



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

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CONSENT GIVEN FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR BUILDING AIRPORT IN VALMIKINAGAR

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BETTIAH: Giving a boost to the proposed upgradation of the existing airstrip into a full-fledged airport at Valmikinagar, the West Champaran district administration on Saturday secured the consent of 15 identified landowners for the acquisition of land required for the airport in West Champaran, officials said.

In an official statement, issued on Saturday, the district administration said of the 18 landowners, the consent of the 15 have been secured under the state's land purchase policy for acquiring the required land for the acquisition of land at a three special camp which began on July 11. The expansion plan includes the construction of a new terminal building and extension of the airport on its southern side.

"Efforts are underway to secure the approval of the remaining three within the stipulated timeframe," said the statement.

Aiming to enhance tourism and improve access to the scenic Valmikinagar landscape, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has set the ball rolling to upgrade the existing airstrip into a full-fledged airport at Valmikinagar in Bihar's West Champaran district.

The agency has already prepared a detailed master plan for the project.

Entry to 136-yr-old Kol airport mosque stopped indefinitely

**Tamaghna Banerjee &
Subhro Niyogi** | TNN

Kolkata: Entry to the 136-year-old Bankra mosque, located within the operational area of Kolkata airport, has been stopped indefinitely, airport authorities said Sunday, citing security concerns over allowing access solely on the basis of Aadhaar cards.

On Saturday, authorities had said access to the Gouripur Jame Masjid would remain suspended for two days after rain damaged the approach road, necessitating urgent repairs. They had said devotees would be allowed to offer prayers from Monday if the repairs were completed on schedule.

"The repair work is complete, but permission to offer namaz at the mosque cannot be granted at present because of security concerns raised by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)," a senior Kolkata airport official said.

On Sunday, CISF personnel reportedly told worshippers they had not received any further instructions



CM Suvendu Adhikari said gates of an installation that had critical geo-political importance couldn't be kept open for outsiders

from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) regarding reopening the gate.

The mosque now stands about 165 metres north of the secondary runway and nearly 150 metres inside the airport boundary following successive airport expansions. The prescribed minimum distance for any structure from a runway is 240 metres.

CM Suvendu Adhikari said gates of an installation that had critical geo-political importance couldn't be kept open for outsiders

Union minister Sukanta Majumdar said Sunday, "Earlier, no govt took any action because of appeasement politics. What is the big issue if the mosque is shifted?"

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

12 JULY 2026

NO SANCTION | Govt agencies have distanced themselves from the drone survey

Minister says no talks yet on Aranmula airport revival

**HD Bureau
KOCHI**

Higher Education Minister Roji M John said on Saturday that the government had neither discussed nor initiated any action to revive the controversial Aranmula airport project.

John's clarification followed questions over a private drone survey conducted at the proposed airport site in Pathanamthitta district. The exercise, undertaken at the instance of landowner K J Abraham Kalamannil, has triggered political opposition and renewed environmental concerns more than a decade after the original proposal was halted. "This issue has



Private drone mapping has revived scrutiny of the abandoned project, its wetland site and alleged access to government records

not come up for discussion in the government since it came to power. The government has not taken any steps or held any discussions regarding it. Only if it officially comes up before the government can we comment on it,"

John told reporters.

The minister's statement sought to distance the administration from Kalamannil's claim that the airport could be revived with government support. Kalamannil, who is also president of the Aranmula Charitable Trust,

has said he controls about 400 acres in the project area and would require roughly another 1,000 acres to pursue the plan.

The drone operation was carried out by a private company to map the land and assess its physical features. No government department has publicly confirmed authorising the survey or participating in it.

Questions have nevertheless emerged over allegations that senior officials assisted those behind the exercise. It has also been alleged that revenue department files relating to the project land were examined through unofficial channels by officials trusted by Kalamannil. These claims

have not been substantiated through publicly available official documents, and the government has not announced an inquiry.

The survey has brought the dormant airport proposal back into public debate because of the project site's environmental and legal history. Large portions of the land near the Pampa river have been classified as paddy fields and wetlands, making any large-scale construction subject to strict land-use and environmental safeguards.

Kummanam Rajasekharan, who played a prominent role in the agitation against the original proposal, has said the project will face strong resistance.

MINT

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

Aera moves to shield flyers from advance project costs

Abhishek Law

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NEW DELHI

India's airport tariff regulator wants to end a long-standing practice that allows private airports to charge passengers for infrastructure years before it is ready.

The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Aera) has proposed that airports recover the cost of major expansion projects only after those assets are completed and operational, instead of factoring them into passenger charges at the start of a tariff cycle.

If adopted, the move would shift the burden of funding airport expansion from passengers to airport operators until projects are ready.

In June, Aera began consultations with airport operators and airlines on levying the user development fee (UDF) only after projects at existing airports are commissioned.

Currently, airports submit capital expenditure and business plans to Aera and, once approved, can recover project costs through passenger charges for up to five years—even before the assets are commissioned. "It is logical that these high-value capex items are factored in the tariff determination from the time these projects get capitalized and put to use for passengers and airlines rather than considering its (project) value upfront in the overall aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) of the five-year control period," said Aera chairman S.K.G. Rahate at the stakeholder meeting held on 29 June. *Mint* has seen a copy of the minutes of the meeting.

Aera said the proposal was



If the proposal is implemented, funding burden for expanding airports would shift to airport operators during construction. HT

prompted by large investment plans submitted by Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports.

The Fairfax-run Bengaluru airport has proposed ₹18,635 crore of capex over five years, while GMR-run Hyderabad airport plans nearly ₹14,000 crore of expansion by 2031. Both proposals are under stakeholder consultation.

Under the proposal, which Aera calls an incremental aggregate revenue requirement (ARR), airports would begin recovering the cost of

major brownfield projects only after the assets become operational.

Airport operators argue the change would alter project financing. Bangalore International Airport Ltd

(BIAL), whose capex proposal was discussed last month, said recovering costs after commissioning would affect cash flows and financing. Managing director and chief executive Hari Marar described it as "a major change to the tariff determination process with a sizable impact on the airport operator's cash flows."

BIAL also argued that the current framework discourages delays by imposing a 1%

penalty on projects that miss commissioning timelines. A BIAL spokesperson said the tariff determination process is underway.

Airport tariffs, including the UDF, landing charges and parking charges paid by airlines, are passed on to passengers through ticket prices.

The UDF already varies widely across Indian airports. Domestic departing passengers, for instance, currently pay ₹129 at Delhi, ₹175 at Mumbai and ₹550 at Bengaluru, while newer airports such as Noida and Navi Mumbai have higher approved UDFs of ₹490 and ₹620, respectively.

Rahate defended the proposal by pointing to earlier tariff periods in which airports recovered charges for projects that were never completed within the five-year control period.

"In earlier control period there have been instances where some airport operators...included significant Capex items...which for some reasons or other did not materialize during the said five-year control period, but which got factored in the tariffs right from the 1st year," the minutes quoted him as saying.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)



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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

12 JULY 2026

Airport mosque entry bar

■ **CALCUTTA:** Entry to the mosque at Calcutta airport was stopped from Saturday, officially because the approach road was damaged by heavy rain. However, sources said a central security agency had raised concerns over allowing people into the shrine based only on Aadhaar cards. METRO



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

12 JULY 2026

Access to airport mosque halted

SANJAY MANDAL AND
DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: Entry to the mosque at Calcutta airport was stopped from Saturday, officially because the approach road was damaged by heavy rain. However, sources said a central security agency had raised concerns over allowing people access based only on Aadhaar cards.

Till Friday, about 50 people were allowed to offer prayers at the mosque every day in different slots after showing their Aadhaar cards to the CISF, which handles security at the airport.

"Starting Saturday, entry to the mosque was stopped indefinitely because the

approach road needs repair. However, even after the repair job is done, we are not sure about providing access because of security concerns raised by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)," said a source in the civil aviation ministry.

The BCAS, the national regulatory authority for civil aviation security under the Union ministry of civil aviation, recently wrote to airport authorities questioning access being granted solely on the basis of Aadhaar cards.

"We are now awaiting orders on whether to allow access at all after the road is repaired. The question is whether to allow access

through special passes or stop entry permanently," the source in the aviation ministry said.

The possibility of shifting the mosque has been on the agenda since the BJP formed the government in Bengal. "There have been discussions about the shift, but no concrete decision has been taken yet," the source said.

The Bankra Mosque is located at the northern end of the airport's secondary runway.

Its relocation has also been linked to the airport's expansion plans.

Calcutta airport is expected to reach saturation by 2035, officials said.

According to officials, that timeline could be

extended if the mosque is shifted and the secondary runway upgraded.

"The mosque poses a hurdle for the runway safety area. The secondary runway should have a free area of 240 metres beyond the end to offset the possible danger of an aircraft falling to stop where it should. The mosque is barely 160 metres from the northern end of the secondary runway," said an airport source.

The airport's passenger handling capacity will increase once a new terminal is built. However, runway capacity must also expand, officials said, and using the entire runway length is crucial to the plan.

Duty Calls: Tourists Travelling To Thailand Lead In Shopping At IGI

Most Shoppers Of Indian Diaspora; Liquor Remains Most Popular Segment

Priyangi Agarwal
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New Delhi: Tourists travelling to Thailand and other Asian countries tend to spend more at Delhi airport's duty-free stores than those travelling to the US, an official said.

Singapore, Dubai and London are the top international routes in terms of duty-free sales.

"Tourists to the US are mostly people who are visiting their relatives or students," an official said. Another official said Southeast Asia is a growing leisure market, while the European hub routes also generate high duty-free spending from passengers at Delhi airport. This trend has remained consistent over the past few years after Covid.

"Duty-free sales are primarily driven by a mix of high-volume international routes across key regions, including the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

Both arrival and departure traffic from major global aviation hubs contribute significantly to overall sales performance," a spokesperson for GMR Duty Free said. The spokesperson added that



performance at the duty-free is further supported by the curated product assortment and value-added services, including click and collect, pre-order options, premium concierge assistance, gifting solutions and seamless omnichannel shopping, which enhance the overall customer experience.

The duty-free at Delhi air-

port is one of India's largest such zones, providing a luxurious and enriching shopping experience to millions of passengers every year.

Most shoppers at the duty-free section are tourists from the Indian diaspora. Of the total sales here, around 55-60% take place at arrivals, while the remaining occur at the departures. "Purchase partici-

pation varies across international passenger segments and travel direction. Arrivals are largely Indian and diaspora shoppers, while departures have a more mixed international composition. Conversion is influenced by factors such as traveller demographics, trip purpose, seasonality, promotional activity and the overall retail proposition, resulting in

differing participation levels across arrivals and departures," the spokesperson said.

Liquor remains the most popular segment of the duty-free facility, followed by beauty products. The other top-selling product categories are confectionery, fashion and accessories, and tobacco. "Trends favour premium and travel-retail-exclusive assortments," the spokesperson said. He added that the 2025-26 financial year continued the growth trajectory seen in prior years, driven by higher passenger traffic, premiumisation, improved engagement and digital services.

Asked about challenges facing the duty-free facilities, the spokesperson said the key factors are macroeconomic and geopolitical volatility, currency fluctuations, supply chain pressures and rapidly evolving consumer expectations. Staying relevant requires continuous innovation in assortment, digital engagement, pricing and customer experience. "Our focus is on new retail concepts, experiential activations, exclusive launches and digital services to differentiate the passenger experience," he said.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

विमान किराये में अप्रत्याशित उतार-चढ़ाव रोकने के दिशानिर्देश संबंधी याचिका पर सुप्रीम सुनवाई आज

नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट निजी विमानन कंपनियों की ओर से वसूले जाने वाले किराये और अतिरिक्त शुल्क में अप्रत्याशित उतार-चढ़ाव पर नियंत्रण के लिए नियामक दिशानिर्देश बनाने का आग्रह करने वाली याचिका पर 13 जुलाई, सोमवार को सुनवाई करेगा। जस्टिस विक्रम नाथ और जस्टिस संदीप मेहता की पीठ सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एस. लक्ष्मी नारायणन की याचिका पर सुनवाई करेगी। याचिका में नागर विमानन क्षेत्र में पारदर्शिता और यात्रियों के हितों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक मजबूत एवं स्वतंत्र नियामक बनाने का भी अनुरोध किया गया है। 15 मई को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा था कि हवाई किराये को तर्कसंगत बनाया जाना चाहिए और केंद्र से यात्रियों को राहत देने को कहा था। कोर्ट ने इस बात पर भी ध्यान दिलाया था कि एक ही रूट पर उड़ान भरने वाली अलग-अलग एयरलाइंस एक ही दिन अलग-अलग किराया वसूलती हैं। एजेंसी



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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

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आसमान छूते हवाई किराये पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सुनवाई आज

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : देश में त्योहारों, मौसम की खराबी या ऐन वक्त पर सफर करने वाले हवाई यात्रियों की जेब पर अत्यधिक बोझ डालने वाले 'अनियंत्रित हवाई किरायों' के खिलाफ अब सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सुनवाई होने जा रही है। निजी एयरलाइंस द्वारा मनमाने किराये और अन्य हिडन चार्ज पर नियंत्रण के लिए दिशा-निर्देश तय करने की मांग वाली याचिका पर सोमवार (13 जुलाई) सुनवाई होगी। सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एस. लक्ष्मीनारायणन की याचिका पर जस्टिस विक्रम नाथ और संदीप मेहता की पीठ सुनवाई करेगी, जिसमें एक स्वतंत्र नियामक बनाने की मांग की गई है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट पिछली सुनवाइयों में त्योहारों के दौरान किरायों में ब्रेतहाशा बढ़ोतरी को 'शोषण' करार दिया था। याचिका में उस नीति पर भी प्रहार किया गया है, जिसमें बिना किसी ठोस वजह के इकानमी क्लास के यात्रियों के लिए मुफ्त चेक-इन सामान की सीमा 25 किलोग्राम से घटाकर 15 किलोग्राम कर दी गई।

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RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

आसमान छूते हवाई किराये पर आज सुनवाई करेगा उच्चतम न्यायालय

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस : देश में त्योहारों, मौसम की खराबी या ऐन वक़्त पर सफ़र करने वाले हवाई यात्रियों की जेब पर अत्यधिक बोझ डालने वाले 'अनियंत्रित हवाई किराये' के खिलाफ अब देश की सर्वोच्च अदालत में एक निर्णायक सुनवाई होने जा रही है। निजी एयरलाइंस द्वारा वसूले जा रहे मनमाने किराये और अन्य हिडन चार्ज पर नियंत्रण के लिए दिशा-निर्देश तय करने की मांग वाली याचिका पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट सोमवार (13 जुलाई) को सुनवाई करेगा। सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एस. लक्ष्मीनारायणन द्वारा दायर इस याचिका पर पीठ सुनवाई करेगी, जिसमें विमानन क्षेत्र में पारदर्शिता व यात्री सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने की एक मजबूत व स्वतंत्र न्यायमक बनाने की मांग की गई है।

उच्चतम न्यायालय इस गंभीर मुद्दे पर पहले भी सख्त रुख अपना चुका है। पिछली सुनवाईयों में कोर्ट ने त्योहारों के दौरान किराये में होने वाली बेतहाशा बढ़ोतरी को 'शोषण' करार दिया था। 15 मई को इसने स्पष्ट रूप से कहा था कि किराये में कुछ तर्कसंगतता होनी चाहिए। कोर्ट ने इस बात पर भी चिंता जताई थी कि एक ही दिन, एक ही रूट पर अलग-अलग एयरलाइंस मनमान और अलग-अलग किराया वसूलती हैं, जिससे यात्रियों के पास कोई विकल्प नहीं बचता। याचिका में एयरलाइंस की इस नीति पर भी तिरछा प्रहार किया गया है, जिसके तहत बिना किसी ठोस वजह के

निजी एयरलाइंस द्वारा वसूले जा रहे मनमाने किराये, अन्य हिडन चार्ज पर नियंत्रण हेतु दिशा-निर्देश तय करने की मांग को लेकर याचिका



सुप्रीम कोर्ट ।

फाइल

इकानमी क्लास के यात्रियों के लिए मुफ्त चेक-इन सामान की सीमा 25 किलोग्राम से घटाकर 15 किलोग्राम कर दी गई। याचिकाकर्ता का आरोप है कि एयरलाइंस ने मुफ्त सेवा को जबरन कमाई के नए जरिये में बदल दिया है। "फिलहाल किसी भी अथॉरिटी के पास हवाई किराये या अतिरिक्त शुल्कों की समीक्षा करने या उन पर कैप लगाने की शक्ति नहीं है। यह न्यायमक शून्यता सीधे तौर पर नागरिकों के समानता और सम्मान से जोने के मौलिक अधिकारों का हनन करती है।" इस मामले में केंद्र सरकार ने कोर्ट को बताया है कि नव कानून 'भारतीय वायुयान अधिनियम 2024' जनवरी 2025 से प्रभावी हो चुका है और इसके नियमों को लेकर विचार-विमर्श जारी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

Airlines scale back wet-leased flight capacity in lean season

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, July 12

INDIAN AIRLINES HAVE returned most of their wet-leased aircraft as the industry enters its lean travel season, scaling back temporary capacity deployed to meet peak demand over the past few months. The move marks a seasonal fleet reset even as carriers continue to induct aircraft to support long-term expansion plans.

IndiGo, the country's largest airline, has phased out all wet-leased narrowbody aircraft from its fleet, sources told *FE*. At the start of the year, the airline operated five Airbus A320s leased from Turkey's Freebird Airlines, five Airbus A321s from Qatar Airways, and five Boeing 737-800s from Corendon Airlines. These aircraft have since been returned to respective lessors.

The airline, however, continues to operate six wet-leased Boeing 787-9 widebody aircraft. Most of its earlier narrowbody leases were brought in to partly

FLEET WATCH

Airline induction for this year

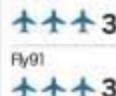
IndiGo



Akasa Air



AirIndia



Fly91



AirIndia Express



offset the grounding of Airbus A320 family aircraft affected by Pratt & Whitney PW1000G engine issues. As of late June, IndiGo still had 47 aircraft grounded because of the engine problem. IndiGo declined to comment on a query sent by *FE*.

The trend is also visible at SpiceJet, which has returned several leased aircraft since May. The airline has redelivered four Boeing 737-800 aircraft taken on wet lease from foreign oper-

ators and returned a Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft in June.

A SpiceJet spokesperson said some aircraft are currently undergoing scheduled maintenance, including routine inspections and C-Checks. "We expect three aircraft from our existing fleet to join in July, followed by two in August upon completion of their maintenance checks, and another two each in September and October," the spokesperson said.

JANSATTA

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

विमान किराए में उतार-चढ़ाव को लेकर याचिका पर आज सुनवाई

नई दिल्ली, 12 जुलाई (भाषा)।

उच्चतम न्यायालय निजी विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा वसूले जाने वाले किराए और अतिरिक्त शुल्क में अप्रत्याशित उतार-चढ़ाव पर नियंत्रण के लिए नियामक दिशानिर्देश बनाने का अनुरोध करने वाली याचिका पर 13 जुलाई को सुनवाई करेगा। न्यायमूर्ति विक्रम नाथ और न्यायमूर्ति संदीप मेहता की पीठ सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एस. लक्ष्मीनारायणन की याचिका पर सुनवाई करेगी।



याचिका में नागर विमानन क्षेत्र में पारदर्शिता और यात्रियों के हितों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक मजबूत एवं स्वतंत्र नियामक बनाने का भी अनुरोध किया गया है। शीर्ष अदालत ने 15 मई को कहा था कि विमान किराए को तर्कसंगत बनाए जाने की जरूरत है और उसने केंद्र सरकार से यात्रियों को राहत देने को कहा था। न्यायालय ने इस बात पर भी गौर किया था कि एक ही दिन, एक ही हवाई मार्ग पर उड़ान भरने वाली एक विमानन कंपनी एक निश्चित किराया वसूलती है जबकि दूसरी विमानन कंपनी अलग किराया वसूलती है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 15 मई को कहा था कि विमान किराए को तर्कसंगत बनाए जाने की जरूरत

केंद्र ने समस्या से इनकार नहीं करते हुए कहा है कि नया भारतीय वायुयान अधिनियम, 2024 जनवरी 2025 से लागू हो चुका है और उससे संबंधित नियमों पर विचार-विमर्श की प्रक्रिया चल रही है। लक्ष्मीनारायणन का प्रतिनिधित्व वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता रवींद्र श्रीवास्तव ने किया। उन्होंने दलील दी थी कि विमान अधिनियम, 1937 के तहत नियम पहले से मौजूद थे, लेकिन समस्या यह है कि उनका पालन नहीं किया जाता। शीर्ष अदालत ने पिछले वर्ष 17 नवंबर को लक्ष्मीनारायणन की याचिका पर केंद्र और अन्य पक्षों से जवाब मांगा था।

इससे पहले केंद्र ने शीर्ष अदालत को बताया था कि नागर विमानन मंत्रालय याचिका में उठाए गए मुद्दों पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार कर रहा है। शीर्ष अदालत ने 19 जनवरी को मामले की सुनवाई करते हुए कहा था कि वह विमान किराए में होने वाले अप्रत्याशित उतार-चढ़ाव के मामले में हस्तक्षेप करेगी। न्यायालय ने त्योहारों के दौरान किराए में होने वाली भारी वृद्धि पर भी चिंता जताई थी। शीर्ष अदालत ने विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा किराये में अत्यधिक वृद्धि को यात्रियों का शोषण करार दिया था और केंद्र एवं नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) से याचिका पर जवाब दाखिल करने को कहा था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

सस्ती एयरलाइन के विमान में बड़ा हादसा विमान उड़ते ही टूटी खिड़की आधा बाहर लटक गया यात्री

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या। यूरोप की बेहद सस्ती एयरलाइन रयानएयर के एक विमान में बहुत ही डरावना हादसा हुआ। ग्रीस में कंपनी के एक बोइंग 737 विमान ने जैसे ही उड़ान भरी, उसकी एक खिड़की अचानक टूटकर अलग हो गई। हवा के भारी दबाव के कारण पास बैठे एक यात्री का आधा शरीर विमान से बाहर निकल गया। इस इमरजेंसी के बाद पायलट ने तुरंत समझदारी दिखाई और विमान को वापस सुरक्षित जमीन पर उतार लिया। यह प्लेन ग्रीस से जर्मनी जा रहा था।

रयानएयर कंपनी ने माना है कि

● आसपास बैठे यात्रियों ने खिड़की से लटके यात्री को पकड़ कर बचाई जान

हवा में खिड़की उखड़ने की वजह से ही विमान को वापस ग्रीस के एयरपोर्ट पर उतारना पड़ा। इस कंपनी के विमान के साथ पहले भी ऐसी घटनाएं सामने आई हैं। इस कंपनी का किराया भारतीय एयरलाइंस के मुकाबले काफी कम है। ऐसे में ऑपरिश कंपनी रयानएयर पर सेफ्टी को लेकर सवाल उठाते रहते हैं।

खिड़की निकलते ही पास की सीट पर बैठा यात्री का शरीर उसमें से

आधा बाहर निकल गया। यह यात्री सर्बिया देश का था। विमान में बैठे एक अन्य यात्री ने बताया कि हवा के खिंचाव से उस व्यक्ति का आधा शरीर बाहर निकल चुका था, लेकिन पास बैठे लोगों ने फुर्ती दिखाई और उन्हें कसकर पकड़कर वापस अंदर खींच लिया। उस यात्री को तुरंत अस्पताल ले जाया गया, जहां डॉक्टरों ने कहा कि उनकी जान को कोई खतरा नहीं है। स्थानीय मीडिया के अनुसार, विमान के उड़ते ही उसके इंजन का एक हिस्सा टूट गया और सीधे जाकर खिड़की पर लगा, जिससे खिड़की चकनाचूर हो गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

SC to hear plea seeking guidelines to curb 'unpredictable fluctuations' of airfares

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on July 13, a plea seeking regulatory guidelines to control the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfares and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta will hear the plea filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, who also sought a robust and independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector.

On May 15, the top court said there should be some rationalisation of airfares and asked the Centre to provide relief to flyers, while flagging that on the same day, one airline flying in the same sector charges a particular airfare while other charges a different airfare.

The Centre, while not disputing the problem, has submitted that a new enactment Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam of 2024 has come into effect in January, 2025 and the corre-



sponding rules are in the process of consultation.

Laxminarayanan represented by senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava had contended that rules already existed under the Aircraft Act of 1937 but the problem was that they were not followed.

On November 17 last year, the top court sought responses from the Centre and others on the plea of Laxminarayanan.

Earlier, the Centre told the apex court that the Ministry of Civil Aviation was actively considering the issues raised in the plea.

While hearing the matter on January 19, the top court said it would interfere with the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfares and flagged the exorbi-

tant rise during festivals.

The top court had termed the exorbitant rise of airfares by the airlines as "exploitation" and asked the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to file their replies on the plea.

The plea claimed that all private airlines have, without any credible justification, reduced the free check-in baggage allowance for economy class passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg, "thereby converting what was earlier part of the ticketed service into a new revenue stream".

It said the "new policy of permitting only a single piece for check-in and the absence of any rebate, compensation or benefit to passengers who do not avail themselves of check-in baggage demonstrates the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of the measure".

The plea claimed that currently, no authority has the power to review or cap airfares or ancillary fees, allowing the airlines to exploit consumers through hidden charges and unpredictable pricing.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

SC to hear plea on spike in airfares today

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY

@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on July 13 a PIL by social activist S Laxminarayanan seeking directions to the Centre and DGCA to frame guidelines to check "unpredictable fluctuations" in domestic airfares and bring more transparency to airline pricing.

A bench headed by the CJI, Surya Kant, is likely to take up the plea highlighting sharp surges in ticket prices during peak travel periods at short notice. In his plea, Laxminarayanan said that there should be fare caps, prescribed minimum and maximum limits for each sector, to prevent arbitrary increases. It also stressed compelling airlines to explain to passengers at booking the factors and algorithm behind fare changes. "Create a forum for passengers to challenge exorbitant fares," the PIL read.

The petition also further submitted that wild swings in fares infringe the right to travel and disproportionately burden ordinary citizens, particularly during medical emergencies and festive seasons when rates often rise three to four times.

Earlier, the Civil Aviation Ministry had told Parliament that airfares are deregulated under the Aircraft Rules, 1937, and are driven by market forces. The DGCA's role, it said, is limited to monitoring tariffs to ensure they are not "unreasonable". Last week, the matter was mentioned for urgent listing in view of bookings for the upcoming festival season.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

12 JULY 2026

Bird strike on Dubai-Lucknow plane, authorities say flight not impacted



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Lucknow

Airport authorities found indications of a bird strike on a Dubai-Lucknow plane that landed here Saturday morning but said it had no impact on the flight or the safety of passengers. According to the airport sources, Flydubai flight FZ443 landed safely at Lucknow Airport at 7.11 am on Saturday with 164 passengers on board.

"During the routine post-landing technical inspection, indications of a bird strike were observed on the aircraft," a source said. It had no impact on the safe operation of the flight or the safety of passengers, sources said. All 164 passengers disembarked safely. The aircraft is undergoing required technical inspection in accordance with standard operating procedures, sources added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

13 JULY 2026

Supreme Court to hear airfare regulation plea on July 13

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

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A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta will hear the plea filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, who also sought a robust and independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector.

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airfare while other charges a different airfare.

The Centre, while not disputing the problem, has submitted that a new enactment Bharatiya Vayayan Adhiniyam of 2024 has come into effect in January, 2025 and the corresponding rules are in the process of consultation.

Laxminarayanan represented by senior advocate

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considering the issues raised in the plea. While hearing the matter on January 19, the top court said it would interfere with the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfares and flagged the exorbitant rise during festivals.

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It said the "new policy of permitting only a single piece

for check-in and the absence of any rebate, compensation or benefit to passengers who do not avail themselves of check-in baggage demonstrates the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of the measure". The plea claimed that currently, no authority has the power to review or cap airfares or ancillary fees, allowing the airlines to exploit consumers through hidden charges and unpredictable pricing.

It said the "unregulated, opaque and exploitative conduct of airlines manifesting in arbitrary fare hikes, unilateral reduction of services, absence of on-ground grievance redressal and unjustified dynamic pricing algorithms directly infringes upon citizens' fundamental rights to equality, freedom of movement and life with dignity".



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

12 JULY 2026

Emirates plans A380 services in T

Hyderabad: Mohammed Sarhan, vice president (India) of Emirates, paid a courtesy call on chief minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday, on the occasion of completion of 25 years of its operations.

During the meeting, Mohammed Sarhan informed the CM of the company's willingness to launch Emirates A380 services in Hyderabad. Welcoming the airline's operations, CM Revanth requested the official to increase Emirates flight services. With two new airports coming up at Warangal and Adilabad, Revanth urged Sarhan to extend maintenance, repair and operations to those locations as well.

The CM assured the Emirates India vice president that the govt is ready to provide all necessary facilities for flight operations. TNN