



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

Delhi airport gets a boost with T3 Pier C upgrade

MAJOR UPLIFT. Facility awaits regulatory nod; will bolster airport's position as global hub

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The conversion of Pier C at Terminal 3 (T3) of the Indira Gandhi International Airport from domestic to international operations has been completed, sources told *businessline*, adding that the move is aimed at positioning Delhi as a larger global aviation hub amid rising outbound and transit traffic.

Accordingly, the development comes at a time when Indian airports are witnessing sustained growth in international passenger volumes.

Speaking to *businessline*, sources said the facility, developed by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), is currently awaiting regulatory approvals.

OVERSEAS TRAFFIC

Once operational, the converted pier is expected to significantly augment international passenger handling capacity at Terminal 3, which already manages the bulk of overseas traffic.



BRIDGING GAP. At present, India does not have a designated global hub airport, resulting in a large share of international passengers transiting through hubs in West Asia. [@CORBIS](#)

As per sources, the shift reflects a structural rebalancing of terminal infrastructure in favour of international travel demand, helping airlines add more long-haul routes and improve slot availability as global connectivity from Delhi expands.

It also aligns with broader efforts to enhance the airport's competitiveness among major global transit hubs, sources said.

LESS WAITING

The converted Pier C, sources said, is expected to increase T3's international

passenger handling capacity from around two crore to 3.2 crore passengers annually.

Resultantly, the conversion will ease congestion during peak travel periods amid rising global connectivity and increasing international operations by Indian carriers.

BALANCED USAGE

As part of the transition, domestic operations earlier handled at Pier C were shifted to Terminal 2 (T2) to optimise terminal utilisation and improve passenger flow.

The redistribution of traffic, sources said has been

planned to ensure balanced usage of terminal infrastructure. Last year, DIAL reopened the upgraded T2 to enhance capacity and operational efficiency. The refurbishment was undertaken to accommodate redistributed domestic traffic and streamlined check-in processes.

BETTER UTILISATION

Following the upgrade, airline operations were reallocated, with carriers such as IndiGo and Air India operating a significant number of daily domestic flights from the refurbished terminal, enabling better utilisation of infrastructure.

In addition, sources added that the Pier C conversion is part of a wider strategy to develop Delhi Airport into a hub, integrating domestic and international traffic to facilitate seamless passenger transfers.

At present, India does not have a designated global hub airport, resulting in a large share of outbound international passengers transiting through hubs in West Asia and South-East Asia.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा होगी और मजबूत

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 21 अप्रैल (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को उच्च स्तर पर ले जाने की दिशा में बड़ा कदम उठाया जा रहा है। एयरपोर्ट के आसपास अर्द्धसैनिक बलों के स्थायी कैंप स्थापित करने की योजना पर काम शुरू हो गया है। यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, यमुना सिटी के सेक्टर-9 में इन कैंपों के लिए जमीन चिन्हित की जा रही है। प्रस्तावित योजना के तहत सीआईएसएफ, बीएसएफ, सीआरपीएफ सहित अन्य अर्द्धसैनिक बलों के स्थायी ठिकाने बनाए जाएंगे।

फिलहाल परियोजना प्रारंभिक चरण में है और इसकी विस्तृत रूपरेखा तैयार की जा रही है। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इन कैंपों के स्थापित होने से एयरपोर्ट क्षेत्र में निगरानी व्यवस्था और त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया क्षमता में उल्लेखनीय



- अर्द्धसैनिक बलों के स्थायी कैंप की तैयारी शुरू
- यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण सेक्टर-9 में जमीन कर रहा चिन्हित
- सीआईएसएफ, बीएसएफ, सीआरपीएफ समेत कई बलों की तैनाती की योजना

सुधार होगा।

सिर्फ एयरपोर्ट ही नहीं, बल्कि आसपास विकसित हो रहे औद्योगिक और आवासीय क्षेत्रों को भी इससे सीधा लाभ मिलेगा। सुरक्षा बलों की मौजूदगी निवेशकों का भरोसा बढ़ाएगी और यमुना सिटी के समग्र

विकास को नई गति देगी। प्राधिकरण ने जमीन आवंटन की प्रक्रिया को प्राथमिकता पर रखा है, ताकि समय रहते मजबूत सुरक्षा ढांचा तैयार किया जा सके और एयरपोर्ट संचालन के साथ उच्च स्तरीय सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जा सके।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

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AIRPORT HAS TO APPOINT AN INDIAN AS NEW CEO FOR FLIGHTS TO COMMENCE, SAYS GOVT OFFICIAL

Security Approval for Noida Airport CEO Rejected

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has rejected the security approval of Christoph Schnellmann, chief executive officer of the new Noida International Airport, as he is a foreign national which violates the current aviation security norms for greenfield airports.

A 2011 order by the BCAS mandates that the CEO of any greenfield airport shall be the security coordinator at the respective airports and responsible for coordinating the implementation of security measures. Director General of BCAS Rajesh Nirwan did not im-



Christoph Schnellmann

mediately respond to queries.

The airport, owned by Zurich Airport group, has to now appoint an Indian as its new CEO for flights to commence, said a senior government official. Schnellmann, a Swiss citizen, has been leading the airport project since 2020. The group won the bid to build and operate the Noida airport for 40 years in 2019, and invested around ₹7,200 crore in the first phase of its construction.

ASP NOD UNDER REVIEW

The Noida airport is the first instance of a foreign investor owning 100% equity in an Indian airport. In March, it received its aerodrome license from the Directo-

rate General of Civil Aviation, but its aerodrome security programme (ASP) is currently under review by the BCAS. Noida airport said authorities they are working closely with the BCAS to secure approval for the ASP.

"Following this, we will coordinate with all stakeholders to finalise timelines for the commencement of commercial operations," said a Zurich Airport group spokesperson. "Our efforts are focused on ensuring that all systems, processes, and personnel are fully aligned to deliver a safe, efficient, and seamless start of operations."

CATERING TO WESTERN UP

Billed as the next option to Delhi's

Indira Gandhi International Airport, the Noida airport is 75 km from the capital and is more likely to get flyers from western Uttar Pradesh in the first few years.

"The airport will benefit a vast region comprising Agra, Mathura, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Etawah, Bulandshahr, and Faridabad, and bring numerous new opportunities for farmers, small and medium enterprises, and the youth of western Uttar Pradesh," Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said on March 28 while inaugurating the airport. "Aircraft will fly from here to the world, and this airport will also become a symbol of a developed Uttar Pradesh taking flight," he added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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Setback for Jewar: Plea against expat CEO rule rejected

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: The Union home ministry (MHA) has turned down a request to tweak rules to allow a foreign national to hold the post of chief executive of a greenfield airport, multiple officials aware of the matter told HT — a decision that affects the upcoming Noida airport.

The airport, developed and to be operated by Yamuna International Airport Pvt Limited, is a subsidiary of Swiss firm Zurich Airport International AG with Christoph Schnellmann (in picture, right) as its CEO.

"The MHA is not in favour of allowing expats to be the CEO of a greenfield airport," one of the officials said.



A letter seeking to amend the rules — which mandate that the chief executive of a greenfield airport be an Indian national, on grounds of air operations security — was written to the MHA by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the aviation security regulator. "The request has been denied," a second official confirmed. A third official told HT that the decision leaves Noida airport with few options.

"The denial of amendments to the rules implies that the already delayed Noida airport...may have to replace the CEO in the worst-case scenario," a third official said. The MHA did not respond to queries sent by HT.

The CEO is also yet to clear mandatory security checks, the third official added. —PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

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{ EXPAT EXECUTIVE RESTRICTION }

MHA refuses to tweak rule in setback for Noida airport CEO

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: The Union home ministry has turned down a request to tweak rules to allow a foreign national to hold the post of chief executive of a greenfield airport, multiple officials aware of the matter told HT — a decision that affects the upcoming Noida airport.

The airport, developed and to be operated by Yamuna International Airport Pvt Limited, is a subsidiary of Swiss firm Zurich Airport International AG with Christoph Schnellmann as its CEO. The MHA is not in favour of allowing expats to be the CEO of a

greenfield airport," one of the officials said, asking not to be named.

A letter seeking to amend the rules — which mandate that the chief executive of a greenfield airport be an Indian national, on grounds of air operations security — was written to the MHA by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the aviation security regulator under the civil aviation ministry. "The request has been denied," a second official confirmed.

A third official told HT that the decision leaves Noida airport with few options. "The denial of amendments to the rules implies that the already delayed Noida airport, whose CEO is a Swiss

national, may have to replace the CEO in the worst-case scenario," the third official said.

The Noida International Airport, located at Jewar in Greater Noida, some 60kms from Noida, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 28. The airport said on March 6 that it had received an aerodrome licence, and indicated that its regulatory approval process had one matter pending: the Aerodrome Security Programme.

On Tuesday, the airport said it was working with the authorities but did not address the CEO's clearance status. "We are working closely with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to secure

approval for the Aerodrome Security Programme (ASP). Following this, we will coordinate with all stakeholders to finalise timelines for the commencement of commercial operations. Our efforts are focused on ensuring that all systems, processes, and personnel are fully aligned to deliver a safe, efficient, and seamless start of operations," a Noida airport spokesperson said.

The MHA did not respond to queries sent by HT.

The CEO is yet to clear mandatory security checks the third official cited above added. "The CEO is yet to receive his security clearance from the home ministry and be vetted by BCAS, the security

arm of the civil aviation ministry. Both steps are mandatory for airport executives, and this issue is now the only factor delaying the commencement of flight operations," the official added.

The legal basis for the requirement is a BCAS AVSEC order dated January 17, 2011: "The chief executive officer of Indian nationality at each greenfield Indian airport and the airport director or in-charge airport management at AAI airports which are served by civil flights shall be the security coordinator at the respective airports..."

Officials confirmed that efforts to amend this rule date to 2022, when the issue first came to light.

The curious case of pending nod to Noida airport CEO

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Three weeks after its official inauguration, Noida International Airport faces fresh uncertainty over the start of commercial flights, as a key security clearance for its chief executive is still pending. The nod from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)—essential before operations can begin—remains pending, raising the prospect of a delay to the airport's planned mid-May launch.



Christoph Schnellmann has been CEO of the airport since 2020 but is still to get mandatory approval from BCAS.

Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh, 100km off Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28 March 2026. The India office of Zurich Airport International AG is the airport's developer and operator.

Christoph Schnellmann, a Swiss national who has been at the helm since 2020, is still to get the mandatory approval from BCAS, an arm of the civil aviation ministry. His foreign citizenship is understood to have been one of the reasons behind the approval delay.

The airport has already missed multiple deadlines on account of construction delays.

The first phase was built at about ₹11,200 crore and is designed to handle 12 million passengers annually.

Noida International Airport did not specify the pending approval for the chief executive, but told *Mint* it was working on getting the security clearances.

"The airport's Aerodrome Security Programme is currently under review with the

BCAS, and we are working closely with the authorities to secure the necessary approval. Following this, we will coordinate with all stakeholders to finalize timelines for the commencement of commercial operations."

Regarding the timeline for commercial operations, Noida International Airport said it will talk to stakeholders once the clearances have been obtained.

Schnellmann was appointed by Yamuna International Airport Pvt. Ltd, a wholly owned

subsidiary of Zurich Airport International. His previous stint in India was as executive assistant to the chief executive of Bangalore International Airport Ltd between December 2007

and April 2008. Schnellmann's case has drawn attention due to his Swiss nationality, said two people in the know.

A senior civil aviation ministry official said greenfield airports are to be headed by Indians primarily due to security concerns around them.

A second official explained that the airport's chief executive must double up as the security coordinator and a key accountable personnel. "And

that role requires an Indian nationality since the person has to deal with sensitive data and airport infra details."

In this scenario, an alternative could be to have a foreign chief executive who handles the administrative matters, while security operations are overseen by an Indian, said the second official.

"This is a curious case. In his six years as chief executive, the person already has access to all security installations and other sensitive information of the airport. He will still have the details irrespective of being the chief or not," said Ramesh Vaidyanathan, managing partner at Mumbai-based BTG Advaya, a disputes and transactional law firm.

Incidentally, as per security protocols, Schnellmann did not share the dais with Modi and other dignitaries at the airport inauguration last month.

The second official said the aviation ministry has asked the home ministry for necessary inputs to take Schnellmann's appointment ahead. Based on these inputs, the BCAS will provide clearances.

Queries emailed on 18 April to the civil aviation and home ministries remained unanswered.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com).

Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh was inaugurated by Narendra Modi on 28 March



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

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IGI: टर्मिनल-3 के एक और ज़ोन से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों की तैयारी

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■ नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 में बड़े बदलाव की तैयारी है। अभी A और B पियर (ज़ोन) से अंतरराष्ट्रीय, C और D से घरेलू उड़ानें संचालित होती हैं। एयरपोर्ट चलाने वाली कंपनी DIAL अब ज़ोन C को भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए इस्तेमाल करना चाहती है। नागर विमानन मंत्रालय और संबंधित एजेंसियों को इसका प्रस्ताव भेजा गया है। हालांकि, यह फैसला तभी होगा, जब D ज़ोन में घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए पर्याप्त जगह और सुविधाएं हों। सूत्रों का कहना है कि इसके लिए पहले नागर विमानन मंत्रालय, डीजीसीए और ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिक्युरिटी (BCAS) के अधिकारी ऑडिट करेंगे। अगर उनको लगता है कि टी-3 में घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए कोई परेशानी नहीं होगी, तभी ज़ोन C को अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए एनओसी दी जाएगी।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से मिलेगी चुनौती

सूत्रों के मुताबिक, कंपनी ने टी-3 के ज़ोन C से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान शुरू करने के इंतज़ाम कर लिए हैं। कस्टम और इमिग्रेशन क्लियरेंस के लिए काउंटर समेत अन्य जरूरी औपचारिकताएं पूरी की जा रही हैं। बताया जा रहा है कि टी-1 पर कैपेसिटी बढ़ने से आने वाले समय में यह भी हो सकता है कि टी-3 से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ाने ही संचालित हों। क्योंकि, नोएडा एयरपोर्ट भी एक बड़ी चुनौती बनकर आने वाला है। इससे दिल्ली का एयर ट्रैफिक ही नोएडा एयरपोर्ट शिफ्ट हो सकता है। इससे पहले दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट अपनी क्षमता बढ़ा रहा है।

मंजूरी मिली तो घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए एक ज़ोन रहेगा

T-3 पर घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए बंद होगा C ज़ोन

इंटरनैशनल फ्लाइट्स की डिमांड को देखते हुए DIAL ने मंत्रालय को भेजी रिक्वेस्ट

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■ नई दिल्ली: देश के सबसे व्यस्त दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट T-3 के A, B, C और D पीयर (ज़ोन) में मौजूदा समय में A-B से अंतरराष्ट्रीय और C-D पीयर से घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए फ्लाइटों को ऑपरेंट किया जाता है। एयरपोर्ट चलाने वाली कंपनी डायल (DIAL) भविष्य में बढ़ती इंटरनैशनल डिमांड को देखते हुए इन डोमेस्टिक C और D पीयर में से C को भी इंटरनैशनल फ्लाइट्स के लिए बदलना चाह रही है। जिसके लिए उसने नागर विमानन मंत्रालय और इससे संबंधित एजेंसियों को रिक्वेस्ट भेजी है। सूत्रों ने बताया कि डायल की यह



- इसकी जगह इंटरनैशनल फ्लाइट्स को शुरू करने की है तैयारी
- डायल की रिक्वेस्ट तभी पूरी होगी जब D ज़ोन पर मूलभूत सुविधाओं की न हो कमी

कोशिश तभी पूरी होगी जब C के बाद घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए अकेले बचे D पीयर में डोमेस्टिक पैसेजर्स के लिए सिटिंग स्पेस से लेकर अन्य मूलभूत सुविधाओं में कोई कमी ना हो। अगर यहां सुविधाओं के मुकाबले यात्रियों की भीड़ अधिक बढ़ गई तो

डायल के इस प्रपोजल को हरी झंडी मिलने में परेशानी हो सकती है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि इसके लिए पहले नागर विमानन मंत्रालय, DGCA और ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिक्वोरिटी (BCAS) के संबंधित अधिकारी यहां की ऑडिट करेंगे। इसमें अगर अधिकारियों को यह लगता है कि T-3

में घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए कोई परेशानी नहीं होगी, तभी पीयर C को इंटरनैशनल में ट्रांसफर करने की NOC दी जाएगी। सूत्रों का यह भी कहना है कि जैसे डायल ने T-3 के पीयर C को इंटरनैशनल में बदलने के लिए तमाम इंतजाम कर लिए हैं। इसके लिए यहां कस्टम और इमिग्रेशन क्लियरेंस के लिए काउंटर और अन्य जरूरी औपचारिकताएं भी पूरी की जा रही हैं। डायल की तरफ से यह पूरी कोशिश की गई है कि T-3 में घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए अकेले बचे पीयर D में कोई परेशानी ना होने पाए। लेकिन बावजूद इसके इसे NOC देने वाली एजेंसियों की ऑडिट के बाद ही इससे इंटरनैशनल फ्लाइट शुरू करने की मंजूरी दी जाएगी। सूत्रों का यह भी कहना है कि यहां T-1 पर कैपेसिटी

बढ़ने से आने वाले समय में यह भी हो सकता है कि डायल T-3 को पूरी तरह से इंटरनैशनल फ्लाइट्स के ऑपरेशन के लिए शुरू कर ले। क्योंकि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट के सामने नोएडा एयरपोर्ट भी एक बड़ी चुनौती बनकर आने वाला है। जिसमें दिल्ली का एयर ट्रैफिक ही नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पर शिफ्ट होगा। इससे पहले ही दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट खासतौर से इंटरनैशनल पैसेजर्स के लिए अपनी क्षमता में और बढ़ोतरी करने की तैयारी कर रहा है।

दिल्ली की खबरों के लिए
एक्स पर फॉलो करें
@NBTDilli



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

Noida airport may have to replace expat CEO with Indian one to launch ops

New Delhi: Less than a month after being inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Noida International Airport (NIA) may have to replace its foreign CEO with an Indian one before it can start flight operations, reports Saurabh Sinha.

The Union home ministry is learnt to have rejected Bureau of Civil Aviation Security's (BCAS) proposal for amending the current rule that disallows expats from being CEOs of a greenfield airport, sources said. This decision has also been conveyed to the civil aviation ministry.

From inception stage, NIA has been headed by its Swiss CEO Christoph Schnellmann, an old India hand of concessionaire Zurich AG who had also played a

'RULE ARCHAIC'

> Noida airport is headed by Swiss CEO Christoph Schnellmann, but rule does not permit an expat to be CEO of a greenfield airport

> BCAS proposal to amend it was rejected by MHA

> Aviation industry insiders say rule 'archaic', should be amended for ease of biz

key role in the development of Bengaluru airport. But the home ministry's stance means NIA stakeholders will have to find an Indian CEO at the earliest so that the airport, already significantly delayed, does not see a further lag in getting operational.

► Experts slam rule, P 6

Experts slam rule that bars expats from being greenfield airport CEOs

► Continued from P1

Asked for a comment, an NIA spokesperson said: "It is a matter of great pride for us that the Prime Minister inaugurated NIA (on March 28, 2026), marking a significant milestone in the project's journey. We are working closely with BCAS to secure approval for the Aerodrome Security Programme."

Aerodrome Security Programme is the security clearance that NIA needs before it can launch passenger flight operations. "We will coordinate with all stakeholders to finalise timelines for the commencement of commercial operations. Our efforts are focused on ensuring that all systems, processes, and personnel are fully aligned to deliver a safe, efficient, and seamless start of operations," the spokesperson added.

NIA did not say if it had begun looking for Schnellmann's successor.

Aviation industry insiders describe the rule barring expats from being CEOs of greenfield airports as "archaic" and not agreeing to amend the same as a "retrograde step" that will not exactly make a case for attracting foreign investment to the sector in India.

"These aviation security (Avsec) rules date back to the

time when almost all airports in India were defence airports with a civilian enclave. Now obviously an IAF or Navy-run airport can't have a foreign CEO. But today, this rule has no relevance and should have been amended as part of ease of doing business and altering archaic rules," said an industry insider.

Aviation insiders also pointed out that there are no such restrictions for airline CEOs, IndiGo's previous and incoming CEOs are expats and so is Air India's outgoing CEO. "A number of Indian-origin people are heading key tech firms in the US that have a significant play in national security there. There should be due security clearance for anyone being chosen for such positions with restrictions on nationals of countries that are from time to time deemed hostile to India by govt," said an aviation insider.

The Tata Group had chosen a Turkish national and a confidante of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to be Air India's CEO soon after acquiring the airline in Jan 2022. Given Türkiye's not exactly friendly relations with India, this person did not get security clearance and had to refuse the offer. Subsequently, the Tatas chose an expat with friendlier credentials — a New Zealander working with Singapore Airlines Group.



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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

21 APRIL 2026

Air India Express flight grounded; refunds, rebooking offered to passengers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, April 20: An Air India Express flight, scheduled to operate between Dibrugarh and Guwahati today, was cancelled after a technical issue forced the aircraft to remain grounded, causing significant inconvenience to passengers.

Flight IX1513, which was slated to depart at 10:50 am, had already boarded approximately 152 passengers when the problem was detected. After a prolonged delay, airline authorities formally announced the cancellation, leaving travellers stranded at the airport.

Passengers reported frustration over the situation, citing a lack of timely communication and inadequate arrangements during the waiting period. Several expressed dissatisfaction as they remained confined to the airport for hours without clear updates on the status of the flight.

According to airline officials, efforts were made to mitigate the disruption and assist affected passengers. "The issue was addressed promptly, and arrangements were made for all 152 passengers," officials told *The Assam Tribune*.

Authorities stated that passengers were offered multiple options, including full refunds and rescheduling. Those with onward connections from Guwahati to destinations such as Delhi, Jaipur, and Bengaluru were accommodated on alternate flights wherever possible. Others who could not be immediately reassigned are expected to travel on subsequent flights scheduled for Tuesday.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

डीजीसीए के उपनिदेशक को तीन दिन की सीबीआई हिरासत

नई दिल्ली। गडज एवेन्स स्थित विशेष न्यायाधीश की अदालत ने नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के उप निदेशक जनरल मुदावथ देवुला और एक निजी कंपनी के प्रतिनिधि भारत माथुर को भ्रष्टाचार के मामले में तीन दिन की सीबीआई हिरासत में भेज दिया है। सीबीआई ने दोनों आरोपियों को गिरफ्तारी के बाद विशेष न्यायाधीश कोलेट रॉस कुजूर के समक्ष पेश किया। एजेंसी ने मामले में दोनों आरोपियों से पूछताछ के लिए कस्टडी की मांग की, जिसे अदालत ने मंजूरी दे दी। जांच एजेंसी के अनुसार मामले 2.5 लाख रुपये की रिश्तत से जुड़ा है। डीजीसीए अधिकारी ने लंबित फाइलों को मंजूरी के बदले अनूचित लाभ की मांग की थी। संवाद



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

Charter biz remains steady in April, may dip 10-15% from May

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Air charter demand remained steady in April due to the ongoing elections, but companies expect demand to drop 10-15 per cent from May onwards following an increase in jet fuel prices.

Campaigning for elections in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal is supporting the charter companies, which have seen demand cool off from the leisure segment. Traffic to Dubai, the busiest international destination for Indian charter firms, has been hit too.

REAL IMPACT

According to Club One Air CEO Rajan Mehra, 70-80 per cent of their flights in April are election charters. While the company has not seen a drop in business, the real impact would be seen from next month onwards.

"Corporates are expected to absorb the increased rates but pilgrimage and leisure travel could suffer. On an industry-wide basis, this could result in a 10-15 per cent impact on business," Mehra said.

"Demand has become



TURBULENCE AHEAD. Imposing a disproportionate cost burden on non-scheduled operators will not only impact regional connectivity but also hit emergency operations © SHUTTERSTOCK

more selective. Core users — corporates, high-net-worth individuals, and political movements — continue to rely on charter aviation, but discretionary and first-time demand have cooled off," said Kanika Tekriwal, Founder and CEO of JetSetGo.

BROADER PRESSURE

This is because the cost of operations has increased for charter firms. Fuel cost for a mid-sized jet has risen by ₹75,000-1,25,000 per hour.

Tekriwal said election flying will support aircraft utilisation in the near term but it will not fully offset the broader pressure.

On April 1, state oil marketing companies revised

aviation turbine fuel prices. While the price hike for scheduled domestic flights was limited to 25 per cent, rates for non-scheduled flights were doubled. This impacts not only charter companies but also air ambulance service providers and helicopter operators providing services on pilgrimage routes.

"Prior to March we used to handle 35-40 patients a month within India and that figure remains constant even now. We set up a base in Abu Dhabi in February and from there, on a daily basis, we are transferring one patient to the US or Europe," said Dr Rahul Singh Sardar, Co-founder and Director of IC-ATT air ambulance service.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BANGALORE MIRROR

BANGALORE

21 APRIL 2026

Fly91 flight diverted, passengers face delay

Due to weather conditions in Hubballi, a Hyderabad-bound Fly91 flight was forced to land at Kempegowda Airport. The flight was due to land in Hubballi at 4.30 pm, but after being caught in crosswinds and dense clouds, it landed in Bengaluru at 7.30 pm.

Passengers were caught off guard by this change of plans and remained anxious the holding time. Once the weather cleared, the same flight departed from KIA and landed in Hubballi at 9 pm. Later the flight departed for Hyderabad at 10.30 pm, against its scheduled departure time of 8.35 pm. As per the Hubballi Airport Director the diversion was decided after the Fly91 pilot held the aircraft for an hour awaiting safe final landing conditions. **-BMB**

Hyd-Hubballi flight diverted

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 20

Panic gripped passengers onboard a Hyderabad-Hubballi Fly91 flight after it encountered turbulence and was diverted to Bengaluru due to adverse weather at the destination. While in aviation terms it was a normal event, video clips of distressed passengers crying, praying and expressing fear went viral on social media, though some tried to calm those around them.

Flight IC3401 departed from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Hyderabad at 3 pm and was scheduled to land in Hubballi at 4.30 pm. Due to bad weather at Hubballi, including some turbulence, the aircraft circled over the town before it was diverted and landed in Bengaluru at 7.31 pm, turning a one and a half hour journey into a three hour ordeal. Relief was evident when the aircraft touched down safely, with passengers clapping and cheering.

Some passengers expressed unhappiness over the alleged indifferent behaviour of airline staff upon arrival, while relatives waiting in Hubballi said they were not kept informed about the diversion.

Fly91 clarified that the diversion was purely due to weather conditions.

- Turbulence and weather forced aircraft to circle over Hubballi

- Passengers panicked as distress videos went viral online

- Airline says diversion followed standard safety procedures, no technical fault

- Flight later returned safely to Hubballi and Hyderabad base



“Flight IC3401 did not develop any technical snag as is being reported in some sections of the media. On nearing Hubballi, the flight encountered bad weather due to which it was diverted to Bengaluru as per standard protocol,” the airline said in a statement.

It added that the flight subsequently returned to Hubballi and back to its home base in Hyderabad, stressing that there was zero compromise to safety. Holding the aircraft over Hubballi and diverting to Bengaluru was part of standard operating procedure. Fly91 underlined its trained pilots, cabin crew and ground staff, and reiterated that reports suggesting a technical fault were inaccurate.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

Pakistan extends airspace closure for Indian airlines



PAKISTAN ON
TUESDAY
extended the
closure of its

airspace for Indian flights till
May 24 as the curbs will now
remain in place for more
than a year.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

21 APRIL 2026

Thales, Air India sign 10-yr FlytCARE pact

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

Air India signed a 10-year agreement with aerospace technology company Thales for its FlytCARE services package for 57 Airbus and Boeing aircraft. This agreement provides a full turn-key maintenance approach, covering line maintenance, spares, repairs and logistics management support for Thales' inflight entertainment (IFE) systems.

The agreement comes days after Air India welcomed its first retrofitted Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft.

The first of the 27 aircraft arrived in India after being refurbished as the airline aims to complete the retrofitting programme of its wide-body fleet by 2027.

Under the FlytCARE agreement, repair and maintenance will be delivered from Thales' locations at Delhi and Mumbai airports in India, to expedite services and support Air India's customer-centric modernisation journey.

According to Thales, the agreement will cover Air India's 12 new widebody aircraft equipped with Thales' AVANT UP inflight entertainment system.

Pakistan's airspace ban continues to hit Indian airlines

Sukalp Sharma

New Delhi, April 21

THE BAN on Indian aircraft and airlines from using the Pakistani airspace, which has hit Indian airlines over the past year, has been extended by another month, according to a fresh notice to airmen (NOTAM) issued by Pakistan's aviation authorities. The new NOTAM, issued on Tuesday, extends the closure of Pakistani airspace for Indian aircraft and those operated by Indian airlines till the early morning of May 24.

India, too, is expected to reciprocate soon and extend its ban on Pakistani airlines and aircraft for a similar period, which would take the neighbours' reciprocal airspace closures into their 13th month.

While foreign airlines can still transit both airspaces, the two neighbours remain strictly off-limits to each other's airlines and aircraft.

The diplomatic standoff in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025 evolved into a monthly ritual of tit-for-tat airspace closures, which has impacted Indian carriers operationally and financially far more than Pakistani airlines.

Moreover, the West Asia war and the airspace restrictions in the region since later February have made matters worse for Indian airlines. Had they been able to overfly Pakistan, Air India and IndiGo could have



India is expected to reciprocate soon and extend its ban on Pakistani airlines. REUTERS

used flight paths to the north of Iran for reaching destinations in the Caucasus, Europe, and beyond. They are now forced to take longer and circuitous routes to serve these points.

The fresh NOTAM issued by Pakistan is similar to the previous ones, except for the effective duration of airspace closure. Islamabad will keep the airspace closed to Indian-registered aircraft and aircraft operated, owned, or leased by Indian airlines and operators, including military flights, till 05:29 AM India time on May 24.

Pakistan closed its airspace to India on April 24, 2025.

FULL REPORT ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



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JANSATTA

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र में भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों पर प्रतिबंध बढ़ा

इस्लामाबाद, 21 अप्रैल (भाषा)।

पाकिस्तान ने अपने हवाई क्षेत्र में भारतीय विमानों पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंध को मंगलवार को एक महीने के लिए और बढ़ा दिया। पाकिस्तान ने 24 अप्रैल 2025 से भारतीय उड़ानों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र बंद रखा है, जिससे भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों को अरबों रुपए का नुकसान हुआ है।

पाकिस्तान हवाई अड्डा प्राधिकरण ने नोटिस टू एअरमेन (नोटम) में कहा है कि सभी भारतीय-पंजीकृत, पट्टे पर लिए गए, वाणिज्यिक और सैन्य विमानों को 24 मई 2026 को सुबह पांच बजे तक पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। यह नोटिस पिछले नोटिस की समय सीमा 24 अप्रैल समाप्त होने से कुछ दिन

पहले जारी किया गया। पहलगाम आतंकी हमले के बाद उत्पन्न तनाव के चलते पाकिस्तान ने भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र बंद कर दिया था। भारत ने आतंकी हमले के लिए पाकिस्तान को दोषी ठहराया था। हालांकि, पाकिस्तान ने इन आरोपों को खारिज कर दिया और पारदर्शी जांच की मांग की।

इसके जवाब में भारत ने भी पाकिस्तानी विमानन कंपनियों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र बंद कर दिया। पाकिस्तान ने भारत पर पहली बार इस तरह के प्रतिबंध लगाए। इस प्रतिबंध से भारतीय वाणिज्यिक विमानन कंपनियों को भारी नुकसान हुआ क्योंकि वे खाड़ी देशों के लिए विभिन्न भारतीय शहरों से आने-जाने वाली अपनी अधिकांश उड़ानों के संचालन के लिए पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र का इस्तेमाल करती थीं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

Akasa inducts new aircraft, expands fleet to 38 planes

NEW DELHI: Akasa Air has taken delivery of a Boeing 737 MAX 8-200 aircraft, bringing its total fleet to 38, with seven planes inducted in the first four months of this year.

The airline, which started flying in August 2022, on Tuesday said the sustained pace of fleet additions would help further deepen its network.

"The first leg of the 38th aircraft's delivery flight commenced from Seattle, USA to Reykjavik, Iceland and concluded with the final leg from Cairo, Egypt, to Benga-



luru, India. Bearing registration number VT-YBK, the Boeing 737 MAX 8-200 aircraft arrived at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on 21st April 2026," it said in a release.

In the first four months of 2026, the carrier has inducted seven new planes. PFI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

Akasa inducts 7 aircraft in 2026, fleet size up at 38

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AKASA AIR has received delivery of its 38th aircraft, marking its seventh induction in the first four months of calendar year 2026. The first leg of the 38th aircraft's delivery flight commenced from Seattle, USA to Reykjavik, Iceland and concluded with the final leg from Cairo, Egypt, to Bengaluru, India.

Bearing registration number VT-YBK, the Boeing 737 MAX 8-200 aircraft arrived at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on 21st April 2026. The aircraft is built to Akasa's specifications and equipped with Safran Z200 seats.

This sustained pace of fleet additions, according to the airline, will enable it to deepen its network.

"Since commencing operations in August 2022, Akasa Air has demonstrated a consistent approach to building scale. With each aircraft induction, the airline continues to strengthen its presence across domestic and international markets, enhancing connectivity and unlocking new travel possibilities," said the airline in a statement.

Flight circles over Hubballi for two hours, sparks panic

Sunny.Baski@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Amid-air scare gripped passengers on a Fly91 flight from Hyderabad when it circled over Hubballi for nearly two hours before aborting the landing and diverting to Bengaluru airport on April 19. The route had been launched just two days earlier, on April 17.

Videos shared by some of the 22 passengers on board flight IC3401 show many weeping and praying in fear. "Oh Lord, please save us. My dear father Jesus, please save my children," one woman is heard saying, hands folded. "I have no idea what is happening. I just want to land safely," another passenger says.



A woman passenger of Fly91 flight in tears during the journey

Initial reports suggest a technical snag in the ATR turboprop aircraft, but the airline attributed the disruption to bad weather near Hubballi.

► **Bad weather, P 7**

'Pilot made three announcements about bad weather'

► **Continued from page 1**

The Hyderabad-Hubballi sector is new. Many passengers were first-time flyers and were alarmed by about two minutes of turbulence. The pilot made three announcements regarding bad weather, a Fly91 source told TOI.

According to sources, the flight took off from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad around 3.14 pm and was scheduled to land at Hubballi by 4.30 pm. However, it was unable to land and circled over Hubballi for nearly two hours, between 4.15 pm and 6.15 pm. It was eventually diverted to Bengaluru, where it landed around 6.45 pm, before continuing to Hubballi.

The aircraft subsequently returned to its base in Hyderabad.

Dismissing claims of a technical issue, Fly91 said the diversion was "purely due to weather conditions" and carried out as per standard protocol. "There was zero compromise on safety. Holding over Hubballi and diverting to Bengaluru are standard operating procedures and among the industry's best practices. Fly91 has a highly skilled team trained to handle such situations and maintains an impeccable safety record," a spokesperson said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

22 APRIL 2026

Beijing-Delhi flights resume

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 21

Direct air links between India and China continue to reopen in phases, with a Chinese carrier resuming its Beijing-Delhi service on Tuesday, signalling a steady return of connectivity after years of disruption.

The flight departed Beijing Capital International Airport at 3:12 pm and landed at Delhi's IGI Airport around 8:35 pm, marking the second India route restored by Chinese airlines this month.

GRADUAL RETURN TO NORMALCY AFTER 4 YRS

Flight operations had been halted for over four years after the pandemic and the June 2020 Galwan Valley clash, one of the deadliest confrontations in decades. While limited services resumed from October 2025, full restoration has been gradual.

The Beijing-Delhi service will operate three times a week — Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, using an Airbus A330 air-

craft. Economy fares are expected to start from 3,570 yuan (about \$523).

The latest restart follows China Eastern Airlines resuming its Kunming-Kolkata direct flights on April 18. The airline said the route, with six weekly return services on Boeing 737 aircraft, is aimed at easing travel and boosting exchanges between the two countries. The move comes months after it revived the Shanghai-Delhi route in November 2025. On the Indian side, IndiGo has also expanded its China network.