



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

17 JANUARY 2025

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## **RGIA INTRODUCES NEW IMMIGRATION PROGRAMME**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 16

The RGIA has introduced the Fast Track Immigration — Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), virtually inaugurated by Union home minister Amit Shah, to provide Indian passport holders and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders with a faster and smoother immigration experience.

The FTI-TTP allows pre-verified travellers to bypass queues and use dedicated electronic gates (e-gates) for quicker immigration clearance.

To join the programme, eligible individuals must apply online. The process, which can take up to a month, includes submitting biometrics such as fingerprints and facial scans at either the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) or a dedicated counter at the RGIA. Membership is tied to the validity of the applicant's passport. Once approved, travellers can use the e-gates for both departures and arrivals. At the first gate, passengers scan their passport and boarding pass and at the second gate a face scan completes the process.

Speaking about the initiative, Pradeep Panicker, CEO of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL), noted the airport's commitment to adopting technology. "This initiative simplifies the immigration process and enhances the overall travel experience," he said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

17 JANUARY 2025

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## Airlines plan to start Middle East flights

**Dublin, Jan. 16:** Germany's Lufthansa Group is set to resume flights to and from Tel Aviv in Israel from Feb. 1 and Wizz Air restarted its London to Tel Aviv route on Thursday, the companies said following a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas.

Many Western carriers cancelled flights to swaths of the Middle East in recent months, including Beirut and Tel Aviv, as conflict tore across the region.

Airlines also avoided Iraqi and Iranian airspace out of fear of getting accidentally caught in drone or missile warfare.

Wizz Air also resumed flights to Amman, Jordan starting on Thursday from London Luton airport.

Lufthansa Group carriers Brussels Airlines, Eurowings, Austrian Airlines and Swiss were included in Lufthansa's decision to

resume flights to Tel Aviv. Ryanair said it was hoping to run a full summer schedule to and from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv in an interview with *Reuters* last week, before the Gaza ceasefire deal was announced.

In the wake of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, Turkish Airlines said it would start flights to Damascus, with three flights per week.

But airlines remain cautious and watchful before re-entering the region in full, they said.

Air France-KLM said its operations to and from Tel Aviv remain suspended until Jan. 24, while its flights between Paris and Beirut will be suspended until Jan. 31.

"The operations will resume on the basis of an assessment of the situation on the ground," it said in a statement. — *Reuters*



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

17 JANUARY 2025

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AHMEDABAD

## **Fast track immigration system at Ahd Airport**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, currently on a visit to his home state of Gujarat, inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Program' (FTI-TTP) at Ahmedabad Airport. He will also launch the service for six other airports, namely Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kochi. The Home Minister had previously introduced the FTI-TTP on June 22, 2024, at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in New Delhi.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

17 JANUARY 2025

**FAST-TRACK TRAVEL | Amit Shah launches facility in seven cities, including Mumbai**

## Airport travellers get e-gate facility at immigration

**Dhairya Gajara**  
MUMBAI

The much awaited Fast Track Immigration - Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI - TTP) was launched at Mumbai Airport on Thursday, ensuring fast and seamless immigration for Indians and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).

The facility was inaugurated at seven airports by Home Minister Amit Shah from Ahmedabad.

After the launch of fast-track immigration at Terminal 3 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport in June, the facility was scheduled to be extended to seven other airports, including Mumbai, on December 30. However, the inauguration was abruptly postponed by the Bureau of Immigration. The Free Press Journal had exclusively reported on December 29 about the postponement.

The facility was inaugurated on Thursday at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin and



**Applicants can enrol in the programme by registering on the Ministry of Home Affairs' website**

Ahmedabad.

The facility is planned to be implemented at 21 major airports across the country.

The facility, which has been initially launched free of cost, will speed up the immigration clearance process for Indian nationals and OCI cardholders. Eligible applicants can save time during departure and arrival by going through a streamlined immigration process from e-gates,

which use biometrics information including the fingerprint and face image.

Applicants can enrol in the programme by registering themselves on the Ministry of Home Affairs' website. The biometric data of registered applicants will be captured either at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) or while passing through the airport. Once a traveller is registered under the FTI - TTP scheme, immigration can be cleared by just scanning their airline-issued boarding pass and passport along with authentication of biometrics at the arrival and departure points.

Indians and OCI travellers can sign up for FTI-TTP at the airport terminal when using the facility for the first time. The saved data can be later used every time during an international journey. The travellers need to submit their passport-size photograph, a scanned copy of the passport, proof of present address and a scanned copy of OCI card, if the traveller is an overseas citizen.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

17 JANUARY 2025

## MUMBAI AIRPORT RECORDS HIGHEST EVER PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN 2024



**54.8 mn**  
Passengers in  
2024, highest  
ever

**6.3%**  
Growth  
compared to  
2023

**19.41%**  
Growth  
compared to  
2019

**3,46,000**  
Air traffic  
movements  
in 2024

**3.2%**  
ATM increase  
over previous  
year

**December 21:** Highest single-day passenger movement – 1.7 lakh, including 1.16 lakh domestic travellers

**December:** Busiest month, with 5.05 million passengers

**February 3 and 10:** Highest-ever single-day ATMs for 2024, with 962 movements on both days

### Destinations

**Delhi:** Top domestic destination from Mumbai Airport with 18% market share

**Bengaluru:** 11% market share

**Goa:** 7% market share

**Dubai:** Top international travel destination with 16% market share

**London & Abu Dhabi:** 7% each

**Middle East region:** Most preferred region for passenger travel with 48.8% of traffic

**Asia-Pacific:** 28.2%

**Europe:** 14.5%



# AQI returns to 'poor', Grap 3 lifted in NCR

**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** Delhi's air quality returned to the "poor" category on Friday after two days of pollution levels being in the "very poor" zone, resulting in the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR) lifting Stage 3 measures of the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap).

The 23-hour average air quality index (AQI) dropped to 289 at 4pm on Friday, an improvement from 302 (very poor) at 4pm on Thursday and 400 at 8pm on Wednesday. By 11pm, Friday's AQI had dropped to 266. Stage 4 Grap measures, which were imposed on Wednesday, were lifted the next day.

Friday was also colder than Thursday. The minimum temperature was 8.8°C, a drop from 10.3°C the day before and 1.2°C above the normal. The maximum temperature was 18 degrees Celsius (°C), down from 19.6°C on Thursday and 1.6°C below the normal.

The India Meteorological department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for the weekend, warning people of a moderate to dense fog.

IMD has forecast another western disturbance to start impacting northwest India from January 18 onwards, with chances of another spell of light rain in Delhi on January 22 or 23. The maximum and minimum temperature are forecast to be around 19°C and 7°C.

"The minimum will drop till the western disturbance impacts the region. After that, we will likely see a rise in the minimum temperature again," added the Met official.

## Grapp seesaw

Delhi's AQI had last entered the "poor" category on January 12 after which Stage 3 Grap measures were revoked. AQI remained poor until Wednesday when it dropped to "very poor", and further dropped to 400 later at night after which Stage 4 of Grap was invoked.



Several parts of the city, such as Dwarka (above), saw dense to very dense fog on Friday morning.

VIPIAN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

The restrictions under Grap Stage 3 that were removed on Friday include the ban on plying of BS3 petrol and BS4 diesel four-wheelers in Delhi, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Budh Nagar, as well as a ban on construction and demolition activities, stone crushers, and mining and associated activities.

Schools up to Class 5 in Delhi and neighbouring cities of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Budh Nagar can also switch to offline mode from "hybrid" mode (physical and online).

Delhi-registered diesel-operated Medium Goods Vehicles

(MGVs) that are BS4 and lower are allowed to ply in Delhi and BS4 or lower diesel-operated Light Commercial Vehicles (goods carriers), registered outside Delhi will be allowed to enter the city again as well.

The Supreme Court on December 5 had asked CAQM to invoke Stage 3 measures at 350 AQI instead of the original 400 threshold and Stage 4 at 400 AQI instead of the 450 threshold.

"Considering the trend of improvement in the average AQI of Delhi and also the forecasts by IMD/IITM indicating the likelihood of the overall air quality of Delhi to stay in the lower end

'very poor' category in the coming days, the CAQM sub-committee on Grap today unanimously decided to revoke all actions under Stage 3 of the extant schedule of Grap in the entire NCR with immediate effect," CAQM said on Friday.

The Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) for Delhi has forecast the air quality to remain in the "poor" to "very poor" category in the coming days.

The visibility in several parts of the Capital dropped severely due to a dense to very dense fog on Friday morning.

## Fog and temperature

Visibility was poor in many parts of the city on Friday morning that saw a dense to very dense fog. Visibility at Palam had dropped to zero by 9.30pm on Thursday and stayed in that range until 3am on Friday with westerly winds of speed 8-10kmph affecting the area, according to IMD.

IMD defines "shallow" fog in a region when visibility drops to 500-1,000m, "moderate" fog when visibility is 200-500m, "dense" fog when visibility is 50-200m, and "very dense" when visibility dips to 50m or lower.

"Visibility at Palam improved to 50m by 7.30 am, 100m by 8.30 am, 300 m by 9am and 500m by 9.30am. Westerlies 10kmph prevailed in the region. The visibility over Safdarjung remained 200m since 1.30 am aided by calm winds, and gradually improved in the later half of the day," said an IMD official.

Airport authorities said no flights were cancelled or diverted.

IMD initially issued an orange alert for Friday, warning people about dense to very dense fog but as conditions improved over the day, they changed the alert to yellow and then green in the latter half of the day.

A yellow alert has been issued for Saturday, warning people of a dense to very dense fog in the early hours. A moderate fog has been forecast for Sunday but no alerts have been issued.



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BREATHE**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

17 JANUARY 2025

## IN BRIEF



### Chennai airport gets Fast Track Immigration facility

Faster immigration process is now available for passengers from Chennai airport as Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme on Thursday. Mr. Shah launched the programme virtually from Ahmedabad airport. Passengers will have to record their details on the portal <https://ftittp.mha.gov.in> and subsequently, provide their biometrics at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

18 JANUARY 2025

## Dense fog delays trains, flights in Delhi; IMD issues yellow alert

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, 17 JANUARY

The dense fog that enveloped Delhi in the early morning on Friday resulted in the delay of several trains and flights as the weather department issued a yellow alert for Saturday. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the minimum temperature in Safdarjung was recorded at 8.8 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature was 18 degrees Celsius.

The weather forecast body added that the visibility over Palam Airport reduced to zero meters at 3 am improved to 50 meters at 6:30 am and 200 meters at 9 am affecting the departure and arrival of flights.

In a post on X, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said, "Due to inclement weather conditions, multiple



flights have been impacted. The passengers are advised to contact the concerned airline for flight update".

As per a flight tracker website, at least 100 flights were affected due to the fog reporting a delay for a few minutes to 40 minutes and cancellation of 10 flights.

The fog also affected the operation of trains in the national capital. According

to a railway official, at least 27 trains, leaving and arriving at the New Delhi and satellite stations, were reportedly running late. The trains include several Superfast, mail and express category trains. The delays resulted in the passengers remaining stranded in extreme cold at the railway stations for several hours, especially in the morning time.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

17 JANUARY 2025

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## **Airport fast-tracks immigration process**

**Bengaluru:** KIA has introduced Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) to offer seamless and secure immigration services. TNN



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

17 JANUARY 2025

## Fast-track immigration system launched at Chennai airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** City airport has launched the long-awaited fast-track immigration system that will allow flyers registered under the Trusted Traveller Programme to bypass long queues at immigration clearance.

Union home minister Amit Shah inaugurated the programme virtually on Thursday from Ahmedabad, at Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, and Chennai simultaneously. At Chennai airport, eight exclusive gates have been set up — four for departing flyers and four for those arriving from different destinations.

Passengers can scan their passports and boarding

passes at the gates to get past the immigration clearance. “The facility is functional from the time of inauguration. All registered passengers can make use of the facility,” a senior FRRO official said. “Passengers who want to register afresh can visit Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore airports after completing the online application procedure to record their biometrics. Immigration officers will guide them,” the official added.

Registered passengers will be subjected to two-stage verification under the fast-track immigration programme. At the first e-gate, a passenger’s passport and boarding pass are scanned. Once verified, the person can pro-

ceed to the next e-gate, where his/her face is scanned. If verified, the passenger will then be authenticated as a trusted traveller, and the immigration/emigration process will be completed.

Immigration officials said that more than 1,000 people registered at Chennai’s Foreigners Regional Registration Office under the Trusted Traveller Programme. The system was first launched at Terminal 3 of the IGI Airport in New Delhi in June 2024, and Chennai was among the seven other airports selected to implement the programme.

The fast-track immigration has been planned for 21 airports across the country in a phased manner.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

17 JANUARY 2025

## CITY AIRPORT SEES RECORD 5.5CR FLYERS IN '24 AS NAVI MUM BASE PREPARES TO LAUNCH THIS YR

With Navi Mumbai airport expected to take wings this year, 2024 would most likely be the last year when the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) was served by a single airport that operates out of a single runway. Runway congestion has been stifling growth at Mumbai airport for quite some time now – both in the pre-pandemic years and in the last two years after traffic picked up post the Covid-imposed slowdown – reports TOI

### A RECORDING-BREAKING PERFORMANCE

► Mumbai airport handled 3,46,617 flights in 2024, a growth of only 12,226 flights compared to 2023. However, passenger traffic growth proves that demand for air travel from the MMR is as robust as ever

► Airport handled nearly 5.5cr passengers in 2024, the highest-ever recorded

► This was a growth of about 6% compared to the nearly 5.2cr passengers handled in 2023

► Notably, in 2023, Mumbai airport's annual passenger traffic numbers crossed the pre-pandemic high of 4.9cr recorded in 2018



### HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY FLYER MOVEMENT ON DEC 21

► In 2024, Mumbai airport recorded its highest single-day passenger movement on Dec 21 with 1.7L flyers, which included nearly 1.17L domestic and 52,800 international travellers

► Dec also emerged as the busiest month, with 50.5L passengers, a 3.4% growth over the same period in 2023

► For 2024, the highest volume of flights was handled on Feb 3 and 10, when the airport managed 962 single-day air traffic movements



Enhanced global connectivity achieved with international flights to Tashkent and Almaty; and domestic flights to Deogarh, Rajahmundry, Tirupati, Ayodhya, and Vijayawada



“These milestones reinforce Mumbai airport's standing as a key global hub, connecting millions of travellers year after year. Mumbai airport remains a vital gateway for domestic and international travel, showcasing sustained growth and resilience —A MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LTD SPOKESPERSON



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

18 JANUARY 2025

### BCAS WARNS AKASA AIR OVER AVIATION SECURITY RULES VIOLATION

**Neha LM Tripathi**

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**NEW DELHI:** Akasa Air has received a second warning, this time from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), for failing to comply with the aviation security rules.

The warning comes after a surprise check by BCAS on April 18 last year found that the airline's cargo at Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport was being handled by AAI Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company Limited (AAICLAS) without a valid agreement for security procedures. BCAS stated that this was a violation of Rule 3(1) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, which requires aircraft operators to engage a regulated agent for applying security control on cargo.

Akasa Air responded to BCAS, stating that its license agreement with AAICLAS was only for office space and not for handling security control on cargo. However, the airline later signed a Standard Ground Handling Agreement with AAICLAS on June 29, 2024.

BCAS has warned Akasa Air to be more careful in the future and avoid further violations of aviation security norms.

A former aviation ministry official said that this was a major safety lapse and that both Akasa Air and AAICLAS were at fault. "In other countries, this offense could have even led to the cancellation of the airline's license," the official added.

This is the second warning received by Akasa Air, after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a warning letter to the airline's CEO, Vinay Dube, on January 13, asking him to ensure strict compliance with rules to prevent regulatory lapses.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

18 JANUARY 2025

## India plans to be MRO hub, work with S'pore

Sector holds tremendous potential for employment generation

JAYANTH JACOB @New Delhi

FACTORING in the "tremendous" potential of employment generation and value addition in the Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) sector, India has plans to emerge as a "hub" as it is looking forward to working with Singapore in the area. "Maintenance and repair of aircraft is gaining a lot of importance for us. A tremendous amount of employment can be generated and value addition can be made. India could become a hub of MRO for others as well. Singapore is itself a very strong MRO centre. They too are looking forward to working with us," MEA secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar said.

He was briefing the media about the ongoing visit of Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam to India. The Singapore President, after the Delhi leg of his visit, is scheduled to visit Odisha for two days starting Friday, during which at least eight pacts will be signed between the island country and the coastal state.

The government has taken several steps to facilitate setting up of aircraft MRO services in India and the value of the total business may go up from \$2 billion to \$4 billion in seven years, Civil Aviation

### STEPS TO BOOST MRO SECTOR

On September 1, 2021, new MRO guidelines were introduced including provisions for land allotments for MRO services at AAI-operated airports

GST ON MRO SERVICES WAS REDUCED FROM 18% TO 5%, WITH FULL INPUT TAX CREDIT AVAILABLE FROM APRIL 1, 2020

Transactions subcontracted by foreign OEMs and MROs to domestic MRO providers are now treated as "exports" with zero-rated GST from April 1, 2020



India's MRO industry is expected to go up from \$2 billion to \$4 billion in 7 years, the Civil Aviation Minister stated in Lok Sabha in August last year

Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu had told Lok Sabha in August last year.

According to official data, the government has implemented several measures to promote the establishment of aircraft MRO services in India in the recent years.

On September 1, 2021, the government introduced new MRO guidelines, which included provisions for land allotments for MRO services at airports operated by the Airports Authority of India. Furthermore, the Goods and Services Tax on MRO services was reduced from 18% to 5%, with full

input tax credit available starting from April 1, 2020.

In a bid to promote domestic MROs, transactions subcontracted by foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEM) and MROs to Indian MRO providers are now treated as "exports" with zero-rated GST from April 1, 2020.

Mazumdar said there are ongoing collaborations in energy and data sectors between India and Singapore. "There is already some work going on in terms of the green energy corridor between India and Singapore, along the eastern part of India."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

18 JANUARY 2025

## बिजनेस बज

### ₹1296 में महाकुंभ पहुंचें : पवन हंस

■ वि, नई दिल्ली : हेलीकॉप्टर सर्विस प्रोवाइडर कंपनी पवन हंस लिमिटेड ने कहा है कि उत्तर



प्रदेश सरकार के यूपीएसटीडीसी के सहायता से महाकुंभ 2025

के साथ जुड़ने की घोषणा करते हुए प्रसन्नता हो रही है। कंपनी ने कहा कि श्रद्धालुओं से 1,296 रुपये प्रति यात्री मामूली किराया लिया जाएगा। टिकटों को पवन हंस की वेबसाइट [booking.pawanhans.co.in](http://booking.pawanhans.co.in) के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन बुक किया जा सकता है।