

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

मानसून में एयरपोर्ट के रनवे व टैक्सीवे पर नहीं भरेगा पानी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर मानसून के दौरान रनवे, टैक्सीवे और ऑपरेशनल एरिया में पानी नहीं भरेगा। इसके लिए एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने आग लगने जैसी आपात स्थितियों और वर्षा के जलभराव से उड़ानों पर पड़ने वाले असर को कम करने के लिए एयरसाइड क्षेत्र के फायर सिस्टम और ड्रेनेज नेटवर्क के अपग्रेडेशन की योजना बनाई है।

प्रबंधन ने एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा और बुनियादी ढांचे को और मजबूत करने के लिए बड़े स्तर पर तैयारी शुरू कर दी है। नई परियोजनाओं में एयरसाइड क्षेत्र में स्थित फायर पंप हाउस का पुनर्निर्माण और ड्रेनेज नेटवर्क के



एआई तस्वीर

प्रतिदिन करीब डेढ़ हजार उड़ाने होती हैं संचालित

आईजीआई भारत का पहला ऐसा एयरपोर्ट है, जो दुनिया भर के 150 घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय डेस्टिनेशन से जुड़ चुका है। इसमें भारत के कई शहरों के साथ-साथ एशिया, यूरोप, अमेरिका और अन्य क्षेत्रों के प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय शहर शामिल हैं। यहां से प्रतिदिन औसतन 1,500 घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें संचालित होती हैं। यह सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डों में से एक है, जहां रोजाना लगभग 2 लाख से ज्यादा यात्री सफर करते हैं। हाल ही में यहां से कई नए अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट जोड़े गए हैं। इनमें बैंकॉक (टाईम मुआंग), टोक्यो हेनेडा और शिकागो ओ'हारे जैसे बड़े वैश्विक शहर शामिल हैं।

लिए वार्षिक रखरखाव अनुबंध प्रमुख हैं। इससे एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा-व्यवस्था बेहतर होगी जिससे यात्रियों को फ्लाइट देरी की समस्या नहीं झेलनी पड़ेगी। इसके लिए निविदा भी जारी कर दी गई है।

ड्रेनेज नेटवर्क होगा मजबूत : एयरसाइड ड्रेनेज नेटवर्क को मजबूत करने के लिए भी योजना

बनाई गई है। रनवे, टैक्सीवे और अन्य ऑपरेशनल क्षेत्रों में जल निकासी की व्यवस्था सुचारू रहना बेहद जरूरी होता है। मानसून के दौरान पानी जमा होने से उड़ानों के संचालन पर असर पड़ता है जिससे देरी और रद्दीकरण जैसी समस्याएं सामने आती हैं। इससे निपटने के लिए ड्रेनेज सिस्टम का नियमित

निरीक्षण और रखरखाव सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा। इसके तहत ड्रेनेज लाइनों की सफाई, मरम्मत और जरूरत के अनुसार अपग्रेडेशन किया जाएगा। इससे रेन वाटर हार्वैस्टिंग सिस्टम को भी बेहतर बनाने पर जोर दिया जाएगा, जिससे जल संरक्षण को बढ़ावा मिले। भविष्य में एयरपोर्ट पर

आपातकालीन स्थिति में अहम होते हैं फायर पंप

फायर पंप हाउस किसी भी हवाई अड्डे की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था का अहम हिस्सा होते हैं। आपातकालीन स्थिति में तुरंत पानी को आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करते हैं, जिससे आग पर तेजी से काबू पाया जा सके। समय के साथ इनकी कार्यक्षमता बनाए रखने के लिए तकनीकी और संरचनात्मक सुधार जरूरी हो जाते हैं। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए एयरसाइड क्षेत्र में मौजूद फायर पंप हाउस का आधुनिकीकरण किया जाएगा।

आधुनिक तकनीक आधारित सिस्टम लगाए जाएंगे

नई व्यवस्था के तहत पुराने उपकरणों को बदला जाएगा और आधुनिक तकनीक आधारित सिस्टम लगाए जाएंगे। इससे न केवल उपकरणों की कार्यक्षमता बढ़ेगी, बल्कि उनकी जीवन अवधि भी लंबी होगी। प्रबंधन का मानना है कि अत्याधुनिक फायर सेफ्टी सिस्टम से किसी भी आपात स्थिति में प्रतिक्रिया समय कम होगा और जोखिम को काफी हद तक घटाया जा सकेगा।

मल्टीमॉडल ट्रांसपोर्ट हब, कार्गो सुविधाओं का विस्तार और ग्रीन एनर्जी आधारित इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकसित करने की भी योजना है।

इन प्रयासों से आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट को देश और वैश्विक स्तर पर भी प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक स्थिति को मजबूत किया जा रहा है।

हवाई अड्डों से रिटेल की उम्मीदों को लगे पंख

देश में नए हवाई अड्डों के खुलने और यात्रा के दमदार रुझानों से रिटेल क्षेत्र को मिल रहा प्रोत्साहन

अक्षरा श्रीवास्तव और अनीका चटर्जी
नई दिल्ली/मुंबई, 19 अप्रैल

देश के हवाई अड्डे रिटेल क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए लगातार नए अवसर बनते जा रहे हैं। विभिन्न उपभोक्ता श्रेणियों के ब्रांड इन नई जगहों पर दुकानें खोलने के लिए कमर कस रहे हैं। मझोले शहरों में पहली बार हवाई अड्डे खुल रहे हैं और मुंबई और दिल्ली-एनसीआर जैसे महानगरों में दूसरे हवाई अड्डे शुरू हो गए हैं। इसके अलावा घरेलू पर्यटन की भी जोरदार रफ्तार है। इन सबने रिटेल श्रेणी को पंख लगा दिए हैं। कंपनियां इस बढ़ते उपभोक्ता वर्ग से लाभ उठाने के लिए अपनी रणनीतियों को फिर से तैयार कर रही हैं।

व्यक्तिगत देखभाल क्षेत्र की दिग्गज 'द बॉडी शॉप' के समूह के मुख्य राजस्व अधिकारी विशाल चतुर्वेदी ने कहा, 'ट्रैवल रिटेल भारत में हमारे समूचे रिटेल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का हिस्सा है, जो हमें हवाई अड्डों जैसे ट्रांजिट वातावरण में ग्राहकों से जुड़ने में सक्षम बनाता है। यह हमें विभिन्न प्रकार के ग्राहकों के सामने हमारे उत्पाद पोर्टफोलियो को प्रस्तुत करने की सुविधा देता है, जिसमें उपहार और यात्रा की लिहाज से सुलभ ग्राहक शामिल हैं।'

देश में हवाई अड्डों पर इस ब्रांड के सात स्टोर हैं। इस ब्रांड ने इस श्रेणी में दो अंकों की वृद्धि देखी है। वह इस गति का लाभ उठाने के लिए ऐसे और स्टोर खोलने के मकसद से सक्रिय



ट्रैवल का बढ़ता आकर्षण

- मझोले शहरों में पहली बार हवाई अड्डे खुलने तथा मुंबई और दिल्ली-एनसीआर जैसे महानगरों में दूसरे हवाई अड्डे शुरू होने से जग रही उम्मीद
- विभिन्न उपभोक्ता ब्रांड इन हवाई अड्डों पर दुकानें खोलने के लिए कस रहे हैं कमर
- इसके अलावा घरेलू पर्यटन की जोरदार रफ्तार से भी रिटेल में बढ़ रहा रुझान

रूप से काम कर रहा है। लाइफस्टाइल टेक ब्रांड डेलीऑब्जेक्ट्स के मामले में अगले दो साल के दौरान ट्रैवल रिटेल विकास का मुख्य इंजन बनने वाला है। इसके सह-संस्थापक और मुख्य कार्य अधिकारी पंकज गर्ग ने कहा, 'हवाई अड्डे हमें जोरदार इरादे वाले, खर्च

करपने में सक्षम ऑडियंस देते हैं, जो पहले से ही 'ऑन-द-मूव, डिवाइस-हैवी, ऑलवेज-ऑन' जैसी मानसिकता में होते हैं। यहीं हमारी डिजाइन-आधारित रोजमर्रा की आवश्यक चीजें संपूर्ण जीवनशैली तकनीकी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में मूल्य जोड़ती हैं।'

कंपनी को उम्मीद है कि अगले दो साल के दौरान ट्रैवल रिटेल की उसके ऑफलाइन राजस्व में लगभग 12 से 15 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी होगी और ब्रांड के समूचे राजस्व में 6 से 8 प्रतिशत। मुंबई के टी2 (घरेलू टर्मिनल) और गुवाहाटी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर आउटपोस्ट के साथ वह बेंगलूरु केमगौड़ा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के टी2, चेन्नई और पुणे हवाई अड्डों पर भी नए स्टोर खोल रही है। एक रिटेलर ने नाम न बताने की शर्त पर कहा, 'चूंकि यात्राएं लगातार चरम पर बनी हुई है, इसलिए हवाई अड्डे लक्ष्मरी खरीदारों के लिए नई हाई स्ट्रीट और महत्त्वपूर्ण आकर्षण केंद्र बन गए हैं।'

टॉमी हिलफिगर और यूनाइटेड कलर्स ऑफ बेनेटन जैसे ब्रांडों वाला फैशन रिटेल हाउस 'ब्रांड कॉन्सेप्ट्स' की साल 2026 की विकास रणनीति का लक्ष्य विशेष रूप से ऊंचे इरादे वाले प्रीमियम उपभोक्ता हैं। ब्रांड कॉन्सेप्ट्स के सह-संस्थापक अभिनव कुमार ने कहा, 'भारत में विमानन अवसरना का विस्तार ट्रैवल रिटेल के लिए जोरदार अवसर है। हम अपनी विस्तार रणनीति के तहत उभरते हवाई अड्डों के विकास का सक्रिय रूप से मूल्यांकन कर रहे हैं और इसमें उन अधिक विजिबिलिटी वाले स्थानों पर ध्यान दिया जा रहा है, जो हमारी प्रीमियम स्थिति के अनुरूप हों।' उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले छह महीने के दौरान कंपनी ने चार ट्रैवल रिटेल स्टोर खोले हैं।

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Brands chase flyers as new airports open a runway to revenue for retail

AKSHARA SRIVASTAVA &
ANEKA CHATTERJEE
New Delhi/Bengaluru, 19 April

Indian airports are increasingly becoming a new avenue of growth for the country's retail sector, as brands across consumer segments queue up to open shop at these locations.

The opening of airports in Tier-II cities, along with secondary airports coming up in metros such as Mumbai and the Delhi-National Capital Region, coupled with strong domestic tourism momentum, has given wings to the retail segment. Companies are recalibrating strategies to tap this growing consumer cohort.

"Travel retail is a part of our overall retail ecosystem in India, enabling us to engage with customers in transit environments such as airports. It allows us to present our product portfolio,

including gifting and travel-friendly formats, to a diverse set of customers," said Vishal Chaturvedi, group chief revenue officer at personal care giant The Body Shop.

The brand, with seven stores across airport locations in India, has seen double-digit growth in this segment and is actively looking to open more stores to capitalise on the momentum.

For lifestyle tech brand DailyObjects, travel retail is set to become a core growth engine over the next two years. "Airports give us a highly intent-driven, premium audience that is already in an 'on-the-move, device-heavy, always-on' mindset, which is exactly where our design-led everyday essentials add value to the broader lifestyle tech ecosystem," said Pankaj Garg, cofounder and chief executive officer (CEO).



The company expects travel retail to contribute close to 12-15 per cent of its offline revenue and 6-8 per cent of overall brand revenue over the next two years. With outposts at Mumbai's T2 (domestic terminal) and Guwahati International Airport, it is rolling out new stores at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport T2, as well as Chennai and Pune airports.

"As travel activity continues to rise, airports have become the new high streets and key catchments for luxury shoppers," said a retailer.

Fashion retail house Brand Concepts, which houses brands such as Tommy Hilfinger and United Colors of Benetton, has made high-intent, premium consumers a focus of its 2026 growth strategy.

Travel spending push

- Tier-II airports, tourism boost driving travel retail expansion
- Brands target premium, captive audiences in transit environments
- Travel retail to contribute up to 15% of revenues
- Secondary airports likely to boost per-passenger retail spending
- Premiumisation trend fuels demand across fashion, tech, alcohol sectors

"The expansion of aviation infrastructure in India presents strong opportunities for travel retail. We are actively evaluating emerging airport developments as part of our expansion strategy, with a focus on high-visibility locations that line up with our premium positioning," said cofounder Abhinav Kumar of Brand Concepts, adding that the company has opened four travel

retail stores in the past six months.

A clear premiumisation tailwind is visible across the broader retail sector. The country's retail real estate market recorded approximately 8.9 million square feet of absorption in 2025, according to real estate consultancy CBRE. "Airports are rapidly evolving into high-velocity gateways for curated retail, driven by captive footfall and rising passenger dwell times. Globally, hubs such as Singapore Changi and Dubai International demonstrate how sustained infrastructure investments can transform airports into high-yield consumption centres, where retail dominates non-aeronautical revenues," said Anshuman Magazine, chairman and CEO (India, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa) at CBRE.

In India, the emergence of secondary airports is likely to be catalytic for the sector.

"These assets not only expand the national retail footprint but also benefit from efficient passenger flows and lower congestion, which may translate into higher per-passenger retail spending," he added. As domestic retailers and direct-to-consumer brands push for omnichannel expansion, travel retail is expected to become a non-negotiable part of their go-to-market strategies.

Leather goods maker Da Milano also sees strong potential in the development of secondary airports across key cities. "As air travel continues to grow in India, these locations present new opportunities to reach evolving consumer segments. We are actively evaluating such opportunities and plan to expand selectively, ensuring that each location aligns with our brand positioning and customer profile," said founder Sahil Malik.



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Adani group bets big on airport cities with new hotel, realty projects

Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) said its step-down unit has incorporated three wholly-owned subsidiaries focused on hotel and real estate development as part of its airport city expansion strategy. The new entities will undertake real estate activities including construction, along with hotels featuring integrated restaurants, banquets and business centres, according to a regulatory filing by the company. The newly incorporated entities "shall be engaged in the business of real estate activities with own or leased property, construction of buildings carried out on own — account basis or on a fee or contract basis — hotels with integrated restaurants, banquets and business centres," it said. PTI

देश में पहला: रियल टाइम टैफिक मॉनिटरिंग सिस्टम लागू एयरपोर्ट पर AI बता रहा- कहां जाम, एंट्री-एग्जिट में नहीं फंस रहे वाहन

जयपुर | फ्लाइट से सफर करने वाले यात्रियों के लिए राहत वाली खबर है। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर अब हर पल टैफिक की स्थिति पर नजर रखी जा रही है। यह देश में ऐसा पहला एयरपोर्ट है। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने एआई आधारित टैफिक कंजेशन अलर्ट सिस्टम लागू किया है, जिससे जाम कम होगा और एंट्री-एग्जिट सुचारू रहेंगे।

एयरपोर्ट के लैंड साइड और पार्किंग एरिया में वीडियो एनालिटिकल कैमरे लगाए गए हैं। ये कैमरे वाहनों की संख्या और मूवमेंट को लगातार ट्रैक करते हैं। जैसे ही किसी एरिया में भीड़ तय सीमा से ज्यादा होती है, तुरंत अलर्ट जनरेट होता है। अलर्ट मिलते ही टीम मौके पर पहुंचकर टैफिक डायवर्ट और कंट्रोल करती है। जरूरत पड़ने पर अतिरिक्त स्टाफ भी लगाया जाता है।



पीक टाइम में सबसे ज्यादा फायदा

- एयरपोर्ट एंट्री पर लंबा जाम नहीं लगेगा
- ड्रॉप-ऑफ और पिक-अप तेज होगा
- पार्किंग में वाहन लगाने में कम समय लगेगा
- पीक आवर्स में भी कम इंतजार, कम हड़बड़ी
- सुबह और शाम की फ्लाइट्स के दौरान, एकसाथ कई गाड़ियां आती हैं, जिससे रियल टाइम मैनेजमेंट से जाम बनने से पहले ही कंट्रोल कर लिया जाएगा।
- एंट्री गेट से लैंड साइड तक मॉनिटरिंग यह सिस्टम टर्मिनल एंट्री रोड, ड्रॉप-ऑफ/पिक-अप जोन, पार्किंग एरिया और लैंड साइड मूवमेंट कॉरिडोर पर लागू किया गया है। लैंड साइड वह हिस्सा होता है, जहां आम लोग बिना टिकट आ-जा सकते हैं।
- एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के अनुसार, एआई आधारित यह सिस्टम ऑपरेशनल दक्षता बढ़ाने के साथ यात्रियों के लिए तेज और बेहतर अनुभव सुनिश्चित करेगा। डिजिटल तकनीक से टैफिक प्रबंधन को स्मार्ट बनाया जा रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Mumbai Airport Fines AIASL for Aircraft Damage

New Delhi: Mumbai airport operator MIAL has penalised state-owned AIASL after a dolly that got detached during ground handling operations struck and damaged a parked Gulf Air aircraft at the airport earlier this month. Terming it a major incident that has caused serious reputational loss to the airport, Adani Group-owned MIAL has imposed a ₹10 lakh fine on AI Airport Services Ltd (AIASL), according to a communication accessed by PTI.

The incident that resulted in the damage of the Gulf Air aircraft happened on April 10 when AIASL personnel were engaged in towing loaded containers mounted on dollies along the head-of-stand road in the vicinity of aircraft stands.

—PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Intl Flights to Resume From Mashhad Airport

Tehran: Iran will resume international flights from Mashhad Airport on Monday, the country's civil aviation authority said.

State television, citing the Civil Aviation Organisation, said permission had been granted to restart international passenger services from the northeastern airport. The authority later said travellers can now book tickets for international routes to and from Mashhad Airport, according to official news agency IRNA. Iranian airports have remained closed since the outbreak of war with Israel and the US on February 28. Officials had earlier announced a phased reopening of the country's airspace, beginning with transit flights, followed by operations from eastern airports. Airports in Tehran — Imam Khomeini and Mehrabad — are expected to reopen in the third phase, while western airports will resume services in the final phase. **AFP**



कुछ अलग | चीन सीमा के पास 13700 फीट की ऊंचाई पर लद्दाख में स्थित है मधुन्योमा एयरबेस

सबसे ऊंचे सैन्य हवाई अड्डे पर उतरेंगे जेट

■ मदन जैड़ा

नई दिल्ली। लद्दाख में चीन सीमा के बेहद करीब देश का सबसे ऊंचा सैन्य हवाई अड्डा बनकर तैयार है। यहां जल्द ही जंगी जहाजों की गर्जना सुनाई देगी। यहां तैनात विमान एक मिनट से भी कम समय में दुश्मन को जवाब देने में सक्षम होंगे।

एलएसी से महज 23 किलोमीटर दूरी पर स्थित मधुन्योमा एयरबेस पर लड़ाकू विमानों की तैनाती की तैयारियां चल रही हैं। वायुसेना से जुड़े सूत्रों ने कहा कि एयरफोर्स स्टेशन के रिडवलपमेंट का 99 फीसदी कार्य पूरा हो चुका है। करीब 13,700 फीट की ऊंचाई पर स्थित यह देश का सर्वाधिक ऊंचाई पर स्थित संचालित



सैन्य एयरपोर्ट है। वैसे लद्दाख में ही सबसे ऊंची एयर स्ट्रीप दौलतबेग ओल्डी है जो 16700 फीट की ऊंचाई है। उसे भी भविष्य में फाइटर विमानों के उतरने के लिए उपयुक्त बनाया जाना है। लेकिन न्योमा में यह

सुखोई तैनात होंगे

थियेटर कमान के गठन की प्रक्रिया भी जारी है। ऐसे में नई थियेटर कमान में न्योमा को चीन की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए एक अग्रिम एयरपोर्ट के रूप में तैयार किया जा रहा है। यहां पर सुखोई-30 की तैनाती होगी।

कार्य करीब-करीब पूरा हो चुका है। संभावना है कि इसी साल यहां लड़ाकू विमानों की लैंडिंग शुरू कर दी जाएगी। सूत्रों के अनुसार चीन सीमा पर भारत अपने रक्षा युनियादी ढांचे को मजबूत बना रहा है।

एलएसी से सबसे करीब सैन्य एयरपोर्ट

सेना से जुड़े सूत्रों के अनुसार, चीन सीमा के निकटवर्ती इलाकों में 2.7 किलोमीटर लंबे रनवे वाला यह पहला सैन्य एयरपोर्ट है। यह एलएसी के सबसे करीब मौजूद सेना का एयरपोर्ट है। इस एयरपोर्ट पर वायुसेना अपने विशालाकाय परिवहन विमान सी-130जे को भी सफलतापूर्वक उतार चुकी है, यानी एलएसी के करीब परिवहन सेवाओं को भी इससे मजबूती मिलेगी। बता दें कि लद्दाख में लेह, कारगिल, फुक्चे, डीबीओ के बाद न्योमा पांचवां एयरबेस है।

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Shortly after coming across a social media post about a flight service between Lucknow and Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, Vaibhav Tripathi decided to fly with his mother, who had never travelled by air, to their home town. It was meant to be a birthday gift – a gesture of gratitude for the years she spent doing odd jobs, including working as a farm labourer, to fund his education at an Industrial Training Institute.

“Now that I earn ₹25,000 a month, I thought of flying her to our home in Azamgarh on her birthday as, according to the social media post, fares were between ₹1,500 and ₹2,000 per person,” said the 32-year-old, who works as a refrigeration and air conditioner technician at a private firm in Lucknow.

However, when Tripathi started looking for tickets, he was surprised to find that there were no available flights – not just for that day or week, but the entire season.

UDAN scheme

Azamgarh airport, developed under the Centre’s Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, was opened to the

public in early March 2024.

Later that month, a company named FlyBig (which ceased operations in December 2025 following the expiry of the air operator’s certificate) started Lucknow-Azamgarh flights. However, it discontinued the service eight months later citing poor visibility.

Operations at many other airports in the State, also launched under the UDAN scheme to boost regional connectivity, have been closed shortly after commencement.

Currently, eight airports – located in Chitrakoot, Azamgarh, Moradabad, Shravasti, Kushinagar, Aligarh, Meerut and Saharanpur – of the 17 technically operational in Uttar Pradesh, are closed to traffic.

Aside from those in Meerut and Kushinagar, the remaining were started under the UDAN scheme to link key cities with Lucknow’s Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, which offers connectivity to all major cities of the country and overseas.

Shobhit Mehrotra, a businessman from Moradabad involved in brass manufacturing, frequently travels to Lucknow.

“Air travel is an easy option as it cuts down the travel time and road commute-related

Waiting for another take-off

Over the past few years, several airports have been inaugurated across second- and third-tier cities in U.P. However, operations at a number of these stopped within weeks of launch, prompting questions over planning, viability and the gap between infra expansion and sustained services



On a wing and a prayer: View outside Azamgarh and Moradabad airports. U.P. has reported a rise in intra-State air traffic. MAYANK KUMAR

expenditures, such as hiring a driver. However, flight operations here ceased within months of launch. It is painful,” he said.

Services at the Moradabad airport were discontinued in November 2024 due to poor visibility and daytime runway closures at the Lucknow airport.

Commercial viability

In Saharanpur, the airport was developed at a cost of ₹46.86 crore. In October 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated

the airport. However, flight operations are yet to begin.

“Basic infrastructure needs to be strengthened. We have to assess the area’s commercial viability and provide incentives to smaller airlines to start operations, otherwise the money will be wasted,” said Saharanpur MP Imran Masood of the Congress.

At the airport in Meerut, a runway, taxiway, guest house, and a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility are available, Murlidhar Mohol, the Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation,

told Parliament in February this year.

Lok Sabha statement

However, he added, the Uttar Pradesh government “has indicated its preference to restrict the airport operations, at present, to Flying Training Organisation activities”.

The service was discontinued in December 2024 due to operational challenges such as poor visibility and daytime closure of the Lucknow airport for runway resurfacing works, the Minister told the Lok

Sabha on December 4, 2025.

The issue of underutilised airports has sparked a public debate, with Opposition parties calling for a factual assessment, given the involvement of public money and long-term regional development.

“The issue of underutilised airports in Uttar Pradesh deserves a measured, fact-based and non-political assessment, because public money and long-term regional development are involved,” said Nasser Salim, the Samajwa-

di Party (SP) spokesperson. Salim said the State does not suffer from a lack of airports. “It suffers from a lack of realistic planning, route-viability analysis, and airline engagement at smaller locations.”

Opposition leaders have also raised questions about the “abrupt” start and closure of FlyBig. “It’s a fraud on the people of Uttar Pradesh. FlyBig had a fleet of a few aircraft at its peak in 2024. It operated from Azamgarh airport for a few days in 2024, as it did at other smaller airports, just for a few days,” said Anil Yadav, an Azamgarh native and U.P. Congress leader.

He added, “FlyBig came into existence just to give the impression that these airports are operational. It is a case of planned malpractice and corruption for misleading optics,” said Yadav.

The Hindu tried to reach out to FlyBig, but its website and other communication channels were not functional.

Operational, yet shut

The Kushinagar International Airport, built at a cost of over ₹300 crore and inaugurated in October 2021, was considered a milestone given the town’s Buddhist heritage. Operations at its airport were suspended on November 5,

2023, even as all facilities remained operational.

The airport saw a flurry of activity during campaigning for the 2025 Bihar election. “Fifty-two flight operations were recorded in 10 days. Chief Ministers of multiple States flew in and out of the airport,” said Pranesh Kumar Roy, director of Kushinagar International Airport.

He added that there is no hindrance to flight operations as far as ground facilities are concerned.

‘Robust growth’

Refuting the criticism over its alleged lack of focus on boosting air connectivity, the Uttar Pradesh government has reported a rise in passenger traffic, with 60 lakh passengers reported to have travelled within the State between April and August 2025.

“Compared to traffic over the same period in 2024, passenger volume rose by 14.6%. Moreover, domestic traffic grew 15.7% (50.47 lakh). International traffic rose 4.3% (5.32 lakh). Airport-wise, Gorakhpur (63%) and Agra (63.2%) recorded the highest growth,” said an official.

For the April-August 2025 period, the State’s share in the country’s total air traffic was roughly 3.52%, the official added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

2 U.S. citizens detained at Srinagar airport over GPS device

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Sunday detained two U.S. nationals at the Srinagar airport following the recovery of a Global Positioning System (GPS) device and a communicator.

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that the matter was being investigated. Officials said the police during searches spotted the Garmin GPS device, which can be operated through satellite, in a

travel handbag. Thereafter, two U.S. citizens were deboarded and the device was seized. The two were identified as Jeffrey Scott Prather from Montana and Haldar Koushik, an Indian-origin person settled in the U.S.

They were questioned and Mr. Koushik was released, “as nothing was found from his possession”. Officials said the two were planning to visit Ladakh but cancelled the trip after the Srinagar-Leh highway was closed due to bad weather.

Adani arm sets up three hotel, realty units for airport city expansion plan

Adani Airport City Ltd has set up Adani Navi Mumbai Airport City Ltd, Adani Guwahati Airport City Ltd & Adani Ahmedabad Airport City Ltd

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) said its step-down unit has incorporated three wholly-owned subsidiaries focused on hotel and real estate development as part of its airport city expansion strategy.

Adani Airport City Ltd, a step-down wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, has set up Adani Navi Mumbai Airport City Ltd, Adani Guwahati Airport City Ltd and Adani Ahmedabad Airport City Ltd.

The new entities will undertake real estate activities including construction, along with hotels featuring integrated restaurants, banquets and business centres, according to a regulatory filing by the company.

The newly incorporated entities "shall be engaged in the business of real estate activities



Each subsidiary has been incorporated with a paid-up capital of Rs 10 lakh, with shares subscribed in cash at face value

with own or leased property, construction of buildings carried out on own - account basis or on a fee or contract basis -

Key Points

- » Adani Airport Holdings Ltd was incorporated in 2019 as a 100 per cent subsidiary of AEL
- » Today it is the largest airport infrastructure company, with its eight airports accounting for 25% of passenger footfalls and 33% of India's air cargo traffic
- » It manages airports at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram

hotels with integrated restaurants, banquets and business centres," it said.

It however did not elaborate

if the plan included construction of hotels within the vicinity of airports it operates.

Each subsidiary has been incorporated with a paid-up capital of Rs 10 lakh, with shares subscribed in cash at face value, and is fully owned by Adani Airport City Ltd.

Adani Airport Holdings Limited was incorporated in 2019 as a 100 per cent subsidiary of AEL and today it is the largest airport infrastructure company, with its eight airports accounting for 25 per cent of passenger footfalls and 33 per cent of India's air cargo traffic. It manages airports at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram.

It also holds 73 per cent in Mumbai International Airport Ltd, which, in turn, holds 74 per cent in Navi Mumbai Interna-

tional Airport Ltd.

Adani Airport City Ltd is a unit of Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. The conglomerate has previously outlined a \$15 billion expansion plan of its Indian airport portfolio by 2030, aiming to boost capacity to 200 million annual passengers.

The plan, which supports the upcoming IPO of its airport unit, focuses on expansion of existing, high-traffic airports, including Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, and Guwahati. It recently opened the Navi Mumbai airport with capacity to initially handle 20 million passengers.

The group's overall airport capacity is being targeted to be raised by over 60 per cent, positioning to manage rising air travel demand, which is projected to surpass 300 million passengers in India by 2030.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Mumbai International Airport slaps fine on AIASL for aircraft damage

NEW DELHI: Mumbai airport operator MIAL has imposed a Rs 10 lakh penalty on state-owned AI Airport Services Ltd (AIASL) after a ground handling incident in which a detached dolly struck and damaged a parked Gulf Air aircraft earlier this month.

Describing the episode as a major incident with significant reputational impact, MIAL said the accident occurred on April 10 during towing operations near aircraft stands. AIASL personnel were moving loaded containers mounted on dollies along the head-of-stand road when one of the rear dollies became detached, moved uncontrollably, and collided with the parked aircraft.



The impact caused damage to the aircraft's airframe, particularly in the forward section, leading to it being declared "Aircraft on Ground" (AOG). The aircraft belongs to Bahrain-based Gulf Air, though specific details about the plane were not immediately available.

In a letter dated April 15, MIAL said the incident has not only hurt the airport's reputation but also led to financial

MIAL said the accident occurred on April 10 during towing operations near aircraft stands

and operational setbacks. The grounding of the aircraft has disrupted aeronautical and related revenues linked to aircraft operations, while also creating inefficiencies and constraints on airport capacity.

Along with the Rs 10 lakh fine, MIAL has reserved the right to seek additional compensation from AIASL for losses and damages incurred due to the incident. AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Adani to focus on realty biz near airports

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI Enterprises (AEL) has announced the incorporation of three new wholly owned subsidiaries focused on real estate and hospitality developments near its airport projects. The move, disclosed in a regulatory filing on April 18, 2026, signals a strategic push by the conglomerate to monetise and develop land parcels surrounding its aviation hubs.

AEL has informed the BSE and NSE that its step-down wholly-owned subsidiary, Adani Airport City Limited, has incorporated three new wholly-owned subsidiaries. These new entities—Adani Navi Mumbai Airport City Limited (ANMA-CL), Adani Guwahati Airport City Limited (AGACL), and Adani Ahmedabad Airport City Limited (AAACL)—were all incorporated in India on



Strategic push to develop lands around aviation hubs

The move, disclosed in a regulatory filing on April 18, 2026, signals a strategic push by the conglomerate to monetise and develop land parcels surrounding its aviation hubs. The primary business objective for these subsidiaries falls under real estate activities.

April 6, 2026.

The primary business objective for these subsidiaries falls under real estate activities. Specifically, ANMA-CL, AGACL, and AAACL are set to engage in the development, leasing, and construction of

buildings, as well as the management of integrated hotels, restaurants, banquets, and business centres.

Each of the three companies has been established with a paid-up share capital of ₹10,00,000, consisting of 100,000

equity shares at a face value of ₹10 per share. Adani Airport City Limited holds 100% of the shareholding in each entity, maintaining them as wholly owned subsidiaries within the broader Adani Enterprises corporate structure. The incorporation was completed via cash consideration and did not require any specific governmental or regulatory approvals.

The Adani Group through its subsidiary Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) operates and manages six airports — Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram. It signed concession agreements with the Airports Authority of India for all six airports.

AAHL also holds a 73% stake in Mumbai International Airport Ltd, which in turn holds a 74% stake in Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd.

Satellite device sparks arrest of US national at Srinagar airport

MOHIT KANDHARI
■ Jammu

A 52-year-old US National, hailing from Montana, along with his associate, was detained at the Srinagar International airport on Sunday after Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel detected a prohibited satellite communication device during routine screening of their baggage.



Srinagar International Airport
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

According to official sources, US National, identified as Jeffrey Scott Prather, and his associate, Haldar Koushik, were travelling from Srinagar to New Delhi by Air India flight when they were intercepted by the CISF personnel at the airport and detained for further questioning after the recovery of the satellite communication device from their handbag. The US national was found carrying a Garmin satellite tracker, a device that is restricted under local laws.

Use of such equipment requires prior authorisation from authorities, and unauthorised possession is considered a violation of the law.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Satellite device sparks arrest of US national...

According to unconfirmed reports, after preliminary investigations in the matter, a case FIR No. 96/2026 dated 19-04-2026 under Section 42(3)(F) was lodged at Police Post, Humhama in Srinagar.

According to Section 42(3)(F) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 (India), a person who willfully possesses radio equipment knowing that it uses unauthorised or tampered telecommunication identifiers is subject to penalties.

Till the time of filing the report, the police authorities were interrogating the US national and had not commented on record.



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

18 APRIL 2026

लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट पर विशेष संवाद कार्यक्रम आयोजित

स्वतंत्र भारत ब्यूरो, लखनऊ।
विश्व धरोहर दिवस की पूर्व संध्या
पर चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
एयरपोर्ट, लखनऊ में एक विशेष
संवाद कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया
गया। इसमें प्रख्यात इतिहासकार
डॉ. रवि भट्ट मुख्य अतिथि के रूप
में शामिल हुए। डॉ. भट्ट ने एयरपोर्ट
की भूमिका को अबध की समृद्ध
सांस्कृतिक विससत और
आधुनिक विमानन के बीच एक
मजबूत सेतु बताया।

उन्होंने कहा कि पहले जहां लोग
कारवां और समुदी मार्गों से आते
थे, वहीं अब हवाई यात्रा ने
लखनऊ को वैश्विक स्तर पर
जोड़ दिया है। एयरपोर्ट अब शहर
की पहली झलक बनकर उसकी
मेहमाननवाजी और सांस्कृतिक
पहचान को प्रस्तुत कर रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

CBI arrests DGCA Deputy Director General in bribery case

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday said it arrested a Deputy Director General at the Airworthiness Directorate of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), along with a representative of a private company, in a ₹2.5 lakh bribery case.

According to the agency, the case was registered on April 18 against the DGCA official and the private individual based in New Delhi.

The allegations pertain to the public servant demanding undue advantage from private parties in lieu of granting approvals and permissions for applications pending with the regulator.

एयर इंडिया के बी787-8 रेट्रोफिट का काम 2028 तक पूरा करने की योजना

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 19 अप्रैल

एयर इंडिया ने अपने पूरे बोइंग 787-8 बेड़े की रेट्रोफिटिंग 2028 की पहली तिमाही तक पूरा करने की योजना बनाई है। एयरलाइन के चीफ कस्टमर एक्सपीरियंस ऑफिसर राजेश डोगरा ने रविवार को यह जानकारी दी और एयरलाइन के पुराने हो चुके वाइडबॉडी केबिन को पूरी तरह से बदलने के लिए एक समय-सीमा भी बताई।

उन्होंने दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर एक कार्यक्रम में बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड को बताया कि एयर इंडिया के बेड़े में 26 पुराने बी787-8 विमान हैं। इस कार्यक्रम में एयरलाइन ने अपने पहले रेट्रोफिटेटेड बी787-8 विमान को

प्रदर्शित किया। इस विमान को दो-क्लास लेआउट से अपग्रेड करके तीन-क्लास कॉन्फिगरेशन में बदला गया है, जिसमें नए बिजनेस, प्रीमियम इकोनॉमी और इकोनॉमी केबिन शामिल हैं।

एयरलाइन ने अपने पुराने बेड़े को आधुनिक बनाने के लिए 40 करोड़ डॉलर का एक कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है। डोगरा ने कहा, 'इस साल के आखिर तक लगभग सात से आठ बी787-8 विमानों को रेट्रोफिट किए जाने की उम्मीद है और 2028 की पहली तिमाही तक बी787-8 का पूरा बेड़ा तैयार हो जाना चाहिए।'

डोगरा ने एयरलाइन के बोइंग 777 बेड़े के लिए भी योजनाओं की जानकारी देते हुए कहा, 'अगले साल की दूसरे छमाही में हम बी777



विमानों के लिए रेट्रोफिट प्रोग्राम शुरू करने की योजना बना रहे हैं, जिसमें बी777-200 और बी777-300ईआर दोनों ही वैरिएंट शामिल होंगे।' उन्होंने कहा कि एयरलाइन के पास ऐसे 19 विमान हैं और इनका रेट्रोफिटमेंट 2029 तक पूरा होने की उम्मीद है। इस सवाल पर कि क्या विस्तार से मिले बी787-9 विमानों का भी रेट्रोफिटमेंट किया जाएगा,

डोगरा ने कहा कि इस पर अभी फैसला होना बाकी है। उन्होंने कहा, 'हम बाद में तय करेंगे कि क्या बी787-9 विमानों को भी रेट्रोफिटिंग के लिए भेजा जाए। हम चाहेंगे कि उनमें भी वैसी ही सीटिंग व्यवस्था हो जैसी आज आपने नए रेट्रोफिट किए गए बी787-8 में देखी, लेकिन अभी तक इस पर कोई फैसला नहीं लिया गया है।'



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Air India plans to complete B787-8 retrofit by Q1 2028

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 19 April

Air India plans to complete the retrofit of its entire Boeing 787-8 fleet by the first quarter of 2028, its chief customer experience officer, Rajesh Dogra, said on Sunday, outlining a timeline to overhaul the airline's ageing widebody cabins.

There are 26 legacy B787-8 planes in Air India's fleet, he told *Business Standard* at an event at Delhi airport where the airline showcased its first retrofitted B787-8 aircraft. The airplane has been upgraded from a two-class layout to a three-class configuration, with new business, premium economy, and economy cabins.

The airline has embarked on a \$400 million programme to modernise its legacy fleet. Dogra said "around seven to eight B787-8 aircraft are



expected to be retrofitted by the end of this year, and the entire B787-8 fleet should be completed by the first quarter of 2028."

Retrofitting refers to a comprehensive overhaul of an aircraft's interiors, including new seats, upgraded in-flight entertainment systems, and cabin redesign, aimed at bringing older aircraft in line with newer product standards. Due to global supply chain issues, Air India's retrofit programme has been facing delays.

Dogra also outlined plans for the airline's Boeing 777 fleet, saying "in the second half of next year, we plan to start the retrofit programme for the B777 planes, including both B777-200 and B777-300ER variants." He said the airline has 19 such aircraft and "their retrofitment is expected to be completed in 2029."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

CBI arrests senior DGCA official, corporate group VP in bribery case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 19 April

The Central Bureau Of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Bharat Mathur, the senior vice president (VP) of a major corporate group and a deputy director general of civil aviation, in a ₹2.5 lakh bribery case to facilitate the import of drones for another private company, officials said on Sunday.

In an operation on Saturday, the CBI arrested Mathur, who is also associated with an aerospace company involved in drone imports, and Mudavath Devula, deputy director general at the Airworthiness Directorate, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Headquarters, New Delhi.

The accused DGCA public servant allegedly demanded undue advan-

tage from private persons in lieu of issuing approvals and permissions for applications pending with DGCA for a private aerospace company, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

"The CBI arrested Deputy Director General at the Airworthiness Directorate, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Headquarters, New Delhi, along with a representative of a private company in a bribery case of ₹2.5 lakh resulting in the seizure of the entire amount," it said.

The CBI conducted searches on the premises of the accused public servant and other private persons across four locations in Delhi, resulting in the seizure of cash worth ₹37 lakh along with gold and silver coins and multiple digital devices, the statement added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

ड्रोन आयात में घूसखोरी मामले में सीबीआई की कार्रवाई डीजीसीए के उप महानिदेशक और कॉर्पोरेट अधिकारी गिरफ्तार

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

सीबीआई ने ड्रोन आयात से जुड़े 2.5 लाख रुपए के रिश्वत मामले में नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के एक उप महानिदेशक और एक बड़े कॉर्पोरेट समूह के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी को गिरफ्तार किया है।

सीबीआई के अनुसार, एयरवर्थीनेस निदेशालय में उप महानिदेशक एम देवुला और कॉर्पोरेट समूह के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष भारत माथुर को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। माथुर ड्रोन तकनीक से जुड़ी एस्टेरिया एयरोस्पेस लि. कंपनी से भी संबद्ध हैं। देवुला ने एक निजी एयरोस्पेस कंपनी के ड्रोन आयात से जुड़े लंबित आवेदनों को मंजूरी देने के बदले अनुचित लाभ की मांग की थी। जांच एजेंसी ने दोनों आरोपियों को 2.5 लाख रुपए की

रिश्वत लेते हुए पकड़ा और पूरी राशि जब्त कर ली। सीबीआई ने दिल्ली में चार स्थानों पर तलाशी ली, जहां से 37 लाख रुपए नकद, सोने-चांदी के सिक्के और कई डिजिटल उपकरण बरामद किए गए। एफआईआर के अनुसार, देवुला विभिन्न निजी कंपनियों के साथ मिलकर मंजूरी और अनुमति देने के मामलों में रिश्वतखोरी कर रहे थे। जांच में सामने आया कि 18 मार्च को भारत माथुर ने ड्रोन आयात से जुड़े आवेदनों की स्थिति जानने के लिए देवुला से संपर्क किया था। दोनों के बीच तीन फाइलों के लिए प्रति फाइल पांच लाख रुपए रिश्वत तय हुई थी। देवुला ने 18 अप्रैल की शाम को आईआईटी दिल्ली फ्लाइओवर के पास एसेक्स फार्मर्स में रिश्वत की रकम पहुंचाने के लिए कहा था, जहां उन्हें गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

रिश्वत मामले में डीजीसीए के शीर्ष अधिकारी को सीबीआइ ने दबोचा

नई दिल्ली, 19 अप्रैल : सीबीआइ ने एक निजी कंपनी के लिए ड्रोन आयात की सुविधा प्रदान करने के बदले 2.5 लाख रुपये की रिश्वत लेने के आरोप में डीजीसीए के शीर्ष अधिकारी और एक कारपोरेट समूह के सीनियर वइस प्रेसिडेंट को गिरफ्तार किया है। अधिकारियों ने रविवार को बताया कि सीबीआइ ने एक दिन पहले की गई कार्रवाई में नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) में 'एयरवर्दीनेस इयरोस्पेस' के उप महानिदेशक एम देवुला और ड्रोन प्रौद्योगिकी में शामिल एक एयरोस्पेस कंपनी-एस्टेरिया एयरोस्पेस लिमिटेड से जुड़े भरत माधुर को गिरफ्तार किया।

सीबीआइ ने भ्रष्टाचार निवर्ण अधिनियम और भारतीय न्याय संहिता, 2023 के प्रावधानों के तहत माधुर, देवुला और एस्टेरिया एयरोस्पेस लिमिटेड के खिलाफ मामला दर्ज किया है। सीबीआइ के प्रवक्ता ने एक बयान में कहा कि डीजीसीए के आरोपित अधिकारी ने एक निजी एयरोस्पेस कंपनी के लंबित आवेदनों की मंजूरी के बदले अनुचित लाभ की मांग की। सीबीआइ ने डीजीसीए मुख्यालय, नई दिल्ली के एयरवर्दीनेस निदेशालय के उप महानिदेशक और एक निजी कंपनी के प्रतिनिधि को 2.5 लाख रुपये की रिश्वत के मामले में गिरफ्तार किया है।

एआइ का रेट्रोफिटेड ड्रीमलाइनर उड़ान के लिए तैयार

गोतम कुमर मिश्रा • जगरण

नई दिल्ली : अगर आप एअर इंडिया की अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में पुरानी सीटें और बंद पड़ी मनोरंजन स्क्रीन्स से परेशान थे, तो आपके लिए अच्छी खबर है। एअर इंडिया ने बड़ा कदम उठाते हुए रविवार को आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर अपना पहला 'रेट्रोफिटेड' बौइंग 787-8 ड्रीमलाइनर प्रदर्शित किया। करीब 40 करोड़ डॉलर के निवेश वाली इस योजना के तहत अब यात्रियों को पुराने विमानों में भी बिल्कुल नए जैसा लम्गरी अहसास मिलेगा।

टाटा समूह की तरफ से कमान संभालने के बाद से ही यात्री पुराने विमानों की स्थिति को लेकर शिकायतें कर रहे थे। एअर इंडिया के पास

2027 तक नए अवतार में होंगे सभी 26 ड्रीमलाइनर, सबसे अंत में आण्णी बोईंग 777 विमानों की बारी



आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर खड़ा एअर इंडिया का पहला रेट्रोफिटेड ड्रीमलाइनर • जगरण

विमान तो बेहतरीन थे, लेकिन उनका केबिन पुराना हो चुका था। इस पूरे बदलाव के बाद यूरोप, जापान और आस्ट्रेलिया जाने वाली 300 से अधिक साप्ताहिक उड़ानों में यात्रियों को विश्व स्तरीय अनुभव मिलेगा।

कैलिफोर्निया में 45 दिनों की

मैहनत के बाद तैयार हुए इस नए ड्रीमलाइनर में अब दो के बजाय तीन श्रेणियां होंगी। नए विमान में बिजनेस क्लास के 20 सुइट्स हैं। यहाँ यात्रियों को स्लाइडिंग प्राइवेट डोर और 79 इंच का फुल-फ्लैट बेड मिलेगा। साथ ही 17 इंच की 4के क्यूएलईडी

क्या होती है रेट्रोफिटिंग

आसान शब्दों में कहें तो 'रेट्रोफिटिंग' का मतलब है विमान के पुराने ढांचे को बरकरार रखते हुए उसके अंदरूनी हिस्से (केबिन) को पूरी तरह से उखाड़कर नया बनाना। इसमें नई लाइटिंग और केबिन को पूरी तरह से आधुनिक रंग-रूप देना शामिल है।

स्क्रीन दी गई है। प्रीमियम इकोनामी में 25 सीटें हैं। पहली बार इस बेड़े में प्रीमियम इकोनामी जोड़ी गई है। इसमें ज्यादा लेग स्पेस, सात इंच का रिक्लाइन और खास लेग रेस्ट मिलेगा। इकोनामी क्लास की 205 सीटें हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Air India to Step Up Focus on Premium Flyers to Boost Revenue

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: Air India is starting to deploy upgraded cabins of its older planes, bring in new planes and unwell posh airport lounges as the Tata Group-owned airline sharpens focus on premium passenger traffic to shore up revenue and return to profitability.

This year, the airline will operate eight Boeing 787-8 planes with completely new interiors, chief customer officer Rajesh Dogra said. The carrier is spending around \$400 million (₹3,622 crore) for upgrading its inflight product in aircraft like the Boeing 787s and also the earlier 777s, where passengers have complained about worn-out seats and poor food quality.

On Sunday, it showcased the first of the retrofitted Boeing 787 which will soon fly on routes to Europe. The business class

now has suites offering a sliding privacy door and a long list of other upgrades, such as an enclosed storage cubby, sleek seat controls and an adjustable armrest with built-in water-bottle storage.

The plane was delivered to Air India in 2015, when it was under state ownership.

"The cabin quality has been one of the major pain points in our transformation journey and one which we always wanted to address. We are rapidly modernising the backbone of our long-haul fleet and raising the bar for customers flying between India and the world," Dogra said.

The airline will also induct around six wide-body planes this year and open swanky lounges at its major destinations like San Francisco and New York. In February, it opened the first of such lounges in Delhi—its primary hub.

Such upgrades, Dogra believes, will allow Air India to attract premium customers, resulting in better ticket prices. Front-end cabins like business and first class are the top revenue generators for an airline, often helping subsidise the economy cabin to attract more passengers. "We are already seeing the benefit of operating planes with new interiors on routes like Dubai, New York, London," said Dogra. "As more and more new aircraft join, it will only improve."

The net promoter score—a key metric to gauge passenger satisfaction—has exponentially increased after the deployment of the new jets and upgraded cabins, Dogra said.



This year, the airline will operate eight Boeing 787-8s with fully new interiors: Chief customer officer



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Air India bets on agentic AI for next digital growth phase

AKBAR MERCHANT
& URVI MALVANIA
Mumbai, April 19

AIR INDIA IS stepping up investments in agentic AI as it moves into the next phase of its digital transformation, with senior executives indicating that automation at scale is beginning to deliver operational and cost benefits.

In an interaction with FE, Chief Digital and Technology Officer at Air India, Satya Ramaswamy said the airline is deploying over 30 artificial intelligence-led initiatives across customer service, operations and engineering, as it seeks to deepen digital engagement and reduce manual intervention.

"We want to be the world's most technologically advanced airline," Ramaswamy said.

DIGITAL TAKEOFF



■ Over 30 AI initiatives are live across customer service

■ AI virtual assistant has handled over **20 million** queries

"Agentic AI is a very transformative shift as it allows machines to integrate with humans, understand context and act autonomously in ways that were not possible earlier."

The airline's early AI deployments are already showing

measurable outcomes. Its generative AI-powered virtual assistant has handled more than 20 million customer queries so far, with 97% resolved without human intervention. Nearly half of all customer interactions are now managed digitally.

"About 50% of customer contact is now handled automatically, which gives us a substantial cost advantage and faster turnaround for customers," he said.

Air India's direct digital channels are also seeing increased traction. The airline's mobile app has crossed 2.7 million downloads and is adding around 10,000 installs a day, while its website sees close to 300,000 daily users. The airline is targeting a higher share of direct bookings over time, with a goal of reaching 50% contribution.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

डीजीसीए का अधिकारी रिश्वतखोरी में गिरफ्तार

कलंक के खिलाफ

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। ड्रोन आयात से जुड़े रिश्वत मामले में सीबीआई ने एक कॉरपोरेट समूह के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष और डीजीसीए अफसर को गिरफ्तार किया है। निजी कंपनी के लिए ड्रोन आयात की सुविधा देने के बदले 2.5 लाख की रिश्वत लेने का आरोप है।

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि शनिवार को एक प्रमुख कॉरपोरेट समूह के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष भरत माथुर और डीजीसीए में एयरवर्दीनेस डायरेक्टरेट के उप महानिदेशक मुदावथ देवुला को गिरफ्तार किया है। सीबीआई प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि डीजीसीए के अधिकारी ने कथित तौर पर एक निजी एयरोस्पेस कंपनी के लिए डीजीसीए के पास लॉबिंग

- ड्रोन आयात में रिश्वत लेने का लगा आरोप
- निजी कंपनी के अफसर को भी सीबीआई ने घरा

आवेदनों की मंजूरी और आदेश जारी करने के बदले में अनुचित लाभ की मांग की थी। सीबीआई ने मुदावथ देवुला को एक निजी कंपनी के प्रतिनिधि के साथ 2.5 लाख के रिश्वत मामले में गिरफ्तार किया गया। रिश्वत की पूरी राशि भी जब्त कर ली गई है।

बयान में कहा गया है कि सीबीआई ने दिल्ली में चार स्थानों पर आरोपी अधिकारी और अन्य निजी व्यक्तियों के परिसरों की तलाशी ली। इस दौरान 37 लाख की नगदी के साथ सोने और चांदी के सिक्के जब्त किए गए।

{ PUNE AIRPORT CHAOS }

IAF orders probe after aircraft mishap

HT Correspondent

puneletters@hindustantimes.com

PUNE: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday ordered a court of inquiry into an incident involving a frontline fighter jet that made a hard landing at Pune Airport, damaging the runway and disrupting flight operations on Friday night.

Defence sources said the aircraft involved was a Sukhoi-30MKI, which also sustained damage during the impact. An IAF officer confirmed the probe. "A court of inquiry has been established to investigate the incident," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

Investigators are expected to analyse key flight parameters such as the aircraft's vertical speed at touchdown and the altitude at which the pilot first acquired visual contact with the runway.

Providing an update, Defence PRO (Southern Command) Ankush Chavan said normalcy has been restored at the airport. "Following the landing incident involving an IAF aircraft last night, operations have returned to full normalcy. The IAF team at Air Force Station Pune worked through the night in a coordinated manner to clear the runway and ensure safe resumption of flight operations," he said.

He added that the team used specialised expertise and indigenous mechanical resources to restore operations in a short time despite challenging conditions. Flight operations resumed on Saturday morning after the runway was declared fit for use.

Pune Airport director Santosh Dhoke said the aircraft developed a technical issue related to its undercarriage during landing around 10.25 pm on Friday, resulting in the runway being blocked. "As per SATCO, IAF, the aircraft became immobilised. Due to the aircraft's position and damage, a NOTAM was issued for temporary runway closure till 5.30am, which was later extended to 9 am to facilitate removal and restoration," he said. At least 12 incoming flights diverted and 73 flights cancelled after the mishap.

Flight operations back to normal

Dheeraj Bengrut

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PUNE: Flight operations at Pune airport began from 7.30am on Saturday after a late-night runway blockage caused by an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft incident disrupted services for several hours. Departures resumed from 7.30am, followed by arrivals from 8am, with authorities saying emergency repair work was completed on priority.

The disruption began around 10.25pm on Friday, when a fighter aircraft suffered an undercarriage failure while landing, leaving the runway unusable. According to IAF air traffic control, it took nearly four to five hours to clear the stranded aircraft and restore the runway for operations. The temporary closure triggered widespread disruption, with multiple flights cancelled, delayed, or diverted to nearby airports overnight.

Pune airport director Santosh Dhoke said coordinated efforts helped restore operations within hours. "Immediate action was taken in coordination with the Indian Air Force and all concerned agencies to remove the aircraft. The work was executed on priority, ensuring that all safety protocols were strictly adhered to," he said.

"We have resumed departures from 7.30am and arrivals from 8am on Saturday, and operations are now gradually normalising. While the disruption did lead to cancellations and diversions, every effort was made to minimise inconvenience to passengers, and we expect flight schedules to stabilise fully over the course of the day," he added.

Officials said some residual delays may continue as airlines work to clear the backlog, but normalcy is expected to be restored by



At least 43 arrivals and 48 departures were cancelled across airlines. HT FILE

the end of the day.

Flights cancelled

In all, at least 43 arrivals and 48 departures were cancelled across airlines. IndiGo reported the highest impact, cancelling 31 arrivals and 34 departures. Air India cancelled three arrivals and three departures, while SpiceJet cancelled two arrivals and three departures. Akasa Air reported two arrivals and three departures cancelled, and Air India Express cancelled five arrivals and five departures.

Apart from cancellations, several incoming flights were diverted to nearby airports such as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Goa International Airport and Surat Airport, while others experienced delays due to the cascading impact of the runway closure.

Snag led to crash

In a statement, the Indian Air Force said the aircraft developed a snag during landing and that all crew members were safe, adding that standard operating procedures were followed to secure the aircraft and clear the runway. Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Pune MP Murlidhar Mohol on Friday said the runway was temporarily unavailable due to the incident, adding that repair work was carried out "on a war footing" with safety as the top priority. He noted that operations have now been restored.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

DGCA official among two held for graft in nod for drone imports

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a deputy director general of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and a senior executive of a private company in a ₹2.5 lakh bribery case involving approvals for drone imports, the agency said on Sunday.

The CBI FIR identifies the private executive as Bharat Mathur, a senior vice-president at Reliance Industries Ltd and associated with Asteria Aerospace Ltd. According to the FIR seen by HT, Mathur allegedly contacted DGCA official M Devula in March regarding pending applications for drone imports.

In a statement, a Reliance spokesperson said Mathur was engaged as a consultant and that the company was "not aware of any transaction involving him of the nature being referred to, nor have we approved any such unauthorised transaction."

The CBI said the two were caught while the bribe was being exchanged on Sunday. Subsequent searches at Devula's residence and other premises led to the recovery of Rs 37 lakh in cash, besides gold, silver and multiple digital devices.

According to the FIR, it was "settled" that ₹5 lakh per file would be paid as bribe to process

approvals. The agency alleged that Devula demanded undue advantage in return for clearing applications pending with the regulator and had acted in connivance with private entities.

The FIR further adds that Mathur met Devula on April 17 at the DGCA office, where he was assured that the approvals would be completed on the same day. Devula allegedly asked him to deliver the money at Essex Farms near IIT Delhi flyover on April 18.

Both Devula and Mathur, along with Asteria Aerospace Ltd and other unknown persons, have been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Asteria Aerospace counts Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, as a majority shareholder.

Queries sent to Asteria Aerospace did not elicit a response till the time of going to press.

The arrests come at a time when the DGCA is under heightened scrutiny following a series of crises in the civil aviation sector, including the Air India crash in Ahmedabad in June, widespread Indigo flight disruptions in December, a private jet crash involving Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, and rising operational pressures linked to the West Asia crisis.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

CBI arrests senior DGCA official on graft charge

Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Deputy Director-General at the Airworthiness Directorate of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), along with another person, in an alleged bribery case.

The accused persons have been identified as Mudavath Devula, a Deputy Director-General (Airworthiness Directorate) at the DGCA headquarters in Delhi; and Bharat Mathur, senior vice-president of a private company. The alleged bribe amount involved in the case is ₹2.5 lakh.

The CBI registered the FIR on April 18 based on the allegation that the official demanded undue advantage from private persons in lieu of issuing approvals and permissions of applications pending with the DGCA. The agency has searched four locations in Delhi, resulting in the seizure of ₹37 lakh in cash, gold and silver coins, and multiple digital devices. As per the DGCA, the official has been entrusted with the responsibilities of continuing airworthiness functions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

CBI arrests DGCA official in drone import bribery case

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, April 19

THE CBI arrested a deputy director general of DGCA and the senior vice-president of a major corporate group in a Rs 2.5 lakh bribery case linked to import of drones for another private company, officials said on Sunday.

In an operation on Saturday, the CBI arrested M Devula, Deputy Director General at the Airworthiness Directorate, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bharat Mathur, who is also associated with Asteria Aerospace Ltd, an aerospace company involved in drone technology. The CBI has booked Mathur, Devula and Asteria Aerospace Ltd under provisions of the PCA and BNS, 2023. The major corporate group where Mathur worked is not listed as accused in the FIR. No reaction was available from Asteria Aerospace or the corporate group.

The accused DGCA official allegedly demanded undue advantage from private persons in lieu of issuing approvals and permissions for applications pending with DGCA for a private aerospace firm, a CBI spokesperson said. The CBI raided the premises of the accused official and other private persons across four locations in Delhi, resulting in seizure of Rs 37 lakh cash along with gold and silver coins.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Air India likely to complete retrofit of 7 more Boeing 787-8 planes

New Delhi: Air India expects to complete retrofitting of seven more legacy Boeing 787-8 planes this year as it upgrades the fleet of these aircraft that is key to the airline's long-haul operations.

The loss-making carrier, which is in the middle of an ambitious transformation plan, has received the first of its retrofitted legacy Boeing 787-8 plane, which has 250 seats in three class configuration of business, premium economy and economy. The plane landed in the national capital on April 13.

Air India's Chief Customer Experience Officer Rajesh Dogra on Sunday said the airline expects to complete retrofitting of a total of eight legacy Boeing 787-8s this year. **PTI**

MINT

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026



Final phase of programme to cover 19 wide-body jets.

Air India's legacy fleet upgrade hits two-year delay

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NEW DELHI

Air India will complete the retrofit of its legacy aircraft by 2029, nearly two years later than originally planned, after supply-chain constraints slowed its fleet overhaul plans. The final phase of the programme will cover 19 wide-body jets, and will take up to two years to complete, a senior executive said on Sunday.

"There are some 777 Boeing aircraft which will be sent for retrofit in the second half of 2027 and these will be ready in the next 18 to 24 months... so by 2029," said Rajesh Dogra, the airline's chief customer experience officer, adding that these are the airline's last legacy aircraft that require refurbishing.

The Tata Group-owned carrier is already retrofitting 26 legacy wide-body Boeing jets, some as part of a broader effort to upgrade its product and align it with global full-service standards. Retrofitting includes installing new seats and refreshed cabin interiors, and introducing a three-class configuration—business, premium economy and economy.

The first retrofitted 787-8 aircraft was inducted into the fleet last week. "We expect another 7-8 more of the retrofitted 787-8s to be inducted by the end of 2026," Dogra said. All retrofitted 787-8s will be ready by March-end 2028.

Retrofit work on the airline's legacy narrow-body fleet of 27 jets was completed in 2025, allowing the airline to standardize cabins on its domestic and short-haul international network. Air India currently operates a fleet of about 185 aircraft across narrow-body and wide-body planes.

The retrofit initiative is part of a \$400-million fleet modernization programme under the Tata Group's five-year revival strategy that it announced in 2022 after reacquiring the airline from the Indian government.

Seat manufacturers have been strained due to delayed certification from regulators, which has been compounded by a manpower shortage since the pandemic. "There have, however, been no cost overruns," Dogra said.

Air India's revival plan also included placing large aircraft orders and expanding international routes to rebuild its long-haul network.

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

CBI arrests DGCA official in bribe case

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a deputy director general of civil aviation and the senior vice president of a major corporate group in a ₹250,000 bribery case to facilitate the import of drones for another private company, officials said Sunday.

In an operation on Saturday, the CBI arrested M. Devula, deputy director general at the Airworthiness Directorate, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bharat Mathur, who is also associated with an aerospace company involved in drone technology—Asteria Aerospace Ltd.

The CBI has booked Mathur, Devula and Asteria Aerospace Ltd under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

No immediate reaction was available from Asteria Aerospace or the corporate group. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

DGCA official held in bribery case: CBI

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Deputy Director General from the Airworthiness Directorate at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) headquarters in New Delhi, along with a representative of a private firm, in an alleged bribery case.

According to officials, the case relates to a demand of Rs 2.5 lakh to expedite regulatory clearances pending with the civil aviation authority. The alleged bribe was sought through unofficial channels, prompting a complaint and subsequent action by the agency. Acting on the inputs, the CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while accepting the bribe. The entire amount of Rs 2.5 lakh was

recovered from the spot.

Following the arrests, the agency conducted searches at four locations in Delhi linked to the accused officials and private entities.

During the raids, investigators seized around Rs 37 lakh in cash, along with gold and silver coins and several electronic devices believed to contain crucial evidence.

Both accused are being questioned as part of the ongoing investigation. Officials said the seized materials are being examined to establish the extent of the alleged corruption network and identify any additional links.

The CBI is also probing whether more officials or private entities were involved in the case. Further details are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

Air India expecting to complete retrofit of 7 more legacy Boeing 787-8 aircraft this year

NEW DELHI: Air India expects to complete retrofitting of seven more legacy Boeing 787-8 planes this year as it upgrades the fleet of these aircraft that is key to the airline's long-haul operations.

The loss-making carrier, which is in the midst of an ambitious transformation plan, has received the first of its retrofitted legacy Boeing 787-8 plane, which has 250 seats in three class configuration of business, premium economy and economy. The plane landed in the national capital on April 13.

Air India's Chief Customer Experience Officer Rajesh Dogra on Sunday said the air-



line expects to complete retrofitting of a total of eight legacy Boeing 787-8s this year.

This includes the plane that landed on April 13.

On Sunday, the airline unveiled the retrofitted, twin-aisle B787-8 (VT-ANT) that underwent a nose-to-tail cabin refresh.

According to Dogra, 85 per cent of the legacy Boeing 787-8

planes retrofit is expected to be completed by the end of 2027 and retrofitting of all such aircraft is likely to be over by the first quarter of 2028.

The Tata Group-owned airline has 33 Boeing 787s or Dreamliners in its fleet of over 190 planes.

Apart from the 26 legacy Boeing 787-8s, there are 7 Boeing 787-9s, including 6 from Vistara and the first tailor-made plane that was inducted in January this year.

The retrofit of legacy Boeing 777 planes is expected to start in the second half of 2027, Dogra said.

In a release issued on Sunday, Air India CEO and MD

Campbell Wilson said the retrofit of its first widebody aircraft is a visible symbol of the momentum behind the airline's transformation.

"With 25 other 787s undergoing this comprehensive refresh, we are rapidly modernising the backbone of our long-haul fleet and raising the bar for customers flying between India and the world," he said.

The aircraft VT-ANT received comprehensive interior upgrades at Boeing's Modification Center in Victorville, California and the painting was done at AeroPro, an aircraft paint facility in San Bernardino, California. P11



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

CBI arrests senior DGCA official, pvt firm executive in ₹2.5 lakh graft case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a senior Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officer along with another person in a graft case, the agency said.

The accused have been identified as Mudavath Devula, Deputy Director General in the Airworthiness Directorate of DGCA at its headquarters in Delhi, and Bharat Mathur, Senior Vice President at a private organisation. Devula, along with Mathur, was nabbed in a bribery case involving ₹2.5 lakh, leading to the seizure of the entire amount, the agency said.

The federal probing agency had registered the case on Saturday against Devula and Mathur on allegations that the accused public servant of DGCA demanded undue advantage



from private persons in lieu of issuing approvals and permissions for applications pending with DGCA for a private aerospace company, a CBI spokesperson said.

Consequently, searches were conducted by CBI at the premises of the accused public servant and other private persons at four locations in Delhi, resulting in the seizure of cash worth ₹37 lakh, gold and silver coins, and multiple digital devices.



एयर इंडिया का 'महाराजा' लुक, सज-धजकर दिल्ली आया विमान

Maneesh Aggarwal
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■ नई दिल्ली : एयर इंडिया के हवाई जहाजों में सफर करते वक्त जल्द ही आपको 'महाराजा' जैसा ही अहसास होगा। क्योंकि, एयर इंडिया अपने हवाई जहाजों को नए रंग रूप में में ला रहा है। इसके तहत एयरलाइन के बेड़े में शामिल 26 बोइंग 787-8 एयरक्राफ्ट में से पहला प्लेन एकदम नए अवतार में कैलिफोर्निया के विक्टरविले शहर से दिल्ली लैंड कर चुका है। वाई-फाई सुविधा से लैस इस प्लेन को अल्ट्रा लॉंग हॉल नहीं, बल्कि लंदन, ऑस्ट्रेलिया जैसे लॉंग हॉल इंटरनेशनल रूट पर लगाया जाएगा।

बोइंग 787-8 एयरक्राफ्ट में कई सुविधाएं।

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर नए अवतार में खड़े इस प्लेन को NBT ने अंदर और बाहर से देखकर

जाना कि इसमें क्या-क्या खास है। सबसे पहले तो 259 सीट वाले इस प्लेन में रेट्रोफिट के बाद अब 9 सीट कम होकर 250 हो गई है। एयरक्राफ्ट की सारी सीट, इनके कवर, पर्दे और कॉरिडोर का कारपेट एकदम नया है। इसमें बिजनेस क्लास पैसेजर्स के लिए 1-2-1 लेआउट प्लान में 20 लग्जरी प्राइवेट सुइट, 2-3-2 लेआउट में 25 प्रीमियम इकॉनमी और 3-3-3 लेआउट में 205 इकॉनमी क्लास सीटें हैं। प्रत्येक लग्जरी प्राइवेट सुइट में 42 इंच की स्क्रीन, वायरलेस मोबाइल चार्ज करने की सुविधा, दो निजी लॉकर, 79 इंच के बेड में बदल जाने वाली सीट, प्राइवेट स्लाइडिंग डोर, कॉफ एंड लेग रेस्ट और जाली वाला विशेष लैप समेत अन्य सुविधाएं दी गई हैं।



26 बोइंग 787-8 एयरक्राफ्ट 79 इंच के बेड में बदल जाने वाली सीट दी गई है। प्रत्येक लग्जरी प्राइवेट सुइट में 42 इंच की स्क्रीन है, तो वायरलेस मोबाइल चार्ज करने की सुविधा भी है।



इकॉनमी के लिए भी सुविधाएं बढ़ीं

प्रीमियम इकॉनमी और इकॉनमी भी पहले से बेहतर हैं। इनमें बिजनेस क्लास के मुकाबले सुविधाएं तो काफी कम हैं, लेकिन यह हो गई है। इस प्लेन में एयर इंडिया ने पहली बार प्रीमियम इकॉनमी क्लास को इट्रोड्यूस किया है। एयर इंडिया ने बताया कि कैलिफोर्निया के सैन बर्नार्डिनो काउंटी की विक्टरविले सिटी से बोइंग का यह पहला 787-8 रेट्रोफिट होकर आ गया है।

25 और एयरक्राफ्ट अपग्रेड किए जाएंगे

अब 25 और 787-8 एयरक्राफ्ट रेट्रोफिट यानी अपग्रेड होने हैं। जिसमें दो रेट्रोफिट होने के लिए चले गए हैं। 10-11 साल पुराने इन तमाम एयरक्राफ्ट में से अब हर महीने एक-एक प्लेन रेट्रोफिट हुआ मिलता रहेगा। 2027 तक सारे B787-8 रेट्रोफिट हो जाएंगे। इसके बाद बाकी बचे 777 और अन्य प्लेन को जरूरत के मुताबिक रेट्रोफिट कराया जाएगा।

Air India unveils first retrofitted Boeing 787 Dreamliner

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

In a significant milestone for India's aviation sector, Air India, now owned by the Tata Group, on Sunday unveiled its first retrofitted Boeing 787 Dreamliner, signalling the beginning of a major transformation aimed at delivering a world-class

passenger experience.

The unveiling is part of the airline's ambitious \$400 million fleet modernisation programme, under which older aircraft are being completely upgraded with state-of-the-art interiors. Over the next year, Air India plans to retrofit its remaining 25 Boeing 787 aircraft with similar enhancements.

The revamped aircraft



introduces a modern three-class configuration, replacing the earlier two-class layout. Passengers will now

have the option of Business Class, Premium Economy, and Economy Class. The addition of Premium

Economy is expected to bridge the gap between luxury and affordability, offering enhanced comfort at competitive pricing.

All cabins feature next-generation seating and advanced in-flight entertainment (IFE) systems, designed to provide a superior travel experience. The upgraded design aligns with the standards introduced

in the Boeing 787-9 launched in January 2026.

According to Air India, the retrofit process involved a complete overhaul of the aircraft's interiors, giving it a fresh, contemporary look. Since returning to Tata Group ownership, the airline has consistently focused on modernising its fleet and improving service quality.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

CBI arrests DGCA, Reliance officials in drone import bribery case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

The CBI has arrested DGCA official Mudavath Devula and Reliance Industries's top official Bharat Mathur in a ₹2.5 lakh bribery case to facilitate the import of drones for another private company, officials said Sunday. Devula is a Deputy Director General at the Airworthiness Directorate, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Headquarters, New Delhi and Mathur is handling Regulatory and Corporate Affairs of Reliance Industries.



Both was arrested by CBI on Saturday, red handed with bribe amount. The accused DGCA public servant allegedly demanded undue advantage from private

persons in lieu of issuing approvals and permissions for applications pending with DGCA for a private aerospace company, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. "The

CBI arrested Deputy Director General at the Airworthiness Directorate, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Headquarters, New Delhi, along with a representative of a private company in a bribery case of ₹2.5 lakh resulting in the seizure of the entire amount," it said.

The CBI conducted searches at the premises of the accused public servant and other private persons across four locations in Delhi, resulting in the seizure of cash worth ₹37 lakh along with gold and silver coins and multiple digital devices, the statement added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

ड्रोन आयात के बदले रिश्वतखोरी, दो शीर्ष अधिकारी गिरफ्तार

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) ने एक अन्य निजी कंपनी के लिए ड्रोन आयात की सुविधा प्रदान करने के बदले 2.5 लाख रुपये की रिश्वत लेने के मामले में एक प्रमुख कॉर्पोरेट समूह के वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष भरत माथुर और नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय में 'एयरवर्दीनेस डायरेक्टरेट' के उप महानिदेशक को गिरफ्तार किया है। अधिकारियों ने रविवार को यह जानकारी दी।

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि शनिवार को की गई कार्रवाई में सीबीआई ने ड्रोन आयात में शामिल एक एयरोस्पेस कंपनी से जुड़े माथुर और नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के मुख्यालय, नयी दिल्ली में 'एयरवर्दीनेस डायरेक्टरेट' के उप महानिदेशक मुदावथ देवुला को गिरफ्तार किया। सीबीआई प्रवक्ता ने एक बयान

● एक कॉर्पोरेट समूह का वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष है और दूसरा नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय में उप महानिदेशक है

में बताया कि आरोपी डीजीसीए के अधिकारी ने एक निजी एयरोस्पेस कंपनी के लिए डीजीसीए के पास लंबित आवेदनों की मंजूरी और संबंधित आदेश जारी करने के बदले में निजी व्यक्तियों से अनुचित लाभ की मांग की थी।

उन्होंने बताया, 'केंद्रीय एजेंसी ने नयी दिल्ली स्थित डीजीसीए मुख्यालय में एयरवर्दीनेस डायरेक्टरेट के उप महानिदेशक को एक निजी कंपनी के प्रतिनिधि के साथ 2.5 लाख रुपये के रिश्वत मामले में गिरफ्तार किया गया।

जयपुर से मुंबई के बीच नई फ्लाइट शुरू, मिलेगी राहत

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जयपुर जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए गुरुवार रात से एक नई फ्लाइट शुरू हुई। इससे देर रात आवाजाही करने वाले यात्रियों को राहत मिलेगी। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के अनुसार स्पाइस जेट एयरलाइंस की यह फ्लाइट मुंबई से रात 10 बजकर 35 मिनट पर जयपुर पहुंचेगी और जयपुर से रात 11 बजकर 25 मिनट पर मुंबई के लिए रवाना होगी। खास बात है कि



इस समय स्लॉट में नई फ्लाइट शुरू होने से खासतौर पर लेट नाइट ट्रेवल करने वाले पैसेजर्स को सुविधा मिलेगी। बताया जा रहा है कि इस फ्लाइट के शुरू होने के बाद अब जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए रोजाना 11 फ्लाइट्स संचालित होंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

19 APRIL 2026

Flights to Pune from city hit after IAF aircraft crash

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Chennai: A crash-landing of an Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft at Pune airport late on Friday night triggered widespread disruption to flight services from Chennai airport, leading to diversions, cancellations and chaos among passengers.

An Air India Express flight that departed Chennai at 10.05pm with 162 passengers on board was unable to land in Pune and was diverted to Mumbai airport. Another IndiGo flight, which took off from Chennai at 10.30pm carrying 148 passengers, was forced to return to Chennai after receiving information about the runway closure.

The disruption extended into Saturday, with multiple early-morning departures from Chennai to Pune cancelled. IndiGo flights scheduled at 1.10am, 3.10am and 4.50am were called off, while a SpiceJet service slated for 5.20am was also cancelled. In total, around 11 services on the Chennai-Pune-Chennai sector were affected.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

20 APRIL 2026

CBI arrests Dy DGCA, firm's top official over drone import 'bribery'

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

The CBI has arrested a deputy director general of civil aviation and the senior vice president of a major corporate group in a Rs 2.5 lakh bribery case to facilitate the import of drones for another private company, officials said Sunday.

In an operation on Saturday, the CBI arrested M Devula, Deputy Director General at the airworthiness directorate, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bharat Mathur, who is also associated with an aerospace company involved in drone technology—Asteria Aerospace Ltd.

The CBI has booked Mathur, Devula and Asteria Aerospace Ltd under the provisions of the Prevention of



Corruption Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The major corporate group where Mathur was working is not listed as accused in the FIR and is the "ultimate parent company" of Asteria Aerospace, according to Asteria Aerospace's financial statements for 2024-25. No immediate reaction was available from Asteria Aerospace or the corporate group.

The accused DGCA public

servant allegedly demanded undue advantage from private persons in lieu of issuing approvals and permissions for applications pending with DGCA for a private aerospace company, a CBI spokesperson said.

The CBI conducted searches at the premises of the accused public servant and other private persons across four locations in Delhi, resulting in the seizure of cash worth Rs 37 lakh along with gold and silver coins and multiple digital devices, the statement added.

According to the FIR, Devula allegedly indulged in corrupt activities with private entities in matters relating to the grant of approvals. — PTI