



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

गगल एयरपोर्ट लिए 500 करोड़ की नई किस्त जारी

धर्मशाला | हिमाचल प्रदेश को पर्यटन की वैश्विक राजधानी के रूप में स्थापित करने की दिशा में कांगड़ा (गगल) एयरपोर्ट विस्तार परियोजना अब निर्णायक मोड़ पर पहुंच गई है। इस महात्वाकांक्षी प्रोजेक्ट की गति बढ़ाने के लिए 500 करोड़ रुपए की एक और राशि स्वीकृत की है। नई किस्त के साथ ही सरकार की मंशा साफ है कि भूमि अधिग्रहण व विस्थापितों के पुनर्वास के काम में कोई वित्तीय अड़चन न आए।



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21 FEBRUARY 2026

पर्यटन • 6 एयरपोर्ट पर 20 जून से लागू थाईलैंड जाना महंगा, पैसेंजर सर्विस चार्ज 53 फीसदी बढ़ेगा

बिजनेस संवाददाता | मुंबई

थाईलैंड की यात्रा करने वाले भारतीय पर्यटकों के लिए अब सफर महंगा होने वाला है। एयरपोर्ट्स ऑफ थाईलैंड (एओटी) ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों के लिए पैसेंजर सर्विस चार्ज में 53% बढ़ोतरी का फैसला किया है। 20 जून 2026 से यह शुल्क 730 बात (करीब 2,126 रुपए) से बढ़कर 1,120 बात (करीब 3,264 रुपए) हो जाएगा। यह नया नियम थाईलैंड के छह प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों सुवर्णभूमि, डॉन मुएंग, फुकेत, हाट याई, चियांग माई और चियांग राय पर लागू होगा। हालांकि, घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए राहत की बात यह है कि उनके लिए शुल्क 130 बात (करीब 380 रुपए) पर ही स्थिर रहेगा। थाई सिविल एविएशन बोर्ड ने दिसंबर 2025 में ही इस वृद्धि को मंजूरी दे दी थी। थाईलैंड सरकार पैसेंजर सर्विस चार्ज बढ़ाकर 13

प्लाइट्स के किराये भी 10 फीसदी तक बढ़ सकते हैं

विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी है कि इस फैसले से कम बजट वाली उड़ानों के दाम 7-10% तक बढ़ सकते हैं। इससे थाईलैंड की पर्यटन प्रतिस्पर्धा कम हो सकती है और पर्यटक सस्ते देशों का रुख कर सकते हैं। स्काईट्रैक्स रैंकिंग में 39वें स्थान पर होने के बावजूद यहां शुल्क अन्य शीर्ष एयरपोर्ट्स से अधिक होगा।

अरब बात (3,787 करोड़ रुपए) का अतिरिक्त राजस्व जुटाएगी। एओटी का मानना है कि टिकट की कुल कीमत के मुकाबले यह बढ़ोतरी बहुत मामूली है, जिससे पर्यटकों के फैसलों पर कोई खास असर नहीं पड़ेगा। पूर्व राजनेता समार्ट रात्चापोलसित्ते के अनुसार ऊंचे शुल्क के बदले यात्रियों को विश्व स्तरीय सुविधाएं मिलनी चाहिए।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर माल ढुलाई होगा सुगम

सीसीपीएल व एआईएसएटीएस के बीच समझौता



ग्रेटर नोएडा, 20 फरवरी (देशबन्धु)। उत्तर भारत में उभरते लॉजिस्टिक हब के रूप में पहचान बना रहे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर प्रस्तावित एयर कार्गो हब के विकास की दिशा में शुक्रवार को एक अहम कदम उठाया गया। निर्यात ट्रांसशिपमेंट कार्गो की सुरक्षित और सुगम ढुलाई सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य से कंटीनेन्टल कैरियर प्रा.लि. और एआईआर इंडिया एसएटीएस एयरपोर्ट सर्विस प्रा.लि. के बीच समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। यह समझौता सीमा शुल्क नियमों के अनुरूप निर्यात माल को नई दिल्ली के कपासहेड़ा स्थित सीसीपीएल के एयर फ्रंट स्टेशन से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के एयर कार्गो टर्मिनल तक पहुंचाने के लिए एक सुव्यवस्थित ढांचा तैयार करेगा। एमओयू के तहत कस्टम से मंजूरी प्राप्त निर्यात माल को बॉन्डेड ट्रकों के माध्यम से एआईएसएटीएस के एकीकृत कार्गो टर्मिनल तक सुरक्षित रूप से स्थानांतरित किया जाएगा। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन एआईएसएटीएस के मल्टी-मॉडल कार्गो हब में किया गया, जहां सीसीपीएल के प्रबंध निदेशक वैभव वोहरा और एआईएसएटीएस के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी रामनाथन राजामणि ने समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। दोनों कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों ने इसे देश के तेजी से विकसित हो रहे एयर कार्गो नेटवर्क को मजबूती देने वाली महत्वपूर्ण पहल बताया। विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि इस व्यवस्था से निर्यातकों को तेज, पारदर्शी और सुरक्षित लॉजिस्टिक समाधान मिलेगा, जिससे नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को उत्तर भारत के प्रमुख कार्गो गेटवे के रूप में स्थापित करने में मदद मिलेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

20 FEBRUARY 2026

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

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

As per the report, the in-

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

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

incident flight.

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

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

बिहार में बनेगा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, 13 सौ करोड़ स्वीकृत

राज्य ब्यूरो, जागरण, पटना : बिहार में हवाई संपर्कता बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने बड़ा कदम उठाया है। शुक्रवार को राज्य मंत्रिमंडल ने सोनपुर में अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा निर्माण करने का प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत किया है। मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार की अध्यक्षता में हुई राज्य मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृति दी गई। सूत्रों से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार मंत्रिमंडल को नागरिक उड्डयन विभाग की ओर से सारण जिले के सोनपुर में नए अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट के निर्माण का प्रस्ताव दिया गया था। प्रस्ताव के तहत सोनपुर में 4200 एकड़ भूमि पर अत्याधुनिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा बनाया जाएगा। इस परियोजना को वर्ष 2030 तक पूरा करने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है। परियोजना के लिए सरकार 42 सौ एकड़ जमीन का अधिग्रहण करेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

MUMBAI AIRPORT OPENS UDAAN YATRI CAFE



ADANI GRO-
UP-owned
Mumbai
Airport on
Friday
announced

the opening of Udaan Yatri
Cafe at its Terminal 2,
which handles both
international and dome-
stic flights. The facility was
virtually inaugurated by
Civil Aviation Minister K
Ram Mohan Naidu.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

₹26cr weed, gold seized at airport

A haul of hydroponic weed and smuggled gold, collectively worth around Rs26 crore, was caught at the Mumbai airport between February 11 and 17. Six people, who had arrived from Bangkok, were allegedly separately nabbed with weed. The action was taken on the basis of spot and advance passenger information system profiling. Gold, weighing 1336.62 grams and valued at Rs1.85 crore, was impounded in three separate cases.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Surat International Airport gets major passenger facility upgrade

FPJ News Service

SURAT

In a significant push to modernise air travel infrastructure, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu will virtually inaugurate five new passenger amenities at Surat International Airport on Friday, as part of a nationwide rollout from Coimbatore.

The move is aimed at enhancing passenger comfort, accessibility and digital convenience at one of Gujarat's fastest-growing airports.

Among the key additions is the Udaan Yatri Café, designed to provide hygienic and affordable food options. Officials said the café supports the vision of inclusive and accessible air travel.



"Affordable quality food at airports is no longer a luxury but a necessity," an airport official noted.

Under the One Airport One Product initiative, the newly launched Avasar Outlet will showcase products made by self-help groups, offering them a national platform. "This reflects the spirit of self-reliance and social responsibility," officials said.

A major technological leap comes with the introduction of DigiYatra, enabling pap-

erless and contactless entry through facial recognition. The system promises faster, secure and seamless boarding procedures, aligning with the Digital India mission.

Passengers will also benefit from free high-speed Wi-Fi across the airport complex, particularly aiding business travellers and students. For families, a dedicated Kids Play Area has been created to ensure a stress-free travel experience.

Authorities described the development as "a milestone in making Surat Airport modern, inclusive and technology-driven," reaffirming a commitment to service excellence and passenger satisfaction.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

6.4 Kg marijuana worth ₹6.4 Cr seized at Surat airport, two held

FPJ News Service

SURAT

Customs officials at Surat International Airport busted a major drug smuggling attempt late Wednesday night, arresting two male passengers who arrived from Bangkok with 6.4 kg of suspected marijuana concealed in their baggage.

Acting on intelligence-based passenger profiling, officers intercepted the duo after they landed on an Air India Express flight (IX-263) on February 18. During a detailed inspection of their checked-in luggage, officials discovered 30 vacuum-sealed transparent packets containing a green leafy substance.

The seized contraband weighed approximately 6,408

grams (6.4 kg). Preliminary field testing confirmed the substance to be cannabis (marijuana), with an estimated international market value of ₹6.4 crore, officials said.

The narcotics were confiscated under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Both passengers were taken into custody, and further investigation is underway to trace the origin of the consignment and identify its intended recipients.

Customs authorities stated that they are probing possible links to a wider cross-border drug trafficking network, as surveillance at Surat Airport continues to be intensified to curb narcotics smuggling routes connecting Southeast Asia to Gujarat.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

20 FEBRUARY 2026

Software glitch hits airports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

Airports across India on Thursday morning faced disruptions after a software outage. According to sources, IndiGo, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa Air were impacted at Delhi, Mumbai and other airports. The impact was also felt in parts of the Asia-Pacific and Europe.

The disruption was caused by Navitaire, a software used for reservations and departure control systems used by several commercial carriers. Following the glitch airlines faced issues in checking in passengers.

At Indira Gandhi International Airport, many travelers were caught off guard during peak hours. The outage led to an increase in wait times as staff worked to manage the flow of passengers manually. It coincided with the arrival of several high-profile delegates attending the ongoing AI Summit in the national capital. "Several VIP movements put additional operational pressure on terminals dealing with early morning traffic. A NOTAM, issued because of the VIP movements, also added to the congestion," officials briefed on the situation said.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

20 FEBRUARY 2026

कई हवाई अड्डों पर सेवाएं हुई बाधित

नई दिल्ली। देश के कई हवाई अड्डों पर गुरुवार सुबह हवाई सेवाएं कुछ देर के लिए बाधित हुईं। जानकारी के मुताबिक, सॉफ्टवेयर की खराबी के कारण एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों को चेक-इन में परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। सूत्रों के अनुसार, गुरुवार सुबह कई हवाई अड्डों पर 40 मिनट से अधिक समय तक चली सॉफ्टवेयर की खराबी के कारण यात्री चेक-इन में आई दिक्कत के कारण हलकान होते रहे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

हवाई यात्रा में भाजपा सांसद का सामान गायब, इंडिगो के सीईओ से मांगा जवाब

नई दिल्ली। चांदनी चौक से भाजपा सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल ने इंडिगो एयरलाइंस के प्रति नाराजगी जताई है। उन्होंने बताया कि वे नई दिल्ली से बेलगावी कर्नाटक की उड़ान से यात्रा कर रहे थे, लेकिन गंतव्य पर पहुंचने के बाद उनका सामान नहीं पहुंचा।

सांसद ने कहा कि बैगेज की लोकेशन को लेकर एयरलाइन की ओर से कोई स्पष्ट जानकारी नहीं दी गई, जिससे उन्हें मानसिक परेशानी,

असुविधा और आर्थिक नुकसान उठाना पड़ रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि बैग में जरूरी और मूल्यवान दस्तावेज भी थे, जिससे स्थिति और गंभीर हो गई। खंडेलवाल ने सोशल मीडिया पर इंडिगो के सीईओ से तत्काल स्पष्टीकरण की मांग की। साथ ही नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू से हस्तक्षेप की अपील करते हुए एयरलाइन की परिचालन व्यवस्था पर सवाल उठाए। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

Air cargo sector wants double-dip facility back

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The air cargo segment has sought the restoration of the double-dip facility for foreign carriers from the Centre, stating that India's next growth phase is expected to come from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, industry insiders told *businessline*.

In aviation parlance, a double-dip facility means permitting a foreign freighter aircraft to operate to two Indian airports on a single international journey without undertaking domestic cargo carriage between them. According to letters written by the Air Cargo Forum India and other industry associations to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the suspension of double-dip operations during the Covid-19 period led to a loss of over 10 per cent international freighter capacity. Other industry bodies as well as stakeholders have also written to the Centre seeking the reintroduction of such an arrangement.

BusinessLine has reviewed these communications.

GLOBAL PEERS

As per stakeholders, India currently has only 18 freighters in operation, placing it far behind global peers in dedicated cargo aircraft availability.

Meanwhile, double-dip operations allow a foreign freighter to serve two Indian airports on a single international trip without carrying domestic cargo.

This arrangement, according to stakeholders, makes routes viable for regional airports that are unable to fill an entire aircraft independently. Backing the proposal, Rajesh Menon, Regional Head of Cargo - South Asia, Middle East & Africa at Cathay Cargo, said: "The Cathay Group supports the reinstatement of the double-dip facility as a pragmatic measure aligned with India's broader economic and trade growth ambitions."

Apart from operational aspects, the communications state that export access linked to air cargo connectivity affects farm incomes and related sectors.

EXPORT MARKETS

Industry estimates cited that access to export markets enables farmers to realise prices that are 1.5 to 3 times higher than those available domestically.

This translates into hundreds of dollars more per farmer annually, and into thousands of dollars for growers of high-value produce.

Emphasising the broader economic impact, Silveri Anil Kumar, Vice Chairman of the Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI), said: "Reinstating the double-dip facility for foreign freighters is the key to India's air cargo resurgence. By unlocking global connectivity for Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, this reform will boost exports, raise farmer incomes by 1.5-3x, and generate jobs in logistics and warehousing."



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

SpiceJet says working to expand aircraft fleet to around 60 planes

SpiceJet on Friday said it was working to ramp up its fleet to around 60 planes through a mix of wet and damp leases as well as bring grounded aircraft back into service. The airline's domestic market share rose to 4.3 per cent in December from 1.9 per cent in September last year due to a 56 per cent expansion in capacity during the December quarter, a release said. According to the release, the carrier plans to more than double its capacity, targeting 220 crore available seat kilometres by Winter 2026. "The airline is working towards ramping up its fleet to around 60 aircraft through a mix of wet and damp leases, along with the phased return to service of existing grounded aircraft," it added.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

फ्लाइट से सांसद का लगेज गुम, एक्स पर जताया गुस्सा

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली : इंडिगो की उड़ान (उड़ान संख्या 6ई-5237) से नई दिल्ली से कर्नाटक स्थित बेलगावी की यात्रा कर रहे चांदनी चौक लोक सभा क्षेत्र से सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल का लगेज एयरलाइंस की लापरवाही से गुम हो गया। इस पर सांसद ने इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर गुस्सा जाहिर कर पोस्ट किया कि यदि एक सांसद के साथ ऐसा व्यवहार और लापरवाही हो रही है, तो आम यात्रियों क्या होता होगा। सांसद ने इस मामले में इंडिगो के सीईओ पीटर एल्वर्स से स्पष्टीकरण मांगा और केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू से तत्काल हस्तक्षेप की मांग की।

सांसद ने पोस्ट में लिखा कि मैं नई दिल्ली से बेलगावी पहुंचा, लेकिन मेरा सामान नहीं। लगेज कहां है, इसके बारे में कोई स्पष्ट जानकारी

नहीं है। इस घटना ने मुझे मानसिक पीड़ा और भारी असुविधा दी है। लगेज में मेरे महत्वपूर्ण और मूल्यवान दस्तावेज भी शामिल हैं। लगेज नहीं मिलने के कारण उन्हें दैनिक उपयोग की वस्तुएं और कपड़े खरीदने पड़े। मामला गरमाता देख नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने तुरंत प्रतिक्रिया दी। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि विवरण संबंधित एयरलाइंस के साथ साझा कर दिया गया है और आवश्यक कार्रवाई के निर्देश दिए गए हैं।

वहीं दूसरी ओर, सांसद के पोस्ट के प्रत्युत्तर में इंडिगो टीम ने माफी मांगते हुए कहा कि इस असुविधा के लिए हमें खेद है। आपका सामान जल्द आपके बताए पते पर पहुंचाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। बाद में इंडिगो ने जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि सांसद का लगेज उन्हें सौंप दिया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

'Air India's aircraft fleet reliability has improved'

PTI

NEW DELHI

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson on Thursday said that the airline's fleet reliability has improved and there is also an increased inventory of spares and components.

The Tata Group-owned airline has faced issues with its legacy fleet of wide-body Boeing 777s and 787 planes, resulting in flight cancellations and delays. The upgra-

dation of the legacy Boeing 787s has commenced.

During a town hall with employees on Thursday, Wilson said operational resilience is one of the airline's focus areas and that there is enhanced fleet reliability now.

Both legacy Boeing fleets continue to show improvements as more reliability upgrades are carried out, he said, adding that the inventory of spares and components has gone up.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

SpiceJet can't use airspace: Bangladesh

PTI

DHAKA

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

With the Bangladesh airspace not being available, the airline is taking longer routes for some of its flights from Kolkata, including to Guwahati. When contacted, a SpiceJet spokesperson on Thursday said the airline was in regular dialogue with the relevant authorities on operational and procedural matters, including navigation-related charges.

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



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

विमान में आई तकनीकी खराबी, उड़ान रद्द

बोधगया। गया एयरपोर्ट से शुकवार की शाम कोलकाता जाने वाली इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की उड़ान तकनीकी खराबी के कारण रद्द कर दी गयी। इस कारण यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। इंडिगो की दिल्ली-गया-कोलकाता सेक्टर की फ्लाइट शाम 4:30 बजे दिल्ली से 181 यात्रियों को लेकर गया पहुंची थी। गया से इसे 4:55 बजे 137 यात्रियों को लेकर कोलकाता रवाना होना था।

After 8 yrs on tarmac, Jet's three 777s sold for \$46 mn

- NCLT approves sale to Ace Aviation
- Aircraft parked at CSMIA since 2018
- Airport claiming ₹1,000 cr+ in dues

Yogesh Naik

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MUMBAI: Three Boeing 777-300ER aircraft that have been parked at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) since 2018 may finally leave Mumbai after nearly eight years on the tarmac. Jet Airways has agreed to sell the aircraft to Malta-based Ace Aviation for a combined \$46 million (₹418 crore) as part of its ongoing liquidation, according to a Bombay Stock Exchange filing last week.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the sale, which covers jets registered VT-JES (\$16 million), VT-JEV (\$12.5 million) and VT-JEM (\$17.5 million).

The transaction had been delayed by legal disputes over unpaid airport charges. Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), owned by the Adani Group, is claiming parking fees and other dues dating back to 2018, which it says have escalated to around ₹1,000 crore. Three other Jet aircraft parked at Mumbai airport—two Airbus A330s and a Boeing 737—remain unsold.

"Ace Aviation, which has bought these aircraft, will have to get regulatory approvals. Some works will have to be done to make them airworthy," Jet Airways's chief financial officer, Sundaram Ramesh, told HT.

Jet Airways aircraft lying at Indian airports

MUMBAI AIRPORT	DELHI AIRPORT	HYDERABAD AIRPORT	The three Jet Airways aircraft have been parked at Mumbai airport since 2018 amid an insolvency battle.
Boeing 777 (three aircraft) Airbus 330 (two aircraft) Boeing 737 (one aircraft)	Boeing 777 (two aircraft) Boeing 737 (one aircraft)	Airbus 330 (one aircraft) Boeing 737 (one aircraft)	

YOGESH NAIK/HT PHOTO

Ace Aviation is a subsidiary of the Challenge Group, which operates cargo airlines. The company first bid for the aircraft in 2022, with plans to convert them into freighters. It paid a \$5.6 million deposit and signed a letter of intent, but the acquisition was stalled for over three years amid legal objections.

An officer who worked with Jet Airways till a year ago said, "I had done the deal two years ago, but many issues were raised by the Mumbai airport operator. Finally, the deal has come through now. When I left Jet Airways, the dues of Mumbai were around ₹250 crore,

but normally the purchasers bargain when there is final payment of dues." He added that the aircraft could potentially be made airworthy within two to three months.

Legacy jets

Debasish Chakraverty, an aviation historian, recalled flying on Jet's Boeing 777-300ER fleet during its early years.

"The Jet Airways 777-300ERs have been legacy wide-body airliners in India for decades now. I recall flying on Jet Airways's inaugural flight from Newark to Bombay aboard one of these magnificent jets, and then brand new

777s. These aircraft lying almost derelict at Mumbai Airport are a sad sight. They have been collecting dust for years now. It will be interesting to see if they can be flown away, akin to one of the former Air India Boeing B747-400s, or will they be scrapped in Mumbai," he said.

"In the past, we have seen two Kingfisher private jets—an A319 and a Hawker—being stored for years, and then scrapped at Mumbai. Former Go Air A320s have also languished at Mumbai airport in the past. Hopefully, that is not what is in store for these 777s, and they can find a new lease

of life with their new owners," he added.

Jet Airways, once India's largest private carrier, permanently ceased operations in April 2019 after a severe financial crisis and mounting debts of over ₹7,500 crore. Despite a 2021 resolution plan to revive the airline under the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium, the process was stalled for years due to legal battles with creditors. In November 2024, the Supreme Court ordered the airline's liquidation, ruling that the revival plan was no longer feasible. It directed the sale of all of the airline's remaining assets to repay lenders and employees.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

{ **NAVITAIRE** } CHECK-INS, BOARDING DELAYED

Software outage affects flight ops worldwide

NEW DELHI: Flight operations were disrupted on Thursday morning following a brief outage of Navitaire software—a system used by airlines worldwide for bookings and check-ins—affecting multiple carriers across the country and parts of the Asia-Pacific and Europe, officials said.

“Due to the system outage, IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and SpiceJet airlines were

impacted between 6.45am and 7.28am, and again intermittently from 8.10am to 8.25am, leading to temporary delays in check-in and boarding processes at several airports including Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA),” an official aware of the matter said, requesting anonymity. Navitaire, a subsidiary of Amadeus, provides reservation, inventory and departure control

systems primarily to low-cost and hybrid carriers worldwide.

According to officials, the outage affected passenger processing systems, including airport check-in counters and boarding systems, resulting in long queues during the morning peak travel period. IGIA was among the airports that experienced congestion, coinciding with heightened activity due to the arrival of sev-

eral high-profile delegates for the ongoing AI Impact Summit in the national capital.

“Multiple VIP movements added to operational pressure at terminals already managing early morning departures. A NOTAM (Notice to Air Missions) was also in place due to the VIP movements adding to the congestion,” a second official said, also declining to be named.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

Priest, pvt jet, paper trail & the biggest steel firm

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

SOMETIMES, it takes a priest and a private jet to expose a paper empire. For the Enforcement Directorate, the sleek Cessna 525A CJ2+, bought for ₹30.90 crore, was evidence of the alleged excesses by Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL) to commit a bank fraud worth ₹47,204 crore.

The priest came into the picture after ED informed the Appellate Tribunal at a hearing. The tribunal, under SAFEMA, subsequently upheld the ED's attachment of the jet, ruling it "direct proceeds of crime" on February 18. The order closed one chapter of a case that exposed how one of India's largest steel manufacturers allegedly built an empire on borrowed money—and deception.

As the ED started probing the case, tracing transactions across dozens of accounts and entities, it came across the Cessna, registered under Bhushan Airways Services Pvt. Ltd. (BASPL). It had been purchased in 2009 for ₹30.90 crore.

According to investigators, ₹9.90 crore of the purchase price was routed through Singal-controlled firms — Olympian Invest Ltd., Vintage Steel Pvt. Ltd., Aromatic Steel Pvt. Ltd. and Ti-



BPSL, directors got credit worth more than ₹47k crore

Between 2007 and 2014, BPSL and its directors — including Sanjay Singal, Aarti Singal, Dinesh Kumar Yadav and Ravi Prakash Goyal — secured credit facilities exceeding ₹47,000 crore from 33 banks and financial institutions. PNB's Chandigarh branch acted as the lead lender.

tanic Steel Industries Ltd. — entities allegedly fed by BPSL's tainted bank funds. The remaining ₹21 crore came as a loan from Punjab National Bank. That loan, too, was repaid through a maze of companies, further tightening the ED's case that the aircraft was financed with diverted public money.

Then came the stunning revelation. The sole director of BASPL, the aviation company that owned the jet, was not a corporate executive or aviation professional. He was a priest, Vijay Kumar Tiwari. "It was

also found that the Director of M/s BASPL, Sh. Vijay Kumar Tiwari was merely a priest and was made a dummy director by Sh. Ravi Prakash Goyal and Sh. Sanjay Singal. He was unaware about the business transactions, as revealed by his statement under section 50 of the PMLA," the order stated.

When questioned, he reportedly had no idea what BASPL was or how he had come to head a company that owned a private jet. In June 2022, the ED attached the aircraft, effectively grounding it.

In the mid-2000s, as India's steel sector boomed, BPSL expanded aggressively, setting up manufacturing units across the country and unveiling ambitious growth plans. Banks bought into the projections.

Between 2007 and 2014, BPSL and its directors — including Sanjay Singal, Aarti Singal, Dinesh Kumar Yadav and Ravi Prakash Goyal — secured credit facilities exceeding ₹47,000 crore from 33 banks and financial institutions. Punjab National Bank's Chandigarh branch acted as the lead lender.

On paper, the loans were meant for industrial expansion. In practice, investigators say, a significant portion was siphoned off through a web of shell companies.

By December 2015, as repayments faltered and accounts turned irregular, Punjab National Bank declared BPSL a non-performing asset. Other lenders followed. By January 30, 2018, the outstanding default had ballooned to ₹47,204 crore.

The unravelling began with Income Tax raids in December 2014. In April 2019, the CBI registered a case, triggering the ED's money laundering probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Then the jet came into the picture.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

इंडिगो में सांसद का सामान गायब

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली:
इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की सेवाओं को लेकर चांदनी चौक से सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल ने सोशल मीडिया पर कड़ी नाराजगी जताई है। सांसद का आरोप है कि नई दिल्ली से बेलगावी के लिए इंडिगो की फ्लाइट 6E-5237 से वह यात्रा कर रहे थे और उनका सामान गायब हो गया जिससे उन्हें काफी परेशानियां हुईं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

21 FEBRUARY 2026

एयरपोर्ट पर सांसद का लगेज नदारद, इंडिगो के छूटे पसीने

नई दिल्ली, 20 फरवरी (नवोदय टाइम्स): इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट से इंडिगो की फ्लाइट से बेलगावी पहुंचे चांदनी चौक लोकसभा सीट से सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल को जब अपना लगेज नहीं मिला तो उन्होंने इंडिगो की क्लेम लगा दी। गुस्साए सांसद ने इंडिगो सीईओ पीटर एल्बर्स को एक्स पर लिखकर तत्काल इसका जवाब मांगा।

वहीं उन्होंने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू से भी इंडिगो के ऑपरेशनल स्टैंडर्ड को लेकर



सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल

जानकारी दी। मामला सांसद से जुड़ा होने के कारण इंडिगो स्टाफ के पसीने छूट गए। आनन-फानन में सामान की तलाश की गई। बताया गया कि इंडिगो की गलती की वजह से सामान कहीं और चला गया था। कड़ी मशक्कत के बाद सामान खोज कर सांसद तक पहुंचाया गया। तब जाकर सबकी जान में जान आई। सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल ने एक्स पर लिखा कि वह शुक्रवार को इंडिगो की फ्लाइट संख्या 6ई 5237 से नई दिल्ली से बेलगावी (कर्नाटक) पहुंचे थे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

20 FEBRUARY 2026

DGCA carried out 51 audits of aircraft charters in 2025

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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

The ministry of civil aviation said the audits included surveillance of VSR Ventures, operator of the Learjet 45 (VT-SSK) involved in an accident at Baramati on Jan 28. The accident killed five people, including then deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar.

Following the accident, DGCA was directed to conduct a special audit of VSR Ventures, covering regulatory compliance, safety management systems, crew training and flight data monitoring practices. The audit commenced on Feb 4 and is expected to be completed shortly, the ministry said.

The ministry said the investigation is evidence-based and includes examination of the wreckage, scru-

tiny of operational and maintenance records, and testing of relevant components. A preliminary report into the Baramati accident will be issued within 30 days of the occurrence, in line with international norms, it added.

DGCA is also undertaking special audits of other significant non-scheduled operators and aerodromes engaged in VIP and VVIP operations. Necessary corrective actions will be taken based on fin-

BARAMATI ACCIDENT CARRIER PROBED TOO

dings, ministry said, urging stakeholders to avoid speculation while investigation is underway.

Commenting on the ongoing probe into the Baramati crash, the ministry said the investigation is being conducted in accordance with the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2025, and ICAO Annex 13 standards.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is leading the inquiry.

Embraer seeks 200 jet orders to make in India

If We Get The Orders This Year, Final Assembly Line Will Be Ready To Roll Out Jets In 2028: CEO

Saurabh Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Getting "firm orders for 200 plus" aircraft from Indian carriers is the key to Embraer setting up a final assembly line (FAL) in the country for commercial fixed-wing aircraft. And if hitting the double century takes a while, a start could be made with a "completion centre" where ordered aircraft will fly in from Brazil; be painted, fitted with seats and other interior work before being delivered to local customers.

In India for the first time after the Brazilian aerospace major signed an MoU with Adani Group last month to set up a FAL for its popular regional jets, Embraer president & CEO Francisco Gomes Neto shared the details for his plans for the country.

"Being the fastest growing aviation market globally, a big economy, expanding airport network and PM Modi's successful UDAN scheme giving a filip to regional flights, India will need at least 500 regional jets in coming years. As far as Embraer goes, we need a firm order of 200 jets for the FAL here to be viable and feasible. The same can come up in 24 months of starting work. So if we get the orders this year, the FAL will be ready to roll out jets in 2028," Francisco Gomes Neto told TOI.

In his pursuit for orders, he will be meeting decision-makers at leading Indian aviation players including Tata Group's Air India Friday. A

meeting with IndiGo is on the cards in coming days. In India, Embraer is looking at assembling its 76-88 seater E175 regional jet which are used for short to medium-haul flights. There are at present eight E175 with Star Air and one in Reliance Industries fleet. Partner Adani group is scouting for sites, with Dholera in Gujarat being the frontrunner.

FALs only in Brazil (for defence and commercial jets) and the US (for business jets). Apart from them, it manufactures some parts in Portugal. "We are coming to India primarily to serve the Indian market. Once we are here (meaning the FAL is set up), we will look to meet the requirement of nearby markets from India. Expanding pro-

TO MEET AIR INDIA, INDIGO EXECS

> In his pursuit for orders, Embraer president & CEO Francisco Gomes Neto will be meeting decision-makers at Air India and IndiGo

> In India, Embraer is looking at assembling its 76-88 seater E175 regional jet which are used for short to medium-haul flights

> There are at present eight E175 with Star Air and one in Reliance Industries fleet

> Partner Adani Group is scouting for sites, with Dholera in Gujarat being the frontrunner

> At present, Embraer has final assembly lines only in Brazil (for defence and commercial jets) and the US (for business jets)

“As far as Embraer goes, we need a firm order of 200 jets for the FAL here to be viable and feasible... Expanding production capacity is in our interest and given India's potential, expecting firm orders for 200 jets is very reasonable

"For the last one-and-a-half years we are working on having a supplier base in India to buy parts for the jets coming out of our Brazilian FAL. Most recently, we have signed an MoU with Hindalco to identify possibilities in aerospace grade aluminium raw material manufacturing to strengthen our commitment to 'make in India'. As of now we have over 15 supply chain partners in India," said Gomes Neto, who has been heading Embraer since May 2019.

At present Embraer has

duction capacity is in our interest and given India's potential, expecting firm orders for 200 jets is very reasonable," he said. The company is planning the entire ecosystem in India, including an maintenance, repair and overhaul, pilot training and full flight simulator.

Embraer has taken the same route in the defence space too. It plans to establish a MRO capability in India for the C-300 Millennium "upon selection in the Indian Air Force's medium transport aircraft" programme.

