



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

12 DECEMBER 2024

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## Low visibility: Flight ops shut for 2 hours at Kolkata airport

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOLKATA:** The Airports Authority of India (AAI), Eastern Region, on Wednesday shared that flight operations at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) airport were stopped for roughly two hours in the morning due to low visibility while some flights were diverted and departures got delayed due to the same.

According to the data shared by AAI, the flight operations were shut

from 4:18 am to 6:16 am. However, low visibility procedures were implemented from 4:38 am. As far the operational impact was concerned, three domestic and one international flight were diverted. 18 domestic and two international flights were delayed in terms of departure. Arrivals were not delayed.

Additionally, AAI shared that the movement of the Governor to Farakka, Murshidabad by BSF helicopter was cancelled.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

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## Private airports' capex to top ₹60,000 crore by FY27: Crisil

**Our Bureau**

Mumbai

Private Indian airports will maintain a strong credit profile FY27, rating agency Crisil said.

The airports are expected to spend around ₹60,000 crore in capital expenditure over the next three years to prepare for traffic growth, 12 per cent higher than the spend between 2022-2024.

While 70 per cent of this expenditure will be funded by debt, the credit profile of airports will remain strong as a result of projected 17 per cent revenue growth.

"Revenue growth will be driven by rising passenger traffic, a regulated increase in aeronautical tariffs and an increase in non-aeronautical revenue," said Ankit Hakhu, Director, Crisil Ratings.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

## नोएडा हवाई अड्डे की महिंद्रा संग साझेदारी

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनआईए) ने हवाई अड्डे पर आने-जाने वाले यात्रियों के वास्ते प्रीमियम, पूर्णतया इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी सेवा उपलब्ध कराने के लिए महिंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी के साथ साझेदारी की गुरुवार को घोषणा की। एनआईए ने कहा कि चौबीसों घंटे तथा सप्ताह के सातों दिन आगमन और प्रस्थान स्थलों पर प्रीमियम पिक-अप और ड्रॉप-ऑफ सुविधाएं उपलब्ध होंगी। यात्री मोबाइल ऐप, वेबसाइट, कॉल सेंटर, एयरपोर्ट कियोस्क आदि माध्यमों से इन सेवाओं को बुक कर पाएंगे। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के मुख्य कार्य अधिकारी क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन ने कहा, 'हमने प्रीमियम, पूर्णतः इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए महिंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी के साथ साझेदारी की है, ताकि हवाई अड्डे से सीधे आपके गंतव्य तक निर्बाध तथा पर्यावरण-अनुकूल यात्रा उपलब्ध कराई जा सके।'

भाषा



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

## 'Cumulative capex of airports to grow 12% to ₹60K cr in 3 yrs'

The cumulative capex (capital expenditure) of Indian airports is expected to grow 12 per cent at ₹60,000 crore in the three years through FY27 from ₹53,000 crore during 2022-2024, to add required infrastructure for about 65 million passengers per annum, ratings agency CRISIL said on Thursday. CRISIL said 70 per cent of this capex is expected to be funded through debt. Expected growth in passenger traffic, increase in tariffs and spending within the airport ecosystem will lift revenue of private Indian airports at an average growth rate of 17 per cent between FY25 and FY27, it said.

PTI

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से 24 घंटे यात्रियों को मिलेगी महेंद्रा कंपनी की ईवी कैब

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 12 दिसम्बर (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ने एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने वाले यात्रियों के लिए प्रीमियम, ऑल-इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए महेंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी के साथ साझेदारी की है। इस साझेदारी के तहत, महेंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स 100 फीसदी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों का बेड़ा संचालित करेगा, जिससे यात्रियों को आरामदायक और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल सवारी मिलेगी। इस सेवा में आगमन और प्रस्थान के कर्ब पर सीधे स्थित प्रीमियम पिकअप और ड्रॉप-ऑफ सुविधाएं शामिल होंगी, जिससे पैदल दूरी कम हो जाएगी। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से हवाई जहाज की वेलिडेशन ट्रायल सफलतापूर्वक होने के बाद अब हवाई सफर करने वाले यात्रियों को गंतव्य तक पहुंचने के लिए सुगम और सुरक्षित ईवी कैब उपलब्ध कराएगा। एयरपोर्ट में आने और जाने वाले यात्रियों के लिए 24 घंटे और सप्ताह में 7 दिन निर्बाध और टिकाऊ परिवहन का विकल्प उपलब्ध रहेगा। यात्री एक समर्पित मोबाइल ऐप, वेबसाइट, कॉल सेंटर, एयरलाइन गठबंधन और एयरपोर्ट कियोस्क सहित विभिन्न चैनलों



■ हवाई सफर के बाद यात्रियों को सुगम और सुरक्षित कैब टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग से होगी बुकिंग  
■ एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने वाले यात्रियों के लिए प्रीमियम, ऑल-इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए महेंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी के साथ

के माध्यम से सवारी बुक कर सकेंगे। यह बहु-चैनल दृष्टिकोण सभी यात्रियों के लिए पहुंच और बुकिंग में आसानी को गारंटी देगा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन ने कहा कि एनआईए में, आपका सफर बैगेज क्लेम

साझेदारी  
■ नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से कैब की उपलब्धता 24 घंटे और सप्ताह में सातों दिन रहेगी उपलब्ध  
■ मोबाइल ऐप, वेबसाइट, कॉल सेंटर, एयरलाइन गठबंधन और हवाई अड्डे के कियोस्क सहित मल्टी-चैनल कैब बुकिंग

के साथ खत्म नहीं होगा। हम महेंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी के साथ साझेदारी करके एक प्रीमियम, ऑल-इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी सेवा को पेशकश करने के लिए उत्साहित हैं, जो एयरपोर्ट से सीधे आपके गंतव्य तक एक सहज और पर्यावरण के

अनुकूल सवारी प्रदान करेगी। अपनी तरह की यह पहली एयरपोर्ट-ब्रिडज कैब सेवा यात्री सुविधा और पर्यावरणीय जिम्मेदारी के लिए एक नया मानदंड स्थापित करेगी। महेंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी का परिचालन मॉडल भी सुरक्षा और दक्षता पर केंद्रित है। ड्राइवर्स को एयरपोर्ट प्रोटोकॉल और ग्राहक सेवा मानकों पर कठोर प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा, जिससे यात्रियों के साथ उच्च-गुणवत्तापूर्ण बातचीत सुनिश्चित होगी। बेड़े का प्रबंधन यात्रियों की मांग और उड़ान कार्यक्रम के आधार पर वास्तविक समय के गतिशील समायोजन, प्रतीक्षा समय को कम करने और सेवा उपलब्धता को बढ़ाने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करके किया जाएगा। सेवा में सेवा की गुणवत्ता की निरंतर निगरानी और सुधार के लिए एक मजबूत फीडबैक तंत्र भी स्थापित किया जाएगा।

हवाई अड्डे के पहले चरण में एक रनवे और एक टर्मिनल होगा, जिसकी क्षमता सालाना 12 मिलियन यात्रियों के आवागमन को संभालने की होगी। सभी चार विकास चरणों के पूरा होने पर, हवाई अड्डा प्रति वर्ष 70 मिलियन यात्रियों की सेवा करने में सक्षम होगा।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

12 DECEMBER 2024

# GMR Airports in Hyd launches AI system

**SABA  
ANJUM SHAIK | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC.11**

GMR Airports has launched an AI-powered Digital Twin platform and a new Airport Predictive Operation Centre (APOC) at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad. These advanced systems are designed to improve airport operations, reduce delays and make air travel smoother and more comfortable for passengers. Speaking at the launch, civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu addressed Hyderabad's growth in aviation with the airport now connecting to 90 destinations and passenger traffic increasing from 6.5 million in 2010 to 25 million in 2024.

He said though the parliament was functioning he came all the way to attend this event. He called this a big step toward making flying accessible for everyone, following the vision of "from Hawai Chappal to Hawai



Civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said airport now serves 90 destinations. — DC

Jahaaj."

India's aviation sector has grown rapidly with over five lakh domestic passengers flying in a single day on November 17. The number of airports in India has doubled from 74 in 2014 to 157 today, with more under development. Technologies like DigiYatra, used in 24 airports are making travel easier and new programs like SPARC aim to promote innovation in the aviation industry. The APOC brings together all parts of the airport air-

side, landside and terminal operations into one system.

It uses real-time data to handle problems quickly, reduce waiting times and make sure smooth travel for passengers. Real-time updates also improve safety and efficiency across the airport. He said, India, once inspired by other countries' aviation systems, is now setting an example for the world. Many countries are adopting India's innovations in airport management and technology.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

# Airports may Hike Capex to ₹60k cr in 3 yrs

Move aimed at building infrastructure for about 65 million passengers a year: Crisil

### Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** Indian airports are expected to raise total capex spending to ₹60,000 crore over the next three years through FY27 from ₹53,000 crore in FY22 to FY24, in a bid to expand infrastructure to cater to about 65 million additional passengers a year, according to Crisil.

In the report released Thursday, the rating agency said 70% of the fresh capex is expected to be funded through debt, adding that its estimates are based on a study of 11 private airports that contributed about 60% of total passenger traffic in FY24.

Revenue of the privately held Indian airports is also expected to grow at an average 17% between FY25 and FY27, backed by growing

passenger traffic, higher tariffs, and increase in spending within the airport ecosystem.

Improved access to funding and a predictable regulatory regime will also support the strong credit profiles of private airports, Crisil said.

"The number of passengers at Indian airports is expected to clock a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8-9% over fiscals 2025-2027 from 376 million last fiscal," said Manish Gupta, senior director at Crisil Ratings. "Growth in domestic traffic, which comprises over 80% of overall volume, will ride on rising demand from the business and leisure segments and government push to increase penetration of air travel."

As of July this year, the government had operationalised 84 airports and 579 routes under its re-



gional connectivity UDAN scheme to deepen regional penetration, the report said. It added that while the impact is small at present, with air traffic in these airports contributing around 2% of domestic air traffic, these regional routes are important as they provide feeder traffic to the metro airports.

International traffic will also grow, driven by increased business

travel, easing visa requirements, and improving connectivity with airlines adding new routes. For this, airport operators are investing in aviation-related infrastructure such as terminal buildings and runways to create room for increased passenger flow.

Additionally, airports are developing non-aeronautical offerings such as lounge, car parking, food and beverage spaces and retail outlets, which will help increase revenue, too, according to Crisil.

"Although around 70% of capex is expected to be funded by debt, the credit profiles of private airports will remain strong over fiscals 2025-27 due to an average projected increase of 17% in revenue of airports in the Crisil ratings study," said Ankit Hakhu, director at Crisil Ratings.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

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## ■ Passengers Slam Airport Food Costs



**MUMBAI:** A significant percentage of airline passengers said that food and beverages that are sold at airports in the country are "excessively" priced, with some passengers paying more than 200% than at restaurants, organised retail and rail way stations, according to a survey. According to online social platform LocalCircles, 60% of airline passengers surveyed say they were charged 100-200% more for food and beverages at airports as compared to railway stations. The survey conducted recently, received over 28,000 responses from airline passengers located in 309 districts of India.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

12 DECEMBER 2024

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## **GMR may consider 2nd runway: Official**

**PTI**  
HYDERABAD

GMR Group which manages the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here may consider adding another terminal and second runway once the passenger traffic hits 45 million annually, a senior official of the airport infra major said on Wednesday. SGK Kishore, Executive Director and Chief Innovation Officer of GMR Airports, at a press conference exuded confidence that the passenger traffic would hit 45 million (annually) by 2030 from the existing 30 million.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

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## नोएडा हवाई अड्डे के लिए जवानों के 1030 पद मंजूर

ग्रैंटर नोएडा। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर 1030 जवान की तैनाती होगी। गुरुवार को केंद्र सरकार ने मुंबई और नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था संभालने के लिए करीब 2800 जवानों के पदों को मंजूरी दे दी है।

इनमें नवी मुंबई एयरपोर्ट के लिए 1,840 और नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लिए 1030 पद स्वीकृत किए हैं। एयरपोर्ट शुरू होने के करीब 45 दिन पूर्व ये जवान एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था आपने हाथ में लेंगे।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

12 DECEMBER 2024

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### AIRPORTS SHOULD BE LIKE A SECOND HOME, SAYS NAIDU

**Neha LM Tripathi**

[letters@hindustantimes.com](mailto: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, a first in India and introduced in Hyderabad, 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."



## Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

12 DECEMBER 2024

# 12.5 kg gold seized, airport staff held

**Abhishek Sharan**

abhishek.sharan@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The Mumbai unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 12.5 kilogram of smuggled gold, worth ₹9.95 crore, and arrested six persons, including three airport staff members and three suspected 'receivers' of an alleged smuggling syndicate, on Wednesday. With this, the agency has seized 36 kg of smuggled gold in the last two days.

The agency began its operation after receiving specific intelligence about a syndicate of airport staff, employed at a food court at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Mumbai, being allegedly involved in smuggling of gold, DRI sources said.

### **Modus operandi**

The modus operandi was to receive the gold from international transit passengers and deliver it outside the airport to receivers from the syndicate, the sources said.

During its surveillance of the airport, DRI officers intercepted

two such consignments of smuggled gold while these were being delivered outside the airport.

"Three airport staff members who were delivering the gold and three receivers were apprehended in the operation," a DRI source said.

On examination, the consignments yielded 24 oval-shaped balls of gold dust in wax form, packed in eight pouches. On assaying, 12.5 kilograms of gold, valued at ₹9.95 crore, was recovered by the DRI team.

The gold was seized, and the six accused were arrested under the provisions of the Customs Act, by the DRI.

"A very big syndicate involved in gold smuggling has been busted," the DRI source said.

On Tuesday, DRI officers had seized 23.92 kilograms of gold, along with ₹5.4 lakh in cash and 37 kilograms of silver, estimated to be worth ₹19.6 crore in total.

The operation led to the busting of a gold extraction and refining facility and the arrest of the alleged mastermind of the syndicate that controlled the facility.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

12 DECEMBER 2024

## 12 flights cancelled at Chennai airport due to glitches, inclement weather



Two flights couldn't take off due to technical glitch, officials said.

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

### **The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

Twelve flights were cancelled at the Chennai airport on Wednesday owing to various reasons.

Seven departure flights to cities including Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Madurai, Shivamogga, Bagdogra, Jaffna, and Kolkata, and arrival flights from Thiruvananthapuram, Madurai, Kochi, Kolkata, and

Jaffna were cancelled. While eight flights were cancelled due to operational reasons, two flights couldn't take off due to technical glitch, officials said.

The departure and arrival flight from Jaffna were cancelled due to inclement weather conditions at Jaffna.

One flight was diverted to Bengaluru from Chennai airport as rain lashed the city on Wednesday morning.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MINT

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

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## 'Airport capex to grow 12% in 3 years'

**T**he cumulative capex (capital expenditure) of Indian airports is expected to grow 12% at ₹60,000 crore in the three years through FY27 from ₹53,000 crore during 2022-2024, to add required infrastructure for about 65 million passengers per annum, ratings agency Crisil said on Thursday.

Crisil said 70% of this capex is expected to be funded through debt. The ratings agency said its projections are based on a study of 11 private airports in the country that account for 60% of the total passenger traffic in FY24.

In addition to the expected growth in passenger traffic, increase in tariffs and spending within the airport ecosystem will lift revenue of private Indian airports at an average growth rate of 17% between FY25 and FY27, it said. That, coupled with improved funding access and a predictable regulatory regime, will support the strong credit profiles of private airports. **PTI**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

## CISF security personnel sanctioned for Noida and Navi Mumbai airports

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government has sanctioned a combined strength of more than 2,800 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel to guard two soon-to-be operational international airports in Noida and in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai, official sources said Thursday.

The ministry of home affairs (MHA), under whose command the CISF works, had sanctioned 1,840 posts for the Navi Mumbai airport and 1,030 for the Noida International Airport (NIA) in Uttar Pradesh. The total CISF manpower sanctioned for providing a counter-terrorist cover to the two upcoming airports is 2,870.

The sanction of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) manpower is for the first phase of operationalisation of the two airports. The force's strength will be enhanced once these airports finish phase II, sources said.

The security units, to be headed by Deputy Inspector General rank officers, will take charge once the infrastructure to install security gadgets and other logistics get ready at both the facilities.

Being developed by the Adani

Group, the Navi Mumbai International Airport project will be completed in five phases and will have a total handling capacity of 9 crore passengers per annum. The first phase will have a capacity to handle 2 crore passengers per annum.

Commercial operations at this airport, second in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region after the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, are expected to begin by March-April, 2025.

The NIA greenfield facility is being built in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddha Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh, about 75 km from Delhi, and will be the national capital region's second international civil aviation facility after the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. It is also expected to get operational for passenger operations by April next year.

The CISF is the national civil aviation security force that guards 68 airports at present. It provides a counter-terrorist cover to these facilities, thronged by lakhs of domestic and international passengers every day. The force frisks passengers, checks their baggage and undertakes anti-sabotage, counter-terrorist and counter-hijack checks in coordination with other agencies.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

## Cumulative capex of airports expected to grow 12 per cent at ₹60,000 Crore in three years: Report



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The cumulative capex (capital expenditure) of Indian airports is expected to grow 12 per cent at Rs 60,000 crore in the three years through FY27 from Rs 53,000 crore during 2022-2024, to add required infrastructure for about 65 million passengers per annum, ratings agency CRISIL said on Thursday. CRISIL said 70 per cent of this capex is expected to be funded through debt.

The ratings agency said its projections are based on a study of 11 private airports in the country that account for 60 per cent of the total passenger traffic in FY24.

In addition to the expected growth in passenger traffic, increase in tariffs and spending within the airport ecosystem will lift revenue of private Indian airports at an

average growth rate of 17 per cent between FY25 and FY27, it said.

That, coupled with improved funding access and a predictable regulatory regime, will support the strong credit profiles of private airports.

"The number of passengers at Indian airports is expected to clock a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8-9 per cent over fiscals 2025-2027 from 376 million last fiscal. Growth in domestic traffic, which comprises over 80 per cent of overall volume, will ride on rising demand from the business and leisure segments and government push to increase penetration of air travel," said Manish Gupta, Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, CRISIL Ratings.

As of July 2024, the government had operationalised 84 airports

and 579 routes under its regional connectivity UDAN scheme to increase regional penetration, CRISIL said, adding that while the impact is small at present, with air traffic in these airports contributing around 2 per cent of domestic air traffic, these regional routes are important as they provide feeder traffic to the metro airports.

International traffic will also grow, driven by increased business travel, easing visa requirements, and improving connectivity with airlines adding new routes, it said.

To cater to this growth, airport operators are investing in aviation-related infrastructure such as terminal buildings and runways to create room for increased passenger flow.

Additionally, airports are developing non-aeronautical offerings such as lounge, car parking, food and beverage spaces and retail outlets, which will help increase revenue, too, the ratings agency said.

"Although around 70 per cent of capex is expected to be funded by debt, the credit profiles of private airports will remain strong over fiscals 2025-27 due to an average projected increase of 17 per cent in revenue of airports in the CRISIL Ratings study," CRISIL Ratings Director Ankit Hakhu said.



## 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 Rangani 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

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

**क्रिसिल:** राजस्व में औसतन 17 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि

## हवाई अड्डा क्षेत्र में 60,000 करोड़ का निवेश

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली, देश के हवाई अड्डों पर तीन साल में 6.5 करोड़ यात्रियों के लिए आवश्यक बुनियादी ढांचा तैयार करने के लिए 60 हजार करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा के पूंजीगत निवेश का अनुमान है। क्रिसिल रेटिंग्स के अनुसार यह वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 से 2023-24 के दौरान किए गए 53 हजार करोड़ रुपए की तुलना में 12 प्रतिशत अधिक है। हवाई यात्रियों की बढ़ती संख्या के साथ हवाई अड्डा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर में टेरिफ और खर्च में वृद्धि से वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 से 2026-27 के बीच निजी भारतीय हवाई अड्डों के राजस्व में औसतन 17 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होगी। वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में देश के सभी हवाई

### विमानन नेटवर्क के विस्तार

क्रिसिल रेटिंग्स के वरिष्ठ निदेशक और उप मुख्य रेटिंग अधिकारी मनीष गुप्ता ने कहा कि भारतीय हवाई अड्डों पर यात्रियों की संख्या पिछले वित्त वर्ष में 37.6 करोड़ रही थी। वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 तक तीन साल में इसमें 8-9 प्रतिशत की औसत वार्षिक वृद्धि की उम्मीद है।

अड्डों के 60 प्रतिशत और निजी हवाई अड्डों के 95 यात्री परिवहन संभालने वाले 11 निजी हवाई अड्डों की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि बेहतर

### अंतरराष्ट्रीय यातायात भी बढ़ेगा

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, व्यावसायिक यात्रा में वृद्धि, वीजा आवश्यकताओं में ढील और नए मार्ग जोड़ने वाली एयरलाइनों के साथ कनेक्टिविटी में सुधार के कारण अंतरराष्ट्रीय यातायात भी बढ़ेगा। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, देश में घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या में अक्टूबर में 5.3% बढ़कर 1.36 करोड़ हो गई।

फंडिंग पहुंच और एक स्थिर नियामक व्यवस्था के साथ निजी हवाई अड्डों की मजबूत क्रेडिट प्रोफाइल को समर्थन मिलेगा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर मिलेगी महिंद्रा की टैक्सी

■ इसके लिए महिंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स के साथ नोएडा एयरपोर्ट ने किया समझौता

मुंबई (भाषा)।

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनआईए) ने हवाई अड्डे पर आने-जाने वाले यात्रियों के वास्ते प्रीमियम, पूर्णतया इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी सेवा उपलब्ध कराने के लिए महिंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी के साथ साझेदारी की वृहस्पतिवार को घोषणा की।

एनआईए ने कहा, चौबीसों घंटे तथा सप्ताह के सातों दिन आगमन और प्रस्थान स्थलों पर प्रीमियम पिक-अप और ड्रॉप-ऑफ सुविधाएं उपलब्ध होंगी। यात्री मोबाइल ऐप, वेबसाइट, कॉल सेंटर, एयरपोर्ट कियोस्क आदि माध्यमों से इन सेवाओं को बुक कर पाएंगे। नोएडा



अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन ने कहा, 'हमने प्रीमियम, पूर्णतः इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए

महिंद्रा लॉजिस्टिक्स मोबिलिटी के साथ साझेदारी की है, ताकि हवाई अड्डे से सीधे आपके गंतव्य तक निर्बाध तथा पर्यावरण-अनुकूल यात्रा उपलब्ध कराई जा सके।'



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

12 DECEMBER 2024

# Low visibility forces flight disruptions at city airport

Three domestic flights and one international flight were diverted to alternate airports

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 11 DECEMBER

Flight operations at Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport were disrupted early this morning due to low visibility caused by dense fog. From 4.18 am to 6.16 am, no flights could operate, with Low Visibility Procedures (LVP) officially declared at 4.38 am.

The adverse weather conditions led to significant operational challenges. Three domestic flights and one international flight were diverted to alternate airports. Additionally, 18 domestic



Kolkata enveloped in thick fog early on Wednesday morning. ■ SNS

departures and two international departures faced delays. However, arrivals remained

unaffected, with no delays reported. The poor visibility also impacted scheduled helicopter operations, including the planned movement of the Governor of West Bengal to Farakka, Murshidabad, which had to be cancelled. The Governor was to travel via a BSF helicopter, but the adverse conditions rendered the journey unsafe. Airport authorities and airlines have assured passengers that they are working to restore normalcy and minimise inconvenience. Travelers have been advised to check with their respective airlines for updates on flight schedules.

## Hyd airport rolls out India's first AI-powered ops centre

Swati.Bharadwaj  
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: The GMR-operated Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) at Hyderabad has become the first airport in the country to leverage cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics and IoT to create an AI-powered digital twin platform with a next-gen airport predictive operation centre (APOC).

The innovative platform integrates airside, landside, and terminal operations into a unified system that leverages digital technologies such as AI and real-time prescriptive analytics to make flying smoother for passengers.

The system integrates multiple stakeholders, including airlines, ground handlers, and air traffic control, and utilises real-time data collected by almost 40 different sources using IoT sensors to optimise decision-making, minimise disruptions, and ensure seamless operations.

Flagging off the AI-powered system at Hyderabad airport on Wednesday, Union civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said: "With rising air traffic and passenger footfall, it becomes necessary for us to advance our airport management systems. The APOC facility is going to be a game changer for the entire civil aviation operations as it will enhance efficiency, improve passenger experience, save costs and also deal with safety aspects."

GMR Airports executive director-South & chief innovation officer SGK Kishore said the company plans to also deploy this technology at Delhi International Airport over the next few months as part of plans to adopt the digital twin platform as a standard operating model across all GMR-operated airports in a phased manner.

### 6 ISLANDS FOR SMOOTH OPS AT RGIA

Airport Predictive Operation Centre (APOC) at RGIA is divided into 6 specialised islands

- **Airside Island:** Monitors aircraft movement on tarmac, detects bird movement & objects on runway

- **Landside Island:** Keeps tabs on ground transportation, vehicular traffic, parking and cab availability

- **Terminal Island:** Monitors passenger flow, security checks, immigration, baggage handling and boarding procedures. Real-time updates for travelers

- **Technical Island (Digital Twin):** Manages systems like air conditioning, lighting, energy, upkeep of lifts, escalators and baggage belts



GMR Airports executive director-South SGK Kishore explains APOC to Union minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu at RGIA

- **Social Media:** Engages with passengers on social media platforms, shares updates on flight traffic & disruptions

- **Stakeholder Island:** Ensures coordination between airlines, ground handling staff



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

12 DECEMBER 2024

# RGIA may get second terminal & runway amid pax traffic surge

Swati.Bharadwaj  
@timesofindia.com

**Hyderabad:** GMR Airports, which recently completed a major capacity expansion at the Hyderabad international airport to 34 million passengers per annum (MPPA) from the initial capacity of 12 million MPPA, is already considering adding a second terminal and a new runway due to passenger traffic soaring to nearly 30 MPPA.

"We are already reaching 30 million after six months of the inauguration of the expanded terminal. Even though it is designed for 34 MPPA, we are using technology to see how we can maximise the asset to reach up to 45-50 MPPA. With the type of growth Hyderabad and India are witnessing, it is only a matter of three to four years," said GMR Airports

### 'Will take cue from Hyd airport APOC to set up centralised data repository'

**Hyderabad:** Union civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said the govt plans to replicate the pathbreaking AI-powered airport predictive operation centre (APOC) system at Hyderabad airport at other airports across the country to get a centralised repository of data for quicker and better policy making. "We feel there are other data points that can also be captured at airports. At the ministry, we are thinking of how we can integrate all this data into one central repository because it's important for us to back up any policy decision with the right kind of data and analytics. We are taking some ideas from this APOC centre to try and evolve it so that the ultimate goal of having one central repository is met," he said. TNN

executive director-South & chief innovation officer SGK Kishore.

"Next we will be planning the northern runway at the second terminal. That planning has already started, and if everything goes well and traffic remains buoyant, maybe in the next cou-

ple of years, we may have to commence the second runway and second terminal," he said.

Kishore said the Hyderabad airport airside is currently handling around 43-44 flight movements per hour, and the airport is targeting 50 plus movements per hour.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

## 540 touts at IGI airport held in 2024: Police

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

Booking cab services from non-prepaid taxi booths at Indira Gandhi International Airport could land you in a trap. Giving this information, the Delhi Police said taking action against fraudsters, 540 touts were arrested in 2024. 254 vehicles were seized and 41 preventive apprehensions were undertaken, police officials said on Wednesday.

Comparing the data from last year, DCP (IGI Airport), Usha Rangnani, said that in 2023, 264 touts were arrested which increased to 540 in 2024. 96 vehicles were seized in 2023, this year it increased to 254 and from zero, preventive arrests spiked to 41 this year, she said.

Providing further details, the police officer said 373 touts were residents of Del-



### ARRESTS DOUBLED IN A YEAR

- In 2023, 264 touts were arrested increasing to 540 in 2024; 96 vehicles were seized in 2023, this year it increased to 254
- 373 touts were residents of Delhi, 107 from Uttar Pradesh, 32 from Haryana and 11 from Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Sikkim
- Specialised teams in uniform and in plain clothes were deployed across terminals, arrivals and parking zones

hi, 107 from Uttar Pradesh, 32 from Haryana and 11 from Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

The DCP said specialised teams in uniform and in plain clothes were deployed at the airport across terminals, arrivals and parking zones. Along with this foot and motorcycle patrolling had been increased, she said.

"Collaborations with RAXA

(Airport Security Group) and DIAL (Delhi International Airport Limited) have strengthened intelligence-sharing and operational coordination. Joint checks with traffic police in forecourt areas to address touting and traffic violations simultaneously," the officer said.

Sharing some instances, the DCP said in September, a foreign passenger, who had arrived late at night was

approached by a tout posing as a helpful local. The police officer said that the tout falsely informed the passenger that Delhi was witnessing heavy protests, leading to closure of all hotels and public transport. "Manipulating the passenger's concerns, the tout and his associates lured him into their trap with promises of alternate arrangements," the officer added.

The passenger was taken

to multiple locations, where his credit card was used to deposit Rs 98,700 under the guise of arranging a private vehicle to Varanasi. Ultimately, he was abandoned on the roadside, police said. Rangnani said that within 24 hours of receiving the complaint, the police apprehended four persons, including the mastermind Amit Malhotra. Further, the police froze the suspects' bank accounts recovering the victim's money.

Similarly, money was extorted from a woman foreign national by misguiding her about hotel closures. Another foreign national was charged Rs 2,500 for a taxi ride from the airport to Chittaranjan (CR) Park which is only 15 km from the airport. Police arrested two persons after analysing CCTV footage from the area.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

# Premji-Ranjan Pai Family Offices to Board Akasa with Big Stake Buy

Airline likely to get \$130-140 m in fresh funding from new and existing investors

**Arindam Majumder & Digbijay Mishra**

**New Delhi | Mumbai:** A consortium comprising Premji Invest and Claypond Capital, the Bengaluru-based family offices of Wipro founder Azim Premji and Manipal group chief Ranjan Pai respectively, is buying a significant minority stake in Akasa Air, said people briefed on the matter.

The transaction will form part of a \$130-140 million fundraise by the budget carrier, the people said. The family of late billionaire stock trader Rakesh Jhunjhunwala's estate is also doubling down on their holding in Akasa by joining the latest round, they said.

Akasa signed a term sheet with the Premji Invest-Ranjan Pai consortium early this month and the deal is in the last leg of completion, said the people cited above.

"The contours of the deal has been finalised and the company will soon move for regulatory approvals from the Competition Commission of India (CCI)," said a person involved in the process. The size of the stake that will be bought by the consortium could not be ascertained immediately.

The stake sale was initially planned to be finalised by October. However, the negotiations got prolonged due to mismatch over Akasa's future revenue projections.

Akasa, like many other low-cost carriers, follows an asset light model where it acquires a new aircraft at an attractive price from manufacturers and immediately sells it to a lessor at a profit, subsequently leasing it back for its operations. Income from the sale and leaseback process helps an airline to generate cash, crucial to run operations in an intensely-competitive market.

However, a delay in delivery of Boeing 737 Max planes has weighed on Akasa's projected income from aircraft sale and leaseback for the next five years.

"The term sheet has been signed and the Premji Invest-Ranjan Pai consortium have invested just over \$100 million but other existing investors are also participating in the round taking the total to around \$130-140 million," said a person aware of the matter. A term sheet is a non-binding offer to invest in a company after due diligence.

The initial investment talks were centred around a valuation of over \$350 million but the deal is being finalised at a slight discount though still significantly higher than

sa's future revenue projections.

the company was last valued at around \$86 million in 2021, as per Tracxn.

**All On Board**  
Premji Invest-Ranjan Pai consortium invested just over **\$100 m**

**The funding will be used for further expansion and for making pre-delivery payments for aircraft**

Family of Rakesh Jhunjhunwala's estate doubled down investments in the airline

**Stake of Jhunjhunwala family and CEO Vinay Dube and his brothers Sanjay and Niraj Dube will be diluted**

BHAVIN G

The fundraise comes at a crucial juncture for Akasa as gestation costs for airlines remain high during their initial few years. Akasa has lost over Rs 2,300 crore in the first two years.

After starting in August 2021, the airline was able to exploit a Covid-induced drop in aircraft rentals and easy availability of pilots and cabin crew to add 25 aircraft to its fleet.

The carrier placed an initial order of 76 Boeing 737 Max jetliners, following it up with an order for another 150 planes of the same type in January 2024. However, Akasa's growth plans got stifled due to a sharp slowdown in Boeing's aircraft production amid increased regulatory scrutiny from regulators after multiple safety incidents.

Akasa's previous valuation. The company was last valued at around \$86 million in 2021, as per Tracxn.

Akasa Air, and Pai and Premji Invest declined to comment.

The carrier is likely to use the fresh capital for further expansion and to make pre-delivery payments for aircraft, the people said. The latest round will dilute shareholdings of the Jhunjhunwala family and that of founder and CEO Vinay Dube and his brothers Sanjay and Niraj Dube. Together, they own around 67% stake in the airline.

The Jhunjhunwala family, which owns about a 38% stake in Akasa through various trusts, will remain the single largest shareholder.

## Boeing still struggling to make its best-selling jet — 737 MAX

ALLISON LAMPERT &  
DAN CATCHPOLE  
Seattle, December 12

**SINCE A CRIPPLING** strike at many of Boeing's US plane factories ended more than a month ago, progress ramping up production of its best-selling 737 MAX jet has been deliberately slow.

Safety inspectors inside the 737 MAX factory outside Seattle laboriously scoured half-constructed planes for flaws they may have missed during the seven-week work stoppage.

Other workers poured over manuals to restore their expired safety licenses. The factory was initially so lifeless in mid-November that one employee left early because the bins of fasteners he was tasked with replenishing weren't being used, according to a source inside the plant. The result: no new 737 MAX plane has been completed. Boeing said on Tuesday that it had restarted MAX production last week, as first reported by *Reuters*.

Boeing's cautious approach, following criticism that the plane-maker for years rushed production, has garnered praise from regulators and some airline CEOs.

But it also has some smaller suppliers who cut jobs or operating hours during the strike hesitating to staff-up again, creating further uncertainty in an already fragile supply chain, according to three



Boeing said that it had restarted MAX production last week

suppliers, one analyst and an industry source. Both Boeing and rival Airbus have struggled to meet production goals due to supply chain delays. Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg in October told analysts he was anticipating a bumpy return from the supply chain post strike.

Parts that used to take a day to be finished at a processing shop now take a week, one supplier said.

This account of Boeing's effort to restart production of its strongest-selling jet is based on interviews with a dozen Boeing factory workers and 10 suppliers, most of whom spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to talk to the media.

It shows that Ortberg is sticking

to his pledge to cautiously restart 737 MAX production, prioritising safety and quality due to heightened regulatory scrutiny following a January mid-air panel blowout on a near-new plane.

The interviews also revealed that some suppliers are still struggling to recover from the strike, after wrestling with slumping plane production during the pandemic, and the 2019 MAX grounding following two fatal crashes involving the model. Boeing "will continue to steadily increase production as we execute on our safety and quality plan and work to meet the expectations of our regulator and customers," Boeing spokesperson Jessica Kowal said. —REUTERS



## Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

12 DECEMBER 2024

### Direct IndiGo flights from Ahd to 5 cities

**FPJ NEWS SERVICE**

**AHMEDABAD**

IndiGo Airlines has launched direct flight services from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport to four cities, starting Tuesday. The airline has introduced direct flights connecting Ahmedabad with Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, and Kolkata. Additionally, it has also added a connecting flight from the city airport to Dimapur.

Announcing the flights, the Ahmedabad Airport, in an X post, said, "Ahmedabad Airport is happy to announce direct and additional connectivity to Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, and Kolkata along with a one-stop connection to Dimapur with IndiGo6E."

Starting December 10th, IndiGo has introduced new flight schedules connecting Ahmedabad to multiple cities.

**Ahmedabad-Thiruvananthapuram:**

Flights will operate four times a week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. The flight departs Ahmedabad at 4:25 PM, arriving in Thiruvananthapuram at 7:05 PM. The return flight leaves

Thiruvananthapuram at 7:35 PM, reaching Ahmedabad at 9:55 PM.

**Ahmedabad-Guwahati:** A daily flight will depart Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPI) at 8:30 AM and land in Guwahati at 11:15 AM. The return flight departs Guwahati at 4:55 PM, arriving in Ahmedabad at 8:35 PM.

**Ahmedabad-Dimapur (via Guwahati):** The same flight connecting Ahmedabad to Guwahati will continue to Dimapur. After landing in Guwahati, it departs for Dimapur at 1:00 PM, arriving at 2:00 PM. The return leg departs Dimapur at 2:30 PM, landing back in Guwahati at 3:35 PM before heading to Ahmedabad at 4:55 PM.

**Ahmedabad-Kochi:** Flight number 6E 6237 will operate three days a week—on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. It departs Ahmedabad at 4:25 PM, arriving in Kochi at 6:45 PM. The return flight, 6E 6238, leaves Kochi at 7:15 PM and reaches Ahmedabad at 9:50 PM.

**Ahmedabad-Kolkata:** A new daily flight will depart Ahmedabad at 9:20 PM, reaching Kolkata at 11:15 PM. The return flight departs Kolkata at 12:50 PM and arrives in Ahmedabad at 3:45 PM.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

12 DECEMBER 2024

## IATA chief optimistic about India providing more bilateral flying rights

**PTI**  
GENEVA

Global airlines' grouping IATA's chief Willie Walsh has expressed optimism that India will provide more bilateral flying rights as Indian carriers are set to operate more wide-body planes in the coming years.

India, one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets, has been taking a cautious stance on increasing bilateral flying rights as efforts are on to make the country a global aviation hub. More number of wide-body planes



with Indian airlines will allow them to provide direct connectivity to various overseas destinations.

IATA Director General Willie Walsh has said the bilateral flying rights situation with respect to India will improve.

"It (bilateral flying rights)

will improve. If you look at the aircraft orders, the wide-body aircraft orders that IndiGo and Air India have, they want to see more rights available to them. They are not going to get rights to fly unless you give them reciprocal rights.

"I am optimistic that it (bilateral flying rights situation) will change," he told PTI on the sidelines of the IATA Global Media Day here on Tuesday.

Bilateral flying rights are between two countries that allow airlines from either side to operate a specified number of flights.

# Battle against low visibility takes off in Indian aviation

As we head into the annual winter chaos in aviation — the fog that envelops large parts of North India in December and January — a feeling of dread begins to accompany all ticket bookings by passengers coming into the region. Will my flight actually land, and will I catch my connecting flight? How many hours of delay will I encounter? Will my flight take off at all? Is the Delhi airport and other affected airports equipped to handle the mayhem?

Last year, the fog and poor handling by almost all stakeholders led to mayhem at airports in the North, with the capital facing the brunt of it. Delhi, as a major hub for many early-morning departures, leads to a cascade of delays across the country. To manage perceptions more than anything else, the then Union civil aviation minister had set up “war rooms” to tackle this annual menace since there is very little the government can do on its own to mitigate these disruptions. The airlines, aircraft, and ground infrastructure need to come together in near-perfect harmony, almost like in a ballet performance to ensure things run relatively smoothly. Well, the good news is that after a chaotic and badly managed 2023, things look set to improve this winter. We seem to be getting more adept at fighting this war, or at least the armoury is in place for some squadrons of the army!

We finally have three operational runways at Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) equipped with what is known as CAT-III Instrument Landing Systems, enabling precision landing in pretty low visibility conditions, which is perhaps the most welcome news. In addition, the runway has newly installed visibility sensors and systems to provide real-time visibility data. Follow Me vehicles and jeeps have been equipped with GPS devices to assist operators in navigating through fog and maintaining situational awareness. DIAL claims that all airside personnel involved in low-visibility operations have undergone specialised training to handle the situation effectively.

Delhi airport says it has a plan to manage the ground situation better as well. Extra processing zones have been introduced to manage off-schedule international departures, and a “swing zone” to optimise resource allocation for international operations will be operationalised. This area is designed to handle busy hours with extra immigration coun-

ters and X-ray lanes to speed up the process for departing passengers. These zones can help the airport serve twice as many passengers. Additional terminal exits have been identified to expedite passenger evacuation in case of cancellations.

DIAL also says that it will provide extra counters for airlines to re-book passengers in case of flight disruptions, and a few extra security processing zones have been established to handle the rescreening of passengers disembarked due to delayed departures. Additional staff members have been deployed in terminals to assist passengers, apart from a dedicated task force of 180 non-operational staff trained to support terminal operations during low visibility. On paper, at least, DIAL seems to be in a better position than last year.

Airlines appear better prepared this year, too. Almost all airlines have some percentage of crew that are not yet trained in handling low-visibility conditions, but IndiGo and Air India’s performance will set the tone and determine outcomes.

With close to 86% of its pilots trained in low-visibility aircraft operations, IndiGo has implemented a comprehensive plan to tackle fog-related disruptions, including positioning crew close to airports to fill in quickly when required. The airline’s operations control centre will

actively monitor visibility conditions to ensure that trained crew is available, even when assigned crew overshoots duty timing limits. Diverted aircraft will also be sent to airports where maintenance engineers are available to ensure smooth operations.

Air India, too, said that it had initiated several measures to minimise inconvenience to fliers due to the fog season. The airline said it has an average daily departure of 1,200 flights, of which Delhi, its primary hub, accounts for around 250. A spokesperson said the airline has an “adequate pool of cockpit crew fully trained in low visibility operations” to ensure that morning delays do not cascade into network-wide delays. He added that the operating aircraft are being properly equipped for low-visibility operations too.

But sources in the airline maintained, as things stand, around 50% of Air India’s total commanders and crew are trained in low-visibility operations, which might be inadequate, considering that trained crew is required for international operations too. This led to embarrassing situations for the carrier last year, where its flights to other countries in low-visibility conditions had to be diverted to other air spaces since the commander in charge was not trained to land in such situations.

It’ll just add one point here for airlines to remember: Communication is key. Inform passengers about delays or cancellations in time, not once they have already reached the airport. This can save everyone a lot of grief and reduce the stress on the terminal facilities.

By all indications and based on what my sources tell me, passengers on IndiGo are likely to find themselves on firmer ground than Air India. Fliers must also remember that for all the war and troop readiness, real life, like any battle, always springs surprises. As the maxim goes, focus on the journey and not the destination.



Anjali Bhargava



The airlines, aircraft, and ground infrastructure need to come together in near-perfect harmony, almost like in a ballet performance



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

## गुवाहाटी-अहमदाबाद के बीच इंडिगो की दैनिक सेवा शुरू

### गुवाहाटी (भाषा)।

लोकप्रिय गोपीनाथ बोरदेलोई अंतरराष्ट्रीय (एलजीबीआई) हवाई अड्डे ने इस सप्ताह से गुवाहाटी और अहमदाबाद के बीच एक नई दैनिक सीधी उड़ान सेवा शुरू होने की घोषणा की है।

अडानी समूह द्वारा नियंत्रित सुविधा ने बयान में कहा, निजी विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने मंगलवार से गुवाहाटी-अहमदाबाद उड़ान सेवा का संचालन शुरू किया। बयान के अनुसार यह गुवाहाटी से सबसे लंबा उड़ान मार्ग है। इन दो विशिष्ट गंतव्यों को जोड़ने से व्यापारिक तथा निजी दोनों यात्राओं को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

12 DECEMBER 2024

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## 737 Max planes back on Boeing production line

**Seattle:** Boeing is resuming production of its bestselling plane, the 737 Max, for the first time since 33,000 workers began a seven-week strike that ended in early November.

The company said Tuesday that plane-building resumed at its plant in Renton, Washington, after going through a process of training workers and identifying and fixing potential problems.

Boeing shares rose 4.5 per cent, their best single-day percentage gain in four months.

Production and deliveries of Max jets and another airline plane, the 787 Dreamliner, have been stopped several times in recent years to fix manufacturing flaws.



**A Boeing 737 MAX aircraft being assembled at the company's plant in Renton, Washington. Reuters file photo**

"Our team has worked methodically to restart factory operations in the Pacific Northwest. We have now resumed 737 production in our Renton factory, with our Everett (Washington) programmes on plan to follow in the days

ahead," the company said. Boeing builds its 777 and 767 jets in Everett, north of Seattle.

Separately, the company said it took orders for 49 planes in November but lost an order by UK carrier TUI for 14 Max jets. It delivered 13 planes, down from 56 a year earlier.

Ever since a panel called a door plug blew off a Max operated by Alaska Airlines in January, the Federal Aviation Administration has capped Boeing's production of Max jets to 38 per month. Boeing hopes to convince regulators that it has corrected quality and safety issues and can raise that number to 56 planes per month.

AP

Airlines differ on allowing  
crews to refuse flights

## Pilots worry about West Asia routes

**London:** In late September, an experienced pilot at low-cost European airline Wizz Air felt anxious after learning his plane would fly over Iraq at night amid mounting tensions between nearby Iran and Israel.

He decided to query the decision since just a week earlier the airline had deemed the route unsafe. In response, Wizz Air's flight operations team told him the airway was now considered secure and he had to fly it, without giving further explanation, the pilot said.

"I wasn't really happy with it," the pilot, who requested anonymity from fear he could lose his job, told Reuters. Days later, Iraq closed its airspace when Iran fired missiles on October 1 at Israel. "It confirmed my suspicion that it wasn't safe."

In response to Reuters' queries, Wizz Air said safety of crew and passengers was its utmost priority and would not be compromised "in any circumstances", adding its decisions on where to fly are based on stringent risk assessments in collaboration with third party intelligence specialists.

"Our aircraft and crews will only fly in airspace that has been deemed safe and we would never take any risks in this respect," Wizz Air also said in a statement.

Reuters spoke to four pilots, three cabin crew members, three flight security experts and two airline executives about growing safety



**A picture taken with a drone shows a damaged helicopter that belonged to forces loyal to Bashar al-Assad at Hama's military airport in Syria. (Reuters)**

concerns in the European air industry due to escalating tensions in West Asia following Hamas' attack on Israel in October 2023, that prompted the war in Gaza.

West Asia is a key air corridor for planes heading to India, Southeast Asia and Australia and last year was criss-crossed daily by 1,400 flights to and from Europe, Eurocontrol data show.

The safety debate about flying over the region is playing out in Europe largely because pilots there are protected by unions, unlike other parts of the world.

Reuters reviewed nine unpublished letters from four European unions representing pilots and crews that expressed worries about air safety over West Asian countries. The letters were sent to Wizz Air, Ryanair, airBaltic, the European Commission and the EU Aviation Safety Agency between June and August.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

12 DECEMBER 2024

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## Dozen flights cancelled due to bad weather, glitches

[Venkadesan.S@timesofindia.com](mailto:Venkadesan.S@timesofindia.com)

**Chennai:** At least a dozen flights — five inbound and seven outbound flights — were cancelled at Chennai Airport on Wednesday due to “operational reasons and technical glitches.”

A eleventh hour detection of a fuel leak in an Air India flight bound for Singapore resulted in the flight getting delayed for nearly seven hours. The technical snag was detected during precautionary checks. An Air India spokesperson said a valve had to be replaced. The flight departed at 6.15pm, when its original departure time was 11.55am. The flight carried 145 people, including crew members.

Besides, one flight from Delhi to Chennai was diverted to Bengaluru due to bad weather in the city.

Flights to Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Shivamogga, Madurai, Bagdogra and Kolkata were cancelled. An IndiGo flight to Jaffna, Sri Lanka, was cancelled due to bad weather in Sri Lanka. The flight, which was to return to Chennai from Sri Lanka, was also cancelled.

An IndiGo flight from Delhi, which was scheduled to land in Chennai around 10am, was diverted to Bengaluru. The flight finally reached Chennai around 12.47pm.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

13 DECEMBER 2024

## Ahead of peak season, some IndiGo flights shifted to T1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) is shifting some flights from its choked Terminal 2 (T2) to T1, ahead of the peak winter travel season that kickstarts this weekend. Since resuming operations partially, T1 had been seeing 43 domestic flights daily — 32 of IndiGo and 11 SpiceJet. An additional 11 flights of IndiGo have been shifted from T2 to T1, sources said. Comments were sought from DIAL and IndiGo on how many flights have been shifted and awaited till going to press.

In a Tweet, IndiGo said: "... a few of our flights have been moved from Terminal 2 to Terminal 1, Delhi. We have sent notifications regarding this change to the customers' registered contact details. Latest terminal details can also be checked on our website."

T1 was closed following the June incident. A small unaffected part of T1 was allowed to be used from mid-Aug and the terminal is operating at a fraction of its capacity. Govt had recently asked DIAL to begin repair of T1. The airport operator has got a repair-strengthening plan prepared from Larsen & Toubro that has been run past IIT Delhi.

For airlines and passengers, this is the second winter of discontent at the country's busiest airport. Last winter, there was an issue with fog landings as only one runway had a CAT-III instrument landing system. This time, there is a terminal-side capacity crunch since the collapse in June.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

12 DECEMBER 2024

## Air traffic in India a concern as nation has 1,500 aircraft on order: IATA head

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

**Geneva:** Air traffic management in India, which has about 1,500 aircraft on order, is an area of concern in view of growth expected in coming years, IATA director general Willie Walsh said on Tuesday. While passengers are aware of congestion over airports with aircraft put in holding patterns, Walsh highlighted the congestion en route over the Indian airspace.

"We're looking at considerable growth, which needs to be facilitated by airports and air traffic control (ATC). It requires focus by govt and regulator," Walsh said on the sidelines of International Air Transport Association (IATA) Global Media Day.

The en route congestion in the coming decade is of particular concern, both for domestic and international flights operating in the Indian

### Walsh plays down possible economic impact of single ownership of airports

Speaking about possibility of high airport charges in the future because of monopoly, with airports like CSMIA and upcoming Navi Mumbai airport being owned by the same firm, Walsh said single ownership is not a concern. "This is where you need regulation, and a regulator capable of replicating a competitive environment where there isn't competition. I see positive developments in terms of economic regulations in airports in India. It's more about how those airports are regulated from economic point of view," he said. TNN

airspace, he said.

He also spoke about manpower requirements in the context of huge aircraft orders and said pilot shortage isn't a concern. "Those looking at becoming a pilot should look at India," Walsh said. He said increased demand for pilots due to huge aircraft order will have Indian pilots working in foreign airlines return to their country. Airlines in African continent might have to work at retaining their pilots to prevent them joining airlines in India and the

Middle East, he said.

On duopoly of IndiGo and Air India group of airlines that together hold about 90% market share, Walsh said with new airports coming up, there is plenty of scope for other carriers to grow. India should be "celebrating the success" of its carriers, he said, adding that consumers in India are benefitting significantly from expansion of airlines like IndiGo. "It's going to be a very exciting market." *(The journalist was in Geneva on invitation from IATA)*

