

PIONEER

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

Visakhapatnam airport ends scheduled commercial operations ahead of Bhogapuram opening

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam Airport ended its scheduled commercial flight operations ahead of the opening of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram on Monday.

The last scheduled commercial flight from Visakhapatnam Airport (INS Dega) will be IndiGo flight 6E 2018 to Delhi, scheduled to depart at 10.45 pm on Sunday.

"Visakhapatnam Airport has reached an important milestone with the conclusion of its scheduled commercial operations, and we sincerely acknowledge the contribution of every employee, stakeholder and partner who supported the airport's operations and passenger services over the years," Visakhapatnam Airport Director N Purushottam said in a press release.



As notified by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, scheduled commercial operations at the Visakhapatnam Civil Enclave will cease with the commencement of operations at Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram at 12.01 am on August 17.

The IATA airport code 'VTZ' will be transferred from Visakhapatnam Airport to the new airport at

Bhogapuram with effect from August 17.

Non-scheduled commercial operations, however, may continue at the Civil Enclave at Visakhapatnam Airport, the press release said.

Purushottam said Visakhapatnam Airport had played a key role in connecting the city and Andhra Pradesh with major domestic destinations and had served

passengers, businesses, tourists and the regional economy for several decades.

Over the years, the airport saw growth in passenger traffic and infrastructure, including terminal expansion, better aircraft parking, security and passenger facilities, DigiYatra services, accessibility measures and sustainability initiatives.

The Airports Authority of India expressed gratitude to the Central Industrial Security Force, airlines, ground-handling agencies, regulatory authorities, concessionaires and other service partners for their contribution to the airport's safe, secure and efficient functioning, it said.

The AAI acknowledged the continued support of the Indian Navy in facilitating civil aviation operations at the Civil Enclave, saying its coordination would remain important as non-scheduled commercial operations continue.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

एयरपोर्ट पर जलभराव का एआई से बनाया फर्जी वीडियो

वायरल वीडियो पर एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने रखा अपना पक्ष, आमजन व यात्रियों के लिए जारी की एडवाइजरी

यमुना सिटी। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग से पार्किंग तक जाने वाले संपर्क मार्ग में बीते दिनों हुए जलभराव के बाद अब सोशल मीडिया पर एआई से तैयार किए हुए नए-नए वीडियो वायरल हो रहे हैं। इन वीडियो में एयरपोर्ट के अंदर टर्मिनल में भी भीषण जलभराव दिखाया जा रहा है।

एआई जेनरेटेड फर्जी वीडियो वायरल होने के बाद एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन तत्काल सक्रिय हुआ है और उन्होंने इसे फर्जी बताते हुए आमजनों और यात्रियों के लिए

फर्जी वीडियो पोस्ट करने पर दर्ज हुई प्राथमिकी

यमुना सिटी। मेटा एकाउंट पर नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से जुड़ी भ्रामक वीडियो शेयर करने के मामले में जेवर पुलिस ने प्राथमिकी दर्ज की है। एयरपोर्ट के सुरक्षा इंचार्ज की शिकायत के आधार पर पुलिस ने संबंधित चैनल के खिलाफ कार्रवाई शुरू की है और इसके संचालक से पूछताछ की जाएगी। पुलिस के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट के सुरक्षा शिफ्ट इंचार्ज मयंक कुमार की ओर से थाने में शिकायत देकर बताया गया था कि मेटा के फेसबुक चैनल पर शुक्रवार को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से संबंधित एक झूठी वीडियो अपलोड की गई। ब्यूरो

एडवाइजरी भी जारी की है।

जेवर क्षेत्र में बीते मंगलवार को मूसलाधार बारिश हुई थी। बारिश के बाद एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल से पार्किंग तक जाने

वाले अंडरग्राउंड संपर्क मार्ग में पानी भर गया था। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने 30 मिनट में पानी निकाल कर सब कुछ सामान्य कर दिया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का भ्रामक वीडियो डालना पड़ा भारी, एफआइआर दर्ज

जागरण संवाददाता, जेवर: नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से संबंधित कथित तौर पर छेड़छाड़ किया गया वीडियो इंटरनेट मीडिया पर प्रसारित करने के मामले में जेवर पुलिस ने मामला दर्ज किया है। एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा से जुड़े अधिकारी की शिकायत पर यह कार्रवाई की गई है। शिकायत में सच बोलो नाम के फेसबुक अकाउंट से 14 अगस्त को एयरपोर्ट से जुड़ा भ्रामक वीडियो प्रसारित करने का आरोप है।

शिकायत के मुताबिक इंटरनेट मीडिया पोस्ट में एयरपोर्ट की घटनाओं को गलत तरीके से प्रस्तुत किया गया। आरोप है कि वीडियो को इस तरह प्रसारित किया गया, जिससे वास्तविक स्थिति को लेकर लोगों में भ्रम पैदा हो सकता है। शिकायतकर्ता ने पुलिस को पोस्ट

आरोप है कि वीडियो को इस तरह प्रसारित किया गया, जिससे वास्तविक स्थिति को लेकर लोगों में भ्रम पैदा हो सकता है

का स्क्रीनशॉट व वीडियो का लिंक भी उपलब्ध कराया है। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर तैनात शिफ्ट इंचार्ज मयंक कुमार द्वारा दी गई शिकायत में बताया गया है कि इस तरह की गलत सूचना से यात्रियों, एयरपोर्ट से जुड़े हितधारकों व आमजन में अनावश्यक भ्रम व आशंका पैदा हो सकती है। साथ ही नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट जैसी महत्वपूर्ण परियोजना की छवि भी प्रभावित होने की बात कही गई है। पुलिस ने शिकायत पर मामला दर्ज कर जांच शुरू कर दी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

NMIA starts scheduled international freighter ops

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, August 16

NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL Airport (NMIA) on Sunday received its first dedicated international freighter aircraft, an Airbus A330-300 operated by Hong Kong Air Cargo, marking the commencement of a three-times-a-week service from Hong Kong. The service is expected to add six weekly cargo movements and carry around 60 tonne of import and export shipments per flight.

NMIA is expected to see 13 international freighter services commence operations as it builds connectivity with key cargo markets.

The Hong Kong service follows NMIA's first dedicated freighter operation, launched on August 1 by IndiGo Cargo to Sharjah. The service, which carried 20 tonne of goods on its first flight, will operate as required.

"With a significant increase in freighter activity expected by the end of August, we are rapidly expanding our international cargo network and strengthening connectivity with key markets across Asia, Europe and West Asia," a spokesperson for Navi Mumbai International Airport said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

हवाई अड्डे की यात्री क्षमता बढ़ाने की तैयारी

नई दिल्ली। अगले दस वर्षों में दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर यात्रियों की सालाना क्षमता साढ़े 12 करोड़ तक हो सकती है। सूत्रों की माने तो अगले दस साल के प्रस्तावित मास्टर प्लान में यात्री क्षमता में बढ़ोतरी की योजना तैयार की जा रही है। फिलहाल यहां की सालाना यात्री क्षमता 10.6 करोड़ के लगभग है। मास्टर प्लान के तहत विस्तार के एक हिस्से के रूप में डायल की ओर से दो चरणों में वर्ष 2032 तक यात्री क्षमता बढ़ाकर 12.5 करोड़ करने की तैयारी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

एयरपोर्ट का फर्जी वीडियो पोस्ट करने पर मामला दर्ज

ग्रेटर नोएडा, प्रमुख संवाददाता।
नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर
जलभराव की भ्रामक वीडियो शेयर
करने के मामले में जेवर पुलिस ने
मामला दर्ज कर लिया। यह वीडियो मेटा
अकाउंट से शेयर किया गया था।
एयरपोर्ट के सुरक्षा ईंचार्ज की शिकायत
के आधार पर पुलिस ने संबंधित चैनल
के खिलाफ कार्रवाई शुरू कर दी है।

पुलिस के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट के
सुरक्षा शिफ्ट ईंचार्ज मयंक कुमार की
ओर से थाने में शिकायत देकर बताया
गया था कि मेटा के फेसबुक चैनल पर

- जलभराव होने का
वीडियो वायरल हुआ था
- पुलिस ने संबंधित चैनल
पर कार्रवाई शुरू की

शुक्रवार को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से संबंधित
एक झूठी वीडियो अपलोड की गई।

शिकायत के बाद पुलिस ने रिपोर्ट
दर्ज कर मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है।
जेवर थाना प्रभारी अजय कुमार ने
बताया कि एकाउंट को निरस्त करने के
लिए भी मेटा से पत्राचार किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

Passenger's gun goes off at Varanasi airport, 2 hurt

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

VARANASI/NEW DELHI/MUMBAI:

Two airport personnel at Varanasi airport were injured on Sunday after a round was accidentally fired from a licensed pistol during a security check, officials said.

Airport director Puneet Gupta said the two were stable.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the security wing of the Union civil aviation ministry, is examining the circumstances leading to the incident, a government statement said.

Kamlesh Rai, 55, and his wife Sushma were to travel to Mumbai on flight IX-1810, Gupta said.

"He declared he would carry his licensed weapon on the aircraft," Gupta said. Passengers carrying licensed firearms must declare the weapon at the check-in counter

Loaded pistol, unexpected shot

Two employees at Varanasi airport were injured after a round was accidentally fired from a passenger's licensed pistol during a routine security check.

"BCAS is examining the circumstances leading to the incident, including adherence to the prescribed procedures for handling and carriage of licensed weapons..."

— Civil aviation ministry

WHAT HAPPENED

- Security and airport staff were checking the pistol and counting its cartridges as part of the security process.
- The pistol's magazine was removed to record its details, but a round remained in the chamber. The trigger was accidentally fired while the pistol was loaded.

and complete the prescribed security formalities.

Police said Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and airline staff were checking Rai's pistol and counting its cartridges before boarding. Authorised personnel from the airline and AAICLAS

were entering details of the passenger's registered baggage and weapon. "Preliminary investigation revealed a round was in the pistol's chamber and that the trigger was accidentally fired while the pistol was loaded," the DCP's office said in a statement. →P8

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

{ **VARANASI** } 2 INJURED; PROBE ON

Pistol goes off during airport security check

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

VARANASI/NEW DELHI/MUMBAI:

Two staffers at Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport were injured on Sunday after a round was accidentally fired from a licensed pistol during a routine security check, officials said.

Airport director Puneet Gupta said both the injured were taken to New Lakshmi Hospital in Harhua and were stable.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the security wing of the Union civil aviation ministry, is examining the circumstances leading to the incident, a government statement read.

According to Gupta, Kamlesh Rai, 55, along with his wife Sushma, 50, had arrived at the airport to travel to Mumbai on flight IX-1810. "He declared that he would carry his licensed weapon on the aircraft," Gupta said.

At airports, passengers carrying licensed firearms must declare the weapon at the check-in counter and complete the prescribed security formalities. If they are flying from one state to another, they must carry an All-India Permit for the firearm, which Rai had obtained. The passenger informs the airline at check-in that they are carrying a licensed firearm, after which the declaration and baggage undergo security screening.

A passenger is permitted to carry a licensed revolver, pistol or shotgun, along with the specified quantity of ammunition, in registered baggage, subject to applicable rules. The required form is completed by the passenger and verified by the airport manager.

As such passengers are screened separately from the security hold area used by other passengers, Rai was escorted to the designated screening area to complete the mandatory formalities.

Police said Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and airline staff were checking Rai's pistol and counting its cartridges before boarding, as required under the

THE BUREAU OF CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY, UNDER MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION, IS EXAMINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE INCIDENT

procedure. During the process, authorised personnel from the airline concerned and AAICLAS (AAI Cargo Logistics & Allied Services Company Limited) were entering details of the passenger's registered baggage and weapon.

"The pistol's magazine was removed to record the weapon's details and the number of rounds. Preliminary investigation revealed that a round was present in the pistol's chamber and that the trigger was accidentally fired while the pistol was loaded. The discharged round reportedly ricocheted and struck [AAICLAS screeners] Suman Kumari on the leg and Rohit Raj on the toe, injuring both," the DCP's office said in a statement.

Police said an investigation was under way into the incident, including the safety protocols followed during the weapon check and the roles of the agencies involved. Further legal action will be taken based on the findings.

"The BCAS is examining the circumstances leading to the incident, including adherence to the prescribed procedures for handling and carriage of licensed weapons at airports. Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings," the civil aviation ministry said.

Rai is a former corporator of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and leader of Shiv Sena, led by Maharashtra deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde, according to Airport Authority of India (AAI) officials in Varanasi, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The local police were informed immediately and the passenger has been detained for investigation and further action in accordance with law," the aviation ministry said, adding that the incident "was promptly contained and airport operations are continuing without disruption".

Based on a complaint, Phulpur police registered a case under Sections 125(a), pertaining to acts endangering the life or personal safety of others, and 125(b), pertaining to causing grievous hurt by an act endangering life or personal safety of others, of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), according to a statement from the office of DCP, Gomti Zone, Neetu Kadyan.

Rai, originally from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, has retained his influence in the BMC's Marol-Sahar ward in Andheri since 2002 despite switching political loyalties. He first won the BMC election from Marol-Sahar in 2002 on a Shiv Sena ticket.

Rai joined the Congress in 2007 and won again that year. After ward reservations changed in 2012, he fielded his wife, Sushma, who won the BMC election that year and again in 2017. Following the 2022 Shiv Sena split, Rai joined deputy chief minister Shinde in March 2023 and was appointed deputy leader. In the 2026 BMC election, he fielded his son, Ritesh, securing his family's hold over Ward 86 in Marol-Sahar.

In August 2025, Andheri police detained Kamlesh Rai for allegedly collecting an extortion amount of ₹5 lakh from a builder. He allegedly demanded ₹50 lakh from a builder working on a project in Andheri MIDC. After negotiations, the amount was settled at ₹35 lakh, of which ₹8 lakh was paid initially. Rai was arrested while allegedly collecting a further instalment of ₹5 lakh. Videos that surfaced after his arrest purportedly showed Rai claiming that party leaders would alert him if anyone complained against him. He was later hospitalised, citing health concerns, and granted bail.

Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे की यात्री क्षमता 12.5 करोड़ करने की योजना

नई दिल्ली, 16 अगस्त (भाषा)

दिल्ली हवाई अड्डा अगले 10 साल के प्रस्तावित मास्टर प्लान के तहत अपनी सालाना यात्री संभालने की क्षमता मौजूदा के 10.6 करोड़ से बढ़ाकर 12.5 करोड़ करने की योजना बना रहा है। एक सूत्र ने यह जानकारी दी। मास्टर प्लान के तहत विस्तार के हिस्से के रूप में दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल)



अप्रैल, 2030 तक टर्मिनल-3 (टी3) में एक नया पियर-ई बनाने की भी योजना बना रही है, जिसकी यात्री क्षमता एक करोड़ होगी। फिलहाल

टर्मिनल-4 बनाने या स्वचालित यात्री परिवहन प्रणाली (एपीएम) स्थापित करने पर कोई अंतिम फैसला नहीं हुआ है।

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (आईजीआईए) का संचालन दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) करती है। देश के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डे पर तीन टर्मिनल हैं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का संचालन फिलहाल केवल टी3 से होता है।

सूत्र ने बताया कि 2036 तक की 10 साल की मास्टर प्लान को हितधारकों के साथ विचार-विमर्श के बाद अंतिम रूप दिया जाएगा। सूत्र के अनुसार, पहले चरण में अप्रैल, 2030 तक सालाना यात्री संभालने की क्षमता बढ़ाकर 11.6 करोड़ करने का प्रस्ताव है। इसके बाद 2032 तक इसे बढ़ाकर 12.5 करोड़ किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

Delhi airport eyes 125-mn capacity

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, August 16

Delhi airport plans to increase its annual passenger handling capacity to 125 million from the current level of 106 million under the proposed ten-year master plan, according to a source.

As part of the expansion under the master plan, DIAL also proposes to build Pier E at Terminal 3 (T3) with a capacity of 10 million by April 2030.

For now, no decision has been firmed up on having Terminal 4 or building the Automatic Passenger Mover (APM).

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital is operated by the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL).

IGIA, also the country's biggest airport, has three terminals – T1, T2 and T3

– and international flight operations are only from T3.

The source told PTI that the master plan for 10 years till 2036 will be finalised after consultations with the stakeholders.

In the first phase, the proposal is to increase the annual passenger handling

capacity to 116 million by April 2030. The capacity will be further raised to 125 million by 2032, the source said.

At present, the airport has an annual passenger handling capacity of 106 million spread across the three terminals. The capacity is 42 million, 14 million and 50 million at T1, T2 and T3, respectively.

At T3, there is domestic capacity of 19 million and international capacity of 31 million.

Currently, T3 has four piers – Pier A and B for international operations while C and D are for domestic operations. Pier C has now been converted for international operations.

Pier E is to be constructed at T3 by April 2030.

Generally, a pier at an airport is a long and narrow structure or transfer facil-

ity from the main terminal building and allows passengers to use aerobridges to enter an aircraft.

While there are no immediate plans, a 7.5-kilometre right of way will be earmarked for the APM (Automated People Mover) system in the master plan, the source said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

End of an era at Vizag Airport with final takeoff

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

AT 10.45 pm on Sunday (August 16), IndiGo flight 6E2018 to Delhi took off from the Visakhapatnam International Airport, bringing an end to more than four decades of scheduled commercial aviation from the city.

From 12.01 am on Monday, the VTZ code and scheduled airline operations moved about 50 km north to the new Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district.

The shift marks more than a change of airport. For generations, the Visakhapatnam airport was part of the city's growth and everyday life. It was where journeys began, families reunited and many took their first flight. As per the Ministry of Civil Aviation's Gazette notification issued on July 28, the VTZ code was transferred to the Bhogapuram airport from August 17. The Civil Enclave at INS Dega, however, will continue to handle non-scheduled commercial operations, including charter and private flights. A General Aviation Terminal is placed for such operations.

Airport Director N Purushottam while announcing the conclusion of commercial services, thanked the Indian Navy, CISE, airlines, ground-handling agencies for their contribution to the airport's operations.

Pistol fires at airport check in Varanasi, two injured

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
■ Varanasi/New Delhi

On Sunday, Varanasi Police arrested Kamlesh Rai after his licensed pistol went off by accident at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, injuring two staff members. The incident took place around 9.30am during routine weapons screening, raising concerns about airport security. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has started an immediate investigation.



Representative image

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Rai, 55, from Ramgarh in Azamgarh, arrived at the airport with his wife to board Air India Express flight to Mumbai. He told staff about his licensed 7.62 mm pistol and 21 live cartridges at the check-in counter. The weapon was sent for inspection in the screening area. Police said the pistol had two cartridges in the magazine and one in the chamber, while Rai carried 19 more cartridges in his bag.

During the inspection, a shot was fired. The bullet bounced and injured two AAICLAS screeners: Suman Kumari, who was hit in the thigh and legs, and Rohit Raj, who was hurt on his hand and thumb.

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Pistol fires at airport check in Varanasi...

Both were taken to New Laxmi Trauma Centre and are now out of danger. Airport operations continued as normal after the situation was quickly handled.

After airport employee Sunil Kumar Singh filed a complaint, police charged Rai under sections 125A and 125B of the IPC for causing hurt by negligence. He could face up to six months in jail or a fine for simple hurt, and up to three years in jail or a fine for grievous hurt. Rai is now being questioned. Authorities also said officials may suggest cancelling Rai's arms licence, which is valid across India.

The injured screeners explained what happened: one said Rai removed the magazine, checked the pistol, and then pulled the trigger after saying it was unloaded. Another said Rai showed the gun was 'unloaded' by pulling the trigger, which caused it to fire. The bullet did not hit anyone directly but bounced and caused the injuries.

BCAS and aviation rules require passengers to inform airline counter staff or security if they have firearms when entering the terminal. They are not allowed to remove, unlock, or handle weapons in general or check-in areas. These steps must happen in a separate strong room.

Officials said Varanasi Airport does not have a dedicated strong room, so inspections take place in less private areas. The Ministry of Civil Aviation said BCAS is checking if the right steps for handling licensed weapons were followed.

The ministry said, "Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings."

Local police, including teams from Phulpur and senior officers such as the DCP Gomti Zone, visited the site and confirmed that Rai had declared the weapon before the accidental firing during pre-boarding checks with CISF and airline staff. There are still questions about whether all Standard Operating Procedures were followed, especially the rule about unloading the magazine near a busy counter area.

Since this happened during a time of heightened security, there are greater concerns about any gaps in the process that allowed a live round to remain in the chamber during inspection.

Investigators are trying to find out exactly what happened and if any mistakes led to the shot being fired. Airport director Puneet Gupta said the passenger had declared the firearm properly and that the shot was fired during inspection. Both injured staff members got medical attention right away, and the situation was quickly brought under control.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

2 airport staff injured as flyer's pistol misfires in Varanasi

Varanasi: Two airport security staff members were injured Sunday morning after a passenger's licensed pistol accidentally discharged during checks at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Babatpur, Varanasi, report Binay Singh & Arvind Chauhan.

Kamlesh Rai, 55, a resident of Ramgarh village in Azamgarh district, arrived at the airport with his wife, Sushma, to board Air India Express flight IX-1810 to Mumbai. He declared that he was carrying a licensed firearm. Around 9.30am, his pistol was being checked before being sealed and placed in the pilot's cabin. During the process, the magazine was being removed when the trigger was allegedly pressed, causing the weapon to discharge.

► **Cops seize gun, P 10**

Cops seize gun after firing at Varanasi airport

► **Continued from P 1**

Suman Kumari sustained a bullet injury in her leg while Rohit Raj was injured in his left thumb. Both are employed as security assistants. Both were rushed to New Laxmi Hospital in Harhua for treatment, while the incident caused panic in the airport.

ACP, Gomti Zone, ACP Pindra-Phulpur, SHO Rajiv Singh and a police team reached the airport. Officials inspected the spot, and questioned airport security personnel. CISF detained the passenger and informed Phulpur police. The firearm has been seized.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

एअर इंडिया : विमान का 90 दिन का रिकॉर्ड खंगाल रही एजेंसियां फुकेट-दिल्ली उड़ान : पायलट के नशे में होने और तकनीकी लॉग बुक समेत सभी पहलुओं की हो रही जांच

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। फुकेट से दिल्ली आ रही एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट एआई 2379 के चार सेकंड तक अनियंत्रित होने के मामले में अब कई सवाल उठ रहे हैं। एयरक्राफ्ट एक्सीडेंट इन्वेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो ने

विमान के पिछले 90 दिनों का रिकॉर्ड खंगालने शुरू कर दिए हैं। जांच में पता लगाया जा रहा है कि इन 90 दिनों के दौरान कोई तकनीकी खराबी या शिकायत तो दर्ज नहीं हुई थी। साथ ही यह सवाल खड़ा हो रहा है कि अगर पायलट नशे में था, तो टेक ऑफ से पहले

हुई जांच रिपोर्ट में इसका जिक्र क्यों नहीं आया? जांच टीम विमान की टेक्निकल लॉग बुक देख रही है। इसमें हर उड़ान से पहले और बाद की खराबी और रखरखाव का रिकॉर्ड होता है। यह भी देखा जा रहा है कि तीनों हाइड्रोलिक प्रेशर सिस्टम में पहले कोई खराबी थी या नहीं।

एअर इंडिया कठघरे में : विमानन विशेषज्ञ रतन अंभोरे का कहना है, एअर इंडिया कठघरे में है। कंपनी ने पहले कहा, विमान टर्बुलेंस के कारण हिला था, फिर पायलट के नशे में होने की बात आई और अब विमान निर्माता एयरबस की रिपोर्ट में हाइड्रोलिक सिस्टम फेल होने का दावा है।

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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Layers of safety

The Phuket incident is a test of India's aviation safeguards, not of one pilot or one component

THE AIR INDIA Phuket-Delhi incident should not be reduced to either a technical failure or a pilot's positive drug test. The more important question is whether the safety system was strong enough to ensure that one failure did not become a potential catastrophe. On August 4, the Airbus A320neo suddenly lost around 300 feet in altitude, injuring 24 passengers and crew members. Airbus' preliminary analysis indicated that hydraulic pressure was temporarily lost across all three hydraulic systems, leaving key flight controls unresponsive for about four seconds. A post-flight fault log also revealed nine warnings within roughly a minute, involving hydraulic systems, flight controls, and the autopilot. Separately, the captain tested positive for marijuana in a confirmatory test. There is no established causal link between the drug test and the altitude loss. But together, these developments underline the importance of multiple, independent layers of protection in an industry where the margin for error is small.

Aviation safety is built on the assumption that machines can fail, people can make mistakes, and circumstances can deteriorate unexpectedly. Aviation relies on multiple safeguards, from backup systems and crew oversight to flight-control technology, maintenance protocols, and regulatory checks. The purpose is to ensure that a single failure does not cascade. The Phuket incident is therefore about whether each barrier worked as it should. The investigation must establish why safeguards failed, how warnings were handled, whether procedures were followed, and whether pilot screening and intervention were adequate.

That is particularly important because India's aviation industry is expanding rapidly, with airlines adding aircraft, routes, and pilots. In such an environment, safety cannot become a compliance exercise in which airlines simply meet the minimum requirement. Air India has responded by ordering substance screening for all its pilots, going beyond the regulatory requirement for random testing of a portion of flight crew. That is useful, but the larger issue is whether safety systems should depend primarily on random checks after an incident. Substance use, fatigue, and medication involve both safety and individual privacy. Yet the cockpit is not an ordinary workplace. The responsibility placed on a pilot extends to hundreds of lives, making robust disclosure, testing, and intervention mechanisms essential. The same principle applies to aircraft systems; for instance, warnings should trigger the right response and maintenance findings should be acted upon before they recur.

The lesson from the Phuket episode, therefore, should not be that one pilot failed or that one aircraft component malfunctioned. It should be that aviation safety is only as strong as the weakest layer of protection in the chain. The investigation must establish the technical sequence, the role of the crew, the circumstances surrounding the drug test, and whether existing procedures were followed. Airbus has called for inspections of the hydraulic systems, sensors, and wiring, while the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau continues its probe. The initial description of the episode as turbulence also underlines why accurate and transparent communication matters. Air India needs to demonstrate that its safety culture is not a set of manuals and audits but a system that can identify risks before they reach the cockpit. Passengers do not expect airlines to operate without failures. They expect enough safeguards to ensure that when a machine fails, a pilot falters, or an unexpected event occurs, the aircraft does not come close to becoming an accident. That is the standard by which this incident should be judged.



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THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

17 AUGUST 2026

IN FLIGHT



The passenger was escorted to the designated screening area for completion of the security formalities

Civil aviation ministry

Immediate help for personnel

Both personnel got immediate assistance, and shifted to New Lakshmi Trauma Center in Varanasi for medical treatment.

Airline says sorry to Tripura woman over 'ill treatment' to her autistic son by staff

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Air India Express has issued an apology to a Tripura woman over "inappropriate treatment" reportedly meted out to her 30-year-old autistic son by its two staff members at the Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport in Agartala on Saturday.

Dr Ratnabali Ray Sengupta had earlier brought the "deeply distressing incident" to the airline's notice. She wrote that it occurred while she was travelling to Kolkata with her husband, who is a heart patient, and their son.

"Before security checking when I was waiting, two airline staff members reprimanded

me because my son was making involuntary sounds, a behaviour associated with his autism but he was not violent," Sengupta wrote.

"I was told that the pilot might remove us from the aircraft, that fellow passengers could object to our journey, and that I should give my son sleeping medication," she further wrote.

The airline responded, saying, "Please accept our heartfelt apologies for the inconvenience and emotional distress you experienced. Air India Express is committed to treating all guests with dignity, respect, and empathy, and we regret that your experience did not reflect these values."



फुकेत-दिल्ली फ्लाइट के बाद

AI के तीन और पायलट डोप टेस्ट में हुए फेल

Maneesh Aggarwal
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■ नई दिल्ली: एयर इंडिया ग्रुप के तीन और पायलट डोप टेस्ट में फेल हो गए। तीनों पायलट अपने पहले डोप टेस्ट में पॉजिटिव (नॉन नेगेटिव) पाए गए। क्या ये गांजा-भांग जैसे किसी नशीले पदार्थ का सेवन करते हैं? इस बात को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अब उनका दूसरा टेस्ट कराया जा रहा है। इस बात को कन्फर्म किया जाएगा कि ये कोई सूखा नशा करते हैं या फिर पेन किलर या अन्य किसी दवाई लेने की वजह से पहले टेस्ट में फेल हुए।

4 अगस्त को फुकेत-दिल्ली फ्लाइट के सीनियर पायलट के कथित तौर पर डोप टेस्ट में फेल होने के बाद एयर इंडिया ने 13 अगस्त को अपने ग्रुप के सभी 5 हजार से अधिक पायलटों का डोप टेस्ट कराने का फैसला किया था। पायलटों के टेस्ट शुक्रवार से शुरू कर दिए गए हैं।

सूत्रों का कहना है कि जिन पायलटों के नाम पहले डोप टेस्ट फेल होने के बाद संदिग्ध लिस्ट में आते हैं उनका दूसरी बार टेस्ट होगा। रिजल्ट 48 से 72 घंटे में आना शुरू होंगे। नशा करने की बात का पता चलने पर ऐसे पायलटों के खिलाफ सख्त ऐक्शन होगा।

File Photo



5 हजार से अधिक पायलटों का कंपनी करा रही डोप टेस्ट।

300 से अधिक पायलटों के टेस्ट हुए

सूत्रों का कहना है कि अब तक 300 से अधिक पायलटों के डोप टेस्ट कराए जा चुके हैं। एयर इंडिया के सभी पायलटों के डोप टेस्ट कराने के फैसले से कुछ पायलटों को डर है कि कहीं पेन किलर, डिप्रेशन और अन्य तरह की दवाई लेना भी उन पर भारी न पड़ जाए। कुछ पायलट अचानक छुट्टी भी ले रहे हैं। सूत्रों का यह भी कहना है कि एयर इंडिया को पायलटों का एक बार फिर से साइको टेस्ट भी कराना चाहिए।