



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDU

CHENNAI

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

Land acquisition for Warangal airport completed: Revanth

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has invited public suggestions for naming the new airport at Mamnoor in Warangal district, as the State government has completed the required land acquisition and handed over the land to the Airports Authority of India. In a social media post, Mr. Reddy said that ₹295 crore had been allocated by the government for the land acquisition.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

वैष्णोदेवी : हेलीपैड टर्मिनल में लगी आग



कटड़ा। माता वैष्णोदेवी के बेस कैम्प के हेलीपैड टर्मिनल में रविवार तड़के 3:15 बजे आग लग गई। इससे टिकट बुकिंग काउंटर, डोनेशन काउंटर व एक कॉफी शॉप का पूरा सामान जल कर राख हो गया। घटना के समय टर्मिनल बंद होने से बड़ा हादसा टल गया। हादसे के चलते हेलिकॉप्टर सेवा डेढ़ घंटे देरी से शुरू हुई। संवाद

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

डीएमआरसी की नई उड़ान, बर्लिन में डीएमआईएल दिखाएगी क्षमता

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली मेट्रो रेल कॉरपोरेशन (डीएमआरसी) की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली कंपनी दिल्ली मेट्रो इंटरनेशनल लिमिटेड (डीएमआईएल) वैश्विक स्तर पर अपने कारोबार के विस्तार की दिशा में बड़ा कदम उठाने जा रही है। कंपनी बर्लिन में आयोजित होने वाले इन्फोट्रांस-2026 में पहली बार अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंच पर अपनी क्षमताओं का प्रदर्शन करेगी। दुनिया के सबसे बड़े रेल परिवहन व्यापार मेलों में शामिल इन्फोट्रांस का आयोजन हर दो वर्ष में जर्मनी के बर्लिन में होता है।

डीएमआईएल इस आयोजन में संचालन एवं रखरखाव (ओपरेटिंग), परामर्श, परियोजना प्रबंधन और सलाहकार सेवाओं से जुड़ी अपनी विशेषज्ञता प्रदर्शित करेगी। इसके साथ ही कंपनी विभिन्न देशों के परिवहन प्राधिकरणों, बुनियादी ढांचा कंपनियों, तकनीकी प्रदाताओं, ऑपरेटरों और अन्य मोबिलिटी क्षेत्र के हितधारकों के साथ साझेदारी और कारोबारी संभावनाएं तलाशेगी।

तीन माह में पांच अंतरराष्ट्रीय निविदाओं में लगाई बोली

डीएमआईएल के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी संजय जमुआर ने कहा कि इन्फोट्रांस-2026 डीएमआरसी और डीएमआईएल की विशेषज्ञता को वैश्विक मंच पर प्रदर्शित करने का महत्वपूर्ण अवसर है। उनके अनुसार दुनिया के शहर एकीकृत, फ्लेक्सिबल और भविष्य के अनुरूप परिवहन समाधान तलाश रहे हैं।

इन्फोट्रांस-2026 में डीएमआईएल हॉल 7.2सी, स्टैंड 240 पर मौजूद रहेगी। यहां कंपनी सरकारी एजेंसियों, बुनियादी ढांचा भागीदारों, निवेशकों, डेवलपर्स और अन्य हितधारकों के सामने अपनी विशेषज्ञता रखेगी। इस वर्ष मेले में रेल परिवहन को बदलने वाली तकनीकों-स्वायत्त सार्वजनिक परिवहन, साइबर सुरक्षा, रोबोटिक्स, उड्डि प्रिंटिंग और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता पर विशेष जोर रहेगा। व्यू

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

Adani seeks nod for US pre-clearance at Navi Mumbai airport

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Airport operator Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) has sought the Centre's approval to set up a facility for pre-clearance of US immigration and customs formalities for passengers travelling on direct US-bound flights from the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).

Speaking to *businessline*, industry sources said the proposal had been submitted to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

The proposed facility

would enable passengers to undergo US immigration and customs checks before boarding their flights.

Besides, the facility would benefit passengers connecting to onward flights within the US by allowing them to bypass routine immigration and customs queues on arrival.

When contacted, AAHL did not respond to queries from *businessline*.

PROJECT COST

Meanwhile, details of the implementation timeline, infrastructure and final investment requirement were not immediately available.

However, per sources, the proposed project at Navi Mumbai is estimated to cost over ₹100 crore.

Further, an agreement as well as arrangements between the Indian and US authorities would be required to establish the facility.

The US immigration and customs pre-clearance is administered by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Under the pre-clearance model, CBP personnel conduct inspections at designated overseas airports before passengers board US-bound aircraft.

At present, Abu Dhabi's



Zayed International Airport and Dublin Airport host US pre-clearance facilities.

According to a senior airline executive, such a facility could make the Navi Mumbai airport attractive not only to US-bound passengers originating in India but also to international transit passengers travelling to the US.

The proposal comes as NMIA seeks to expand its international connectivity.

Recently, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) approved the airport operator's proposal to revise eligibility criteria for tariff incentives available to airlines launching international passenger routes from the NMIA.

AIRLINE INCENTIVES

Notably, under the framework, airlines launching eligible new international passenger routes of up to 5,000 km receive a 100 per cent concession on landing charges in the first year and

50 per cent in the second year.

Subsequently, the concession would drop to 50 per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year.

For routes exceeding 5,000 km, the concession is 100 per cent in the first year, 50 per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year.

Nevertheless, the commercial opportunity for Navi Mumbai would depend on airlines offering direct US services and connecting schedules that allow passengers from other Indian cities or overseas markets to transfer through the airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

एयरपोर्ट; टर्मिनल-1, 2 के सामने नो-पार्किंग; कैब-टेला खड़ा करने पर रोक टर्मिनल-2 के सामने 300 मी. हिस्सा दायरे में; टी-1 पर सांगानेर थाने से एंट्री गेट तक रोक, गजट नोटिफिकेशन के बाद व्यवस्था लागू होगी

जयपुर | एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों की सुविधा और सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए टर्मिनल-1 और 2 के सामने के हिस्से को नो-पार्किंग जोन घोषित किया है। ट्रैफिक डीसीपी ने आदेश जारी कर दिए हैं। व्यवस्था गजट नोटिफिकेशन जारी होने की तारीख से प्रभावी होगी। नई व्यवस्था के तहत एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल के सामने निजी वाहनों, कैब खड़ी करने पर भी रोक रहेगी। इसका उद्देश्य टर्मिनल के बाहर वाहनों की बेतरतीब पार्किंग रोकना और यात्रियों के आने-जाने

के रास्ते को सुगम बनाना है। टर्मिनल-2 के सामने 300 मीटर का हिस्सा नो-पार्किंग जोन रहेगा। यह क्षेत्र टर्मिनल के एंट्री और एग्जिट गेट के बीच रहेगा। जवाहर सर्किल से टर्मिनल-2 की ओर जाने वाला रास्ता भी नो-पार्किंग जोन में शामिल किया है। यहां सड़क किनारे वाहन खड़े करने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। टर्मिनल-1 के सामने भी नो-पार्किंग व्यवस्था लागू होगी। सांगानेर थाने से टर्मिनल-1 की एंट्री तक का हिस्सा नो-पार्किंग जोन रहेगा।

कैब चालकों को भी करना होगा नियमों का पालन
एयरपोर्ट के दोनों टर्मिनल के आसपास बड़ी संख्या में कैब यात्रियों को लेने और छोड़ने पहुंचती हैं। कई बार सड़क किनारे कैब खड़ी होने से यातायात प्रभावित होता है। नई व्यवस्था के बाद कैब चालकों को निर्धारित स्थानों पर ही वाहन खड़ा करना होगा। ट्रैफिक पुलिस के आदेश के अनुसार नो-पार्किंग जोन में वाहन खड़ा करने पर कार्रवाई की जाएगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

वैष्णो देवी हेलीपैड टर्मिनल में आग लगी

जम्मू। जम्मू-कश्मीर के रियासी जिले में त्रिकुटा पहाड़ियों पर स्थित माता वैष्णो देवी मंदिर जाने वाले श्रद्धालुओं के आधार शिविर कटरा में एक हेलीपैड टर्मिनल में रविवार तड़के आग लग गई। घटना में किसी के हताहत होने की सूचना नहीं है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि हेलीपैड टर्मिनल में तड़के करीब सवा तीन बजे आग लगी। संभावना जताई जा रही है कि आग शॉर्ट सर्किट के कारण लगी।

दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर विमान से पक्षी टकराने के मामले एक वर्ष में दोगुने



एक्सक्लूसिव

■ अमित झा

नई दिल्ली। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट के आसपास के इलाकों में कचरे व सीवेज पर मंडराने वाले पक्षी विमानों के लिए खतरा बन गए हैं। ये कभी भी बड़े हादसे की वजह बन सकते हैं, क्योंकि यहाँ विमान से पक्षियों के टकराने के रोजाना औसतन दो मामले सामने आ रहे हैं। सबसे चिंताजनक बात यह है कि ऐसी घटनाएँ वर्ष 2024 के मुकाबले 2025 में दोगुनी हो गई हैं।

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट का संचालन करने वाली कंपनी डायल ने यह जानकारी विमान क्षेत्र पर्यावरण प्रबंधन समिति को दी है। डायल के अनुसार, एयरपोर्ट के आसपास के क्षेत्रों में फेंके गए कचरे, सीवेज और अवैध मीट की दुकानों की वजह से पक्षी आते हैं, जो प्रतिदिन विमानों से टकराते हैं। इससे अभी तक कोई बड़ा हादसा नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन यह खतरनाक हो सकता है। डायल ने ऐसी घटनाएँ रोकने के लिए समिति से ठोस कदम उठाने का अनुरोध किया है। डायल के अनुसार, एयरपोर्ट के रनवे के रास्ते में पक्षी उड़ते हैं, जिससे विमानों के उड़ान भरते और उतरते वक़्त उनकी टक्कर हो जाती है।

निरीक्षण कराया : समिति के निर्देश पर कापसहेड़ा एसडीएम ने एयरपोर्ट के आसपास वाले क्षेत्रों का



खतरनाक है बर्ड हिट

पक्षियों के विमान से टकराने की घटना को बर्ड हिट कहते हैं, जो एक बड़ा खतरा है। जब पक्षी जेट इंजन के अंदर चले जाते हैं तो इसे बर्ड इंजेक्शन कहते हैं। इससे फैन ब्लेड, कंप्रेसर को नुकसान पहुंचता है और इंजन फेल भी हो सकता है। पक्षी कॉकपिट के शीशे से टकराए तो वह टूट सकता है और अत्यधिक हवा के दबाव से विमान को संभालना कठिन हो जाता है। ये घटनाएँ ज्यादातर कम ऊँचाई पर होती हैं।

निरीक्षण किया था। इस दौरान उन्होंने पाया कि रंगपुरी पहाड़ी के समीप सीवेज का पानी बह रहा है, जिसमें लोग कूड़ा फेंकते हैं। इससे पक्षी वहाँ उड़ते हैं। यहाँ पर दिल्ली जल बोर्ड की सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट बनाना है, जो जमीन मिलने पर भी डेढ़ वर्षों से लंबित है। समिति के अध्यक्ष ने जल बोर्ड को जल्द प्लांट बनाने को कहा है। वहीं, इंदिरा मार्केट में मूर्गा मंडी का कचरा नाली में फेंका जाता

राजधानी में इस साल भी मामले लगातार बढ़ रहे

2024	325
2025	700
2026	350

(31 अगस्त तक)

हादसों की वजह बन चुके

- 29 दिसंबर 2024 को दक्षिण कोरिया में विमान बर्ड स्टाइक का शिकार हुआ। हादसे में 179 की मौत।
- 2012 में काठमांडू में टेकऑफ़ के दौरान पक्षी की टक्कर से विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हुआ। 19 की मौत।
- 13 जुलाई, 2026 को लंदन से चेन्नई आ रहे ब्रिटिश एयरवेज के विमान को लैंडिंग के दौरान बर्ड हिट हुआ। सभी लोग सुरक्षित।
- 24 अगस्त, 2026 को दिल्ली से आ रही एयर इंडिया की उड़ान से घटना में पक्षी टकराया।

है, जिससे पक्षी आते हैं।

द्वारका की दिशा में भी समस्या : रनवे संख्या 10 से द्वारका की तरफ जाने वाले रेलवे ट्रैक के दोनों तरफ ध्वस्तीकरण करके मलबा फेंका गया है। वहीं, द्वारका सेक्टर-8 में कबूतरों को दाना डाला जाता है। इस कारण यहाँ बड़ी संख्या में कबूतर आते हैं। अध्यक्ष ने संबंधित विभागों को समस्याएँ जल्द दूर करने को कहा है।

Bengal identifies land for Kalyani greenfield airport

CLOSER LOOK

- » **The Bengal government** has identified nine Nadia mouzas for land acquisition for the proposed 2,000-acre greenfield airport at Kalyani
- » **Property registration** has been restricted in Birpara, Char Jadubati, Ganga Mohanpur, Char Madhusuanpur, Sarati, Murutipur, Umapur, Iswaripur and Kalyani
- » **Registration officers** have been directed not to register property documents involving land in the identified mouzas

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, September 19

The West Bengal government is learnt to have identified nine Nadia mouzas for land acquisition for the proposed 2000-acre greenfield airport at Kalyani and restricted registration of property documents in the areas.

The mouzas are Birpara, Char Jadubati, Ganga Mohanpur, Char Madhusuanpur, Sarati, Murutipur, Umapur, Iswaripur and Kalyani. Registration officers have been directed not to register documents involving properties there.

The airport was announced in the 2026 state Budget as a project aimed at easing capacity pressure at Kolkata airport and improving air connectivity in the region.

Around 2000 acres are expected to be required

for the project. The government already has about 240 acres in the identified area, including a 172-acre brick field. The rest will have to be acquired, with Kalyani and Birpara accounting for the largest portions, followed by Sarati and Murutipur.

The proposed airport is expected to have two parallel runways aligned north-east-southwest. Passenger and cargo terminals and an air traffic control tower are planned on the eastern side of the runways.

The runway, including clearance at both ends, is expected to stretch about 5km, with a width requirement of around 500 metres. Taxiways and parking bays are also part of the plan.

The project is being planned on the lines of greenfield airports at Jewar near Delhi and Navi Mumbai.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

लंदन के लिए अब रोजाना तीन उड़ानें

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली से लंदन जाने वाले यात्रियों के लिए हवाई संपर्क और बेहतर हो गया है। ब्रिटिश एयरवेज ने रविवार से इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आईजीआई) हवाईअड्डे से लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाईअड्डे के लिए तीसरी दैनिक उड़ान शुरू की है।

इसके साथ ही दिल्ली से लंदन हीथ्रो के बीच ब्रिटिश एयरवेज की रोजाना तीन उड़ानें हो गई हैं। इससे यात्रियों को अपनी सुविधा के अनुसार उड़ान चुनने के अधिक विकल्प मिलेंगे। खासतौर पर कारोबार, पर्यटन और अन्य जरूरी कार्यों से लंदन जाने वाले यात्रियों को इसका लाभ मिलेगा।

कंपनी के अनुसार, दिल्ली-लंदन मार्ग भारत और ब्रिटेन के बीच हवाई संपर्क में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। तीसरी उड़ान शुरू होने से इस मार्ग पर सीटों की उपलब्धता और यात्रा विकल्पों में वृद्धि हुई है। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

flydubai inks pact with Air India

flydubai has announced new interline agreements with Air India and Uzbekistan Airways, expanding its global network across Asia, Australia and Europe.



These partnerships offer flydubai passengers seamless access to more than 80 additional destinations through partner networks, while offering customers of Air India and Uzbekistan Airways convenient connections to key destinations across the airline's network, via Dubai, with single-ticket itineraries

and through-checked baggage.

With these additions, flydubai's interline network now comprises 46 partner airlines, reinforcing the carrier's strategic role in enhancing Dubai's connectivity and strengthening the emirate's position as a global hub for travel and commerce, a media release stated.

● **EXPENSIVE CELEBRATION**

Fewer flight seats for festival travel

PRICE OF JOY. Domestic air tickets turn costlier and elusive as airlines hold back capacity additions during busy season

Rohit Vaid

It's the time of the year when crores of Indians pack their bags for get-togethers with loved ones to celebrate a string of festivals or head to a tourist destination for rest and recreation. At the start of the season, which extends from September to January, domestic air ticket prices are ruling above last year's levels, even as the fares have eased from August, offering travellers partial relief.

Data shared by Cleartrip showed that average domestic airfares for September are 12–20 per cent higher compared to a year ago, while they have declined by 5–10 per cent compared with August.

ixigo's year-on-year comparison showed that average one-way fare on the Delhi-Hyderabad sector rose 74 per cent to ₹8,253 from ₹4,739. The Delhi-Goa fare increased 47 per cent to ₹7,896 from ₹5,377, while the Delhi-Bengaluru fare rose similarly to ₹9,199 from ₹6,273. The Mumbai-Kolkata fare increased 43 per cent to ₹8,094 from ₹5,653.

The rates are for bookings made 15–20 days before departure.

The comparison also showed that the Delhi-Pune fare rose 35 per cent to ₹7,150 from ₹5,293, while the Delhi-Mumbai fare increased 21 per cent to ₹6,456 from ₹5,317. The Mumbai-Bengaluru fare rose 45 per cent to ₹5,884 from ₹4,066.

SEAT CAPACITY

The higher fares come at a time of fewer scheduled seats in the domestic market.

According to consolidated industry data from aviation analytics firm Cirium, scheduled seat capacity for September was down 5.3 per cent year-on-year to 1.49 crore from 1.58 crore.

This implies 8.32 lakh fewer scheduled seats compared with September last year. The number of scheduled flights is down by 8.5 per cent to 83,515 from 91,287 —



ELEVATING TREND. Average domestic airfares for September are 12–20 per cent higher compared to a year ago BLOOMBERG

namely 7,772 truncated services. Meanwhile, capacity measured in available seat kilometres (ASKs) is lower by 6.2 per cent. This measure captures both the number of seats offered and the distances of scheduled services.

The Cirium figures describe scheduled capacity for September, rather than flights actually operated or passengers carried.

Sequentially, the number of scheduled domestic flights for September are 4 per cent lower compared with 87,035 in August. Seat capacity is also down 4 per cent from 1.55 crore, while ASKs are lower by 4.7 per cent.

Further, the scheduled seat capacity in September is fewer by about 6.29 lakh than in August. These industry totals do not establish whether capacity has fallen on all routes where fares have risen.

For those planning to travel during the festival season, capacity additions will be a key factor shaping ticket prices, an industry insider pointed out, adding that fares through the year-end would depend on the extent of additions by airlines.

JET FUEL PRICE RISE

Other industry observers said elevated jet fuel prices linked to the West Asia crisis and lower domestic capacity contributed to the annual rise in airfares.

However, a senior executive with a leading airline tells *businessline* that the increase in airfares would not be sufficient to offset the sector's operating losses.

Another senior aviation executive says the weakening rupee against the dollar is adding to the cost pressure. The executive estimates that around 70 per cent of

airline costs, including aviation turbine fuel (ATF), is denominated in, or linked to the dollar.

In addition, the fare increases would need to cover both higher ATF costs and the currency depreciation to enable airlines to maintain bottom lines at last year's level, the executive says.

Cleartrip's monthly progression showed June had the highest fares in the June–September period, reflecting peak summer pricing.

Fares declined 12–18 per cent in July, followed by a 5–8 per cent increase in August, before easing again in September.

We value your feedback.
Do send your comments to
bl.logistics@thehindu.co.in

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

Economy airfares took off most since Covid in H12026; business class became cheaper

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 20 September

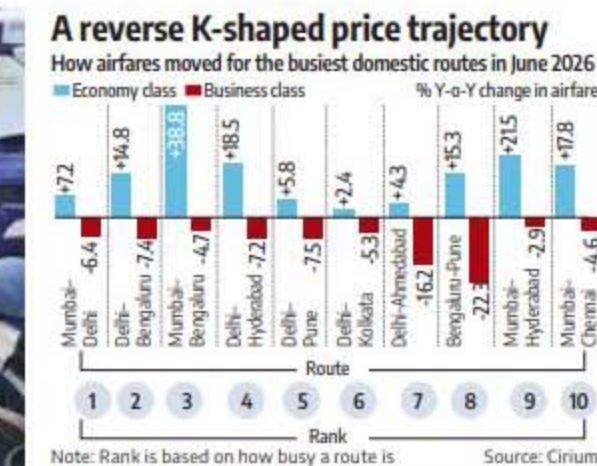
Economy-class airfares saw their sharpest increases since Covid-era fare caps were removed in August 2022 across almost all of India's 20 busiest domestic routes in the first half (H1) of 2026, shows aviation analytics firm Cirium's data reviewed by *Business Standard*.

At the other end of the cabin, passengers are getting a sweeter deal. Business-class fares have fallen on most of the same routes in 2026, creating an unusual divide in domestic aviation: Economy passengers are paying more year-on-year (Y-o-Y), while business travellers are paying less.

This shift is sharp compared with the previous



two years. In June 2024, average economy fares fell on 17 of the 20 busiest domestic routes Y-o-Y. A year later, the market was evenly split, with fares rising on 10 routes and



falling on 10. June 2026 figures were the starkest: Average economy fares rose on 18 of the 20 routes, with 17 recording their biggest Y-o-Y increase of the three-year

period. Fares rose over 15 per cent on 11 routes, including five where the increase was over 30 per cent.

Consider India's third-busiest domestic route,

Mumbai-Bengaluru. Average economy fares fell 15.1 per cent Y-o-Y in June 2024 and 1.3 per cent in June 2025. In June 2026, they surged 31 per cent. For business class, aviation industry executive said the market is correcting after fares rose to levels they considered higher than warranted. IndiGo's entry into the segment has increased competition, while Air India has added premium capacity on some major domestic routes using former Vistara aircraft and refurbished A320neos, they said.

Economy fares, meanwhile, rose as capacity failed to keep pace with demand.

Jet fuel has added to the pressure, as the West Asia v

Economy airfares highest since Covid in H12026

The West Asia conflict began on the last day of February with Israeli and US attacks on Iran. Prices were almost flat between September 2025 and February 2026, rising just 0.75 per cent.

Airlines also see less need to use low fares to stimulate traffic, executives said. They are willing to lose some price-sensitive passengers who travelled when tickets were cheaper, while essential travellers are considered more willing and able to pay higher fares.

Jet fuel has added to the pressure. Prices were almost flat between September 2025 and February 2026, rising just 0.75 per cent. They then jumped 32.7 per cent between February and September, after the West Asia conflict began on the last day of February with Israeli and US attacks on Iran.

But the economy-fares surge predates the conflict. Cirium data shows average economy fares rose on 19 of the 20 busiest domestic routes in February 2026, with just one route recording a decline.

Business-class fares were moving in the opposite direction even before the conflict. They fell on 19 of the 20 routes in February, with only one exception. By June, fares had declined on 16 of the 20 routes, with falls as steep as 49.3 per cent Y-o-Y. Only four routes recorded increases.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and IndiGo did not respond to queries. An Air India spokesperson told *Business Standard* that the airline recorded an increase in business-class passengers in June 2026, compared with the same

month a year ago. "Business-class fares have also risen over this period as well as through the current financial year to date, driven by demand and higher operating costs. Passenger volumes and booking patterns continue to reflect strong interest in Air India's premium products supported by brand-new or significantly upgraded cabin now available on every metro-to-metro domestic route that Air India serves," the spokesperson added.

Cirium's figures are based on the actual base airfare paid by passengers to airlines excluding taxes and fees, averaged for each month.

IndiGo's business class entry IndiGo entered the country's business-class market in November 2024 with IndiGoStretch, initially launched on the Delhi-Mumbai route. It offers 12 seats in a 2-2 configuration, wider seats, a 38-inch pitch, priority services, additional baggage and complimentary meals.

IndiGoStretch has since expanded to 10 domestic routes, according to the airline's July 2026 update, alongside international routes. Domestic services include Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Pune, Mumbai-Hyderabad and Chennai-Mumbai. But an analysis of Cirium data suggests IndiGoStretch alone does not explain the broader decline in business-class fares.

The product operates on 10 of the 20 busiest domestic routes. On those routes, average business-class fares fell between 2.9 per cent and 7.5 per

cent Y-o-Y in June 2026. On the other 10 routes, where IndiGo does not offer IndiGoStretch, fares fell on six, by between 3.9 per cent and 49.3 per cent, while rising on four.

The Delhi-Mumbai route offers another clue. IndiGo has operated IndiGoStretch there since November 2024, yet the average business-class fare rose 19.8 per cent Y-o-Y in June 2025. A year later, it had fallen 6.4 per cent. The data therefore points to a broader correction in business-class pricing rather than IndiGoStretch being the sole driver. In fact, the sharpest falls came on routes without the product.

A fare divide across cabins

The widest gap between the two cabins was on Delhi-Srinagar. Economy fares jumped 85.1 per cent Y-o-Y in June 2026, while business-class fares fell 20.1 per cent.

The economy rise is par-

ticularly striking because fares on the route had fallen 20.2 per cent Y-o-Y in June 2024 and 35.7 per cent in June 2025. The Bengaluru-Chennai route showed a similar reversal: Economy fares rose 34.9 per cent Y-o-Y in June 2026, while business-class fares plunged 49.3 per cent. On Delhi-Leh, economy fares rose 50.4 per cent, while business-class fares fell 8 per cent. Mumbai-Hyderabad saw economy fares rise 21.5 per cent and business fares decline 2.9 per cent.

The pattern continued on the Mumbai-Chennai route, where economy fares rose 17.8 per cent while business fares fell 4.6 per cent. On Delhi-Chennai, economy fares rose 20.1 per cent, while business fares fell 4.5 per cent. The divide is clear: Economy passengers are facing higher fares, even as business-class travellers are seeing prices move in the opposite direction.

Corporate Communications Directorate

ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

More Flights to Vietnam on the Cards After New Aviation Deal

Arlindam Majumder

New Delhi: Indian travellers will have more flight options to Vietnam this holiday season as India and Vietnam have agreed to allow airlines from both countries to launch more flights. The new agreement will more than double the air capacity limit to over 16,000 seats a week from 8,000 now, people aware of the development said.

The expansion comes as airlines on both sides have used up, or are close to exhausting, their existing rights amid growing demand for travel between the two countries.

Flying rights are allocated on a bilateral reciprocal basis by the government to airlines of their country. Airlines cannot operate more flights than they are allotted.

Over last few years, Vietnam has become a popular destination for Indian tourists. According to data analytics firm Cirium,

BIG BOOST



New agreement will more than double the air capacity limit to 16,000 seats per week

Indian carriers IndiGo and Air India operate 30 flights to Vietnam a week while Vietnamese carriers operate 48 flights.

The increase in capacity—effective immediately—will allow Vietnam Airlines and Vietjet to add more flights to Indian metros such as Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata, people cited above said. Sun PhuQuoc Airlines is also planning to launch flights to Mumbai, they said.

“Vietnam is a hot selling destination from

India, driven by an increase in flight connectivity,” Nguyen Trung Hieu, India country manager at Vietnam Airlines, told ET. “Vietnam Airlines with its A350 aircraft is the first full service carrier on the route, which will appeal to the premium travellers.”

This is the second increase in bilateral seat quota between India and Vietnam since 2024, an unusually quick succession considering New Delhi’s cautious approach. The Narendra Modi government has been reluctant to give more access to foreign carriers since it took charge in 2014. This stance, according to the government, is aimed at protecting Indian airlines from being eclipsed by bigger global rivals with significantly higher exposure on international routes.

Over the last few years, Southeast Asian nations have emerged as top tourist destinations for Indians, after multiple countries in the region eased visa regulations for Indian visitors.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

विमान किराया बढ़ने पर नाराजगी जताई

नई दिल्ली। त्यौहारी सीजन में विमानों का किराया 100 फीसदी तक बढ़ जाने पर चैंबर ऑफ ट्रेड एंड इंडस्ट्री ने नाराजगी जताई है। संगठन ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री को पत्र लिखकर विमान कंपनियों की मनमानी पर अंकुश लगाने की मांग की है। सीटीआई चेयरमैन बृजेश गोयल का कहना है कि कुछ दिनों पहले जो हवाई टिकटें सस्ती थीं, अब दोगने से ज्यादा दाम पर बेची जा रही हैं।

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

तकनीकी खराबी आने से जयपुर की उड़ान रद्द

ग्रेटर नोएडा, प्रमुख संवाददाता।
नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट से
रविवार को जयपुर के लिए उड़ान
भरने वाले इंडिगो के विमान में
तकनीकी खराबी आ गई। इसके
चलते उड़ान भरते विमान को दोबारा
रनवे पर उतारना पड़ा।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से जयपुर के
लिए शाम 5:20 बजे उड़ान भरने
वाले विमान में तकनीकी खराबी आ
गई। विमान रनवे पर तैयार था और
बोर्डिंग पास लेने के बाद करीब 20
यात्री भी सवार हो गए थे। जयपुर के
लिए उड़ान भरने के कुछ ही समय
बाद विमान में तकनीकी समस्या

- उड़ान भरने के साथ
ही खराबी आ गई
- इंडिगो ने किराया वापस
लेने का विकल्प दिया

आने लगी। पायलट ने विमान कंपनी,
एटीसी और अन्य अधिकारियों को
इसकी जानकारी दी। उड़ान भरने के
5-10 मिनट के अंदर ही विमान को
दोबारा रनवे पर उतारा गया। इसके
बाद फ्लाइट रद्द कर दी गई। विमानन
कंपनी ने यात्रियों के लिए वैकल्पिक
व्यवस्था की और अल्टरनेट उड़ान,
और रिफंड की सुविधा दी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

रांची जा रहे विमान की वाराणसी में आपात लैंडिंग

बाबतपुर (वाराणसी)। मुंबई से रांची जा रहा एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का विमान खराब मौसम की वजह से रांची को वाराणसी डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। यह विमान सुबह 9 बजे बाबतपुर एयरपोर्ट पर उतरा। लगभग एक घंटे बाद रांची में मौसम साफ होने पर फ्लाइट को रवाना किया गया। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के आईएक्स 1237 विमान ने मुंबई से रांची सुबह 6.17 बजे उड़ान भरी थी।

Digi Yatra rollout for int'l flyers planned between Oct and Dec

Neha LM Tripathi and
Neeraj Chauhan

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government is working to extend Digi Yatra, the facial recognition-based system now used by domestic flyers, to international departures, with trials planned at Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Cochin between October and December, officials aware of the matter said.

"Delhi and Mumbai are likely to be the first airports to get the facility," an officer aware of the plans said, while confirming the push by the government to initiate the scheme as soon as possible.

Passengers will gain only on the departure side in the first phase. The initial rollout is expected to focus on less-sensitive points such as terminal entry, security and potentially boarding gates, while integration with immigration is likely to be taken up at a later stage, as the system is tested and its efficacy established, a second official said.

Emigration checks will continue as they are, and passengers on inbound flights will see no change. The ministry of civil aviation's Digi Yatra policy document describes the immigration system as isolated from the Digi Yatra boarding system, with automated border control at departure and



Officials said emigration checks will continue as they are, and passengers on inbound flights will see no change.

MINT

arrival envisaged as a subsequent phase. Unlike the domestic system, which uses Aadhaar-based enrolment, the international version will use electronic passports, the first official said.

A passenger holding an e-passport will be able to scan its first page and use a phone to read the chip embedded in the document through near-field communication (NFC), the first officer said. The photograph stored on the chip will then be matched with a selfie to create the passenger's digital credential, which can subsequently be used for identity validation at different airport touch-points.

All e-passports conform to international standards and carry certain biometric details. Till July 30, 2026, a total of 17,316,144 e-passports have been issued,

according to a government reply in Parliament in August.

In the domestic system, the app receives Aadhaar e-KYC data, extracts a reference face from it and matches that against a selfie taken with liveness detection, with the resulting credential stored in a wallet on the passenger's phone, according to the ministry's policy document.

Software upgradation work is under way, after which an audit by the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) will be conducted, before the trials begin, the second officer aware of the developments said. The upgraded application is undergoing final testing, with a vulnerability assessment and penetration testing by CERT-In, as well as Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), planned as

part of the process, the officer cited above added.

Rules for air travel, which are introduced by the civil aviation ministry, home affairs ministry and bureau of civil aviation, will have to change as well. "A few rules need to be amended including the mandatory requirement of showing passports at the airport entry," the first officer said.

"International travel is a sensitive border-crossing process and every stakeholder needs to be satisfied that the new process is robust, safe and secure," Digi Yatra chief executive officer (CEO) Suresh Khadakhbavi said.

Discussions with authorities have been initiated and are progressing well, with further talks being reinitiated under the guidance of the ministry, he added. "The long-term plan is to make the Digi Yatra ecosystem interoperable with participating overseas airports and immigration authorities. Digi Yatra is also in discussions with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) ICAO and an EUDI pilot trials under the APTITUDE cohort, to explore such cross-border interoperability, although these discussions are at an early stage," Khadakhbavi said.

The change will require procurement of some technology. At international checkpoints, e-gates would be required and would have

to be integrated with Digi Yatra at the backend, a process that could take some time after the trials, a third officer said.

The move is among a host of steps the authorities are taking towards digitisation of air travel. The stamping of boarding passes at the security check is not mandatory. On September 1, the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) posted on X that passengers would have one less document to carry. "Your boarding pass can now stay on your phone. E-Boarding Passes are accepted at all Immigration Counters, so you no longer need to carry a physical boarding pass to clear immigration," the post read. Boarding passes continue to be issued.

"The recent decision to do away with physical immigration stamps effective September 1 is an early step towards the larger transition," the first officer said.

The ministry of home affairs has for the past couple of years run a fast track immigration-trusted traveller programme (FTI-TTP), which speeds up immigration for pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card holders at multiple airports. The two systems address different points—FTI-TTP the immigration counter, Digi Yatra the terminal entry and security check, at least in the initial phase.

Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

अबू धाबी की फ्लाइट रद्द होने से 200 यात्री परेशान

नई दिल्ली, 20 सितम्बर (नवोदय टाइम्स): इंदिरा गांधी

इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर शनिवार को अबू धाबी जाने वाली एतिहाद एयरवेज की



फ्लाइट तकनीकी समस्या के कारण रद्द कर दी गई। उस समय करीब 200 यात्री विमान में सवार हो चुके थे। यात्रियों को नीचे उतारने के काफी समय बाद उन्हें

फ्लाइट रद्द होने की जानकारी दी गई। इससे यात्रियों को काफी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा।

एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों के अनुसार एतिहाद

एयरवेज की फ्लाइट संख्या ईवाई 217 को रात 9.15 बजे दिल्ली से अबू धाबी के लिए रवाना होना था। उड़ान के लिए करीब 200 यात्री विमान में सवार हो चुके थे।

Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के चार पायलटों सहित आठ क्रू सस्पेंड

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने दुबई-अमृतसर फ्लाइट के 8 क्रू मेंबर्स को सस्पेंड किया है। इनमें चार पायलट शामिल हैं। यह कार्रवाई

■ दो घंटे में एल्कोहल टेस्ट नहीं कराया

अनिवार्य पोस्ट-फ्लाइट ब्रीथ एनालाइजर (अल्कोहल) टेस्ट में देरी पर हुई। मामला 2 अगस्त की दुबई-अमृतसर फ्लाइट का है। क्रू को अमृतसर के श्री गुरु राम दास जी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग के बाद 2 घंटे में ब्रीथ एनालाइजर टेस्ट



कराना था, लेकिन उन्होंने यह टेस्ट 2 घंटे 35 मिनट बाद कराया। एयरलाइन ने मामले की जानकारी एविएशन सेफ्टी बॉडी डायरेक्टरेट जनरल ऑफ सिविल एविएशन (डीजीसीए) को दी और सभी 8 सदस्यों को ड्यूटी से हटा दिया। यह

कार्रवाई ऐसे समय हुई है जब हाल ही में एअर इंडिया के एक पायलट का साइकोएक्टिव पदार्थ का टेस्ट पॉजिटिव आया था। इसके बाद एअर इंडिया और

एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के पायलटों के लिए ड्रग टेस्ट अनिवार्य किया गया। एयर इंडिया अब अपने सभी पायलटों की प्रतिबंधित पदार्थों और दवाओं के लिए अतिरिक्त जांच भी करेगी। यह स्क्रीनिंग ट्रेनिंग और पोस्ट-फ्लाइट जांच के दौरान की जाएगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

दिल्ली में स्पाइसजेट की
कई उड़ानें प्रभावित
नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के
आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर
शनिवार को ऑपरेशनल
दिवकतों के चलते स्पाइसजेट
की कई फ्लाइट्स प्रभावित हुईं।
कुछ फ्लाइट्स में देरी हुई,
जबकि कुछ रद्द भी की गईं।
इसके कारण सैकड़ों यात्री
परेशान हुए। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ने
सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में यात्रियों
से माफी मांगी। एयरपोर्ट के
मुताबिक, ग्राउंड स्टाफ प्रभावित
यात्रियों को जरूरी मदद दे रहा
है और स्पाइसजेट के साथ
मिलकर काम कर रहा है।
ऑपरेशनल दिवकतों पर
स्पाइसजेट की ओर से फिलहाल
कोई बयान नहीं आया है।



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TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

Passenger reports chest pain, flight diverted

Lucknow: An IndiGo flight from Bangkok to Delhi was diverted to Lucknow late Saturday night after a passenger complained of chest pain and difficulty in breathing, airport officials said. The aircraft landed safely at Lucknow airport at 10.52pm. The medical team examined the passenger and found him in a stable condition. TNN