



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

20 APRIL 2025

Nepal panel finds graft in China-built airport

KATHMANDU, April 19: A Nepal parliamentary committee has uncovered a large-scale corruption worth around Nepalese Rs 14 billion in the construction of the Pokhara International Airport, built by a Chinese company with a soft loan from China.

A report by the sub-committee under the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Representatives (HoR) led by Member of Parliament Rajendra Lingden found irregularities in the airport's construction.

The report highlighted an embezzlement of approximately Rs 14 billion and called for investigations and action against several senior officials involved in the project.

The Pokhara Regional International Airport was built from a loan of around Rs 22 billion from the Exim Bank of China and was completed by the Chinese company on December 29, 2022.

As per the agreement, Nepal is required to repay the loan at a 2 per cent interest rate for seven years after the completion of the airport construction and then clear the principal in the next 13 years.

The sub-committee termed it unnatural that while the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) had estimated the cost of constructing the airport at USD 145 million, the contract was signed with the Chinese company to construct the project at the cost of USD 215 million, adding USD 70 million.

Irregularities during the project's construction also included granting tax exemptions of Rs 2.22 billion and paying Rs 320 million for removing 40 metres of Chhine Danda hill, which was never done.

The sub-committee also recommended the suspension of senior officials of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), including Director General Pradeep Adhikari and others involved in the project, from the feasibility study to the completion of the airport's construction.

It recommended the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) and the Department of Money Laundering Investigation to probe the involvement of several top officials concerned in the case. - PTI

फ्लाइट डायवर्जन पर भड़के उमर बोले-दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पूरी तरह बर्बाद आधी रात में विमान के दरवाजे पर बैठे रहे जम्मू-कश्मीर के सीएम

नई दिल्ली। जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला की उड़ान को दिल्ली में उतरने से पहले मार्ग बदलकर जयपुर भेज दिया गया। उमर आधी रात को जयपुर में विमान के दरवाजे पर बैठे फ्लाइट के उड़ान भरने का इंतजार करते रहे। इस बीच फ्लाइट में देरी होने और तमाम अव्यवस्थाओं को लेकर गुस्से का इजहार करते हुए उन्होंने कहा, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर पूरी तरह बर्बादी का नजारा है। दूसरी तरफ, दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डा लि. (डीआईएल) ने उन्हें हुई असुविधा पर खेद जताया और कहा कि रनवे के रखरखाव संबंधी कार्यों और पूर्वी हवाओं के कारण समस्या हुई है।

अब्दुल्ला ने रात 1:08 बजे सोशल मीडिया पर पोस्ट में कहा, दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर पूरी तरह बर्बादी का नजारा है (मुझे क्षमा करें, लेकिन मैं विनम्र होने के मूड में नहीं हूँ)। जम्मू से रवाना होने के तीन घंटे बाद हमें जयपुर की ओर ले जाया गया। इसलिए मैं रात के एक बजे भी यहाँ हूँ। मुझे नहीं पता कि हम यहाँ से किस समय रवाना होंगे। उन्होंने जयपुर हवाईअड्डे से इंडिगो विमान की सीटियों पर खड़े होकर ली गई एक सेल्फी भी साझा की और ताजी हवा लेने का जिक्र किया। इसके बाद देर रात 03:40 बजे दूसरी पोस्ट में अब्दुल्ला ने कहा कि अगर किसी को आश्चर्य हो रहा है, तो मैं बता दूँ कि मैं देर रात तीन बजे के बाद दिल्ली पहुँचा। इससे पूर्व शनिवार को जम्मू हवाईअड्डे पर भी अफरातफरी



उमर ने सोशल मीडिया पर अपनी तस्वीर साझा की।

यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए उठाना पड़ता है कदम : डीआईएल

सीएम अब्दुल्ला को पोस्ट का जवाब देते हुए, डीआईएल ने कहा कि उसने दिल्ली में हवा के बदलते रुख के बारे में कई परामर्श जारी किए हैं। आठ अप्रैल से रनवे 10/28 को रखरखाव के लिए बंद करने की सूचना भी दी गई है। हवाईपोर्ट के रखरखाव के कारण क्षमता संबंधी असम्भवी बर्बाद पैदा हुई। इन परिस्थितियों के कारण कई बार यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उड़ान का रुख बदलना पड़ता है।

इंडिगो ने कहा-भीड़भाड़ के कारण जयपुर भेजी गई उड़ान...इंडिगो के एक सूत्र ने कहा कि दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर भीड़भाड़ के कारण उड़ान को जयपुर ले जाया गया था। हाल के दिनों में रखरखाव कार्यों और पूर्वी हवाओं के मद्देनजर एक रनवे के बंद होने के कारण दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर उड़ानों में देरी हुई है।

का माहौल रहा, जहाँ सैकड़ों यात्रियों ने उड़ानों में देरी और रद्दीकरण के कारण असुविधा की शिकायत की। श्रीनगर में खराब मौसम के कारण उड़ान परिचालन बाधित हुआ, जिससे कई उड़ानें प्रभावित हुईं। एजेसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

Protest against Parandur airport reaches 1,000th day

TE Raja Simhan

Chennai

As the Tamil Nadu government prepares to issue a tender to build the Parandur greenfield airport near Chennai, Sunday marked the 1,000th day of protest by villagers against the ₹20,000 crore project.

Despite the rehabilitation and resettlement package, villagers have continued to protest, stating that the project would affect their livelihood. They say the proposed project will affect large portions of water bodies and agricultural lands, and families will be displaced with no livelihood opportunities.

LIVELIHOOD THREAT

Parandur Green Airport Project Protest Group & Ekanapuram Village Residents and Farmers Welfare Federation have urged both the State and Centre to drop the project.

The Federation said the project would affect 13 villages, including Ekanapuram, Nelvoy, Valathur, Ediyarpakkam, Madapuram and Akkammapuram surrounding Parandur.

While livelihood is a major issue, there are discrepancies in the data given by the Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (Tidco), the Centre and the Government Order, the groups claim.

However, State government sources say that the settlement offered to those affected, as part of the resettlement and rehabilitation package, was very good. "We will sort out the issues with the villagers soon," they said.

With the Centre having given its clearance for the construction of the project, it is set to enter the next stage of tendering soon.

Chennai's second airport can annually handle 10 crore passengers; will have two runways, terminal buildings, taxiways, an apron and a cargo terminal.

The need for the airport arises because the Chennai airport handles over 2.2 crore people annually. After the ongoing modernisation work, it can handle 3.5 crore people annually for the next seven years.

The State government is considering a regional rapid transit system (RRTS) to the planned airport in Parandur.

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

Airport tests autonomous tow vehicle

Cathay cargo terminal has completed the first end-to-end trial of autonomous electric tractor (AET) operations for direct towing from the inside of the terminal to the west cargo apron (WCA) at Hong Kong International Airport.



The trial involved a fully autonomous electric tow-tractor pulling four cargo dollies into the Cathay cargo terminal and driving itself to the correct cargo transfer gate for loading. After loading, the AET

drove itself out of the terminal and successfully completed its journey across the airport to the furthest cargo apron, the WCA, delivering the cargo ready to be loaded directly onto a Cathay cargo flight.

A unique feature of this initiative is the precise docking solution, enabling the AET's towing dolly chains to automatically align with the transfer deck for seamless unit load device (ULD) loading. Enhanced security features also allow the AET to be digitally checked into and out of the terminal without compromising security.



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DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

आईजीआई: रनवे अपग्रेडेशन और बदलते मौसम से उड़ानों में खलल

सोशल मीडिया पर यात्रियों के साथ सीएम ने भी जताई नाराजगी

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर रनवे अपग्रेडेशन कार्य और मौसम में बदलाव के कारण उड़ानों में देरी और डायवर्सन की समस्या देखने को मिल रही है। दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने बताया कि रनवे 10/28 को 8 अप्रैल से इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम (आईएलएस) अपग्रेडेशन के लिए बंद किया गया है, जो जुलाई तक चलेगा। इसके साथ ही, पूर्वी हवाओं (ईस्टर्न विंड्स) के पैटर्न में बदलाव से रनवे की क्षमता प्रभावित हुई है, जिसके चलते उड़ानों को डायवर्ट करना पड़ रहा है। इस वजह से यात्रियों को भारी असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

डायल ने अपने आधिकारिक एक्स हेंडल पर इसकी जानकारी देते हुए कहा है कि हमने मौसम के बदलते पैटर्न को लेकर कई बार एडवाइजरी जारी की थी। रनवे 10/28 को सभी हित धारकों से सलाह के बाद बंद किया गया है। इस दौरान पूर्वी हवाओं के कारण रनवे का उपयोग सीमित हो गया है, जिससे उड़ानों में देरी और डायवर्सन की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो रही

कम होलिंग फ्यूल के कारण करना पड़ा डायवर्ट

इस घटना से परेशान यात्रियों ने सोशल मीडिया पर अपना गुस्सा जाहिर किया है। जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला ने भी एक्स पर अपनी नाराजगी व्यक्त करते हुए लिखा है कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पूरी तरह से अव्यवस्थित है। जम्मू से उड़ान भरने के बाद तीन घंटे तक हवा में रहने के बाद हमारी फ्लाइट को जयपुर डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। रात 1 बजे मैं प्लेन की सीटियों पर ताजी हवा ले रहा हूँ और मुझे नहीं पता कि हम यहाँ से कब उड़ान भर पाएंगे। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार, जम्मू से दिल्ली आ रही ईडिंगो की उड़ान 6ई-5642 को कम होलिंग फ्यूल के कारण लैंडिंग में देरी को देखते हुए उसे जयपुर डायवर्ट करना पड़ा था। इस उड़ान में 155 यात्री सवार थे। वहीं जयपुर में लैंडिंग के बाद, विमान के एक केबिन क्रू मेंबर का फ्लाइट ड्यूटी टाइम लिमिटेशन पूरा हो गया। उसकी जगह नए क्रू मेंबर को बुलाने में भी कुछ समय लग गया।

जब पूर्वी हवाएं चलती हैं, तो केवल एक रनवे (11आर) का उपयोग लैंडिंग के लिए किया जा सकता है, जबकि अन्य रनवे (09 और 11एल) का उपयोग डिपार्चर के लिए होता है। इस वजह से हवाई यातायात में अस्थायी बाधा आ रही है। रनवे 28/10 की अनुपलब्धता के कारण तीन रनवे ऑपरेशनल हैं। पश्चिमी हवाओं (वेस्टर्न मोड) के दौरान प्रति

घंटे 42 आगमन और पूर्वी हवाओं (ईस्टर्न मोड) के दौरान प्रति घंटे 32 आगमन की दर है, जिसके चलते पूर्वी हवाओं के दौरान आगमन और प्रस्थान में देरी की संभावना है। डायल ने यात्रियों की सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता बताते हुए कहा कि वे स्थिति को नियंत्रित करने के लिए लगातार काम कर रहे हैं और असुविधा के लिए खेद व्यक्त किया है।

आगे क्या: अभी भी तेज हवाओं-तूफान की संभावना

इधर मौसम विभाग ने भी दिल्ली में तेज हवाओं और तूफान की संभावना जताई है, जिसके कारण उड़ानों के शेड्यूल पर और असर पड़ सकता है। यात्रियों से अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे अपनी उड़ान की स्थिति जानने के लिए अपनी एयरलाइंस से संपर्क करें। डायल ने आश्वासन दिया है कि वे इस स्थिति को जल्द से जल्द सामान्य करने के लिए सभी हित धारकों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

19 APRIL 2025

एयरपोर्ट; नए डिपार्चर एरिया में मॉकड्रिल, सुरक्षा व्यवस्था जांची



जयपुर। एयरपोर्ट पर शुक्रवार को एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन, केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (सीआईएसएफ) और राज्य सरकार की अग्निशमन शाखा ने संयुक्त रूप से फायर मॉक ड्रिल की। जानकारी के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट के नए डिपार्चर एरिया में फायर मॉक ड्रिल हुई। मॉक ड्रिल के दौरान आग लगने की एक काल्पनिक स्थिति तैयार की गई। इस दौरान आग पर काबू पाने की कार्रवाई, यात्रियों की सुरक्षित निकासी और आपात

सेवाओं की त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया की सफलतापूर्वक अभ्यास किया गया। फायर सेफ्टी अवेयरनेस के तहत एक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम भी आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें एयरपोर्ट स्टाफ और मौजूद यात्रियों को आग से बचाव संबंधी आवश्यक जानकारी दी गई। इस दौरान सीआईएसएफ के कमांडेंट नवीन भगत, डिप्टी कमांडेंट सुरज खुडे, सीएओ अनिमेष भट्ट सहित अन्य अधिकारी और कर्मचारी मौजूद रहे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

एयरपोर्ट पर एजेंसियों में तालमेल की कमी व मौसम की मार से बेहाल रहे यात्री

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आइजीआई) एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ानों में देरी और अव्यवस्था ने यात्रियों की मुश्किलें बढ़ा दी हैं। देश के सबसे व्यस्त एयरपोर्ट पर रनवे 10/28 के बंद होने, पूरब की हवा के साथ दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल), एयर ट्रेफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी) और एयरलाइंस के बीच तालमेल की कमी ने स्थिति को काफी बदहाल बना दिया है। रनवे बंद करने की योजना होने के बावजूद दूसरे रनवे पर पीक आवर की उड़ानों का शेड्यूल नहीं बदलने से उड़ानों को असमान रूप से प्रभावित किया, जिसका खामियाजा यात्रियों को लंबी कतारों, घंटों की देरी और अव्यवस्थित प्रबंधन के

उड़ानों में हुई देरी

11 अप्रैल को घुल भरी आंधी की वजह से दर्जनों घरेलू उड़ानें देरी से चलीं, 25 उड़ानें डायवर्ट हुईं, और सात उड़ानें रद्द हुईं।

12 अप्रैल को 400 से अधिक उड़ानें देरी से चलीं, जिसमें औसत देरी 50 मिनट थी, और 18 उड़ानें रद्द हुईं।

18 अप्रैल को हवा में बदलाव की वजह से चार घंटे तक एयर ट्रेफिक प्लान मैनेजमेंट लागू रहा, जिससे कई उड़ानों में देरी हुई।

रूप में भुगतना पड़ रहा है।

सूत्रों के अनुसार, डायल, एटीसी और एयरलाइंस ने रनवे बंद होने के बावजूद पीक आवर (सुबह 8-11 बजे और शाम 5-8 बजे) के उड़ान शेड्यूल में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया। नतीजतन, उड़ानों का



आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट • जागरण आर्काइव

दबाव इन घंटों में ही केंद्रित रहा, जिससे 40 मिनट की औसत देरी आम हो गई। कुछ उड़ानों में सात घंटे तक की देरी भी देखने को मिली। उड़ानों को गैर-पीक आवर में वितरित करने की योजना बनाई जा सकती थी, लेकिन ऐसा न होने

वेमौसम पूरब की हवा ने स्थिति को विगाड़ा

अप्रैल में वेमौसम पूरब की हवाओं ने स्थिति को और मुश्किल कर दिया। क्योंकि विमान केवल द्वारका की ओर से लैंडिंग कर रहे हैं। वहीं वसंत विहार की ओर से उड़ान भर रहे हैं, जिससे शेड्यूल गड़बड़ा गया।

से टेकआफ और लैंडिंग में बाधा बढ़ी। देश का सबसे व्यस्त एयरपोर्ट होने की वजह से, यहां की देरी का असर पूरे देश की उड़ानों पर पड़ रहा है। 15 अप्रैल से टर्मिनल दो मरम्मत के लिए बंद है, जिसके कारण इंडिगो और अकासा एयर की

उड़ानें टर्मिनल एक से संचालित हो रही हैं। टर्मिनल एक और टर्मिनल तीन के बीच सात किमी की दूरी की वजह से कनेक्टिंग उड़ानों वाले यात्रियों को सामान हस्तांतरण और समय प्रबंधन में परेशानी हो रही है।

इंटरनेट मीडिया पर नाराजगी जताई : यात्रियों ने डायल, एटीसी और एयरलाइंस के बीच तालमेल की कमी पर इंटरनेट मीडिया पर नाराजगी जताई। एक यात्री जागृति ने कहा, 'जब रनवे बंद करने की योजना पहले से थी, तो शेड्यूल क्यों नहीं बदला? हमें घंटों इंतजार करना पड़ रहा है।' एक अन्य यात्री अभिषेक ने कहा कि एयरलाइंस समय पर अपडेट देने में विफल रही हैं। एयरलाइंस का व्यवहार भी ठीक नहीं है।

उड़ान डायवर्ट होने पर भड़के सीएम उमर

राज्य ल्यूरो, जागरण • जम्मू: जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला ने दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर उनकी फ्लाइट में देरी होने और रविवार सुबह राजधानी में उतरने से पहले जयपुर के लिए डायवर्ट किए जाने की कड़ी आलोचना की है। उन्होंने इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर पोस्ट कर नाराजगी जताई। इस पर दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर (डायल) ने उन्हें हुई असुविधा पर खेद जताया और स्पष्ट किया कि रनवे को अपग्रेड करने और तेज पूर्वी हवाओं के चलते ऐसा हुआ है। विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने एक दिन पहले ही एक्स के माध्यम

से श्रीनगर में मौसम की स्थिति को देखते हुए उड़ानें प्रभावित होने की जानकारी दी थी।

उमर ने रविवार रात एक बजे एक्स पर इंडिगो के विमान के साथ सेल्फी साझा कर लिखा कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ब्लंडी शिट शो है (मेरी फ्रेंच भाषा माफ करें, लेकिन मैं विनम्र होने के मूड में नहीं हूँ)। जम्मू से निकलने के तीन घंटे बाद हमें जयपुर डायवर्ट कर दिया गया और मैं यहां सुबह विमान की सीढ़ियों पर ताजी हवा ले रहा हूँ। तड़के 3.40 बजे एक अन्य पोस्ट में कहा कि अगर किसी को आश्चर्य हो रहा है तो मैं बता दूँ कि वह तीन बजे के बाद ही दिल्ली पहुंचे।

Delhi Airport Seeks Immigration Services for Passengers to US

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Delhi international airport has requested the government to establish a US preclearance facility, a top official stated. This would allow passengers flying directly to the US to complete immigration, customs and security checks in Delhi before boarding.

If approved, travellers would bypass lengthy Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) inspections upon arrival in the US, proceeding directly to their final destinations or connecting flights. "We are looking at a preclearance facility for the US and have asked the government for setting up the facility at Delhi," said SGK Kishore, executive director of GMR Airports (South).

However, the implementation process could be lengthy, involving bilateral discussions between the Indian and US governments and a thorough inspection by US authorities to ensure Delhi airport meets the necessary standards.

Currently, Abu Dhabi is the only airport in Asia with a US preclearance facility, a feature that Etihad Airways utilises to attract US-bound travellers.

Delhi has witnessed a surge in US-bound flights with the resur-

gence of Air India, which now operates 34 weekly non-stop flights to various US cities and plans to add services to Los Angeles and Dallas. United and American Airlines also operate daily flights from Delhi to Newark and New York.

"To make Delhi an attractive proposition for more direct flights, such a facility becomes important as it will reduce hassle for passengers. Delhi will then become one of the top choices for passengers flying to the US from not only India but the region," a senior Delhi airport official commented.

The official noted that many passengers from Delhi connect to other destinations within the US, and this facility would allow them to proceed directly to their connecting flights.

Under a ₹9,000-crore expansion project, Delhi airport has expanded its international transfer area and increased immigration counters to manage the growing international traffic.

However, establishing a CBP preclearance facility would involve substantial costs for the airport, including structural modifications to create dedicated areas for US-bound flights and covering the expenses for deploying CBP personnel.



Flight disruption warnings 4 months ago went unheeded

Neha LM Tripathi
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NEW DELHI: Flight operations at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport remained hobbled on Sunday, with roughly 68% of all arrivals and departures delayed, as the airport operator said airlines failed to heed warnings about disruptions issued four months ago and neglected to adjust their flight schedules.

Officials pinned the chaos on a combination of poor planning and months-long miscommunication, with one of the airport's four runways shut for upgrades during the busy summer travel season, coupled with an untimely change in wind direction — a perfect storm of factors that slashed capacity and left passengers blind-sided.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), the airport operator, said airlines were informed about the planned runway

Chaos at Delhi airport

The closure of the runway and potential wind disruptions snowballed into a harrowing time for passengers



upgrade and potential wind disruption four months ago, but made "minimal or no changes".

"The closure of Runway 10/28 since 8th April for essential Instrument Landing System (ILS) upgradation, was planned

well in advance in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and based on historical wind patterns over 4 months ago...it was agreed amongst all stakeholders, including Airlines and ATC [air traffic control] that will

be temporary capacity constraints for arrivals...," DIAL said in a statement on X.

"During such moments the Airlines are to reschedule or cancel flights at short notice in

DELHI AIRPORT

interest of passenger safety and convenience... However, there were minimal to no changes made. Unfortunately this limited action/non action has led to significant operational challenges for all the stakeholders including Delhi airport and ATC and in the end impacted the passengers significantly," it added.

DIAL said the airport, in coordination with stakeholders, had decided to temporarily suspend the upgrade work.

"Runway 10/28 will be brought back into operation in the first week of May, with the remaining upgrade activities deferred for a month or so," it said.

Thousands of passengers were affected on Sunday as 501 departures and 384 arrivals were delayed, as of 11.30pm, according to flight-tracking service Flightradar24. This is just over 68% of the 1,300-odd flights the airport handles a day.

The service also said departures were, on average, delayed by an hour and arrivals by 75 minutes.

The airport operates four runways: 27/09, 28/10 (both these runways are old), 29L/11R, and 29R/11L, with the newest runway becoming operational in 2023. On a typical day, the airport handles up to 46 arrivals per hour.

Meanwhile, Terminal 2 was closed on April 15 2025 with the 46,000 passengers and 270,280 flights it handled being shifted to expanded Terminal 1, which was completely operational on the same day, April 15.

These concurrent factors snowballed into a harrowing time for passengers, and the mayhem was thrown under the spotlight again when Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah early on Sunday morning criticised the airport for a lengthy delay.

"Delhi airport is a bloody shit show (excuse my French but I'm in no mood to be polite). 3 hours in the air after we left Jammu we get diverted to Jaipur & so here I am at 1 in the morning on the steps of the plane getting some fresh air. I've no idea what time we will leave from here," he said on X.

Runway 28/10 was closed on April 8 to enhance its Instrument Landing System (ILS) to CAT III B standards — an upgrade that would help it better cope with fog in winter. The timelines were set out to ensure work was completed before winter this year.

In mid-December, key aviation stakeholders were in discussions to devise a plan to minimise weather-related disruptions, said officials aware of the matter. DIAL anticipated a reduction in runway capacity — and possible flight cancellations — because of the upgrade. By January, DIAL formally informed stakeholders and stated that the runway work would not impact flight operations.

Further complicating the situation, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) experienced a leadership change at the same time. DIAL first sought approvals from the civil aviation ministry in December 2024 and later from both the DGCA and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on January 15. These approvals were granted in February, said the people cited above.

A meeting on March 4 involving DIAL, AAI, the civil aviation ministry and airline representatives discussed DIAL's mitigation plan to handle passenger operations during the closure and ILS upgrade.

According to the meeting minutes reviewed by HT, all stakeholders were made aware of the shift in wind patterns and were advised to plan their operations accordingly.

In the meeting led by the AAI chairman Vipin Kumar, it was noted that when the airport operates with easterly winds in mind, the flight paths for runways 09 and 11R cross each other about 7.6 nautical miles west of the airport at a 12 degree angle. Because of this, the number of arriving flights are forced to be reduced to 32 per hour. A former AAI official explained, "When Runway 11L is used for departures and 11R for arrivals, and runway 09 is also used only for departures, the flight paths are not fully separate. So, there must be a gap of 100 to 110 seconds between each arriving flight on Runway 11R, which limits the number of arrivals to about 32 per hour."

Officials from AAI confirmed that airlines were informed about IMD's forecast, which predicted an increase in easterly wind conditions. In March and April, around 30% of flights were expected to operate in easterly mode, increasing to 50% by May and June. This seasonal shift, driven by pre-monsoon changes, was expected to further reduce runway capacity.

During westerly winds — when Runway 27 operates in mixed mode, Runway 29 is used for departures, and Runway 29L for arrivals — the combined capacity is 74 flights per hour. Under Easterly winds, with Runway 09 and 11L handling departures and Runway 11R managing arrivals, capacity is around 72. But with only one runway available for arrivals, the arrival capacity drops significantly.

Runway 28/10 had been reopened in February 2024 after being shut for re-carpeting in September 2023. It was closed again in April, right when summer flight traffic started increasing.

Relief may be on the way. A senior IMD official said the wind direction is expected to shift back to westerly in two days.

"Every time a western disturbance hits the western Himalayas, wind direction temporarily shifts to easterly," the official said.

Some officials suggested that the upgrade work could have been phased. However, industry experts disagreed, saying the nature of the work — milling the runway surface and installing inset lights — required it to be completed in one go. They added that the March to June window was optimal, as it avoids fog in winter and heavy rains during the monsoon.

Airlines were also advised that delays and diversions during easterly mode were inevitable. They were encouraged to review and adjust their schedules every two weeks based on actual operating conditions and unscheduled flight movements to minimise cancellations. "The airport operator shares its plans with stakeholders as per standard procedures. It's the airlines who should have trimmed their operations to avoid disruption," said Mohan Ranganathan, an aviation safety expert.

"A four-month closure of a major runway is a long time for a hub like Delhi. DGCA, as the regulator, should have revisited the summer schedule and possibly issued a revised one."

Mark D Martin of Martin Consulting however said, "It is concerning that DIAL, having managed IGI Airport since 2006, appears to attribute ongoing issues around airport congestion, planning, and

change management to external factors in a manner that may come across as dismissive."

A former airline official said that no airline would want to lose business. "Advance planning should have included the cancellation of some flights by the airlines..."

"However, such massive delays might also be causing them significant losses," said the official.

INDIA-U.S. DEAL

India. Milk and milk products derived from animals being fed non-vegetarian feed (a common thing in America) would offend religious sentiment of millions of Indians. Washington cannot simply dismiss this issue by terming it a non-tariff barrier," one of them said.

India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) negotiations in the first tranche are expected to involve goods trade, the people mentioned above said. A "near consensus" is there between the two partners to negotiate tariff and non-tariff issues for goods first and then pick up other areas such as services, digital trade, mobility and investments subsequently in the spirit of the agreement envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump, they said. On February 13, the two leaders resolved to boost bilateral trade from about \$200 billion to \$500 billion by 2030, dubbed as "Mission 500" through a BTA.

They said the first tranche of negotiations could see a significant tariff adjustment as Trump often referred to India as "tariff king" and imposed a 26% reciprocal tariff (including 10% baseline tariff) on Indian imports to America, but later suspended it for a three-month period (until July 9) pending trade negotiations. Although tariff structures in India are WTO-compliant, India's average tariff rate is 17% compared to about 3.3% imposed by the US. In the agricultural sector, India's average tariff is 39% compared to 5% by the US.

Bilateral reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers are on the cards keeping mutual benefits in mind on the principle of reciprocity. "India, however, wants to be treated equitably and not equal on trade matters. America has evolved as a developed country. India aspires to become a developed nation by 2047. Therefore, the principle of equity would not only help the two partners to have stable and strong bilateral economic ties, but also help Indian people to prosper, to



I believe the future of e developing the core skills ne in the 21st century. It is time rote learning and embrace a creative, and reflective appr Education should challenge critically, work collaborati problems with real-world r rapidly changing glot empowering learners with g by providing exposure to or diverse heritages around tl academic year beginning v tour of profound richness cultural and traditional herita

Around 900 flights hit, fliers frustrated at IGIA

Aheli Das

aheli.das@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Flight delays at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi on Saturday night and Sunday triggered fights and arguments between passengers on one hand and airport security and ground staff on the other. At least 384 arrivals and 501 departures were delayed, according to data available from Flightradar24, as of 11.30pm on Sunday.

The delays were due to shifting wind patterns, and the closure of a runway. Videos of arguments between passengers and airport security were shared on social media platform X after an Air India flight was delayed by seven hours.

"A fight broke out between Air India employees and angry passengers over a several-hour delay of a Delhi-Mumbai flight. Frustrated passengers confronted ground staff, leading to heated arguments and scuffles," a passenger shared on X.

"Whether you're travelling First/Business/Premium or Economy, the grimy inefficiency is the same at the time of embarkation, or otherwise. This is Terminal 3 at the Delhi airport on a Sunday morn: the air conditioning has failed, no adequate seating around and your bucks don't matter," said politician Yusuf A Ahmad Ansari on X while sharing a video of an overcrowded lounge area.

An airport official said that the chaos was a result of delays in landing of several flights due to change in wind patterns and easterly winds. "Of the four runways of the Delhi airport, runway 10/28 has been closed for upgradation. This, and the change in wind pattern, caused air traffic congestion, leading to delays in both departure and arrivals," the official said.

Flight operations at the airport have been severely disrupted over the past week due to a variety of factors. Since the runway closure, Delhi has been handling approximately 200 fewer flights daily. Adverse weather events compounded the



Passengers at IGI Airport's T1 last week.

VIPIN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

problems. On April 12, 498 flights were delayed due to an intense thunderstorm. Problems with baggage processing and conveyor belts also led to some flights getting delayed at Terminal 1 (T1) last Tuesday, which reopened 10 months after its canopy collapsed due to a heavy downpour that left one dead.

Delhi airport issued an advisory at 6.40 am on Sunday, saying, "Due to shifting wind pattern in the vicinity of the airport, certain airline operations may experience delays. Air traffic flow management measures for Flight Arrivals will be implemented from 0830 hours IST till 1230 hours IST today by ATC authorities to ensure safe operations...Passengers are advised to stay in touch with their respective airlines for the latest updates on flight schedules."

However, passengers complained about delays in baggage claim, unavailability of proper information and mismanagement throughout the day as air traffic congestion continued.

A Goa-bound couple traveling from Delhi complained about their baggage never arriving. The passenger, with handle @roshan_rx, posted on X, "My wife and I were traveling to Goa for our honeymoon on Flight 6E 2265 (from Delhi to Goa) on 20th April 2025...and checked in luggage at Delhi Airport, arriving Goa, we were informed that baggage not arrived."

"Despite repeated inquiries at the Goa airport, we were told that the luggage was not sent on the flight from Delhi. This caused us extreme inconvenience, as we had no change of clothes or essential items with us," he added.

Vinamra Longani, head of business, India, SGI Aviation, posted on X at 1.26am on Sunday, "The closure of runway 10/28 at Delhi airport continues to wreck havoc on flight operations to/from the busiest airport in India. Its 0125 local and every aircraft wanting to get in is having to circle for a prolonged period of time before landing."

Another passenger wrote, "Delhi Airport is literally in shambles due to Runway 28 closure and also easterlies blocking the use or other runways for arrivals. Almost every other domestic flight is delayed."

A person familiar with airport operations, requesting anonymity, told HT, "The acceptance rate for the airport during west-erlies is 42 arrivals per hour and during the easterlies it is 32 arrivals per hour. So when east-erlies are impacting, there is an anticipated delay of 10 arrivals per hour already, which naturally causes congestion."

The person cited above added that discussions are underway on whether runway 10/28, closed since April 8 for Instrument Landing System (ILS) upgradation, will be opened shortly.

OMAR ABDULLAH HITS OUT AT DELHI AIRPORT AFTER JAIPUR DIVERSION

Vrinda Tulsian

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah criticised IGI Airport after his flight to Delhi was diverted to Jaipur late Saturday night. Delhi airport clarified that the diversion was due to the changing weather conditions and temporary capacity constraints at the runway.

Sharing a photo of himself at the Jaipur airport, Abdullah posted on X, "Delhi airport is a bloody shit show (excuse my French, but I'm in no mood to be polite). 3 hours in the air after we left Jammu we get diverted to Jaipur and so here I am at 1 in the morning on the steps of the plane getting some fresh air. I've no idea what time we will leave from here." He later posted, "...I got to Delhi just after 3:00am."

Delhi airport, responding to Abdullah's post, said it would be incorrect to blame them for the delay as the change in wind patterns was historic and the runway closure was pre-planned so it was the airlines' responsibility to reschedule or cancel flights.

"When these easterly wind situations have been arising in the past few days, airlines were advised to adjust flight schedules. But there was minimal to no changes made..." the airport said on X on Sunday evening.

"Dear Mr Abdullah, as you may be aware, we've issued several advisories regarding the unseasonal changing wind patterns in Delhi...We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused," an earlier post by the Delhi airport had stated.

Further, airport officials said that the IndiGo flight 6E 5642 from Jammu to Delhi was allegedly diverted to Jaipur because it had less holding fuel. But IndiGo officials denied the claim saying the flight was delayed due to congestion.



Corporate Communications Directorate

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OMAR ABDULLAH SLAMS DELHI AIRPORT

T-2 closure, runway upgrade: Why Delhi airport is facing flight delays

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

FOR SEVERAL days, passengers have been at the receiving end of significant delays and diversions at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport owing to reasons ranging from repair works to unfavourable weather conditions.

The issue came to a head after Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah slammed the IGI Airport early Sunday after his flight from Jammu to Delhi was diverted to Jaipur due to "traffic congestion" and faced significant delays.

The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said it regretted the inconvenience caused to Abdullah and said there are temporary capacity constraints due to runway maintenance works and easterly winds.

Sharing a selfie purportedly taken during the IndiGo flight's halt in Jaipur, Abdullah wrote in a post on X, "Delhi airport is a bloody sh*t show (excuse my French but I'm in no mood to be polite). 3 hours in the air after we left Jammu we get diverted to Jaipur & so here I am at 1 in the morning on the steps of the plane getting some fresh air. I've no idea what time we will leave from here."

In a later post, he said, "In case anyone is wondering, I got to Delhi just after 3:00 AM".

The non-stop flight from Jammu to Delhi, which usually takes around one-and-a-half hours, took five hours.

"There was congestion at the airport. Aircraft should have enough holding fuel for these situations. This aircraft did not have

3 REASONS BEHIND AIRPORT WOES



- One out of the four runways at the Delhi Airport has been shut down for repair work
- The airport temporarily shut down Terminal 2

- for improvement works and shifted all operations to the revamped Terminal 1
- Unfavourable weather conditions also contributed to delays at the airport



... 3 hours in the air after we left Jammu we get diverted to Jaipur & so here I am at 1 in the morning on the steps of the plane getting some fresh air. I've no idea what time we will leave from here.

OMAR ABDULLAH
J&KCM, on X

sufficient holding fuel. That was why it was diverted to Jaipur. By the time the flight landed in Jaipur, the flight duty time limitation had finished, due to which the crew was changed," a source said.

"The flight was diverted due to traffic congestion, and we followed instructions from the ATC," an IndiGo source said.

Here's why the airport is facing delays:

Runway upgrade

One of the four runways at the Delhi airport has remained shut since April 9 for upgrade work. This has led to a decrease in the number of flights that can land at the airport.

"Delhi Airport is... undergoing essential runway upgrades... We are working closely with all stake-

holders to minimise any potential impact on flight operations," DIAL posted on X on April 9.

Currently, only two runways can operate in low visibility conditions from both ends.

Runway 10/28, which was slated to be upgraded over the coming months, can handle low-visibility operations from just one of its ends.

After the upgrade, the airport will have three runways capable of low-visibility operations. Being in North India, the Delhi airport is prone to dense fog during winter, which can lead to major disruptions.

"The plan to shut down the runway was taken in consultation with all stakeholders. All airlines were told to reduce flights," an airport source said.

According to a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued by the Airports Authority of India, only 42 flights will be able to arrive during westerly winds and 32 during easterly winds from April 11 to July 21.

A source aware of the development confirmed to *The Indian Express* that the runway will reopen sooner than expected. Operations on the runway were slated to commence in June after upgradation.

Closure of Terminal 2

All operations of Terminal 2 were shifted to the recently renovated Terminal 1 on April 15. T-2 has been temporarily shut till September to refurbish it to increase its passenger handling capacity. All of Terminal 2's approximately 270 flights and 50,000

passengers will be utilising T-1.

Earlier in January, DIAL had underlined in an official statement that "the temporary closure of Terminal 2 is expected to cause minimal disruption to operations, as the newly developed Terminal 1 will absorb the additional load, ensuring continued service to passengers,".

However, almost half of the flights at the airport were delayed on April 15, according to Flightradar24, a flight tracking website. On the first day of the relocation of flights to Terminal 1, passengers also faced additional inconvenience due to a glitch in the baggage check-in.

Weather conditions

Unfavourable weather also conditions contributed to existing delays. Last Friday, heavy thunderstorms and strong winds caused significant disruptions.

Shifting wind patterns over the last five days also caused delays. "Easterly winds, which usually start after May 15, have started right from April this time around," a source said. This change and the reduction of one runway have resulted in disruptions to flight operations.

"Due to shifting wind patterns in the vicinity of the airport, Air Traffic Flow Management measures for flight arrivals have been implemented from 1230 IST till 1630 IST today... All other airport operations and 3 runways at Delhi Airport continue to function as scheduled. However, certain flight arrivals may experience delays or adjustments," DIAL wrote on X on April 17.

DIAL has been making these posts for the last five days.





Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

20 APRIL 2025

Mumbai airport will remain shut for 6 hours on May 8

MUMBAI: Flight operations at the city's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) will remain shut for six hours on May 8, due to runway maintenance work ahead of the onset of the monsoon season, the private airport operator MIAL said on Saturday.

The Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) also said that the mandatory NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) was issued six months in advance to notify all stakeholders, enabling airlines to adjust their flight schedules well ahead of time and plan accordingly.

The scheduled pre-monsoon maintenance work on both the runways - 09/27 and 14/32 - will be undertaken between 11 am-17 pm, MIAL said.

During this period both the primary runway (09/27) and secondary runway (14/32) will be temporarily non-operational, it said.

This annual pre-monsoon maintenance is crucial for preserving the health and longevity of the airport airside infrastructure, it added.

Specialists will inspect runway surfaces for wear and tear, addressing preventive measures for waterlogging to ensure safe landing and take-offs during the monsoon season, Mumbai International Airport Ltd said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

रनवे अपग्रेडेशन व मौसम से फ्लाइट डिले, यात्री परेशान

नई दिल्ली, 20 अप्रैल (नवोदय टाइम्स): इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर चल रहे रनवे अपग्रेडेशन कार्य और मौसम में बदलाव के कारण फ्लाइट में देरी व डायवर्जन की स्थिति देखने को मिल रही है। एयरपोर्ट का संचालन करने वाली कंपनी डायल ने बताया कि रनवे 10/28 को 8 अप्रैल से इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम अपग्रेडेशन के लिए बंद किया गया है। कार्य जुलाई तक चलेगा। इसके साथ ही, पूर्वी हवाओं के टर्न में बदलाव से रनवे की क्षमता प्रभावित हुई है। इसलिए उड़ानों को डायवर्ट करना पड़ रहा है। इस स्थिति से यात्रियों को बहुत परेशानी उठानी पड़ रही है। जम्मू से दिल्ली आ रही एक फ्लाइट को तीन घंटे तक हवा में चक्कर लगाने के बाद जयपुर डायवर्ट किया गया।

डायल के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि जब पूर्वी हवाएं चलती हैं, तो केवल एक रनवे (11 आर) का उपयोग लैंडिंग के

लिए किया जा सकता है, जबकि अन्य रनवे (09 और 11 एल) का उपयोग डिपार्चर के लिए होता है। इस वजह से हवाई यातायात में अस्थायी बाधा आ रही है। डायल ने यात्रियों की सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता बताते हुए कहा कि वे स्थिति को नियंत्रित करने के लिए लगातार काम कर रहे हैं और असुविधा के लिए खेद व्यक्त किया है।

वहीं एयरपोर्ट पर समस्या से जूझ रहे यात्रियों का गुस्सा

सोशल मीडिया पर देखने को मिला। सोशल



मीडिया पर गुस्सा जाहिर करने वालों में जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला भी शामिल हैं। एक अन्य यूजर ने एक्स पर लिखा है कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट के पास चार रनवे हैं, फिर भी ट्रेफिक को संभाल नहीं पा रहे। मुंबई में केवल एक रनवे ऑपरेशनल होता है, फिर भी वहां ट्रेफिक बेहतर तरीके से मैनेज किया जाता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

Flight delayed, Omar takes Delhi IGI airport to task

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday lambasted Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport as his flight was delayed and diverted to Jaipur before landing in the national capital early morning. He called the Delhi international airport a "bloody shit show," adding he was "in no mood to be polite."

Accompanying his post with a selfie taken from outside an IndiGo plane at the Jaipur airport, he wrote on X, "Delhi airport is a bloody sh*t show (excuse my French but I'm in no mood to be polite). 3 hours in the air after we left Jammu we get diverted to Jaipur & so here I am at 1 in the morning on the steps of the plane getting some fresh air. I've no idea what time we will leave from here". Delhi airport operator DIAL regretted the inconvenience caused to him and said there are temporary capacity constraints due to runway upgradation and easterly winds.

The Delhi Airport responded to

Abdullah on Sunday, citing "unseasonal changing wind patterns" for the delay. "Dear Mr Abdullah, as you may be aware, we've issued several advisories regarding the unseasonal changing wind patterns in Delhi. Runway 10/28 has been closed for ILS upgradation since 8th April, following consultation with all stakeholders and based on historical wind patterns. Additionally, the shift toward more easterly winds and the use of converging runways for easterly arrivals have led to temporary capacity constraints during this degradation," it said. Meanwhile, the IGI Airport Sunday morning issued an advisory for passengers, saying that airlines may experience delays "due to shifting wind patterns in the vicinity of the airport".

In a post on X, the airport said air traffic flow management measures for flight arrivals will be implemented from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm to ensure safe operations in accordance with international and regulatory protocols, keeping passenger safety the highest priority.

Continued on >> P2

Flight delayed, Omar takes Delhi IGI airport to task

Continued from >> P1 All other operations across terminals and three runways at Delhi Airport, continue to function normally. Passengers are advised to stay in touch with their respective airlines for the latest updates on flight schedules," it said on X. It added, "We sincerely regret any inconvenience caused and appreciate your understanding."

Omar's comments came amid widespread flight delays caused by adverse weather in the Valley. On Saturday, at least six flights were cancelled at the Srinagar airport, where moderate to heavy rainfall and hailstorms disrupted operations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

19 APRIL 2025

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट नए डिपार्चर एरिया में की फायर मॉक ड्रिल



सुरक्षा व्यवस्था का किया गया परीक्षण

जयपुर @ पत्रिका. जयपुर एयरपोर्ट के नए डिपार्चर एरिया में शुक्रवार को फायर मॉक ड्रिल की गई। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के अनुसार ड्रिल के दौरान आग लगने की एक काल्पनिक स्थिति तैयार की गई। इसमें एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन, केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल और राज्य सरकार की अग्निशमन शाखा के कर्मचारियों ने संयुक्त रूप से हिस्सा लिया। इस दौरान आग पर काबू पाने की कार्रवाई, यात्रियों की सुरक्षित निकासी और आपात सेवाओं की त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया का सफलतापूर्वक अभ्यास किया गया। फायर सेफ्टी अवेयरनेस के तहत जागरूकता कार्यक्रम भी आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें एयरपोर्ट स्टाफ और यात्रियों को आग से बचाव संबंधी जानकारी दी गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

19 APRIL 2025

एयरपोर्ट पर बम की अफवाह से हड़कंप

कानपुर . कानपुर एयरपोर्ट पर
शुक्रवार को बम की अफवाह से
हड़कंप मच गया। एक सिर्फिरे ने
फोन कर बताया कि 72-सीटर
विमान में बम है। परिसर की तलाशी
में कोई सदिग्ध सामग्री नहीं मिली।

New building to come up as part of airport expansion plan; to have 11 million passenger capacity

Old domestic terminal set to be razed

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: The old domestic terminal of the Calcutta airport will be pulled down. It is almost defunct now except for handling a few special flights.

The building became operational in 1995 and remained the hub of Calcutta airport's domestic flight operations till the new integrated terminal became functional in 2013.

It is located to the left as one takes a right turn towards the departure gates of the existing integrated terminal through the ramp.

The white building is adjacent to the integrated building just after the bus terminal. The area opposite the building has now been allocated for app-cab parking.

The demolition of the building is part of a two-phase expansion plan of the Calcutta airport.

Airport officials said a private agency will soon be given the contract to demolish the 30-year-old building. The work is likely to start in August.

"The contract for the demolition will be given to a private agency soon. Construction and other materials from the demolished building will

be auctioned," airport director Pravat Ranjan Beuria told Metro.

"The demolition of the building will mark the beginning of the expansion project," he said.

The agency that gets the contract is supposed to pay ₹1.5 crore to the airport authorities as part of the auction cost.

Airport sources said Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd, a government-owned e-commerce company, is finalising hiring the agency.

The old domestic building was approximately 22,500 square metres with an annual capacity to handle 50 lakh passengers.

The total area of the present integrated terminal building is 2,22,973 square metres, with an annual capacity to handle 26 million passengers.

As part of the airport's expansion plan, a new terminal building covering 1.2 lakh square metres will come up to handle the increasing passenger numbers.

The Airports Authority of India has sent a project proposal, with an approximate cost of ₹4,500 crore, to the Centre for approval.

Work is now underway for



The old terminal of the Calcutta airport. Pictures by Bishwarup Dutta



HIGHLIGHTS

Old terminal building:

Became operational in **1995**

Total area

22,500 sq-m
(approximately)

Annual passenger handling capacity

50 lakh

a modular expansion of the airport to add 2 million to the annual passenger count capacity, taking it to 28 million. A budget of ₹130 crore has been

allocated for the project.

"However, despite the expansion, we will require a new terminal by 2030," an airport official said.

The new terminal building is estimated to have an annual capacity of 11 million passengers.

"After the construction of

the new integrated terminal building, the existing one will be converted for domestic operation with an assessed annual passenger capacity of 34

million per year," said an airport official.

The old domestic building, which will be demolished, often struggled to handle the rush of passengers. Filers would often complain about long queues at the entry gates and security hold check-in counters.

A canopy was built from one end of the old domestic terminal to the other to increase lounge space. Spanning over 2,650 square metres, it was built in three phases.

Despite the expansion, the terminal's infrastructure was insufficient to handle the increasing number of passengers, especially in the domestic sector.

Adding to the problem was the lack of work culture among some airport employees, which had resulted in dirty washrooms and an untidy lounge.

When the existing integrated building became operational in 2013, most low-cost carriers operated out of the old domestic terminal.

"This time, special flights carrying Haj pilgrims will be operating out of the old domestic terminal," said an airport official.

Blame Game Between DIAL & Airlines Over Flight Delays

Jammu-Delhi Via Jaipur In 5.5 hours; Omar Abdullah Fumes

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A full-blown blame game has erupted between airlines and Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) as delays continue to plague flights at India's busiest hub. Responding to Jammu & Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah's comment on X that "Delhi airport is a b****y s**t show" after his Jammu-Delhi reached the destination in 5.5 hours with a diversion stop in Jaipur, DIAL blamed airlines for making "minimal to no changes" to flight schedules. Airlines, on their part, questioned the timing of runway repair work by the airport operator.

"Delhi airport is a b****y s**t show (excuse my French, but I'm in no mood to be polite). 3 hours in the air after we left Jammu we get diverted to Jaipur & so here I am at 1 in the morning (Sunday) on the steps of the plane getting some fresh air. I've no idea what time we will leave from here," Abdullah said in X early on Sunday morning.

Abdullah had boarded IndiGo's 6E-5642, which took off from Jammu at 9.30 pm. The



HARROWING TIME: How Omar Abdullah and everyone else on IndiGo Jammu-Delhi flight hovered near Delhi on Saturday-Sunday night for 1.5 hours before diverting to Jaipur

Airbus A320 hovered in Delhi for 1.5 hours and, then, diverted to Jaipur where it landed at 12.30 am on Sunday. According to flight tracking sites, the aircraft finally took off from Jaipur at 2.14 am and reached IGIA just after 3 am.

Responding to him, Delhi Airport said on X: "... The closure of runway 10/28 since April 8 for essential instrument landing system (ILS)

upgradation, was planned well in advance... it was agreed among all stakeholders, including airlines and air traffic control (ATC) that whenever the shift (in wind flow) happens to easterly winds... airlines are to re-schedule or cancel flights at short notice.... Airlines were advised, in accordance with pre-agreed plans, to adjust flight schedules. However,

there was minimal to no changes made. Unfortunately, this limited action/non-action has led to significant operational challenges for all the stakeholders, including Delhi Airport and ATC, and, in the end, impacted the passengers significantly."

On their part, airlines blame the timing on the airport operator. "Just look at past three years and Delhi Airport has been facing one challenge after the other. Last year, terminal 1 issue happened. Before that, the main runway could not handle CAT III B landings in the winter of 2023-24. Now, this is the latest issue. How do they expect to meet the growing air travel requirement with such erratic service," said officials across airlines.

With its three currently operational runways and unseasonal easterly winds, IGIA can handle a maximum of up to 32 arrivals in an hour. But the number of flights scheduled to fly in is way higher than this number, leading to endemic delays and diversions. Cumulatively, 94 arrivals on a daily basis are in hours exceeding the up to 32 mark.

Gold Line Metro to link both airports via LTT & Kurla with 7 interchanges

Manthan K. Mehta
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Cidco is in the final stages of preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Metro Line 8—also known as the Gold Line—which will connect Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai to the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA). It will offer interchange connectivity with several operational and proposed metro corridors across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The alignment will pass through key nodes, including Kurla and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT), enhancing integration between metro, suburban rail, and long-distance trains.

The 34.9-km corridor is estimated to cost Rs 20,000 crore and will be developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Once the DPR is submitted to the state govt, Cidco plans to float tenders, with the bidding process expected to conclude this year. The line is targeted for commissioning by 2029.

The Gold Line will begin at the CSMIA Terminal 2 station and run underground

CORRIDOR TO HANDLE 9L RIDERS/DAY

Mumbai Metro Line 8 Route Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to Navi Mumbai International Airport Status DPR (Detailed Project Report) stage Length 34.9 km BMC Area: 14 km CIDCO Area: 20 km		
Alignment Underground: 9.7 km Elevated: 25.2 km		Timeline Targeted for completion by 2029
Key Stations (tentative): CSMIA T2 LBS Marg Ghatkopar East LTT Sagar Sangam Targhar/Moha NMIA West NMIA T2 Passenger Interchanges: Line 2B: DN Nagar – Mandale (at ISBT Mankhurd) Line 3: Colaba – Bandra – SEEPZ (at CSMIA) Line 4: Wadala – Kasarvadavali (at Garodiya Nagar, Ghatkopar)		

until Chhedha Nagar. From there, it will transition into an elevated corridor along the Sion-Panvel Highway, replacing the earlier plan to route it via Palm Beach Road.

Cidco's Vice Chairman and Managing Director Vijay

Singhal said, "The alignment passes through Kurla and LTT, enhancing multimodal connectivity between metro services and both suburban and long-distance trains. It continues onward through Mankhurd, Vashi, Nerul, and

Belapur, serving as a crucial east-west transit link that connects two international airports while also integrating key residential and commercial zones."

In addition to its strategic airport-to-airport role, Metro Line 8 will offer interchange connectivity with seven other metro corridors across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Singhal further said, "These interchanges will offer seamless travel across the city and beyond, making Metro 8 a vital component of the region's integrated transport network."

He added that the metro would offer a reliable and efficient alternative for air passengers, especially those with tight layovers, while easing vehicular pressure on arterial roads such as the Eastern Express Highway and Sion-Panvel Highway. Having two airports in Mumbai and direct connectivity will boost the development in MMR region and fulfill the goal of \$ 5 trillion economy, said Singhal. Metro Line 8 will be Mumbai's second metro corridor to be executed under the PPP model after the operational Versova–Andheri–Ghatkopar Metro Line 1. It is projected to handle nearly 9 lakh passengers daily.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

बंगलूरु हवाईअड्डे पर इंडिगो के विमान से टकराई मिनी बस



बंगलूरु। कर्नाटक के बंगलूरु में केम्पेगौड़ा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर मिनी बस ने इंडिगो एयरलाइंस के खड़े विमान को टक्कर मार दी। हालांकि, घटना में कोई घायल नहीं हुआ। शुकवार दोपहर हुई घटना की तस्वीरें सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल हुई हैं। इसमें मिनी बस को विमान के नीचे फंसा हुआ देखा जा सकता है। घटना की जांच के आदेश दिए गए हैं। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

Centre to seek airlines' feedback before resuming India-China direct flights

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Centre is set to seek feedback from airlines on their past experience of operating in China before restarting any direct flights between the two countries, industry sources told *businessline*.

businessline was the first to report on April 8, 2025, that delegation-level talks were held between India and China on "ways and means" to restart direct air services.

Notably, there has been no direct air connectivity between India and China since early 2020, following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The situation deteriorated after military clashes erupted between the two neighbours in Galwan Valley of the Ladakh region.

Prior to Covid, airlines from both sides operated flights to many destinations like Shanghai, Guangzhou, New Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata.

Flight services, however, have been resumed between India and Hong Kong.

AIRFARE RULES

"The next meeting is expected to take place during the latter part of this month or early next month," industry sources said.

"A key agenda item will be airfare regulations imposed by China on Indian airlines."

India is likely to push for greater freedom for its carriers to determine their own airfares based on demand.

The talks, industry sources said, will also touch on the expected entry of Chinese low-cost carriers into the Indian market, which is expected to boost tourism in both countries.

Sources said, both sides hope to revive tourism and business travel by easing restrictions and increasing dir-

ect flights between the two countries.

"After the second round of talks, the delegations, which also consist of regulators, will discuss slot allocations and other operational arrangements," added the sources.

Last week, multiple sources told *businessline* that India and China have started the process to resume direct flight operations by agreeing to first "streamline procedures" for airline operations.

The two countries have agreed "in principle to resume direct air services."

GROUND-LEVEL TALKS

"Multiple stakeholders are involved in the overall talks that include issues such as visas. Specifically on the civil aviation side, talks took place in a cordial environment before starting the process," sources had told *businessline*.

"Streamlining of processes such as slot allocation, renewal of ground handling contracts and other procedures have started."

As per sources, the streamlining exercise would give an impetus to the industry to start operations, as the earlier system was "cumbersome as well as time-consuming."

"After the process is completed, it will be up to airlines to ready their ground operations at the destination airport by deploying adequate manpower and securing regulatory approvals," sources had said.

Besides, sources said that the streamlining process will not change the contours of the existing bilateral air rights agreement.

On their part, the domestic airline industry is optimistic about resuming flight services. Speaking to *businessline*, executives of several airlines said flights to China used to experience healthy load factors, sometimes up to 90 per cent.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

Travel demand to the US takes a hit amid trade tensions, visa backlogs

FLIGHT FARES DIP. Airfares from Mumbai/Delhi to the US in April-June are 5-8% lower than last year

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Ongoing trade tensions and unease among students over tighter visa regulations are slowing down travel demand to the US.

On an overall basis, overseas visitor arrivals (excluding Mexico and Canada) in the US declined 11.6 per cent in March on a year-on-year basis, data from National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO) show.

A reduction in arrivals was seen from all regions except East Europe and West Asia.

Indian arrivals in the US dropped 3.6 per cent in March and have remained flat in the first three months of CY2025. NTTO data include leisure tourists, business visitors and students.

While US President Donald Trump has paused imposition of tariffs for all countries except China and



FOOTFALLS DECLINE. Indian arrivals in the US dropped 3.6% in March and remained flat in the first three months of CY 2025

is negotiating trade deals, the uncertainty is resulting in travel deferrals.

ENROLMENTS DROP

Enrolments in the US by Indian students have reduced and the recent revocation of study visas have added to anxieties.

Travel sentiment in India towards the US has been significantly impacted as a result of US government actions, said Ajay Bali,

Managing Director (India), BCD Travel.

While there was some uptick in April, demand for travel to the US in May and June looks sluggish, said Bali, who helps global MNCs with their travel plans.

Airfares from Mumbai/Delhi to the US in April-June period, too, are 5-8 per cent lower than last year, indicating muted demand.

A recent poll by the Global Business Travel Association

(GBTA) echoes similar concerns. Globally, nearly a third of corporate travel managers estimate a significant decrease in business travel volume in 2025 due to US government policies.

BIZ TRAVEL OUTLOOK

“While the outlook for global business travel was incredibly strong coming into 2025, our research now shows increasing concerns and uncertainty within our industry,” said Suzanne Neufang, CEO of GBTA.

Only 31 per cent of professionals expressed optimism about overall business travel outlook while 40 per cent were neutral.

GBTA said this marked a decline from its last November poll when 67 per cent reported optimistic outlook for 2025 and 26 per cent were neutral.

GBTA’s latest poll was based on responses from 905 corporate travel managers,

with over half of them based in the US. Indian participants accounted for 2 per cent of the total.

‘INDUSTRY RESILIENT’

Some, however, believe that fears of a slowdown in India US travel are overblown. “It is pretty much business as usual for us,” said a head of an online travel agency.

“Throughout the first few months of the year, travel and bookings from India to the US have remained steady year-on-year,” said Sunny Sodhi, MD, FCM Travel India. While Sodhi remains confident of the resilience of travel industry, he foresees a possible change in focus by companies.

“It is a very different landscape today compared to what it was at the beginning of the year, and we are conscious that companies may prioritise business and trade with other nations,” Sodhi remarked.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

■ Airbus, Boeing Plane Prices to Rise on Tariffs



NEW YORK Commercial plane prices, already lifted in recent years due to pandemic supply chain shocks, are poised to climb further as Boeing and Airbus are buffeted by trade tariffs. "Compared with 2018, prices for commercial jets have risen by around 30%," an aviation expert told AFP on condition of anonymity. The American and European aerospace giants have grappled with higher expenses for primary materials.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

मरम्मत और हवा की दिशा बदलने से उड़ानें प्रभावित

समस्या

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। जम्मू कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला की ओर से दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट को लेकर किए गए पोस्ट के बाद विमानों की उड़ान में हो रही देरी पर सवाल खड़े हो रहे हैं। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों का कहना है कि हवा की दिशा में हो रहे बदलाव और रनवे पर चल रहे मरम्मत कार्य की वजह से यह परेशानी हो रही है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि रनवे संख्या 28/10 पर अप्रैल के पहले सप्ताह में मरम्मत कार्य शुरू किया गया है। इसके लिए एयरलाइंस कंपनियों, डीजीसीए, एटीसी (एयर ट्राफिक कंट्रोल) आदि एजेंसियों से सहमति ली गई है। इसके साथ ही हवा के पूर्व व्यवहार का अध्ययन भी किया गया था। एनएच-48 की तरफ से उतने वाली विमानों के लिए यह रनवे 28 कहलाता है, जबकि द्वारका की तरफ से उतरने पर यह रनवे 10 कहलाता है। इसलिए इस रनवे को 28/10 कहा जाता है। कुछ दिनों से हवा की दिशा बदलने के चलते एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों के उतरने में परेशानी हो रही है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि पश्चिमी दिशा से हवा चलने के समय में आसानी से 42 विमान रनवे पर उतर जाते हैं, लेकिन बीते कुछ दिनों से पूर्वी दिशा से हवा चल रही है। ऐसे में प्रत्येक घंटे केवल 32 विमान ही रनवे पर उतर पाते हैं। इसकी

यात्रियों को सूचना दी

एयरपोर्ट पर रविवार को भी हवा की दिशा में बदलाव रहा। इसे लेकर दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट की तरफ से सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर यात्रियों को जानकारी दी गई। इसमें बताया गया कि हवा की दिशा बदलने के चलते विमानों के उतरने में समस्या हो रही है। सभी सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ विमान उतर रहे हैं। कुछ विमानों की उड़ान प्रभावित हो सकती है, इसके लिए विमान कंपनी के संपर्क में रहें।

वजह से विमानों को उतरने में देरी होती है। साथ ही उन्हें वापस उड़ान भरने में भी अतिरिक्त समय लग रहा है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरने वाले विमानों को अतिरिक्त ईंधन भरने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं। शनिवार रात जम्मू कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला जिस विमान से दिल्ली आ रहे थे, उसमें अधिक मात्रा में ईंधन नहीं था। इसके चलते ही उसे जयपुर डायवर्ट करना पड़ा।

मई के पहले सप्ताह में खुलेगा रनवे : दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर विमानों की उड़ान प्रभावित होने के चलते एजेंसियों ने रनवे संख्या 28/10 पर चल रहे मरम्मत कार्य को बीच में ही रोकने का निर्णय लिया गया है। मई माह के पहले सप्ताह में रनवे को खोल दिया जाएगा। बचा हुआ मरम्मत कार्य बाद में करने का फैसला लिया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

20 APRIL 2025

DGCA orders probe into AIX pilot's death

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has ordered a detailed investigation into the death of an Air India Express pilot after a flight from Srinagar to Delhi on April 9, including a verification of his medical history, as well as examining if the guidelines for dealing with such emergencies need to be changed.

The investigation will be conducted under the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017, said the order issued on Thursday by DGCA director general Faiz

Ahmed Kidwai. HT has seen a copy of the order. On April 9, the 36-year-old first officer died during treatment at a hospital after he collapsed a few minutes after landing Flight IX-1153 from Srinagar to Delhi. Soon after the incident, a group of pilots alleged in the media that the situation was poorly handled and that the deceased pilot was fatigued.

**PILOT HAD DIED
AFTER COLLAPSING**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

21 APRIL 2025

Tariff war: Boeing aircraft returns to US from China



A Boeing 737 MAX plane, intended for China's Xiamen Airlines, arrives at King County International Airport, in Seattle, Washington, after returning from China.

Reuters

REUTERS

SEATTLE, APRIL 20

A BOEING jet intended for use by a Chinese airline landed back at the planemaker's US production hub on Sunday, a victim of the tit-for-tat bilateral tariffs launched by President Donald Trump in his global trade offensive.

The 737 MAX, which was meant for China's Xiamen Airlines, landed at Seattle's Boeing Field at 6:11 p.m. (0111 GMT), according to a Reuters witness. It was painted with Xiamen livery.

The jet, which made refueling

stops in Guam and Hawaii on its 5,000-mile (8,000-km) return journey, was one of several 737 MAX jets waiting at Boeing's Zhoushan completion center for final work and delivery to a Chinese carrier.

Trump this month raised baseline tariffs on Chinese imports to 145 per cent. In retaliation, China has imposed a 125 per cent tariff on US goods. A Chinese airline taking delivery of a Boeing jet could be crippled by the tariffs, given that a new 737 MAX has a market value of around \$55 million, according to IBA, an aviation consultancy. It is not clear which

party made the decision for the aircraft to return to the US. Boeing did not immediately respond to request for comment. Xiamen did not respond to request for comment.

The return of the 737 MAX, Boeing's best-selling model, is the latest sign of disruption to new aircraft deliveries from a breakdown in the aerospace industry's decades-old duty-free status.

The tariff war and apparent U-turn over deliveries comes as Boeing has been recovering from an almost five-year import freeze on 737 MAX jets and a previous round of trade tensions.



Trump effect? Airfares to US next month lowest in several summers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Airfares to the US have dropped—a first in many summers—and is being described by many as the effect of US president Trump's policies.

The most noticeable drop is for flights out of Mumbai, with the cheapest one-way ticket to New York, available on Saturday for travel around mid-May, priced as low as Rs 37,000. Although the cheapest return is priced at Rs 76,000, it involves a long transit halt at a Middle Eastern airport.

However, for Rs 85,000, you can get a ticket via Delhi or London with a wait time of no more than four hours.

Indians form the second-largest immigrant community in the US, but it is not only children flying back home to visit their parents or parents flying to and fro to see their children. India also sends the largest number of students to the US, making flights to the



- > **Lowest Mumbai-New York fares starting after May 12**
- > **₹37,000, cheapest one-way economy fare, with a four-hour transit via London. Similar return options available at Rs 85,000**
- > **Avg fares this summer down by 5-8%** compared to the same time last year, said travel gurus
- > **Airfares to several European destinations too are down this summer, said travel operators**

US in high demand throughout the year. In past years, airfares to fly between India and the US were high due to the skewed demand-supply dynamics. This summer, however, the scene has changed.

► **Continued on P 12**

'Average airfares down by 5-8% compared to last yr'

► **Continued from P 1**

For those with a valid visa, travelling to the US is now economical, at least as far as airfares are concerned. "Summer marks the peak holiday season for Indian travellers, with schools closed and families, including multiple-generation families, travelling to popular long-haul destinations like the US. Interestingly, we're seeing a drop in airfares for travel from Delhi and Mumbai to key US cities during the April-June 2025 period, with average fares dropping by 5-8% compared to the same time last year," said Indiver Rastogi, president and group head, Global Business Travel, Thomas Cook (India) and SOTC Travel.

"Based on bookings made in Jan-Feb 2025, fares to San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles averaged Rs 1.15 lakh—down from Rs 1.20-1.25 lakh in 2024. Similarly, fares to Boston, Orlando, and Michigan were around Rs 1.35 lakh, compared to Rs 1.40-1.45 lakh last year," he said.

To fly out this month, the return fare approaches a lakh on flights with agreeable transit times at Middle Eastern airports. While these estimates are based on bookings done in the first two months of the year, the latest round of fares has shown a further decline. "In the past few summers, airfares for travel to the US have been high throughout the year," said an airline official.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

20 APRIL 2025

Indian aviation faces hurdles of import dependence, talent deficit amid growth

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Bengaluru: India's aviation industry is on the runway for rapid expansion, but experts warn it's flying with two engines down: Overdependence on imports and shortage of skilled talent. At a time when domestic carriers are placing record aircraft orders and air traffic is set to surge, 98% of aviation components are still sourced from abroad, said industry experts.

At the international conference on the future of aviation and aerospace, hosted by Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) Saturday, experts talked about the challenges faced by the industry despite the promising future. "India has around 700 commercial aircraft in operation. That's less than what a single US airline like American or Delta flies," said Sunil Bhaskaran, CEO of AirAsia India. "Yet we're sitting on an order book of 1,700 aircraft.



“The sector must take human capital more seriously, not just in numbers but in quality and well-being. Safety in aviation can't be taken for granted. That applies as much to aircraft as to people working in the sector

RISHIKESHA T KRISHNAN, director, IIMB

Passenger volumes are expected to grow from 200 million today to 1.3 billion in two decades. The ecosystem must scale accordingly.”

But India's aviation ecosystem is still heavily import-driven. Almost 98% of raw materials and components are sourced from abroad, highlighted Dwarakanath, director general of the Aerospace India Association. “Even as global supply chains diversify, India's share in commercial aviation exports remains below 1%. We should move to 10% of the global supply chain, from less than

\$2 billion to \$20 billion exports. And our value add should move from less than 30% to greater than 60%, including indigenisation of raw materials,” he added.

Kushal Jadia, CTO of Cylent, told **TOI** that the industry's value addition is still based on labour and cost arbitrage. “Until we start designing, certifying, and manufacturing parts ourselves, we won't be truly a domestic aviation leader. Right now, we're not building planes, we're assembling them.”

While the sector struggles with indigenisation, it faces

an equally pressing crisis in human capital.

Sujaya Sashikiran, MD of Hical Technologies, said, “There's a huge disconnect between engineering education and industry needs. We have to invest heavily in training — whether it's design or manufacturing. In aerospace, there's no room for error. Our components are electro-mechanical, which means engineers need to understand winding, materials, and how machining affects performance, like how oil flows through a solenoid. And right now, fresh graduates just aren't prepared to handle them.”

The demand for pilots, drone operators and aviation systems experts too is growing rapidly. “We'll need more than 10,000 new pilots by 2030,” said S Raghunath, professor, IIMB. “And where's the talent for managing drone traffic, optimising flight routes, or ensuring aviation safety systems?”



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

20 APRIL 2025

Airfares to US from Mum, Delhi next month lowest in several summers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai/New Delhi: Airfares from India to the US have dropped, a first in many summers. The slump is likely due to the Trump effect, with tickets costing 10% to 15% less out of New Delhi than last summer.

The most noticeable drop is on flights out of Mumbai, with the cheapest one-way ticket to New York, available on Saturday for travel around mid-May, priced as low as ₹37,000. Although the cheapest return is priced at ₹76,000, it involves a long transit halt at a Middle East airport.

“The New York-Delhi



TRUMP EFFECT?

nonstop economy return fare for going in the peak season of May/June and back a month later is about ₹1 lakh all inclusive,” said Travel Agents Federation of India VP Anil Kalsi. Delhi-San Francisco return fares this summer are about ₹1.7 lakh on the non-stop and ₹1.1 lakh for one-

stop options, Kalsi added.

Delhi has the maximum nonstop connectivity to the US, with Air India operating 33 weekly flights to New York (Newark and JFK), Chicago, Washington and San Francisco. United and Delta have a daily each between Delhi and New York.

Out of Mumbai, however, for ₹85,000 you can get a ticket on an airline that will hub you through Delhi or London with a wait time of no more than four hours.

To fly out this month, the return fare approaches ₹1 lakh on flights with agreeable transit times at Middle Eastern airports.

Full report on www.toi.in

Flights to San Francisco, New York, LA average ₹1.15L, cheaper than '24

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In past years, airfares to fly between India and the US were high due to the skewed demand-supply dynamics. This summer, however, the scene has changed. For those with a valid visa, travelling to the US is now economical, at least as far as airfares are concerned.

"Summer marks the peak holiday season for Indian travellers, with schools closed and families, including multiple-generation families, travelling to popular long-haul destinations like the US. Interestingly, we're seeing a drop in airfares for travel from Delhi and Mumbai to key US cities during the April-June 2025 period, with average fares dropping by 5-8% compared to the same time last year," said Indiver Rastogi, President and Group Head, Global Business Travel, Thomas Cook (India) and SOTC Travel.

"Based on bookings made in January-February 2025, fares to San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles

'FARES TO EUROPE DOWN TOO'

> Currently, low fares on flights from Mumbai to New York are for travel from May 12 onwards, with cheapest one-way economy class fares starting at around ₹37,000 on flights that have about a four-hour transit via London.

> The return flight viable options with decent transit times are available for ₹85,000. These are not on non-stop flights

> Return fares on travel from Bengaluru to New York are also low at ₹77,500 for 12 May-29 May travel. The flight on a US-based carrier includes a transit halt in Delhi. However, economy return fares on Delhi-New York start at ₹1 lakh

for travel later this month

> For travel this month from Mumbai to New York, the cheapest flights are on Middle Eastern carriers. For instance, ₹89,000 return fare for travel on April 29 with return on May 14. For a return fare that includes a non-stop trip from New York to Mumbai, but a transit halt on the way from Mumbai to New York, the fare is ₹97,000

> Fares to some European destinations like Switzerland, France and Scandinavia are down too this summer, said Indiver Rastogi of Thomas Cook (India)



averaged Rs 1.15 lakh—down from Rs 1.20-1.25 lakh in 2024. Similarly, fares to Boston,

Orlando, and Michigan were around Rs 1.35 lakh, compared to Rs 1.40-1.45 lakh last

year," he said.

To fly out this month, the return fare approaches a lakh on flights with agreeable transit times at Middle Eastern airports.

While these estimates are based on bookings done in the first two months of the year, the latest round of fares has shown a further decline.

"In the past few summers, airfares for travel to the US have been high throughout the year. After the pandemic, when India reopened its borders to international flights in March 2022, there was not much cheer for passengers flying to the US as the Russian invasion of Ukraine early that year brought on fresh problems for airlines and passengers. Avoiding Russian airspace meant flying a longer route, and US carriers pulled out the few flights they had from Mumbai and Delhi to US destinations," said an airline official. While some of the flights were restored in later years, the number of direct flights is still at an all-time low, he added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

20 APRIL 2025

Airport to be closed for 6 hrs on May 8

Mumbai: The Mumbai airport will be shut for six hours on May 8 as both the runways of the airport will be taken up for the annual pre-monsoon maintenance work, the Mumbai International Airport Ltd said.

The airport closure will last from 11 am to 5 pm, during this time no flight will take off or land in Mumbai. This might be the last year that passengers would have no flight options during this time period as Navi Mumbai airport is expected to commence operations this year, giving passengers an option to fly out or into the city. 7/84