

Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGLORE

20 JUNE 2026

Lightning hits Indigo flight at Kolkata

**RAJIB
CHOWDHURI | DC**
KOLKATA, JUNE 19

Two Indigo ground staff were injured on Friday morning at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here when lightning struck an Agartala-bound A-320 aircraft of the private airline, carrying 147 persons including six crew members, shortly before its take-off. The aircraft (VT-IPW) was operating

Flight 6E 6068 of the airline.

The two ground staff were rushed to a nearby private hospital for treatment while the passengers and crew were deboarded as a precautionary measure since the aircraft experienced a power-off after the lightning strike, an Airport Authority of India spokesperson said. The affected duo was released after a medical check-up, he added. The incident



Lightning strikes IndiGo aircraft at Kolkata airport, injures ground staff.
— BY ARRANGEMENT

took place between 9.25 am and 9.35 am following the closure of boarding when the aircraft

was on Stand 56L. The airport was being soaked by the first spell of monsoon rain, cou-

pled with thunderstorms. The passengers were accommodated in another Indigo aircraft which took off at 12.50 pm.

Meanwhile, North Bengal was affected by a heavy downpour since Thursday night. In Darjeeling, a landslide hit a part of National Highway 110 and brought toy train service in the hills to a halt. At Dudhia, a bridge was swept away in the high river current.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

20 JUNE 2026

Lightning hits IndiGo flight

PTI

KOL KATA

An Agartala-bound IndiGo flight was struck by lightning while parked at Kolkata airport on Friday morning amid a thunderstorm, forcing the airline to deboard passengers and arrange an alternative aircraft. An AAI official said the Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC) had issued weather alerts in view of the prevailing condition.

CONTINUED ON NATION

Lightning hits IndiGo...

The aircraft, IndiGo flight 6E6068 (VT-IPW), was on stand at aerobridge 56L when it was struck by lightning at around 9.30 am. The lightning affected the aircraft's power system, causing a "sudden power off", the official said. There were 141 passengers and six crew members on board the A320 aircraft when the lightning struck. No passengers were injured in the incident.

As a precautionary measure, the airline deboarded the passengers and later operated the flight using an A321 aircraft (VT-ICD).

The flight, originally scheduled to depart at 9.20 am, eventually left for Agartala at 12.50 pm.

According to IndiGo, two ground staff were slightly "affected" and were taken to a hospital for treatment. They were discharged immediately after a medical check-up, the official said.

Kolkata and adjoining districts have been witnessing thunderstorms and rain since Friday morning, leading to waterlogging in several areas and traffic disruptions.

IndiGo aircraft grounded after lightning strike at airport

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: An IndiGo aircraft scheduled to fly from Kolkata to Agartala was struck by lightning while parked at Kolkata airport on Friday morning amid thunderstorm and rain conditions, airport authorities said. No passengers were injured in the incident.

According to an official statement issued by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), IndiGo flight 6E6068, operated by Airbus A320 aircraft VT-IPW, experienced a lightning strike while stationed at stand 56L between 9:25 am and 9:35 am. The incident occurred during prevailing thunderstorm and rain conditions for which weather alerts had earlier been circulated by the Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC).

The aircraft had completed boarding when the lightning strike occurred. There were 141 passengers and six crew members on board at the time. Airport authorities said the aircraft suffered a sudden power outage following the strike, prompting the airline to arrange a replacement aircraft.



Key Points

- » IndiGo flight 6E6068 was struck by lightning while parked at Kolkata airport
- » The incident occurred Friday morning during severe thunderstorm and heavy rainfall conditions
- » There were 141 pas-

sengers and six crew members onboard during incident

- » Airport authorities confirmed no passengers sustained injuries from the lightning strike
- » As precaution, passengers were deboarded and shifted to a replacement aircraft

As a precautionary measure, all passengers were deboarded and later accommodated on another IndiGo aircraft, VT-ICD, an Airbus A321. The flight, originally scheduled to depart at 9:20 am, eventually left Kolkata at 12:50 pm. The affected aircraft was sub-

sequently declared Aircraft on Ground (AOG).

AAI said two ground personnel were slightly affected and were taken to hospital for medical examination. According to the airline, both were later declared normal and discharged.

TO BE REVIVED UNDER UDAN SCHEME

State, AAI initiates Malda Airport revival; Carries out joint survey

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MALDA: The long-awaited revival of Malda Airport has moved a step closer to reality after a joint team from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the West Bengal Transport Department conducted a detailed inspection of the airport recently to assess its feasibility under the Centre's UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) regional connectivity scheme.

The inspection team, led by AAI Joint General Manager Subir Sarkar and Manager (Operations) Suhaib Nasir Khan, examined the existing runway, airport infrastructure and other facilities at the currently non-operational airstrip. The visit forms part of ongoing efforts to explore the possibility of restoring passenger flight services from Malda.

Following the inspection, the team held a meeting with District Magistrate Rajanvir Singh Kapur and senior district



officials to discuss the present status of the airport and the requirements for making it operational.

According to officials, a detailed survey report and feasibility assessment will be prepared by the AAI and submitted to the district administration. The report will outline the infrastructural upgrades needed and determine the viability of the airport under the UDAN scheme.

Speaking about the initiative, District Magistrate Rajanvir Singh Kapur said: "The state government is com-

mitted to improving regional connectivity and the revival of Malda Airport remains a priority. As directed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, we are working closely with all concerned agencies to facilitate the process."

Highlighting the importance of the survey, he added: "The feasibility report from AAI will be crucial in identifying the infrastructure requirements and the roadmap for operationalisation."

Officials from the Airports Authority of India indicated that extension of the exist-

ing runway would be essential before regular passenger flight services, particularly between Malda and Kolkata, can begin. The survey will also evaluate other technical and safety requirements necessary for commercial operations.

An AAI official associated with the inspection said: "The objective of the survey is to assess the present infrastructure and identify the improvements required for operationalisation. Connectivity under the UDAN scheme can significantly benefit the region."

The proposed revival of Malda Airport is expected to boost trade, tourism, investment, and employment opportunities across the district and adjoining areas. Improved air connectivity would not only reduce travel time but also strengthen Malda's position as an important commercial and administrative hub of North Bengal.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGLORE

20 JUNE 2026

Beware: Fake cab apps targeting airport travellers

Cabbies mimic user interface of popular aggregator platforms to produce inflated bills

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS



Airport passengers report paying hundreds of rupees more than the fare shown on the app. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Not limited to the airport: Rapido

A Rapido spokesperson said the company had received complaints about similar situations and that the problem was not limited to the airport.

"When it has come to our notice, we have investigated the matter, refunded the extra amount to the customer, and also taken strict action against the driver," the spokesperson said,

urging passengers to go only by what the Rapido app displays on their phone.

While Uber did not say whether it had received similar complaints, a spokesperson said riders can seek support from the 24x7 helpline and get a response in less than 30 seconds for any fare discrepancies at the end of the trip.

HOW THE SCAM WORKS

- Riders book a trip on a genuine app, start it using the OTP, and simultaneously activate a second app.
- The second app shows a fake, doubled fare to mislead or justify overcharging.
- Scam apps closely mimic real platforms in design.
- Some apps even generate fabricated screenshots showing exaggerated fares to appear legitimate.
- Confuse riders and extract higher payments or justify unauthorised charges.

booked a cab on Uber for Rs 1,330, but the driver claimed the total fare was over Rs 2,000.

The passenger alleged a scam after noticing discrepancies on the driver's phone screen.

While the scam was initially flagged last year, it has resurfaced since April. Users shared similar instances on X.

"There are a few drivers who

are pushing this scam," said G Narayanaswamy, president, Karnataka Chalakara Okkuta.

"How it works is that they will book a ride on any regular app, start it with the OTP, and simultaneously, they will also start the ride on a second app, which shows doubled fares.

"These fake apps almost look the same as Uber and Rapido. Some also use made-up screenshots, which display

high fares." He said the issue had come to the union's notice over the past few weeks and it had warned drivers against using such platforms.

Cab drivers at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) are using fake apps that mimic ride aggregator platforms and generate inflated fares, passengers allege.

A passenger travelling from the airport to Malleswaram earlier this month paid Rs 400 more than the fare shown on the app.

"I clearly remember booking the cab for about Rs 720 on Rapido. The driver's phone displayed Rs 1,110," said 38-year-old Prateek N.

"He claimed that this was because of the hiked-up parking fee at the airport and the traffic en route that the total fare had increased. Since I was in a hurry, I didn't argue with the driver and paid the amount. But later, when I checked the app, it displayed the original amount."

While BIAL, the airport operator, encourages passen-

gers to opt for one of its eight authorised cab partners (OLA, Uber, Uber Black, Namma Yatri, Quick Ride, WTI Cabs, Airport Taxi and Blr Airport Taxi), riders have also flagged similar concerns with some of these platforms.

Another passenger who travelled from the airport to Electronics City last month

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

21 JUNE 2026

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर सीएनजी, ईवी चार्जिंग प्वाइंट बने

जासं, जेवर (ग्रेटर नोएडा) : नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट आने जाने वाले वाहनों में ईंधन और चार्जिंग की बेहतर सुविधा के लिए पेट्रोल, डीजल के अलावा सीएनजी और ईवी चार्जिंग की सेवा संचालित कर दी गई है। जेवर में बना एयरपोर्ट अभी मुख्य शहरों से आधे से एक घंटे की दूरी पर है। ऐसे में वाहनों को एयरपोर्ट पहुंचने और वहां से लौटने के लिए सभी तरह से ईंधन की व्यवस्था की आवश्यकता थी। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने पहले ही इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड (आइओसीएल) व इंड्रप्रस्थ गैस लिमिटेड (आइजीएल) के साथ साझेदारी कर एयरपोर्ट पर सभी प्रकार के ईंधन की उपलब्धता तय कर दी थी। इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ईवी)

- आइजीएल ने शुरू किए सीएनजी स्टेशन, वाहन चालकों को मिलेगी चार्जिंग की भी सुविधा
- पार्किंग, एयरसाइड और एट्री गेट के पास शुरू किए गए 98 ईवी चार्जिंग स्टेशन

चार्जिंग के लिए स्टेटिक से साझेदारी कर लगभग 100 चार्जिंग स्टेशन संचालित कराए जा चुके हैं।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट मुख्य शहरों दिल्ली, गुरुग्राम, गाजियाबाद नोएडा और ग्रेटर नोएडा के अलावा आगरा मथुरा, अलीगढ़ से लगभग 30 से 60 मिनट की दूरी पर है। देहात क्षेत्र में केवल यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे से कनेक्टिविटी होने की वजह से रास्ते

में भी ईंधन और चार्जिंग के लिए सीमित स्थान उपलब्ध हैं। ऐसे में एयरपोर्ट से यात्रियों के आवागमन के लिए संचालित ई-बस हो या टैक्सी या फिर निजी वाहन सभी के लिए पेट्रोल, डीजल और सीएनजी के अलावा ईवी चार्जिंग की सुविधा जरूरी थी। एयरपोर्ट निर्माण के दौरान ही एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने प्रमुख कंपनियों से साझेदारी कर लोगों के सभी प्रकार के ईंधन एयरपोर्ट पर उपलब्ध कराने को हरी झंडी दी थी। कमर्शियल फ्लाइटों के संचालन के साथ ही एयरपोर्ट परिसर में सभी प्रकार के ईंधन के साथ ही 98 ईवी चार्जिंग स्टेशन का संचालन शुरू हो गया है, जिससे एयरपोर्ट आने जाने वालों को आसानी से ईंधन उपलब्ध हो पा रहा है।

आइजीआइ के मुकाबले नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से माल ढुलाई 20 रुपये प्रति किलो कम

अर्पित त्रिपाठी • जगरण

ग्रेटर नोएडा : नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से बुधवार को कार्गो सेवा भी शुरू हो गई। पहले दिन चेन्नई के लिए कार्गो फ्लाइट रवाना हुई। इसके साथ ही दिल्ली सहित एनसीआर के व्यापारियों और निर्यातकों को दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का सस्ता विकल्प मिल गया है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से माल ढुलाई की दर आइजीआइ के मुकाबले 20 रुपये प्रति किलो तक कम है। कार्गो सेवा के पहले दिन पठानकोट से लीची, गौतमबुद्ध नगर और गुरुग्राम से ई-कामर्स कंपनियों का सामान, फरीदाबाद व दिल्ली से आटोमोबाइल पार्ट्स भेजे गए।

पठानकोट की लीची चेन्नई भेजने का कनसाइनमेंट सूर्या



बुधवार सुबह 7.20 बजे रनवे पर लैंड होने के बाद बोइंग 737-800 एफ अफकाम एयरलाइंस के कार्गो चार्टर्ड विमान को वाटर कैनन सैल्यूट दिया गया • सौरभ राय

कार्गो फारवर्डर्स प्रा. लि. को मिला था। सूर्या कार्गो के प्रबंध निदेशक रविजीत शेरावत ने बताया बुधवार को हमने तीन टन लीची चेन्नई भेजी। आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट से कार्गो का शुल्क 50 रुपये प्रति किलो है, जबकि नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से सिर्फ 30 रुपये प्रति किलो लिया जा रहा है। 20 रुपये प्रति किलो की सीधी

बचत हो रही है।

बुधवार को चेन्नई से उड़ान भर कर एफकान होल्डिंग का बोइंग 737-810 एफ चार्टर कार्गो विमान नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के रनवे पर सुबह 7.20 बजे उतरा। कार्गो विमान को वाटर कैनन से सलामी दी गई। विमान एयरपोर्ट से कार्गो लेकर वापस चेन्नई के लिए रवाना हुआ।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

20 JUNE 2026

AHMEDABAD

Inaugural Ahmedabad flight takes off

Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA) on Thursday marked the launch of FitaAir's inaugural direct flight between Ahmedabad and Colombo, establishing a new air link between Gujarat and Sri Lanka. The new route is expected to improve connectivity for tourists, business travellers and members of the Indian and Sri Lankan diaspora, while strengthening people-to-people ties between the two countries. The inaugural service also coincided with the launch of the "Chalo Colombo, Haalo Sri Lanka" campaign, which aims to promote tourism and cultural exchanges between India and Sri Lanka.

अगले कुछ माह में अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट से सफर करने वालों की संख्या बढ़ने की उम्मीद, दिक्कत और बढ़ेगी

दिल्ली से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचने में जाम बड़ी बाधा बना



■ विक्रम शर्मा

नोएडा। दिल्ली-नोएडा से जेवर पहुंचना आसान नहीं है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक करीब 70 किलोमीटर के सफर में 25 से 28 किलोमीटर का रास्ता जाम में फंसकर पहुंचना होगा। ऐसे हालात अगले डेढ़ से लेकर पांच-सात साल तक रहेंगे।

जेवर में बने नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की शुरुआत हो चुकी है। जुलाई से यहाँ पर अधिक संख्या में फ्लाइटें मिलने का सिलसिला शुरू हो जाएगा। ऐसे में अगले कुछ महीने में एयरपोर्ट से सफर करने वालों की संख्या बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। जो लोग पूर्वी दिल्ली और नोएडा से एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचेंगे, उनके सफर में जाम बड़ी मसीबत बनकर सामने आएगा।

दिल्ली के अक्षरधाम मंदिर की ओर से आते समय चिल्ला बॉर्डर से नोएडा की सीमा शुरू हो जाती है। चिल्ला बॉर्डर से आकर फिल्म सिटी के सामने से, नोएडा-ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे होते हुए जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचेंगे। इस हिस्से में फिल्म सिटी रास्ते



व्यस्त समय में थम रहे पहिये

● **चिल्ला बॉर्डर**
● **महामाया फ्लाईओवर**
● **नोएडा**
● **ग्रेटर नोएडा**
● **जीरो प्वाइंट**

चिल्ला बॉर्डर से महामाया फ्लाईओवर तक सुबह-शाम जाम लगा रहा महामाया फ्लाईओवर से जीरो प्वाइंट तक वाहनो की रफ्तार धीमी हो रही

05 लाख वाहन रोज गुजर रहे नोएडा-ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे से अगले माह से दबाव और बढ़ेगा

पर अक्सर जाम की समस्या रहती है।
नोएडा-ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे पर भी सुबह-
शाम वाहन रेंग-रेंग कर चलते हैं।

नोएडा के सेक्टर-14ए या चित्तला

नोएडा के सेक्टर-16ए में शनिवार शाम को लंबा जाम लग गया। इस दौरान वाहन चालक परेशान रहे। • हिन्दुस्तान

चिल्ला बॉर्डर से दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट की दूरी कम

नोएडा से सेक्टर-14 ए या चित्ला बॉर्डर से दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट की दूरी करीब 30 किलोमीटर है। डीएनडी, आश्रम, रिंग रोड, धौला कुआं होते हुए एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंच सकते हैं। सुबह-शाम करीब 30 किलोमीटर हिस्से को पार करने में करीब डेढ़ घंटे का समय लगेगा। नोएडा से मेट्रो के जरिए भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंच सकते हैं। मेट्रो के जरिए सफ़र तय करने में 55 मिनट से लेकर सवा घंटे का समय लगेगा। इसके अलावा चित्ला बॉर्डर से एयरपोर्ट तक पहुंचने में करीब दो घंटे का समय लगना तय है।

बॉर्डर से जेवर एयरपोर्ट तक की दूरी करीब 70 किलोमीटर है। अगर आप गाड़ी से सुबह या शाम के समय इस हिस्से में एयरपोर्ट तक जाएंगे तो करीब

दो से ढाई घंटे का समय लगना तय है। इसकी वजह यह है कि चिल्ला बॉर्डर से महामाया फ्लाईओवर तक पहुंचने में ही 30 मिनट का समय लगेगा।

इन स्थानों पर जाम बड़ी समस्या

1. सड़क की चौड़ाई कम: विल्ला बॉर्डर से महामाया फ्लाईओवर तक वाहनों की संख्या के मुकाबले सड़क कम चौड़ी है। इस वजह से यहां दोपहर में भी जाम की समस्या रहती है।
2. डीएनडी लूप: विल्ला बॉर्डर से महामाया फ्लाईओवर की ओर जाते समय डीएनडी पर दिल्ली की ओर से आने वाले कुल वाहनों में से 80 प्रतिशत लूप के जरिए फिल्म सिटी रास्ते पर आकर मिलते हैं। ऐसे में विल्ला बॉर्डर की ओर से आने वाले वाहन जाम में फंस जाते हैं।
3. फिल्म सिटी फ्लाईओवर के नीचे से आने वाला रास्ता: अट्ठा अंडरपास की ओर से आकर जीआईपी मॉल के सामने से होते हुए महामाया फ्लाईओवर की ओर अधिक संख्या में वाहन जाते हैं। यहां वाहनों का दबाव बढ़ने से जाम की समस्या होती है।
4. महामाया फ्लाईओवर के नीचे रुक जाती है वाहनों की रफ्तार: कांढवी कुज की ओर से आकर नोएडा-ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे होते हुए नोएडा या ग्रेनो के हिस्से में बड़ी संख्या में वाहन जाते हैं। विल्ला बॉर्डर की ओर से आ रहे वाहन भी ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे जाते हैं। जाम की समस्या रहती है।
5. नोएडा-ग्रेनो एक्सप्रेसवे पर कट और वाहनों के अधिक दबाव से दिक्कत: महामाया फ्लाईओवर के नीचे से ग्रेनो या एयरपोर्ट की ओर जाने वाले रास्ते पर वाहनों का दबाव बढ़ रहा है। बीच-बीच में कट से वाहनों के मिलने से भी जाम की समस्या होती है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

DELHI

21 JUNE 2026

Abhishek alleges security threat on Kolkata airport premises

Shrabana Chatterjee

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has claimed that he faced a security threat on the premises of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here on Friday night.

In a social media post on Saturday, he alleged that

while he was leaving the airport, “armed individuals were apprehended [in the parking area], leading to serious questions about his security”.

In a widely circulated video, a man in a yellow kurta can be seen trying to hide a gun under a cloth on the airport premises. He was reportedly dragged away by Trinamool sup-

porters and others. *The Hindu* was not able to verify the veracity of the video.

On Friday night, when Mr. Banerjee was scheduled to arrive at the airport, Trinamool and BJP supporters clashed outside the airport. Trinamool supporters who came to greet Mr. Banerjee alleged that women supporters were manhandled.



Corporate Communications Directorate

TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

20 JUNE 2026

Eggs at airport

■ **AIRPORT:** A group allegedly carrying eggs and arms was spotted outside an arrival gate of Calcutta airport shortly before Trinamool MP Abhishek Banerjee arrived from Delhi on Friday night. The group was confronted by Trinamool supporters, prompting police intervention. Abhishek was escorted out through another gate.



Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

BANGLORE

20 JUNE 2026

Lightning hits plane in Kol airport, 2 staff hurt

**Subhro Niyogi &
Tamaghna Banerjee** | TNN

Kolkata: A lightning struck an Agartala-bound IndiGo aircraft, with 141 passengers and six crew members on board, moments before departure at the Kolkata airport on Friday morning. An immediate power outage and panic among flyers forced the airline to deboard the passengers and arrange for a replacement aircraft after mandatory safety inspections.

Two ground staff members, who were on the tarmac, had to be taken to a hospital. They were discharged after treatment. The incident occurred around 9.30 am, when the Airbus A320 Neo was stationed at Stand 56L and ready-

ing for departure.

According to airport officials, boarding was completed and the aircraft doors were closed when lightning struck the plane. The blinding flash and the deafening thunderclap not only shook the passengers and crew members but also briefly knocked out power inside the aircraft, adding to the anxiety on board. Some reported temporary hearing difficulties.

"As a precautionary measure, passengers were deboarded and taken back to the terminal. After the aircraft underwent the required inspections, the airline arranged for an alternative aircraft. The flight finally took off at 12.50 pm," an airport official said.

DGCA turns to AI, ML for aviation regulation 2.0

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The civil aviation safety regulator is working on a next-generation version of its eGCA platform, with plans to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), blockchain and predictive surveillance capabilities as part of a major digital transformation of the country's aviation regulatory ecosystem, industry insiders told *businessline*.

According to tender documents reviewed by *businessline*, the aviation regulator is seeking a Technology Project Management Unit (Tech-PMU) to support the implementation of eGCA 2.0.

The proposed platform is expected to place significant emphasis on emerging technologies, regulatory technology solutions, cybersecurity and data protection compliance.

TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN

Besides, the documents indicate that the new framework will utilise technologies such as decision-intelligence solutions and predictive surveillance tools to strengthen regulatory oversight and improve the efficiency of aviation-related approvals and monitoring mechanisms.

Per the document, the proposed system is expected to focus on application framework design, integration planning, risk management, cloud hosting strategies, cyber security architecture, disaster recovery systems, dashboards and analytics capabilities.

Speaking to *businessline*, industry insiders said the initiative could significantly enhance the regulator's ability to undertake data-driven supervision, automate workflows and identify safety or compliance risks through



predictive and intelligence-based tools.

The development assumes significance at a time when India's aviation sector is witnessing rapid expansion in passenger traffic, fleet induction and airport infrastructure development, necessitating a more technology-driven and scalable regulatory architecture.

SEEKS EXPERTISE

Additionally, according to the tender documents, the selection process for the technology partner will follow an '80:20 Quality-cum-Cost-Based Selection' (QCBS) methodology, with substantial weightage assigned to capabilities in AI, machine learning, blockchain, regulatory technology, aviation domain expertise, cybersecurity and compliance assurance.

The documents further indicate that the DGCA is seeking specialists with expertise in emerging technologies, including AI, ML, blockchain, advanced analytics, cloud computing, natural language processing and digital intelligence, as part of the proposed programme management structure. Insiders said the new platform is expected to lay the foundation for a more integrated, transparent and technology-enabled aviation regulatory ecosystem capable of supporting the long-term growth of India's civil aviation sector.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

21 JUNE 2026

Provide Wi-Fi: DGCA to all airlines



Only on 28 AI aircraft

Air India website shows in-flight Wi-Fi is available on 28 aircraft—six Boeing 787-9, six Airbus A350-900, 10 Airbus A321 and six Boeing 777-300.

The retrofit Boeing 787-8s are provisioned to offer Wi-Fi

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE Directorate General of Civil Aviation has requested that all domestic airlines provide Wi-Fi internet access to their passengers on board.

As of date, only 28 Air India aircraft offer such connectivity. Multiple airline executives said it is highly unlikely that the airlines would comply with the request.

A communication issued on Friday (June 19) by the Deputy Director General of DGCA, A X Joseph, to the Accountable Manager of all airlines states, "Rule 29B of the Aircraft Rules 1937 allows the use of internet services by passengers on board an aircraft in flight

Carriers warn of cost

An airline executive said, "The expenses for retrofitting will run into crores and the aircraft needs to be pulled out of operations temporarily. It can be considered for new aircraft, but not on existing ones"

through Wi-Fi for use of smartphones in flight mode or airplane mode." It has been issued as a Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) too, it added.

IndiGo did not respond to this reporter while Air India Express sought more time to get back on the matter.

A SpiceJet source said the

airline has been offering an in-flight entertainment system 'Spice screen' for all its passengers since August 2020, using which they can view movies and other content available.

Asked about the possibility of incorporating Wi-Fi services, an airline source said, "It is not an easy process. The aircraft needs to have antennae to receive a signal. For that, we need to create a hump in the fuselage. It is a costly and time-consuming affair."

Another airline executive said the cost would ultimately be borne by the consumer. "If we add ₹100 or ₹200 as Wi-Fi charges, the passenger might even not be interested," the executive said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

STATESMEN

DELHI

21 JUNE 2026

AAI holds 'Yatri Suvidha Diwas' to enhance passenger experience

The Airports Authority of India (AAI), under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, observed Yatri Suvidha Diwas across



its airport network on 15th June, 2026, reaffirming its commitment to providing a seamless, safe, accessible and passenger-friendly travel experience. As part of Yatri Suvidha Diwas, AAI airports across the country organised a comprehensive range of passenger-centric activities aimed at enhancing the travel experience and fostering greater engagement with travellers. In addition, blood donation camps, health and eye check-up camps, airport familiarisation visits and career guidance sessions for students were organised at various locations. The event highlighted AAI's continued efforts towards improving passenger convenience through technology-driven and customer-focused initiatives such as Digi Yatra, the UDAN Yatri Café, Flybrary, Kids' Zones, free Wi-Fi services, accessibility assistance for persons with reduced mobility, medical facilities, self-baggage drop systems, digital information kiosks and robust grievance redressal mechanisms.