



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

18 FEBRUARY 2025

AAI team from Delhi to reach today for obstacle survey of Bihta airport

Ruchir Kumar

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PATNA: A team from the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Delhi, will reach Patna on Tuesday to conduct an obstacle limitation surface (OLS) survey for the Bihta airport, a defence aerodrome in Patna, said airport officials on Monday.

The survey is technical work, involving mapping the airspace around an aerodrome or a prospective aerodrome to assess possible infringements and recommend actions to remove or reduce obstacles.

"A team from the AAI will be here for a week from February 18 for OLS survey of the Bihta airport. It will submit its report to the AAI headquarters in Delhi,

which will then be shared with the state government," said Uma Shankar, director, Patna airport.

The state government is expected to remove encumbrances in the approach funnel of an aircraft so that the full runway length can be utilised for landing of aircraft at the Bihta airport.

The Bihta airport has an existing runway length of 2,500 metres (8,200 feet) approx, but its usable runway length was 2,200 metres (approx) due to "threshold displacement" on either side of the runway. "Threshold displacement" in aviation means the designated landing point (threshold) on a runway, maintaining an ideal glide path or descent trajectory of 3-degree that an aircraft takes while landing from the final

approach fix (FAF) to the runway threshold that can be 4-7 miles away, is located further ahead than the physical beginning of the runway, often due to obstacles in the approach path or other operational considerations. This essentially means that a section of the runway at the beginning is not utilised for landings but can be used for take-offs or taxiing.

Given its existing runway length and the threshold displacement, Airbus A-320/A-321 type of aircraft, having a capacity of 180 and 220 passengers can operate from Bihta. Depending on availability of land for which the AAI has already requested from the Bihar government, there are plans to extend the runway length to 3,700 metres (12,000

feet) to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft like B-777/B-787 jumbo jets. The extended runway will also allow for international operations and cargo growth.

The AAI recently issued work order to a Russian company for the construction of the Bihta airport for which the state government has already given 108 acres of land for a new terminal building.

The project, expected to be completed by 2027, would be built at Rs 459.99 crore (excluding taxes), which was 30.92% less than the earlier estimated cost of Rs 665.85 crore, according to a press release issued by the Information and Public Relations Department of the government of Bihar last Saturday.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

18 FEBRUARY 2025

AAI recruits young executives to bolster air operations at airport

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 17 FEBRUARY

In a significant boost to its operational efficiency and international appeal, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport recruited a dedicated team of junior executives for airside management, passenger services, terminal operations and information management.

The NSCBI Airport is set to emerge as a crucial hub for enhanced connectivity with the South World region. In a recent parliamentary session, civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu highlighted the airport's strategic location, emphasizing its potential to serve as a gateway for international carriers seeking to connect with South East Asia and beyond. In a proactive move to ensure seamless airport operations, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has recruited a dedicated team of junior executives. Seventeen newly-appointed



professionals have already begun their four-week on-the-job training (OJT) at NSCBI Airport. The intensive programme, inaugurated by Kolkata Airport director Dr Pravat Ranjan Beuria, is designed to provide hands-on experience across key operational domains including airside management, passenger services, terminal operations, billing, and information management.

"The training is an essential step towards developing a skilled workforce capable of meeting the challenges of modern airport management," Dr Beuria said during an interactive session with heads of departments (HODs). The session allowed

trainees to outline their learning objectives and understand their future responsibilities, ensuring they are well-prepared to contribute to the airport's growth and efficiency. In addition to bolstering its human resources, NSCBI Airport is embracing technological advancements to enhance operational safety and efficiency. An Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) has recently been installed, enabling authorities to monitor critical weather parameters in real time and make informed decisions regarding aircraft movements.

The ministry of civil aviation is also investing heavily in infrastructure upgrades

to attract renowned international airlines. With support from the civil aviation ministry, efforts are underway to expand flight operations and boost both passenger and cargo handling capacities, a move expected to unlock significant revenue potential from NSCBI airport. As Kolkata Airport gears up for a new era of operational excellence and global connectivity, these strategic initiatives underline India's commitment to strengthening its aviation sector. With improved facilities, a technologically advanced environment, and a highly trained workforce, NSCBI Airport is well on its way to becoming a premier aviation hub in the region.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Airlines oppose proposed tariff hike at IGI Airport

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Domestic airlines have opposed the proposed tariff hike at the national capital's IGI Airport through a differential fee structure, citing the move as a "demand depressor".

Accordingly, IndiGo and Air India and airline associations, including the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), have opposed the increased aeronautical charges as well as the higher user development fee (UDF).

TARIFF CONCERNS

The airline industry pointed out that the proposed differential tariff structure is "excessively complex" and "onerous on both passengers and airlines", and goes against the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) principle of non-discrimination in airport charges.

Currently, the Airports Economic Regulatory Au-

thority of India (AERA) is considering Delhi International Airport Ltd's (DIAL) proposal for the fourth control period tariff cycle of five years starting from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2029.

As the operator of IGI Airport, DIAL has proposed higher aeronautical and non-aeronautical charges through a differential fee structure to recover expenses borne to build additional infrastructure.

COST BURDEN

At a stakeholders' meeting, the airport operator informed AERA that the proposed hike in UDF is essential to support its debt repayment obligations and fund ongoing development projects.

On their part, the airlines and their associations expressed concerns about the impact of the new tariff plan on business potential, as higher charges have the potential to "depress demand".

"IATA has urged AERA to reject this complex and discriminatory tariff structure proposal involving aircraft



FARE DISPARITY. The proposal calls for a higher user development fee for international business class travellers compared to economy class passengers

type and flight timing, among other variables. Further, we encourage AERA to address the differential tariff structure between the domestic and international landing fees and user charges," said Amitabh Khosla, IATA's Country Director for India. "We have asked AERA to moderate the proposed increase in charges, ensuring a realistic view of investments, costs and returns for the airport operator to ensure that airport users are protected."

In contention is DIAL's proposal to increase the average aeronautical charges and user development fee (UDF) per passenger.

Under the proposed tariff plan, the airport operator plans to front-load funds for infrastructure development by charging higher UDF rates during 2025-26 and 2026-27, followed by lower rates in the subsequent years.

Currently, the landing, parking and UDF charges are about ₹145.

The proposal calls for higher UDF charges for international business class travellers compared to economy class passengers.

For domestic flights, different rates will apply, depending on whether passengers travel during peak or non-peak hours. The peak flying hours have been desig-

nated as 5 am-8.55 am and 5 pm-8.55 pm. The proposed UDF rates for domestic passengers during peak hours will range from ₹315 to ₹610 for embarking passengers and ₹115 to ₹210 for disembarking passengers. In contrast, international economy class travellers will be charged between ₹430 and ₹810, while business class passengers be charged from ₹860 to ₹1,620.

Additionally, disembarking international passengers will be charged ₹280 (economy) and ₹570 (business class). In addition to the UDF changes, the airport operator has also proposed increases to landing and parking charges for aircraft using the airport facility. The airport operator has defended the UDF hike proposal, citing airport development and debt repayment needs.

HIKE JUSTIFICATION

DIAL's CEO Videh Jaipuria justified the proposed UDF hike, emphasising that economy-class travellers will be charged lower fees than business-class flyers.

Jaipuria argued that the revised UDF structure will help decongest the airport during peak hours, and offer affordable fares during non-peak hours. He noted that the additional revenue generated from the UDF hike will be crucial for the airport's development, particularly as it prepares to handle a growing number of international operations.

Other private airport operators, such as Adani Airports, supported DIAL's proposal. According to Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, Senior Director & Global Head (transport, mobility, and logistics) at Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics, "In India, we follow a hybrid till model that is UDF is charged only when there is a shortfall in revenue from aeronautical operations and part of the non-aeronautical operations does not fully compensate for the expenses to be incurred during the proposed control period. A fine balance is to be maintained so that the fee doesn't become a burden on the passengers."



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

18 FEBRUARY 2025

GHIAL upgrades runway efficiency

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 17

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has upgraded its main runway with a new landing system.

This new Category II Instrument Landing System (ILS) and improved runway lighting allow airplanes to land safely even when visibility is very low, down to 300 meters.

This upgrade is especially helpful during fog or other bad weather conditions, said the GHIAL in a press release on Monday.

GHIAL has also received approval from

the DGCA to upgrade its secondary runway to Category I. This means that during any problems on the main runway, the secondary runway can be used when visibility is as low as 550 meters.

"Implementation of these advanced navigational systems elevates our operational parameters while ensuring adherence to the highest safety standards in aviation operations.

These changes will reduce delays and keep passengers safe during bad weather, thereby reducing inconvenience for passengers," said GHIAL CEO Pradeep Panicker.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Air India Express to connect Hindon with Kolkata from March 1

AIR INDIA EXPRESS, a subsidiary of Air India and a part of the Tata Group, is all set to connect Kolkata with the Hindon airport in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh, an airline spokesperson said on Tuesday. The flight between the two places services will commence from March 1.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

तीसरे और चौथे चरण के लिए जमीन अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी, 70 प्रतिशत किसानों ने सहमति दी

एयरपोर्ट पर दो और रनवे का रास्ता साफ



ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के तीसरे और चौथे चरण में बनने वाले दो रनवे और विमान के इंजन बनाने वाली कंपनियों के विकसित होने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। एयरपोर्ट विस्तार के लिए 70 प्रतिशत से अधिक किसान सहमति दे चुके हैं। जल्द ही जिला प्रशासन अधिग्रहण की प्रारंभिक प्रक्रिया शुरू करेगा।

एयरपोर्ट के तीसरे और चौथे चरण में कुल 2053 हेक्टेयर भूमि चाहिए। इनमें से 14 गांव की 1888.98 हेक्टेयर जमीन का अधिग्रहण किया



तीन चरणों में कुल पांच रनवे बनेंगे

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर कुल पांच रनवे बनेंगे। इनमें प्रथम चरण में 1334 हेक्टेयर में एक रनवे बन रहा है। वहीं, दूसरे चरण में दो और तीसरे एवं चौथे चरण में भी दो रनवे बनेंगे। प्रत्येक रनवे के बीच डेढ़ किलोमीटर तक दूरी रहेगी, ताकि सभी स्वतंत्र होकर कार्य कर सकें। इससे कम दूरी होने पर रनवे से फ्लाइट को टेकऑफ और लैंडिंग में कोई दिक्कत नहीं होगी। पिछले साल दिसंबर में विमान रनवे पर सफलतापूर्वक उतारा गया था।

जाएगा, शेष भूमि प्रशासन के पास पहले से है। भूमि अधिग्रहण के लिए किसानों से सहमति मांगी जा रही थी। अब 70 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा किसान जमीन देने के तैयार हो गए हैं। इस अधिग्रहण से

करीब 42433 लोग प्रभावित होंगे। इन 14 गांवों में 18 वर्ष से कम उम्र के 10847 बच्चे, 16343 पुरुष और 15243 महिलाएं शामिल हैं। अधिग्रहण से प्रभावित करीब 936

14 गांवों की जमीन का अधिग्रहण करने की प्रक्रिया जल्द शुरू होगी | 490 एकड़ में एक रनवे बनेगा, 800 एकड़ में एविएशन इंडस्ट्री होगी

दूसरे चरण में यह काम होंगे

दूसरे चरण की 1365 हेक्टेयर जमीन में 490 एकड़ में एक रनवे बनेगा, सर्विस रनवे बनेगा और करीब 800 एकड़ में एविएशन इंडस्ट्री लगाई जाएगी। बता दें कि वर्ष 2025 तक देश में 1800 विमानों की संख्या होने का अनुमान है, वर्तमान में देश में 700 विमान हैं। उसी हिसाब से एमआरओ हब का विकास किया जाना है।

इन गांवों की जमीन ली जाएगी

नीमका शाहजहांपुर, ख्वाजापुर, पारोही, किशोरपुर, बनवारीबांस, जेवर बांगर, मुक्रीमपुर शिवारा, साबुता, अहमदपुर चवरीली, दयानतपुर, रोही और बंकापुर, बीरा, रामनेर गांव शामिल हैं।

परिवार विस्थापित होंगे। इनमें 7977 पुरुष और 1385 महिलाएं शामिल हैं। इस जमीन पर दो रनवे और 750 एकड़ में विमानों के इंजन बनाने वाली कंपनी स्थापित होगी। एयरपोर्ट पर क्रॉसिंग और

सर्विस रनवे भी बनाए जाएंगे, जिनसे चलकर विमान हैंगर तक पहुंचेंगे। विमानन कंपनी के लिए विमानों के कलपुर्जे बनाने वाली पांच से अधिक कंपनियों को आमंत्रित किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Iata opposes IGI airport's variable tariff plan

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NEW DELHI

The International Air Transport Association (Iata) has opposed Delhi International Airport's proposal for a variable tariff structure for five years beginning April 2025, saying the differential pricing structure is onerous and discriminatory.

Last week, the GMR Group, which runs the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi, proposed to hike the user development fees to the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) in the range 100% to 1,000%.

Under the proposal, Delhi's international airport wants to levy a higher price for international business class passengers than economy class passengers. The IGI Airport also has proposed a hike in the landing and parking charges for aircraft. If the proposals are accepted, flying in and out of Delhi would become expensive.

"Iata is concerned about the significant tariff increases proposed for the upcoming regulatory cycle for Delhi Airport. The proposed new differential tariff structure is excessively complex and onerous on both passengers and airlines and goes against ICAO's principle of non-discrimination in airport charges," Amitabh Khosla, country director-India, Iata, told *Mint*.

Iata has urged AERA to reject this 'complex' and 'discriminatory' tariff structure proposal involving aircraft type, flight timing, and other variables.

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Delta jet overturns at Toronto airport, all 80 aboard survive

Around 18 suffered minor injuries in crash

TORONTO: A Delta Air Lines jet flipped on its roof while landing Monday at Toronto's Pearson Airport, but all 80 people on board survived and those hurt had relatively minor injuries, the airport's chief executive said.

Snow blown by winds gusting to 40 mph (65 kph) swirled when the flight from Minneapolis carrying 76 passengers and four crew attempted to land at around 2:15 pm. Communications between the tower and pilot were normal on approach and it's not clear what went so drastically wrong when the plane touched down.

Peter Carlson, a passenger travelling to Toronto for a paramedics conference, said the landing was "very forceful."

"All the sudden everything just kind of went sideways and then next thing I know it's kind of a blink and I'm upside down still strapped in," he said.

Canadian authorities held two brief news conferences but provided no details on the crash. Video posted to social media showed the aftermath with the Mitsubishi CRJ-900LR overturned, the fuselage seemingly intact



The plane attempted landing amid strong gusts and heavy snowing AP

The crash was the fourth major aviation accident in North America in the past three weeks

and firefighters dousing what was left of the fire as passengers climbed out and walked across the tarmac.

"We are very grateful there was no loss of life and relatively minor injuries," Deborah Flint, CEO of Greater Toronto Airports Authority, told reporters.

Delta CEO Ed Bastian said in a statement that "the hearts of the entire global Delta family are with those affected."

Toronto Pearson Fire Chief Todd Aitken said 18 passengers were taken to the hospital. Earlier in the day, Ornge air ambulance said it was transporting one pediatric patient to Toronto's SickKids hospital and two injured adults to other hospitals in the city.

Emergency personnel reached the plane within a few minutes and Aitken said the response "went as planned." He said "the runway was dry and there was no cross-wind conditions."

AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Noida International Airport partners with Kyndryl for advanced IT infrastructure

DIPIKA KIROLA

NOIDA: The Noida International Airport (NIA) has entered into a partnership with global IT services giant Kyndryl to establish and oversee its technological framework. This collaboration aims to ensure smooth airport operations through cutting-edge technology and continuous IT assistance.

According to NIA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Christoph Schnellmann, this alliance will enable delivery of superior services by utilising

Kyndryl's proficiency in handling extensive IT operations.

The company will establish a robust IT environment, featuring live system monitoring and automated infrastructure processes to avert operational disruptions and system failures that could affect airport functioning," a senior NIA officer said.

Operating across more than 60 nations, Kyndryl's expertise lies in crafting and maintaining sophisticated IT systems. Their role at NIA encompasses creating an IT foundation through system

evaluations, implementing protective measures, overseeing risks, and ensuring adherence to technology protocols.

Lingraju Sawkar, who heads Kyndryl India, expressed commitment to bolstering India's aviation industry through enhanced connectivity and strengthened digital infrastructure.

Sawkar said that the partnership highlights the implementation of Kyndryl Bridge, an artificial intelligence-driven platform designed to identify potential issues before they become prob-

lematic, ensuring smooth passenger experiences.

Furthermore, Kyndryl will enhance digital security through rapid-response mechanisms for cyber threats, security policy administration, and continuous IT security surveillance.

The development of two runways for the airport's third and fourth phases has been approved. Over 70 per cent of farmers have consented to the expansion, with 1,888.98 hectares being acquired. The project includes a manufacturing facility and service runways.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

NEW TERMINAL TO BE BUILT AT AIRPORT: WONG

Singapore will pour an additional \$3.7 billion into upgrades at Changi airport, including a long-awaited fifth terminal, as the nation seeks to maintain its position as a top global aviation hub, its leader said on Tuesday. Prime Minister Lawrence Wong announced the fresh infusion while presenting the city-state's 2025 budget, which also included a wide range of cash incentives for locals ahead of elections later this year. Wong said part of the funds will be used to construct a fifth terminal at the airport, which saw around 67.7 m passengers pass through its gates last year. *AFP*



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

18 FEBRUARY 2025

Love takes flight: KIA ships 44m V-Day roses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) set a new record this Valentine's season, processing a whopping 44 million rose stems weighing 1,649 metric tonnes (MT) for shipment to 22 international and 38 domestic destinations.

Last year, KIA handled 29 million rose stems. This represents a 50% year-on-year surge in the number of stems processed and a 35% increase in tonnage, reaffirming KIA's position as India's leading gateway for perishable exports for the fourth consecutive year.

The soaring global demand for fresh-cut roses resulted in a significant boost in international shipments, with a 51% increase in inter-

The soaring global demand for fresh-cut roses resulted in a significant boost in international shipments, with 51% increase in international tonnage and 86% surge in the number of rose stems exported compared to last year



national tonnage and an 86% surge in the number of rose stems exported compared to last year's data of nine million stems bound for international destinations and 20 million stems shipped domestically. Key international destinations for these shipments included Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Sharjah, Kuwait, Auckland, Amman, Manila, Riyadh, Colombo, and Abu Dhabi.

On the domestic front, KIA transported 1,344 MT of roses, marking a 32% increase from the previous year, with major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bagdogra, Udaipur, Ahmedabad, Agartala, and Chandigarh receiving floral consignments. The growing demand for roses across the country underscores India's expanding floriculture industry and the increasing

preference for fresh, high-quality flowers.

This year, KIA broadened its floral export network by adding new destinations such as Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Beirut, Tokyo, Bahrain, and Dammam.

KIA's state-of-the-art Coldport facility, equipped with world-class cold chain technology, has been instrumental in preserving the freshness of bloom



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

18 FEBRUARY 2025

CAT II upgrade for RGI airport main runway

Hyderabad: The GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has successfully installed and commissioned a Category II instrument landing system (ILS) and associated runway lighting system on its primary runway. This upgrade enables aircraft to land safely in challenging conditions with visibility as low as 300 metres runway visual range (RVR).

GHIAL said it has received approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to upgrade the status of its secondary runway to CATI. This enhancement will improve its capabilities to operate up to an RVR of 550 metres during any contingency on the main runway. Category II ILS provides pilots more precise guidance through highly accurate radio signals and advanced ground lighting systems. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

18 FEBRUARY 2025

'Night, early morning Silchar-Guwahati flights likely soon'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Feb 17: While residents of the Barak Valley are anxiously awaiting completion of the East-West corridor roadway connecting Silchar with Saurashtra via the hilly terrain of Dima Hasao district, Assam's Minister of Mines and Minerals, Food and Civil Supplies, and Barak Valley Development, Kaushik Rai, has claimed that night flight operations at the Silchar airport are likely to commence soon.

Addressing a gathering of tea planters at the 124th Annual General Meeting of the Surma Valley Branch of Indian Tea Association here on Saturday, Minister Rai said that besides completing the much-awaited road network by January 2026, the State government led by Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma is also according priority to starting flight operations on the Silchar-Guwahati route during night and morning hours for the convenience of the passengers of this region.

"The road network from Barak Valley to Guwahati has some glitches and gets affected during the monsoon sea-

son, which would be addressed accordingly. We are highly hopeful that the much-awaited Silchar-Saurashtra East-West corridor via Dima Hasao district will be completed and made motorable by January 2026. Also, while the flight service from Silchar to Kolkata is stable, there is only one flight operating between Silchar and the State capital in the afternoon hours. Realising the need for better air connectivity between Silchar and Guwahati, the government is taking an initiative so that passenger flights from Silchar could be operated even during the night hours and early morning, about which we can expect some action soon," the minister said.

According to credible sources at the Silchar airport in the Kumbhirgram area here, in the current winter schedule which will be in operation till March 26, there is a solitary flight operating between Silchar and Guwahati every day. The flight with 180 seats arrives from the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at 1:45 pm in Silchar airport and it

departs from here at 2:15 pm.

It may be mentioned that while the night-landing facility for flights at the Silchar airport was made functional in 2009, the watch hour at the airport was extended till 6 pm for civil flight operations. However, keeping in view the requirement of night flight connectivity to south-



The facade of the airport in Kumbhirgram, Silchar. (File photo)

ern Assam, the Defence Ministry had extended the watch hour at the Silchar airport from 6 pm to 8 pm with effect from March 26, 2017, vide an office memorandum issued on March 15 the same year. The extended watch hour is still valid for flight operations, sources added.

Meanwhile, credible sources at the airport informed that an additional de-

ployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been approved by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in order to facilitate flight operations even during night hours. However, engagement of the additional force has been delayed due to certain constraints with respect to the accommodation

official stated. **Maha Shiv Ratri:** Meanwhile, with a view to celebrating Maha Shiv Ratri at the historic Bhuvan Hills here in a safe and befitting manner, a preparatory meeting was held at the Cachar district commissioner's office on Saturday. Cabinet Minister Kaushik Rai chaired the meeting and laid stress on meticulous planning and seamless execution to ensure a successful and secure event.

"There is a rich cultural and spiritual significance of Bhuban Mela, which attracts thousands of devotees from across the region. We want to ensure coordinated efforts so that the devotees can offer prayers to Lord Shiva in a hassle-free manner," the minister said, as he urged upon all stakeholders to work together to guarantee a safe and smooth experience for visitors. He placed special focus on infrastructure readiness, ensuring that roadways, sanitation, water supply, and other essential services are prepared well in advance. Discussions on ways to improve road connectivity to

official stated.

the festival's venue, particularly from the Krishnapur and Motinagar portions leading to the hill, were held and funds for road repairs were announced, with responsibilities divided between the organising committees and the forest department. The PHE department was tasked with managing water supply during the event, with organising committee members assisting in distribution to ensure smooth access to drinking water for devotees.

It was mentioned in the meeting that the formal inauguration of the Bhuban Mela gates on both the Motinagar and Krishnapur sides will be done on February 25 after a comprehensive site inspection is conducted by a delegation headed by Cachar district commissioner Mridul Yadav. The DC, in his address, identified public safety as the top-most priority for the administration. He announced the administration's commitment to achieving 'zero accident, zero death' at Bhuban Mela 2025, and urged upon every department to enforce strict safety protocols to protect devotees and visitors.

Discussions on ways to improve road connectivity to

Discussions on ways to improve road connectivity to



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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Air India and IndiGo have a no-poaching pact, say pilots

A pilots' grouping on Tuesday alleged that Air India and IndiGo have a tacit understanding not to hire pilots from each other, saying that employment in the aviation sector should remain fair. Airline Pilots' Association of India (ALPA India), a member associate of the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Association (IFALPA) has flagged the issue to the civil aviation ministry. Air India and IndiGo did not comment on *PTI* queries about the pilots' grouping's allegations. An IndiGo official said there was no substance in the allegations. In a letter to Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, ALPA India said such an arrangement, if true, raises serious legal and ethical questions.

PTI



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Delta Jet Flips Upside Down on Runway, Passengers Safe



Toronto: A Delta Air Lines jet flipped on its roof while landing Monday at

Toronto's Pearson Airport, but all 80 people on board survived and those hurt had relatively minor injuries, the airport's chief executive said. Snow blown by winds gusting to 40 mph (65 kph) swirled when the flight from Minneapolis carrying 76 passengers and four crew attempted to land at around 2:15 p.m. Communications between the tower and pilot were normal on approach and it's not clear what went so drastically wrong. **AP**



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

● DELTA PLANE CRASHES BUT ALL 80 ON BOARD SURVIVE



Emergency responders operate around a plane on a runway after a plane crash at Toronto Pearson International Airport in Ontario, Canada, on Tuesday. The Delta Air Lines jet came down fast, landing so hard that it lost its right wing, then burst into flames. The aircraft slid to a stop, upside down, leaving a trail of black smoke in its wake. Miraculously, all 80 people on board the flight from Minneapolis to Toronto survived the crash on Monday

REUTERS



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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Plane flips over in freak accident

A Delta Air Lines regional jet flipped upside down upon landing at Canada's Toronto Pearson Airport amid windy weather following a snowstorm

80 People on board

21 Number of injured

CRJ-900: The plane involved in the incident. Developed by Canadian aerospace company Bombardier, it can seat up to 90 people.



A bumpy landing

The plane slammed down on the tarmac and was engulfed in smoke amid a burst of flames. Images showed the plane missing its tail and one wing, resting on its roof on the runway.



Passengers' ordeal

Peter Carlson, a passenger travelling to Toronto for a paramedics conference, said the landing was "very forceful." "All of a sudden everything just kind of went sideways and then next thing I know it's kind of a blink and I'm upside down still strapped in," CBC News quoted him as saying. He said when he took off his seat belt he crashed onto the ceiling, which had become the floor.

Weather a factor?

Conditions at airport

51-65 km/hr
Wind speed

-8.6°C
Temperature

Investigators said it was too early to say what caused the incident but the weather may have played a factor. Toronto Pearson Airport earlier said it was dealing with high winds. The reported weather conditions at time of the crash indicated a "gusting crosswind and blowing snow".



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

TROUBLED LANDING



Delta Airlines' Flight 4819 sits upside down on the tarmac after crash-landing at the Toronto Pearson International Airport in Canada on Monday. The aircraft was carrying 76 passengers and four crew members. While there were no casualties, 18 people, including a child, reportedly suffered injuries. The airport, which suspended all flights for at least two hours after the incident, said that the injured were taken to local hospitals.

PH



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PIONEER

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

पायलटों का आरोप, एयर इंडिया-इंडिगो में एक-दूसरे के पायलट को नौकरी न देने को लेकर गुपचुप सहमति

मुंबई। पायलटों के एक समूह ने मंगलवार को आरोप लगाया कि एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो ने एक दूसरे के पायलटों की नियुक्ति अपनी कंपनी में न करने को लेकर गुपचुप सहमति बना ली है। पायलटों के समूह ने कहा कि विमानन क्षेत्र में रोजगार निष्पक्ष रहना चाहिए। इंटरनेशनल फेडरेशन ऑफ एयरलाइन पायलट्स एसोसिएशन (आईएफएएलपीए) की सदस्य एयरलाइन पायलट्स एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया (एएलपीए इंडिया) ने नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के समक्ष यह मुद्दा उठाया है। एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो ने पायलटों के समूह के आरोपों के बारे में पूछे गए सवालों पर कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की। इंडिगो के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि आरोपों में कोई तथ्य नहीं है। नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू को लिखे पत्र में एएलपीए इंडिया ने हाल की उन रिपोर्टों पर चिंता व्यक्त की है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

19 FEBRUARY 2025

एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की गाजियाबाद से कोलकाता उड़ान सेवा एक मार्च से

कोलकाता (भाषा)।

एयर इंडिया की अनुपंगी कंपनी एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस कोलकाता से गाजियाबाद जिले के हिंडन हवाईअड्डे के बीच उड़ान सेवा शुरू करने जा रही है। दोनों स्थानों के बीच उड़ान सेवा एक मार्च से शुरू होगी।

कंपनी प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि कोलकाता से हिंडन की उड़ान प्रतिदिन संचालित होगी, जबकि हिंडन से कोलकाता की उड़ान शनिवार को छोड़कर सप्ताह में छह दिन संचालित की जाएगी। यह उड़ान कोलकाता से सुबह सात बजकर 10 मिनट बजे रवाना होगी और प्रतिदिन सुबह साढ़े नौ बजे हिंडन पहुंचेगी। वापसी उड़ान हिंडन से शाम पांच बजकर 20 मिनट पर रवाना होगी।

Passenger Jet In Toronto Flips & Burns, All 80 On Board Survive

TRAGEDY AVERTED

21 Hurt, 2 Still In Hospital



2025's FOURTH AVIATION ACCIDENT IN N AMERICA

- > A commercial jetliner and an Army helicopter collided near Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 29, crashing into the Potomac River and killing 67 people
- > A medical transportation plane crashed in Philadelphia on Jan. 31, killing the 6 people on board and another person on the ground
- > On Feb. 6, 10 people were killed in a plane crash in Alaska

PAST PLANE FLIPS

- In 2009, a FedEx freighter turned over on landing at a Tokyo airport killing both pilots
- In 1999, a China Airlines flight inverted at Hong Kong, killing three of 315 occupants
- In 1997, another FedEx freighter flipped over at Newark with no fatalities.

> DL4819 flight from Minneapolis flipped over on the tarmac at Toronto Pearson International Airport while landing around 2.15pm EST. Snow blown by winds gusting to 65kmph (40 miles per hour) were reported at the time

> US carrier Delta said the CRJ900 aircraft was operated by its Endeavor Air subsidiary and had 76 passengers and four crew members on board

> All survived, 21 were injured. 19 have left the hospitals, with two people remaining in hospital for ongoing treatment

> Passengers swung upside down from seats after the plane flipped. 'We hit the ground, and we were sideways, and then we were upside down,' passenger John Nelson said

> CRJ900, made by Canada's Bombardier and powered by GE Aerospace engines, was about 16 years old. Such passenger jets are often operated for two to three decades, or more. More than 380 CRJ900s are used by airlines around the world

> One of the two wings was no longer attached to the plane, a video online showed

PEARSON AIRPORT'S SECOND MIRACLE | Last major crash at the airport was on Aug. 2, 2005, when an Airbus A340 landing from Paris skidded off the runway and burst into flames amid stormy weather. All 309 passengers & crew aboard Air France Flight 358 survived the crash

Source: NYT & Agencies

Delta Flight 4819's landing seemed routine — until it wasn't. For the 80 people on board, the world lurched immediately after the wheels hit the ground at Toronto Pearson International Airport on Monday. The plane sparked and burst into flames as it skidded along the runway, then it rolled onto its back, its right wing shearing off.

In the blink of an eye, passengers found themselves hanging upside down, still strapped into their seats as jet fuel began running down the windows, said Pete Carlson, one of those on the flight. "The initial feeling is just, 'Need to get out of this,'" he told CBC News.

But after a string of fatal aviation accidents over the past two months, this crash proved different. Flight attendants and passengers were able to help each other out of emergency exits and onto the snow. At

least 18 people were injured, including one adult and one child in critical but non-life-threatening condition, but everyone was expected to survive.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident, which occurred amid strong winds and drifting snow. Officials said 22 of the passengers were Canadians and the rest were from other countries.

A video on social media Tuesday showed the moment of the jet's crash landing. The video, taken from a nearby runway, shows the aircraft landing hard on a snow-covered runway and then flipping over amid black clouds of smoke.

The jet, a Bombardier CRJ900 operated by a Delta subsidiary, Endeavor Air, was landing at 2.15pm Eastern time after a seemingly normal flight along the busy route between Minneapolis and Toronto. Communications between

the tower and pilot were normal on approach and it's not clear what went so drastically wrong when the plane touched down. Audio recordings show the control tower warned the pilots of a possible air flow "bump" on the approach.

A video taken from the cockpit of another jetliner waiting on the tarmac, shows the plane appearing to hit the runway hard before bursting into flames. "Oh no no no no no," the pilot is heard saying in the video laced with expletives.

"The second the wheels hit the ground, everything happened," said Pete Koukov, a professional skier from Colorado. "The next thing I know, we're sideways." When the plane came to a stop belly-up, he unbuckled and lowered himself to the ceiling of the aircraft, which was now its floor. "People were panicking," he said. A video taken by Koukov shows

a flight attendant helping passengers climb out of the plane, urging them to hurry and to leave their belongings behind.

In the aftermath of the crash, an air traffic controller told a medical helicopter pilot who offered to help: "There are people outside walking around the aircraft there." "Yeah, we've got it. The aircraft is upside down and burning," the helicopter pilot replied, according to LiveATC audio.

The crash is likely to create aviation chaos. Toronto Pearson, Canada's largest and busiest airport, was already juggling delays and cancellations caused by winter storms.

Endeavor Air, based in Minneapolis, is a subsidiary of Delta Air Lines and the world's largest operator of CRJ-900 aircraft. The airline operates 130 regional jets on 700 daily flights to 126 cities in US, Canada and Caribbean. AGENCIES