

AAI makes a slew of changes in traffic flow at city airport

PORT CALL

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

At a time when air passengers find it challenging to navigate and reach the parking lot for boarding cabs, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has introduced a new set of changes to vehicular movement at Chennai airport on Monday. This is being carried out to facilitate the ongoing construction of a part of the integrated international terminal (T3 terminal).

Most importantly, Chennai airport, which had two entry/exit points for vehicles, will have only one functional entry – the main gate on GST Road opposite Tirusulam station – temporarily, for the next 40 days.

Vehicles coming from Tambaram will not be able to enter through the second gate (located opposite PVR Galada Grand) and will have to enter only through the main gate on GST Road opposite to the station. AAI said traffic marshals will be deployed to prevent congestion and manage vehicle movement.

Vehicles which are heading to the departure level of the T4 Domestic Terminal will enter via the main GST Road gate, head straight, take the last right, climb over the bridge (left arm) and drop off passengers.

The vehicles that drop off passengers and return will take a u-turn (right in front of the T4 terminal)



Limited access: The airport will have only one entry on GST Road opposite Tirusulam station for the next 40 days. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

and will return through the same arm of this bridge through which they entered.

This could potentially cause congestion unless traffic is regulated well. Also, it is rather a bumpy ride for vehicles to climb this arm of the bridge as a small section of this arm is in poor shape.

If someone is coming to send off a passenger in T4 terminal, they can no longer just head to the parking lot. Instead, they have to exit the airport, enter the airport again via GST Road, park the vehicle at the multi-level car parking facility and walk down to the T4 terminal.

The connecting tube linking the T4 terminal with the west wing of the parking lot will also be closed for 40 days due to this ongoing construction work.

AAI has said access to T1 domestic terminal and T2 international terminal will continue as usual and these vehicle diversions

will not affect the passengers.

Transit passengers who have to shuttle between T1 domestic terminal and T2 international terminal can take the buggy vehicle as usual.

But, those transit passengers who have to travel between T1 domestic terminal and T4 domestic terminal will have to use a walkalator. The buggy vehicles will not shuttle between these two departure levels for this temporary period. Otherwise, these transit passengers will have to take a buggy vehicle at the arrival level, get dropped in front of the arrival hall at the T4 domestic terminal, and take a lift to the departure level.

One of the walkways has been closed and an alternative walkway has been provided.

AAI said these diversions and changes will be in effect only till structural steel erection work for the upcoming terminal is completed.

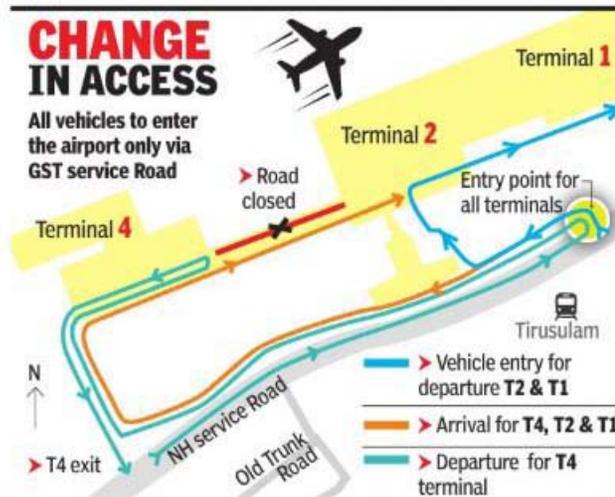
Airport diverts traffic to erect truss for phase-2 terminal

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Chennai: Vehicular movement at Chennai international airport will see major diversions for the next 40 days as the Airports Authority of India will erect a massive truss structure for the façade of the phase-2 international terminal.

Vehicle movement between T4 and T2 departure terminals on the flyover is completely restricted, as the assembled truss structure will be lifted and fixed over the flyover. Therefore, vehicle entry into the airport from the Pallavaram end is barred to ensure safety and facilitate smooth vehicular movement while construction activities are carried out.

All vehicles will be allowed to enter the airport in front of the T2 terminal. Vehicles that were to reach the departure terminals of T2 and T1 can use the ramp between Aerohub East and West buildings and exit as usual. Vehicles that were to reach the T4 departure terminal alone will be allowed to enter the ramp inside the airport at the Pallavaram end and will have to make a U-turn and exit via the Palla-



Developed at a cost of ₹2,467 crore, Chennai Airport's Phase II development is an extension of the existing international terminal (T2)

varam end.

Vehicle movement for the arrival terminals will not be affected, said AAI officials. The diversion will be in force for 40 days until April 24. Also, the link bridge for flyers to reach the parking lot from T4 will be blocked during this 40-day period.

Developed at a cost of ₹2,467 crore, Chennai Airport's Phase II development is an extension of the existing international terminal (T2). Spanning 86,135 sqm,

the terminal includes 60 check-in counters and 8 aerobridges to increase the passenger handling capacity of the airport to 35 million per annum.

According to airport officials, 40% of the construction is complete, and with the erection of the truss, most of the skeletal work will be over. The Phase II development is being monitored by the AAI Chairman, after reports of delay in executing the project.

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट उद्घाटन की तैयारी तेज

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 17 मार्च (देशबन्धु)। जेवर स्थित नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन को लेकर तैयारियां तेज हो गई हैं। मंगलवार को योडा सीईओ आरके सिंह, जिलाधिकारी मेधा रुपम और पुलिस उपायुक्त राजीव नारायण मिश्रा ने एयरपोर्ट स्थल का निरीक्षण कर व्यवस्थाओं का जायजा लिया। हालांकि उद्घाटन की तिथि अभी घोषित नहीं हुई है, लेकिन संभावना जताई जा रही है कि कार्यक्रम इसी माह आयोजित हो सकता है।

एयरपोर्ट का पहला चरण 1334 हेक्टेयर में पूरा हो चुका है और यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड को नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) से एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस भी मिल चुका है, जिससे व्यवसायिक उड़ानों का रास्ता साफ हो गया है।

सुविधाओं और व्यवस्थाओं पर फोकस

अधिकारियों ने सभा स्थल के लेआउट, पार्किंग, पेयजल, शौचालय, बिजली और भीड़ प्रबंधन को लेकर विस्तृत योजना



- वीवीआईपी कार्यक्रम को लेकर प्रशासन सतर्क
- डीजीसीए से लाइसेंस मिलने के बाद अतिम चरण में तैयारियां
- सुरक्षा से लेकर पार्किंग और आपदा प्रबंधन तक व्यापक प्लान तैयार

तैयार की है। कार्यक्रम में बड़ी संख्या में लोगों के पहुंचने की संभावना को देखते हुए हर पहलू पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।

सुरक्षा के कड़े इंतजाम

उद्घाटन समारोह में करीब 3 से 4 हजार सुरक्षाकर्मियों की तैनाती होगी। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ समेत वीवीआईपी मेहमानों के लिए त्रिस्तरीय सुरक्षा व्यवस्था लागू रहेगी।



आपदा प्रबंधन और प्रतिबंध लागू

एयरपोर्ट के 20 किलोमीटर दायरे में कलर-कोडेड जोन लागू किए जाएंगे। ड्रोन उड़ाने, लेजर लाइट के उपयोग और मानक से ऊंची इमारतों के निर्माण पर प्रतिबंध रहेगा। साथ ही कचरा ड्रिपिंग पर भी रोक लगाई गई है।

इमरजेंसी तैयारियां भी पूरी

एयरपोर्ट परिसर में दो फायर स्टेशन बनाए जाएंगे। आपात स्थिति के लिए दो अस्पतालों को अलर्ट मोड पर रखा गया है। साथ ही इमरजेंसी में विमानों को शिफ्ट करने और यात्रियों को सुरक्षित उठराने की योजना भी तैयार की गई है। जिलाधिकारी मेधा रुपम के अनुसार, पर्यावरण और आपदा प्रबंधन से जुड़े सभी मानकों का सख्ती से पालन सुनिश्चित किया जा रहा है। उद्घाटन की तारीख जल्द घोषित होने की उम्मीद है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

एयरपोर्ट से गंगा तक सीधी रफ्तार

ग्रेटर नोएडा। क्षेत्र की कनेक्टिविटी को नई ऊंचाई देने वाली नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट-गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे लिंक परियोजना अब तेजी से आगे बढ़ रही है। यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यीडा) ने अपने हिस्से में अब तक 93 हेक्टेयर भूमि खरीद ली है, जबकि शेष लगभग 270 हेक्टेयर जमीन के अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया भी तेजी से जारी है। खास बात यह है कि इस परियोजना के लिए आवश्यक बजट उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार पहले ही उपलब्ध करा चुकी है, जिससे काम में गति आई है। यह लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे उत्तर प्रदेश एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (यूपीडा) द्वारा विकसित किया जाएगा। <



प्रस्तावित मार्ग के अनुसार, यह एक्सप्रेस वे बुलंदशहर के स्याना क्षेत्र में गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे के 44.3 किमी प्वाइंट से शुरू होकर यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के 24.8 किमी प्वाइंट (सेक्टर-21, प्रस्तावित फिल्म सिटी के पास) तक पहुंचेगा। करीब 20 किलोमीटर लंबा हिस्सा यीडा क्षेत्र में आता है, जहां भूमि अधिग्रहण तेजी से किया जा रहा है। कुल मिलाकर यह परियोजना 56 गांवों की जमीन से होकर गुजरेगी, जिसमें गीतमबुद्ध नगर के 8 गांव शामिल हैं। इस लिंक के तैयार होने के बाद मेरठ से प्रयागराज तक बन रहे गंगा एक्सप्रेस वे और यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के बीच सीधा कनेक्शन स्थापित हो जाएगा। इससे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट, दिल्ली-मुंबई एक्सप्रेस वे और आगरा-ग्रेटर नोएडा के बीच यात्रा पहले से कहीं अधिक तेज और सुगम हो जाएगी। यह परियोजना न केवल यात्रियों को बेहतर मार्ग उपलब्ध कराएगी, बल्कि लॉजिस्टिक्स, औद्योगिक निवेश और क्षेत्रीय विकास को भी बढ़ा बढ़ावा देगी। देश-विदेश से आने वाले यात्रियों के लिए मेरठ से प्रयागराज तक निर्बाध यात्रा का रास्ता खुल जाएगा।

यीडा के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी आर.के. सिंह के अनुसार, इस परियोजना को प्राथमिकता के आधार पर आगे बढ़ाया जा रहा है और भूमि अधिग्रहण जल्द पूरा करने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं। उन्होंने इसे क्षेत्र के समग्र विकास के लिए बेहद अहम बताया।

■ लिंक एक्सप्रेस वे परियोजना ने पकड़ी तेजी

■ 93 हेक्टेयर जमीन खरीदी, 270 हेक्टेयर अधिग्रहण जारी



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की 18 किमी की परिधि में लेजर लाइट प्रतिबंधित

जागरण संवाददाता, जेवर: नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पूरी तरह से बनकर तैयार है। जल्द ही प्रधानमंत्री के हाथों इसका लोकार्पण किया जाना है। प्रधानमंत्री के कार्यक्रम फाइनल नहीं होने की वजह से असमंजस की स्थिति बनी हुई है। इधर अफसरों ने लोकार्पण की तैयारियां शुरू कर दी हैं। इसी कड़ी में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की 18 किलोमीटर की परिधि में लेजर लाइट का संचालन पूर्णतः प्रतिबंधित रहेगी। बीडा निर्धारित कलर कोड के अनुरूप भवनों की ऊंचाई का प्रस्ताव अपनी बोर्ड बैठक से अनुमोदित कराए, अनुमोदन प्राप्त कर ही भवन

निर्माण सुनिश्चित कराया जाए, जिससे हवाई अड्डा क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा एवं मानक व्यवस्थित रूप से बनाए रखे जा सकें। स्वास्थ्य और अग्निशमन विभाग के अलावा अन्य विभागों को मानकों के अनुरूप एयरपोर्ट की कार्य करने के निर्देश दिए। मंगलवार को पुलिस, प्रशासन, नियाल और यापल के अधिकारियों ने कार्यक्रम की तैयारियों को लेकर समीक्षा की। इसके बाद जिलाधिकारी की अध्यक्षता में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट इमरजेंसी प्लानिंग कमेटी और एयरपोर्ट पर्यावरण प्रबंधन समिति ने बैठक कर तैयारियों पर मंथन किया।



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

17 MARCH 2026

IndiGo, Adani Airports partner to offer IndiGo BluChips on duty-free shopping

PTI

NEW DELHI

IndiGo and Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) have announced a strategic partnership enabling IndiGo BluChip members to earn on duty-free shopping across AAHL-managed airports.

Under the partnership, members can earn five IndiGo BluChips for every Rs 100 spent on duty-free products pre-booked through the Adani platform.

Travellers can browse, reserve and pay for products online before departure and



collect their purchases conveniently at the airport.

Neetan Chopra, Chief Digital and Information Officer, IndiGo, said, "At IndiGo, we are continuously striving to enhance the value proposition of our loyalty program. This partnership with Adani Duty Free strengthens our commitment to offering meaningful rewards beyond flights, making every step of

the journey more beneficial for our customers."

"By combining IndiGo's extensive network with Adani's premium duty-free experience, we are delighted to bring greater convenience, choice, and value to millions of travelers across India."

Suchit Bansal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) - Non-Aero, AAHL, said, "We are transforming how travellers' shop at airports by integrating digital discovery, pre-order convenience and seamless collection through the Adani platform. Our partnership with IndiGo brings together



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट परिसर में दो दमकल केंद्र बनेंगे

ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन की तैयारी शुरू हो गई है। योडा के सीईओ आरके सिंह, जिलाधिकारी मेधा रूपम और पुलिस उपायुक्त राजीव नारायण मिश्रा ने मंगलवार को कार्यक्रम की तैयारी का जायजा लिया। दूसरी ओर, एयरपोर्ट परिसर में दो दमकल केंद्र बनाने का फैसला लिया गया।

एयरपोर्ट के पहले चरण के तहत 1334 हेक्टेयर में निर्माण कार्य पूरा हो चुका है। यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड को व्यावसायिक उड़ानों के लिए नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) की ओर से एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस भी प्राप्त हो चुका है। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी इसी माह करेंगे। हालांकि, अभी इसकी तिथि की घोषणा नहीं की गई है।

पानी और पार्किंग की तैयारी में जुटे अफसर : एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन समारोह और प्रधानमंत्री के कार्यक्रम के दौरान लगभग चार हजार सुरक्षाकर्मी मौजूद रहेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी, मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ समेत अन्य वीवीआईपी के लिए त्रिस्तरीय सुरक्षा रहेगी। टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग के सामने जनसभा स्थल तैयार किया जा रहा है। अफसरों ने पार्किंग, सुरक्षा इंतजाम, समारोह में आने वाली जनता के लिए पेयजल, शौचालय, बिजली आदि के बारे में जानकारी ली।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

17 MARCH 2026

IndiGo inks Adani Airports pact for BluChip shoppers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai, 16 March

IndiGo has announced a partnership with Adani Group's Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) to allow its loyalty programme members to earn IndiGo BluChips on duty-free purchases at select airports in India aimed to make airport shopping more convenient for travellers while offering rewards for their spending.

"The partnership will integrate IndiGo BluChip with the Adani platform, enabling travellers to pre-order duty-free products and collect them at the airport," both the companies announced here on Monday, in a joint statement.

IndiGo has announced that its IndiGo BluChip



members can now earn rewards on duty-free shopping at select airports managed by AAHL. IndiGo customers can log in through a dedicated portal, link their membership ID and receive their earnings within 24 to 48 hours based on their spending.

Currently, participating duty-free stores are at Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Mangaluru and Lucknow airports. The program will soon expand to Lokapriya

Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati and the new Navi Mumbai International Airport, the statement informed.

Under the partnership, IndiGo BluChip members will earn five BluChips for every Rs 100 spent on duty-free products booked through the Adani platform. IndiGo BluChip is IndiGo's loyalty programme which rewards frequent flyers. Under this programme, members earn BluChips on every flight based on their spending.

Commenting on the development, IndiGo Chief Digital and Information Officer Neetan Chopra: "At IndiGo, we are continuously striving to enhance the value proposition of our loyalty program. This partnership with Adani Duty Free

strengthens our commitment to offering meaningful rewards beyond flights, making every step of the journey more beneficial for our customers. By combining IndiGo's extensive network with Adani's premium duty-free experience, we are delighted to bring greater convenience, choice, and value to millions of travellers across India".

AAHL CEO Suchit Bansal said: "We are transforming how travellers shop at airports by integrating digital discovery, pre-order convenience and seamless collection through the Adani platform. Our partnership with IndiGo brings together India's largest airline and the country's largest private airport operator to deliver a more connected and rewarding travel retail experience".

Flights delayed after drone fire shuts Dubai airport

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: An Emirates flight with 152 passengers was stranded at Calcutta airport for nearly seven-and-a-half hours on Monday after Dubai International Airport temporarily closed following a fire caused by a drone attack.

Several flights from India to Dubai were delayed, and at least three Emirates flights had to return mid-air, officials said. This is the latest disruption at Dubai airport since the US-Israeli attacks on Iran, and Tehran's subsequent retaliation, on February 23.

Tour operators in Calcutta said the UAE and Qatar, which were key gateways for travellers to Europe and the US, now see few passengers be-

cause of safety concerns and uncertainty. While fares to Europe and the US via Dubai remain significantly lower than routes through Delhi, Mumbai or Singapore, only a handful of travellers are willing to take the risk.

According to Calcutta airport officials, Emirates flight EK 0571 was scheduled to depart at 9.45am. However, Dubai airport had been closed since early morning, and the flight eventually took off at 5.11pm. The incoming flight had arrived on time.

A flydubai flight carrying 76 passengers had taken off at 3.01am, before the closure.

Around 5.30am, Emirates staff at Calcutta airport received a message to suspend check-ins. By 11.30am IST, a



Smoke rises from Dubai International Airport after a strike on Monday. (Reuters)

few flights resumed operations out of Dubai, and full services were restored by 2.30pm IST, airport sources said.

Dubai authorities reported that the fire, caused by a drone

impact on a fuel tank at 4am (5.30am IST), led some flights to be diverted to Al Maktoum International Airport. No injuries were reported, and the situation was brought

under control.

Emirates flights from Delhi, Kochi and Chennai had to return after take-off due to the closure.

Passengers expressed frustration over the disruption. One flier from Ottawa, booked on an Emirates flight from Mumbai to Toronto via Dubai, said: "My flight was at 7.20pm. In the morning, I received a message it was delayed to 8.30pm, and later to 10pm. I was worried it would be cancelled... I have to join work and my daughter's exams are near... I didn't get a seat on any other airline."

Anil Punjabi, chairman of the Travel Agents Federation of India for the east, said most passengers heading to Europe or the US are now avoiding

Gulf routes despite low fares. "With no direct flights to Europe or the UK from Calcutta, the Gulf sector was the main route. But now very few are travelling," he said.

Krishnendu Kanungo, who lives in Paris, had come to Calcutta on January 23 and was scheduled to return with his wife and daughter on March 1 via Abu Dhabi. Their flight was cancelled, and they are now booked on an Emirates flight through Dubai on March 20. On Monday evening, the economy fare per person from Calcutta to Paris was ₹35,000 on Emirates, compared with ₹2.89 lakh on Air France and ₹2.7 lakh on Virgin Atlantic for the same day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 ►

Dubai airport landing alert

► FROM PAGE 7

"But I don't want them to travel through West Asia now. We are looking for a fare within reach," said Krishnendu's mother, Pradipta.

Landing ban

Late on Monday night, Dubai airport suspended landings for all foreign (non-UAE) airlines at Dubai International and Al Maktoum International airports until further notice.

The airport cited "the prevailing situation within the region and in the interest of the safety of airlines, crew, passengers, employees, and the public".

Following the alert, IndiGo issued an update: "As per the latest update from Dubai Airport authorities, landing permissions for aircraft operating into DXB have been suspended until further notice in view of the prevailing situation in the region."



Planes parked at Dubai International Airport as smoke rises in the background after a drone attack on Monday. (PTI picture)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

16 MARCH 2026

Minor fire outside aircraft movement area at SVPI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: A small fire involving a temporary cabin structure was reported outside the aircraft movement area at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA) in Ahmedabad on Sunday afternoon, airport authorities said.

The incident took place in a temporary cabin structure, as is learnt from sources.

According to an official spokesperson, the incident was reported at 2.43pm and was swiftly handled by the airport's emergency response teams.

Authorities confirmed that no injuries were reported in the incident and the fire



The fire broke out in a temporary cabin structure, sources said

was contained quickly.

Airport officials also clarified that the incident occurred outside the operational aircraft movement zone and did not impact airport operations.

"A small fire involving a

temporary cabin structure was reported outside the aircraft movement area of Ahmedabad Airport at 14:43 hrs today. Aerodrome Rescue & Fire Fighting teams responded immediately and brought the situation under control within minutes," the spokesperson said.

"All airport operations, including flight movements, remain normal and were not affected," the spokesperson added. Emergency teams conducted precautionary checks in the surrounding area to ensure that the situation was fully under control, sources told TOI.

Officials said the cause of the fire is currently being examined.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

Jodhpur airport to be shut for one month from March 29

New Delhi: Four IAF-controlled civil airports will face temporary shutdowns. Runways at Jodhpur, Srinagar, Pune and Adampur airports will be recarpeted, civilian flights at these airports will be affected during their respective shutdown periods, reports **Surendra Singh**.

Starting with Jodhpur, the IAF has issued a 'Notice to Airmen' for runway recarpeting and, thus, civilian flight operations will remain suspended from March 29 to April 27. The runway recarpeting will be carried out in three phases. Airlines like IndiGo, Air India and Air India Express have already suspended bookings after March 28.

Srinagar airport will be closed on weekends from Aug through mid-Oct. Pune airport is expected to face operational disruptions later in the year. Adampur air base will undergo runway adjustments after Nov.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

All 30 grounded legacy planes of Air India back in service

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Air India has brought back into service all 30 grounded aircraft inherited at the time of its privatisation, raising its current fleet strength to 186 planes, industry sources told *businessline*.

With the return to service of Boeing 777-300ER VT-ALL, all the long-grounded aircraft, 19 narrowbody and 11 widebody, have been restored.

Sources said the development marked a significant milestone in Air India's transformation journey. At the time of privatisation, Air

India had inherited a total of 110 legacy aircraft, of which as many as 30 were long-grounded.

Notably, the VT-ALL will now go for a comprehensive \$400 million retrofit programme from 2027.

Sources said at the time of Air India's return to the Tata Group in 2022 that rebuilding the fleet and restoring operational capability were identified as a "key priority".

When contacted, Air India's Chief Operations Officer Captain Basil Kwauk acknowledged the development, stating that that Boeing 777-300ER VT-ALL is back in service.

Details p12

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

Air India restores all 30 legacy aircraft grounded since takeover

OPERATIONAL PUSH. Return of Boeing 777-300ER VT-ALL completes post-privatisation fleet revival programme

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Tata Group-promoted Air India has brought back into service all 30 previously-grounded aircraft inherited at the time of its privatisation, raising its current fleet strength to 186 aircraft, industry sources told *businessline*.

With the return to service of Boeing 777-300ER VT-ALL, all the long-grounded aircraft, 19 narrow body and 11 wide body, have been restored and joined the fleet.

Sources said the development marked a significant milestone in Air India's transformation journey.

LONG-GROUNDED

At the time of privatisation, Air India had inherited a total of around 110 legacy aircraft of which as many as 30 were long-grounded.

Notably, the VT-ALL will now go for a comprehensive



STRENGTHENING SERVICES. Post-privatisation, Air India committed resources to revive each of these aircraft as part of its broader operational restoration programme

\$400 million retrofit programme from 2027.

Sources said at the time of Air India's return to the Tata Group in 2022, rebuilding the fleet and restoring operational capability were identified as a "key priority".

Post-privatisation, Air India committed resources to revive each of these aircraft as part of its broader operational restoration programme. When contacted, Air India's Chief Operations Officer, Captain Basil Kwauk,

acknowledged the development stating that that Boeing 777-300ER VT-ALL, is back into service.

BACK INTO SERVICE

"It is the last of the 30 grounded aircraft and bringing this aircraft back into service basically delivers a promise, that we once said that we will bring all grounded aircraft back and today Air India delivers," he told *businessline*.

VT-ALL had remained grounded since February

2020 due to multiple unserviceable systems, ageing components and non-availability of key components and spares.

In April 2025, Air India initiated restoration work to bring this aircraft back into operational service in support of its long-haul network expansion. The aircraft entered the MRO facility in Nagpur for the nose-to-tail overhaul in May 2025, where it underwent an extensive restoration programme.

It is learnt that more than 3,000 key components were installed during the process, along with completion of over 4,000 maintenance tasks. These included around 80 mandated modifications, among them the Longeron Modification, which involves a major structural reinforcement of the aircraft.

Additionally, major assemblies were replaced, including engines, the auxiliary power unit, inlet and fan cowl and thrust reverser

cowls. Both the left and right engines were replaced as part of the restoration.

Besides, the aircraft underwent comprehensive systems rebuild covering air-conditioning, landing gear, hydraulics, oxygen systems, avionics and engine systems.

Furthermore, each repair and modification was carried out under regulatory oversight by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, with technical guidance from Boeing.

VALIDATION PHASE

The airline said that the aircraft has now completed its validation phase, which included system checks under operational conditions, detailed inspections and test flights. Meanwhile, VT-ALL has received the Airworthiness Review Certificate, a mandatory certification confirming that the aircraft meets the safety parameters required to commence regular operations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

Air India, Swiss to operate extra flights as war rages

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Air India and Swiss are adding extra flights from Delhi to facilitate passengers impacted by ongoing West Asia conflict.

While Swiss is operating a second daily flight between Zurich-Delhi from March 19-23, Air India will offer 36 extra services to London (from Delhi and Mumbai), Frankfurt, Zurich and Toronto from March 19-28.

CAPACITY BOOST

"Together these flights will add 10,012 seats on five routes boosting capacity and providing more choice to travellers when travel options are limited," Air India said.

Swiss said it is responding to current high demand for flights between India and Europe.

"International air traffic in West Asia remains severely restricted. Many travellers are having to change their original travel plans and are looking for alternative routes back to Europe or onward to Asia.



Swiss said it is responding to current high demand for flights between India and Europe

Consequently, demand is currently high for the existing Swiss connections between Delhi and Zurich, which are already largely fully booked," the airline said on Tuesday.

Over two lakh passengers have travelled to India from West Asia with partial resumption of flights.

Scheduled flights are being operated to Muscat and Jeddah.

Indian carriers have been forced to cancel planned operations to Dubai following the local government's decision to suspend flight permissions of foreign carriers. Emirates and flydubai, however, continue to operate flights to India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

फ्लाइट में जज को परोसा फंगस लगा खाना, शिकायत

लखनऊ | लखनऊ में दिल्ली से आई एयर इंडिया की एक उड़ान में हाईकोर्ट के जज को फंगस लगा भोजन परोसने का मामला सामने आया है। भोजन में खराबी की शिकायत करने पर एयरलाइन कर्मियों पर दुर्व्यवहार का आरोप लगा है। इस संबंध में सरोजनी नगर थाने में शिकायत दर्ज कराई गई है, जिसके बाद पुलिस मामले की जांच में जुट गई है। इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायमूर्ति प्रशांत कुमार सोमवार को दिल्ली से लखनऊ आ रहे थे। वह एयर इंडिया की उड़ान संख्या एआई-1720 से यात्रा कर रहे थे, जो रात 9:40 बजे लखनऊ पहुंची। प्रशांत कुमार की सीट संख्या 1A थी। यात्रा के दौरान उन्हें जो भोजन परोसा गया, उसमें फंगस लगा था, उन्होंने तुरंत आपत्ति जताई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

बढ़ती तेल की कीमतों का इंडिगो के मुनाफे पर होगा असर

नई दिल्ली, 17 मार्च (एजेंसियां)। मध्य पूर्व में तनाव बढ़ने के कारण बजट एयरलाइन इंडिगो के मुनाफे पर नजदीकी अवधि में दबाव देखने को मिल सकता है। यह जानकारी एक रिपोर्ट में दी गई। मूडीज रेटिंग्स ने रिपोर्ट में कहा कि छोटी अवधि में ऊंची तेल की कीमतों से मार्जिन पर दबाव देखने को मिलेगा। हालांकि, टिकट बुकिंग साइकिल 30-45 दिन की होने के चलते समय के साथ बढ़ी हुई

लागत पास करने में मदद मिलेगी। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि इंडिगो ईंधन की कीमतों को हेज नहीं करती है, जिससे वह अचानक से ईंधन की कीमत में आई तेजी के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील हो जाती है।

हालिया तनाव 28 फरवरी को इजरायल और अमेरिका द्वारा ईरान पर किए गए सैन्य हमलों के बाद बढ़ा है, जिसने पश्चिम एशिया के कुछ हिस्सों में हवाई यात्रा को बाधित कर दिया है, कच्चे तेल और जेट ईंधन की कीमतों को बढ़ा दिया है, और हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने के



कारण एयरलाइंस को लंबे मार्ग अपनाने के लिए मजबूर किया है।

■ **क्रूड की कीमतें बढ़कर लगभग 100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल हो गईं**

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, 'वैश्विक स्तर पर जेट ईंधन की बढ़ती कीमतों का असर एयरलाइनों के

मुनाफे पर पड़ेगा।' रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, लेबर के बाद ईंधन एयरलाइंस का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खर्च है। संघर्ष के बाद ब्रेंट क्रूड की कीमतें बढ़कर लगभग 100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल हो गईं, जो 2025 के औसत से लगभग 45 प्रतिशत अधिक है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, अमेरिकी गल्फ कोस्ट रीजन में जेट ईंधन की कीमतें बढ़कर 3.50 डॉलर प्रति गैलन से अधिक हो गईं, जो पिछले वर्ष के औसत स्तर से लगभग 65 प्रतिशत अधिक है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

AI Adds Extra Flights to Europe, N America



NEW DELHI Air India will operate 36 additional flights to destinations in Europe and North America between March 19 and 28, amid travel disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict. The airline said it would operate additional services on Delhi-London (Heathrow), Mumbai-London (Heathrow), Delhi-Frankfurt, Delhi-Zurich and Delhi-Toronto routes. —PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

Cash Crunch: SpiceJet Pledges Asset in Court



New Delhi: Cash-strapped SpiceJet on Tuesday offered to submit the title deed of an unencumbered immovable property to the Delhi High Court registry as security instead of depositing ₹144 crore in an arbitration dispute over a share transfer involving former promoter Kalanithi Maran and KAL Airways.

Senior counsel Amit Sibal, appearing for SpiceJet, told Justice Subramonium Prasad that the airline has "a liquidity crunch". "We are not in financial distress. But 40% of our flights, which go to the Gulf, have been cancelled due to war. We have suffered losses," the counsel said, adding that the immovable property that the airline intends to give as security is valued at ₹48 crore.

However, Justice Prasad expressed his inability to allow it as the Supreme Court had, on February 27, refused to interfere with the high court's January 19 order asking the carrier to deposit around ₹144 crore with its registry within six weeks. — **Indu Bhan**



Air India restores Boeing 777-300 ER

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, March 17

AIR INDIA HAS revived its last grounded Boeing 777-300ER, completing a major restoration programme on aircraft VT-ALL as the airline prepares to phase out its remaining Boeing 777-200LR aircraft.

The Boeing 777-300ER aircraft had been parked at Nagpur since February 2020 due to multiple unserviceable systems and ageing components.

In May 2025, the aircraft was inducted into the maintenance facility of Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) in Nagpur for a comprehensive nose-to-tail overhaul.

The programme involved replacing more than 3,000 key components and completing over 4,000 maintenance tasks along with around 80 mandated modifications, including the complex Longerons modification — a structural reinforcement required for the aircraft type.

The airline further added that several critical assemblies were replaced during the process, including the engines, auxiliary power unit (APU), inlet and fan cowls and thrust reverser cowls. Multiple aircraft systems were also rebuilt, covering air-conditioning, landing gear, hydraulics, oxygen systems, avionics and engine-related components. Air India said all repairs and component replacements underwent extensive testing and documentation under the oversight of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, with technical guidance from Boeing. According to Mark Martin of Martin Consulting, bringing the aircraft back into service is strategically important, given the airline's current fleet constraints.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

Faltering flight path

Air India's turnaround story is losing altitude amid mounting safety and service concerns

FOR DECADES, THE Tata group represented the gold standard of Indian corporate governance. That reputation is precisely why the group's acquisition of Air India in 2022 was widely celebrated. The homecoming of the airline to the Tatas—who founded it in 1932—was supposed to mark the beginning of a revival. Instead, the story is increasingly looking like a reputational liability. The latest warning from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency is only the most recent sign of trouble. Surprise inspections of AI aircraft at European airports reportedly found several safety deficiencies, pushing the airline's fault ratio close to the threshold that could invite enhanced scrutiny or even operational restrictions in Europe. India's aviation regulator has already stepped in with corrective measures to prevent potential consequences in a key international market. Coming on the heels of the airline's recent crises, the message is hard to ignore: Air India's problems are no longer episodic—they appear systemic.

The most traumatic blow came with the crash of Flight 171 in June 2025, a tragedy that shattered the narrative of a turnaround that the Tata group had been carefully constructing around the airline. Even outside that catastrophe, troubling signals keep surfacing. Technical incidents—including engine oil and fuel leaks—reached a 14-month high earlier this year, according to internal airline data. Regulators have repeatedly flagged deficiencies in crew training, fatigue management, and operational procedures. An audit last year reportedly found more than 50 safety lapses, ranging from training gaps to documentation failures. These are not minor teething troubles. Equally damaging is the everyday experience of passengers. Social media is replete with images of torn seat cushions, malfunctioning entertainment screens, and delayed flights. Such issues reinforce a perception that the airline has yet to shake off the culture of neglect inherited from decades of state ownership.

To be fair, the Tata group inherited a deeply troubled institution. When the government sold AI, it was effectively passing on an airline hollowed out by years of bureaucratic inertia and chronic underinvestment in maintenance and service. Rebuilding such an organisation was never going to be quick or easy. But the passage of time is beginning to erode that defence. Four years after the takeover, expectations have shifted. What initially looked like legacy baggage now risks being interpreted as managerial failure. Massive aircraft orders, a sweeping brand overhaul, and the integration of multiple airline businesses were meant to transform the carrier into a world-class competitor. Instead, the airline's recurring operational embarrassments are threatening to overshadow those ambitions.

For a conglomerate whose brand equity rests heavily on trust and reliability, the reputational stakes are particularly high. AI's problems are no longer confined to aviation; they risk spilling over into perceptions of the Tata group itself. In that sense, the airline is increasingly becoming the group's Achilles' heel—a single weak spot that could undermine an otherwise formidable corporate reputation. Restoring confidence will require rebuilding a safety culture, enforcing operational discipline, and, above all, delivering a consistently reliable passenger experience. Airlines operate on trust—the trust that aircraft are maintained flawlessly, that crews are trained rigorously, and that systems function without compromise. The Tata group took back Air India partly for sentimental reasons and partly for strategic ambition. Today, sentiment alone will not rescue the airline. What will matter is execution—and the clock is ticking. India expects the Maharaja to do better.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

17 MARCH 2026

European agency raises alarm over Air India safety lapses

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has raised a high-level alarm regarding safety lapses on Air India flights following a series of unannounced inspections at European airports. After the European authority shared about the findings with India's Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the regulator claimed that corrective measures have improved the airline's operations.

EASA data revealed that the airline's finding ratio — a weighted average of safety faults per inspection — surged to 1.96 in January 2026. This

figure brought the carrier dangerously close to the critical 2.0 threshold, a limit that can trigger a total ban from operating within European Union markets and subject the airline to the "EU Air Safety List" of restricted carriers.

The findings, conducted under the Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) programme, highlighted issues primarily stemming from the airline's aging wide-body fleet. Inspectors reportedly flagged approximately 54 parameters, ranging from technical documentation and crew licensing to cabin safety equipment.

Specific violations included worn-out emergency mark-

Pilots' body warns DGCA

Mumbai: The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has issued a stern warning to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), claiming that recent temporary extensions to Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) for Air India are a "serious threat to flight safety." The association has also flagged the move to be a contempt of court as the implementation of new FDTL rules was directed by Delhi High Court. **-Dhairya Gajara**

ings and broken seats — defects that AI attribute to delays in their \$400 million fleet refurbishment programme.

Dubai closure forces flight back to capital



HD Bureau
KOCHI

An Emirates passenger flight bound for Dubai returned to Thiruvananthapuram International Airport early Monday after authorities halted operations at Dubai International Airport following a security incident that disrupted aviation across the Gulf. The aircraft departed Thiruvananthapuram at about 4.40 a. m. local time but was forced to turn back mid-journey when Dubai's main airport suspended flights. The plane landed safely back in the Kerala capital at approximately 8.40 a. m., airport officials said.

Passengers remained on board briefly before airline staff began making arrangements for rebooking and assistance.

Flight disruptions across the Gulf intensified after a drone-related incident triggered a fire near Dubai International Airport, prompting authorities to temporarily suspend operations while emergency services brought the situation under control. No casualties were reported, though the event forced airlines to cancel or

divert several flights bound for the global aviation hub.

Dubai International Airport, one of the world's busiest airports for international passengers, halted departures and arrivals for safety checks while officials assessed the situation. The disruption sent ripple effects through airline schedules across the region, with several carriers suspending services to and from Dubai and others diverting aircraft to alternative airports.

Officials at Thiruvananthapuram airport said the decision to bring the aircraft back was taken as a precaution because Dubai was not accepting inbound flights at the time. Aviation experts note that turning back a flight is a standard safety procedure when destination airports suspend operations unexpectedly.

Passengers who boarded the early-morning flight included travellers heading to connecting international destinations through Dubai's vast hub network. Airlines typically re-route such passengers or reschedule departures once operations resume at the destination airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

फ्लाइट में न्यायाधीश को परोसे गए भोजन में फंगस

नई दिल्ली, लखनऊ, संवाददाता। लखनऊ में सोमवार देर रात दिल्ली से आई एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में उस समय हंगामा खड़ा हो गया, जब एक न्यायाधीश को परोसे गए भोजन में फंगस पाया गया। इस पर आपत्ति जताने पर एयरलाइन कर्मियों के दुर्व्यवहार से मामला और बढ़ गया।

उच्च न्यायालय इलाहाबाद के न्यायमूर्ति प्रशांत कुमार सोमवार को एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट (एआई-1720) से दिल्ली से लखनऊ आ रहे थे। यात्रा के दौरान उन्हें जो भोजन

परोसा गया, उसमें फंगस लगा हुआ था, जिसे देखकर उन्होंने आपत्ति जताई। आरोप है कि शिकायत करने पर केबिन कू सदस्य मनप्रीत और प्रीति ने समाधान करने के बजाय अभद्र व्यवहार किया।

एयर इंडिया के कस्टमर सर्विस कर्मचारी सुफियान पर भी दुर्व्यवहार का आरोप लगाया गया है। संबंधित कर्मचारी ने उक्त दूषित भोजन फ्लाइट से बाहर ले जाने से भी रोक दिया। इस पर न्यायाधीश के साथ मौजूद सुमित गुप्ता ने सरोजनी नगर थाने में एयरलाइन कर्मियों के खिलाफ तहरीर दी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

यूरोप के लिए एयर इंडिया की अतिरिक्त उड़ानें

नई दिल्ली। एयर इंडिया ने बढ़ी मांग को देखते हुए यूरोप और कनाडा के लिए 19 से 28 मार्च के बीच 36 अतिरिक्त उड़ानों (दोनों तरफ) के परिचालन की घोषणा की है। एयरलाइंस ने बताया, उड़ानें दिल्ली से लंदन (हीथ्रो), फ्रैंकफर्ट, ज्यूरिख और टोरंटो के लिए तथा मुंबई से लंदन (हीथ्रो) के लिए होगी। इनके माध्यम से 10,012 अतिरिक्त सीटें होंगी। 10 से 18 मार्च के बीच नौ मार्गों पर 78 अतिरिक्त उड़ानों की घोषणा की थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

एअर इंडिया और एआई एक्सप्रेस 50 उड़ानें संचालित करेंगी

नई दिल्ली, 17 मार्च (भाषा)।

एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस बुधवार को पश्चिम एशिया से आने-जाने वाली 50 निर्धारित और गैर-निर्धारित उड़ानें संचालित करेंगी। इस संबंध में एअर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को एक बयान में कहा कि इनमें से 26 निर्धारित उड़ानें होंगी और 24 अनियमित उड़ानें होंगी। इसने कहा कि एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस मिलकर 18 मार्च 2026 को पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र से आने-जाने वाली कुल 50 निर्धारित और गैर-निर्धारित उड़ानें संचालित करेंगी। अमेरिका, इजराइल और ईरान के बीच क्षेत्र में जारी संघर्ष की वजह से हवाई उड़ानें बाधित हो गई हैं।

MINT

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026



Almost 40% of SpiceJet's Gulf flights have been cancelled. [en](#)

SpiceJet cites cash crunch in ₹144-crore Maran case

Krishna Yadav
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NEW DELHI

Budget airline SpiceJet told the Delhi High Court on Tuesday that it faces a severe liquidity crunch and is unable to deposit ₹144.5 crore as directed in its arbitration dispute with Kalamithi Maran and KAL Airways Pvt. Ltd.

Almost 40% of the airline's flights to Gulf destinations have been cancelled due to the war, worsening its financial position, the carrier said in a submission made before a bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad.

SpiceJet filed a fresh plea seeking relief from the direction to deposit the amount in six weeks to comply with its payment obligations to Maran and KAL Airways.

Even before the war in Iran, SpiceJet had a liquidity crunch because it suffered losses, senior counsel Amit Sibal submitted. "We are not in financial distress—I'm not saying that. But we do have a liquidity issue," Sibal said.

SpiceJet and its chairman Ajay Singh sought modification of the court's direction, proposing to furnish an immovable property of about ₹148 crore as security instead of making an upfront cash deposit.

"We have unencumbered security and we have based the valuation on that of a registered valuer. I have the original title deeds with me. This was originally encumbered, but it was released to me, and therefore I have the original title deeds and can deposit them with the registry," Sibal told the court.

The court is expected to continue hearing SpiceJet's plea on Wednesday. The fresh application was filed on 6 March after the Supreme Court on 27 February refused to stay the Delhi high court's order directing the airline and its promoter Ajay Singh to deposit ₹144.51 crore. The apex court imposed a cost of ₹1 lakh on the airline for prolonging the litigation.

The Supreme Court's refusal meant SpiceJet was required to comply with the high court's 19 January order within six weeks.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

Air India to operate 36 additional flights to Europe, Canada during March 19-28

NEW DELHI: Air India will operate 36 additional flights to destinations in Europe and North America between March 19 and 28 amid the West Asia conflict impacting travel plans of people.

In a statement on Tuesday, the airline said it would operate additional services on Delhi-London (Heathrow), Mumbai-London (Heathrow), Delhi-Frankfurt, Delhi-Zurich & Delhi-Toronto routes.

"These flights will add 10,012 seats on the five routes, further boosting capacity and



providing more choice to travellers when travel options remain limited," it said.

The West Asia conflict involving the US, Israel and Iran that started on February 28 has disrupted flight operations, and airlines have curtailed their services in the region.

MPOST



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

AI plans special plane to bring NY-Delhi flight passengers from Ireland

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE ordeal is set to continue for the 232 passengers and eight crew members currently in Ireland after their New York-Delhi flight was diverted there on Tuesday. As technical issues in flight AI 102 are still being rectified, Air India plans to send a special flight from India or Zurich to Ireland on Wednesday to bring them back, sources said.

The special flight was scheduled to reach Shannon International Airport by afternoon, and the passengers are expected to reach Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport by Wednesday night. The flight was originally scheduled to arrive at Terminal 3 at 7.30 pm on Monday after a journey of 15 hours and 40 minutes from New York. When it finally reaches IGIA by Wednesday night, the delay would be nearly 50 hours. Air India has not provided exact arrival or departure timings for the special flight, sources said.

Flight AI 102, an Airbus A350-900 aircraft, was diverted to Ire-

land after flying for six hours from JFK airport. According to sources, "The pilots detected vibrations in the aircraft on and off midair. They then decided to divert it to the nearest available airport." Air India termed it a precautionary landing. An Air India source said, "Our passengers are quite comfortable in Ireland. We have accommodated them in hotels and are assisting them in every possible manner."



Engineers are working to fix the technical issue in the aircraft. "They have not yet rectified it and are on the job. If it is set right, the flyers can return on the same aircraft. We are, however, ready with a special flight to bring them back on Wednesday afternoon," the source added.

In a statement issued on Monday, Air India said, "The aircraft is currently undergoing detailed technical inspections. While such precautionary diversions are determined by our uncompromising commitment to safety, we regret the inconvenience caused to our guests."

युद्ध प्रभावित इलाकों के लिए पायलट्स असोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया की अडवाइजरी

‘उड़ान से पहले खतरा भांप ले पायलट’

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष के बीच पायलटों के प्रमुख संगठन एयरलाइन पायलट्स असोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया (ALPA) ने पायलट सदस्यों के लिए अडवाइजरी जारी की है। इसमें कहा गया है कि ऐसे युद्ध प्रभावित इलाकों में उड़ान भरने से पहले खतरों का आकलन करें।

भारतीय लाइसेंसधारी सभी पायलटों के लिए जारी परामर्श में असोसिएशन कहा है कि यह समझे कि ऐसे क्षेत्रों में जोखिम तेजी से और बिना पर्याप्त चेतावनी के बदल सकता है। सदस्यों को विमानन बीमा से जुड़े संभावित प्रभावों, विशेषकर युद्ध जोखिम से संबंधित प्रावधानों पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। कुछ परिस्थितियों में बीमा कंपनियां ऐसे हाई रिस्क वाले हवाई क्षेत्रों में उड़ान भरने के लिए बीमा 'कवर' को सीमित या वापस ले सकती हैं। एयर लाइन



पायलट्स असोसिएशन इंडिया ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया के कुछ हिस्सों में तेजी से बदलते और संभावित रूप से खतरनाक सुरक्षा हालात के कारण नागर विमानन संचालन के लिए जोखिम बढ़ गया है। इन जोखिमों में हवाई क्षेत्र का बंद होना, मिसाइल व

डोन गतिविधियां, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध से हस्तक्षेप और प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से गुजर रहे नागरिक विमानों की गलत पहचान की संभावना शामिल है। पश्चिम एशिया के तनावग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में जाने, वहां से आने या गुजरने के दौरान विशेष सतर्कता बरतें।

एयर इंडिया की 36 अतिरिक्त उड़ानें

■ भाषा, नई दिल्ली : पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष के कारण लोगों की यात्रा पर पड़ रहे प्रभाव को देखते हुए एयर इंडिया 19 से 28 मार्च के बीच यूरोप और उत्तरी अमेरिका के लिए 36 अतिरिक्त उड़ानों का संचालन करेगी। एयरलाइन ने मंगलवार को बयान में कहा कि वह दिल्ली-लंदन, मुंबई-लंदन, दिल्ली-फ्रैंकफर्ट, दिल्ली-ज्यूरिख और दिल्ली-टोरंटो मार्गों पर अतिरिक्त उड़ानों का परिचालन करेगी। इससे पांचों मार्गों पर 10,012 सीटें बढ़ेंगी। क्षमता बढ़ने से यात्रा के सीमित विकल्पों के बीच यात्रियों को अधिक विकल्प मिलेंगे। वहीं, एयर इंडिया के बोइंग 777-300 ईआर विमान ने करीब छह साल बाद फिर से उड़ान भरी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

Flight cancellations after US storms dump snow

EMILIE MEGNIEN, RIO YAMAT

■ Atlanta

Hundreds of flights were cancelled or delayed on Tuesday, one day after powerful storms swept across the eastern half of the country and upended air travel in a cross-section of cities.

Travellers have been facing additional jams at airport security checkpoints as a partial Government shutdown strains screener staffing. The disruptions come at an already challenging time for air travel, in part because the shutdown that began February 14 has pressured staffing at some

security checkpoints.

At the same time, airports are crowded with spring break travellers and fans heading to March Madness games, the annual NCAA men's and women's college basketball tournaments.

More than 750 flights scheduled to fly into, out of or within the US have been called off as of early Tuesday, and about 1,300 were delayed, according to flight-tracking site FlightAware.

Flight delays and cancellations piled up Monday at some of the nation's largest airports, including those in New York, Chicago and Atlanta. The storm system that dumped heavy snow



across the Midwest raced toward the East Coast with high winds reaching gusts near 50 mph (80 km) in parts of New York, the National Weather Service said. Kelly Price, who was trying to get home to Colorado after a family vacation in Orlando, Florida, said

her Sunday night flight wasn't cancelled until early Monday.

"By that time the only place for us to sleep was the airport floor. So we're all tired and frustrated," she said, adding that the soonest she and her family could book another flight doesn't leave until Tuesday afternoon.

The nationwide cancellations on Monday included about 600 in and out of Chicago O'Hare International, more than 470 at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International and over 450 at LaGuardia Airport in New York City, according to Flight Aware. (AP)

IndiGo BluChip ties up with Adani airports for duty-free rewards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

IndiGo, India's preferred airline, and Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), the country's largest private airport operator, have announced a strategic partnership enabling IndiGo BluChip members to earn points on duty-free shopping across AAHL-managed airports.

Under the partnership, members can earn five IndiGo BluChips for every ₹100 spent on duty-free products pre-booked through the Adani platform. Travellers can browse, reserve and pay for products online before departure, and collect their purchases conveniently at the airport.

Neetan Chopra, Chief Digital and Information Officer, IndiGo, said: "At IndiGo, we are continuously striving to enhance the value proposition of our loyalty programme. This partnership with Adani Duty Free strengthens our commitment to offering meaningful rewards beyond flights, making every step of the journey more beneficial for our customers. By combining IndiGo's extensive network with Adani's premium duty-free experience, we are delighted to bring greater convenience, choice and value to millions of travellers across India."



Suchit Bansal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Non-Aero, AAHL, said: "We are transforming how travellers shop at airports by integrating digital discovery, pre-order convenience and seamless collection through the Adani platform. Our partnership with IndiGo brings together India's largest airline and the country's largest private airport operator to deliver a more connected and rewarding travel retail experience."

Customers can log in through a dedicated portal, link their IndiGo BluChip membership ID and receive earnings within 24–48 hours of completing their purchase, based on their spends. The initiative aims to deliver a smoother travel experience by combining digital convenience, loyalty benefits and airport retail, thereby elevating the overall journey.

Duty-free stores under the

programme are currently available at airports in Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Mangaluru and Lucknow, with expansion planned for Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati and the newly operational Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).

IndiGo operates more than 27000 daily flights connecting over 140 destinations worldwide, including 95+ domestic and 40+ international destinations, making it India's largest airline by fleet size and passenger traffic.

AAHL operates eight airports across India, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram, along with NMIA – one of India's largest greenfield airports – which began commercial operations on December 25, 2025.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

एयर इंडिया ने यूरोप और अमेरिका के लिए बढ़ाई उड़ानें

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र में चल रही स्थिति के कारण अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रा को लगातार बनी हुई भारी मांग को देखते हुए एयर इंडिया ने मंगलवार को घोषणा की है कि वह 28 मार्च 2026 तक यूरोप और उत्तरी अमेरिका के प्रमुख गंतव्यों के लिए अतिरिक्त उड़ानें संचालित करना जारी रखेगी। एयर इंडिया 19 और 28 मार्च 2026 के बीच दिल्ली-लंदन (हीथ्रो), मुंबई-लंदन (हीथ्रो), दिल्ली-फ्रैंकफर्ट, दिल्ली-दुबई और दिल्ली-टोरंटो मार्गों पर 36 अतिरिक्त उड़ानें संचालित करेगी। ये उड़ानें इन पांच मार्गों पर 10,012 सीटें बढ़ाएंगी, जिससे क्षमता में और वृद्धि होगी और यात्रियों को ऐसे समय में यात्रा के अधिक विकल्प मिलेंगे जब यात्रा के विकल्प सीमित हैं। दिल्ली से लंदन (हीथ्रो) के लिए एआई 165 उड़ान 20, 22, 25 और 27 मार्च को दोपहर 12:25 बजे प्रस्थान कर शाम 6:00 बजे पहुंचेगी। वापसी में एआई 166 लंदन से दिल्ली के लिए शाम 7:30 बजे रवाना होकर अगले दिन सुबह 10:20 बजे पहुंचेगी, जो 20, 22 और 25 मार्च को संचालित होगी। मुंबई से लंदन (हीथ्रो) के लिए 21 मार्च को एआई 4131 रात 1:25 बजे प्रस्थान कर सुबह 6:40 बजे पहुंचेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

17 MARCH 2026

AI flight diverted

■ **NEW DELHI:** An Air India A350 aircraft flying from New York to Delhi was diverted to Shannon in Ireland early on Monday after a suspected technical snag. The plane had been airborne for nearly six hours before the precautionary diversion. The airline said the plane landed safely and around 300 passengers and crew members were safe. The aircraft is undergoing detailed technical inspections. [PTI](#)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

17 MARCH 2026

A'bad-Dubai flight returns after take-off

Ahmedabad: An Ahmedabad-Dubai flight made a mid-air turnaround and returned to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport early Monday after Dubai airport operations were temporarily affected amid escalating Gulf tensions, said sources.

Emirates flight EK539, with over 250 passengers, departed at 5.11am but was instructed back as Dubai briefly halted operations. The aircraft landed safely at 7.55am.

In a related development, EK649 from Colombo to Dubai was diverted to Ahmedabad. Airport officials confirmed that despite these diversions, local operations remained unaffected. Passengers were advised to monitor schedules due to the conflict. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

18 MARCH 2026

Lufthansa adds capacity to meet travel demand

Saurabh.Sinha
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Mumbai: The Israel-Iran war will “in medium term” alter international traffic flows to and from India. With the big Gulf carriers, which carried a significant percentage of this traffic till last month via their hubs like Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, not available for now, the demand for travel on other airlines has skyrocketed. One of the biggest foreign airlines here, Lufthansa, is adding capacity in the short-term and also evaluating the option of bringing more group airlines here, Lufthansa senior VP (sales, distribution and marketing) **Frank Naeve** told TOI.

“Right now, our focus is on bringing people home to safe-

ty from West Asia and ensure continued connectivity in the current times. India is especially important to us as it is the second biggest international market for us after the US. We are close to utilising the maximum traffic rights in India. Still (this month we are investing with significant capacity increases by deploying bigger aircraft here, given the demand. We have deployed (500-seater) Airbus A380 instead of the (280-seater) A350 between Munich and Delhi, and Mumbai and Munich. There are additional frequencies between Chennai and Frankfurt,” Naeve said

Group airline SWISS will operate a second daily service between Delhi and Zurich bet-

ween March 19 and 24. “Many travellers are having to change their original travel plans and are looking for alternative routes back to Europe or onward to Asia. Consequently, demand is currently high for the existing SWISS connections between Delhi and Zurich, which are already largely fully booked,” the Lufthansa group airline said on Tuesday.

“As of now only three group airlines — Lufthansa, SWISS and ITA — fly to India. There are others carriers in the group that do not fly here including Austrian, Brussels Airlines, discover and Eurowings. While these are early days, we are evaluating bringing more of our group airlines here,” Naeve said.

