



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

AAI COMMEMORATES 80TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) commemorated the 80th Independence Day at the Delhi Air Traffic Services Complex. The celebrations commenced with the resounding mass recital of Vande Mataram, echoing the spirit of national unity and pride. Vipin Kumar, IAS, Chairman, AAI, hoisted the National Flag in the presence of Pankaj Malhotra, Member (Finance), Anil Kumar Gupta, Member (Planning), Nivedita Dubey, Member (HR), Dr Sharad Kumar, Chief Advisor, senior officials of AAI, the Indian Air Force and CISF, and other officers and employees.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

19 AUGUST 2026

Airport oustees say fix land price

**PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS I DC**
ANUKUNTA (ADILABAD),
AUG. 18

The villagers of Anukunta, whose land is to be acquired for the proposed joint-user airfield at Adilabad, insist that the state government first fix the price of their lands before surveying them. The government has been cautioned that this would otherwise create panic among the villagers.

The state government has issued GO 36 dated

July 25, sanctioning ₹2,278.14 crore for development of the joint-user airfield in Adilabad. The villagers seek high compensation, considering their lands as part of a developing area as the area is just 2 km from Adilabad town. The village is merged with Adilabad municipality and falls in ward 4.

The government plans to acquire 2,009.23 acres, including 1,609.23 acres for the Indian Air Force and 400 acres for the civil aviation enclave, the maintenance, repair and

overhaul (MRO) and cargo facilities and hangars. Nearly 877 acres of land, including 600 agriculture acre, would likely be acquired in Shivaram of Anukunta village. The villagers regret that there is no clarity yet on the price to be offered for their lands as revenue officials "are not sharing any information" with them. "How could we take a decision about giving our lands without knowing the price," they ask.

Revenue officials say they will first identify

the farmers whose lands are falling in the map prepared for the project. Anukunta is the village that's mainly being affected by the proposed airport.

The villagers made it clear to the district officials that they want road connectivity alongside the compound wall of the proposed airport. Otherwise, they want the village to be relocated in full to the nearest place. A villager, M Srinivas, opposed the proposed alternative road via Kachkanti.



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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर ट्रांसशिपमेंट कार्गो का विस्तारित कार्य शुरू

जगरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नाथू ने आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-दो स्थित ट्रांसशिपमेंट एक्सप्रेस सेंटर से ट्रांसशिपमेंट कार्गो सुधार के विस्तारित चरण का शुभारंभ किया। यह सुधार देश में व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने और भारत को एक वैश्विक कार्गो ट्रांजिट हब बनाने की दिशा में एक कदम है।

उद्योग जगत की मांग पर ट्रांसशिपमेंट कार्गो की अनिवार्य रूप से दोबारा होने वाली री-स्क्रीनिंग को समाप्त कर दिया गया है, जिससे कार्गो टर्मिनल पर होने वाली भीड़, लागत और टर्नअराउंड समय में कमी आई है। चेन्नई-दिल्ली-फ्रैंकफर्ट मार्ग पर शुरू किए गए परीक्षण के शानदार परिणाम रहे, जिससे औसत ट्रांजिट समय 60 घंटे से घटकर मात्र 20 घंटे रह गया है, जबकि विमान की क्षमता भी बढ़कर करीब शत प्रतिशत पहुंच गई। इस सफलता के बाद अब इस सेवा का विस्तार करते हुए इसमें चार नए घरेलू स्टेशन बेंगलुरु, अहमदाबाद, मुंबई व हैदराबाद और दो नए अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्टेशन लंदन और कोपेन्हेगन जोड़े गए हैं। इससे मासिक कार्गो की क्षमता में 80 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हो सकती है।



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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

19 AUGUST 2026

Fire at Kolkata airport

KOLKATA: A minor fire broke out on the terrace of the old ATC building at NSCBI Airport early Tuesday. Airport fire brigade personnel doused the blaze within 30 minutes using three fire tenders. No injuries or major structural damage were reported, while flight operations continued uninterrupted. A probe is underway.



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THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

FLYING HIGH

IGIA stays among Top 15 busiest airports

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been ranked the 11th busiest airport in the world in terms of total passenger traffic in 2025 by Airports Council International (ACI), an organisation of airport authorities from around the world. A total of 2,800 airports across 185 countries and territories were considered for the analysis.

Notably, the IGIA is the only airport in India to feature among the top 15 busiest airports globally, even though it has slipped two spots from its 2024 ranking.

For three consecutive years from 2022 to 2024, the IGIA featured among the ACI's top 10



busiest airports. It was ranked ninth in 2022, slipped to 10th in 2023 and returned to ninth place in the 2024 rankings.

For its rankings, the ACI counts passengers arriving at and departing from an airport, with transit passengers counted only once.

The IGIA handled 7,81,48,081 passengers last year, marking a

Transshipment ops added for 2 destinations

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Wednesday flagged off transshipment cargo operations at Delhi's IGIA. Operations have been extended to two international destinations (London and Copenhagen) and four domestic destinations.

0.42% increase over its 2024 passenger traffic. Passenger traffic has been consistently growing at the Delhi airport, which is operated by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a GMR-led consortium. Compared with 2019, the passenger traffic has grown by 14%.

The Hartsfield-Jackson At-

lanta International Airport in the US continues to rank first in the world, with 10,63,02,208 passengers. It has remained at the top for the last 27 years. The Dubai International Airport ranks second with 9,51,92,160 passengers, while Tokyo's Haneda Airport ranks third with 9,16,79,814 passengers. Apart from Tokyo, two airports in China rank above India. The Shanghai Pudong International Airport handled 8,49,94,548 passengers, while the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport handled 8,35,82,952 passengers.

The post-pandemic recovery, particularly driven by the boom in domestic passenger traffic, has helped Delhi rank among the world's busiest airports.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

19 AUGUST 2026

Fire breaks out at airport's ATC building:

Kolkata: Panic gripped Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Dum Dum early on Tuesday after a fire broke out in the Air Traffic Control (ATC) building. The blaze was reported from the third floor of the building at around 4 a.m, triggering an immediate response from airport authorities and the fire brigade. Airport employees noticed sparks coming from a portion of the third floor and soon found the area in flames. Thick black smoke spread across the building, creating a tense situation. A fire engine stationed at the airport was rushed to the spot and firefighters began efforts to bring the blaze under control. Two more fire engines were subsequently pressed into service. After several minutes of firefighting, the blaze was brought under control. No major damage or casualties have been reported, airport authorities said. Fire officials suspect that a short circuit in decorative lights installed at the ATC building may have triggered the fire.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

19 AUGUST 2026

Reduction In Visibility Has Contributed To Frequent Flight Delays, Says Corresponding Author

U.Tejonmayam@timesofindia.com

Visibility at Chennai International Airport has declined by about 800m — from 5.6km in 2016 to around 4.8km in 2024 — as weather disturbances and urban pollution increased. This increases the likelihood of flight disruptions, particularly during winter mornings, a study by India Meteorological Department has found.

The researchers analysed weather observations recorded every 30 minutes at the airport between Jan 2016 and Dec 2024. They found consistent decline in annual mean visibility, indicating the deterioration was sustained rather than a result of year-to-year fluctuations.

Nov recorded the poorest average visibility, around 3.75km, while April had the highest of about 6.1km. The most severe low-visibility events occurred between Dec and Feb, with Jan recording the highest number of dense fog episodes, including occasions when visibility dropped below 200m. Fog typically began forming about 3.30am, with visibility reaching its lowest between 6.30am and 7am, coinciding with the morning peak in flight departures and arrivals. On average, the airport experienced 5.2 foggy days in Jan, 4.8 in Feb, 3.9 in Dec and 3.1 in March.

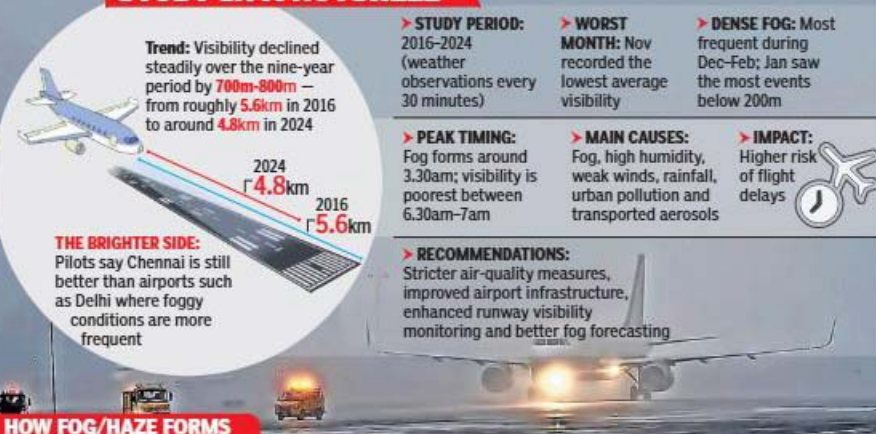
"This reduction in visibility has contributed to frequent flight delays, particularly during early morning hours (around 6.30-7am), when the lowest values are typically recorded in METAR (meteorological aerodrome report)," corresponding author Arkadeb Banerjee of IMD said.

The airport handles around 25 arrivals and 20 departures during peak operational hours between 5am and 8am. In Jan this year, Chennai recorded 3,712 international aircraft movements, up from 3,435 in Jan 2025, while domestic aircraft movements fell from 10,713 to 9,551.

The study attributed the worsening visibility to fog, mist, rainfall, high humidity, weak winds and increasing

Airport visibility drops 800m in 9 years, IMD study finds

STUDY IN A NUTSHELL



concentrations of aerosols and pollutants. Air-mass trajectory analysis showed that both locally generated pollution and aerosols transported from other regions contributed to reduced visibility. "Backward trajectory analysis suggests aerosol transport contributes to these conditions, reinforcing the role of local pollution and regional atmospheric processes," Banerjee said.

nerjee said.

The researchers also found that moderate low-visibility events have become more common over the years, although extremely dense fog events showed a slight long-term decline. Jan, however, continued to record the highest frequency of visibility below 400m and 200m. Visibility below 1,500m is operationally significant because air-

ports must report runway visual range (RVR), which determines whether aircraft can safely take off or land in poor visibility, researchers said. "The findings highlight a need for stricter air-quality measures, improved airport infrastructure, and adaptive operational strategies," co-author V R Durai said. "The rising frequency of fog necessitates strengthened RVR monitoring, enhanced instrument landing capabilities, and proactive crew preparedness to ensure passenger safety and minimize economic losses."

Aviation safety expert Mohan Ranganathan attributed the decline in visibility to urban pollution, dust from rapid construction, rising temperatures, shrinking green spaces and adverse weather conditions.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

DGCA seeks doping test of airlines crew

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) wants all airlines to randomly test more than 25 per cent of flight crew, particularly pilots, each year for psychoactive substances using urine samples. The move comes after a pilot of Air India AI-2379 Phuket-Delhi flight tested positive to drugs and has been de-rostered since then till inquiry is over. From August 13, Air India has started full screening of all its group pilots for any substances or medications that are not permitted under prevailing regulations. During the checks two pilots tested positive for drugs. Air India submitted these test reports to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation which is looking into it.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

स्पाइसजेट को मिली एनसीएलटी से राहत



नई दिल्ली। विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट को राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून न्यायधिकरण (एनसीएलटी) से बुधवार को बड़ी राहत मिली। एनसीएलटी ने विमान पट्टेदार एविएटर एमएल को स्पाइसजेट के खिलाफ दायर दिवालिया याचिका वापस लेने की अनुमति दे दी। दोनों पक्षों को कुल 15 लाख रुपये जुर्माना देना होगा। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

Air India Express introduces substance use self-declaration

AVERTING DANGER. Move aimed at early intervention, strengthening safety reporting

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Tata Group-promoted Air India Express has introduced a voluntary self-declaration process for employees to report the use, misuse, dependence on or abuse of psychoactive substances, sources told *businessline*. The move, said sources, is part of a structured and confidential safety reporting mechanism.

According to sources, the initiative has been introduced in accordance with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) civil aviation requirements (CAR).

The current CAR encourages crews to voluntarily declare any psychoactive substance use that may affect their fitness for duty and ability to safely perform assigned responsibilities.

Accordingly, the airline has circulated a safety circular titled 'Safety Circular 04 of 2026 - Self Declaration for



SAFE FLIGHT. Employees can make a voluntary declaration through the airline's safety reporting platform or through designated e-mail addresses *REUTERS*

Use of Psychoactive Substances' among employees.

Under the process, employees can make a voluntary declaration through the airline's safety reporting platform, or through designated e-mail addresses.

The circular said that self-declarations will be handled with strict confidentiality and shared only on a need-to-know basis with authorised personnel identified in

the circular. According to sources, the objective of the initiative is to promote safety, employee well-being, early intervention and recovery through a confidential and structured reporting process.

The initiative is not a reaction to any specific incident, and does not indicate any specific issue within the airline, said sources.

Rather, they pointed out

that it is a measure being positioned as a proactive safety and well-being initiative, aimed at strengthening the reporting culture and safety governance within the airline. Meanwhile, industry insiders say other airlines may follow suit.

DRUG SCANDAL

At present, the aviation industry has been rocked by a drug scandal after the pilot-in-command of the August 4 Air India Phuket-Delhi flight returned a non-negative preliminary screening result in a test for psychoactive substances. As of now, the results of the secondary test have not been officially confirmed.

The pilot was tested after he commanded the Air India flight operated on an Airbus A320neo registered VT-EXO. Notably, the aircraft suffered a sudden loss of altitude of around 300 feet during cruise before stabilising and landing safely in Delhi.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

NCLT set to hear claims of lessors against SpiceJet

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will hear afresh seven insolvency petitions filed by aircraft lessors against SpiceJet. The development comes after one of the original litigants, Aviator ML, withdrew its petition following a settlement with the airline.

The tribunal had prepared a judgment covering eight petitions against SpiceJet.

However, following the withdrawal of the Aviator ML petition, the judgment could not be delivered, and the remaining seven matters will now be heard afresh by a new Bench.

'A POSITIVE STEP'

On its part, SpiceJet welcomed the development, describing the order as a positive step towards resolving the outstanding matters.

"We view the order as a positive step towards resolv-



ing the outstanding matters and remain committed to working closely and constructively with our partners to find mutually acceptable solutions," said a SpiceJet spokesperson.

The airline said it remained focused on rebuilding its operations and restoring its fleet.

"SpiceJet has been through a challenging period and is focused on rebuilding the airline, strengthening its operations and restoring its fleet," said the spokesperson.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

Campbell Wilson to join Air New Zealand board



New Delhi: Outgoing Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson has been appointed as Director on the board of Air New Zealand, subject to shareholder approval, the airline announced. Wilson has more than three decades of experience in aviation, and has previously held multiple senior executive positions across the industry. He had earlier held several senior executive roles at Singapore Airlines, including that of Senior Vice-President, Sales and Marketing. Wilson was also the founding Chief Executive Officer of Scoot, Singapore Airlines' low-cost carrier. Further, Wilson has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Air Transport Association. OUR

BUREAU

स्पाइसजेट को विमान देने वाली कंपनी को याचिका वापस लेने की इजाजत

भाविनी मिश्रा

नई दिल्ली, 19 अगस्त

राष्ट्रीय कंपनी कानून पंचाट (एनसीएलटी) के दिल्ली पीठ ने विमान लीज पर देने वाली कंपनी एविएटर एमएल 29641 लिमिटेड को स्पाइसजेट के खिलाफ अपनी दिवाला याचिका वापस लेने की इजाजत दे दी। दोनों पक्षों के अपने विवाद का निपटारा करने के बाद यह इजाजत दी गई। साथ ही पंचाट ने मामले को आदेश के लिए सुरक्षित रखे जाने के बाद समझौता करने पर उन्हें संयुक्त रूप से 15 लाख रुपये का खर्च भरने का निर्देश भी दिया।

न्यायिक सदस्य महेंद्र खंडेलवाल और तकनीकी सदस्य अनु जगमोहन सिंह के विशेष पीठ ने दोनों पक्षों को 7 दिन के भीतर प्रधानमंत्री राष्ट्रीय राहत कोष में 7.5 लाख रुपये जमा करने का आदेश दिया। ट्रिब्यूनल रजिस्ट्री के समक्ष भुगतान का प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करने के बाद ही याचिका वापस ली जा सकेगी। ऐसा न करने पर मामला दोबारा सूचीबद्ध कर दिया जाएगा।

पंचाट ने स्पाइसजेट के खिलाफ 7 अन्य दिवाला याचिकाओं पर अपने सुरक्षित आदेशों को भी वापस ले लिया और निर्देश



एनसीएलटी के दिल्ली पीठ का फैसला

■ एविएटर एमएल 29641 लिमिटेड और स्पाइसजेट ने किया समझौता

■ दोनों पक्षों को 15 लाख रुपये का खर्च भरने का भी दिया निर्देश

दिया कि उन्हें नए सिरे से विचार के लिए नियमित पीठ के समक्ष रखा जाए।

विमान किराये पर देने वाली कंपनी ने साल 2024 में दिवालियापन और ऋणशोधन अक्षमता संहिता की धारा 9 के तहत कार्रवाई शुरू की थी। इसमें 58.64 करोड़ रुपये के भुगतान में चूक का आरोप लगाया गया था। विमानन कंपनी के खिलाफ इसी तरह की 7 अन्य याचिकाओं के साथ इस मामले की सुनवाई की गई थी और इस पर मूल रूप से

17 अगस्त को फैसला सुनाया जाना था।

आदेश सुनाए जाने से पहले ही दोनों पक्षों ने पंचाट को बताया कि उन्होंने रातोंरात एक निपटान समझौता कर लिया है। इसके तहत स्पाइसजेट ने 5,00,000 डॉलर का शुरुआती भुगतान किया है। इसके बाद विमान किराये पर देने वाली कंपनी को औपचारिक रूप से याचिका वापस लेने की अनुमति देने के लिए मामला स्थगित कर दिया गया था।

CCI eases commitment norms; Google, IndiGo pleas await nod

RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI

Panaji, 19 August

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has notified new commitment regulations, extending the timeline for filing such applications from 45 days to 60 days.

In a notification dated August 18, the CCI increased the period available for its preliminary consideration of commitment applications from seven to 15 working days and the total timeline from 130 to 180 days.

The Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023 introduced Sections 48A and 48B of the Act to create a settlement and commitment mechanism that allows companies facing antitrust investigations to voluntarily offer corrective measures or agree to certain terms to resolve cases without prolonged litigation.

No commitment proposal has yet been approved by the CCI since the provision's introduction. Two proposals currently under consideration: From InterGlobe Aviation, which runs IndiGo airline, and Google. Google's application relates to a probe into alleged



ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

unfair business practices regarding the listing of real money gaming apps on the Play Store. InterGlobe's commitment is related to an abuse-of-dominance investigation arising from the widespread flight disruptions experienced in December 2025.

Public consultation for both applications has been conducted and the Commission has to take a final decision on the matter.

The CCI said the changes to the commitment regulations were based on experience gained from implementing the framework, which revealed certain

administrative and procedural issues. These related to prescribed timelines, rectification of defects in applications, and lack of clarity over adjustment of fees and the consequences of invalid applications.

The CCI had invited comments on the proposed changes from stakeholders. Some suggested that commitment applications should be permitted at any stage before submission of the Director General's investigation report.

The CCI, however, said allowing commitment applications until submission of the investigation

Revised regulations

- CCI raises deadlines for filing commitment applications from 45 days to 60 days
- Preliminary consideration period increased from 7 to 15 working days
- Processing timeline extended from 130 to 180 days
- Two proposals under consideration — from InterGlobe Aviation, Google

report would reduce procedural certainty, undermine the objective of early intervention and delay the inquiry process.

"The commitment mechanism is intended to facilitate early market correction and promote prompt resolution of competition concerns while conserving the investigative resources of both the Commission and the Director General," the CCI said.

The settlement and commitment option is available only to those facing inquiries into abuse of dominant position. Cartels are excluded from the mechanism.

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

NCLT lets SpiceJet lessor withdraw IBC petition, imposes ₹15 lakh costs

BHAVINI MISHRA
New Delhi, 19 August

The Delhi bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday permitted aircraft lessor Aviator ML 29641 Limited to withdraw its insolvency plea against SpiceJet after the parties settled their dispute. The tribunal, however, directed the parties to jointly pay ₹15 lakh in costs for reaching a settlement after the matter had been reserved for orders.

A special bench of Judicial Member Mahendra Khandelwal and Technical Member Anu Jagmohan Singh ordered both sides to deposit ₹7.5 lakh each with the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund within seven days. The withdrawal will take effect only after proof of payment is filed before the tribunal registry, failing which



Case study

- ₹58.64-cr plea withdrawn: NCLT allows Aviator ML to withdraw insolvency case against SpiceJet after settlement
- ₹15 lakh cost: Both parties to pay ₹7.5 lakh each to PM National Relief Fund
- No settlement terms on record: NCLT permits only unconditional withdrawal; refuses revival clause
- 7 cases de-reserved: Other SpiceJet insolvency pleas sent to regular Bench for fresh hearing

the matter will be relisted.

The tribunal also withdrew its reserved orders in seven other insolvency petitions against SpiceJet and directed that they be placed before the regular

bench for fresh consideration.

The lessor had initiated proceedings under Section 9 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in 2024, alleging a default of ₹58.64 crore. The case

had been heard alongside seven similar petitions against the airline and was originally scheduled for judgment on August 17.

Before the order could be pronounced, the parties informed the tribunal that they had signed a settlement agreement overnight, with SpiceJet making an initial payment of \$500,000. The matter was then adjourned to allow the lessor to formally seek withdrawal.

When the parties requested that the settlement be taken on record and that they be allowed to revive the insolvency case if the agreement was breached, the bench declined. It said the NCLT's role was confined to insolvency proceedings and not to supervising private settlements and, so, it would allow only an unconditional withdrawal.

More on business-standard.com



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

After the plunge

Safety must be the top priority for airlines

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), the two institutions responsible for safety-related incidents, should come up with a final investigation report soon on why a Phuket-Delhi Air India flight suddenly dropped 300 feet, injuring many passengers and crew members on August 4. The findings so far have revealed two things — issues related to all three hydraulic systems on the Airbus A320 plane and a captain who had consumed marijuana ahead of taking charge in the cockpit. The data recorder shows a rare loss of pressure across all the hydraulic systems and the flight losing all key controls, including its elevators (for up/down pitch) and ailerons (for left/right roll) for four seconds. Without clarity on what really caused the 300-foot plunge, the conjecture is that the captain, who failed a dope test after the flight, may have been unable to control the elevators and ailerons after the simultaneous failure of the hydraulic systems. While the DGCA is in the process of making the guidelines more stringent for tests to detect drug and psychoactive substance, the investigation should go deep into the simultaneous failure of all three hydraulic systems on the flight.

The latest incident comes just a year after the fatal Boeing 787 Air India crash, which is yet to find a closure with no clarity on what caused the catastrophic accident in Ahmedabad just seconds after takeoff. On the issue of doping in particular, there's an effort to take the tests procedures to international level, with Federation of Indian Pilots President C S Randhawa telling the DGCA that it should be made mandatory to test 25 per cent of the pilots on a random basis, rather than 10 per cent now. Besides the captain of the Phuket-Delhi flight, two other pilots have tested positive. This is a serious concern and Air India must double down on safety measures to restore passenger trust.

Going beyond the current regulatory ask, Air India has ordered a mandatory one-time test for drugs and psychoactive substances for its 5,000-plus pilots. However, ensuring that the drive is not just on paper will be paramount. It's also an alarm bell for the regulator — the DGCA — to be more vigilant so that all airlines are compliant in a foolproof manner. According to the present DGCA rules, all scheduled airlines and air-traffic controllers must randomly test at least 10 per cent of their safety-sensitive personnel, including pilots, for psychoactive substances every year. These tests are also mandatory after any accident or safety-related incident. In many developed countries, the rules are much stricter and part of a regime. In the United States, for instance, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Transportation mandate airlines to randomly test a minimum of 25 per cent of their safety-sensitive workforce, including commercial pilots, for drugs every year and 10 per cent for alcohol.

Among others, there are pre-employment tests, post-accident tests, and those for reasonable suspicion and return to duty. If a pilot fails or refuses a test, the consequences include immediate grounding, evaluation by a substance-abuse professional, and treatment followed by unannounced follow-up testing before returning to work. In the expanding Indian aviation sector, which is a duopoly for all practical purposes, safety should be the top priority for the companies. That must be accompanied by international-standard regulatory oversight.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

भास्कर नॉलेज

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दिया है निर्देश

प्लाइट किराया अचानक कितना बढ़ेगा, नए नियम में क्या संभव?

नई दिल्ली | सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र से हवाई किराए से जुड़े नियम 7 सितंबर तक तैयार करने को कहा है। कोर्ट ने कहा कि नियम तोड़ने वाली एयरलाइन पर सख्त कार्रवाई, यहां तक कि उसे ग्राउंड करने का प्रावधान होना चाहिए।



जानिए इससे यात्रियों को क्या फायदा होगा...

• **एक ही रूट और एक ही दिन में कितना अंतर?**
सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहले एक ही रूट और दिन पर 8,000 और 18,000 तक किराए के अंतर पर सवाल उठा चुका है। कुम्भ और त्योहारों में किराए सामान्य से करीब तीन गुना होने का मुद्दा भी कोर्ट में उठा।

• **अभी टिकट का किराया कैसे तय करते हैं?**
डायनेमिक प्राइसिंग तकनीक में मांग बढ़ते ही किराया अपने आप बढ़ने लगता है। यात्रा की तारीख पास आने या सीटें कम होने पर अचानक अत्यधिक बढ़े हुए किराए को ही 'सर्ज प्राइसिंग' कहते हैं।

• **त्योहार-आपदा में किराया बढ़ाने के क्या नियम?**
सामान्य परिस्थितियों में किराया बढ़ाने की कोई ऊपरी सीमा तय नहीं है। इसी वजह से एयरलाइंस यात्रियों की मजबूरी का फायदा उठाकर किराया बढ़ा देती हैं।

• **नए नियम से सर्ज प्राइसिंग पर कैप लगेगा?**
अंतिम नियम अभी सार्वजनिक नहीं हुए हैं, इसलिए निश्चित कैप लगने का दावा करना जल्दबाजी होगा। हालांकि, सरकार का मुख्य उद्देश्य मनमाने किराए पर लगाम और बुकिंग को पारदर्शी बनाना है।

• **एयरलाइन न मानें तो क्या कार्रवाई संभव है?**
नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वाली या यात्रियों को परेशान करने वाली एयरलाइंस के जहाजों को ग्राउंड करने जैसी सख्त कार्रवाई का प्रावधान बनाया जा सकता है।

• **7 सितंबर के बाद क्या बदल सकता है?**
यात्रियों को हिडन चार्ज से मुक्ति मिल सकती है, रिफंड प्रक्रिया तेज होगी और मनमाने किराए पर अंकुश लगेगा। इससे आम यात्रियों को टिकट बुकिंग से लेकर सफर तक में बेहतर अधिकार और राहत मिलेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

SpiceJet Case: Court to Hear Pleas Afresh

New Delhi: An Indian court said bankruptcy petitions filed by aircraft lessors against cash-strapped SpiceJet will be heard afresh by a new bench, after the airline reached a last-minute settlement with one lessor. The move is a setback to aircraft leasing companies that have waged a years-long battle against India's fourth-largest airline to recover debts, but is a reprieve for SpiceJet as its existing management will remain in control of the airline while the insolvency petitions are reconsidered. The National Company Law Tribunal had prepared a judgment covering eight petitions against SpiceJet, but said the withdrawal of one of the petitions meant the ruling would have to be rewritten. —Reuters



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

INDIGO BOOKING PLATFORM HIT BY GLITCH



INDIGO ON
WEDNESDAY
said it was
experiencing
intermittent
issues with

its core reservation
platform, as some
customers faced
problems booking tickets
and checking-in online.
The airline said in a post
on X that its teams were
working with a partner
to fix the issue as soon
as possible.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026



Aviator ML's SpiceJet plea withdrawn; ₹15L each fine on both

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, August 19

THE NATIONAL COMPANY
Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday allowed aircraft lessor Aviator ML to withdraw its insolvency plea against SpiceJet after the two sides reached a settlement, providing relief to the cash-strapped airline in one of the insolvency cases it faces.

However, taking strong exception to the manner in which the proceedings were conducted, the tribunal imposed costs of ₹15 lakh on both parties. SpiceJet and Aviator ML have been directed to deposit ₹7.5 lakh each with the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund within seven days, after informing the tribunal about the settlement only when the matter had reached the final-order stage.

The NCLT's order means Aviator ML's insolvency petition will not proceed. Seven other insolvency petitions filed against SpiceJet by aircraft lessors will now be heard afresh by the tribunal.

SpiceJet welcomed the order, calling it a positive step towards resolving its outstanding matters with creditors and lessors. "SpiceJet welcomes the order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which has disposed of the petition filed by Aviator ML as withdrawn. The seven other claims will now be heard afresh in accordance with due process," the airline said. "We view the order as a positive step towards resolving the outstanding matters and remain committed to working closely and constructively with our partners to find mutually acceptable solutions," it added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

19 AUGUST 2026

SpiceJet flight delayed by 12 hrs

Alister Augustine

PUNE

Passengers travelling from Pune to Delhi on a SpiceJet flight were left stranded at Pune airport for nearly 12 hours on Tuesday after the flight was significantly delayed.

SpiceJet flight SG937 was scheduled to depart at 5.55am but finally took off at around 5.15pm. Passengers alleged that they were made to wait for several hours without

refreshments or clear information about the reason for the delay.

Santosh, a passenger, told The Free Press Journal, "The flight was supposed to leave at 5.55am but finally took off at 5.15pm. We were not given refreshments, and no alternative flight was offered. We were only told that the aircraft had not arrived."

Another passenger said the delay caused him to miss important office meetings in Delhi. "We were kept waiting

for hours without clear information. We were not told the exact reason for the delay," he said.

A passenger who had planned a trip to Delhi said the delay disrupted his plans. He alleged that airline staff failed to provide satisfactory updates despite repeated queries. A Pune Airport official said the delay was related to SpiceJet and not the airport. The official added that refreshments for passengers were the airline's responsibility.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

19 AUGUST 2026

Overhaul DGCA drug-testing rules: Pilots

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has urged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to overhaul psychoactive-substance testing regulations following an incident involving an Air India flight earlier this month.

The pilots' body has sought an increase in mandatory annual random drug testing from 10% to at least 25% of flight crew, oral-fluid screening alongside urine tests and stricter procedural safeguards.

The 30-page representation follows an incident involving Air India's Phuket-Delhi flight AI-2379, which dropped 300 ft while cruising over Odisha. The pilot-in-command was found to be under the influence of marijuana.

The FIP said the current urine-based screening framework was outdated given India's rapidly expanding aviation sector. It also sought multiple testing of pilots in a year to ensure continuous deterrence.

The federation proposed oral-fluid testing as a complementary tool, saying collection could take about 15 minutes against 45 minutes for urine samples, potentially reducing collection time and crew downtime by 66.7%.

The FIP stressed that detecting a substance during preliminary screening did not automatically establish impairment or deliberate misuse. "Neither urine nor oral-fluid testing, by itself, constitutes a direct impairment test," it said.

It sought mandatory secondary laboratory testing of



non-negative samples and an independent medical review before any adverse regulatory determination.

The federation also proposed a 12-month controlled pilot programme at selected airports and airlines and a national Check Before You Take campaign to educate pilots about medicines that could impair performance or produce non-negative results. It also sought confidential medication-advisory systems for pilots.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

हिंडन से मुंद्रा की उड़ान स्थगित

ट्रांस हिंडन। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से मुंद्रा की उड़ान अस्थायी रूप से स्थगित कर दी गई है। सितंबर तक कंपनी ने अपनी साइट पर टिकट की बुकिंग भी बंद कर दी है। उम्मीद है कि अक्टूबर से उड़ान दोबारा शुरू हो जाएगी।

स्टार एयर कंपनी ने मुंद्रा के लिए 23 जून को शुरू हुई विमान सेवा शुरू की थी। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट के निदेशक डॉ. चिलका महेश का कहना है कि मुंद्रा के लिए कंपनी ने उड़ान फिलहाल बंद कर दी है। इसके पीछे ऑपरेशनल कारण ही बताए गए हैं।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

SpiceJet, lessor fined ₹15 lakh for wasting NCLT's time

Yash Tiwari & Dipali Banka

yash.tiwari@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Debt-laden carrier SpiceJet and aircraft lessor Aviator ML 29641 Ltd were fined a combined ₹15 lakh by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday for informing the tribunal about their settlement at the last minute, after orders had been reserved in eight insolvency petitions against SpiceJet.

The tribunal directed SpiceJet and Aviator ML to pay ₹7.5 lakh each to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

The NCLT's special bench, comprising judicial member

Mahendra Khandelwal and technical member Anu Jagmohan Singh, passed the oral order on Wednesday.

"Payment of cost of ₹15 lakh payable equally by the operational creditor (Aviator ML) and corporate debtor (SpiceJet), that is ₹7.5 lakh each, to be deposited in the Prime Minister National Relief Fund, within a period of 7 days from today," the bench said.

Taking cognizance of the manner in which SpiceJet informed the tribunal about the settlement on the day the order was due to be pronounced, the bench expressed its displeasure, saying, "It is a fraud played with



SpiceJet is facing eight insolvency petitions.

HT

the bench."

The insolvency court had earlier reserved orders in eight insolvency petitions against the airline. The bench said one of its members was demitting office on Wednesday and there was not enough time to prepare detailed

orders. It therefore de-reserved the matters and directed that they be placed before the regular bench for further consideration.

"There is no option left with us except to de-reserve order...matter may be placed before the regular bench which will consider the matter," the bench said.

"We view the order as a positive step towards resolving the outstanding matters and remain committed to working closely and constructively with our partners to find mutually acceptable solutions," a SpiceJet spokesperson told *Mint*.

The timing of the disclosure

angered the tribunal because the matters had already been reserved for pronouncement. The bench questioned why the development had not been communicated earlier.

This is not the first time the NCLT has raised concerns over SpiceJet's insolvency proceedings. *Mint* reported in December 2024 that the tribunal had observed that the insolvency forum was being used to leverage settlements with the airline.

Since 2023, SpiceJet has faced more than 20 insolvency petitions, although several cases have ended in settlements with creditors and aircraft lessors.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

Last-minute deal with lessor sets back SpiceJet insolvency case

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

A last-minute settlement between SpiceJet and one of its lessors has disrupted the insolvency proceedings against the airline, with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) de-reserving seven other petitions against the firm and directing that they be placed before a different bench for consideration.

NCLT's special bench on Wednesday allowed aircraft lessor Aviator ML

29641 Ltd. to withdraw its insolvency petition against SpiceJet but imposed ₹15 lakh in costs on both parties for their last-minute settlement.

A special bench of Judicial Member Mahendra Khandelwal and Technical Member Anu Jagmohan Singh directed Aviator ML and SpiceJet to pay ₹7.5 lakh each to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund within seven days.

The Registry has been directed to place the matter before the coram for



Aviator ML had filed a plea against SpiceJet in 2024 over alleged default of ₹58.64 crore.

further orders if the parties fail to pay the costs. The withdrawal order will take

effect only after proof of payment is produced before the NCLT Registry.

Aviator ML had filed an application under Section 9 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in 2024 against SpiceJet over an alleged default of ₹58.64 crore.

The matter had been argued and was listed for pronouncement on August 17 along with seven other insolvency petitions against the airline.

However, on the day of pronouncement, the Tri-

bunal was informed that the parties had executed a settlement agreement overnight. SpiceJet was stated to have admitted the debt and made an initial payment of \$5,00,000.

'No conditions'

The NCLT said it would permit only an unconditional withdrawal of the petition.

It declined to record the terms of the settlement or grant liberty to revive the insolvency proceedings in the event of a breach.

The Tribunal nevertheless permitted Aviator ML to withdraw the petition under Rule 8 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2016.

The NCLT expressed disapproval of the timing of the settlement, noting that the matter had already been argued and was awaiting pronouncement.

The last-minute settlement also affected seven other insolvency petitions against SpiceJet, which had been reserved for orders.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo website hit by snag, online bookings & check-in hit

New Delhi: The reservation platform of the country's largest airline IndiGo was hit by technical issues on Wednesday, affecting its online booking and web check-in services.

Several people complained on social media that they were unable to make bookings or perform web check-ins on the IndiGo website and mobile application, and even on some of the third-party online travel booking portals.

The airline, which has a domestic market share of over 65% and operates about 2,200 daily flights, said that the issues were intermittent and its teams were working with the service provider to fix them on priority basis.

According to sources in the know, while the issues — which they said *prima facie* don't appear to be major — impacted the booking platform servers, IndiGo's airport and flight operations remained unaffected. **ENS**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

Outgoing Air India CEO Wilson to join Air New Zealand board

New Delhi: Air New Zealand has appointed outgoing Air India CEO Campbell Wilson as a director on its board. Wilson, who has been steering loss-making Air India and its transformation efforts, will be stepping down as CEO and MD of the airline in September. Air India had announced his resignation on April 7. "Former airline executives Campbell Wilson and Robert McDonald have been appointed by the Board with effect from, and subject to their re-election by vote at the ASM," Air New Zealand said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026



Indigo controls more than 65% of India's domestic aviation market.

REUTERS

IndiGo reservation platform hits snag

India's largest airline IndiGo said on Wednesday it was experiencing intermittent issues with its core reservation platform, as some customers faced problems booking tickets and checking-in online.

The airline, which controls more than 65% of India's domestic aviation market, said in a post on X that its teams were working with a partner to fix the issue as soon as possible.

It did not identify the partner or say what had caused the disruption. *Reuters* journalists in at least three Indian cities were unable to book tickets through the IndiGo website, which displayed a "no data available" message when they searched for flights. Another travel booking website said "the airline systems are currently experiencing a technical problem. Please try again in a short while", when *Reuters* tried to book a ticket. Several people complained to the airline on X.

REUTERS



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

India expands air cargo transshipment network

NARESH BISWANI

New Delhi, August 19

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Wednesday launched a transshipment cargo reform at the Transshipment Excellence Centre (TEC) at Delhi International Airport's Terminal 2, aimed at reducing cargo transit time, handling costs and congestion by eliminating re-screening of secured transshipment cargo after required security checks.

A proof of concept on the Chennai-Delhi-Frankfurt route has reduced average end-to-end transshipment time from 60

hours to 20 hours, Naidu said.

The pilot, launched on June 20, has handled 280 MT of cargo and improved aircraft utilisation from 75 per cent to nearly 100 per cent.

The network has now expanded to Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad as additional domestic origin stations, while London and Copenhagen have been added as international destinations alongside Frankfurt.

Naidu said the expansion is expected to raise Air India's monthly cargo traffic on these routes from 1,763 MT to 3,183 MT.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

देसी एयरलाइंस की विदेश से आने वाली उड़ानों में टेकऑफ से पहले डोप टेस्ट नहीं

Maneesh Aggarwal
@timesofindia.com

■ नई दिल्ली: किसी भारतीय एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट से अमेरिका, इंग्लैंड और दुबई समेत दुनिया के किसी भी एयरपोर्ट से भारत के लिए टेकऑफ से पहले पायलट का नशे की जांच करने वाला टेस्ट नहीं होता। विदेशी एयरपोर्ट पर न ही उनके शराब पीने की पुष्टि करने वाला ब्रेथ एनेलाइजर (BA) टेस्ट और न ही गांजा-भांग समेत किसी भी ड्रग्स का पता लगाने के लिए कोई डोप टेस्ट होता है। सारे टेस्ट देश में ही इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट के लैंड करने के बाद किए जाते हैं।

लैंडिंग के बाद पायलट का अनिवार्य रूप से ब्रेथ एनेलाइजर टेस्ट किया जाता



File Photo

है, न की डोप टेस्ट। डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइटों में हर टेकऑफ से पहले पायलटों का BA टेस्ट किया जाता है। एयरलाइन पायलट्स असोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया (ALPA) और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन पायलट्स (FIP) भी गलत और सुरक्षा से समझौता करना बताती हैं। ALPA

के प्रेजिडेंट कैप्टन सैम थॉमस का कहना है कि मौजूदा चुनौतियों को देखते हुए पायलटों के नशे में होने की पुष्टि करने वाले यह टेस्ट विदेशी एयरपोर्ट पर भी फ्लाइट के टेकऑफ करने से पहले किए जाने चाहिए। DGCA को इन नियमों में संशोधन करना ही चाहिए।

'जांच को जरूरी किया जाए'

■ FIP अध्यक्ष कैप्टन सीएस रंधावा का कहना है कि जिस तरह से डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट के टेकऑफ से पहले पायलटों का टेस्ट किया जाता है उसी तरह से विदेशी एयरपोर्ट पर भी पायलटों का टेस्ट होना चाहिए। एक गड़बड़ी यह भी है कि अगर कोई फ्लाइट सैन फ्रांसिस्को, शिकागो और वाशिंगटन जैसी लंबी दूरी की है तो किसी पायलट ने थोड़ी शराब पी भी होगी तो 12 से 17 घंटे वाली इन फ्लाइटों में पायलट भारत आने पर टेस्ट में फेल नहीं होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

Air India SATS signs MoU with CONCOR Air Limited (wholly owned subsidiary of CONCOR) to speed up cargo movement from ICD Dadri to NIA



Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CONCOR Air Limited (CAL) to facilitate the seamless movement and handling of customs-cleared transshipment (TP) cargo from

CONCOR's Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Dadri to AISATS' Integrated Cargo Terminal (ICT) at Noida International Airport (NIA), for onward international dispatch. The collaboration strengthens AISATS' air cargo terminal operations at NIA by deepening its connectivity with inland freight networks, bringing together CONCOR's inland logistics and customs-cleared cargo handling capabilities to create a more efficient, integrated pathway for cargo moving from inland facilities to international air freight.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

20 AUGUST 2026

RECPDCL hands over Vizag Power Transmission Limited

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, handed over Vizag Power Transmission Limited, the project-specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), to the successful bidder, M/s Adani Energy Solutions Limited, on 14 August, 2026. The SPV was handed over by Sh. Rajkumar Sonkar, HoD (CS), RECPDCL to Mr. Shashank Sharma, CBDO, Adani Energy Solutions Limited, in the presence of Shri Ratnesh Kumar, GM (Engg.) and other senior officials from RECPDCL, Adani Energy Solutions Limited and Central Transmission Utility of India Limited.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

19 AUGUST 2026

Post Phuket flight row, pilots' body seeks oral-fluid test, more checks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has written to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) seeking introduction of oral-fluid testing, alongside urine-based drug tests. It further suggested that at least 20-25% of pilots undergo annual random psychoactive substance testing, up from the current minimum of 10%.

The FIP recommendation comes amid brouhaha over the positive drug test result for an Air India pilot who operated the Aug 3 Phuket to Delhi flight. The aircraft dropped 300 feet while flying over Odisha, injuring 20 passengers and 4 cabin crew members. A technical fault in the aircraft involving a triple hydraulic failure is another aspect under scrutiny.

Citing precedents from Australia, US and UAE, all of which permit oral-fluid testing alongside urine testing, FIP proposed a "risk-based hybrid model" in which oral fluid is used for random, high-volume and airport-based screening, while urine

'Hear pilots before AI 171 report is finalised'

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has sought a personal hearing with the investigation team before the final report into the Air India 171 Ahmedabad accident is finalised. In a letter sent to the director general of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) Monday, FIP banked on the Supreme Court's assurance that the pilots' body's inputs would be duly considered. On June 12 last year, an AI Boeing 787 flight from Ahmedabad to London crashed shortly after take-off, killing 260 people. FIP has questioned various aspects of AAIB's crash probe. FIP said it wants to present its views on simulator testing, sequence-of-events analysis, human factors, aircraft behaviour and operational and regulatory oversight, assuring that its objective was to provide operational and technical perspective, and not to interfere with the independent probe. **TNN**

testing is retained for longer detection window or specific medical requirements.

It said collecting oral fluid took an estimated 15 minutes versus 45 minutes for urine, and suggested oral-fluid testing could cut collection workload by two-thirds. It added, however, that these numbers need validation and proposed a 12-month controlled pilot programme before wider roll out.

"...FIP believes that the increasing scale of Indian aviation operations warrants consideration of additional testing methodologies

that can increase testing capacity, reduce operational disruption and facilitate rapid testing..." the letter said.

As neither test measures impairment directly, FIP said screening, confirmatory testing and medical review must precede any final decision, especially to account for OTC drugs that may yield non-negative results. It also called for a mandatory sensitisation programme on medicines and psychoactive substances, and a shift in the overall regulatory philosophy from punishment to education and prevention.