

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

CHENNAI

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Launch of plaza at airport postponed

PORT CALL

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

In what could further frustrate air passengers, the launch of the plaza at Chennai airport, which was scheduled for Saturday, has once again been deferred.

According to officials of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu had to cancel his visit to the city on Saturday, as he was called to attend the BRICS Summit held in New Delhi.

"We received a communication from New Delhi on Wednesday that the visit was confirmed, and hence the launch was planned. But on Thursday, there was a change of plan due to the BRICS Summit. Now, it is unclear what the revised date of opening is," an official said.

The plaza was earmarked as the second designated cab pick-up point at Chennai airport, and air passengers were looking forward to the facility as it will significantly ease the process of boarding taxis. The plaza was already a delayed project – it was to be opened in October 2024, but the construction was



The new plaza at the Chennai airport. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

completed only by the end of 2025. Officials said the opening could take place next week and that they were expecting a communication in this regard soon.

Air passengers, upset over the postponement of the launch, asked why they should be left waiting for a VIP to inaugurate a simple facility. "The plaza has already been delayed for so long, and it is such a hassle to board cabs at the airport. If it is a terminal costing over thousands of crore, one can wait for a VIP to inaugurate. But for a small facility like a plaza housing a cab pick-up point, passengers are made to wait for a VIP. This is absolutely unfair," he said.

Satish Galley, another frequent flier, said passengers were the priority in airport operations.

Corporate Communications Directorate

TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Airport set for bigger lounges, retail revamp

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: Calcutta airport will expand its international and domestic lounges and create more space for retail stores.

An unused area beside the existing international business-class lounge on the upper level will be converted into additional lounge space. The airport will also remodel its food-and-beverage section and give it a new look, an airport official said.

"We are planning to have bigger lounge areas for both international and domestic passengers. For the international business-class lounge, there is a lot of scope for expansion. There is a large space adjacent to the lounge, lying unused at the moment, and we will use that area for the expansion," the official said.

The contract with the existing lounge and food-and-beverage operator would end early next year, after which the planned overhaul would take place, sources said.

Bigger lounges

Calcutta airport has two international lounges — one on the lower level of the departure area and another on the upper level. Together, they cover around 5,000sqft and see an average of about 500 passengers a day.

The domestic lounges cover around 5,500sqft and record an average daily footfall of 2,400 passengers, according to an airport official.

Despite the lower overall footfall in the international lounges, the airport sees a sharp surge in demand during certain periods, particularly at night.

"During most of the day, the international lounges, particularly the business-class one, are empty because there are hardly any flights. However, at night, when there are several flights to Dubai, Singapore, Bangkok, Doha and



The duty-free lounge on the upper level of Calcutta airport



An area next to the lounge where the expansion is being planned

other destinations taking off back to back, there is a huge congestion and the lounge gets overcrowded," the official said.

The expansion is aimed at addressing congestion during peak international departure hours, the official said.

An airline official whose carrier operates to a southeast Asian destination said a larger lounge, along with duty-free stores, was essential to attracting new airlines to Calcutta.

Metro had earlier reported that passengers at the international airport were facing inconvenience after the duty-free shop closed on July 3, 2026. The disruption came amid an ongoing problem with currency exchange counters, which have been out of operation at the terminal for more than a year.

Retail push

The airport will also increase the space available for retail outlets.

Authorities have added

4,000sqm to the terminal by constructing a structure beside the international section. This has increased the terminal's annual passenger-handling capacity from 26 million to 28 million.

Discussions are underway with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to add more retail outlets, sources said. The retail area could increase from the existing 1,310sqm to 1,500sqm.

"However, we have to keep passengers' convenience in mind while adding more stores. We have to ensure that passengers can move smoothly through the terminal," an airport official said.

Sources said a tender would be floated for a new master concessionaire, which would bring retailers to the airport. The new contract would be based on a per-passenger charge, with revenue sharing linked to passenger footfall.

"Increasing the retail footprint gives travellers a

broader spectrum of brands, merchandise, and experiential shopping. A larger retail floor allows the terminal to evolve beyond a utilitarian waiting zone into a lifestyle retail destination," said an airport official.

Under previous tenders, operators faced steep minimum monthly guarantees (MMGs) or high revenue-share obligations. "High revenue-share models inherently discourage concessionaires from bringing lower-margin, high-ticket categories such as consumer electronics, luxury watches and fine lifestyle products," an official said.

"A per-passenger (Per-Pax) charge provides margin predictability, enabling the master concessionaire to diversify the product mix without being penalised for lower gross margin segments."

Tender concerns

However, sources said several clauses in the proposed tender could "distort standard travel retail economics, skew the playing field, and compromise the overall passenger journey".

One concern is the tender formula, which calculates concession fees by giving international passenger traffic twice the weight of domestic traffic.

The formula, an official said, is based on the assumption that international passengers spend twice as much as domestic passengers across all retail categories.

At Calcutta airport, daily international passenger footfall is between 3,000 and 3,500. "With such limited footfall, attracting reputed brands to set up shop in the international area is already difficult. Imposing double rent on a thin passenger base renders international units commercially unviable," the official said.

An airport official said the new tender format had been finalised by the AAI headquarters in Delhi.

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

After 2 years, Chennai airport's passenger plaza to open today

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

After nearly two years of delay, the passenger pick-up plaza at the Chennai Airport will be inaugurated on Sunday, with Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu set to open the facility virtually. The virtual inauguration is due to the ongoing BRICS Summit, a statement said.

This will be a major relief for passengers arriving from both domestic and international destinations who had to travel in golf carts to reach the taxi pick-up points.

The ₹23-crore plaza will provide passengers with a pick-up point directly opposite the T1 domestic terminal, allowing them to board cabs without having to make the long trek to the multi-level car parking facility. The existing pick-up point at the airport complex will also continue to operate, sources said.

For passengers, particularly those arriving on in-



ternational flights with large amounts of baggage, the new facility is expected to be a significant relief.

FACILITIES

Initially the plaza will accommodate cab aggregators including Uber, Ola, Rapido, Fast Track, Red Taxi, WTi and pre-paid taxi. The facility will be extended to other yellow board vehicles in future, once the new system is streamlined, said airport sources.

The plaza has a seating capacity of 150 passengers and is equipped with covered roofing, drinking water facilities, Flight Information Display System (FIDS) and other passenger amenities.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

₹10,000 cost for not filing report on flamingo flights

Navi Mumbai authority has two weeks to file reply

Pranali Lotlikar

MUMBAI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a ₹10,000 cost on the Navi Mumbai development authority for failing to comply with its earlier direction to file a report on flamingo flight patterns and their possible impact on flight operations at Navi Mumbai International Airport.

The tribunal had earlier granted two weeks to Navi

Mumbai's urban planning department to submit its reply explaining the flight patterns. However, instead of filing an affidavit, the department placed before the tribunal a letter from the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) outlining the concerns. In its two-page order passed on Sept 10, the NGT granted the department another two weeks to file its reply.

The matter dates back to

2024, when activist BN Kumar approached the tribunal after it took suo motu cognisance of news reports on flamingo deaths. Environmentalists had attributed the deaths to alleged development activities near the wetland, including construction of the Nerul Jetty. Kumar had also informed the tribunal about construction activity that allegedly blocked the flow of tidal water to the southern end of DPS Lake.

CM skips VIP entry into airport



CROWD-PULLER: Vijay greets fans at airport with a heart sign

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Chennai: Chief minister C Joseph Vijay skipped VIP entry into Chennai airport via Gate 6 and entered via the regular T2 international terminal to fly to London, after Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) denied entry to his adviser Vishnu Reddy citing security reasons.

Airport sources said only the President and Prime Minister are eligible for the ceremonial entry into the airport. The facility is extended to CM and governor on special request. When CM's office on Thursday made a request for special entry, BCAS accepted it, but said people accompanying the VIP should enter only via the regular international terminal according to protocol. So, Vijay reportedly refused to use the gate. Airport authorities then made arrangements to usher in the guests through Gate No D9, which is used only for emergency purposes.

Govt said the objective of the UK trip was to strengthen trade ties, expand operations of foreign companies in Tamil Nadu and attract investments. Vijay would also visit Silverstone Motorsports Racing Circuit. The CM, minister Aadhav Arjuna, SDAT member secretary Meghath Reddy and Guidance TN CEO Deepak Jacob will return on Sept 17.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

29,000 फीट ऊंचाई तक सुरक्षा घेरा 35 वीवीआईपी विमानों के लिए खास 'एयर कॉरिडोर'

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

नई दिल्ली पहुंच रहे 35 वीवीआईपी विमानों की सुरक्षित आवाजाही के लिए राजधानी के आसमान में खास 'एयर कॉरिडोर' तैयार किया गया है। इसके तहत 29,000 फीट तक के निचले एयरस्पेस को पूरी तरह विदेशी मेहमानों के विमानों के लिए आरक्षित रखा गया है। इस सुरक्षा घेरे के चलते व्यावसायिक उड़ानों के लिए नया नियम लागू हुआ है, जिन्हें दिल्ली से 200 किलोमीटर दूर रहते ही 29,000 फीट की ऊंचाई हासिल करनी होगी। 300 किमी के दायरे में निजी उड़ानों पर पूरी रोक है। विमानों की पार्किंग के लिए आईजीआई, पालम, नोएडा और हिंडन एयरबेस पर 46 बे तैयार किए गए हैं।

शी जिनपिंग की बुलेटप्रूफ लिमोजिन पर नजरें टिकी



जिनपिंग की लिमोजिन 'होंगछी एन-701' को एयरपोर्ट से ले जाते समय काले कवर से ढका गया था। दरअसल, इसकी गोपनीयता बनाए रखने के लिए इसे ट्रांसपोर्टेशन के दौरान ढका गया था। यह कार पूरी तरह बुलेटप्रूफ व बमप्रूफ आर्मर प्लेटिंग से लैस है। इसमें रासायनिक हमलों से बचाव के लिए सील्ड केबिन और अलग से ऑक्सीजन की व्यवस्था होती है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

गुंजन ने इंडिगो के साथ अपने 17 वर्षों का सफर तय किया

नई दिल्ली। बचपन से ही विमानन के प्रति गहरी रुचि रखने वाली गुंजन ने इंडिगो के साथ अपने 17 वर्षों के उल्लेखनीय सफर में ट्रेनी से एयरलाइन की पहली महिला लाइसेंस प्राप्त एयरक्राफ्ट मेंटनेंस इंजीनियर बनने तक का सफर तय किया है। ऐसे क्षेत्र में कदम रखते हुए, जहाँ महिलाओं की संख्या बहुत कम थी, उन्होंने अपने दृढ़ संकल्प, जुनून, टीम भावना और निरंतर सीखने की प्रतिबद्धता के दम पर चुनौतियों का सामना किया और अपनी अलग पहचान बनाई। वर्षों के दौरान उन्होंने जटिल तकनीकी समस्याओं के समाधान, शाउड्ड विमानों की स्थिति के प्रबंधन और नए विमानों को बेड़े में शामिल करने जैसी महत्वपूर्ण जिम्मेदारियों में अहम भूमिका निभाई है। गुंजन के लिए सबसे बड़ा संतोष इस बात में है कि हर विमान सुरक्षित हो और उड़ान भरने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार हो। विमानन जगत के उन अनदेखे नायकों में शामिल गुंजन को उस एयरवर्थीनेस प्रमाणन पर हस्ताक्षर करने पर गर्व होता है, जो अनगिनत सुरक्षित यात्राओं की शुरुआत का प्रतीक है। उनकी कहानी दृढ़ता, अग्रणी सोच और इंजीनियरिंग टीमों की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका का प्रेरणादायक उदाहरण है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

ग्वांगझू की सीधी उड़ान से बढ़ेगा बिजनेस:CTI

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: भारत और चीन के बीच कारोबारी रिश्तों में सुधार के संकेतों के बीच चीन की एयरलाइन कंपनी चाइना सदर्न एयरलाइंस ने करीब 6 साल बाद ग्वांगझू से दिल्ली की सीधी उड़ान सेवा शुरू करने का ऐलान किया है।

कारोबारियों के संगठन चैंबर ऑफ ट्रेड एंड इंडस्ट्री (CTI) ने इसे भारतीय व्यापारियों और इम्पोर्टर्स के लिए बड़ा कदम बताया है।

CTI के चेयरमैन वृजेश गोयल ने कहा कि ग्वांगझू-दिल्ली डायरेक्ट फ्लाइट का 6 साल बाद शुरू

होना भारतीय व्यापारियों के लिए गेम-चेंजर है। दिल्ली के सदर बाजार, करोल बाग, चांदनी चौक, कश्मीरी गेट, लाजपत नगर मार्केट, भागीरथ पैलेस, चावड़ी बाजार, गांधीनगर के 70% इम्पोर्टर्स का माल वही से आता है। इस फैसले से व्यापारियों को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी। दावा है कि डायरेक्ट फ्लाइट से कई बड़े फायदे होंगे।





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

NEW DELHI

Alliance Air plane lands safely after engine failure

An Alliance Air aircraft, carrying 40 passengers, made an emergency landing at the Delhi airport due to an engine failure on Friday afternoon, according to a source. In a statement, an Alliance Air spokesperson said the plane landed safely and an investigation is being carried out by a team of engineers. The airline was operating flight 9I 698 from Prayagraj to the national capital with an ATR 72-600, a twin-engine turboprop aircraft. The source said the plane, with around 44 people onboard, made an emergency landing after one engine became inoperative. The airline spokesperson said the aircraft was operating on the Bilaspur (PAB)-Prayagraj (IXD)-Delhi (DEL) route.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

AHMEDABAD

IndiGo Lucknow-Dammam flight diverted to Ahmedabad Airport after 'bomb' threat

An IndiGo flight from Lucknow to Dammam in Saudi Arabia was diverted to Ahmedabad on Thursday evening following a bomb threat, marking the second such incident involving an India-Saudi flight in the city within a fortnight. IndiGo flight 6E 97, which departed Lucknow at around 4 pm, landed at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad at 5.43 pm after the threat was reported. According to Airport Police, the flight crew found a tissue paper bearing the word "bomb", prompting the pilots to divert the aircraft to Ahmedabad as a precaution. The aircraft was carrying 107 passengers and six crew members. After landing, all passengers were deboarded and taken to Terminal 2, where security agencies began carrying out checks.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

ग्वांगझू-दिल्ली की उड़ान शुरू होगी

बीजिंग, एजेंसी। चीन की विमान कंपनी चाइना सदर्न छह साल के अंतराल के बाद 21 सितंबर से ग्वांगझू-दिल्ली मार्ग पर नियमित यात्री उड़ान फिर शुरू करेगी। विमान कंपनी ने शनिवार को यह जानकारी दी।

कंपनी ने कहा, इस सेवा की बहाली के साथ वह दक्षिण एशिया में आठ मार्गों पर हर सप्ताह सौ से अधिक उड़ानों का संचालन करेगी। चाइना सदर्न एयरलाइंस चीन की प्रमुख एयरलाइन है। इसका मुख्यालय ग्वांगझू में है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India pilot found dead in S Delhi hotel

Karn Pratap Singh

karn.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A day before he was scheduled to pilot a flight, a Mumbai-based Air India captain, in his 40s, was found dead on Friday in a luxury hotel room in south Delhi's Vasant Kunj, police said on Saturday.

Police said the pilot had been staying at the hotel during a lay-over since Thursday.

According to police, an autopsy was conducted at Safdarjung Hospital on Saturday to ascertain the cause of death, and inquest proceedings under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita were initiated.

Deputy commissioner of police (southwest) Amit Goel said the hotel informed the Vasant Kunj North police station about the incident on Friday, and a police team was deployed. Personnel found the pilot unconscious and shifted him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police found the man was an airline captain and had checked

into the hotel on Thursday. On Friday evening, the pilot's brother contacted the hotel manager and informed him that his brother was not responding to his phone calls.

"Thereafter, the manager went to the pilot's room, which was locked from inside. He opened the door using the hotel master key and found the pilot lying unconscious. The cause of death will be ascertained after we receive the postmortem report. Further enquiry is in progress," added the DCP.

In a statement issued, Air India said it was "deeply saddened" by the incident. It added that the pilot was listed to operate a flight early Saturday morning. The pilot had earlier worked with Air India Express and moved to Air India a couple of months ago.

"Air India is in close touch with his family and is extending all support at this time of grief," an Air India spokesperson said.

HT contacted the hotel on its landline number for a comment. The executive who answered the call said they will revert.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India pilot found dead in hotel; police rule out foul play

An Air India pilot, in Delhi for a Boeing 787 conversion training, died after being found unconscious in his hotel room during a layover. The pilot had checked into a hotel in Vasant Kunj on Thursday and was found dead there the next evening, the police said. The pilot, who had worked with Air India Express, was undergoing conversion training to operate wide-body Boeing 787 aircraft, according to airline officials. The post-mortem examination was conducted at Safdarjung Hospital. The final cause of death will be ascertained after receipt of the final medical opinion. The police said they were not suspecting foul play. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026



How Delhi is managing air traffic during the summit

Behind the red carpets, motorcades and ceremonial welcomes for BRICS leaders is a tightly coordinated aviation operation involving around 35 special aircraft, multiple airports, controlled airspace and carefully timed movements to accommodate foreign dignitaries without disrupting Delhi's regular commercial flights. The operation spans the Indira Gandhi International Airport, the Indian Air Force's Palam technical area and other airports being used to park visiting aircraft. The CISF, Indian Air Force, aviation authorities and other security agencies are coordinating the movements. For regular passengers, the airport operation begins with processing inside the terminal before they board their aircraft via an aerobridge. VVIP movements are kept separate. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has also imposed restrictions on non-scheduled flight operations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

India-China flight services to resume after a gap of 6 years

Press Trust of India

BEIJING

China Southern Airlines on Saturday announced that it will resume regular passenger services on the Guangzhou-New Delhi route from September 21, restarting the service after a six-year suspension.

With the resumption, the airline will operate more than 100 weekly flights across eight round-trip routes in South Asia, the carrier said.

China Southern Air-

lines, headquartered in Guangzhou in China's southern Guangdong province, is one of the country's major carriers.

The carrier's announcement coincides with Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India. The flight services between India and China were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and were not restored amid the over four-year military stand-off between the two countries in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October last year.

Corporate Communications Directorate

INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Former Air India pilot found dead inside hotel room

Express News Service

New Delhi, September 12

A FORMER Air India pilot was found dead inside his hotel room in South Delhi's Vasant Kunj on Friday, said police. A probe has been launched to ascertain the circumstances of the death while the autopsy report is awaited to establish the cause of the death, officers added.

Identified as Captain Sunny Asladekar, he had checked in into The Grand on September 10. He was in the Capital for a Boeing 787 conversion training, said officers.

On Friday, when the pilot's brother allegedly rang him, no one answered the phone. His brother then alerted the management at the hotel, said police. The manager went to the room and found the door locked from inside. The room was opened with the help of a master key and the pilot was found lying unresponsive inside, said officers.

According to police, a PCR call regarding the ill health of a

guest at the hotel was received at the Vasant Kunj North police station on September 11.

A team reached the site and he was immediately taken to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The Crime Team was subsequently called to the spot.

Police inspected the room and initiated an enquiry into the circumstances of the death. The Crime Team was also called to examine the scene and collect any evidence that could assist the investigation.

A post-mortem examination was conducted at Safdarjung Hospital on September 12. Police said the exact cause of death would be established after the final medical report is received.

Meanwhile, inquest proceedings under Section 194 of the BNSS are being conducted. Investigators are examining the circumstances leading to the death and verifying other relevant facts. Police said further enquiry is underway and necessary legal proceedings are being carried out.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

BACK AFTER 6 YEARS

Guangzhou-New Delhi link takes wing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, September 12

China Southern Airlines on Saturday announced that it will resume regular passenger services on the Guangzhou-New Delhi route from September 21, restarting the service after a six-year suspension.

With the resumption, the airline will operate more than 100 weekly flights across eight round-trip routes in South Asia, the carrier said.

China Southern Airlines, headquartered in Guangzhou in China's southern Guangdong province, is one of the country's major carriers.



The carrier's announcement coincides with Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India on Saturday to attend the BRICS summit

and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on further improving bilateral relations.

The flight services between

India and China were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and were not restored amid the over

CONTINUED ON P4

RESTART

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Guangzhou-New Delhi link takes wing

four-year military standoff between the two countries in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October last year.

The resumption of flights is part of the gradual normalisation of India-China relations following two meetings between Modi and Xi in 2024 and 2025.

Modi and Xi met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024, followed by another meeting during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin in 2025.

Following the improvement in ties, several Chinese and Indian airlines resumed flight services between cities in the two countries, including the Beijing-New Delhi route.

In March this year, IndiGo launched a daily flight between Shanghai and Kolkata, further improving air connectivity between India and China.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Kolkata set to regain air links to three Asian countries

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, September 11

International air connectivity from Kolkata is set for a boost from October, with IndiGo preparing to restore flights to Shanghai, Singapore and Siem Reap in Cambodia.

The Shanghai-Kolkata route will operate daily, while Singapore flights will run six days a week, excluding Tuesday. The Siem Reap service will operate thrice weekly on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The routes were suspended in March amid disruptions linked to the Iran crisis, which affected airline operations and passenger demand across West Asia. Their restoration comes ahead of the festive season, when travel demand typically rises.

IndiGo is also expand-



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

THE SHANGHAI-KOLKATA ROUTE WILL OPERATE DAILY

ing international connectivity from eastern India, with new services from Bhubaneswar and Guwahati to Bangkok.

The Bhubaneswar-Bangkok service will begin on October 1, followed by Guwahati-Bangkok flights later in the month.

Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India pilot found dead in hotel room

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

An Air India pilot, in the city for Boeing 787 conversion training, died after being found unconscious in his hotel room during a layover, with police ruling out any foul play.

The pilot had checked into a hotel in Vasant Kunj on September 10 and was found dead there the next evening, police said. The pilot, who had previously worked with Air India



Express, was undergoing conversion training to operate wide-body Boeing 787 aircraft, according to airline officials.

A PCR call regarding the ill health of the hotel guest was received at Vasant Kunj North police station on September 11, following which police personnel reached the hotel and found him unconscious and unresponsive.

Air India pilot found dead in hotel room

He was immediately taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead, the police said. Police then called a crime team to the scene.

According to police, the pilot's brother contacted the hotel manager on the evening of September 11 and told him his brother was not responding to his calls. The hotel manager then went to the room, which was locked from inside. It was opened with the help of the hotel's master key, following which the pilot was found lying unconscious and unresponsive, police said.

The post-mortem examination was conducted at Safdarjung Hospital on September 12. The final cause of death will be ascertained after receipt of the final medical opinion.

Police said they were not suspecting foul play and were conducting inquest proceedings under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

Earlier, officials had said the pilot died due to cardiac arrest. Air India, in a statement, had said it was deeply saddened by the passing of a cockpit crew member in Delhi.

"He was on a layover rest at a hotel in Delhi where he was found unconscious last evening. He was rushed to the hospital immediately, where he was declared dead," the airline had said. Air India said it was in close touch with the pilot's family and was extending all support during this time of grief. Further enquiry is in progress, police said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

STATEMEN

DELHI

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

BPCL & Akasa Air Successfully Operate Commercial Flight Using Sustainable Aviation Fuel



Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), one of India's leading integrated energy companies, and Akasa Air, India's fastest-growing airline, on September, 9 2026 announced the successful operation of a commercial

flight powered by Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) blended with 1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Marks an important step towards building operational readiness and advancing India's emerging Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) ecosystem. On September 8, 2026, flight QP1105 departed Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, at 1304 hrs IST and landed at Manohar International Airport (GOX), Goa, at 1407 hrs IST, demonstrating the successful deployment of SAF-blended fuel in scheduled commercial operations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

TELGRAPH

KOLKATA

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Flight engine snag

■ **NEW DELHI:** An Alliance Air aircraft carrying 40 passengers made an emergency landing at Delhi airport after one engine became inoperative on Friday afternoon, a source said. The aircraft was operating on the Bilaspur-Allahabad-Delhi route. An Alliance Air spokesperson said the plane landed safely and an investigation is being carried out. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Tariff rules revised to boost NMIA int'l flights

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: International airlines launching new routes from Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will now be eligible for concessional landing charges following an amendment made this week by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) to an order passed in May.

The move is set to incentivise airlines to launch international flights from Navi Mumbai. The airlines' winter schedule, which commences on Oct 26, will test the effectiveness of the incentive. The earlier aeronautical tariff order, passed by

AERA in May this year, allowed concessional landing charges under a variable tariff plan (VTP) only when an airline launched a route new to the entire Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). For instance, an airline launching a Navi Mumbai-Dubai flight would not get a concession in landing charges at Navi Mumbai airport because airlines already operate that route to Mumbai, the other MMR airport.

AERA, in an addendum issued on Sept 8, modified the eligibility criterion for the concession under the VTP from a "New Route in MMR" to a "New Route from NMI". Under

the revised provision, an international route will qualify as new if it is being introduced from Navi Mumbai, irrespective of whether the destination is already served from Mumbai's other airport.

"Under the revised framework, new international passenger routes will receive a 100% waiver on landing charges in the first year. Short-haul routes of up to 5,000 km will receive a further 50% discount in the second year, while long-haul routes above 5,000 km will receive 50% and 25% discounts in the second and third years, respectively," said NMIA in a press statement. "The fram-

ework also provides incentives for additional international frequencies, with discounts of up to 75%, and international freighter services, which will receive a 90% discount in the first year and 50% in the second year," it added.

The amendment came about after NMIA wrote to AERA on Aug 4 about the lack of growth in its international air traffic. NMIA said that despite the commissioning of the full assets of international airside and terminal infrastructure, airlines have been unwilling to commence international operations from Navi Mumbai, resulting in underutilisation of

the said infrastructure. "The airlines have attributed this reluctance to the quantum of Aeronautical Tariffs... NMIA also highlighted the impact of the prolonged geopolitical conflicts resulting in higher fuel prices, airspace closure, insurance surcharges and depressed demand due to which carriers are more risk averse to committing international capacity at new airports," said the AERA addendum order.

"The VTP was provided to a new greenfield airport like NMIA to incentivise airlines to commence/start their operations from this new airport," AERA said in its order.