

यात्रियों को सुविधाओं में टाप-10 में चकेरी एयरपोर्ट

जागरण संवाददाता, कानपुर: चकेरी हवाई अड्डे पर यात्रियों की संख्या में सालाना बढ़ोतरी की रफ्तार भले ही सुस्त पड़ गई हो, लेकिन सुखद पहलू यह है कि सुविधाओं (ग्राहक संतुष्टि) के मामले में यह देश के टाप-10 एयरपोर्ट्स में चुना गया है। हाल ही में भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआइ) की ओर से जारी घरेलू एयरपोर्ट्स की रैंकिंग में चकेरी एयरपोर्ट को यात्री सुविधाओं के मामले में देश में नौवां स्थान मिला है। इस सूची में यूपी के दो और जिले शामिल हैं। अयोध्या एयरपोर्ट को पांचवां और प्रयागराज एयरपोर्ट 10वें स्थान पर है। एएआइ से जारी रैंकिंग में वर्ष 2019 में चकेरी एयरपोर्ट 34वें, जबकि 2023 में 26वें स्थान पर था।

एएआइ की रैंकिंग में यात्री संख्या के मामले में देश में 69वें स्थान पर काबिज चकेरी हवाई अड्डे को एक बार फिर रफ्तार मिलने जा रही है। अगले महीने से शहरवासियों को जून में बंद हुई हैदराबाद और जेवर (नोएडा) की फ्लाइट्स की सौगात फिर से मिल सकती है।

इसके साथ ही बंगलुरु की उड़ान भी हफ्ते में तीन के बजाय चार दिन करने की तैयारी है। प्रदेश सरकार को भेजे गए नए विस्तार प्रस्ताव के तहत जल्द ही यहां कार्गो सेवा और सीआइएसएफ आवासीय कालोनी का निर्माण भी शुरू होगा। इससे यात्रियों की संख्या में इजाफा होने की काफी उम्मीद है।

- एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया की रैंकिंग में कस्टमर सटिस्फेक्शन में मिला नौवां स्थान
- तीन साल में रैंकिंग में 17 पायदान का उछाल, अयोध्या पांचवें, प्रयागराज 10वें नंबर पर
- अगले माह दो फ्लाइट की उम्मीद बढ़ेंगे यात्री, एयरपोर्ट विस्तार से शुरू होगी कार्गो सेवा



एयरपोर्ट से निकलते यात्री ● जागरण

पिछले पांच साल में उड़ान भरने वाले यात्रियों की स्थिति

वित्तीय वर्ष	यात्रियों की संख्या	पिछले वर्ष के मुकाबले वृद्धि
2021-22	1,75,268	177.6%
2022-23	2,54,903	45.4%
2023-24	2,84,314	11.5%
2024-25	3,22,252	13.3%
2025-26	3,63,944	12.9%

स्रोत: चकेरी एयरपोर्ट ट्रेफिक देशवर्ष, एएआइ के मासिक आंकड़ों पर आधारित

नए टर्मिनल पर ये सुविधाएं

- एक साथ तीन बड़े यात्री हवाई जहाज खड़े होने की व्यवस्था।
- डिपार्चर साइड में 300 व एराइवल साइड में 150 यात्रियों के बैठने की क्षमता।
- टर्मिनल पर 150 चार पहिया वाहनों के लिए पार्किंग व्यवस्था।
- कम दूरीयता में उड़ान के लिए आइएलएस 2 सिस्टम। रात में हवाई जहाज उतरने और उड़ने की व्यवस्था तैयारी है।



की तुलना में बहुत पीछे है। - **जय प्रकाश बलेचा**, रतनलाल नगर



बढ़ानी चाहिए। - **अखिल**, गल्ला मंडी

हैदराबाद की उड़ान बंद होने और बंगलुरु की नियमित उड़ान तीन दिन ही करने से यात्रियों की संख्या घटी है। जेवर की उड़ान अगले माह से प्रस्तावित है। हैदराबाद तीन के बजाय चार दिन होगी। - **प्रदीप यादव**, निदेशक एयरपोर्ट

सिटी से एयरपोर्ट की कनेक्टिविटी बहुत खराब है। रामादेवी चौराहे पर जाम के कारण दो बार प्लाइट छूट चुकी है। टर्मिनल की कैटीन में खाने पीने का सामान प्लाइट के रेट का है। लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट की तुलना में बहुत पीछे है। - **जय प्रकाश बलेचा**, रतनलाल नगर

व्यापार के सिलसिले में अक्सर प्लाइट से आना जाना होता है। यहां बहुत कुछ बेहतर की जरूरत है। नया टर्मिनल बनने के बाद उम्मीद थी कि प्लाइट की संख्या बढ़ेगी, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हो सका। प्लाइट



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

14 OCTOBER 2026

Snake catchers draw a blank at ATC tower

SANJAY MANDAL AND
DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: Snake catchers visited the old air traffic control (ATC) building at Calcutta airport on Tuesday after snakes were spotted inside the nine-storey structure on several occasions in recent months.

A team of three snake catchers from the North 24-Parganas forest division visited the building.

The team came from the Barasat range office, a forest official said.

"Armed with tongs, they searched the building for over an hour but could not find any snake. The airport authorities have been asked to alert us the next time they spot one," he said.

The airport authorities had sent the forest department photographs of a snake.

"The picture was of a common krait, known locally as *kalach*. It is venomous and is one of the 'Big Four' most ven-

omous snakes found in India," the official said.

Airport officials said the snake catchers had placed traps to catch rats inside the building.

"They said snakes often enter the building in search of rats," an airport official said, adding that employees were frightened by the frequent sightings.

Metro had earlier reported that snakes had been appearing with unusual frequency inside the ATC building, next to the old domestic terminal. They have been spotted on four occasions over the past few months.

One snake was spotted as high as the second floor. On September 30, an airport employee spotted another on the landing between the seventh and eighth floors.

The ATC tower, from where aircraft takeoffs and landings are controlled, is on the eighth floor. The seventh floor houses the anti-hijacking coordination room.

According to experts, many snakes are surprisingly adept climbers. Unlike lizards and insects, however, they cannot cling to smooth surfaces such as glass and need a physical grip, texture, or friction to climb.

Common bronzebacks, common wolf snakes and Oriental flying snakes are among the species found in the area that can climb trees and rough surfaces such as walls and pipes. They are also often found on overhead utility cables and can sometimes be electrocuted, experts said.

Venomous snakes found in the airport area include the monocled cobra, Russell's viper and common krait.

An airport official spotted a snake on the second floor of the ATC building at around 3.30am on August 2, sources said.

The building was constructed in 1971, while the new ATC building is to start functioning.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

T3 parking operator used FASTag to curb entry, payment facility suspended

Dipak Dash
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: FASTag-based parking payment at the Terminal-3 arrival at IGI airport was temporarily suspended Wednesday, after it was found that the parking operator was using the smart tag to regulate entry of vehicles rather than using it only for collecting parking fees.

TOI has learnt that IHMCL, under NHAI, Wednesday wrote to the acquirer bank concerned of the parking facility at T3 terminal to ensure discontinuation of "any other use" of the smart tag beyond payment of parking fee. It had said non-compliance would invite action, including de-boarding of the bank concerned from electronic toll collection (ETC) parking facility.

The issue was flagged by former Niti Aayog vice-chairperson Rajiv Kumar. In a post on X Tuesday, Kumar said, "All of a sudden a new process has been introduced by @DelhiAirportGMR that it will not allow cars with annual @fastagofficial pass to enter the departure lanes of Terminal 3. Instead all cars are expected to have some balance in their main account. Else they are required to go to the parking. No prior notice. No explanation. Completely arbitrary. Maximising passenger harassment. @NHAIOfficial and @AAIOfficial to please note and rectify."

In response, IHMCL said FASTag is a payment instrument for parking facilities at airports and can't be used as a means of enforcing entry restrictions. "The matter has been taken cognisance of and the bank concerned has been directed to discontinue any such restrictions," it replied.

People aware of the issue said that non-FASTag vehicles are manually forced towards the multi-level parking, which is causing inconvenience to users. It's also learnt that vehicles that head towards it generally get stuck and breach the free time period and have to invariably pay the parking fee.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

Navi Mumbai airport 'not ready', Emirates to stay in Mumbai for now

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Dubai-based airline major Emirates will continue operating from the Mumbai airport during the winter schedule, said Essa Sulaiman Ahmad, Senior V-P, West Asia and Indian Ocean, Commercial Operations, Emirates.

According to him, the Navi Mumbai airport is "not ready" for a shift yet.

NEED FOR MORE

Speaking at an event marking the airline's upcoming launch of A380 aircraft flights to Delhi, Ahmad said catering, cargo warehousing and other supporting facilities will need to be developed before airlines shift operations to Navi Mumbai.

These facilities are needed to build a complete airport ecosystem. Until then, shifting the operations would be difficult for airlines.

His comments came in response to questions on a proposed shift of international flights from Mumbai to Navi

Mumbai, and the Emirates' strategy in such a scenario.

That said, the airline will keep an open mind, assess the facilities available at the new airport and then take a decision on any future move, he said. "When things like that happen, I think we also have to be a bit open-minded, see the airport, see what are the facilities that have been upgraded."

Ahmad said Emirates sees a potential new market around Navi Mumbai, given its proximity to Pune and the port. However, he linked the airline's interest in additional operations to the availability of more traffic entitlements. Presently, Emirates is the largest foreign passenger carrier from India. Ahmad said the airline is fully utilising its existing entitlements of 67,000 seats per week one-way, and sees strong demand for additional capacity.

Emirates' scheduled daily A380 service to Delhi will begin on October 25, making it the third Indian city to receive the aircraft on a scheduled daily service.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

Navi Mumbai airport not ready for int'l flights: Emirates

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 14 October

Navi Mumbai International Airport is not ready to handle international flights as it still lacks supporting facilities such as catering and cargo warehousing, said Essa Sulaiman Ahmad, senior vice-president for commercial operations (West Asia and Indian Ocean) at Emirates Airline, on Wednesday. He added that airlines would find it difficult to shift operations to the airport until it developed into a fully functional aviation ecosystem.

A few weeks ago, Adani group-controlled Mumbai International Airport (MIAL) asked airlines to move 265 of the 770 weekly international departures to Navi Mumbai by October 25 because MIAL wanted to redevelop Terminal 1 at Mumbai airport. Airlines strongly opposed the proposal, and the matter was escalated to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

On Tuesday, MIAL held a meeting with airlines and assured them that no international flights would be shifted until at least the end of March.



Essa Sulaiman, senior V-P for West Asia and Indian Ocean, Emirates Airline

Asked whether Emirates would shift 33 per cent of its Mumbai flights to Navi Mumbai

if the airport operator revived its proposal, Ahmad told reporters, "The airport is not ready."

Asked to elaborate, Ahmad pointed to the supporting facilities required for airline operations. "At an airport, you will require a facility for catering. You will require a facility, for example, for cargo warehousing. You will require those elements. Until it gets fully built into an ecosystem, I think it's going to be difficult for any of the airlines to shift there," he said.

Emirates on Wednesday held a static display of its A380 air-

craft at Delhi airport ahead of its deployment on the Delhi-Dubai route from October 26. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, Ahmad said Delhi was an important market for the airline and that it would continue to operate four daily flights from Dubai to the city. One flight will be operated by the A380, while the other three will use retrofitted Boeing 777 aircraft. He said the upgraded aircraft would offer first-class, business-class, premium-economy, and economy cabins.

Ahmad said Emirates was

open to considering operations at new airports, including Navi Mumbai and Noida, if it received additional flight and seat entitlements under the air service agreement between India and the United Arab Emirates. He said the airline was operating at the full capacity permitted under its existing entitlements. Navi Mumbai could offer access to a new market closer to Pune, he added, but Emirates would need additional entitlements before considering operations there.

More on business-standard.com

अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए तैयार नहीं है नवी मुंबई हवाईअड्डा

दीपक पटेल

नई दिल्ली, 14 अक्टूबर

नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डा अभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें शुरू करने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। यहां अभी खानपान और सामान रखने के लिए वेयरहाउस जैसी जरूरी सुविधाएं नहीं हैं। एमिरेट्स एयरलाइन के पश्चिम एशिया और हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष ईसा सुलेमान ने बुधवार को यह बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि जब तक हवाईअड्डे पर विमान सेवाओं से जुड़ी सभी जरूरी सुविधाएं और पूरी व्यवस्था तैयार नहीं हो जाती तब तक विमानन कंपनियों के लिए अपनी उड़ानें वहां शिफ्ट करना मुश्किल होगा।

कुछ हफ्ते पहले अदाणी समूह के नियंत्रण वाली मुंबई इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (मायल) ने विमानन कंपनियों से कहा था कि वे हर हफ्ते की अपनी 770 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में से 265 उड़ानें 25 अक्टूबर तक नवी मुंबई हवाईअड्डे पर शिफ्ट कर दें क्योंकि कंपनी मुंबई हवाईअड्डे के टर्मिनल-1 का दोबारा विकास करना चाहती है।



विमानन कंपनियों ने इस प्रस्ताव का कड़ा विरोध किया। इसके बाद मामला नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय तक पहुंच गया। मंगलवार को मायल ने विमानन कंपनियों के साथ बैठक की और भरोसा दिया कि कम से कम मार्च के अंत तक किसी भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान को नवी मुंबई हवाईअड्डे पर हस्तांतरित नहीं किया जाएगा। जब सुलेमान से पूछा गया कि अगर हवाईअड्डे का संचालन करने वाली कंपनी दोबारा अपना प्रस्ताव रखती है तब क्या एमिरेट्स मुंबई से अपनी 33 प्रतिशत उड़ानें नवी मुंबई शिफ्ट करेगी तो उन्होंने कहा, 'हवाईअड्डा अभी तैयार नहीं है'।

एमिरेट्स ने बुधवार को दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर अपने ए380 विमान को प्रदर्शित किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

लेह एयरपोर्ट को मिलेगा नया टर्मिनल, पीएम मोदी करेंगे उद्घाटन

नई दिल्ली | प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी गुरुवार को वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए लद्दाख में करीब 3,350 करोड़ रुपये की 5 विकास परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन और लोकार्पण करेंगे। इनमें नए एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल का उद्घाटन भी शामिल है। लेह एयरपोर्ट पर 640 करोड़

रुपए की लागत से बने इस टर्मिनल की सालाना क्षमता 35 लाख यात्रियों की है। इस मौके पर पीएम मोदी 298 किमी लंबी निम्न-पटुम-दरचा सड़क भी राष्ट्र को समर्पित करेंगे। यह वैकल्पिक मार्ग सेना की आवाजाही और रसद पहुंचाने में मदद करेगा।

पंतनगर से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की उड़ान से कुमाऊं की राह आसान

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 14 अक्टूबर (देशबन्धु)। पंतनगर और नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के बीच सीधी हवाई कनेक्टिविटी से कुमाऊं क्षेत्र के लोगों के लिए दिल्ली-एनसीआर और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश तक पहुंचना आसान हो गया है। इंडिगो की इस उड़ान सेवा से पंतनगर के अलावा हल्द्वानी, नैनीताल, भीमताल और मुक्तेश्वर के लोगों को भी हवाई यात्रा का सुविधाजनक विकल्प मिल रहा है। इससे न केवल यात्रियों का समय बचेगा, बल्कि पर्यटन, व्यापार और औद्योगिक गतिविधियों को भी बढ़ावा मिलने की उम्मीद है।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के माध्यम से कुमाऊं क्षेत्र के लोग दिल्ली, ग्रेटर नोएडा, गाजियाबाद और फरीदाबाद जैसे प्रमुख शहरी एवं व्यावसायिक केंद्रों तक आसानी से पहुंच सकेंगे। इसके साथ ही मथुरा, वृंदावन और आगरा जैसे धार्मिक एवं ऐतिहासिक महत्व के शहरों की यात्रा के लिए भी बेहतर विकल्प उपलब्ध होंगे। हवाई संपर्क से लंबी सड़क यात्रा पर निर्भरता कम होगी और लोगों को व्यावसायिक कामकाज, पारिवारिक यात्राओं, तीर्थयात्रा तथा छुट्टियां बिताने के लिए अधिक सहूलियत मिलेगी।

मुंबई, बेंगलुरु और हैदराबाद तक भी पहुंच

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से इंडिगो के व्यापक उड़ान नेटवर्क के जरिए कुमाऊं के यात्रियों को देश के दूसरे प्रमुख शहरों तक जाने के विकल्प भी मिलेंगे। मुंबई, बेंगलुरु और हैदराबाद जैसे महानगरों की यात्रा के लिए यात्री इस एयरपोर्ट से आगे की उड़ानों का लाभ उठा सकेंगे। एयरपोर्ट की कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ने के साथ स्थानीय यात्रियों, पर्यटन कारोबार और व्यापारिक समुदाय की जरूरतों को समझने पर भी जोर दिया जा रहा है।

पंतनगर में रोडशो, कारोबारियों से चर्चा

इसी कड़ी में नोएडा इंटरनेशनल



■ दिल्ली-एनसीआर, पश्चिमी यूपी और प्रमुख शहरों तक पहुंच होगी सुगम
■ यात्रा के साथ कारोबार को भी मिलेगा बढ़ावा

एयरपोर्ट, इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया सैट्स (एयरपोर्ट पर मल्टीमॉडल कार्गो हब का संचालन करने वाली कंपनी) की ओर से पंतनगर में रोडशो आयोजित किया गया। इसमें कुमाऊं-गढ़वाल चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री (केजीसीसीआई), ट्रेवल एजेंटों, माल ढुलाई से जुड़ी कंपनियों और कॉरपोरेट क्षेत्र के प्रतिनिधियों ने हिस्सा लिया।

रोडशो के दौरान हवाई यात्री सेवाओं, आगे की यात्रा के विकल्पों, एयरपोर्ट पर उपलब्ध सुविधाओं और माल परिवहन की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा हुई। प्रतिभागियों ने किफायती किराये, विभिन्न शहरों तक बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी और कार्गो परिवहन को अधिक सुगम बनाने की जरूरत बताई। इससे क्षेत्र के कारोबारियों और औद्योगिक इकाइयों को अपने उत्पादों की आवाजाही के लिए नए विकल्प मिल सकते हैं।

कार्गो सुविधाओं से कारोबार को मिलेगी मदद

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर यात्री सुविधाओं के साथ कार्गो परिवहन के लिए भी बुनियादी ढांचा विकसित किया गया है। इसके जरिए क्षेत्र के कारोबारियों को माल की आवाजाही के लिए बेहतर विकल्प उपलब्ध कराने की संभावनाएं हैं।

स्थानीय व्यापारिक संगठनों और अन्य संबंधित पक्षों के साथ संवाद से माल परिवहन की जरूरतों को समझने और सेवाओं को अधिक उपयोगी बनाने में मदद मिलेगी।

यात्रियों को खाने-पीने और टैक्सी सेवाओं पर छूट

पंतनगर और नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के बीच इंडिगो की उड़ानों से यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों के लिए विशेष प्रचारात्मक छूट भी दी जा रही है। पंतनगर का बोर्डिंग पास दिखाने पर एयरपोर्ट के चुनिंदा खानपान केंद्रों पर 10 प्रतिशत, अधिकतम 200 रुपये तक की छूट मिलेगी। इनमें कोस्टा कॉफी, केएफसी, सबवे, चाय पॉइंट और स्मूर जैसे आउटलेट शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा एयरपोर्ट की इलेक्ट्रिक टैक्सी और कार किराये की सेवाओं पर 40 प्रतिशत तक की छूट का लाभ भी दिया जाएगा।

कुमाऊं और एनसीआर के बीच संपर्क होगा मजबूत

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के वाइस प्रेसिडेंट क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन ने कहा कि पंतनगर-नोएडा एयरपोर्ट मार्ग कुमाऊं क्षेत्र के यात्रियों के लिए यात्रा के नए विकल्प उपलब्ध करा रहा है। उत्तराखंड को दिल्ली-एनसीआर और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश से जोड़ने वाली यह हवाई सेवा मथुरा, वृंदावन और एनसीआर जैसे प्रमुख धार्मिक एवं व्यावसायिक केंद्रों तक पहुंच आसान बनाएगी। इससे तीर्थयात्रा, पर्यटन और कारोबारी यात्राओं को बढ़ावा मिलने के साथ क्षेत्रीय संपर्क भी मजबूत होगा।

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

14 OCTOBER 2026

Shifting int'l flights to NMIA deferred till March 2027

The decision comes amid opposition from airlines to the proposed transition

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The proposed partial shifting of international flights from the Mumbai airport to the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has been deferred until the summer schedule beginning March 2027. The decision follows discussions between airport operator Adani Airports Holdings Ltd (AAHL) and airline representatives on Tuesday.

The decision comes amid opposition from airlines to the proposed transition, linked to the redevelopment of Mumbai airport's Terminal 1 (T1), with the airport operator seeking to redistribute traffic between the two airports. Both the airports are owned by AAHL.

AAHL had asked airlines to shift 33% of their international flights from the Mumbai airport to NMIA by October 25, 2026 coinciding with the start of the



NMIA started domestic operations from December last year and international services from July this year. SATISH BATE/HT PHOTO

winter schedule.

According to a statement issued by Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) on Tuesday, at the meeting, AAHL's top leadership, including Jeet Adani and Arun Bansal, assured the airline community that disruptions would be minimised and historical slot allocations would be respected, with no changes to slots during the winter schedule.

As part of the next steps, a joint working group will work over the next two weeks to prepare an implementation plan for the redevelopment of the ageing T1 infrastructure. "Full support

ensured for any airline wanting to shift any operations to NMIA," MIAL said, adding that both sides had agreed to hold a follow-up meeting on October 28.

Tuesday's meeting followed a stakeholders' meeting chaired by civil aviation secretary Samir Kumar Sinha on October 6, at which it was decided that further discussions would be held with airlines on the transition plan on October 13.

"With the redevelopment plan shifted to March, airlines are expected to transition their international operations in a phased manner," an official

aware of the development said.

The civil aviation secretary will review the transition plan at a meeting on October 20. "Airlines have also asked AAHL to share its full plan for the redevelopment of T1," the official added.

A further meeting between AAHL executives and airline representatives is scheduled for October 28 to address any pending issues.

The reconstruction of T1 is expected to commence in January 2027 and take around three years. However, according to a consultation paper submitted by MIAL to the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) in 2025, demolition of T1 was planned to begin in November 2025, with construction expected to be completed by September 2028.

MIAL had said in the paper that T1, which was around 65 years old, had developed various defects, including structural distress and seepage and leakage, which could not be addressed through repair work.

The greenfield airport, NMIA, commenced domestic commercial operations from December last year and international services from July this year.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

14 OCTOBER 2026

Juhu airport to curtail hours due to staff crunch

Yogesh Naik

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Due to a shortage of air traffic controllers (ATCs), operations at Juhu Airport will be soon curtailed from 8 am to 5 pm instead of the earlier dawn-to-dusk policy. The airport sees 80 to 100 air traffic movements (including landings and take-offs), and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), which operates helicopters for rigs and platforms, will be one of the most affected.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, Juhu Airport director Sonam Nurboo said that some of the

ATCs had to go for training. "We have some internal issues," he said. "We have not reduced watch (operating) hours at present and are yet to issue orders. We have held discussions with stakeholders."

Ulhas Marchande, the ATC in charge of Juhu Airport, said, "Last year, we had 12 ATCs but now there are just eight. Even working from 8 am to 5 pm is difficult but we are stretching ourselves and managing. We have already informed our head office about the shortage."

Juhu Airport is the oldest airport in the country and renowned as the place from

where JRD Tata, the father of Indian civil aviation, began his flights. Although it is the oldest airport, there is no instrument landing system installed here or night-landing facilities. At present, it is used mainly by helicopters and a few fixed wing aircraft that come to the maintenance and repairs organisations which operate from Juhu. There are also some hobby flyers who station their choppers and small planes there.

Many landsharks have been eyeing the Juhu plot but the airport is crucial for ONGC's offshore operations and helicopters owned by industrial houses.

Uday Gelli, senior consultant with HeliGo, a helicopter charter company, said that ONGC would be the most affected party. "It has at least 20 helicopters flying to its rigs and oil platforms in Bombay High," he said.

Gelli said that most stakeholders had opposed the curtailment of hours. "Big helicopter charter companies have told the Airport Authority of India that this is not acceptable," he said.

The move has been opposed by other sectors as well. "For us, reduced time means fewer customers, especially those who want to see the Mumbai sunset," said a chartered flight operator.

Code 7500: Mystery hijack alert forces Air India flight diversion

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: An Air India flight from Frankfurt to Delhi was diverted to Jaipur on Wednesday after air traffic control (ATC) received a hijack alert for the aircraft. Officials said the pilot told ATC there was no hijacking, and ATC asked him to divert to Jaipur. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), India's aviation regulator, will examine the ATC system for a possible technical error.

Flight AI 2030, a Boeing 787-9 with 306 people on board, landed safely at Jaipur and was moved to an isolation bay for security checks. According to people aware of the incident, the aircraft was briefly squawking transponder code 7500, the



AI flight 2030 at Jaipur International Airport on Wednesday. AN

internationally recognised aviation code for hijacking or unlawful interference.

Airline and DGCA officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the flight was diverted on ATC's instructions.

The airline officials also said the pilots had made no mistake.

The aircraft was cleared to fly on to Delhi. It took off from Jaipur at 2.37pm and landed in Delhi at 3.11pm. In a statement, Air India said the flight was

diverted "following a perceived security concern", and that security agencies had checked and cleared the aircraft and crew.

A passenger told HT that one of the pilots spoke to passengers about 30 to 40 minutes before the scheduled landing in Delhi, as the crew was preparing to begin descent from cruising altitude.

"He said he didn't know why, but he had been asked by ATC to divert to Jaipur and land there. He said he'd keep us updated," said Swasti Rao, a professor at OP Jindal Global University and a consulting editor at ThePrint. Officials separately confirmed that the pilot told passengers the diversion was on ATC's instructions.

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→ WE WERE TOLD DIVERSION WAS
FOR SECURITY REASONS: PASSENGERS P8

AI FLIGHT HIJACK ALERT tions.

The crew came back on almost every 10 minutes after that, she said, telling passengers they were landing at Jaipur and were in touch with Delhi ATC. After landing, the pilot came back on the public address system. "I didn't want to panic anybody, but there was a hoax," Rao quoted him as saying.

A transponder is a radio receiver and transmitter on board an aircraft. It answers a ground radar's ping with a four-digit code, which lets controllers tell one aircraft from another on their screens. Pilots and controllers call sending that code "squawking". Each digit runs from 0 to 7, which allows 4,096 codes.

In India, controllers assign each departing flight its own code. International flights entering Indian airspace keep the code they were using in neighbouring airspace, and an aircraft without an assigned code sets 2000 before it enters.

Three codes are reserved worldwide: 7700 for an emergency, 7600 for radio failure and 7500 for unlawful interference, which covers hijacking. Under US rules, controllers never assign 7500 unless the pilot has first reported unlawful interference.

On the Boeing 787, pilots set the code through tuning and control panels (TCPs) on the flight deck's centre console. These are units with a display and a keypad, which crews also use to tune radios and navigation aids. A pilot selects the transponder page and keys in the four digits. Controllers tell the crew which code to set, usually over the radio, and the crew enters it.

Aircraft also broadcast their transponder code through ADS-B, a system in which an aircraft transmits its own position and status, and public flight-tracking sites pick up those broadcasts.

Wednesday's case was similar to a January 2025 incident when a Mumbai-bound Air India flight, which had just taken off from New Delhi's Indira Gandhi airport, sent an emergency signal to air traffic control (ATC) in the Capital, suggesting it had been hijacked. The pilot later informed the ATC that it was a false alarm.

Adani defers Mumbai to Navi Mumbai plan

The Group's proposed shifting of 30% of international flight slots has been deferred to the summer schedule that begins on March 28, 2027

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Adani Group has put on hold its plan to shift 30% of international flight slots at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to Navi Mumbai International Airport, with no transfers planned for the upcoming winter schedule.

The proposed shift has been deferred to the summer schedule, which begins on March 28, 2027.

The move was the outcome of a consultative meeting between Adani Group and airlines on Tuesday, after the Centre was forced to intervene in the stand-off. "They have assured the airline community of minimisation of disruption and have assured them of fully respecting historical slots allocations. They have further given a commitment not to disturb any slots for the winter schedule," Adani Airports Holding Ltd. said in a press statement about the message from its Direc-



The move follows a stand-off over the 'forceful' transfer of 30% of Mumbai's international airport slots to Navi Mumbai. REUTERS

tor Jeet Adani and CEO Arun Bansal to the airlines in Tuesday's meeting.

The group said it had secured commitments from international airlines to support the plan for the summer schedule.

The move follows a stand-off between the Adani Group and international airlines over what carriers described as a "forceful" transfer of 30% of Mumbai's international airport slots to the Navi Mumbai airport. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents global airlines, had called for a consultative approach and alternatives to cutting existing slots, and suffi-

cient time for making the transition, warning that the move could affect international connectivity to and from Mumbai.

Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) had recently proposed that approximately one-third of each carrier's passenger and cargo air traffic movements be transferred from Mumbai to Navi Mumbai from October 1, 2026.

This was to ostensibly cater for redevelopment of Terminal 1 at Mumbai, from where some domestic flights would be shifted to its Terminal 2 (T2), and international flights from T2 be shifted to Navi Mumbai airport.



The Frankfurt-Delhi Air India flight at an isolation bay of the Jaipur International Airport after it was diverted due to a security threat, in Jaipur on Wednesday. ROHIT JAIN PARAS

Air India's Frankfurt-Delhi flight diverted to Jaipur after hijack alert

Parul Kulshrestha, Sukalp Sharma & Hamza Khan
Jaipur, New Delhi, October 14

AN AIR India flight (AI 2030) from Frankfurt to Delhi was diverted to Jaipur following a security alert over a suspected hijack threat. The Boeing 787-9 aircraft, with 306 people on board, landed safely at Jaipur International Airport on Wednesday morning and was moved to an isolation bay for security checks. The plane and its crew were cleared to continue to Delhi later in the afternoon. The alert, which turned out to be baseless, is under investigation and the incident will also be probed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), officials said.

According to preliminary information, air traffic control (ATC) observed squawk code 7500 being transmitted by the aircraft. This code stands for unlawful interference, usually indicative of a hijacking attempt. According to sources in the know, the code was received by ATC when the aircraft was in the Mumbai flight information re-

gion (FIR). When the ATC asked the pilots about the code, the flight crew said that they hadn't transmitted it and all operations were normal, sources said.

Given the situation involved a possible security threat, all security protocols were followed, and pilots were asked to divert to Jaipur — one of the Indian airports designated to handle aircraft security threats like hijackings, they added.

At this stage, it is not clear what triggered the squawk code — a mistake, or a technical glitch with the aircraft or the ATC systems. There have been instances of technical faults leading to hijack alerts being transmitted. In fact, on Tuesday, a Corendon Airlines flight from Greece to Germany squawked 7500, prompting the German air force to scramble two fighter jets. The plane landed safely in Nuremberg and the airline said that the code was transmitted due to a brief malfunction in the radio communication system.

Earlier on Wednesday, Jaipur airport head Charan Singh had said that as per initial informa-

tion, there was a possibility the pilot may have transmitted the alert by mistake, but added that the investigation was underway.

After the plane landed in Jaipur, another official said the aircraft was taken to an isolation bay at the airport where all the necessary security checks were performed, after which it was cleared for operations by the security agencies. The passengers and crew boarded the plane and continued the journey to Delhi.

"Air India flight AI2030 operating from Frankfurt to Delhi on 14 October was diverted to Jaipur following a perceived security concern. The aircraft landed safely in Jaipur. The relevant security agencies carried out the necessary checks... All passengers ... have since reboarded the aircraft. The flight is expected to continue its journey to Delhi shortly," Air India said in a statement on Wednesday before the plane left Jaipur for Delhi. As per flight tracking data, the aircraft departed from Jaipur at 2:37 pm and landed in Delhi 35 minutes later. Sources said the same pilots operated that flight.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

FASTag at Delhi Airport: Can payment system be used to restrict entry?

Dheeraj Mishra
New Delhi, October 14

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken cognisance of complaints regarding the use of FASTag for parking fee payments at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

Officials said that it was recently learnt that only vehicles with active FASTag were being allowed at the arrival lane of the Delhi airport's Terminal 3 (or T3, which operates international and select domestic flights), while others were being diverted to the multi-level car parking (MLCP) facility located opposite the terminal.

This results in many vehicles exhausting the free waiting time limit of 8 minutes.

What is FASTag?

FASTag is an electronic toll collection system in India that NHAI operates using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for automatic and cashless toll payments directly from the customer's linked savings or current account, or prepaid wallet. An RFID tag has to be affixed to the vehicle's windscreen, which scans automatically at toll plazas, deducting the fare directly from the linked account or wallet. If a FASTag is linked to a prepaid account, it needs to be recharged or topped up based on the customer's usage. If the customer doesn't maintain an adequate balance, the FASTag gets blacklisted. FASTag is also vehicle-specific: once affixed to a vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another



Only vehicles with active FASTag were allowed at the airport's T3 arrival lane. Others were diverted to multi-level car parking facility. REUTERS

vehicle. It can be purchased from any of the National Electronic Toll Collection member banks — a group of over 40 financial institutions.

Apart from toll charges on the National Highways, FAS-

Tag is used for payment of parking fees in different parts of the cities as well.

What did officials say about FASTag usage?

Officials said that FASTag is

only a payment system and it cannot be used for enforcing the entry restrictions. "It is about the purpose for which it is being used. FASTag is a payment instrument for parking facilities at airports and cannot be used as a means of enforcing entry restriction," an official told *The Indian Express*.

"The matter has been taken cognisance of and the authority has directed the banks, which operate at the airport, to ensure that the system is only used for the payment and discontinue it from any such restriction," the official added.

As things stand, the Delhi airport offers a free waiting time of 8 minutes for private vehicles in Lane 3 of T3's arrivals area. This was introduced in October

2024 to reduce traffic congestion by ensuring a steady flow of vehicles in and out of the pickup lane. After 8 minutes, the airport charges Rs 250 for 9-13 minutes and Rs 500 for over 13 minutes of parking. Making FASTag mandatory for entry into the arrival lane is inconvenient for

many Delhi-NCR residents. According to the official, many vehicles don't have an active FASTag or FASTag with sufficient balance since they do not need to use toll plazas for commuting within the city.

Many users on the social media platform X have shared their grievances regarding payment of parking fees at the airport. Some have suggested using alternative mechanisms for levying parking fees.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

Emirates highlights infra gaps at NMIA

Abhishek Law
abhishek.law@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Adani-owned Navi Mumbai International Airport will need to develop its supporting infrastructure to attract international airlines and expand operations, according to a senior executive at Emirates, India's largest foreign carrier. The comments come as airlines and the airport operator work through a proposal to shift some international flights from Mumbai's existing airport to the new facility.

"Until it gets kind of fully built in the ecosystem, I think it's gonna be difficult for any of the airlines to shift there," said Essa Sulaiman Ahmad, senior vice-president, West Asia and Indian Ocean, commercial operations at Emirates. Citing the facilities needed to support

international operations, he said, "At an airport, you require a facility for catering, you will require a facility for, example, for cargo warehousing."

Ahmad was in Delhi for the launch of Emirates' A380 service with more premium seats.

Mumbai International Airport Ltd had proposed temporarily discontinuing 265 of 770

Emirates was among the airlines affected, with 10 of its 28 weekly departure slots listed for discontinuation

weekly international departure slots at Mumbai airport Terminal 2 from 25 October, as part of a plan to redistribute flights to Navi Mumbai ahead of redeveloping Terminal 1. Adani Air-

port operates both facilities.

Emirates was also affected, with 10 of its 28 weekly departures listed for discontinuation. Airlines had opposed shifting a significant share of international operations to Navi Mumbai, around 50 km from the existing airport.

For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

4 land at KIA with 28 gold bars hidden in footwear

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Four passengers arriving from Dubai were arrested by customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Saturday for allegedly attempting to smuggle gold biscuits concealed around their feet and hidden beneath their footwear.

The group, comprising three women and a man from Chennai, allegedly concealed 28 gold bars by wrapping them in black tape and attaching them to the soles of their feet. They were intercepted by customs officials as they were leaving Terminal 2. Officials also seized 13 refurbished mobile phones and eight refurbished laptops. The 28 gold bars weighed 1.6 kg, and the total value of the seized goods was estimated at Rs 2.6 crore.

All four passengers were residents of Vyasarpadi in north Chennai. They allegedly taped the gold bars to the soles of their feet before covering them with footwear. Customs officials identified them based on profiling and intelligence inputs.

The accused were identified as Ramzan Begum Sirajudeen, Nasrin Banu Sirajudeen, Hyrun Fathima Sirajudeen and Asharudeen Chelladurai. All four were



PRICEY CATCH: The 28 gold bars weighed 1.6kg, and the total value of the seized goods was estimated at Rs 2.6 crore, officials said

Keralam-bound duo held with ₹1.7cr ganja

Bengaluru police arrested two men on charges of smuggling ganja from Odisha to their hometown in Keralam. Accused Vishnu CM and Chan Pasha were driving to Keralam with 317kg of ganja worth over Rs 1.7 crore when they were caught near Kumbalgodu.

Police said the duo had come from Kerala in their car and checked into a hotel at Bommasandra last week. They hired a cab and travelled to Odisha to buy ganja there. After returning to Bommasandra, they placed the ganja packets in their car and left for Keralam.

arrested under Customs Act, 1962. Officials said Nasrin and Hyrun were siblings and related to Ramzan and Asharudeen.

"The group was not at all cooperative; they did not reveal much details. Each was carrying around 450 to 500 grams of gold, which was stuck to the soles of their feet,

and some bars were also found on the trolleys," a senior customs official told TOI.

The official added that two other men had travelled with the group but were not booked, as no gold was found in their luggage.

Further investigation is under way into the smuggling network, officials said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

14 OCTOBER 2026

Flight disruptions leave hundreds of T travellers grounded in Saudi Arabia

Ajay.Tomar
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Hundreds of travellers from Telangana were left stranded at airports across Saudi Arabia on Tuesday as the ongoing Houthi-Saudi conflict severely disrupted air travel. Community leaders told TOI that most flights had either been cancelled or rescheduled, often at short notice, leaving passengers in limbo. Several services have been pushed to dates beyond Oct 17.

"Several airlines are communicating the changes only about 24 hours in advance," said Srinivas Maccha, president of the Saudi Arabia Telugu Association (SATA). He advised travellers facing emergencies to consider al-

AIRFARES SURGE 300%

➤ Several flights were rescheduled at short notice, with some departures pushed beyond Oct 17

➤ IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express and Akasa Air announced cancellations affecting Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Madina until Oct 17

➤ Airfares surge up to 300%: Tickets from Saudi Arabia to Hyd, usually costing ₹30,000- ₹35,000, reportedly rose to ₹1.37 lakh - ₹1.50 lakh

ternative routes via Qatar, the UAE or Bahrain, that can be reached by road.

► Continued on P2

Over 250 stuck at Jeddah airport, says Hyd woman

► From P 1

On Oct 10, at least 13 passengers, including a man from Hyderabad, were killed and more than 300 were injured when a missile struck King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

The Houthis have since warned airlines, travellers and airport workers to stay away from Saudi airports, threatening further strikes.

Hyderabad-based artist Marzia Ali, who had travelled to Jeddah with her family of five for Umrah, said 250 passengers were stranded at King Abdulaziz International Airport alone. She alleged that the airline had not arranged alternative flights and that local authorities had also failed to provide assistance.

"My mother, grandmother and two brothers, one of whom is a minor, are among the passengers who have now been left without a confirmed way back to India. Someone needs to take responsibility for getting these people home safely," Marzia told TOI, appealing to Indian authorities to intervene at the earliest.

Sufiyan Ali, another passenger from Hyderabad who was travelling with a group of about 40 people, said he and four family members were stopped at Jeddah airport about 45 minutes before their flight to India on the morning of Oct 12. They were informed that the flight had been rescheduled for later that evening. "We were taken back to the airport at 2 pm for a 4 pm flight, which was repeatedly rescheduled thereafter. We were eventually told it was cancelled, even though its status still shows 'rescheduled'," he said. "It is mentally exhausting. We are constantly praying for our lives," Sufiyan told said.

Maliha Tabassum, who had travelled for Umrah with her brother, described a similar ordeal. "Our departure was supposed to be on Sunday night, but it was delayed indefinitely. Ultimately, the flight was cancelled on Tues-



Photo for representation

'DELAYED & DISRUPTED'

Disruptions push up airfares by 300%

Hyderabad: The flight disruptions have triggered a sharp increase in airfares, with travellers reporting price hikes of 300%. "Visas are also likely to get expensive in the coming days. I have applied for 80 visas for Indians," said BH Naveen, a community volunteer from Kothagudem who is based in Bahrain. A trip from Saudi Arabia to Hyderabad, which costs 1,500 Saudi riyals (₹30,000), is now reportedly now 5,500-6,000 riyals (approximately ₹1.37 lakh-₹1.50 lakh), according to several travellers. THE

day around 4 am. We have been given hotel accommodation for two days, but we don't know if this crisis will be resolved by then," she said.

She said the uncertainty was particularly worrying for a family travelling with a bone marrow transplant patient, who feared running out of medication. "We need clear communication and assurance about our departure," she stressed. Airlines, including IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express and Akasa Air, issued statements on Tuesday announcing cancellation of flights to and from Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Madina until Oct 17. The Indian Embassy also issued a safety advisory. "So far, little information has been shared with us about the further proceedings, as the embassy itself is trying to establish the facts. Many of us have questions regarding the current situation, and we want to discuss them with officials," Srinivas said.

Mumbai ATC software under radar after false hijack alert

**'Alarm Went Off
Without Pilots
Punching In Code'**

Saurabh Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A false hijack alert created a real scare for security agencies and 306 people on board Air India's Frankfurt-Delhi flight Wednesday. The Boeing 787 was diverted to Jaipur and everyone had to wait for hours before they could fly to their destination.

It is learnt that the pilots operating flight AI 2030 did not squawk code 7500, which has to be punched on a keypad to convey a hijack or unlawful interference. However, the recently installed air traffic control radar system in Mumbai — which is now an en route ATC due to longer routes taken by aircraft flying between Delhi and the west — conveyed that message for the erstwhile Vistara B787-9 (VT-TSE).

"Mumbai ATC spoke to the pilots, who reported that all operations were normal



Though pilots reported that all operations were normal on the aircraft, the Frankfurt-Delhi flight had to be diverted to Jaipur following protocol

on the flight. But protocols have to be followed in situations like this and so the plane was asked to divert," said a person in the know.

Why the false scare happened is now the subject of a probe by both aviation and security agencies, with Mumbai ATC's new systems being looked at closely.

Incidentally, air traffic control has been headless as Airport Authority of India's position of member (air navigation services) has been vacant for some time. AAI does not have a regular chairperson.

On landing in Jaipur around 11am, the plane was parked on a remote bay. Everyone remained inside for about two hours before being asked to alight. Security agencies checked the people, the baggage and the aircraft before clearing it to take off for Delhi after 2.30pm with the same crew.

Senior B787 pilots say there is a "one in a trillion" chance of the code being set to 7500 accidentally. "Each digit has to be physically entered. There is no button that can be inadvertently pressed.

So the likelihood of an error from the pilot or plane side is highly remote," a pilot said.

Senior air traffic controllers say Mumbai ATC has a new system. When a pilot squawks 7500 (hijack), then the colour of this aircraft's dot on the radar screen turns red and an alarm goes off.

In a statement, Air India said: "Air India flight AI2030 operating from Frankfurt to Delhi on Oct 14 was diverted to Jaipur following a perceived security concern. The aircraft landed safely in Jaipur. The relevant security agencies carried out the necessary checks and have cleared the aircraft and crew. All passengers disembarked, underwent security checks, and reboarded the aircraft."

"Air India teams worked proactively with authorities to minimise passenger inconvenience. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to our passengers due to this unforeseen disruption and appreciate their patience and understanding. The safety and security of our passengers and crew remain Air India's highest priority," the AI statement added.

PM to inaugurate Leh airport terminal among five projects worth ₹3,350 cr

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate five major development projects worth about Rs 3,350 crore in Ladakh on Thursday, officials said.

The projects are aimed at strengthening connectivity, energy infrastructure, water security and cultural heritage conservation in the region. Among the key projects is the new passenger terminal building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport in Leh.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the new terminal, constructed at a cost of Rs 640 crore, spans 23,800 square metres and is designed to handle up to 35 lakh passengers annually.



ROAD, ENERGY INFRA IN LADAKH

- The 298-km Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road will provide alternative connectivity and strengthen military logistics
- Leh airport's new ₹640-cr terminal will handle up to 35 lakh passengers annually
- The 9-MW Hanu hydropower project and transmission line will improve regional electricity supply
- India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat will preserve Ladakh's prehistoric rock art
- Project Him Sarovar's 40 water bodies will strengthen water conservation efforts

The Prime Minister will also dedicate to the nation the 298-km Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Linking Nimmu in Leh with Darcha in Himachal Pradesh through the remote Zaskar Valley, the road will provide an alternative

access route to Ladakh alongside the Srinagar-Leh and Manali-Leh highways.

Passing through the high-altitude Shinkun La Pass, the road is considered a major engineering achievement and is expected to improve operational mobility and logistical

support for the Armed Forces. It will also enhance access to healthcare, education, markets and other essential services for residents of Zaskar.

In a boost to Ladakh's energy sector, Modi will inaugurate the 9-MW Hanu Small Hydroelectric Project

and the 66-kV double-circuit Dah-Hanu-Khaltsi transmission line. The projects are expected to strengthen power evacuation infrastructure and improve the reliability of electricity supply in the region.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat in Leh. Ladakh is home to numerous prehistoric rock-art sites depicting wildlife, human figures and symbolic motifs that provide insights into the region's ancient history.

As part of water conservation efforts, Modi will dedicate 40 water bodies developed across 40 villages under Project Him Sarovar. The initiative seeks to address Ladakh's unique geographical and climatic challenges.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

Frankfurt-Delhi AI flight diverted after hijack alert

Pilot denies activating stress signal

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

An Air India aircraft flying from Frankfurt to Delhi made an emergency landing in Jaipur on Wednesday morning following a hijack alert that later turned out to be false. Flight AI2030, operated with a Boeing 787-9 aircraft, had 293 passengers and 13 crew members on board. The flight was later given security clearance and landed in Delhi.

It is learnt that the pilot activated Squawk Code 7500—the internationally recognised transponder code indicating hijacking or unlawful interfer-

ence—while the aircraft was in Mumbai airspace. When Mumbai ATC responded to the code, the pilot reportedly said they had not squawked an emergency. However, in line with safety protocols, the flight was diverted to Jaipur.

"The flight operating from Frankfurt to Delhi on 14 October was diverted to Jaipur following a security concern. It landed in Jaipur. The security agencies carried out the checks and have cleared the flight. All passengers were disembarked, underwent security checks, and reboarded the aircraft," Air India said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

एअर इंडिया • फ्रैंकफर्ट-दिल्ली फ्लाइट जयपुर में उतारनी पड़ी हवा में 10 मिनट हाईजैक का सिग्नल, पायलट बोले- हमने कोड नहीं भेजा...



जयपुर में एयरपोर्ट पर खड़ा विमान

भारत न्यूज़ | जयपुर

एअर इंडिया की फ्रैंकफर्ट-दिल्ली फ्लाइट एआई-2030 से बुधवार सुबह हाईजैक का सिग्नल मिलने पर हड़कंप मच गया। इसके बाद विमान की जयपुर में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग करानी पड़ी। विमान में 293 यात्री व 13 कू मेंबर थे।

जानकारी के मुताबिक, एटीसी को करीब 10 मिनट तक हाईजैक का संकेत देने वाला 'स्ववाक 7500' कोड मिलता रहा। हालांकि प्रारंभिक पूछताछ में पायलटों ने जानबूझकर यह कोड सक्रिय करने से इनकार किया। उन्होंने ट्रांसपोंडर में तकनीकी खराबी की आशंका

अब मोबिकिन्स MK-PB-04 पावर बैंक विमान में प्रतिबंधित

इंडिगो की फ्लाइट में पावर बैंक फटने की घटना के बीच डीजीसीए ने मोबिकिन्स के MK-PB-04 मॉडल पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है। इसे भारत आने-जाने वाली व घरेलू उड़ानों में केबिन, चेक-इन बैगज या कार्गो में नहीं ले जा सकेंगे। प्रतिबंध इसी पावर बैंक पर लागू होगा।

जताई। विमान सुबह 9:35 बजे जयपुर में उतरा। इसे आइसोलेशन बे में ले जाकर सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने घेर लिया। विमान की तकनीकी जांच के लिए एयरक्राफ्ट मेंटनेंस इंजीनियर बुलाए गए। जांच में कोई खतरा न मिलने पर दोपहर 1:30 बजे यात्रियों की दोबारा बोर्डिंग शुरू हुई। विमान 2:37 बजे दिल्ली रवाना हुआ।

• **बड़ा सवाल:** एटीसी रिकॉर्ड और तकनीकी जांच से यह पता करने की कोशिश होगी कि अगर पायलटों ने कोड सक्रिय नहीं किया तो 10 मिनट हाईजैक सिग्नल कैसे मिलता रहा?

हाईजैक की सूचना पर फ्रैंकफर्ट-दिल्ली फ्लाइट की जयपुर में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

हवाईअड्डे पर उतरे विमान की हुई सघन जांच, नहीं मिली कोई भी संदिग्ध गतिविधि

पायलट से गलती से
अलर्ट कोड दबने की
बात सामने आई

जागरण संवाददाता, जयपुर



प्रतीकात्मक

जर्मनी के फ्रैंकफर्ट से दिल्ली जा रही एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट एआई-2030 को बुधवार सुबह करीब 9:45 बजे आपात स्थिति में जयपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उतारा गया। विमान से अहमदाबाद एअर ट्रेफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी) को हाईजैक का सिग्नल मिला था। भारतीय सीमा में पहुंचते ही विमान का हाईजैक अलर्ट कोड दब गया था।

विमान हाईजैक का अलर्ट मिलते ही केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा एजेंसी और अन्य सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने विमान को जयपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उतारने का फैसला किया।

हालांकि, जांच के दौरान हाईजैक की आशंका की पुष्टि नहीं हुई।

प्रारंभिक जांच में सामने आया कि पायलट की गलती से हाईजैक का अलर्ट कोड 7500 दब गया था। जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर पड़ताछ में पायलट ने कहा कि मेरी कोई गलती नहीं है। तकनीकी खामी के कारण अलर्ट कोड दब गया। विमान में सवार सभी 230 यात्रियों को नीचे उतारा गया। इसके बाद सामान की जांच के बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने हाईजैक के प्रयास की घटना से इन्कार किया। फ्लाइटरेकॉर्ड 24 के मुताबिक, विमान ने 13 अक्टूबर

रात 9:45 बजे फ्रैंकफर्ट से उड़ान भरी थी। बुधवार सुबह विमान को 10:40 बजे दिल्ली पहुंचना था। अलर्ट मिलने के बाद विमान को जयपुर डायवर्ट किया गया। करीब चार घंटे जांच के बाद विमान को दोपहर 2:24 बजे दिल्ली रवाना किया गया। अब इस पूरे घटनाक्रम की जांच नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) करेगा। घटनाक्रम पर एअर इंडिया का कहना है कि सुरक्षा संबंधी आशंका के चलते जयपुर डायवर्ट किया गया था। सुरक्षा जांच के बाद विमान को दोबारा रवाना किया गया।

डीजीसीए ने उड़ानों में पावरबैंक के एक खास माडल पर लगाई रोक

नई दिल्ली, आइएनएस: विमानन सुरक्षा नियामक डीजीसीए ने उड़ान के दौरान आग लगने की घटना के बाद मोविकिस एमके-पीबी-04 माडल के पावरबैंक को भारत में आने-जाने वाली और देश के भीतर संचालित होने वाली सभी उड़ानों में ले जाने तथा विमान से माल के रूप में परिवहन करने पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है।

यह कार्रवाई रविवार को दिल्ली से चेन्नई जा रही इंडिगो की एक उड़ान में पावरबैंक से जुड़ी आग की घटना के बाद की गई। घटना के कारण विमान का मार्ग बदलकर उसे हैदराबाद में उतारना पड़ा। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) प्रमुख वीर विक्रम यादव ने एयरलाइंस को निर्देश दिया है कि वे संबंधित माडल की पहचान करें और यात्रियों को इसे विमान में ले जाने से रोकें। एयरलाइंस को उचित माध्यमों से यात्रियों तक सुरक्षा संबंधी सूचना पहुंचाने के लिए भी कहा गया है। नियामक ने स्पष्ट किया है कि प्रतिबंध केवल मोविकिस एमके-पीबी-04 माडल पर लागू है, सभी पावरबैंकों पर नहीं। यात्रियों को यात्रा से पहले अपने पावरबैंक का माडल नंबर जांचने और एयरलाइन के सुरक्षा निर्देशों का पालन करने की सलाह दी गई है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

AI Flight Lands in Jaipur after Hijack Alert

Delhi-Frankfurt flight
cleared after security
checks; probe ordered

Our Bureau

New Delhi: An Air India aircraft operating between Frankfurt and Delhi was diverted to Jaipur on Wednesday following a hijack alert that turned out to be false.

The aircraft departed from Jaipur af-



ter security checks and landed in Delhi, the airline said. It was carrying 293 passengers and 13 crew members.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has launched a probe into the incident. "The relevant security agencies

carried out necessary checks and have cleared the aircraft and crew," the airline said. Passengers disembarked, underwent security checks and reboarded the aircraft, it said.

The aircraft was transmitting transponder code 7500, the internationally recognised aviation code for hijacking or unlawful interference, according to people aware of the incident. Air traffic control received the alert and diverted the flight to Jaipur.

Authorities have been on high alert since a pilot in a Flydubai aircraft attacked his co-pilot in an alleged bid to crash it.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

LUFTHANSA WINS \$1.3 BN DEAL WITH TAP



PORTUGAL'S
GOVERN-
MENT ON
Wednesday
picked

Lufthansa to
buy a stake of up to 49.9%
in TAP Air Portugal for €1.2
billion (\$1.3 billion) over
rival Air France-KLM,
making the German airline
the strategic partner of
one of Europe's last
unaligned flag carriers.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

NEW CEO RAISES CONCERNS OVER HIGHER-THAN-EXPECTED SPENDING

Air India seeks to cut A350 engine maintenance cost

MIHIR MISHRA
October 14

AIR INDIA'S NEW Chief Executive Officer Tewolde Gebremariam is discussing ways to reduce the cost of maintaining the carrier's A350 fleet as he seeks savings across the airline, according to people familiar with the matter.

Air India operates six Airbus SE 350-900 aircraft — powered by Rolls-Royce Holdings' Trent XWB engines — on key routes to the US and Europe. The carrier in 2023 placed a record order for 80 Trent XWB engines, along with options for 20 more.

Tewolde, who took the helm of the loss-making airline last month, has raised concerns over the higher-than-expected cost of running and maintaining the engines, said the people. Air India, which uses Airbus

SAVING SPREE

■ Air India operates six Airbus SE 350-900 aircraft on key routes to the US and Europe

■ Air India has held initial discussions with service providers

■ The focus on costs comes as CEO Tewolde Gebremariam seeks to turn around Air India's fortunes

■ Air India posted a loss of more than ₹22,000 crore in FY26



Flight Hour Services and opted for Rolls-Royce's TotalCare maintenance programme, has held initial discussions with service providers, the people said. Maintenance costs are higher than anticipated when the deals were signed and that

has been flagged to the companies too, they said.

The focus on costs comes as Tewolde seeks to turn around Air India's fortunes. The carrier posted a loss of more than ₹22,000 crore in FY26, and is seeking ₹10,000 crore in

funding from its owners Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, which are both facing scrutiny over tipping in more support.

Representatives for Air India, Airbus and Rolls Royce did not respond to emailed queries.

Tewolde is seeking to bolster Air India's cargo business, which uses only around 35% of its capacity on average, people familiar said earlier in September. He has also told staff that he wants them to start working on a plan to reduce maintenance issues, especially given the airline's fleet isn't very old. India's aviation regulator said last year that the airline had more safety-related issues than rivals. Tewolde is also considering folding budget carrier Air India Express into the main group. Reducing losses is also a key demand by majority owner, Tata Sons. —BLOOMBERG



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

14 OCTOBER 2026

Airlines must shift 5mn domestic pax from T1

Dhairya Gajara
MUMBAI

Airlines have been asked to shift around five million domestic passengers to facilitate the redevelopment of Terminal 1 at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA). However, international flights from Terminal 2 will not face cuts or relocation until March 2027, following consultations between

airport management and airlines on Tuesday.

The decision followed a meeting between Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL), Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) and the Airline Operators Committee (AOC), attended by Jeet Adani and Arun Bansal.

Airport management assured airlines that international operations would remain unaffected during the winter

Int'l flights to remain unaffected until March 2027 as airport operator prepares for T1-B demolition

schedule from October 25 to March 27, 2027. Airline representatives, including foreign carriers, opposed shifting flights, citing disruption to passengers with confirmed bookings.

Some international flights could move to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) from March 28, when the summer schedule begins.

Meanwhile, MIAL and AAHL sought relocation of one-third of T1's 15 million annual domestic passengers to clear space for demolition of T1-B, scheduled to begin in January 2027.

The airport operator promised operational and

ground-handling support for airlines voluntarily shifting to NMIA. It also assured carriers that it would accommodate as many displaced passengers as possible at T2, despite the terminal operating at peak capacity.

A joint working group will prepare an implementation plan over the next two weeks, followed by a meeting on October 28 with airline network and slot teams.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

14 OCTOBER 2026

Indigo signs \$328 mn finance deal with Citi for 8 Airbus aircraft buys

PTI

NEW DELHI

The country's largest carrier, IndiGo, has signed a \$328 million financing deal with Citi to buy eight narrow-body planes to be manufactured by Airbus.

This is the world's first aviation financing transaction insured by the Belgian export credit agency Credendo, and the maiden export credit

agency-backed aircraft financing structured through the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City International Financial Services Centre, according to a statement.

The financing will help IndiGo procure six A321s and two A320s. Global banking major Citi acted as sole mandated arranger, export credit agency coordinator, and sole lender, with the financing



backed by Credendo's credit insurance. The transaction was executed through IndiGo's subsidiary, InterGlobe Aviation Financial Services IFSC.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

14 OCTOBER 2026

Indian airlines suspend flights to Saudi after Riyadh attack

PTI
DUBAI

Indian airlines have suspended all flight operations to Saudi Arabia through October 17, 2026, following a severe escalation in regional security and the closure of King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

The decision comes after a deadly aerial attack targeted the capital's airport on October 10, prompting Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation to halt operations at the facility.

Major Indian carriers, including Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, and Akasa Air, have temporarily grounded flights connecting various Indian cities to

India issues security advisory

Dubai: India has issued an urgent security advisory instructing its nationals in Saudi Arabia to remain calm, vigilant, and indoors during potential aerial strikes following an attack on Riyadh's airport. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah urged residents and Umrah pilgrims to follow official safety directives and strictly avoid sharing unverified videos or news regarding the security situation on social media platforms. Both diplomatic posts have established 24-hour emergency control rooms and helplines to provide continuous medical, logistical, and travel support to affected Indian citizens across the kingdom.

Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, and Medina. While some foreign carriers continue limited operations from alternative Saudi hubs, Indian authorities have advised stranded passengers to verify flight schedules with airlines before travelling to airports.

Citizens requiring urgent departure have been informed that they may exit through neighbouring Gulf countries such as Qatar and Bahrain, subject to visa regulations. Saudi authorities confirmed overstay fines will be waived for affected travellers.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

विमान को हाईजैक अलर्ट के बाद जयपुर में उतारा

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। फ्रैंकफर्ट से दिल्ली आ रही एयर इंडिया के विमान की बुधवार को हाईजैक अलर्ट मिलने के बाद जयपुर में आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई। जांच में अलर्ट झूठा निकला, जिसके बाद विमान ने दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरी।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि बोइंग 787-9 विमान से संचालित फ्लाइट एआई-2030 में 293 यात्री और 13 कू सदस्य सवार थे। यह विमान बुधवार सुबह 9:35 बजे जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर उतरा और सुरक्षा जांच के लिए उसे आइसोलेशन-वे में ले जाया गया। जांच में कुछ भी संदिग्ध नहीं मिला, जिसके बाद फ्लाइट को उड़ान भरने की मंजूरी मिल गई। डीजीसीए इस मामले की जांच करेगा।

पायलट की तरफ से संकेत देने की बात: मालवीय नगर के असिस्टेंट

पावर बैंक पर प्रतिबंध

नगर विमानन महानिदेशालय ने हाल ही में आग लगने की घटना के बाद मोबिकिन्स एमके-पीबी-04 पावर बैंक को भारत से आने-जाने वाली और देश के भीतर संचालित होने वाली सभी उड़ानों में ले जाने पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है। यह कदम 11 अक्टूबर को इंडिगो की उड़ान में ओवरहेड बिन में रखे पावर बैंक में आग लगने के बाद उठाया गया है।

कर्मिश्नर ऑफ पुलिस शिव दयाल ने बताया कि शुरुआती जांच में पता चला कि जब विमान मुंबई में था, तब पायलट ने 'स्क्वाक कोड 7500' दबाया था, जो गैर-कानूनी दखल का संकेत देता है। इसके बाद एहतियातन इस विमान को जयपुर डायवर्ट कर दिया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

विमानों में लगातार तकनीकी खराबी हवाई यात्रियों पर पड़ रही भारी

आफत

अरुण चट्टा

नई दिल्ली। विमानों से जुड़ी तकनीकी खराबी और अन्य कारणों के चलते हवाई सफर अब लंबा होता जा रहा है। भारत में साल दर साल विमानों में तकनीकी खराबी की घटनाएं लगातार बढ़ रही हैं। इससे हवाई सफर के दौरान यात्रियों की मुश्किल बढ़ रही है। बीते पांच वर्षों के दौरान तकनीकी खराबी में करीब 73 फीसदी का उछाल आया है।

किसी भी विमान में तकनीकी खराबी के चलते एयरपोर्ट पर इंतजार करना पड़ता है या उड़ान के दौरान विमान को अपना मार्ग परिवर्तित करते

हुए दूसरी जगह पर उतारना पड़ता है, जिससे कुछ समय या कुछ घंटे का सफर घंटों में बदल जाता है। आंकड़े बताते हैं कि वर्ष 2021 में महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी खराबी के 514 मामले दर्ज किए गए, जिनकी संख्या वर्ष 2025 में बढ़कर 889 तक पहुंच गई।

सूत्र बताते हैं कि इस वर्ष सितंबर के अंत तक तकनीकी खराबी से जुड़े मामलों की संख्या 600 के पार पहुंच गई है। इससे साफ है कि हवाई सफर के दौरान परेशान होने वाले लोगों की संख्या तेजी से बढ़ रही है। इसमें उड़ान में देरी, उड़ान रद्द होने और उड़ान के गंतव्य स्थल पहुंचने से पहले वापस लौटने या फिर कहीं दूसरे स्थान पर डायवर्ट किए जाने के मामले भी बढ़ रहे हैं।



जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर बुचवार को एयर इंडिया की उड़ान को डायवर्ट कर उतारा गया। एनआई

कई स्तर पर गड़बड़ी मिली

डीजीसीए की जांच में विमानों के रखरखाव से जुड़ी कई गंभीर कमियां सामने आई थीं। सबसे अहम बात यह थी कि कुछ विमानों में एक ही तकनीकी खराबी बार-बार सामने आ रही थी, लेकिन उसे दूर करने के लिए की गई कार्रवाई पर्याप्त नहीं थी।

लगातार बढ़ रहे मामले

वर्ष	महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी खराबी
2025	889
2024	692
2023	487
2022	528
2021	514

इस वर्ष कब-कब आई परेशानी

चेन्नई-कोलकाता उड़ान में खराबी, यात्री 18 घंटे परेशानी
मई में एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के विमान में उड़ान भरने से ठीक पहले तकनीकी खराबी आ गई। उड़ान से पहले विमान रनवे पर रुक गया। यात्रियों को रात भर इंतजार करना पड़ा और यात्रा में 18 घंटे से अधिक की परेशानी हुई।

त्रिची-सिंगापुर उड़ान ढाई घंटे हवा में चक्कर लगाकर लौटी

21 अगस्त इंडिगो की उड़ान में 127 यात्री सवार थे। तकनीकी खराबी सामने आने के बाद विमान ढाई घंटे हवा में रहा, फिर त्रिची हवाई अड्डे पर उतरा। यात्रियों के लिए वैकल्पिक विमान की व्यवस्था की गई।

विमान का एसी खराब, गर्मी और उमस से बेहाल हुए लोग
स्पाइसजेट की दिल्ली से पुणे की उड़ान संख्या एसजी-105 में विमान में सवार होने के बाद वातानुकूलन प्रणाली (एसी) में खराबी आ गई। यात्रियों ने गर्मी और उमस से परेशानी की शिकायत की।

फुकेट-दिल्ली उड़ान अचानक नीचे आई, 24 यात्री घायल

चार अगस्त 2026 को एयर इंडिया की उड़ान एआई-2379 में तीनों हाइड्रोलिक प्रणालियों में कुछ समय के लिए दबाव कम हो गया। विमान की ऊंचाई में बदलाव हुआ, जिससे 24 यात्री घायल हुए।

Delhi HC rejects SpiceJet's plea for more time to pay Marans

Shruti Kakkar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Tuesday dismissed an application filed by Budget airline SpiceJet seeking an extension to deposit the first ₹50-crore instalment towards the ₹144.5 crore owed to Kalanithi Maran and KAL Airways Pvt. Ltd. in their long-running legal dispute and extend the timeline for depositing the subsequent tranche of ₹94.15 crore by 45 days.

A bench of justice Vinod Kumar noted that following high court's March 18 order asking SpiceJet and its promoter to pay ₹144 crore, the airline on July 13 had undertaken to deposit ₹50 crore within 45 days, making August 27 the deadline for the first instalment and the remaining ₹95 crore within 90 days. However, even ₹50 crore had not been deposited. The bench said it could not grant repeated extensions.

"This could court have taken a lenient view in respect of the time limit of second installment, had the petitioner complied with their own undertaking to deposit



The bench said it could not grant repeated extensions. PTI

₹50 crore with the Registrar General in 45 days. Even this part of undertaking has not been complied with," the bench said.

The judge further rejected SpiceJet's plea to submit a property title deed instead of depositing ₹144 crore.

"So far as submitting the original document of property in Gurgaon is concerned, such a request has already been rejected by this court by order dated March 18. Though the property is now unencumbered, this Court is more concerned with the petitioner's own undertaking of depositing ₹50 crores

within 45 days. Had the petitioner deposited Rs 50 crores this Court could have entertained the plea of depositing the document of property in Gurgaon as security for permitting the amount of ₹94 crores. However, as the petitioner has not deposited ₹50 crores as per his undertaking, I am not inclined to accept the property as security. Application dismissed," the court said.

A detailed copy of the verdict is awaited.

Kalanithi Maran and KAL Airways Pvt. Ltd was represented by senior advocate Jayant Mehta along with senior partner Nandini Gore and associate partner Sonia Nigam from Karanjawala and Co.

In its application, the airline contended that denying an extension without the release of the second tranche of ₹349 crore could have serious repercussions for its operations. SpiceJet in its application said it was still reeling from the impact of the West Asia crisis and warned that failure to grant additional time could bring its operations to a grinding halt.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026



4 Indian airlines cancel flights to Saudi Arabia till October 17

IndiGo, Air India Express, Air India, and Akasa Air on Tuesday announced cancelling flights connecting Saudi Arabian cities in view of the evolving situation in the Gulf country. IndiGo said that flights to and from Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Madinah stand cancelled until October 17. While announcing cancellation of flights to and from Riyadh, Dammam and Jeddah till October 17, Air India said it was closely monitoring and assessing the developments in the region. The airline said it was offering a full refund on cancellation for the affected passengers. Meanwhile, Akasa Air said it has extended the suspension of all flights to and from Riyadh and Jeddah until October 17. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

‘Hijacking’ call leads Delhi-Frankfurt flight to divert and land in Jaipur

RAJESH ASHANI AND S LALITHA
@ Jaipur/New Delhi

AN Air India flight from Frankfurt to New Delhi with 306 people on board, including crew, was diverted to Jaipur on Wednesday morning following a false hijack alert received from the cockpit of the plane. The aircraft with the same crew was permitted to fly to Delhi five hours later after intense questioning of pilots and security checks of passengers at Jaipur International Airport. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation will investigate the incident.

Flight No. AI 2030, a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, took off from Frankfurt in Germany at 9.15 pm (local time). A source familiar with the sequence of events said, “When the aircraft was flying inside the Mumbai flight information region, a squawk 7500 signal, used in case of unlawful interference particularly hijacking, was received by the Mumbai air traffic control (ATC). The officials there immediately contacted the AI 2030 commander, who assured them that everything was alright on board.”

Such responses could also be given by pilots who are being threatened by anyone and if they are under pressure. “Airport authorities could not take



What is squawk?

It is a four-digit code entered into an aircraft’s transponder to help ATCs identify and track it. According to Flightradar24, squawk 7500 signals “unlawful interference”, commonly associated with hijacking, allowing crews to alert controllers.

any chances. In line with established protocol, the Mumbai ATC alerted Delhi ATC. The officials then instructed the pilot to divert the plane to the nearest airport, which was Jaipur,” he said.

Confirming the incident, Air India said the diversion was the result of “a perceived security concern.” Delhi airport said the flight was supposed to land at 10.40 am but was diverted to Jaipur in light of code 7500.

According to another source, the flight landed safely at Jaipur at 9.36 am. “Fire tenders and ambulances were kept on standby at the terminal. As soon as the flight landed, it was taken to an isolation bay. All the passengers were made to disembark and escorted to a designated holding area inside the terminal building. Every passenger and piece of baggage was screened with CISF personnel, police and the bomb detection and disposal squad pressed into action along with sniffer dogs. The pilots were questioned too.”

The flight and the crew were cleared for take-off after nothing was found amiss on board. “The plane took off from Jaipur at 2.21 pm and reached the Indira Gandhi International Airport safely at 3.24 pm,” the source added.

A DGCA official said the regulator would probe the incident. “Only investigations will reveal what actually happened,” he said. Speculation was that the alert may have been erroneously sent by the pilot. “The pilot denied mistakenly activating the signal when questioned,” another source said. “The commander of a wide-body aircraft knows the seriousness of the code and would never send it mistakenly,” the source added.

ATC को मिला प्लेन हाईजैक कोड, पायलट बोले- सब ठीक है



5 घंटे चली जांच: फ्रैंकफर्ट से दिल्ली आ रहे एयर इंडिया के विमान की जयपुर में इमरजेसी लैंडिंग। 293 यात्री और कू के 13 सदस्य सवार थे।

Maneesh Aggarwal
@timesofindia.com

■ नई दिल्ली: जर्मनी के फ्रैंकफर्ट से दिल्ली आ रहे एयर इंडिया के विमान को 'हाईजैक अलर्ट' के बाद बुधवार सुबह जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर आपात स्थिति में लैंड कराया गया। करीब 5 घंटे तक एजेंसियों ने छानबीन की। सब ठीक मिलने के बाद यात्रियों को लेकर विमान दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर सफुशल लैंड हो गया। फ्लाइट नंबर AI-2030 में 293 यात्री और कू के 13 सदस्य सवार थे।

हाईजैक अलर्ट कोड-7500 फ्लैश

**सब ठीक
मिला, यात्रियों
के साथ प्लेन
दिल्ली में
लैंड हो गया**

होते ही सुरक्षा एजेंसियों में अफरातफरी मच गई। इस कोड को सबसे मुंबई और फिर अहमदाबाद एयरपोर्ट के एटीसी ने पकड़ा। मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए विमान को ऐसी इमरजेसी के लिए तय 13 में से एक जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड कराया गया। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, विमान के दोनों पायलटों ने इमरजेसी कोड फ्लैश नहीं करने की बात कही है। ऐसे में सवाल उठ रहा है कि यह कोड मुंबई और अहमदाबाद एयरपोर्ट के एटीसी को कैसे मिला? अब इस एंगल से जांच की जा रही है कि कहीं किसी पायलट ने गलती से तो नहीं कोड फ्लैश कर दिया।

Air India flight cleared after hijack alert

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

An Air India flight operating from Frankfurt to Delhi triggered an anti-hijacking alert after its transponder displayed the emergency code 7500, prompting security protocols and the aircraft's parking in an isolation bay. The airline's engineering team later verified that the alert was triggered inadvertently, and authorities found no actual hijacking threat.

The incident involved Air India flight AI2030, operating on the Frankfurt-Delhi sector with a Boeing 787-9 aircraft registered as VT-TSE. According to the incident report, the aircraft performed a go-around at approximately 9:30 am IST on Wednesday, October 14, before the anti-hijacking alert was communicated to relevant control teams, including Air Traffic Control.

Following the alert, the control room immediately informed the Terminal Control Room Officer. Relevant teams and stakeholders were mobilised in accordance with standard operating procedures, and arrangements were made to park the aircraft in an isolation bay for security-related checks.

After the aircraft was parked, the flight engineer contacted the crew to verify the situation. According to the incident report, the crew said they needed an engineer.

An Air India engineer later clarified that the transponder code had been activated inadvertently due to an error by the transponder operator. The alert was therefore treated as a false alarm, with no actual hijacking



threat established during the reported verification.

The incident highlights the importance of promptly responding to aviation security alerts, even when they are later found to have been triggered mistakenly. The 7500 transponder code is internationally recognised as a signal indicating unlawful interference or a hijacking situation, and its activation can trigger immediate security procedures.

In a statement, Air India said flight AI2030, operating from Frankfurt to Delhi, was diverted to Jaipur following a perceived security concern and landed safely.

The airline said the relevant security agencies conducted the necessary checks and cleared the aircraft and crew. All passengers disembarked, underwent security screening, and then reboarded the aircraft.

Air India added that the flight was expected to resume its journey to Delhi shortly after the completion of the required procedures.

The airline also apologised for the inconvenience caused by the disruption, thanking passengers for their

INCIDENT TIMELINE

- 9:18 am: The control room received information about the incident from apron control
- 9:25 am: Apron control contacted the Air India engineer regarding the matter
- 9:30 am: The aircraft performed a go-around, as recorded in the operational message
- 9:32 am: The Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC) issued an anti-hijacking alert, reporting that flight AI2030 had displayed transponder code 7500

patience and understanding. It reiterated that the safety and security of passengers and crew remained its highest priority.

The response involved coordination between the control room, apron control, AOCC, terminal control and other concerned stakeholders. The aircraft's handling at the isolation bay followed standard operating procedures after the alert.

While the initial activation of the 7500 code prompted an anti-hijacking response, the subsequent engineering clarification and security checks indicated that the incident was a false alarm rather than an actual hijacking.

The incident underscores how a mistaken transponder activation can trigger a significant aviation security response, requiring immediate coordination and verification before normal flight operations can resume.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

15 OCTOBER 2026

Air India's Frankfurt-New Delhi flight makes emergency landing in Jaipur amid hijack scare



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Jaipur, 14 October

An Air India AI-2030 flight from Frankfurt to New Delhi made an emergency landing at Sanganer International Airport in Jaipur on Wednesday morning after activating a distress signal.

All passengers and crew members were reported safe after the aircraft landed.

The Air Traffic Control (ATC) at Ahmedabad airport received a Squawk 7500 signal from the New Delhi-bound international flight around 9

a.m. indicating a possible hijacking, bomb threat or other unlawful interference with the aircraft.

This triggered a state of high alert at Jaipur, New Delhi and Ahmedabad airports that lasted for nearly two hours.

Preparations were made in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) for an emergency landing under such circumstances as the aircraft was diverted to Jaipur airport.

Various airport, aviation and security agencies, including the National Security Guard

(NSG), airport security personnel, air traffic controllers, fire brigade and ambulance services, were mobilised at Jaipur airport to deal with any eventuality.

The flight, carrying 293 passengers and 13 crew members, eventually made a safe, unscheduled landing in Jaipur shortly after 9:35 a.m.

Security and aviation agencies immediately initiated precautionary measures after the aircraft touched down. Passengers were deboarded, and their baggage and other belongings were thoroughly searched.

Airport and aviation authorities also held separate discussions with both pilots to ascertain the circumstances that led to the emergency landing and the transmission of the alert signals.

Preliminary checks found that the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner was operating normally.

Initial reports suggested that the pilot had inadvertently pressed the panic button,

triggering Squawk code 7500, which indicates a hijacking situation.

However, during their initial interaction with airport authorities, both pilots reportedly denied pressing the panic button to raise an alert about a hijacking or bomb threat.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was subsequently investigating whether a technical snag had triggered the alert signals at ATC centres along the flight's route or whether some other abnormal situation had occurred.

Later, Air India described the incident in a statement as a diversion prompted by a perceived security concern.

"Everyone is safe. The passengers were taken through security checks and allowed to board the aircraft again to continue their journey to Delhi," the airline said.

The flight eventually took off for New Delhi from Jaipur at around 2:45 p.m., airport sources said.



The Air India plane was moved to an isolation bay for security inspections at the Jaipur airport. PTI

Frankfurt-Delhi flight diverted to Jaipur after false hijack scare

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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An Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner flying from Frankfurt to Delhi was diverted to Jaipur on Wednesday morning following a reported hijack alert that later turned out to be a hoax, triggering a high-level security response at the airport.

Flight AI-2030 landed safely at Jaipur International Airport at 9.45 am, about 280 km from its intended destination.

Security personnel from

various agencies approached the aircraft cautiously and boarded it to conduct extensive checks before passengers were allowed to disembark.

Airport authorities activated the highest level of security response, similar to the protocol followed during a hijacking incident, sources said.

After the aircraft and crew were cleared by security agencies, all passengers disembarked and underwent security checks. They subsequently reboarded the air-

craft, which resumed its journey to Delhi, Air India said.

According to initial information, the pilot pressed 'Squawk Code 7500', which indicates unlawful interference, when the aircraft was in the Mumbai Flight Information Region. Subsequently, the plane was diverted to Jaipur, the sources added.

Air India said its teams worked proactively with the authorities to minimise inconvenience to passengers and apologised for the disruption.