



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

19 FEBRUARY 2026

Land acquisition starts for Saharsa airport expansion & modernisation

Aditya Nath Jha

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SAHARSA: The Saharsa district administration has started the land acquisition process for the expansion and modernisation of the Saharsa airport and the process is likely to be completed within a few weeks.

"After assessing the value of the land, land owners will be given adequate compensation," said a highly placed source in the government. He added that soon after acquisition, the land would be handed over to the Airport Authority of India

(AAI) to carry out the work for runway expansion.

The airport has a 900-metre runway, which is to be expanded to 1,200 metres to facilitate smooth landing and take-off of 19-seater aircraft.

The AAI had put a post on X (previously tweeter) in July last year in which Saharsa airport was shown as the centre of regional development facilitating trade and commerce in Supaul, Madhepura, Khagaria besides Saharsa, hoping the airport would give a boost to 'Pilgrimage and Tourism'.

Madhepura MP Dinesh

THE RUNWAY EXPANSION AIMS TO MAKE THE AIRPORT OPERATIONAL FOR REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE KOSI REGION

Chandra Yadav has been raising the issue forcefully. "Given the importance of the pilgrimage, especially the historical Ugratara Mandir of Mahishi," the MP said.

The Bihar government approved and initiated the release of funds ₹147.76 crore for the acquisition of 12.50 acres (approx) land in this year's budget (2026-27) while reiterating the government's commitment to develop regional connectivity under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik), enabling 19-seater aircraft operations.

The runway expansion aims to make the airport operational for regional connectivity in Kosi region covering four districts- Madhepura, Supaul, Saharsa and Khagaria.

Airport pickup rules ease, yet high fares pinch travellers

Prices have soared over past two months, say passengers

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Trips from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) have become costlier, commuters say, with airport authorised aggregator platforms charging higher fares than other ride-hailing services.

While kerbside access has improved and early issues with the new pickup rules have eased, returning to the city remains a hurdle, passengers told *DH*. They said authorised aggregators such as Ola, Uber, Quick Ride, WTI Cabs and Mega Cabs were charging higher fares than other platforms.

“As a family of four, we were looking to book an SUV cab to our home in JP Nagar,” Naveen Kumar, 56, a passenger, said.

“Since the closest options were Uber Black and Ola, we automatically chose Ola, as we did not want any luxury service. To our surprise, the price for an SUV cab on Ola was Rs 2,227, and the Uber Black was around Rs 2,000. In comparison, Namma Yatri was offering a cab at Rs 1,750, which is the usual cost,” he added.

Passengers also said prices have soared over the past two months.

A reality check by *DH* found airport authorised aggregators such as Ola, Uber and Quick Ride charged fares at



Commuters say airport authorised aggregator platforms are charging higher fares than other ride-hailing services. *DH* FILE

least 20 per cent higher than platforms such as Namma Yatri and Rapido, especially during the evening peak hour. Neither Ola nor Uber offer non-AC cabs at the airport.

On Tuesday evening, a regular cab from the airport to Indiranagar was priced at Rs 914 on Uber, Rs 836 on Ola, Rs 759 on Rapido, and Rs 774 on Namma Yatri.

A sedan to MG Road was priced at Rs 940 on Uber, Rs

887 on Ola, Rs 785 on Namma Yatri, and Rs 809 on Rapido. Quick Ride, which offers premium electric vehicles, charged Rs 1,418 to MG Road and Rs 1,301 to Indiranagar.

Similarly, on Monday evening, Ola displayed a fare of Rs 850 for a regular cab to RT Nagar, while Uber displayed Rs 848, and Rapido Rs 652. Quick Ride, WTI Cabs and Mega Cabs offered fares between Rs 1,121 and Rs 2,901

A reality check by *DH* found airport authorised aggregators such as Ola, Uber and Quick Ride charged fares at least 20 per cent higher than platforms such as Namma Yatri and Rapido, especially during the evening peak hour. Neither Ola nor Uber offer non-AC cabs at the airport.

for a sedan.

An Uber spokesperson said the pricing is based on demand and supply.

“There has been no change in Uber’s pricing structure for airport pickups. Pricing is a function of demand and supply, and as one of the many players operating at the airport, we strive to offer competitive prices,” they said.

Ola did not respond to *DH*’s queries.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

From expressways to airports, Maha outlines integrated infra push

SOHINI DAS
Mumbai, 19 February

At the Mumbai Global Economic Cooperation (GEC) Summit 2026, Maharashtra's infrastructure agencies explained plans for the state's economic growth. The focus shifted from individual projects to an integrated network of roads, airports and industrial zones to anchor the state's long-term economic activity.

The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is anchoring development along the Samruddhi Mahamarg through industrial and logistics nodes at key interchanges, while planning hundreds of square kilometres near Mumbai, Vadhavan, and the new Navi Mumbai international airport to support freight, small businesses and manufacturing.

The City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) is scaling up Navi Mumbai, focusing on expanded cargo and multimodal connectivity, accelerated development of the inner city and Education City, and aviation-led commercial zones.

The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) is advancing the next phase of industrialisation through the Mumbai-Pune industrial corridor, new

cluster-based industrial estates, and PPP-driven manufacturing hubs integrated with improved road and port infrastructure.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is working to connect the region with a 337-km metro network, the Alibaug-Virar multimodal corridor and bullet train connectivity. All that while unlocking new growth areas under Mumbai 3.0 and 4.0 — work that is expected to create jobs and investments.

The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) believes highways are instruments of economic growth. Anilkumar Gaikwad, managing director of MSRDC, said the corporation was set up in 1996 to build major roads but its work has expanded significantly. From early landmarks such as the Mumbai-Pune Expressway and the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, the focus has shifted to statewide connectivity. Referring to the 701-km Hindu Hridayasamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg, Gaikwad said: "There are 26 interchanges ... each covers about 8,000 hectares." MSRDC will be the planning

authority for 15 of the nodes. It plans development work across more than 7,000 sq km, including large areas in MMR and Vadhavan.

Vijay Singhal, managing director of City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO), said the state

accounts for about 15 per cent of India's exports and industrial output, 31 per cent of foreign direct investment, and nearly 70 per cent of the country's data centre capacity. CIDCO's most visible project, the Navi Mumbai International Airport, underlines the pace of execution.

"When we announced a year before that it [the airport] will be completed in eight months, nobody could believe it," Singhal said. The airport started operations in December 2025 and has already attracted major cargo investments, including a Rs 25,000 crore FedEx hub. It will begin international operations soon. Navi Mumbai has two runways, four terminals and annual capacity of 90 million passengers, putting Maharashtra's capital among a clutch of global cities with two international airports.

THE STATE'S ROAD DEVELOPMENT BODY IS ANCHORING DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE SAMRUDDHI MAHAMARG THROUGH INDUSTRIAL AND LOGISTICS NODES AT KEY INTERCHANGES



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

दिल्ली: आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर 43 मिनट सर्वर ठप, उड़ानें प्रभावित

सुबह 6:45 बजे डाउन हुआ सर्वर,
टी-3 सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित रहा

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (आईजीआई) पर बुधवार सुबह सर्वर डाउन होने से अफरातफरी मच गई। एयरलाइन बुकिंग और चेक-इन सिस्टम से जुड़ा नावितेयर नेटवर्क सुबह 6:45 से 7:28

बजे तक करीब 43 मिनट ठप रहा। इसका असर दिल्ली के साथ मुंबई और बंगलुरु एयरपोर्ट पर भी देखने को मिला। टर्मिनल-3 पर सबसे ज्यादा परेशानी हुई, जहां चेक-इन काउंटर सुचारु रूप से काम नहीं कर सके।

सर्वर ठप होने से एयरलाइन स्टाफ को यात्रियों की एंट्री मैन्युअली करनी पड़ी, जिससे लंबी कतारें लग गईं। कई यात्रियों ने फ्लाइट छूटने की शिकायत की। सुबह के व्यस्त समय में तकनीकी गड़बड़ी

से यात्रियों में नाराजगी दिखी। इसका प्रभाव इंडिगो, अकाशा एयर, स्पाइसजेट व एयर इंडिया की उड़ानों पर पड़ा। कई फ्लाइट्स में देरी हुई। अधिकारियों के अनुसार सुबह 8:25 बजे तक सिस्टम बहाल कर दिया गया।

उल्लेखनीय है कि पिछले साल नवंबर माह में एएमएसएस सिस्टम में खराबी आई थी। इसका असर कई दिनों तक चला था और इसके चलते करीब 800 से अधिक उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई थीं।



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DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

आज सूरत एयरपोर्ट पर शुरू होगा 'उड़ान कैफे', यात्रियों को 10 रुपए में चाय और पानी, 20 में कॉफी और समोसा मिलेगा

स्क्रॉल न्यूज़ | सूरत

सूरत एयरपोर्ट पर 'उड़ान कैफे' बनकर तैयार है। केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किंजरापू राम मोहन नायडू शुक्रवार को एक राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम उड़ान कैफे सहित कई सेवाओं का उद्घाटन करेंगे। उड़ान कैफे में यात्रियों को वाजिब दाम पर चाय-नाश्ता और पानी की सुविधा मिलेगी। इसका रेट चार्ट भी जारी कर दिया गया है। इसके अनुसार यात्रियों को मात्र 10 रुपए में चाय और पानी की बोतल मिलेगी। यही नहीं कॉफी और समोसा के लिए 20-20 रुपए देने होंगे। रेट चार्ट से अधिक सामानों की कीमत नहीं ली जाएगी।



विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण की पहल है उड़ान कैफे

आमतौर पर हवाईअड्डों पर खानपान की वस्तुएं महंगी होने की शिकायतें मिलती रही हैं। ऐसे में भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण ने उड़ान कैफे की पहल शुरू की है। इसका उद्देश्य हवाई यात्रा को अधिक सुलभ और किफायती बनाना है। उड़ान कैफे आम यात्रियों को एयरपोर्ट परिसर में ही स्वच्छ, गुणवत्तापूर्ण और किफायती दरों पर खाद्य एवं पेय पदार्थ उपलब्ध कराने की एक विशेष पहल है। इससे वे यात्रा का आनंद ले सकेंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

19 FEBRUARY 2026

Cocaine worth Rs 23.88 cr seized at Bengaluru Airport

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday seized 4.7 kg of cocaine worth Rs 23.88 crore from a Brazilian national at the Bengaluru Airport.

The NCB said the suspect has been secured for detailed questioning to ascertain the source, destination, and wider conspiracy involved in the trafficking attempt.

The suspect had chemically infused the cocaine in fabrics to try and evade the authorities, officials said.

The operation was executed by the NCB's Bengaluru

Zonal Unit in the early hours of February 17.

"The accused travelled from São Paulo in Brazil to Doha, Qatar, and subsequently boarded a flight to Bengaluru," an NCB statement said.

"During examination of his checked-in baggage at the airport, officers recovered four ladies' handbags that had been specially modified with concealed bottom compartments and sides. These cavities were found to contain multiple pieces of fabric chemically infused with cocaine," the statement added.



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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर नैविटेयर सर्वर टप, मैनुअल मोड पर हुई चेक-इन और बोर्डिंग

इंडिगो, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, अकासा, स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस का कामकाज प्रभावित

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर बृहस्पतिवार सुबह उस समय भारी अव्यवस्था देखने को मिली, जब एयरलाइंस के परिचालन में इस्तेमाल होने वाला ग्लोबल रिजर्वेशन सिस्टम नैविटेयर अचानक ठप हो गया। इस तकनीकी खराबी के कारण दिल्ली सहित देश के कई एयरपोर्ट पर चेक-इन और बोर्डिंग प्रक्रिया पूरी तरह प्रभावित रही, जिससे यात्रियों को दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ा। स्थिति को संभालने के लिए एयरलाइंस को मैनुअल चेक-इन की प्रक्रिया अपनानी पड़ी। इस बीच इंडिगो, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और

चेक-इन काउंटरों पर प्रोसेसिंग धीमी होने से यात्री परेशान

सिस्टम ठप होने के कारण डिजिटल चेक-इन, बोर्डिंग पास जारी करने और सामान की टैकिंग का काम रुक गया। व्यस्त समय होने के कारण टर्मिनल पर यात्रियों की भीड़ जमा हो गई। चेक-इन काउंटरों पर प्रोसेसिंग धीमी होने से उड़ानों में देरी हुई। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों का कहना है कि यह केवल भारत की समस्या नहीं थी, इस सिस्टम की

खराबी का असर एशिया-पैसिफिक और यूरोप के कई हिस्सों में भी देखा गया। यात्रियों को चेक-इन काउंटरों पर लंबी कतारों का सामना करना पड़ा। सिस्टम ठप होने के कारण बोर्डिंग पास जारी करने में काफी देरी हुई। कई यात्री ऐसे थे जिन्हें दिल्ली से दूसरी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें पकड़नी थीं, देरी की वजह से उनकी अगली उड़ान छूट गई।

विस्तारاً जैसी प्रमुख एयरलाइंस ने अपने यात्रियों के लिए इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफार्म पर सूचना जारी

की। एयरलाइंस ने यात्रियों से अनुरोध किया कि वे अपनी उड़ान के समय से कम से कम तीन से चार घंटे

पहले एयरपोर्ट पहुंचें।

बता दें कि समस्या की शुरुआत सुबह पाँचे सात बजे से साढ़े सात बजे के बीच आई। इस दौरान सिस्टम पूरी तरह बंद रहा। इसके बाद कुछ देर सुधार हुआ, लेकिन करीब सब आठ बजे करीब 20 मिनट के लिए दोबारा यह समस्या आ गई। इस दौरान इंडिगो, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, अकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट जैसी प्रमुख एयरलाइंस का कामकाज बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुआ।

केवल एअर इंडिया इस संकट से अछूती रही क्योंकि वह इस सिस्टम का उपयोग नहीं करती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

नेविगेशन सिस्टम क्या है: नेविगेशन एक क्लाउड-आधारित डिजिटल पैसेंजर सर्विस सिस्टम है, जिसे कई एयरलाइंस इस्तेमाल करती हैं। यह बुकिंग से लेकर एयरपोर्ट पर बैग टैगिंग और बोर्डिंग तक का सारा डाटा मैनेज करती है। अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, इस सिस्टम में आई अस्थायी खराबी की वजह से डाटा सिंक होना बंद हो गया था। एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों का कहना है कि ग्लोबल सिस्टम में खराबी के कारण यात्री प्रोसेसिंग की गति धीमी हो गई थी। हमने तुरंत बैकअप प्रक्रिया को सक्रिय किया ताकि उड़ानों में ज्यादा देरी न हो।

आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर नेविटेयर सर्वर टप, मैनुअल मोड पर हुआ चेक-इन और बोर्डिंग

इंडिगो, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, अकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस का कामकाज हुआ प्रभावित
गुरुवार सुबह दो चरणों में आई खराबी, बैग टैगिंग और बोर्डिंग का डाटा सिंक होना बंद हो गया था



जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

इंदिरा गंधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर गुरुवार सुबह उस समय भारी अव्यवस्था देखने को मिली, जब एयरलाइंस के परिचालन में इस्तेमाल होने वाला ग्लोबल रिजर्वेशन सिस्टम नेविटेयर अचानक टप हो गया। इस तकनीकी खराबी के कारण दिल्ली सहित देश के कई एयरपोर्ट पर चेक-इन और बोर्डिंग प्रक्रिया पूरी तरह प्रभावित रही, जिससे यात्रियों को दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ा। स्थिति को संभालने के लिए एयरलाइंस को मैनुअल चेक-इन की प्रक्रिया अपनानी पड़ी। इस बीच इंडिगो, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और विस्तारा जैसी प्रमुख एयरलाइंस ने अपने यात्रियों के लिए इंटरनेट मॉडिया प्लैटफॉर्म पर सूचना जारी की। एयरलाइंस ने यात्रियों से अनुरोध किया कि वे अपनी उड़ान के समय से कम से कम तीन से चार घंटे पहले एयरपोर्ट पहुंचें।

समस्या की शुरुआत सुबह पाँचे सात बजे से साढ़े सात बजे के बीच आई। इस दौरान सिस्टम पूरी तरह बंद रहा। इसके बाद कुछ देर सुधार हुआ, लेकिन करीब सवा आठ बजे करीब 20 मिनट के लिए दोबारा यह समस्या आ गई। इस दौरान इंडिगो, एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, अकासा एयर और स्पाइसजेट जैसी प्रमुख एयरलाइंस का कामकाज बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुआ। केवल एअर इंडिया इस संकट से अछूती रही क्योंकि वह इस सिस्टम का उपयोग नहीं करती है।

चेक-इन काउंटरों पर प्रोसेसिंग धीमी होने

नेविटेयर सिस्टम क्या है

नेविटेयर एक क्लाउड-आधारित डिजिटल पैसेंजर सर्विस सिस्टम है, जिसे कई एयरलाइंस इस्तेमाल करती हैं। यह बुकिंग से लेकर एयरपोर्ट पर बैग टैगिंग और बोर्डिंग तक का सारा डाटा मैनेज करती है। अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, इस सिस्टम में आई अस्थायी खराबी की वजह से डाटा सिंक होना बंद हो गया था। एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों का कहना है कि ग्लोबल सिस्टम में खराबी के कारण यात्री प्रोसेसिंग की गति धीमी हो गई थी। हमने तुरंत बैकअप प्रक्रिया को सक्रिय किया ताकि उड़ानों में ज्यादा देरी न हो।

से यात्री परेशान: सिस्टम डाउन होने के कारण डिजिटल चेक-इन, बोर्डिंग पास जारी करने और सामान की टैगिंग का काम रुक गया। व्यस्त समय होने के कारण टर्मिनल पर यात्रियों की भीड़ जमा हो गई। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों का कहना है कि यह केवल भारत की समस्या नहीं थी, इस सिस्टम की खराबी का असर एशिया-पैसिफिक और यूरोप के कई हिस्सों में भी देखा गया। यात्रियों को चेक-इन काउंटरों पर लंबी कतारों का सामना करना पड़ा। सिस्टम डाउन होने के कारण बोर्डिंग पास जारी करने में काफी देरी हुई। कई यात्री ऐसे थे जिन्हें दिल्ली से दूसरी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें पकड़नी थीं, देरी की वजह से उनको अगली उड़ान छूट गई। यात्रियों का आरोप है कि एयरलाइंस और एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों की ओर से स्थिति स्पष्ट नहीं की गई, जिससे भ्रम की स्थिति बनी रही।

FedEx to pump ₹2,500cr, build automated cargo hub at NMIA

Groundbreaking event graced by CM, Adani Airport Holdings head Jeet Adani, FedEx CEO R Subramaniam

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

FedEx on Wednesday commenced the construction of a fully-automatic air cargo hub at the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA)'s cargo terminal – the first such facility of the global logistics giant in India. According to sources, the hub will be ready for operations in the next two years. The groundbreaking ceremony was helmed by CM Devendra Fadnavis along with Adani Airport Holdings Ltd director Jeet Adani, and FedEx president and CEO Raj Subramaniam.

Spanning across 3 lakh sq ft, it will be developed with FedEx's long-term investment of Rs2,500 crore and is expected to serve as a regional gateway connecting India with Southeast Asia, West Asia, Europe and the US. It is expected to create more than 6,000 direct and indirect jobs across logistics, warehousing, transportation and allied services.

The hi-tech facility will be equipped with advanced automated sorting systems, dimensional scanning, high-speed screening technology and dedicated aircraft parking bays to enable simultaneous processing of inbound and outbound shipments.

The development came amid the plans to temporarily shut down cargo operations at the Mumbai international airport from August to make way for airside developments. The NMIA plans to dedicate 29 hectares to cargo facilities, which will include 10 freighter stands and an automated terminal to fulfil its aim of handling 3.25



million metric tonnes of cargo annually.

Hailing the development as a new chapter in the history of logistics in India, Fadnavis said, "Amid the recalibration of global supply chain, when FedEx decided to invest in a cargo hub at Mumbai, it shows how India as well as Maharashtra, which accounts for 20% of the country's manufacturing, matter when it comes to trade." He added that the Mumbai Metropolitan Region will play a major role in achieving India's dream of a \$5 trillion economy by 2046, with the NMIA and FedEx being one of the biggest contributors.

The plane carrying Subramaniam, an alumnus of IIT-B, became the first FedEx jet to land at the new airport. "For FedEx, it is more than starting a new facility, it reflects how India is evolving in a way it connects to global markets and how logistics is becoming a strategic enabler

of trade and growth." He continued, "India has witnessed historic growth in supply chain diversification. We do not see this as a temporary trend but as a long-term shift as the world re-globalises; which is why our investments here are also focused on the long term."

Pointing out the airport's globally rare combination of sea to port proximity; air connectivity and purpose-built cargo infrastructure, Adani said, "This facility will strengthen India's trade ecosystem by accelerating goods movement and connecting our exporters and businesses more directly across markets in South Asia, Europe and the US."

FedEx is one of the biggest global freighter operators covering approx 650 airports with around 700 cargo aircrafts. From India, it serves across 65 countries across the Middle East, Indian subcontinent and Africa.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

हवाईअड्डों पर तकनीकी खराबी से उड़ानें बाधित

परेशानी

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। सॉफ्टवेयर की समस्या के कारण हवाई यात्रियों को गुरुवार को हवाई अड्डों पर चेक इन संबंधी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। यह समस्या करीब 40 मिनट से अधिक समय तक बनी रही।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि इस समस्या के कारण दिल्ली, मुंबई और अन्य हवाई अड्डों पर इंडिगो, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, स्पाइसजेट और अकासा एयर की विमान सेवाएं प्रभावित हुईं। सॉफ्टवेयर में खराबी के कारण चेक-इन सिस्टम सुबह छह बजकर 45 मिनट से सात बजकर 28 मिनट तक बंद रहा। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इस समस्या का समाधान कर

- यात्रियों को चेक इन करने में परेशानी हुई
- समस्या 40 मिनट से ज्यादा समय तक रही

लिया गया है और अब सिस्टम सामान्य रूप से काम कर रहा है। इस मामले से जुड़े लोगों का कहना है कि आउटेज की शुरुआत एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र से हुई और बाद में इसका असर यूरोप को कुछ एयरलाइंस तक भी पहुंचा।

बीते नवंबर में दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर एयर एटीसी में खराबी के कारण 800 उड़ानें देरी से संचालित हुई थीं। यह समस्या मलेरिया मैसेज स्विचिंग सिस्टम (एमएसएस) में आई थी।

➤ हाथ से बनाए पास P04



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

परेशानी: 40 मिनट टप रहा सिस्टम, हाथ से बनाए बोर्डिंग पास

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा पर गुरुवार सुबह सॉफ्टवेयर में आई तकनीकी खराबी के कारण यात्रियों के चेक-इन में परेशानी हुई। सुबह का समय हवाई अड्डे पर व्यस्त समय में से एक होता है।

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यह समस्या करीब 40 मिनट से अधिक समय तक रही, जिसके कारण कुछ उड़ान सेवाएं प्रभावित हुईं। हालांकि किसी उड़ान के रद्द होने या अधिक विलंब होने की सूचना नहीं है। एयरपोर्ट के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि यह सर्वर से जुड़ी दिक्कत थी जो एयर इंडिया, इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट व आकासा एयर में देखी गई। हालांकि इसे निर्धारित समय में ठीक कर लिया



50

से 60 एयरलाइंस को सेवा देता है नेविटेयर

सुबह चेक-इन के लिए खड़ा था, लेकिन सिस्टम डाउन हो गया और कतारें लंबी हो गईं। यह देखकर लगा जैसे यात्रा शुरू होने से पहले ही संघर्ष शुरू हो गया। - प्रिस

सिस्टम की खराबी के कारण चेक-इन और बैठने की प्रक्रिया बहुत धीमी हो गई। हमें हाथ से बोर्डिंग पास बनाकर दिया गया। इस दौरान इंतजार करना पड़ा। - रोहन

गया। प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार चेक-इन प्रणाली सुबह लगभग 6 बजकर 45 मिनट से 7 बजकर 28

मिनट तक बंद रही। यात्रियों को काफी परेशानी हुई। चेक इन के लिए लंबी कतार लग गई। मैनुअल प्रवेश दिया।

बुकिंग, चेक-इन और सीट तक संभालता है नेविटेयर सिस्टम

नेविटेयर को जानें

अमेरिकी ट्रेवल-टेक्नोलॉजी कंपनी नेविटेयर असल में एयरलाइंस का यात्री आरक्षण / बुकिंग प्रबंधन सिस्टम चलाता है। यह कोई कोई ऐप नहीं जबकि सॉफ्टवेयर है। जब इसमें कोई खराबी आती है या डाटा सेंटर में समस्या होती है, तो इससे जुड़ी सभी एयरलाइंस का ऑनलाइन काम बंद हो जाता है। इसे ही नेविटेयर कहते हैं।

कहां होता है इसका प्रयोग

यह एयरलाइंस में टिकट बुकिंग, सीट अलॉटमेंट, वेब चेक-इन, बोर्डिंग पास, कैसिलेशन/रिफंड और फ्लाइट शेड्यूल में प्रयोग होता है। यह इंटरनेट, कॉल सेंटर और ट्रेवल एजेंट तीनों जगह से बुकिंग संभालता है। कुछ देशों में इसका प्रयोग हार्ड-स्पीड ट्रेन में रेल कंपनियों भी इसका इस्तेमाल करती हैं। कई कंपनियां इससे ही काम करती हैं।

कब से हो रहा है इस्तेमाल

इसका प्रयोग 1993 से पीआरए सोल्युशंस नाम से हो रहा है। 2001 में इसका नाम बदलकर नेविटेयर रखा गया। कंपनियों का पसंदीदा सिस्टम है।

किन देशों में प्रयोग हो रहा

यह दुनिया के अधिकतर देशों में चलता है। भारत, अमेरिका, यूरोप, दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया, ऑस्ट्रेलिया आदि।

बंद होने पर यह पड़ता है असर

- नेविटेयर बंद हो जाए तो असर तुरंत पड़ता है
- एयरपोर्ट पर चेक-इन बंद, बोर्डिंग पास नहीं बनता और फ्लाइट देरी

- होती है
- ऑनलाइन टिकट बुकिंग नहीं हो पाती
- वेब चेक-इन नहीं होता और ऐप काम नहीं कर

- पाता
- लंबी लाइनें लगती हैं
- उड़ाने रद्द होने से काफी परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता है

Navi Mumbai airport told to grant access to telcos

Jatin Grover

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NEW DELHI: The department of telecommunications (DoT) has stepped in to solve the network crisis at Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), asking operator Adani Group to allow telecom companies to deploy network at the airport in accordance with the law.

In a 16 February letter to Adani Airport Holdings Ltd, the DoT said NMIA qualifies as a "public entity" under the Telecom Act, 2023, and, therefore, must allow carriers to deploy the network.

The intervention from the telecom department has come at a time when passengers at the airport have been complaining about the absence of mobile network from private telecom operators. Telcos alleged that the airport operator asked them to utilise its own exclusive in-building telecom network at unreasonably high charges.

Telecom operators, represented by the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), had sought the government's and the telecom regulator's intervention to resolve the issue, alleging that NMIA quoted "exorbitantly" high charges for laying mobile infrastructure inside the airport.

According to operators, NMIA sought about ₹92 lakh a month per operator, or ₹44.16 crore annually for four operators to deploy their network infrastructure and provide mobile connectivity. Telecom



Flyers reported lack of mobile connectivity by private telcos inside the airport. PTI

Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) is also examining the pricing concerns faced by telecom companies at the Navi Mumbai airport.

The airport had proposed reduced charges in line with pricing at Mumbai International Airport (MIAL), which is about ₹40 lakh per month. However, operators did not accept the proposal, arguing that the charges were not reasonable given the airport's footfall, said a telecom executive. At some other major airports, such as Delhi, operators pay around ₹10-12 lakh per month.

Beyond pricing, telecom operators alleged they were denied RoW permissions for installing telecom infrastructure at the airport. NMIA, however, has said that RoW has never been denied to any telecom service provider.

DoT has asked the Adani Group to process right of way (RoW) applications of telecom

operators in a fair, non-discriminatory and transparent manner to facilitate the establishment of necessary telecom infrastructure.

"...you are requested to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, while processing applications for grant of RoW permissions within your premises, and to take necessary action to facilitate establishment of telecom infrastructure in accordance with the statutory framework," DoT said in a letter to Adani Airport Holdings CEO Arun Bansal. Mint has seen a copy of the letter.

Queries to Adani Group and DoT remained unanswered till press time.

To be sure, NMIA has deployed its own in-building solution as a neutral-host mobile network, allowing telecom operators to offer coverage through the airport's indoor network instead of installing separate equipment.

Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecom Right of Way (RoW) Rules, licensed telcos are entitled to seek RoW from public entities that own, control or manage public property for deploying telecom infrastructure. The rules require such access to be granted on reasonable, transparent and non-discriminatory terms, with charges limited to administrative or restoration costs, and not as a source of commercial revenue.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

IGI Airport: Global tech snag hits flight check-ins for nearly an hour

NEW DELHI: Flight operations were briefly impacted at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport on Thursday morning following a global outage of Navitaire — the software used for check-ins, officials said.

According to officials, the servers were down for around an hour early morning, with check-ins impacted for flights between 6.45am and 7.28am. Though restored soon after, offi-

cial said there was a cascading effect, with operations gradually returning to normal.

Though no official data was available on how many flights were impacted during the period the server was down, data from the flight tracking website showed that over 400 flights were delayed through Thursday. The airport handles close to 1,520 flights daily.

An airport official confirmed

the impact, stating check-ins were done manually during the brief period when the servers were down. "It was an interim outage, which impacted the automated check-in process at the Delhi airport. The disruption affected check-in services for Akasa Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet and Air India Express for around 45 minutes, during which manual check-in was conducted," the official said.

HTC

FedEx plans ₹2,500-cr cargo hub at Navi Mumbai airport

Dipali Banka

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MUMBAI: FedEx will invest ₹2,500 crore to build a 300,000 sq. ft air cargo hub at billionaire Gautam Adani's newly operational Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), the company said on Wednesday.

Mint earlier had reported the global courier major's plans to begin freighter operations from Navi Mumbai as early as May, ahead of the temporary shut-down of cargo flights at Mumbai International Airport from 1 August.

FedEx and NMIA did not respond to *Mint's* queries.

The facility will function as a regional hub linking India with Southeast Asia, West Asia, Europe and the US, according to a company statement.

"This development reflects NMIA's long-term vision of building integrated infrastructure that strengthens India's trade competitiveness. With its proximity to Jawaharlal Nehru Port, industrial corridors and



The facility will function as a regional hub linking India with Southeast Asia, West Asia, Europe and the US. REUTERS

multimodal transport networks, NMIA is uniquely positioned to support high-growth export sectors and enhance Maharashtra's role as a global logistics gateway," said Jeet Adani, director, Adani Airport Holdings Ltd in the statement.

Indian airports have together handled 3.3-3.7 million tonnes (mt) of air cargo in

recent reporting years, according to estimates from EY. Cargo capacity at Navi Mumbai airport is expected to expand from 0.50mt in the initial phase to 3.25mt at full build-out.

India's competitiveness in global trade will increasingly depend on the reliability and speed of its logistical infrastructure, said Kami Vishwanathan, president FedEx Middle East, Indian subcontinent and Africa. "Establishing this hub at NMIA allows us to integrate global network strength with India's fastest growing trade corridor, providing greater certainty, speed and efficiency to customers."

The hub is expected to improve routing flexibility and transit-time predictability for high-value and time-sensitive shipments such as electronics, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals and perishables.

NMIA, a subsidiary of Adani Airport Holdings Ltd, began operations in December 2025 with services from India's three largest airlines connecting slightly more than 10 cities.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

'Improper landing technique by trainee pilot led to Kalaburagi airport incident'

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) probing a serious incident at Kalaburagi airport, Karnataka, involving a TECNAM P2008JC aircraft has concluded in its report that the trainee pilot who was in command of the aircraft used improper landing technique and incorrect bounce-recovery inputs.

The civil aviation regulator probing the August 8, 2024 incident involving the

trainer aircraft belonging to Redbird Flight Training Academy Private Limited has said that these actions by the trainee pilot who was flying solo resulted in the aircraft's nose and propeller hitting the runway and leading to the collapse of the nose landing gear.

"The trainee pilot's failure to execute a proper recovery from the bounced landing contributed to the incident," the report stated as the probable cause of the incident.

As per the report, the in-

cident occurred while carrying out a solo circuit and landing exercise, and the aircraft was under the command of a pilot holding a valid student pilot licence and the solo flight had been authorised by the Chief Flying Instructor.

The report said that the supervision of the solo flight was carried out by the instructor from the runway through radio telephony and the trainee pilot had completed two uneventful circuit and landing exercises prior to the

incident flight.

However, during the third circuit, the trainee pilot initiated the flare at a low height, resulting in a nose-wheel first touchdown.

In its safety recommendations, the regulator has called for necessary corrective training to be imparted to the involved trainee pilot and that flight training organisations may be advised to establish the necessary infrastructure to record radio telephony communications.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

19 FEBRUARY 2026

135-METRE STRETCH OF NEW GARIA-AIRPORT

Police mulls temporary road for airport 'exit traffic'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Bidhannagar City Police have proposed the construction of a temporary road for airport exit traffic to facilitate work on the final 135-metre stretch of the New Garia-Airport Orange Line Metro.

The move follows a police veto of an earlier proposal by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to divert airport exit traffic through Gate 2.5 and Gate 1, which officers warned would cause congestion reaching as far as Dakshineswar and Madhyamgram.

According to the alternative proposal, a temporary single-lane, one-way road would be built along the airport boundary wall to carry vehicles towards VIP Road while construction is under way.

The project would require the demolition of part of a dilapidated, abandoned Air India building and the opening of a section of the airport perimeter wall to create the

Closer Look

» Bidhannagar Police suggest a temporary road for the airport Metro project

» Alternative plan to avoid congestion on VIP road

» Bidhannagar city Police had suggested a temporary single-lane road along the airport boundary to make way for the final 135-meter stretch of the orange line metro from New Garia to the airport

» The Bidhannagar city Police had already rejected the traffic diversion plan of RVNL, and a joint site inspection is scheduled

» Temporary road plan for Metro's final stretch

necessary space. The last 900 metres of the 31km corridor are being built underground because of airport regulations.

Work on the final 135m stretch had started in January 2025 using a box-pushing method beneath the airport flyover, but it was stopped after soil subsidence.

Engineers from RVNL later decided that the cut-and-cover method, which involves digging a trench and building the tunnel from the surface, is the only practical

way to complete the remaining 135m. Bidhannagar Police Commissioner Murli Dhar recently led a site survey to assess feasibility.

A joint inspection involving RVNL, the police, and airport authorities is expected later this week to examine the proposal.

A final decision will be taken after these consultations to ensure the 135-metre underground gap is completed without causing major traffic disruption.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Flyers delayed due to check-in tech glitch

Flyers queued up longer at check-in counters for baggage on Thursday as the software installed to automate the process suffered outage. Airport management opted for manual check-ins, which delayed the flyers. However, there was no major operational impact, claimed the impacted airlines. "The software suffered an outage for 45 minutes between 6.30 am and 7.25 am," a source said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

19 FEBRUARY 2026

60m rose stems shipped from KIA

Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) shipped around 60 million rose stems during Valentine's season this year. The total consignment weighed more than 2,700 tonnes and was transported across 26 international and 47 domestic destinations. The top international destinations were Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, and domestic ones were Delhi and Kolkata. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

19 FEBRUARY 2026

Bhoomi puja for cargo hub conducted at N Mum airport

Mumbai: Navi Mumbai international airport will get a cargo hub to be used exclusively by a global express logistics major in two years, with the ground-breaking ceremony done on Wednesday.

A Rs 2,500 crore long-term investment by FedEx will support their proposed 300,000-sq-ft cargo hub, designed as a regional consolidation and redistribution hub linking India with Southeast Asia, West Asia, Europe and the United States, said Navi Mumbai airport. Once operational, the hub is expected to create more than 6,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities across logistics, warehousing, transportation and allied services, the airport said.

Jeet Adani, director, AAHL, said: "With its proximity to Jawaharlal Nehru Port, industrial corridors and multimodal transport networks NMIA is uniquely positioned to support high-growth export sectors and enhance Maharashtra's role as a global logistics gateway."

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said the project would strengthen the state's position as a logistics gateway and complement the airport's passenger operations, citing its proximity to JNPT and industrial corridors. 100



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Check-in system failure hits IGIA for 40 minutes

New Delhi: A global outage of Navitaire — the software used for airline check-in — disrupted the automated systems at Delhi airport on Thursday morning, with servers remaining down between 6.45am and 7.28am.

“A temporary Navitaire outage disrupted automated check-ins at Delhi airport for Akasa Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet, and Air India Express for about 40 minutes. Manual check-ins were carried out, and flight operations resumed normally from 7.28 am,” said an airport official, adding, the system failure was reported at airports worldwide. While there was no immediate data on how many flights were hit at Delhi airport during the outage, FlightRadar24 reported delays for more than 400 flights through the day. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

स्पाइसजेट के लिए बांग्लादेश ने बंद किया हवाई क्षेत्र

नई दिल्ली। बांग्लादेश ने बकाया भुगतान न करने के कारण भारतीय एयरलाइन स्पाइसजेट के अपने हवाई क्षेत्र के उपयोग पर रोक लगा दी है। इस प्रतिबंध के कारण स्पाइसजेट को कोलकाता से गुवाहाटी और इंपाल जैसे शहरों के लिए लंबे रूट अपनाने पड़ रहे हैं, जिससे उड़ान के समय में बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

स्पाइसजेट के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि एयरलाइन नेविगेशन शुल्क सहित अन्य प्रक्रियात्मक मामलों पर संबंधित अधिकारियों के साथ नियमित बातचीत कर रही है। प्रवक्ता ने इसे उद्योग का एक सामान्य मुद्दा बताते हुए जल्द समाधान का भरोसा दिया। एजेन्सी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

ePlane Company to use Nvidia solutions to build eVTOLs

Our Bureau
Chennai

The ePlane Company, an Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft maker, has announced plans to build virtual versions of its e200x electric air taxis using Nvidia Omniverse libraries.

The company plans to create a 'Digital Twin' of its e200x series of eVTOL aircraft, which will engineer and simulate complex aero-



The ePlane Company's e200x taxi

dynamic interactions, sensor responses, and flight scenarios.

The collaborations will help validate extreme weather, sensor failures or

collision scenarios and enable teams to fly millions of kilometres virtually, training its algorithms for complex real-world scenarios before the aircraft even takes flight.

"Collaborating with Nvidia allows us to blur the line between the digital and the physical. By validating our flight operations suite in Nvidia Omniverse, we are effectively pushing the limits of the aircraft thousands of times in simulation so that we never have to in reality,"

said Satya Chakravarthy, Founder & CTO, The ePlane Company.

"Nvidia is accelerating India's start-up momentum by giving founders direct access to accelerated computing, scalable AI infrastructure, and programmes like Nvidia Inception for start-ups and the Nvidia VC Alliance — helping start-ups scale faster and build for global markets," Tobias Halloran, Director of EMEA Startups and Venture Capital at Nvidia.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

DGCA to evaluate IndiGo rostering system ahead of summer schedule

CLOSE WATCH. Regulator to review crew planning, KPIs and pilot strength as airline seeks higher slot allocation

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

India's aviation regulator will conduct dry runs of IndiGo's pilot rostering software to assess whether the airline is ready to handle a higher number of domestic flights during the upcoming summer season.

The move comes as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) prepares the summer schedule of flight operations for domestic airlines.

According to sources, IndiGo has sought permission to operate between (approximately) 2,100 and 2,300 domestic flights during the summer schedule.

Presently, IndiGo has capped its domestic operations at approximately



FLIGHT PLANS. IndiGo has sought permission to operate between 2,100 and 2,300 domestic flights as part of its summer schedule, say sources

1,850-1,900 flights per day until March 31, 2026.

Speaking to *businessline*, industry insiders said that such capacity management is intended to maintain schedule reliability, while the airline adapts to the full implementation of the flight duty time limitation (FDTL)

norms. On February 10, 2026, the 10 per cent cap on the airline's domestic schedule was removed as the relaxed FDTL norms were restored.

GREATER FLEXIBILITY
These relaxed norms had earlier allowed greater flex-

ibility in crew deployment, including extended duty periods and reduced restrictions on night operations.

As per sources, DGCA teams will visit the airline's offices to review the functioning of its rostering software, along with pilots' key performance indicators (KPIs) and the overall availability of cockpit crew.

Till now, sources said that the regulator has been closely monitoring the airline's preparedness and operational planning, including measures to maintain adequate buffer strength in crew availability and to expedite pilot hiring to support operations.

IndiGo had earlier conveyed to the regulator that it plans to recruit about 50 pilots a month in 2026 as part of these efforts, sources said.

Currently, it has about 5,400 pilots on its rolls, including captains and first officers, according to industry estimates.

CREW SCHEDULES

Furthermore, the airline has recently updated its rostering software to better manage crew schedules and has made adjustments to pilots' KPIs, aligning operational targets with regulatory requirements and network reliability goals. However, regulatory oversight of the airline's transition and capacity planning will be maintained, sources said.

Additionally, routine engagements between the regulator and the airline, including periodic reviews of hiring plans and operational metrics, are continuing as part of this monitoring process.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

SpiceJet plans to induct 10 aircraft, eyes major network expansion

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Budget airline SpiceJet plans to induct 10 more aircraft to rebuild its network as well as expand capacity.

Accordingly, the airline on Thursday said that it has received a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for induction purposes.

Further details on the MoU are awaited. *Businessline* has reached out to the airline.

WET AND DAMP LEASES
The development follows the Board's approval, announced last week, for a calibrated ramp-up of the fleet to 60 aircraft through a mix of wet and damp leases.



FLEET BOOST. The carrier has doubled its capacity in the last quarter, with available seat kilometres rising from around 55 crore to 105 crore

Besides, the plan includes the phased return to service of existing grounded aircraft. According to the airline, its recovery has gathered pace in recent months.

Notably, the low-cost carrier has doubled its capacity in the last quarter, with available seat kilometres rising from around 55 crore to 105 crore.

Further, building on this

momentum, the airline plans to more than double its capacity during the year, targeting 220 crore available seat kilometres by winter 2026.

In addition, it aims to operate over 300 daily flights across its network.

As per the airline, the expansion is aimed at strengthening connectivity, improving operational reliability and meeting strong passen-

ger demand. Nevertheless, the airline stated that it will maintain a disciplined and sustainable approach to growth.

BIG MILESTONE

"Doubling our capacity in the last quarter has been a significant milestone, and the plans we have in place to more than double it further this year reflect growing confidence in the business and strong demand across the network," said Debojo Maharshi, Chief Business Officer at SpiceJet.

"The receipt of this memorandum of understanding is an encouraging development as we continue to rebuild and expand our operations in a measured manner."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Airlines face check-in issues due to software glitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 19 February

Airlines faced issues in checking in passengers at various airports on Thursday morning due to a software problem that lasted for more than 40 minutes, according to sources.

The sources that IndiGo, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa Air were impacted at Delhi, Mumbai and other airports.

According to sources, check-in systems were impacted from around 6:45 am to 7:28 am due to a glitch in Navitaire, a widely used airline technology software provider. The system helps airlines manage bookings, reservations, check-in services, and departure control operations. The disruption, which lasted for over 40 minutes, affected passenger processing at counters and kiosks, leading to some delays.

The problem was addressed and working of the system have returned to normal,

one of the sources said.

The sources also said there was not too much disruptions for airlines on account of the software problem.

There were no statements from airlines.

In November last year, nearly 800 flights were delayed at Delhi airport, India's busiest, after a major technical glitch hit its Air Traffic Control (ATC) system, disrupting flight planning and causing a ripple effect across multiple airports.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

B'desh bars SpiceJet from using airspace

Airline says it is working for early resolution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 19 February

Bangladesh has barred SpiceJet from using its airspace as the budget carrier is yet to repay pending dues, according to sources.

With the Bangladesh airspace not being available, the airline is taking longer routes for some of its flights from Kolkata, including to Guwahati.

When contacted, a SpiceJet spokesperson on Thursday said the airline was in regular dialogue with the relevant authorities on operational and procedural matters, including navigation-related charges.

"These are routine industry issues and we are working constructively towards an early resolution. Our flight operations remain unaffected, and we continue to operate our scheduled services in line with regulatory requirements," the spokesperson said in a statement.

While specific details were not disclosed, the sources said Bangladesh has banned the airline from using its airspace due to non-payment of dues.

Details about the nature of dues could not be immediately ascertained.

An email sent to the Civil Aviation

Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) seeking comments on the issue did not elicit any immediate response.

Data from Flightradar24.com on Thursday showed that SpiceJet's flights from Kolkata to Guwahati and Imphal were not using the Bangladesh airspace, and were taking longer routes to the destinations.

In afternoon trade, shares of SpiceJet were trading nearly 1 per cent lower at ₹16.81 apiece on the BSE.

Last week, SpiceJet reported a loss of ₹269.27 crore in the three months ended December 2025 as higher costs and one-time expenses took a toll on the budget carrier's bottom line.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

VSR Ventures' special audit to conclude shortly: MoCA

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is expected to conclude its special audit of VSR Ventures, the charter flight operator whose plane crashed last month killing five people including Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, "shortly" and then take further action, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said on Thursday. Following the accident on January 28, the ministry directed the DGCA to conduct a special audit of VSR. The special audit comprehensively reviews the operator's regulatory compliance, operational control systems, maintenance practices, crew training standards, safety management systems, and monitoring of cockpit voice recorders and flight data recorders (FDR), it said.

BS REPORTER



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

19 FEBRUARY 2026

DGCA proposes 30-day flying ban for unruly passengers

NEW DELHI, PTI: Aviation watchdog DGCA has proposed stricter norms to deal with unruly passengers, including allowing airlines to directly impose a flying ban on such passengers for up to 30 days.

“A ‘No/ Zero Tolerance Policy’ has been adopted to ensure the safety of the aircraft/persons/property and to maintain good order & discipline on board an aircraft,” the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in its draft revised rules.

Among other proposals, the regulator has mentioned that an airline shall formulate and implement a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the handling of unruly passengers and for reporting the incidents to the DGCA.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

बारामती विमान हादसे की प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट जारी करेगा एएआइबी

नई दिल्ली, 19 फरवरी : बारामती विमान दुर्घटना और इसकी जांच को लेकर कुछ हलकों में उठाए जा रहे सबलों के बीच नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने गुरुवार को कहा कि विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआइबी) इसकी प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट जारी करेगा। 28 जनवरी को बारामती के पास हुई लॉन्चरजेट 45 विमान दुर्घटना में अजीत पवार और चार अन्य लोगों की मौत हो गई थी।

एएआइबी ने कहा कि विमान के काकपिट वॉथस रिकार्डर से डाटा प्राप्त करने के लिए विशेष सहयता मांगी गई है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन संगठन के मानदंडों के मुताबिक दुर्घटना के 30 दिनों के भीतर प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट और फिर अंतिम रिपोर्ट उचित समय पर जारी होगी। इस बीच, राकांपा (एसपी) की कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष सुप्रिया सुले ने सरकार से पार्टी विधायक रोहित पवार को सुरक्षा मुहैया कराने की मांग की है। वहीं, अजीत पवार के छोटे बेटे जय पवार ने दुर्घटना की गहन जांच की मांग की है।

एविएशन स्किल हब बनाएंगे भारत- फ्रांस

मैक्रों के साथ मोदी की वार्ता में बनी सहमति, एलओई का भी आदान-प्रदान

जगरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : रणनीतिक साझेदारी के तहत भारत व फ्रांस कानपुर समेत पांच शहरों को एविएशन स्किल का हब बनाएंगे। हिंदुस्तान एयरोनाटिक्स लि. (एचएएल) और कई प्रमुख आयुध कंपनियों वाले कानपुर में कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय द्वारा सेंटर आफ एक्सीलेंस की स्थापना का निर्णय तो पहले ही हो चुका था, लेकिन हाल ही में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों की बैठक के दौरान तय हुआ कि भारत-फ्रांस सहयोग के अंतर्गत कानपुर के नेशनल स्किल ट्रेनिंग इंस्टीट्यूट (एनएसटीआई) में एविएशन सेक्टर के लिए भारत-फ्रांस नेशनल सेंटर आफ एक्सीलेंस बनाया जाएगा। यहाँ विमानन के साथ ही डिफेंस मैनुफैक्चरिंग और संबंधित क्षेत्रों में युवाओं को उत्कृष्ट प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा।

कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय के अनुसार, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने भारत-फ्रांस नवाचार वर्ष 2026 के शुभारंभ और फ्रांस के साथ द्विपक्षीय शिखर सम्मेलन के दौरान भारत-फ्रांस सहयोग के अंतर्गत राष्ट्रीय विमानन



नई दिल्ली में गुरुवार को गुरुद्वारा कंगला साहिव में दर्शन करने पहुंचे फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों (दाएं) • पीर

कौशल उत्कृष्टता केंद्र की औपचारिक घोषणा की। कानपुर में प्रस्तावित यह नेशनल सेंटर आफ एक्सीलेंस उन पांच सेंटर आफ एक्सीलेंस में से एक है, जिनके लिए पीएम-सेतु योजना के

तहत पिछले केंद्रीय बजट में आवंटन किया गया था। कानपुर के अलावा ऐसे केंद्र लुधियाना, भुवनेश्वर, हैदराबाद और चेन्नई में स्थापित किए जाने हैं। पीएम-सेतु योजना के तहत इस केंद्र

की स्थापना के लिए भारत सरकार के कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता मंत्रालय व फ्रांस के बीच आशय पत्र (लेटर आफ इंटीट) का आदान-प्रदान हो चुका है।

मैक्रों ने भारत-फ्रांस संबंधों को बताया विशेष वैश्विक रणनीतिक साझेदारी

नई दिल्ली, प्रेर : फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों ने कहा है कि भारत और फ्रांस की मित्रता रणनीतिक साझेदारी से कहीं बढ़कर है। फ्रांस से 114 राफेल लड़ाकू विमानों की खरीद के भारत के निर्णय के कुछ दिन बाद ही मैक्रों ने गुरुवार को यह भी कहा कि इस समझौते में "मेक इन इंडिया" मुख्य घटक होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि फ्रांस भारत के साथ पनडुब्बियों पर सहयोग बढ़ाने पर भी विचार कर रहा है। फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति ने इस समझौते से इतर पत्रकारी से बात करते हुए प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा, हमारे पास केवल रणनीतिक साझेदारी नहीं है, बल्कि हमारे पास विशेष वैश्विक रणनीतिक साझेदारी है, जो भारत और फ्रांस दोनों के लिए अद्वितीय है। मंगलवार को मुंबई में पीएम मोदी और मैक्रों के बीच बातचीत के बाद संबंधों को 'विशेष वैश्विक रणनीतिक साझेदारी' स्तर पर पहुंचाया।

मैं आपके देश से प्यार करता हूँ : मैक्रों : आइएफएस के अनुसार मैक्रों ने कहा, मैं आपके देश से प्यार करता हूँ। उन्होंने बताया कि पीएम मोदी जी7 के विशेष अतिथि होंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

बांग्लादेश ने स्पाइसजेट के लिए एयरस्पेस रोका, उड़ानों पर असर

नई दिल्ली, ब्रेट: बांग्लादेश ने कथित बकशा भुगतान के मुद्दे पर बजट एयरलाइंस स्पाइसजेट की उड़ानों के लिए अपना एयरस्पेस प्रतिबंधित कर दिया है। इस कदम के बाद एयरलाइन की कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय तथा पूर्वोत्तर भारत से जुड़ी उड़ानों को लंबा मार्ग अपनाना पड़ रहा है।

एयरलाइन ने बयान जारी कर कहा कि संबंधित प्राधिकारियों के साथ संचालन और प्रक्रियागत मुद्दों, जिनमें नौवहन शुल्क भी शामिल हैं, पर बातचीत जारी है और समाधान के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

कोलकाता और पूर्वोत्तर मार्गों पर असर : बांग्लादेशी एयरस्पेस उपलब्ध न होने से कोलकाता से गुवाहाटी और इम्फल जाने वाली उड़ानों को अतिरिक्त दूरी तय करनी पड़ रही है। विमानन ट्रेकिंग वेबसाइट फ्लाइटरडार24 के आंकड़ों से संकेत मिलता है कि इन मार्गों पर उड़ानों का रूट बदला गया है, जिससे ईंधन लागत और उड़ान अवधि में वृद्धि संभव है।

घटनक्रम का असर शेयर बाजार में भी दिखा। स्पाइसजेट का शेयर बीएसई पर एक प्रतिशत गिरकर 16.81 रुपये पर बंद हुआ। कंपनी पहले ही वित्तीय दबाव में है।

बांग्लादेश ने स्पाइसजेट के लिए एयरस्पेस को किया प्रतिबंधित, उड़ानों पर बढ़ा दबाव

नई दिल्ली, प्रेड्र: बांग्लादेश ने कथित बकाया भुगतान के मुद्दे पर बजट एयरलाइंस स्पाइसजेट की उड़ानों के लिए अपना एयरस्पेस प्रतिबंधित कर दिया है। इस कदम के बाद एयरलाइन की कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय तथा पूर्वोत्तर भारत से जुड़ी उड़ानों को लंबा मार्ग अपनाना पड़ रहा है। एयरलाइन ने बयान जारी कर कहा कि संबंधित प्राधिकारियों के साथ संचालन और प्रक्रियागत मुद्दों, जिनमें नौवहन शुल्क भी शामिल हैं, पर बातचीत जारी है और समाधान के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। कंपनी के अनुसार, इस तरह के मसले उड्डयन उद्योग में असामान्य नहीं हैं और उसके निर्धारित उड़ान कार्यक्रम पर कोई प्रतिकूल असर नहीं पड़ा है।

कोलकाता और पूर्वोत्तर मार्गों पर असर : बांग्लादेशी एयरस्पेस उपलब्ध न होने से कोलकाता से गुवाहाटी और इफ़ाल जाने वाली उड़ानों को अतिरिक्त

बकाया भुगतान को लेकर एयरस्पेस प्रतिबंध, कोलकाता-पूर्वोत्तर मार्गों पर बढ़ी उड़ान दूरी

कंपनी ने बताया संचालन सामान्य, शेयर में गिरावट और तिमाही घाटा भी चर्चा में



दूरी तय करनी पड़ रही है। विमानन ट्रेकिंग वेबसाइट फ्लाइटरेडार24 के आंकड़ों से संकेत मिलता है कि इन मार्गों पर उड़ानों का रूट बदला गया है, जिससे ईंधन लागत और उड़ान अवधि में वृद्धि संभव है। हालांकि, बकाया की सटीक प्रकृति—क्या यह ओवरफ्लाइट

शुल्क, एयर नेविगेशन चार्ज या अन्य देयकों से जुड़ा है—इस बारे में आधिकारिक पुष्टि नहीं हो सकी है। बांग्लादेश के नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण (सीएएबी) की ओर से भी तत्काल कोई औपचारिक प्रतिक्रिया नहीं मिली।

शेयर पर दबाव, तिमाही नतीजे पहले से कमजोर : घटनाक्रम का असर शेयर बाजार में भी दिखा। स्पाइसजेट का शेयर बीएसई पर लगभग एक प्रतिशत गिरकर 16.81 रुपये पर बंद हुआ। कंपनी पहले ही वित्तीय दबाव से जूझ रही है। दिसंबर में समाप्त तिमाही में उसे 269.27 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध घाटा हुआ था। हालांकि, एयरलाइन ने हाल में बड़े के विस्तार की योजना की घोषणा की है और बताया है कि शीघ्र ही 10 नए विमान शामिल किए जाएंगे। इसके बाद कंपनी के बड़े में कुल विमानों की संख्या लगभग 60 हो जाएगी।

हवाई सफर में दुर्व्यवहार पड़ेगा भारी 30 दिनों तक की लग सकती है रोक

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : डीजीसीए ने विमानों में अभद्रता की घटनाओं पर लगाम लगाने के लिए सख्त कदम उठाने की तैयारी कर ली है। इसने नियमों का एक नया ड्राफ्ट (प्रस्ताव) जारी किया है, जिसके तहत एयरलाइंस को अभद्र यात्रियों पर तत्काल कार्रवाई करने के व्यापक अधिकार दिए गए हैं। नए प्रस्तावों के अनुसार, एयरलाइंस अब किसी भी उपद्रवी यात्री पर सीधे 30 दिनों तक का उड़ान प्रतिबंध लगा सकेंगी। डीजीसीए ने अपने मसौदे में स्पष्ट रूप से कहा है, "विमान, व्यक्तियों और संपत्ति की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के साथ-साथ विमान के भीतर अनुशासन और व्यवस्था बनाए रखने के लिए 'नो/जीरो टालरेंस पालिसी' अपनाई गई है।"

वर्तमान नियमों के अनुसार, किसी यात्री पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का अंतिम फैसला एक स्वतंत्र समिति करती है। हालांकि, नए प्रस्ताव में एयरलाइंस को यह शक्ति दी गई है कि वे कुछ विशिष्ट अपराधों के



लिए मामले को समिति के पास भेजे बिना ही तत्काल 30 दिनों का प्रतिबंध लगा सकती हैं। इन अपराधों में शामिल हैं - विमान के अंदर धूम्रपान करना, घरेलू उड़ानों में शराब का सेवन, आपातकालीन निकास का दुरुपयोग, और जीवन रक्षक उपकरणों का अनधिकृत उपयोग। विमानन नियामक ने निर्देश दिया है कि प्रत्येक एयरलाइन को उपद्रवी यात्रियों से निपटने और घटनाओं की रिपोर्टिंग के लिए एक मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया (एसओपी) तैयार करनी होगी, जिसे सभी संबंधित हितधारकों के बीच प्रसारित किया जाएगा। मौजूदा नियमों के तहत, स्वतंत्र समिति के फैसले आने तक एयरलाइन संबंधित यात्री पर 45 दिनों का प्रतिबंध लगा सकती हैं, जिसे नए प्रस्तावों में भी बरकरार रखा गया है।

अपराध की गंभीरता और प्रतिबंध की अवधि

डीजीसीए ने उपद्रवी व्यवहार को चार अलग-अलग स्तरों में वर्गीकृत किया है, जिनके आधार पर प्रतिबंध की अवधि तय की जाएगी।

लेवल 1 (शारीरिक हाव-भाव और मौखिक उत्पीड़न): इसमें मौखिक दुर्व्यवहार या नशे में अभद्रता शामिल है। इसके लिए अधिकतम तीन महीने का प्रतिबंध लग सकता है।

लेवल 2 (शारीरिक दुर्व्यवहार): धक्का देना, लात मारना, गला पकड़ना या यौन उत्पीड़न जैसी हरकतें इस श्रेणी में आती हैं। इसके लिए यात्री पर छह महीने तक की रोक लगाई जा सकती है।

लेवल 3 (जानलेवा व्यवहार): विमान के सिस्टम को नुकसान पहुंचाना, गला घोटना या घातक हमला करना इस श्रेणी में आता है। इसके लिए न्यूनतम दो वर्ष या उससे अधिक (बिना किसी सीमा के) का प्रतिबंध हो सकता है।

Airbus India Line to Meet Regional Demand; First Helicopter by 2027: CEO

Manu Pubby

New Delhi: Global aviation giant Airbus is looking to address regional needs with its new helicopter production line in India and sees a sizeable market for more than 1,000 choppers just for the civilian sector, besides large requirements of the armed forces.

In an interview with ET, Airbus Helicopters CEO Bruno Even said the partnership with Tata to set up a final assembly line in India is part of a commitment by the European consortium to bring in technology and expertise, and the plan is to not only have manufacturing locally but also invest in training and maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities. The first helicopter from the new line is expected to be ready by early 2027.

"The idea, objective and ambition is to address the market in the region for the civil and military market. If there are military customers interested and willing to select H 125

Airbus Helicopters CEO Even sees civilian market for 1,000 choppers



for their mission, there is no reason why we should not be able to produce this military helicopter to our customer in the region, from India," Even said.

He was speaking after the virtual inauguration of a new Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) production facility by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. Airbus is investing close to ₹1,000 crore in the new facility.

Airbus sees a market for at least 500 of the H 125 choppers to be made at the Veragal, Karnataka facility in the next 20 years. The bigger opportunity, however, lies in the military sector, where Airbus is pitching itself strongly for an upcoming Army order. The H 125 is already being operated by the Army on a lease basis and has shown its performance at forward areas in the Northern Command.

"We see a huge requirement from the armed forces, and we consider that H 125 is a perfect helicopter to address their needs for critical missions in high mountain areas where they need a high level of performance..." he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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Tackling Hot-Headed, Rude Air Passengers

Let's put this gently: the Indian traveller doesn't always make for the best airline passenger. Unruly, disruptive behaviour has finally got the airline regulator to act. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed more stringent Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) norms to punish disruptive behaviour on flights in its jurisdiction. These grade misconduct into four escalating levels with punishment — be it travel suspension or a ban ranging from up to 3 mths to 2 yrs. This categorisation of misconduct is a good move.

Appropriate punishment commensurate to the offence is one way to send across a message. A one-punishment-fits-all approach mostly leads to no action against the 'lower order' offences. Empowering airlines to impose an immediate flying ban for up to 30 days, without having to set up a committee, will help discourage some common disruptive acts such as consuming alcohol on domestic flights or smoking/vaping on board.



The proposed norms cover the range of disruptive behaviour that may pose a threat to the safety and security of the flight, its crew and fellow passengers. But it's also about discomfort. There are a host of behaviours air travellers indulge in that demonstrate little regard for fellow passengers — blocking the aisle, littering the craft, messing up the toilet, having phones play videos loudly without earphones or speaking loudly into them before take-off and as soon as the plane lands, treating members of the crew as 'servants'. While the new CAR will help curb egregious lapses, regulating better travel behaviour may require airlines to devise, with DGCA's blessings, incentive-disincentive systems to give plane travellers a belated lesson in civic sense, both in airports and aircraft.

Airline says it will confront Nazi past as it turns 100



As it marks a century since its founding, Germany's Lufthansa (originally founded as Deutsche Luft Hansa in 1926) is taking on greater responsibility for its actions during the Nazi era, breaking with earlier attempts to separate its pre-war identity.

"We are proud of what we are today," CEO Carsten Spohr said. "To then ignore the difficult, dark, terrible years would simply have been dishonest."

Lufthansa's board and supervisory board members had joined the Nazi Party from 1930 onwards and, as the state airline, it carried government officials. Lufthansa also had a role in the arms industry and the Luftwaffe air force.

However, for the past several decades, the company had been stressing on the legal and organisational break from its predecessor — which shut down in 1946 — and the post-war Lufthansa that was founded in 1953.

A new direction

Earlier, board members stressed the legal separation largely for reasons of reputation and liability. Lufthansa now wants to take responsibility, Spohr said.

One step is a new book on the company's history that will be distributed to all of its more than 1,00,000 employees, along with a new exhibition.

Lufthansa commissioned research into its past more than 25 years ago, but declined to acknowledge findings on the extent of its use of forced labour and personnel continuity after World War II.

According to historian Manfred Grieger, who contributed to the book, more than 12,000 people were exploited in Hansa's arms production and its repair and maintenance operations. It has only recently emerged that the number included children.

— Reuters
PICT AP SHRYA PATEL



DGCA mulls 30-day ban for unruly passengers

YARUQHULLAH KHAN
New Delhi, February 19

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed new rules to deal with unruly passengers on domestic flights. Among the key changes, the regulator has suggested that flying bans imposed after a formal inquiry will automatically apply across all domestic airlines, significantly increasing the consequences for those placed on the national no-fly list.

Under the draft, once an independent committee set up by an airline confirms an incident and determines the level of offence, every carrier can "impose a flying ban on the unruly passenger" for a period of 30 days, which will apply across all domestic flights.

Earlier, domestic airlines could place unruly passengers on their own internal no-fly lists, but those lists did not bind other carriers.

Airlines will also get more time to handle such cases. Under the new draft, the decision-making period has been extended to 45 days, during which a temporary ban of the same duration may be imposed while the case is reviewed. This

STRICTER NORMS

■ Every carrier can impose a flying ban on the unruly passenger for a period of 30 days

■ Under the new draft, the decision-making period has been extended to 45 days



■ This will apply across all domestic flights

During this period, a temporary ban of the same duration may be imposed while the case is reviewed

means passengers could be kept off flights for longer before a final decision is made. Under previous rules, airlines were required to form a committee led by a retired judge, and the temporary ban during the investigation could not exceed 10 days.

The aviation regulator on Tuesday issued a draft revision of its Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR Section 3, Series M, Part VI) on "Handling of Unruly / Disruptive Passengers in Aircraft".

The draft also introduces a new category called "disruptive passenger", giving airlines the authority to impose a flying ban

of up to 30 days for certain on-board actions without first consulting an independent committee.

These actions include smoking, consuming alcohol without permission, tampering with emergency exits or safety equipment, protesting or making loud noises in the cabin, and behaviour that disturbs other passengers, such as screaming or kicking the seat in front. While such passengers will not be added to the official DGCA-maintained no-fly list, airlines will be required to record these incidents in their internal databases and report each ban to the regulator.

SpiceJet barred from using Bangla airspace over dues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, February 19

BANGLADESH HAS BARRED SpiceJet from using its airspace as the budget carrier is yet to repay pending dues, according to sources.

With the Bangladesh airspace not being available, the airline is taking longer routes for some of its flights from Kolkata, including to Guwahati.

When contacted, a SpiceJet spokesperson on Thursday said the airline was in regular dialogue with the relevant authorities on operational and procedural matters, including navigation-related changes.

"These are routine industry issues and we are working constructively towards an early resolution. Our flight operations remain unaffected, and we continue to operate our scheduled services in line with regulatory requirements," the spokesperson said in a statement. While specific details were not disclosed, the sources said Bangladesh has banned the airline from using its airspace due to non-payment of dues.

Details about the nature of dues could not be immediately ascertained. An email sent to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) seeking comments on the issue did not elicit any immediate response. Data from Flightradar24.com on Thursday showed that SpiceJet's flights from Kolkata to Guwahati and Imphal were not using the Bangladesh airspace, and were taking longer routes to the destinations.

ROUTE TURBULENCE

■ SpiceJet is taking longer routes for some of its flights from Kolkata, including to Guwahati due to the restriction

■ Details about the nature of dues of the carrier could not be immediately ascertained

■ These are routine issues & we are working towards an early resolution, said a spokesperson of the airlines



■ Shares of SpiceJet ended 0.71% lower at ₹16.83 apiece on the BSE on Thursday

Carrier plans to more than double capacity this year

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, February 19

BUDGET CARRIER SPICEJET has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the induction of 10 aircraft into its fleet. The development comes days after the airline's board approved a calibrated ramp-up of the fleet to 60 through a mix of wet and damp leases, along with the phased return of grounded planes.

SpiceJet said its recovery has accelerated in recent

months, with capacity doubling in the last quarter. Available Seat Kilometres (ASKMs) rose from about 550 million to 1,050 million reflecting a sharp expansion in network deployment.

The airline aims to more than double capacity during the year, targeting 220 crore ASKMs by winter 2026 and operating over 300 daily flights. As of September 30, 2025, the airline was operating 100 daily flights and currently operates 176 flights per day.

Tech glitch hits airline operations across India

YARUQHULLAH KHAN
New Delhi, February 19

AIRLINES ACROSS INDIA experienced a brief but widespread operational disruption on Thursday morning after a technical outage hit Navitaire, a reservation and departure control system used by several carriers.

The glitch, which began around 0645 IST at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, affected check-in and boarding processes and was resolved within 45 minutes, with full restoration of some systems reported by around 0825 IST, multiple executives aware of the disruption told FE.

"The outage disrupted operations for IndiGo, Akasa Air, Air India Express, and SpiceJet, while Air India was not affected," a senior executive from Delhi International Airport said.

He added that the disruption coincided with heavy traffic in Delhi linked to the AI Impact Summit and related VIP movements, adding to congestion at Delhi airport.

Airports in Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru reported long queues as airline staff switched to manual processing of passenger details during the morning peak. Around 30-35 flights were delayed due to the technical glitch at Delhi airport, 25 in Mumbai, and around 25 flights were held up at Bengaluru airport, but no flights were cancelled, airport executives said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

AI's aircraft fleet reliability has improved: CEO



AIR INDIA CEO

Campbell

Wilson on

Thursday said that the airline's fleet reliability

has improved and there is also an increased inventory of spares and components. During a town hall with employees on Thursday, Wilson said operational resilience is one of the airline's focus areas.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

एयरबस सालाना 10 हेलिकॉप्टर तैयार करेगी



नई दिल्ली। भारतीय बाजार की वृद्धि संभावनाओं को लेकर उत्साहित दिग्गज वैमानिकी कंपनी एयरबस की कर्नाटक में टाटा एडवॉंस्ड सिस्टम के सहयोग से स्थापित अपनी 'फाइनल असेंबली लाइन' से साल 2029 तक सालाना 10 एच-125 हेलीकॉप्टरों के उत्पादन की योजना है। एयरबस हेलिकॉप्टर्स के सीईओ ब्रुनो ईवन ने कहा कि भारत में इसके लिए एक समूची पारिस्थितिकी के विकास के प्रयास जारी रहेंगे।

DGCA proposes swift ban on disruptive passengers

Airlines will be able to ban unruly passengers for 30 days without any referral under the proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Requirement; regulator invites comments from stakeholders

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Airline operators may soon be empowered to directly impose a flying ban of up to 30 days on unruly or disruptive passengers without referring the matter to the competent authority.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Requirement provisions governing the handling of unruly or disruptive passengers, emphasising that even a single disruptive passenger can jeopardise safety on board and adversely affect flight operations.

Under the proposed revision, airlines will be authorised to impose a flying ban not exceeding 30 days

Aerial decorum

Under the proposed revision, airlines would be authorised to impose a flying ban not exceeding 30 days on passengers found guilty of disruptive behaviour during a flight without prior referral to the existing independent committee mechanism

Disruptive acts include:

- Consumption of alcohol on domestic flights
- Smoking on board
- Tampering with emergency exits
- Engaging in protests or sloganeering
- Unruly conduct arising from intoxication



While airlines will inform the DGCA about any flying ban imposed and maintain a database of such passengers, the ban does not add passengers to the regulator's official No Fly List

on passengers found guilty of disruptive behaviour during a flight without prior referral to an independent committee.

The DGCA said the definition of disruptive acts included smoking on board, consumption of alcohol on domestic flights, tampering with emergency exits, unauthorised use of life-

saving equipment such as life jackets, engaging in protests or sloganeering, and unruly conduct arising from intoxication. Additionally, screaming, causing annoyance to fellow passengers, and kicking or banging seat backs or tray tables have also been categorised as disruptive behaviour. Airlines will be re-

quired to maintain a database of such passengers and inform the DGCA about any flying ban imposed. However, passengers banned under this provision would not be included in the regulator's official No Fly List.

The aviation regulator has invited comments from stakeholders on the proposed amendments issued under Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Currently, airlines must refer cases of disruptive conduct to an independent committee. The committee is required to examine the matter and give its decision within 45 days before a flying ban can be enforced. The revision seeks to streamline the process, enabling airlines to act swiftly in the interest of passenger safety.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Flight overreach

Disruptive behaviour must not be confused with airing of grievances

A disturbing phenomenon in aviation is unruly passenger behaviour. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has pointed out that in 2023, there was one incident for every 480 flights, from one for every 568 flights in 2022. In India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is proposing to amend rules such that airlines can directly impose a flying ban of up to 30 days without referring the matter to the competent authority. The DGCA has broadened the concept of unruly behaviour too with six new categories: smoking on board, consumption of alcohol on domestic flights, tampering with emergency exits, unauthorised use of life-saving equipment such as life jackets, engaging in protests or sloganeering, and unruly conduct arising from intoxication. Currently, airlines must report disruptive passengers to an independent committee, headed by a retired district and sessions judge, which will decide within 45 days whether to add them to the official no-fly list. Unruly behaviour would now be monitored by airlines from the check-in counter although the focus is on the flight since such behaviour can impact passenger safety and comfort.

It would seem tolerance levels are dipping with several incidents such as attempts to open emergency exits and accessing lifesaving equipment without reason. Reports also cite passengers abusing crew and fellow travellers, and the loud chanting of prayers and bhajans. The amendments seek to empower airlines and cabin crew act immediately, unlike before, when such behaviour was overshadowed by lengthy No-Fly List procedures that focused on more serious issues such as national security. Whether the proposed changes would lead to high-handedness and offset the balance of power between passengers and airline staff is a moot point. Aviation experts stress that the cabin crew's primary role is for flight safety. However, a credible argument against the proposed amendments would cite the IndiGo fiasco where the airline's response to pilot deployment rules was found to be influenced by revenue considerations, leading to much anger among passengers. It would seem that the amendments would empower airlines against "unruly" behaviour arising from legitimate anger over unfair practices too. So, while the amendments may be necessary in the overall interest of flight safety and a smooth passenger experience, they should not serve other purposes such as deflecting passenger grievances. One safeguard would be to make a distinction between "unruly" behaviour on the ground versus disruptive behaviour during flight. Safeguards are needed to allow redress against airline overreach.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

SENT BACK

Bangladeshi student wanted for cop's murder questioned at IGIA

WANTED IN his own country for allegedly killing a police officer, a Bangladeshi student activist was questioned by Delhi Police and immigration officials at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on Thursday, officers said. According to the police, Ahmad Raza Hasan Mehendi, a resident of Habiganj in Bangladesh, came to India from his home country on January 17. He was allegedly in Delhi to submit some documents at the Finland embassy to secure a visa, police said. At the IGI airport, officers spotted Mehendi and took him in for questioning. In a purported video on social media, Hasan alleged that he was treated badly by the police. Delhi Police, however, denied the claims. "He was questioned for 30 minutes and was then let go for his flight to Bangladesh," an officer said. ENS



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Fleet reliability improved, says Air India CEO

New Delhi: Air India CEO Campbell Wilson Thursday said that the airline's fleet reliability has improved and there is also an increased inventory of spares and components. The upgradation of the legacy Boeing 787s has commenced. The CEO and MD also said that over 50% of its wide-body fleet would be modernised by the end of 2026.

PTI

LOKSATYA

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

विस्तार 10 और विमानों की शामिल करने के लिए एक समझौता किया है

स्पाइसजेट इस साल अपने बेड़े में विमानों की संख्या दोगुना करेगी

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या।

क्रिफायली विमान सेवा कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने इस साल अपने बेड़े में परिचालन में मौजूद विमानों की संख्या दोगुना करने का लक्ष्य रखा है।

एयरलाइन ने गुरुवार को एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि उसने पिछली तिमाही में अपनी क्षमता दोगुनी की है और उपलब्ध सीट किमी 55 करोड़ से बढ़कर 105 करोड़ हो गयी है। इस साल के अंत तक इसे 220 करोड़ करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। साथ ही रोजाना 300 से अधिक उड़ानों के संचालन का भी लक्ष्य रखा गया है।

कंपनी के एक अधिकारी ने



'यूनीवार्ता' को बताया कि अभी कंपनी के बेड़े में 33 विमान परिचालन में हैं। इस साल के अंत तक उसकी संख्या भी लगभग दोगुना कर 60 पर पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य है।

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया है कि कंपनी ने अपने बेड़े में 10 और विमानों की शामिल करने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू)

किया है। कंपनी के निदेशकमंडल की पिछले सप्ताह हुई बैठक में वेत और डैम्प लीज के मिश्रण के माध्यम से बेड़े को चरणबद्ध तरीके से 60 विमानों तक बढ़ाने और मौजूदा समय में ग्राउंडेड विमानों को परिचालन में वापस लाने की योजना को स्वीकृति दी गयी थी।

उल्लेखनीय है कि इस समय

● रोजाना 300 से अधिक उड़ानों के संचालन का भी लक्ष्य रखा गया है

कंपनी के 37 विमान ग्राउंडेड हैं।

स्पाइसजेट के मुख्य व्यवसाय अधिकारी देबोजो महर्षि ने कहा, पिछली तिमाही में हमारी क्षमता को दोगुना करना एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है, और इस वर्ष इसे और दोगुने से अधिक करने की हमारी योजना व्यवसाय में बढ़ते विश्वास और नेटवर्क में मजबूत मांग को दर्शाती है। यह एमओयू हमारे संचालन को संतुलित और योजनाबद्ध तरीके से पुनर्निर्माण तथा विस्तार की दिशा में एक उत्साहजनक विकास है।

MINT

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

DGCA wants slice of passenger fees

Abhishek Law
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NEW DELHI

India's aviation regulator is seeking a shift to a self-sustaining funding model, including receiving a share of passenger fees, as part of a broader push to reduce dependence on budgetary support and gain greater institutional autonomy, according to a senior government official and a copy of the proposal reviewed by *Mint*.

The proposal, submitted to the ministry of civil aviation in December, seeks to give the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) greater financial and operational independence when fleet expansion is accelerating and staffing shortages remain acute. The proposal also seeks a share of passenger fees charged at airports



Part of passenger fees charged at airports may go to meet the DGCA's needs. ISTOCKPHOTO

to help DGCA meet its financial requirements.

The DGCA and the civil aviation ministry are yet to respond to *Mint*'s queries.

At the heart of the plan is a move away from a largely director general (DG)-driven

TURN TO PAGE 11

DGCA seeks flyer fee share for itself

FROM PAGE 1

system towards a board-led framework with specialized verticals headed by domain experts. Officials say the reforms are designed to future-proof oversight capacity as India prepares for the addition of over 1,000 aircraft in the next four years.

Typically, user development fees (UDF) are paid to airport operators for infrastructure development and expansion, whereas other passenger-related charges and fines levied by the regulator are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Financial autonomy would allow the DGCA to "attract talent and offer industry-compensated salaries to draw sector specialists", the official said.

The overhaul envisions limited government support during the transition phase before the regulator becomes largely self-sustaining.

Currently, the DGCA functions as an attached office under the civil aviation ministry and is funded through the ministry's annual budget.

India's ministry of civil aviation has been allocated ₹2,101.87 crore in budget 2026-27, 12.5% lower than last year's budget estimates of ₹2,400 crore. Of this, allotment to the DGCA has increased by 4% to ₹342 crore. It stood at ₹330 crore for the current fiscal.



The overhaul envisions limited government support during the transition phase before DGCA becomes self-sustaining. ISTOCKPHOTO

In FY25, the actual spending for the regulator was ₹275.21 crore.

Allotment to the DGCA as part of the civil aviation ministry's budgeted expenditure has moved up from 10% in FY25 to 16% in FY26. It is budgeted at 16% for FY27 too.

The report was prepared in the aftermath of the Air India crash in June in Ahmedabad, which triggered renewed scrutiny of the regulator's organizational structure and staffing levels.

"After every major aviation incident, questions are raised about whether the regulator is run by bureaucrats rather

than technocrats," the official said. "A board-led structure with sector experts would change the nature of regulatory decision-making altogether."

Shakti Lumba, aviation expert, said: "There needs to be a rehaul of how the DGCA operates. It needs experts on board, it needs manpower and it needs to be more than a department of the ministry." While

there have been restructuring efforts and staff expansion, Lumba said the DGCA's core status remains unchanged—an attached office dependent on budgetary support—precisely the gaps that need to be

addressed.

The DGCA continues to remain severely understaffed.

As of February, the regulator had 787 vacancies—nearly 48% of its sanctioned strength of 1,630 posts. "These vacancies exist largely due to the creation of 444 additional posts during the restructuring undertaken between 2022 and 2024," the official said.

Vacancies have risen sharply over the past five years, according to documents submitted in Parliament by the ministry. In January 2022, the regulator had 462 vacant positions. The number nearly doubled to 889 in January 2023, stood at 867 in January 2024, and 835 in January 2025, even as sanctioned strength remained above 1,600.

"Vacancies at the DGCA today are almost at par with the operating fleet of India's four major airlines—IndiGo, Air India group, Akasa and SpiceJet—combined," the official said. "With over 1,000 aircraft expected to be added over the next four years, the regulator's capacity needs urgent strengthening."

Combined fleet of the four major airlines is slightly over 800.

Globally, major aviation regulators in the US, Europe and the UK operate on largely self-financing models, with most income coming directly from the industry they oversee.

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

As of February, the DGCA had 787 vacancies—nearly 48% of its sanctioned strength of 1,630 posts

Navitaire outage briefly halts IndiGo, Akasa, AIX check-ins

Dipali Banka & Abhishek Law
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

A global technology outage involving airline reservation platform Navitaire briefly disrupted operations of carriers including IndiGo and Akasa Air on Thursday morning for about half an hour, before systems were restored, according to two people familiar with the matter. No major delays were reported.

A technical issue had affected Navitaire's platform, which is used by several airlines to manage reservations,

check-in services and departure control systems. The outage first affected airlines in the Asia-Pacific region and then impacted some carriers in Europe, one person said, requesting anonymity because the matter is under review.

"On February 19th, a planned maintenance change unexpectedly led to network instability for Navitaire hosted airlines. Technical teams took immediate action, and the issue was fully resolved after 50 minutes. We apologize for any inconvenience caused to our customers. All services are currently operating normally," a Navitaire spokesperson said in an emailed response to *Mint*.

"The server of the software company was down from 6.45am to 7.28am this morning, impacting check-in services across airlines and airports in India. A similar glitch was noticed around 8.10am onwards. Normalcy in operations happened post-8.25am. No further glitches have been reported in the last few hours. The system is stable," an airport official said, requesting anonymity.

"Passengers were unable to complete web check-in; airport



A spokesperson for Navitaire, which many airlines use to manage reservations, said a maintenance change led to the issue. *MINT*

check-in counters were non-functional and entry into the terminal was stalled. Everyone was left waiting outside with no clear timeline for resolution," Vivek Kumar, a passenger on an Air India Express flight from Ranchi, said on LinkedIn.

An official from an airline that was briefly affected, confirmed the outage and the time stamps.

The operations have now normalized, the second person said.

Navitaire's website lists IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and SpiceJet among customers. Minneapolis-based Navitaire provides technology services to more than 60 airlines and rail companies.

An official at Akasa Air, requesting anonymity, said the airline's operations remain unaffected. IndiGo officials said systems were restored within "half an hour" and operations continue to be normal. There were no cancellations or delays.

An Air India Express official said its web check-in facilities were working and its operations remain unaffected.

"There were brief issues with the passenger check-in coun-

ters at airports. But it has been resolved. No flights were delayed," an airline official said.

Air India did not face any disruption as it does not use the Navitaire software.

Emails sent to IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and SpiceJet seeking official comments did not elicit a response till the publication of this story.

"The Navitaire outage exposed an over-reliance on this passenger service system by the low-cost carriers," said Ashish Chhachharia, partner and aviation industry leader at Grant Thornton Bharat. "...this recent event prompts us to think of backup systems, regional redundancies, as well as need for regulatory oversight on such critical infrastructure. A balanced approach will preserve efficiency while minimizing risks of large-scale disruptions in the future."

In July 2024, a tech failure caused travel chaos around the world, with banking and healthcare services also hit. The cause was attributed to cyber-security firm CrowdStrike updating its antivirus software. In December, some Indian airlines reported a software glitch that led to issues with check-in services.

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For an extended version of this story, go to *livemint.com*.

Air India, the full-service carrier, did not face any disruption as the airline does not use the Navitaire software



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Airbus bullish on Indian market

Bullish on the growth potential of the Indian market, aerospace major Airbus plans to produce 10 H125 helicopters annually from the final assembly line, established in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems in Karnataka, by 2029.

Asserting that helicopters can be a tool for "nation building", as well as public services, Airbus Helicopters chief executive officer (CEO) Bruno Even said efforts would continue to contribute to the development of the ecosystem in India.

"We strongly believe in the potential of the helicopter market in India... we strongly believe that H125 helicopters can be a key enabler to boost this civil helicopter market in India," Even told *PTI* in an interview in the national capital.

Airbus, along with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), has set up the country's first private sector helicopter Final Assembly Line (FAL) for the H125 at Vemagal in Karnataka. **PTI**

— 'PROCEEDING STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES' —

AAIB probing Baramati Learjet crash; DFDR data retrieved: Civil Aviation Min

NARESH BISWANI

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Civil Aviation confirmed on Thursday that the investigation of the Learjet 45 aircraft accident VT-SSK near Baramati on January 28 is proceeding strictly in accordance with the Aircraft Investigation of Accidents and Incidents Rules of 2025 and the ICAO Annex 13 guidelines.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others were killed in the crash.

The investigation is being conducted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau. It is a technical investigation based on evidence. It entails the examination of the aircraft wreckage, the examination of the flight and maintenance records of the aircraft, and laboratory testing of the aircraft components where necessary.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has stated that the aircraft was provided with two separate flight recorders. The Digital Flight Data Recorder manufactured by L3 Commu-

KEY POINTS

- » Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others were killed in the crash
- » It is a technical investigation based on evidence
- » It entails the examination of the aircraft wreckage, the examination of the flight and maintenance records of the aircraft, and laboratory testing of the aircraft components where necessary

nication has been successfully downloaded. It was done at the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's New Delhi facility. The Cockpit Voice Recorder manufactured by Honeywell has been damaged due to thermal effects. Technical assistance has been requested from the State of Design/Manufacture in accordance with the ICAO Annex 13. The Preliminary Report is to be submitted within 30 days of the accident in accordance with international regulations. The Final Report will be submitted once the investigation is complete.

On the issue of regulatory oversight, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation conducted 51 audits of non-scheduled operators in 2025.

It also conducted several surveillance activities of M/s. VSR Ventures related to the flight safety systems of the operator, the compliance of the operator with the requirements of the applicable regulations related to the maintenance of the aircraft, the documentation of the operator, and the facilities of the operator. All these have been reportedly completed. After the Learjet



45 accident, the DGCA conducted a special audit of M/s. VSR Ventures on February 4, 2026.

It is related to the operational control systems of the operator, the maintenance practices of the operator, the crew training standards of the operator, and the monitoring of the flight data of the operator. It is to be completed very soon. Special audits of other major non-scheduled operators and aerodromes that have been involved in VIP and VVIP flights have also been ordered.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

19 FEBRUARY 2026

SC asks Uttarakhand HC to decide plea of aviation firm on helipad issue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Uttarakhand High Court to expeditiously decide two separate pleas by aviation firm Deccan Charters Pvt Ltd against repeated temporary acquisition of its private helipad at the Govind Ghat by the State Government.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi asked the Registrar General of the state High Court at Nainital to take instruction from the chief justice and list the two pending pleas of the aviation firm before a bench there in the week commencing March 9, 2026.

The bench asked the High Court bench, which will be dealing with the pleas, to decide the petitions within two months. Taking note of the upcoming 'chardham yatra' in the state, it said if the pleas are not decided within



the stipulated time period then the aviation firm can approach the top court seeking revival of the plea here. Deccan Charters Pvt Ltd, in its plea filed through lawyer Smarhar Singh, described the repeated taking over of its private helipad by the state Government as "illegal, unabated, and unconstitutional".

The petition accused the state Government of bypassing the due process to hand over the functional helipad to a competitor, Pawan Hans Limited,

while the High Court allegedly failed to adjudicate on the matter despite multiple urgent pleas. Deccan Charters has operated helicopter shuttle services for the Shri Hemkund Sahibji Yatra since 2011.

The company holds a valid lease for the Govind Ghat helipad in Chamoli District until March 2027. However, the company alleges that since May 2024, the State administration has engaged in a pattern of "forceful takeovers" under the guise of temporary acquisition for the Yatra season.

Bangladesh blocks SpiceJet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Bangladesh has banned aviation giant SpiceJet from flying in its airspace as the budget carrier is yet to clear its pending dues. Consequently, with Dhaka's airspace no longer available for the airline, as a result, some of the airline's flights from Kolkata, including those to Guwahati, are now taking longer routes.

Sources indicated that the restriction imposed by Bangladesh is linked to non-payment of dues,

although the exact nature of the outstanding amount could not be immediately confirmed. According to flight tracking data from *Flightradar24.com* on Thursday, SpiceJet flights operating between Kolkata and the northeastern cities of Guwahati and Imphal were avoiding Bangladesh airspace and instead taking longer routes. This may increase flying time for passengers on these flights.

A spokesperson for SpiceJet said on Thursday that the airline is in regular talks with the authorities

about operational and procedural matters, including charges for using the airspace. "These are routine industry issues and we are working constructively towards an early resolution. Our flight operations remain unaffected, and we continue to operate our scheduled services in line with regulatory requirements," the spokesperson said. SpiceJet shares were down nearly 1 percent at Rs 16.81 on the BSE during afternoon trading. The airline has also been struggling financially.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

सेवा में कमी: एयर इंडिया पर गाज

आशुतोष शांडिल्य (पंजाब केसरी)/ नई दिल्ली

अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान में बिजनेस क्लास यात्री से प्रीमियम किराया वसूलने के बावजूद मानक सुविधाएं उपलब्ध न कराने पर एयर इंडिया लिमिटेड को भारी कीमत चुकानी पड़ी। नई दिल्ली स्थित जिला उपभोक्ता आयोग VI ने इसे सेवा में गंभीर कमी मानते हुए शिकायत को आंशिक रूप से स्वीकार किया।

आयोग ने एयरलाइन शिकायतकर्ता को मानसिक पीड़ा के लिए 50,000 रुपये तथा मुकदमे के खर्च के लिए 50,000 रुपये देने का आदेश दिया। आयोग की पीठ जिसमें अध्यक्ष पूनम चौधरी और सदस्य शेखर चंद्रा शामिल थे। आयोग ने

● उपभोक्ता फोरम ने 50 हजार रुपए केस खर्च तथा इतनी ही रकम मानसिक पीड़ा के लिए देने का आदेश दिया

अपने आदेश में स्पष्ट किया कि प्रीमियम सेवा के बदले उपभोक्ता को जिन सुविधाओं का आश्वासन मिला था, वे उपलब्ध नहीं कराई गईं जो उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम के तहत सेवा में कमी हैं। शिकायतकर्ता जाह्नवी शर्मा ने 28 फरवरी 2024 को सैन फ्रांसिस्को से नई दिल्ली की यात्रा के लिए एयर इंडिया की अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान में बिजनेस क्लास टिकट बुक कराया था। टिकट

ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल प्लेटफॉर्म एक्सपीडिया के माध्यम से खरीदा गया था, जिसकी कुल कीमत 2,49,151.72 रुपये थी। शिकायत में बताया गया कि उड़ान के दौरान बिजनेस और फर्स्ट क्लास के अधिकांश शौचालय काम नहीं कर रहे थे। यात्रा के अंतिम चरण में 200 से अधिक यात्रियों के लिए केवल दो इकोनोमी क्लास शौचालय उपलब्ध थे, जिनकी स्थिति भी बेहद खराब थी। इसके अतिरिक्त, पूरी उड़ान के दौरान इन-फ्लाइट एंटरटेनमेंट सिस्टम, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सुविधाएं और प्राइवेट स्क्रॉन सुचारू रूप से कार्य नहीं कर रही थीं। शिकायतकर्ता ने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि उनकी सीट से जुड़ा ट्रे टेबल जंग लगा और टूटा हुआ था।



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

DGCA audited VSR, 50 others in 2025: Govt

Mumbai: DGCA carried out 51 regulatory audits of non-scheduled operators (aircraft charter companies) in 2025, govt said Thursday, adding that all findings arising from those inspections had been closed.

Civil aviation ministry said audits included surveillance of VSR Ventures, operator of the Learjet 45 involved in an accident at Baramati on Jan 28.

Following the crash that killed Ajit Pawar, among others, DGCA was directed to conduct an audit of VSR Ventures, covering regulatory compliance, safety management systems, crew training and flight data monitoring practices. The audit commenced on Feb 4 and is expected to be completed shortly, the ministry stated.

DGCA is also undertaking audits of other significant non-scheduled operators and aerodromes engaged in VIP ops. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Special audit of private operator in Baramati crash near completion: Aviation Ministry

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 19

Nearly three weeks after the fatal Learjet crash in Baramati that killed senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar and four others, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Thursday said the special audit of VSR Ventures, a private aviation company, was expected to conclude shortly, even as the technical probe into the accident gathers pace.

The ministry said it had directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to carry out a detailed review of the operator's regulatory com-

SULE SEEKS SECURITY FOR MLA ROHIT PAWAR

- NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule on Thursday demanded that the Maharashtra Government provide immediate security to party MLA Rohit Pawar, who has publicly raised questions about the circumstances surrounding the crash.
- She added that Rohit Pawar had been presenting facts and raising issues in a structured and well-researched manner.

pliance, operational control systems, maintenance practices, crew training standards, safety management systems and monitoring of cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and flight data recorder (FDR) data.

"The audit findings, once finalised, will be examined under the DGCA's enforcement policy and procedures

manual, and action will follow wherever violations are established," said officials.

The ministry has also asked the regulator to undertake special audits of other major non-scheduled operators and aerodromes engaged in VIP and VVIP operations. These inspections are being conducted in phases, with

enforcement action to be initiated wherever required. The step indicates a wider scrutiny of charter and executive flight operations beyond the Baramati crash.

The investigation into the 28 January accident involving the Learjet 45 (VT-SSK) is being conducted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) strictly in accordance with the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2025, and the Standards and Recommended Practices under ICAO Annex 13 framed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.