



Corporate Communications Directorate

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Darbhanga Airport's pending works awaits approval from AAI

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DARBHANGA: The much-anticipated progress to operationalise CAT II flight guidance and control system at Darbhanga Airforce Station under the modernisation of airfield infrastructure (MAFI-2) scheme is yet to be used for passenger aircrafts to facilitate night landing and flight operations during inclement weather, according to sources familiar with the matter. The pace of work is allegedly hindered by incomplete tasks under the purview of Airport Authority of India (AAI).

Although, IAF had installed Cat-II approach lights for the runway upto a distance of 300 m on IAF land. In order to sustain Cat-II operations, civil operators require 900 m of approach lights. Therefore, on the proposal of AAI chairman, IAF agreed to install approach light through the MAFI vendor M/s Tata Advanced System Limited (M/S TASL) on the adjoining 600 m of land, which was to be acquired by AAI.

Darbhanga MP Gopal Jee Thakur told this reporter on Tuesday that he has urged Airforce authorities to grant 'NoC' for extended watch hours for flight operations at Darbhanga airport.

In the light of inputs provided by defence ministry, some basic works such as land leveling, land filling, and the construction of a safety (boundary) wall are yet to be finished by AAI. These activities are essential for the Airforce to proceed with installing navigation and lighting systems, a critical step for operational readiness to facilitate night landing.

Darbhanga airfield, declared a joint user aerodrome (JUA) under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS) in February 2018, commenced civil operations on November 8, 2020.

Significant upgrades have been carried out to enhance its infrastructure, catering to Airbus A-320 class aircraft and improving safety standards, according to defence ministry inputs.

AAI has completed approximately 60% of the work, while the remaining tasks are still pending. Concerned over the delay, the Airforce sent a formal communication to the AAI on November 22, urging the agency to expedite the completion of the pending work. However, no response has been received from the AAI so far, according to information as communicated to Darbhanga MP.

The Darbhanga MP also met Union minister of state for defence Sanjay Seth on Monday and requested him that the CAT II installed at Darbhanga airport can also be used for passenger aircraft operations. The MP urged the minister that while the watch hours at all other airbases in the country are from 6 am to 9 pm, the night landing of passenger aircraft at Darbhanga airport could not be started due to the reduced watch hours at Darbhanga airbase, hence the watch hours should be extended.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) completed runway resurfacing works in July 2023, which began in February 2019. Additionally, a Simple Approach Lighting System (SALS) for Runway 28 was installed in February 2021, extending 300 meters from the threshold.

AAI acquired 24 acres from the state government for this purpose and an additional 54 acres for constructing two new taxiway links, civil apron, civil enclave and other operational amenities.

Darbhanga airport is connected to Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Hyderabad by Spicejet and IndiGo airlines.

As part of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) MAFI project, advanced navigational aids have been installed at Darbhanga airport, which, included an Instrument Landing System (ILS), Airfield Lighting System (AFLS) Cat-II for Runway 28, Simple Approach lighting System for Runway 10, Automated Air Traffic Management (ATM) System, Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR), and a Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) system.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

Centre gives nod for 5G connectivity at airports

Rohit Vaid

New Delhi

India is set to introduce 5G mobile connectivity at its airports, sources told *businessline*.

This landmark decision is expected to enhance passenger experience and improve overall service delivery. Until now, safety concerns related to 5G signals interfering with aircraft altimeter readings and communication systems had prevented such a move.

An altimeter measures the aircraft's height above the earth's surface and is crucial for navigation.

The potential interference of 5G signals with aircraft systems has been flagged as a concern by civil aircraft operators globally. Consequently, 5G services have not been deployed near airports in India.

As per sources, the installation of new-generation altimeters, along with controlled tests, has enabled an inter-ministerial panel to give the "green light" for telecom service providers to install the necessary equipment for rolling out 5G ser-

vices across airports. "The move signals a major step towards integrating the next-generation mobile network into key public spaces, starting with the country's major airports," sources said.

This decision comes after a series of rigorous safety assessments and deliberations among various ministries, including the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Telecommunications, and the Ministry of Defence.

The consultations were crucial in addressing aviation safety concerns, particularly the impact of 5G signals on aircraft communication systems.

Furthermore, the decision follows a series of successful trials conducted in collaboration with regulatory bodies and the aviation sector.

These trials aimed to determine whether 5G signals interfere with aviation safety or disrupt air traffic management systems.

SEAMLESS CHECK-INS

Deploying 5G at airports will accelerate mobile data speeds and enable real-time luggage tracking, seamless check-ins, and enhanced passenger information systems.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

Parandur airport site cleared after panel nod

Chennai: Site clearance for the greenfield Parandur airport was granted after the Steering Committee recommended the plan, said Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol. He was responding to a question raised by Rajya Sabha MP P Wilson relating to possible safety issues. OUR BUREAU



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को दिल्ली-मुंबई व दिल्ली-हावड़ा रेलवे रूट से जोड़ने का रास्ता साफ

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 11 दिसम्बर (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को दिल्ली-मुंबई और दिल्ली-हावड़ा रेलवे ट्रैक से जोड़ने के लिए रास्ता साफ हो गया। इस पर उत्तर-मध्य रेलवे, नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड, यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड और यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे प्राधिकरण ने सहमति दे दी है। उत्तर मुख्य रेलवे को इसकी विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट तैयार का जिम्मा सौंप दिया गया। एक माह के अंदर उत्तर मुख्य रेलवे डीपीआर बनाकर नियाल को अपने रिपोर्ट सौंप देगी। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को सड़क के साथ रेलवे कनेक्टिविटी भी दी जाएगी।

नए प्रस्ताव के तहत 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 डुलाई में सुविधा होगी। यह रेलवे रूट को वाया नोएडा एयरपोर्ट कनेक्ट करेगा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सेंटर तक रेलवे लाइन को जोड़ने का प्रस्ताव तैयार

- यमुना प्राधिकरण ने नॉर्थ सेंट्रल रेलवे को एक माह में डीपीआर तैयार करने का जिम्मा सौंपा
- रेलवे रूट के एलाइनमेंट में बदलाव पर सहमति, अब भूमिगत की जगह सतह से गुजरेगा ट्रैक

किया गया था। नए प्रस्ताव के तहत अब ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सेंटर तक रेलवे लाइन नहीं जाएगी।

बता दें कि नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की रेलवे कनेक्टिविटी के लिए प्रस्तावित रेलवे रूट के एलाइनमेंट संरक्षण में बदलाव किया गया है। बदलाव के बाद रेलवे ट्रैक एक्विजिशन हब में प्रस्तावित सभी पांच रनवे एक ओर रखते हुए दक्षिणी हिस्से से गुजरेगा। इसे भूमिगत न बनाकर भूमि सतह पर बनाया जाएगा।

61 किमी होगी रेलवे ट्रैक की लंबाई

दिल्ली मुंबई रेल रूट और दिल्ली हावड़ा रेल रूट को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट होकर जोड़ने के लिए उत्तर मध्य रेलवे ने व्यवहारिकता रिपोर्ट तैयार की थी। इसके तहत हरियाणा में पलवल के निकट रुंधी स्टेशन से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट होकर दिल्ली हावड़ा रूट पर चोला रेलवे स्टेशन के बीच नया रेल ट्रैक प्रस्तावित किया गया

था।

एयरपोर्ट परिसर में इसे भूमिगत रखने का सुझाव दिया गया था, लेकिन अब इसमें बदलाव करते हुए भूमिगत की बजाए भूमि की सतह पर बनाने की सहमति बनी है।

तकनीकी अड़चन के कारण एलाइनमेंट में किया गया बदलाव

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्टेशन सेंटर बनाया जाएगा। यह एयरपोर्ट के दोनों रनवे के बीच भूमिगत होगा। सड़क के साथ इसकी कनेक्टिविटी गाजियाबाद से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक प्रस्तावित नमो भारत रेल व दिल्ली वाराणसी के बीच प्रस्तावित हाई स्पीड रेल से भी होगी। हाई स्पीड रेल के रूट में नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को स्टेशन प्रस्तावित किया गया है, लेकिन एक ही जगह पर कई रेलवे ट्रैक के मिलने के कारण होने वाली तकनीकी परेशानी को देखते हुए रुंधी चोला रेलवे रूट का एलाइनमेंट बदलकर इसे

भूमिगत की जगह सतह पर बनाने का फैसला किया गया है।

टर्मिनल से करीब पांच किमी दूर से निकलेगा रेलवे ट्रैक

रुंधी चोला रेलवे ट्रैक एयरपोर्ट के पहले चरण में बने टर्मिनल से करीब चार किमी की दूरी से होकर गुजरेगा। एक्विजिशन हब के सभी रनवे इस ट्रैक के एक ओर होंगे। इसे एक्विजिशन हब की दक्षिणी दिशा में बनाया जाएगा। इससे एक रनवे से दूसरे रनवे के बीच आवाजाही की कोई बाधा नहीं होगी। रेलवे स्टेशन से यात्रियों की टर्मिनल तक आवाजाही के लिए शटल बस आदि की सेवा होगी।

यात्रियों के साथ कार्गो डुलाई में मिलेगा लाभ

रुंधी से चोला के बीच रेलवे ट्रैक की लंबाई करीब 61 किमी है। एलाइनमेंट में बदलाव के बाद ट्रैक की लंबाई में भी बदलाव हो सकता है। दिल्ली मुंबई व दिल्ली हावड़ा रेलवे रूट को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट होकर जोड़ने के कारण नए रेलवे रूट से यात्रियों के साथ साथ माल की डुलाई आसान होगी। एयरपोर्ट व दोनों रेलवे रूट पर कार्गो की डुलाई के लिए नया मार्ग तैयार हो जाएगा।

दिल्ली की तुलना में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से सस्ता होगा हवाई सफर

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 11 दिसम्बर (देशबन्धु)। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने हवाई जहाज में उपयोग होने वाले ईंधन में वैल्यू एडेड टैक्स (वैट) को कम कर एक प्रतिशत कर दिया है। ऐसे में दिल्ली की तुलना में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से हवाई सफर करना सस्ता रहेगा। एक अनुमान के तौर पर दिल्ली से लखनऊ के लिए हवाई यात्रा का टिकट 3500 रुपए है तो वहीं टिकट नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से 2800 रुपए का होगा। जेवर में बन रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण कार्य पूरा हो गया। वहीं 17 अप्रैल 2025 से से यात्री सेवाएं शुरू हो जाएंगी। खास बात ये है कि दिल्ली के मुकाबले नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से सफर करना सस्ता होगा।

यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र में बन रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ने 9 दिसम्बर 2024 को अपनी पहली उड़ान यानि वेलिडेशन फ्लाइट सफलतापूर्वक पूरा कर लिया। इस ऐतिहासिक मौके पर इंडिगो विमान ने दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरकर 15 मिनट में जेवर के पहले रनवे पर लैंड किया। अप्रैल 2025 से यहां से नियमित उड़ानें शुरू होंगी।

10 से 15 प्रतिशत का हवाई टिकट में होगा अंतर

दरअसल, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने हवाई जहाज में उपयोग होने वाले ईंधन में वैल्यू एडेड टैक्स (वैट) को कम कर एक प्रतिशत कर दिया है। वहीं दिल्ली में 25 प्रतिशत वैट ईंधन पर लगाया गया है। ऐसे में हवाई टिकट की कीमत में 10 से 15 प्रतिशत का अंतर आएगा। उधर एयरपोर्ट



- उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने हवाई जहाज में उपयोग होने वाले ईंधन में वैट एक प्रतिशत किया
- दिल्ली में हवाई जहाज में ईंधन पर 25 फीसदी लगा रखा है वैट

संचालन के छह वर्ष बाद 1.4 लाख करोड़ रुपए की वार्षिक आय का अनुमान है। ऐसे में इस आय का 12.5 प्रतिशत हिस्सा यमुना प्राधिकरण के हिस्से आएगा। यहां यात्रियों की संख्या अधिक हो इसके लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ रही है।

एनसीआर के साथ पश्चिम उत्तर प्रदेश के यात्रियों को मिलेगा फायदा

दिल्ली के एनसीआर क्षेत्र के लोगों को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से हवाई सेवाएं शुरू होने पर सबसे ज्यादा फायदा मिलेगा। साथ ही पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के लोगों को हवाई यात्रा करने के लिए अब दिल्ली आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट तक चक्कर नहीं लगाना होगा। इस क्षेत्र के लोगों को दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से हवाई यात्रा करने के लिए दो

घंटे से ज्यादा का सफर तय कर इंदिरा गांधी एयरपोर्ट जाना पड़ता है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर हवाई सफर सस्ता होने पर इस क्षेत्र के लोग दिल्ली जाने के बजाय नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से सफर करना मुफीद रहेगा। एयरपोर्ट आम जनता के लिए बड़ा विकल्प बन जाएगा।

हवाई अड्डा आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण करेगा टिकट का निर्धारण

किसी भी एयरपोर्ट का हवाई सेवाओं के लिए टिकट का निर्धारण हवाई अड्डा आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण यानि ऐरा का गठन किया गया है। विनियामक प्राधिकरण का टिकट का निर्धारण करने से पहले देखता है कि एयरपोर्ट संचालक कंपनी निर्माण में कितना पैसा खर्च किया। विमान टिकट कौन-कौन से शुल्क शामिल किया है। उसके आधार पर ऐरा टिकट दर का निर्धारण करता है। टिकट का दर निर्धारण होने पर हवाई सेवाएं शुरू होने के बाद प्राधिकरण हर छह माह पर टिकट का ब्यौरा उपलब्ध कराना होता है। यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड जल्द ही टिकट का निर्धारण करने के लिए ऐरा में आवेदन करेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

GMR rolls out AI tool for airport ops

● After Hyderabad, facility to be launched in Delhi

RAGHAV AGGARWAL
Hyderabad, December 11

GMR AIRPORTS ON Wednesday launched an Airport Predictive Operations Centre (APOC) and artificial intelligence (AI)-powered digital platform at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad, a first for the country. This facility will be available at Delhi Airport soon, the company said.

The APOC would collect data from several stakeholders like airlines, ground staff, and air traffic control, and predict future bottlenecks.

After analysing data from points like CCTVs, wifi routers and baggage counters, the simulation models of APOC will alert the operators for things like how much traffic may



EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

■ Airport Predictive Operations Centre to collect data from airlines, ground staff, predict future bottlenecks

■ The move is expected to cut down the check-in time of travellers and shorten the security queues

come at a certain point, which gates may be more crowded, etc. It would also allow them to notice things outside the terminal, like traffic.

This is expected to cut down the check-in time of travellers and shorten the security queues. Moreover, it

would also become easier for operators to provide travellers with real-time updates.

Calling it a "watershed" for the aviation industry in India, SGK Kishore, executive director, south and chief innovation officer, GMR Airports said, "By integrating real-time data and

advanced analytics, we ensure smooth passenger flow, reduced wait times, and personalised services, shaping the future of air travel with unparalleled efficiency and safety".

The APOC has been developed with the help of IT solutions provider WAISL and start-up Kloudspot.

Civil aviation minister, Ram Mohan Naidu said that this system must be replicated at other airports in the country.

"We have to focus on making air travel more accessible, affordable and convenient. And this new facility aligns with the vision for improved ease of travel. The goal is to create a seamless and people-friendly air travel experience," he said.

In a post announcement conference, Kishore said that the digital platform is a horizontal facility, capable of adding more services like APOC.

(The writer was in Hyderabad at the invitation of GMR)



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

11 DECEMBER 2024

Air connectivity with Kolkata gets better

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

Visiting West Bengal will become easier with the city getting one more direct flight on Tuesday, while one more flight will start on December 15, taking the total number of flights to Kolkata to 3.

Under the Winter Schedule of flights, IndiGo rolled out its second direct flight to Kolkata from the Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport on Tuesday.

The new flight 6E-6379 departs from Kolkata at 6.55 am and reaches Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport at 9.20 am. In return, the flight 6E-6378 departs from the city airport at 10 am and reached to Kolkata at 12.10 pm. Official sources informed that in the maiden run of the second flight 153 adult passengers

and 2 minors arrived from Kolkata and in the departing flight 183 adult passengers and 5 minors departed from the city. The existing flight departs from the city at 8.25 pm and lands at Kolkata airport at 10.25 pm.

Third flight from December 15

The city is going to have its third direct flight to Kolkata on December 15. Air India Express, a Tata Group airline, is going to start its maiden direct flight to Kolkata from the city next Sunday. Ticket booking for the Indore-Kolkata flight has also been started. As per the schedule released by the airline on its website, flight IX-2643 will depart from Kolkata at 6.30 pm. It will land here at 8.40 pm. Flight IX-2644 will depart from here at 9.10 pm. It will reach Kolkata at 11.20 pm.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

540 touts arrested from airport this year for duping passengers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Over 540 touts have been arrested from the IGI Airport so far this year, the police said on Wednesday.

Touting involves coercing or enticing passengers with the false promise of

cheaper services, including taxi rides, hotel stays, and shopping tours, which leave them vulnerable to harassment, financial exploitation, and safety risks.

"The arrests are as a result of an extensive crackdown on touting activities at the airport," said DCP

(IGI) Usha Rangnani.

As part of the drive against touting, which is prohibited under the Delhi Prevention of Touting and Malpractices against Tourists Act, the police solved several high-profile cases, including one in which a foreign national was duped

of ₹98,700 in September, said the DCP.

"The tout, posing as a helpful resident, had falsely informed the passenger that Delhi was witnessing heavy protests, causing all hotels and public transport to shut down. The tout and his associates lured the

passenger into their trap with promises of alternative arrangements," added the DCP. The accused charged the foreign national ₹98,700 on the pretext of arranging a private vehicle to Varanasi and abandoned him on the roadside, said the senior officer.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

AIRPORTS SHOULD BE LIKE A SECOND HOME, SAYS NAIDU

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Wednesday said that his focus lies on ease of travel for civilians flying by air.

He was addressing an event for the launch of an AI-enabled system called Airport Predictive Operation Centre (APOC) at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport.

"Increasing air traffic necessitates advancements in airport management. This new facility will be a milestone for future airport operations. It will enhance efficiency and improve operations," Naidu said.

The system is also set to be introduced in Delhi airport soon. The airport operator- GMR, unveiled APOC, a system that will integrate airside, landside, and terminal operations into a unified system, utilising real-time data to optimise decision-making, minimise disruptions, and ensure seamless operations. "Airports should become like a second home. My vision is that we have to create 50 more airports in the next five years," Naidu added.

540 touts arrested in '24 for duping flyers around IGI Airport, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

OVER 500 touts operating around Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi have been arrested in 2024 for duping flyers on the pretext of unauthorised services, said the Delhi Police.

The arrests, made under Delhi Prevention of Touting and Malpractices against Tourists Act, saw a jump of 48% from last year, according to the data shared by the police.

The data said that 540 touts were arrested and 254 vehicles used as illegal taxis seized as against the 264 arrests and 96 vehicle seizures recorded in 2023.

"Touts often prey on unsuspecting passengers, particularly at night, posing as pre-paid taxi drivers and offering false promises of cheaper services. These deceptive practices leave passengers vulnerable to harassment, financial exploitation, and safety risks," said Usha Rangnani, Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI).

Among the arrested, 373 are from Delhi, 107 from Uttar Pradesh,

32 from Haryana and 11 from Bihar. The others arrested hail from Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Sikkim. The police made 41 preventive arrests of repeat offenders in 2024, in comparison to zero in 2023, the data said.

The touts eye flyers who arrive late at night, including foreign nationals, and purvey cheaper services in comparison to standard market rates, the police said.

In one of the major cases of the year, a foreign national was duped of Rs 98,700 by a tout promising to take him to Varanasi. "The tout falsely informed the passenger that Delhi was witnessing heavy protests, causing all hotels and public transport to shut down. The touts and his three associates promised to make alternative arrangements for them," Rangnani said.

The touts charged the foreigner's credit card Rs 98,700 to take him to Varanasi and then abandoned him midway. "Within 24 hours, the police apprehended four accused people, including mastermind Amit Malhotra. Further, they froze the suspects' bank accounts, ensuring the recovery of the victim's money," said Rangnani.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

IGIA: Touting problem addressed with record arrests and seizures

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: In a determined effort to eradicate touting and safeguard passengers at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, the Delhi Police's IGI Airport Unit has launched an extensive crackdown, setting a benchmark in proactive policing. With 540 touts arrested and 254 vehicles seized in 2024, the numbers represent a dramatic increase compared to 264 arrests and 96 vehicle seizures in 2023, the officials informed on Wednesday.

Usha Rangnani, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) IGI Airport, stated that the zero-tolerance approach has significantly enhanced passenger safety and strengthened the airport's reputation as a secure gateway to India. Touting at IGI Airport involves misleading or coercing passengers into using unauthorised taxis, accommodations, or other services.

Adding further, Rangnani said these activities do not only give a bad reputation to the airport but also risk passengers' lives. Touts, usually targeting



unsuspecting travellers, especially during night hours, lure their victims with false promises, such as posing as pre-paid taxi drivers or claiming a need for an emergency, which justifies increased fees.

Touting is a criminal offence under the Delhi Prevention of Touting and Malpractices against Tourist Act, and the IGI Airport Police have been relentless in addressing this menace. The most notable case was in September 2024, when a foreign national was duped into paying Rs 98,700 by a tout who claimed that all public services in Delhi had

been disrupted by protests. The victim was misled into thinking that alternative arrangements were necessary and was overcharged under the guise of seeking private transport to Varanasi.

Within 24 hours, the IGI Airport Police arrested four suspects, including the brain behind the crime. Their bank accounts were frozen and the victim's money recovered. In another case, again in September, a foreign tourist was overcharged Rs 2,500 for a ride to CR Park.

This is five times the usual fare. Within hours of the vic-

Takeaways

- » Usha Rangnani, DCP IGI Airport, stated that the zero-tolerance approach has significantly enhanced passenger safety
- » There are anti-touting teams who patrol round the clock in all terminals, arrival zones and parking areas, the DCP mentioned

tim's friend complaining, the police were able to identify the culprits from CCTV footage and arrested them.

Such swift resolutions have only served to highlight the commitment of the police to the welfare of passengers.

The IGI Airport Police have put in place some very innovative strategies to tackle touting. There are anti-touting teams who patrol round the clock in all terminals, arrival zones, and parking areas, Rangnani mentioned.

The uniformed and plain-clothes officers ensure there is

instant action against touting.

Greater coverage has been enhanced by increased foot and motorcycle patrols and coordination with stakeholders such as RAXA, Airport Security Group, and Delhi International Airport Limited. DIAL enables sharing of intelligence and joint operations.

QRTs deployed at strategic locations have been quick to respond to suspicious activities and thus prevented touts. The results of the crackdown speak for themselves. In 2024, the IGI Airport Police arrested 540 touts, seized 254 vehicles, and made 41 preventive arrests under the BNSS Act—an area where no arrest was made in 2023, Rangnani said.

Touts caught were from different states such as Delhi (373), Uttar Pradesh (107), Haryana (32), and Bihar (11), bringing to the fore the nationalistic character of the problem. The police have also initiated awareness campaigns to educate passengers on the dangers of touting and how to avoid falling prey, the DCP IGI Airport confirmed.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

Touting at IGI airport tackled: 540 arrests, 254 vehicles seized

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport is witnessing rampant cases of touting especially with foreign nationals, a menace that damages India's reputation on the global stage and deters foreign tourism, with the arrest of 540 touts and the seizure of 254 vehicles this year significantly surpassing last year's figures of 264 arrests and 96 vehicle seizures.

"In a determined effort to eradicate touting activities at IGI Airport, Delhi Police's IGI Airport Unit has launched an extensive and strategic crackdown, resulting in an unprecedented impact on passenger safety and airport operations. With the arrest of 540 touts and the seizure of 254 vehicles in 2024, compared to 264 arrests and 96 vehicle seizures in 2023, the IGI Airport Police has demonstrated a zero-tolerance policy toward touting," the police said in a statement.

Touting, the act of coercing or deceiving passengers into using unauthorized services, has long been a persistent problem at IGI Airport. It involves touts misguiding travellers to use unauthorized taxis, accommodation services, or even shopping options. This deceptive practice not only compromises passenger safety but also tarnishes the airport's reputation, often leaving victims vulnerable to financial exploitation, harassment, and safety risks.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI) Usha Rangnani said,

"Touting at IGI Airport is a criminal offense under the Delhi Prevention of Touting & Malpractices against Tourist Act, and the police have demonstrated a zero-tolerance approach toward this illegal activity."

Several cases in recent months have been reported at the Delhi airport where travellers including foreign nationals have been targeted especially at night by these people. In one incident, a foreign national arriving late at night was approached by a tout who falsely claimed that protests in Delhi had caused all hotels and public transport to shut down. The tout exploited the passenger's concerns and lured him into his trap, charging Rs. 98,700 under the pretense of arranging travel to Varanasi.

The victim was later abandoned on the roadside. "Acting swiftly, the IGI Airport Police registered the complaint and launched a coordinated operation. Within 24 hours, they apprehended the four suspects involved, including the mastermind, Amit Malhotra. The police froze the suspects' bank accounts, ensuring the victim's money was recovered," the DCP said.

She added that in another case, a foreign national was overcharged five times the standard taxi fare from IGI Airport to CR Park. The victim's friend lodged a complaint and within hours, the IGI Airport Police tracked down the offenders, Monu Bhati and Kamal, and arrested them. Moreover, earlier this year, a solo female traveler was targeted by

touts who misled her about hotel closures and attempted to coerce her into paying for 'premium' services. Upon receiving her complaint, the IGI Airport Police arrested the offenders. The IGI Airport Police have also taken several proactive measures to combat touting. Specialized teams, including plainclothes officers, patrol the terminals, arrival areas, and parking zones around the clock.

Further, enhanced foot and motorcycle patrols allow officers to navigate crowded areas and swiftly access remote parts of the airport, while collaborations with RAXA (Airport Security Group) and DIAL (Delhi International Airport Limited) have strengthened intelligence-sharing and operational coordination. Additionally, joint operations with traffic police target both touting activities and traffic violations.

To further curb touting, the police rely on intelligence gathered through surveillance and public feedback. Their 'Eyes and Ears' scheme has enabled the police to carry out targeted raids, reducing the freedom of touts to operate. In addition, preventive measures ensure that repeat offenders are continuously monitored and kept from returning to illegal activities.

The arrested touts belong to multiple states, highlighting the widespread nature of this issue including 373 from Delhi, 107 from Uttar Pradesh, 32 from Haryana, 11 from Bihar and others from Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

At 540, arrests of touts at Delhi airport more than double in 2024

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The number of touts arrested at IGI Airport more than doubled this year compared to last year, according to the data provided by Delhi Police. The data reveals that 540 touts were arrested till Dec 10 this year compared to 264 in 2023.

Police also made 41 preventive arrests in 2024 under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and seized 254 vehicles used by arrested touts while the count stood at 96 in 2023.

According to police, the touting at IGI Airport typically involves coercing, misguiding or enticing flyers into using unauthorised services, such as taxis, accommodations or shopping. Such fraudulent activities not only tarnish the reputation of the airport and the country but also compromise passengers' safety, said police.

"Touts often prey on unsuspecting passengers, particularly at night, by posing as pre-paid taxi drivers and offering false promises of cheaper services," deputy commissioner of police (IGI) Usha Ranganani said. "These deceptive practices make passengers vulnerable to harassment, financial exploitation and safety risks."

The arrested touts belong to different states, with Delhi topping the list with 373 people, followed by 107 from Uttar Pradesh, 32 from Haryana, and 11 from Bihar. Some of them

are from Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

In one of the cases, a foreigner was duped of Rs 98,700 in Sept by a tout who falsely claimed Delhi was experiencing protests, shutting down hotels and public transport. Manipulating the flyer's concerns, the tout promised him alternate arrangements, and made him to use his credit card to "pay" Rs 98,700 for a private vehicle to Varanasi. The flyer was eventually abandoned by a road. Four people were arrested later.

In another case, two touts were arrested for overcharging a solo woman traveller earlier this year. She was misled her about hotel closure, forcing her into buying "premium" services.

Police said multiple steps were taken to prevent touting at the airport. Round-the-clock anti-touting teams, comprising specialised personnel in both plainclothes and uniform, were deployed across terminals, arrival areas and parking zones to ensure immediate action against touting.

"Enhanced patrolling measures were also implemented, including foot patrols, to keep a tab on crowded spaces to interact with passengers, while motorcycle patrols quickly accessed remote or traffic-congested areas. Joint operations were also conducted with key stakeholders," police said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

11 DECEMBER 2024

City airport announces direct flights to five more destinations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA) on Tuesday announced added connectivity with direct flights to Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kolkata and Dimapur.

"Ahmedabad airport is happy to announce direct and additional connectivity to Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kolka-



ta along with a one-stop connection to Dimapur with IndiGo6E. Whether it's planning your winter holidays or travelling for work, we hope

these new flights make your journeys even more convenient and effortless," a social media post from the airport stated.

With this, Ahmedabad will have better connectivity to the Northeast, with Guwahati serving as a vital gateway to the region. Improved access to destinations like Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi is expected to enhance convenience for both business and leisure travellers.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

11 DECEMBER 2024

'Finish survey for Jakranpalli airport'

Hyderabad: Alleging that the Congress govt was following the same corrupt path as that of former BRS regime, Nizamabad BJP MPD Arvind on Tuesday said obstacle limitation services (OLS) survey has been pending for 10 years for greenfield airport at Jakranpalli in Nizamabad. "Neither former CM KCR addressed this concern nor the present Congress govt. Construction of airport is delayed due to Congress govt's lack of interest," he said. TNS



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

दिल्ली के मुकाबले सस्ती हो सकती है नोएडा से उड़ान

यूपी सरकार ईंधन पर लेगी एक फीसदी वैंट, दिल्ली में 25% की होती है वसूली

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

ग्रेटर नोएडा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने वाले विमानों में यात्री किराया दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट के मुकाबले कम रहने के आसार हैं। दरअसल यहां विमानों को ईंधन दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से कम दर पर उपलब्ध होगा।

एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण से पहले हुए समझौते में यूपी सरकार ने ईंधन पर महज एक फीसदी वैंट लगाने का निर्णय लिया है। जबकि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने वाले विमानों को ईंधन पर 25 फीसदी वैंट का भुगतान करना पड़ता है। ऐसे में ईंधन पर वैंट की राहत का असर एयरपोर्ट से संचालित होने वाले विमानों के किराये पर दिखने के आसार हैं।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के रनवे पर सफल ट्रायल के बाद अब विमानन कंपनियां रूट के सर्वे में जुट गई हैं। सर्वे के बाद नागर विमानन निदेशालय से रूट के लिए आवेदन किया जाएगा। इसके साथ ही किराये की भी घोषणा करनी होगी। ऐसे में वैंट से राहत के चलते नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर टिकटें सस्ती मिलने की बात कही जा रही है।

एयरपोर्ट से जुड़े अधिकारियों के अनुसार टिकटों के दाम 15-20 प्रतिशत तक कम रह सकते हैं। दरअसल दिल्ली के पास नोएडा में इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट बनाने का उद्देश्य पैसेंजर लोड को घटाना है। इसलिए टिकटों के कीमत कम करने की योजना बनाई जा रही है। यहां 17 अप्रैल 2025 से नियमित उड़ानें शुरू होने की तैयारी है।



15-20

फीसदी कम
किराये के आसार

17 अप्रैल 2025 से शुरू
होगी व्यावसायिक उड़ानें

1.2 करोड़ यात्रियों की
होगी सालाना क्षमता

यात्रियों की संख्या के साथ बढ़ेंगे रनवे

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का पहला चरण अप्रैल 2025 में पूरा होगा। इसकी सालाना क्षमता 1.2 करोड़ यात्रियों की होगी। जबकि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट की सालाना क्षमता 7.36 और मुंबई की 5.28 करोड़ यात्रियों की है। यात्रियों की सालाना संख्या बढ़ने के साथ रनवे की संख्या भी बढ़ती जाएगी। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर कुल छह रनवे बनाने की योजना है। पूरी तरह से बनने के बाद यह देश का सबसे बड़ा और दुनिया का चौथा सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट बनेगा। क्षेत्रफल और रनवे की संख्या में यह देश में सभी एयरपोर्ट को मात देगा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का क्षेत्रफल 6200 हेक्टेयर है। पहले चरण में 1334 हेक्टेयर में एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण हुआ है। 3900 मीटर लंबे और 60 मीटर चौड़े रनवे के साथ इसकी शुरुआत होगी।

“यूपी सरकार ने नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने वाले विमानों के ईंधन पर महज एक फीसदी वैंट लगाने का निर्णय लिया है। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर ईंधन पर 25 फीसदी वैंट लगता है। इसका असर यात्री सुविधाओं पर पड़ेगा। - डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह, सीईओ, नायल



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

'Airlines could miss sustainability targets'



Geneva: The aviation industry is not moving fast enough to reach its targets for producing and using sustainable aviation fuel, Willie Walsh, head of airline trade body IATA, said as the sector aimed for net zero emissions by 2050. "We are not making as much progress as we'd hoped for; we're certainly not making as much progress as we need," Walsh said on Tuesday at an IATA media day in Geneva. Sustainable aviation fuel makes up only around 0.3 per cent of the world's jet fuel usage and is projected to only account for 0.7 per cent by 2025.

REUTERS



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

11 DECEMBER 2024

एविएशन | दुनिया में अगले साल 16% रफ्तार से बढ़ेंगे हवाई यात्री, 520 करोड़ लोग सफर करेंगे

जिनेवा | दुनियाभर की एयरलाइंस के लिए नया साल 2025 बेहद शानदार होने का अनुमान है। अगले साल 2024 की तुलना में हवाई यात्रियों की तादाद 16% बढ़ सकती है। इस दौरान यात्री संख्या 520 करोड़ पहुंच सकती है। इनसे दुनियाभर की एयरलाइंस का शुद्ध लाभ 3.1 लाख करोड़ हो सकता है। इंटरनेशनल

एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (आईएटीए) ने यह अनुमान जारी किए। ये 120 देशों की उन 340 एयरलाइंस का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, जो दुनिया के 80% हवाई यातायात के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। यदि नवनिर्वाचित अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प इम्पोर्ट टैरिफ लगाते हैं तो इससे एयरलाइन इंडस्ट्री को घाटा हो सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

आइजीआई से सस्ता हो सकता है नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से किराया

जागरण संवाददाता, घेटर नोएडा: नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (एनआइए) से यात्रा आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट दिल्ली की अपेक्षा सस्ती हो सकती है। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लिए एयरक्राफ्ट के ईंधन पर लगाने वाले वैट को प्रदेश सरकार एक प्रतिशत कर चुकी है। यानी एयरलाइंस कंपनियों को ईंधन सस्ते में मिलेगा। ऐसे में माना जा रहा है कि एयरलाइंस कंपनियां इसका सीधा फायदा यात्रियों को दे सकती हैं। भारतीय विमानपत्तन आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण (एडआरए) में भी किराये को लेकर मंथन शुरू हो चुका है और जल्द ही नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से विभिन्न घरेलू व

- 21** प्रतिशत से घटाकर एक प्रतिशत वैट कर चुकी है प्रदेश सरकार विमान के ईंधन के लिए
- 25** प्रतिशत वैट लगता है दिल्ली में एयरक्राफ्ट के ईंधन पर, फरवरी से शुरू हो सकती है बुकिंग
- 40** % खर्च ईंधन पर होता है विमान के परिचालन में, एयरपोर्ट पर कई शुल्क हो सकते हैं कम

अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान के लिए किराया तय किया जा सकता है। अभी तक के तय शेड्यूल के मुताबिक, नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 17 अप्रैल से कामर्सियल विमान सेवाएं शुरू हो जाएंगी।

ऐसे तय होता है किराया

कंपनियां जो किराया तय करती हैं, उसमें टैफिक डिमांड, यात्रा की लंबाई, यात्रा के लिए उपयोग होने वाले एयरक्राफ्ट, ईंधन का मूल्य, यात्रा के लिए श्रेणी, आर्थिक परिस्थितियों, बेगेज हैंडलिंग अलाउंस, सरकार के नियमों को आधार बनाया जाता है। इसके अलावा एयरलाइन कंपनियों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा व खर्च का असर भी किराये पर पड़ता है।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर सोमवार को पहली वैलिडेशन फ्लाइट को सफल लैंडिंग हो चुकी है। अब इसी माह एयररोड्रोम लाइसेंस के लिए आवेदन किया जाना है और महानिदेशालय नागर विमानन से मार्च तक लाइसेंस

मिलने की उम्मीद है। अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, फरवरी से घरेलू व अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान के लिए बुकिंग शुरू हो जाएगी। इसलिए किराया तय करने को लेकर मंथन किया जा रहा है। दिल्ली में एयरक्राफ्ट के ईंधन पर

6 घरेलू व अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए किराये पर मंथन चल रहा है। जल्द ही तय होगा। यहाँ आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट की अपेक्षा किराया कम होने की संभावना है। डा. अरुणवीर सिंह, मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, नोएडा एयरपोर्ट

25 प्रतिशत वैट लगता है, जबकि प्रदेश सरकार विकासकर्ता कंपनी यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के अनुरोध पर नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर विमान के ईंधन पर प्रदेश में लगने वाले वैट को 21 प्रतिशत से घटाकर एक प्रतिशत कर चुकी है। विमान के परिचालन में 40 प्रतिशत खर्च ईंधन पर होता है। वहीं, एयरपोर्ट पर एयरलाइंस से वसूले जाने वाले विभिन्न शुल्क भी अपेक्षाकृत कम किए जा सकते हैं। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से पहले दिन से ही अंतरराष्ट्रीय व घरेलू उड़ानों की संख्या भी बढ़ सकती है। एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी की कुछ और विमान कंपनियों के साथ वार्ता चल रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

दिल्ली-दरभंगा के बीच नई उड़ान आज से

नई दिल्ली/दरभंगा। दिल्ली-दरभंगा के बीच 12 दिसंबर से लोगों को अतिरिक्त फ्लाइट की सुविधा मिलने लगेगी। यात्रियों को इससे राहत मिलेगी।

दोनों जगहों के बीच फिलहाल दो विमानों का परिचालन होता है। 12 दिसंबर से इंडिगो की फ्लाइट शुरू होने से दिल्ली और दरभंगा के बीच आवागमन

के लिए लोगों को रोजाना तीन फ्लाइट उपलब्ध हो जाएंगी। जानकारी के अनुसार, नई दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से दोपहर 2:10 बजे उड़ान भरकर इंडिगो की फ्लाइट 3:40 बजे दरभंगा एयरपोर्ट पहुंचेगी। दरभंगा एयरपोर्ट से शाम 4:20 बजे रवाना होकर फ्लाइट 6.10 बजे दिल्ली पहुंचेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

विमान अधिनियम में संशोधन पर परामर्श जारी

हैदराबाद। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू ने बुधवार को कहा कि नागरिक विमानन सुरक्षा के विरुद्ध गैरकानूनी क्रूरों का दमन अधिनियम 1982 में प्रस्तावित संशोधन वर्तमान में मंत्रालयों के बीच परामर्श प्रक्रिया से गुजर रहा है और फीडबैक एकत्र किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे पास अधिनियम है, जो नागरिक उड्डयन से संबंधित अपराधों से निपटता है। हमने एक छोटा सा संशोधन प्रस्तावित किया है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

11 DECEMBER 2024

IB officer held for bomb threat to IndiGo in Nov

Ritesh Mishra

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RAIPUR : An Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly issuing a hoax bomb threat on an aircraft, 25 days after an IndiGo flight from Nagpur to Kolkata made an emergency landing in Raipur.

The accused, who was travelling on the flight on November 14, allegedly gave false information to the pilot, saying he had

THE OFFICER, WHO WAS TRAVELLING ON THE FLIGHT ON NOV 14, ALLEGEDLY TOLD THE PILOT THAT HE HAD INTEL ABOUT A BOMB ON THE PLANE

intel that there was a bomb on the plane. After landing at the airport in Chhattisgarh, the plane was checked by security personnel but nothing suspicious was found. The IB officer, Animesh Mondal, who gave

information about the presence of a bomb on the aircraft was later arrested by Raipur police.

Mondal's lawyer Faizal Rizvi said that his client was an IB officer and when he boarded the flight he had got the information

from a source. However, police said that a joint team of the IB and state police questioned Mondal and found that the information was concocted, therefore he was arrested in accordance with the law. "His wife contacted me a few days back and also presented documents that Mondal was an IB officer. My client was booked under provisions of the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of the Civil Aviation Act, 1982," said Rizvi.

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

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IndiGo to ramp up biz class to about 45 aircraft by '26

Daanish Anand

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NEW DELHI: Buoyed by an enthusiastic response, India's largest air carrier IndiGo plans to expand its business-class product IndiGoStretch to about 45 aircraft by 2026.

The Gurugram-based airline is currently implementing a phased rollout of IndiGoStretch, which was announced in August this year starting with the Delhi-Mumbai sector.

"Over the next 14 months, we will introduce 45 IndiGoStretch aircraft, expanding service to 12 routes with a frequency of over 260 daily flights," a company spokesperson said in an emailed response to Mint's query.

The premium business product, which offers comfortable and spacious recliner seating facility, will by early January 2025 cover all Delhi-Mumbai



The premium business product will by early January 2025 cover all Delhi-Mumbai flights. HT

flights. This will be followed by full integration on the Delhi-Bengaluru and Delhi-Chennai routes by March 2025. According to its website, the product will operate on most of the metro-to-metro routes, with all 12 routes expected to be served by the end of 2025, a year after the launch of the service.

With this expansion, IndiGo is estimated to be offering pre-

mium capacity in about 10% of its fleet by then. It has a fleet size of about 410 aircraft as of 30 September, and is expected to grow to over 450 aircraft by 2026.

Air India Group says it will have about 94 aircraft with business class cabins by June 2025—a large number of which would be used for international flights.

Some aviation experts said the lack of footrest in IndiGoStretch

does dilute the comfort factor. Ajay Prakash, president of Travel Agents Association of India (TAFI) said, "With the current seat, IndiGo will face a challenge as it lacks a footrest at the moment. The domestic air traffic is booming, we've been carrying a record number of passengers, and we don't see a big problem in filling these seats once they have a more extensive sort of coverage."

IndiGo's business class foray seeks to provide a premium alternative to fliers. The premium class market is dominated by the Air India Group after Vistara merged with it. The merged entity offers business class and premium economy seats and plans to offer it on key metro routes.

Low-cost Air India Express offers business class capacity but may not continue it for long. AI Express has business class

capacity on aircraft that were intended for another airline but were delivered to AI Express after the other airline refused to take deliveries. Such aircraft in aviation parlance are termed white tail aircraft.

With reduction in business class capacity, premium class fares on key routes have seen a surge, industry watchers say.

IndiGo seems to have cashed in on the surge, and the airline said that the initial response to IndiGoStretch has been very positive, which aligns with its projected performance indicators.

"Forward booking trends are encouraging and as we expand IndiGoStretch across key business routes, we anticipate increased market awareness and continued strong demand. We are well-positioned to accommodate this anticipated demand," IndiGo said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

11 DECEMBER 2024

MORE AIR INDIA FLYERS GET ACCESS TO INFLIGHT STREAMING

Press Trust of India

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MUMBAI: Private carrier Air India on Tuesday said it has extended its wireless inflight entertainment service to its single-aisle fleet.

The service 'Vista Stream' enables the airline's passengers to stream a wide variety of entertainment content directly to their personal electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops, Air India said. Vista Stream, which debuted in August this year, has already been introduced across Air India's wide-body fleet (excluding the newly inducted Boeing 777 and Airbus A350 aircraft), and it will now be accessible on both wide-body and narrow-body aircraft across international and domestic networks, the airline said.

With the roll out, passengers can explore over 1600+ hours of premium curated content, from Bollywood blockbusters and Hollywood hits to captivating documentaries, classic tunes, and curated children's programs.

Global airline industry to record net profit of \$36.6 bn in 2025: IATA

Passenger numbers are expected to rise 6.7% to 5.2 billion next year

GENEVA: The global airline industry is projected to report a net profit of \$36.6 billion in 2025, slightly higher than expected this year, helped by lower oil prices and cost control, IATA said on Tuesday.

Passenger numbers are expected to rise 6.7 per cent to 5.2 billion next year compared to 2024. In 2025, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) expects the industry's revenue to cross the \$1 trillion mark for the first time to \$1.007 trillion, which will be an increase of 4.4 per cent compared to 2024.

While the operating profit is estimated at \$67.5 billion, expenses are anticipated to reach \$940 billion next year.

At a briefing here, IATA Director General Willie Walsh said India is witnessing significant growth and that there is a clear recognition that growth is also dependent on air connectivity.

China and India are among



In 2025, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) expects the industry's revenue to cross the \$1 trillion mark for the first time to \$1.007 trillion, which will be an increase of 4.4% compared to 2024

the fastest-growing domestic aviation markets, he added.

"Net profit is expected to be \$36.6 billion in 2025 for a 3.6 per cent net profit margin. That is a slight improvement from the expected \$31.5 billion net profit in 2024 (3.3 per cent net profit margin). "Average net

profit per passenger is expected to be \$7 (below the \$7.9 high in 2023 but an improvement from \$6.4 in 2024)," IATA said in its financial outlook for 2025.

In the Asia Pacific region, a slight improvement in profitability is likely next year on the back of strong demand and

Highlights

- » While operating profit is estimated at \$67.5 bn, expenses are likely to reach \$940 bn in 2025
- » China, India are among fastest-growing domestic aviation markets, IATA Director General Willie Walsh said
- » 'Average net profit per passenger is expected to be \$7 (below the \$7.9 high in 2023 but an improvement from \$6.4 in 2024)' IATA said

increasing load factors.

Globally, IATA said the average airfare, including ancillaries, is expected to be \$380, which is 1.8 per cent lower than 2024.

"We are expecting airlines to deliver a global profit of \$36.6 billion in 2025. "This will be hard earned as airlines take

advantage of lower oil prices while keeping load factors above 83 per cent, tightly controlling costs, investing in decarbonisation, and managing the return to more normal growth levels following the extraordinary pandemic recovery," Walsh said.

In 2025, jet fuel price is expected to average \$87 per barrel compared to \$99 per barrel in 2024. This is based on a jet fuel crack spread of \$12 per barrel and a crude oil price of \$75 per barrel (Brent).

"Airlines' cumulative fuel spend is expected to be \$248 billion, a decline of 4.8 per cent despite a 6 per cent rise in the amount of fuel expected to be consumed (107 billion gallons). Fuel is expected to account for 26.4 per cent of operating costs in 2025, down from 28.9 per cent in 2024," IATA said.

At the same time, Walsh said there are supply chain challenges, infrastructure deficiencies, onerous regulations and a rising tax burden.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

12 DECEMBER 2024

भारतीय एयरलाइंस कर सकती हैं ज्यादा चौड़े विमानों का इस्तेमाल

■ आईएटीए प्रमुख विली वॉल्श ने कहा, इससे अधिक द्विपक्षीय उड़ान अधिकार दे सकेगा भारत

जिनेवा (भाषा)। विमानन कंपनियों के वैश्विक समूह आईएटीए के प्रमुख विली वॉल्श ने कहा कि भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों के आने वाले वर्षों में अधिक चौड़े आकार के विमानों का परिचालन करने से उम्मीद है कि भारत भविष्य में अधिक द्विपक्षीय उड़ान अधिकार प्रदान करेगा।

दुनिया के सबसे तेजी से बढ़ते नागरिक विमानन बाजारों में से एक भारत द्विपक्षीय उड़ान अधिकारों को बढ़ाने के मामले में सतर्क रुख अपना रहा है, क्योंकि देश को वैश्विक विमानन केंद्र बनाने के प्रयास जारी हैं। भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों के पास अधिक

संख्या में चौड़े आकार वाले विमान होने से उन्हें विभिन्न विदेशी गंतव्यों के लिए सीधे संपर्क सुविधाएं प्रदान करने में मदद मिलेगी। आईएटीए के महानिदेशक विली वॉल्श ने कहा कि भारत के संबंध में द्विपक्षीय

उड़ान अधिकारों की स्थिति में सुधार होगा। वॉल्श ने यहां 'आईएटीए ग्लोबल मीडिया डे' कार्यक्रम से इतर मंगलवार को एक बातचीत में

कहा, 'इससे (द्विपक्षीय उड़ान अधिकार) स्थिति बेहतर होगी। अगर आप विमानों के लिए गए ऑर्डर देखें इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया के चौड़े आकार के विमानों के ऑर्डर पर गौर करें तो वे चाहते हैं कि उन्हें और अधिक अधिकार मिलें। जब तक आप उन्हें पारस्परिक अधिकार नहीं देंगे, उन्हें उड़ान के अधिकार नहीं मिलेंगे।'

उन्होंने कहा, 'मुझे उम्मीद है कि इसमें बदलाव आएगा।' द्विपक्षीय उड़ान अधिकार दो

देशों के बीच ऐसी व्यवस्था प्रदान करते हैं जिससे दोनों पक्षों की विमानन कंपनियों को एक निश्चित संख्या में उड़ानें संचालित करने की अनुमति मिलती है।





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

11 DECEMBER 2024

Some Akasa flights in B'luru face uncertainty

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New Delhi: Passengers booked on Akasa's late-night to early-morning flights in and out of Bengaluru and Kolkata this winter face uncertainty with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday asking the airline to deploy only CAT II/III-trained pilots on late-night to early-morning flights in and out of these two metros as well.

Facing a shortage of pilots trained to land in dense fog, the airline had requested the regulator for exemption for these two places so that it could have all its low visibility trained crew on north India flights. Otherwise, there would be "significant disruptions" in operations. At Bengaluru alone, the airline estimated that about 10-12 flights scheduled to land after 9pm would be affected "due to the inability to land under CAT I conditions".



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

11 DECEMBER 2024

IATA boss confident India won't face pilot shortage

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Geneva: The Indian airline industry doesn't have a supply problem when it comes to pilots, said **Willie Walsh**, Director General, International Air Transport Association (IATA), a global airlines' trade body. Walsh was speaking about the huge aircraft orders placed by Indian carriers, largely Air India and IndiGo, and the possible pilot shortage issues.



"We don't see any issue with pilot shortage. Those looking at becoming a pilot should look at India," said Walsh. Indian carriers have over 1,200 aircraft on order, largely placed by Air India and IndiGo, with delivery to stretch beyond a decade. "Some regions, particularly Africa, might have a problem retaining their pilots because they might lose their pilots to carriers in India and the Middle East," he said.

Walsh added that the huge aircraft order will attract Indian pilots, who currently work for foreign carriers, back to India. As for pilots from India, the aircraft orders would mean opportunity for career progression, he said. "They get the opportunity to move from narrow body to wide body, which makes the Indian market attractive for recruiting and training pilots," he



SET TO SOAR

added. Currently, Indian carriers employ a total of 11,775 pilots, including 236 foreign nationals, according to data shared recently in the parliament by the civil aviation ministry. India has a total of 26,539 licensed pilots. As of September, the country's airlines have a total of 853 aircraft, including about 144 grounded planes, according to ICRA data.

Pilot shortage was one of the reasons cited by airlines to defer the implementation of the revised guidelines for mandatory minimum rest and maximum duty period norms for pilots. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) set a June 1 deadline for implementation of airlines to move to the new work-rest norms. However, in March, following representation from airlines, the govt postponed the implementation indefinitely. Last week, the DGCA told the Delhi High Court that the revised norms can be implemented from July 2025 in a phased manner.