



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Kolkata airport launches 24-day Yatri Sewa Abhiyan

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, September 17

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has launched a 24-day passenger-centric campaign at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport from September 17 to October 10, with a focus on improving passenger amenities, accessibility, security and overall service quality.

The “Yatri Sewa Abhiyan 2026” is featuring a series of initiatives aimed at making the airport experience smoother and more comfortable for passengers. Airport authorities will review seating arrangements, potable water facilities, essential amenities, parking and connectivity, while also strengthening wayfinding systems and flight information displays.

Special emphasis is being placed on passenger facilitation for persons with reduced mobility, Divyangjan, senior citizens, women, children and

families. The airport will also focus on digital services and mechanisms for passenger feedback and grievance redressal.

Security and emergency preparedness would form a key part of the campaign. The airport would undertake measures to strengthen helpdesks and promote courteous security assistance, besides reviewing baggage handling and emergency and medical preparedness.

During the campaign, cleanliness will also receive attention, including a dedicated Swachhata Diwas initiative on October 2. Officials will further assess sustainability measures and conduct a comprehensive review of facilities and services towards the end of the campaign.

Airport Director Vikram Singh said the initiative seeks to place passengers at the centre of airport operations and strengthen service quality, passenger facilitation and the overall travel experience.



हवाई यात्रियों के भरोसे का सवाल

बढ़ते यात्री ट्रैफिक के मुकाबले विमानों के रखरखाव, प्रशिक्षित इंजीनियर और पाटर्स की कमी है। 1,200 से अधिक तकनीकी खराबियां बताती हैं कि उड्डयन क्षेत्र में बड़े बदलाव जरूरी हैं।

पिछले दो वर्षों में भारतीय उड्डयन क्षेत्र में लगातार तकनीकी खराबियां, स्मोक डिटेक्टर की गलत सूचनाएं, इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग और गंभीर घटनाएं सामने आई हैं। हाल ही में, एअर इंडिया के एक विमान में स्मोक डिटेक्टर बजने की घटना ने एक बार फिर यात्रियों के मन में भय और सरकार की निगरानी प्रणाली पर सवाल खड़े कर दिए हैं।

आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 2024-2025 के दौरान देशभर में 18 से अधिक इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग दर्ज की गईं, जबकि तकनीकी खराबी की संख्या 1,200 से ऊपर पहुंच गई। एअर इंडिया समूह अकेले ही इनमें सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा रखता है। सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, जनवरी 2023 से जून 2026 के बीच तकनीकी खामियों से जुड़े कुल 2,420 गंभीर मामले दर्ज किए गए। एअर इंडिया और एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस में 963 गंभीर तकनीकी दोष दर्ज हुए, जो कुल मामलों का करीब 40 फीसदी है। इनमें अकेले एअर इंडिया के 844 मामले हैं। 2026 के पहले छह महीनों में समूह में 99 मामले दर्ज हुए। इंडिगो, जो देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन है, ने 2023-2026 के बीच 306 गंभीर दोष दर्ज कराए। स्पाइसजेट, अकासा एयर और अन्य कंपनियों में भी वृद्धि देखी गई। नागर विमान महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 2020 से 2025 तक भारत में 65 इन-फ्लाइट इंजन शटडाउन की घटनाएं हुईं। इनके कारण मुख्यतः ईंधन प्रदूषण, फिल्टर ब्लॉकज और यांत्रिक खराबी



सुभाष चंद्र कुशवाहा

रहे। जनवरी 2024 से मई 2025 तक 11 मेडे कॉल्स (एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपातकालीन रेडियो संदेश) दर्ज किए गए, जिनमें से कई इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग से जुड़े थे। 2024-25 की डीजीसीए वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में 104 दुर्घटनाओं और 123 गंभीर घटनाओं का जिक्र है। इनमें से अधिकांश की जांच पूरी हो चुकी है, पर रिपोर्ट्स से साफ है कि तकनीकी रखरखाव की कमी और पुराने बड़े का बोझ बढ़ रहा है। विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, तेजी से बढ़ते यात्री ट्रैफिक के मुकाबले रखरखाव सुविधाएं, प्रशिक्षित इंजीनियर और पाटर्स की उपलब्धता अपर्याप्त हैं। डीजीसीए ने निगरानी बढ़ा दी है। फिर भी, कई विशेषज्ञ मानते हैं कि सजा से ज्यादा सक्रिय रखरखाव और आधुनिक तकनीक की जरूरत है। पायलट एसोसिएशन के प्रतिनिधि कैप्टन सीएस रंधावा कहते हैं कि ईंधन फिल्टर, कंटैमिनेशन और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक फेल्योर जैसी समस्याएं बार-बार आ रही हैं। हमें सिस्टम में बड़े बदलाव की जरूरत है। वहीं, नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय का दावा है कि दुर्घटना दर शून्य है, पर गंभीर घटनाओं की संख्या चिंताजनक है। इसलिए, डीजीसीए को चाहिए कि वह सभी एयरलाइंस के लिए अनिवार्य रखरखाव ऑडिट बढ़ाए। पायलट व इंजीनियरों का बेहतर प्रशिक्षण हो, तथा पुराने विमानों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से रिटायर किया जाए। एयरलाइंस को पारदर्शी रिपोर्टिंग भी अनिवार्य करना चाहिए।

भारतीय उड्डयन क्षेत्र दुनिया में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाला क्षेत्र है, लेकिन अगर सुरक्षा से समझौता हुआ, तो यह विकास टिकाऊ नहीं रहेगा। सरकार, निवामक और एयरलाइंस को मिलकर यात्रियों का विश्वास बहाल करना होगा, वरना हवाई यात्रा परेशानी ही बनी रहेगी।

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Dabolim airport posts ₹135 cr profit, expects more flights

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

Dabolim Airport is currently operating at a healthy level with an annual profit of around Rs 135 crore and handling nearly 85 flights and around 13,000 passengers daily, Airport Director Lt Akash Deep said on Thursday.

Speaking at the launch of the Yatri Seva Abhiyan at Goa International Airport, Dabolim, Lt Akash Deep said there was "nothing to worry" about the airport's operations, while pointing to the steady passenger movement and financial performance.

"We are handling around 85 flights per day with a passenger movement of around 13,000. The airport is making around Rs 135 crore profit," he said.

He further said Dabolim Airport is expected to see additional connectivity during the coming winter season, with Aeroflot scheduled to operate 10 more flights. He also said office space has been provided to Fly91, with the airline operator in a position to commence operations from Dabolim at any time.

Lt Akash Deep said passengers arriving at the airport needed to be provided with good service and should also be made aware of the facilities and services available to them.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Aerocity waterlogging: HC raps NHAI, DIAL for 'callous' attitude

Sohini Ghosh

New Delhi, September 18

THE DELHI High Court on Friday pulled up the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport, for its "callous" attitude in not resolving the waterlogging issues in the upscale Aerocity area. The court has warned of "stringent" action if the agencies fail to resolve the issue.

A division bench of Justices Prathiba Singh and Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora was hearing a petition by a civil rights group, Social Jurist, seeking that a functional storm water drainage system be constructed along the National Highway-48 stretch between Mahipalpur and Rangpuri village.

"The development in the Aerocity area and the national

highway, which has led to this situation of waterlogging in Mahipalpur area, ought to have evoked a serious response from the agencies," the High Court observed.

Even as a joint stakeholders' meeting held earlier following the court orders in this regard was attended by representatives from NHAI, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority, PWD, and the Delhi Jal Board, the High Court on Friday noted that "no responsibility has been fixed as to which job is to be undertaken by which agency".

"They have to do it for the people there. The cars have been submerged. (if you) don't resolve it, we will not hesitate (to stop construction). If you don't sort it out, there will be stringent action," the High Court further warned, adding, "If they do not take steps and come forward to

the court, we will stop construction. Be clear about it. If they want to shirk it, then we will stop construction in Aerocity. We will not hesitate."

"The callous approach of the NHAI is not appreciated as much as there is no official present before the Court and neither is the counsel prepared to make any substantial submission," the HC underlined.

Directing the Delhi Chief Secretary to hold further meetings, as well as fix responsibilities on each agency concerned, the HC said, "The regular waterlogging in Mahipalpur area as also the traffic congestion in the said area needs to be resolved by the NHAI and Delhi International Airport Limited on a speedy basis with proper proposal, failing which the court will be constrained to pass some stringent directions."

The court will hear the matter next on October 30.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

अक्टूबर में हिसार से जम्मू व कुल्लू उड़ान की तैयारी

चंडीगढ़। हिसार के महाराजा अग्रसेन एयरपोर्ट से जम्मू के लिए नई हवाई सेवा अक्टूबर में शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। प्रस्तावित उड़ान हिसार-भुंतर (कुल्लू)-जम्मू मार्ग पर संचालित होगी। एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी व एलायंस एयरलाइंस इस विमान सेवा को विंटर शेड्यूल में शामिल होने की तैयारी में जुटी है। विंटर शेड्यूल अक्टूबर के दूसरे हफ्ते में आएगा।

**वैष्णो देवी और
मनाली जाना
होगा आसान**

यह विमान सेवा हिसार से चाया भुंतर से जम्मू तक जाएगी।

इससे हरियाणा के कई यात्रियों को फायदा होगा। खासकर इस विमान सेवा का माता वैष्णो देवी के दर्शन के लिए जाने वाले श्रद्धालुओं को इसका फायदा होगा। मनाली जाना भी सुगम होगा। हिसार एयरपोर्ट से अभी अयोध्या, दिल्ली, जयपुर और चंडीगढ़ के लिए साप्ताहिक उड़ानें संचालित हो रही हैं। हरियाणा व विमानन कंपनी एयर एलायंस के बीच जम्मू व अहमदाबाद के बीच करार हुआ था। दोनों ही विमान सेवा को इस साल तक शुरू करने का फैसला किया गया था।

विमान उपलब्ध न होने के कारण नहीं शुरू हो पाई सेवा : जम्मू के लिए संजरी तो पहले ही मिल चुकी थी मगर विमानन कंपनी के पास विमान उपलब्ध नहीं होने की वजह से यह सेवा शुरू नहीं हो पा रही थी। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री विपुल गोयल ने बताया, हिसार से जम्मू व अहमदाबाद की विमान सेवा प्रस्तावित है। सरकार की ओर से तैयारियां पूरी हैं और कंपनी को भी निर्देशित किया जा चुका है कि दोनों शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट सेवा शुरू की जाए। अक्टूबर में जम्मू की फ्लाइट शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। इस नई उड़ान से हरियाणा से हिमाचल में हवाई कनेक्टिविटी भी हो जाएगी। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

एअर इंडिया के नए सीईओ मंत्री से मिले

एअर इंडिया के नए मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) एवं प्रबंध निदेशक टेबोल्डे गेब्रेमरियम ने शुक्रवार को नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू से मुलाकात की। नायडू ने सोशल मीडिया मंच 'एक्स' पर मुलाकात की तस्वीरें साझा करते हुए कहा कि बेहतर संपर्क सुविधा और यात्रियों की सुविधा बढ़ाने की भारी मांग के बीच एअर इंडिया की जिम्मेदारी महत्वपूर्ण और चुनौतीपूर्ण है। एअर इंडिया ने पांच अगस्त को इथियोपियन एयरलाइंस समूह के पूर्व प्रमुख गेब्रेमरियम को सीईओ एवं प्रबंध निदेशक नियुक्त करने की घोषणा की थी। सुरक्षा मंजूरी मिलने के बाद उनके इस महीने पदभार संभालने की उम्मीद है। बैठक में नागर विमानन सचिव समीर कुमार सिन्हा और एअर इंडिया के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी मौजूद थे। गेब्रेमरियम एअर इंडिया के दूसरे विदेशी सीईओ होंगे।

भाषा



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India CEO weighs folding budget unit into group

BLOOMBERG

18 September

Air India Ltd.'s incoming Chief Executive Officer Tewolde Gebremariam is considering folding the no-frills Air India Express unit into the group as he tries to cut costs to counter record losses, according to people familiar with the matter.

In multiple meetings across departments, Tewolde quizzed managers about the need to run two airline companies with separate operating permits, said the people. The CEO-designate argues that having a single airline group would lower regulatory requirements and reduce the need for two sets of managers, engineers, and administrative staff, they said.

The idea of combining Air India and its budget carrier is at an early stage, and realising it would require approval from the supervisory board, the people said. Air India Express would keep its brand name in a combination, they added.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air India evaluates AI Express merger

MIHIR MISHRA
September 18

AIR INDIA'S INCOMING CHIEF

Executive Officer Tewolde Gebremariam is considering folding the no-frills Air India Express unit into the group as he tries to cut costs to counter record losses, according to people familiar with the matter.

In multiple meetings across departments, Tewolde quizzed managers about the need to run two airline companies with separate operating permits, said the people, who asked not to be

identified as the talks were private. The CEO-designate argues that having a single airline group would lower regulatory requirements and reduce the need for two sets of managers, engineers, and administrative staff, the people said.

The idea of combining Air India and its budget carrier is at an early stage, and realising it would require approval from the supervisory board, the people said.

Continued on Page 7



Air India evaluates AI Express merger

AIR INDIA EXPRESS would keep its brand name in a combination, they added.

An Air India spokesperson did not respond to an email seeking comments.

The deliberations show Tewolde's eagerness to weed out inefficiencies after Air India posted a loss of ₹22,000 crore in the year through March. Reducing losses is also key for the carrier as its parent, Tata Sons battles a power struggle over Tata chairman's tenure extension and a regula-



tory push to list.

The 61-year-old was chosen largely due to his track

record of turning the Ethiopian Airlines Group into Africa's largest and most profitable carriers.

Tewolde needs to tackle a myriad of challenges, including the closing of Pakistani airspace to Indian carriers and the West Asia conflict that's disrupted travel and driven up fuel costs. Air India is also facing a probe after a pilot of a flight involved in a sudden altitude drop tested positive for illegal drugs.

Air India is not new to

mergers, having gone through one with Indian Airlines in 2007. It then went through more portfolio changes after the Tata Group bought the airline in 2022, with four brands combining into two, resulting in the current structure of Air India and Air India Express.

In his earlier meetings, the CEO-designate had raised concerns over Air India's low cargo load use, a sector that bolstered business at Ethiopian Airlines.

He also urged staff to work

on a plan to reduce maintenance issues. While Tewolde officially joined the company this month, he still needs to be approved by local regulators as CEO because he's a foreign national.

The new executive streamlining Air India would be welcome news for Tata Group and its equity partner Singapore Airlines, which is facing political backlash for backstopping Air India's loss-making operations.

—BLOOMBERG



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

AI'S INCOMING CEO MEETS CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER



AIR INDIA'S
INCOMING
CEO Tewolde
Gebremariam
on Friday met
Civil Aviation

Minister K Ramamohan
Naidu. Naidu on an X post
said that with massive
demand for better
connectivity and
enhanced passenger
convenience, the airline
has a challenging and
important responsibility.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

विमानन मंत्री से मिले एयर इंडिया के सीईओ

नई दिल्ली। एयर इंडिया के नए सीईओ एवं प्रबंध निदेशक टेवोल्डे गेब्रेमरियम ने शुक्रवार को नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू से मुलाकात की। नायडू ने सोशल मीडिया मंच 'एक्स' पर मुलाकात की तस्वीरें साझा करते हुए कहा कि बेहतर संपर्क सुविधा और यात्रियों की सुविधा बढ़ाने की भारी मांग के बीच एयर इंडिया की जिम्मेदारी महत्वपूर्ण और चुनौतीपूर्ण है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के आठ सदस्य निलंबित

नई दिल्ली, 18 सितम्बर (एजेंसियां)। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने दुबई-अमृतसर फ्लाइट के आठ कू सदस्यों को तीन महीने के लिए निलंबित किया है। इनमें चार पायलट शामिल हैं। यह कार्रवाई अनिवार्य पोस्ट-फ्लाइट ब्रीथ एनालाइजर टेस्ट में देरी पर हुई। मामला 2 अगस्त को दुबई-अमृतसर फ्लाइट का है। कू को अमृतसर के श्री गुरु राम दास जी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग के बाद 2 घंटे में ब्रीथ एनालाइजर टेस्ट कराना था। कू पहले होटल चला गया था। बाद में एयरपोर्ट लौटकर 2 घंटे 35 मिनट बाद टेस्ट कराया। सभी 8 सदस्यों का टेस्ट नेगेटिव आया यानी उनके शरीर में अल्कोहल नहीं मिला।



दुबई-अमृतसर
फ्लाइट का मामला

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

18 SEPTEMBER 2026

IndiGo raises charges for several ancillary services

AGENCIES

New Delhi, September 17

IndiGo has revised charges for several ancillary services, increasing fees for infant travel, excess baggage, unaccompanied minors, priority check-in and boarding, and travel certificates, according to media reports.

The infant travel fee has been raised to Rs 3,000 from Rs 2,000 for children aged three days to two years.

Infants do not get a separate seat but require



a ticket.

The airline has increased its unaccompanied minor service fee on domestic flights to Rs 5,999 from Rs 5,000, while the international charge is Rs 12,999.

Domestic excess baggage charges have risen to

**INFANT TRAVEL FEE
HAS BEEN HIKED TO RS
3,000 FROM RS 2,000
FOR CHILDREN AGED 3
DAYS TO TWO YEARS**

Rs 800 per kg from Rs 700.

A passenger carrying five kg of excess baggage will now pay Rs 4,000, compared with Rs 3,500 earlier.

IndiGo's Fast Forward service, offering priority check-in and boarding, now costs Rs 650 at domes-

tic airports, up from Rs 450, while the charge for international flights has been revised to Rs 850 per sector.

The travel certificate fee has also increased to Rs 300 from Rs 200. The certificate serves as proof of travel for reimbursement, GST and leave travel concession claims.

The revised charges cover optional services purchased in addition to the base airfare and apply across applicable domestic and international services.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Rajnath calls for indigenous technology, public-private synergy in aviation sector

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Bengaluru

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday called for the development of an ecosystem that can address the requirements of both the civil and military aviation sectors.

He said indigenously developed technologies were essential in view of the changing nature of warfare.

"We need to develop an ecosystem that can effectively address the requirements of both the civil and military aviation sectors," Singh said during the handing-over ceremony of Light Combat Aircraft Tejas twin-seater trainers and Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 basic trainer aircraft to the Indian Air Force and Dhruv Next Generation helicopters to Pawan Hans Limited at



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses an event, in Kochi, Kerala PTI

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

Developing technologies indigenously is the need of the hour for India, as the nature of warfare is chang-

ing rapidly, he said. He underlined that public and private sectors should not be viewed as competitors but as organisations that complement each other.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

IndiGo raises charges on excess baggage, infant tickets, priority services

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 18 September

Domestic airline IndiGo has revised charges for several optional and special services, increasing the cost of add-ons such as excess baggage, infant tickets, unaccompanied minor services and priority facilities for passengers.

Under the revised fee structure, passengers exceeding their permitted baggage allowance will now be charged Rs 800 per additional kilogram. The charge was earlier Rs 700 per kg, making excess baggage costlier for travellers carrying luggage beyond the prescribed limit.

IndiGo has also increased charges for infants travelling on its flights. For children aged between three days and two years, the fee for booking an infant ticket in

advance has been raised to Rs 2,250 from Rs 2,000. Passengers booking an infant ticket at the airport counter will now have to pay Rs 3,000, compared with Rs 2,500 earlier.

Infants are not allotted a separate seat and continue to travel with an accompanying adult. However, a valid ticket is mandatory for them.

The airline has also revised charges for its unaccompanied minor service. For domestic journeys, the service fee for children aged five to 12 years has been increased to Rs 5,999 from Rs 5,000. For international flights, the unaccompanied minor service will now cost Rs 12,999.

Passengers seeking faster airport processing will also have to pay more. IndiGo's Fast Forward service, which includes priority check-in

and boarding, will now cost Rs 650, compared with Rs 500 earlier. The charge for the service on international flights has been set at ₹850 per sector.

In another revision, the cost of obtaining a travel certificate from the airline has been increased to Rs 300 from Rs 200.

The revised fees are applicable to the respective optional services and are over and above the airline's basic ticket fare and the baggage allowance included with the ticket.

For passengers, the changes mean that the final cost of travel could increase further depending on the additional services they choose or requirements such as excess baggage, travelling with an infant or a child flying without an accompanying adult.