

# AAI may take over operation of the multi-level car parking facility at city airport for now

The move comes amid complaints over cab pick-up points and congestion of vehicles at entry/exit areas; the existing contractor has given termination notice to AAI due to losses

**Sunitha Sekar**  
CHENNAI

**T**he Airports Authority of India (AAI) is likely to take over the multi-level car parking facility at Chennai airport to address complaints about distant cab pick-up points and congestion at entry and exit areas.

The existing contractor who manages the Aero Hub (a huge shopping facility at the airport), car parking and cab pick-up points gave termination notice to the AAI some weeks ago. Since then, there have been several rounds of discussions in this regard, sources said.

“A final decision is expected from the Board next week on this issue,” a source said.



**Untangling issues:** AAI has prepared a tender and is likely to float bids shortly after the final decision from the board comes through.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the AAI has prepared a tender and will float bids shortly after the final decision from the board comes through. When the new contractor takes over, they need to operate two cab pick-up points, one closer to the T1 Terminal and the other in the multi-level car

parking facility. However, as far as the Aero Hub is concerned, it is still not clear whether the AAI will take over or not and the decision lies with the board.

For many months, air passengers have been agitated over the shifting of cab pick-up point from T1

Domestic Terminal (near the National Flag point) to the second floor of a multi-level car parking facility.

With growing demand to restore the previous cab pick-up point, the AAI began mulling the possibility of an additional pick-up point. Following this, the contractor submitted the termination notice to the AAI, wanting to end the agreement over losses.

Ram Kumar, a frequent air passenger, said, “It will be a big relief for passengers if they can take cabs from the old pick-up point. I found it so much more convenient as it didn’t involve a very long walk or taking a lift to the Aero Hub. I’m hoping they make the second pick-up point available for air passengers at the earliest.”



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## SC panel's nod to Vasant Kunj housing project with tree rider

**Priyangi Agarwal**  
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**New Delhi:** The Central Empowered Committee (CEC), appointed by the Supreme Court, has granted approval for a group housing development in Sector B, Pocket-1 in Vasant Kunj. Nearly 80% of the development is on the morphological ridge of Delhi, so the CEC has asked the private builder to ensure the protection of all 23 existing trees within the project boundary.

The private developer has been asked to plant 250 indigenous tree species for a green fencing. Additionally, the developer is required to plant another 250 trees along the internal roadway.

The morphological ridge, characterised by ridge-like terrain and features, is granted the same level of protection as other designated ridge areas. After the CEC's nod, the project will need final permission from the Supreme Court.

In this matter, the CEC received two applications — one from a private builder in favour of the group housing

project and another from a local, Rajiv Ranjan, who raised objections against the project, claiming that since the proposed land falls within the morphological ridge, no construction can be allowed.

Ranjan told the CEC that out of the total 5,353 square metres of the project land, 4,553 square metres are on the morphological ridge. However, the private developer alleged that the land does not fall in the morphological ridge area, nor does it exhibit any qualifying characteristics.

In a report dated May 14, which was submitted to the Supreme Court for consideration, CEC confirmed that the majority of the 'subject land' falls within the morphological ridge area. "The committee conducted a site visit on Jan 3 and observed that the 'subject land' is flat land, surrounded by the residential houses of DDA," said the report. It added that a total of 23 trees are present at the site, out of which 19 are healthy and upright, one is a rehabilitated fallen tree, and three are dried out. The proposed project

does not envisage felling or translocation of any tree.

The proposal for group housing has received NOCs from the departments concerned, including DDA, MCD, Airports Authority of India, and environmental clearance from the ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee.

"It is recommended that this court may consider permitting the use of 4,553 square metres (0.4553 ha) of the 'subject land' without felling any tree for the construction of the group housing project," said the report.

The CEC, however, directed the private builder that no tree felling will be allowed to be cut, and it should ensure the protection of all 23 trees standing on the 'subject land'. It also asked for green fencing on a periphery of 385 metres and for the planting of about 250 trees of indigenous species alongside it. "Similarly, another 250 trees of indigenous species shall be planted along the internal roads," the CEC said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## डायल ने संयुक्त उद्यम में 13 करोड़ में बेची 50% हिस्सेदारी

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हवाई अड्डा परिचालक डायल ने दिल्ली एविएशन सर्विसेज प्राइवेट लि. (डीएसपीएल) में अपनी पूरी 50 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी बर्ड फ्लाइट सर्विसेज (इंडिया) प्राइवेट लिमिटेड को करीब 12.79 करोड़ रुपये में बेच दी। शनिवार को नियामक में दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार, डीएसपीएल वर्तमान में कोई व्यावसायिक संचालन नहीं कर रही है। बर्ड फ्लाइट सर्विसेज के पास पहले से ही डीएसपीएल में 25 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी थी। जीएमआर एयरपोर्ट्स का हिस्सा डायल आईजीआई का संचालन करती है। एजेन्सी



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## नइडा का मुख्यमंत्री धामी ने एयरपोर्ट पर किया स्वागत



जौलीग्रॉंट। भाजपा अध्यक्ष व केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जेपी नइडा उत्तराखंड के दो दिन के दौर पर पहुंचे हैं। नइडा दिल्ली से रात 9:30 बजे जौलीग्रॉंट एयरपोर्ट पहुंचे, जहां मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी, प्रदेश अध्यक्ष महेंद्र भट्ट, राष्ट्रीय सह कोषाध्यक्ष व राज्यसभा सोमद डॉ. नरेश चंमल व अन्य नेताओं ने पुष्पमाला देकर उनका स्वागत किया। हवाईअड्डा से नइडा हेलिकॉप्टर से पिथौरागढ़ के लिए रवाना हुए। उन्होंने पिथौरागढ़ के वाइब्रेंट क्लिज गुंजी में रात्रि विश्राम किया। सोमवार को रात्रि के स्वास्थ्य केंद्र का निरीक्षण करने के बाद हेलिकॉप्टर से देहरादून एयरपोर्ट पहुंचेंगे, जहां से वह दिल्ली के लिए रवाना होंगे। व्यूरो

# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## Apollo in talks to invest \$750 mn in Adani's Mumbai Airport bonds

DEV CHATTERJEE  
Mumbai, 18 May

US-based financial services giant Apollo Global Management is in advanced talks to invest \$750 million in bonds to be issued by Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), according to people familiar with the matter.

The investment is expected to come through Apollo's insurance arm, which is actively targeting high-quality infrastructure assets in India.

The bond issuance is part of a broader fundraising initiative by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), which operates seven airports across India.

In a separate deal, AAHL is also looking to raise an additional \$750 million in loans from international banks, sources said.

The MIAL bond transaction is likely to close in the coming weeks and has attracted interest from multiple US-based financial institutions, led by Apollo. This points to sustained investor appetite for Indian infrastructure credit, particularly in the airport sector.

Apollo declined to comment on the deal. The Adani group also did not respond to an email request for comment.

Proceeds from the AAHL loan facility will be used for capital expenditure and to refinance dollar-denominated debt maturing in September, sources said.

In April, a consortium of global lenders extended \$750 million to a family investment vehicle of the Adani group for the acquisition of ITD Cementation.

### Adani, Sparton ink deal to manufacture Sonobuoy systems

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group subsidiary Adani Defence & Aerospace has entered into a binding collaboration agreement with Sparton (DeLeon Springs LLC), a subsidiary of Elbit Systems known for its advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) systems, the company said on Sunday. This partnership aims to manufacture sophisticated electronic and ASW systems in India for domestic and international markets. Through this alliance, Adani Defence & Aerospace becomes the first private Indian firm to offer indigenously developed sonobuoy solutions. Sonobuoys are specialised, deployable sonar systems designed to detect and monitor underwater activity, particularly submarines.

HIMANSHU THAKUR

BlackRock contributed \$250 million to that round, according to banking sources.

"Despite challenges, the group continues to attract marquee US investors. Strong ratings and predictable cash flows have helped bring in long-term capital," said a banker involved in the process.

AAHL's current airport portfolio in-

cludes Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Mangalore, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, and Trivandrum. Its greenfield Navi Mumbai Airport project is scheduled to commence operations in the next quarter. The company is eyeing an initial public offering in the next 2-3 years, once the Navi Mumbai facility stabilises, and other revenue streams mature.

Parent company Adani Enterprises Ltd. has announced capital expenditure plans totaling ₹1.32 trillion (\$15.8 billion) for FY25-FY27. This includes ₹47,000 crore for renewables, ₹44,000 crore for airports, ₹19,000 crore for roads, and ₹16,000 crore for a greenfield PVC project.

According to Care Ratings, financial closures have been secured for most of these projects, including the PVC facility, as the group continues to adopt a phased, modular funding strategy.

Across its 12 listed entities, the Adani Group aims to invest \$100 billion by 2030 in sectors such as ports, roads, airports, and cement. The group is prioritising greenfield development while selectively pursuing M&A opportunities where valuations are favourable.

The FY25 results affirm Adani Enterprises' incubation strategy for scaling core infrastructure businesses, Group CFO Jugeshinder "Robbie" Singh said on a recent analyst call. In 2026, AEL plans to deploy over ₹36,000 crore, including ₹10,500 crore for airports, ₹5,500 crore for renewable energy, ₹6,200 crore for road infrastructure, and ₹9,000 crore for petrochemical ventures.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट के एविएशन सिक्सोरिटी ऑफिसर पर हमला

कार का हॉर्न बजाने से रोका तो लोहे की रॉड से वार, फरार

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर एविएशन सिक्सोरिटी में काम करने वाले एक कंप्लायंस ऑफिसर पर शनिवार शाम इस्का सेक्टर-13 में होटल के बाहर स्टेरे की रॉड से हमला किया गया। ऑफिसर ने एक कार ड्राइवर को बार-बार हॉर्न बजाने से रोका था, इसी बात पर विवाद हुआ और आरोपी ने हमला कर दिया। एफआईआर के मुताबिक, पीड़ित अपनी पत्नी के साथ शाम करीब 4.30 बजे होटल में एंटी कर रहा था। तभी पीछे खड़ी एक कार लगातार हॉर्न बज रही थी। जब ऑफिसर ने आपत्ति जताई तो कार ड्राइवर बाहर आया और बहस करने लगा। एक सीनियर पुलिस अधिकारी ने बताया कि शुरुआती जांच में पता चला

पत्नी ने बचाव की कोशिश की

पत्नी ने बीच-बचाव की कोशिश की, लेकिन आरोपी ने कार से रॉड जैसी चीज निकाली और ऑफिसर के सिर और शरीर पर हमला कर दिया। पुलिस को पीसीआर कॉल के जरिए सूचना मिली। मौके पर पहुंचकर घायल को इंदिरा गांधी अस्पताल ले जाया गया, जहां इलाज के बाद छुट्टी दे दी गई। इस्का नॉर्थ घाने में एफआईआर दर्ज की गई है। पुलिस ने बताया कि आरोपी की पहचान की जा रही है। जल्द ही गिरफ्तारी कर ली जाएगी।

है कि आरोपी उसी इलाके के एक ज़िम में आता था। जल्द ही उसे गिरफ्तार कर लिया जाएगा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## 22 अंतरराष्ट्रीय और 23 घरेलू उड़ानों में देरी

जासं, नई दिल्ली: आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर रविवार को 22 अंतरराष्ट्रीय और 23 घरेलू उड़ानों में देरी ने यात्रियों को परेशान किया। दो अंतरराष्ट्रीय और छह घरेलू उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं, जिससे यात्रियों को और असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ा। रद्द की गई घरेलू उड़ानों में श्रीनगर की दो और चंडीगढ़, हैदराबाद, अहमदाबाद व जयपुर की एक-एक उड़ान शामिल हैं। रविवार को 22 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के प्रस्थान में देरी हुई, जबकि दो उड़ानें रद्द की गईं। वहीं, दो उड़ानों के आगमन में देरी हुई, लेकिन कोई उड़ान रद्द नहीं हुई। घरेलू उड़ानों की बात की जाए तो 23 उड़ानों के प्रस्थान में देरी हुई और छह उड़ानें रद्द की गईं। वहीं, कोई भी उड़ान देरी से नहीं पहुंची, पर यहां आने वाली दो उड़ानों को रद्द किया गया।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## In a Nutshell

### ■ DIAL Sells Entire 50% Stake in JV for ₹12.7 cr



**NEW DELHI** Delhi airport operator DIAL has sold its entire 50% stake in Delhi Aviation Services (DASPL)

to Bird Flight Services (India) for around ₹12.79 crore. DASPL was given concession to manage the operations of bridge-mounted equipment, including ground power units, pre-conditioned air units and supply of potable water to aircraft at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital. DIAL has offloaded its 50% stake in DASPL to Bird Flight Services for a consideration of ₹12.79 crore, according to a filing on Saturday.

### ■ Cut Flights at Orly Airport: Airlines Told



**PARIS** France's civil aviation authority asked airlines to reduce flights by 40% at Paris-Orly

airport on Sunday evening after air traffic control systems suffered a breakdown. The authority, known as DGAC, said in a statement that some "regulation" was needed involving a significant reduction in the number of flights. The statement didn't provide details on the cause of the breakdown. DGAC said its teams "are fully mobilised to restore normal operations as soon as possible."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 MAY 2025

## *Airport, Taj Hotel receive hoax bomb threats*

**Megha Kuchik**

**MUMBAI**

Mumbai police received an email threatening to blow up the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and Hotel Taj Mahal Palace with a bomb, an official said on Saturday.

According to the FIR, terrorist Afzal Guru's name was mentioned in the threatening message.

Following the alarming email, immediate security measures were enacted. Teams conducted thorough checks at the airport, taxi parking areas, Hotel Taj Santacruz, ATC Tower, nearby areas and the Taj Mahal Palace, but nothing suspicious



Saiman Ansaari

### **Bomb detection and disposal squad outside Hotel Taj**

was found. After a detailed search, authorities confirmed there were no signs of any threat.

The threatening email was received by the Airport Police station's official ID at 5:55am on Friday. The email stated,

"Respected Shri Phadnavis/Inspector saab, on this holy day, The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai and the Chatrapati Shivaji Airport will fall victim to a devastating pipe bomb blast. This act commemorates the unjust

hanging of Afzal Guru and Savukku Shankar!"

The email further stated, "We dare the authorities to attempt a rescue operation in the name of our Almighty. Explosively Formed

Projectiles were strategically placed over the weekend for this very day. The fusing systems were engineered in the Mechanical Department, and all materials were sourced through indigenous means for this sacred mission. Jaffar Sadiq's meth case and Jaffar Sait IPS's RCS Gattleo files should be dropped."

The police on Friday registered a case against an unidentified individual under Sections 125 (endangering life or personal safety of others),

351(1), 351(3), 351(4), and 351(1)(b) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Investigations are ongoing, and efforts are underway to trace the source of the email. As of now, no explosives have been found.

Meanwhile, Mumbai police have issued a prohibitory order restricting the movement and unlawful assembly of five or more persons within city limits. The order, which came into effect at midnight on May 17, will remain in force until midnight on May 31. The decision was taken to prevent any possible breach of peace, disturbance to public tranquillity, danger to human lives, and potential damage to property.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 MAY 2025

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## **B'luru airport soars high on record profit**

**NT Correspondent**

**BENGALURU**

Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru has reported a record profit for the first time since its inception, signifying a robust financial turnaround, according to the BIAL sources.

The BIAL held its board meeting on May 16, presided over by its Chairperson and Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka, Shalini Rajneesh, a press statement said. "The meeting marked a historic milestone as BIAL reported a record profit for the first time since its inception, signifying a robust financial turnaround and a testament to the airport's strategic growth, sustainability initiatives, and operational excellence," the statement added.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## 'CISF PERSONNEL stationed at Noida Airport will be allotted flats'

**DIPIKA KIROLA**

**GREATER NOIDA:** Aiming to address farmer's issues, the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) has decided to grant the right to CEO to allow correction of clerical errors (such as name of beneficiary, area etc.) in lease back cases of farmers. Earlier, the same was done only after discussing them in the board meetings which for which farmers had to face a long wait.

According to officials, for this purpose, a committee will be formed by the CEO. "After examining the records, the clerical error will be corrected based solely on the recommendation of the committee and with the CEO's approval. From now on, there will be no need to wait for permission from the board meeting for such corrections," a senior GNIDA officer has said.

The decision was taken in the 139th board meeting of the Greater Noida Authority that took place on Saturday under the chairmanship of Uttar

Pradesh Chief Secretary and Noida-Greater Noida Authority Chairman Manoj Kumar Singh who participated in the board meeting online. Present in the meeting were CEO of Greater Noida Authority NG Ravi Kumar, CEO of Noida Dr Lokesh M, ACEO Saumya Srivastava, ACEO Sunil Kumar Singh, OSD of Abhishek Pathak and other officers joined the board meeting.

Additionally, the Greater Noida Authority Board has sanctioned the allotment of land at the rate of Rs 5,000 per square metre for the construction of the Employees State Insurance Corporation Hospital in Greater Noida. This hospital is set to be built on a 29300 square metre plot in Knowledge Park-5, Greater Noida.

"Entrepreneurs from Greater Noida have persistently requested the establishment of an ESIC hospital in the area. The hospital is expected to be completed within three years, with an estimated expenditure of around Rs 550 crore. Upon completion, it will provide

medical facilities for employees working in various companies and factories in Greater Noida and nearby regions. Currently, the only ESIC hospital in the district is located in Sector 24, Noida," said CEO NG Ravi Kumar.

Further, a resolution has been reached regarding housing facilities for CISF personnel stationed at Noida Airport. 812 flats constructed by the Greater Noida Authority will be allotted to CISF. These flats are situated in Sector Omicron One, Greater Noida, and are classified under MIG and LIG categories.

"The pricing of these flats has been finalised and communicated to CISF. This development will significantly ease accommodation concerns for CISF staff responsible for security at Noida Airport. The board has also approved this proposal. In addition, it was decided to allot approximately 192 flats to police, court, district administration, and other government departments for residential purposes," the GNIDA official informed.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

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## DIAL SELLS 50% stake in joint venture for ₹13 cr

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi airport operator DIAL has sold its entire 50 per cent stake in Delhi Aviation Services Pvt Ltd (DASPL) to Bird Flight Services (India) Pvt Ltd for around Rs 12.79 crore.

DASPL was given concession to manage the operations of bridge-mounted equipment, including ground power units, pre-conditioned air units and supply of potable water to aircraft at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital.

DIAL has offloaded its 50 per cent stake in DASPL to Bird Flight Services for a consideration of Rs 12.79 crore, according to a regulatory filing on Saturday. As per the filing, DASPL is currently not carrying on any business operation.

Bird Flight Services already had 25 per cent stake in DASPL.

DIAL, part of GMR Airports, operates the IGIA. **PII**

# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर हवाई जहाजों के लिए फरीदाबाद से ईंधन जाएगा

**NIA और IOSL ने 30 साल के लिए किया समझौता**

के अंदर बनाए गए तेल डिपो तक 1.2 किलोमीटर लंबी पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम भी लगभग पूरा हो



**मुख्य सचिव ने 30 जून तक सभी कार्य पूरा करने के लिए निर्देश**

फरीदाबाद, 18 मई (हॉट/नवोदय टाइम्स): नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर हवाई जहाजों के लिए ईंधन फरीदाबाद से जाएगा। ईंधन फरीदाबाद के गांव प्याला स्थित भारत पेट्रोलियम के डिपो से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक भूमिगत पाइपलाइन के जरिये भेजा जाएगा। पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम लगभग पूरा हो गया है।

एयरपोर्ट के बाहर जेवर नहर के नीचे से एयरपोर्ट

डिपो से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक टैंकों के माध्यम से ईंधन सप्लाई की योजना थी, मगर इसमें टैंकों के

आवागमन पर रोजाना का खर्च काफी अधिक आता। साथ ही टैंकों के आवागमन में ईंधन खर्च होता, जिससे कार्बन उत्सर्जन बढ़ता। इसके बाद एयरपोर्ट तक विमान ईंधन पहुंचाने के लिए 20 फरवरी 2024 को नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट और भारत पेट्रोलियम के बीच समझौता हुआ था, जिसमें पर्यावरण संरक्षण को ध्यान में

रखते हुए टैंकों से तेल परिवहन से होने वाले कार्बन उत्सर्जन से बचने के लिए सीधी पाइपलाइन बिछाने का निर्णय लिया गया।

एयरपोर्ट के बाहर जेवर नहर के नीचे से एयरपोर्ट



भारत पेट्रोलियम के गांव प्याला स्थित डिपो से एयरपोर्ट तक बिछाई गई है इस तरह की पाइपलाइन।

के अंदर तेल डिपो तक 1.2 किलोमीटर लंबी पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम भी लगभग पूरा हो चुका है। जल्द ही लाइन को जोड़कर एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों को ईंधन की आपूर्ति शुरू कर दी जाएगी।

**बनाए तेल डिपो और हाइड्रेंट सिस्टम**

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट और इंडियन ऑयल स्काईटैकिंग लिमिटेड (आईओएसएल) ने 30 साल के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। इस समझौते में तेल डिपो और हाइड्रेंट सिस्टम स्थापित किए गए हैं।

फरीदाबाद से आने वाले एविएशन टर्बोइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) को एयरपोर्ट पर बनाए गए पांच तेल स्टोरेज टैंकों में सुरक्षित तरीके से स्टोर किया जाएगा। इस स्टोरेज सेंटर की क्षमता शुरुआत में 50 हजार किलोलीटर होगी। अगर पांच दिन तक फरीदाबाद से पाइपलाइन के

जरिएर आपूर्ति नहीं भी होती है, तो भी यहां से विमानों को ईंधन की आपूर्ति होती रहेगी। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के नैडल अधिकारी सैलेंद भाटिया ने बताया एविएशन टर्बोइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम लगभग पूरा हो चुका है। सिवाई विभाग की नहर के नीचे इसे बिछाने का काम बाकी है। भारत पेट्रोलियम और सिवाई विभाग के अधिकारी इसे जल्द ही पूरा कर लेंगे, जिसके बाद एयरपोर्ट पर एविएशन टर्बोइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की आपूर्ति शुरू हो जाएगी।

## Soon, flying schools will be graded by DGCA for safety and operations

**Aneesh Phadnis**

Mumbai

In a bid to improve transparency, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) plans to rank pilot training schools based on their operational performance and safety. The civil aviation regulator has drawn up parameters and weightage would be assigned to each of them.

Some proposed parameters include aircraft utilisation, number of accidents/incidents, safety observations and operational aspects like fleet size and instructor to student ratio at the school.

### VIEWS INVITED

“We have discussed the proposal with flying training organisations and comments have been invited from them. The idea is to improve transparency,” said a senior government official.

Additionally, training schools have been asked to update their websites with information on availability of aircraft, instructors, time taken to complete flying training and availability of financial assistance to enable



cadets to make an informed choice.

Currently, there are 38 flight training schools operating at 56 locations across the country. In 2024, DGCA issued 1,342 commercial pilot licences.

The figure includes certification of locally trained cadets and licence conversion of those trained overseas.

With airlines placing large aircraft orders, the country is set to require 20,000 pilots in the near future.

Ranking of schools is one of the steps initiated by DGCA under Director General Faiz Ahmed Kidwai to encourage more students to take up flying training in India.

While schools have welcomed the idea regarding

website updation, they are not in favour of the ranking system. “Why are flying training schools being singled out? The DGCA does not rank airlines, non-scheduled operators or MROs,” an owner of a flying school said.

### RANKING ROW

“There are some schools which are new and some several years old. Naturally the older ones have better infrastructure. There has to be a level playing field.

“Averages should be used like accidents per thousand flights instead of actual,” he said.

The schools have suggested categorisation with a desirable list of standards instead of ranking and have repeated their calls for DGCA to speed up examination and approval processes.

Concerns have been raised regarding a shortage of aircraft maintenance engineers and that is reducing aircraft availability and thus slowing down training.

“Examinations should be conducted more often and time taken for issuance of licences should be reduced,” an executive from a flying training school said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

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## IATA to streamline baggage operations

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has launched a 10-year global baggage roadmap to modernise baggage operations.



Developed together with airlines, airports and industry partners, the roadmap seeks to improve both operational efficiency and traveller satisfaction.

"Baggage is important for travellers. When they check in a bag, they expect it to arrive on time. And if it doesn't, they want to know where it is. That is confirmed by recent IATA polling showing 81 per cent of travellers want better tracking, 74 per cent expect real-time updates on their mobile phones, and 67 per cent are willing to switch to electronic bag tags. The global baggage roadmap will move us closer to the automated digital baggage services that travellers want," said Monika Mejstrikova, IATA's Director of Ground Operations.

The roadmap is built around three pillars — baggage information exchange and data standardisation, tracking and automation; and streamlining the claim process, says a release.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 MAY 2025

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## Lufthansa jet flies sans pilot for 10 minutes

**AP**

**BERLIN**

A Lufthansa flight to Spain last year went without a pilot for 10 minutes after the co-pilot fainted while he was alone in the cockpit, German news agency dpa reported on Saturday.

During the flight from Frankfurt to Seville, Spain, on Feb 17, 2024, the co-pilot of an Airbus A321 fainted while the captain was in the restroom. The aircraft, carrying 199 passengers and 6 crew members, flew for 10 minutes without a pilot in command of the plane, as per the report. Although the unconscious co-pilot apparently operated controls unintentionally, the aircraft was able to continue flying in a stable manner thanks to the active autopilot. During the period, the voice recorder recorded strange noises in the cockpit that were consistent with an acute health emergency, dpa reported.

The captain initially tried entering the regular door opening code, which triggers a buzzer in the cockpit so the co-pilot can open the door. He did so 5 times without being able to enter the cockpit. A stewardess tried to contact the co-pilot using the onboard phone.

Finally, the captain typed in an emergency code that would have allowed him to open the door on his own. However, shortly before the door would have opened automatically, the co-pilot opened it from the inside despite being ill, dpa reported.

The pilot then decided to make an unplanned landing in Madrid, where his colleague was taken to a hospital.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में यात्री पसीने से तर-ब-तर



विमान में गर्मी से परेशान यात्री पंखा करते दिखे।

पटना, मुख्य संवाददाता। पटना से दिल्ली जाने वाली एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में रविवार को यात्रियों की फजीहत झेलनी पड़ी। दरअसल, यात्रियों की बोर्डिंग के बाद विमान के भीतर एसी ने काम करना बंद कर दिया, जिससे यात्री पसीने से तर-बतर हो गए। लगभग 45 मिनट तक यात्री उमस भरी गर्मी में विमान में कैद रहे। गनीमत थी विमान ने उड़ान नहीं भरी थी, अन्यथा परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ सकता था।

इधर, यात्रियों के आक्रोशित होने के बाद विमान की तकनीकी खराबी दूर किया गया और एसी ठीक की गई। विमान के भीतर शाम सवा तीन बजे से लेकर चार बजे तक बिना एसी के पसीने से तर-बतर यात्री नैपकिन व अन्य मैगजीन से पंखा झलते रहे। एक यात्री ने इसका वीडियो सोशल मीडिया एक्स पर डाला है।

## Pak extends closure of airbase runway hit by India strikes till June 6

**SUKALP SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 18

PAKISTAN HAS extended the closure of the only runway at its Rahim Yar Khan airbase — which was damaged by India's military strikes on May 10 — till the morning of June 6.

On the day of the airstrike,

the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority had issued a notice to airmen (NOTAM), saying that the runway would be unavailable for flight operations for a week — till 4:59 am Pakistan time (5:29 am IST) on May 18.

However, according to a new NOTAM that has replaced the previous notice, the runway will

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

WITHIN PULSE PROMPT II

### ● Airbase runway

not be available till 4:59 am Pakistan time on June 6. This indicates that the repairs needed after India's precision strikes may be taking longer than earlier anticipated.

Like the previous NOTAM, the new notice also says that the closure is due to "work in progress", without going into specifics.

Rahim Yar Khan, which is in the southern part of Pakistan's Punjab province and faces the Rajasthan frontier, has a dual-purpose airport — it is home to a forward operational base of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Central Air Command and the Sheikh Zayed International Airport.

Satellite images released by the Indian Armed Forces in the days that followed the airstrikes showed a large and deep crater in the middle of the runway. Satellite imagery also showed extensive damage to a building at the airbase.

"RWY NOT AVBL FOR FLT OPS DUE WIP," stated the latest NOTAM. The earlier notice was also similarly worded.

According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), 'WIP' in a NOTAM refers to "work in progress". As per the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), 'WIP' describes any work being done on the airport surface. Given that the NOTAM specifically mentions the runway at the airbase, it indicates that the work in progress is on the runway itself.

The airbase's sole runway — Runway 01/19 — has a bituminous surface and is 3,000 metres or 9,843 feet in length, according to airport data available on Flightradar24.

The airbase was among the six Pakistani military targets hit in precision strikes by the Indian Armed Forces on May 10, amid four days of fierce confrontation that followed the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed on April 22.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## AC FAILS ON AIR INDIA DELHI-PATNA FLIGHT

S LALITHA @NewDelhi

IN the scorching Delhi heat, more than 250 passengers on Air India flight AI 2521 from Delhi to Patna endured an anxious wait on Sunday evening when the aircraft's air-conditioning failed. Travellers remained seated for over an hour before being asked to disembark; they finally departed on a replacement aircraft three hours and 55 minutes later.

A source confirmed the incident on Sunday and told this newspaper, "All passengers were made to disembark and sent by an alternate aircraft due to the AC issue." Scheduled to leave Terminal 3 of IGI Airport at 4:45 p.m. on May 18, the flight eventually took off at 8:35 p.m. According to flight-tracking website FlightAware.com, it landed in Patna at 10:14 pm instead of the planned 6:25 pm.

A video shot by a perspiring passenger, shared by journalist Sukesh Ranjan on social media, showed uncomfortable flyers fanning themselves with boarding passes and brochures.



"There are children on board. People are suffering. There is no one to help us out," the passenger says in the 39-second clip. Responding to the post on X, Air India wrote: "Please be assured that we highly value the comfort and safety of our customers, and this matter will be thoroughly reviewed."

Additionally, our team has been notified to provide any necessary assistance." A similar incident took place on May 11 aboard Air India Express flight IX 1128 from Delhi to Bhubaneswar, where a video showed passengers removing their shirts for relief. The airline explained that AC often feels less effective during boarding but becomes fully functional after take-off.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

18 MAY 2025

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## No pilot for 10 minutes during Lufthansa flight

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Berlin

**A** Lufthansa flight to Spain last year went without a pilot for 10 minutes after the co-pilot fainted while he was alone in the cockpit, German news agency dpa reported on Saturday.

During the flight from Frankfurt to Seville, Spain, on February 17, 2024, the co-pilot of an Airbus A321 fainted while the captain was in the restroom, dpa reported, referring to a report by the Spanish accident investigation authority CIAIAC.

The aircraft, which was carrying 199 passengers and six crew members, flew for around 10 minutes without a pilot in command of the plane, according to the report.

Lufthansa told dpa that it was aware of the investigation report and that its own flight safety department had also conducted an investigation. The company didn't disclose its results, dpa said.

Although the unconscious co-pilot apparently operated controls unintentionally, the aircraft was able to continue flying in a stable manner thanks to the active autopilot. During this time period, the voice recorder recorded strange noises in the cockpit that were consistent with an acute health emergency, dpa reported.

The captain initially tried entering the regular door opening code, which triggers a buzzer in the cockpit so that the co-pilot can open the door. He did so five times without being able to enter the cockpit. A stewardess tried to contact the co-pilot using the onboard telephone.

Finally, the captain typed in an emergency code that would have allowed him to open the door on his own. However, shortly before the door would have opened automatically, the co-pilot opened it from the inside despite being ill, dpa reported.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

19 MAY 2025

## DGCA tells flying schools to maintain updated sites

**Saurabh.Sinha**  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Aspiring commercial pilots in India will now be able to make an informed choice for a flying training organisation (FTO) to learn the ropes.

In a major reform, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday directed all flying schools in country to “maintain a dedicated website” with updated information on several parameters. These include, among other things, minimum and maximum time taken to complete 200 hours of flying; number of aircraft, instructors, designated examiners, availability of ground school and simulators.

Apart from clearing DGCA exams and medical tests, completing 200 flying hours is a key requirement to earn a commercial pilot licence (CPL) in India. Howev-

er, the long time it usually takes to do so due to multiple factors like availability of planes and instructors — apart from other concerns like safety and quality of training at many schools — sends a large number of aspiring Indians pilots abroad every year for CPL training.

As reported by **TOI** on March 23, 2025, DGCA chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai decided to bring in transparency on FTOs. He sought to do so by requiring them to put information in public domain, based on which students choose them. The aim is to make them competitive, safer and student-friendly. Setting that plan in motion, DGCA wrote to all flying schools in country Friday. “FTOs advised to maintain a dedicated website... it must be updated regularly. Specified information must be prominently displayed and kept current,” DGCA’s letter states.