भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL MUMBAI 14 MAY 2026

Centre approves long-awaited Nagpur airport makeover

Dhairya Gajara
MUMBAI

The Union cabinet has approved the long-awaited upgradation and modernisation of Nagpur's Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar international airport. The decision clears the final administrative hurdle for a comprehensive public-private partnership (PPP) makeover, paving the way for the airport to be handed over to GMR Nagpur International Airport Limited (GNIAL).

The cabinet also approved the extension of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) land lease to MIHAN India Ltd (MIL), which was previously set to expire in August 2039, to ensure it is co-terminus with GNIAL's 30-year concession period, starting from the commercial operation date. MIHAN stands for the Multimodal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur.

The modernisation plan focuses on expanding the airport's capacity to handle 30 million passengers annually. Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said, "The move will elevate Nagpur's stature on the map as a global destination."

Notably, the journey of Nagpur Airport's expansion has been underway since 2009 when MIL was formed by the AAI and Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd as a joint venture. Although the AAI's airport assets were transferred to MIL in 2009, the lease deed was delayed due to land demarcation issues. Subsequently, AAI land was leased to MIL.

In 2016, GMR Airports Ltd emerged as the highest bidder for MIL's global tender to onboard an airport operator under the PPP model. However, MIL annulled the bidding process in March 2020 after GMR increased its demand for gross revenue share from 5.76% to 14.49%. This annulment was then challenged by GMR before the Bombay High Court, which ruled in its favour. Ultimately, MIL signed a concession agreement with a second joint venture company, GNIAL, in October 2024 after the Supreme Court's verdict.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA HYDERABAD 14 MAY 2026

2.5-km runway and smart terminal: AAI unveils plans for Warangal airport

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Hyderabad: In a significant step towards establishing Telangana's second airport in Warangal, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated the tender process for appointing a consultant to secure environmental clearance for the proposed airport project.

According to tender documents issued by AAI, the selected consultant will be responsible for preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance Manual for Airports prepared by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad. The consultant has been given six months to obtain environmental clearance, followed by a three-year period to ensure regulatory compliance.

CLEARANCE PROCESS

- **AAI initiates tender process** to secure environmental clearance for proposed airport
- Modern terminal to include self-check-in **kiosks, accessibility features, and advanced security systems**
- Airport design to showcase **Warangal's cultural heritage through local art and regional themes**

▶Continued on P5

Proposed airport to have 2.5-km runway

▶From P1

The proposed airport is planned with a 2.5-km-long runway and a modern domestic terminal capable of handling 850 passengers during peak hours.

AAI stated that the centrally air-conditioned terminal building, spread across 6,800 square metres, will be designed as a one-and-a-half-level structure equipped with modern passenger amenities and built in accordance with Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) standards. The terminal will feature aesthetically designed interiors with a focus on passenger comfort and operational efficiency.

"The airport infrastructure will include dedicated facilities such as check-in counters, baggage conveyor belts, queueing areas, facilitation counters, weighing machines, lost-and-found rooms, and housekeeping units. Provision has also been made for self-check-in kiosks, bus lounge areas with adequate seating, smoking zones, child-care rooms, and washrooms," AAI stated in the tender document. Special emphasis has been placed on accessibility and passenger convenience.

The terminal will include tactile flooring, ramps, and other facilities for persons with reduced mobility, visually challenged passengers, and persons with hearing impairments, in line with the ministry of civil aviation's guidelines.

Security arrangements at the airport will include designated frisking areas equipped with door frame metal detectors, X-ray machines. AAI has also directed bidders to incorporate local art and cultural themes into the airport's design. The terminal building and airport premises are expected to reflect the unique heritage of the Warangal region.

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BUSINESS LINE DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Adani Group partners with IHG for development of five hotels around airports

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Adani Airport Holdings has partnered with IHG Hotels & Resorts to develop five hotels.

The hotels will be developed around airports in Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Navi Mumbai, adding over 1,500 rooms. The partnership will mark the India debut of IHG's luxury lifestyle brand Kimpton Hotels, and also include Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express brands.

The Adani group operates eight airports across the country and has plans to commercially develop 665 land parcels adjoining the terminals. The agreement with IHG is a part of that strategy, which will also see the development of retail spaces, convention centres and office complexes.

"The collaboration with IHG Hotels marks an important step in strengthening high-quality hospitality infrastructure aligned with India's long-term travel and economic growth," said Pranav Adani, Director, Adani Enterprises.

"With a mix of luxury, premium and essential brands, this portfolio allows us to strengthen our presence across high-growth markets across the country," said Sudeep Jain, Director, South West Asia, IHG Hotels & Resorts.

BUSINESS STANDARD DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Adani Airport Holdings signs deal with IHG Hotels for 5 properties

Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) on Thursday announced signing a deal with hospitality firm IHG Hotels & Resorts for developing five hotels across key airport-linked and high-growth urban destinations, including Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The agreement will add close to 1,500 keys across multiple brands and locations, in line with IHG's growth plans for India, AAHL said.

PTI

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट बनेगा उत्तर भारत का बड़ा कार्गो हब

- अफकॉम के साथ हुई रणनीतिक साझेदारी
- सैट्स और अफकॉम मिलकर विकसित करेंगे आधुनिक एयर कार्गो नेटवर्क
- जून से यात्री उड़ानों के साथ मालवाहक सेवाएं शुरू होने की तैयारी

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 14 मई (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर यात्री उड़ानों के साथ अब एयर कार्गो सेवाओं की शुरुआत की तैयारियां भी तेज हो गई हैं। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन और सैट्स ने चेन्नई स्थित कार्गो एयरलाइन अफकॉम होलिंग प्रालि के साथ त्रिपक्षीय समझौता किया है। इस समझौते के तहत अफकॉम अपने मालवाहक विमान नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर तैनात करेगी और यहां से कार्गो संचालन को विस्तार देगी।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का संचालन 15 जून से शुरू होने की संभावना है। शुरुआती चरण में घरेलू उड़ानों के साथ कार्गो सेवाएं भी शुरू की जाएंगी। एयर कार्गो इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकसित करने की जिम्मेदारी पहले ही सैट्स को सौंपी जा चुकी है। अब अफकॉम के जुड़ने से एयरपोर्ट को उत्तर भारत के बड़े लॉजिस्टिक्स और एयर कार्गो हब के रूप में विकसित करने की दिशा में अहम कदम माना जा रहा है।

समझौते के तहत तीनों कंपनियां मिलकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों की पहचान करेंगी और मांग के अनुरूप मजबूत कार्गो नेटवर्क तैयार करेंगी। इसके साथ ही मालवाहक सेवाओं के दीर्घकालिक विस्तार, स्थिर संचालन और वैश्विक ग्राहकों तक पहुंच बढ़ाने के लिए संयुक्त विपणन रणनीति भी बनाई जाएगी। यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (यापल) की मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी किरण जैन ने कहा कि अफकॉम और सैट्स के साथ यह साझेदारी नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर मजबूत एयर कार्गो इकोसिस्टम तैयार करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी। इससे उत्तर भारत के कारोबारियों और निर्यातकों को वैश्विक बाजारों से बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी मिलेगी।

अफकॉम एयरलाइंस वर्तमान में तीन बोइंग 737-800 मालवाहक विमानों का संचालन कर रही है। कंपनी बैंकॉक, यांगून, हनोई, कोलंबो, माले और दुबई जैसे प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय गंतव्यों तक सेवाएं दे रही है। एयरलाइन विशेष रूप से नाशवान वस्तुओं, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और खतरनाक सामानों के परिवहन में विशेषज्ञता रखती है।

सैट्स के सीईओ रामनाथम राजमणि ने कहा कि नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर आधुनिक और भविष्य की जरूरतों के अनुरूप कार्गो ढांचा विकसित करना समय की मांग है। कंपनी अत्याधुनिक कार्गो हैंडलिंग, बेहतर संचालन क्षमता और ग्राहक-केंद्रित सेवाओं के जरिए एयरपोर्ट को वैश्विक स्तर का प्रतिस्पर्धी कार्गो केंद्र बनाने में सहयोग करेगा।

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DESHBANDHU DELHI 15 MAY 2026

यमुना प्राधिकरण की बड़ी पहल

एनएच-24 से सीधे जुड़ेगा नोएडा एयरपोर्ट 130 मीटर चौड़ी नई सड़क का प्रस्ताव

ग्रेटर नोएडा,14 मई (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी को नई रफ्तार देने के लिए यमुना प्राधिकरण ने 130 मीटर चौड़ी नई सड़क विकसित करने की योजना तैयार की है। यह सड़क एनएच-24 को सीधे नोएडा एयरपोर्ट और आगे प्रस्तावित पलवल-खुर्जा एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ेगी। इसके निर्माण को लेकर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण को प्रस्ताव भेजा गया है। करीब 29 किलोमीटर लंबी प्रस्तावित सड़क ग्रेटर नोएडा वेस्ट होते हुए यमुना सिटी क्षेत्र तक पहुंचेगी। इसके बनने से दिल्ली, पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश और हरियाणा के बीच यातायात संपर्क और अधिक सुगम हो जाएगा। साथ ही एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचने वाले यात्रियों और औद्योगिक वाहनों को भी बड़ा लाभ मिलेगा। वर्तमान में गौड़ चौक से सिरसा तक 130 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क विकसित की जा चुकी है। अब ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण सिरसा से ईस्टर्न पेरीफेरल एक्सप्रेस वे पार करते हुए अलीदा गांव तक लगभग आठ किलोमीटर सड़क का निर्माण करेगा। इसके आगे यमुना प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र में अलीदा से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक करीब 25 किलोमीटर लंबा नया मार्ग प्रस्तावित है। यह सड़क आगे चलकर

■ पलवल-खुर्जा एक्सप्रेस वे तक बनेगा सीधा कॉरिडोर दिल्ली-एनसीआर और पश्चिमी यूपी की कनेक्टिविटी होगी मजबूत

प्रस्तावित पलवल-खुर्जा एक्सप्रेस वे से जुड़ेगी, जिससे क्षेत्रीय यातायात नेटवर्क को नया आयाम मिलेगा। प्राधिकरण का मानना है कि एयरपोर्ट शुरू होने के बाद इस कॉरिडोर पर यातायात दबाव तेजी से बढ़ेगा, इसलिए इस परियोजना को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है। यमुना प्राधिकरण ने अपने प्रस्ताव में कहा है कि यमुना सिटी में औद्योगिक गतिविधियां तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं। आगामी 15 जून से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट संचालन शुरू होने के बाद यात्रियों, कार्गो और लॉजिस्टिक्स ट्रैफिक में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि होने की संभावना है। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए एनसीआर प्लानिंग बोर्ड के फंक्शनल प्लान-2032 के तहत इस सड़क को जरूरी परियोजना माना गया है। परियोजना पर सड़क निर्माण और भूमि अधिग्रहण सहित करीब दो हजार करोड़ रुपए खर्च होने का अनुमान है। इसके लिए लगभग 180 एकड़ भूमि की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी।

नई सड़क से ग्रेटर नोएडा वेस्ट, नॉलेज पार्क-5, औद्योगिक सेक्टरों के साथ यमुना प्राधिकरण के सेक्टर-1 से 8, सेक्टर-9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 और सेक्टर-16ए तक सीधी और बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी मिलेगी। इससे एयरपोर्ट के कार्गो और लॉजिस्टिक्स हब तक आवागमन भी तेज और आसान होगा। यीडा के सीईओ राकेश सिंह के अनुसार, प्रस्तावित 130 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को एनएच-24 और पलवल-खुर्जा एक्सप्रेस वे से जोड़ने का काम करेगी। इससे एनसीआर और आसपास के कई शहरों के बीच आवाजाही अधिक सुगम और तेज हो सकेगी।

1ST EQUITY FUNDING FROM 3RD PARTY LIKELY SOON

Global Investors Line Up $1.3b for Adani Airports

ET EXCLUSIVE

Temasek, Alpha Wave part of a consortium expected to have total four members

Arijit Barman & Forum Gandhi

Mumbai: A consortium of global investors including Temasek and Alpha Wave are negotiating to invest $1.3 billion in the Adani Group's airports business, said people in the know. The proposed investment, valuing Adani Airport Holdings (AAHL) at an estimated $18 billion (₹1.51 lakh crore), comes close on the heels of a similar-sized investment by Capital International in various Adani Group companies.

In all, four investors are expected to join the consortium seeking a stake in India's largest private airport operator, betting that air traffic growth will continue to rise in India. The identity of the other two investors could not be independently verified.

GMR Airports, which runs four airports, had a market value of ₹1.02 lakh crore ($10.6 billion) at the end of Thursday trade.

Adani Enters Hospitality Biz with IHG Hotel Pact ▸▸ 7

Proposal on Assured Returns ▸▸ 16

Proposal on Assured Returns

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There is no guarantee that the discussions will lead to an outcome yet. According to the people cited, differences over valuation expectations haven't been resolved, with the group's management expecting a significant premium, upwards of $20 billion, which could be a deal breaker, they said.

Also, some investors sought a structured investment with assured returns, a proposal the group has turned down, they added.

If successful, this will be the first equity fundraising from external parties in the business. The deal is expected to be finalised after the US Department of Justice rules on allegations of bribery and fraud against chairman Gautam Adani and nephew Sagar Adani. The group expects the ruling to be made soon, said people with knowledge of the matter. Bloomberg reported Thursday that authorities in the US are preparing to announce the dropping of charges, ending the case against Adani.

Last month, the eastern district court of New York approved a pre-motion conference sought by Adani and his nephew, allowing them to formally present arguments seeking to have the case dismissed at an early stage. This was perceived as a key legal opening for the Indian industrialist.

AVIATION FORAY IN 2019

The group, which runs eight airports across India, entered the segment in 2019. It manages airports in Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram, in addition to the recently operationalised Navi Mumbai. Collectively, these airports serve 23% of the country's total passenger base.

Adani Group CFO Jugeshinder Singh had told ET in June last year that AAHL may raise around $1 billion in equity from international investors as it evaluates growth plans and potential acquisitions.

In June 2025, AAHL secured $1 billion financing for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), from funds managed by BlackRock, the world's biggest asset manager, Standard Chartered Bank and Apollo Global Management. This included $750 million in debt refinancing, which supports upgrades, capacity expansion and sustainability goals.

Alpha Wave Global is a subsidiary of Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan's International Holding Co (IHC), which remains a large shareholder in Adani Enterprises. Trillionaire Sheikh Tahnoon had invested $2 billion in three listed Adani companies via preferential allotments in 2023, in the aftermath of the Hindenburg report, which had sparked a crash in group unit stocks.

Temasek also has a large infrastructure portfolio, including CapitaLand, Keppel and Sembcorp.

Spokespersons of AAHL and Temasek declined to comment. Alpha Wave did not respond to queries.

Singh said in an earnings call last month that the company has drawn up a Rs 40,000 crore capital expenditure plan for FY27. The biggest share is for airports at about Rs 17,000 crore. Most of this will be for city-side development at the Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Jaipur airports. The company is building a new terminal in Ahmedabad ahead of the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

The company is accelerating Phase 2 development at Navi Mumbai airport amid expectations that rising passenger traffic will fill up the existing capacity in 12-18 months.

As of March 31, the company's net worth was Rs 7,259.53 crore, down 6.8% from the year before, while total liabilities rose 37.7% to Rs 65,976.90 crore from Rs 47,918.55 crore. FY26 revenue from operations rose 34.4% from the year before. Profit after tax more than doubled to Rs 1,731.04 crore from Rs 772.22 crore.

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Adani Enters Hospitality Biz with IHG Hotel Pact

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) and IHG Hotels & Resorts have signed a management agreement to develop five hotels with nearly 1,500 rooms in four Indian cities, marking the Adani Group's formal entry into the hospitality sector.

The agreement includes properties in Jaipur, Navi Mumbai, Mangaluru and Thiruvananthapuram, integrating a mix of IHG brands within Adani's airport-led mixed-use developments. The portfolio will feature a Kimpton hotel in Jaipur, alongside Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express properties in other locations. The development is part of AAHL's plan to build airport cities that combine aviation, hospitality, retail and commercial infrastructure.

Will develop five hotels with 1,500 rooms across key airport-linked and urban destinations

The partnership paves way for the entry of IHG's luxury lifestyle brand, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, into the Indian market. The brand's debut reflects rising demand for premium lifestyle hospitality in India's fast-expanding travel market.

AAHL, India's largest private airport operator, manages eight airports and is developing large-scale airport city projects spanning more than 600 acres. These developments are aimed at creating integrated urban hubs that cater to increasing passenger traffic and the growing convergence of travel, business and leisure activities.

Executives from both companies highlighted the strategic importance of the collaboration.

Adani Enterprises director Pranav Adani said the partnership aligns with the group's vision to build world-class destinations around airports, enhancing travel experiences while supporting long-term economic growth. He said the company is in advanced discussions with IHG to further scale the partnership.

IHG managing director for Southwest Asia Sudeep Jain said the deal reflected strong demand for hospitality across gateway cities and transit hubs.

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
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HINDUSTAN TIMES DELHI 15 MAY 2026

कार्गो सेवा शुरू करने की तैयारी तेज

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट

ग्रेटर नोएडा, प्रमुख संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से कार्गो उड़ान शुरू करने की प्रक्रिया तेज हो गई है। एयरपोर्ट बनाने वाली कंपनी यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (यापल), कार्गो हब विकसित करने वाली कंपनी एयर इंडिया सेट्स सर्विस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और अफकॉम होल्डिंग लिमिटेड के बीच साझेदारी हुई है।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट सीओओ किरण जैन ने कहा कि अफकॉम होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड अपने मालवाहक विमानों को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर तैनात कर कार्गो उड़ान संचालित करेगा। इससे नोएडा एयरपोर्ट उत्तर भारत में बड़े लॉजिस्टिक्स और कार्गो हब के रूप में विकसित होगा। तीनों साझेदार विदेश में नए कार्गो बाजार की तलाश करेंगे। अफकॉम कंपनी चेन्नई की एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय कार्गो एयरलाइन है।

कंपनी के पास तीन बोइंग 737-800 मालवाहक विमान हैं और बैंकॉक, यांगून (पूर्व नाम रंगून), हनोई, कोलंबो, माले और दुबई जैसे शहरों तक सेवाएं देती है।

एनसीआर में व्यापार बढ़ेगा

इस समझौते से पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश और दिल्ली-एनसीआर क्षेत्र में व्यापार बढ़ेगा। साथ ही, माल ढुलाई तेज हो सकेगी। इसके अलावा अंतरराष्ट्रीय कार्गो आवाजाही आसान बनाने में मदद मिलेगी। नोएडा, ग्रेनो, गाजियाबाद, आगरा, मथुरा, अलीगढ़, बुलंदशहर समेत पश्चिमी यूपी के अन्य जिलों के उत्पादों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहचान मिल सकेगी।

एयरपोर्ट से एक और सड़क जुड़ेगी

ग्रेटर नोएडा। ग्रेनो, ग्रेनो वेस्ट की 130 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग 24 के जरिए सीधे गाजियाबाद से जोड़ेगी। यमुना विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचएआई) को पत्र लिखा है।

यह सड़क यमुना सिटी के 20 सेक्टरों से होकर प्रस्तावित पलवल खुर्जा एक्सप्रेसवे से जुड़ेगी। यीडा अधिकारी ने बताया कि यह फिलहाल ग्रेनो के सिरसा तक बनी है। इसे यीडा क्षेत्र में अलौंदा गांव से पलवल खुर्जा एक्सप्रेसवे तक बनाया जाना है। क्षेत्र में इसकी लंबाई करीब 29 किलोमीटर तक होगी।

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES DELHI 15 MAY 2026

100+ fined for improper parking on IGI approach

Jasjeev Gandhiok

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NEW DELHI: Over 100 challans have been issued to owners of improperly parked vehicles in the vicinity of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, caught by the recent deployment of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, officials said on Thursday.

To check illegal parking, 14 ANPR cameras have been deployed at key locations in the airport vicinity under a joint initiative by the airport operator, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), and the Delhi Police. Enforcement began on May 3, and the e-challan data is from May 3-12. The areas covered by these cameras include the Central Spine Road, terminal approach roads, the cargo area, and stretches near the Rangpuri–Centaure junction.

Of the total 14 ANPR, 10 cameras – six on Central Spine Road and four on the Terminal 1 exit road – are specifically deployed to identify illegally parked vehicles on airport approach roads.

"Improper parking around airport approach roads has been a persistent concern impacting traffic flow, passenger convenience, and overall security," Videh Kumar Jaipuriar, CEO, DIAL, said.

Shobhit Saxena, DCP, Delhi Traffic Police, said the newly introduced ANPR-based automated enforcement system will act as a strong deterrent against habitual violators, as offences are now captured and processed electronically.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES DELHI 15 MAY 2026

TWO MEN BOOKED FOR SMUGGLING 450GM GOLD AT IGI

NEW DELHI: Two Indian passengers were booked at the Indira Gandhi International airport on Wednesday for attempting to smuggle 233.5gm and 117gm of gold, respectively, Customs officials said on Thursday.

They added that the two had arrived on different flights from Jeddah and Doha at Terminal 3.

"Detailed examination revealed a modus operandi wherein water bottles had been specially modified with fake bottoms concealing circular pieces of raw gold coated with silver colour and meticulously crafted to fit inside," said an official.

The inspection led to the seizure of about 350gm of gold. "The case is significant for the novel concealment methodology detected and exposed by Delhi Airport Customs," the official added.

A video shared by Customs officials shows an official slamming a blue water bottle on the floor, leading to the recovery of a circular bottom which later turned out to be gold. HTC

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE GUWAHATI 14 MAY 2026

Air India suspends services on 6 overseas routes

NEW DELHI, May 13: Air India on Wednesday announced reduction of international flights and temporary suspension of services on six routes, including Delhi-Chicago, amid airspace curbs and high jet fuel prices.

The loss-making airline will be temporarily suspending services on Delhi-Chicago, Mumbai-New York, Delhi-Shanghai, Chennai-Singapore, Mumbai-Dhaka, and Delhi-Male routes till August. According to the statement, the airline will continue to operate more than 1,200 international flights every month. These include 33 flights per week to North America, 47 flights per week to Europe, 57 flights per week to the UK, eight flights per week to Australia, 158 flights per week to the Far East, Southeast Asia, and SAARC regions, and seven flights per week to Mauritius. – PTI

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Air India losses drag SIA Group's FY26 net profit down 57 per cent

VOLATILITY ALERT. Auditors flag financial risk due to difficult operating conditions and geopolitical uncertainty

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Tata Group-led Air India's losses have weighed on the net profit of its other major stakeholder, the Singapore Airlines Group, which holds a 25.1 per cent stake in the airline.

Accordingly, Singapore Airlines Group's net profit declined 57 per cent to SGD 1.184 billion in FY25-26 from SGD 2.778 billion in the previous fiscal.

In its annual report, the Singapore Airlines Group reported that Air India posted a loss of SGD 3.56 billion, equivalent to over ₹26,000 crore, in FY25-26.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

The group's auditors also flagged the Air India investment as an area of financial risk due to difficult operating conditions and geopolitical uncertainty.

RISK AWARE. The SIA Group did not write down the value of its investment after the review

However, SIA Group did not write down the value of its investment after the review.

In a statement, the SIA Group on Thursday said the decline in its net profit was primarily due to the absence of the SGD 1.098 billion non-cash accounting gain recognised in November 2024 following the completion of the Air India-Vistara merger.

Besides, the SIA Group stated that the swing from a share of profits of associated companies in the previous year to losses in FY25-26 was due to the group accounting for its share of Air India's full-year losses, compared with only four months in FY24-25.

As per the SIA Group, this resulted in a negative earnings impact of SGD 846 million during the year.

CORE COMPONENT

On the other hand, the SIA Group reiterated its commitment to the Air India investment, describing it as a "core component" of its long-term multi-hub strategy.

The group stated that the investment provides it with exposure to one of the world's largest and fastest-growing aviation markets while complementing its Singapore hub operations.

Furthermore, SIA said it is working closely with Tata Sons to support Air India's multi-year transformation programme.

HIGH FUEL PRICES

"Air India faces headwinds such as industry-wide supply chain constraints, air space restrictions, constraints on operations to its key West Asia markets, and elevated jet fuel prices," the SIA Group said.

Amid growing financial pressure on Air India, senior executives from Singapore Airlines recently travelled to India for discussions with Tata Sons on the airline's ongoing operational and financial situation. Last week, Air India's board reviewed the carrier's FY26 performance, which was impacted by an estimated loss of over ₹26,000 crore.

CUTTING WORKFORCE

A day later, Air India management, during an internal interaction with employees, indicated that no workforce reduction is currently being planned despite a difficult business environment.

However, the airline has deferred annual salary hikes for at least one quarter.

At the meeting, Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson is said to have told employees that several external developments continue to exert pressure on airline operations and profitability.

Separately, Air India has temporarily suspended flights on multiple international routes and reduced frequencies across several overseas operations between June and August 2026.

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE DELHI 15 MAY 2026

'Air connectivity between India, Singapore adequate'

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Air connectivity between India and Singapore remains adequate with more than 250 weekly services, Singapore's Changi Airport Group (CAG) has said.

The airport operator issued a statement after Air India announced a cut in its overseas flights, including to Singapore. While Air India has temporarily suspended its Chennai-Singapore flight till August, frequencies from Mumbai and Delhi have been reduced.

ADEQUATELY SERVED

"We understand that the current environment can be challenging for some of our airline partners. Even with the reduction of services by Air India, passengers who wish to travel between India and Singapore remain adequately served, with more than 250 weekly services across 15 Indian cities scheduled for June," the CAG said.

Singapore Airlines is the largest carrier on India-Singapore routes, followed by IndiGo, Scoot, Air India and Air India Express. Bhutan's Druk Air connects Guwahati with Singapore.

"When the macro environment improves, CAG is committed to working closely with Air India to reinstate the suspended flights," it added.

India is the fifth largest source market for Singapore Tourism with over 2.46 lakh visitors in the first three months of CY 2026. In 2025, the island state received over 1.2 million Indian tourists.

While outbound travel, especially to Gulf and long-haul markets, has been impacted by the West Asia conflict, travel companies are banking on short-haul segments to drive business growth. Corporate travel demand, too, is expected to hold steady.

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Singapore Airlines' profit falls 57% on Air India loss

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 14 May

Singapore Airlines on Thursday said mounting losses at Air India sharply dragged down its 2025-26 (FY26) net profit, with the airline pointing to "challenging operating conditions and heightened geopolitical uncertainty" affecting the Tata group-owned carrier.

Singapore Airlines' net profit declined 57.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to $929.4 million in FY26 from $2.18 billion a year earlier.

However, Singapore Airlines' core operations remained strong during the year. The carrier posted a 39 per cent rise in operating profit to $1.86 billion in FY26 from nearly $1.34 billion in the previous year.

Singapore Airlines, which owns 25.1 per cent of Air India, said its "share of losses" from the Indian airline stood at $742 million during FY26.

Based on this disclosure, Air India's total FY26 losses can be inferred at around $2.96 billion (about ₹28,337 crore).

However, the figure remains indicative because such accounting can include merger-related adjustments, valuation changes, and other non-cash items that may not fully reflect Air India's standalone net loss.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES' DISCLOSURE SUGGESTS AIR INDIA'S TOTAL FY26 LOSSES COULD BE AT AROUND $2.96 BILLION

Even with those caveats, the implied FY26 losses are dramatically higher than Air India Group's reported FY25 net loss of ₹10,859 crore.

Singapore Airlines said the fall in its net profit was "primarily due to the absence" of the one-time non-cash accounting gain of $861.9 million recognised after the completion of the Air India-Vistara merger in November 2024. It also said the "swing from a share of profits of associated companies last year to a loss this year" was because the group accounted for Air India's full-year losses in FY26, compared to only four months in the previous financial year.

Singapore Airlines also said the carrying value of its investment in Air India stood at about $891 million as of March 31, 2026.

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR DELHI 15 MAY 2026

मुलाकात • जलशक्ति मंत्री सीआर पाटिल की मध्यस्थता में हुई चर्चा

चैंबर ने उड्डयन मंत्री से दुबई, शारजाह और बैंकॉक फ्लाइट फिर शुरू करने की मांग की

भास्कर न्यूज | सूरत

सूरत इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के विकास और एयर कनेक्टिविटी को लेकर साउदर्न गुजरात चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स (एसजीसीसीआई) के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने नई दिल्ली में केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किंजारापु राम मोहन नायडू से मुलाकात की। केंद्रीय जलशक्ति मंत्री सीआर पाटिल की मध्यस्थता में हुई इस बैठक में सूरत के आर्थिक विकास के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को लेकर विस्तृत चर्चा की गई। चैंबर ने बंद हो चुकी सूरत-दुबई, शारजाह और बैंकॉक की फ्लाइट्स को तुरंत बहाल करने की मांग की। साथ ही सूरत को एयर सर्विस एग्रीमेंट (एएसए) के तहत 'पॉइंट ऑफ कॉल' का दर्जा देने का आग्रह किया।

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE HYDERABAD 14 MAY 2026

Air India cuts global flights over fuel costs, airspace curbs

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 13

Air India will suspend and curtail several international services between June and August 2026, citing airspace restrictions and high jet fuel prices affecting operational viability.

The airline on Wednesday announced temporary suspension of select routes, including Delhi-Chicago, Delhi-Newark, Mumbai-New York (JFK), Delhi-Shanghai, Delhi-Malé, Chennai-Singapore and Mumbai-Dhaka.

It attributed the rationalisation to "a combination of factors, including continued airspace restrictions over certain regions and record high jet fuel prices for international operations, which significantly impact the commercial viability of certain planned services." "These changes are aimed at improving network stability and reducing last-minute inconvenience to passengers," Air India said. It added that despite the adjustments, it will operate over 1,200 international flights monthly across five continents, including 33 weekly flights to North America, 47 to Europe, 57 to the United Kingdom, 8 to Australia, 158 to the Far East, Southeast Asia and SAARC, and 7 to Mauritius.The airline said affected passengers will be offered re-accommodation on alternative flights, free date changes or full refunds, as applicable.Alongside suspensions, Air India has reduced frequencies.

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD BANGALORE 14 MAY 2026

Air India to cut over 100 weekly international flights

NEW DELHI, PTI: Air India will cut nearly 100 overseas flights and temporarily suspend services on seven routes, including Delhi-Chicago, that will result in up to 27% reduction in the loss-making airline's international capacity, as it grapples with mounting operational costs due to airspace curbs and high jet fuel prices.

The airline, which has already reduced flights on certain routes, on Wednesday said the latest announced rationalisation of services will be in place during the June-August period.

A combination of factors, including continued airspace restrictions over certain regions and record high jet fuel prices for international operations, are significantly impacting the commercial viability of certain planned services, Air India stated.

An official said there will be around 27% reduction in the international capacity or seats offered on various routes as part of the rationalisation.

More than 100 weekly or over 400 monthly international services will be reduced during the next three months, as per calculations based on details of flight reductions provided by the airline in the statement.

The carrier will be temporarily suspending services on Delhi-Chicago, Delhi-Newark, Mumbai-New York, Delhi-Shanghai, Chennai-Singapore, Mumbai-Dhaka, and Delhi-Male routes till August.

While announcing the rationalisation of services, Air India also said it "may make further adjustments to its network, should the extraordinary operating environment prevail".

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN DELHI 15 MAY 2026

एक साल में एअर इंडिया को 26,700 करोड़ का नुकसान

नई दिल्ली, प्रेट्र: विभिन्न हवाई मार्गों पर प्रतिबंध और दूसरी मुश्किलों से जूझ रही एअर इंडिया को पिछले वित्त वर्ष में 26,700 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा का घाटा हुआ। जबकि कंपनी का राजस्व 79,150 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा रहा। ये आंकड़े एअर इंडिया समूह के हैं, जिसमें एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस शामिल है। सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस समूह ने गुरुवार को जारी अपनी 2025-26 की सालाना वित्तीय रिपोर्ट में यह जानकारी दी है। सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस समूह का शुद्ध लाभ मार्च 2026 में खत्म हुए वित्त वर्ष में 57 प्रतिशत घटकर लगभग 8,900 करोड़ रुपये रह गया। इसकी मुख्य वजह विस्तारा के विलय से जुड़े पिछले साल के एक बार के लाभ का नहीं होना और एअर इंडिया का घाटा था।

सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस के मुताबिक, एअर इंडिया को सप्लाई चेन की

विभिन्न हवाई मार्गों पर प्रतिबंध और दूसरी मुश्किलों से जूझ रही कंपनी, इस दौरान समूह का राजस्व 79,150 करोड़ रुपये रहा

दिक्कतों, विभिन्न हवाई मार्गों पर पाबंदियों और जेट फ्यूल की बढ़ी हुई कीमतों जैसी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। एक दिन पहले यानी बुधवार को ही एअर इंडिया ने पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष के कारण हवाई क्षेत्र की पाबंदियों और जेट ईंधन (एटीएफ) कीमतों के आसमान पर पहुंचने को आधार बनाते हुए जून से अगस्त 2026 तक हर हफ्ते अपनी 100 से ज्यादा अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में कटौती का एलान किया है। साथ ही दिल्ली-शिकागो सहित सात मार्गों पर उड़ानें अस्थायी रूप से निलंबित करने की बात कही है।

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN KANPUR 13 MAY 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से यात्रा हो गई सस्ती दोनों एयरलाइन ने कम किया किराया

- इंडिगो और अकासा दोनों के किराये में आई कमी
- किराया कम होने का यात्रियों को मिलेगा फायदा

जागरण संवाददाता, ग्रेटर नोएडा : नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से हवाई यात्रा करने की योजना बनाने वालों के लिए खुशखबरी है। अकासा और इंडिगो एयरलाइंस ने नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से विभिन्न शहरों के लिए अपने किराये में कटौती की है। किराया कम होने से टिकट बुकिंग में भी तेजी आने की उम्मीद है। हालांकि, इंडिगो के बेंगलुरु के किराये में बढ़ोतरी हुई है। आकासा ने सबसे कम बेंगलुरु के किराये में 2032 रुपये और नवी मुंबई के किराये में 1508 रुपये कमी की है। वहीं, इंडिगो ने लखनऊ के किराये में 1587 रुपये की कमी की है। हालांकि, दोनों एयरलाइंस ने किराया कम करने का स्पष्ट कारण नहीं बताया है। मामले में इंडिगो का कहना है कि किराया कम होना या अधिक होना कई कारकों पर निर्भर करता है। जहां तक किराए में अंतर से जुड़ी राशि के रिफंड का प्रश्न है तो ऐसा अभी कुछ तय नहीं हुआ है।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से 15 जून से यात्री सेवा शुरू होगी। इंडिगो पहले दिन यानि 15 जून से चार शहरों के लिए विमान सेवा शुरू करेगी। अकासा एयर ने 16 जून से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से अपनी सेवाएं शुरू करने की घोषणा के साथ सोमवार से ही टिकट की बुकिंग शुरू की थी, लेकिन दोनों एयरलाइन का किराया दिल्ली की तुलना में अधिक होने के कारण सवाल उठने लगे थे कि आखिर नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से महंगा टिकट लेकर कौन यात्रा करना चाहेगा। मंगलवार को इंडिगो और अकासा दोनों एयरलाइंस ने किराये में पहले की तुलना में कटौती की है।

दोनों एयरलाइन का किराया

इंडिगो

शहर	पहले कराया	नया किराया
लखनऊ	4981	3394
बेंगलुरु	8979	9687
हैदराबाद	6198	6129
अमृतसर	3499	3499

अकासा एयर

शहर	पहले किराया	नया किराया
बेंगलुरु	8532	6500
नवी मुंबई	6506	4998

THE ECONOMIC TIMES DELHI 15 MAY 2026

One way of tracking the apocalypse? Follow billionaires' jets

Using publicly available flight data, a coder has come up with an advanced warning system

By Rachel Lerman

They have endless amounts of money. Sophisticated bunkers. Private jets. Might the oligarchs of the world know – or be warned – in advance about an apocalypse?

At least some think they will. Kyle McDonald, a Los Angeles-based artist and coder, has created what he calls an 'apocalypse early warning system'. McDonald tracks private jets around the world; the theory is that if a large number of jets suddenly flee a city, it might be a warning sign.

The project uses publicly available flight data to track the locations of private and business charter jets to chart a 'historic emergency level'. This scale goes from one to five and looks at how many of these planes are flying at one time.

Growing divide

This comes at a time when the gap between the middle class and the very, very rich is rising. In the US alone, the top one per cent of the population holds 31.9 per cent of the total wealth, while the bottom 50 per cent holds 2.5 per cent. The richest person in the world, Elon Musk, increased his wealth by more than $50 billion this year alone.

Bill Gates's Bombardier Global Express

Richard Branson's Dassault Falcon 50 EX

Elon Musk's Gulfstream G650ER

PICS: REUTERS, GETTY IMAGES

But if the billionaires know something about an impending doomsday scenario, McDonald figures, the rest of us should too.

Documentarian Douglas Rushkoff, in his 2022 book, *Survival of the Richest: Escape Fantasies of the Tech Billionaires*, argued that the billionaires are creating well-stocked apocalypse additions within already existing structures.

Rushkoff sees the apocalypse tracker as more of an indicator of billionaire panic rather than an actual world-ending destructive event, but for McDonald, the tool is a response to his own anxiety as well as the broader nervousness that is appearing to be building up in our society.

Other projects

In the past, McDonald has created an app that uses facial recognition to identify ICE agents. Another app, called MyEpstein, shows which of your contacts appear in the Epstein files.

McDonald said he likes to flip surveillance around to use it to peer into the actions of the powerful. "I am interested in creating this culture of accountability and instilling a general sense of you can't just do whatever you want because you have power," he said.

He also added that his program doesn't identify the owners or passengers of individual jets and that he said he has no interest in doxxing anyone. Jet tracking uses public data, but billionaires like Musk hate it.

The system has not risen above Level 4 since McDonald published it and he has programmed it to take into account dates like major holidays and control for those likely vacation times. In the future, if his warning system does trigger an apocalypse alert, McDonald said he joked to a billionaire he knows, "I'm staying with you."

– The Washington Post

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
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THE ECONOMIC TIMES DELHI 15 MAY 2026

AMID HEADWINDS...

Air India FY26 Losses Pull SIA's Profit Down by 57%

Singapore Airlines says it remains committed to 25.1% Air India stake

Forum Gandhi

Mumbai: Air India's losses more than doubled to ₹25,606 crore (about $2.6 billion) in FY26, showed financial results issued by Singapore Airlines, which said mounting losses at the Tata Group-owned carrier dragged down its own annual profit by 57% even as it reaffirmed commitment to its 25.1% stake in the airline.

Singapore Airlines said its net profit fell to S$1.18 billion (₹8,864 crore) for the year ended March 31, from S$2.78 billion a year earlier, after booking a S$945.2 million share of losses from Air India. The FY25 earnings were boosted by a one-time S$1.1 billion accounting gain tied to the Air India-Vistara merger.

Air India's total fiscal loss stands at S$3,765.7 million, calculated at an average FY26 exchange rate of ₹68.5.

Air India didn't offer a comment.

People in the know said Air India's financial losses are largely due to a ₹7,000–₹8,000 crore impact due to unfavourable currency movements and ₹1,000–₹1,500 crore for complying with the new labour codes. However, the bulk of the bleed stems from external shocks: fuel-heavy detours due to the Pakistani airspace closure and the severe financial aftermath of the Boeing plane loss following crash of Flight 171 last year has added another ₹4,000-5,000 crore.

Despite the earnings volatility, SIA said it remains "committed" to its 25.1% stake in the Indian carrier, describing it as a "core component" of its multi-hub strategy. The airline added that while Air India faces supply chain headwinds and airspace restrictions in the Middle East, its fleet renewal and transformation programme remains on track.

₹25,606 CR

AIR INDIA'S TOTAL LOSSES

"As at 31 March 2026, the SIA Group's carrying amount in AI amounted to $1,134.6 million," showed the airline's audit report, reviewed by ET. "During the year, the SIA Group's share of losses from AI amounted to $945.2 million," it said adding, "as at the reporting date, management has assessed that there were indicators of impairment for the SIA Group's investment in AI, triggered by challenging operating conditions and heightened geopolitical uncertainty."

The sharp swing reflects a full 12 months of exposure for SIA to Air India's losses, compared to just four in FY25.

Air India's performance was hit by a perfect storm. A June 2025 crash in Ahmedabad and a US travel slowdown tanked demand, while Pakistani airspace bans and West Asia conflicts forced six-hour detours on North American flights, spiking fuel bills. This culminated Wednesday in a drastic 27% cut to international capacity.

SIA said it is working with Tata Sons to support Air India's turnaround despite these supply chain and airspace bottlenecks. The carrier remains committed to its $1.13 billion stake, calling it a core vehicle to tap the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS DELHI 15 MAY 2026

TWEAKS DUE TO LEAN DEMAND

IndiGo to fly fewer flights in metros

• Airline to expand global operations

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, May 14

INDIGO, THE COUNTRY'S largest airline, has reduced domestic capacity across several metro airports from June and July while expanding international operations, particularly to Gulf and West Asian destinations. The move comes as carriers recalibrate networks amid softer domestic demand and rising operating costs.

According to industry and airline sources, the airline has cut domestic departures from Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata, while increasing international frequencies from hubs such as Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The additional overseas services are focused largely on destinations in West Asia as regional airspace restrictions ease gradually.

Hyderabad has seen one of the steepest reductions among major metros, with domestic departures expected to decline by nearly 15-17%. The city is likely to witness 30-35 fewer daily departures during June compared with earlier schedules. IndiGo has suspended flights to Agra and Kanpur for now, while routes such as Ayodhya have seen frequency cuts.

Bengaluru is expected to see around 28-30 fewer domestic departures daily.

FLIGHT PLAN

- Airline has cut domestic departures from Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata
- It has raised international frequencies from Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru
- Additional overseas services are focused largely on West Asia destinations
- Domestic departures from Hyderabad expected to drop by nearly 15-17%

Continued on Page 10

IndiGo to fly fewer flights in metros

The airline has retained connectivity to smaller destinations such as Ayodhya and Agatti, but reduced frequencies on larger trunk routes including Ahmedabad and Kolkata, sources said.

Chennai and Kolkata are also witnessing network rationalisation, with around 10-15 fewer daily departures expected from each airport. Industry sources said the Chennai-Coimbatore sector has seen some of the sharpest reductions, along with lower frequencies to Kolkata and Visakhapatnam.

Some direct services from Kolkata and Navi Mumbai to destinations, including Goa-Mopa and Jharsuguda, have also been suspended temporarily, according to people aware of the matter.

Even as domestic flying contracts, IndiGo has expanded overseas operations significantly. Mumbai, one of the carrier's largest international gateways, has added around eight additional daily international departures to destinations, including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dammam, Doha, Dhaka, Medina, Jeddah and Jakarta.

Hyderabad has added international frequencies to Dhaka, Medina, Doha, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khaimah, while Bengaluru has expanded services to Abu Dhabi, Doha and Jeddah. Chennai has also added flights to Abu Dhabi, Doha and Dubai.

An IndiGo spokesperson did not comment on the matter. However, industry executives said the changes suggest airlines are reallocating aircraft towards higher-yield international markets during the lean domestic travel season. The July-September period is typically a weaker quarter for domestic demand, prompting airlines to trim capacity by around 10%. However, sources said the reductions this year are steeper than normal, with IndiGo's overall domestic network expected to contract by 10-15%, broadly mirroring wider industry trends.

People familiar with the matter said around 10% of the planned cuts have already been implemented, with affected passengers offered refunds or alternative bookings. Further reductions are expected to be rolled out over the coming days.

The network changes also come at a time when Indian airlines continue to grapple with fleet constraints and higher fuel costs while balancing domestic and international deployment.

Air India's loss swells to nearly $3 billion in FY26

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, May 14

AIR INDIA POSTED a record annual loss of about \$2.8 billion, or nearly ₹26,798 crore at current exchange rates, for 2025-26, as disruptions linked to the Iran conflict, closure of Pakistani airspace for Indian carriers, high fuel prices and aircraft supply constraints weighed heavily on operations, according to disclosures made by Singapore Airlines.

Official sources had indicated after the company's board meeting last week that the company's losses for the fiscal stood at around ₹22,000 crore.

The widening losses have emerged at a time when the Tata Group is attempting an ambitious turnaround of the airline through fleet modernisation, network expansion and integration of its full-service and low-cost carriers. Industry executives said the combination of geopolitical disruptions and persistent aircraft shortages had sharply increased operating costs while constraining capacity deployment on international routes.

The financial impact of the losses has also hit Singapore Airlines (SIA), which owns a 25% stake in the enlarged Air India Group following the merger of Vistara with Air India. In its latest annual disclosures, SIA said its share of Air India's losses translated into a hit of about \$945 million on its books.

The Singapore carrier's auditors also flagged "indicators of impairment" in the investment, citing uncertainty arising from operating conditions and geopolitical developments. Pakistan's airspace closure has forced Indian airlines to take longer routes on several westbound flights, raising fuel burn and crew costs. At the same time, the conflict in West Asia and higher jet fuel prices disrupted international travel demand and network planning for carriers operating through the region.

Air India has additionally been grappling with aircraft delivery delays and engine-related issues affecting capacity addition plans across the industry.

MULTIPLE HEADWINDS

- The losses for the carrier stood at nearly ₹26,798 crore at current rupee rates, above **₹20,000** cr estimated by AI board last week

- Despite the losses, Singapore Airlines, which holds 25% in AI, said it is committed to AI investment
- Airline operations have been hit by the conflict in West Asia and higher jet fuel prices

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL MUMBAI 14 MAY 2026

AI slashes more routes

Dhairya Gajara
MUMBAI

Air India has announced a sweeping rationalisation of its global flight network amid mounting geopolitical and economic pressures. The airline is significantly scaling back operations across five continents between June and August as the continuing crisis in West Asia erodes the commercial viability of long-haul travel. The carrier has temporarily suspended operations on five routes while reducing frequencies on 22 others.

On May 2, The Free Press Journal reported that CEO Campbell Wilson had informed AI employees through an internal communication that the airline would cut international operations in June and July owing to rising operational costs. On Wednesday, AI confirmed that a combination of prolonged airspace restrictions, forcing expensive and time-consuming detours, and record-high jet fuel prices had necessitated a calibrated cut in frequencies and the temporary suspension of several key routes.

Contd on | nation

AI slashes...

Some of the most prestigious services in Air India's international portfolio are among the worst affected. In North America, the Delhi–Chicago service has been temporarily suspended, while the Delhi–Newark and Mumbai–New York (JFK) routes will also remain paused. To compensate, the airline is consolidating its New York operations by increasing Mumbai–Newark services to a daily frequency. Flights to San Francisco, Toronto and Vancouver will also be reduced.

Europe, which has been heavily impacted by the need to avoid restricted airspace, will witness a dramatic 50 per cent reduction on the Delhi–Paris route, which will drop from 14 to seven weekly flights. Other destinations, including Copenhagen, Milan, Vienna, Zurich and Rome, will also see trimmed schedules as the airline prioritises operational stability over network expansion. In Australia, services to Melbourne and Sydney are being sharply reduced, with daily operations cut to four flights a week.

The rationalisation extends across the Far East and Southeast Asia as well. Services on the Delhi–Shanghai, Chennai–Singapore, Mumbai–Dhaka and Delhi–Male routes have been suspended through August. Even high-frequency commuter routes such as Delhi–Kathmandu are being heavily reduced, falling from 42 weekly flights in June to just 21 by July. Frequencies to Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Dhaka and Colombo have also been reduced significantly.

Despite these drastic measures, Air India maintained that it continues to remain a major global operator, with more than 1,200 international flights every month, including 33 weekly services to North America, 47 to Europe, 57 to the United Kingdom, and 158 to the Far East, Southeast Asia and SAARC regions, along with seven and eight weekly flights respectively to Mauritius and Australia.

For passengers affected by the cancellations, the airline has promised proactive assistance. Air India said impacted travellers are being offered re-accommodation on alternative flights, free date changes for future travel and full refunds for those opting not to fly.

While expressing hope of restoring full capacity once conditions improve, the airline cautioned that further changes to its winter schedule could not be ruled out if the "extraordinary operating environment" in West Asia continues.

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AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
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HINDUSTAN TIMES DELHI 15 MAY 2026

एयर इंडिया को 26,700 करोड़ का घाटा

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। एयर इंडिया को वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में 3.56 अरब सिंगापुर डॉलर (26,700 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक) का शुद्ध घाटा हुआ है। कंपनी ने यह जानकारी विभिन्न वैश्विक चुनौतियों और हवाई क्षेत्र पर लगे प्रतिबंधों के बीच दी है।

सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस ग्रुप द्वारा जारी वार्षिक वित्तीय रिपोर्ट में ये आंकड़े सामने आए। गौरतलब है कि देश की नामी कंपनी एयर इंडिया समूह में एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस शामिल हैं। गुरुवार को जारी की गई रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में एयर इंडिया का कुल व्यापक घाटा 26,700 करोड़ रहा।

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AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
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HINDUSTAN TIMES MUMBAI 14 MAY 2026

Air India to trim overseas flights amid W Asia crisis

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Air India will cancel around 400 international flights per month between June and August, cutting or suspending services across North America, Europe, Australia and Southeast Asia as elevated jet fuel prices due to the West Asia conflict and airspace restrictions squeeze the commercial viability of long-haul operations.

The announcement comes days after the Federation of Indian Airlines—representing Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet—wrote to the government on April 26 warning that the industry was under "extreme stress" and on the "verge of stopping operations" over rising aviation turbine fuel costs.

Air India said it would assist affected passengers with rebooking on alternative flights, free date changes or full refunds.

Major cuts are to flights to North American cities. Delhi-Chicago flights have been suspended. Delhi-San Francisco has been cut from 10 weekly flights to seven until the end of August. Delhi-Toronto has been halved from 10 to five weekly flights until July, returning to daily service in August. Delhi-Vancouver has been reduced from seven to five weekly flights.

Mumbai-Newark increases from three weekly flights to daily service. Delhi-JFK remains at seven weekly flights. Delhi-Newark and Mumbai-JFK have been suspended.

Air India said it would assist affected passengers with rebooking on alternative flights, free date changes or full refunds. REUTERS

For European destinations, Delhi-Paris has been halved from 14 weekly flights to seven. Delhi-Copenhagen, Delhi-Vienna, Delhi-Zurich and Delhi-Rome have each been cut by one weekly flight, from four to three. Delhi-Milan has been reduced from five to four weekly flights.

Delhi-Melbourne and Delhi-Sydney have each been cut from daily service to four flights per week.

Similarly, Delhi-Shanghai, Chennai-Singapore, Mumbai-Dhaka and Delhi-Malé have been suspended until the end of August.

Delhi-Singapore has been nearly halved from 24 to 14 weekly flights.

Mumbai-Singapore has been cut from 14 to seven. Delhi-Bangkok falls from 28 to 21 weekly flights and Mumbai-Bangkok from 13 to seven, both starting July. Delhi-Kuala Lumpur has been halved from 10 to five weekly flights. Delhi-Ho Chi Minh City drops from seven to four in July and August. Delhi-Hanoi drops from five to four in July and August.

Air India said it was working with regulators and airport authorities to restore full capacity when conditions permit, but warned of further adjustments if the operating environment does not improve.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES DELHI 15 MAY 2026

{ BUSINESS } AMID DISRUPTIONS

Air India losses soar past $2bn in 2025-26

Air India Group recorded a record loss of more than $2 billion for its 2025-26 fiscal year, according to shareholder Singapore Airlines' annual report, as India's second-largest airline grappled with disruption from the Iran war and Pakistan's ban on Indian carriers from its airspace. In the report released on Thursday, Singapore Airlines (SIA), which owns a 25% stake in Air India, said the Indian group's losses amounted to $2.80 billion at current exchange rates, for FY2026. The loss will be another major setback for Air India, which has been forced to cut scores of international flights in recent months, hitting turnaround plans at the Tata Group-owned airline. Air India, which is not listed in India and has not yet filed its earnings with local regulators, declined to comment. Its 2024-25 standalone loss stood at $415 million, with consolidated losses when including Air India Express of $1.13 billion.

→P18

Singapore Airlines profit drops 57% in FY26 on Air India losses

Press Trust of India
feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Singapore Airlines Group on Thursday reported a 57.4% decline in net profit at SGD 1.184 billion in the fiscal year ended March 2026, mainly due to the absence of a prior-year one-off accounting gain related to the Vistara merger, and Air India losses.

In 2024-25, Singapore Airlines (SIA) Group raked in a net profit of 2.778 billion Singapore Dollars (SGD). SIA Group said it was committed to its 25.1% investment in the Air India Group, which is a core component of its long-term multi-hub strategy.

"This strategic investment provides the Group with a direct stake in one of the world's largest and fastest-growing aviation markets, complementing its Singapore hub and strengthening its long-term growth," it said in a release.

SIA Group's total revenue rose 5% to SGD 20.552 billion in 2025-26. REUTERS

SIA Group's net profit declined by SGD 1.594 billion or 57.4% to SGD 1.184 billion, primarily due to the absence of the SGD 1.098 billion non-cash accounting gain recognised in November 2024 upon the completion of the Air India-Vistara merger.

"The swing from a share of profits of associated companies last year to a loss this year (SGD 846 million) was due to the Group accounting for its share of Air India's full year losses, versus only four months the previous year," the release said.

Specific details about the loss incurred by Air India were not disclosed.

Vistara was a full-service airline, jointly owned by Singapore Airlines and the Tatas. In November 2024, the carrier was merged with Air India as part of the Tata Group's consolidation of its airline business.

Meanwhile, SIA Group's total revenues climbed 5% to SGD 20.552 billion in 2025-26 from SGD 19.540 billion in the year-ago period.

Air India is facing financial headwinds due to airspace curbs and a surge in jet fuel prices that has forced the carrier to curtail international flights.

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THE HINDU DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Air India's $2.79 bn loss drags down Singapore Airlines' profit

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India posted a full-year loss of $2.79 billion (₹26,798 crore), inflicting a $743 million hit on Singapore Airlines' bottom line in the first full year since the carrier acquired a 25.1% stake in the Tata Group airline, dragging it into a sharp profit decline.

Singapore Airlines (SIA), which holds a 25.1% stake in Air India, reported a 57.4% fall in full-year net profit to $930 million (SGD $1.18 billion) even as operating profit surged 39% to $1.89 billion (SGD 2.4 billion). Its annual statement also showed Air India's hefty annual losses.

FY26 marks the first full year in which SIA absorbed the impact of Air India's losses after acquiring its stake in the merged Air India-Vistara entity in November 2024.

Air India's losses came amid a year marked by multiple headwinds. REUTERS

In a press statement, Singapore Airlines attributed the sharp decline in net profit to "the absence of a prior year one-off accounting gain, coupled with the share of full year losses from Air India."

Last year, SIA had benefited from a $866 million (SGD1.098 bn) non-cash accounting gain arising from the completion of the Air India-Vistara merger.

Air India's losses came amid a year marked by multiple headwinds, including a sharp dent in passenger demand following the June 12, 2025 Ahmedabad crash, weakening travel demand from the U.S. market, ban of Pakistan airspace for Indian carriers, and airspace restrictions in West Asia due to regional tensions that has forced 5-6 hour long detours for Air India flights to North America and sharply raised fuel costs.

On Wednesday, the airline announced a 27% reduction in flights across its international network as soaring aviation turbine fuel costs and operational disruptions weighed heavily on profitability. The impact spilt beyond westbound flights, affecting even east-bound routes.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Air India registers $2 bn loss in FY26

Reuters
New Delhi, May 14

AIR INDIA clocked a record loss of over $2 billion for its 2025-26 fiscal year, according to shareholder Singapore Airlines' annual report, as India's second-largest airline grappled with disruption from the Iran war and Pakistan's ban on Indian carriers from its airspace.

In its report, released Thursday, Singapore Airlines, which owns a 25% stake in Air India, said the group's losses amounted to 3.56 billion Singapore dollars, or $2.80 billion at current exchange rates, for the 12 months to end-March. Singapore Airlines did not indicate the exchange rate it had used to calculate the loss.

Reuters had previously reported that Air India was likely to post an annual loss of $2.12 billion. Air India, which is not listed in India and has not yet filed its earnings with local regulators, declined to comment. Its 2024-25 loss was at Rs 39.75 billion.

The loss will be another major setback for the airline, which has been forced to cut scores of international flights in recent months, hitting its turnaround plans.

Air India's flight cuts are a boon for foreign carriers, with Lufthansa Group and Cathay Pacific among those adding services to one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, *Reuters* reported Thursday.

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MINT DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Air India's FY26 loss nears $3 billion amid headwinds

Dipali Banka & Abhishek Law
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Air India posted an estimated loss of nearly $3 billion in FY26, as foreign exchange losses, airspace disruptions and elevated fuel costs battered the Tata Group-owned airline during the year.

The losses were large enough to significantly erode the dividend income parent Tata Sons earned from its cash cow Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in the previous fiscal year.

According to the full-year earnings released by Singapore Airlines (SIA) on Thursday, the carrier's share of losses from Air India were at Singapore $945.2 million (US$742.4 million) in FY26, reflecting its 25.1% stake in the Tata Group-owned airline.

With currency conversions factoring in Thursday's exchange rates, as per this shareholding, Air India Group's total loss for the year is estimated at S$3.76 billion ($2.97 billion), or roughly ₹28,400 crore, at current exchange rates.

Airspace disruptions, elevated fuel costs hit Air India. REUTERS

To be sure, Tata Sons and employees own 74.9% of Air India, and hence its share of the losses would be about ₹21,270 crore, while the remaining 25.1% is being recognized by SIA.

Tata Sons received about ₹28,292 crore in dividend income from TCS in FY26, down 12.1% from ₹32,184 crore in FY25, according to a *Mint* report published on 12 April.

Tata Sons is expected to share its financial performance in July, while privately-held Air India will file its earnings with the ministry of corporate affairs in August.

The estimated loss, which includes both full-service carrier Air India and low-cost subsidiary Air India Express, is almost three times the ₹10,859 crore loss reported in FY25, largely due to foreign exchange losses—as aircraft leases, fuel and maintenance expenses are denominated in US dollars—along with the financial impact of the prolonged closure of Pakistani airspace.

Air India's revenue totalled S$10.53 billion ($8.27 billion), or about ₹79,200 crore, in FY26, according to Singapore Airlines' annual report published on Thursday.

The Singapore Exchange

TURN TO PAGE 11

Air India's loss nears $3 bn amid headwinds

FROM PAGE 1

(SGX) listed airline made fresh investments of S$1.13 billion ($891 million), or about ₹8,530 crore, into Air India during FY26.

"SIA is working closely with its partner Tata Sons to support Air India's multi-year transformation programme. Air India faces headwinds such as industry-wide supply chain constraints, air space restrictions, constraints on operations to its key Middle East markets, and elevated jet fuel prices," Singapore Airlines said in its earnings statement.

Air India has been battling a series of external shocks and internal challenges for more than a year. REUTERS

Singapore Airlines and Air India did not respond to *Mint's* emailed queries till press time.

Air India has been battling a series of external shocks and internal challenges for more than a year. The closure of Pakistan's airspace from April 2025 forced Indian carriers, particularly Air India, to take longer routes to West Asia, increasing fuel burn and costs.

Last June, an Air India flight to London crashed, killing 260 people and bringing the airline under heightened regulatory scrutiny and forcing it to scale back international operations. The carrier was hit again by the West Asia war from late February this year, triggering fresh airspace restrictions, longer flying hours and higher fuel consumption.

At the same time, jet fuel prices surged sharply, nearly doubling between February and May. Air India has since cut international routes and deferred salary hikes as part of cost-control measures.

Moreover, the relentless decline in the rupee against the dollar has also hurt the carrier's profitability, according to an executive privy to the development. As Air India's lease liabilities are dollar-denominated, this depreciation of the rupee has led to foreign exchange losses for the airline.

Tata Sons and employees own 74.9% of Air India, and hence its share of the losses would be about ₹21,270 crore

Air India is also navigating a leadership transition. Chief executive Campbell Wilson resigned at the end of March and is serving his notice period, while the airline has yet to announce a successor.

"These losses reflect a perfect storm of operational disruptions, geopolitical shocks and elevated costs," said Gagan Dixit, senior vice president - aviation, chemicals, oil & gas analyst at Elara Capital. "Cost-cutting measures such as route cuts, deferring bonuses and increments are already underway at Air India," he said. "The airline should actually look to bring in a more fuel-efficient and new fleet. It will help improve utilization of aircraft and bring down costs."

Dixit said the management change is already in the offing. "New management will bring in a set of ideas, and perhaps Tatas could take a hard look at the airline's operations and legacy issues again," he said, adding that a turnaround timeline could now stretch further as Tata balances investments across multiple new businesses.

The Tata group has a complex structure under which business and philanthropy are run through three layers. At the top are the self-governing Tata Trusts that Noel Tata chairs. It owns 65.9% in Tata Sons, while 12.87% is owned by half a dozen group companies, and 18.4% by the Mistry family.

Tata Sons is the holding company of Tata Group firms in the middle layer, which N. Chandrasekaran runs. It primarily depends on dividend income from about 26 listed companies in which it owns shares, and uses this money to invest in group companies. Tata Sons earned ₹38,834.6 crore in dividends and share buybacks in FY25, 83% of which came from TCS.

Tata Sons is also investing in four cash-guzzling businesses, including e-commerce (Tata Digital), Air India, battery manufacturing (Agratas) and semiconductor manufacturing (Tata Electronics). Tata Sons has invested over $11 billion in these four businesses, according to a *Mint* review of the financials of the four privately-held companies.

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MILLENNIUM POST KOLKATA 14 MAY 2026

Air India suspends services on 6 int'l routes

NEW DELHI: Air India on Wednesday announced reduction of international flights and temporary suspension of services on six routes, including Delhi-Chicago, amid airspace curbs and high jet fuel prices.

The loss-making airline, which has already reduced flights on certain routes, said the latest announced rationalisation of services will be in place during the June-August period. A combination of factors, including continued airspace restrictions over certain regions and record high jet fuel prices for international operations, are significantly impacting the commercial viability of certain planned services, Air India said in a statement.

The loss-making airline will be temporarily suspending services on Delhi-Chicago, Mumbai-New York, Delhi-Shanghai, Chennai-Singapore, Mumbai-Dhaka, and Delhi-Male routes till August.

The airline will continue to operate more than 1,200 international flights every month, it said. MPOST

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THE MORNING STANDARD DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Air India losses widen to $2.8 billion in FY26

Airline incurs highest-ever losses since Tata takeover in 2022

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AIR India's losses stood at about $2.8 billion in FY26, marking its biggest annual loss since the airline was taken over by the Tata Group in 2022, according to Singapore Airlines' (SIA) annual financial statement released on Thursday.

The SIA said its net profit for FY26 fell sharply due to the absence of a one-off accounting

FY26 fell sharply due to the absence of a one-off accounting

gain recorded in the previous year, coupled with its share of Air India's full-year losses.

However, the SIA, which owns a 25.1% stake in Air India, said, "The Group's, comprising SIA and Scoot, net profit declined by $1,594 million (-57.4%) to $1,184 million, primarily due to the absence of the $1,098 million non-cash accounting gain recognised in November 2024 upon the completion of the Air India-Vistara merger. The swing from a share of profits of associated companies last year to a loss this year (-$846 million) was due to the Group accounting for its share of Air India's full-year losses, versus only four months the previous year."

Hit by rising jet fuel prices and airspace closures across certain regions, Air India has begun taking measures to curb costs. On Wednesday, it announced the temporary suspension of half a dozen international routes and cut frequencies on flights to N America, Europe and Asia.

The SIA said it remains committed to its 25.1% investment in the Air India Group, describing it as a core component of its long-term strategy, adding that it is working closely with Tata

long-term strategy, adding that it is working closely with Tata

Sons to support Air India's transformation programme.

"This strategic investment provides the Group with a direct stake in one of the world's largest and fastest-growing aviation markets, complementing its Singapore hub and strengthening its long-term growth," the SIA said in a statement.

The airline added that Air India continues to face headwinds such as industry-wide supply chain constraints, airspace restrictions, operational limitations on key West Asia routes, and elevated jet fuel prices.

"Nonetheless, it continues to make progress in its fleet renewal and aircraft retrofit programme, initiatives to elevate the end-to-end customer experience, and improve its operational performance," SIA said.

'Singapore Airlines to stay invested in AI'

NEW DELHI: The Singapore-based carrier, SIA, said it remains committed to its 25.1% investment in the Air India Group, describing it as a core component of its long-term multi-hub strategy, adding that it is working closely with Tata Sons to support Air India's multi-year transformation programme. The

Air India's multi-year transformation programme. The

airline added that Air India continues to face headwinds.

SIA reports strong performance in FY26

NEW DELHI: The SIA reported a strong operational performance. Operating profit rose 39% to $2.375 billion, driven by robust travel demand, higher passenger yields, and lower net fuel costs. Revenue climbed 5% to a record $20.522 billion as the group carried a record 42.4 million passengers during the FY2026.

THE STATESMAN DELHI 15 MAY 2026

Government aims to increase air connectivity in Bihar tenfold in five years

IMRAN MOJIB
Patna, 14 May

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Thursday said in Darbhanga that the government aims to increase air connectivity in the state tenfold over the next five years. He said efforts are being made to create a system under which 4-5 crore people from Bihar will be able to travel by air during this period.

Speaking at a programme marking the transfer of security responsibility of Darbhanga Airport to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), he said that in 2005-06 the number of people travelling by air annually from Bihar was only around 2.5 lakh, which has now risen to over 50 lakh.

The Chief Minister said air traffic infrastructure has to be expanded in all districts, whether in the form of airports, airstrips or heliports. Tenders have already been floated for setting up airports in Muzaffarpur, Raxaul, Saharsa and Birpur. Purnea Airport has already become operational, while airports at Munger, Ajgaibinath, Bhagalpur and Begusarai must also be made operational at all costs.

He said a meeting with officials of the Civil Aviation Department and the Government of India is scheduled for next week. The state government will urge the Prime Minister to name Darbhanga Airport after Baba Vidyapati. Efforts will also be made to develop it into an international airport. He described Darbhanga and Mithila as the "midpoint" of Bihar.

The Chief Minister said, "Darbhanga Airport is not merely an airport, but also an important medium for taking products from the Mithilanchal region to global markets."

He added that over the next five years, the state government will work towards establishing a new industry at the site of the defunct Ashok Paper Mill.

Choudhary said former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar not only built a vast road network in Bihar but also worked extensively towards the expansion of airports. He also ensured land allocation for the establishment of AIIMS in the state.

"We are carrying forward his work," he said.

He further said, "Bihar can become a developed state only if development work is carried out at three times the scale of what was done during Nitish Kumar's tenure."

THE TELEGRAPH KOLKATA 14 MAY 2026

High fuel price, airspace curbs hit operations hard

Air India cuts foreign flights

AMIYA KUMAR KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: Air India on Wednesday said it will scale down international operations on several overseas routes between June and August because of operational pressures arising from continuing airspace restrictions in certain regions and soaring jet fuel prices following the conflict in West Asia.

The airline has temporarily suspended services on six international routes, including Delhi-Chicago, and reduced frequencies on more than 20 overseas sectors.

Despite the disruptions, Air India said it would continue operating over 1,200 international flights every month.

The announcement comes three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to reduce foreign travel to conserve foreign-exchange reserves.

Apart from Delhi-Chicago, Air India has suspended flights on the Mumbai-New York, Delhi-Shanghai, Chennai-Singapore, Mumbai-Dhaka and Delhi-Male routes until August.

The carrier has also reduced services from Delhi to Paris, Copenhagen, Milan, Vienna, Zurich, Rome, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver, Melbourne, Sydney, Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City,

TURBULENT TIMES

Hanoi, Kathmandu, Dhaka and Colombo. Frequencies on the Mumbai-Singapore, Mumbai-Bangkok and Mumbai-Colombo routes have also been cut.

"The adjustments have been made in response to a combination of factors, including continued airspace restrictions over certain regions and record-high jet fuel prices for international operations, which significantly impact the commercial viability of certain planned services," Air India said.

"These changes are aimed at improving network stability and reducing last-minute inconvenience to passengers."

The airline said it would still maintain an extensive international network spanning five continents, including 33 weekly flights to North America, 47 to Europe, 57 to the UK, eight to Australia, 158 to the Far East, Southeast Asia and SAARC destinations, and seven weekly flights to Mauritius in Africa.

THE TIMES OF INDIA BANGALORE 14 MAY 2026

Father & son who missed Chicago flight win ₹1.4L compensation

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Bengaluru: What began as a routine trip to Chicago soon spiralled into an overnight nightmare for two Jayanagar residents, eventually leading to a legal battle.

The episode dates back to Jan 4, 2024, when 68-year-old Satish Nagarajan Iyengar and his 38-year-old son, Rupesh, booked Air India round-trip tickets between Bengaluru and Chicago for Rs 2.9 lakh. Their onward journey was scheduled for Jan 18, with the return flight planned for Jan 22.

DIVERSION DRAMA

On Jan 18, the duo checked in at Bengaluru airport and received two boarding passes each, while their baggage was tagged directly to Chicago. Their flight departed Bengaluru at 9.10pm and was slated to arrive in Delhi at 11.55pm, where they were to board a connecting flight to Chicago at 2.35am.

The flight was normal until it entered Delhi airspace, when the captain announced a diversion to Jaipur, citing low visibility. However, the duo contended that Delhi's CAT IIIB-compliant runways were operational and the aircraft was equipped for landing in low visibility, alleging the diversion occurred due to pilots lacking CAT IIIB certification. The aircraft landed in Jaipur, where passengers waited for more than an hour while a CAT IIIB-certified crew was flown in. The flight then reached Delhi at 1.52am, leaving less than 45 minutes for the connection. Despite assurances that they would make the connection, they were met with placards and escorted through a priority channel. However, they were made to wait more than 30 minutes, their baggage was returned and the Chicago leg was cancelled, citing late arrival of AI 808. Air India's Integrated Operations Control Centre (IOCC) later confirmed seats were available but said boarding had closed.

CONSUMER IS KING

For Satish, a senior citizen, the situation turned distressing. No food, water, seating or hotel accommodation was provided, nor any timeline for resolution. After a sleepless night at the airport, they booked a hotel at their own expense. The next morning, Air India issued tickets to Bengaluru and said reimbursement would be provided.

AIRLINE APATHY MAKES THEIR TRIP TRAUMATIC

On Jan 21, they filed a refund request. On Feb 5, Air India confirmed a full refund within 7-14 days. However, by March 5, only Rs 2.4 lakh was credited, leaving Rs 55,328 pending. Despite acknowledgement and follow-ups, payment was not made. The issue was escalated to the ministry of civil aviation on July 26, but they received no response. The duo filed a consumer complaint on July 17, 2025.

In its defence, Air India cited operational and safety requirements for the diversion, stating low-visibility procedures were mandatory. It argued boarding had closed by the time they arrived at the gate, making acceptance impossible. It also said an alternative routing via London was offered but declined, contending that passengers who opted for a refund could not later claim additional damages.

On refunds, Air India stated that out of the total fare of Rs 1.5 lakh per ticket, in addition Rs 11,145 had been refunded for one ticket, while Rs 27,664 and Rs 16,519, respectively, remained under process or pending approval. The airline maintained that the delay in crediting the balance amounts was due to routine reconciliation and settlement procedures and not due to any mala fide intent.

The commission observed that the flight diversion was not due to weather alone but stemmed from the crew's lack of CAT IIIB certification, an internal lapse that could not be treated as force majeure to escape liability. It held that DGCA exemption clauses could not justify leaving a senior citizen stranded overnight without food, water, rest or accommodation. The partial refund of Rs 2,43,774 was treated as acknowledgement of liability, making the withholding of Rs 55,328 indefensible. It also upheld Rs 33,186 as legitimate damages and concluded that Air India's actions constituted a clear deficiency in service.

The bench, comprising president Ramachandra MS and members Nandini H Kumbhar and Savitha Airani, on April 29 ordered Air India to refund Rs 55,328 and pay Rs 33,186 for damages incurred at an interest at 6%. It directed the airline to pay Rs 20,000 as compensation for deficiency in service, Rs 25,000 for pain and suffering, and Rs 10,000 in litigation costs.

THE TIMES OF INDIA CHENNAI 14 MAY 2026

Passengers can't fly Air India to Singapore from June to Aug

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File photo

DESPITE ₹5,000 CRORE CREDIT: The airlines cited continued airspace restrictions in certain regions and record-high jet fuel prices

Chennai: Air India will suspend its twice daily direct flights from Chennai to Singapore as part of a wider rationalisation drive in view of soaring fuel costs and operational pressures. It is not clear if the 14 connecting flights to Singapore via Mumbai and Delhi have also been curtailed. A fresh timetable is expected in some time.

The Tata Group-owned carrier on Wednesday announced that operations would be curtailed on other international routes as well. These include Delhi-Shanghai, Mumbai-Dhaka and Delhi-Male through Aug, and reduced frequency of flights to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Kathmandu, Colombo and Dhaka.

The impact extends to Europe, North America and Australia as well. Air India has suspended the Delhi-Chicago route temporarily and reduced frequencies to San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver, Paris, Copenhagen, Milan, Zurich, Rome, Melbourne and Sydney, among others.

Despite the temporary cuts, the airline said it would continue operating more than 1,200 international flights every month across five continents, including 158 weekly flights to the Far East, Southeast Asia and SAARC destinations.

The Chennai-Singapore flights cater to leisure travellers, business passengers, students and transit flyers connecting to Southeast Asia, the Far East and Australia. International carriers such as Singapore Airlines and Scoot Airways too operate direct flights between Chennai and Singapore.

A Sankar, president of Indian Air Passengers' Association, said that move will encourage other carriers to raise fares. "Airlines reducing the operations despite the Union govt releasing ₹5,000 crore emergency credit to them shows their incapability to manage the crisis," he said.

Sankar said Chennai-Singapore is one of the busiest sectors, with people from all walks of life often travelling between these countries for business, work as well as for leisure.

Air India said affected passengers would be offered alternative flights where feasible, along with options for free date changes or full refunds. The airline added that it is working with regulators and airport authorities to restore full capacity once operating conditions get better.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA MUMBAI 14 MAY 2026

GoAir dues: Banks slash reserve price of Thane plot

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Central Bank of India has cut the reserve price for a 94.7-acre land in Thane owned by Wadia Realty Private Limited, part of the Wadia Group that promoted the now defunct GoAir, as lenders step up efforts to recover dues linked to the grounded airline.

In its latest e-auction notice, the lender-led consortium has fixed a reserve price of Rs 1,525 crore, a sharp reduction from the initial Rs 1,965 crore. The price was later trimmed to about Rs 1,604 crore before being lowered further, taking the total markdown to Rs 440 crore, underscoring weak buyer interest and lenders' urgency to monetise the asset.

The auction is scheduled for June 9. Bidders are required to submit an earnest money deposit of Rs 76.25 crore—5% of the reserve price—and to place bids increasing in multiples of Rs 1 crore.

The sale is being pursued under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Sarfaesi) Act against Wadia Realty, which had acted as a corporate guarantor for GoAir. The consortium comprising Central Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank had provided a loan, of which over Rs 3,918 crore was pending in dues as of Aug 31, 2023, excluding accruing interest and expenses.

The asset comprises contiguous land parcels in Ovale and Bhayanderpada along Ghodbunder Road in Thane, a key real estate corridor. Abutting a 60m-wide road, the land parcel is seen as a prime development opportunity for large residential or commercial projects, subject to resolution of legal issues. The auction will be conducted via the PSB Alliance's BAANKNET portal.