

AAI shifts cab boarding point at airport to ground floor of multi-level car parking facility

Air passengers welcome the new arrangement, but lament delay in opening of the new plaza; AAI officials say the approval to open the much-awaited facility is expected to come within two weeks

PORT CALL

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

In a bid to bring some relief for air passengers, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has modified the cab pick-up arrangement at Chennai airport, allowing passengers to board at the ground floor of the multi-level car parking facility.

Until now, air passengers who arrive at Chennai airport had to walk or take a buggy vehicle to reach the multi-level car parking facility. After reaching the building, they have to use the elevator to reach the second floor of the building to board their cabs.

Such a circuitous arrangement to board a cab drew severe criticism from passengers, and they have been voicing their displeasure consistently over many months now.

While AAI planned to



Tedious task: A circuitous way to board cabs at the airport had drawn severe criticism from passengers. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

open an alternative cab pick-up point opposite to the T1 domestic terminal (in a renovated covered area called 'plaza'), this proposal has still not taken off.

Legal hurdles

After more than a year's delay in the completion of the construction, the plaza has been ready since January, but hasn't been opened due to legal hur-

dles. Officials of AAI said that the approval to open this facility is expected to come within two weeks, after which the second cab pick-up point will be available at the plaza for passengers.

"Meanwhile, till the approval comes, we want to ease the process of boarding cabs and create this arrangement. Instead of going to the second floor to take a taxi, they can now

board from the ground floor," an official said. There are staff present to direct passengers and help them board cabs as well.

Air passengers said they are glad they no longer need to endure the tiring process anymore to board the cabs, but AAI cannot keep delaying the opening of the plaza.

Ram K., a frequent flyer said, "After getting off the buggy vehicle, I have waited for quite some time to get into the elevator. Though there are a couple of elevators available, the problem is, each one can accommodate only a handful of passengers with large baggage. So, I have ended up waiting for a long time to get into the elevator and reach the second floor. I'm relieved I no longer have to go through this hassle. But I'm also alarmed at the delay in the opening of the second pick-up point. How long can the authorities keep a ready facility without opening it?"



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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

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Dholera Int'l Airport project in its 'final stage of completion', to start ops by Sept-Oct: Min

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Tuesday said that the Dholera International Airport project in Gujarat is in its "final stage of completion" and will start operating by September-October.

Speaking at a review meeting on the development of the airport with senior-most officials of the Civil Aviation Ministry, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Gujarat government, and the airport consortium, Naidu said Dholera is set to become India's first airport-



**Union Civil Aviation Minister
Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu**

cum-industrial township-cum-smart city-cum-semiconductor park.

The minister said the airport's runway, taxiway, and control tower have been com-

pleted, while about 75 per cent of the passenger terminal building has been finished. The newly-developed airport is expected to cater to 20 lakh passengers and one lakh freight traffic annually. It will have a 25,000 sq m passenger terminal and a 2,500 sq m cargo terminal apart from a modern infrastructure of 2,340 meters long Runway.

"The airport is being developed as Aerotropolis with six-lane national highway connectivity and the upcoming high-speed rail link connecting Ahmedabad-Vadodara-Baroda with a station to be constructed

near the airport terminal," he said.

He said the airport complex will meet the needs of the country's growing Aerospace and Semiconductor industries. The Airport authority has set up MRO facilities for C-295 military aircraft in the complex. Embraer and Adani Aviation System have signed an agreement for setting up final assembly in the airport complex that will manufacture India's first indigenous commercial aircraft, "Make in India" called for by PM Narendra Modi, which is expected to commence operations by 2028.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

नोएडा हवाई अड्डे के पास बसेगी यीडा इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड सिटी, बनेंगे थोक मार्केट

ग्रेटर नोएडा। चीन के यीवू इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड सिटी के तर्ज पर नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के पास यीडा इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड सिटी बनेगा। यहां उद्यमी अपने उत्पादों का थोक मार्केट के जरिए सीधे बाहरी ग्राहकों को बेच सकेंगे। साथ ही प्रस्तावित खुर्जा-पलवल एक्सप्रेसवे के पास इंडस्ट्रियल नोड के विकास की योजना को भी मंजूरी मिल गई है।

बुधवार को यमुना प्राधिकरण में अपर मुख्य सचिव आलोक कुमार की अध्यक्षता में रही 91वीं बोर्ड बैठक में औद्योगिक विकास के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण फैसले लिए गए। सीईओ राकेश कुमार सिंह के प्रस्ताव पर बोर्ड ने यीडा इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड सिटी विकसित करने की योजना को मंजूरी दे दी। इससे पहले रहे एक प्रजेंटेशन में सीईओ ने बताया कि अलग-अलग सेक्टर के लिए बहुमंजिला थोक मार्केट इसमें बनाए जाएंगे। यहां से सीधे माल की बुकिंग कर खरीदार अपने गंतव्य को जा सकते हैं। इसके बाद तयशुदा व्यवस्था में खरीदे गए माल को एक कंटेनर में लोड कर ग्राहक के यहां एयरपोर्ट की कार्गो सेवा का उपयोग

इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ मेडिकल रिसर्च को भी शोध के लिए सेक्टर-9 में मिलेगी 30 एकड़ जमीन

कर भेज दिया जाएगा।

प्रस्तावित खुर्जा-पलवल एक्सप्रेसवे के पास इंडस्ट्रियल नोड के विकास की जरूरत को भी बोर्ड को बताया गया। 8000 एकड़ में विकसित होने वाले इस इंडस्ट्रियल नोड की महायोजना बनाने के प्रस्ताव को भी मंजूरी मिल गई है। इससे यमुना सिटी फेज-1 और टप्पल बाजना अर्बन सेंटर के बीच मौजूद जमीन का उपयोग हो सकेगा।

यहां बोर्ड ने इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ मेडिकल रिसर्च (आईसीएमआर) को सेक्टर-9 में 30 एकड़ जमीन दिए जाने के लिए मंजूरी दी है। इस जगह का उपयोग सरकारी संस्था आईसीएमआर उन्नत अनुसंधान सुविधाएं स्थापित करने के लिए करेगा।

पिछले साल की तुलना में बढ़ी आय प्राधिकरण ने बोर्ड को बताया कि वित्तीय

वर्ष 2026-27 में 30 जून 2026 तक कुल जमा 1,371.75 करोड़ रुपये पहुंच गया है। यह पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष में इस समय तक की तुलना में 114.33 प्रतिशत अधिक है। वहीं, खर्च भी दो गुना से अधिक रहा। इसकी वजह 1,741.40 करोड़ रुपये के बजट का उपयोग विशेष रूप से भूमि खरीद के लिए किया जाना है।

एक महीने में 15 उद्योगों में उत्पादन शुरू : बोर्ड को बताया गया, एक महीने में उद्योग 63 लीज डीड की गई हैं। वहीं 118 भूखंड पर कब्जे दिए गए जिससे निर्माण शुरू हों। 62 लेआउट मानचित्रों को मंजूरी दी गई है। 84 नए निर्माण भी इस बीच शुरू कराए गए हैं। इस बीच 15 उद्योगों को फंक्शनल बनाते हुए उत्पादन शुरू कर दिए गए हैं। इनमें से 12 उद्योगों ने कारखाना अधिनियम के तहत पंजीकरण भी कराया है। होटल की योजनाओं में नोएडा प्राधिकरण की तरह ही अनुकूल नियमों और शर्तों को शामिल किया जाएगा। रियल एस्टेट परियोजनाओं में लंबित समाधानों को सुव्यवस्थित करने के लिए लीगेसी स्टार्ल्ड प्रोजेक्टों को भी समीक्षा बोर्ड ने की।

Bengaluru airport extends lead over Chennai in air cargo movement

WIDE GAP. Industry sources attribute better infrastructure connectivity to Bengaluru's all-round performance

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

Bengaluru airport has widened its lead over Chennai in air cargo handling, driven by strong growth in international freight handling.

The shift marks a reversal from a year ago when Chennai was marginally ahead in international cargo. Industry sources attributed better infrastructure connectivity to Bengaluru's all-round performance.

In May 2025, Chennai handled 28,208 tonnes of international cargo, slightly higher than Bengaluru's 27,992 tonnes. By May 2026, however, Bengaluru has overtaken its southern rival with 31,652 tonnes, while Chennai handled 29,721 tonnes, according to Airports Authority of India data.

The gap has steadily widened over the past year,

Flying high (in tonnes)

	May 2025	May 2026	Growth (%)
International			
Bengaluru	27,992	31,652	13.1
Chennai	28,208	29,721	5.4
Domestic			
Bengaluru	15,009	17,578	17.1
Chennai	8,344	9,015	8
Total			
Bengaluru	43,001	49,230	14.5
Chennai	36,552	38,736	6



Source: Airports Authority of India

with Bengaluru's international cargo growing 13.1 per cent year-on-year in May compared with Chennai's 5.4 per cent. The trend was also evident in April, when Bengaluru recorded 11.6 per cent growth against Chennai's 9.3 per cent.

Bengaluru also maintained a commanding lead in domestic cargo. Domestic

freight carried by the Bengaluru airport rose 17.1 per cent year-on-year to 17,578 tonnes in May, while Chennai recorded an 8 per cent increase to 9,015 tonnes.

Bengaluru retained its position as India's third-largest air cargo airport after Delhi and Mumbai, while Chennai ranked fourth.

Bengaluru handled nearly 10,500 tonnes more cargo than Chennai in May 2026, reflecting its growing importance as a gateway for international and high-value shipments, while Chennai posted more moderate growth across both international and domestic segments, industry sources said.

Bengaluru's emergence as one of India's fastest-growing air freight hubs is supported by rising exports of electronics, smartphones, semiconductors, aerospace components, pharmaceuticals and other high-value products. The city's expanding manufacturing ecosystem, growing e-commerce distribution network and increasing international freighter connectivity have further strengthened its position in the country's air cargo network.

Chennai, traditionally one of India's largest cargo gateways, continues to benefit

from exports of automobiles, engineering goods, industrial machinery and leather products.

ROBUST GROWTH

Some export cargo from the automobile and electronics manufacturing clusters around Sriperumbudur and Oragadam is increasingly being moved by bonded trucks to Bengaluru to be flown out, attracted by better flight connectivity and cargo capacity. "The ground infrastructure efficiency combined with superior connectivity has ensured Bengaluru's robust growth," said J Krishnan, Partner, S Natesa Iyer Logistics LLP.

Sharmindar Saravanan, MD of SSK Smart Move Logistics Pvt Ltd, attributed Bengaluru airport's success to its long-term strategy of developing an integrated airport ecosystem rather than merely expanding aviation infrastructure.



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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

Navi Mumbai airport starts global services with AI Express flight

Navi Mumbai International Airport commenced international services on Wednesday, with Air India Express operating the first overseas flight from the airport to Abu Dhabi. Air India Express will operate flights from there to Abu Dhabi thrice a week. The flight carrying around 100 passengers took off from the airport at 2.55 am (IST) and landed at Abu Dhabi airport in the UAE after around 2.30 hours. PH



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

15 JULY 2026

International flights commence from Navi Mumbai airport



India's largest private airport operator Adani Airport Holdings (AAHL) has announced the commencement of scheduled international operations at Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), with Air India Express launching direct services between Navi Mumbai and Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), from July 15.



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

यमुना विकास प्राधिकरण की 91वीं बोर्ड बैठक में प्रस्ताव को मंजूर मिली **फैसला: नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के पास** **दूसरा औद्योगिक गलियारा बनेगा**

ग्रेटर नोएडा, प्रमुख संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के दक्षिणी ओर (आगरा की तरफ) के क्षेत्र को औद्योगिक गलियारा के रूप में विकसित किया जाएगा। यहाँ नए उद्योगों के लिए संभावना तलाशी जाएगी। प्रस्ताव पर बोर्ड ने मुहर लगा दी है।

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (नोएडा) की बुधवार को 91वीं बोर्ड बैठक आयोजित हुई। इस बैठक में प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा हुई, आसपास उद्योगों की बढ़ती मांग को देखते हुए बोर्ड ने प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी। जल्द ही इसके मास्टर प्लान पर काम शुरू होगा।

इससे पूर्व टप्पल से एयरपोर्ट के बीच भी आठ हजार हेक्टेयर में औद्योगिक गलियारे की योजना तैयार की जा चुकी है। पिछले बोर्ड में इसका प्रस्ताव भी

आग से बचाव होगा

यमुना सिटी के हाईराइज भवनों में आग व अन्य आपात स्थिति से निपटने के लिए 50 करोड़ के बजट को स्वीकृति दी गई है। यह रकम अग्निशमन विभाग को भेजा जाएगा। वित्तीय वर्ष 2026-27 में प्राधिकरण ने कागज़ पर 2101 करोड़ खर्च किए। इनमें सबसे अधिक खर्च 1741 करोड़ रुपये भूमि खरीद पर खर्च किया गया।

पास हो चुका है। अब एक और नए औद्योगिक गलियारे का मास्टर प्लान बनाने की तैयारी है। इसके अलावा एयरपोर्ट से निकलने वाले टोस अपशिष्ट निस्तारण के लिए धनौरी बेटलैंड के पास 200 मीटर भूमि किराए पर देने के प्रस्ताव पर भी मुहर लगी है।

ट्रेड सिटी भी विकसित होगी

यमुना सिटी चीन के यूबी शहर की तर्ज पर यमुना सिटी में भी यीज़ा इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड सिटी विकसित होगी। इसका अध्ययन भी कराया जा चुका है। बोर्ड के समक्ष परियोजना का प्रस्तुतीकरण दिया गया। इसके अलावा वाणिज्य हॉटल योजना में नोएडा प्राधिकरण की सकारात्मक नियम एवं शर्तों को समाहित व अपनाने के लिए रखे प्रस्ताव को भी बोर्ड ने मंजूरी दे दी।

राष्ट्रीय चिकित्सा अनुसंधान संस्थान बनेगा: यमुना सिटी को देश के प्रमुख चिकित्सीय अनुसंधान और रोग निवारण केंद्रों में शामिल करने की दिशा में कदम बढ़ाया गया। बोर्ड ने शहर में आधुनिक चिकित्सीय अनुसंधान संस्थान के विकास के लिए 30 एकड़

भूमि देने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी।

यहाँ गंभीर और उभरती बीमारियों को रोकथाम, अनुसंधान, समय पर पहचान और आधुनिक उपचार तकनीकों के विकास के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर का अत्याधुनिक संस्थान स्थापित होगा। संस्थान में महामारी व नई बीमारियों पर शोध, संक्रमण की रोकथाम, आधुनिक जांच तकनीकों का विकास और स्वास्थ्य नीतियों के लिए वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन किए जाएंगे। यहाँ वैज्ञानिकों, डॉक्टरों, शोधकर्ताओं और तकनीकी विशेषज्ञों के लिए नए अवसर पैदा होंगे। बायोटेक, मेडिकल उपकरण, फार्मास्यूटिकल्स और हेल्थकेयर से जुड़े उद्योगों के निवेश को भी बढ़ावा मिलने की उम्मीद है। बोर्ड बैठक अपर मुख्य सचिव की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित हुई।

IGI: Air India jet grounded as engine ingests cargo container while taxiing

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NEW DELHI: An Air India Airbus A350 aircraft operating a Delhi-New York flight sustained engine damage on Thursday morning after sucking in a cargo container while taxiing at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, forcing the plane to be grounded, officials aware of the matter said.

The incident occurred at around 5.25am. The aircraft, registered VT-JRB and operating flight AI101 to New York's JFK, had already been forced to return to Delhi due to the sudden closure of Iranian airspace.

After landing safely, while taxiing to the apron in dense fog, its right engine (Engine 2) ingested a loose cargo container left on the taxiway, causing damage to the engine.

When a jet engine ingests a foreign object, known as Foreign Object Damage (FOD), an item is pulled into the engine's high-speed rotating blades, which can



The Air India A350, operating a Delhi-New York flight, suffered damage to its right engine on Thursday.

DGCA

cause bending, breaking, or catastrophic disintegration of blades.

In a statement, Air India confirmed the event. "Air India confirms that Flight AI101, operating from Delhi to New York (JFK), was forced to return to Delhi shortly after take-off due to the unexpected closure of Iranian airspace," the airline spokesper-

son said. "Upon landing in Delhi, the aircraft encountered a foreign object while taxiing in dense fog, resulting in damage to the right engine."

"The aircraft was safely positioned to the designated parking stand, ensuring the safety of all passengers and crew on board. The aircraft is currently

grounded for a thorough investigation and necessary repairs, which may cause potential disruptions on select A350 routes," the spokesperson said. The airline said its officials are assisting affected passengers with alternative arrangements and refunds.

In a statement, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said Air India's A350 aircraft suffered engine damage after its engine ingested a cargo container while taxiing. The DGCA said a detailed probe is on.

A preliminary probe found the incident was caused by ground handling equipment movement near Bay 242, designated for Air Mauritius equipment. An airport official said a tug carrying cargo containers lost a dolly wheel, causing one container to topple onto the taxiway. Although the operator moved the remaining equipment upon seeing the taxiing Air India plane, the fallen container was left behind and was subsequently ingested by the aircraft's engine, the official explained.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

जेवर हवाई अड्डे के दक्षिणी हिस्से में विकसित होगा औद्योगिक केंद्र

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
ग्रेटर नोएडा, 15 जुलाई।

नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के दक्षिणी (आगरा की ओर) क्षेत्र को विशेष औद्योगिक केंद्र के रूप में विकसित किया जाएगा।

भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (आईसीएमआर) को अत्याधुनिक शोध सुविधाओं की स्थापना के लिए सेक्टर-9 में 30 एकड़ भूमि आवंटित की जाएगी। साथ ही यीडा क्षेत्र में चीन के बीजू इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड सिटी की तर्ज पर बीडा इंटरनेशनल ट्रेड सिटी विकसित किए जाने का प्रस्तावित किया गया। प्राथमिकता है कि नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा क्षेत्र को जल्द औद्योगिक, अनुसंधान और निवेश के बड़े केंद्र के रूप में विकसित किया जा सके। यह निर्णय बुधवार को यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण की 91वीं बोर्ड बैठक में लिए गए। प्रदेश के अपर मुख्य सचिव (औद्योगिक विकास) एवं यीडा अध्यक्ष आलोक कुमार की अध्यक्षता में हुई बैठक में औद्योगिक विकास, निवेश, स्वास्थ्य, आधारभूत

ढांचे और किसान हितों से जुड़े कई महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लिए गए। बीडा ने पिछले साल के मुकाबले 114.3 फीसद का अधिक राजस्व जुटाया है।

क्षेत्र में बन रही गगनचुंबी इमारतों में अग्नि सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को और मजबूत बनाने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश अग्निशमन एवं आपात सेवाओं के 50 करोड़ रुपये का बजट उपलब्ध कराने को बोर्ड ने मंजूर किया। एनटीपीसी द्वारा उपलब्ध कराई गई इलेक्ट्रिक और हाइड्रोजन बसों के संचालन प्रभावी बनाने की योजना बनाने को कहा गया। पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में ग्राम धनौरी आर्द्रभूमि (वेटलैंड) के पास वैज्ञानिक टोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन

यीडा की 91वीं
बोर्ड बैठक में
फैसला।

के लिए वाइआइएपीएल को 200 मीटर भूमि किराये पर दिए जाने को मंजूरी दी गई। किसानों से जुड़े मामलों पर यीडा बोर्ड ने भूमि क्रय के तुरंत बाद पात्र किसानों को सात फीसद आबादी भूखंड के आरक्षण पत्र जारी करने के निर्देश दिए। इसके अलावा सेक्टर-8ए, 8बी, 8सी, 23सी, 31बी तथा सेक्टर-7बी स्थित 765 केवी सब-स्टेशन से सेक्टर-8डी तक प्रस्तावित मास्टर प्लान सड़क के लिए भूमि क्रय के प्रस्ताव को भी मंजूरी प्रदान की गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

नवी मुंबई हवाई अड्डे से अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सेवाएं शुरू

अबू धाबी, 15 जुलाई (एजेंसी): नवी मुंबई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एन.एम.आई.ए.) से अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सेवाओं की आज शुरुआत हुई। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने हवाई अड्डे से अबू धाबी के लिए पहली अंतर्राष्ट्रीय उड़ान संचालित की। करीब 100 यात्रियों को लेकर एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान भारतीय समयानुसार देर रात 2 बजकर 55 मिनट पर नवी मुंबई हवाई अड्डे से खाना हुआ। करीब अढ़ाई घंटे का सफर तय कर यह संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यू.ए.ई.) के अबू धाबी हवाई अड्डे पर पहुंची।

एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस अबू धाबी के लिए सप्ताह में 3 उड़ानें संचालित करेगी। नवी मुंबई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से 25 दिसंबर, 2025 को घरेलू सेवाएं शुरू हुई थीं।

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

विस्तार की योजना

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट में कॉरिडोर से सुरक्षा संग बढ़ेगी सुविधा



Ashu.Mishra

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■ गाजियाबाद : हिंडन एयरपोर्ट के विस्तार की योजना अब अंतिम चरण में पहुंचती दिख रही है। एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों के लिए सुविधा बढ़ाने और एयरफोर्स व सिविल एयरपोर्ट के संचालन को पूरी तरह अलग करने के लिए नया कॉरिडोर बनाया जाएगा। यह कॉरिडोर एयरपोर्ट के प्रवेश मार्ग को सीधे एयरक्राफ्ट पार्किंग और रनवे से जोड़ेगा। इसके बनने से एयरपोर्ट में प्रवेश और निकासी के दो अलग-अलग रास्ते उपलब्ध होंगे, जिससे यात्रियों की आवाजाही अधिक व्यवस्थित और सुरक्षित हो सकेगी। इससे हिंडन एयरवेस को अंदरूनी इलाका और अधिक सुरक्षित हो सकेगा।

अभी यात्रियों को रनवे तक पहुंचने के लिए एयरफोर्स परिसर से होकर गुजरना पड़ता है। सुरक्षा कारणों के चलते भविष्य में इसे पूरी तरह समाप्त किया जाएगा। इसी उद्देश्य से एयरपोर्ट की ओर से सिविल एंटी के लिए अलग संपर्क मार्ग विकसित किया जा रहा है। ताकि सिविल एंविग्रेशन और एयरफोर्स के संचालन क्षेत्र पूरी तरह अलग-अलग हो सकें। एयरपोर्ट निदेशक डॉ. चित्का महेश ने बताया कि विस्तार के दूसरे चरण के तहत करीब डेढ़ किलोमीटर लंबा कॉरिडोर तैयार किया जाएगा।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

15 JULY 2026

Expedite work on airports in T: CM

Roushan.Ali@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Chief minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday urged Union civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu to invite tenders and commence work on the proposed airports at Mamnoon in Warangal and Adilabad. He also requested the Union minister to examine the feasibility of operating seaplanes between Hussainsagar in Hyderabad and the Prakasam barrage in Andhra Pradesh.

The CM met the Union minister at Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, the civil aviation ministry's office in New Delhi, and held extensive discussions on the proposed airports and the seaplane project. Revanth suggested that the feasibility of operating seaplanes between Hussainsagar and the Prakasam Barrage be examined. According to the CMO, Ram-

Photo for representation



'EXAMINING FEASIBILITY'

mohan Naidu asked the state govt to submit the necessary proposals for the initiative.

Stating that land acquisition for the Mamnoon airport has already been completed, the CM urged the aviation minister to ensure that construction is completed so that airport is ready for inauguration by June 2, 2028. Revanth also urged the minister to ensure that maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO), air cargo, and hangar facilities are established at the Warangal and Adilabad airports.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

15 JULY 2026

N Mum airport starts int'l service with direct Abu Dhabi flight today

Mumbai: Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) was set to begin scheduled international operations at 2.55 am on Wednesday with the launch of a direct service to Abu Dhabi, operated by Air India Express.

The airline will operate the Navi Mumbai-Abu Dhabi route three times a week, making it the airport's first scheduled international connection since domestic operations began in Dec last year. Other airlines are also expected to add international flights out of the Navi Mumbai airport in the coming months.

Since opening, NMIA has connected to 46 domestic destinations, handled more than



Air India Express will operate three Abu Dhabi flights a wk by mth-end

2.3 million passengers, and currently records around 150 aircraft movements a day, said the operator, Adani Airports Holdings Ltd.

The inaugural international flight will also carry the airport's first international shipment of perishable exports, marking the start of in-

ternational cargo operations. The airport operator said it expects the service to support exports of time-sensitive agricultural products.

Arun Bansal, chief executive officer (CEO), AAHL, said, "The launch of our first scheduled international flight marks the beginning of a new phase in Navi Mumbai International Airport's journey."

Spread across 1,160 hectares, NMIA is designed for a final capacity of 90 million passengers a year, supported by two parallel runways, modern terminals and cargo facilities. In the first phase, the airport will be able to handle 20 million passengers annually and 0.5 million tonnes of cargo. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

DGCA steps up investigation into aircraft landing mishap at Hisar

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, JULY 15

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday intensified its investigation into the landing of an air ambulance on the wrong runway at Maharaja Agrasen International Airport in Hisar on Tuesday, an incident that disrupted flight operations for nearly six hours.

A two-member DGCA team visited the airport, examined

operational records, questioned Air Traffic Control (ATC) personnel and other airport officials, and inspected the runway where the aircraft had mistakenly landed.

The air ambulance had flown in from Mumbai on Tuesday carrying the mortal remains of 96-year-old Nand Kishore Goenka, father of former Rajya Sabha MP Dr Subhash Chandra. A video of the incident surfaced on Wednesday, showing airport

personnel rushing to the aircraft after it came to a halt.

According to officials, the aircraft landed on the wrong runway and struck the approach lighting system installed along the runway. The impact damaged the aircraft's nose section, forcing airport authorities to suspend flight operations until the debris was cleared and the runway made operational again around 4.30 pm.

An attendant on board

recounted the tense moments after touchdown. "We feared the plane might explode. The runway lights hit the wing before the aircraft finally came to a stop," the attendant said, adding that a loud noise was heard immediately after landing and the aircraft shook violently.

Airport authorities said the DGCA team reviewed all aspects of the incident, interacted with officials concerned and carried out a site inspection.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

Boeing unveils new 737 line to boost output

Siddharth Philip

Boeing Co. formally opened its fourth 737 Max assembly line near Seattle on Friday, as the US planemaker looks to cash in on its growing backlog, though output from the factory will initially be at a low rate.

The line inside Boeing's Everett site, where it mainly produces its wide-body models such as the 777, 767 and upcoming 777X, will initially employ about 1,000 workers, Jennifer Boland-Masterson, a senior director at the company, said during a media tour.

Boeing will adopt a low build rate to iron out any kinks and ensure operations run smoothly, Boland-Masterson said. She declined to specify how quickly the line will scale but said Boeing will add more workers as production increases.

The new assembly line is a key component of Boeing's attempt to ramp up output of its workhorse 737

Max family after the Federal Aviation Administration capped production at 38 planes a month in 2024 following a near-catastrophic accident that led to a wholesale switch of senior leadership.

In May, Chief Executive Officer Kelly Ortberg said the planemaker had been authorised to increase output to 47 planes a month.

RAISING OUTPUT

Boeing eventually aims to raise 737 monthly output to 63, key to paying pay down debt, improving its finances and challenging Airbus SE's dominance in the money-spinning single-aisle aircraft segment.

Boeing's tour showcased an array of tooling and work stations as well as machines hauling a sheathed fuselage that will be assembled on the new production line. Boeing builds 737 Max fuselages at its site in Wichita, Kansas, and transports them by rail to Seattle.

It came days before airlines and parts



BOEING. Looking to clear production backlog with fourth assembly line REUTERS

suppliers from around the world converge outside of London for the Farnborough airshow, with Boeing and Airbus jockeying to unveil blockbuster plane orders.

The world's largest planemakers face hurdles to their growth plans, including conquering parts and labour shortages lingering from the coronavirus

pandemic. Airbus has struggled with supply chain constraints while it works to ramp up output of its rival A321neo model and has had to repeatedly push back its target of achieving a production rate of 75 planes a month. This week, workers in Spain kicked off a labour strike in a protest over work conditions over the past years.

The area for the new 737 North line was previously used to assemble the 787 Dreamliner before production of that model was consolidated in North Charleston, South Carolina. Given the space was previously used to build bigger aircraft, Boeing is using the extra floor area to adapt to changing cabin trends.

As airlines add more lie-flat seats to narrow-body aircraft to target premium fliers, the new line has additional stations that give workers time to install complicated interiors without disrupting the rest of the line, Boland-Masterson said. BLOOMBERG



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

Air India crash: Draft final report by Oct, agency tells SC

Aaratrika Bhaumik
New Delhi

More than a year after an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed shortly following take-off from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025, killing 260 people (229 passengers and 12 crew members on board), the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has informed the Supreme Court that it expects to complete its investigation within six weeks, with a "draft final report" likely to be ready by October.

"In view of the nature, scale and complexity of the present accident, the AAIB has carefully assessed the timeline for completion of the investigation. In all probability, the investigative activities, subject to the resolution of pending external dependencies, are expected to be completed within six weeks," said an affidavit filed by the AAIB Director General ahead of a July 17 hearing in a batch of petitions

seeking an independent investigation into the crash.

As required under the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the "draft final report" will first be shared with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the United States agency representing the State of Design and Manufacture, for its comments. According to the Bureau, the consultation process could take between 30 and 60 days.

PILOT-BLAME

The court was further informed that the investigation team has interviewed several witnesses, including Air India and Boeing 787 pilots, crew members who had previously flown with the pilots of the accident aircraft, air traffic control personnel, and specialists in human factors and crew resource management.

The Bureau, however, acknowledged that "media speculation" and the "nar-



rative attributing blameworthiness to the pilots" had made some witnesses "restrictive and non-responsive" during the course of the investigation.

PARALLEL PROBE

The affidavit also opposed the petitioners' plea for a court-monitored or independent inquiry, contending that the investigation was being conducted in accordance with international standards and the applicable legal framework, leaving no scope for judicial oversight or a parallel probe.

"It is thus respectfully submitted that the statutory

and treaty framework governing aircraft accident investigation constitutes a carefully layered legal regime... This constitutes a complete code, leaving no lacuna that could justify the creation of a parallel investigative body," it stated.

The Bureau further informed the court that it had completed 49 of the 66 procedural steps prescribed for the investigation of a serious aircraft accident.

According to the affidavit, every safeguard, including preservation of evidence, recovery and analysis of the flight recorders, participation of accredited representatives, technical examination of aircraft systems, stakeholder consultation, and circulation of the draft report, is being "scrupulously followed".

COCKPIT RECORDINGS

Vehemently opposing the petitioners' demand for disclosure of the cockpit voice recordings and airborne im-

age recordings, the AAIB stated that Rule 17(5) of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2025, places "an absolute statutory prohibition" on making such material public.

"If witnesses and persons involved in aircraft operation know that their statements may be disclosed in aircraft accident or public proceedings, they will become guarded or unwilling to cooperate, thereby defeating the very purpose of safety investigation," the affidavit states.

The Bureau further clarified that the sole purpose of the investigation is to improve aviation safety and prevent future accidents, and not to "apportion blame or determine civil or criminal liability."

Earlier, the apex court had asked the Union government to place on record the procedural protocol governing the AAIB probe, observing that proceedings should not become a "blame game".



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

Air India crash probe may end in 6 weeks, apex court informed

BHAVINI MISHRA
New Delhi, 15 July

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has told the Supreme Court that its investigation into the June 12, 2025, Air India AI171 crash is likely to be completed within six weeks, with a draft final report expected by October.

In an affidavit filed ahead of the July 17 hearing of petitions seeking an independent inquiry into the crash, the AAIB said that the investigation remained subject to certain external dependencies but was nearing completion.

The AAIB said investigators are currently in the core fact-finding phase, involving evidence collection, technical assessment, and forensic examination of the aircraft and its components. Once the draft report is prepared, it will be shared with the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), representing the State of Design and Manufacture under International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) norms. The consultation process is expected to take 30 to 60

days, depending on the comments received. The AAIB said it has questioned several witnesses, including Air India and Boeing 787 pilots, cabin crew who had previously flown with the accident crew, air traffic controllers, and experts in human factors and crew resource management.

However, it noted that media speculation and public narratives suggesting pilot culpability had made some witnesses reluctant to cooperate fully. According to the affidavit, specialists in aeronautical engineering, aviation medicine, aviation psychology and flight recorder analysis have also been assisting the investigation.

Opposing demands for a court-monitored or independent probe, the AAIB argued that aircraft accident investigations are governed by a comprehensive statutory and international framework, leaving no scope for a parallel inquiry.

The AAIB informed the court that it has completed 49 of the 66 procedural steps prescribed for investigating a serious aircraft accident.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

हेलीकाप्टर की 40 घंटे उड़ान की शर्त बदलेगी हिमाचल सरकार

राज्य ब्यूरो, जागरण • शिमला

हिमाचल प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री सुखविन्द सिंह सुक्खू के लिए लीज पर लिए गए सरकारी हेलीकाप्टर की न्यूनतम 40 घंटे मासिक उड़ान की शर्त में बदलाव की तैयारी है। सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग (जीएई) ने गत डेढ़ दशक के आंकड़ों की समीक्षा में पाया कि हेलीकाप्टर सामान्यतः 20 से 30 घंटे या अधिकतम 32 घंटे ही उड़ान भरता है। ऐसे में एयर चार्टर सर्विसेज कंपनी के साथ न्यूनतम उड़ान घंटे घटाने पर बातचीत चल रही है। वर्तमान करार के तहत सरकार को प्रति माह 40 घंटे की गारंटीड उड़ान का भुगतान करना पड़ता है। अभी सरकार हेलीकाप्टर सेवा के लिए प्रति घंटे 2.85 लाख रुपये का भुगतान करती है। नए करार में न्यूनतम उड़ान की सीमा 30 घंटे या उसके आसपास तय किए जाने की संभावना है। प्रदेश सरकार फिलहाल एयर चार्टर सर्विसेज कंपनी का पांच सीटर हेलीकाप्टर उपयोग कर रही है।

► एयर चार्टर सर्विसेज से चल रही वार्ता, न्यूनतम उड़ान घंटे 30 के आसपास करने पर विचार

कंपनी के साथ अनुबंध मई में समाप्त हो चुका है, जिसे नया हेलीकाप्टर मिलने तक एक-दो माह के लिए बढ़ाया गया है। इससे पहले हुई निविदा प्रक्रिया में एक बार टेंडर रद्द हुआ, जबकि दो बार केवल एक-एक कंपनी ने ही भाग लिया। इससे पहले हेली गो व पवन हंस हेलीकाप्टर कंपनी ने सरकार को हेलीकाप्टर सेवाएं देने के लिए निविदा प्रक्रिया में हिस्सा लिया था। सरकार अब 16 सीटर हेलीकाप्टर लेने की तैयारी में है। ईंधन की बढ़ती कीमतों के कारण इसके संचालन का प्रति घंटा खर्च पांच से 6.50 लाख रुपये के बीच रहने का अनुमान है। चुनाव व प्राकृतिक आपदा जैसे परिस्थितियों में हेलीकाप्टर का उपयोग बढ़ता है, लेकिन सामान्य दिनों में 40 घंटे मासिक उड़ान का आंकड़ा कभी लगातार नहीं पहुंचा।

Air India Crash Probe Studies Pilots' Psyche

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: Investigators in the Air India crash probe conducted a psychological autopsy of the two pilots who were operating the ill-fated Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft and perished in the accident, according to an affidavit submitted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) in the Supreme Court.

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP), and the father of Sumeet Sabharwal, captain of the 787 aircraft, had earlier moved the top court seeking a judicial probe into the crash.

A psychological autopsy is an investigative tool used for determining the mental state of a person before death. "It helps forensic experts figure out if an unexplained death was a suicide or an accident," said an aviation medicine expert who advises multiple airlines. "This is not something which is done in every investigation."

The process includes interviews with family and friends to understand the pilot's behaviour and recent conversations. Doctors who regularly consulted him will also be interviewed to assess medications and their impact. The pilot's digital footprint will also be analysed, the expert said.

"The idea is to check if there are any markers or flags which could give some hint on his mental state before he went for the flight," the expert said on condition of anonymity as he also works with Air India.

AAIB said it has received the final report of the psychologist.

The Boeing 787 crashed on June 12 last year, shortly after take-off in Ahmedabad, killing 260 people. A preliminary report published last year indicated the crash was the result of human action, without explicitly saying so. It found that seconds after take-off, the fuel control switches on both engines briefly moved from 'run' to 'cut off', severing fuel supply



Psychological autopsy involves interview with family, friends to assess pilot behaviour; AAIB to complete probe in six weeks, draft report in October

and causing a loss of power. These switches control fuel flow to the engines. On modern aircraft such as the Boeing 787, they are fitted with safeguards—including a metal lock and a surrounding guard—to prevent accidental shut-off.

The findings, however, have drawn severe criticism from pilot unions and advocacy groups in India.

AAIB said it will take another six weeks to complete the investigation, with the draft report expected sometime in October.

The bureau also said data from the engine monitoring unit (EMU)—a digital display system that tracks multiple engine health parameters—was received in May and is now being analysed alongside interviews with family members of victims.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

Indian airlines cancel flights, redraw routes

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: International flight operations connecting India with West Asia, Europe and the US were disrupted early on Thursday after Iran temporarily shut its airspace amid heightened tensions, forcing airlines to re-route, divert

and cancel several long-haul services.

Meanwhile, a New York-bound Air India flight, which was forced to return to Delhi due to the temporary closure of the Iranian airspace, sustained engine damage after sucking in a cargo container while taxiing at the IGI Airport, officials aware of the matter said. →P5,12



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

Flights to US, Europe hit over turbulence in Iran

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: International flight operations connecting India with West Asia, Europe and the US were disrupted early on Thursday after Iran temporarily shut its airspace amid concerns about possible military action between the US and Iran, forcing airlines to re-route, divert and cancel several long-haul services.

The Tehran flight information region (FIR) was closed for all flights at 3.45am IST, causing immediate operational flight disruptions for carriers operating over the region. "During the closure, no overflights were permitted. Only international civil flights arriving into or departing from Iran with prior permission from the Iran Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) were allowed," an official aware of the development said.

"Delhi Area Control Centre (ACC) was informed of the closure by Lahore ACC, which cited military escalation as the reason," the official added.

A second official said India received the information at 3.12am IST, before a formal NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) confirming the shutdown was issued.

The sudden closure severely impacted flights using air traffic

INDIA RECEIVED THE INFORMATION AT 3.12AM IST, BEFORE A FORMAL NOTAM (NOTICE TO AIRMEN) CONFIRMING THE SHUTDOWN WAS ISSUED

service route G452—a critical airway for aircraft flying from north and west India towards Iran, the Gulf, Turkey and onward to Europe.

The route is widely used by long-haul international services from Indian metros as it offers a shorter and more fuel-efficient option.

"Preliminary information from Lahore ACC indicated that aircraft operating on G452 were re-routed through Pakistan's airspace to avoid Iranian airspace," a ministry official said.

As a result, airlines including IndiGo and Air India were forced to divert, delay and cancel flights, with both carriers continuing to avoid Iranian airspace through Thursday.

IndiGo's flights to Istanbul and Europe operated on longer routes, while flight services to Almaty,

Tashkent and Tbilisi could not operate due to the sudden airspace closure. Flights from Almaty and Baku to India were forced to return to their original airports.

The airline posted on X, "Due to the sudden airspace closure by Iran, some of our international flights are impacted. Our teams are working diligently to assess the situation and support affected customers by offering the best possible alternatives. This development is beyond our control, and we regret the disruption it may have caused to your travel plans. If your flight is impacted, we encourage you to visit our website to explore flexible rebooking options or to claim a refund, as per your preference."

Air India cancelled three US-bound flights.

Its travel advisory issued on X said, "Due to the emerging situation in Iran, the subsequent closure of its airspace, and in view of the safety of our passengers, Air India flights overflying the region are now using an alternative route, which may lead to delays. Some Air India flights where currently re-routing is not possible are being cancelled..."

SpiceJet issued a travel advisory on X that, some of its flights may be affected. However, it did not see flight cancellations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

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NEW-YORK BOUND AIRCRAFT WAS MOVING TOWARDS PARKING BAY; DGCA INITIATES PROBE

Air India flight engine sucks in cargo container at IGIA

Devansh Mittal

New Delhi, January 15

AN Air India aircraft suffered substantial engine damage after sucking in a cargo container while on its way to the parking bay at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) early on Thursday morning. According to the airline, all the passengers are safe. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has initiated a detailed investigation into the incident.

Shortly after taking off, the New-York bound Flight AI 101 was forced to return to Delhi after Iran announced a sudden temporary closure of its air-

space amid the escalation in tensions between Washington and Tehran. According to flight tracking website flightradar24, it departed IGIA at 3.13 am and was cruising over Gujarat when the airspace closure came into effect.

The Airbus A350 aircraft landed safely on Runway 28 and was moving towards its parking bay, when the second engine ingested the cargo container that had accidentally fallen onto the taxiway, according to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

The incident occurred around 5.25 am, when the visibility had dropped to 'marginal' due to dense fog.



Air India aircraft that suffered damage, at airport on Thursday. ANI

"The preliminary investigation has revealed that a Bird

Worldwide Flight Services (BWFS) tug transporting a few

containers to Baggage Makeup Area of Terminal 3 crossed this intersection while on the vehicular lane... one of the containers toppled onto the taxiway intersection," the ministry said.

A source, meanwhile, said: "One wheel of the container dolly came off and the container toppled onto the taxiway. The equipment operator noticed the Air India aircraft taxiing in and vacated the spot with remaining dollies and containers, leaving behind the one which had fallen."

BWFS is a firm which handles operations like ground handling, customer management and cargo management

services at around six major Indian airports.

Metal debris was later cleared from the taxiway, and the aircraft was towed and parked.

In a statement, Air India said the aircraft encountered a "foreign object" while taxiing after landing, resulting in damage to the right engine. "It was safely positioned to the designated parking stand, ensuring the safety of all passengers and crew on board," an Air India spokesperson said.

The airline added that the aircraft has been grounded for inspection and repairs, which may lead to disruptions on select A350 routes.

Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

हवाई टिकट की मनमानी पर लगेगी लगाम किराया तय करेगी सरकार, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मांगी नियमों की कॉपी

- त्योहारों और आपातस्थिति में मनमाने किराए पर कोर्ट सख्त, दो हफ्ते में केंद्र से रिपोर्ट तलब
- नए नियम लागू होने के बाद एयरलाइंस की मनमानी पर लगेगा अंकुश, 3 अगस्त को अगली सुनवाई

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या। त्योहारों और आपातकालीन परिस्थितियों में हवाई टिकटों की आसमान छूती कीमतों से यात्रियों को जल्द राहत मिल सकती है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार को निर्देश दिया है कि हवाई किराया नियंत्रित करने के लिए तैयार किए गए नए नियमों की प्रति दो सप्ताह के भीतर सीलबंद लिफाफे में अदालत में पेश की जाए। मामले की अगली सुनवाई 3 अगस्त को होगी।

जस्टिस विक्रम नाथ और जस्टिस संदीप मेहता की पीठ एक जनहित याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही थी,



जिसमें निजी एयरलाइंस द्वारा मनमाने तरीके से टिकटों के दाम बढ़ाने का मुद्दा उठाया गया है। केंद्र सरकार ने अदालत को बताया कि हवाई किराया रेगुलेट करने के नियम तैयार हैं और इन्हें 30 दिनों के भीतर संसद में पेश किया जाएगा। इस पर अदालत ने कहा कि संसद में पेश होने का इंतजार किए बिना नियमों की प्रति पहले कोर्ट को

उपलब्ध कराई जाए। यह याचिका सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एस.

लक्ष्मीनारायणन ने दायर की है।

उनका कहना है कि मांग बढ़ते ही कई एयरलाइंस टिकट का किराया 300 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ा देती हैं, जिससे आम यात्रियों पर भारी आर्थिक बोझ पड़ता है। उन्होंने किराया और अतिरिक्त शुल्क की निगरानी के लिए एक स्वतंत्र

नियामक संस्था बनाने की मांग भी की है।

सुनवाई के दौरान अदालत ने हल्के-फुल्के अंदाज में टिप्पणी करते हुए कहा कि श्रवकीलों की फीस भी कई बार 400 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ जाती है, लेकिन साथ ही स्पष्ट किया कि हवाई किराए में अत्यधिक बढ़ोतरी गंभीर चिंता का विषय है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट इससे पहले भी कई

बार इस मुद्दे पर केंद्र सरकार को फटकार लगा चुका है। अप्रैल 2026 में अदालत ने समय पर हलफनामा दाखिल न करने पर नाराजगी जताई थी, जबकि फरवरी 2026 में त्योहारों के दौरान बढ़े हवाई किराए को लेकर सरकार से जवाब मांगा था।

नवंबर 2025 में भी कोर्ट ने केंद्र, डीजीसीए और एयरपोर्ट इकोनॉमिक रेगुलेटरी अथॉरिटी को नोटिस जारी कर जवाब तलब किया था। विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार एयरलाइंस के कुल परिचालन खर्च का 30 से 40 प्रतिशत हिस्सा जेट फ्यूल पर खर्च होता है। ईंधन की बढ़ती कीमतों के कारण कंपनियां टिकट महंगे होने की दलील देती रही हैं, लेकिन अब सरकार के प्रस्तावित नियम लागू होने के बाद किराया तय करने की प्रक्रिया अधिक पारदर्शी और नियंत्रित होने की उम्मीद है।

MINT

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

Cash-strapped SpiceJet sees severe flight delays

SpiceJet's two-hour delay rate was 15.75% in May, while IndiGo's was at 0.78%

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One out of every seven SpiceJet flights was delayed by more than two hours in May, as the budget carrier struggled with a thin fleet and a cash crunch.

SpiceJet's performance was the worst among India's large airlines, and also the worst performance for SpiceJet itself in five months, official data showed. For context, this was more than 20 times the delay rate reported by market leader IndiGo during the month.

Rising delays add to the challenges facing SpiceJet, whose market share fell from 3.9% in January to 3% in May, as it attempts to stabilize operations and restore passenger confidence amid continued scrutiny from regulators, lessors and customers. With rival airlines maintaining delay rates below 2% in May, the widening gap underscores the operational pressures confronting the carrier.

"While any delay is regrettable, it is important to note that on-time performance can fluctuate over different periods depending on a range of operational and external factors," said SpiceJet spokesperson in an email, adding the airline's focus remains on steadily improving schedule reliability while ensuring that safety is never compromised.

The deterioration has been steady through the year, data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed. In January, 7.2% of SpiceJet's flights were delayed by over two hours, compared with 2.9% for IndiGo, 2.1% for Air India and 6.3% for Akasa Air. By May, SpiceJet's delay rate had climbed to 15.75%—or around one in seven flights—while IndiGo's stood at 0.78%, Air India's at 1.85% and Akasa Air's at 1.49%.

DGCA introduced data on flight delayed by more than 2 hours only from early 2026.

"SpiceJet appears to be in survival mode as it grapples with prolonged financial stress. Rising flight delays have hurt its operational reliability



SpiceJet's market share has fallen from 3.9% in January to 3% in May.

REUTERS

and brand perception, prompting some passengers to shift to rival carriers," said Gagan Dixit, senior vice-president, oil & gas and aviation at brokerage firm, Elara Securities.

SpiceJet has also been unable to fully benefit from higher fares that boosted rivals' yields, said Dixit. "Its active fleet has shrunk sharply and is now smaller than Akasa Air's, marking a signifi-

support and closer coordination across operational teams, the SpiceJet spokesperson said.

India's passenger charter mandates obligations when flights are significantly delayed. If a passenger has checked in on time and a flight is delayed by more than two hours, the airline must provide complimentary meals and refreshments based on the waiting time.

"Under DGCA CAR, Section 3, Series M, Part IV, passengers checked in on time must receive meals and refreshments where the applicable threshold is crossed i.e. two hours for flights with block time up to 2 hours, three hours for flights up to five hours, and four hours for longer flights," said Rohit Jain, managing partner, Singha-

nia & Co., a law firm.

A domestic delay over six hours triggers a choice between an alternative flight and full refund, and overnight delays require accommodation. However, under extraordinary circumstances, airlines will not be penalized, said Jain.

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

AIR POCKET

ONE out of every seven SpiceJet flights was delayed by more than two hours in May

SPICEJET's performance was the worst among India's large airlines

IT was also the worst performance for SpiceJet itself in five months, official data showed.

cant reversal from the company's optimism before December quarter, when it had projected a steady expansion of the fleet," Dixit said.

The airline has taken a number of measures to improve schedule reliability including the phased return of aircraft to service, the induction of additional capacity, optimization of flight schedules, strengthening engineering



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

'एयर इंडिया विमान हादसे की जांच अक्टूबर तक'

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट AI171 के 12 जून 2025 को अहमदाबाद में हुए विमान हादसे की जांच को लेकर विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (AAIB) ने सुप्रीम

AAIB ने SC में कहा-कोर्ट की निगरानी में जांच की जरूरत नहीं

कोर्ट में कहा है कि मामले की जांच पूरी तरह स्वतंत्र और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुरूप हो रही है। इसलिए अदालत की निगरानी में अलग से जांच कराने की जरूरत नहीं है।

AAIB ने अपने हलफनामे में बताया कि जांच भारतीय कानून और अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन संगठन (ICAO) के मानकों के तहत की जा रही है। अब तक ICAO के 66 अनिवार्य जांच चरणों में से 49 पूरे हो चुके हैं और फिलहाल जांच विश्लेषण



के चरण में है। ब्यूरो के अनुसार, बाहरी एजेंसियों की रिपोर्ट मिलने के बाद शोध प्रक्रिया पूरी होगी और अक्टूबर 2026 तक अंतिम जांच रिपोर्ट का ड्राफ्ट तैयार होने की उम्मीद है। हलफनामे में कहा गया है कि विमान दुर्घटना जांच का उद्देश्य हादसे के कारणों की पहचान करना और भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाएं रोकने के लिए सुरक्षा संबंधी सुझाव देना है। यह प्रक्रिया आपराधिक जिम्मेदारी तय करने, मुआवजा निर्धारित करने या किसी नियामक संस्था की जवाबदेही तय करने के लिए नहीं होती।

AI plane ingests baggage container in fog

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

In a rare incident of its kind, Air India's newest Airbus A350, operating a Delhi-New York flight with over 250 passengers on board, sustained engine damage after ingesting an improperly secured baggage container while taxiing to its parking bay at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport amid dense fog on Thursday morning.

The aircraft had to return to Delhi after takeoff due to the sudden closure of Iranian airspace. Then, while taxiing to the parking bay at IGI Airport,



Damaged part of the engine of an Air India A350 aircraft PTI

an improperly secured container was sucked into one of its engines. No one was injured in the incident. Flight-tracking data showed that the aircraft (registration VT-JRB) departed Delhi at 2:36 a.m. And was cruising over Ahmedabad airspace when the closure of airspace came into effect, blocking its planned overflight of Iran - a key corridor for westbound transatlantic flights. With no viable alternate routing available at that stage, the crew took the precautionary decision to turn back to Delhi.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

India plans evacuation as Iran closes its air space

However, these efforts have been complicated by restrictions on internet access and patchy telecommunications following widespread unrest in Iran. As a result, embassy officials are relying heavily on physical outreach and direct coordination with educational institutions that host Indian students. "The focus right now is on establishing contact and understanding the numbers," a source said, adding that operational decisions would depend on multiple factors, including airspace clearances, aircraft availability, and the evolving security situation. A first evacuation flight could be arranged at short notice if conditions permit, the source said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has standard procedures in place for emergency evacuations, including the possible use of military aircraft if required. Officials emphasised that preparations do not necessarily indicate an imminent evacuation, but reflect a precautionary approach in light of regional tensions.

On Wednesday, the Indian embassy in Tehran issued an advisory asking Indian students, businesspersons, pilgrims and tourists to consider leaving Iran using available commercial transport options. Separately, the MEA in New Delhi advised Indian citizens to avoid travel to Iran until further notice. Iran has witnessed sustained anti-government protests since late December, triggered by economic distress and inflation, which later broadened into demonstrations against the political system. International reports suggest that the crackdown on protests has resulted in significant casualties, though official figures remain disputed. The unrest has heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington, with US President Donald Trump warning of strong action if Iranian authorities continue to use force against protesters.

Amid these developments, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi spoke to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday evening to discuss the situation. The conversation also addressed Araghchi's decision to postpone a scheduled visit to India.

India's position has become more delicate in recent weeks following renewed pressure from the US, including threats of punitive tariffs on countries maintaining trade ties with Iran. For New Delhi, the immediate priority remains the safety of its citizens, particularly students, as uncertainty continues to grip the region.

The situation in the country has taken a turn for the worse, with weeks-long protests showing no signs of slowing down. On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump called upon protesters to take over their institutions, urging them not to back down. Without providing further details, he said that help was on the way.

US President Donald Trump said he had been informed that the violence in Iran had subsided, but stressed that military options remain under consideration in response to Tehran's handling of the protests.

Human Rights organisations estimate that more than 2,400 people have died during a sweeping security crackdown launched by Iranian authorities to quell demonstrations that spread across the country.

Trump made the remarks on Wednesday as the United States and the United Kingdom scaled back staffing levels at the Al-Udeid air base in Qatar. US officials described the move as a precaution, according to media report.

Amid rising regional tensions, Iran briefly shut its airspace overnight, disrupting commercial aviation. Several airlines subsequently announced plans to divert flights away from Iranian airspace.

The aircraft had barely settled into its climb when the route ahead vanished from the map.

On Thursday morning, as tensions rose thousands of kilometres away, Indian skies felt the ripple. Iran's sudden decision to shut its airspace triggered by internal unrest and an escalating standoff with the United States sent commercial flights scrambling for alternatives. Some turned back. Others never left the ground.

At Delhi airport, passengers bound for New York watched departure boards flicker from on time to cancelled. Two Air India flights were recalled midair, their crews forced to abandon west-bound paths that usually cut cleanly across Iran. With Pakistan's airspace already closed, the detours left little room for fuel calculations or second chances. Airlines warned of delays and disruptions, asking travellers to check their flight status before leaving home. Behind the scenes, costs mounted as planes were pushed onto longer, fuel-heavy routes over unfamiliar corridors. For some destinations, rerouting simply wasn't possible.

IndiGo's services to Central Asia, Europe and Turkey were also hit, while SpiceJet echoed similar concerns. Each airline spoke of safety first, but the uncertainty lingered—an invisible reminder of how quickly distant conflicts can intrude into ordinary journeys. By nightfall, the airspace remained shut, and the skies over Iran stayed quiet. On the ground in India, however, the effects were unmistakable: delayed reunions, altered plans, and the uneasy sense that global tensions were no longer far away, but flying alongside.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

15 JULY 2026

‘UDAN extended by 10 years’

Hyderabad: Union civil aviation minister **K Rammo-**



han Naidu
on Tuesday
announced
that the
UDAN re-
gional con-
nectivity

scheme has been extended
for another 10 years.

Speaking to the media
after meeting CM A Re-
vanth Reddy in New Delhi,
the Union minister said the
govt plans to invest nearly
₹30,000 crore to develop 100
new aerodromes and 200 he-
lipads under the next phase
of the UDAN scheme.

He said the Centre is
working towards comple-
ting the Warangal Airport
project by June 2, 2028.

The Union minister ad-
ded that the Centre and the
state govt are jointly plan-
ning a defence-civilian air-
port in Adilabad. **TNN**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

16 JULY 2026

Iran chaos: AI cancels 3 flights; IndiGo flight returns to Baku

New Delhi/Mumbai: Flights between India and the West may take longer routes as airlines have paused flying through Iranian and Iraqi airspace due to the evolving situation in the region.

A sudden closure of Iranian airspace for some time on Wednesday-Thursday night meant Air India had to cancel Thursday's Delhi-New York JFK (AI 101), Delhi-Newark (AI 105) and Mumbai-JFK (AI 119). The return flights were consequently also cancelled. IndiGo's Baku-Delhi flight early Thursday returned to the Azerbaijan capital within an hour as it was to overfly Iran after crossing the Caspian Sea.

Airlines are watching the evolving situation closely. If all remains well, some could resume overflying the "safer" eastern parts of Iran. Iraq overflights resumed later on Thursday. Since the situation is very fluid, they are prepared to make changes on short notice. Some flights between India and the West may make a fuelling halt due to the longer alternate routes they may have to fly.

ANOTAM issued Thursday said: "Tehran flight information region (FIR) closed to all flights except international civil arrivals and departures to and from Tehran FIR with prior permission from Iran Civil Aviation Authority." Subsequently, another NOTAM was issued saying "Tehran FIR resumed normal operations" but multiple airlines are avoiding the airspace for safety reasons.

A Lufthansa spokesperson said the airline "has decided to operate flights to and from Tel Aviv and Amman as day flights from Thursday up to and including Monday."

AI Plane Sucks In Baggage Container, Suffers Damage

Flight To NY Had Returned To Delhi Due To Closure Of Iran Airspace

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Air India's new Airbus A350 (VT-JRB), with over 250 people on board, suffered a double whammy while operating as AI 101 from Delhi to New York on Thursday morning. First, it returned to Delhi due to the sudden closure of Iranian airspace. Then, while taxiing to the parking bay at IGI Airport, an improperly secured container got sucked into one of its engines.

The aircraft is now grounded for repair, worsening AI's widebody crunch, with one of its six A350s out of service for a while now.

The latest incident again highlights unsafe airside conditions at some Indian airports, where vehicles or unattended baggage containers often collide with planes. A sanitised airside becomes even more crucial in dense fog.

According to tracking sites, the aircraft took off from Delhi at 2.36am. While it was in the Ahmedabad airspace, the Iranian airspace, which it was to overfly subsequently, was closed.

The airline then decided to return to Delhi and landed in the city at 5.17am. However, on return, the unsecured baggage container got sucked into its right-side engine while taxiing to the terminal. Two more AI flights — Delhi-Newark and Mumbai-JFK — were also cancelled due to the airspace closure.

An AI spokesperson said, "Air India confirms that Flight AI101, operating from Delhi to New York (JFK), was forced to return to Delhi shortly after take-off due to the unexpected closure of Ira-



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HOW IT HAPPENED!

New Delhi: A loose wheel came off a cargo container at IGI Airport, making the latter unstable and then topple, and probably leading to an Air India Airbus A350 engine ingesting it during dense fog on Thursday morning. A preliminary investigation by Directorate General of Civil Aviation revealed that a private ground handler was transporting a few containers to an area near bay 242 at the airport, which is designated for Air Mauritius' ground service equipment parking. These are the containers passengers see when aircraft are docked at airports for carrying baggage, among other things. "One of the wheels of the ground handler's tug that was transporting a few containers to that area came off and the container toppled onto the taxiway. The equipment operator noticed the Air India aircraft taxiing in and vacated the spot with the remaining dollies and containers. However, the container that fell was left behind and it got ingested in engine number 2 of the Air India A350 aircraft," said a senior official. The plane landed safely on runway 28. "During taxi to apron at taxiway N/N4 junction, the number two engine ingested a cargo container, causing damage to the engine. After clearing metal pieces, the aircraft was parked on stand 244," added the official. TNN

nian airspace, which impacted its planned route. Upon landing in Delhi, the aircraft

engine. The aircraft was safely positioned to the designated parking stand, ensuring the safety of all passengers and crew on board."

The spokesperson added, "The aircraft is currently grounded for a thorough investigation and necessary repairs, which may cause potential disruptions on select A350 routes. Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to our passengers and is proactively assisting them with alternative travel arrangements and refunds, as preferred. Safety remains the paramount priority for Air India and the airline is committed to providing support during this time."

The air safety division (northern region) of Directorate General of Civil Aviation is probing the incident.

In a similar incident, an American Airline jet was damaged after ingesting a cargo container on the tarmac at Chicago O'Hare Airport in Oct 2024. A luggage truck was reportedly broken into pieces after it was sucked into the plane's right engine.

Meanwhile, an Air India flight on its way to Singapore was forced to return mid-air on Wednesday after a technical issue. An Air India spokesperson said,

"The crew of flight AI 2300, operating from Delhi to Singapore on Jan 14, decided to carry out a precautionary return to Delhi shortly after take-off due to a suspected technical issue. The aircraft landed safely in Delhi. Our ground teams at Delhi extended all necessary assistance to passengers and the flight departed for Singapore on an alternative aircraft."