



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

Amid Expansion Plans, Focus on Worship Site Near Kol Airport Runway

AAI clears in-principle
shift as safety, security
concerns mount

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: A 170-year-old mosque is at the centre of attention as the new government in West Bengal pushes for upgradation of Kolkata airport.

The mosque, which is situated metres from the secondary runway has been identified as a safety hazard and an impediment for expansion of the runway by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), according to documents seen by ET.

People aware of the development said AAI has given in-principle approval to shift the structure after a review found it is creating hindrance for

flight operations. "A review by the general manager (operations) found that the structure is a serious concern for safety and security of flights and is also impeding the extension of the runway. The said structure is being used by jackals and birds as shelter leading to frequent interruptions and compromising the safety of flights," according to the minutes of a meeting reviewed by ET.

The commandant of Central Industrial Security Force at the airport said unrestricted access given for prayers is also a major security concern.

On Saturday, state authorities suspended prayers. Officials at the airport, however, said this was done due to ongoing construction work inside the airport. People aware of the developments said AAI will soon engage with civil engineering companies to shift the structure while ensuring there is no damage to it.

Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

13 JULY 2026

Udhampur airport terminal financial bid scheduled around July 22: Dr Jitendra

GK NewsService
Jammu, Jul 12

Union Minister of State in PMO Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday revealed that the financial bid opening vis-a-vis tender for construction of Udhampur airport terminal was scheduled around July 22, 2026 and the work could be awarded in the second week of August.

Completion of airport terminal building will pave the way for the much-awaited operationalisation of ATR (aircraft) flights from the garrison town.

ATR aircrafts are designed to take off and land on smaller runways, aimed at connecting smaller, regional cities.

Dr Jitendra represents Udhampur-Kathua-Doda parliamentary constituency.

Sharing an update about Udhampur airport on his social media handles, the Union Minister asserted that he was constantly following up on the issue.

"For the tender for construction of the airport terminal building, the technical bid was opened on July 10, 2026. Seven agencies participated. Financial bid opening is scheduled around July 22, 2026. The work could be awarded in the 2nd week of August. We are constantly following up on the issue," Dr Jitendra posted.

Update was a sequel to earlier information he had

shared on July 5 about the progress of the ambitious project, floating of its tender and related aspects.

Prior to that he had given a detailed account of the project last month during a review meeting in Udhampur also.

The process of land transfer, according to him, had also commenced with the concurrence of the UT government.

According to the Union Minister, Udhampur airport proposal is to be implemented in two phases.

In the first phase, civil flight operations will be initiated within the existing premises of the Air Force Station (AFS) while in the second phase, a permanent civil enclave will be set up outside it (AFS premises).

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) had completed a site feasibility assessment and initiated formal processes for the development of a new Aviation Enclave.

Under phase 1 of the project involving initiating civil flight operations within the existing premises of the Air Force Station, the IAF allocated 2,200 square metres for developing a terminal building, which will have the capacity to handle up to 150 passengers and accommodate ATR-72 or Q400 type aircraft. This arrangement is intended as an interim measure to begin operations at the earliest.



approximately 27.6 acres has been identified by the district administration for this purpose.

The proposed enclave will cater to larger aircraft such as the Airbus A321 and will include a new terminal, apron, taxiway and related civil aviation infrastructure.

Once realised, the Udhampur civil enclave is expected to improve connectivity for both residents and tourists in this part of Jammu and Kashmir, while also easing pressure on the Jammu airport. Besides, Udhampur airport will also have strategic importance from a security point of view.

The proposal, which aims to connect Udhampur to the national civil aviation network, was initially triggered by a reference from Dr Jitendra Singh to the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Acting on this, a technical team comprising officials from various directorates of AAI had visited the Air Force Station at Udhampur on March 28 and 29, 2025. The visit included a joint review with the Indian Air Force,

Phase 2 of the plan proposes the establishment of a permanent civil enclave outside the boundaries of the Air Force Station. A

land parcel of approximately 27.6 acres has been identified by the district administration for this purpose. evaluation of existing infrastructure, and consultations with the district administration and defence authorities. "Udhampur (civil) airport will soon become operational. Immediately after the completion of the tendering process, which is presently underway. First terminal will be constructed on the land being provided by the Indian Air Force (IAF), thus allowing us to operate our ATR flights. Meanwhile, we have already spoken to the J&K government – the Chief Minister for additional land," the Union Minister informed after last month's review meeting.

"Once we get that additional chunk of land on the other side of the road, there we will construct a permanent terminal. Then we can construct an airport analogous to Jammu (airport), allowing it to handle higher traffic volumes and larger (flight) operations. But it will take some time. As of now, for immediate use, IAF is providing us defence land for the time being, for the construction of the terminal. The tender for fabrication work had already been floated to start ATR flights from the existing premises in the next few months. The construction of the terminal will enable the landing of small aircrafts here," Dr Jitendra had explained.

Last year, during a meeting aimed at reviewing the

status of the aviation projects for J&K, with the Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Samir Kumar Sinha and the Chairman of Airports Authority of India, Vipin Kumar, the Union Minister had emphasised that the Udhampur airport could initially begin operations with ATR 72-seater aircraft under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN), which would cap ticket fares at nearly half the prevailing market rates.

In other words, the air fare for a Delhi-Udhampur flight would be considerably and substantially lesser than a Delhi-Jammu flight, thus offering a huge incentive to even Jammu bound passengers to take the Delhi-Udhampur air route, the officials explained.

Officials had explained that under the 'Udan' scheme, a substantial part of the airfare would be subsidised through viability gap funding. This would not only make flights more affordable but also bring Delhi-Udhampur fares substantially lower than the Delhi-Jammu route.

During that meeting it was revealed that the Airports Authority of India had agreed to take up the required development, including navigational and basic facilities, without requiring additional land for initial operations, as the apron space would be made available by defence authorities.

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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

13 JULY 2026

PRAYERS LIKELY TO RESUME ON MONDAY

Airport authorities block access to Bankra Mosque for road repairs

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Access to the 130-year-old Bankra Mosque inside Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport remained suspended on Saturday and Sunday, with airport authorities indicating that devotees are likely to be allowed to resume offering namaz from Monday after repair of rain-damaged approach roads.

The temporary restriction, however, sparked protests from the mosque committee, which alleged that worshippers were denied entry without prior notice despite possessing valid airport entry passes.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) said heavy rain had damaged the approach road leading to the mosque, prompting a temporary suspension of access. Airport officials said the decision followed a meeting involving the AAI, CISE, police and mosque representatives and would be reviewed after repair work was completed.

The mosque, located within the airport boundary near Jessore Road, has been under discussion for relocation as part of the airport's expansion project. While prayers were held on



Bankra Mosque inside Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport

Airport authorities expect devotees to resume offering namaz from Monday after repairs to the damaged approach road

Friday, devotees arriving for prayers on Saturday found Entry Gate No. 8 closed. Mohammad Zamiruddin, general secretary of the mosque committee, alleged that no advance notice had been issued before access was stopped.

He said the committee had already informed the authorities that the mosque could not be handed over without discussions. Mosque committee president, former West Bengal minister and Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind

state president Maulana Siddiquil-lah Chowdhury said the mosque had remained within the airport boundary since 1962, when residents west of Jessore Road were relocated during airport development. He said the issue should be resolved through dialogue involving the airport authorities, Darul Uloom Deoband, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board and Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind. Appealing for restraint, Chowdhury urged people not to take to the streets and said his organisation had "no fight with the BJP", but wanted the airport authorities to reopen the mosque and resolve the issue through discussions. He alleged that the CISE had forcibly shut the mosque gates.

Sources said that discussions are afoot surrounding the relocation of the mosque, which includes checking if the mosque is a heritage property.

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

**Tamaghna Banerjee &
Subhro Niyogi | TNN**

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

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

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

On Sunday, CISF personnel reportedly told worshippers they had not received any further instructions from the Air-



The Gouripur Jame Masjid is located within the operational area of the airport

ports Authority of India (AAI) regarding reopening the gate.

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

The possibility of relocating the mosque has been under discussion since BJP came to power at the Centre.

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



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

13 JULY 2026

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day if the repair was completed on schedule.

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HYDERABAD

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

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

13 JULY 2026

Ride to airport longer than flight to Kolkata, says B'luru techie

BENGALURU, DHNS: Getting to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) takes more time than flying to Kolkata, a city techie said in a viral video, sparking debate among netizens on the perennial traffic woes.

In an Instagram video, Manish Kumar Singh, a resident of HSR Layout, recorded his journey to the airport, claiming that the commute took between 2.5 to 3 hours, while his flight from KIA to Kolkata was scheduled to take just 2 hours and 20 minutes.

"It took me longer to reach Bengaluru airport than it would take to fly to Kolkata," Singh said in the video, questioning whether a city should be planned in a manner that makes access to its airport so time-consuming.

He said residents lose valuable and productive time on the commute, a result of poor

urban planning. Mobility is not an afterthought, he said, arguing that airports should be developed along with efficient transport connectivity.

Drawing comparisons with international cities such as New York and Chicago, Singh said passengers in those metropolitan areas generally do not spend several hours travelling to airports despite their large urban sprawl.

The viral video drew attention of several city residents, who mentioned the troubles of navigating traffic bottlenecks along the Outer Ring Road (ORR), Hebbal flyover and Ballari Road while travelling to the airport.

Netizens agreed with the growing mobility challenges mentioned in the post. Many stressed the need for better urban planning and faster execution of public transport projects.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

13 JULY 2026

2 decades on, uncertainty dogs project for Chennai's second airport

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In 2006, when the then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi announced a greenfield airport for Chennai near the industrial town of Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu was already late to the game. Cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad were building swanky airports to cater to the burgeoning needs of travellers.

Two decades later, the project

still remains on paper. The 2006 plan was dropped due to protests, and the state took over a decade to shortlist sites before finally selecting one in 2022.

There is still no clarity on whether the airport project will be realised or scrapped.

Meanwhile, passengers continue to suffer. The Chennai International and Domestic airports in Meenambakkam have undergone multiple expansions with new terminal buildings, but

the facility has lagged behind Bengaluru and Hyderabad in terms of passenger amenities and traffic.

Chennai Airport has slipped to sixth place in India in overall passenger traffic.

It has also lost direct flights to several destinations as the current facility cannot handle large wide-body aircraft like the Airbus A380.

Industry bodies like the CII have been pushing for a second airport

for Chennai, especially with the new TVK government aiming to make Tamil Nadu a \$1.5-trillion economy by 2036. They want the government to take a call on Parandur soon.

"Any infrastructure project that is kept in abeyance or limbo is always dangerous to both beneficiaries and the affected... The continuous delay will let Tamil Nadu lose its tag of attractive destination," AIMO chairman K E Raghunathan told *DH*.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से इंडिगो ने भी बंद की चंडीगढ़ व नवी मुंबई की फ्लाइटें

जागरण संवाददाता, जेवर

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से कमर्शियल फ्लाइटों के संचालन को एक माह का समय भी पूरा नहीं हुआ है, उससे पहले ही अकासा एयर के बाद इंडिगो ने भी दो शहरों के लिए अपनी फ्लाइटों का संचालन बंद कर दिया है। कई शहरों के लिए प्रतिदिन उड़ने वाली विमान सेवाओं को एक दिन छोड़कर एक दिन के लिए सीमित कर दिया है। एक जुलाई से इंडिगो एयरलाइंस ने चंडीगढ़ व नवी मुंबई के लिए दो फ्लाइटों का संचालन किया था, पर अब दोनों फ्लाइटों को बंद कर दिया गया है। वहीं अन्य शहरों के लिए भी जाने वाली उड़ानों को कम कर दिया गया है।

उड़ानों के कम होने के पीछे सूत्रों का दावा है कि शानदार कर्नेक्टिविटी न होने से यात्रियों का अभी भी दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से मोह भंग नहीं हो रहा। इंडिगो एयरलाइंस ने नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 15 जून को कमर्शियल फ्लाइटों के संचालन के बाद हैदराबाद, अमृतसर, बेंगलुरु व जम्मू के लिए 30



नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की यात्री टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग। जागरण

जून तक चार फ्लाइटों का संचालन शुरू किया था। एयरलाइंस ने एक जुलाई देश के नवी मुंबई, जोधपुर, धर्मशाला, भोपाल, बरेली, अजमेर, जयपुर, पंतनगर सहित 14 शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट शेड्यूल जारी करते हुए 32 नई फ्लाइटों का संचालन शुरू किया था।

वहीं, देहरादून और जोधपुर की फ्लाइटों को एक दिन छोड़कर एक दिन के लिए शेड्यूल किया गया है। इससे पहले अकासा एयर नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से अपनी नवी मुंबई एयरपोर्ट व बेंगलुरु की फ्लाइटों को संचालन स्थगित कर चुकी है। दोनों एयरलाइंस द्वारा स्थगित फ्लाइटों का शेड्यूल भी आधिकारिक वेबसाइट से हटा दिया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

Consumer app of Adani Airports has 5 mn members



ADANI ONE – THE consumer app of Adani Airport Holdings – has reached five million members within 10 months of launching Adani Rewards, among India's first integrated airport loyalty programmes for shopping, dining and airport services.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

TMC, BJP row over airport mosque

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: The Kolkata airport authority's decision to bar outsiders from entering the 136-year-old Gouripur Jama Masjid near the construction site of the expanded secondary runway turned into a war of words between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition with West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari backing the decision while Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Saugata Roy opposed it.

Until Friday, 20-30 people were allowed to enter the mosque, also known as Bankra mosque, with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel screening and escorting them through Gate No. 8 on Jessore Road in a bus.

This has been the standard procedure since decades. On Fri-

**THE AIRPORT'S
SECURITY IS OUR
TOP PRIORITY
BECAUSE OF THE
STATE'S PROXIMITY
TO CHINA AND
BANGLADESH, CM
ADHIKARI SAID**

day, authorities stated that the suspension of entry was only for three days. However, no outsider was allowed entry on Monday.

The TMC MP said, "I oppose this sudden decision to stop people from visiting the mosque. Talks on how to relocate it were held earlier as well. I think it should be done after talking to the Muslim community."

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind's Bengal unit chief Siddiqullah Chowdhury, who is a former state minister accused the state gov-

ernment of harassing people.

"This is unfair. All people are aware that an airport is a high security zone. There was never an incident of security breach and yet Gate No 8 has been closed. We will request the airport authorities to reopen the gate and seek a clarification from the Centre on the security issues being raised," he said.

Chowdhury first expressed his views on this issue on Sunday and CM Suvendu Adhikari reacted to it within hours on the sidelines of a BJP organisational meeting in East Midnapore district. "The Kolkata airport's security is our top priority because of the state's proximity to China and Bangladesh. Civilians cannot be allowed to enter the airport which the defence also uses," Adhikari said on Sunday, indirectly referring to the movement of military aircraft through the airport on certain occasions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से धार्मिक शहरों के लिए जल्द शुरू होगी उड़ानें

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■ **ग्रेटर नोएडा :** नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को धार्मिक स्थलों से भी जोड़ा जाएगा। कुशीनगर, गया के अलावा अयोध्या और वाराणसी के लिए भी फ्लाइट शुरू करने की तैयारी है। यूपी सरकार भी इन शहरों के लिए जल्द से जल्द हवाई सेवा शुरू करवाने के लिए प्रयासरत है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का संचालन 15 जून से शुरू हुआ था। फिलहाल यहां से 15 से



अधिक शहरों के लिए सीधी फ्लाइट मिल रही है। धीरे-धीरे उड़ान सेवा का दायरा बढ़ता जा रहा है। पिछले दिनों मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने कहा था कि कुशीनगर और गया के लिए नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से हवाई सेवा का विस्तार किया जाएगा। नए विमान आने के बाद ये सेवाएं शुरू होंगी। इसके अलावा अयोध्या और वाराणसी के लिए भी फ्लाइट शुरू की जाएंगी। धार्मिक शहरों के लिए हवाई सेवा शुरू होने से लोगों की आवाजाही आसान हो सकेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

Row erupts as Govt plans to shift mosque inside NSI airport

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

■ Kolkata

There was political controversy after the Government suspended indefinitely the offering of *namaz* at Bakra Mosque (Gouripur Jame Masjid), which is situated inside the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport at Dum Dum in Kolkata.

Rejecting the Government's claim that a running mosque inside an international airport and barely a few hundred

metres from the runway with regular public access was a security concern, senior Trinamool Congress MP Sougato Roy on Monday said that he was always for doing things on the basis of consensus and not arbitrarily. "The fact is that they want to extend the runway... there is no question of security or safety ... If at all a change has to take place, then let it be on the basis of consensus and not by force as this BJP Government is doing it," Roy



said, while there was no statement from the Left.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari had earlier said that it was indeed a

security concern and the mosque should be shifted from the area "because nowhere you will find a public place inside an airport and so near the run way... this is a security sensitive issue... remember we are near international border ... China and Bangladesh are nearby... an international airport which receives top VVIPs and dignitaries everyday besides handling scores of flights cannot be kept open like this for common entry... it has to be

shifted from there because national security is supreme... National security and the security of the airport will gain priority over everything else... I cannot say more as a Chief Minister."

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar too said that he had heard since his childhood that the runway of the airport could not be extended because the mosque came in the way. All this was because of appeasement politics.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

13 JULY 2026

FLUCTUATION IN AIRFARES

SC to hear plea seeking guidelines today

NEW DELHI, July 12: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on July 13 a plea seeking regulatory guidelines to control the “unpredictable fluctuations” in airfares and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India.

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

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

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

Laxminarayanan, represented by senior advocate



Ravindra Srivastava, had contended that rules already existed under the Aircraft Act of 1937 but the problem was that they were not followed.

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

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

While hearing the matter on January 19, the top court said it would interfere with the “unpredictable fluctuations” in airfares and flagged the exorbitant rise during festivals.

The top court had termed the exorbitant rise of airfares by the airlines as “exploitation” and asked the Centre and the Directorate General

of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to file their replies on the plea.

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

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

The plea claimed that currently, no authority has the power to review or cap airfares or ancillary fees, allowing the airlines to exploit

consumers through hidden charges and unpredictable pricing.

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

It said the absence of regulatory safeguards results in arbitrary fare hikes, especially during festivals or weather disruptions, which disproportionately harm poor and last-minute travellers.

The plea said inaction by the State in regulating fare algorithms, cancellation policies, service continuity and grievance mechanisms constitutes a dereliction of its constitutional duty and calls for urgent judicial intervention.

It said there is no rule to stop the airlines from increasing prices based on demand and allowing them such freedom under essential services is unjustifiable. – PTI

हवाई किरायों में मनमानी पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट सख्त, केंद्र से दो हफ्ते में मांगी नियमावली

शीर्ष कोर्ट ने स्वतंत्र नियामक की मांग वाली याचिका पर दिया आदेश

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। त्योहारों और आपातकालीन स्थितियों में आसमान छूते हवाई किरायों और निजी एयरलाइंस की मनमानी पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कड़ा रुख अपनाया है। शीर्ष अदालत ने सोमवार को केंद्र सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि वह भारतीय वायुयान अधिनियम, 2024 के तहत बनाए गए नए नियमों को दो हफ्ते के भीतर अदालत के सामने पेश करे।

जस्टिस विक्रम नाथ और जस्टिस संदीप मेहता की पीठ ने साफ किया कि सरकार इन नियमों को एक सीलबंद लिफाफे में अदालत के समक्ष रखे, चाहे उन्हें अभी संसद के दोनों सदनों में पेश किया गया हो या नहीं। अदालत इस

मामले पर अगली सुनवाई 3 अगस्त को करेगी। पीठ ने यह निर्देश सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एस लक्ष्मीनारायणन की ओर से दायर एक जनहित याचिका पर दिया। याचिका में देश के नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र में पारदर्शिता लाने, यात्रियों के अधिकारों की रक्षा करने और निजी एयरलाइनों की तरफ से हवाई किरायों में होने वाले अत्यधिक उछाल-चढ़ाव को नियंत्रित करने के लिए एक मजबूत और स्वतंत्र नियामक बनाने की मांग की गई है।

केंद्र सरकार के वकील ने पीठ को बताया कि नए नियमों का मसौदा पूरी तरह तैयार है और फिलहाल इनका अनुवाद किया जा रहा है, जिसके बाद उन्हें संसद के सामने रखा जाना है। इस पर अदालत ने दो हफ्ते का समय देते हुए नियमों की कॉपी सीधे कोर्ट में जमा करने को कहा। वहीं, याचिकाकर्ता की ओर से पेश वरिष्ठ वकील रवींद्र श्रीवास्तव ने दलील दी कि जब तक नए नियम लागू नहीं होते, तब तक पुराने नियम ही चल रहे हैं। 15 मई की सुनवाई के दौरान शीर्ष अदालत ने कहा था कि हवाई किराए तर्कसंगत होने चाहिए और केंद्र से हवाई यात्रियों को राहत देने के लिए कहा था। तब केंद्र की ओर से पेश सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने पीठ को बताया था कि 2024 का नया कानून जनवरी 2025 में लागू हो गया था और इसके नियम तैयार किए जा रहे हैं।

मामला 1



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

स्पाइसजेट व अजय सिंह भुगतान पर सहमत

कर्ज में डूबी विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट और उसके प्रबंध निदेशक अजय सिंह ने सोमवार को दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय को आश्वासन दिया कि वे मध्यस्थता के फैसले पर अमल करते हुए केएएल एयरवेज और उसके प्रवर्तक कलानिधि मरान को 140 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान करेंगे। यह हलफनामा स्वीकार करते हुए न्यायमूर्ति सुब्रमण्यम प्रसाद ने विमानन कंपनी के भुगतान प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार कर लिया। इसके तहत 45 दिनों के भीतर 50 करोड़ रुपये न्यायालय रजिस्ट्री के पास जमा किए जाएंगे और शेष 90 करोड़ रुपये अगले 90 दिन के भीतर जमा कर दिए जाएंगे। बीएस



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

A-I gets DGCA nod for electronic tech logbooks use for B787, 777 planes

Aviation regulator DGCA has approved the use of electronic technical logbooks for Air India's Boeing 787 and 777 planes, a step that will replace most of the paper-based maintenance records with a digital system. The Electronic Technical Logbook (ETL) will provide real-time information sharing between maintenance engineers, and operational teams, improving coordination, accelerating defect reporting and rectification, and enhancing aircraft dispatch reliability. In a release on Monday, Air India said ETL will replace traditional paper-based maintenance records with a secure digital platform, enabling faster and efficient management of aircraft maintenance and engineering activities. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

SpiceJet, Ajay Singh to deposit ₹140 cr in Maran award dispute

Debt-laden airline SpiceJet and its Managing Director Ajay Singh on Monday assured the Delhi High Court (HC) that they would pay ₹140 crore to KAL Airways and its promoter Kalanithi Maran in execution proceedings arising from an arbitral award.

Recording the undertaking, Justice Subramonium Prasad accepted the airline's payment proposal, under which ₹50 crore will be deposited with the court registry within 45 days and the remaining ₹90 crore within the following 90 days.

The court directed SpiceJet and Singh to adhere to the schedule and ordered that the first tranche of ₹50 crore be deposited within the stipulated period to demonstrate their bona fides. The matter has been listed for

September 21 to review compliance with the payment timeline.

The HC also deferred hearing SpiceJet's petition under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, challenging the arbitral award. It indicated that the challenge would be considered only after the airline complies with the deposit directions.

The request for additional time to make the payment came after the Supreme Court, on May 19, declined to interfere with an earlier Delhi HC order directing SpiceJet and Singh to deposit the arbitral award amount.

The dispute arises from an arbitral award in favour of KAL Airways and Maran. During the proceedings, Delhi HC had earlier directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit ₹144 crore. BHAVINI MISHRA



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

इंडिगो, अकॉर के ग्राहक दोनों जगह भुना सकेंगे अपने लॉयल्टी प्वाइंट्स

नई दिल्ली। देश की प्रमुख विमान सेवा कंपनी इंडिगो और वैश्विक आतिथ्य कंपनी अकॉर के ग्राहक अपने लॉयल्टी प्वाइंट दोनों जगह बुकिंग के लिए भुना सकेंगे। दोनों कंपनियों के लॉयल्टी प्रोग्राम ने इसके लिए सोमवार को एक समझौता किया। इंडिगो ब्लूचिप और बुकिंग प्लेटफॉर्म ऑल अकॉर के बीच हुए इस समझौते के तहत दोनों लॉयल्टी प्रोग्राम के सदस्य अपने लॉयल्टी पॉइंट्स का पारस्परिक आदान-प्रदान कर सकेंगे। अब सदस्य होटल में ठहरने या हवाई यात्रा सेवाओं के लिए दोनों साझेदारों के ऑफरों के तहत रिवॉर्ड पॉइंट्स कमा या भुना सकेंगे। देश में पहली बार इस तरह का कोई समझौता किया गया है।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से इंडिगो व आकासा ने बंद कीं नवी मुंबई की उड़ान

जासं, जेएर: नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से कमर्शियल फ्लाइटों के संचालन को एक माह का समय भी पूरा नहीं हुआ है, उससे पहले ही इंडिगो ने दो शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट का संचालन बंद कर दिया है। कई शहरों के लिए प्रतिदिन उड़ने वाली विमान सेवाओं को एक दिन छोड़कर एक दिन के लिए सीमित कर दिया है। एक जुलाई से इंडिगो एयरलाइंस ने चंडीगढ़ व नवी मुंबई के लिए दो फ्लाइट का संचालन किया था, पर अब दोनों फ्लाइट को बंद कर दिया है। इससे पूर्व रविवार को आकासा एयर ने भी नवी मुंबई की उड़ान को बंद कर दिया था।

उड़ानों के कम होने के पीछे सूत्रों का दावा है कि शानदार कनेक्टिविटी न होने से यात्रियों का अभी भी दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से मोह भंग नहीं हो रहा। इससे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर जिन शहरों के लिए पर्याप्त यात्री नहीं पहुंच पा रहे, उन शहरों की उड़ानों को बंद किया जा रहा है। इंडिगो एयरलाइंस ने नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 15 जून को कमर्शियल फ्लाइटों के संचालन के बाद हैदराबाद, अमृतसर, बंगलुरु व जम्मू के लिए 30 जून तक चार फ्लाइटों का संचालन शुरू किया था। एयरलाइंस ने एक जुलाई देश के नवी मुंबई, जोधपुर, धर्मशाला, भोपाल, बरेली सहित 14 शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट शेड्यूल जारी करते हुए 32 नई फ्लाइटों का संचालन शुरू किया था।

हवाई किराये पर दो हफ्ते में नियम पेश करे केंद्र सरकार

पीठ ने कहा, नियम सीलबंद लिफाफे में प्रस्तुत किए जाएं

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस: हवाई किराये में मनमानी पर अंकुश लगाने और दिशा-निर्देश की मांग वाली याचिका पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को केंद्र सरकार से कहा कि वह भारतीय वायुयान अधिनियम, 2024 के तहत बनाए गए नियम दो सप्ताह के अंदर उसके समक्ष पेश करे। अधिनियम का उद्देश्य देश के विमानन क्षेत्र का आधुनिकीकरण करना है।

जस्टिस विक्रम नाथ और जस्टिस संदीप मेहता की पीठ ने कहा कि नियम सीलबंद लिफाफे में प्रस्तुत किए जाएं, भले ही उन्हें संसद के समक्ष रखा गया हो या नहीं। सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने यह आदेश सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एस लक्ष्मीनारायण की ओर से दाखिल याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान पारित किया। याचिका में नागर विमानन क्षेत्र में पारदर्शिता और यात्रियों के हितों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए मजबूत और स्वतंत्र नि्यामक की स्थापना करने की मांग की गई है। केंद्र की ओर से पेश हुए वकील ने पीठ को सूचित किया कि नियमों का मसौदा तैयार है, ठनका अनुवाद किया जा रहा है। नियमों को संसद के समक्ष पेश किया जाना है।

पीठ ने कहा, "हम प्रतिवादियों को बनाए गए नियमों को सीलबंद लिफाफे में इस अदालत के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करने के लिए दो सप्ताह का समय देते हैं। वे चाहे संसद के सदनों के समक्ष रखे गए हों या नहीं।" पीठ ने मामले की अगली सुनवाई के लिए तीन अगस्त की तारीख निर्धारित की। लक्ष्मीनारायण की ओर से पेश हुए वरिष्ठ वकील



- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भारतीय वायुयान अधिनियम, 2024 के तहत बनाए गए नियम पेश करने को कहा
- सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता लक्ष्मी नारायण ने याचिका में हवाई किराये में मनमानी का उदाहरण दे मुद्दा

एयरवेज से जुड़े विवाद में 50 करोड़ जमा करेगा स्पाइसजेट

नई दिल्ली: स्पाइसजेट और उसके प्रमोटर अजय सिंह ने सोमवार को दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट को भरोसा दिलाया कि कलानिधि मारन और कल एयरवेज के साथ कानूनी विवाद के सिलसिले में कोर्ट रजिस्ट्री में 45 दिनों के भीतर 50 करोड़ रुपये जमा करेंगे। न्यायमूर्ति सुब्रमण्यम प्रसाद की पीठ के समक्ष कहा कि बाकी 94.50 करोड़ रुपये भी अगले 90 दिनों में जमा कर दिए जाएंगे। पूर्व में पीठ ने स्पाइसजेट और अजय सिंह को करीब 144 करोड़ रुपये जमा

करने का निर्देश दिया था। गत चार मई को पीठ ने 144 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक जमा करने के 19 जनवरी के आदेश की समीक्षा की मांग वाली स्पाइसजेट और अजय सिंह की याचिकाओं को खारिज कर दिया था। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 19 मई को एयरलाइन से कहा कि वह जमा करने के लिए समय बढ़ाने के लिए हाई कोर्ट का रुख करे। स्पाइसजेट और उसके प्रमोटर ने कोर्ट को बताया कि उन्हें केंद्र सरकार से वित्तीय सहायता मिली है।

रवींद्र श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि जब तक नए नियम लागू नहीं होते तब तक पुराने नियम प्रभावी हैं। अत्यधिक हवाई किराये का मुद्दा उठाते हुए श्रीवास्तव ने कहा, "इसका समाधान यह है कि इस न्यायालय को एक ऐसा मजबूत और प्रभावी नि्यामक बनाने पर विचार करना चाहिए, जो स्वतंत्र हो।"

हवाई किराये को तर्कसंगत बनाने की कही है बात: 15 मई की याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कहा था कि हवाई किराये को तर्कसंगत बनाया

जाना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही केंद्र से यात्रियों को रहत देने को भी कहा था। उस समय केंद्र की ओर से पेश हुए सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने पीठ को बताया था कि 2024 का नया कानून जनवरी, 2025 से लागू हो गया था और संबंधित नियम तैयार किए जा रहे हैं। पिछले वर्ष 17 नवंबर को शीर्ष अदालत ने लक्ष्मीनारायण की इस याचिका पर केंद्र और अन्य से जवाब मांगा था।

Lessors Move to Repossess SpiceJet Aircraft as Unpaid Rentals Mount

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: Aircraft lessors initiated the process of repossessing planes from SpiceJet after the cash-strapped airline failed to pay lease rentals.

The finance leasing arm of Industrial & Commercial Bank of China has filed a request with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to take back four Boeing 737 Max aircraft leased to SpiceJet. ET has reviewed a copy of the notice.

Last year, Parliament passed a landmark aviation bill that will make it easier for global aircraft leasing companies to repossess jets and engines in the eventuality of an Indian carrier defaulting on payments.

Nearly 80% of SpiceJet's fleet is currently grounded amid the carrier's continued financial woes. As of Monday, the airline was operating just about 60 flights using barely a dozen aircraft.

SpiceJet's failure to pay lease rentals has not only grounded most of its planes but also affected their regular maintenance due to a lack of spare parts.

A spokesperson for SpiceJet said the planes have been grounded for



more than a year, asserting that their repossession by the lessor won't impact its scheduled flight operations. "The airline continues to remain in discussions with manufacturers and lessors for return to service of these planes," the spokesperson said.

A large portion of the airline's employees haven't got their salaries for more than two months, said a SpiceJet pilot. Most have also been sent on leave without pay.

Despite raising ₹3,000 crore in 2024, the carrier has run out of cash as a large portion of the fresh capital was used primarily for clearing statutory dues like goods and services tax (GST), tax deducted at source (TDS), and provident fund.

The financial challenges are also reflecting on daily operations with on-time performance being the poorest and cancellation rate the highest among all airlines in May.

Airline, Promoter to Deposit ₹50 cr in Maran Dispute

NEW DELHI SpiceJet and promoter Ajay Singh on Monday assured the Delhi High Court they would deposit ₹50 crore with the court registry within 45 days in their dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways.

Justice Subramonium Prasad, who had earlier directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit about ₹144 crore in the arbitral award dispute, was told the remaining ₹94.5 crore would be deposited within 90 days.

On May 4, the bench dismissed pleas by SpiceJet and Ajay Singh seeking a review of its January 19 order directing the deposit. The Supreme Court on May 19, however, asked the airline to approach the high court for more time to comply. —PTI

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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14 JULY 2026

Apex court wants rules in sealed cover, regardless of Parliament tabling status

SC seeks aviation rules amid scrutiny of airfare

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, July 13

THE SUPREME COURT (SC) on Monday directed the Centre to place before it, within two weeks, the rules framed under the Bharatiya Vayayan Adhiniyam, 2024, while hearing a petition seeking safeguards against arbitrary airfare hikes and additional charges levied by private airlines.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta asked the Centre to submit the rules in a sealed cover, irrespective of whether they have been tabled in Parliament. The matter will be heard next on August 3.

"Considering the submissions, we grant two weeks time to place before this court the rules which have been framed, irrespective of whether they have been placed before the Parliament or not, in sealed cover. List on 3rd August," the Court

FLIGHT PRICING ROW

- Case concerns arbitrary airfare hikes, additional airline charges
- Surge pricing during peak demand, hidden charges, cancellation & refund rules among key concerns

- Petition seeks independent aviation regulator for passenger protection

- Plea challenges 25 kg-to-15 kg baggage cut by many airlines



- Under the current framework, airfares remain market-driven, unregulated

ordered.

The direction came after the Centre informed the court that the rules had already been framed and were undergoing translation before being placed before Parliament.

The petition, filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, seeks the creation of an inde-

pendent aviation regulator to oversee the civil aviation sector and strengthen passenger protection. It also seeks binding rules on airfare pricing, regulation of baggage and ancillary charges, curbs on surge pricing, and standardised norms for cancellations, refunds and grievance redressal.

Senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that until the new rules are notified, the existing regulatory framework continues to govern the sector.

The petition contends that the absence of a statutory authority empowered to regulate airfares and ancillary

charges has enabled airlines to adopt opaque pricing practices, particularly during festivals, holidays and periods of peak demand. It also raises concerns over dynamic pricing, hidden charges, cancellation policies and inadequate passenger grievance redressal.

According to the petitioner, airlines have converted what was once an included service into an additional revenue stream without offering any corresponding benefit to passengers travelling without checked baggage.

It further challenges the reduction in the free check-in baggage allowance for economy-class passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg by several private airlines. According to the petitioner, airlines have converted what was earlier an included service into an additional source of revenue without offering any corresponding benefit to pas-

sengers travelling without checked baggage.

The rules sought by the court have been framed under the Bharatiya Vayayan Adhiniyam, 2024, which came into force in January 2025. The legislation replaced the Aircraft Act, 1934, with the objective of modernising India's civil aviation framework and providing a comprehensive legal architecture for aircraft manufacturing, operations, maintenance and safety. However, the detailed subordinate legislation required to operationalise several provisions of the Act is yet to be notified.

The issue has been under the apex court's consideration since last year. During an earlier hearing in January, the court expressed concern over sharp spikes in airfares during festivals and major events, describing such pricing as exploitative.

Continued on Page 10

Top court seeks aviation rules amid scrutiny of airfare pricing



THE CONCERNS OF price hikes gained prominence during the Maha Kumbh, when both bookings and airfares to Prayagraj witnessed steep increases as demand surged.

According to an analysis by travel portal ixigo, one-way airfare on the Bhopal-Prayagraj route jumped 498% to ₹17,796 from ₹2,977 a year earlier.

Airfares on the Delhi-Prayagraj route also rose by up to 21% during the period.

Similar spikes are witnessed during almost every festive season, with airfares typically increasing by 20-100% as demand peaks.

Under the existing regulatory framework, airfares in normal circumstances are market-driven and are neither fixed nor regulated by the government.

Following the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, tariff fixation was deregulated, allowing airlines to determine fares under Rule 135(1) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, after taking into account factors such as operating costs, characteristics of service, reasonable profit and prevailing market tariffs.

As a result, ticket prices generally fluctuate based on market forces and demand-supply dynamics, with airlines free to adopt dynamic pricing models.

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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14 JULY 2026

Amid Iran crisis, airlines turn to Europe, East Asia

● Seat capacity to Europe soars by 83,700, to China by 27,857 in June

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, July 13

EVEN AS AIRLINES cut more than 284,000 scheduled outbound seats from India to key West Asian markets in June 2026, they expanded services to Europe and East Asia, deploying an additional 172,000 seats across 27 markets.

The capacity reductions came amid disruptions to aviation operations in West Asia following the US-Iran war and the temporary closure of airspace across parts of the region, prompting airlines to rework their international schedules. As a result, the country's total scheduled outbound international seat capacity declined 8.9% year-on-year to 3.58 million in June 2026 from 3.93 million a year earlier.

The Gulf continues to account for the largest share of India's international traffic but airlines are spreading capacity across more destinations rather than relying on traditional transit markets in West Asia. The UAE accounted for the steepest reduction, with scheduled outbound seats falling by nearly 169,000, fol-



Source: OAG. Data for June 2026.

lowed by significant declines in Oman, Kuwait and Turkey.

Europe was among the biggest beneficiaries of the capacity expansion as airlines added more than 83,700 seats across 11 European countries. While the expansion was driven by both Indian and foreign carriers, Air India added capacity to Italy, IndiGo expanded its presence in the Netherlands and launched direct scheduled services to Greece.

Aviation analysts said the expansion reflects airlines' efforts to deploy capacity on markets where demand remains relatively resilient. The resumption of direct flights to China, Air India's long-haul network expansion

and IndiGo's rapid international growth have together opened up opportunities in Europe and East Asia, while airlines continue to adjust schedules in West Asia amid operational disruptions.

Asia emerged as the second major growth region, with airlines adding more than 88,400 scheduled seats across 16 country markets. China recorded the largest increase after the resumption of direct passenger services between the two countries following nearly six years of suspension. Capacity to China rose by 27,857 seats in June, with IndiGo, Air China and China Eastern operating flights on the route.



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NOD TO DIGITAL LOGBOOKS FOR BOEING PLANES



THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved

the use of electronic technical logbooks for Air India's Boeing 787 and 777 planes, a step that will replace most of the paper-based maintenance records with a digital system.



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SpiceJet undertakes to pay ₹144.5 cr to KAL Airways, Maran

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, July 13

SPICEJET ON MONDAY undertook before the Delhi High Court to deposit the outstanding ₹144.5 crore in its long-running arbitration dispute with KAL Airways and its promoter Kalanithi Maran in tranches, after receiving partial financial assistance under the Centre's emergency credit programme for airlines.

Justice Subramonium Prasad accepted an undertaking by SpiceJet and its MD Ajay Singh to deposit ₹50 crore with the court registry within 45 days and the remaining amount over the following 90 days, effectively

SpiceJet to deposit ₹50 cr with the court registry within 45 days, the remaining amount over the following 90 days

giving the airline around four-and-a-half months to deposit the entire sum.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for SpiceJet, informed the court that the airline had received partial financial assistance under the Centre's emergency credit programme introduced to support airlines affected by operational disruptions arising from the recent West Asia conflict.

He submitted that while part of the assistance had already been disbursed, the remaining support was expected shortly, enabling the airline to complete the balance payment within the timeline proposed before the court.



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

अकासा एयर की नवी मुंबई और बेंगलुरु के लिए विमान सेवा बंद

ग्रेटर नोएडा, प्रमुख संवाददाता।
नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से
अकासा एयर ने नवी मुंबई और बेंगलुरु
के लिए विमान सेवा पूरी तरह से बंद
कर दी है। अब एयरलाइंस की सिर्फ
मुंबई के लिए ही सेवा संचालित है।
हालांकि, अक्टूबर में सेवा बहाल करने
का दावा है।

एयरलाइंस के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि
एयरलाइंस यात्रियों की मांग, मौसम,
परिचालन की सुविधा और विमान

उपलब्धता जैसे कई पहलुओं को ध्यान
में रखते हुए समय-समय पर उड़ानों व
रूटों की समीक्षा करती है। इसी प्रक्रिया
के तहत नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से नवी मुंबई
और बेंगलुरु के लिए सेवा बंद की गई है,
हालांकि इन्हें अक्टूबर में बहाल करने
का भी दावा किया गया है। वहीं, अब
एयरपोर्ट से इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की सबसे
अधिक सेवाएं जारी हैं। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट
की वेबसाइट के अनुसार सोमवार को
13 शहरों के लिए उड़ानें रही।



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

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एयर इंडिया ने ईटीएल लागू करने को मंजूरी दी

नई दिल्ली। एयर इंडिया ने डिजिटल तकनीक की दिशा में एक और कदम बढ़ाया है। डीजीसीए ने एयर इंडिया को बोइंग 787 बेड़े के लिए इलेक्ट्रॉनिक टेक्निकल लॉगबुक (ईटीएल) के इस्तेमाल की मंजूरी दे दी है। इसके साथ ही पूरे बोइंग बेड़े में ईटीएल लागू करने वाली पहली एयरलाइनों में से एक बन गई। यह आधुनिक डिजिटल प्रणाली बोइंग 787 और 777 विमानों के पारंपरिक कागजी रिकॉर्ड को एक सुरक्षित डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म से बदल देगी।

FIR against ex-Go First board for post insolvency ticket sale

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

The Ernakulam Police registered an FIR against the board of directors of the erstwhile Go First, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and two online travel booking portals over charges they continued to sell the airline's travel tickets for almost two weeks after it initiated voluntary insolvency process in 2023, 'defrauding millions of passengers.'

The FIR, filed on July 9, under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) names all 13 directors including chairman Nusli Neville Wadia, son Ness Nusli Wadia, CEO Kaushik Khona, unnamed DGCA official, portals EaseMyTrip and ClearTrip and Resolution Professional Shailendra Ajmera.

This follows an order from Ernakulam's Chief Judicial Magistrate Court to the police to register an FIR and investigate a complaint by Yeshwant Shenoy, an aggrieved passenger and advocate.

Mr. Shenoy, who lost ₹64,000 after booking Kochi-Mumbai tickets on the day Go First filed insolvency plea, claimed the board entered 'into a criminal conspiracy to cause wrongful loss to millions of pas-



In 2025, NCLAT upheld NCLT's order for liquidating Go First.

sengers while making wrongful gains' by continuing to sell tickets despite already approving the decision to initiate insolvency proceedings.

Despite repeated complaints, the DGCA asked Go First to stop selling tickets only on May 10 after he secured directions from the Kerala High Court.

Mr. Shenoy claimed Go First significantly understated losses. While Go First's CEO said 4,118 flights were cancelled in April affecting 77,500 passengers and media reports pegged passenger dues at about ₹900 crore, he contended as ticket bookings continued until May 10 without any restrictions, the total amount collected from passengers could be as high as ₹2,000 crore.

In April 2025, NCLAT upheld the NCLT's order for liquidating Go First.

MINT

DELHI

14 JULY 2026



The SpiceJet dispute dates back to 2015. REUTERS

Maran case: SpiceJet to deposit ₹144.5 cr in tranches

Krishna Yadav & Yash Tewari
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Budget carrier SpiceJet on Monday told Delhi High Court that it will deposit the outstanding ₹144.5 crore in its long-running arbitration dispute with Kalanithi Maran and KAL Airways Pvt. Ltd in phases.

After securing partial financial assistance under the Centre's emergency credit scheme for airlines, the carrier said it will deposit ₹50 crore with the court registry within 45 days and the remaining ₹95 crore within 90 days.

SpiceJet had earlier argued that it lacked the liquidity to make an immediate cash deposit and had sought to furnish a commercial property in Gurugram as security instead.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for SpiceJet, informed the court that it had received partial financial assistance under the 'emergency credit programme' to support airlines that were hit due to disruptions caused by the West Asia war.

He said while part of the assistance had already been received, the remaining was expected shortly, enabling the airline to complete the balance payment within the timeline proposed before the court.

The Supreme Court had on 19 July permitted SpiceJet to approach Delhi High Court again to seek reconsideration of its plea in light of subsequent developments, including the government's financial support for the aviation sector.

The dispute between SpiceJet and Maran dates back to 2015, when KAL Airways transferred its 58.46% stake in the airline to promoter Ajay Singh during a period of severe financial stress.

Maran had infused around ₹679 crore into the airline via convertible warrants and preference shares.

He later alleged the new management had failed to issue those securities, triggering arbitration proceedings.

In July 2018, an arbitral tribunal had directed SpiceJet to refund ₹579 crore along with interest.

The dispute has since gone through multiple rounds of litigation before the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court.

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



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MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

Akasa suspends two Jewar routes

NOIDA: Akasa Air has suspended its direct flight between Noida International Airport in Jewar and Navi Mumbai International Airport, barely a month after launch, citing low passenger demand. The airline has also temporarily halted its Bengaluru service from Jewar. Sources attributed the poor response to inadequate last-mile connectivity and high travel costs, with taxis remaining the primary mode of transport to both airports. While the Navi Mumbai route has been paused, Akasa Air has introduced two additional daily flights to Mumbai. The airline said the suspension is temporary.

MPOST

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MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

IndiGo, Accor announce reciprocal loyalty programmes partnership

NEW DELHI: The country's largest airline IndiGo and hospitality major Accor on Monday announced a strategic reciprocal loyalty partnership in India that will provide various benefits for their loyalty programme members.

The partnership is between the airline's loyalty programme IndiGo BluChip and Accor's loyalty programme ALL Accor.

At an event in the national capital to announce the partnership, IndiGo MD Rahul Bhatia said the opportunities within the Indian travel sector are immense and that the country is one of the world's most dynamic travel markets.



"This relationship marks a significant milestone in our shared journey and creates a distinctive value proposition for our customers, seamlessly integrating convenient air travel with rewarding hospitality experiences.

"Today's travellers increasingly seek connected and enriching journeys that bring together travel accommodation

and destination experiences in a single cohesive ecosystem," Bhatia said.

The partnership would allow the members to seamlessly convert ALL Accor reward points to IndiGo BluChips and vice-versa.

"Whether flying with IndiGo across its rapidly expanding network of over 140 destinations within India and abroad, or staying across the ALL Accor's ecosystem, covering more than 45 brands from luxury to economy, members can seamlessly connect flights, stays and experiences, creating a more rewarding travel journey across India and beyond," a release said.

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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

13 JULY 2026

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

OUR CORRESPONDENT

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

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

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

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



sponding rules are in the process of consultation.

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

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

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

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

tant rise during festivals.

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

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

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

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

हवाई किरायों पर कोर्ट सख्त, केंद्र सरकार से 2 हफ्ते में मांगे नियम

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

हवाई यात्रा के किरायों में होने वाले मनमाने उतार-चढ़ाव पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को केंद्र सरकार से जवाब तलब किया। जस्टिस विक्रम नाथ और जस्टिस संदीप मेहता की बेंच ने केंद्र सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि हवाई किरायों को रेग्युलेट करने के लिए बनाए गए नियमों की प्रति 2 सप्ताह के भीतर सीलबंद लिफाफे में पेश की जाए, भले ही वे अभी संसद में पेश हुए हों या नहीं। मामले की अगली सुनवाई 3 अगस्त को होगी।

सीलबंद लिफाफे में पेश करें, भले संसद में पेश न हुआ हो नियम: SC

केंद्र सरकार ने कोर्ट को बताया कि इस संबंध में नियम तैयार किए जा चुके हैं और उन्हें 30 दिनों के भीतर संसद के दोनों सदनों के समक्ष रखा जाएगा। यह मामला एस. लक्ष्मीनारायणन की ओर से दायर याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान सामने आया। याचिका में केंद्र सरकार और नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को हवाई किराया तय करने के लिए बाध्यकारी नियम बनाने,



अचानक बढ़ने वाले किरायों पर सीमा तय करने, अतिरिक्त सामान शुल्क और अन्य चार्जों को विनियमित करने, टिकट रद्द करने और रिफंड के स्पष्ट नियम बनाने तथा यात्रियों के हितों की सुरक्षा के लिए स्वतंत्र विमानन नियामक गठित करने का निर्देश देने की मांग की गई है। इससे पहले 21 जनवरी को हुई सुनवाई में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने त्योहारों और विशेष आयोजनों के दौरान एयरलाइंस की ओर से वसूले जाने वाले अत्यधिक किरायों पर कड़ी नाराजगी जताई थी। जस्टिस संदीप मेहता ने क्रोध में ले के दौरान बड़े हवाई किरायों को यात्रियों का शोषण बताया था।

इंडिगो-एकॉर में समझौता, यात्रियों को मिलेगा फायदा

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली:

इंडिगो और हॉस्पिटैलिटी कंपनी ऑल एकोर के बीच सोमवार को 'रेसिप्रोकल लॉयल्टी पार्टनरशिप' की घोषणा की गई। इससे एकोर और इंडिगो ब्लूचिप के बीच रिवॉर्ड पॉइंट हासिल करने पर उन्हें रिडीम करने के लिए बदलना आसान हो जाएगा। इससे यात्रियों को और फायदा होगा। इस साझेदारी के तहत सदस्य 'ALL Accor' के रिवॉर्ड पॉइंट्स को 'इंडिगो ब्लू चिप्स' में और इंडिगो ब्लू चिप्स को एकोर के पॉइंट्स में आसानी से बदल सकेंगे।

Airfares: SC asks Centre to place rules before it

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to place before it within two weeks the rules framed under the Bharatiya Vayuan Adhiniyam, 2024, which is aimed at modernising India's aviation sector. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the rules be placed before it in a sealed cover, irrespective of whether they have been placed before Parliament.

The apex court passed the order while hearing a plea filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, who has sought a robust and independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector, and regulatory guidelines to control the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfare and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India.

The counsel appearing for the Centre informed the bench that the draft rules are ready and they are in the process of translation.

He said the rules have to be

placed before Parliament. "We grant two weeks' time to the respondents to place before this court in a sealed cover the rules which have been framed, irrespective of the fact whether they are placed before the Houses of Parliament," the bench said.

Senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava, appearing for Laxminarayanan, said till the time the new rules come into effect, the old rules are operating.

Flagging the "exorbitant airfares" being charged, Srivastava said, "The solution is that this court must consider having a robust and effective regulatory mechanism which is independent."

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on August 3.

While hearing the plea on May 15, the apex court said there should be some rationalisation of airfares and asked the Centre to provide relief to flyers.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was then appearing for the Centre, told the bench that the new enactment of 2024 had come into effect in January



2025 and the corresponding rules were in the process of being prepared.

On November 17 last year, the top court sought responses from the Centre and others on Laxminarayanan's plea seeking a robust and independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector.

On February 23, the Centre told the apex court that the Ministry of Civil Aviation was actively considering the issues raised in the plea.

While hearing the matter in January, the top court

said it would interfere with the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfares and flagged the exorbitant rise during festivals. The top court had termed the exorbitant rise in airfares by the airlines "exploitation", and asked the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to file their replies on the plea.

The plea claimed that all private airlines have, without any credible justification, reduced the free check-in baggage allowance for economy class passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg, "thereby

converting what was earlier part of the ticketed service into a new revenue stream".

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

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

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

The plea said the absence of regulatory safeguards results in arbitrary fare hikes, especially during festivals or weather disruptions, which disproportionately harm the poor and last-minute travellers.

It added that inaction by the state in regulating fare algorithms, cancellation policies, service continuity and grievance mechanisms constitutes a dereliction of its constitutional duty and calls for urgent judicial intervention. The plea also said that there is no rule to stop airlines from increasing prices based on demand and allowing them such freedom under essential services is unjustifiable.

Will deposit ₹50cr in 45 days: SpiceJet tells HC on dispute

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh on Monday assured the Delhi High Court that they will deposit ₹50 crore in 45 days with the court registry in connection with a legal dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways.

Justice Subramonium Prasad — who has earlier directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit around ₹144 crore in the case arising from an arbitral award against them in their dispute with Maran — was told that the remaining ₹94.50 crore would also be deposited in the next ninety days.

On May 4, the bench dismissed pleas by SpiceJet and Ajay Singh seeking a review of a January 19 order to deposit over ₹144 crore in the case. The Supreme Court, on May 19, however, asked the airline to approach the high court for extension of time to make the deposit.



The senior counsel for SpiceJet and its promoter on Monday informed the court that they have received financial assistance from the central government amid the ongoing West Asia crisis and undertook to pay ₹50 crore as the first instalment.

He further said that the balance would also be paid in the next 90 days.

Considering the stand, the court deferred hearing till November on the airline's plea against the arbitration award.

It listed the matter in September as well on the issue of deposit of ₹144 crore with the registry.

Senior advocate Jayant Mehta appeared for Maran, along with law firm Karanjawala & Co.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appeared for SpiceJet and Singh.

On January 19, the court had directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit ₹144 crore with the registry within six weeks against an admitted liability of ₹194 crore pursuant to the arbitration award against them in their dispute with Maran. On March 18, the time to make the deposit was extended by four weeks.

The matter arises from a dispute regarding the non-

issuance of warrants in favour of Maran after the transfer of ownership to Singh, the controlling shareholder of SpiceJet.

The dispute started after Singh took back control of SpiceJet in February 2015 amid a financial crisis at the airline.

Maran and Kal Airways had transferred their entire 35.04 crore equity shares, amounting to a 58.46 per cent stake, in SpiceJet, to its co-founder, Singh, in February 2015 for just ₹2.

In May 2024, a division bench of the high court set aside a single judge bench order which had upheld an arbitral award asking SpiceJet and Ajay Singh to refund ₹579 crore plus interest to Maran.

The division bench allowed the appeals filed by Singh and SpiceJet challenging the single judge's July 31, 2023, order and remanded the matter back to the court concerned to consider the petitions afresh.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

14 JULY 2026

विमान किराये पर बनाए गए नियम सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने तलब किए

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): उच्चतम न्यायालय ने सोमवार को केंद्र सरकार से कहा कि वह भारतीय वायुयान अधिनियम, 2024 के तहत बनाए गए नियम दो



हफ्ते के अंदर उसके समक्ष प्रस्तुत करे। इस अधिनियम का मकसद भारत के विमानन क्षेत्र का आधुनिकीकरण करना है। न्यायमूर्ति विक्रमनाथ और न्यायमूर्ति संदीप मेहता की पीठ ने कहा कि नियम सीलबंद लिफाफे में सौंपे जाएं, भले ही उन्हें संसद के समक्ष रखा गया हो या नहीं। न्यायालय ने यह आदेश सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एस. लक्ष्मीनारायणन द्वारा दायर याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान पारित किया। याचिका में, नागर विमानन क्षेत्र में पारदर्शिता और यात्रियों के हितों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक मजबूत एवं स्वतंत्र विनियामक की स्थापना की मांग की गई है। भारत में निजी एयरलाइन कंपनियों द्वारा हवाई किराये

और अतिरिक्त शुल्कों में की जाने वाली 'अप्रत्याशित बढ़ोतरी' पर नियंत्रण के लिए नियामक दिशानिर्देश जारी करने की भी मांग की गई है। केंद्र की ओर से पेश हुए वकील ने पीठ को बताया कि नियमों का मसौदा तैयार है और उनका अनुवाद किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि इन नियमों को संसद के समक्ष पेश किया जाना है। पीठ ने कहा, 'हम प्रतिवादियों को बनाए गए नियमों को दो हफ्ते के अंदर इस न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश देते हैं, चाहे उन्हें संसद के सदनों के समक्ष पेश किया गया हो या नहीं।' लक्ष्मी नारायणन की ओर से पेश हुए वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता रवींद्र श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि जब तक नए नियम लागू नहीं हो जाते, पुराने नियम ही लागू रहेंगे। 'अत्यधिक विमान किराये' की ओर इशारा करते हुए श्रीवास्तव ने कहा, 'इसका समाधान यह है।'

Bihar rolls out helicopter tourism service linking key destinations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, 13 July

Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Monday launched the Bihar Heli Tourism and Air Tourism Service in Patna, saying the initiative would open up new possibilities for the growth of tourism in the state.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said Bihar is rapidly emerging as a major hub for modern tourism and that the state's goal is to establish itself on the global tourism map. He said the new scheme would enable visitors to explore Bihar more conveniently.

He said Bihar is the cradle of a rich civilisation and culture, being home to Lord Buddha, Lord Mahavira, the world-renowned Nalanda University, and the ancient Magadh Empire. The state government's objective, he said, is to give these historical, religious and cultural treasures greater recognition at the national and international levels while attracting more tourists to Bihar.

The Chief Minister said the Bihar government has been working to develop

THE HELICOPTER TOURISM SERVICE WILL COMMENCE ON 18 JULY AND OPERATE EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. THE WEEKLY SERVICE IS EXPECTED TO BE EXPANDED INTO A DAILY OPERATION IN THE FUTURE.

world-class tourism infrastructure, which would not only help establish Bihar among the country's leading tourism destinations but also accelerate employment generation, investment and overall economic growth.

He said the scheme, which offers helicopter tourism services at subsidised rates, would usher in a new era for the state's tourism sector by making air tourism accessible to the general public. The state government will provide a subsidy of up to Rs15,422 per ticket.

In the first phase, the service will connect Patna, Valmikinagar, Kaimur and Rajgir.

The helicopter tourism service will commence on 18 July and operate every Saturday and Sunday. The weekly service is expected to be expanded into a daily operation in the future.

