृत्व में
एनालिस्ट प्रवीण कुमार व
निजकूल ने वर्तमान हवाई अड्डा के
सतही सर्वेक्षण का काम शुरू
किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Telugu people cleared for boarding at Kathmandu airport

154 The Andhra Pradesh government said 154 Telugu passengers, including 10 shifted from Pokhara, have been issued boarding passes at Kathmandu airport. Special flights and vehicles are being arranged to bring all evacuees back to Andhra Pradesh. ॥

{ AVIATION REFORM, AMID RESISTANCE }

A new licensing system that will shake up pilot training

Anjali Bhargava



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

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

Individual airlines are also fearing an acute shortage that could throw their plans awry as they go forward. IndiGo, the country's largest airline, which currently has around 5300 commanders and first officers (with around 400 under training at any point) expects to double this by 2030 based on current fleet induction plans. The Tata group has recently announced plans to set up a new academy to prepare crew for its own growing needs for all the carriers under their

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

To overcome this yawning gap, airlines have thrown their weight behind a new pathway — a multi-crew pilots licence — which would alter the way pilots are trained in India currently. The existing system of training and readying pilots is such that

pilots train on smaller aircraft and earn a commercial pilot's licence (CPL). CPL licence holders then have to undergo extensive training to work in a commercial airliner.

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

The multi-crew licence was

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

Why airlines argue it's the way forward

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

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



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

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

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

who have trained on single engine aeroplanes after a bit of training into a very advanced fly-by-wire cockpit, which is not ideal. He argues that MPL has phases and takes the candidate through intensive emergency situations in a rigorous manner and that candidates are ready for the role of first officer after a few sectors of line-oriented flight training with extensive simulator usage. Moreover, the integration with a specific airline is built in from the start.

The naysayers

The move has been resisted by FTOs, sections of pilots and some pilot associations who see this new system as nothing more than a "cost saving" proposal by

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

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

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

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

understanding of piloting in real life situations.

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

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

Other glaring gaps

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

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

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

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

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

Anjali Bhargava writes about governance, infrastructure, and the social sector. The views expressed are personal



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Air India and IndiGo to operate special flights

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

SpiceJet secures \$90mn liquidity boost

NEW DELHI: Low-cost carrier SpiceJet has reached a settlement with Carlyle Aviation Partners, unlocking \$89.5 mn in liquidity. As part of the agreement, the airline will gain access to \$79.6 mn in cash maintenance reserves for future aircraft and engine maintenance, along with \$9.9 mn in maintenance credits to offset lease obligations. The deal also involves restructuring of lease obligations worth \$121.18 mn. *ENS*



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

नेपाल जाने वाली फ्लाइट में खराबी, डेढ़ घंटे बिना एसी के 'कैद' रहे यात्री

■ नवीन निश्चल, एयरपोर्ट

स्पाइस जेट के विमान से गुरुवार को नेपाल जाने वाले 100 से ज्यादा यात्रियों को उड़ान से पहले ही काफी दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ा। इससे जुड़े कुछ विडियो भी सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल हुए। कुछ पैसेंजर ने बताया कि विमान को रनवे पर ले जाने की जगह करीब डेढ़ घंटे तक होलिंग पींट पर ही खड़ा रखा गया और इस दौरान एसी काम नहीं कर रहा था।

यात्रियों ने बताया कि गर्मी में लोगों को मजबूरन वुकलेट को पंखा बनाकर उससे किसी तरह काम चलाना पड़ा। डेढ़ घंटे बाद यात्रियों को फ्लाइट से उतारा गया और

फिर इसे 'बे' (विमान पार्क करने वाला एरिया) में ले जाया गया। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार, यह स्पाइस जेट का SG 41 विमान था। सुबह 8 बजकर 10 मिनट पर इसे नेपाल के लिए उड़ान भरना था, लेकिन इसमें तकनीकी खराबी आ गई। एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों ने बताया कि आग लगने की आशंका को देखते हुए विमान को रोक दिया गया था।

यही, इस मामले में एयरलाइंस के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि विमान में कुछ तकनीकी खामी थी, जिस वजह से उसे होलिंग एरिया में डेढ़ घंटे तक रखा गया। फ्लाइट के पिछले हिस्से में आग लगने की आशंका के कारण बाद में यात्रियों को उतारकर उसे बे एरिया में भेजा गया था।

पैसेंजर हुए
परेशान, विडियो
हुआ वायरल



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

AIESL 'Hangars Full Hai' as global MRO demand surges

ASHOKE RAJ
■ New Delhi

India's aviation ambitions are soaring higher as Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) hits full capacity, marking a significant milestone in the country's push to become a global aviation hub. With all hangars — across wide-body and narrow-body categories — completely booked, AIESL is witnessing an unprecedented surge in demand for its aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services.

From Delhi to Trivandrum, and Mumbai to Nagpur, the hum of aircraft maintenance is unrelenting. AIESL's wide-body hangars — two in Nagpur and three in Mumbai, including a dual hangar — are fully occupied. Simultaneously, all seven hangars for narrow-body aircraft like A320s and Boeing 737s are running at maximum capacity. "Hangars Full Hai" — A Sign of Global Trust, "We're running at full capacity. 'Hangars full hai' — that's the situation now". "Each wide-body aircraft brings in nearly 710 crore and takes under 25 days to service. The

growth is real and measurable."

This operational peak is driven by AIESL's expanding international footprint. While Air India continues to be a key client, the company has steadily added global carriers to its portfolio.

Kuwait Airways, for example, signed a contract in 2023 for the maintenance of seven wide-body aircraft — and impressed by the results, returned in 2025 with a repeat order. Four of those aircraft have already been serviced, with the remaining three scheduled for completion soon.

Talks are also underway with two additional international airlines, expected to be finalised soon. These partnerships signal a growing confidence in India's MRO capabilities from global carriers looking for cost-effective yet high-quality services.

This growth directly supports the Prime Minister's vision of transforming India into a global aviation hub. The MRO sector, long seen as an underutilised asset, is now emerging as a vital part of this strategy.

The Ministry of Civil



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Aviation, under dynamic young leadership, has taken proactive steps to make India an attractive MRO destination. These include regulatory streamlining, policy support, and capacity-building initiatives that are already bearing fruit.

AIESL, which became an independent entity in 2015 after being carved out from Air India, has achieved this growth without any government financial support.

Despite carrying a negative net worth from the post-disinvestment phase, it has delivered operational surpluses consistently over the past five years.

"We're self-sustaining and proud of it," Agarwal said. "We've not asked the government for a single rupee. Our performance speaks for itself — we're building not just capacity, but credibility."

In response to rising demand, AIESL has aggres-

sively expanded its workforce — adding over 2,000 professionals in the last three years. The company now employs over 5,000 people and continues to recruit skilled aviation professionals across its facilities.

Despite a slight dip in revenue in FY25 (provisional) to Rs 1,980 crore — down from Rs 2,180 crore in FY24 and 72,045 crore in FY23 — AIESL has managed to maintain strong operational

health. EBITDA margins have remained robust, improving from 40% in FY24 to 42% in FY25 (provisional), after standing at 43% in FY23.

Profit After Tax (PAT), which had seen a temporary drop in FY24 to Rs 253 crore from Rs 632 crore in FY23, has rebounded significantly to Rs 427 crore in FY25 (provisional). The PAT margin has similarly recovered from 12% in FY24 to 22% in FY25, reflecting the company's operational resilience and strategic investments paying off.

The FY24 dip, according to insiders, was a result of operational adjustments and forward-looking investments in capacity-building. With these investments now delivering returns, the current year's projections indicate a strong bounce-back trajectory.

With hangars full, international interest rising, and a growing reputation for efficiency and quality, AIESL is rapidly emerging as a cornerstone of India's aviation growth story. In many ways, its trajectory mirrors the aspirations of a nation looking skyward — not just to fly, but to lead.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

तकनीकी खराबी से घंटों बिना एसी के बैठे यात्री, किया हंगामा

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली से काठमांडू जा रहे स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस के विमान में यात्रियों को भारी दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ा। उड़ान संख्या एसजी-41 में 100 से अधिक यात्री सवार थे, जिन्हें विमान में तकनीकी



खराबी आने के बाद एसी बंद होने और भीषण गर्मी के बीच लंबे समय तक इंतजार करना पड़ा। बाद में यात्रियों को विमान से उतारकर बस में बैठाया गया। एयरलाइन के मुताबिक, विमान को सुबह 8:10 बजे उड़ान भरनी थी, लेकिन समय पर उड़ान न भर पाने के कारण इसे पहले 9:30 बजे तक टाल दिया गया। इसके बाद भी विमान रनवे पर कुछ देर खड़ा रहा। इस दौरान एसी बंद रहने से यात्रियों को घुटन और गर्मी झेलनी पड़ी। करीब एक घंटे तक इंतजार के बाद विमान को वापस पार्किंग बे में

लाया गया और यात्रियों को उतारने का निर्णय लिया गया। चालक दल ने इस देरी की वजह तकनीकी खराबी बताई। घटना के बाद एयरलाइन ने जानकारी दी कि समस्या को दूर करने की कोशिश जारी है। एयरलाइन ने अपने आधिकारिक सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट पर यात्रियों को सूचित किया था कि उन्हें रद्द हुई उड़ानों की जानकारी रजिस्टर्ड मोबाइल नंबर और ईमेल पर दी जाएगी। साथ ही, टिकट रीबुकिंग और रिफंड के लिए हेल्पलाइन नंबर भी जारी किए गए हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

विमान में खराबी के कारण छह घंटे देरी से उड़ान भरी नई दिल्ली। सिंगापुर जाने वाले एयर इंडिया के एक विमान में सवार 200 से अधिक यात्रियों को दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर उस समय परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा, जब केबिन में तापमान की समस्या के कारण पहले उन्हें विमान से नीचे उतार दिया गया और फिर करीब छह घंटे की देरी के बाद उड़ान भरी गई। बोइंग 787-9 ड्रीमलाइनर विमान से संचालित उड़ान संख्या एआई2380 को बुधवार रात लगभग 11 बजे दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से उड़ान भरनी थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

काठमांडू जाने वाली स्पाइसजेट उड़ान दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर लौटी

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट के काठमांडू जाने वाले एक विमान के पिछले हिस्से (टेलपाइप) में बृहस्पतिवार को दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर आग लगने की आशंका के बाद उसे वापस 'बे' पर लौटा दिया गया। हवाई अड्डे पर विमानों को जहां खड़ा किया जाता है, उसे 'बे' कहते हैं। विमानन कंपनी ने कहा कि विमान की विस्तृत इंजीनियरिंग जांच की गई और कोई असामान्य बात नहीं मिली।

उड़ानों पर नजर रखने वाली वेबसाइट फ्लाइटरेडार24डॉटकॉम पर उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार, उड़ान संख्या एसजी041 का संचालन बोईंग 737-8 विमान से किया जा रहा था। सूत्रों के अनुसार सुबह रवाना होने वाली यह उड़ान चार घंटे से अधिक की देरी से रवाना हुई। विमानन कंपनी ने एक बयान में कहा, "11 सितंबर, 2025 को, दिल्ली से काठमांडू जाने वाला स्पाइसजेट विमान, जमीन पर मौजूद एक अन्य विमान द्वारा टेलपाइप में आग लगने की आशंका जताए जाने के बाद, बे पर लौट आया। कॉकपिट में कोई चेतावनी या संकेत नहीं देखे गए, लेकिन पायलट ने एहतियाती सुरक्षा उपाय के तौर पर वापस लौटने का फैसला किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

140 flyers put on edge as AI Exp plane could land only on third attempt

Ashish.Mehta
@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: As many as 140 passengers of an Air India Express Hyderabad-Jaipur flight (IX-2870) were jolted by two unsuccessful landing bids on Thursday, until the airplane finally managed to touch ground on the third attempt.

The flight was scheduled to land at Jaipur airport at 8.05am. "When the flight touched down around 8.08am, the pilots immediately took off again, and the flight could not land. After this, the flight was put on hold in the airspace of Jaipur airport, and the pilots kept circling in the sky. The second touchdown attempt was also unsuccessful," said an officer at Jaipur airport.

After about 30 minutes, the flight again approached for landing around 8.35am and landed



File photo

Sources said it was unclear why the pilots could not land in the first two attempts

safely at 8.40am. Why the pilots could not land in the first two attempts was unclear, sources said.

For those aboard, it was a scary experience. "We felt jolts twice," said a passenger. "Three landing attempts. One hit was very hard, then two go-arounds despite clear weather. The pilot said 'different method' on the third. Everyone was scared — too much to share in one tweet," a passenger posted on X.

Jaipur airport ATC would report the matter to DGCA, authorities said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Air India & IndiGo operate 24 flights

Air India and IndiGo operated 12 flights each between India (mostly Delhi) and Kathmandu on Thursday, ferrying about 2,800 passengers on them. AI operated a Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi flight on Wednesday night, on which about 300 people flew. All of Air India's flights on Wednesday and Thursday were between Delhi and Kathmandu. IndiGo operated three return flights between Delhi and Kathmandu and one between Mumbai and Kathmandu. It also operated a Delhi-Kathmandu-Visakhapatnam-Tirupati-Delhi charter-cum-additional commercial flight. Soon after the Kathmandu Airport had reopened on Wednesday, Union aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu had said on X: "Aviation ministry, in coordination with Air India & IndiGo, has arranged additional flights over the next few days, alongside scheduled services resuming tomorrow." TNN

Diwali holiday week fires up travel rush, air fares from city shoot up by 280%

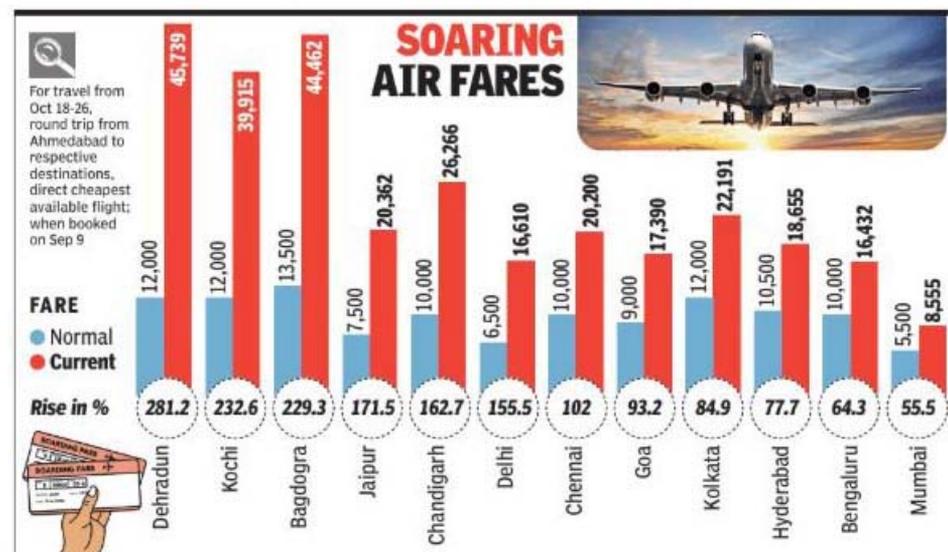
Niyati.Parikh
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Ahead of Diwali, air fares are shooting up like fireworks. Travelers hoping to make the most of the festive break are finding that round-trip fares for Oct 18–26 have increased by as much as 280% compared to normal days, even when booked more than a month in advance.

Data on bookings made on Sep 9 shows the sharpest jump on the Ahmedabad–Dehradun route, where the cheapest direct return fare is Rs 45,739 against the usual Rs 12,000.

Kochi (Rs 39,915) and Bagdogra (Rs 44,462) have also more than doubled, while Jaipur (Rs 20,362) and Chandigarh (Rs 26,266) are up by over 160–170%. Even short-haul favourites such as Delhi and Goa have seen fares soar 90–150%, with Mumbai (Rs 8,555) up by 55%.

The spike coincides with Gujarat gearing up for an unusually long festive break in 2025. With Diwali falling on Oct 20 and weekends and other holidays flanking either side, many schools and businesses will remain closed for nearly 10 days — a



perfect recipe for holiday travel. Families are planning extended trips, stretching airline capacity and pushing ticket prices higher across the board.

While Dubai, Singapore, Thailand, and Europe remain on the radar for international travellers, the domestic sector has borne the brunt of demand. Routes to Kochi, Jaipur, and Delhi have emerged as some of the costliest, reflecting both leisure and family travel demand.

Ankit Bajaj, a travel ex-

pert from Ahmedabad, said, “We are seeing a clear spike in inquiries and confirmed bookings for the holiday season this year.

The extended festive break has encouraged families to plan longer trips, and while international travel remains strong, it is the domestic segment that has seen the sharpest rise. Airfares are reflecting this surge in demand, and travellers who booked even a month and a half in advance are paying significantly more than usual.”

According to travel industry players, the domestic sector in particular has witnessed a surge in demand, with families preferring to combine festive celebrations with short-haul getaways.

With fares already elevated across the board, agents are warning travellers against further delays. For many, this Diwali’s long holiday may mean spending more time in the air than at home — and paying record-high fares for the privilege.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

AI, IndiGo run spl flights to help Indians return home

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

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

Due to airport closure in Nepal, many home-bound passengers were unable to

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

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

11 SEPTEMBER 2025

AI, IndiGo run special flights to help Indians return home

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