

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Modi birthday spurs 24-day airport drive

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: A 24-day programme has been planned at Calcutta and other government-run airports across the country to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 76th birthday.

The celebrations will include cultural programmes and passenger-centric awareness, outreach and engagement activities, airport sources said.

Officially called the Yatri Sewa Abhiyan, the programme will begin on September 17, Modi's birthday, and continue till October 10.

Last year, September 17 was observed as Yatri Sewa Diwas.

"This year, the circular initially issued by the Airports Authority of India in Delhi

spoke of a one-day Yatri Suvidha Diwas on September 17. Later, when it was decided that the programme would continue till October 10, the name was changed to Yatri Sewa Abhiyan," an airport official said on Tuesday.

A meeting of senior Calcutta airport officials was held on Tuesday to discuss the programmes.

"Several meetings are being held every day. There are frequent changes in the programme as per directives from the AAI headquarters in Delhi," said an official.

As part of the programme, standees featuring the Prime Minister's picture will be installed in the departure, arrival and security hold areas to allow passengers to take selfies, sources said.

An official who has worked at the Calcutta airport for more than 25 years said such an elaborate programme had never been organised on the day of a Prime Minister's birthday.

According to sources, September 17 will be observed as Sewa and Sankalp Diwas.

"The programme would start with a rendition of *Vande Mataram* and be followed by cultural functions, including folk dance. Roses would be offered to passengers, and sandalwood tilaks would be put on their foreheads," said an official.

One of the programmes planned during the 24-day period is Sugam Yatra.

"The idea of the Sugam Yatra is to see whether a passenger coming to the airport

WORKFLOW

- **What:** Yatri Sewa Abhiyan
- **When:** September 17 to October 10 (*September 17 is PM Narendra Modi's birthday*)

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Sewa and Sankalp Diwas
- Sugam Yatra
- Atithi Devo Bhava
- Swachhata Diwas
- Roses for passengers
- Airport cleanliness drives

can access all facilities, check in, and board a flight without seeking help from anyone. The

signage should help them do everything," said the official.

"We have to video-record the passengers' journey from entering the airport till the boarding gate and send it to the headquarters," he said.

One of the 24 days will be observed as Swachhata Diwas, with a focus on airport cleanliness. For years, passengers at the Calcutta airport have complained about wet and foul-smelling washrooms. Unionised cleaning staff, who are reluctant to work, have often been blamed for the lack of cleanliness.

"Other programmes have also been planned, like ensuring passengers using self-operated wheelchairs can pass smoothly," said an official.

Reducing congestion in the parking lot, ensuring there are

no bottlenecks in the vehicle lanes in front of the terminal's arrival area, and removing touts are also among the measures planned under the Yatri Sewa Abhiyan.

Union civil aviation minister K. J. Somaiya is scheduled to visit the Calcutta airport on one of the 24 days, sources said.

Calcutta airport officials said measures were also being taken to address some of the everyday problems faced by passengers.

A daily maintenance group and a daily housekeeping group have been formed, comprising heads of departments and senior officials.

"For about two hours every morning, the terminal is inspected. All problems, however small, are identified and logged

on an app. If an issue remains unresolved, it is automatically escalated to senior officials. So every problem is brought to their notice," said an official.

Sources said many heads of departments did not participate in Tuesday's inspection because of preparations for the 24-day programme.

"Instead of such programmes, the focus should be on removing red tape from the system. Many chairs in the terminal building are damaged, but they cannot be replaced because the new tender date is not due yet," the official pointed out.

A senior airport official denied that the 24-day programme was meant to celebrate the Prime Minister's birthday.

"It is officially Yatri Sewa Abhiyan," he said.

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर बेहतर होंगी सुविधाएं, बढ़ेंगी उड़ानें

साहिबाबाद। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ाने और यात्रियों की सुविधाओं में वृद्धि के प्रयास शुरू किए गए हैं। इसके तहत 17 सितंबर से 10 अक्टूबर तक 24 दिवसीय यात्री सेवा अभियान चलाया जा रहा है। इस अभियान का मुख्य जोर यात्रियों को बेहतर सुविधाएं देने और उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ाने पर है।

बुधवार को निदेशक डॉ. चित्का महेश ने पत्रकार वार्ता में विकास योजनाओं की जानकारी दी। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ाने की कवायद दोबारा शुरू की है। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने आकाशा और इंडिगो एयरलाइंस को नए शहरों को जोड़ने के लिए पत्र लिखा है। नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्रालय को लखनऊ, प्रयागराज और अयोध्या के लिए हवाई सेवा प्रस्ताव भेजा गया है। एयरपोर्ट परिसर में चल रहा 770 वर्ग मीटर का विस्तार कार्य 31 अक्टूबर तक पूरा होगा। वायुसेना से चार नए विमान खड़े करने की मंजूरी मिल गई है। जिला प्रशासन को 6.8 एकड़ भूमि अधिग्रहण का मास्टर प्लान भेजा गया है। वर्तमान प्रशासनिक कार्यालय को शिफ्ट कर कार्गो सेवा संचालित करने की भी योजना है। कार्गो संचालन के लिए मौजूदा कार्यालय का आईआईटी से स्ट्रक्चर ऑडिट होगा। स्वयं सहायता समूहों को प्रोत्साहन वन एयरपोर्ट वन प्रोडक्ट योजना के



**वायुसेना से चार नए विमान
खड़े करने की मिली मंजूरी**

यात्री सेवा अभियान आज से शुरू

यात्री सेवा अभियान 17 सितंबर से शुरू होकर 10 अक्टूबर तक चलेगा। इस दौरान यात्री सुविधाओं और सफाई पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाएगा। पहले दिन वंदे मातरम गायन और सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम होंगे, दूसरे दिन स्वच्छता अभियान चलेगा। 27 सितंबर को विश्व पर्यटन दिवस पर यात्रियों का अभिनंदन होगा और 2 अक्टूबर को बड़ा सफाई अभियान चलेगा। पेयजल, हेल्थ डेस्क, डिजिटल सुविधा, महिला, बच्चों, वरिष्ठ नागरिकों और दिव्यांगजनों के इंतजामों पर काम होगा।

तहत प्रत्येक माह स्वयं सहायता समूहों को स्टॉल लगाने का मौका मिलेगा। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर गुड़ के उत्पाद बेचने के अलग-अलग स्टॉल लगाए जाएंगे। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन एनजीओ को काउंटर रेट में 50 फीसदी तक की छूट देगा। इससे अधिक से अधिक एनजीओ अपने उत्पाद का स्टॉल लगा सकेंगे।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

16 SEPTEMBER 2026



The Special Assistance Zone at the airport's Terminal 1.

KIA opens special zone to assist disabled, seniors, pregnant women, minors

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced a Special Assistance Zone at Terminal 1 to support those requiring additional attention.

The dedicated facility will cater to persons with reduced mobility and other disabilities, senior citizens, pregnant women, and unaccompanied minors, among others.

The zone is located before security screening and can be accessed through Priority Gate 5A. It combines check in, baggage assistance and waiting.

Two assistance desks manned by airline partners will be available for passengers, a statement from airport operator BIAL said.

Staff at the wheel-

chair-friendly facility will collect baggage from passengers and transport them to the belt, eliminating the need for them to handle the baggage drop process on their own.

The zone has 20 accessible seats with charging points, while additional seating has been provided outside for accompanying family members and caregivers. Flight Information Display System screens will update passengers while they wait.

The facility is part of KIA's wider accessibility initiative that includes Mobility Assist, a sensory room for neurodivergent passengers, the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard programme, accessibility-focused staff training and digital tools such as Social Story.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Shirdi Airport set for ₹6.60cr airside upgrade

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd (MADC) has invited bids for airside infrastructure expansion at Shirdi Airport, with the ₹6.60 crore project aimed at improving safety standards and streamlining operations amid growing pilgrim traffic. The state plans to upgrade the aviation infrastructure into an advanced aviation hub as passenger demand increases.

The project will address key structural gaps in the airfield at

Kakadi village in Ahilyanagar's Kopergaon. The balance work includes construction of an isolation bay road, a taxiway link road and crash fire rescue (CFR) roads.

The isolation bay road will enable aircraft to be isolated during security threats, while the taxiway link road will allow ground support and emergency vehicles to access airside sections without interfering with active runways. The CFR roads will provide high-strength access for heavy emergency response vehicles.

The project also includes

cooling pit and fire pit roads for specialised training and maintenance, clearing vegetation and removing underground roots. Perimeter watch towers and dedicated CFR roads are intended to improve emergency response, while the isolation bay road and taxiway link will facilitate safe handling of aircraft during security alerts or hazardous situations away from the main apron.

MADC has set a five-month completion deadline, followed by a two-year defect liability period. With flights continuing, work schedules will be

aligned with daily arrivals and departures. Bidders must arrange temporary runway lighting and site safety measures complying with Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

Separately, MADC has floated a tender to lease a 37-acre plot near Shirdi International Airport for a 100-key luxury hotel. The hotel, aimed at expanding passenger amenities and capitalising on pilgrim traffic, must become operational within four years.

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NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

एयरपोर्ट पर स्टाफ चेहरा दिखाकर ही ले सकेंगे एंट्री

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■ नई दिल्ली : दिल्ली और मुंबई समेत देश के 169 ऑपरेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर काम करने वाले 15 लाख से अधिक सरकारी और गैर सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिए एक खास सिस्टम तैयार किया जा रहा है। इसके बाद ना तो कोई आधी-अधूरी ड्यूटी कर रजिस्टर में उसे पूरी ड्यूटी दिखा सकेगा और ना ही ड्यूटी पर आए बिना कथित फर्जीवाड़ा कर प्रेजेंट शो कर सकेगा। सारा सिस्टम पूरी तरह से ऑनलाइन किया जा रहा है, जो की एफआरएस से लैस होगा। इसमें एयरपोर्ट की एंट्री और एग्जिट का हर सेकंड का हिसाब-किताब रेकॉर्ड होगा।

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने बताया कि इस नए ऑनलाइन बायोमेट्रिक सिस्टम को देश के सभी एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा-व्यवस्था के लिए काम करने वाली एजेंसी ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिंक्रोरिटी (BCAS) तैयार कर रहा है। इसमें देश के सभी ऑपरेशनल 169 एयरपोर्ट को शामिल किया गया है। वर्तमान व्यवस्था के तहत इन एयरपोर्ट पर एंट्री करने के लिए हर शख्स को बीसीएस का एयरपोर्ट एंट्री पास (AEP) अनिवार्य रूप से चाहिए होता है, भले ही वह सीआईएसएफ का कोई जवान या अफसर हो या फिर



AI Image

यह होगा फायदा

इसका सबसे बड़ा फायदा यह होगा कि एयरपोर्ट के अंदर काम करने वाले हर शख्स के अंदर आने-जाने का लेखा-जोखा रखा जा सकेगा। इससे वह अपनी ड्यूटी में किसी भी तरह का ना तो फर्जीवाड़ा कर सकेगा और ना ही ड्यूटी खत्म होने के बाद एयरपोर्ट के अंदर रुक सकेगा।

कस्टम, इमिग्रेशन, पायलट, एयर होस्टेस, लोडर और एयरपोर्ट के अंदर ड्यूटी प्री शॉप समेत किसी भी तरह की एक्टिविटी करने वाला कोई दुकानदार और उसका कर्मचारी। मतलब एयरपोर्ट के अंदर काम करने वाले हर शख्स को AEP चाहिए ही होगा। भले ही वह सरकारी हो या फिर गैर सरकारी। सबसे पहला बदलाव इस AEP को बनाने में ही किया जा रहा है। इसे अभी तक ऑफलाइन बनाया जाता है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Assistance zone launched at KIA

Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced a special assistance zone at Terminal 1 for passengers requiring additional assistance, including persons with reduced mobility and disabilities, senior citizens, pregnant women, and unaccompanied minors.

Located before security screening and accessible through Priority Gate 5A, the facility brings check-in, baggage assistance and wa-



iting facilities together. Two assistance desks, staffed by airline partners,

help passengers with check-in and other requirements, KIA stated.

Once passengers reach the assistance desk, airport staff collect their baggage and transport it to the baggage belt, allowing them to avoid navigating the baggage drop process independently. The initiative is part of KIA's broader accessibility measures, which include mobility assist for passengers with disabilities, a sensory room for neurodivergent passengers, the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard programme, and accessibility-focused staff training. **TNN**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

IGIA only Indian airport in list of top 50 connected global megahubs

New Delhi: Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is the only Indian airport to figure on the list of the world's top 50 most connected megahubs.

The Delhi airport, according to the UK-based air consultancy firm OAG's listing, is the 28th most connected megahub this year — up 11 places from last year's 39th rank. This ranking is for the domestic and international connectivity an airport offers and is not for the number of passengers it handles.

Istanbul tops the list this year, toppling London's Heathrow which is now at second rank. Amsterdam, Kuala Lumpur and Chicago O'Hare are at the third, fourth and fifth spot this year. The factors considered for this ranking are direct international and domestic connections and connection times.

Due to the dominance of IndiGo, India fares better in low cost megahubs with both Delhi (at ninth spot) and Mumbai (at 11th) in the list of top 25 LCC megahubs.

IGIA also figures in the top 10 megahubs globally where it is in ninth position. **TNN**

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

यूपीआई का : नए नियमों की आड़ में महंगे हो सकते हैं ट्रेन-फ्लाइट के सफर

नई दिल्ली। अगर आप सोचते हैं कि यूपीआई से हर लेन-देन हमेशा की तरह पूरी तरह मुफ्त रहने वाला है, तो आपको इस नए नियम का गणित समझना होगा। सरकार और भारतीय राष्ट्रीय भुगतान निगम (एनपीसीआई) ने बड़ा फैसला लेते हुए पर्सनल-टू-मर्चेंट ट्रांजेक्शंस पर मर्चेंट डिस्काउंट रेट (एमडीआर) लागू किया है।

नए नियम के तहत 2 हजार रु. से अधिक के व्यावसायिक पेमेंट पर 5 रुपये से लेकर अधिकतम 300 रुपये तक की एमडीआर फीस लागू होगी। हालाँकि, आम लोगों के लिए राहत की बात यह है कि आपसी लेन-देन पूरी तरह फ्री रहेगा। बैंकों व ऐप्स को सख्त निर्देश हैं कि वे यह फीस सीधे ग्राहकों से न वसूलें। कागजों पर ग्राहकों के लिए कुछ नहीं बदला,

हवाई सफर पर दिख सकता है असर

एयरलाइन और ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल एजेंसी के लिए इसका असर ज्यादा हो सकता है। परेलू फ्लाइट का एक औसतन टिकट 4,000 से 5,000 रुपये का होता है। इसका



सीधा मतलब है कि एविएशन सेक्टर में लगभग हर ऑनलाइन टिकट बुकिंग 2,000 रुपये की लिमिट को पार कर जाएगी। एयरलाइंस और ट्रेवल पोर्टल्स पर जब 0.4 प्रतिशत का यूपीआई एमडीआर लागू होगा (उदा. 10,000 रुपये के टिकट पर 40 रुपये का एमडीआर), तो कंपनियां इस घाटे को खुद बर्दाश्त नहीं करेंगी। जानकारों का कहना है, हवाई कंपनियां और बुकिंग पोर्टल्स पहले से ही प्रति पैसेंजर 300 से 400 रुपये तक कन्वेंिएंस फीस वसूलते हैं। इस अतिरिक्त वित्तीय बोझ को सहने के बजाय एयरलाइंस अपनी कन्वेंिएंस फीस और सीट मिलेक्शन फीस की में बढ़ोतरी कर सकती हैं। कुछ एयरलाइंस इस अतिरिक्त शुल्क को अलग से दिखा सकती हैं, जबकि कुछ इसे अन्य सेवाओं की फीस में शामिल कर सकती हैं।

लेकिन पर्दे के पीछे की कहानी अलग नजर आ रही है। जानकारों का साफ कहना है कि कंपनियां सीधे फीस

वसूलने के बजाय अप्रत्यक्ष रास्तों से इसका पूरा घाटा आपकी ही जेब पर डालने की तैयारी करेंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Centre looks at stronger safeguards for hub-and-spoke flight operations

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Centre is considering stronger procedural as well as technical safeguards for hub-and-spoke flight operations following the immigration lapse involving three Italian nationals who departed India through Delhi without mandatory departure immigration clearance.

Speaking to *businessline*, a

senior civil aviation ministry official indicated that measures under consideration include improvements related to boarding passes.

"It is not about taking action, but about setting things right," the official said.

Lately, industry insiders have been speculating about the possibility of issuing separate boarding passes for domestic and international passengers.

Besides, the ministry offi-

cial referred to "more and stronger measures" being considered to improve safeguards in passenger handling process.

LAPSES

On Monday, sources told *businessline* that initial information regarding the incident indicated lapses in the ground-handling process.

The passengers' boarding cards carried a "D" marking, sources said, adding that this

In a recent immigration lapse, three Italian nationals departed through Delhi without mandatory departure checks

identified them as domestic passengers on the Amritsar-Delhi leg.

Accordingly, they should

have been directed through domestic arrivals and then proceeded to international departures to complete immigration formalities before boarding their onward flight.

However, sources said the passengers were allegedly routed through the international-to-international (I2I) transfer process instead of the domestic-to-international (D2I) process, allowing them to bypass departure immigration checks.

The official's comments come after the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) issued a show-cause notice to Air India on September 12 over what it termed a "serious security and immigration-related lapse".

Meanwhile, personnel of ground-handling agency AISATS involved in guiding passengers were suspended pending investigation, according to sources.

The ground handling

agency did not respond to queries.

In July, MoCA launched hub-and-spoke international flight operations from Amritsar, making it the second spoke airport under the framework after Varanasi.

Under the facility, eligible passengers travelling overseas can complete check-in and departure immigration formalities at Amritsar before taking a connecting flight through Delhi.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

एसोसिएशन ने पायलटों की थकान, असमय मौतों पर उठाए सवाल

गौतम कुमार मिश्रा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: देश में उड़ान भरने वाले करोड़ों हवाई यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और आसमान में विमान संभाल रहे पायलटों की सेहत को लेकर गंभीर सवाल खड़े हो गए हैं। हाल के वर्षों में कई युवा व मेडिकली फिट पायलटों की ट्रेनिंग के दौरान हुई असमय मौतों और अत्यधिक थकान (फटीग) से उपजे खतरों को देखते हुए फेडरेशन आफ इंडियन पायलट (एफआईपी) ने कड़ा रुख अपनाया है। एफआईपी के अध्यक्ष कैप्टन सीएस रंधावा ने नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को पत्र लिखकर मांग की है कि फ्लाइट ड्यूटी टाइम लिमिटेशंस (एफडीटीएल) नियमों

यात्री सुरक्षा के लिए क्यों जरूरी है सख्त व्यवस्था

यदि काकपिट में बैठा पायलट पूरी तरह सतर्क नहीं है, तो आपात स्थिति में उसका प्रतिक्रिया समय धीमा हो सकता है, जो सीधे तौर पर यात्रियों की जान जोखिम में डालता है। थकान का असर कितना खतरनाक हो सकता है, इसे समझाने के लिए एफआईपी ने चेन्नई के तौर पर 25 जनवरी

2024 की इंडोनेशियाई बाटिक एयर घटना का उदाहरण दिया है। वहां नियमों का पालन करने के बावजूद लगातार नींद बाधित होने और थकान के कारण दोनों पायलट उड़ान के दौरान 28 मिनट तक सो गए थे और 153 यात्रियों से भरा विमान रास्ते से 80 समुद्री मील भटक गया था।

को बिना किसी ढील के पूर्ण रूप से लागू किया जाए और एयरलाइन कंपनियों को दी गई सभी अस्थायी छूटें तुरंत प्रभाव से रद्द की जाएं।

एफआईपी ने अपने पत्र में पायलटों की असमय मौत से जुड़ी

घटनाओं का हवाला दिया है। हालांकि, एफआईपी ने स्पष्ट किया है कि आधिकारिक जांच में इन मौतों का सीधा संबंध थकान से स्थापित नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन 30 से 45 वर्ष की आयु वर्ग के फिट

एफआईपी के प्रमुख सुझाव

- एयरलाइंस को दी एफडीटीएल छूट तुरंत वापस ली जाए।
- केवल ड्यूटी घंटों की सीमा तय करने के बजाय पैलानिक डेटा पर आधारित नेशनल फटीग रिसर्क मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम ओवरसाइट प्रोग्राम शुरू हो।
- एयरलाइंस की फटीग रिपोर्टों का त्रिमासी ब्योरा अनिवार्य हो।
- पायलटों की हृदय संबंधी दिक्कतों की स्वतंत्र जांच हो।

पायलटों का इस तरह जाना ड्यूटी शेड्यूल, नींद की कमी और शरीर की जैविक घड़ी पर पड़ रहे विपरीत असर की निष्पक्ष समीक्षा की मांग करता है।

क्या है एफडीटीएल और क्यों टल

रहे हैं सख्त नियम: एफडीटीएल विमानन क्षेत्र का वह सुरक्षा ढांचा है, जो पायलटों के काम के अधिकतम घंटे, नाइट ड्यूटी की सीमा और अनिवार्य आराम की अवधि तय करता है। जनवरी 2024 में डीजीसीए ने इन नियमों को और सख्त किया था। इसमें पायलटों को साप्ताहिक आराम 36 घंटे से बढ़ाकर 48 घंटे कर दिया गया था। साथ ही, रात 12 बजे से सुबह छह बजे के बीच किसी पायलट की अधिकतम दो लैंडिंग की सीमा तय की गई थी।



खबर विस्तार से
पढ़ने के लिए
क्यूआर कोड
स्केन करें।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

एअर इंडिया का घाटा

22,238.23 करोड़ हुआ

नई दिल्ली: कई मुश्किलों के बीच मार्च, 2026 को खत्म हुए वित्त वर्ष में एअर इंडिया का एकीकृत घाटा बढ़कर 22,238.23 करोड़ रुपये हो गया, जो पिछले साल इसी समय में 10,858.83 करोड़ रुपये था। इस दौरान शुद्ध आय घटकर 71,869.94 करोड़ रुपये रह गई, जो 2024-25 में 78,635.61 करोड़ रुपये थी। एकीकृत आंकड़ों में एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के वित्तीय परिणाम भी शामिल हैं। पिछले वित्त वर्ष में कुल खर्च बढ़कर 93,733.31 करोड़ रुपये हो गया, जो एक साल पहले 89,317.12 करोड़ रुपये था। (प्रेट)

Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

पायलटों की थकान और असमय मौतों पर उठे सवाल, एफडीटीएल नियम लागू करने की सिफारिश

गौतम कुमार मिश्रा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: देश में उड़ान भरने वाले करोड़ों हवाई यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और विमान संभाल रहे पायलटों की सेहत को लेकर गंभीर सवाल खड़े हो गए हैं। हाल के वर्षों में कई युवा व मेडिकली फिट पायलटों की ट्रेनिंग के दौरान हुई असमय मौतों और अत्यधिक थकान (फटीग) से उपजे खतरों को देखते हुए फेडरेशन आफ इंडियन पायलट (एफआइपी) ने कड़ा रुख अपनाया है। एफआइपी के अध्यक्ष कैप्टन सीएस रंधावा ने नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को पत्र लिखकर मांग की है कि फ्लाइट ड्यूटी टाइम लिमिटेशंस (एफडीटीएल) नियमों को बिना किसी ढील के पूर्ण रूप से लागू किया जाए और एयरलाइन कंपनियों को दी गई सभी अस्थायी छूट को तुरंत प्रभाव से रद्द किया जाए।

एफआइपी ने अपने पत्र में पायलटों की असमय मौत से जुड़ी घटनाओं का हवाला दिया है। इसमें नवंबर 2023 में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर बोइंग 777 ट्रेनिंग के

एफआइपी ने डीजीसीए को लिखा पत्र, एयरलाइंस को दी सभी छूटों को तुरंत रद्द करने की उदाई मांग



प्रतीकात्मक

दौरान 37 वर्षीय एअर इंडिया के पायलट का निधन की बात कही गई है। गत 11 सितंबर को दिल्ली के होटल में बोइंग 787 ट्रेनिंग व लेआवर के दौरान एअर इंडिया के पायलट की मौत का भी उल्लेख है। हालांकि, एफआइपी ने स्पष्ट किया है कि आधिकारिक जांच में इन मौतों का सीधा संबंध थकान से स्थापित नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन 30 से 45 वर्ष की आयु वर्ग के फिट पायलटों की मौत ड्यूटी शेड्यूल, नींद की कमी और जैविक घड़ी पर पड़ रहे विपरीत असर की निष्पक्ष समीक्षा की मांग करता है।

एफआइपी के प्रमुख सुझाव

- एयरलाइंस को दी गई सभी एफडीटीएल छूट तुरंत वापस ली जाएं।
- वैज्ञानिक ढाँचा पर आधारित नेशनल फटीग रिस्क मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम ओवरसाइट प्रोग्राम शुरू हो।
- एयरलाइंस द्वारा प्राप्त और खारिज फटीग रिपोर्टों का तिमाही ब्योरा अनिवार्य किया जाए।
- 2023 से 2026 के बीच पायलटों की हृदय संबंधी दिक्कतों की स्वतंत्र वैज्ञानिक जांच हो।

क्या है एफडीटीएल और क्यों टल रहे हैं सख्त नियम: एफडीटीएल विमानन क्षेत्र का वह सुरक्षा ढाँचा है, जो पायलटों के काम के अधिकतम घंटे, नाइट ड्यूटी की सीमा और अनिवार्य आराम की अवधि तय करता है। जनवरी 2024 में डीजीसीए ने इन नियमों को और सख्त किया था। इसके तहत पायलटों को मिलने वाला साप्ताहिक आराम 36 घंटे से बढ़ाकर 48 घंटे कर दिया गया था। साथ ही, रात 12 बजे से सुबह छह बजे के बीच किसी पायलट की अधिकतम दो लैंडिंग की सीमा तय की गई थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Govt cuts diesel export duty by ₹5/litre, ATF by ₹4



THE CENTRE ON Wednesday reduced export duties on diesel by ₹5 per litre to ₹20, aviation turbine fuel by ₹4 to ₹15 and petrol by ₹1 to 50 paise, easing levies on all petroleum products. The cuts, effective September 16, come a fortnight after it raised duties on petrol and diesel exports while reducing the levy on ATF, reports **Saurav Anand**.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

August domestic passenger vehicle dispatches rise 36.5% YoY: SIAM

PTI

NEW DELHI

Domestic passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers rose 36.5 per cent year-on-year to 4,39,309 units in August, industry body SIAM said on Tuesday.

Passenger vehicle dispatches were at 3,21,901 units in August 2025, Society of

Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said in a statement. Total two-wheeler sales increased 10.5 per cent to 20,34,698 units last month, as against 18,41,954 units in August last year, it added.

Three-wheeler dispatches were up 22.8 per cent in the previous month at 93,764 units as against 76,324 units in the year-ago period, it added.

"Passenger vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers have recorded the highest ever sales of August in 2026. st 2025," said Rajesh Menon, Director General at SIAM.

"India's automobile industry is passing through a robust growth phase," said Menon, adding that the growth in August has been supported by a lower base of previous year.

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL MUMBAI 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India board meets to oversee CEO transition

PTI
MUMBAI

Air India's board of directors met on Tuesday as the airline is set to see CEO transition, with former Ethiopian Airlines Group chief Tewolde Gebremariam expected to formally take charge later this month.

At the board meeting chaired by N Chandrasekaran, who is the Chairman of Tata Sons, various matters, including the salary structure of the incoming CEO, were discussed, according to sources.

Campbell Wilson, the MD and CEO of Air India, will be stepping down from his role this month.

The sources said the board members also thanked Wilson for his contributions to the airline. He has been at the helm of the airline and piloting an ambitious transformation plan since July 2022.

Air India and India have been a wonderful experience, Wilson said after the meeting,



Air India former CEO and MD Campbell Wilson and Air India CEO and MD Tewolde Gebremariam, who took over the role in August, after an Air India meeting outside the Bombay House, in Mumbai on Tuesday

which was held at the Bombay House, the headquarters of the Tata Group.

"It has been a privilege to be a part of Air India's long history and very happy to hand over to Tewolde as my successor. All the very best to India and Air India to become a world class airline," he told reporters outside the Bombay House.

Apart

from

Chandrasekaran and Wilson, there are five other board members -- Sanjiv Mehta, Alice G Vaidyan and PR Ramesh are the independent directors, while PB Balaji and Goh Choon Phong are the non-executive non-independent directors. Gebremariam were among those seen walking into the Bombay House in the morning.

Security clearance for

Gebremariam is awaited and once it is received, he will assume charge as MD and CEO of Air India.

The loss-making Air India has been grappling with multiple challenges, including the fatal AII71 accident in June last year that killed 260 people as well as geopolitical disruptions, airspace closures, fuel price volatility and various operational issues.

On September 7, incoming CEO and MD Tewolde Gebremariam, in his first address during a townhall, told the airline's staff that "we will Make Air India Great Again (MAGA)".

He had also sought the support and cooperation of the airline's staff and called for minimising disruptions as he emphasised that operational excellence is about getting the basics right every day.

At the townhall, Chandrasekaran emphasised the need to focus on safety and build a stronger culture of cost consciousness.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL MUMBAI 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

NEW DELHI

SpiceJet delays spark protests

Passengers at Delhi airport staged protests on Tuesday following severe delays to two Dubai-bound SpiceJet flights, with one grounded for over 24 hours. Flight SG 5111, scheduled to depart Monday morning, was ultimately marked cancelled on flight tracking platforms, while SG 5105 faced an extended delay until Tuesday afternoon. Stranded travelers reported a lack of updates from the airline, prompting airport authorities to step in with food and refreshments. SpiceJet attributed the disruptions to operational issues caused by an aircraft grounding and apologized, stating that alternate flights were being arranged for affected passengers.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Pilot body asks DGCA for review, cites six on-duty deaths in 3 yrs

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) on Wednesday cited six pilot deaths on duty between November 2023 and September 11, 2026, and urged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to conduct an "urgent and comprehensive" review.

FIP asked the aviation regulator to strengthen oversight of fatigue-management practices, including implementation of flight duty time limitation (FDTL) rules and fatigue risk management systems (FRMS).

In December, DGCA eased some pilot duty rules after a staffing crunch forced the country's largest airline, IndiGo, to cancel hundreds of flights. FDTL rules are yet to be fully implemented as the airlines have managed waivers, particularly on Boeing 787 Dreamliner and night operations.

In a letter to the aviation regulator on Wednesday, FIP said it remains deeply concerned about the increasing evidence of fatigue-related operational risks and the continued deferment and dilution of certain FDTL provisions through operator-specific dispensations. It added that the pilot deaths have heightened concerns regarding cumulative fatigue, circadian disruption, recovery opportunities, and

FIP HAS SOUGHT INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF PILOT HEALTH TRENDS AND FATIGUE-RELATED MEDICAL EVENTS

pilot well-being.

FIP said it does not seek to establish any direct causal link between fatigue and the individual deaths. "We believe that these events warrant an urgent and comprehensive review of fatigue exposure, rostering practices, recovery opportunities, medical surveillance, and FRMS effectiveness across Indian aviation operations."

FIP has sought independent scientific review of pilot health trends and fatigue-related medical events, immediate withdrawal of FDTL dispensations granted to operators and uniform implementation of all approved provisions.

FIP called for a "uniform" implementation of all approved FDTL provisions, establishment of a DGCA-led National FRMS Oversight Programme, mandatory quarterly fatigue-reporting and FRMS performance submissions by operators and formal participation of pilot representative bodies in future FDTL and FRMS discussions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

पाक ने भारतीय विमानों के लिए हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंध 24 अक्टूबर तक बढ़ाया

इस्लामाबाद, 16 सितम्बर (एजेंसी): पाकिस्तान ने भारतीय विमानों के लिए अपने हवाई क्षेत्र पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंध को बुधवार को और एक महीने 24 अक्टूबर तक के लिए बढ़ा दिया। देश के हवाई अड्डा प्राधिकरण ने यह जानकारी दी। अप्रैल, 2025 में पहलगाम आतंकी हमले के बाद पाकिस्तान और भारत ने एक-दूसरे की विमानन कंपनियों के लिए हवाई क्षेत्र संबंधी प्रतिबंध लगाए थे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

IndiGo flight diverted to Lucknow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Lucknow

The IndiGo flight 6E6504 from Agartala to Delhi was diverted to Lucknow following a smoke warning indication in the aircraft's cargo area on Tuesday. Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport immediately activated its emergency response protocols. Full fire and rescue, ambulance, medical, security and terminal support were

deployed to ensure a safe and smooth handling of the aircraft, and safety of passengers and crew. The aircraft landed safely at CCSIA at 18:29 IST with 103 passengers and six crew members.

All necessary support was provided, and the situation was handled smoothly with no untoward incident.

Succumbs

A 37-year-old labourer, identified as Gyan Singh, who

was critically injured in a road accident in Faridipur village of Malihabad on Saturday, died during treatment on Monday evening. Gyan Singh was returning home riding on a tractor-trolley after unloading bags of cement. Suddenly, a speeding van approached from the opposite direction.

To prevent a direct collision, the driver sharply swerved the tractor. The sudden, violent jolt caused

Gyan Singh to lose his balance and fall face-first onto the road. He sustained severe injuries to his head and face and was left bleeding profusely at the spot.

After the accident, with the help of locals and family members, Gyan Singh was rushed to the Trauma Centre in critical condition. Due to the severity of his injuries, he died on Monday evening.

Upon receiving information, the police rushed to the hospital. The police sent the body for a post-mortem examination and initiated necessary legal proceedings. Meanwhile, a youth was killed in a road accident on Sitapur Road around 9 am on Tuesday. Two youths were coming to Lucknow from Sitapur on a motorcycle. A truck behind them lost control near the Titan weighbridge and ran over them, killing one of them on the spot. The victim was identified as Jawahir (20) of Bashari Ataria.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air consolidated loss widens to ₹22,238 crore in FY26

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Air India's consolidated loss widened to ₹22,238.23 crore in the fiscal ended March 2026 from ₹10,858.83 crore in the year-ago period amid multiple headwinds.

During the same period, total income declined to ₹71,869.94 crore against ₹78,635.61 crore in 2024-25, according to regulatory filings. The consolidated figures include financials of Air India Express.

Air India has been grappling with multiple challenges, including the fatal AI171 accident in June last year that killed 260 people, as well as geopolitical disruptions, airspace closures, fuel price volatility and various operational issues.

The regulatory filings showed that on a consolidated basis, total expenses jumped to ₹93,733.31 crore in the last financial year from ₹89,317.12 crore a year ago.

In 2025-26, aircraft repair and maintenance costs increased to ₹14,976.45 crore from ₹13,901.82 crore, while fuel expenses fell to ₹26,871.80 crore from



₹29,023.37 crore in the year-ago period. Foreign exchange loss rose to ₹7,388.23 crore in the last fiscal against ₹1,545.01 crore, the filings showed.

In the last fiscal, exceptional items stood at ₹429.05 crore, including an amount related to the fatal AI171 plane crash. According to the filings, the parent company is adequately covered under its aviation hull and liability insurance policies.

"The parent company has received the agreed amount from the insurer towards loss of aircraft and related incidental costs under its hull insurance. The net impact after the derecognition of the aircraft has been presented as an exception-

al item," one of the filings said. The filing said that based on the information currently available, the management believes that any financial liability arising from such claims is expected to be substantially covered by the parent company insurance policies.

"Accordingly, no material financial impact on the company's reserves and losses is presently expected..." it added. The financial statements for the 2025-26 fiscal year were approved on June 1, 2026.

On a standalone basis, Air India's loss widened to ₹15,367.75 crore in the fiscal year ended March 2026 from ₹3,975.75 crore in the year-ago period.



Corporate Communications Directorate

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AI Express bomb hoax: First officer suspect after handwriting match, NIA takes over investigation

Ahmedabad: An Air India Express first officer is a suspect in a bomb hoax that forced a Dammam-New Delhi flight to make an emergency landing in Ahmedabad on Aug 31, police sources said.

They said the threat note bearing the words "RED: BOMB" found in a lavatory was a 65% handwriting match with hers and its ink belonged to her. They cited variations in her statements and said she failed a lie-detector test. Her handwriting also matched a threat in another bomb hoax threatening a flight on which she was a crew member.

"What's missing is the intention behind the act, including the possibility of some mischief," a home department official said.

The airline's complaint had prompted the investigation. The investigation has now been handed over to NIA.

The airline said it was "fully cooperating". "We unequivocally condemn any conduct that compromises ... the safety and security of our guests, crew and operations. Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation," the spokesperson added. **TNN**