



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

18 MAY 2025

Airport shifts smaller aircraft to T-4 from June 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Indigo passengers flying from Chennai to Trichy, Tuticorin, Madurai, Mysore, Vijayawada, Salem, Rajamundry, and other cities on ATR flights must double-check their departure terminal. From June 1, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is shifting departures of these smaller aircraft from terminal 1 (T1) to terminal 4 (T4).

Indigo operates around 32 ATR flights a day from Chennai. These aircraft, with open turbine wings, seat up to 72 passengers—unlike the larger Airbus A320 that carries up to 180.

T1 remains Indigo's main domestic terminal. But to upgrade Taxiway H in June and July, AAI is closing six parking bays. To manage this, it has moved ATR flight departures to T4, which Air India and Air India Express currently use.

Officials said the strengthening of Taxiway H, a long-pending project, is planned for June and July. To minimize the impact of reduced bays, departures of ATR flights have been shifted to the other do-



FLYERS, TAKE NOTE

mestic terminal.

AAI has also made airside changes at Chennai airport to improve traffic flow and reduce delays. It straightened Taxiway F, near the Guindy end of the main runway, to let aircraft exit the runway faster and clear the path for incoming flights. A new holding point, Taxiway A, now allows aircraft to line up and exit efficiently, helping air traffic control manage movement on the ground.

Additionally, three cargo stands — 7, 8, and 9 — have been extended, re-oriented, and commissioned to boost cargo handling capacity. "This new orientation of the stands will help in quick pushback from stands as it is perpendicular to the taxiway," added the official.

Kerala Chief Minister unveils ₹200 crore IT infra project at Cochin Intl Airport

Our Bureau

Kochi

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday unveiled a ₹200-crore IT infrastructure project at the Cochin International Airport, aimed at fully digitising its operations.

Inaugurating the CIAL 2.0 project, the Chief Minister said that the airport had demonstrated a model of socialising profit and not privatisation.

The Chief Minister highlighted the strategic importance of safeguarding air passengers and protecting airport assets. With around 50,000 passengers travelling through CIAL daily and nearly 100,000 visiting the premises for travel-related needs, the security of digital assets becomes even more significant.

CIAL 2.0 encompasses various initiatives focused



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurating the ₹200 crore IT infrastructure project at Cochin International Airport Ltd

on artificial intelligence, automation and foolproof cybersecurity to address emerging challenges in cyberspace and enhance the travel experience, he said.

GLOBAL SCALE

In 2023–24, 37.5 crore people in India travelled by air, of which 27.5 crore were

domestic passengers. This marks a 21 per cent increase compared to the previous year, placing India third in the world in terms of domestic air passenger numbers. It is estimated that by 2040, India will see one billion air travellers annually. All airports in the country must prepare themselves to

accommodate such large-scale growth, the Chief Minister said.

Full-body scanners have been introduced, eliminating the need for physical pat-downs during security checks. An automated tray retrieval system has also been implemented to speed up cabin baggage screening.

Additionally, 4,000 AI-enabled surveillance cameras have been installed to strengthen airport and perimeter security. The airport's bomb detection and disposal system is also being upgraded through CIAL 2.0.

Also, several largescale projects launched last year are progressing rapidly. The apron construction, part of the ₹700 crore international terminal development, is in its final stages. The commercial zone in front of Terminal 3 is also advancing steadily. These developments have created around 29,000 job opportunities, he added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BANGALORE MIRROR

BANGALORE

18 MAY 2025

Kempegowda airport posts first profit

The Kempegowda International Airport has registered a record profit for the first time since its inception, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said on Saturday.

Opened in May 2008 to ease congestion at Bengaluru's HAL Airport, the Kempegowda International Airport has now reported a financial turnaround, marking a significant milestone in its operational journey. The record profit was announced following a board meeting of the Bangalore International Airport Authority, chaired by Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary to the Karnataka government and Chairperson of BIAL.

Officials attributed the airport's strong performance to strategic expansion, sustainability measures, and improved operational efficiency. -IANS

मुंबई एयरपोर्ट में पैसा लगाएगी अपोलो!

देव चटर्जी
मुंबई, 18 मई

वित्तीय सेवा क्षेत्र की अमेरिकी दिग्गज अपोलो ग्लोबल मैनेजमेंट मुंबई इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (मायल) में बॉन्ड के जरिये 75 करोड़ रुपये निवेश करने के लिए बातचीत कर रही है। मामले से अवगत लोगों ने यह जानकारी दी है। यह निवेश अपोलो की बीमा इकाई के जरिये होने की संभावना है, जो भारत में उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली बुनियादी ढांचा परिसंपत्तियों में निवेश करने का लक्ष्य लेकर चल रही है।

ऋण जुटाने की कवायद अदाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड (एएचएल) की बड़े पैमाने पर रकम जुटाने का हिस्सा है, जो भारत के सात हवाई अड्डों का परिचालन कर रही है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि एक अन्य लेनदेन में अदाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स अंतरराष्ट्रीय बैंकों के 75 करोड़ डॉलर का ऋण जुटाना चाह रही है।

मायल की बॉन्ड जारी करने की प्रक्रिया अगले कुछ हफ्तों में पूरा होने की उम्मीद है और उसमें अपोलो जैसे कई अमेरिकी वित्तीय संस्थाओं ने दिलचस्पी दिखाई है, जो भारतीय बुनियादी ढांचा को ऋण देने के लिए निवेशकों की रुचि दर्शाती है।

हालांकि, अपोलो ने इस मसले पर टिप्पणी करने से इनकार कर दिया है और अदाणी समूह ने इस बारे में भेजे गए ईमेल का कोई जवाब नहीं दिया।

अदाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स की ऋण सुविधा के जरिये जुटाई गई रकम पूंजीगत व्यय और सितंबर में परिपक्व होने वाले डॉलर आधारित ऋण को चुकाने में उपयोग की जाएगी। अप्रैल में वैश्विक ऋणदाताओं के एक समूह ने आईटीडी सीमेंटेशन के अधिग्रहण के लिए अदाणी समूह के एक फैमिली निवेश साधन को 75 करोड़ डॉलर का ऋण दिया था। बैंकों ने बताया कि ब्लैकरॉक ने आईटीडी सीमेंटेशन के लिए 25 करोड़ डॉलर का ऋण दिया था। प्रक्रिया में शामिल एक बैंकर ने कहा, 'चुनौतियों के बावजूद समूह प्रमुख अमेरिकी निवेशकों को आकर्षित कर रहा है।



मजबूत रेटिंग और अनुमानित नकदी प्रवाह ने दीर्घकालिक पूंजी लाने में मदद की है।'

अदाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स के पोर्टफोलियो में मुंबई, अहमदाबाद, मंगलूरु, जयपुर, लखनऊ, गुवाहाटी और तिरुवनंतपुरम हवाई अड्डा शामिल है। नवी मुंबई में उसकी नई परियोजना अगली तिमाही तक परिचालन शुरू करने वाली है। नवी मुंबई हवाई अड्डा के पूरी तरह शुरू हो जाने और राजस्व का पता चलने के बाद कंपनी अगले 2 से 3 वर्षों में आरंभिक सार्वजनिक निर्गम पेश करने की संभावना तलाश रही है।

इसकी मूल कंपनी अदाणी एंटरप्राइजेज लिमिटेड ने वित्त वर्ष

अदाणी के हवाई अड्डे में बॉन्ड के जरिये 75 करोड़ डॉलर निवेश के लिए चल रही बातचीत

2025-2027 के दौरान ऊर्जा, परिवहन और बुनियादी ढांचे पर कुल 1.32 लाख करोड़ रुपये (15.8 अरब डॉलर) का पूंजीगत व्यय किया है। इनमें नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के लिए

47,000 करोड़ रुपये, हवाई अड्डे के लिए 44,000 करोड़ रुपये, सड़क के लिए 19,000 करोड़ रुपये और नई पीवीसी परियोजनाओं के लिए 16,000 करोड़ रुपये शामिल हैं।

कुल मिलाकर समूह की 12 सूचीबद्ध संस्थाएं साल 2030 तक बदरगाहों, सड़कों, हवाई अड्डों और सीमेंट विस्तार सहित कई व्यवसायों में 100 अरब डॉलर का भारी-भरकम निवेश करने की योजना बना रही हैं। समूह का ध्यान व्यवसायों में नई इकाइयां स्थापित करने और सही मूल्यांकन होने पर ही विलय और अधिग्रहण के अवसरों की तलाश करने पर है। इसके अलावा समूह ने बीते वित्त वर्ष 2025 में उपभोक्ता फर्म अदाणी विल्मर में अपने निवेश से बाहर निकलकर 3,946 करोड़ रुपये का मुनाफा कमाया था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

Çelebi to HC: Security clearance can't hinge on public perception

Govt defends move citing national security

SHRANI MISHRA
New Delhi, 15 May

Turkish ground-handling and cargo operator Çelebi Airport Services India (formerly Çelebi Ground Handling Delhi) told the Delhi High Court on Monday that public perception could not be grounds for revoking security clearance. The company said it had been given neither a reason nor an opportunity for a hearing.

"We have been carrying out operations for 17 years without blemish. Then we received a letter on May 15 cancelling the security clearance. We were given no reason and no opportunity for a hearing. It is because of public perception that the company's shareholding is with Turkish nationals. But public perception cannot be grounds (for revocation of security clearance). There are 14,000 employees working. The entire business goes for a toss," Çelebi's lawyer told the court.

Justice Sachin Datta was hearing Çelebi's plea challenging the Indian government's decision to revoke its security clearance.

In its plea, Çelebi argued that the Indian government's decision was "arbitrary and devoid of specific reasons".

The Ministry of Civil Aviation, acting through the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), withdrew Çelebi's clearance on May 15, citing national security grounds. The move comes amid rising diplomatic tensions after Türkiye supported Pakistan during hostilities involving Operation Sindoor.

Çelebi, a wholly owned Indian subsidiary of Turkish parent company Çelebi Aviation Holding, argued that the government's order lacked prior notice or an opportunity to respond. The company described the justification as "vague" and "unsubstantiated", asserting that such actions jeopardise foreign investor confidence and threaten the livelihoods of Indian employees.

"Technically it's an Indian company. There has to be a reasonable cause. We were not given prior notice," Çelebi told the court.

The company also clarified that while it has Turkish ownership, operational and managerial control of its Indian entity is handled by an India-based team, and that it has maintained a clean track record for over a decade at major airports.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the central government, raised national security concerns over the firm's presence, saying, "The enemy can try 10 times and succeed once; a country has to succeed all the time."

"In cases of civil aviation and national security, there cannot be a doctrine of proportionality," he added. He also submitted that individuals employed by the company, who are deployed at airports, have access to every corner of the airport as well as to the aircraft.

"The government had inputs that it would be hazardous in the current scenario to leave this activity in the hands of this company," he said.

Mehta maintained that the revocation was rooted in concerns under the Aircraft (Security) Rules, particularly Rule 12. Rule 12 of Aircraft (Security) Rules, 2023, grants the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) the power to suspend or cancel security clearances and security programmes.

The court asked the Centre to demonstrate the "genuine apprehension" that warranted revocation of the civil aviation licence without prior notice, underscoring the need for transparency even in matters flagged under national security.

Mehta replied that the ministry retains the exclusive right to revoke licences without assigning reasons under certain circumstances.

The arguments are likely to continue on Wednesday.





Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

केंद्र ने तुर्किये की कंपनियों का हाईकोर्ट में विरोध किया

नई दिल्ली, प्रसं। केन्द्र सरकार ने सोमवार को दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट में तुर्किये की कंपनी सेलेबी एयरपोर्ट सर्विसेज इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड व एक अन्य फर्म की याचिकाओं का विरोध किया। इन अर्जियों में विमानन नियामक बोर्ड द्वारा सुरक्षा मंजूरी रद्द करने के फैसले को चुनौती दी गई है।

न्यायमूर्ति सचिन दत्ता की पीठ के समक्ष केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने कहा कि यह निर्णय राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के हित में लिया गया है, क्योंकि कुछ इनपुट मिले थे कि याचिकाकर्ता कंपनियों की सेवाएं जारी रखना वर्तमान स्थिति में खतरनाक होगा। तुर्किये समर्थित पाकिस्तान द्वारा पड़ोसी देश में आतंकी शिविरों पर भारत के हमलों की निंदा करने के कुछ दिनों बाद ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सेफ्टी (बीसीएस) ने फर्मों की सुरक्षा मंजूरी रद्द कर दी थी। सेलेबी एयरपोर्ट सर्विसेज इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड व सेलेबी दिल्ली कार्गो टर्मिनल मैनेजमेंट इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड क्रमशः ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग और कार्गो टर्मिनल कार्यों को देखरेख कर रहे थे।

सॉलिसिटर जनरल ने कहा कि यह राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का मुद्दा है। इसीलिए सुरक्षा मंजूरी रद्द की गई है। फर्म की तरफ से वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता मुकुल रोहतगी पेश हुए। रोहतगी ने तर्क दिया कि यह निर्णय सार्वजनिक धारणा के कारण लिया गया है। यह मंजूरी रद्द करने का आधार नहीं हो सकता।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

Liquor shop at Delhi Airport's Terminal 3 runs into trouble — poor stock, staff issues and a dip in sales

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, MAY 19

DELHI AIRPORT authorities have flagged low sales, operational issues, and poor stock to the Delhi Consumer's Co-operative Wholesale Store Limited (DCCWS), which operates the liquor shop in the arrival section of Terminal 3 (T3) at the IGI Airport, sources said.

In an email to DCCWS, the airport authority also highlighted that the ongoing "operational issue" and restricted entry of staff have affected customer experience.

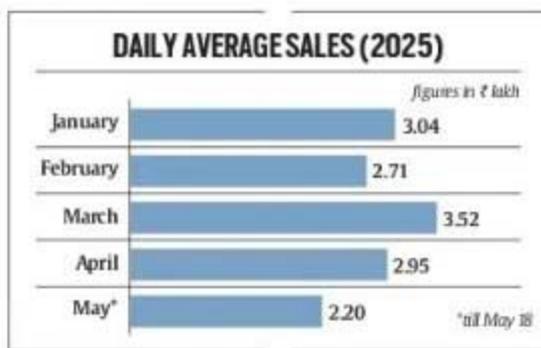
"This is to bring to your notice that for the past two months, the store is facing operational challenges — stock issues... leading to loss of business... Staff airport entry issue is also leading to non-adequate manpower at stores, leading to inconsistent customer experience," said officials.

The excise commissioner did not respond to messages and calls.

Sources said that the liquor outlet was shut for a few days



The store is run by Delhi Co-operative Wholesale Store Limited. Express



earlier this month due to the staff entry issues, and pasted a note outside the store saying, "The store's sales have been stopped due to the lack of staff passes."

"The entry pass/identity card of staff who work at the liquor shop was not renewed, due to which the shop was closed for a couple of days. But, the issue was resolved later," an official from the Excise department had said then.

The airport also highlighted a drop in the daily average sales due to operational challenges.

According to data, the daily average sale was Rs 3.04 lakh in January, which dropped to Rs Rs 2.20 lakh in May.

The data shows that the daily average sales went down in February to Rs 2.71 lakh but picked up in March, generating Rs 3.52 lakh daily. But it dropped in the following months.

"We must appreciate the fact that when the store was open, it created a lot of buzz... at the Delhi airport... We request you to kindly intervene and resolve the issue immediately," read the communication.

This liquor shop at T3 was the

only such store and was re-opened almost two years after it was shut following the investigations and probe by investigating agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), into the now-scrapped liquor policy 2021-22.

The shop was reopened last year under the currently implemented excise regime.

It is the only duty-free liquor store that caters to domestic and international travellers. The walk-in store, with self-service, was opened last year under the DCCWS and operates 24x7.

Sources said that the contract of the liquor shop will expire on June 6.

Following the scrapping of the old liquor policy, Delhi has only government-run liquor stores. There are four corporations — DCCWS, Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation, Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited — which run these shops across the city.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

Centre opposes Turkish firm Celebi's plea against revoking security clearance

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday opposed in the Delhi High Court pleas of Turkish company Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd and another firm against the decision of aviation watchdog BCAS revoking its security clearance.

Appearing before Justice Sachin Datta, Centre's Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued the decision was taken in the interest of national security in light of certain inputs that continuing the services of the petitioner companies would be hazardous in the current scenario.

The security clearance of the firms was revoked by Bureau of Civil Aviation Safety (BCAS) on May 15, days after Turkey-backed Pakistan and condemned India's strikes on terror camps in the neighbouring country.

Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd and Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India Pvt Ltd were overseeing ground handling and cargo ter-

HIGHLIGHTS

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» The security clearance of the firms was revoked by

Bureau of Civil Aviation Safety (BCAS) on May 15, days after Turkey-backed Pakistan and condemned India's strikes on terror camps in the neighbouring country



minal functions, respectively.

"I am saying that it is a national security issue and the order (revoking clearance) reflects the same," Mehta said.

"Enemy can make 10 attempts and has to succeed in one. While security agencies have to succeed on all 10 occasions. National security based upon civil aviation security has to be placed on the highest pedestal," he further argued.

SG Mehta handed over certain records to court in a sealed

cover in support of his claims.

He said giving reasons might be counter-productive and prejudice sovereignty and security of the nation. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appeared for the firms and argued the decision was taken due to "public perception", which could not have been a ground. The security clearance, he said, was revoked without any opportunity of hearing or reason. "It appears to me that is because of public perception because the shareholding of the

company is of Turkish nationals," Rohatgi added.

Petitioner firms, he said, had been carrying out ground handling operations with thousands of employees in various airports for the last 17 years "without any blemish" but its security clearance was "suddenly" revoked.

The petitioners were not "rouge" companies whose business could be trammelled with "one stroke" on a day's notice, Rohatgi said.

He also informed that the security clearance was governed by Aircraft Security Rules.

Justice Datta asked if the court could sit in appeal over such decisions and if serving a prior notice was mandatory under such conditions and posted the matter on May 21.

"It (notice) may defeat the purpose (of revocation). As long as apprehension exists.. and apprehension is not justifiable under Article 226. Who is to say apprehension is well founded or not?" the judge said.

Rohatgi said the onus was on the authorities to show that the situation was "so grave" that it

required immediate action and national security could be used as a *carte blanche*.

Mehta, however, said the rule of proportionality could not be applied to cases concerning national security.

"The rule is better safe than sorry," the judge said.

Celebi, operating in the Indian aviation sector for over 15 years and employing over 10,000 people, offers its services at nine airports.

BCAS, in an order, said, "... the security clearance in r/o Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd is hereby revoked with immediate effect in the interest of national security." The security clearance to the company, part of Turkey's Celebi, was given in November 2022. Celebi handles around 58,000 flights and 5,40,00 tonne of cargo annually in India, according to its website. It is present at Mumbai, Delhi, Cochin, Kanpur, Bangalore, Goa, Hyderabad Ahmedabad and Chennai airports. Pakistan also used Turkish drones on a large scale in the military conflict with India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

PINARAYI NOD

₹200 cr IT infra project launched at Kochi Airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

INDIA will see one billion air travellers annually by 2040 and all airports in the country must prepare to accommodate such large-scale growth, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here on Monday. He was speaking during the launch of the ₹200-crore CIAL 2.0 project, which aims to fully digitise the operations of Cochin International Airport.

"In 2023-24, 375 million people in India travelled by air, of which 275 million were domestic passengers. This marks a 21% increase compared to the previous year, placing India third in the world in terms of domestic air passenger numbers. It is estimated that by 2040, India will see one billion air travellers annually. All airports in the country must prepare, on their own, to accommodate such large-scale growth," Pinarayi said.

The CM emphasised the strategic importance of ensuring the safety of air passengers and the protection of airport assets. With around 50,000 passengers travelling through Kochi Airport daily and close to 100,000 people visiting the premises for travel-related needs, the security of digital assets becomes even more significant. The airport also hosts over 400 government and non-government agencies, 30 airlines, around 200 commercial establishments including hotels, and more than 12,000 employees, making it a vast and complex travel hub.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

Govt to HC: Turkish co's security clearance pulled on intel inputs

Submits These In Sealed Cover, Says Can't Be Revealed

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New Delhi: Better to be safe than sorry, the Delhi high court remarked Monday while hearing a plea by Turkish firm Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd against revocation of its security clearance by the central govt. Opposing the plea, solicitor general Tushar Mehta told the court that the decision was taken in the interest of national security following certain intelligence inputs that it would be "hazardous" to permit the company to continue ground handling operations at nine airports in the country.

The senior law officer shared the inputs with the court in a sealed cover, telling Justice Sachin Datta that dis-

'IT MATTERS WHO CONTROLS'

► On May 15, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security revoked Celebi's security clearance citing 'national security'

► SG Tushar Mehta says 'doctrine of proportionality' doesn't apply in matters of national security

► Celebi argues that it employs Indian citizens to handle services across nine airports; SG says 'who controls and who gives instructions, that matters'

closing them would be counterproductive and affect national interest and security.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Celebi, said the company has been operating in India for 17 years and had 14,000 employees.

► 'Nat'l security', P 11

Civil aviation & nat'l security intertwined, SG Mehta tells HC

► Continued from P 1

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta argued civil aviation and national security are interdependent. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi contended Centre acted "because of public perception due to shareholding of the company by Turkish nationals" but pointed out that it is "an Indian company with Indian employees", adding "we are not a rogue company". The security clearance, he said, was revoked without any opportunity for a hearing or reason.

"The enemy can try 10 times and succeed once, the country has to succeed all the time... in cases of civil aviation and national security, there cannot be a doctrine of 'proportionality,'" Mehta countered. He said airport handling and cargo handling are "extremely sensitive operations: where personnel know and have access to 'every nook and cranny of the airport'".

Mehta said the case involved passenger and cargo handling contracts, noting intelligence inputs indicate that, given the prevailing security climate, allowing Celebi to continue operating poses significant risks. Rohatgi, however, insisted that govt must provide concrete evidence to substantiate its allegations, adding Celebi's airport ground handling operations in India are independent and professionally managed.

Justice Datta wondered if such a decision is even amenable to being heard in appeal by the court and if serving a prior notice was mandatory under such conditions, before posting the matter for further hearing on May 21. The security clearance of the firms was revoked by BCAS days after Turkey backed Pakistan and condemned India's strikes on terror camps in the neighbouring country.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

IndiGo turns to East, N-E Asia as tensions with Pak affect flights to West

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

To counter challenges posed by the ongoing tensions with Pakistan and the restrictions on air space, IndiGo plans to expand its operations to East and North-East Asia, industry sources told *businessline*.

As per sources, India's largest airline is likely to commence flights to Cambodia, South Korea, Japan and even China, from September 2025.

Sources told *businessline*,

that the plan will help IndiGo diversify its route network and allow it to capitalise on the growing demand for air travel.

"Rework on potential new destinations has taken place since the disruption caused due to the recent hostilities," sources said. "Flights to new destinations such as Cambodia, South Korea, and Japan are on the cards."

FLEET EXPANSION

Speaking to *businessline*, industry experts said that the East Asian market offers immense potential for growth,

IndiGo is likely to commence flights to Cambodia, South Korea, Japan and even China, from September 2025, said sources

driven by increasing economic ties and tourism. Besides, sources said, the addition of 787s and the upcoming induction of XLRs will boost international operations.

However, "These new flights will be started only after the commencement of Amsterdam and Manchester operations," sources said.

Notably, IndiGo plans to boost its wide-body fleet by damp-leasing six Boeing 787-9 aircraft from Norse Atlantic Airways. Accordingly, the first of these leased aircraft has been deployed on the Delhi-Bangkok route.

PLANS FOR EUROPE

Commenting on the induction of the Boeing 787, IndiGo's Chief Executive Pieter Elbers said, "This move rein-

forces our commitment to international growth and to our customers, promising to introduce more options on long-haul routes."

"As we accelerate towards our vision of becoming a global airline by 2030, this partnership enables us to bolster our wide-body operations while staying rooted in our India-first approach," he said. Meanwhile, undeterred by Pakistan's decision to close its airspace, IndiGo is set to proceed with its European expansion plan, with ticket bookings for its new flights to Amsterdam

and Manchester expected to open soon.

Accordingly, the low-cost carrier plans to initially operate these services from a key Indian city to these prominent European destinations as part of its expanding international network. Sources had earlier told *businessline* that the airline would follow a three-day and four-day schedule for its flights to Amsterdam and Manchester.

However, with the recent closure of Pakistan's airspace, IndiGo is also considering adjustments to its flight operations.

Air India may Flex Global Muscle with Over 10 New Codeshare Deals

Airline targeting 25% growth in international business over 3 years

Forum Gandhi

Mumbai: Air India is likely to sign more than 10 new codeshare agreements this fiscal year, senior officials said, adding this would significantly expand the carrier's reach across North America, Europe, and Africa.

The airline currently has 19 codeshares, compared to none during its acquisition by the Tata Group about two years ago. IndiGo, India's largest airline, currently has around 10 codeshares.

Air India is targeting 25% annual growth in international business over the next three years—a trend already visible with similar growth seen in FY25, an official said.

"These partnerships are a critical part of our international strategy," the official said. "They allow us to offer wider connectivity in markets where we don't yet have a direct



26.1%

SHARE OF TATA AIRLINES IN INDIA'S 48.5% INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC IN 2024

presence, especially in North America, Europe, and parts of Africa. They also help drive feeder traffic to our long-haul flights and improve aircraft utilisation."

Air India did not respond to ET's query.

The airline's international strategy combines two approaches—deepening presence in secondary cities within key markets and entering new geographies through partner carriers, officials said.

Air India's codeshare deals include Lufthansa, Singapore Airlines, United Airlines, and Air Canada—covering over 80 destinations. It also has interline agreements with 109 carriers, giving access to over 800 global destinations.

These partnerships now serve more than 25,000 passengers every week, driving a twofold surge in passenger traffic, and threefold jump in booking revenue, according to a presentation reviewed by ET.

Homegrown carriers flew 48.5% of international passengers in 2024 to and from India, as per DGCA data. Of this, Tata Group airlines Air India, Vistara—which has now been absorbed by Air India—and Air India Express had a 26.1% share.

"Network scale is key to competing with the Middle Eastern and European legacy carriers," said a person in the know. "Every new partnership improves not just reach but also relevance in global booking systems."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

In HC, govt defends action against Celebi

Shruti Kakkar

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NEW DELHI: The Bureau of Civil Aviation's (BCAS) decision to revoke Turkish firm Celebi's security clearance was based on inputs received by the government that allowing the firm to continue with its ground handling in nine airports including Delhi and Mumbai, would be hazardous, the Centre told the Delhi high court on Monday.

Opposing a plea filed by the Turkish firm against BCAS's May 15 decision, the Centre represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench of justice Sachin Datta, that the Turkish firm provided airport and cargo services, and its employees while providing such services had access to airport

BCAS REVOKED CELEBI'S SECURITY CLEARANCE ON MAY 15 CITING NATIONAL SECURITY

premises including the aircrafts, tarmac.

Justifying the government's action, Mehta said, "Government had inputs and it was found necessary that it would be hazardous in the scenario in which the nation is passing through, to leave this activity in the hands of this company."

He added: "There are two contracts which this company was handling: airport handling and cargo handling. In ground

handling, whoever are the persons employed can have access to every nook and corner of the airport, aircraft, tarmac itself."

"In cargo handling, there are two types of planes – passenger-cargo (planes) and (dedicated freight planes) like (those operated by) Blue Dart. We're more concerned with cargo plus passenger handling," he said.

The court fixed May 21 as the next date for hearing.

BCAS on May 15, revoked Celebi's security clearance, citing national security. "Nothing is above the security of our nation and our fellow citizens," civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said in a press release.

In its petition, Celebi sought the setting aside of the May 15 order, asserting that the government's decision to revoke its

clearance by merely citing national security, in the absence of any justification, was "vague" and "unsustainable in law".

During Monday's hearing, Celebi, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, submitted that the company has been carrying out its operations for 17 years and the decision was taken based on the basis of public perception that the company's shareholding consisted of Turkish nationals, which could not be a grounds to impact the employment of 14000 people.

However, the bench said, "Service of notice depends on the nature of the situation. It may be counter productive and it may defeat the action, that you may do something inimical to national security, the moment notice is given to you."

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HINDUSTAN TIMES

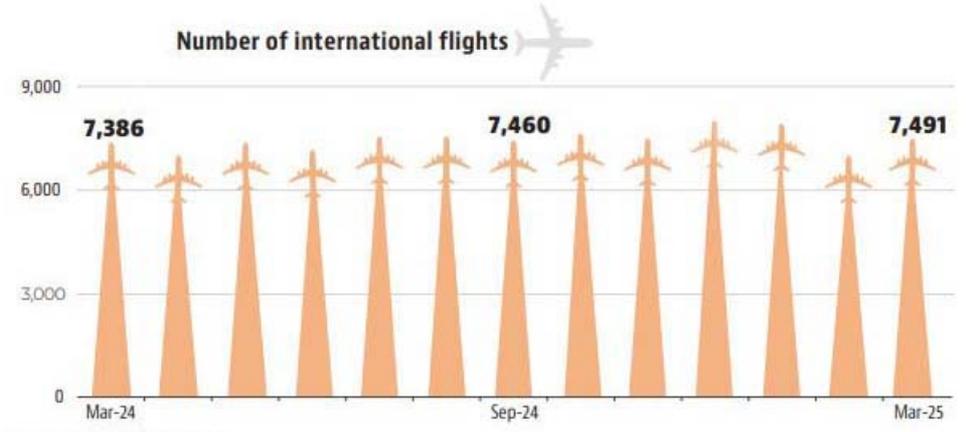
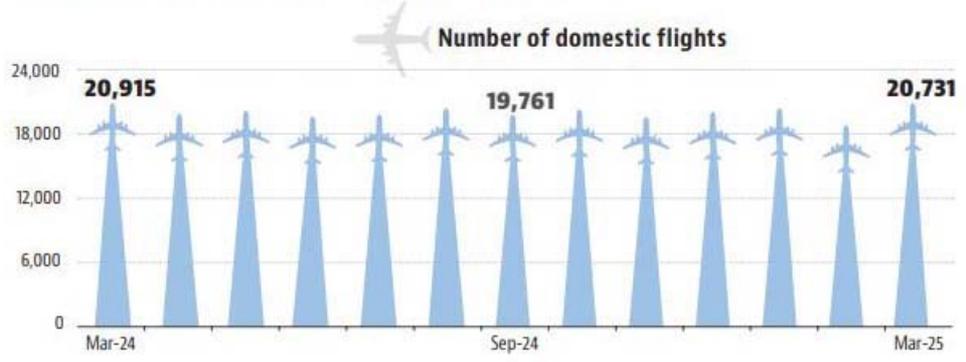
MUMBAI

19 MAY 2025



Air Traffic

In March 2025, the number of domestic flights from Mumbai fell 1% compared to March 2024 levels. International flights increased about 1%.



Source: Airports Authority of India



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

20 MAY 2025

'Better safe than sorry', says HC on govt's move against Celebi contract

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A Delhi High Court bench on Monday heard a petition filed by Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd and Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India Ltd against the termination of their services, and said it was better to be safe than sorry in cases where national security was involved.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) revoked the ground handling services contract of the Turkish-headquartered firms on May 15, citing national security. This was in light of Turkey backing Pakistan during the India-Pakistan confrontation post-Operation Sindoor. The firms contended that the decision was arbitrary.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the Centre, said, "I am saying that it is a national security issue and the order (revoking clearance) reflects the same. An enemy can make 10 attempts and succeed in one, while security

CISF to continue check-in bag screening till May 21

The Central Industrial Security Force will continue to monitor the check-in luggage of passengers and cargo operations at 69 civil airports until May 21. The four-day extension has been given by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

agencies have to succeed on all 10 occasions. National security based upon civil aviation security has to be placed on the highest pedestal."

Justice Sachin Datta responded, "The rule is better safe than sorry."

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for the firm, argued the decision was taken due to public perception. "It appears to me that it is because of public perception since the shareholding of the company is of Turkish nationals," he said. "The petitioners were not 'rogue' companies whose business could be trammelled with 'one stroke' on a day's notice," Rohatgi added.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

19 MAY 2025

Maintain website, DGCA tells flying schools

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

In a major reform, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday directed all flying schools in country to "maintain a dedicated website" with updated information on several parameters. These include, among other things, minimum and maximum time

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation asked flying schools to ensure information is displayed prominently on the website

taken to complete 200 hours of flying; number of aircraft, instructors, designated examiners, availability of ground school and simulators.

Apart from clearing DGCA exams and medical tests, completing 200 flying hours is a key requirement to earn a commercial pilot licence (CPL) in India. However, the long time it usually takes to do so due to multiple

factors like availability of planes and instructors — apart from other concerns like safety and quality of training at many schools — sends a large number of aspiring Indians pilots abroad every year for CPL training.

As reported by TOI on March 23, 2025, DGCA chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai decided to bring in transparency on FTOs. He sought to do so by requiring them to put in-

formation in public domain, based on which students choose them.

The aim is to make them competitive, safer and student-friendly. Setting that plan in motion, DGCA wrote to all flying schools in country Friday. "FTOs advised to maintain a dedicated website... it must be updated regularly. Specified information must be prominently displayed and kept current," DGCA's letter states.