



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

15 NOVEMBER 2024

## Bike taxi aggregator opens kiosk at city airport

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, 14 NOVEMBER

Commuters at the city airport would now be able to have more options to hail cabs. A leading online bike taxi aggregator launched app cab services at the city airport today.

The service officially inaugurated by the state transport minister, Snehasis Chakraborty has been introduced by the company in partnership with the Airports Authority of India (AAI). As learnt from sources, through this partnership, the company aims to set up dedicated cab service zones at Kolkata airport. The initiative has been taken to ensure a smooth, affordable journey from the airport to various destinations across the city, enhancing passenger convenience from the moment they leave the terminal.

Speaking at the event, the transport minister said, "With the launch of this service at Netaji Subhash



Chandra Bose International Airport, we're not just offering cost-effective travel solutions but also creating valuable employment opportunities for our local drivers. The technology-driven approach aligns with our vision of making West Bengal a leader in smart mobility, and we're confident this initiative will set new benchmarks."

Pavan Guntupalli, co-founder of the company, added, "Our mission is to revolutionise mobility by delivering reliable, safe, and affordable solutions through innovation. Our collabora-

tion with the Airports Authority of India to introduce dedicated cab zones at major airports is a significant step in enhancing the traveler experience while empowering local communities through job creation. With our technology-driven platform, passengers can expect seamless airport commutes at the most competitive prices."

The initiative is also aimed at its tech-powered SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) business model, designed to offer affordable cab services while also benefiting its riders with enhanced earnings. Leveraging advanced technology, it enables real-time ride availability and highly competitive pricing, keeping travel costs low for passengers while optimizing the overall experience. As pointed out by the company, apart from affordable rides, the launch of the airport zones would also create new job opportunities for local drivers.

## फ्लाइटों की संख्या 68 से बढ़कर 71 हो जाएगी, अहमदाबाद की कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ेगी अमृतसर, वाराणसी के लिए आज से फ्लाइट, अहमदाबाद के लिए एक और विमान उड़ेगा

### अमृतसर के लिए पिछले साल बंद हुई थी फ्लाइट

जयपुर | एयरपोर्ट से शुरुवार से तीन नई फ्लाइट्स शुरू होंगी। इसके साथ ही जयपुर से दो नए शहर जुड़ जाएंगे और एक शहर के लिए एक और उड़ान बढ़ जाएगी। अभी जयपुर से रोजाना औसतन 68 फ्लाइट संचालित हो रही हैं। अब 71 हो जाएंगी।

ये तीनों फ्लाइट विंटर शेड्यूल के लिए स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइन शुरू कर रहा है। इससे जयपुर से अमृतसर और वाराणसी के लिए सीधी फ्लाइट्स शुरू होंगी। अभी इन दोनों शहरों के लिए जयपुर से सीधी फ्लाइट नहीं है। अमृतसर के लिए पिछले साल तक स्पाइसजेट की ही फ्लाइट संचालित थी, जबकि वाराणसी के लिए कोरोना से पहले सीधी फ्लाइट थी।

### वाराणसी के लिए 4 साल से नहीं थी फ्लाइट

नंबर	कहां से कहां	फ्रिक्वेंसी जाएगी	आएगी
एसजी-2958/2960	वाराणसी/जयपुर	रोजाना	सुबह 8:25 दोपहर 1:10
एसजी-2960/2972	अमृतसर/जयपुर	रोजाना	दोप. 1:40 शाम 4:35
एसजी-2972/2957	अहमदाबाद/जयपुर	रोजाना	शाम 5:05 रात 11:05



करीब 4 साल बाद फिर से वाराणसी के लिए सीधी फ्लाइट मिली है। तीसरी फ्लाइट अहमदाबाद के लिए संचालित होगी। अभी जयपुर से अहमदाबाद के लिए रोजाना 5 फ्लाइट हैं, अब 6 हो जाएंगी।

### हिंडन एयरपोर्ट जा रही फ्लाइट जयपुर डायवर्ट

जयपुर | महाराष्ट्र के नांदेड़ से गाजियाबाद जा रही फ्लाइट को तकनीकी कारणों के चलते गुरुवार को जयपुर डायवर्ट किया गया। मामला स्टार एयर की फ्लाइट एस5-187 का है। फ्लाइट हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड नहीं कर पाई, ऐसे में उसे जयपुर डायवर्ट कर दिया गया।

# Cab shortage leads to long queues at airport

**Drivers are refusing trips from KIA to the city because their earnings are too meagre**

**BARKHA KUMARI**  
TEAM METROLIFE

**D**iscouraged by poor earnings, hundreds of cab drivers have stopped picking up passengers from the Bengaluru airport. The shortage of cabs has led to flyers waiting 45 to 90 minutes, mostly in Ola and Uber queues.

On November 12, an X account called Karnataka Portfolio, posted such a video and said the waiting time was nearly an hour.

Tanveer Pasha, president of Ola Uber Driver's and Owner's Association, says not more than 500 cabs are driving up to the Ola and Uber stands at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). "There used to be 1,500-2,000 of them six months ago. Many drivers have sold their cars to buy autos. They find auto rides more profitable," he says.

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) reportedly increased the pickup fee for ride-hailing firms by Rs 172 to Rs 260 in August. That could have triggered the exit, Pasha says.

"Last year, the fare from the airport

to MG Road was Rs 1,050 and drivers would make about Rs 400 after deductions. Now the fare is about Rs 900 and they earn Rs 130-150. That is because Rs 300 goes towards airport parking and pickup charges, up to 30% goes as commission to the app, and about Rs 200 for diesel. It is not worth the effort," he explains.

The cab shortage is becoming evident now because "the airport sees more crowds during the festive and holiday season and even drivers take festival breaks", he says.

N Ashok Kumar is a cab driver who takes up airport drops but refuses pickups. "After dropping customers, I leave immediately, so parking charges don't apply. I start accepting rides after I am 5 to 15 km away from the airport," he says. "Many cab drivers have left the Ola and Uber stands. These are mostly people like me who own cars and have to find viable ways to pay our EMIs," he adds.

Cab driver Prakash continues to accept airport pickup requests "because earning something is better than going back empty-handed". He confirms that the stands are "not as full as before".

## Flyers' struggle

Many flyers *Metrolife* spoke to were not aware of other commute options from the airport (see box).

Last week, Aparna Kamat found a cab after waiting for 45 minutes. "The Vayu



Flyers wait in a long queue for a cab from the KIA airport to the city on Thursday.

DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Vajra driver was calling us out to board the bus but I had too much luggage. I was travelling with my two daughters. I didn't want to get off the bus and then look for a cab to get home," says the freelance editor.

Eliza waited for an hour and a half at the airport on October 6. The Wilson Garden resident recalls, "I had reached almost the front of my queue when my OTP expired! If I could not regenerate a

new OTP in time, I would have had to go to the end of the queue. Taking a bus was not an option because it was midnight and I was alone."

Sujith found a taxi at the private parking and paid through his nose after waiting for an app-based cab for 30 minutes. This was in mid-September, past 10 pm. The social entrepreneur avoids the bus because it "stops too many times". Travellers like Prakruthi K don't mind

## OTHER TRAVEL OPTIONS FROM BLR AIRPORT

1. BMTC operates the 'Vayu Vajra' bus 24/7. Fares go from Rs 130 to a little over Rs 300. Schedule on [mybmtc.karnataka.gov.in](http://mybmtc.karnataka.gov.in)
2. BIAL runs over 1,000 'postpaid' vehicles by the name of 'Airport Taxi'. Fares are government-prescribed. Night-time charges apply. Women travelling alone or with children can request women-driven cabs (with pink branding). They have panic buttons and helpline numbers inside, according to a BIAL source. Book on BLR Pulse or at the kiosk.
3. BluSmart runs a fleet of electric vehicles. Book on their app or at their kiosk. *Details on [blu-smart.com](http://blu-smart.com)*
4. South Western Railway runs six trains from KIA halt station to the city, between 8.18 am and 7.23 pm, on all days except Sunday. Fares range from Rs 10 to Rs 30. Find the schedule on the NTES app. BIAL offers a free bus shuttle service between the station and the two airport terminals.

shelling out more to get home quickly. "I was alone. When I could not find a normal cab, I booked an Uber XL (that can seat six people) for Rs 2,000," says the Horamavu resident.

## 'Taxi for women'

After waiting endlessly at Ola and Uber stands, frequent flyer Rupa Balachandrar has switched to Airport Taxi. "The fare is Rs 200-300 more but you get the cab in minutes. And they get you women-driven cabs if you request one," says the TV food show host.

Ola and Uber did not respond to our queries.

## DROPS EASIER

Find it easy to get rides to the airport? There is a reason for that, say drivers. "The fare structure is Rs 15-16 per km from the city but Rs 9 per km back to the city, which is why cab drivers prefer drops over pickups. The apps aren't implementing the government's flat fare regulation," explains union leader Tanveer Pasha.



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

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## Modi's aircraft develops snag at Deoghar airport

**PM MODI WAS** stranded at the Deoghar airport in Jharkhand for over an hour on Friday after his special aircraft developed a snag, officials said. Modi was supposed to fly back to New Delhi on the Indian Air Force plane after addressing a rally in Bihar's Jamui, which is around 80 km from Deoghar,

they said.

He was visiting Jamui to attend a function organised on the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, which is celebrated as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.' The PM has been at the Deoghar airport for more than an hour now. What would be the alternative arrangement

for his return to Delhi is being discussed," an official said. As a result of this, a 'no flying zone' was declared in the region's air space, officials said. Leader of the opposition Rahul Gandhi was stuck in Godda, where he addressed an election rally, as his helicopter could not take off following this, they said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

15 NOVEMBER 2024

**offgrid**

## Bilaspur Airport gets nod for new flight route

**Staff Reporter**

BILASPUR

Bilasa Airport in Bilaspur has received approval for a new flight route to Hyderabad, which will be operated by Alliance Air. The central government has allocated flight slots, and the flight schedule is eagerly awaited. This adds to the previously approved flight services from Bilasa Airport to New Delhi, Prayagraj, and

Jabalpur.

Under the central government's plans, regular air services will soon connect Hyderabad, Bilaspur, and Jagdalpur, with flights from Ambikapur expected to start shortly. Despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's virtual inauguration of the project on October 20, the services have not yet commenced, even after 24 days.

To enhance the air-



port's facilities, the state is collaborating with technical experts from the Public Works Department (PWD) to expedite the work on a night landing facility. The required civil work for the installation of the DVOR (Distance Measuring Equipment) system is expected to take around three months.

Additionally, the airport is set to expand across 287 acres of land,

with the acquisition process moving forward. The Army, which owns 1,178 acres near the airport, has agreed to release 287 acres for the expansion. The state government has already made the necessary payment to the military headquarters, following directions from the Chhattisgarh High Court, which had earlier intervened regarding the night landing facilities and air services.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

15 NOVEMBER 2024

## SVPI Airport high on customer satisfaction

**FPJ News Service**  
AHMEDABAD

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA), managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited, has achieved significant strides in customer satisfaction during the peak travel season. In anticipation of high passenger volumes that the Airport manages between October and December each year,

For October 2024, the airport recorded a high Customer Satisfaction Score (CSAT)\* of 4.95 for Departure and 4.85 for arrivals. Meet and greet received a score of 4.97, reflecting positive feedback from passengers on the facilities and services provided. In order to enhance the passenger experience during the anticipated festive rush, SVPI Airport began the implementation of initiatives to enhance the journey through the Airport, including:

▣ **New extended Check-in Hall at Terminal-2:** Check-in counters were increased from 34 to 56 to meet the peak



hour rush and the number of entry gates increased from eight to 12.

▣ **Addition of aerobridges:** Two aerobridges were made operational taking the total to six aerobridges.

▣ **Domestic to Domestic transfer facility:** The area was operationalised to further decongest the passenger touch points. This was especially useful for passengers transiting via Ahmedabad Airport.

▣ **Dedicated Facilities:** Special markings were made for passengers with reduced mobility, including dedicated spaces near baggage belts

and in parking spaces.

▣ **Increased Seating Capacity:** To accommodate the increased passenger influx, the seating capacity was expanded to 1,000 seats in Terminal 1 and 1,100 seats in Terminal 2.

▣ **Enhanced Wi-Fi Connectivity:** Additional mobile charging points and Wi-Fi routers were installed.

▣ **Free Wi-Fi for International Travelers:** Free Wi-Fi coupons were introduced for passengers using non-Indian SIM cards.

▣ **Signage installation:** Over 500 signages were installed across the airport.

▣ **Swing Operation at Terminal 2 Security Check:** Basis the passenger flow, security check area was simultaneously used for Domestic as well International passengers.

▣ **Improved Lost and Found Services:** A convenient service was launched to help passengers retrieve lost items for a nominal fee.

▣ **Free Shuttle Service:** Increased free shuttles for passengers from the existing one shuttle to two.

▣ **New F&B Outlets:** Several new Foods and Beverages outlets were opened in both the terminals as well as all the existing partners were appropriately stocked to cater to the increased demand.

▣ **Smoking Room:** A new smoking room was made available for the passengers.

▣ **Improved Ambience:** A heritage theme was implemented at Terminal-1 and a green wall was created for a soothing experience of the travellers. In Terminal-2, the Hukhul Wall and several new artifacts were installed, boosting Gujarat's cultural heritage.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

### PM's plane faces snag at Deoghar airport, delays his Delhi return

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aircraft faced a technical issue at Deoghar airport in Jharkhand on Friday, causing a delay in his return to Delhi. The snag occurred after the PM attended an event in Bihar's Jamui, marking the 150th birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda, celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.



After flying by helicopter to Jamui and back, Modi's aircraft encountered a fault as it prepared for take-off. Sources confirmed that the issue was detected while the Prime Minister was on board, prompting a halt. Efforts to rectify the problem were unsuccessful, leading to a delay of over two hours.

A backup Indian Air Force plane was dispatched from Delhi to Deoghar, ensuring the Prime Minister's safe return to the capital. Deoghar deputy commissioner Vishal Sagar confirmed that Modi departed on the alternative aircraft once it arrived.

Earlier in the day, Modi addressed two rallies in Jharkhand, criticising Congress and its alliance with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. He accused the opposition of conspiring against tribal and backward communities by threatening reservation policies.

Modi's visit came just days before the second phase of Jharkhand assembly elections, scheduled for Nov 20. TNN



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## Flight landing tests deferred at Noida airport, DGCA approval likely by Nov-end

**NEETIKA JHA**  
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 15

THE LANDING test of aircraft, previously scheduled to commence on Friday at the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) in Uttar Pradesh's Jewar, is now likely to take place in the last week of November.

"The trial will happen in the last week of November. We have no further information as of now," said a senior NIAL official.

Another official pointed out that the approvals for the runway, Instrument Landing System (ILS), and calibration flight have already been granted by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). "We will conduct a one-

day trial and the data will be submitted to the DGCA now as part of the application process," the official said.

Earlier this month, NIAL Chief Executive Officer Arun Veer Singh had told The Indian Express that Jewar airport was all set for the second stage of trial operations starting November 15. "In the second stage, flights of Akasa, Indigo and most probably Air India will take off and land daily until December 15," Singh had said.

He had added that the testing process is expected to continue for a month. "This data will be uploaded on December 20 on the DGCA website. We will apply for the aerodrome licensing," he said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## PM Modi's aircraft develops tech snag at Deoghar airport

**MPOST BUREAU**

**RANCHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was left stranded at Deoghar airport in Jharkhand for more than an hour on Friday due to a technical issue with his special aircraft, officials reported. He eventually returned to Delhi on a different plane.

Modi was supposed to fly back to New Delhi on the Indian Air Force plane after addressing a rally in Bihar's Jamui, which is around 80 km from Deoghar, they said.

He was visiting Jamui to attend a function organised on the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, which is celebrated as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'. "The PM has been at the Deoghar airport for



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special IAF aircraft that developed a snag**

PTI

more than an hour now. What would be the alternative arrangement for his return to Delhi is being discussed," an official said. 'No flying zone' was declared in the region's air space, officials said. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi was stuck in Godda, where he addressed an election rally, as his helicopter could not take off following this, they said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के रनवे का परीक्षण टला

● 30 नवंबर से होने की संभावना

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नोएडा



गौतमबुद्ध नगर जिले के जेवर में बनाए जा रहे नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के रनवे पर शुक्रवार के लिए प्रस्तावित परीक्षण नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय की ओर से अनुमति नहीं मिलने के कारण टल गया।

अधिकारी ने बताया कि अब परीक्षण 30 नवंबर से होने की संभावना है और इसके चलते हवाई अड्डे के व्यावसायिक संचालन की समयसीमा में भी बदलाव किया जा सकता है। कैलिब्रेशन की रिपोर्ट अनुमोदित होने के बाद 15 नवंबर से रनवे पर परीक्षण शुरू करने की तैयारी थी जिसके तहत रोजाना विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो और अकासा के तीन-तीन विमान को उतारने और उनके उड़ाने भरने की योजना बनाई गई थी।

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (ईडव) के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी डॉ अरुणवीर सिंह ने बताया, डीजीएसए की ओर से अनुमति नहीं मिलने के कारण 15 नवंबर से प्रस्तावित नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा के रनवे का परीक्षण टल दिया गया है। उम्मीद है कि 30 नवंबर से परीक्षण शुरू होगा। परीक्षण पूरा होने के बाद डीजीसीए की ओर से एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस जारी किया जाएगा जिसके पश्चात ही हवाई अड्डा व्यावसायिक संचालन के लिए तैयार होगा। हवाई अड्डे पर स्थापित इंस्ट्रूमेंट लाइटिंग सिस्टम की जांच के लिए 10 से 14 अक्टूबर तक विमान बीच किंग एयर 360 ईआर ने परिसर के ऊपर से उड़ान भरी थी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## IAF aircraft develops snag, PM stranded at Deoghar airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RANCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was stranded in Jharkhand's Deoghar airport for nearly two hours on Friday after his special Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft developed a snag, flew back to Delhi in another plane. PM Modi was supposed to return to New Delhi on the IAF plane after addressing a rally in Bihar's Jamui, around 80 km from Deoghar. Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi too faced a two hour delay in the schedule due to a grounded helicopter close to the place where PM's craft was held. The PM visited Jamui to attend a function marking the 150th birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda, celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.



"PM Modi left for Delhi from Deoghar in another special aircraft after his IAF plane developed a technical snag. The aircraft could not be rectified on time. The PM had to wait for more than two hours," Deoghar Deputy Commissioner Vishal Sagar said. While Modi waited for the issue to be resolved, the region's airspace was declared a "no-flying zone".

Meanwhile, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was also caught in a similar situation in Godda, Jharkhand. Rahul's helicopter, which was supposed to take him back after addressing an election rally, was grounded for about two hours, prompting allegations from the Congress that the delay was politically motivated.

"Our leader Rahul Gandhi's helicopter was not allowed to take off for about two hours, posing a grave threat to his life. This was a security lapse at the behest of the Centre," state minister Deepika Pandey Singh alleged.

Congress also Friday complained to the Election Commission against the alleged grounding of Rahul Gandhi's helicopter in poll-bound Jharkhand and sought its urgent intervention in ensuring a level-playing field in poll campaigning.

## जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर डीजीसीए ने नहीं दी लैंडिंग की इजाजत

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों की लैंडिंग को लेकर अभी और इंतजार करना पड़ेगा। डीजीसीए ने विमानों की लैंडिंग की इजाजत नहीं दिया। यहां निर्माणाधीन एयरपोर्ट विमान की लैंडिंग की टेस्टिंग टल गया है। आज से जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों की लैंडिंग टेस्टिंग होनी थी। लेकिन डीजीसीए से अभी टेस्टिंग की अनुमति नहीं मिली है। डीजीसीए ने यमुना इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड को कहा है कि अभी लैंडिंग की जरूरत नहीं है। 30 नवंबर को लैंडिंग टेस्टिंग के लिए डीजीसीए से परमिशन दिया गया है। बता दें कि जेवर एयरपोर्ट के तरफ से कहा गया था कि आज यानी कि 15 नवंबर से विमानों की लैंडिंग की टेस्टिंग शुरू की जाएगी। जिसमें जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर हर दिन तीन विमानों की लैंडिंग कराई जानी थी। जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग शुरू होने के बाद हर दिन रनवे की रिपोर्ट तैयार होती। जिसे नागरिक उड्डयन विभाग को भेजा जाता, लेकिन अब डीजीसीए ने जेवर एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग टेस्टिंग पर



फिलहाल रोक लगा दी है। अब 30 नवंबर से पूरे क्रू मेंबर्स के साथ जेवर एयरपोर्ट का ट्रायल फुल मोड में किया जाएगा। जेवर एयरपोर्ट नायल के सीईओ डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह ने कहा है कि 15 नवंबर से विमानों की लैंडिंग की टेस्टिंग शुरू होने की तैयारी थी। अब डीजीसीए ने 30 नवंबर से ही लैंडिंग कराने के लिए कहा है। इसके चलते आज से विमानों की लैंडिंग की टेस्टिंग नहीं की जाएगी। बता दें कि जेवर एयरपोर्ट का 3900 मीटर लंबा रनवे तैयार है। एयरपोर्ट का एक टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग और एटीसी टावर लगभग तैयार हो गया है। पिछले दिनों से कई विमान रनवे के ऊपर से गुजरे भी हैं। यहां टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग में फिनिशिंग का काम चल रहा है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## जेवर एयरपोर्ट के रनवे का परीक्षण टला

■ भाषा

ग्रेटर नोएडा।

गौतमबुद्धनगर जिले के जेवर में बनाए जा रहे नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के रनवे पर शुक्रवार के लिए प्रस्तावित परीक्षण नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) की ओर से अनुमति नहीं मिलने से टल गया। यह जानकारी एक अधिकारी ने दी है। अधिकारी ने बताया कि अब परीक्षण 30

नवम्बर से होने की संभावना है। इसके चलते हवाई अड्डे के व्यावसायिक संचालन की समयसीमा में भी बदलाव किया जा सकता है।

कैलिब्रेशन की रिपोर्ट अनुमोदित होने के बाद 15 नवम्बर से रनवे पर परीक्षण शुरू करने की तैयारी थी। इसके तहत रोजाना विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो और अकासा के तीन-तीन विमान

को उतारने और उनके उड़ाने भरने की योजना बनाई गई थी।

यमुना प्राधिकरण के सीईओ डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह ने बताया कि डीजीसीए की ओर से अनुमति नहीं मिलने के चलते 15 नवम्बर से प्रस्तावित नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के रनवे का परीक्षण टाल दिया गया है।

उम्मीद है कि 30 नवम्बर से परीक्षण शुरू होगा। इसके हिसाब से तैयारी की जा रही है। परीक्षण पूरा होने के बाद

डीजीसीए की ओर से एयरोड्रोम लाइसेंस जारी किया जाएगा जिसके बाद ही हवाई अड्डा व्यावसायिक संचालन के लिए तैयार होगा। हवाई अड्डे पर स्थापित 'इंस्ट्रूमेंट लाइटिंग सिस्टम' की जांच के लिए 10 से 14 अक्टूबर तक विमान 'बीच किंग एयर 360 ईआर' ने परिसर के ऊपर से उड़ान भरी थी।

■ अब 30 नवम्बर से होने की संभावना



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

15 NOVEMBER 2024

# Flyer numbers fail to take off at Hirasar airport

**Nimesh.Khakhariya**  
@timesofindia.com

**Rajkot:** The new international airport at Hirasar has failed to draw flyers due to inadequate facilities, leading to a slower increase in air passenger traffic compared to the old Rajkot airport.

Operations at the Hirasar airport—which is about 30km away from Rajkot on the Ahmedabad highway—began in Sept 2023, using a temporary terminal.

Despite being the commercial hub of Saurashtra and serving Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Junagadh, Gir Somnath and Morbi districts, the



The new international airport

anticipated increase in flights and passenger numbers with the longer runway available has not materialized.

Figures from the Airports Authority of India show that

while the old Rajkot airport experienced a 23.9% increase in flyers in April-Sept of FY 2023-24 compared to the previous year, Hirasar airport showed only 4.59% growth in 2024-25, when compared to flyer figures for the old Rajkot airport in 2023-24.

Data for October has not yet been compiled. Some months have seen declining numbers, such as July's total of 76,586 passengers, down from 80,296 the previous year.

"High fares could be a reason. The aviation industry is going through troubled waters, many operators are making losses and fares are quite

high," said Sanjay Mehta, a travel agent and Indian Association of Tour Operators (IA-TO) committee member.

Rajkot-Mumbai fares range between Rs 4,700 and Rs 5,000, while Ahmedabad-Mumbai costs between Rs 2,500 and Rs 5,000.

"Getting to the airport has become more expensive because of the distance. A person ends up paying Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 more, over the higher airfares. The temporary terminal also lacks facilities," stated Pranav Bhalara, the Rajkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry's representative on the airport committee

### 'Temporary' yet in use for over a year

The airport began operations at Hirasar using a temporary terminal in Sept last year. After 14 months, the permanent terminal remains under construction. Multiple deadlines — Feb 28, March 31 and Aug 15 — have been missed. The authorities have ceased announcing new completion dates. TNN

for passengers. Airport director Diganta Borah was unavailable for comment.





## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

15 NOVEMBER 2024

# Flight safety strategies top agenda at Naval meet

NEW DELHI, Nov 14 : The need for proactive safety strategies and managing emerging operational risks were the key points of discussion at the Flight Safety Seminar (FSS) and Annual Naval Flight Safety Meeting (NFSM) for 2024 conducted at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam, a statement said on Thursday.

The seminar and the meeting were held on November 12 and 13 under the aegis of the Headquarters Eastern Naval Command.

The Flight Safety Seminar commenced on November 12, with Chief Guest Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command, delivering the key-

note address.

Centering on the theme “Emerging Threats and Challenges - Naval Air Operations and Compliance with Flight Safety,” the seminar focused on contemporary topics, including Advancements in Counter-UAV/UAS Technologies and Tactics, Cyber Security Risks in Aviation Operations and Countermeasures for Aircraft Systems.

The participants also discussed the importance of ‘mindfulness training’ for mental resilience during air operations, the statement said.

The discussions encouraged a holistic approach to managing emerging operational risks, emphasising the

need for shared vigilance across services for safeguarding aerial assets.

The exchange of views underscored the growing need for adaptive and proactive safety strategies, particularly for challenges in modern Naval Aviation.

Representatives from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard and prominent defence organisations such as HAL also attended the event.

The NFSM, held on Wednesday, brought together key flight safety stakeholders of the Indian Navy, with Rear Admiral Janak Bevil, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air), presiding over the meeting. – IANS



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

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## AI flights from Kolkata, Bagdogra increased to 230

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**Kolkata:** Air India Express has announced expansion of its services from Kolkata and Bagdogra, increasing the weekly flights to over 230 this winter from 168 in the same season last year. This includes direct routes connecting Kolkata with Port Blair. PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## IndiGo to expand international network, add flights to Seychelles, Kyrgyzstan, Laos

**Rohit Vaid**  
New Delhi

Airline major IndiGo plans to further expand international services with direct flights between India and the Seychelles, sources told *businessline*.

Regulatory permissions have been obtained by the airline to start services to Seychelles International Airport, which is located on the island of Mahé near the capital city of Victoria.

### NEW DESTINATIONS

In addition to the Seychelles, IndiGo is expected to add new destinations across Asia, namely Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia and Laos.

Besides, it plans to increase flight frequency on

existing international routes and connect tier-I cities to overseas destinations.

The airline is able to expand its international footprint via the deployment of its medium-range A321neo aircraft and flights from multiple hubs, as well as a code-share strategy.

However, sources pointed out that the timelines of these new services might get delayed due to the return of two Boeing 777s leased from Turkish Airways.

At present, the airline is working with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to explore solutions to extend the 777s wet lease as its AOG (Aircraft on Ground) related capacity constraints persist.

The airline did not provide any response to queries on this report.



Recently, during the second quarter results, IndiGo's management said that demand for international travel is strong, and the airline is scouting for new markets.

In a post-earnings analyst call, IndiGo's Chief Executive Pieter Elbers said that the airline would expand international operations by adding services to five new overseas destinations, in-

cluding Langkawi and Penang in Malaysia.

It is expected that the airline will operate to over 40 international destinations by the end of FY25.

At present, it operates to over 30 overseas destinations.

### OVERSEAS FLIGHTS

The airline has announced the launch of its second overseas flight from Pune to Dubai, starting on November 22, 2024, and daily direct services between Bengaluru and Langkawi, Malaysia, from December 16.

Last year, IndiGo connected Jakarta in Indonesia, Tbilisi in Georgia, Baku (Azerbaijan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), and Almaty (Kazakhstan) with Indian cities.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## दिल्ली में कोहरे के कारण 204 उड़ानों में विलंब, 7 रद्द

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर घने कोहरे के कारण लगातार तीसरे दिन शुक्रवार को भी लो विजिबिलिटी रही। इस कारण विमानों के ऑपरेशन में भारी परेशानी हुई और 204 उड़ानों में विलंब हुआ। कोहरे के कारण एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय समेत 7 उड़ानें रद्द हुईं।

कुल 44 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में विलंब की जानकारी सामने आई है। वहीं, वियना से आने वाली एक उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई। कोहरे का असर 160 घरेलू उड़ानों पर भी देखने को मिला। इसमें 97 उड़ानों ने देरी से प्रस्थान किया तो 63 उड़ानों का आगमन देरी से हुआ। शुक्रवार को चंडीगढ़, दरभंगा, लखनऊ जाने वाली उड़ानें रद्द की गईं और अमृतसर, जम्मू व दरभंगा से आने वाली उड़ानें भी रद्द रहीं। उड़ानों के विलंब की वजह से लोगों को इंतजार करना पड़ा।

# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## हवाई रफ्तार • अप्रैल-अक्टूबर तक रिकॉर्ड इंटरनेशनल पैसेंजर अक्टूबर में 1.36 करोड़ लोगों ने हवाई यात्रा की, यह बीते साल से 10% ज्यादा

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

देश में एविएशन इंडस्ट्री प्री कोविड स्तर से आगे निकल गई है। बीते महीने अक्टूबर में 1.36 करोड़ लोगों ने घरेलू हवाई यात्राएं की। यह बीते साल अक्टूबर की तुलना में 9.6% अधिक है। इस साल सितंबर की तुलना में 6.3% अधिक है। कोविड पूर्व अक्टूबर 2019 की तुलना में 12.5% अधिक है। मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के पहले 7 महीने अप्रैल से अक्टूबर में घरेलू हवाई यात्री 9.4 करोड़ रहे, यह बीते साल समान अवधि की तुलना में 5.9% अधिक है। कोविड पूर्व वित्त वर्ष 2020 के अप्रैल से अक्टूबर की तुलना में 12.6% अधिक है।

देश के इंटरनेशनल पैसेंजर ट्रैफिक भी तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष के पहले सात महीने में भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों ने 1.63 करोड़ लोगों को सर्विस दी, जो बीते साल समान अवधि की तुलना में 16% अधिक है। यह कोविड पूर्व वित्त वर्ष 2024-20 के पहले सात महीने (अप्रैल-अक्टूबर) से 46.5% अधिक है। तब देश की एयरलाइंस कंपनियों ने 1.1 करोड़ इंटरनेशनल यात्रियों को सर्विस दी थी।

अक्टूबर में हर रोज औसत 4.38 लोगों ने हवाई यात्राएं कीं



• तेजी से बढ़ती एविएशन इंडस्ट्री की ग्रोथ के पीछे कई फैक्टर हैं। देश की एयरलाइंस अपनी क्षमताओं में सुधार कर रही है। अक्टूबर में एयरलाइंस क्षमता 7.6% रही, जो बीते साल अक्टूबर में 5.7% थी।

• अक्टूबर में पैसेंजर लोड फैक्टर ने अपना उच्चतम स्तर पर छुआ। यह 86.2% रहा, जो मजबूत मांग को दर्शाता है। यह बीते साल अक्टूबर में 84.6% पर था। प्री कोविड पूर्व अक्टूबर में 83.5% पर था।

देश में तेजी से विकसित हो रहे वर्टीपोर्ट.. 2026 तक शुरू हो सकती एयर टैक्सी, गुड़गांव से दिल्ली महज 7 मिनट में

तंदन | वर्ल्ड इकोनॉमिक फोरम की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक भारत एडवांस्ड एयर मोबिलिटी (एएएम) को तेजी से विकसित कर रहा है। इसके तहत एयर टैक्सी की मदद से बड़े शहरों को उनके कारोबारी इलाकों से जोड़ा जा सके। ताकि सड़क के ट्रैफिक को कम किया जा सके। प्रोजेक्ट 2026 तक शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। दिल्ली एनसीआर, मुंबई, बेंगलुरु, हैदराबाद और चेन्नई में वीटोओपल फ्लाइट्स

(एयर टैक्स की वर्टिकल टेकऑफ और लैंडिंग) शुरू हो सकती है। इंडिया देश में 2026 तक एयर टैक्सी शुरू कर सकती है। इसका मकसद दिल्ली से गुड़गांव की 60-90 मिनट की दूरी को घटाकर 7 मिनट करना है। बेंगलुरु की कंपनी सरला एविएशन बेंगलुरु एयरपोर्ट को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स सिटी से जोड़ेगी। इससे 52 किमी का यह रूट्स 19 मिनट का रह जाएगा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

15 NOVEMBER 2024

## स्पाइसजेट ने कनाडाई कंपनी का कर्ज चुकाया

बिजनेस संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

भारतीय विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने बताया कि उसने एक्सपोर्ट डेवलपमेंट कनाडा (ईडीसी) के साथ 763 करोड़ रुपए के विवाद को 189 करोड़ रुपए का भुगतान करके पूरी तरह से सुलझा लिया है। समझौते के तहत, स्पाइसजेट के पास अब 13 व्यू 400 विमानों का पूर्ण स्वामित्व है, जिन्हें पहले ईडीसी ने फाइनेंस किया था। स्पाइसजेट का दावा है कि इस समझौते की वजह से उसे 574 करोड़ रुपए की बचत हुई है। एयरलाइन ने कहा कि इन विमानों के पूर्ण स्वामित्व से परिचालन लागत में कमी आएगी, बेड़े का प्रबंधन बेहतर होगा और मासिक किराए के भुगतान को समाप्त करके वित्तीय स्थिरता को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## कम दृश्यता से 204 उड़ानों में हुआ विलंब

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: कोहरे की वजह से लगातार तीसरे दिन शुक्रवार को भी आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों के परिचालन के लिए लो विजिबिलिटी रही। हालांकि बृहस्पतिवार के मुकाबले शुक्रवार को कोहरा कम देखने को मिला, फिर भी 204 उड़ानों का संचालन प्रभावित रहा है। वहीं एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय समेत सात उड़ानें रद्द हुई हैं। बृहस्पतिवार को 303 उड़ानों में विलंब देखने

को मिला था। उड़ानों के देरी से संचालित होने की वजह से लोगों को तीन मिनट से लेकर 50 मिनट का औसत इंतजार करना पड़ा है।

शुक्रवार को कुल 44 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें विलंब से उड़ीं। इसमें 22 उड़ानों के प्रस्थान व 22 के ही आगमन में देरी हुई। वहीं वियना से आने वाली फ्लाइट रद्द कर दी गई। इस मामले में एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों ने कोई जानकारी नहीं दी है। घरेलू

उड़ानों की बात करें तो कुल 160 उड़ानों का संचालन प्रभावित रहा। इसमें 97 उड़ानें देरी से उड़ीं तो 63 उड़ानों का आगमन देरी से हुआ। शुक्रवार को चंडीगढ़, दरभंगा, लखनऊ जाने वाली फ्लाइट रद्द की गई, जबकि अमृतसर, जम्मू व दरभंगा से आने वाली उड़ानें भी रद्द रहीं। डायल ने बताया कि आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर सभी उड़ानों का संचालन वर्तमान में सामान्य है।

# Simplest Hack for a Cheap New Year's Trip—Go Abroad

Easier visas, air treaties making international travel to select spots more cost-effective than domestic vacation

**Anumeha Chaturvedi & Arindam Majumder**

**New Delhi:** A marketing professional in her 30s has zeroed in on Baku for her year-end holiday as hotel rates at popular domestic destinations are “going through the roof”. If the place name sounds familiar,

it's probably because the Azerbaijan capital has just been hosting the COP29 climate summit.

“I decided on Baku because I am getting a Baku Marriott Hotel Boulevard at ₹58,000 for four nights for two adults and a child,” she said. “In contrast, rates for some properties in Kovalam, Udaipur and Rishikesh are steeper than this for a night.”

She's not alone. Rates for the Christmas-New Year period at many popular leisure destinations such as Varanasi are turning out to be much higher than international locations such as Danang in Vietnam, persuading many to look overseas.

A suite villa at the Ramada Udaipur Resort & Spa is available for ₹5.24 lakh plus ₹94,320 in taxes for two

adults for November 15-17, according to Booking.com. The Taj Fort Aguada Resort & Spa in Goa is available for ₹95,550 plus ₹17,199 in taxes for December 24-26 for two adults.

“This festive season witnessed a surge in international travel, with flight bookings up by 70-80%, particularly for destinations like Thailand, Georgia, Bali, Vietnam and

Singapore,” said Ixigo group CEO Alope Bajpai. “Thanks to affordable fares and budget-friendly stays, Indian travellers can now enjoy international destinations like Vietnam and Dubai at prices similar to or even less than domestic leisure trips. Domestic destinations are now competing not just locally but with top spots across Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Central Asia.”

Average one-way fares for this month are cheaper for Kolkata-Bangkok than Kolkata-Srinagar, and almost on a par for Delhi-Ho Chi Minh and Delhi-Goa, according to Ixigo data.

For the Christmas and New Year season, fares for select popular international destinations are lower than domestic ones, said a Thomas Cook (India) and SOTC Travel executive.

**More Flight Routes >> 8**

## More Flight Routes

**>> From Page 1**

Flights from Mumbai to Dubai and Abu Dhabi are approximately 8% lower than those to Munnar (Cochin airport), said Indiver Rastogi, president and group head for global business travel at Thomas Cook (India) and SOTC Travel. Similarly, flights to Dubai and Abu Dhabi from Bengaluru are 12% lower than to Jaisalmer.

Over the year-end period, super-peak, four-night, land-only package rates are at ₹57,604 for the Andamans versus ₹28,308 for Vietnam, according to Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel data. This covers hotels, sightseeing and breakfast.

Traffic to Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand and Vietnam has surged after they eased visa rules for Indians. Local airline executives said fares to these regions will drop further as these countries are liberalising air service agreements with India.

Earlier this month, India and Vietnam signed a revised air treaty that will allow carriers of both to increase flights to 42 per week from 28, said people aware of the development.

In March, India and Thailand agreed to a similar revision, allowing airlines to increase capacity by 14,000 seats per week and connect to new destinations. Thailand has agreed to open four new points of call for Indian carriers—Chiang Rai, Hat Yai, Surat Thani and Udon Thani.

“Vietnamese carriers were unable to launch more flights to Indian cities—Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata—because the rights were exhausted with Vietnam Airlines and VietJet operating 14 flights each a week. With the new agreement, soon there will be flights from Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata to Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi,” said an airport executive.

Indian carriers are also starting flights to new destinations. IndiGo recently began flying to Langkawi in Malaysia. It will soon start flights to Penang while Air India is likely to launch flights to Jakarta in Indonesia.

### India Vs Abroad FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASON\*

Cost of a 4-night travel package\*\* (excluding flights) is **₹57,604** for the Andamans

It's **₹28,308** for Vietnam

For Jaisalmer, a similar package is **₹39,390**

It'll cost **₹26,124** for Bali



### AIR DROP#

Kolkata-Bangkok flight costs **₹9,891**; Kolkata to Srinagar is **₹12,855**

Delhi-Ho Chi Minh is **₹10,500** versus **₹9,500** for Delhi-Goa

\*As per data shared by Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel; \*\*Covers hotels, sightseeing and breakfast; #Average fares for this month, as per data shared by Ixigo

Flying from Mumbai to Dubai and Abu Dhabi is approx **8%** cheaper than to Munnar (Cochin airport)\*

Similarly, flights from Bengaluru to Dubai and Abu Dhabi are **12%** cheaper compared to Jaisalmer



### GOOD TIMES TO CONTINUE

Prices to destinations such as Thailand and Vietnam will drop further, say Indian airline executives

That's because govts of these countries are liberalising air service agreements with India

ILLUSTRATION: ZAHID



## Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

15 NOVEMBER 2024

# Bomb in Indigo flight, proved hoax call, passenger arrested

**Staff Reporter**  
**RAIPUR**

A Kolkata bound indigo flight having 187 passengers on board was forced to make an emergency landing at the Raipur airport on Thursday morning after one of the passengers intimated the crew member about presence of live "bomb" on the aircraft, officials said.

After landing at the airport in capital city Raipur, the aeroplane was thoroughly checked by a joint security force team including CISF, Raipur police, bomb defusing squad, but nothing suspicious was found in the flight. After the bomb threat was found as a hoax call, police lodged a complaint against the passenger under the provisions of Aviation Act 1992 and by arresting him sent to jail.

The flight 6E-812, with 187 passengers and six crew

Kolkata bound Nagpur Indigo flight diverted in mid-air and made emergency landing in Raipur airport



**Accused Animesh Mandal, resident of Nagpur**

members on board, landed at the Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur sometime after 9 am following the passenger's claim about the bomb in the plane Raipur SSP Santosh Singh told media.

After full sanitation the bomb in the flight concluded into a hoax call and finally police arrested the passenger, the SSP said. The accused was identified as Animesh Mandal, resident of Nagpur.

The Kolkata bound Indigo flight, flown from Nagpur was diverted towards Raipur in mid immediately the matter was informed to the Air Traffic Control. Upon landing, the aircraft was immediately taken to the isolation bay for mandatory security checks and during the inspection no bomb was found, the officer said.

Officers at working at Raipur airport, some flights get delayed due to the hoax call but after the issue was over the focus was put on to restoration of the flight scheduled operations



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

15 NOVEMBER 2024

## AI-Vistara ready for coming aviation revolution: Tata Sons chief



**PTI**  
NEW DELHI

Tata Sons Chairman **N Chandrasekaran** on Thursday said the best qualities of Vistara are being brought to Air India, which was in decline for a number of systemic reasons when Tatas took over the airline two years back, and fulfil the "sky high expectations".

"We are fully aware that expectations for the new Air India are sky high. We expect nothing less, and we expect to deliver nothing less," he said and asserted that the merged entity will be ready for the country's coming aviation revolution.

Nearly two years after announcing the merger, the integration of Vistara with Air India was completed on Nov 12. "Given our ambitions, this merger should be seen as part of a journey. Different parts of the business were at different points of maturity when the merger commenced, so they will take time to fully align," Chandrasekaran said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

15 NOVEMBER 2024

## Smog stifles Delhi, chokes Chandigarh, 300 flights hit

**FPJ News Service**

NEW DELHI

A thick, choking layer of smog blanketed Delhi on Thursday, causing major disruptions at the city's airport, where more than 300 flights faced delays. According to Flightradar24, 115 inbound and 226 outbound flights were held up, with an average delay of 17 minutes for arrivals and 54 minutes for departures.

Delhi, along with Chandigarh—often celebrated for its planned green spaces—is grappling with a severe air pollution crisis, both cities recording hazardous air quality levels. In response to the alarming



### Supreme Court to Review Pollution Crisis as North India Faces Toxic Air Emergency

situation, the Supreme Court is set to hear a petition on November 18 seeking stricter enforcement of pollution control

measures, with concerns mounting that Delhi could soon hold the grim title of the world's most polluted city. Aprajita Singh, serving as amicus curiae, has urged urgent action as Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) plunged into "severe" levels, hitting 428 at 9 a.m. on Thursday.

The pollution spike follows a period of calm winds and dropping temperatures, which have trapped pollutants in dense smog layers. While Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced the activation of Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP),

► **Contd on | Nation**

### Smog stifles Delhi...

he refrained from initiating Stage III measures—which would include construction bans and school closures—citing potential improvements with incoming winds over the weekend.

Meanwhile, in Chandigarh, the air quality has plummeted to hazardous levels, with readings reaching 460 in parts of the city, sparking calls from Congress MP Manish Tewari to close schools for children's safety. Traditionally regarded as a model for green urban planning, Chandigarh now faces pollution levels even higher than Delhi's, a concerning trend mirrored across Punjab and Haryana, where stubble burning is a major contributor to the worsening air.

In the political arena, figures like Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have voiced alarm over Delhi's "gas chamber" conditions, contrasting them with the clean air of Wayanad, which reported an AQI of 35. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, under Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, is under fire for allegedly failing to address stubble burning adequately despite governing Punjab. This finger-pointing, critics argue, has stalled coordinated efforts at all levels of government.

Health experts warn of pollution's far-reaching impacts, affecting not only physical health but also cognitive functioning and mental well-being. Dr Arunesh Kumar of Paras Health advises the public to limit outdoor activities, use N95 masks, and rely on air purifiers. Meanwhile, Dr Jyoti Kapoor of Manasthali notes the rise in stress and anxiety due to pollution, emphasising for hydration, nutrition, and an anti-inflammatory diet.

With pollution levels in North India remaining dangerously high, authorities are preparing to implement stricter measures if air quality worsens further. Minister Rai has pledged to intensify anti-pollution campaigns and stressed the need for united efforts from both state and central governments to address Delhi's ongoing air quality crisis.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## KERALA

### Bomb threat on tissue paper in flight, 2 booked

TOBY ANTONY @Kochi

TWO flyers who arrived at Kochi airport on an Air India Express flight from New Delhi were taken into custody after they allegedly wrote a bomb threat on a tissue paper and left it in the plane on Thursday. The napkin with the threat 'Blast while taking off' had been placed inside a seat pocket and was found during routine cleaning of the plane at 8.30 am.

A 40-year native of Manjoor in Kottayam and a 33-year-old Kanhangad resident have been booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The napkin was recovered from the pocket of seat 14B. A bomb threat alert was issued and the AIE security staff along with officials of the airport carried out an inspection.

"The entire aircraft was checked and no explosives were found. The authorities contacted Air India officials in New Delhi which said no such tissue paper had been found during the cleaning work done in New Delhi before the flight left for Kochi," a police officer said.

"A probe revealed that two friends had occupied seats 14B and 14C. They were stopped at the airport and their luggage checked. It was found that they had changed their after landing at the airport," said an officer.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

16 NOVEMBER 2024

## Air India announces 230 weekly flights from Kolkata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Air India Express on Friday announced expansion of its services from West Bengal's Kolkata and Bagdogra, increasing the number of weekly flights to over 230 this winter, from 168 in the same season last year.

The growth includes new direct routes connecting Kolkata with Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) and Indore, and Bagdogra with Chennai, the airline said.

"Our new winter schedule, featuring over 230 weekly flights from Kolkata and Bagdogra, underscores our dedication to fostering trade and tourism in the region," Dr Ankur Garg, Chief Commercial Officer of Air India Express, said in a statement.

"We are thrilled to introduce a new Kolkata-Port Blair flight next month, just in



time for the holiday season, offering our guests more travel options," he said. Additionally, two brand new aircraft, with liveries inspired by "Jamdani" and "Kantha" designs, invite guests to experience the rich cultural heritage of West Bengal, the statement said. Jamdani is a renowned pattern from Bengal, known for its delicate handloom creations, typically featuring intricate floral, vine, leaf, and geometric motifs.

Kantha, also from Bengal, originated as a method of repurposing old saris and clothes into quilts and blankets.

"As we expand our services with a 37 per cent increase in flights from West Bengal, Air India Express reaffirms its commitment to connecting this vibrant state with the rest of India," Garg said. According to the statement, Air India Express' winter schedule across its expanding network has grown by 30 per

cent from last year, supported by the airline's growing fleet, which now includes over 90 aircraft.

This winter, the airline will operate more than 400 daily flights compared to over 325 daily flights during the same period last year.

The enhanced schedule includes new routes such as Chennai-Goa, Chennai-Jaipur, Chennai-Pune, Delhi-Indore, Hyderabad-Gwalior, Kochi-Pune, and Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada. Additionally, the airline will commence operations to two new destinations, Jammu and Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair), starting December 1, 2024.

The airline has also increased the frequency of flights on the Bengaluru-Hyderabad and Kochi-Hyderabad routes, along with international routes connecting Abu Dhabi, Ras al-Khaimah, and Muscat.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

15 NOVEMBER 2024

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## SpiceJet reclaims planes

### OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**New Delhi:** SpiceJet on Thursday said it has settled a \$90.8 million dispute with Export Development Canada for a total consideration of \$22.5 million, leading to the airline taking ownership of 13 Q400 planes.

This resolution will result in savings of \$68.3 million (₹574 crore), it said.

The crisis-hit airline, which recently raised ₹3,000 crore, has also acquired the full ownership of 13 EDC-financed Q400 aircraft and the development will help reduce operational costs.

In a release, the carrier

said it has "fully settled a \$90.8 million (₹763 crore) dispute with Export Development Canada (EDC) for a total of \$22.5 million".

Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director of SpiceJet, said the resolution allows the airline to move forward with a strengthened balance sheet and focus on getting Q400 aircraft back into service as quickly as possible.

According to the terms of the agreement, SpiceJet has acquired full ownership of 13 EDC-financed Q400 aircraft.

The transfer of ownership of these 13 planes will result in a substantial reduction in operational costs, strength-

ening the airline's operational capabilities and fleet management.

It also brings long-term financial benefits, relieving SpiceJet from the obligation of monthly rental payments for these aircraft and further reinforcing the airline's financial stability, the release added.

These aircraft, the airline said will also enable SpiceJet to launch additional flights on regional and UDAN routes.

Starting October 27, 2024, the airline has begun operating several new routes using the Q400, including Delhi-Amritsar-Delhi, Guwahati-Patna-Guwahati, Calcutta-Patna-Calcutta, Delhi-Patna-Delhi, and Delhi-Darbhanga-Delhi.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

15 NOVEMBER 2024

## Bringing Vistara's best to merger with AI: Chandra

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Amid teething troubles in Vistara's Nov 12 merger into Air India that has seen some flights of the erstwhile airline getting delayed, Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran on Thursday assured people that AI is on its way to become a "world-class global airline with an Indian heart". Since Oct 1, the Group has consolidated its airlines by first merging erstwhile AirAsia India into AI Express and then Vistara into AI.

Airline mergers in India have never gone smoothly—AI-Indian Airlines, Jet-Sahara & Kingfisher-Deccan — and Chandrasekaran admitted challenges while promising a great future for the consolidated AI. He also assured that "Vistara will continue to deliver the service experience it is known for, while bringing to AI some of its best practices. Customers will continue to experience Vistara's in-flight service and the cabin crew that they are accustomed to." Erstwhile Vistara flights are now operated with AI-2xxx code. He says the group is "bringing Vistara's best qualities to this merger."

"... it is important to acknowledge that a mer-

“...it is important to acknowledge that a merger is undoubtedly a time of change — distinct cultures are put together to create something new and lasting. Such mergers take time to play out. We have moved quickly, completing the process in two years, while keeping our eye on the ultimate goal: to realise AI's potential and turn it into a world-class global airline



— N CHANDRASEKARAN |  
TATA SONS CHAIRMAN

ger is undoubtedly a time of change — distinct cultures are put together to create something new and lasting. Such mergers take time to play out. We have moved quickly, completing the process in two years, while keeping our eye on the ultimate goal: to realise AI's potential and turn it into a world-class global airline," he said, adding, "Given our ambitions, this merger should be seen as part of a journey. Different parts of the business were at different points of maturity when the merger commenced, so they will take time to fully align."

Tatas had taken over AI and AI Express in Jan 2022. Now four Tata airlines have been consolidated into one big AI group.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

15 NOVEMBER 2024

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### **Flyer arrested for mid-air hoax bomb alarm on Nagpur-Kol flight**

**Raipur:** A mid-air bomb alarm raised by a passenger on a Nagpur-Kolkata flight led to an emergency landing at Raipur on Thursday morning, reports **Rashmi Drolia**. The bomb squad went through the plane and declared it a hoax.

Indigo flight 6E812 was cruising when one of the passengers, identified as Nagpur resident Animesh Mandal, began shouting that there was a bomb on board and the plane could crash anytime, said police. Raipur SSP Santosh Singh told **TOI** that ATC alerted police about the bomb alarm and it landed at Raipur's Swami Vivekananda Airport around 8.40am. It was diverted to the isolation bay.

There were 187 passengers and six crew members on board, SSP Singh said. They were taken off the plane and CISE, Raipur police and bomb disposal experts moved in to search the aircraft. City SP Lambodar Patel and inspector Bhavesh Gautam said no explosives were found on the plane or in luggage. Mandal was taken into custody.