



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

21 FEBRUARY 2025

Interim terminal of Purnea airport to be ready within 4 months

Aditya Nath Jha

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PURNEA : The Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Thursday awarded work to a Kanpur-based firm for the construction of an interim terminal building at the Purnea airport, said a government statement, issued by the Information and Public Relations Department.

Messrs MHPL India Private Limited, a Kanpur based firm, has got the contract worth ₹33.99 crore, which was 23% less than the estimated cost of ₹44.15 crore, said the release. The interim terminal building was expected to be completed in four months, beginning March 1.

The Purnea airport will be in addition to the existing Patna airport, Darbhanga airport, Gaya airport and the proposed airport at Bihta.

Before the construction of the main airport terminal building, an interim structure will be constructed on the porta concept, so that the operation of commercial flights can be started soon. The Airports Authority of India has appointed a deputy general manager (engineering) as an in-charge of the project.

The construction agency will

have to deposit a performance guarantee of ₹1.69 crore and a security fund of ₹88.30 lakh. The e-bid was opened on February 10.

The Purnea airport will be equipped with modern facilities. The AAI's architect has already prepared the design of Purnea Airport. This airport will be equipped with "state of the art" facilities and has been designed keeping in mind the passenger footfall for the next 30-40 years. A total of five aerobridges will be built at this airport, which will provide better connectivity to the passengers.

The construction of the terminal building will pave the way for direct air facility not only for the people of Kosi and Seemanchal region but also for West Bengal, Jharkhand and Nepal. As soon as the interim terminal is completed, commercial air travel will begin benefiting the local passengers and will also promote the economic development of the region.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar held a review meeting with the officials during his Pragati Yatra to Purnea. He necessary guidelines to all the officials to remove the obstacles coming in way of construction of the airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

21 FEBRUARY 2025

Centre plans to lease over 10 airports under PPP mode, begins consultations

Rohit Vaid

NEW DELHI

The Centre has begun consultations on leasing (privatise) over 10 airports under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, sources told *businessline*.

According to the sources, an inter-ministerial consultation process was initiated recently with the circulation of a Cabinet note seeking opinion from different ministries.

“We have received replies on the note and are now in the consultation phase,” a source told *businessline*.

As per sources, the Cabinet will decide which airports will be leased out and if any new terms and conditions should be added in the concession agreement for the upcoming round.

Speculation is rife that AAI airports under consideration may include key regional hubs such as Amritsar, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Raipur and Tiruchi.

Airports in Kushinagar, Gaya, Hubli, Aurangabad and Tirupati could also be considered. Besides, the Centre is contemplating bundling profitable and non-profitable airports for the bidding process.

The initiative falls under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), which seeks to tap into private sector expertise to revamp and operate key assets, improve passenger experience, and drive economic growth.

(The writer is with *The Hindu businessline*)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

22 FEBRUARY 2025

INTERVIEW

Noida Airport nearing operational readiness, says CEO Schnellmann

WITH THE Noida International Airport at Uttar Pradesh's Jewar nearing completion, the Chief Executive Officer of the airport, **CHRISTOPH SCHNELLMANN**, tells **NEETIKA JHA** that the construction work at passenger terminal and ATC (Air Traffic Control) is getting final touches. Excerpts from the interview.

How many international and domestic airlines are on board for operations at the international airport?

We have partnered with IndiGo as our launch carrier. Additionally, we have a strategic partnership with Akasa Air for both domestic and international routes. We have also seen strong interest from airlines across the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

We are working closely with airlines to establish a comprehensive route map that will offer travelers convenient access to a wide range of locations across the country and beyond. Airlines are at present finalising their routes and schedules, considering factors such as passenger demand, optimal slot allocation, and aircraft availability.

What stage is infrastructure development at?

Construction work at the passenger terminal and ATC has been largely completed. Key milestones include completion of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) calibration.

We have also achieved significant milestones, particularly in curating the passenger experience at the airport. We have partnered with Travel Food Services to offer diverse multi-cuisine dining options and a world-class lounge featuring both premium and luxury zones. The lounges will offer an exceptional experience with live interactive food stations, a wide range of buffet options, an experiential cocktail bar, and a spa for relaxation services.

The interiors will convey sophistication, warmth, and elegance, providing a haven of comfort amid busy travel schedules.



Chief Executive Officer of the airport, **Christoph Schnellmann**. *Express*

The lounge will also offer a 'Luxury Zone' with exclusive amenities to provide an enhanced experience to passengers.

HMS Host India will operate a variety of restaurants and cafes within the terminal. We have awarded the retail and duty-free concession to a consortium of Heinemann Asia Pacific and BWC Forwarders.

Also, we have signed a 30-year concession agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Limited to operate fuel stations at three key locations within the airport premises. EV charging infrastructure and CNG stations will be available at the airport for both airside operations and for passengers.

By when are operations expected to begin?

The airport is steadily advancing toward operational readiness. The successful validation flight marked a key milestone, and we are now working closely with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on the necessary licensing processes. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is advancing its work in the air traffic control tower, and construction of the passenger terminal and associated infrastructure is progressing steadily.

FULL INTERVIEW ON
www.indianexpress.com

Adani lines up ₹30K cr investment in Kerala for port, airport expansion

SHINE JACOB

Chennai, 21 February

Adani Group is planning to invest around ₹30,000 crore in Kerala over the next five years to develop its infrastructure, including expansion of a port and an airport and setting up a logistics and e-commerce hub in Kochi, a senior company executive said on Friday.

Addressing a session of Invest Kerala Global Summit, Karan Adani, managing director, Adani Ports and SEZ, said the group will invest ₹20,000 crore more in Vizhinjam Port in addition to the already invested ₹5,000 crore.

“This is not only India’s first transshipment hub, but our vision is to make Vizhinjam the largest transshipment port in this part of the region. We will be expanding Trivandrum International Airport from 4.5 million to 12 million passengers, with ₹5,500 crore,” he said. The company will be setting up a logistics and e-commerce hub in Kochi, and also increase its cement capacity in Kochi.

“In total, Adani Group is going to invest ₹30,000 crore in the next five years in the state of Kerala,” Adani said. The announcement came on a



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan (foreground, left) with Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal (right) during Invest Kerala Global Summit on Friday

PHOTO: KERALA GOVERNMENT

day when Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari said the Centre will complete road projects worth around ₹3 trillion during its current tenure.

During his address, Gadkari highlighted that his ministry had 31 upcoming projects spanning 896 kilometres with an investment of about ₹50,000 crore. In the private sector, one of the major investments included a ₹1,500 crore plan lined up by Brigade Group with potential employment for around 12,000 people over the next five years. Brigade Enterprises, the flagship company of Brigade Group, has

submitted an expression of interest (EOI) for setting up its second World Trade Center (WTC) in the state, with the first being WTC Kochi. Brigade is also looking to expand its footprint in Kerala with a residential project in Kochi and a luxury island resort at Vaikom. These projects are expected to be completed by 2030.

Aster DM Healthcare said it plans to invest around ₹850 crore in the next three years towards scaling up its infrastructure, medical services, and employment generation in the region.

Earlier, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Left

UPCOMING PLANS

▶ Adani group has already invested ₹5,000 crore in Vizhinjam Port, and further committed ₹20,000 crore

▶ Brigade Enterprises has submitted an EOI for setting up its second World Trade Centre in the state

▶ Aster DM Healthcare plans to invest ₹850 crore in the next three years towards scaling up its infrastructure in the region

Front government had ensured that no investor will have to face the barriers of red tape in Kerala. “We have made major strides in simplifying procedures for investments. The government considers itself to have a great role to play as a facilitator and catalyst,” he said.

“In the last eight years, Kerala has witnessed the establishment of 6,200 startups with an investment of ₹5,800 crore, creating 62,000 employment opportunities. We aim to establish 15,000 startups and create 100,000 employment opportunities by 2026,” he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

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Induce passengers to spend more money at airports, say operators

ANUSHREE PRATAP
BENGALURU, DHNS

The aero revenue of Indian airports is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 42% over fiscal years 2023-24 (FY24) to 2026-27 (FY27), while non-aero revenue will grow at a CAGR of 15% over the same time period, said CareEdge on Thursday.

Aero revenue is what airports earn from airlines, like fees for parking fees and time slots. Non-aero revenue is from services like food and beverage (F&B), restaurants, lounges, etc.

CareEdge's webinar on airports was also attended by many industry executives.

The overall air passenger traffic is expected to grow at a 9% CAGR, as per the agency. As per GRK Babu, CFO, Airport Sector, GMR Airports Ltd, however, the growth is expected to be much higher, hitting up to 11% growth in the next two years.

Non-metro airports cater to 40% of the total passenger traffic with faster growth seen as compared to metro airports, CareEdge said.

Growth propellers in the sector are economic growth, a shift in income groups in India stimulating higher discretionary spending, and a rise

in foreign travel remittance leading to higher international tourism.

The combined capex outlay of airport operators is projected to increase by 25% over FY26-FY30, reaching almost Rs 1 lakh crore, led by brownfield expansion along with two greenfield airports.

While there is an uptick in non-aero revenue per passenger in India, the spend per passenger for international peers is two times compared to Indian airports.

Babu emphasised that there is a constant need for improvement in offerings as well as greater penetration (or inducing passengers to spend more money). He added that transfer time between terminals should also be better monetised.

Rakesh Tiwary, CFO, Adani Airport Holdings Ltd, said that another way to do this is increasing duty-free spending per passenger, as currently India is far behind global peers in this regard.

Monetisation from non-passengers is another area where Indian airports are lagging, stated Tiwary, pointing out that airport areas can be made a hub for local tourists and businessmen with malls, hotels, convention centres, F&B, and concerts.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

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हिंडन एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा बढ़ेगी

ट्रॉस हिंडन। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर शुक्रवार को पहली बार एयरपोर्ट सलाहकार समिति की बैठक हुई। इसमें एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा बढ़ाने और बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी के साथ यात्री सुविधाओं पर चर्चा हुई। एयरपोर्ट के लिए दिशा सूचक बोर्ड और मार्ग की पथ प्रकाश व्यवस्था में सुधार पर भी जोर दिया गया। समिति के अध्यक्ष और सांसद अतुल गर्ग की अध्यक्षता में कई मुद्दों पर चर्चा की। मार्च में एयरपोर्ट से पांच शहरों के लिए छह नई उड़ान शुरू होने जा रही हैं।



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HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

21 FEBRUARY 2025

New airport, city planned at Vadhavan

Yogesh Naik

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MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government has taken its first steps towards building a third airport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) at Vadhavan, where one of the biggest ports on India's west coast is being constructed.

The state government-run Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) on Thursday began a pre-feasibility study for the development of a greenfield airport in the Palghar district. 'Greenfield' is a term used to describe land that has not previously been developed. The state government is also planning to build a new city around the proposed airport in Palghar.

"The consultants will tell us

what is feasible in the Vadhavan area," said Swati Pandey, managing director of MADC. "This is a first step by the government."

If greenlit, the new airport would be the third in MMR after the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai and the under-construction airport in Navi Mumbai, which is likely to be inaugurated in April.

'Third Mumbai'

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis told Hindustan Times that the idea behind the proposed project, which has been approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is to "create an ecosystem of a third Mumbai in Palghar and Vasai-Virar, with a port, airport and bullet train." Fadnavis had first discussed

the idea of building an airport in Palghar during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Vadhavan port in August last year. The deputy chief minister at the time had said that Mumbai, which has a population of over 20 million, would need a third airport in the coming years. "My suggestion is for the Centre to consider this proposal on reclaimed land near Vadhavan port," he had said.

Long-mooted plan

The plan for a third airport in MMR has been on the cards for some time, as the existing one in Mumbai is one of the busiest in India.

During the previous Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray had also mooted the idea of a third air-

port.

The state administration at the time was considering a proposal for a domestic airport at Kelva-Mahim or Dapchari, both in Palghar district.

At a recent review meeting on airports, Fadnavis also discussed the idea of developing a new satellite city at Vadhavan. He said that Vadhavan is going to be one of the top 10 ports in the world, with a lot of commercial traffic passing from there via the proposed Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train, coastal highway, and the Mumbai-Vadodara expressway.

Navi Mumbai was developed in the seventies as a second Mumbai, while a new city—a "third Mumbai"—is being planned at the end of the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, also known as Atal Setu.

3rd airport for MMR

• The Maharashtra government has begun a pre-feasibility study to develop a new airport and a satellite city at Vadhavan in the Palghar district, where one of the biggest ports on India's west coast is also being constructed.

• If greenlit, the new airport would be the third in the Mumbai metropolitan region after the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai and the under-construction Navi Mumbai airport, which is likely to be inaugurated in April.

• "[The idea is] to create an ecosystem of a third Mumbai in Palghar and Vasai-Virar, with a port, airport and bullet train."
- Devendra Fadnavis, CM



Parandur airport: T.N. govt. providing finishing touches to compensation package

T. Ramakrishnan

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government is finalising a compensation package for the people who will be affected by the proposed second airport project for Chennai at Parandur in Kancheepuram district.

As pointed out by Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu on various occasions, the government's idea is to provide a compensation to the project-affected people (PAP). It would be higher than the market price of the lands that have been identified for the project.

In this regard, the government is working out the compensation in such a manner that the eventual quantum would be more than what the compensation package had envisaged under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Ac-



Better deal: Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu had said the government's idea was to provide a compensation higher than the market price of the lands identified for the airport project.

quisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. It is learnt that the proposed package will be unveiled "at an appropriate time". According to the law, one of the components of the package is to multiply the market value by a factor of one in case of urban areas, and by one to two for rural areas depending on the distance of the project site from urban areas. Apart from the base value of the land and other assets, landowners get a 100% solatium and a 12%

additional market value or interest. In an interview with *The Hindu* in January, the Finance Minister said that the State government had also planned to rehabilitate the PAPs to protect their livelihood.

In October 2023, the State issued an order giving administrative sanction for the acquisition of about 3,774 acres of patta lands. As the total extent of land required is approximately 5,746 acres, the remaining portion would be the government's.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

21 FEBRUARY 2025

'Paid concierge service launched at Kolkata airport'



KOLKATA: A paid concierge service for all domestic and international passengers was launched at the Kolkata airport on Wednesday, an official said.

The service will be helpful for passengers not conversant with the systems in the airport or those who are ailing or elderly, sources said. The "meet and greet service" provided by a private firm was inaugurated at the terminal building of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) airport.

"Introducing Elite Assist – your premium airport concierge service inaugurated by Dr Pravat Ranjan Beuria, Airport Director at Kolkata Airport! Enjoy dedicated guidance, baggage handling and a hassle-free travel experience for both domestic and international arrivals/departures," the authorities said in a post on X. A passenger will have to pay Rs 500 to avail of the service, according to sources at the airport.

A passenger seeking the service will be assisted by the company's employees in completing the check-in process at the terminal building. The passenger will also get the help of porters for handling luggage.

The services will be available for both arrival and departure passengers, the sources said. AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

22 FEBRUARY 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को मिले 1550 करोड़ 50 करोड़ में तैयार होगा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर

● प्रथम चरण में 1334 हेक्टेयर में एयरपोर्ट का 80% काम पूरा

पायनियर समाचार सेवा | नोएडा

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के विस्तार के लिए प्रदेश सरकार की ओर से 1550 करोड़ रुपये का फंड की घोषणा की गई। इसमें 1500 करोड़ रुपये भूमि अधिग्रहण और 50 करोड़ रुपये निर्माण कार्य के लिए आवंटित किया गया है। ये फंड तीसरे और चौथे फेज के लिए जारी किया जाएगा।

एयरपोर्ट के विस्तार के लिए 14 गांव की 1888.98 हेक्टेयर जमीन का अधिग्रहण होना है। 4500 रुपये प्रतिकर से मुआवजे की घोषणा के बाद किसान जमीन देने के लिए तैयार



हैं। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से अप्रैल में व्यवसायिक विमानों की उड़ानें प्रस्तावित हैं। प्रथम चरण में 1334 हेक्टेयर में एयरपोर्ट का 80 प्रतिशत काम पूरा हो चुका है। इस काम पर लगभग साढ़े नौ हजार करोड़ की लागत आई है। वहीं दूसरे चरण की

1365 हेक्टेयर जमीन का अधिग्रहण भी कर लिया गया है। किसानों को मुआवजा तक बांटा जा चुका है। परियोजना के तीसरे और चौथे चरण में कुल 2053 हेक्टेयर भूमि चाहिए। इनमें से 14 गांव की 1888.98 हेक्टेयर जमीन का अधिग्रहण किया

जाएगा। शेष भूमि प्रशासन के पास पहले से है। हाल में मुख्यमंत्री ने किसानों को 4300 रुपये प्रतिकर से मुआवजा देने का ऐलान किया था। अभी तक 3100 रुपये प्रतिकर के हिसाब से मुआवजा दिया जा रहा था। मुआवजे की यह दर प्रदेश में सर्वाधिक गौतमबुद्ध नगर में है। ऐसे में अतिरिक्त भार बढ़ेगा।

इस पूरे एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण 6 हजार 500 हेक्टेयर में चार फेज में किया जाएगा। जिसमें 29 हजार 650 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होने हैं। पहले फेज के निर्माण में 10056 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होंगे। अब तक करीब 9 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च हो चुके हैं। इस एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण स्विस् कंपनी 'यूरिख इंटरनेशनल' कर रही है। कंपनी 40 साल तक इस एयरपोर्ट को रन करेगी। पहले फेज की क्षमता 1.2 करोड़ पैसेंजर की है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

22 FEBRUARY 2025

प्रगति यात्रा में पटना के विकास की घोषणा

पटना शहर के पास नए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ग्रीनफील्ड हवाईअड्डा बनाएंगे: नीतीश

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

पटना . मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने कहा कि वह केंद्र सरकार से पटना शहर के पास एक नए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ग्रीनफील्ड हवाईअड्डा का निर्माण कराए जाने का अनुरोध करेंगे।

कुमार ने प्रगति यात्रा के अंतिम दिन पटना जिले के विकास के लिए योजनाओं की घोषणा करते हुए कहा कि पटना शहर के पास एक नये अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ग्रीनफील्ड हवाईअड्डा के निर्माण के लिए केंद्र सरकार से अनुरोध किया जायेगा।



नए पुल के निर्माण से होगा यातायात सुचारू

कुमार ने कहा कि एम्स गोलम्बर-जानीपुर-पईनापुर-नेवा पथ का चौड़ीकरण किया जायेगा। नौबलपुर लख के पास नया पुल निर्माण किया जाएगा। परसा-सम्पतक सड़क का

चौड़ीकरण किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि दीदारगंज से गौरीधक होते हुए पुनपुन तक तटबंध पथ का चौड़ीकरण करने के लिए केंद्र सरकार से अनुरोध किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

21 FEBRUARY 2025

Vadhavan airport project set in motion, agency for study may be picked in 3 wks

Chaitanya.Marpakwar
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Mumbai: MMR's second airport in Navi Mumbai is just months away from taking off and the state govt has begun work on a third proposed airport near the upcoming big-ticket Vadhavan port in Palghar: Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC), a special purpose company set up by the state govt to plan, build, operate and maintain airports, has floated a request for proposal

(RFP) to appoint a consultant agency to carry out a pre-feasibility study on developing a greenfield airport in the Vadhavan port region.

Swati Pandey, vice-chairman and managing director of MADC, told TOI that the RFP is the first step towards building the airport, and an agency for the pre-feasibility study will be finalised soon. She said timelines for the study will be set once the agency is picked, which is likely to be done over the next three weeks.

The Vadhavan port, loca-

ted around 130km from Mumbai, is being developed in two phases—the first by 2030 and the second by 2039—and is expected to emerge as one of the 10 biggest ports in the world. It will entail an investment of around Rs 76,200 crore and will be an integral part of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. Ahead of the assembly election last Nov, PM Narendra Modi had announced that work on a new airport near it would begin soon. Three months prior to that announcement, depu-

ty CM Devendra Fadnavis had spoken of it being planned to be built on reclaimed land. The idea to have a third airport in MMR was mooted during the MVA govt's tenure, with a proposal for a domestic airport in Palghar district's Dapchari or Kelva-Mahim.

The Navi Mumbai airport is expected to be commissioned in May/June this year. It will initially handle only domestic operations, with international flights set to begin in July, according to current projections.

India needs at least 20,000 pilots in coming years: Civil Aviation Minister

NEW DELHI, Feb 20: Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu on Thursday said India will need at least 20,000 pilots in the coming years to meet the rising air-travel demand in the country – one of the world's fastest growing aviation market.

Addressing a gathering at the UDAAN Bhawan here following the launch of Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for pilots, the minister said aviation has always been the backbone of connectivity, economic growth, and technological advancements.

He said the country will have 50 more airports in the next five years. The number of airports has doubled to 157 in the last 10 years.

"We are looking at a number which is very ambitious ... if you look at the airline sector, we have orders of up to 1,700 planes that are about to come into the Indian fleet. And with so much growth that we are going to see in the coming days, there is going to be a need for at least 20,000 pilots in the near future," Naidu said.

Naidu further said his ministry is using technology in a



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu launches the Electronic Personnel License in New Delhi on Thursday. – PTI

big way. "With the launch of EPL, we are ensuring that the pilots can now access their licenses with greater ease and efficiency. This initiative also aligns with the government of India's mission of Digital India, reinforcing our dedication on leveraging technology for the benefit of the citizens and the industry at large," he said.

India has become the second country in the world to implement EPL for flight crew. China has already implemented such a facility.

Implementation of EPL by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) aligns with the government's Ease of Doing Business and Digital India Initiative. The adoption of EPL cements India's position as a leader in aviation innovation, the DGCA said.

The step aligns with the roadmap of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for modern aviation governance and reflects the nation's readiness to embrace the future.

Pilots can now securely

access their licenses anytime via the eGCA app, with seamless real-time verification for global agencies, the Minister said in a post on social media platform 'X'.

"This is a game-changer for Indian aviation – enhancing safety, interoperability, and aligning us with global best practices," the post said.

Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam and Director-General (DG) of DGCA Faiz Ahmed Kidwai were also present on the occasion. – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

21 FEBRUARY 2025

Fly to Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok from just Rs 6,599

GUWAHATI, Feb 20: The AirAsia Free* Seats sale has returned with a bang, offering up to 15 million seats across 130 destinations within its extensive network. According to a press release, guests can choose from an array of direct flights within India to exciting destinations in Malaysia and Thailand such as from Visakhapatnam to Kuala Lumpur, from Tiruchirappalli and Guwahati to Bangkok and from Kolkata to Phuket at unbeatable fares starting from just Rs 6,599 all-in one way**. International destinations also include Singapore, Da Lat, Krabi, Kota Kinabalu and more via AirAsia's seamless Fly-Thru options from Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. The AirAsia Free* Seats sale will go on from now till February 23. Book your flights via airasia.com or the AirAsia MOVE app for travel between 1 July 2025 and 15 June 2026.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

22 FEBRUARY 2025

गो फर्स्ट के ऋणदाता मार्च में करेंगे भू-खंड की नीलामी

अब बंद हो चुकी विमानन कंपनी गो फर्स्ट के तीन ऋणदाता 3,900 करोड़ से अधिक के बकाया की वसूली के लिए मार्च में ठाणे के भू-खंड की नीलामी करेंगे। यह भूखंड मुंबई महानगर क्षेत्र में आता है। ऋण के लिए इन भूखंडों की गारंटी दी गई थी।

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ने ऋणदाताओं की ओर से इस जमीन की नीलामी की जानकारी दी है। इसके अनुसार नीलामी में आरक्षित मूल्य 1,782 करोड़ रुपये रखा गया है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के ऋणदाता सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ने ऋणदाताओं -

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा, सेंट्रल बैंक और आईडीबीआई बैंक की ओर से महाराष्ट्र में ठाणे के घोड़बंदर रोड से सटी 94.71 एकड़ जमीन पर कब्जा ले लिया है। यह जमीन वाडिया रियलिटी लिमिटेड के नाम पर है।

बीएस



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

22 FEBRUARY 2025

Lenders to auction Go First land to recover ₹3,900 crore

Three lenders to the now defunct Go First airline will auction land parcels in Thane – which falls under Mumbai



Metropolitan Area – in March to recover dues of over ₹ 3,900 crore. These land plots were made collateral for loan exposures. The reserve price for the auction is ₹1,782 crore, according to a communication for a proposed auction for land placed by Central Bank of India on behalf of lenders. Public sector lender Central Bank of India has taken possession of immovable property, 94.71 acres of

land abutting Ghodbunder Road Thane, Maharashtra on behalf of lenders Bank of Baroda, Central Bank and IDBI Bank. The land is in the name of Wadia Reality Private Ltd. It would be sold on March 12, 2025 through e-auction.

BS REPORTER



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

22 FEBRUARY 2025

एविएशन • 11 जनवरी को रिकॉर्ड 5.09 लाख ने हवाई यात्रा की जनवरी में घरेलू हवाई यात्री 14.5% बढ़कर रिकॉर्ड 1.5 करोड़ पार हुए

बिजनेस संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

जनवरी में घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या 14.47% बढ़कर रिकॉर्ड 1.5 करोड़ से ऊपर निकल गई। यह दिसंबर 2024 के मुकाबले 0.7% ज्यादा है। बीते साल जनवरी में देशभर में 1.31 करोड़ लोगों ने हवाई यात्रा की थी। दिसंबर-24 में ये आंकड़ा 1.49 करोड़ था। इसी के साथ एक दिन में सबसे ज्यादा घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों का रिकॉर्ड 11 जनवरी को बना। रेटिंग एजेंसी इक्रा की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक इस दिन 5,09,264 लोगों ने हवाई यात्रा की। इससे पहले 5,05,412 घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों का पिछला रिकॉर्ड 17 नवंबर 2024 को बना था। चालू वित्त वर्ष के 10 महीनों (अप्रैल 2024 से जनवरी 2025) तक देश में घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या सालाना आधार पर 7.5% बढ़कर 13.72 करोड़ हो

इंटरनेशनल पैसेंजर ट्रैफिक कोविड-पूर्व से 42% ज्यादा

वर्ष 2024-25 के पहले 9 माह में भारतीय एयरलाइंस का इंटरनेशनल ट्रैफिक 14.5% बढ़कर 2.49 करोड़ हो गया। यह कोविड-पूर्व यानी 2019-20 की समान अवधि से 41.7% ज्यादा है। इक्रा के मुताबिक भारतीय एयरलाइंस का इंटरनेशनल पैसेंजर ट्रैफिक 15-20% बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। ओवरऑल ट्रैफिक ग्रोथ 7-10% रहने का अनुमान है।

गई। यह वित्त वर्ष 2020 के 10 महीनों की तुलना में 13% ज्यादा है। बीते वित्त वर्ष में यह 13% के करीब थी। घरेलू उड़ानों की संख्या सालाना आधार पर 10.8% बढ़कर 97,863 पर पहुंच गई। औसतन रोजाना 3,157 उड़ानों का संचालन हुआ।

पहली बार कुछ विदेशी एयरलाइन पर एआई कोड एअर इंडिया के यात्रियों के लिए 60 नए ट्रेवल रूट खुले

38 शहरों के लिए एअर
इंडिया-लुफ्थांसा के बीच
कोड शेयरिंग करार

नई दिल्ली | एअर इंडिया के पैसेंजर्स को अब देश के 12 और यूरोप के 26 शहरों में 60 अतिरिक्त रूट्स पर ट्रेवल सुविधा मिल सकेगी। एअर इंडिया ने गुरुवार को कहा कि उसने ऑस्ट्रियन एयरलाइंस के साथ कोड शेयरिंग समझौता किया है। साथ ही, जर्मन एयरलाइंस लुफ्थांसा और स्विस् इंटरनेशनल एयरलाइंस के साथ मौजूदा कोड शेयरिंग समझौते का विस्तार किया है।

नए करार की बदौलत एअर इंडिया, लुफ्थांसा और स्विस् के बीच कोड शेयरिंग रूट्स की कुल संख्या 55 से बढ़कर करीब 100 हो गई है। एअर इंडिया और ऑस्ट्रियन एयरलाइंस के बीच 26 और कोड शेयरिंग रूट पर समझौता हुआ है। एअर इंडिया की यूनाइटेड एयरलाइंस, एयर कनाडा, जेटस्टार एयरवेज, एयर न्यूजीलैंड, क्वान्टास एयरवेज और वर्जिन ऑस्ट्रेलिया सहित करीब 20 इंटरनेशनल एयरलाइंस के साथ भी 100 से ज्यादा रूट्स पर पार्टनरशिप है। पहली बार ऑस्ट्रियन एयरलाइंस सहित लुफ्थांसा समूह की एयरलाइनों



एअर इंडिया की इंटरनेशनल
फ्लाइट तीन साल में दोगुनी

एअर इंडिया का लक्ष्य एक मॉडल मार्केट हब बनाकर लंबी दूरी के इंटरनेशनल मार्केट और प्रीमियम टैफिक की डिमांड वाले मार्केट में पहुंच बढ़ाना है। कंपनी ने इंटरनेशनल रूट्स पर दैनिक उड़ानें 3 साल में दोगुनी यानी 313 कर ली हैं। एअर इंडिया अब 48 इंटरनेशनल डेस्टिनेशन के लिए सेवाएं दे रही है, जो पहले 39 थे। इसका नेटवर्क एशिया, उत्तरी अमेरिका, अफ्रीका, यूरोप समेत 31 देशों में फैला है।

द्वारा संचालित कुछ सर्विसेज पर 'एआई' डेजिग्नेटर कोड होगा। एअर इंडिया के चीफ कमर्शियल ऑफिसर निपुण अग्रवाल ने कहा, 'इस साझेदारी से हमारे ग्राहकों को लुफ्थांसा ग्रुप की फ्लाइट्स पर यूरोप में पहले से ज्यादा डेस्टिनेशन पर ट्रेवल की सुविधा मिलेगी।'

अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट्स पर भारतीय एयरलाइंस का हिस्सा 46%

भारत से इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रेवल में एमिरेट्स, एतिहाद, कतर एयरवेज, जैसी विदेशी कंपनियों का दबदबा रहा है। अब एअर इंडिया के नेतृत्व में इंटरनेशनल सेगमेंट में भारतीय एयरलाइंस का हिस्सा 46% तक पहुंच गया है। भारतीय एयरलाइंस ने जनवरी-सितंबर 2024 में 2.4 करोड़ लोगों को इंटरनेशनल रूट पर यात्रा कराई। 75 से ज्यादा इंटरनेशनल एयरलाइंस



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

21 FEBRUARY 2025

B'desh flight makes emergency landing

Agencies

[NAGPUR](#)

A replacement aircraft from Biman Bangladesh Airlines took off for Dubai on Thursday with nearly 400 passengers after their earlier flight made an emergency landing at Nagpur airport following detection of smoke in the hold area. On Wednesday night when flight BG-347 was on its way to Dubai from Dhaka, the pilot received an alert from the fire alarm system forcing him to land the

aircraft at Nagpur airport at 10:45 PM with 396 passengers and 12 crew members. A full emergency was declared at the airport and the aircraft, after landing, was taken to an isolation bay where the passengers disembarked safely and the cargo was offloaded. Although smoke was reported in the aircraft's hold, a thorough examination showed no signs of fire, officials said. Almost 19 hours after the emergency landing, passengers continued with their journey.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

21 FEBRUARY 2025

DGCA phased roll out: More rest for pilots, tighter limits for night

Shruti Kakkar

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's aviation regulator has proposed a new, phased roadmap to introduce stricter limits on when and how long pilots can fly in order to minimise fatigue among air crew in a submission to Delhi high court. The Director General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) roadmap, submitted to the Delhi high court, proposes increasing pilots' weekly rest from 36 to 48 hours starting July 1, 2025, and phasing in reduced night flying from November 1, 2025, as part of relaxed duty norms for cockpit crew.

DGCA, in its affidavit before the high court, stated that of the 22 proposed clauses pertaining to Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL), 15 would be implemented from July 1, 2025, while the remaining would be rolled out from November 1, 2025. The regulator's phased approach follows stiff opposition from airlines, which led to the postpone-



DGCA said that 15 of the 22 proposed clauses would be implemented by July 1. HT PHOTO

ment of the original implementation date of June 1, 2024. The revised timeline was submitted after several rounds of court-ordered mediation between Air India and pilot unions, facilitated by DGCA.

The next hearing on the matter is scheduled for February 24.

Among the provisions deferred to November 1 is a revised definition for night duty, wherein duty periods falling between midnight and 6am will be classified as night duty, instead of the current midnight to 5am standard.

Given that airlines can assign

pilots to only two consecutive nights of flying, this modification is expected to reduce the extent of night flying. Additionally, DGCA has capped the number of night landings per pilot to two if their duty period extends into the night duty window.

For ultra-long-haul flights, pilots operating across two consecutive nights, including routes to and from the US, will receive an additional 24 hours of rest, increasing the mandated rest period from at least 120 hours to at least 144 hours. Pilots have long demanded the elimination of two consecutive night duties, arguing that they disrupt natural sleep cycles, induce fatigue, and compromise alertness.

Airlines, on their part, have strongly opposed the DGCA's plan to restrict night flying. In a submission to the regulator last December, IndiGo warned that the broader night flying definition would have a "severe operational impact" and urged for the current standard to remain unchanged.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

21 FEBRUARY 2025

Pilots could get weekly rest of 48 hours from July 1: DGCA affidavit

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The weekly rest for pilots could be raised from 36 hours to 48 hours with effect from July 1, and revised night flying hours 'rolled out' from November 1, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in a detailed scheme for implementing relaxed duty norms for cockpit crew submitted before the Delhi High Court on Thursday.

The liberalised norms governing duty and rest periods for pilots to combat concerns over rising fatigue levels were announced in January 2024, and were to be implemented from June 1, 2024. But they were put on hold after stiff opposition from airlines, forcing pilots' unions to approach the court. After several rounds of court-ordered mediation held by



Pilots have been demanding the scrapping of two consecutive nights of flying.

the DGCA between Air India and the pilot bodies, the regulator agreed to a phased implementation.

"Out of 22 clauses, 15 clauses would be implemented from 01.07.2025 and the remaining 7 clauses would be rolled out from 01.11.2025," said the affidavit before the Delhi High Court signed by the DGCA's Assistant Director

(Operations), Himanshu Srivastava. The next hearing is on Monday.

Key among the provisions recommended for implementation from July 1 is the weekly rest period of "continuous 48 hours". Night duty will be during the hours between midnight and 6 a.m. instead of the present midnight to 5 a.m. As airlines are allowed to assign pilots only to two consecutive nights of flying, this provision will bring down the time of night flying. Further, the DGCA has capped the number of night landings a pilot can do to two.

Pilots have been demanding the scrapping of two consecutive nights of flying, introduced in April 2019, as night duties disrupt the natural sleep-wake cycle, cause fatigue and impact alertness levels. They say that in the

recent past, due to increased international flying, the quantum of night flying has increased exponentially.

The DGCA has used the term "roll-out" and not implementation for the set of rules delayed until November 1, sources in pilots' unions said, indicating that the regulator could be planning a staggered enforcement. Airlines have strongly opposed the DGCA's proposal for restricting night flying. IndiGo had said in a submission to the DGCA in December that expanding the definition of night flying would have "a severe operational impact" and it should therefore remain unchanged.

Air India said it would implement the new definition after the regulator brought a modern, data-based fatigue risk management system.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

22 FEBRUARY 2025

UK's IWM Duxford is just the place to fly back in time

SUMANA ADAK

LONDON: The Imperial War Museum (IWM) Duxford in England's Cambridgeshire is known for its incredible air shows that feature awe-inspiring, fast-paced performance showcasing historical aircrafts. From the early days of flying to the dramatic days of the Second World War and the technical advances of the cold war, the IWM has played a central role in some of the most significant periods of 20th Century history.

Acquired by the IWM in 1976, it is Britain's largest aviation museum housing many wartime artefacts. Duxford is a staple day out for military history aficionados thanks to a wide collection of aircraft housed in hangars and exhibitions about the personal wartime stories.

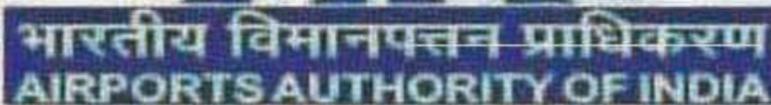


The IWM Duxford is Britain's largest aviation museum

AP

The control tower, operations room and hangars are still in use and evoke a 1940s atmosphere. The operations room has been meticulously reconstructed and looks just as it did when RAF personnel directed Duxford's fighter during the the Battle of Britain in 1940. In The museum's seven main exhibition buildings are some 200 military and civil aircrafts as well as maritime exhibits.

It also contains weapons from the First to Second World War. The Duxford Museum, which is run by the Royal Corps and covers an area of about 9,000 square metres, is the only one in the world that has preserved almost all the aircrafts from the Second World War. Although the number of British air bases has increased over time, Duxford has remained in its own way.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

21 FEBRUARY 2025

SIA to deepen AI ties

■ **NEW DELHI:** Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Air India are exploring opportunities to deepen their strategic relationship across a wide range of commercial activities, SIA said in its annual report. Air India and SIA added 51 new codeshare destinations from October 2024. [r1](#)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

21 FEBRUARY 2025

“ With so much growth in the coming days, there is going to be a need for at least 20,000 pilots in the near future



K Ram Mohan Naidu,
civil aviation minister



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAILY GUARDIAN

DELHI

22 FEBRUARY 2025

Aviation industry likely to post loss in FY25, FY26: ICRA

TGG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian aviation industry is expected to report a net loss of Rs 2,000-3,000 crore in both FY25 and FY26, according to a report by ICRA. This comes after the sector posted a net profit of approximately Rs 1,600 crore in FY24. The losses are primarily attributed to pressure on ticket prices as airlines aim to maintain healthy passenger load factors (PLF) despite high aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices. The industry is also expected to see a slow recovery in earnings due to its high fixed costs.

ICRA said "the Indian aviation industry to report a net loss of Rs. 20-30 billion in FY2025 and FY2026 compared to a net profit of -Rs.16 billion in FY2024 due to anticipated pressure on yields"

Another major challenge for airlines is rising borrowing costs. ICRA stated that the scheduled delivery of new aircraft will increase lease liabilities, adding to the interest burden.

However, the projected losses for the coming years are much lower than the Rs 23,500 crore and Rs 17,400 crore losses recorded in FY22 and FY23, respectively.

Despite financial chal-

lenges, the industry's debt levels are expected to remain stable, with an interest coverage ratio of 1.5-2.0 times in FY25. This suggests that airlines will still have some ability to manage their debt obligations.

ICRA noted that "The pace of recovery in industry earnings is likely to be gradual, owing to the high fixed cost nature of the business".

While the Indian aviation sector faces short-term profitability challenges, increasing air travel demand and careful financial management by airlines may help improve performance in the coming years.