



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

House Panel to Scrutinise Key Aviation Sector PSUs

Our Bureau

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel will undertake a detailed examination of public sector undertakings (PSUs) in the aviation sector, including the Airports Authority of India (AAI), in the wake of the June 12 Air India plane crash. The exercise will entail a scrutiny of the financial health, corporate governance, skill and manpower and technical preparedness of the entities.

Besides the AAI, the key aviation PSUs include Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Pawan Hans Ltd, National Aerospace Laboratories, Aeronautical Development Agency, AI Airport Services Ltd and Air India Engineering Services Ltd.

The Lok Sabha Committee on Public Undertakings, chaired by BJP leader Baijayant Panda, will also review performance and operations of more than a dozen PSUs in the defence and atomic energy sector, a major focus area for the government. India's annual defence production crossed the ₹1.5 lakh crore mark for the first time in 2024-25, up 18% year-on-year. Exports went up 12.04% to ₹23,622 crore from ₹21,083 crore during this period, with PSUs acco-

unting for 77% of the total output.

The parliamentary committee is expected to submit its report by the end of this financial year.



'No major fire, only a minor spark, smoke in engine of cargo flight'

As some sections of the media reported 'a major fire' in an aircraft that arrived in Chennai on Tuesday, AAI clarifies that it was only a minor spark

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

There was a minor spark and smoke coming from one of the engines of an inbound international cargo flight that arrived in Chennai on Tuesday. There were no injuries, official sources said.

The flight was coming from Kuala Lumpur. On landing, smoke was seen coming from one of its engines, which led to some sections of the media reporting it as "a major fire in the aircraft".

However, officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) clarified that there was no major fire.

According to AAI officials, around 6.30 a.m., the aircraft landed at the



The international cargo flight was coming from Kuala Lumpur.

Chennai airport. It was taxiing towards the bay when a minor spark was noticed, officials said.

"The Air Traffic Control informed the pilot. Since it was a minor spark, the fire tender on standby was not deployed. The smoke, too, subsided on its own. A team of engineering experts attended the aircraft," an official said.

In a statement, the Office of the Chennai Airport Director said, "It is hereby stated that there was no major fire in the engine during landing. There was a minor spark and some smoke, possibly due to oil, dirt, or residue. The aircraft did not suffer any damage. This incident has been blown out of proportion."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

13 AUGUST 2025

Govt offers to shift AAI towers to Gorai for free

Mumbai: The state govt has written to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) offering to shift the transmission towers free of cost from Dahisar to Gorai. This is the fourth such letter the govt has written to the centre to expedite the shifting of the transmission towers.

The high-frequency communication equipment was installed by AAI on their own lands at Juhu, Andheri West, and Dahisar. By virtue of a civic aviation notification published in December 2020, building height restrictions were imposed in and around these high-frequency towers. This has impacted the redevelopment of buildings and slum redevelopment projects as the reduced building heights are affecting the commercial viability of the projects.

Aseem Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, state urban development dept, in the letter, said the cost of shifting the high-frequency Rx stations from Dahisar to an alternate location at Gorai shall be borne by the BMC. The corporation, he said, will also carry out the development of the site, boundary wall, and other related infrastructure.

"Approximately 20 acres of land at Gorai shall be made available to AAI free of cost for shifting the HF receiving stations from Dahisar..." states the letter. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

13 AUGUST 2025

एयरपोर्ट : 1 घंटे देरी से रवाना हुई जयपुर से दिल्ली जाने वाली उड़ान

जयपुर | जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की दिल्ली की फ्लाइट करीब एक घंटे लेट रवाना हो सकी। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार मामला एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट आई-1182 का है। ये फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 8:05 बजे दिल्ली रवाना होती है, लेकिन मंगलवार को फ्लाइट संचालन कारणों की वजह से करीब एक घंटे लेट 9 बजे रवाना हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

15 को नान शेड्यूल उड़ानों के लिए प्रतिबंध

जासं, नई दिल्ली: स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर नान शेड्यूल उड़ानों के लिए विशेष प्रतिबंध लागू होंगे। इसके तहत 15 अगस्त को सुबह छह बजे से दस बजे तक और फिर शाम चार बजे से सात बजे तक नान शेड्यूल उड़ानों को उतरने या उड़ान भरने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। लेकिन इस अवधि में वायु सेना, सीमा सुरक्षा बल और सेना के हेलीकाप्टरों द्वारा संचालित उड़ानों पर नोटिस टू एयरमेन (नोटम) का कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा। इसके अलावा, राज्य के स्वामित्व वाले विमानों और हेलीकाप्टरों, जो राज्यपाल या मुख्यमंत्री को ले जा रहे हों, साथ ही त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया मिशन और तत्काल चिकित्सा निकासी को भी इन प्रतिबंधों से छूट दी गई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

Air India in talks to make Navi Mumbai airport a global hub

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, August 13

AIR INDIA IS IN talks with Adani Airports to make the upcoming Navi Mumbai airport a hub for its international operations as it looks to significantly step up its global presence.

The Navi Mumbai airport, which is controlled by Adani Airports Holdings (AAHL), to be India's second-largest airport operator (in terms of passengers serviced), is expected to commence commercial operations from mid-November. Both domestic and international flights will start from the opening day.

"Terminal 2 at the Navi Mumbai airport will be designed and built for hub operations from Day 1. AAHL is working with Air India for their design input and to help them make it a hub for their international operations," said an industry source.

As the existing infrastructure at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) is stretched to its limits with regards to passenger handling capacity, there is no room for making any design and structural changes at the airport.

"Navi Mumbai airport will

FLIGHT PLAN

■ The Navi Mumbai airport, controlled by Adani Airports, is expected to start commercial ops from mid-November

■ Both domestic & international flights will start from the opening day

■ Existing infra at Chhatrapati Shivaji airport said to be stretched to limits



eventually become the international hub. It is a modern airport compared to CSMIA. There cannot be too many changes at terminal 2 at CSMIA. So, eventually you will have international operations becoming more dominant at the Navi Mumbai airport," said the source.

Continued on Page 7

Air India in talks...

"INITIALLY, IT MAY be Air India Express which will move its international operations to the Navi Mumbai airport while continuing to stay at CSMIA. This will help the Air India group understand what it takes to run operations from that airport," said another industry source.

Even with a rated capacity of 20-23 million at Terminal 1, AAHL believes that it will run out of this capacity within the first six months of operations at the Navi Mumbai airport. Therefore, the company has already kick-started work on the second terminal which is expected to start operations in 2029.

The combined capacity of both the terminals will be 60 million supported by two operational runways.

When contacted, Air India declined to comment.

Last year, the Tata Group-owned airline entered into an

agreement with Bangalore International Airport to develop Bengaluru as a premier aviation hub for southern India.

After the induction of six long-haul Airbus A350s, which were aimed at enhancing international presence, Air India has been forced to slow down its planned global expansion due to shortage of aircraft.

On Tuesday, the airline said it will suspend flights between Delhi and Washington from September 1 due to a truncated availability of the Boeing 787-8 aircraft and the continued closure of the Pakistani airspace. The airline is retrofitting 26 of the 787-8s.

The schedule of the refurbishment programme for 13 of its legacy Boeing 777-300ER aircraft has been revised and will now be completed by October 2028, a year behind the announced timeline.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

13 AUGUST 2025

GUWAHATI AIRPORT BAGS ARCHITECTURE AWARD

The Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati (Assam) has won the International Architectural Award 2025 in the Transport category. Designed by NUDES, the terminal draws inspiration from bamboo and foxtail orchids, blending sustainability with cultural elements, and can handle 10 million passengers annually. The award was presented by The Chicago Athenaeum and The European Centre for Architecture.



CM offers solar panels after cut in power bills

HT Correspondent

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PATNA: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday said that the state government would support in setting up solar power plants on the premises of domestic power consumers, in addition to giving 125 units of free power a month from the energy bill of July.

Speaking at a public interaction with power consumers through videoconference, Kumar said that the Bihar government will fully bear the cost of installing solar power plants for extremely poor families under the ongoing Kutir Jyoti scheme.

For the remaining consumers, the state government will provide financial assistance to set up solar power plants.

Over the next three years, Bihar is expected to generate up to 10,000 MW of solar energy.

Earlier, power consumers thanked the chief minister for offering 125 units of free power a month to domestic power consumers.

Komal Kumari from Supaul, Leela Kumari from Biharsharif



Canal Bank Saur Urja Pariyojana at Bikram on the outskirts of Patna.

HT FILE

in Nalanda district, Gudiya Khatoon from Muzaffarpur and Noor Jahan Khatoon from Gaya Ji, who were among those to air their views, said the money saved on their energy bills would be spent on the education and health of their children, besides utilising them on essential household expenses. Gudiya Khatoon and Noor Jahan claimed their energy bills, along with many others in her

village, had come down to zero last month, while Komal claimed the money saved on electricity would be deposited in her daughter's bank account.

The CM lauded the energy department's turn around from a power-starved state to now giving 125 units of free electricity to its 1.86 crore domestic consumers.

He said the state's power supply had gone up from 700 MW in 2005 to 8,752 MW. Similarly, the annual per capita power consumption, which was 75 units in the year 2005, had now increased five times to 363 units

at present.

The state's aggregate transmission and commercial (AT&C) loss had also significantly declined from 59.24% in 2005 to 15.50% in 2024-25, as per the official data.

At present, the average power supply has increased to 22 to 24 hours in urban areas and in rural areas, the supply has increased considerably to 18 to 20 hours a day.

The government has already achieved the target of electrifying every household in the state in October 2018 under the "Har Ghar Bijli" scheme.

The number of consumers has increased to 2.12 crore from 17.3 lakh in 2005. Of this, around 75 lakh smart prepaid meters, of which 60 lakh are domestic consumers, have been installed across the state so far.

Earlier, energy minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav said that in order to promote solar energy, the state government had decided to install 1.1 KW capacity rooftop solar panels. The government would give a cent per cent subsidy to 58.89 lakh Kutir Jyoti power consumers (BPL) for installing rooftop solar plants.

No fixed charge and other charges would be levied on those consuming up to 125 units of electricity, he added.



ELECTION '25
BIHAR



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

अनिर्धारित उड़ानों के लिए 15 अगस्त पर दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट रहेगा 'नो फ्लाईंग जोन'

- यहां से प्रतिदिन लगभग 1,300 उड़ानों का आवागमन होता है

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर 15 अगस्त को स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर निर्धारित समयवधि के दौरान केवल पूर्व-निर्धारित उड़ानों को ही उतरने या उड़ान भरने की अनुमति होगी। एक अधिकारी ने बुधवार को बताया कि ये प्रतिबंध सुबह 6 बजे से 10 बजे तक और शाम 4 बजे से 7 बजे तक लागू रहेंगे।

ये प्रतिबंध विमानन कंपनियों की अनिर्धारित उड़ानों के साथ-साथ विशेष उड़ानों पर भी लागू होंगे। अधिकारी ने बताया कि पहले से निर्धारित उड़ानों के संचालन पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ेगा। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई)



के अंतर्गत आने वाली वैमानिकी सूचना सेवा (एआईएस) द्वारा एक नोटम (नोटिस टू एयरमैन) जारी किया गया है। नोटम सामान्यतः वह सूचना होती है जिसमें उड़ान परिचालन में शामिल कार्मिकों के लिए आवश्यक जानकारी होती है। निर्दिष्ट अवधि के दौरान अनिर्धारित विमानों को हवाई अड्डे पर उतरने या उड़ान भरने की अनुमति नहीं होगी, लेकिन निर्धारित उड़ानों के साथ-साथ भारतीय वायुसेना, सीमा सुरक्षा बल (बीएसएफ) और सेना द्वारा

संचालित विमानों पर नोटम का कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा। अधिकारी ने बताया कि राज्यपाल या मुख्यमंत्री को ले जाने वाले सरकारी विमान एवं हेलीकॉप्टर तथा त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया मिशन और दुर्घटना/तत्काल चिकित्सा निकासी वाले विमानों को भी प्रतिबंधों से छूट दी गई है। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा देश का सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डा है और यहां से प्रतिदिन लगभग 1,300 उड़ानों का आवागमन होता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

आईजीआई पर 15 अगस्त को अनिर्धारित उड़ानें बैन

■ स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर सुबह छह से 10 बजे तक और शाम चार से सात बजे तक लागू रहेंगे प्रतिबंध

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर 15 अगस्त को निर्दिष्ट अवधि में उन उड़ानों को उतरने या उड़ान भरने की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी जो पहले से निर्धारित नहीं होंगी। एक अधिकारी ने बुधवार को बताया कि ये प्रतिबंध स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर सुबह छह बजे से 10 बजे तक और शाम चार बजे से सात बजे तक लागू रहेंगे।

ये प्रतिबंध विमानन कंपनियों की अनिर्धारित उड़ानों के साथ-साथ विशेष उड़ानों पर भी लागू होंगे। अधिकारी ने बताया कि पहले से निर्धारित उड़ानों के संचालन पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ेगा। भारतीय



विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) के अंतर्गत आने वाली वैमानिकी सूचना सेवा (एआईएस) द्वारा एक नोटम (नोटिस टू एयरमैन) जारी किया गया है। नोटम सामान्यतः वह सूचना होती है जिसमें उड़ान परिचालन में शामिल कार्मिकों के लिए आवश्यक जानकारी होती है। निर्दिष्ट अवधि के दौरान अनिर्धारित विमानों को हवाई अड्डे पर उतरने या उड़ान भरने की अनुमति नहीं होगी, लेकिन निर्धारित उड़ानों के साथ-साथ भारतीय वायुसेना, सीमा सुरक्षा बल (बीएसएफ) और सेना द्वारा

संचालित विमानों पर नोटम का कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा। अधिकारी ने बताया कि राज्यपाल या मुख्यमंत्री को ले जाने वाले सरकारी विमान एवं हेलीकॉप्टर तथा त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया मिशन और दुर्घटना/तत्काल चिकित्सा निकासी वाले विमानों को भी प्रतिबंधों से छूट दी गई है। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा (आईजीआईए) देश का सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डा है और यहां से प्रतिदिन लगभग 1,300 उड़ानों का आवागमन होता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

13 AUGUST 2025

‘Prioritise local taxi drivers at airport’: K’taka transport group to BIAL

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations has urged Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) to hire more local drivers and prioritise local taxi operators in parking space allotment.

In a letter to BIAL on Tuesday, the federation noted

that out-of-state companies that had received taxi service contracts at the airport were engaging drivers from outside Karnataka, resulting in displacement and loss of employment for Karnataka’s own taxi drivers and owners.

Further, priority parking and duty allocations are be-

ing extended to multinational companies, large corporate operators, and out-of-state firms, while local taxi operators “face restrictions and discrimination” in parking allocation, it stated.

The federation urged BIAL to give preference to local drivers in recruitment, espe-

cially those already operating at the airport, prioritise them in parking slot allotment, and allocate trips/duties in a “fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory” manner. It also asked for proper verification of all drivers and for restrictions on drivers without valid residence and work permits.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

13 AUGUST 2025

₹7cr weed seized at Kovai airport

Air customs and air intelligence unit at Coimbatore airport seized 6.713kg of hydroponic weed valued at ₹7crore from two passengers who arrived from Singapore on Monday night. Officials intercepted Fahad Mon Mujeeb and Suhail Vazhamattathil Ubaidulla, both from Kottayam in Kerala, following a tip-off and seized the contraband. A case was registered and both were arrested and remanded in judicial custody. Meanwhile, officials seized 14 drones valued at ₹18.67lakh from two other passengers, Tamilarasi and Pandi Durai Subbaiah from Pudukottai, who arrived on the same flight. A case was registered against them.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

हिंडन से एक रूट पर चलने वाली दो फ्लाइटों में से एक यूपी के लिए चलेगी

एयरलाइंस कंपनियों की इस माह के अंतिम सप्ताह में बुलाई गई बैठक

साहिबाबाद (गाजियाबाद)। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से दूसरे राज्यों के एक ही शहर के लिए अलग-अलग दो उड़ान भरने वाले एयरक्राफ्ट में से एक को बंद किया जाएगा। इसके साथ ही कम हुए एयरक्राफ्ट का उपयोग यूपी के अंदरूनी शहरों के लिए किया जा सकता है।

जल्द एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन एयरलाइंस कंपनियों की बैठक बुलाकर इस पर फैसला करने वाली है। एयरपोर्ट पर

हिंडन से इन शहरों के लिए शुरू हो सकती है उड़ान

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से कुशीनगर, गोरखपुर, अयोध्या, लखनऊ और प्रयागराज के लिए लंबे समय से फ्लाइट शुरू करने की मांग की जा रही है। ऐसे में इंडिगो या स्टार एयर किसी की भी फ्लाइट कैंसिल होती है तो उन्हें इसी रूट पर फ्लाइट शुरू करने के लिए कहा जा सकता है।

बढ़ रही फ्लाइट की संख्या व आए दिन रद्द हो रही फ्लाइट पर विचार करने के लिए दोबारा निजी एयरलाइंस कंपनियों की बैठक बुलाई गई है। इससे पूर्व भी

एयरलाइंस कंपनियों की बैठक हुई थी लेकिन अब तक उसका परिणाम कुछ नहीं निकल सका है। अगस्त के अंतिम सप्ताह में होने वाली बैठक में दो प्रमुख मुद्दे रखे जाएंगे। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

Will be ready for services to China: IndiGo's CEO

AWAITING GREEN LIGHT. The airline is awaiting a deal between the two governments

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Airline major IndiGo is ready to mount flights to China as and when a bilateral arrangement is reached between India and the East Asian giant, the airline's Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers said on Wednesday.

The two countries have agreed in principle to resume direct air services but the arrangement has not been finalised.

"We were operating flights to China before Covid and if the government reaches an agreement, we would be ready to restart," he said.

The airline was operating daily flight services between New Delhi to Chengdu and Kolkata to Guangzhou.

There has been no direct air connectivity between India and China since early



SET TO TAKE OFF. IndiGo Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers speaking at an event

2020 following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

MILITARY CLASHES

The situation deteriorated after military clashes erupted between the two neighbours in Galwan Valley of the Ladakh region.

Prior to the pandemic, airlines from both sides operated flights to many destinations, such as Shanghai, Guangzhou, New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Flight services have resumed between India and Hong Kong sans mainland China. The Indian government had sought feedback from airlines on their past experience of operating in China before restarting any direct flights between the countries, multiple industry sources said.

businessline was the first to report on April 8 that delegation-level talks were held between India and China on

"ways and means" to restart direct air services.

Sources said a key agenda item in the talks between the countries is the issue of airfare regulations imposed by China on Indian airlines.

AIRFARE DEMAND

India has pushed for greater freedom for its carriers to determine their own airfares, based on demand.

The talks, industry sources said, also touched on the expected entry of Chinese low-cost carriers into the Indian market, which is viewed as a massive opportunity to boost tourism in both countries.

According to sources, both sides hope to revive tourism and business travel by easing restrictions and increasing direct flights between the two countries.

The Indian embassy in Beijing has resumed issuing tourist visas to Chinese citizens after a gap of five years.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

SpiceJet in deal to lease more Boeing aircraft

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Budget carrier SpiceJet has finalised a lease agreement for another five Boeing 737 aircraft, ahead of the upcoming winter schedule.

Accordingly, the new agreement follows SpiceJet's announcement last month of inducting five Boeing 737s on damp lease from another operator, taking the total number of new fleet additions to 10. The airline said most of these aircraft will join the fleet in October, with a few scheduled to arrive a couple of weeks earlier.

PEAK DEMAND

According to SpiceJet, these additions will cater to the peak winter season and extend into the early summer season of 2026, remaining with the airline until May 2026.

These aircraft, SpiceJet said, will be inducted under damp lease arrangements.

Besides, the airline is in "advanced discussions" to lease more aircraft ahead of the winter 2025 schedule.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

स्पाइसजेट ने किया 5 बोइंग-737 के लिए करार

घरेलू विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने सर्दियों से पहले पांच बोइंग 737 विमानों के लिए समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने की बुधवार को जानकारी दी। इन विमानों को 'डैम्प-लीज' के आधार पर शामिल किया जा रहा है। 'डैम्प-लीज' के तहत कोई विमानन कंपनी (पट्टा देने वाली) अपना विमान किसी दूसरी विमानन कंपनी (पट्टा लेने वाली) को किराये पर देती है। इस व्यवस्था में विमान के साथ आम तौर पर चालक दल के सदस्यों जैसे पायलट और सह-पायलट आदि को भी साझा किया जाता है। विमानन कंपनियों के बेड़े पर नजर रखने वाली वेबसाइट प्लेनस्पॉटर डॉट नेट पर उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार, स्पाइसजेट के बेड़े में कुल 53 विमानों में से वर्तमान में 13 बोइंग-737 और छह क्षेत्रीय जेट विमान परिचालन में हैं। भाषा



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

Visa, travel hurdles holding back tourism: IndiGo chief

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 13 August

India should reform its visa process and make travel easier for foreign visitors to boost inbound tourism, as it currently attracts only a "handful" of overseas travellers compared with neighbours like Thailand, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said on Wednesday.

"We have 44 UNESCO heritage sites in India. Thailand has eight. We have mountains, the seas, the backwaters. We have culture, festivals, music, food, everything. And yet, it (India) attracts a handful of foreigners. So, I would say that the opportunity is out there," he said at a tourism conclave organised by Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH).

India welcomed about 9.95 million foreign tourists in 2024, up from 9.52 million in 2023 but still below the 10.93 million recorded in 2019. Thailand, by contrast, attracted around 35.55 million visitors last year, a 26.3 per cent rise from 2023.

When asked what could be done to boost inbound tourism in India, Elbers replied, "The opportunity of inbound tourism is enormous. But you need to get certain things in place. I heard the discussion here about trade conferences. Trade conferences come if other stuff is properly in order. Otherwise, it is throwing good money after not very effective elements."

"Citizens from about 70 countries in the world can travel to China without a visa. People from about 90 countries in the world can travel to Thailand without a visa. People from three countries — Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives — in the world can travel to India without a visa. These are statistics in themselves. So, one,



IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said ease of travel is another issue that has to be resolved to increase inbound tourism

I would say, is the visa structure," he added.

He mentioned that even though the visa processing fee in India is low, even the cheapest visa has \$10 fees.

"It is not the issue of money but the inconvenience. You need to go to the site, then upload the pictures, then you need to do the payment, and then payment doesn't work. That is not a very smooth process, to say the least," Elbers noted.

"You see foreigners coming to a hotel - how many copies of the passport they need to make? They have the visa already. Why do you need to take ten copies of their passports? They have their visa," he stated

IndiGo CEO said the second issue that has to be resolved to boost inbound tourism is the "ease of travel and ease of going around" in the country.

"I live here so I know my way around. But, every now and then, I see some clueless foreigner standing on the street corner somewhere, who needs to go somewhere," he explained.

He said that the third issue is the "promotion and the activities around it".



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

डीजीसीए ने चालक दल से अधिक ड्यूटी लेने पर एअर इंडिया को दी चेतावनी

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस: नागरिक उड़्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने लंबी दूरी की दो उड़ानों में चालक दल की ड्यूटी समयसीमा के उल्लंघन मामले में एअर इंडिया को जारी कारण बताओ नोटिस का जवाब असंतोषजनक पाए जाने पर एयरलाइन के सीईओ कैपबेल विल्सन को चेतावनी जारी की है। विल्सन टाटा समूह की स्वामित्व वाली एअर इंडिया के सीईओ एवं प्रबंध निदेशक होने के साथ कंपनी के जवाबदेह प्रबंधक भी हैं।

डीजीसीए ने 11 अगस्त के आदेश में कहा कि एअर इंडिया लिमिटेड के जवाबदेह प्रबंधक को चेतावनी एवं सलाह दी जाती है कि वह लागू नागरिक विमानन प्रविधानों के अनुपालन में पूरी सतर्कता और जिम्मेदारी बरतें। डीजीसीए ने इस मामले में एअर इंडिया को जून में नोटिस जारी किया था। उसने 16 और 17 मई को बेंगलुरु-लंदन मार्ग पर संचालित दोनों उड़ानों में चालक दल के 10 घंटे की अधिकतम ड्यूटी सीमा का उल्लंघन करने पर जवाब मांगा था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

डीजीसीए ने चालक दल से अधिक ड्यूटी लेने पर एअर इंडिया को दी चेतावनी

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एअर इंडिया को नियमों का पालन करने में सतर्कता बरतने की सलाह

एयरलाइन ने कहा, एअर इंडिया नियमों का पूरी तरह पालन करती है



सत्यमेव जयते
General of Civil Aviation
(DGCA)



एअर इंडिया को जांच के बाद संतोषजनक नहीं पाया जिसके बाद यह चेतावनी जारी की गई है। इस पर एअर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि मध्य मई में रिपोर्ट किए गए रोटारिंग मुद्दे सीमापार हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने से जुड़ी अनुमति की अलग व्याख्या के कारण थे। इसे सही जानकारी मिलने के बाद हमने तुरंत सुधार लिया था। एअर इंडिया नियमों का पूरी तरह पालन करती है।

विमान दुर्घटना पीड़ित के बेटे ने बोइंग के खिलाफ अमेरिका में केस दर्ज कराया

अहमदाबाद, एएनआइ: अहमदाबाद एअर इंडिया विमान दुर्घटना में अपनी मां कल्पना बेन प्रजापति को खोने वाले हीर प्रजापति ने शीघ्र न्याय की उम्मीद में बोइंग के खिलाफ अमेरिकी संघीय न्यायालय में केस दर्ज कराया है। हीर ने इसके लिए माइक एंड्रयूज को अपना वकील नियुक्त किया है। उन्होंने कहा, 'हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि ब्लैक-बॉक्स से मिली जानकारी का कच्चा-चिट्ठा जल्द से जल्द हमारे सामने आएगा ताकि हम अपने वकील के साथ मिलकर आगे की कार्रवाई के बारे में फैसला ले सकें। भारत में मुकदमे सालों तक खिंच जाते हैं। हम अमेरिका में मुकदमा लड़ रहे हैं ताकि फैसला जल्दी सुनाया जा सके।' हीर प्रजापति ने परिवार की मदद के लिए भारत सरकार, पुलिस और डाक्टरों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

Indigo Ready to Resume Flights

China CEO

New Delhi: Indigo CEO Peter Eluru on Monday said the airline stands ready to resume direct flights between India and China.

On Tuesday, people familiar with the matter said India and China are in an advanced stage of negotiations to resume direct flights between the two countries.

Eluru said Indigo is ready to resume direct flights between India and China once the necessary arrangements are in place.

The airline stands ready to resume these services once the necessary arrangements between the two countries are in place, he said in a statement on Tuesday.

Eluru also said that Indigo is ready to resume direct flights between India and China once the necessary arrangements are in place.

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AI CEO Gets DGCA Warning Over Duty Violations by Crew in May

Regulator finds airline's reply to show-cause notice 'unsatisfactory'

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: Civil aviation regulator DGCA has warned Air India's Accountable Manager and CEO, Campbell Wilson, after finding the airline's response "unsatisfactory" to a show-cause notice over flight duty time violations by crew on two long-haul flights operated in May, sources said on Wednesday.

Wilson, who is also the Managing Director of the Tata Group-owned carrier, serves as the airline's Accountable Manager. "Air India is in receipt of the DGCA letter regarding rostering issues on two long-haul flights reported in mid-May. These arose from a different interpretation of a permission granted to mitigate the impact of a border-related airspace closure. The issue was corrected immediately once the correct interpretation was conveyed. Air India remains fully compliant with the rules," an airline



Air India CEO Campbell Wilson spokesperson told PTI.

In its order dated August 11, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation stated: "The Accountable Manager of M/s Air India Ltd. is hereby warned and advised to exercise utmost diligence and responsibility in ensuring strict compliance with the applicable Civil Aviation requirements."

The DGCA had, in June, issued a show-cause notice to Air India for breaching crew "flight duty time limitations" on two Bengaluru-London flights on May 16 and 17. Both flights exceeded the 10-hour duty cap prescribed under DGCA rules.

The regulator said the airline's accountable manager failed to ensure compliance and gave Air India seven days to explain why

action should not be taken.

"The reply submitted by M/s Air India... has been duly examined and found to be unsatisfactory in addressing the regulatory lapses and deficiencies noted," the DGCA said in its order.

Over the past year, DGCA audits have found 93 safety-related issues involving Air India (including now-merged Vistara) and Air India Express. These included 19 Level-1 violations—critical safety risks requiring immediate corrective action.

Overall, DGCA inspections across eight domestic carriers over the past year have uncovered 263 lapses, including serious breaches warranting urgent action, during 23 separate audits, the regulator said last month.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

13 AUGUST 2025

Aviation dept readies policy norms to woo investors

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

Aviation department has completed work on preparing guidelines for its new aviation policy. The guidelines are expected to be issued within a day or two and will serve as a roadmap for investors interested in aviation sector projects in Madhya Pradesh.

Officials said guidelines will outline how investors can avail benefits under the policy, including land allocation and other support from the state government. "The guidelines will make things clear to investors. By studying them, they can plan their projects accordingly," said an officer of the Aviation Department. He said that copies of the guidelines will soon be sent to all potential investors to assist in project planning. The policy was first introduced during the Global Investors Summit (GIS), following which sev-

Ready to take-off

- **Guideline ready:** To be released within a couple of days
- **Investor support:** Details on land and facilities included
- **Policy origin:** First announced during Global Investors Summit
- **Big investment:** INAVIA to invest Rs 2,000 crore in Bhopal MRO

eral aviation companies showed interest in expanding in the state. One major proposal came from Germany-based INAVIA Aviation, which plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore to set up a Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) facility near Raja Bhoj Airport in Bhopal. The MRO unit will include component manufacturing, CND checks and engine repair services.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

DGCA WARNS AI OVER FLIGHT TIME VIOLATIONS IN 2 SEPARATE FLIGHTS

Neha LM Tripathi

neha.tripathi@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a warning to Air India after finding that two of its Bangalore-London flights in May exceeded the permissible 10-hour flight time limit for which the airline did not have a satisfactory reason.

According to Air India, the rostering issue on the two flights arose "due to a different interpretation of a permission that was granted to mitigate the border related airspace closure".

"This was corrected immediately after the right interpretation was conveyed to us. Air India remains fully compliant with the rules," an airline spokesperson said on Wednesday.

DGCA'S letter, dated August 11, said that the airline had, on June 20, been sent a show cause notice asking it to explain the reasons for violating norms.

The violations were detected during a spot check, with flights AI33 on May 16 and 17 operating beyond the stipulated duration, as mentioned within the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR).

"The regulator also noted that the airline's Accountable Manager failed to ensure compliance with the rules outlined in the CAR," read the letter issued by the DGCA.

India, China likely to resume direct flights

Rezaul H Laskar and
Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and China are in advanced negotiations on resuming direct flights and trade through selected border posts as part of efforts to normalise their relations after the end of the four-year military standoff on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

There has also been "forward movement" on restrictions imposed by China on fertiliser exports to India, the people said on condition of anonymity. The latest indications of the thaw in bilateral relations come ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's expected visit to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on August 31.

The resumption of direct flights and border trade – both suspended since 2020 – figured in several meetings held since Modi and President Xi Jinping met in the Russian city of Kazan on October 23, 2024, two days after an understanding to end the faceoff on the LAC, and decided to revive several mechanisms to normalise relations and address the border dispute.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar raised China's restrictions on fertiliser exports when he met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing last month, the people said. At the time, Jaishankar said the two sides should build on "good progress" in normalising ties by avoiding "restrictive trade measures" and addressing issues related to the border.

The modalities for resuming direct flights, including the finalisation of an updated air services agreement, are yet to be completed, though Indian carriers have been asked by authorities to begin preparing to fly to China as early as next month, the people said. One option being considered is the resumption of flights without updating the air services agreement, they said.

Authorities have asked IndiGo to start preparing for flights, hinting at the resumption of air



PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping

connectivity with China, at least two officials with knowledge of the development said. "In an internal communication, the ministry of civil aviation asked IndiGo to start making arrangements for resuming India-China flights," one of the officials said.

However, the people acknowledged that lack of adequate aircraft is a factor that is being considered by Indian authorities.

Non-stop flights to China stopped during the Covid-19 pandemic and this continued after border skirmishes between Indian and Chinese troops in April-May 2020 took bilateral ties to a six-decade low. Both sides arrayed close to 50,000 troops each in Ladakh sector of the LAC before the understanding last October on disengagement of forces at the two remaining "friction points" of Demchok and Depsang.

Before this, Air India, IndiGo, Air China, China Southern and China Eastern operated direct flights. IndiGo and Air India didn't comment on the development, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) didn't respond to a request for comment.

The resumption of border trade through the designated points of Lipulekh pass in Uttarakhand, Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh and Nathu La in Sikkim figured in recent meetings between the two sides, the people said. Trade through these routes was stopped in 2020. Minister of state for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh told Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question last week that India has "engaged with the Chinese side to facilitate the resumption of border trade through all these

trade routes".

On the issue of China's restriction on fertiliser exports, the people said there had been "forward movement" since the matter was raised by Jaishankar with his Chinese counterpart in mid-July. Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter, that India, the world's top importer of fertilisers, could take as much as 300,000 tons of urea.

Almost half of China's fertiliser exports in 2023 headed to India, but it halted sales to all countries last year. Beijing relaxed the ban in June but kept its restrictions on India until now. India's imports of urea from China fell to about 100,000 tonnes in 2024-25, compared to 1.87 million tonnes a year ago, according to the Fertiliser Association of India. Last month, India finalised long-term agreements with Saudi Arabia for 3.1 million metric tonnes of DAP fertiliser per annum for five years to cope with the restrictions imposed by China. Di-ammonium phosphate or DAP is the second most widely used crop nutrient in India.

There was no official word from the Indian and Chinese side on these developments, which coincided with substantial strain in India's relations with the US after President Donald Trump imposed a reciprocal tariff of 25% on Indian goods and a punitive tariff of 25% for purchases of Russian crude.

The Indian side has proceeded cautiously in normalising relations with China, with the two sides agreeing in April to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to the Tibet region for the first time since 2020, and India resuming tourist visas for Chinese nationals in July after a five-year gap.

Efforts to normalise relations, however, hit a bump over China's support to Pakistan during four days of hostilities with India in May after New Delhi launched Operation Sindoor to target terrorist infrastructure across the border in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians in April.

(With inputs from Neeraj Chauhan)



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

13 AUGUST 2025

DGCA issues notice to IndiGo over improper pilot training

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: India's aviation regulator has issued a show-cause notice to IndiGo for using "non-qualified simulators" to train pilots operating to three challenging airports, citing scrutiny of records and email replies from the airline.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation notice, issued on Monday and seen by HT, found that "Category C (Critical) airfield training for flight crew" was conducted using simulators not approved for specific airports as required under Civil Aviation Rules.

It found that about 1,700 IndiGo pilots received training on simulators that lacked the

required approval to prepare them for flights to Leh, Kozhikode and Kathmandu. These three destinations are classified as "critical" airports, meaning they present special flying challenges that require specific, certified training equipment.

The review showed several Full Flight Simulators used for training, testing or checking used by the airline were not qualified or approved for those specific destinations. Issues were recorded across 20 simulators nationwide — two each in Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad, five each in Greater Noida and Gurugram, and four in Bengaluru. All were found unqualified to operate training for the three airports.

"As an approved post holder

THE REVIEW SHOWED SEVERAL FULL FLIGHT SIMULATORS USED BY THE AIRLINE WERE NOT QUALIFIED OR APPROVED FOR THOSE SPECIFIC DESTINATIONS

(director - training) of M/s IndiGo, you were responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable Civil Aviation Requirements. However, it has been observed that you have failed to ensure the use of appropriately qualified simulators for

training related to Class III (critical) airports, in violation of the above-mentioned CAR provisions," DGCA said in the notice.

The regulator has given IndiGo 14 days to respond, warning: "Therefore, you are hereby called upon to show cause within 14 days of receipt of this notice as to why action should not be taken against you for the said lapse under the applicable provisions of the Aircraft Rules and CAR."

DGCA said it would presume the airline had nothing to submit in defence should it fail to respond within the deadline. "Ex parte action shall be initiated against you as per rules," the notice added.

The airline confirmed the notice.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

SpiceJet inks deal for 5 Boeing 737s

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Wednesday said it has finalized a damp-lease agreement for five Boeing 737s planes ahead of the winter schedule.

The airline currently has 13 Boeing 737s and six regional jets in operation, out of a total of 53 aircraft in its fleet, according to aircraft fleet tracking website Planespotter.com. The remaining 34 remain on the ground.

On 25 July, the airline also made a similar announcement for five leased aircraft.

"SpiceJet has finalized a lease agreement for another five Boeing 737 aircraft, further strengthening its fleet ahead of the upcoming winter schedule," the airline said in a statement. While most of these aircraft are scheduled to join the fleet in October, a few are expected to arrive a couple of weeks earlier, the airline said. In a damp-lease arrangement, the operational crew is shared between the operator and the airline.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025



Air India received a show-cause notice in relation to flight duty time violations on two flights in May. AP

DGCA warns Air India on compliance

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has warned Air India's accountable manager and chief executive officer (CEO) Campbell Wilson after finding the airline's response as "unsatisfactory" to a show-cause notice issued in relation to flight duty time violations by the crew of two long-haul flights that were operated in May, sources said on Wednesday. Campbell, who is also managing director of the Tata group-owned airline, is also its accountable manager.

"Air India is in receipt of the DGCA letter with regard to rostering issues on two long-haul flights reported in mid-May that arose due to a different interpretation of a permission that was granted to mitigate the border-related airspace closure. This was corrected immediately after the right interpretation was conveyed to us. Air India remains fully compliant with the rules," an airline spokesperson told *PTI*.

The DGCA in June issued a show-cause notice to the airline for breaching the "flight duty time limitation" of the crew during two long-haul flights between Bengaluru and London on 16 and 17 May.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

SpiceJet plans to induct five more Boeing 737s

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PRIVATE carrier SpiceJet on Wednesday said it has finalised a lease agreement for another five Boeing 737 aircraft which will help them to strengthen their fleet ahead of the upcoming winter schedule. While most of these aircraft will join the fleet in October 2025, a few are scheduled to arrive a couple of weeks earlier.

As per SpiceJet, these additions will cater to the peak winter season and extend into the early summer season of 2026, remaining with the airline until May 2026. The aircraft will be inducted under damp lease arrangements.

This latest agreement follows SpiceJet's announcement last month of inducting five Boeing 737s on damp lease from another



operator, taking the total number of new fleet additions to 10. The airline said that it is also in advanced discussions to lease more aircraft ahead of the winter 2025 schedule.

SpiceJet's effort to increase its fleet size comes as it continues to see fall in its share in the Indian civil aviation market.

The airline's came down to just 1.9% in June 2025 from 2.4% in May 2025, showed data shared by the DGCA. Debojyoti Mahapatra, Chief Business Officer, SpiceJet, said,

"SpiceJet is fully geared to meet the surge in travel demand for the upcoming winter and early summer seasons. With the induction of these additional Boeing 737s, we are ensuring that our passengers have more choices, greater connectivity, and a reliable, on-time travel experience."



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

स्पाइसजैट ने पांच बोइंग-737 विमानों के लिए समझौते पर किए हस्ताक्षर

मुंबई, 13 अगस्त (एजेंसी): घरेलू विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजैट ने सर्दियों से पहले पांच बोइंग 737 विमानों के लिए समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने की जानकारी दी। इन विमानों को 'डैम्प-लीज' के आधार पर शामिल किया जा रहा है। 'डैम्प-लीज' के तहत एक विमानन कंपनी (पट्टा देने वाली) अपना विमान किसी दूसरी विमानन कंपनी (पट्टा लेने वाली) को किराए पर देती है। इस व्यवस्था में विमान के साथ आमतौर पर चालक दल के सदस्यों जैसे पायलट और सह-पायलट आदि को भी सांझा किया जाता है।

विमानन कंपनियों के बेड़े पर नजर रखने वाली वैबसाइट प्लेनस्पॉटर डॉट नेट पर उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार स्पाइसजैट के बेड़े में कुल 53 विमानों में से वर्तमान में 13 बोइंग-737 और 6 क्षेत्रीय जैट विमान परिचालन में हैं।



विभिन्न कारणों से 34 विमान उड़ान नहीं भर रहे थे। स्पाइसजैट ने 5 अन्य विमानों के संबंध में 25 जुलाई को भी इसी प्रकार की घोषणा की थी। विमानन कंपनी ने कहा, "स्पाइसजैट ने पांच और बोइंग 737 विमानों के लिए पट्टा समझौते को अंतिम रूप दे दिया है, जिससे आगामी सर्दियों से पहले उसका बेड़ा और मजबूत हो जाएगा।"

बयान में कहा गया कि इनमें से अधिकतर विमान अक्टूबर में बेड़े में शामिल होने वाले हैं, जबकि कुछ के एक-दो सप्ताह पहले आने की उम्मीद है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

13 AUGUST 2025

DGCA issues showcause notice to IndiGo over simulator training lapses for 1,700 pilots

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

In a serious development raising concerns about aviation safety, India's civil aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has issued a show cause notice to IndiGo for alleged lapses in simulator training involving nearly 1,700 pilots, sources said on Tuesday.

The move follows a detailed scrutiny of training records and responses submitted by the airline last month. The DGCA reportedly found that a significant number of IndiGo pilots - including both Commanders and First Officers - underwent Category C or critical airfield training on simulators that were not qualified



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

for such operations.

According to sources familiar with the matter, the simulators used by IndiGo were not cleared for training related to challenging airports such as Calicut, Leh, and Kathmandu - all of which are designated as critical due to difficult terrain and operational hazards. For example, Calicut airport is classified as a table-top

runway, requiring additional pilot proficiency due to limited overrun areas and complex approach paths.

"Simulator training for Category C airports is a safety-critical element, and any deviation from prescribed norms can potentially compromise operational safety," said an aviation safety expert, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In response, IndiGo confirmed receipt of the notice, stating that it is currently assessing the DGCA's observations.

"We confirm receipt of a show-cause notice issued by the DGCA pertaining to simulator training of some of our pilots.

We are in the process of reviewing the same and will respond to the regulator within the stipulated timeline," an IndiGo spokesperson said.

This development could potentially trigger wider scrutiny of training protocols across Indian airlines, especially as pilot competency and training infrastructure come under increasing attention post-COVID, during the sector's recovery and rapid expansion.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

13 AUGUST 2025

Flight diverted: MPs allege 'Breach of Privilege'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Five MPs, including KC Venugopal of the Congress, wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday over the incident of a Thiruvananthapuram-Delhi flight they were travelling in being diverted to Chennai and demanded action on alleged "breach of privilege" by Air India.

Venugopal and party colleagues K Suresh, Adoor Prakash and Robert Bruce, along with CPI(M)'s K Radhakrishnan also wrote to Civil Aviation Minister Rammoohan Naidu and demanded an immediate investigation into the incident.

In their letter to Birla, the five MPs said they wanted to bring to his attention the matter involving a "grave breach of privilege" by Air India, arising from events on Flight AI 2455 (Thiruvananthapuram to Delhi) on August 10.

"On the said date, we were travelling along with hundreds of other passengers. The flight, scheduled for 7:15 PM, eventually departed around 8:30 PM citing the late arrival of the incoming aircraft. From the outset, the journey was marked by prolonged turbulence. Passengers were instructed to remain strapped in, and even basic inflight services

such as dinner were withheld," the MPs said.

Midway through the flight, the pilot announced a critical technical fault — failure of the weather radar — and declared that the aircraft would be diverted to Chennai, they said.

"This raised immediate concern since other airports such as Bengaluru and Coimbatore were closer to our location at the time. The decision to proceed to a farther airport, while allegedly 'flying blind' remains unexplained," the MPs wrote.

Upon reaching Chennai airspace, the aircraft did not land but continued to circle for more than an hour and the reason for this prolonged holding pattern was not clarified, they said.

"Eventually, during the first landing attempt, the aircraft had to execute a sudden go-around manoeuvre from a dangerously low altitude, reportedly due to 'something', possibly another aircraft on the runway, as per the pilot's announcement.

Only on the second attempt did we land safely. We were finally boarded and flown to Delhi on another aircraft past midnight," the MPs said in their letter.

"Immediately after the incident, we placed the matter in the public domain through our social media accounts, highlighting the serious safety and procedur-

VENUGOPAL AND PARTY COLLEAGUES K SURESH, ADOOR PRAKASH AND ROBERT BRUCE, ALONG WITH K RADHAKRISHNAN WROTE TO CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER RAMMOHAN NAIDU

al lapses witnessed firsthand. Instead of addressing these legitimate concerns, Air India has issued public statements portraying our account as false and misleading, thereby attempting to discredit elected Members of Parliament who were fulfilling their responsibility of raising issues of public safety," they said.

"This attempt to question our credibility and publicly misrepresent our statements amounts to a direct breach of privilege, as it seeks to intimidate and deter Members from discharging their constitutional duty to raise matters affecting citizens' safety and welfare," they said.

In the wake of the recent tragic air accident in Ahmedabad and several reported mid-air technical glitches across the country, flight safety is a matter of deep public concern, Venugopal and the four other MPs said, adding that rather than showing transparency

and accountability, Air India has resorted to denial.

"We, therefore, request that this matter be taken up as a breach of privilege against Air India, and necessary action be initiated to safeguard the rights of Members of Parliament and to ensure that public safety concerns are addressed with seriousness and transparency," their letter to Birla said.

In their letter to the civil aviation minister, the MPs said that a time when the nation is still reeling from the recent tragic air accident in Ahmedabad and multiple reported mid-air technical incidents in recent months, such opacity from Air India is unacceptable.

"We therefore urge your ministry to order a comprehensive and time-bound investigation into this incident, covering both technical and procedural aspects, and to ensure that the findings are made public in full," they said. "We also request that clear accountability be fixed, operational protocols for emergency diversions and runway safety be strengthened, and passengers be given truthful and timely communication in such situations," the MPs said.

Tagging both the letters, Venugopal said, "The harrowing experience we faced on our flight from Trivandrum to Delhi (AI2455) should serve as yet another

wake up call for Air India, DGCA and the Civil Aviation Ministry to address the glaring lapses that result in such grave incidents."

"Air India's response to our concern was to label them as false — which is an attempt at discrediting MPs who are raising genuine concerns regarding safety of air travel. Along with MPs Kodikkunil Suresh, Adoor Prakash, Robert Bruce and K. Radhakrishnan, have written to the Hon'ble Speaker regarding this Breach of Privilege on part of Air India," he said.

"We have also written to @MoCA_GoI demanding an immediate investigation into the incident," he said.

Air India on Monday had said the crew of the Thiruvananthapuram-Delhi flight that was diverted to Chennai on Sunday followed the protocols and the first landing attempt had to be aborted due to suspected foreign debris presence on the runway amid safety concerns raised by some Parliamentarians who were on board the aircraft.

Aviation watchdog DGCA said the flight was diverted to Chennai due to suspected malfunctioning of the weather radar of the aircraft, which landed safely, amid some Parliamentarians who were on board the plane flagging safety concerns.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

पांच बोइंग-737 लीज पर लेगी स्पाइसजेट

मुंबई (भाषा)।

घरेलू विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने सर्दियों से पहले पांच बोइंग 737 विमानों के लिए समझौते को अंतिम रूप देने की बुधवार को जानकारी दी।

इन विमानों को 'डैम्प-लीज' के आधार पर शामिल किया जा रहा है। 'डैम्प-लीज' के तहत एक विमानन कंपनी (पट्टा देने वाली) अपना विमान किसी दूसरी विमानन कंपनी (पट्टा लेने वाली) को किराये पर देती है। इस व्यवस्था में विमान के साथ आमतौर पर चालक दल के सदस्यों जैसे पायलट और

सह-पायलट आदि को भी साझा किया जाता है।

विमानन कंपनियों के बेड़े पर नजर रखने वाली वेबसाइट फ्लेनस्पॉटर डॉट नेट पर



उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार, स्पाइसजेट के बेड़े में कुल 53 विमानों में से वर्तमान में 13 बोइंग-737 और छह क्षेत्रीय जेट विमान

परिचालन में हैं। विभिन्न कारणों से 34 विमान उड़ान नहीं भर रहे थे।

स्पाइसजेट ने पांच अन्य विमानों के संबंध में 25 जुलाई को भी इसी प्रकार की घोषणा की थी। विमानन कंपनी ने बुधवार को बयान में कहा, 'स्पाइसजेट ने पांच और बोइंग 737 विमानों के लिए पट्टा समझौते को अंतिम रूप दे दिया है, जिससे आगामी सर्दियों से पहले उसका बेड़ा और मजबूत हो जाएगा।'

बयान में कहा गया कि इनमें से अधिकतर विमान अक्टूबर में बेड़े में शामिल होने वाले हैं, जबकि कुछ के एक-दो सप्ताह पहले आने की उम्मीद है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

14 AUGUST 2025

DGCA warns AI on pilot duty violations

Regulator Says Airline Misused Pak Air Space Closure Exemption, Reduced Crew

Saurabh.Sinha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has warned Air India against misusing exemptions given for pilot flight duty rules under special circumstances. After Pakistan had closed its airspace to Indian carriers on April 24, 2025, the regulator had granted an exemption from flight duty time limitation (FDTL) norms so that Air India could continue its affected flights between the West and India.

However under the pretext of this exemption allowing it to keep pilots flying longer, Air India reduced the



Representational photo

A livid DGCA pulled up AI or what a senior official described as 'oversmartness'

number of cockpit crew from the unaffected Bengaluru-London flight — which didn't enter Pakistan airspace — from three to two on two flights. A livid regulator pulled up AI for what a senior

official described as "oversmartness". This FDTL exemption ended June 12, the day AI171 crashed.

Nine days after the Ahmedabad crash, the DGCA had issued AI a show-cause for

operating two Bengaluru-London flights on May 16 and 17 by making pilots fly for longer than the 10 hours allowed as per the FDTL given to AI at that point of time.

On Aug 11, the DGCA told AI that its "response to (that) show-cause notice has been duly examined and found to be unsatisfactory in addressing the regulatory lapses and deficiencies noted".

It also noted that the airline's "accountable manager (CEO Campbell Wilson) failed to ensure compliance with the rules". "Accordingly, the accountable manager of AI is hereby warned and advised to exercise utmost

diligence and responsibility in ensuring strict compliance with the applicable civil aviation requirements (DGCA rules)," the DGCA warning letter said.

For its part, an AI spokesperson said: "AI is in receipt of the DGCA letter with regard to rostering issues on two long-haul flights reported in mid-May that arose due to a different interpretation of a permission that was granted to mitigate the border-related airspace closure. This was corrected immediately after the right interpretation was conveyed to us. Air India remains fully compliant with the rules."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

13 AUGUST 2025

5 MPs write to Birla to act against Air India over 'breach of privilege'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Five MPs, including Congress's general secretary, organisation, KC Venugopal, on Tuesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla over the incident of the Thiruvananthapuram-Delhi flight they were travelling on being diverted to Chennai and demanded action on alleged "breach of privilege" by Air India.

Venugopal and his party colleagues K Suresh, Adoor Prakash and Robert Bruce, along with CPI(M)'s K Radhakrishnan, also wrote to civil aviation minister Rammohan Naidu. They have demanded a time-bound investigation into the incident and asked that its findings be made public in full.

In their letter to Birla, the five MPs said they wanted to bring to his attention the matter involving a 'grave breach of privilege' by Air India, arising from events on Flight AI 2455 (Thiruvananthapuram to Delhi) on Aug 10.

"Midway through the flight, the pilot announced a critical technical fault - failure of the weather radar - and



The MPs wrote to the LS Speaker over the incident of the Thiruvananthapuram-Delhi flight they were travelling on being diverted to Chennai

declared that the aircraft would be diverted to Chennai," they said. "This raised immediate concern since other airports such as Bengaluru and Coimbatore were closer to our location at the time. The decision to proceed to a farther airport, while allegedly 'flying blind', remains unexplained," the MPs wrote.

However, after reaching Chennai airspace, the aircraft did not land and continued to be air-borne for more than an hour, with the reason for this prolonged holding pattern not being clarified, they said.

"Eventually, during the first landing attempt, the aircraft

had to execute a sudden go-around manoeuvre from a dangerously low altitude, reportedly due to 'something', possibly another aircraft on the runway, as per the pilot's announcement. Only on the second attempt did we land safely. We were finally de-boarded and flown to Delhi on another aircraft past midnight," the MPs said in the letter. "Immediately after the incident, we placed the matter in the public domain. Instead of addressing these legitimate concerns, Air India has issued public statements portraying our account as false and misleading," they said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

13 AUGUST 2025

For every seat on Mum-Solapur flight, state to pay ₹3,240

Chaitanya.Marpakwar
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The state cabinet on Tuesday approved the provision of viability gap funding (VGF) per seat for a year on the lines of the UDAN scheme for the Solapur-Pune-Mumbai air route.

The Centre launched the UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme) to make air travel affordable for common people. This scheme will also be implemented for Solapur airport. Until the implementation of this scheme, funds will be made available at the rate of Rs 3,240 per seat (100% VGF) for a year. This will help reduce the cost of air travel on the Solapur-Pune-Mumbai route, said officials.

The VGF per seat will be provided to Star Air Company for the Solapur-Mumbai and Solapur-Pune routes. A provision of Rs 17.97 crore will be made. After the implementation of the UDAN scheme for this airport, this fund provided by the govt will be discontinued, and 20% VGF will be provided as per the central

govt's UDAN scheme.

Under UDAN, airlines get a subsidy from the govt to operate the route, and 50 % of the seats should be sold at a pre-determined price, around Rs 2,500 for an hour-long flight. The remaining seats can be sold at any price, depending on the demand.

The state was one of the first to implement the UDAN scheme, but it has not taken off as expected. Currently, Mumbai-Nanded, Nashik-Delhi, Nanded-Hyd, Kolhapur-Hyderabad, Kolhapur-Bangalore are some of the UDAN routes.

In areas that previously had few or no flights for connectivity, the govt is attempting to increase regional air travel, enhance connectivity, and foster economic growth with this strategy. The scheme contributed to the growth of regional airlines and gave a boost to job creation and tourism.

Since its launch on Oct 21, 2016, UDAN ran flights on about 601 itineraries and 71 airports, increasing affordability and accessibility of air travel.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

13 AUGUST 2025

DGCA notice to IndiGo for training 1700 pilots on unapproved simulators

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a show-cause notice to IndiGo for allegedly using unapproved simulators to train about 1700 pilots for flight operations to challenging airfields such as Calicut, Leh and Kathmandu. The DGCA scrutinised simulator training records of IndiGo pilots and found that “Category C (critical) airfield training” was conducted using “non-qualified” simulators, said the show-cause notice issued to IndiGo’s director (training) on Aug 11. The airline has to respond to the notice within 14 days, failing which the DGCA will initiate “ex parte action”, the notice said.

Category C airfields are those that present unusual challenges during approach to land or departure. They are located in mountainous regions like Leh, Kathmandu or in the hilly south Malabar region in case of Calicut. Due to limitations imposed by the terrain, these airfields often have short, table-top runways

and specific wind and atmospheric pressure conditions typical to high terrain. Pilots operating to such airports undergo specific training for the unusual challenges and weather conditions typical to such airports.

The show-cause notice said that the airline conducted training sessions in violation of certain DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) provisions. According to the DGCA, simulator training for critical airfield operations must be conducted on devices specifically approved for those airports. The notice lists 20 simulators at facilities in Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore, Greater Noida, Gurugram, and Hyderabad, with remarks such as “not qualified for Calicut” or “not qualified for Calicut and Leh” against each.

IndiGo confirmed the receipt of the notice. “We are in process of reviewing the same and will respond to regulator within stipulated timeline. We remain committed to ensuring highest standards of safety and compliance across our operations,” said an IndiGo spokesperson.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

13 AUGUST 2025

DGCA notice to IndiGo for 'lapses' in simulator training to 1,700 pilots

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has slapped a show-cause notice on IndiGo over alleged irregularities in simulator training for nearly 1,700 pilots, including commanders and first officers, sources said on Tuesday.

The regulator's action follows a detailed scrutiny of training records and the airline's responses submitted last month. Investigators found that Category C, or critical airfield, training for the pilots had been conducted on simulators not certified for operations at high-risk air-



ports such as Calicut, Leh and Kathmandu.

Airfields like Calicut, which has a tabletop runway, mandate additional operational requirements due to the heightened safety risks. The DGCA's findings suggest the simulators used failed to meet

the qualifications necessary for such specialised training.

"We confirm receipt of a show-cause notice issued by the DGCA pertaining to simulator training of some of our pilots. We are in process of reviewing the same and will respond to the regulator within the stipulated timeline. We remain committed to ensuring the highest standards of safety and compliance across our operations," an IndiGo spokesperson said. The airline now faces the prospect of regulatory action if its explanation fails to satisfy the aviation watchdog. — TNS

MPs write to Speaker over 'privilege breach' by Air India

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

Five MPs, including KC Venugopal of the Congress, wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday over a "frighteningly close to tragedy" incident aboard the Thiruvananthapuram-Delhi flight they were travelling in on August 10 and the plane being diverted to Chennai after a critical technical fault and failure of its weather radar.

Venugopal and party colleagues K Suresh, Adoor Prakash and Robert Bruce, along with CPM's KRadhakrishnan demanded action on alleged "breach of privilege" by Air India. — TNS