



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

21 MAY 2026

Rs 620 user development fee for Navi Mumbai airport

MUMBAI, May 20: Airports tariff watchdog AERA has fixed the user development fee for the Navi Mumbai International Airport at Rs 620 for departing domestic passengers and Rs 1,225 for departing international passengers. The airport, which was inaugurated on October 8, 2025, commenced commercial operations on December 25 last year. The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) on Wednesday issued the tariff order for the 1st Control Period (2025-30) for the Navi Mumbai International Airport. Each departing domestic passenger will have to pay the User Development Fee of Rs 620, while the amount is Rs 1,225 for an international departing passenger. – PTI

जिम्मेदारी से पल्ला झाड़ा • प्रबंधन ने बताया 'गर्मी से चक्कर आने से गिरा' **एयरपोर्ट में लापरवाही: बिना सेफ्टी किट 30 फीट** **ऊपर वायर सुधार रहा इलेक्ट्रिशियन गिरा, मौत**

भास्कर न्यूज़ | रायपुर

स्वामी विवेकानंद एयरपोर्ट पर गुरुवार को बड़ा हादसा हो गया। एयरपोर्ट के वेटिंग हॉल में सिविलियन कुबेर चंद्र साहू (32 साल) के रूप में हुई है। वो दुर्ग के जामगांव का रहने वाला था। मृतक के घरवालों को जब सूचना दी गई तो वे सीधे माना अस्पताल पहुंचे। वहां उन्होंने एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन और ठेका एजेंसी पर लापरवाही के गंभीर आरोप लगाकर शव लेने और पोस्टमार्टम कराने से इंकार कर दिया। इस दौरान काफी देर माना अस्पताल के बाहर हंगामा होते रहा। हंगामा बढ़ने के बाद पुलिस फोर्स भी बढ़ा दी गई। रात करीब 8 बजे वे पोस्टमार्टम के लिए राजी हुए। शव को पोएम के लिए अवेडकर



एयरपोर्ट पर मृत युवक।



भास्कर सवाल: एयरपोर्ट में सेंट्रल एसी, फिर चक्कर कैसे?

रायपुर एयरपोर्ट की नई टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग पूरी तरह से वातानुकूलित है। यहां सेंट्रलइज्ड एसी लगा है। यानी अंदर के वातावरण में ठंडक ही महसूस होती है। सुबह जिस समय घटना हुई उस समय विमानों की आवाजाही ज्यादा रहती है। इस वजह से एसी थोड़ा और कूल्ड होता है। ऐसे में परिवारवालों का कहना है कि एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन बार-बार ये दावा कर रहा कि तेज गर्मी की वजह से चक्कर खाकर गिर गया। जब वहां गर्मी लग ही नहीं रही तो उसे चक्कर कैसे आ सकता है। घरवालों का आरोप है कि प्रबंधन और ठेका एजेंसी की लापरवाही से ही उसकी मौत हुई है। इतनी ऊंचाई में काम कराने के बावजूद सुरक्षा के कोई इंतजाम नहीं रखे गए थे।

अस्पताल भेजा गया। इस घटना की पुष्टि करते हुए रायपुर एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन का कहना है कि तेज गर्मी में चक्कर आने की वजह से कर्मचारी नीचे गिर गया। प्रबंधन ने ही उसे

अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया, लेकिन उसकी मौत हो गई। ठेका एजेंसी वाले भी इस मामले से अपना पल्ला झाड़ते रहे। अभी तक इस मामले में इलेक्ट्रिशियन के परिवार को किसी भी

तरह के मुआवजा की घोषणा नहीं की गई है।

कोई सेफ्टी किट नहीं था: एयरपोर्ट में तैनात सिविल कर्मों कुबेर करीब 30 फीट की ऊंचाई पर बिना किसी सेफ्टी किट के काम कर रहा था। सेफ्टी किट नहीं होने के बावजूद एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने उसे काम करने से नहीं रोका। सुबह 11 से 11.30 बजे के बीच एकाएक कुबेर नीचे गिर गया। हादसे के बाद एयरपोर्ट परिसर में अफरा-तफरी मच गई। यात्रियों को भी समझ नहीं आया कि आखिर हो क्या रहा है। एयरपोर्ट स्टाफ और वहां मौजूद लोगों ने घायल कर्मचारी को अस्पताल पहुंचाया, लेकिन डॉक्टरों ने जांच के बाद उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया।

NMIA flyers to pay more than CSMIA pax

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

Flying from the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will cost more than using Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), after the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) approved a higher tariff structure for the greenfield airport.

Under the new structure, passengers travelling via NMIA will be subjected to a dual-tiered user development fee (UDF). AERA approved ₹14,087 crore as an aggregate revenue requirement, against NMIA's demand of ₹28,290 crore, for the first control period from 2025 to 2030. The authority has also approved a variable tariff plan for the airport to encourage operations by new airlines and on new routes. Domestic passengers departing from NMIA will pay a UDF of ₹620, which is 254% higher than CSMIA, while arriving passengers will pay ₹270, 260% higher. International departing passengers will be charged ₹1,225, 99% higher than CSMIA, while arriving international passengers will pay ₹525, 102% higher.

The approved rates will remain effective till March 31, 2027, after which a 10% annual increase will apply until FY2030. AERA has also finalised the commercial operational expenses for airlines utilising the greenfield runway infrastructure. Airlines will pay ₹1,400 per MT for domestic landings and ₹1,850



NEW UDF

DOMESTIC

Embarking pax ₹620

Disembarking pax ₹270

INTERNATIONAL

Embarking pax ₹1,225

Disembarking pax ₹525

Aircraft parking charges

First two hours: Free

Next 2 hours: ₹19 per MT per hour

Afterwards: ₹23 per MT per hour

per MT for international landings. A 97MT narrow-body aircraft will pay ₹1.36 lakh, while a 250MT wide-body aircraft will pay ₹4.63 lakh. The regulatory body said that the tariff structure of a greenfield airport cannot be directly compared with a brownfield airport with significantly higher traffic volumes.

"Airport charges for greenfield airports in the initial years are generally on the higher side to support recovery of investments and for viable airport operations as compared to a mature brownfield airport. The recovery of huge upfront capital investment is spread over a very low traffic base initially, thereby resulting in a very high yield per passenger," AERA stated.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

यूपी के औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री नंदी ने यीडा क्षेत्र की परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा कर अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए एयरपोर्ट को हाईस्पीड ट्रेन से जोड़ा जाएगा

बैठक

ग्रेटर नोएडा, प्रमुख संवाददाता। प्रदेश के औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री नंद गोपाल गुप्ता नंदी ने गुरुवार को यमुना प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र की परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा की। उन्होंने नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को दिल्ली-वाराणसी हाईस्पीड ट्रेन और रुंधी-चोला रेलमार्ग से जोड़ने की योजना में तेजी लाने के निर्देश दिए।

औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री ने लखनऊ स्थित पिकप भवन सभागार में यमुना विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक की। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से गाजियाबाद तक नमो भारत परियोजना की डीपीआर तैयार है, जिसे यूपी सरकार ने अनुमति देकर केंद्र



लखनऊ में गुरुवार को यीडा अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक करते औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री। सरकार के पास भेजा है। वहां से अनुमति मिलने के बाद इसे धरातल पर उतारने का काम शुरू होगा। चोला से रुंधी तक बिछने वाले रेलमार्ग की नोएडा एयरपोर्ट और यमुना सिटी के औद्योगिक सेक्टरों से सीधी कनेक्टिविटी के लिए भी डीपीआर तैयार की जा रही है। दिल्ली से वाराणसी तक चलने वाली हाईस्पीड ट्रेन का

एयरपोर्ट परिसर में एक स्टेशन का प्रावधान डीपीआर में शामिल किए जाने की प्रक्रिया भी तेजी से पूरी की जा रही है, जिससे भविष्य में दिल्ली से एयरपोर्ट की दूरी कम हो जाएगी। साथ ही, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे की आगरा लखनऊ के साथ बुंदेलखंड, पूर्वांचल, मुंबई और गंगा एक्सप्रेसवे से कनेक्टिविटी होने से यीडा क्षेत्र में विकास को गति मिलेगी।

कर्मचारियों को एआई की ट्रेनिंग देने पर जोर

औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री नंद गोपाल गुप्ता नंदी ने अधिकारियों को आदेश दिए कि किसानों को भूअर्जन का भुगतान ऑनलाइन फास्ट मोड में किया जाए। ऐसा सिस्टम बनाया जाए कि मानचित्र के लिए एनओसी लेने के लिए लोगों को जगह-जगह दौड़ना न पड़े। साथ ही प्लॉट से संबंधित बहुत सी जानकारियों को लाइव किए जाने एवं वर्तमान व भविष्य में एआई की उपयोगिता को देखते हुए प्राधिकरण के कर्मियों को एआई की ट्रेनिंग दिए जाने के निर्देश दिए।

परियोजनाओं के लिए लैंडबैंक बनाने के आदेश

मंत्री ने अधिकारियों को प्रस्तावित परियोजनाओं के लिए लैंडबैंक बनाने के आदेश दिए। अधिकारियों ने उन्हें मथुरा, अलीगढ़, हाथरस और आगरा अर्बन सेंटर के मास्टर प्लान को लेकर भी जानकारी दी। बताया गया कि हाथरस का विकास पहले चार हजार हेक्टेयर क्षेत्रफल में होगा।

परी चौक से एयरपोर्ट तक बसें चलेंगी

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के उद्घाटन के साथ ही 15 जून से कॉमर्सियल फ्लाइट की शुरुआत की तैयारी है। प्लाइट की शुरुआत के साथ यीडा परिवहन सुविधा के लिए पांच हाइड्रोजन बसें को चलाने की तैयारी कर चुका है। वे परी चौक से एयरपोर्ट तक चलाई जाएंगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

21 MAY 2026

Navi Mumbai flyers spared steeper airport charges

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@htlive.com

MUMBAI: Mumbai Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) on Wednesday fixed the domestic user development fee (UDF) at ₹620 for Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) against the ₹742 sought.

In the airport's first control period, the regulator also reduced the airport operator's aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) to ₹14,087 crore from the ₹28,290 crore saying "the move was aimed at moderating airport charges..."

It fixed the domestic departing UDF at ₹620 per passenger for 2026-27, while the international departing UDF was fixed at ₹1,225 against ₹1,467 proposed earlier. It said that it conducted a "comprehensive analysis, prudence check and due dil-

igence" on the airport operator's multi-year tariff proposal (MYTP).

It said that all stakeholders, including airlines, aviation body, and travellers engaged in consultations on April 2.

The regulator's order said that it would defer 11.32% of the ARR to the next tariff cycle between 2030 and 2035 to soften the tariff burden during the airport's initial years of operation. It also rationalised domestic landing charges at ₹1,400 per metric tonne for 2026-27, with an increase to ₹1,484 per metric tonne in 2027-28 against the ₹1,676 proposed by the airport operator.

"The rationalised and moderated UDF charges would significantly benefit domestic passengers, who constitute around 73% of the total passenger traffic," the order said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

21 MAY 2026

{ **SAYS CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER** } UDAN 2.0 TO UNVEIL SOON: NAIDU

‘India to build 100 new airports, 200 helipads’

Raj Kumar

htjharkhand@hindustantimes.com

RANCHI: Sharing a massive aviation roadmap during his maiden visit to Birsa Munda Airport here on Wednesday, Union civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu announced the upcoming launch of the UDAN 2.0 scheme to radically transform India's regional air connectivity.

The high-profile official programme commenced at 11 AM with a grand welcome, featuring the minister riding pillion on a motorcycle with Union MoS for Defence Sanjay Seth.

Addressing the gathering, Naidu said, "The central government will soon launch the UDAN 2.0 scheme to significantly boost regional air connectivity. Under this ambitious aviation road map, India aims to build 100 new airports and 200 helipads over the next 10 years to connect underserved and remote regions

of the country."

The minister highlighted that this vision was backed by a Cabinet-approved financial outlay of ₹28,840 crore spanning from financial year 2026-27 through financial year 2035-36, which would scale up the original regional connectivity network and drive local economic growth.

The Ranchi event served as the launchpad for several innovative, passenger-centric amenities designed to enhance the terminal experience in Ranchi. Naidu inaugurated a newly built feature wall and statue dedicated to Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

He then launched the 'UDAN Yatri Cafe,' a low-cost transit facility offering tea, coffee, and basic snacks to travellers for just ₹10, promising to expand this successful subsidised model to all Indian airports. Furthering passenger comfort, the minister opened the 'Flybrary,' a unique airport library framework allow-

ing travellers to borrow books and return them at different airports across the country, alongside a new Kids Play Zone and dedicated local 'Avasar' handicraft stalls showcasing products made by women entrepreneurs.

Turning the focus to regional infrastructure development, Naidu reviewed a proposed ₹100-crore expansion plan for Ranchi airport to modernise its facilities and handle its rapidly growing annual traffic.

He committed to upgrading Birsa Munda Airport for future international flights and confirmed that the upcoming UDAN network expansion would soon directly link Jharkhand's smaller, remote districts, including Dumka, Hazaribagh, Chaibasa, and Daltonganj.

Reflecting on a decade of progress, Naidu noted that India's operational airports had doubled from 74 in 2014 to 165 today under the PM's vision to democratise air travel.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

Electrician falls to death at Raipur airport

AMID A heatwave in Chhattisgarh, a 28-year-old electrician at the busy Swami Vivekananda Airport in Chhattisgarh's Raipur fell to his death from a 20-foot false ceiling as passengers watched in horror after the heat brought on a dizzy spell. Kuber Chandra Sahu and his colleagues were working on the first floor of the Security Hold Area when he fainted and fell. An official said airport management tried to revive him. "We gave him CPR and also rushed him to a hospital but, unfortunately, we could not save his life," he said. He also admitted that Sahu had no safety harness. "Not even a helmet. The contractor should take these measures," he said. ENS



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

AAI okays seaplane project for Tirupati tourism

NETHAJI KUMARAMANGALAM
@ Tirupati

IN yet another major infrastructure initiative aimed at enhancing Tirupati's global tourism profile, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has approved the seaplane project at the historic Rayalacheruvu irrigation tank in Ramachandrapuram mandal of the district.

The ambitious project is expected to add one more feather to Tirupati's crown and further strengthen its position as one of the country's leading spiritual tourism destinations.

The Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, has laid emphasis on transforming Tirupati not only into an internationally renowned pilgrimage centre but also into a major wedding, heritage and thematic tourism destination. As part of this broader development vision, the Tourism Department and the Tirupati district administration have intensified efforts to operationalise the seaplane

'Aims to provide a unique aerial view experience'

Historical references indicate that the tank was developed during the reign of Sri Krishnadevaraya, adding cultural and heritage value to the proposed tourism project. The seaplane services are expected to provide a unique aerial view experience for pilgrims and visitors. The project is likely to attract both domestic and international tourists visiting Tirupati and Tirumala.



project at the earliest.

Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani, along with senior officials from the Tourism, Irrigation and Revenue Departments, conducted an extensive field inspection at Rayalacheruvu and examined all technical, environmental and logistical feasibility aspects before finalising

the location for seaplane landing operations.

Officials said Rayalacheruvu has emerged as the most suitable location due to its vast water spread, historical significance and strategic proximity to Tirupati and Tirumala. Spread across nearly 354 hectares, the centuries-old irrigation tank is located 14-18 km away from Tirupati City with strong road connectivity, making tourist movement highly convenient.

Historical references indicate that the tank was developed during the reign of Sri Krishnadevaraya, adding cultural and heritage value to the proposed tourism project. The seaplane services are expected to provide a unique aerial view experience for pilgrims and visitors. The project is likely to

attract both domestic and international tourists visiting Tirupati and Tirumala.

Tourism Development Regional Director Ramana Prasad said, "The Chief Minister is giving top priority to the development of tourism infrastructure in Chandragiri constituency and Tirupati region. The seaplane project will be taken up at an estimated cost of ₹20 crore." The Tourism, Irrigation and Revenue Departments have jointly prepared plans for acquisition of land for seaplane landing facilities, parking areas, passenger amenities and commercial establishments. Temporary containers for commercial outlets are likely to be installed in the initial phase of project development.

Tirupati District Collector S Venkateswar has been closely monitoring the progress of the seaplane project, conducting periodic review meetings. The seaplane project is expected to emerge as a major tourism attraction and significantly contribute to the economic and tourism growth of Tirupati region.

AI plane suffers tail strike at Bengaluru airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Thane

A Delhi-Bengaluru Air India flight, with 181 people on board, was grounded after it experienced a tail strike during landing at the Bengaluru airport on Thursday morning. The airline's narrow-body A321 aircraft was operating the flight AI2651 from Delhi to Bengaluru.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has begun its investigation into the matter. "The operating pilots have been off rostered pending investigation," DGCA sources said.

An Air India spokesperson said the plane "experienced a tail-strike during landing". The aircraft landed safely, and all passengers and crew disembarked normally, the spokesperson said. Due to the grounding of the aircraft, the return flight AI2652 from Bengaluru to Delhi has been cancelled.

A source said the plane experienced "wake turbulence" when it was close to land, following which the pilot decided to perform a go around manoeuvre. During the manoeuvre,



there was a tail strike, the source added.

The "wake turbulence" was caused due to the take-off of a wide-body aircraft in the vicinity, the source said. Specific details about the wide-body plane could not be ascertained. Wake turbulence is the disturbed, chaotic air trailing behind an aircraft. It is the disturbance generated by an aircraft that can affect encountering aircraft due to the strength, duration, and direction of the vortices.

The source said there were 181 passengers onboard the aircraft that operated the flight AI2651.

The Air India spokesperson said the plane has been grounded for detailed inspection and the incident will be investigated in accordance with established procedures, in coordination with the relevant regulatory authorities.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

21 MAY 2026

Renewed heat on airport touts, stalls

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: Police have asked taxi touts harassing passengers and illegally parking cabs on the Calcutta airport premises, as well as operators of unauthorised stalls, to clear out within the next few days.

Sources said the move followed a letter from airport authorities to the NSCBI Airport police station seeking action against “illegally parked vehicles and encroachments”. The letter was issued recently, after the BJP government came to power in Bengal.

“We have written to the police seeking removal of illegally parked cars and unauthorised stalls. We periodically raise these issues with them,” Vikram Singh, director of the Calcutta airport, said on Wednesday.

An airport official said similar eviction drives had been carried out earlier, but the vehicles and stalls usually returned within days.

“It is the police’s responsibility to stop illegal activities. They will have to conduct drives, and we will provide support,” the official said.

The problem of taxi touts at the airport is long-standing.

Many of the cabs operated by touts remain parked opposite the old domestic terminal building. The space is meant for Yatri Sathi cabs and taxis



Cars parked illegally in the area opposite the old domestic terminal building at the Calcutta airport on Wednesday evening

registered with the Bidhanagar Commissionerate’s pre-paid taxi service. These vehicles are allowed to park there free of cost and move to pickup points near the new terminal when slots become available, an airport official.

However, several cars controlled by touts occupy the area illegally.

Airport sources said that around 350 such vehicles remain parked opposite the old domestic terminal building.

“The touts first negotiate fares with passengers arriving in Calcutta. Once the price is finalised, they bring the vehicle from the parking area,” an airport official said.

Passengers have alleged that touts charge five to six times the normal fare.

Yellow taxis are also frequently seen parked illegally in the outermost lane at the arrivals level outside the terminal. Many of these taxis display “Yatri Sathi” stickers, but

passengers and airport officials have alleged that drivers often refuse app bookings and instead demand exorbitant fares from commuters.

Stalls

The airport authorities are also targeting unauthorised stalls on airport land. Officials said the stalls repeatedly returned even after eviction drives.

A new terminal building covering 2 million square me-

tres has been planned opposite the old domestic terminal. Several unauthorised stalls have come up on the land earmarked for the project.

“They have been evicted several times, but they return within days. Once they are removed now, we plan to barricade the area,” an airport official said.

At least 34 illegal stalls had appeared on airport land in recent years, allegedly with Trinamool patronage. The stalls

are made of flammable materials. Some operators use LPG cylinders and kerosene stoves in the open.

Last week, railway authorities, the Railway Protection Force and the Government Railway Police carried out drives against hawkers around Howrah and Sealdah stations. Around 200 stalls were demolished during those operations. At Howrah station, a payloador was used to remove the structures.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

Passport seized at airport, man with LOC gives officials the slip

Mahesh Buddi
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Hyderabad: An accused in a cheating case, against whom a Look Out Circular (LOC) had been issued by Gujarat police, escaped from the custody of immigration authorities at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport early Wednesday.

The flyer, Dhaval Doshi, who was scheduled to travel to Bangkok with his wife, Priyanka Doshi, and minor daughter, was intercepted around 2am after an LOC alert was triggered at the departure counter. Immigration officials confiscated his passport and boarding pass and asked the family to remain seated near the immigration area.

According to police, Priyanka later approached airline staff claiming a medical emergency involving their daughter and requested retrieval of their checked-in baggage, without informing them that the family had been stopped by immigration authorities. Airline staff reportedly escorted the family and their baggage toward domestic departures, after which Doshi boarded a Mumbai-bound flight around 5.50am.

Immigration authorities later lodged a complaint with airport police. Police said a case had been registered against Doshi and Priyanka. A senior officer from Shamshabad police said Doshi's lawyer informed police that his client may soon surrender before Gujarat police.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

AI plane's tail scrapes runway while going around at B'luru

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New Delhi: An Airbus A321 operated by Air India with about 190 people aboard suffered a tail strike while going around — aborting landing and taking off again — at Bengaluru airport on Thursday.

A Boeing 747 jumbo jet had taken off before this flight from Delhi was to land. The enormous wake turbulence — aerial equivalent of the impact seen on water when a big ship is going full steam ahead — generated by the jumbo jet led the pilots to opt for go-around at the last minute to avoid getting caught in the turbulence after touchdown. In the process, the A321's tail scraped the runway. The aircraft came back to safely land on the second attempt and has now been grounded for checks.

DGCA has been studying for a long time the issue of tail strikes

by Indian carriers using the long-fuselage A321 aircraft and launched a probe into Thursday's case. The pilots have been off-rostered pending the probe outcome.

An airline spokesperson said, "A12651 operating from Delhi to Bengaluru on May 21 experienced a tail strike during landing. The aircraft landed safely, and all passengers and crew disembarked normally." He added that the return flight from Bengaluru to Delhi was cancelled. "Alternative arrangements are being made to accommodate affected passengers at the earliest."

To avoid smaller planes getting caught in turbulent air caused by bigger jets, International Civil Aviation Organisation prescribes precautions such as greater separation for a smaller jet to land on a runway from where a bigger one is taking off.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

बंगलूरु-दिल्ली एअर इंडिया उड़ान के इंजन में लगी आग



नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया की बंगलूरु से नई दिल्ली आ रही उड़ान (एआई2802) के इंजन में बुधस्तिवार को आग लग गई। विमान में 160 यात्री सवार थे। हालांकि, विमान दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित उतार लिया गया। एअर इंडिया ने कहा, तकनीकी समस्या आने पर सुरक्षित लैंडिंग कराई गई। घटना के कारणों की जांच जारी है।

■ वहीं, एक अन्य हादसे में बंगलूरु एयरपोर्ट पर उतरने के दौरान एअर इंडिया के विमान का पिछला हिस्सा रनवे पर जमीन से टकरा गया। दिल्ली से बंगलूरु पहुंचे इस विमान में सवार सभी 181 यात्री सुरक्षित हैं। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

A-I plane carrying 181 flyers suffers tail strike at Bengaluru airport

An Air India (A-I) aircraft, with 181 passengers onboard, suffered a tail strike while landing at the Bengaluru airport on Thursday and the plane was grounded for a detailed inspection. The airline's narrow-body A321 aircraft was operating the flight AI2651 from Delhi to Bengaluru. An Air India spokesperson said the aircraft landed safely, and all passengers and crew disembarked normally. A source said the plane experienced "wake turbulence" when it was close to land, following which the pilot decided to perform a go around manoeuvre. During the manoeuvre, there was a tail strike, the source added. The "wake turbulence" was caused due to the take-off of a wide-body aircraft in the vicinity, the source said.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर एअर इंडिया के विमान के इंजन में लगी आग, बेंगलुरु में 'टेल स्ट्राइक'

दिल्ली में विमान की करानी पड़ी **इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग**, इस घटनाक्रम से रनवे कुछ देर प्रभावित रहा

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: एअर इंडिया के दो विमान बृहस्पतिवार को बड़े हादसे की चपेट में आने से बाल बल बच गए। एक घटना में बेंगलुरु से दिल्ली आ रहे एक विमान के इंजन में अचानक आग लग गई, जिसके बाद आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर फुल इमरजेंसी घोषित कर उसकी सुरक्षित लैंडिंग कराई गई। वहीं, दूसरी घटना में दिल्ली से बेंगलुरु उतरे एक विमान का पिछला हिस्सा लैंडिंग के समय रनवे से टकरा गया। राहत की बात यह रही कि दोनों ही हादसों में विमानों में सवार सभी यात्री और क्रू मेंबर्स पूरी तरह सुरक्षित हैं।

बेंगलुरु से दिल्ली आ रही एअर इंडिया

लैंडिंग के तुरंत बाद इंजन में लगी आग को बुझाया गया, विमान में सवार 171 यात्रियों और क्रू मेंबर्स को सुरक्षित बाहर निकाला गया

की उड़ान संख्या एआइ 2802 बृहस्पतिवार रात करीब 9.30 बजे जब आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर लैंडिंग के लिए अपने आखिरी चरण पर थी, तभी काकपिट क्रू को एक इंजन में आग लगने का वार्निंग सिग्नल मिला। पायलटों ने जब जांच की तो यह अलर्ट सही पाया गया, जिसके तुरंत बाद आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर फुल इमरजेंसी घोषित कर दी गई।

पायलटों ने सूझबूझ और एसओपी का पालन करते हुए विमान को रनवे 29आर पर सुरक्षित लैंड कराया। लैंडिंग के तुरंत बाद इंजन में लगी आग को पूरी तरह बुझा दिया गया। विमान में सवार सभी 171 यात्रियों और क्रू मेंबर्स को सुरक्षित बाहर निकाल लिया गया। इस पूरी प्रक्रिया के कारण प्रभावित हुए रनवे पर रात 10:18 बजे दोबारा परिचालन शुरू हो सका।

इस घटना से कुछ समय पहले दिल्ली से बेंगलुरु जा रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान एआइ 2651 जब बेंगलुरु इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर लैंड कर रही थी, तब उसका पिछला निचला हिस्सा रनवे से टकरा

गया, जिसे विमानन की भाषा में टेल स्ट्राइक कहा जाता है। आमतौर पर ऐसा तेज हवाओं के कारण संतुलन बिगड़ने या लैंडिंग के समय गलत एप्रोच से होता है। इस हादसे में भी सभी यात्री और क्रू सुरक्षित बच गए, लेकिन दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान को व्यापक तकनीकी जांच और मरम्मत के लिए बेंगलुरु में ही ग्राउंडहेड कर दिया गया है। एअर इंडिया ने दोनों घटनाओं पर ब्यान जारी करते हुए कहा है कि उनकी पहली प्राथमिकता यात्रियों की सुरक्षा है। एयरलाइन ने उड़ान नियामक संस्था डीजीसीए के साथ मिलकर दोनों ही मामलों की तुरंत एक विस्तृत और उच्च स्तरीय जांच शुरू कर दी है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

● VINAY DUBE, FOUNDER & CEO, AKASA AIR

'West Asian disruption impact limited to 15% of operations'

Despite geopolitical uncertainties and disruptions across the aviation industry, Akasa Air remains bullish on the long-term growth of Indian aviation. The airline is continuing to expand its network and fleet while sharpening its focus on operational reliability, customer experience, international expansion and maintenance infrastructure. **Vinay Dube**, founder and CEO of Akasa Air, tells **Akbar Merchant** that despite near-term volatility, the airline remains confident about the sector's long-term trajectory. Excerpts:

How was FY26 for Akasa Air?

It was a strong year for us despite challenges such as the Pehelgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and the Air India tragedy, all of which impacted traveller sentiment. Even then, Akasa delivered over 40% top-line growth, while Ebitda margins and unit revenues improved significantly. Reliability metrics including on-

time performance, cancellations and baggage delivery also remained strong.

Today, Akasa operates 38 aircraft, has an order book of 226 aircraft, and has flown over 27 million passengers and more than 11,000 pets since launch.

How important is international expansion to Akasa's strategy?

Last year we added Phuket and expanded Jeddah operations, while this year we announced Vietnam. Akasa today serves 34 destinations, including 27 domestic and seven international cities.

What has passenger growth been like and what is the outlook for FY27?

Demand in April and May has remained healthy. However, given the ongoing Iran conflict and broader geopolitical uncertainties, it is still too early to make projections for the full year. The outlook will depend on how long the situation persists.

How has the West Asian conflict

impacted operations?

Before the conflict, we operated to Kuwait, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh and Jeddah. Nearly 80-85% of our West Asian operations were concentrated in Abu Dhabi and Jeddah, which have been least affected. We are currently operating full schedules to Abu Dhabi and Jeddah. Riyadh, Kuwait and Doha remain suspended, though these routes accounted for only around 15% of our West Asian operations.

Have you reduced flights this summer amid rising fuel costs and geopolitical uncertainty?

No. Other than temporary suspensions to Riyadh, Doha and Kuwait, we are operating planned schedules. These suspended routes account for only around 14 weekly frequencies out of more than 1,000 weekly frequencies operated by Akasa. Compared to last year, our schedule remains significantly larger due to fleet growth.

Continued on Page 10

'West Asian disruption impact ...

What kind of support would airlines seek from the government during such difficult periods?

I genuinely believe the government has done an impressive job in aviation over the past several years. Whether it is ATF pricing, VAT reductions in cities like Mumbai and Delhi, or steps around airport charges such as Navi Mumbai's UDF, the pace of decision-making has been commendable. India today has a professional regulator and a ministry that actively cares about the sector. Sometimes we don't give enough credit to how quickly aviation-related issues are being addressed here.

How do you see the outlook for the Indian aviation market amid geopolitical uncertainty?

Akasa remains extremely bullish on the long-term future of aviation in India. Every year there are ups and downs in the industry, but aviation has

always gone through cycles.

Which domestic markets are driving growth?

Growth is visible across India. Over the last six months we added destinations such as Darbhanga and Dibrugarh, while Navi Mumbai has also opened up. We have additionally announced operations from Noida International Airport.

Can you share details on Haj operations?

Haj operations are allocated through a government tender process. This year, Akasa is operating 156 Haj flights from Sri-nagar, Mumbai, Nagpur, Indore, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Kozhikode.

What is Akasa's strategy around maintenance and MRO?

Routine line maintenance activities are handled internally to some extent, while larger

checks such as C-checks are done with partners like GMR in Hyderabad. Engine maintenance is handled with partners including CFM and ST Engineering. We have also signed an agreement with Noida International Airport for our first hangar facility, expected around 2028, which will enhance maintenance capabilities further.

What is Akasa's view on long-haul operations and widebody aircraft?

We ask ourselves that question every year and, for the last five years, the answer has remained the same, long-haul widebody operations are not for us. Our network is still relatively small, and introducing aircraft types for just a few routes adds complexity in maintenance, crew training and operations. Our view remains that widebody operations are not for Akasa.

Will Akasa continue focusing on Boeing 737 MAX aircraft?

Yes. Our overall order book of 226 aircraft also includes the larger Boeing 737 MAX 10 aircraft, although those are still some time away because certification is pending. The MAX 10 will offer slightly more capacity, closer to the Airbus A321 category.

Did the revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms impact Akasa?

Like all airlines, we were economically impacted because cockpit crew utilisation changes under the revised norms. However, we had already been preparing for this for nearly two years. Did it disrupt passengers? No. We managed the transition through planning without operational disruptions. The economics affect all airlines similarly, but proper planning helps manage the impact smoothly.

THE
GOVERNMENT
HAS DONE AN
IMPRESSIVE
JOB IN
AVIATION



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

21 MAY 2026

Turkish Airlines told to improve cockpit communication

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has ordered Turkish Airlines to rigorously reinforce its cockpit communication protocols following a serious airprox incident over the Mumbai Flight Information Region (FIR).

The final investigation report into the near-miss revealed that a Turkish Airlines cargo aircraft initiated an unauthorised altitude climb by misinterpreting an electronic communication message, bringing it within a critical 1,000-foot vertical proximity of a Flydubai passenger jet.

The incident involved a Turkish Airlines Cargo Airbus A330-200F, registered as TC-JOO, and a Flydubai Boeing 737 MAX 9, registered as A6-FKR, both operating at adjacent flight levels (FL) in the oceanic airspace managed by Mumbai Air Traffic Control (ATC).

According to the AAIB findings, the Turkish Airlines aircraft requested clearance to climb from FL340 (34,000 feet) to FL 360 (36,000 feet) using the Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC) – a text-based data link system designed to replace traditional voice radio over oceanic routes.

However, a critical misinterpretation of the subsequent digital message occurred. The flight crew erroneously executed the climb instruction.

As the heavy Turkish Airbus freighter began its unauthorised ascent, it directly encroached upon the airspace of the Flydubai

Boeing 737 MAX.

The vertical separation between the two airliners rapidly degraded to less than 1,000 feet, violating mandatory safe separation standards. The sudden close proximity triggered a traffic advisory through the onboard traffic collision avoidance system.

Recognising the anomaly, the Turkish Airlines crew attempted to use voice radio communications to verify their climb clearance. While the first radio attempt went unanswered due to frequency congestion, a second call connected with Mumbai ATC. Controllers immediately informed the crew that no such climb had been approved and issued urgent instructions to arrest its climb.

The AAIB final report identified the primary probable cause of the serious incident as the flight crew's failure to accurately verify and understand the CPDLC message content.

**NEAR
MISS**



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

21 MAY 2026

Akasa Air signs 2nd sale, leaseback pact with BOC Aviation for 3 Boeing planes

FPJ News Service

MUMBAI

Akasa Air has moved to further accelerate its fleet expansion, signing a second sale-and-leaseback agreement with global aircraft lessor BOC Aviation Limited for an additional three Boeing 737-8200 aircraft. The three aircraft, scheduled for delivery by the end of 2026, will take the total



number of Akasa's BOC-leased aircraft to six frames.

Akasa Air already operates three Boeing 737-8 aircraft sourced from BOC Aviation under a previous transaction executed in November 2023. The newly ordered high-density Boeing 737-8200 jets will all

be powered by CFM LEAP-1B engines. For Akasa Air, utilizing a sale-and-leaseback mechanism is a standard industry practice to maintain an asset-light balance sheet while securing predictable aircraft induction timelines. The strategy allows the airline to unlock liquidity by selling its delivery slots to the lessor and subsequently leasing the aircraft back to operate them.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

एयर इंडिया विमान की दिल्ली में आपात लैंडिंग

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। बेंगलुरु से दिल्ली आ रहे एयर इंडिया के एक विमान की आपात लैंडिंग करानी पड़ी। आशंका है कि लैंडिंग के प्रयास के दौरान विमान के इंजन में आग लग गई। पायलट ने अंतिम क्षणों में विमान को सुरक्षित उतार लिया।

विमान में सवार 170 यात्री और चालक दल के सभी सदस्य सुरक्षित हैं। विमानन कंपनी ने विमान की तकनीकी जांच शुरू कर दी है। यह एक ही दिन में एयर इंडिया के विमानों से जुड़ा दूसरा हादसा था। इससे पहले दिल्ली से बेंगलुरु जा रहे विमान का पिछला हिस्सा बेंगलुरु में जमीन से टकरा गया था।

एयरबस ए-320 विमान से उड़ान संख्या एआई-2802 गुरुवार शाम बेंगलुरु से दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरी थी। रात साढ़े नौ बजे इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर विमान

बेंगलुरु में वेक टर्बुलेंस में फंस गया था विमान

बेंगलुरु। गुरुवार सुबह एयरबस ए-321 विमान से दिल्ली-बेंगलुरु उड़ान संख्या एआई-2651 भी लैंडिंग के दौरान हादसे का शिकार हुई थी। लैंडिंग के दौरान वेक टर्बुलेंस (हवा के भंवर) से विमान का पिछला हिस्सा (टेल) जमीन से टकरा गया था। विमान में 181 यात्री और चालक दल के सदस्य थे, जो सुरक्षित उतार लिए गए थे। घटना की जांच शुरू कर दी गई है।

लैंडिंग की तैयारी कर रहा था। इसी दौरान कॉकपिट क्रू को इंजन में आग लगने का अलर्ट मिला। कंपनी ने कहा, क्रू ने मानक प्रक्रियाओं का पालन कर विमान को सुरक्षित लैंड करा लिया गया। सभी यात्री और क्रू सदस्य सुरक्षित उतर गए।

Air India cuts flights amid rivals' capacity expansion

Abhishek Law

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NEW DELHI: Air India is cutting domestic and international capacity this summer, flying up to 5% fewer flights on domestic routes and nearly 40% less on international corridors compared with a year ago, as a depleted fleet, surging jet fuel costs, and war-related airspace closures squeeze the Tata Group carrier.

The airline and its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express together offered roughly 9.24 million domestic seats in April and May, down from 9.71 million a year ago, even as India's largest carrier, IndiGo, expanded domestic capacity 6% to 23.04 million seats and newcomer Akasa Air grew 9% to 1.63 million seats, according to data from aviation analytics firm OAG reviewed by Mint. Seats are a measure of capacity for airlines.

The move reflects pressures that analysts say have pushed Air India's network strategy into what one expert calls 'survival mode'. Domestic jet fuel prices surged by over 94% between February and May, and airspace over Pakistan has been shut since April 2025.

Subsequent closures over Iran, Iraq, and West Asia due to the war have forced longer flight times and steeper operating costs on international routes.

Aggravating the issue is a



Rising jet fuel costs and war-related airspace closures hit Air India operations. REUTERS

shrinking fleet: the Air India group operated around 258 aircraft in April-May, down 11% from a year ago, with Air India alone having some 21 planes grounded, double last year's figure, and Air India Express sitting with nearly 12 aircraft idle, almost three times the year-ago number, according to Gagan Dixit, senior vice president-Aviation, Oil and Gas, at Elara Capital.

Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo and Akasa Air are yet to respond to a questionnaire from Mint.

The FY26 annual report of Singapore Airlines, which has a 25.1% stake in Air India, states that Air India could report a \$2.8-billion loss in the last fiscal. The Indian carrier is yet to declare its FY26 numbers.

IndiGo and Akasa both have more planes in the air com-

pared with last year, he said. IndiGo's operating fleet is up 6% to 366 aircraft this summer, while Akasa's has risen nearly 30% to 38.

"Over the last 10-12 months, Air India at a group level has taken just 7 narrow-body aircraft deliveries from Boeing. On the other hand, IndiGo had 44 deliveries from Airbus, indicating that it is replacing the old fleet with more fuel-efficient planes to bring down costs and tap the market better. Akasa is having one plane delivered a month, on average, ramping up its fleet. Air India needs to look into the delivery of aircraft too, if it has to increase domestic presence," Dixit said.

Aviation expert and chief executive of Pune-based Avialaz Consultants, Sanjay Lazar said Air India's network planning 'has gone into survival mode' to protect 'the more profitable routes'.

Lazar said the Air India group's sharpest reductions were in tier II cities, where capacity is down by 12%. This reflected "Air India's Wartime strategy" where the group is "preserv(ing) its premium traffic whilst avoiding competing head-on with IndiGo/Akasa in smaller regional markets."

"This is true of the 25 December-26 April matrix that we have studied. Air India also pulled out some narrow bodies to deploy them internationally to Hanoi, Manila, etc.," Lazar said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

Air India flight grounded after tail strikes runway

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: An Air India aircraft from Delhi to Bengaluru had to be grounded after its tail struck the runway while landing at the airport on Thursday.

Officials in the know of the incident from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said they have begun their investigation into the matter. "The operating pilots have been off rostered pending investigation," one of the officials said.

Air India confirmed the incident and said, "Flight AI2651

WHILE THE PLANE LANDED SAFELY, THE OPERATING PILOTS WERE OFF ROSTERED PENDING INVESTIGATION

operating from Delhi to Bengaluru on 21 May experienced a tail-strike during landing. The aircraft landed safely, and all passengers and crew disembarked normally."

It further stated, "The aircraft

has been grounded for detailed inspection. The incident will be investigated in accordance with established procedures, in coordination with the relevant regulatory authorities."

The airline also confirmed as a result of the incident, its subsequent flight, AI2652 from Bengaluru to Delhi was cancelled.

"Alternative arrangements are being made to accommodate affected passengers at the earliest...Air India regrets the inconvenience caused. The safety of our passengers and crew remains our highest priority," the airline spokesperson said.

A second official said, "The incident took place due to wake turbulence. The pilots decided to go around at the last minute due to it." Another official said: "A freight B747, had just taken off before the Air India flight attempted to land. The A321 aircraft then performed a go-around due to wing disturbances."

Fire in flight engine

AI 2802 from Bengaluru to Delhi declared full emergency at Delhi airport due to fire in one of its engines. It landed safely at runway 29R at around 9.30pm. The

aircraft that had 171 passengers on board, however had to be towed away.

An Air India spokesperson said, "...During the aircraft's final approach into Delhi, the cockpit crew received a fire indication from one of the engines. The indication was subsequently confirmed as true. The crew followed all standard operating procedures and landed the aircraft safely at Delhi airport. All passengers and crew are safe and have disembarked normally.

Air India is immediately initiating a full investigation into the cause of the incident..."



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

21 MAY 2026

{ **CABINET DECISIONS** } FIRST REGULAR DIRECT FLIGHT FROM ANY BIHAR CITY TO INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION

Bihar govt greenlights direct Gaya-Bangkok IndiGo flights

Subhash Pathak

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PATNA: Gaya Ji, a religiously famed town of Bihar, is set pop up on the international flight routes with the state government on Wednesday giving its commitment to pay up to ₹10.40 crore to the InterGlobe Aviation Limited, which operates IndiGo flight, as viability gap funding (VGF) for a period of one year.

The payment of VGF to IndiGo was approved at a cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Samrat Choudhary, in which a total of 13 proposals were cleared.

Briefing media persons after the meeting, additional chief secretary, cabinet, Arvind Kumar Chaudhary said that the IndiGo was selected to operate a biweekly flight between Gaya and Bangkok, as it happened to be sole bidder for the route. "The state government has

selected the carrier to make the route viable," added the ACS.

Gaya will be the only town in the state to be connected with a regular direct flight to any international destination. Earlier, Air India, then a government owned airline, used to operate a direct flight between Patna and Kathmandu in Nepal prior to 1999.

Officials are hopeful this direct link will give a real boost to Buddhist tourism. Thailand has long been an important source of pilgrims to Bodhi Gaya, the sacred site of Buddha's enlightenment. Easier travel is expected to bring more visitors, helping hotels, taxis, local shops, handicrafts and the wider economy while creating jobs both directly and indirectly.

On the industrial front, the Cabinet sanctioned land acquisition and financial support for building a reservoir to ensure reliable water supply to the

Integrated Manufacturing Cluster at Dobhi in Gaya Ji. The cluster is coming up under the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.

The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation estimates the initial water requirement at 8.5 million litres per day, which could go up to 19 million litres later. To meet this, the water resources department will build a reservoir with 8.5 million cubic metres capacity on around 324 acres of land. The Cabinet has approved ₹428 crore for the project. Once ready, it is expected to help attract industries and generate employment in the region.

In a separate move to strengthen border security, the government approved the creation of a new post of Inspector General of Police (Border) under the Special Branch. The officer will focus on better monitoring, intelligence gathering

and coordination along Bihar's international and inter-state borders.

The cabinet also cleared the "Young Professional Selection Policy-2026" for the Department of Science, Technology and Technical Education. The policy is aimed at bringing in bright young talent quickly for technical, research and specialist roles, with an eye on improving innovation and efficiency in the department and its institutions. Additionally, the industries department gave the green light, along with incentives, to two private projects worth a combined ₹161.63 crore — a rice mill in Nalanda and an ethanol plant in Kaimur. These units are expected to provide direct employment to 278 people. In another decision, the Panchayati Raj Department released over ₹747.97 crore to strengthen primary healthcare services in rural areas.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

22 MAY 2026



Sunbird France 02 SAS is seeking enforcement of a UK court judgement against the airline. REUTERS

SpiceJet faces legal heat from lessor

In another legal setback for cash-strapped airline SpiceJet, France-based aircraft engine lessor Sunbird France 02 SAS has moved the Delhi high court seeking enforcement of a UK court judgement directing the airline to pay nearly \$8 million in unpaid lease rentals and maintenance dues linked to three aircraft engines, adding to the carrier's mounting litigation burden amid ongoing financial stress.

The case came up for hearing before Justice Vikas Mahajan on Thursday, who asked SpiceJet to file an affidavit disclosing its assets. However, senior advocate Amit Sibal, appearing for the airline, sought time to obtain instructions on the issue. The next hearing will be on Monday on the question of whether SpiceJet should be directed to disclose its assets.

The proceedings stem from a judgement delivered by the Commercial Court in London on 13 March.

KRISHNA YADAV



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

B'luru: Air India plane experiences tail strike

NEW DELHI: An Air India aircraft, with 181 passengers onboard, suffered a tail strike during landing at the Bengaluru airport on Thursday morning and the plane has been grounded for a detailed inspection. The airline's narrow-body A321 aircraft was operating the flight AI2651 from Delhi to Bengaluru.

An Air India spokesperson said the plane "experienced a tail-strike during landing".

The aircraft landed safely, and all passengers and crew disembarked normally, the spokesperson said. A source said the plane experienced "wake turbulence" when it was close to land, following which the pilot decided to perform a go around manoeuvre. During the manoeuvre, there was a tail strike, the source added.

The "wake turbulence" was

caused due to the take-off of a wide-body aircraft in the vicinity, the source said.

Specific details about the wide-body plane could not be ascertained. The source said there were 181 passengers onboard the aircraft that operated the flight AI2651.

The Air India spokesperson said the plane has been grounded for detailed inspection and the incident will be investigated in accordance with established procedures, in coordination with the relevant regulatory authorities.

"As a result, the return flight AI2652 from Bengaluru to Delhi has been cancelled. Alternative arrangements are being made to accommodate affected passengers at the earliest. Our ground teams in Bengaluru are providing all necessary assistance," he said.

AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

AI plane with 181 passengers suffers tail strike while landing in B'luru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AN Air India Airbus A321 aircraft suffered a tail strike while landing at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday after encountering wake turbulence caused by a departing Boeing 747 aircraft, sources said.

The Air India flight AI2651, operating from Delhi to Bengaluru, was approaching the runway when a Boeing 747, known for its massive size and engine thrust, took off ahead of it from the same runway, the sources added.

Sources said the large aircraft generated strong "wake turbulence", a phenomenon caused by disturbed air currents left behind by an aircraft during take-off. "It was not weather-related



turbulence or gusty winds. This was a case of wake turbulence," a source said.

According to sources, the pilot realised the aircraft was being affected by the turbulence and immediately decided to abort the landing and carry out a precautionary go-around manoeuvre. During the manoeuvre, the aircraft's tail struck the runway. The incident occurred

between 11am and noon.

"The pilot was cautious enough to immediately take a go-around call. It was the right thing to do," the source added, noting that the incident was not attributed to pilot error. In a statement, an AI spokesperson said, "Flight AI2651 experienced a tail-strike during landing. The aircraft landed safely, and all passengers and crew disembarked normally."

The airline said the aircraft has been grounded for detailed inspection and the incident will be investigated in accordance with established procedures in coordination with aviation regulatory authorities.

As a result of the incident, the return flight AI2652 scheduled from Bengaluru to Delhi was cancelled.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

दिल्ली आए विमान के इंजन में आग!

एयर इंडिया की बंगलुरु-दिल्ली फ्लाइट AI-2802 में गुरुवार रात लैंडिंग से पहले इंजन में आग का अलर्ट मिला। पायलटों ने इमरजेंसी घोषित कर विमान को दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित उतारा। फ्लाइट में 180 यात्री और कू थे। यही, इससे पहले दिल्ली से बंगलुरु जा रहे एयर इंडिया के विमान को पिछला हिस्सा लैंडिंग के दौरान जमीन से टकरा गया। इस 'टेल स्ट्राइक' में विमान में सवार कू समेत 179 लोग बाल-बाल बच गए। विमान को जांच के लिए ग्राउंड कर दिया गया।

एयरपोर्ट पर विमान की इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग फायर की 4 गाड़ियां पहुंची

■ NBT न्यूज, एयरपोर्ट

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर एक विमान की गुरुवार रात में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग करवाई गई है। जैसे ही इसके बारे में फायर कंट्रोल रूम को सूचना मिली, चार गाड़ियां एयरपोर्ट पर भेजी गईं। वहां पहुंचने के बाद फायर कर्मियों को पता चला कि विमान की सुरक्षित इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग करवाई जा चुकी है। हालांकि इसकी जानकारी अभी नहीं मिली है, कि विमान कहाँ से आ रहा था, कितने लोग उस पर सवार थे और उसमें किस तरह की गड़बड़ी हुई थी।

File Photo



प्लाई गोदाम में लगी आग, युवक की मौत

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली:

विजय विहार इलाके के मंगोलपुर खुर्द स्थित एक प्लाई गोदाम में लगी भीषण आग में जलकर एक शख्स की मौत हो गई। दमकल कर्मियों ने आग पर काबू पाने के बाद गोदाम के अंदर से उसका शव बरामद किया। मृतक की पहचान नहीं हो सकी है। घटना 19 मई की रात की है। पुलिस और दमकल विभाग को सूचना मिली थी कि मंगोलपुर खुर्द इलाके में प्लाई के गोदाम में आग लग गई है। दमकल की कई गाड़ियां और पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची। आग बुझने के बाद कूलिंग और तलाशी अभियान चलाया। इसी दौरान अंदर से एक शख्स का जला हुआ शव मिला।

Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

बेंगलुरु में रनवे से टकराया विमान

बेंगलुरु, (पंजाब केसरी): बेंगलुरु हवाई अड्डे पर बृहस्पतिवार सुबह उतरते समय एअर इंडिया के एक विमान का पिछला हिस्सा रनवे से टकरा गया। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि विमान को विस्तृत जांच के लिए परिचालन से बाहर कर दिया गया है। विमानन कंपनी का छोटा ए 321 विमान दिल्ली एवं बेंगलुरु के बीच उड़ान एआई 2651 रूप में उपयोग में लाया जाता है। घटना के समय विमान में 181 यात्री सवार थे। एअर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि उतरते समय विमान के पिछले हिस्से में टक्कर जैसा अनुभव हुआ। उन्होंने कहा कि विमान हवाई अड्डे पर सुरक्षित उतरा और सभी यात्री एवं चालक दल के सदस्य सामान्य ढंग से उससे उतरे। एक सूत्र ने बताया कि हवाई अड्डे के



करीब पहुंचने पर विमान में कंपन महसूस हुआ, जिसके बाद पायलट ने विमान को स्थिर करने के लिए हवा में ही चक्कर लगाने का फैसला किया। सूत्र ने बताया कि इसी दौरान विमान का पिछला हिस्सा रनवे से टकरा गया। सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह कंपन पास में एक विशाल विमान के उड़ान भरने के कारण महसूस हुआ।

इस बड़े विमान के बारे में विशिष्ट जानकारी प्राप्त नहीं की जा सकी है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, उड़ान एआई 2651 के रूप संचालित विमान में 181 यात्री सवार थे। एअर इंडिया के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि विमान को विस्तृत जांच के लिए रोक दिया गया है और संबंधित नियामक प्राधिकरणों के समन्वय से स्थापित प्रक्रियाओं के

● घटना के समय एयर इंडिया के विमान में 181 यात्री सवार थे

अनुसार घटना की जांच की जाएगी। प्रवक्ता ने कहा, 'परिणामस्वरूप, बेंगलुरु से दिल्ली जाने वाली वापसी उड़ान एआई 2652 रद्द कर दी गई है। प्रभावित यात्रियों के लिए जल्द से जल्द वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की जा रही है।' उन्होंने कहा, 'बेंगलुरु में हमारी ग्राउंड टीम सभी आवश्यक सहायता प्रदान कर रही है।' उन्होंने यात्रियों को हुई असुविधा के लिए खेद व्यक्त किया। फ्लाइट ट्रेकिंग वेबसाइट 'फ्लाइट रडार24 डॉट कॉम' के अनुसार, यह उड़ान ए321 विमान द्वारा संचालित की गई थी।

LG Sinha unveils new helipad for Vaishno Devi shrine pilgrims

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, 21 May

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Helipad at Village Hutt, Katra. He said that the integrated aviation facility will streamline heli-operations, enhancing heli connectivity, safety and convenience for pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

"This helipad has been developed in strict compliance with the safety and operational norms laid down by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The facility places a paramount emphasis on passenger safety, security, and seamless travel experience, meeting the growing heli-services demand of the devotees. It will also provide a significant boost to religious tourism in the region," Sinha said.

It is pertinent to mention that the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, in collaboration with the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, has undertaken development of a modern Helipad/Heliport at Village Hutt, Katra as well as at Shiv Khori, to ensure convenience, safety and accessibility for pilgrims undertaking helicopter travel to holy shrines.

The infrastructure is based on technical inputs from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and operational requirements assessed by the Board. It is capable of accommodating enhanced passenger handling



and helicopter operational capacity, including future shifting of the existing Serli Helipad operations to Village Hutt.

The project includes construction of the helipad and allied aviation infrastructure, development of a 1.10 km approach road, creation of an expanded terminal building with passenger amenities such as waiting halls, ticketing and refund counters, reception areas, offices and security cabins, as well as construction of a modern hangar facility and associated operational infrastructure.

The facility also includes provision of safety, security, sanitation, parking, utility services, emergency response systems and queue management facilities necessary for efficient heliport operations.

The project aims to create sufficient operational capacity for present and future helicopter traffic while addressing safety concerns related to helicopters flying over Katra town.

It also streamlines and professionalizes heli-services through centralized management and operation by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, leveraging its long-standing expertise in heli operations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

21 MAY 2026

‘Saw AI-171 pilot’s body gripping yoke’

Ahmedabad: A man who lost three family members in the AI-171 crash in June last year has claimed that he saw the body of the flight’s captain inside the mortuary in Ahmedabad in a seated position with his hands still gripping the plane’s controls. The claims of Romin Vohra, a resident of Kheda district, have surfaced amid continuing discussions over the circumstances leading to the crash.

An official of a US-based firm, claiming to be representing families of more than 100 victims, said the crash must be examined by “truly independent experts” before blaming a “single person” for the tragedy.

The London-bound Air India flight AI-171 that crashed moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on June 12 was operated by pilot-in-command Captain Sumeet Sabharwal and co-pilot Captain Clive Kunder.

Speaking to PTI over the phone on Tuesday, Vohra, a lab technician said, “My brother, his daughter and my aunt died in the crash. I had gone to identify them a day after the crash. Since I am from the medical field and have some contacts, I got permission to go inside the mortuary,” he said. Vohra said Captain Sabharwal’s body was kept separately from others on one side of a table. “At that time, the body was stiff and in a sitting position, as if he was still on his seat,” he claimed. “His hands were holding the steering (control yoke or column). His legs were bent the way a seated person’s legs remain bent, while his arms were stretched forward,” Vohra



A Kheda resident who lost three family members in the crash has made the claim

added. “I recognized him from the uniform,” he said, adding, “Being from the medical field, we can identify bodies from height, weight and physical structure. Later, when I saw photographs of Captain Sabharwal, I became sure that the body I saw was indeed his.”

Meanwhile, US-based legal firm Chionuma Law, which claimed to represent families of 115 victims, called for an independent investigation. “The reported account that Captain Sumeet Sabharwal was found in a seated position, still gripping the yoke, raises serious questions that cannot be ignored,” Ayush Rajpal, case manager at the firm, said in a statement.

“Every technical, mechanical, electrical and human factor” connected to the crash must be examined by “truly independent experts” before blaming a “single person” for the tragedy, Rajpal said. “The families deserve the truth, not a quick conclusion that protects powerful companies or institutions,” the statement said. **en**

**DREAMLINER
NIGHTMARE**

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

21 MAY 2026

Southwest Airlines opens first GIC outside US in Hyderabad

Swati.Bharadwaj
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Hyderabad: American carrier Southwest Airlines on Wednesday opened its first global innovation centre outside the United States in Hyderabad, marking a major expansion of its business and technology operations into India.

The new facility, spread over 20,000 sq ft with a capacity to accommodate 200 techies, is planned to be scaled up to 1,000 engineers and tech professionals over the next few years.

The GCC, to be operated through the carrier's wholly owned subsidiary, Southwest Airlines India Private Limited, will support engineering, analytics, enterprise technology, cybersecurity, digital



MAJOR EXPANSION

platforms and next-generation product development.

Southwest said the Hyderabad facility will integrate with its global network and help build capabilities in artificial intelligence, data science, digital engineering and business operations and is part of the carrier's broader innovation roadmap aimed at improving secure, reliable and efficient airline operations.

Inaugurating the facility, IT minister Sridhar Babu said

Southwest's decision to set up its GIC here reflects Hyderabad's strategic importance in shaping the future of global mobility, aviation engineering, aerospace and next-gen technology innovation.

"More than 25 years ago, Hyderabad laid the foundation for India's modern aviation ecosystem with one of the country's first private airport initiatives under the PPP model. Since then, the city has evolved into one of India's leading aviation, aerospace and space-tech hubs. Alongside prestigious institutions such as DRDO, RCI and DMRL, Hyderabad is steadily emerging as a strategic centre where aviation, space-tech, defence and deep-tech are converging at scale," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

AI plane lands safely after fire in engine

New Delhi: Pilots operating Air India's Bengaluru-Delhi flight on Thursday night declared a full emergency after getting engine fire warning in the flight deck. The aircraft landed safely at IGI Airport's runway 29R at 9.30 pm, where operations were suspended for a while.

"Pilots got engine fire warning just before landing. The same was extinguished after landing," say sources. The aircraft, Airbus A321 (VT-CIO), was towed from the runway and passengers were disembarked. All the about 180 people on board are learnt to be safe. A DGCA team has begun its probe.

In a statement, AI said: "During the aircraft's final approach into Delhi, the cockpit crew received a fire indication from one of the engines. The indication was subsequently confirmed as true. The crew followed all standard operating procedures and landed the aircraft safely at Delhi airport." TNN

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

22 MAY 2026

L-G inaugurates helipad in Katra for Vaishno Devi, Shiv Khori pilgrims

JAMMU, MAY 21

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated a newly-constructed helipad in Katra to streamline helicopter services for pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi and Shiv Khori shrines.

The facility, built at a cost of around Rs 27 crore, will improve connectivity and provide major relief to devotees travelling to the twin shrines, officials said, adding that helicopter services from Katra to Shiv Khori will commence soon.

Addressing reporters after inaugurating the helipad at Katra, Sinha said the Mata Vaishno Devi Board and the Shiv Khori Board — both civil authorities — have jointly developed the facility.

"It is a very modern heliport, designed keeping in view passenger facilities and with full emphasis on safety," he said.



Helicopters at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Helipad at Hutt village, Katra. ANI

The L-G said the heliport has been constructed in accordance with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) norms.

"From here, devotees visiting Shiv Khori can also travel by helicopter for darshan. As demand for helicopter services was increasing, especially among Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims, we decided to

construct a modern and highly-safe helipad as per the DGCA norms," he said.

Sinha expressed hope that improved facilities would benefit devotees at both shrines and boost religious tourism in the region.

Katra already has two helipads at Katra city and Sanjichat to ferry pilgrims visiting the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi. — PTI