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DELHI

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IGI AIRPORT'S 3RD RUNWAY CLOSURE FOR UPGRADE DELAYED BY WEEK

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NEW DELHI: The The third runway — 11R/29L — at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, which was scheduled to shut from February 16 for upgrade, is now likely to be closed next week as some final clearances are still awaited, officials said on Monday. The upgraded runway is expected to reopen in July.

The work will include resurfacing, construction of a rapid exit taxiway, and installation of a new instrument landing system. Airport operator Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) had announced the closure last month, subject to approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Commissioned in 2008, the runway is undergoing strengthening to enhance safety and operational capacity amid rising traffic. DIAL, in coordination with the Airports Authority of India (AAI), said flight operations are unlikely to be affected, with the airport's scheduled movement capacity maintained at 1,514 flights per day.



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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

16 FEBRUARY 2026

Guwahati airport's new terminal to open for passengers from Feb 22

ANN SERVICE

PALASBARI, Feb 15: The newly constructed terminal at the Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International (LGBI) Airport is set to become operational for domes-

tic aircraft from February 22, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

At a press conference held on Sunday, the Chief Minister announced that for the time being, international flights would continue from

the old terminal.

The state-of-the-art Integrated Terminal 2 (T2) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 20, 2025.

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Guwahati airport's new ...

(Contd from page 1)

Constructed at a cost of around Rs 4,000 crore, the terminal has been designed to handle 13.1 million passengers annually. With advanced infrastructure, expanded passenger handling areas, and improved operational efficiency, the terminal is expected to substantially reduce congestion at the existing airport facility.

Officials stated that the new terminal incorporates

modern architectural design blended with elements reflecting Assam's cultural heritage. The facility is equipped with enhanced security systems, spacious check-in counters, advanced baggage handling mechanisms, improved boarding gates and upgraded passenger amenities to ensure a seamless travel experience.

The operationalisation of T2 is anticipated to boost regional connectivity, promote tourism and facilitate eco-

nommic growth across Assam and the Northeast. Authorities believe the upgraded infrastructure will also support increasing domestic and international air traffic in the coming years.

With the commissioning of the new terminal, passengers travelling through Guwahati are expected to experience faster processing times, improved comfort, and world-class airport services comparable to major aviation hubs across the country.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट परिसर में संदिग्ध अवस्था में उड़ा ड्रोन

यमुना सिटी। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट परिसर और इसके आसपास के क्षेत्र में संदिग्ध ड्रोन उड़ने का मामला सामने आया है। दो दिनों से लगातार एयरपोर्ट परिसर और आसपास के क्षेत्र में ड्रोन उड़ने की सूचना मिलने के बाद जेवर पुलिस ने प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है।

पुलिस अधिकारियों ने बताया कि नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण का काम अंतिम चरण में है। सुरक्षा कारणों से इस क्षेत्र को प्रतिबंधित रखा गया है। यहां किसी का भी बाहरी का आना-जाना पूरी तरह प्रतिबंधित है। एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा में तैनात निजी कंपनी के सुरक्षा अधिकारी कृष्णकांत ने सोमवार को एयरपोर्ट परिसर में संदिग्ध ड्रोन उड़ने की सूचना पुलिस को दी थी। अधिकारी ने बताया कि दो-तीन दिन से गांव रनहेरा-कुरैव की ओर से झाड़र रोड दिशा की ओर लगातार ड्रोन उड़ाए जा रहे हैं। ड्रोन परिसर में कई बार प्रवेश भी कराया गया। उन्होंने बताया कि कुछ देर उड़ने के बाद यह ड्रोन उसी दिशा में लौट जाता है। व्यूरो



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हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से 12 उड़ानें स्थायी रूप से बंद

गाजियाबाद। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से सर्दी के मौसम में अस्थायी तौर पर रोकी गई एयर इंडिया, फ्लाई बिग, स्टार एयर व इंडिगो की 12 उड़ानें अब पूरी तरह बंद कर दी गई हैं। अब यहां 12 उड़ानें ही संचालित हो रही हैं। एयरपोर्ट से निम्न शहरों के लिए उड़ानें बंद की गई हैं, उनमें गोवा, कोलकाता, वाराणसी, पटना, जम्मू, चेन्नई, भुवनेश्वर, बठिंडा, लुधियाना, किशनगढ़, देहरादून व जयपुर शामिल हैं। ये उड़ानें क्यों बंद की गई, इसका स्पष्ट कारण अभी नहीं बताया गया है। एयरपोर्ट निदेशक डा. चिलका महेश ने बताया कि सर्दियों में उड़ानों को कुछ समय के लिए बंद किया गया था। इनको फरवरी में दोबारा संचालित किया जाना था, लेकिन अब स्थायी तौर पर बंद कर दिया गया है। बंद उड़ानों को लेकर सभी एयरलाइंस कंपनियों को मेल किया गया था, लेकिन अब तक किसी का भी जवाब नहीं मिला है। संवाद



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हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से बंद की गईं 12 उड़ानें

एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने सात, फ्लाई बिग ने तीन, इंडिगो और स्टार एयर ने एक-एक सेवा बंद की

साहिबाबाद (गाजियाबाद)। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से सर्दी के मौसम में अस्थायी तौर पर रोक दी गई 12 उड़ानें अब पूरी तरह बंद कर दी गई हैं। इनमें एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की सात, फ्लाई बिग की तीन और स्टार एयर व इंडिगो की एक-एक उड़ान शामिल हैं। अब यहां से 12 उड़ानें ही संचालित हो रही हैं।

एयरपोर्ट से जिन शहरों के लिए उड़ानें बंद की गई हैं, उनमें गोवा, कोलकाता, वाराणसी, पटना, जम्मू, चेन्नई, भुवनेश्वर, बर्लिन, लुधियाना, किशनगढ़, देहरादून व जयपुर शामिल हैं। ये उड़ानें क्यों बंद की गईं, इसका कोई स्पष्ट कारण अभी नहीं बताया गया है। एयरपोर्ट निदेशक डा. चिलका महेश



ने बताया कि सर्दियों में उड़ानों को कुछ समय के लिए बंद किया गया था। इनको फरवरी में दोबारा संचालित किया जाना था, लेकिन अब स्थायी तौर पर बंद कर दिया गया है।

उन्होंने बताया कि बंद उड़ानों को लेकर सभी एयरलाइंस कंपनियों को मेल किया गया था, लेकिन अब तक किसी

मुंबई-बंगलूरु की उड़ान पर भी संकट

एयरपोर्ट से भले ही एक शहर की दो से तीन उड़ानें थीं, लेकिन सभी फ्लाइट में 90 फीसदी सीट बुक रहती थीं। वर्तमान में एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की मुंबई व बंगलूरु की उड़ान के लिए मार्च का स्लॉट अब तक नहीं खोला गया है। ऐसे में अशंका जताई जा रही है कि इन शहरों की उड़ान भी आने वाले समय में बंद हो सकती है। वहीं, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने एक मार्च 2025 से एयरपोर्ट से नौ शहरों गोवा, मुंबई, कोलकाता, वाराणसी, बंगलूरु, पटना, जम्मू, चेन्नई व भुवनेश्वर के लिए उड़ानें शुरू की थीं। इनमें से अब बंगलूरु के लिए दो व मुंबई के लिए एक उड़ान ही संचालित हो रही है। अन्य सात शहरों के लिए उड़ानें बंद कर दी गई हैं। इसी प्रकार इंडिगो ने 17 जुलाई 2025 को आठ शहरों के लिए उड़ानें शुरू की थीं। इंडिगो ने भी जयपुर को उड़ान बंद कर दी है।

का भी जवाब नहीं मिला है। वहीं, कोरोनाकाल में हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से उड़ानें ठप थीं। कोरोना संक्रमण समाप्त होने के बाद सबसे पहले फ्लाई बिग ने सितंबर

2023 में यहां से बर्लिन, लुधियाना व देहरादून के लिए उड़ान शुरू की। इसके बाद एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस व इंडिगो की उड़ानें संचालित हुईं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

IATA concerned over 9-month pause of freighter services at Mumbai airport

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has expressed concern over the planned nine-month suspension of freighter flights at Mumbai starting August.

Last December, Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) had informed airlines about its plans to temporarily suspend freighter operations from August this year to May 2027 in view of reconstruction of the apron that is used by cargo flights.

BIG CONCERN

Earlier, the Air Cargo Agents Association of India had expressed its reservations and now the airline lobby group too has expressed its concern on the temporary suspension of freighters at India's second busiest airport.

"IATA wrote to MIAL at the end of January request-

ing for clarification as well as compliance with the Civil Aviation Ministry guidelines and the Worldwide Airport Slot Board's best practices. We have yet to receive a response from MIAL," a spokesperson said.

"We are concerned about the impact on operations at Mumbai airport, particularly cargo. Effective engagement by MIAL with industry stakeholders is critical," he added.

FREIGHT MOVEMENT

The airport in December cited the need for immediate reconstruction of cargo apron "as it has reached the end of its operational life."

However, in a fresh communication to airlines last week MIAL said the apron continues to remain suitable for operational use with an estimated residual service life of four years. However, it will carry on with its tem-

porary ban on freighters.

This is necessitated due to "simultaneous taxiway construction activities in close proximity to active airside movement areas and increased safety risk from mixed passenger and freighter movements under constrained conditions. MIAL said the decision to suspend freighter flights has been taken after exhaustive assessment of operational feasibility, safety requirements and available space.

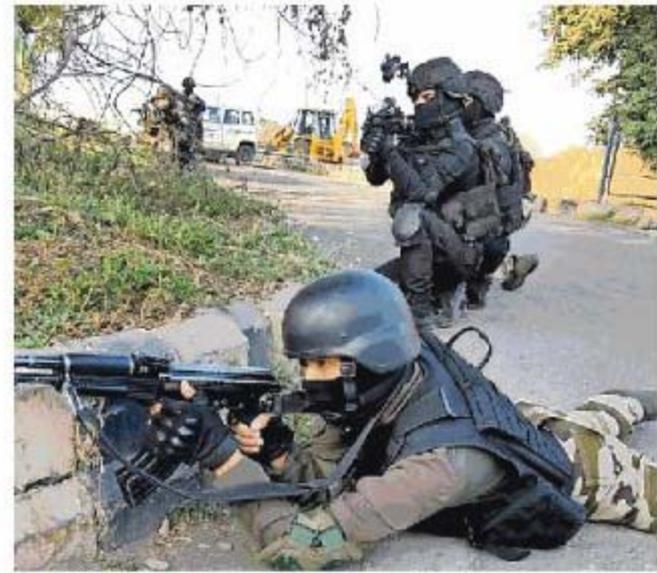
Mumbai airport did not respond to email query.

However, earlier in December the airport had said only dedicated cargo flights will be suspended but overall cargo traffic (carried in belly space of passenger aircraft) will continue seamlessly. Navi Mumbai airport will play a key role in absorbing freighter operations during the construction phase, it had added.

एयरपोर्ट पर माक ड्रिल कर एजेंसियों के तालमेल और रिस्पांस टाइम को परखा

जगरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : देश के सबसे संवेदनशील और व्यस्ततम एयरपोर्ट अइजीआइ की सुरक्षा को अभेद्य बनाने के लिए सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने एक बड़ा माक ड्रिल आयोजित किया। इस अभ्यास का मुख्य उद्देश्य किसी भी संभावित आतंकी खतरे या आपातकालीन स्थिति से निपटने के लिए विभिन्न एजेंसियों के बीच तालमेल और रिस्पांस टाइम को परखना था।

इस संयुक्त अभ्यास में सीआइएसएफ के साथ-साथ नेशनल सिक्वोरटी गार्ड (एनएसजी), दिल्ली पुलिस, नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बीसीएस), दमकल विभाग और मेडिकल टीमों ने हिस्सा लिया। अभ्यास के दौरान एक सिम्युलेटेड थ्रेट पैदा किया गया, जिस पर सभी एजेंसियों ने अपनी-अपनी भूमिका के अनुसार त्वरित कार्रवाई की। माक ड्रिल में सीआइएसएफ की क्विक रिप्लेशन टीम (क्यूआरटी), बम निरोधक दस्ता और के७ (हाय स्क्वड) यूनिट ने मुख्य भूमिका निभाई। सुरक्षा बलों ने दिखाया कि कैसे बेहद कम समय में आतंकीयों या



आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर सोमवार को चल रही माक ड्रिल • सौ: सीआइएसएफ

संदिग्ध वस्तुओं को न्यूटलाइज कर यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जा सकती है। इस दौरान एनएसजी के कमांडोज और सीआइएसएफ के जवानों के बीच बेहतरीन तालमेल देखने को मिला। बात दें कि पिछले कुछ महीनों में दिल्ली सहित देश के कई बड़े एयरपोर्ट्स को बम से उड़ाने

की फर्जी धमकियां मिली थीं। ऐसे माहौल में सुरक्षा एजेंसियों द्वारा इस तरह का अभ्यास करना काफी महत्वपूर्ण माना जा रहा है। हाल ही में गणतंत्र दिवस और अंतरराष्ट्रीय दौरे के मद्देनजर भी दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षा का स्तर हाई अलर्ट पर रखा गया था।

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों के लिए खुला महाराजा लाउंज

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र में अपनी खेई हुई चमक वापस पाने की कोशिशों में जुटी एअर इंडिया ने सोमवार को इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 पर महाराजा लाउंज के दरवाजे यात्रियों के लिए खोल दिए हैं। 16 फरवरी, 2026 से यह लाउंज फर्स्ट क्लास, बिजनेस क्लास के यात्रियों के साथ-साथ महाराजा क्लब के प्लैटिनम और गोल्ड सदस्यों के लिए उपलब्ध होगा।

इसके अलावा स्टार एलथर्स गोल्ड सदस्य भी इसका आनंद ले सकेंगे। इस अत्याधुनिक लाउंज का उद्घाटन टाटा संस और एअर इंडिया के चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखरन ने किया। एअर इंडिया के मुताबिक यह लाउंज महज एक बेटिंग एरिया नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय परंपरा और आधुनिक विलासिता का एक अनूठा संगम है।

● टाटा संस के चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखरन ने किया उद्घाटन, टर्मिनल 3 में बना है लाउंज

● फर्स्ट और बिजनेस क्लास के यात्रियों के साथ क्लब के प्लैटिनम व गोल्ड सदस्यों के लिए उपलब्ध



आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट में खोला गया महाराज लाउंज ● सौजन्य: IAI इंडिया

एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 के विशाल क्षेत्र में फैला है। इसमें एक इंटरनेशनल पियर पर बना यह लाउंज 16,000 वर्ग फीट के साथ लगभग 300 यात्रियों के बैठने की व्यवस्था है। लाउंज को

बदल रही है एअर इंडिया की तस्वीर

टाटा संस के चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखरन के मुताबिक, यह लाउंज एअर इंडिया के कार्यालय के सफर का एक अहम हिस्सा है। दिल्ली का यह फ्लैगशिप लाउंज इस श्रृंखला का पहला कदम है; आने वाले समय में भारत और विदेशों के प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर ऐसे ही 'न्यू-जेनरेशन' लाउंज बनाए जाएंगे। एअर इंडिया का लक्ष्य सिर्फ एक एयरलाइन बनना नहीं, बल्कि दुनिया को भारतीय आतिथ्य संस्कार का असली अनुभव कराना है।

एअर इंडिया के गौरवशाली इतिहास को सर्वापेक्षित है। इसकी छत का डिजाइन वर्ष 1932 में जैआरडी टाटा द्वारा तैयार किया गया था, जो एअर इंडिया के प्रोपेलर से प्रेरित है। लाउंज में बना ग्लोबल टैटर स्टडी बिजनेस यात्रियों के लिए एक शांत वर्कस्पेस, जहां हार्ड-सीट कनेक्टिविटी और किताबों का बेहतरीन कलेक्शन मौजूद है। लाउंज में बने सेरेनिटी एरिया लंबी यात्रा से पहले आराम चाहने वाले यात्रियों के लिए है। यहां खास रिक्लइन्स और शांतिपूर्ण माहौल दिया गया है।

यात्रियों के लिए लाउंज में स्लीप सूट्स हैं। यहां सोने की विशेष व्यवस्था, ताकि वे उड़ान से पहले तरोताजा हो सकें। महाराजा लाउंज में बना क्रिस्टल बार एक खास संकेत है। यहां प्रीमियम शोपिंग और सिग्नेचर काफेटेल्स परोसे जाएंगे।

आधुनिक यात्रियों की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखकर तैयार किया गया है। लाउंज के एक हिस्से में स्थित द

एअर इंडिया ने आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर खोला महाराजा लाउंज

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

भारतीय विमानन क्षेत्र में अपनी खोई हुई चमक वापस पाने की कोशिशों में जुटी एअर इंडिया ने सोमवार को इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल 3 पर महाराजा लाउंज के दरवाजे यात्रियों के लिए खोल दिए हैं। 16 फरवरी 2026 से यह लाउंज फर्स्ट क्लास, बिजनेस क्लास के यात्रियों के साथ-साथ महाराजा क्लब के प्लैटिनम और गोल्ड सदस्यों के लिए उपलब्ध होगा। इसके अलावा स्टार एलायंस गोल्ड सदस्य भी इसका आनंद ले सकेंगे। इस अत्याधुनिक लाउंज का उद्घाटन टाटा संस और एअर इंडिया के चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखरन ने किया। एअर इंडिया के मुताबिक यह लाउंज महज एक बेटींग परिया नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय परंपरा और आधुनिक विलासिता का एक अनुठा संगम है।

टर्मिनल-3 के इंटरनेशनल पियर पर बना यह लाउंज 16,000 वर्ग फुट के विशाल क्षेत्र में फैला है। इसमें एक साथ लगभग 300 मेहमानों के बैठने की व्यवस्था है। लाउंज को आधुनिक

16,000 वर्ग फुट के विशाल क्षेत्र में फैला है महाराजा लाउंज

300 यात्रियों के बैठने की व्यवस्था है महाराजा लाउंज में



आइजीआइ टर्मिनल 3 पर महाराजा लाउंज का टाटा संस के चेयरमैन ने किया उद्घाटन। एअर इंडिया

यात्रियों की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखकर तैयार किया गया है। लाउंज के एक हिस्से में स्थित द एबिप्टर्स बार एअर इंडिया के गौरवशाली इतिहास को समर्पित है। इसकी छत का डिजाइन वर्ष 1932 में जेआरडी टाटा द्वारा उड़ाए गए पुस मोथ विमान के प्रोपेलर से प्रेरित है। लाउंज में बना ग्लोबट्राटर स्टी

बिजनेस यात्रियों के लिए एक शांत बर्कस्पेस, जहां हवाई-स्पीड कनेक्टिविटी और किताबों का बेहतरीन कलेक्शन मौजूद है। लाउंज में बने सेरेनिटी परिया लंबी यात्रा से पहले आराम चाहने वालों के लिए है। यहां खास रिक्लाइनर्स और शांतिपूर्ण माहौल दिया गया है। यात्रियों के लिए लाउंज में स्लीप सूट्स हैं।

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट किया गया माक ड्रिल, रिस्पांस टाइम को परखा गया

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : देश के सबसे संवेदनशील और व्यस्ततम एयरपोर्ट आइजीआइ की सुरक्षा को अपेक्ष बनाने के लिए सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने एक बड़ा माक ड्रिल आयोजित किया। इस अभ्यास का मुख्य उद्देश्य किसी भी संभावित आतंकी खतरे या आपातकालीन स्थिति से निपटने के लिए विभिन्न एजेंसियों के बीच तालमेल और रिस्पांस टाइम को परखना था।

अभ्यास के दौरान सिम्युलेटेड थ्रेट पैदा किया गया, जिस पर सभी एजेंसियों ने अपनी-अपनी भूमिका के अनुसार त्वरित कार्रवाई की। माक ड्रिल में सीआइएसएफ की क्विक रिएक्शन टीम (क्यूआरटी), ब्रम निरोधक दस्ता और के9 (डाग स्क्वाड) यूनिट ने मुख्य भूमिका निभाई। सुरक्षा बलों ने दिखाया कि कैसे कम समय में आतंकीयों या संदिग्ध वस्तुओं को न्यूट्रलाइज कर य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जा सकती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

IATA flags Mumbai airport cargo suspension issue



GLOBAL AIRLINES' body IATA on Monday expressed

concern over Mumbai airport's plan to temporarily halt cargo aircraft movement at the facility from August this year for carrying out an infrastructure upgrade. IATA said it took up the matter with the Adani group-operated Mumbai International Airport in January this year.

—AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ाने की तैयारी

ट्रांसहिंडन। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से सर्दियों में रद्द की गई उड़ानों को फिर शुरू करने और नए शहरों के लिए विमान सेवा शुरू करने की कवायद शुरू हो गई है। एयरपोर्ट प्राधिकरण ने एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और इंडिगो को पत्र लिखा है।

इंडिगो ने जल्द प्रस्ताव देने की बात कही है। वहीं, एयर इंडिया ने जवाब नहीं दिया है। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से किशनगढ़, नंदिड़, लुधियाना, मुंबई, पटना आदि शहरों के लिए उड़ान शुरू की थी। जम्मू की उड़ान कुछ ही दिनों बाद रद्द हो गई थी। नवंबर में उड़ानों की संख्या आधे से भी कम कर दी गई। रद्द की गई उड़ानों के साथ अब लखनऊ और प्रयागराज के लिए उड़ान शुरू करने की तैयारी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

Rights panel seeks report on dog attack at Jaipur airport

The Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission has taken suo motu cognisance of reports that a stray dog attacked and bit an Israeli woman passenger at Jaipur International Airport. The commission has also sought factual reports from six authorities, including the district administration and airport management. In an order Monday, the commission, headed by Justice G.R. Moolchandani, issued notices to the Jaipur District Magistrate, the police commissioner, the airport manager (Sanganer), officials of the Airports Authority and the Jaipur Municipal Corporation. PTI

AFTER STATE MINISTER MET RAJNATH

United Goa firm on Dabolim airport's fate: 'Touching it will kill economy'

Pavneet Singh Chadha
Panaji, February 16

THE NEED to protect the Goa International Airport in Dabolim has emerged as a rare point of agreement among the BJP, the Congress, and the AAP in the state, with leaders across party lines clear that any plans otherwise will hurt the interests of the state.

Following a meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh last week, Goa Transport Minister and Dabolim MLA Mauvin Godinho had told the media that a private airport operator was "lobbying" to turn Dabolim airport into an exclusive naval facility.

Since then, speculation has

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Key factors: Tourism, traffic to freight and connectivity

• WHY DABOLIM MATTERS

Year	Domestic passengers (lakh)	International passengers (lakh)
2023	69.55	4.81
2024	67.41	3.02
2025	62.96	2.06

KEY CONCERNS: Stakeholders say the shift to Mopa will create a significant financial and time burden for South Goa tourists

COST: One-way taxi from Mopa to Palolem (South Goa) estimated between Rs 4,500 and Rs 5,000.

TIME: While a flight from Mumbai or Bengaluru takes approximately

an hour, the subsequent road transfer from Mopa to the far South can take 3 hours.

LOCATION: Residents also highlight that Dabolim's location is

equidistant from Goa's farthest corners, reaching both Mandrem (North) and Palolem (South) in roughly 90 minutes.



Dabolim airport's fate

been rife about the future of commercial flight operations at Dabolim airport and the potential impact on the state's thriving tourism business and overall economy.

The Chief Minister's Office issued a categorical statement: "Speculation suggesting that consent has been given to discontinue civilian services at Dabolim Airport is incorrect and misleading." But that has done little to quell apprehensions.

"It will be a death knell for tourism," said Valencio Savio Goes, a third-generation taxi driver and a prominent member of the North and South Goa taxi union, echoing fears of many in the tourism industry. "The entire economy of South Goa will be hit hard. Who will want to take a three-hour taxi ride from Mopa to Palolem and pay Rs 4,500 after taking an hour-long flight from Mumbai or Bengaluru?"

The Dabolim airport does a fair share of heavy lifting for Goa, with a footfall of about 63 lakh domestic passengers and 2 lakh international passengers last year. The newer airport in Mopa handled 47.1 lakh domestic passengers and 3.9 lakh international passengers in 2025.

The history — and why it matters

Built by the Portuguese as a civilian airport in 1955, it was taken over by the Indian Navy's air wing soon after Goa was liberated in December 1961. Coming under the Ministry of Defence, the airport currently operates as a civil enclave in the military airbase INS Hansa. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains an international civil enclave for civilian aircraft operations, with the Indian Navy providing air traffic services.

"It was the first airport in the country to receive charters — special flights for holiday-makers from Europe who came to Goa during vacations," said

Jack Sukhija, president, Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG).

Dabolim's central location has significantly contributed to the state's growth as a tourism hub, and particularly helped develop South Goa as a luxury tourist area.

Vinay Albuquerque, director of a Goa hospitality group, said, "You can reach Mandrem and Arambol in the far North in 90 minutes (from Dabolim) and commute to the extreme South... down to Palolem in almost the same time."

Hansel Vaz, founder of Goa's Cazulo premium feni, added, "It is also a logistics hub... in the sense that a port, industrial estates and railway terminal are all nearby and it offers good road connectivity."

Albuquerque cautioned that any plan to shut the airport will crush the booming tourism industry in the southern part of the coastal state. "The one-way taxi fare from Mopa (airport to South Goa) will be approximately Rs 5,000. For a family travelling on a budget, it's going to be extremely difficult to spend that kind of money only on taxi transfers. For larger hotels, people may not come, not so much because of the budget but because of transfer times. Businesses in Palolem and Agonda in South Goa will be wiped out," Albuquerque said.

When the Mopa airport was first approved in 2000, the Ministry of Civil Aviation recommended closing Dabolim airport for civilian operations upon the new airport's commissioning. Following protests, the ministry constituted a task force and, in July 2010, modified its decision to allow continuation of civilian aircraft operations at Dabolim.

In 2023, Goa's second airport — Manohar International Airport at Mopa in North Goa, developed by GMR Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL),

a subsidiary of GMR Airports Limited — opened for commercial operations. The rationale cited for the two airports was to "cater to the growing passenger footfall", sustain tourism growth and create employment, with the government estimating that the new airport is expected to handle 13.1 million passengers by 2036.

In August 2023, after some international and domestic airlines shifted operations from Dabolim to Manohar International Airport, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant wrote to then Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia, urging him to ask airlines to "reverse their decision".

"Although time and again, the Government of Goa has assured the residents of South Goa that civilian aircraft operations from Dabolim airport would continue, this shifting of operations by airlines has created fear among different industries, particularly the hotel industry... and people who earn their livelihood from Dabolim airport. This may potentially lead to instability/agitations among people of Goa," the communication said.

With rumours of closure rife again, stakeholders such as the TTAG are again seeking intervention. "It has always been critical to Goa as the state's primary, centrally located and historic air gateway, managing a large bulk of passenger traffic and handling a vast amount of international charter flights. It would be pertinent to note that even the Kashmir airport functions as a defence and civilian airport," the association said.

Agreement on keeping it running

Last week, state Transport Minister Godinho and BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade wrote to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh seeking his intervention for "continued unhindered operations" at Dabolim airport. The letter, dated February 10, said several stakeholders in South Goa were con-

cerned that shifting all commercial operations to Mopa would be detrimental to livelihoods.

Godinho did not respond to calls seeking a comment.

In a post on X last Thursday, Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal called any plan to shut commercial operations at the airport "unacceptable", saying, "The BJP government at the Centre is planning to convert Dabolim exclusively for defence purposes. Dabolim acts as a lifeline for South Goa... We will fight to keep Dabolim for civil purposes."

South Goa's Congress MP Capt Viriato Fernandes called it a "clear conspiracy to end commercial flights under the guise of security measures post Operation Sindoor".

"Almost 4.5 lakh to 5 lakh people are directly and indirectly dependent on the commercial operations at Dabolim airport for their livelihood. We are not saying the airport will shut down entirely. It will continue as a naval airport, but civilian and commercial operations are being systematically pushed out," he claimed.

The government has denied these allegations. "Any speculation suggesting that consent has been given to discontinue civilian services at Dabolim Airport is incorrect and misleading. Goa presently benefits from a dual-airport system, with operations at both Dabolim and Manohar International Airport, Mopa," the chief minister's office said in a statement.

Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte claimed that speculation was being driven by some "insecure people ahead of elections". "This issue has been raised several times in the past and has been addressed," he said. "Tourism in Goa started with Dabolim airport. With several enhancements in infrastructure at the airport, we are very clear that Dabolim airport will continue to be operational," he said, adding that both airports were "required for Goa's development as a tourist destination."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

Team at IGIA to aid global AI delegates

New Delhi: As top executives from global AI giants and delegates attend the AI summit, special arrangements have been made at Delhi Airport to facilitate them. A team has been deployed to receive and assist delegates.

An airport official said Delhi International Airport Limited, in coordination with govt stakeholders, including ministry of external affairs, ministry of home affairs, ministry of electronics and information technology, Delhi govt, and CISE, put in place facilitation arrangements for visiting heads of state and delegations. A team has been deployed to receive and assist delegates, ensuring a smooth arrival. **TNN**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

Third runway at IGIA to be shut for upgrades from next week

New Delhi: Runway 11R/29L (commonly known as the third runway), which was initially scheduled to be closed for upgrades from Feb 16, will now be shut from next week. Airport officials said the closure of the third runway has been delayed as approval is still pending with other agencies.

After the runway is closed for upgrades, it is likely to be re-commissioned in July. "The runway is likely to be shut in the coming week," said officials.

The closure of the runway will coincide with the peak summer rush. The airport operator stated that the closure of the runway will have no significant impact on flight operations. An airport official said, on average, 1,520 flights, including arrivals and departures, operate daily. However, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) which operates IGI airport had earlier stated that the airport's scheduled movement capacity will be maintained at 1,514 movements per day during the closure period.

Delhi airport operates with four runways: 27/9, 28/10, 29R/11L, and 11R/29L. When runway 28/10 was closed in 2025, around 200 flights were impacted daily. "DIAL, in coordination with the Airports Authority of India and other stakeholders, convened multiple high-level consultations to assess and mitigate the impact of closure. Following this, it has been decided that the airport's scheduled movement capacity will be maintained at 1,514 per day. Also, airlines and air traffic control have been fully briefed and operational plans are in place to ensure smooth continuity of services," DIAL said earlier.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

■ NCP-SP leader pushes for private probe into Ajit's plane crash Rohit Pawar slams DGCA for 'inaction'

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, FEB. 16

Criticising the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the "lack of action" into his uncle and former Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's death in a plane crash, NCP(SP) leader Rohit Pawar has indicated that he will rely on private agencies to uncover the truth behind the accident. Rohit said no action has been taken by the DGCA so far against the VSR company, which he alleged

operates flights in violation of all rules.

In a tweet, Rohit Pawar said, "Today marks the 20th day since the unfortunate accident of late uncle, yet the preliminary inquiry report from DGCA has still not been received. Moreover, no action has been taken so far against VSR company, which operates flights in violation of all rules. As a result, suspi-



Rohit Pawar

cions are growing stronger. Therefore, DGCA should issue the preliminary inquiry report at the earliest and take appropriate action against VSR!"

Rohit Pawar, who is currently in Delhi, has reportedly had private discussions with representatives from two major private intelligence agencies. He has also consulted aviation experts to determine if the crash was due to a technical failure or other reasons.

Sources said that one of the private agencies may

soon be officially assigned independently and lead the investigation.

On January 28, a Learjet 45 plane crashed during landing near Baramati airport in Pune district, killing Ajit Pawar. Apart from the NCP chief, those killed in the crash included Capt. Sumit Kapoor, who had over 15,000 hours of flying experience, co-pilot Captain Shambhavi Pathak with around 1,500 hours of flying time, Personal Security Officer Vidip Jadhav and flight attendant Pinky Mali.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026



आंकड़े

हवाई सुरक्षा

भारत में विमानों से पक्षियों के टकराने की घटनाएं बड़ा खतरा बनती जा रही हैं। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में ऐसी दुर्घटनाएं लगभग 130 फीसदी तक बढ़ गई हैं।

2021	775
2022	1,131
2023	1,371
2024	1,278
2025	1,782

आंकड़े हवाई जहाज से पक्षियों की टक्कर की घटनाओं के, संख्या में। | स्रोत : नगरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय

Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

16 FEBRUARY 2026

Chaos in the skies: Dec 2025

Airline	Flights cancelled	Passengers affected
Alliance Air	63	2,463
Air India Group	924	43,278
Akasa Air	39	5,673
IndiGo	5,689	9,02,384
SpiceJet	79	11,929
Fly91	8	343
IndiaOne Air	71	408
Star Air	17	386
Total	6,890	9,66,864



IndiGo: Primary causes of disruption were over-optimisation of operations, inadequate regulatory preparedness, deficiencies in system software support and shortcomings in management structure and operational control

A considerable number of flights were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

Air India Turns to Seasoned Hand as Liaison Amid Regulatory Heat

Appoints ex-aviation secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola, who oversaw airline's privatisation process, as advisor

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: Tata Sons is tapping former civil aviation secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola as an advisor for its aviation business as the group intensifies its efforts to turnaround Air India.

Kharola, a 1985 batch Indian Administrative Services officer of the Karnataka Cadre will play a key role in leading the airline's communication with the government as the airline faces severe regulatory scrutiny and a leadership churn at the top.

ET had earlier reported that Tata group has started search to replace CEO Campbell Wilson.

Tata Sons and Air India didn't respond to queries on the topic.

Kharola who was the civil aviation secretary from February 2019

In the Regulator's Crosshairs

Number of show cause notices by DGCA

IndiGo	Air India	Air India Express
98	84	72

Akasa Air	SpiceJet	
17	45	

Data from Jan 2024 to Dec 2025.
Source: Parliament

to September 2021 led the privatisation process of Air India which resulted in takeover of the airline by the Tata group in January 2022. Before that he was also the chairman of the airline. He refused to comment on ET's queries about his role with the airline.

Kharola's appointment comes at a time when Air India's operations is under heightened scrutiny since a crash of a Boeing 787 aircraft last year which killed 260 people. Though a preliminary investigation hasn't indicated any fault with the aircraft or the airline's engineering practices as a reason for the crash.

In the past two years, civil aviation

regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sent 84 show cause notices to the airline, according to data presented in the parliament, while its low cost subsidiary Air India Express got 65 notices. In comparison, IndiGo, whose fleet size is almost double, received 98 notices.

Last week, the regulator penalised Air India flying an aircraft eight times without an airworthiness permit. The regulator also blamed CEO Wilson for the fault saying that the lapse has eroded public's trust in aviation safety.

People aware of the development said that Kharola was handpicked by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrababhan. He has been closely involved in the airline's operations since the crash and is associated with critical areas of government interactions and safety reviews. "There have been multiple instances where Tata group's top leadership felt that communication with the government has not been up to the mark and instances where senior government officials choose to deal directly with Tata group's top leadership," said a person in know of things.

Aviation is a highly regulated business and airlines often depend on government approvals for critical things. For instance, Air India is lobbying the government to let it use a route through the Chinese airspace in order to mitigate the financial burn it is facing due to a ban on Indian carriers from using Pakistani airspaces.

Air India's rival IndiGo also has also hired career bureaucrats. R K Singh, a former joint secretary at the Ministry of Civil Aviation leads the corporate affairs team of the airline.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

IndiGo hired 71 pilots after disruptions till Feb 10: RTI

YARUQHULLAH KHAN
New Delhi, February 16

INDIGO HIRED 71 Airbus-certified pilots, including 31 captains and 40 first officers, between December 5, 2025, and February 10, 2026, after the airline came under regulatory scrutiny over widespread flight disruptions in December 2025.

Data shared by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in response to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by *FE* show that the airline's Airbus fleet crew strength rose to 2,388 captains and 2,234 first officers as of February 10, 2026. This increase came despite crew

exits during December and January.

The airline added 44 Airbus-certified pilots, including 21 captains and 23 first officers, in December and 27 Airbus-certified pilots, including 10 captains and 17 first officers, in January.

"As per the submissions of the airline and data available with CPIO (FSD), the Airbus fleet crew strength increased to 2,388 captains and 2,234 first officers as of 10.02.2026, despite reported crew releases during December 2025 and January 2026," the DGCA said.

IndiGo inducted two captains on December 17, 50 first officers on January 2, another

captain on January 7, fifty additional first officers on January 15, one senior first officer on January 18, and three additional captains on January 20, according to the regulator's response. At the same time, the airline has projected attrition of 81 captains and 12 first officers over the next six months.

The hiring push comes as IndiGo works to meet tighter flight duty time limitation (FDTL) norms introduced by the regulator. The airline had until February 10 to demonstrate adequate pilot strength, failing which it risks further operational restrictions. In December, severe crew shortages led to large-scale disruptions, prompting the DGCA to cap IndiGo's winter schedule by 10%.

The regulator added that IndiGo has also expanded standby utilisation over the same period.





Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

17 FEBRUARY 2026

इंडिगो ने कई देशों की उड़ानें 28 मार्च तक रद्द की

नई दिल्ली। अमेरिका-ईरान तनाव के बीच इंडिगो एयरलाइंस ने ईरानी वायुक्षेत्र से होकर गुजरने वाली कई देशों की उड़ानों को 28 मार्च तक के लिए स्थगित कर दिया है। इससे पहले, एयरलाइन ने इन शहरों, देशों के लिए अपनी सेवाएं 28 फरवरी तक कैसिल कर दी थीं। ईरान में उपजे तनाव के बीच इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया ने ईरानी एयरस्पेस का इस्तेमाल लगभग बंद कर दिया है।

Anthropic ties up with Air India, Cognizant in AI push

Bloomberg

feedback@livemint.com

Anthropic PBC is embedding its marquee AI coding agent within prominent Indian firms including its flag carrier and an outsourcing giant, aiming to quicken artificial intelligence adoption across the world's most populous nation.

Air India Ltd. is using Claude Code to create custom software, while Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. is deploying the agent to 350,000 employees globally to modernize legacy systems, Anthropic said in a statement on Monday.

"India's adoption is even more extreme compared with the rest of the world," said co-founder Dario Amodei, a physicist-turned-startup founder who's hosting his company's Builder Summit in India this week. "We can do experiments with hundreds of millions of people."

Amodei arrived in India days after Anthropic's latest AI tools — including agents that automate certain corporate work tasks such as research — played a central role in a widening global stock rout.

Investors are dumping the stocks of any company, in fields as disparate as real estate and wealth management, seen at risk of getting displaced by technology.

That selloff hit India's \$300



Dario Amodei, chief executive officer, Anthropic.

REUTERS

billion IT services sector especially hard, triggering its sharpest stock rout in nearly a year.

At the same time, investors worry that spending on data centers by Amazon.com Inc., Meta Platforms Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Alphabet Inc. is outpacing the adoption of artificial intelligence over the long run. Anthropic has said it would spend \$50 billion to build data centers in the US. It also plans to use tens of billions of dollars worth of specialized AI chips from Google. Still, those investments are dwarfed by OpenAI, which has committed to spend more than \$1.4 trillion on AI infrastructure in the coming years.

Amodei, who opened Anthropic's office in Bangalore on Monday, will this week join

fellow AI luminaries including Sundar Pichai of Alphabet and OpenAI's Sam Altman at one of the world's largest artificial intelligence conferences.

The India AI Impact summit offers Prime Minister Narendra Modi a chance to showcase India's vast tech-savvy population and engineering talent as forces that could tilt the next phase of the global AI race in its favor. Anthropic hopes to play a key role in that evolution.

"We are seeing cool applications in Indian languages — in education, legal, farming — that are bringing AI into digital infrastructure," Amodei told a roomful of developers at the Summit, adding that the company's revenue run rate from India had doubled since he last visited the country four months ago.

CEO: ANTHROPIC'S REVENUE RATE DOUBLED IN INDIA IN 4 MONTHS

BENGALURU: Anthropic's revenue run-rate in India has doubled in four months, chief executive officer Dario Amodei said on Monday, underscoring the rapid adoption of the AI startup's Claude coding product in the country.

Anthropic, which announced its India expansion in October 2025 and opened its Bengaluru office on Monday, said the world's most populous country is the largest market for its Claude AI model after the United States.

"Anthropic's business run-rate revenue within India has doubled over the last four months, and Claude Code may have even grown faster," said Amodei at the firm's Builder Summit in Bengaluru, without disclosing specifics.

The Amazon and Alphabet-backed startup raised \$30 billion in a funding round last week that valued the AI firm at \$380 billion.

Anthropic has leaned heavily into the enterprise AI market, after Claude Code received strong reception from developers since it was made generally available last May. **REUTERS**

180 stranded: SpiceJet's 8-hour ordeal

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: A SpiceJet flight to Mumbai, originally scheduled to depart from the Calcutta airport at 5am on Sunday, was initially rescheduled for 3.25am but ultimately took off at noon.

Around 180 passengers on Flight SG9666 had to endure a delay that lasted more than eight hours. A significant number missed their connecting flights from Mumbai. Moreover, many others claimed that there was a lack of consistency in the communication from the airline's ground staff.

Gate 101, the designated boarding area, was congested and lacked sufficient seating, compelling numerous passengers to either stand or sit on the ground.

A Calcuttan now settled in Mumbai was among the passengers. Nandini Roy, in her late 40s, was travelling with her son and daughter. "It was a horrible experience, to say the least," said Nandini, who lives



SpiceJet passengers to Mumbai wait near Gate no 101 of the Calcutta airport on Sunday

in Dahisar, a northern suburb of Mumbai. She had come to Calcutta after a death in her family.

Her son is in Class IX and has his exams from Monday. "I had booked an early morning flight because I wanted to reach my home in Mumbai as soon as possible. My son needs time to prepare for the exam. But the entire plan went for a toss," said Nandini, whose family home is in Hathi-

bagan in north Calcutta.

She received a message around midnight that her flight had been rescheduled for 3.25am. She went to the airport around 1am. What followed was an ordeal that lasted hours.

During the next eight hours, Nandini received four messages, each announcing a new departure time. The first one said 5.05am; the second one pushed it back to 8am; the

third one said 9am, while the last said 11.30am.

"Boarding began around 11.30am and the flight finally departed at 12.10pm," Nandini said.

Nandini and several other passengers alleged poor communication from the ground staff.

"We were first told that there were some technical problems that caused the delay. Then, they said that a

flight from Mumbai will reach Calcutta and take us back to Mumbai. A third time, another staff member said that there was a problem in getting the ground clearance," said another passenger, who did not want to be named.

"Many passengers had to spend hours standing or sitting on the floor because the number of chairs was far less than the number of passengers waiting at the boarding area. Many passengers were agitated and had heated arguments with the staff, who pleaded helplessness," the passenger said.

SpiceJet blamed the delay on "operational issues".

"SG Flight 9666, dated 15 February 2026, scheduled to operate from Kolkata to Mumbai, was delayed due to operational issues in the previous rotation of the aircraft. The flight was further delayed due to a Notam (Notice to Airmen) in Mumbai till 4am. The inconvenience caused to the passengers is deeply regretted," said a spokesperson for the carrier.