



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

14 MAY 2025

Bomb remark triggers panic at Kolkata airport; passenger detained

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

A full-scale security alert was sounded in Kolkata airport this afternoon after a 26-year-old air passenger from Imphal made a "bomb" comment to an Indigo airlines staffer as he was boarding the flight to Mumbai.

The flyer, Regal Chongtham, reportedly told an IndiGo security officer at the step ladder point in Hindi: "Mere paas bomb hai?" (Do I have a bomb?), moments before boarding IndiGo flight 6E 5227, scheduled to depart for Mumbai at 1.30 pm from Bay 57L, an Airports Authority of India (AAI) official said.



Chongtham was immediately arrested and the incident triggered a full-scale security alert and delayed flight operations.

According to airport officials, Chongtham grew frustrated while interacting with airline staff during the secondary ladder point checking and multiple checks of passengers' baggage as part

of enhanced security measures because of the current tension between India and Pakistan. Step-ladder checks are a secondary-level security procedure under which airline staff frisk passengers and their hand luggage just before boarding, an airport official said.

In an apparent act of sarcasm, Chongtham re-

marked: "Mere paas bomb hai" to an airline employee.

Security personnel, adhering to strict airport safety protocols, immediately apprehended him and initiated emergency procedures. "The passenger's claim was declared specific, security was beefed up, and standard operating procedure (SOP) implemented," the airport official added.

Upon receiving the alert, the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) was activated and classified the situation as "specific", leading to the aircraft being moved to an isolation bay in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOP).



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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

14 MAY 2025

17 kg of hybrid ganja seized at Calicut airport, two arrested

KOZHIKODE (KERALA), PTI: Seventeen kilograms of hybrid ganja attempted to be smuggled through the Calicut International Airport here from Abu Dhabi were seized, and two persons were arrested in this regard, police said on Tuesday.

The arrested persons are those who allegedly came to collect the contraband from a passenger. The contraband was seized from the trolley bag of the passenger, the police said.



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

15 MAY 2025

लेह-श्रीनगर समेत कई हवाई अड्डों से उड़ान सेवा शुरू

नई दिल्ली। पाकिस्तान के साथ सीजफायर होने के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा (आईबी) और नियंत्रण रेखा से सटे राज्यों में बंद किए गए हवाई अड्डों में से कुछ से उड़ान सेवा शुरू हो गई है। जानकारी के अनुसार कुववार को आदमपुर से हिंडन, दिल्ली से श्रीनगर, जोधपुर, लेह उड़ान सेवा शुरू हो गई। इसके साथ ही किशनगढ़ से मुंबई और नागपुर के बीच भी उड़ान सेवा संचालित की गई।

Cabinet clears HCL-Foxconn semiconductor unit in Jewar

Sejal Sharma

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NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved a new semiconductor manufacturing facility, a joint venture between India's HCL and Taiwan's Foxconn, which will come up in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, Union Information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Vaishnaw said the facility will be near Jewar airport, an "up and coming area" within the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) region.

This is the sixth semiconductor unit being planned in the country under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and is slated to begin commercial production in 2027. It will serve as an outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility for display driver integrated circuits (ICs).

This is Foxconn's second attempt to set up a semiconductor unit under the ISM. In 2023, the Taiwan-based company had teamed up with Vedanta, but the partnership ultimately fell through.

"HCL has a very long history



A jet takes off from the newly built Jewar airport. HT PHOTO

of manufacturing electronics and computers," the minister said, adding that the new unit will use wafer-level packaging technology, specifically tailored for assembling display driver chips.

"Once the display driver ICs get properly assembled here, then the display panel plant will also come to India," Vaishnaw said. The facility is expected to cost ₹3,706, said Vaishnaw. It wasn't disclosed how this investment will be split between HCL and Foxconn.

The two companies could not be reached for comments. In January 2024, the two companies had announced their joint venture to build the facility.

The facility will assemble display driver chips, which are a small but important part in electronic devices that control how images, videos, and graphics appear on a screen. They are used in devices such as phones, laptops, and computers.

"The plant is designed for 20,000 wafers per month. The design output capacity is 36 million units per month," a government statement said.

The minister said the Foxconn-HCL facility was expected to cater to 40% of India's domestic demand for display driver chips, and support Foxconn's global supply chain needs.

Over the past decade, the country's electronics manufacturing output has grown five-fold, according to government data. With the addition of this unit under the ISM, the government moves a step closer to its goal of increasing value addition in electronics from the current 20% to over 35% by 2030, a target the minister has repeated on multiple occasions. He did not indicate when the next phase of the mission, dubbed 'ISM 2.0' would be launched, insisting that government's focus was on execution of current projects.



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

15 MAY 2025

Govt: HCL-Foxconn semiconductor JV in Jewar at ₹3.7K cr

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹3,706 crore semiconductor plant at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh, to be set up by the HCL-Foxconn joint venture to manufacture display driver chips for mobile phones, laptops and automobiles.

Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said with this approval, India now has six semiconductor units in advanced stages of construction. "With this sixth unit, Bharat moves forward in its journey to develop the strategically vital semiconductor industry," said Vaishnaw.

The new plant near Jewar Airport in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) region will manufacture display driver chips for a wide range of devices including mobile phones, laptops, automobiles, and PCs. It is designed for a capacity of 20,000 wafers per month, with an output of up to 36 million chips monthly.

Foxconn is the biggest manufacturer of electronic products, including Apple's iPhone. The unit is expected to attract an investment of ₹3,700 crore.

Vaishnaw emphasised HCL's legacy in hardware development and manufacturing, and Foxconn's global leadership in



MULTIPLIER EFFECT

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the new plant will attract investments. Once this unit is there, the display panel plant will also come to India. This will meet 40% of India's capacity

electronics production. Together, the companies aim to strengthen semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.

The minister also highlighted the growing presence of global semiconductor partners in India. He said leading equipment manufacturers have established operations in the country. Additionally, gas and chemical suppliers like Merck, Linde, Air Liquide, and Inox are preparing to support the industry's expansion.

India launched a ₹76,000 crore incentive scheme in December 2021 to build a robust semiconductor ecosystem.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

14 MAY 2025

Bomb threat puts Kolkata airport on high alert; one passenger detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Amid the Indo-Pak tension, the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport in Kolkata was put on high alert on Tuesday afternoon after a passenger claimed there was a bomb on the plane during a security check before boarding.

Kolkata airport authorities said that the passengers who had boarded the Kolkata-Mumbai IndiGo flight No 6E5227 were deboarded and taken to safety. It was learnt that the call came after the passen-

gers had checked in. The flight was scheduled to take off at 1.30 pm and land in Mumbai at 4.20 pm.

"All 195 passengers were asked to deplane following emergency protocol and the aircraft was taken to the isolation bay," an airport official confirmed. The aircraft, carrying 194-197 passengers, was moved to an isolation bay for thorough security checks and all passengers were safely evacuated. No suspicious items were found and the threat was later deemed a hoax, allowing the flight to depart over two hours late.

The Details

- » Kolkata airport authorities said that the passengers who had boarded the Kolkata-Mumbai IndiGo flight No 6E5227 were deboarded and taken to safety
- » The aircraft, carrying 194-197 passengers, was moved to an isolation bay for thorough security checks and all passengers were safely evacuated
- » No suspicious items were found and the threat was later deemed a hoax, allowing the flight to depart over two hours late

The 26-year-old passenger was detained in connection with the incident, though the motive remains unclear. The

man had arrived in Kolkata on an IndiGo flight and was to take another IndiGo flight to Mumbai. This incident marks

the second bomb scare at an Indian airport since the launch of Operation Sindoor, a military operation targeting Pakistan-based terror groups.

Heightened security measures were implemented at the airport, including anti-sabotage checks by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and 100% ladder-point inspections by the airline.

The Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) convened to evaluate the threat, following standard operating procedures (SOPs). The event disrupted operations, causing

delays and passenger inconvenience, but no flights were cancelled. Police are investigating the source of the threat, with efforts to trace its origin.

IndiGo released a statement saying: "Flight 6E 5227 from Kolkata to Mumbai received a bomb threat before departure. Following safety protocols, the aircraft was moved to an isolation bay and checked thoroughly." This incident follows a series of hoax bomb threats targeting Indian airports and flights in recent months, raising concerns about aviation security amidst regional tensions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

15 MAY 2025



IAL 2.0: Cochin airport to unveil digital shift

Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) is making a bold stride into the future with the launch of IAL 2.0, a landmark initiative designed to completely digitise airport operations and enhance passenger experiences through official intelligence, automation, and robust cybersecurity. This ₹200 crore transformation will be inaugurated on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5 pm, at the CIAL Trade Fair & Exhibition Centre, by Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala and Chairman of CIAL. At the core of IAL 2.0 is the establishment of the Cyber Defence Operations Centre (CDOC)—a cutting-edge facility focused on proactively safeguarding digital infrastructure. It is the first full-fledged on-premises server facility at an Indian airport, supported by CDAC, featuring real-time threat intelligence, 24x7 proactive monitoring, and rapid incident response capabilities.

IGI पर 36 दिन बाद आई राहत की सांस

■ नवीन निश्चल, एयरपोर्ट

इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (IGI) पर कर्मचारियों और सुरक्षा में तैनात सीआईएसएफ, दिल्ली पुलिस के जवानों और यात्रा करने वाले लोगों ने 36 दिन बाद राहत की सांस ली है। इस दौरान कई तरह की समस्याएं आईं। इसके कारण एयरपोर्ट पर उथल-पुथल की स्थिति बनी रही। 100 से 150 के बीच उड़ानें रद्द की गईं और सैकड़ों फ्लाइटें लेट हुईं। कई बार लोगों ने एयरपोर्ट पर रेलवे स्टेशन की तरह भीड़ की तस्वीरें शेयर कर सवाल किया। हालांकि 14 मई से स्थिति लगभग सामान्य हो रही है। इसकी पुष्टि एयरपोर्ट के अधिकारियों ने भी की है।

8 अप्रैल से बंद हुआ था IGI का 28/10 रनवे: आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर चार रनवे उड़ान के लिए मौजूद हैं। लेकिन, 28/10 रनवे को सबसे इंपोर्टेंट माना जाता है। इसकी अपग्रेड करने और रिपेयर करने के लिए 8 अप्रैल को 2 महीने के लिए बंद कर दिया गया था। इसके बाद IGI पर उड़ानें लेट और कैसल होने लगीं। लोग सोशल मीडिया पर दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर लगातार सवाल उठा रहे थे।

हवा का रुख बदलने से समस्या: हवा का रुख अचानक वेस्टर्न से इस्टर्न होने से आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर हर घंटे लैंड होने वाली फ्लाइट्स की संख्या कम हो गई। इससे फ्लाइट का कंजेशन बढ़ने लगा। एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों की भीड़ बेतहाशा बढ़ने लगी। यहां तक कि जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री तक ने फोटो शेयर कर एयरपोर्ट पर सवाल खड़े



किए। हालात खराब होने के कारण जून की वजाय मई के फर्स्ट वीक में ही फिर से 28/10 रनवे को चालू करना पड़ा।

आतंकी हमले के बाद एयरपोर्ट बंद: 28/10 रनवे के शुरू होने और हवा का रुख भी सामान्य होने से लगने लगा कि IGI एयरपोर्ट पर धीरे-धीरे स्थिति सामान्य हो जाएगी। लेकिन, 22 अप्रैल को पहलगाम में आतंकी हमले के बाद एयर स्ट्राइक और हमले की आशंका के दौरान देश के कई एयरपोर्ट बंद कर दिए गए। इसकी वजह से लगभग 150 उड़ानें IGI एयरपोर्ट से रद्द की गईं। जांच में सख्ती की वजह से भी यात्रियों को परेशानी बढ़ गई।

हवा का रुख बदलने से पहले 28/10 रनवे को मरम्मत के लिए बंद कर दिया गया था

डायल और एयरलाइंस द्वारा जारी होती एडवाइजरी: आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट्स के कैसल और डिले होने के कारण एयरपोर्ट का संचालन करने वाली कंपनी डायल द्वारा सुबह से लेकर रात तक कई बार एडवाइजरी जारी कर यात्रियों को अलर्ट किया जाता था। यहां तक कि अलग-अलग एयरलाइंस भी अपनी अपनी तरफ से एडवाइजरी जारी करके हवाई यात्रियों को सूचना पहुंचाने में लगी हुई थीं।

जेवर एयरपोर्ट के विमान को फरीदाबाद से मिलेगा ईंधन

एशिया के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डे के लिए हरियाणा से पाइप लाइन बिछाने का काम अंतिम चरण में

● 34 किलोमीटर लंबी पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम लगभग 95 फीसदी हुआ पूरा

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नोएडा

ग्रेटर नोएडा शहर की बगल में एशिया का सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट बनकर तैयार हो चुका है। एशिया के सबसे बड़े एयरपोर्ट का नाम जेवर एयरपोर्ट के नाम से प्रसिद्ध हो गया है। जेवर एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने वाले हवाई जहाजों को हरियाणा के फरीदाबाद से आने वाले ईंधन से भरा जाएगा। फरीदाबाद से लेकर जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक पाइप लाइन बिछाने का काम लगभग पूरा हो गया है।

आपको बता दें कि हवाई जहाज को उड़ाने के लिए उसमें एविएशन टरबाइन फ्यूल यानि कि ईंधन भरा



जाता है। जेवर एयरपोर्ट से उड़ाने वाले जहाजों में हरियाणा के फरीदाबाद शहर से आने वाला फ्यूल भरा जाएगा। फरीदाबाद से जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक बहुत बड़ी पाइप लाइन बिछाई जा रही है। जेवर एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण से जुड़े हुए अधिकारियों ने बताया है कि ईंधन सप्लाई करने वाली पाइप

लाइन के निर्माण का 95 प्रतिशत से अधिक काम पूरा हो चुका है। फ्यूल की सप्लाई का काम देश की प्रति कंपनी भारत पेट्रोलियम को दिया गया है। भारत पेट्रोलियम ने फरीदाबाद से जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक 34 किलोमीटर लम्बी पाइप लाइन बिछाई है। जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक पाइप लाइन बिछाने का

काम बहुत ही कठिन था। इस कठिन काम को भारत पेट्रोलियम के इंजीनियरों की देखरेख में लगभग पूरा कर लिया गया है। आपको बता दें कि ईंधन की सप्लाई करने के लिए भारत पेट्रोलियम ने 34 किमी लंबी पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम किया है। फरीदाबाद में पयाला डिपो से नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट तक डायरेक्ट पाइपलाइन के जरिए पहुंचाया जाएगा। हरियाणा से जेवर यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे तक इस पाइपलाइन को बिछाने का काम पूरा हो चुका है। यही नहीं एयरपोर्ट के बाहर जेवर कैनाल के नीचे से जेवर एयरपोर्ट के अंदर बने ऑयल डिपो तक 1.2 किमी लंबी पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम भी लगभग पूरा हो चुका है। भारत पेट्रोलियम ने पयाला डिपो से जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचाने के लिए 4 किमी लंबी और 14 इंच की पाइपलाइन बिछायी है। भारत पेट्रोलियम ने यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे तक

इस अंडरग्राउंड पाइपलाइन को बिछाने का काम पूरा कर लिया है। इस पाइपलाइन को यमुना नदी के नीचे से गुजारा गया है ताकि पाइपलाइन कहीं भी नजर न आए। कंपनी जल्द ही जेवर कैनाल के नीचे से इसे एयरपोर्ट के अंदर तक पहुंचाने का काम भी पूरा कर लेगी। एयरपोर्ट के अंदर भी 1.2 किमी लंबी पाइपलाइन को बिछाने का काम लगभग पूरा हो गया है, जो फ्यूल को एयरपोर्ट की बाइंड्री से स्टोरेज टैंक तक लेकर जाएगी। हरियाणा के पयाला डिपो से आने वाला फ्यूलजेवर एयरपोर्ट के अंदर बने पांच ऑयल स्टोरेज टैंक में सुरक्षित तरीके से स्टोर होगा। शुरुआत में स्टोरेज की क्षमता 50 हजार किलोलिटर होगी। जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर ऑयल स्टोरेज टैंकों को इस तरह से डिजाइन किया गया है कि अगर हरियाणा से 5 दिन तक सप्लाई नहीं आएगी, तब भी जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों को ईंधन मिलता रहेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

14 MAY 2025

श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट से उड़ानें फिर शुरू

श्रीनगर। भारत-पाकिस्तान तनाव के कारण कुछ समय के लिए स्थगित रहने के बाद श्रीनगर हवाई अड्डे पर वाणिज्यिक उड़ानों का परिचालन मंगलवार को फिर

उड़ान संचालन और यात्री यातायात में आई गिरावट

से शुरू हो गया। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि श्रीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर मंगलवार दोपहर को उड़ान संचालन फिर से शुरू हो गया। हालांकि, उन्होंने कहा कि कश्मीर घाटी से आने-जाने वाली कई उड़ानों में देरी हुई, जबकि कुछ एयरलाइनों ने पहले ही दिन के लिए उड़ानों को रद्द करने की घोषणा कर दी

है। भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच सैन्य गतिरोध के मद्देनजर 9 मई से श्रीनगर हवाई अड्डे के साथ-साथ सीमावर्ती राज्यों के 31 हवाई अड्डों को अस्थायी रूप से बंद कर दिया गया था, जिसके बाद कुछ दिनों बाद इसे फिर से खोला गया। श्रीनगर में उड़ान संचालन फिर से शुरू करने का निर्णय भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण द्वारा सोमवार को इन हवाई अड्डों पर नागरिक उड़ानों को फिर से शुरू करने की घोषणा के बाद लिया गया। हवाई अड्डे के अधिकारियों के आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि 23 अप्रैल से 8 मई तक उड़ान संचालन और यात्री यातायात दोनों में उल्लेखनीय गिरावट आई है।

City services to some north cities cancelled on Tuesday

Air travel yet to pick up, fliers wary

SANJAY MANDAL
AND AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

Calcutta/New Delhi: Thirty-two airports shut down in India's north and northwest because of the flare-up along the Pakistan border have reopened, but most airlines had yet to resume normal operations to these destinations till late Tuesday.

Domestic sector airfares continued to be relatively low as many remained wary of travel unless essential.

Flights to Srinagar, Amritsar, Chandigarh and Hindon from the city remained cancelled on Tuesday, said an airport official.

As a safety measure, Air India and IndiGo decided to cancel flight services to Jammu and Amritsar, among others, after suspected drone activities in the border areas on Monday night.

According to sources, an IndiGo flight en route to Amritsar returned to Delhi on Monday night after a precautionary blackout was enforced in the city because of the suspected drone activities nearby. Landing in Amritsar was not possible because of the blackout, the sources said.

After a few hours, IndiGo decided to cancel all its flights to Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar and Ra-

jkot on May 13, creating confusion about whether these airports were open or closed for civil operations.

Sources in the civil aviation ministry denied that airports like Jammu were closed and said they were operating normally.

The Amritsar Airport Authority said on X (formerly Twitter) that an IndiGo flight was asked to return to Delhi when it reached Mansa, in the Punjab airspace.

Flight tracking website *Flightradar24.com* showed that the IndiGo flight had taken off from the Delhi airport at 8pm but returned to the capital after being airborne for some time.

An Air India Express flight landed at the Jammu airport from Delhi on Tuesday, while one flight left for Srinagar.

IndiGo and Air India wrote on X that the decision to cancel flight services to the affected areas was taken as a safety measure.

"In light of the latest developments, and with your safety as our utmost priority, flights to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar and Rajkot are cancelled for 13th May 2025. We understand how this may disrupt your travel plans, and regret the inconvenience caused," an IndiGo advisory said.

"Our teams are actively



A CISF official with a sniffer dog checks the luggage of a passenger at the Calcutta airport on May 10. (PTI)

monitoring the situation and will promptly keep you informed of further updates. Before heading to the airport, please check your flight status on our website or app."

Air India posted: "In view of the latest developments and keeping your safety in mind, flights to and from Jammu, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Chandigarh and Rajkot are cancelled for Tuesday, 13th May. We are monitoring the situation and will keep you updated."

The Chandigarh airport announced that it was eager to welcome passengers and assured assistance.

Air India Express resumed its flight operations on routes, including Hindon, Jammu and Srinagar. The airline said that the resumption of other flights, including international services from Amritsar, was expected from May 15.

SpiceJet announced flight operations to Srinagar from Tuesday, and a restart of Haj flights from Srinagar from May 14.

But tour operators said passengers were apprehensive.

"There is widespread panic and apprehension among passengers about air travel. Many

passengers are making queries about travelling but want to wait and watch," said Anil Punjabi, national committee member, Travel Agents Federation of India, representing the eastern region.

Park Street resident Sanwar Agarwal was to go to Vienna on May 28 for a medical conference. "I have cancelled the trip because of the uncertain situation. I feel scared," said the businessman dealing in medical equipment. "There can be disruptions and other security problems."

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu posted on X at 8.13pm on Tuesday that he chaired a review meeting with all airlines and senior officials.

"In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, I appreciate the extraordinary efforts of the security forces in safeguarding our nation. Also, kudos to the seamless coordination between the Ministry, DGCA, AAI and airlines during this emergency," he posted.

"I suggested that airlines resume their normal schedules from the 15th across all 32 airports for which the NOTAM was issued. All airlines responded positively to this suggestion."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

14 MAY 2025

1.34 CRORE PASSENGERS IN FY25

City airport sets new record in passenger traffic

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport recorded its highest-ever passenger traffic in 2024-25. The airport, operated by Adani Airport Holdings Ltd, handled 13,427,697 passengers in FY25, a 14.8% increase from 11,696,227 handled in the previous fiscal. The surge was driven by a footfall of 1.1 crore domestic and 22 lakh international travellers during the year.

The airport's daily average now is over 36,800 passengers and 288 flights, connecting Ahmedabad to more than 48 domestic and 16 international destinations. On Jan 25, the airport saw its highest single-day footfall of 48,137 passengers and 351 aircraft movements, surpassing its previous record set in Nov 2023.

Air traffic movements rose by 16.2% year-on-year to 1,01,119 in 2024-25, up from 87,025 last year, the airport operator said. To accommodate this growth, the city airport recently added five new parking stands and introduced a Multiple Aircraft



Ramp System at the existing aerobridges.

Significant infrastructure and technology upgrades were carried out during the year. These include the deployment of cleaning robots, installation of more self-baggage drop machines, expansion of the check-in hall at Terminal 2, and the launch of the Fast Track Immigration—Trusted Travellers Programme and Digi Yatra.

The airport added new domestic routes to Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Nanded, Kolhapur, Dimapur, and Kishangarh, and launched international services to Don Mueang, Kuala Lumpur, and Da Nang. Frequencies also increased on routes to Delhi, Jeddah, Don Mueang, Kuwait, Kolkata, Kochi, and Abu Dhabi.

DGCA steps up oversight of Char Dham charter operations

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has enhanced the surveillance of Char Dham charter operations in the wake of a helicopter crash, in which six persons including the pilot died in Uttarakhand's Uttarakashi district last week.

While the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is probing the crash, the DGCA is intensifying its oversight.

The helipads used by choppers operating charter flights for the Char Dham Yatra are managed by the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA).

The authority also selects the helicopter operators which provide shuttle services to the Kedarnath shrine.

On Monday, DGCA asked

UCADA to ensure the compliance of a checklist prior to each flight departure. This will consist of details of the pilot operating the helicopter, airworthiness and safety.

ADDITIONAL AUDIT

Additional inspections or audit of operations are also expected following last week's crash.

This could help identify loopholes in current regulations and ensure better compliance, a source said.

SAFETY STEPS

Several steps have been taken in the past few years to improve safety of helicopter operations in the region. These include installation of high resolution cameras for real time monitoring of weather, additional checks and training assessment of pilots who operate on the routes. These were put in



Several steps have been taken in the past few years to improve safety of helicopter operations in the region

place after accidents in 2022 and 2023.

The terrain and weather pose a challenge to chopper operators in the hilly region, and engine efficiency is impacted at higher altitudes.

Pilots also have to factor in the weather and temperature before finalising the payload for any particular flight on this sector.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

14 MAY 2025

Hyd flights to north resume

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 13

Flight operations from Hyderabad to several northern cities like Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Rajkot and Bhuj would progressively resume from Tuesday, after remaining suspended on Monday. While most airlines had earlier issued advisories confirming the cancellations, IndiGo was the only airline to issue a fresh update on Tuesday.

In its latest advisory, IndiGo said, "Flight operations on the affected sectors are progressively resuming from 14th May 2025. Please check your flight status before head-

● **DESPITE** uncertainty, IndiGo and Air India websites show May 14 bookings open, mostly via connecting flights through major cities.

● Passengers should monitor airline advisories and flight updates regularly, as flight operations may resume.

ing to the airport." IndiGo officials said that flight operations to the affected areas will gradually resume and are expected to return to normal in the coming days depending on the situation.

Despite the ongoing uncertainty, the websites of both IndiGo and Air

India show that bookings for May 14 onwards are open for these destinations though most of the flights are via connecting routes through cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

According to available data, Air India is showing 10 flights to Srinagar via Delhi, twelve to Amritsar through Mumbai and Delhi, ten to Chandigarh and seven to Bhuj, while no flights are scheduled to Jammu and Leh. Other available flights include Rajkot, Chandigarh and Bhuj. IndiGo was offering 14 flights to Srinagar, seven to Jammu and five to Amritsar, all via Delhi.

Passengers are advised to closely monitor airline advisories and flight statuses, as operations are expected to resume based on evolving conditions.

Travel agencies in Hyderabad said they are seeing a change in booking patterns.

Passengers who had booked flights to Jammu for early June are now reaching out to cancel their tickets. At the same time, there is a rise in bookings to Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi. Travel agents said that many passengers are trying to avoid any potential disruptions by choosing safer destinations for now.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

15 MAY 2025

Boeing wins \$200-bn deal from Qatar Airways, it's largest ever

LEEN AL-RASHDAN
May 14

BOEING WON AN order from Qatar Airways amid a flurry of deals between Gulf nations and the US during President Donald Trump's visit to the region.

The agreement signed by the Doha-based carrier is for 160 aircraft, according to the White House, in what it said is the largest order in the American company's history.

The commitment provides a big commercial win for Boeing, which has come under pressure from Trump for delays on the latest Air Force One presidential jets. Qatar has long been a loyal Boeing cus-

BIG TAKE-OFF

- The pact signed by the Doha-based carrier is for **160** aircrafts
- Earlier, Saudi's sovereign wealth fund — PIF placed a **\$4.8 bn** Boeing order
- Emirates ordered over **100** Boeing planes during Dubai Air Show in 2023

tomers, though the carrier also flies a large fleet of Airbus short- and longhaul aircraft.

Widebody aircraft have been in

higher demand since the pandemic as global routes reopened and airlines sought to replenish their aging fleets. Emirates, Qatar Airways' bigger regional competitor, ordered more than 100 Boeing planes at the last Dubai Air Show in 2023, and carriers including Air India and British Airways have also snapped up more long-range planes.

The deal was announced during Trump's visit to Doha as part of a four-day trip to the Gulf, where he is expected to sign agreements that span defence, aviation, infrastructure and technology.

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund placed a \$4.8 billion Boeing order on Tuesday. —**BLOOMBERG**



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

14 MAY 2025

SpiceJet to resume Haj flights from Srinagar on Wednesday

PTI

NEW DELHI

SpiceJet on Tuesday said it will resume Haj flights from Srinagar on May 14 with two services to Medina.

Srinagar was among the 32 airports that were temporarily shut for civilian flights in the wake of the military conflict between India and Pakistan. The airports were reopened for civilian operations on Monday.

"SpiceJet will resume its Haj 2025 operations from Srinagar, operating two flights to Medina using wide-body Airbus A340 aircraft, each



accommodating 324 passengers...," the airline said in a release.

The carrier said it will be facilitating the travel of around 15,500 Haj pilgrims this year.

Earlier this month, SpiceJet said it will operate 45 Haj flights in the first phase connecting Gaya, Srinagar, Guwahati, and Kolkata to Medina and Jeddah.

Meanwhile, the airline will resume scheduled flights to Srinagar from Tuesday.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

15 MAY 2025

वैष्णो देवी के लिए हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा बहाल

कटरा/जम्मू। जम्मू-कश्मीर के रियासी जिले में स्थित वैष्णो देवी मंदिर के लिए हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा बुधवार को फिर से शुरू हो गई। भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच सैन्य गतिरोध के कारण यह सेवा करीब एक सप्ताह से निलंबित थी। मंदिर प्रबंधन बोर्ड के एक अधिकारी ने बताया हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा बुधवार सुबह बहाल कर दी गई। तीर्थयात्रियों के लिए बैटरी कार सेवा भी चालू है। बताया कि इस महीने की शुरुआत से तीर्थयात्रियों की संख्या में तेजी से कमी आई थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

14 MAY 2025

INBRIEF



Air India starts using Mongolian airspace

Air India has started using Mongolian airspace for a few of its North America flights from the national capital as an alternative route for reducing operational costs that have jumped due to the Pakistan airspace closure last month, sources said on Tuesday. Besides, the carrier is having a technical stop in Kolkata for some North America flights from Delhi, they added. With such an arrangement in place, the airline does not have to make a stop in a European city while operating certain long-haul and ultra-long-haul flights from Delhi to North America. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

15 MAY 2025

Trump announces big Boeing order for Qatar Airways

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday Qatar Airways had placed a "record" order for 160 planes from Boeing, as he signed a raft of deals in Doha alongside Qatar's emir.

The order, which the White House said was Boeing's largest ever for wide-body jets, deepens ties between the US aerospace giant and the giant Middle East carrier.

Qatar Airways will honor a "\$96 billion agreement to acquire up to 210 American-made Boeing 787 Dreamliner and 777X aircraft powered by GE Aerospace engines," according to a White House fact sheet. "This is Boeing's largest-ever widebody order and largest-ever 787 order," it said. Full details about the order were not available. Boeing declined immediate comment.

The order is a win for new Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg, although analysts noted the planes won't be delivered for at least five years due to industry backlogs. Both Boeing and rival Airbus, which has also sold extensively to Qatar Airways, have struggled in recent years with supply chain problems as they have taken thousands of plane orders amid strong airline demand. **AFF**



Qatar Airways will buy 210 Boeing 787 and 777X aircraft.

источник

6 दिनों में एयरलाइन कंपनियों को रद्द करने पड़े 3 लाख से अधिक टिकट

जालंधर, 14 मई (एजेंसी): 'ऑपरेशन सिंदूर' के दौरान 7 से 12 मई के बीच उत्तरी और पश्चिमी भारत के 32 हवाई अड्डों पर उड़ान संचालन स्थगित होने के कारण एयरलाइन कंपनियों को 3 लाख से अधिक टिकट रद्द करने पड़े। विमान उद्योग के सूत्रों के हवाले से एक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि संचालन स्थगित होने से पहले ये हवाई अड्डे प्रतिदिन 50,000 से 65,000 यात्रियों की आवाजाही को संभाल रहे थे। हालांकि इंडिगो ने जम्मू और अमृतसर समेत 6 हवाई अड्डों से नियमित उड़ानें बुधवार से क्रमिक रूप से फिर से शुरू कर दी हैं।

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में एयरलाइंस को हुआ वित्तीय नुकसान

दोनों देशों के बीच युद्ध विराम की घोषणा



के बाद 12 मई की सुबह श्रीनगर, जम्मू, लेह, अमृतसर, चंडीगढ़ और जोधपुर सहित प्रभावित हवाई अड्डों को फिर से खोल दिया गया। हालांकि उड़ानों की बहाली सुचारू नहीं रही है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 12 मई को पाकिस्तान से शुरू हुई ड्रोन की तीव्र गतिविधि ने सेवाओं को बाधित कर दिया और अमृतसर जाने वाली इंडिगो की एक फ्लाइट को बीते सोमवार शाम को बीच में ही वापस लौटना पड़ा। 12 मई की आधी रात के आसपास भारत

की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने घोषणा की कि जम्मू, अमृतसर, चंडीगढ़, लेह, श्रीनगर और राजकोट के लिए उसकी उड़ानें 13 मई को रद्द कर दी जाएंगी, जिन्हें अब बहाल कर दिया गया है। 7 से 12 मई के बीच घरेलू उड़ानों को रद्द करने के अलावा, एयरलाइनों को भारतीय वाहकों की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र के बंद होने से वित्तीय रूप से भी नुकसान हुआ है। पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र के बंद होने के कारण इन उड़ानों का मार्ग बदलना 24 अप्रैल से प्रभावी हुआ था।

इससे भारतीय एयरलाइनों को उत्तर भारत से पश्चिम की ओर जाने वाली अपनी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए लंबे मार्ग अपनाने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा था, जिससे उड़ान का समय 30 से 100 मिनट तक बढ़ गया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

14 MAY 2025

Air India reroutes to save fuel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Air India has started using Mongolian airspace for a few of its North America flights from the national Capital as an alternative route for reducing operational costs that have jumped due to the Pakistan airspace closure last month, sources said on Tuesday.

Besides, the carrier is having a technical stop in Kolkata for some of the North America flights from Delhi, they added. The Tata Group-owned airline has been exploring alternatives for the services from the national capital to North America in order to reduce the flying time as well as operational expenses.

At present, Air India operates 71 flights a week to North American destinations and out of them, 54 services are from the national capital. The airline flies to Chicago, New York, Washington, San Francisco, and Newark in the US, and to Toronto and Vancouver in Canada.

Mostly, the Mongolian airspace is used by some of Air India's flights from San Francisco and Vancouver. The flights from Delhi to these two cities are mostly using the Pacific route, according to the sources.

The flights AI186 from Vancouver to Delhi and AI174 from San Francisco to Delhi have been using the Mongolian airspace for the past few days, as per information from flight tracking website Flightradar24.Com. For some of the flights connecting North America cities and Delhi, the utilisation of the Mongolian airspace and a technical stop at Kolkata are among the alternatives that have been chosen by Air India, the sources said.

With such an arrangement in place, the airline does not have to make a stop in a European city while operating certain long haul and ultra long haul flights from Delhi to North America.

Having a stop in a European city means higher expenses, including landing charges and fuel costs, according to the sources. The alternative also helps in addressing the challenges of higher fuel burn, operational expenses and Flying Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) for the crew. Under the norms of aviation regulator DGCA, flight crew can work continuously only for eight hours and with normal flight time getting longer, the crew will be in breach of the Flying Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

14 MAY 2025

Indigo, Air india cancel multiple flights

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Hours after resuming flights to airports in parts of northern and western India, airlines like Air India and IndiGo announced cancellations of flights to multiple locations citing “developments and security concerns. The cancellations were attributed to “latest developments,” a phrase used by both airlines while stressing that passenger safety remains the top priority. While the exact nature of the “developments” was not specified in its notification, both airlines hinted at a precautionary move based on evolving security or operational scenarios.

Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, along with senior officials, held a meeting with airlines’ representatives on Tuesday, and discussed about flight disruptions due to airport closures, lowering tax on jet fuel and other issues. At the meeting, which came in the backdrop of disruptions in flight operations in recent days in the wake of the military conflict between India and Pakistan, the minister also asked the airlines to look at ways of acknowledging the contributions made by the armed forces, includ-

ing through in-flight announcements, the sources said.

The sources also said that some airlines mentioned the loss of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) during the days of the closure of the airports. Some airlines also told the minister and officials that travel sentiment seems to be weak as there have been cancellations, especially with the peak summer travel season around the corner, as per the sources.

Earlier, Tata Group-owned Air India announced the cancellation of flights from Jammu, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot on Tuesday. IndiGo, India’s largest low-cost carrier, issued a similar advisory, suspending flights to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar, and Rajkot.

“In view of the latest developments and keeping your safety in mind, flights to and from Jammu, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot are cancelled for Tuesday, 13th May,” Air India’s post read. “We are monitoring the situation and will keep you updated. For more information, please call our Contact Centre on 011-69329333 / 011-69329999 or visit our website <http://airindia.com>,” the announcement added.

The IndiGo advisory read, “In light of the latest developments and with your safety as our utmost priority, flights to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar, and Rajkot are cancelled for 13th May 2025. We understand how this may disrupt your travel plans, and regret the inconvenience caused.

Our teams are actively monitoring the situation and will promptly keep you informed of further updates.

Before heading to the airport, please check your flight status on our website or app. If you need assistance, we’re just a message or call away, and forever ready to help.”

Meanwhile Air India Express said that following notifications from authorities, it will gradually reinstate flight operations from previously closed airports.

“Starting 13th May, services will resume on routes including Hindon-Bengaluru, Jammu-Delhi, Jammu-Srinagar, and Srinagar-Delhi. Operations on Hindon-Mumbai are planned to resume from 14th May.

The reinstatement of other flights, including international services from Amritsar, is expected to follow from 15th May.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

14 MAY 2025

Op Sindoor takes heavy toll on aviation networks

Rerouted flights are longer, requiring more fuel and causing increased carbon emissions, higher operational costs, and mid-journey refuelling stops

RAJIB CHAKRABORTY
KOLKATA, 13 MAY

The ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, intensified by retaliatory strikes under Operation Sindoor, takes heavy toll on aviation networks, with Pakistan's official closure of its airspace to Indian aircraft on 24 April triggering widespread disruption.

The ripple effects are being felt sharply in India's eastern aviation hub -- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata -- where air traffic controllers (ATC) are battling a daily operational overload. According to airport sources, rerouting over 130 international flights per day, primarily those departing from north and east India, including Delhi, Amritsar,

and Kolkata, through Mumbai and Ahmedabad has led to unprecedented pressure on infrastructure and personnel. Kolkata's ATC, already managing near-peak loads, has been forced to handle traffic volumes far beyond its designated limit. The rerouting has not only increased fuel consumption and flight durations but also led to skyrocketing operational costs. Several international airlines, including Air India, are reporting significantly higher expenditures per long-haul route, with some flights now requiring mid-journey refuelling stops.

An Air India flight from Delhi to abroad, for instance, three days ago halted in Vienna, pushing fuel consumption from 106,500 kg to 125,500 kg per flight, and increasing carbon emissions by approximately 60 metric tonnes, an

Air India source said. The physical toll on flight crews is mounting, with pilots forced to manage two take-offs and landings per trip, compressing recovery times and rest cycles. Cabin crews, too, are raising concerns.

"Minimum rest windows in abroad trip, followed by extended recovery periods at home, are becoming increasingly unsustainable," one senior flight attendant told this reporter, requesting anonymity. "Fatigue is setting in, fast." Despite the chaos, Kolkata Airport continues to operate close to normal, owing much to the resilience of its air traffic controllers and ground staff. On a typical day in recent weeks, the airport has handled around 390 flights, close to its pre-pandemic average of 470. "On Monday, around 164 domestic flights arrived



in Kolkata, carrying 25,986 passengers. Around 169 domestic flights departed, ferrying 23,891 passengers across India. Around 20 international flight arrivals brought in 2,298 passengers during the turbulent times. More or less 24 international departures carried 2,631 outbound travellers. In addition, six non-scheduled flights departed

while two others landed," said a senior official of NSCBI Airport. International connectivity from Kolkata remains robust. Flights to Dhaka are maintained by Air India, Biman Bangladesh, and US-Bangla Airlines. Services to Dubai and the UAE continue via Emirates, Flydubai, and IndiGo.

The rerouting of Europe

and North America-bound flights has funnelled aircraft south, over the Arabian Sea into Oman's Muscat airspace. The altered path has doubled travel time on some routes -- a three-hour flight now takes almost six hours. Carriers like IndiGo have suspended routes to Almaty and Tashkent due to cost and duration concerns. Mumbai's ATC has become a crucial node in this restructured network, managing an additional 130 westbound flights daily, while Ahmedabad channels another 80. Aerial congestion has become most acute between 9.30 p.m. and 11 p.m, with choke points forming along vital air corridors.

To ease the logjam, high-density routes such as L639 and L301 (airway, low-level international flight route) -- originally set up during the

2019 crisis, have been reactivated. L639 now allows aircraft to traverse from Bhopal through Ahmedabad to Muscat's 'RASKI' waypoint with reduced separation of just 20 nautical miles, thanks to procedural upgrades making it one of the most efficient air corridors in the Asia-Pacific region. Flights from Kolkata to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, and even Hong Kong also use these routes like L639 and L301, according to ATC guidelines.

Air India is reportedly exploring a more northerly path, over Ladakh, China, and Russia. However, political tensions between India and China, especially concerning Tibet and direct overflight rights, pose serious diplomatic and operational challenges.

In the meantime, domestic routes too are feeling the

squeeze, with flights from Mumbai to Nagpur, Pune, and Kolkata forced to deviate further south to avoid the aerial gridlock. What began as a strategic military retaliation has evolved into a crisis of aviation logistics. Airlines are recalibrating schedules, passengers face extended flight times, and ATCs like the one in Kolkata are stretched to their operational limits. As one senior aviation official in Kolkata put it: "It's not just airspace that's closed, it's a corridor of uncertainty that's opened. We're doing our best to keep the skies moving."

For now, Kolkata stands as a testament to Indian aviation's resilience, but the pressure is building, and with no clear end to the standoff, India's air corridors remain clouded by geopolitics and jet fuel.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

14 MAY 2025

Bomb scare triggers emergency on IndiGo flight in Kolkata



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 13 MAY

A bomb scare on an IndiGo flight 6E5227 triggered panic and emergency response at Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on Tuesday afternoon, prompting swift evacuation and a full emergency protocol.

According to airport officials, the aircraft had arrived from Imphal earlier in the day and was preparing for its onward journey to Mumbai around 1.35 p.m. As a precaution, all 194 passengers were safely disembarked and moved to a secure area. The aircraft was then moved to an isolation bay, and a bomb disposal squad along with airport security per-

sonnel CISF conducted a thorough search of the aircraft. No explosives were found.

Police sources confirmed that the passenger who made the claim was taken into custody and questioned. "The individual is being interrogated, and further action will be based on the findings," said an officer from the airport police station. This incident comes just two days after a similar scare on another IndiGo flight from Silchar to Kolkata. In that case, a piece of tissue paper with the word "bomb" scrawled on it was discovered in the aircraft's lavatory minutes before landing. The crew immediately informed the pilot, who relayed the message to air traffic control.

The flight landed safely, albeit five minutes behind schedule, and emergency protocols were activated on the ground. A case under various sections including public mischief, breach of peace, and offences under the Civil Aviation Act, 1982, has been registered.

Investigators are now looking into any possible link between the two incidents. "The safety of passengers and aircraft is paramount," said an officer from Bidhannagar Commissionerate, noting heightened security concerns in light of current regional tensions. Authorities have urged the public not to panic and assured that all necessary safety protocols are being followed.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

14 MAY 2025

Haj cheer as flights resume in Srinagar

MUZAFFAR RAINA

Srinagar: Flights resumed at Srinagar airport on Tuesday after a six-day halt, bringing cheer to those planning Haj pilgrimages and many others desperately awaiting air travel.

Kashmir was cut off by air and road for nearly a week. Flights to and from Srinagar could not operate because of the India-Pakistan hostilities. Adding to the woes was the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway because of land and mud slides for more than a week. The highway remains closed.

Flight operations resumed on Tuesday after the aerodrome closure notices to airmen (Notam) were revoked on Monday. Airport officials said the first flight from Delhi landed in Srinagar at 1.30pm. "We are operating a total of eight flights, including arrivals and departures," said Javed Anjum, the director of Srinagar airport.

A SpiceJet spokesperson said the airline resumed its operations on Tuesday. IndiGo, however, cancelled flights to and from Srinagar, Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh and Rajkot for the day.

On Monday, the Airports Authority of India had said that the 32 airports that had been temporarily closed, including Srinagar, were available for civil aircraft operations with immediate effect. Haj flights will start operating from Wednesday, officials said. In a statement, SpiceJet

said it would resume its Haj 2025 operations from Srinagar, operating two flights to Medina using wide-body Airbus A340 aircraft, each accommodating 324 passengers.

Haj pilgrims had a tough time in the past few days as authorities could operate only one flight on May 4 when the first batch of 178 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir left for Saudi Arabia. Haj flights between May 7 and May 12 were cancelled. Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, the executive officer of the J&K Haj Committee, said Haj flights from Srinagar would restart on Wednesday.

This year, 3,622 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir and 242 from Ladakh will be performing the Haj. Airports were shut on May 7 following Indian strikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

Schools and colleges in Kashmir, except those in the border districts, reopened on Tuesday. Educational institutes in Kupwara and Baramulla districts, and those in the Gurez sector of Bandipora, remained closed.

Chief minister Omar Abdullah visited Tangdhar near the Line of Control and pledged government help and construction of additional bunkers in the border areas. He also met the victims of Pakistani shelling and said their resilience was inspiring. Omar said everyone wanted a ceasefire between India and Pakistan except a few television anchors "sitting far away in Delhi and Noida".



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

14 MAY 2025

Flight delay after 'mere paas bomb ha' scare

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: A man who was about to board a Mumbai-bound IndiGo flight from the Calcutta airport on Tuesday told airline personnel that he was carrying a bomb. What followed was the evacuation of 179 passengers, who had already boarded, to carry out a search operation.

Around 1.35pm, Regal Chongtham, 27, who flew to the city from Imphal a few hours earlier, declared to the airline staff member at the ladder of the Indigo 6E 5227 Airbus that he was carrying a bomb. "Mere paas bomb ha (I have a bomb)," an airport official quoted him as saying.

By then, of 186 passengers, 179 had already boarded, airport sources said.

Airport officials swung into action and activated the emergency protocol. The passengers were asked to disembark the plane. The aircraft was then taken to the isolation bay for thorough checking, the airport officials said.

"On Tuesday, we got a call from the airport manager that a passenger informed IndiGo security at the security checkpoint in Hindi that he had a bomb," said an airport official. "Boarding started at 12.23pm. The aircraft was taken to the isolation bay, and security procedures were started."

The flight was delayed by more than four hours, and left for Mumbai around 5.40pm instead of 1.30pm. Airport sources said passengers had to wait for over three hours in coaches.

"IndiGo flight 6E 5227 operating from Kolkata to Mumbai received a bomb threat prior to departure. In accordance with security protocols, the aircraft was moved to an isolation bay at Kolkata airport. All necessary checks were conducted, and the standard operating procedures were followed," IndiGo said in a statement on Tuesday.

Chongtham's mother Bino Kumari spoke to Metro from her Imphal home on Tuesday. She said her son was going to Mumbai to submit hard copies of a form for an Indian Navy course.

"I cannot imagine why he would say something like that. He must have jokingly said it. But we are angry about why he would do that... But he had no malice. I have been told he will be released. I am worried about his career," she said.

Police said Chongtham was detained for questioning, but no direct offence was established based on which he could be arrested.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

14 MAY 2025

Kol-Mum flyer says he's carrying bomb, detained

Kolkata: A plane of a private airline was taken to the isolation bay at Kolkata airport on Tuesday for a thorough security check after a passenger was suspected of carrying a bomb, officials said. The passenger (26) was detained after he told the airline's security officer that he had a bomb, an Airports Authority of India official said.

The flyer, travelling to Mumbai from Imphal with a stopover in Kolkata, made

the comment during step ladder point check, a secondary-level security procedure under which airline staff frisk flyers and their hand luggage just before boarding, he said.

The passenger arrived in Kolkata by an Indigo flight and was supposed to take another flight of the same airline to Mumbai.

The flight was supposed to depart at 1.30pm, but it was delayed. **TNN**