■ To open Oct. 30; foreign airlines in talks for flight services

Noida airport to begin ops after Diwali, says minister

Noida, Sept. 21: The Noida International Airport (NIA), being developed as a greenfield aviation hub in Jewar, Gautam Buddh Nagar, is on track to begin operations by the end of this year.

Union civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu recently told reporters that the airport would be inaugurated on October 30 and flight operations would begin within the next 45 days with 10 routes.

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has also reiterated the airport's commercial flight operations to commence by the end of 2025.

Billed to be India's largest airport upon full development before 2050, the project, which started in 2019 and saw Covid-19 pandemic too, was initially scheduled to launch operations in September 2024.

The airport, which is being developed in four phases, has completed key aeronautical infrastructure for Phase 1, including one runway and one passenger terminal with an annual capacity to handle 12 million passengers.

Technical installations and finishing works inside the terminal are underway, while an extensive operational readiness and airport transfer (ORAT) programme is in progress.

"Phase 1 construction is progressing steadily, and the airport remains on schedule for commissioning this year. The validation flight was successfully completed in December 2024, confirming the readiness of our navigational aids, approach procedures, and ATC systems," NIA chief executive officer Christoph Schnellmann told a news agency.

The next major mile-

The under-construction runway at Noida International Airport in Uttar Pradesh.
— PTI

stone is the issuance of the aerodrome licence by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Upon obtaining regulatory clearance, flight operations will commence in close coordination with airlines and other stakeholders, ensuring a smooth and safe launch.

Notably, the airport's runway will be CAT III-compliant, enabling operations during low visibility conditions such as dense fog — an essential feature for North India's weather conditions.

The NIA has already announced IndiGo as its launch carrier, while Akasa Air will operate both domestic and international flights from the facility. Talks are going on with several international carriers.

"Airlines from the Middle East and Southeast Asia have shown strong interest in operating from NIA. Route planning and slot allocation discussions are underway, and further announcements will be made closer to the start of operations," Mr Schnellmann said.

As part of its broader aviation ecosystem, NIA is also advancing in cargo and MRO infrastructure.

The cargo terminal, developed in partnership with Air India SATS, is nearing completion and will begin its own ORAT programme soon.

The hub will serve as a multi-modal cargo hub (MMCH), strategically located to cater to major industrial and commercial centres in northern India.

Additionally, the airport has invited expressions of interest for a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility and has received "very strong interest," the CEO said. — PTI

डिजिटल व पेपरलेस होगा नोएडा एयरपोर्ट

पीयूष गौतम

ग्रेटर नोएडा। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा पूरी तरह डिजिटल और पेपरलेस होगा। यात्रियों को चेक-इन से लेकर सुरक्षा जाँच और बोर्डिंग तक सबकुछ संपर्क रहित व बिना कागजी कार्रवाई के मिलने जा रहा है। इसके लिए एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन डिजी यात्रा सिस्टम लागू कर रहा है। इस सिस्टम से चेहरे की पहचान और बायोमैट्रिक डेटा के जरिए यात्रियों को सुविधा प्रदान की जाएगी।

इस परियोजना के लिए विप्रो और आईकैड होल्डिंग कंपनी सिस्टम इंटीग्रेटर के रूप में काम कर रही हैं। एयरपोर्ट में फेस स्कैनिंग, ऑटोमेटेड बैग-ड्रॉप और रियल-टाइम डेटा ट्रैकिंग जैसी उन्नत तकनीकें इस्तेमाल होंगी। इस डिजिटल क्रांति के साथ यात्रियों का अनुभव और भी तेज,

सुरक्षित और सुगम होगा। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट केवल यात्रा को आसान बनाने तक सीमित नहीं रहेगा, इसका लक्ष्य कार्गो संचालन से लेकर एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन तक सब कुछ स्मार्ट बनाने का है। इसके शुरू होने के बाद भारत दुनिया के उन गिने चुने देशों में शामिल होगा,

जिनके पास डिजिटल एयरपोर्ट की सुविधा है।

कतार में खड़े होकर नहीं करना पड़ेगा इंतजार : सफर करने के लिए यात्रियों को हर काम के लिए एयरपोर्ट पर कतार में खड़े होकर इंतजार नहीं करना पड़ेगा। डिजीयात्रा सिस्टम लागू होने के बाद केवल चेहरे की पहचान से प्रवेश और बोर्डिंग संभव होगी।

बोर्डिंग पास और पहचान पत्र बार-बार दिखाने की जरूरत नहीं होगी। यात्री केवल चेहरे की पहचान से सभी गेट पार कर सकेंगे। यात्रियों को सुविधा मिलेगी।

आज से सीआईएसएफ संभालेगी नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा की कमान

ग्रेटर नोएडा। नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे की सुरक्षा आज से केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (सीआईएसएफ) के हाथ में आ जाएगी। सोमवार को एयरपोर्ट पर आयोजित इंडेक्शन प्रोग्राम में यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्रा. लि. (यापल) जिला प्रशासन की मौजूदगी में सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी सौंपेगी। सीआईएसएफ के 1030 जवान हवाईअड्डे की सुरक्षा में तैनात रहेंगे।

हवाई अड्डे की सुरक्षा की

1030 जवान हवाईअड्डे की सुरक्षा में तैनात रहेंगे

जिम्मेदारी लेने के दौरान इंडक्शन कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया जाएगा। यमुना एक्सप्रेस-वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण और यापल के सीईओ राकेश सिंह, जिलाधिकारी मेधा रूपम व सीआईएसएफ के महानिदेशक राजविंदर सिंह भट्टी की मौजूदगी रहेगी। पहले चरण का निर्माण पूरा होने के बाद 30 अक्तूबर को उद्घाटन होना है।

Europe cyberattack: Flight operations hit for second day

Fallout from a cyberattack that affected check-in systems at several European airports extended into a second full day on Sunday, as passengers faced dozens of cancelled and delayed flights and airport teams scrambled to limit the damage to travel plans. Starting late Friday, major airports in Brussels, London and Berlin were hit by disruptions to electronic systems that snarled up check-in and sent airline staffers trying options like handwriting boarding passes or using backup laptops. Many other European airports were unaffected. It was not immediately clear who might be behind the cyberattack, but experts said it could turn out to be hackers, criminal organisations, or state actors. The cyberattack affected the software of Collins Aerospace, whose systems help passengers check in, print boarding passes and bag tags, and dispatch their luggage. The US-based company on Saturday cited a "cyber-related disruption" to its software at "select" airports in Europe. While departure boards for London's Heathrow and Berlin's Brandenburg airports were showing signs of smoother arrivals and departures on Sunday, Brussels Airport was still facing considerable issues. Ihsane Chioua Lekhli, a spokesperson for Brussels Airport, said 45 outbound and 30 inbound flights were cancelled on Sunday, more than double the number a day earlier: 25 departures and 13 arrivals cancelled. **AP/PTI**

'Name Navi Mumbai airport after DB Patil by Sept 29 or face protests'

Action committee meets in Vashi, promises to launch major agitation in the region if CM doesn't give a confirmation

G Mohiuddin Jeddy

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NAVI MUMBAI: With the inauguration of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) expected on September 30, the long-simmering dispute over its name is erupting into a full-blown crisis. The conflict has escalated to the Bombay high court and prompted an ultimatum from local leaders: if the airport is not officially named after Dinkar Balu Patil by September 29, the region will witness intense protests.

The Loknete D B Patil Navi Mumbai International Airport All-Party Action Committee, which is spearheading the

An all party action committee declared that they would not let a single flight take off until DB Patil's name is on the airport. HT

demand, met in Vashi on Saturday. While it was resolved to seek an urgent meeting with CM Devendra Fadnavis, the local 'bhumiputras'—the original inhabitants of the land—were firm that an immediate resolution was expected.

"We don't want just assurances and talk," warned Bhiwandi MP Suresh Mhatre. "If the CM doesn't give a confirmation, we will launch a major agitation." BJP leader Kapil Patil specified that the PAPs wanted the name confirmed "before the first flight takes off", regardless of whether the latter happened on September 30 or later.

D B Patil, a veteran leader of project-affected people (PAPs), is revered for the relentless struggle he put up for fair compensation for lands acquired for Navi Mumbai's development. His efforts led to the landmark 12.5% developed land scheme for PAPs.

The three-year-old conflict recently escalated on both legal and political fronts. The Prakashjhot Samajik Sanstha has filed a PIL in the Bombay high court, challenging what it terms the union government's "prolonged inaction". Its president Vikas Patil pointed out that this inactivity, despite a unanimous resolution by the Maharashtra state legislature, was disrespectful of public sentiment.

The political volatility was on full display this week after Bhiwandi MP Mhatre raised the issue in Parliament and followed it up with a massive vehicle rally last Sunday. "This is not a stunt; it is a fight for the honour of the bhumiputras," he declared. "If they mis-

take our patience for weakness, they will see our resolve. We will not allow a single flight to take off until D B Patil's name is on the airport."

The BJP's Panvel MLA Prashant Thakur sought to reassure the protestors, confirming that a delegation would soon travel to Delhi, but also remarked snidely that those conducting rallies now for Patil had proposed Bal Thackeray's name for the airport. He was alluding to the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government's proposal, a move that was reversed by the first Mahayuti government which passed a resolution for D B Patil's name in its first cabinet meeting.

"For us, this is an emotional issue," said Bhushan Patil, a senior PAP leader. "D B Patil is not just a leader; he is the architect of our rights. To name this airport after him is the least the country can do to acknowledge our sacrifice."

Europe airports race to fix glitch after cyberattack

Heathrow, Berlin, Brussels still face delays, cancellations, officials say

REUTERS
BERLIN, SEPTEMBER 21

SOME OF Europe's biggest airports, including the region's busiest, London's Heathrow, raced to restore normal operations on Sunday after hackers disrupted automatic check-in systems.

Hackers on Saturday targeted check-in and boarding systems provider Collins Aerospace, owned by RTX, disrupting operations at Heathrow, Berlin Airport and in Brussels, where passengers faced long queues, cancellations and delays.

Disruption had eased significantly by early Sunday despite some continuing delays, according to airport officials and data, while regulators said they were investigating the source of the cyberattack. Brussels Airport said that 45 out of 257 scheduled departing flights on Sunday were cancelled but operational adjustments had kept waiting times down. "There are delays between 30 and 90 minutes," a spokesperson for the airport said, adding it was not clear yet how much longer disruptions would last.

A passenger flying from Brussels said disruption had been minimal. "For me, it was business as usual. For those poor souls who didn't do online check-in or have bags to check, they may be waiting a bit," he said. The disruption is the latest in a string of hacks to hit sectors from healthcare to autos.

RTX called the incident a "cyber-related disruption" and said it had impacted its MUSE software, which is used by several airlines. RTX was not immediately available for comment on Sunday. Berlin Brandenburg Airport said on Sunday problems persisted but that it was working with the company to resolve the issue. A manual workaround was in place and there were currently no major delays or cancellations, it added.

Heathrow said early on Sunday work was continuing to recover from the check-in system outage. It added that "the vast majority of flights have continued to operate".

An analysis by aviation data provider Cirium said delays at Heathrow were "low", Berlin had "moderate" delays, while Brussels had "significant" delays, but were decreasing.

AIRPORT SET TO BOOST TOURISM, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT

Noida Airport to begin operations after Diwali

DIPIKA KIROLA

NOIDA: The long-awaited Noida International Airport at Jewar is set to become operational after Diwali, offering a festive season boost to travellers in the National Capital Region (NCR). The airport will be formally inaugurated on October 30, with commercial flight services expected to begin soon after, marking a major step in improving air connectivity in the region.

Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu confirmed that the airport would open by the end of October, with flights commencing within 45 days of the ceremony. UP CM Yogi Adityanath also assured that commercial services would start before the year's end. The airport is being developed in four phases. The first phase, comprising a single runway and a passenger terminal with an annual capacity of 12 million passengers, has been completed. Final works, technical installations, and deep cleaning are underway. An extensive Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) programme is also being conducted to ensure smooth functioning once flights begin.

Officials said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) would issue the aerodrome licence once construction and readiness checks are completed, paving the way for commercial services.

The runway, designed to CAT-III standards, will enable safe operations even in dense fog and low visibility, a key advantage for travellers in North India. IndiGo has been confirmed as the launch carrier, while Akasa Air has announced plans to operate both domestic and international flights. Talks with several global airlines are also in progress.

Originally slated to open in September 2024, the project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By 2050, the airport is planned to feature six runways, making it India's largest aviation hub and enhancing both passenger and cargo operations. Once fully functional, the airport is expected to boost tourism, trade, and investment in Uttar Pradesh.

1st Phase Completed

» The airport is being developed in four phases. The first phase, comprising a single runway and a passenger terminal with an annual capacity of 12 million passengers, has been completed

» Final works, technical installations, and deep cleaning are underway

» An ORAT programme is also being conducted for smooth functioning

» Officials said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation would issue the aerodrome licence once construction and readiness checks are completed, paving the way for commercial services

» The runway, designed to CAT-III standards, will enable safe ops even in dense fog and low visibility, a key advantage for travellers in North India

» IndiGo has been confirmed as the launch carrier; Akasa to follow

No adverse impact on Indian airports on cyberattack issues: Government official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Indian airports have not faced any adverse impact so far in relation to the cyber attack on systems used at various European airports, a senior Government official said on Saturday.

London Heathrow, Berlin and some other airports in Europe are grappling with operational disruptions due to the cyber attack incident at systems of Collins Aerospace that are used at the airports.

Following the cyber attack issue at various European airports, authorities took an update about the operations at Indian airports, the Government official said.

There has been no adverse impact on Indian airports till now in relation to the European cyber security incident. According to the official, Collins MUSE application is mainly used in European countries and only some European airports have been impacted so far.

There has been no official comments from airport operators in India against the backdrop of the issues being faced by European airports.

"A third-party passenger system disruption at Heathrow may cause delays in the check-in process. Our ground teams in London are working to minimise inconvenience," Air India said in a post on X late afternoon on Saturday.

Passengers flying with Air India from London today (Saturday) are advised to complete their web check-in before arriving at the airport to help ensure a smooth experience, the airline said. As per a BBC report, several European airports have been hit by a cyber-attack affecting an electronic check-in and baggage system.

दिवाली के बाद नोएडा हवाई अड्डे का परिचालन शुरू होने की उम्मीद

नोएडा, (पंजाब केसरी): गौतमबुद्ध नगर के जेवर में एक नये विमानन केंद्र के रूप में विकसित हो रहे नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनआईए) का परिचालन इस साल के अंत तक शुरू हो सकता है। केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू ने हाल ही में संवाददाताओं को बताया कि हवाई अड्डे का उद्घाटन 30 अक्टूबर को होगा और अगले 45 दिन के भीतर 10 मार्गों पर उड़ानें शुरू हो जाएंगी। उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने भी दोहराया है कि हवाई अड्डे से वाणिज्यिक उड़ानें 2025 के अंत तक शुरू हो जाएंगी। वर्ष 2050 से पहले पूरी तरह विकसित होने के बाद यह भारत का सबसे बड़ा हवाई अड्डा बन सकता है। यह परियोजना पहले सितंबर, 2024 में चालू होने वाली थी। हालांकि, कोविड-19 महामारी के चलते इसमें देरी हुई। चार चरणों में विकसित किए जा रहे इस हवाई अड्डे के पहले चरण की मुख्य विमानन अवसंरचना तैयार हो चुकी है। इसमें एक रनवे और एक यात्री टर्मिनल शामिल है, जिसकी वार्षिक क्षमता 1.2 करोड़ यात्रियों को संभालने की है। एनआईए के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमैन ने पीटीआई-भाषा को बताया, ''चरण एक का निर्माण कार्य तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है, और हवाई अड्डा इस साल चालू होने की राह पर है। सत्यापन उड़ान दिसंबर, 2024 में सफलतापूर्वक पूरी हुई।''

यूरोप के कई हवाई अड्डों पर बड़ा साइबर हमला

लंदन। यूरोप के कई बड़े हवाई अड्डों पर चेक-इन और बोर्डिंग सिस्टम को निशाना बनाते हुए साइबर हमले किए गए। इन हमलों के कारण शनिवार को सैकड़ों उड़ानों में देरी हुई, जिससे यात्रियों को भारी असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ा। इस तकनीकी समस्या के चलते यूरोप के प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर कड़ी सुरक्षा व्यवस्था लागू की गई। कई हवाई अड्डों पर

■ **चेक-इन सिस्टम ठप, उड़ानों में भी देरी**

मैनुअल प्रक्रिया अपनाकर ही उड़ानों का संचालन जारी रखा गया। बुसेल्स एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन ने बताया कि शुक्रवार रात को उनके चेक-इन और बोर्डिंग सिस्टम के सेवा प्रदाता पर साइबर हमला हुआ।

जिससे तकनीकी व्यवस्था बाधित हो गई। इस वजह से एयरपोर्ट पर मैनुअल चेक-इन और बोर्डिंग प्रक्रिया कराई गई। इसके चलते उड़ानों के समय में गड़बड़ी और देरी हुई। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने यात्रियों से धैर्य रखने और उड़ानों की स्थिति की

निरंतर जांच करने की अपील की है। जर्मनी के ब्रांडेनबर्ग एयरपोर्ट ने भी पुष्टि की है कि उनके सेवा प्रदाता के सिस्टम पर साइबर हमला हुआ है। इसके बाद सुरक्षा के मद्देनजर हवाई अड्डा प्रशासन ने अपने नेटवर्क कनेक्शन को अस्थायी रूप से काट दिया। वहीं लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे ने भी तकनीकी समस्या की बात

कही है। हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट के अनुसार, कॉलिन्स एयरोस्पेस कंपनी जो कई एयरलाइनों को चेक-इन और बोर्डिंग सिस्टम मुहैया कराती है। तकनीकी दिक्कतों का सामना कर रही है। इसके कारण उड़ानों में देरी हो रही है। सभी हवाई अड्डों ने यात्रियों से अनुरोध किया है कि वे अपनी उड़ानों का स्टेटस समय-समय पर

ऑनलाइन जांचते रहें और आवश्यकतानुसार फ्लाइट के समय को ध्यान में रखकर यात्रा की योजना बनाएं। साथ ही हवाई अड्डा प्रबंधन ने यात्रियों को हुई असुविधा के लिए खेद जताया है और समस्या के समाधान के लिए काम जारी रखने का आश्वासन दिया। साइबर हमलों के कारण प्रभावित हवाई अड्डों ने

अपने सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल को सख्त कर दिया है। कई जगह पर सिस्टम को अस्थायी रूप से ऑफलाइन कर दिया गया है। ताकि आगे के हमलों को रोका जा सके। विशेषज्ञ इस मामले की गंभीरता को लेकर अलर्ट मोड में हैं और सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए अतिरिक्त कदम उठा रहे हैं।

Cyberattack hits European airport check-ins

AGENCIES
Brussels, 20 September

A cyberattack targeting check-in and boarding systems disrupted air traffic and caused delays at several of Europe's major airports on Saturday, officials said, though the initial impact appeared to be limited.

The disruptions to electronic systems initially reported at Brussels, Berlin's Brandenburg and London's Heathrow airports meant that only manual check-in and boarding was possible.

Many other European airports said their operations were unaffected.

"There was a cyberattack on Friday night 19 September against the service provider

People at BER airport as a cyber attack has caused delays, in Berlin, Germany, on Saturday. AGENCIES

for the check-in and boarding systems affecting several European airports including Brussels Airport," said Brussels Airport in a statement, initially reporting a "large impact" on flight schedules.

Airports said the issue centred around a provider of check-in and boarding systems ~ not airlines or the airports themselves.

Collins Aerospace, whose systems help passengers check themselves in, print boarding passes and bag tags and

A CYBERATTACK ON COLLINS AEROSPACE'S CHECK-IN AND BOARDING SYSTEMS DISRUPTED OPERATIONS AT MAJOR EUROPEAN AIRPORTS, INCLUDING BRUSSELS, BERLIN AND LONDON HEATHROW, FORCING MANUAL PROCESSING AND CAUSING DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS. OFFICIALS SAID THE IMPACT APPEARED LIMITED AS THE DAY PROGRESSED, WITH BRUSSELS REPORTING NINE CANCELLATIONS AND SEVERAL DELAYS, WHILE HEATHROW DESCRIBED THE DISRUPTION AS MINIMAL.

dispatch their luggage from a kiosk, cited a "cyber-related disruption" to its MUSE (Multi-User System Environment) software at "select airports."

As the day wore on, the fallout appeared to be contained.

Brussels Airport spokesperson Ihsane Chioua Lekhli told broadcaster VTM that by mid-morning, nine flights had been canceled, four were

redirected to another airport and 15 faced delays of an hour or more. She said it wasn't immediately clear how long the disruptions might last.

Axel Schmidt, head of communications at the Brandenburg airport, said that by late morning, "we don't have any flights canceled due to this specific reason, but that could change." The Berlin airport said operators

had cut off connections to affected systems.

Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, said the disruption has been "minimal" with no flight cancellations directly linked to the problems afflicting Collins.

A spokesperson would not provide details as to how many flights have been delayed as a result of the cyberattack.

The airports advised travelers to check their flight status and apologised for any inconvenience.

Collins, an aviation and defence technology company that is a subsidiary of RTX Corporation, formerly Raytheon Technologies, said it was "actively working to resolve the issue and restore full functionality to our customers as quickly as possible."

Air train not in sight, T2-T3 link to aid in smooth transfer

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New Delhi: Passengers transiting between T3 and the adjacent T2 terminal of Delhi Airport may soon not have to step out of the terminals for connecting flights.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) is examining the feasibility of linking T2 with T3, people in the know said.

With the hugely delayed air train at the country's busiest airport still some years away, intra-terminal transfers have become a painful reality for passengers.

Transfers at IGIA will grow this winter as DIAL is converting one of the two domestic piers at T3 to international, taking the count of piers handling flights to and from foreign countries to three.

So, domestic flights being operated at the under-conversion pier will be shifted to T2 when operations resume there at the start of the winter schedule on Oct 26. Some domestic flights will go to T1.

As a result, Tata Group's Air India and Air India Express — which currently operate all their international and domestic flights from T3 — will see some of their domestic flights being shifted. While full-service AI will have some domestic flights shifted to T2, AI Express will see its domestic flights move to T1. IndiGo has a large number of domestic flights from T1.

DIAL recently said, "Air India and IndiGo (will) operate 120 domestic flights daily from the upgraded T2 from Oct 26."

IndiGo had assigned a different flight number series starting with 2 — 6E 2000-6E 2999 — to mark which flights operate to and from IGIA T2.

Air India, which will for the first time

Transfers at IGIA will grow this winter as DIAL is converting one of the two domestic piers at T3 to international, taking the count of piers handling flights to and from foreign countries to three

see multi-terminal operations at IGIA, will also do something similar.

However, the big worry for all airlines is passengers turning up at the wrong terminal and then have to trudge with their baggage from one terminal to another. T1 is about 7 km away from T2/3.

DIAL, which has been planning the air train for over seven years now, has tried to smoothen things by increasing the frequency of buses between the terminals.

However, that remains a subpar experience for flyers at IGIA, now among the world's 10 busiest airports.

While the three terminals and four runways can handle 10 crore passengers annually, it does so without any automated people mover among its terminals.

To smoothen things a bit, DIAL plans to have domestic flights of AI and IndiGo at T2 that support their international transfers.

Additionally, DIAL engineering is exploring the possibility of linking T2 and T3, multiple sources said.

One international pier of T3 is the closest to T2. The open area between these two terminals houses, among other things, a parking lot.

A wide overbridge between the two is a possibility as an underground tunnel already exists below the parking lot.

A day after cyberattack, European airports struggle to fix check-in glitch

Brussels/Berlin: Some of Europe's biggest airports battled to restore normal operations on Sunday after hackers disrupted automatic check-in systems, with Brussels asking airlines to cancel half of Monday's flight departures due to persistent problems.

Hackers on Friday targeted check-in and boarding systems provider Collins Aerospace, owned by RTX, disrupting operations at London's Heathrow — Europe's busiest airport, Berlin Airport and in Brussels. Passengers faced long queues, cancellations and delays on Saturday.

While the disruption eased significantly in Berlin and Heathrow on Sunday, according to airport officials and data, delays and flight cancellations were continuing.

A spokesperson for Brussels Airport said Collins Aerospace had not yet delivered a secure, updated version of the software necessary to restore full functionality, prompting the airport to seek the flight cancellations on Monday.

Brussels Airport said 50 of

Brussels Airport said 50 of Sunday's 257 scheduled departures had been cancelled to avoid long queues and last-minute cancellations

Sunday's 257 scheduled departures had been cancelled to avoid long queues and last-minute cancellations. A day earlier, 25 of the planned 234 outgoing flights were cancelled, the airport operator said.

RTX, which was not immediately available for comment on Sunday, said on Saturday it was working to fix the issue as quickly as possible, and that the disruption could be mitigated with manual check-in operations. It said the incident had impacted its MUSE software, which is used by several airlines. One passenger flying from Brussels said the disruption to his journey had been minimal. "For me, it was business as usual. For those poor souls who didn't do online check-in or have bags to check, they may be waiting a bit," he said.

Berlin Brandenburg Airport said on Sunday some problems persisted but that a manual workaround was in place. "Occasionally, there are longer waiting times at check-in, boarding, baggage handling and baggage reclaim. Delays to departing flights today are in line with a normal operating day," it said. Heathrow said early on Sunday that work was continuing to recover from the check-in system outage. It added that "the vast majority of flights have continued to operate". An analysis by aviation data provider Cirium said that the delays at Heathrow were "low", Berlin had "moderate" delays, while Brussels had "significant" delays. Regional regulators said they were investigating the source of the hacking. REUTERS

Employees, students queue up at airport

Nithya.Mandyam
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Bengaluru: Chaos erupted across India as H-1B visa holders scrambled to return to the US after a sudden Trump administration order set a 28-hour deadline for their arrival. Those attending family functions, weddings or personal trips rushed to book flights before the 12.01am, Sept 21 cutoff, fearing deportation or fines.

Shravya Jayaprakash of Whitefield, who was visiting relatives, said, "Even if I manage to book a flight now, there's no guarantee I'll reach in time. What if it's delayed? I feel like my whole future is on hold."

Others voiced similar fears. Priya (name changed) from Whitefield, who was in Chennai attending her sister's wedding, said, "I have been looking forward to this wedding for months, and after spending a beautiful time now in India, it feels like a nightmare. I'm watching flight tickets vanish in front of my eyes, and my anxiety is through the roof."

At Kempegowda Interna-

Pic for representation

AGENTS OVERWHELMED WITH INNUMERABLE CALLS FOR FLIGHTS

Bengaluru: Travel agencies are receiving an unprecedented number of calls from students and professionals desperate to book the earliest possible flights. "They are calling non-stop, asking for any available seat, but most flights are either full or facing delays," said a travel agency official.

Economy tickets are now quoted at Rs 2.7 lakh and Rs 3.5 lakh, reflecting the extraordinary demand, while it would normally cost Rs 70,000 to Rs 85,000 during this period.

Travel agents confirmed the surge in demand has strained booking systems and availability. "We are seeing calls come in every few seconds. People are desperate, and there is a lot of stress and confusion," said another agency official. TNN

tional Airport, families are queued at ticket counters. "I've been calling travel agents non-stop for the past six hours," said Arjun Varma, a software engineer. "All seats are gone or cost a fortune. It feels like the world has turned upside down. It is costing me Rs 2.7 lakh for an economy ticket and I will reach only at 2pm on Sept 21, so I don't even know what I am going to do…" he said, panicking.

For Suresh (name changed), the timing was devastating. He flew to India two weeks ago with his daughter to commemorate his father's first death anniversary, leaving his wife and toddler in the US. "I am not booking flights in a hurry. I'd rather stay here than risk being deported with my daughter. This is traumatising enough without adding the stress of travel."

Corporate employees expressed concerns. "My manager sent me an urgent note: get on a flight immediately or face the new $100,000 visa fee," said a data analyst from Bengaluru. "I feel trapped. How do you pack your life in less than 28 hours?"

विमान में घुस गया चूहा तीन घंटे बाद भरी उड़ान

कानपुर। चकेरी एयरपोर्ट पर दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरने को तैयार विमान के केबिन में चूहा घुस गया। जिस कारण जहाज तीन घंटे बाद उड़ान भर सका। जहाज में बैठे सभी यात्रियों को उतारकर एयरपोर्ट लाउंज में भेजा गया। चूहा खोजने के लिए यात्रियों का सामान भी उतार दिया गया। देरी के कारण कई यात्रियों ने अमौसी एयरपोर्ट से दूसरी फ्लाइट पकड़ी। संवाद

Airlines brace for rise in US bookings as visiting Indians on H-1B rush to beat Sunday deadline

Aneesh Phadnis
TE Raja Simhan
Mumbai/Chennai

Airlines could see further pressure on loads and yields on US routes with the Trump administration increasing the H-1B visa fees.

Many American companies like Microsoft and Amazon have issued advisories asking their employees outside the US to return before the Sunday deadline. This has set off demand for airline tickets.

"There has been a notable increase in last-minute bookings to the US since this morning. This increase in bookings for same-day or next-day travel is atypical for a long-haul segment," a MakeMyTrip spokesperson said. A travel agent from Chennai said that he had received nine enquiries since this morning for tickets to travel to the US immediately.

MAJOR SECTOR

Over seven million passengers flew between India and the US (two way) in FY25. A majority of them flew one stop via a West Asian or European hub.

Air India is the largest carrier on the India-US market, followed by Emirates and Qatar Airways. Air India's business has been impacted more than others with the closure of Pakistan airspace that requires its aircraft to take longer routes.

SOFTENING DEMAND

Among the US carriers, United and American Airlines operate daily flights to Delhi.

According to aviation industry sources, airlines have seen softening of demand on the India-US routes for the past several months due to tightening of visa norms by the Trump administration. "Indian tourist arrivals into the US have been impacted this year. Student movement into the US and Canada, too, has been lower. The H-1B visa fee will depress the demand further," an aviation industry source said.

An executive of a West Asian airline said there will definitely be an impact on business on the India-US routes, but its vast global network will allow it to tap demand for other markets.

Indian tourist arrivals in the US during the first three months of Calendar Year 2025 were flat. March saw a decline 3.6 per cent and June saw an even bigger decline of 8 per cent.

ROUTE SLUMP. Airlines reported higher queries to the US as employees are heading back

FLIGHT | PLAN **Indians stranded at airports said they were unable to book tickets at high prices**

Airfares to US soar as Indians rush back

**DEEPIKA PASHAM and
SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC**
HYDERABAD SEPT. 20

US President Donald Trump's decision to raise the H-1B visa fee to $100,000, with a short implementation deadline of September 21, has triggered a sharp spike in airfares from India to the United States, as affected tech workers scrambled to return before the new fee came into force. The average fare from Delhi to the US, which typically ranged between ₹50,000 and ₹60,000, jumped to as high as ₹90,000, and in some cases even ₹1.09 lakh.

Several Indians stranded at airports across states said they were unable to book tickets despite being willing to pay more than ₹1 lakh.

On booking websites, tickets initially displayed at around ₹50,000 eventually showed final charges of nearly ₹1,09,200 at checkout.

A travel agent told *Deccan Chronicle* that airlines operating direct flights to the US had hiked fares by 40 to 50 per cent, citing the demand for faster connections.

● **ON BOOKING WEBSITES,** tickets initially displayed at around ₹50,000 eventually showed final charges of nearly ₹1,09,200 at checkout. A travel agent told *Deccan Chronicle* that airlines operating direct flights to the US had hiked fares by 40 to 50 per cent, citing the demand for faster connections.

A source in a Gulf-based airline said most carriers had raised fares only marginally, about 5 to 10 per cent, but their services involved stopovers at Gulf hubs, making the journey longer.

Even so, some passengers opted for these flights as immigration checks could be completed at hubs such as Oman, easing entry into the US.

In contrast, travel from the US to India appeared cheaper. Booking websites showed a return fare of about ₹36,000 for September 21. Visa holders of all categories, however, have been cautioned against travelling back to India in view of the new rules.

Karthik, an Indian resident in the US, said, "We are ten individuals—some students, others working. Many of us had planned to visit India for Dussehra. But over the last two days, after hearing about the H-1B visa decision, we cancelled our plans."

चूहे ने रोकी उड़ान, तीन घंटे खड़ा रहा इंडिगो विमान

जागरण संवाददाता, कानपुर: चकेरी हवाई अड्डे पर रविवार को दिल्ली आने वाला इंडिगो का विमान चूहे की वजह से तीन घंटे नौ मिनट की देरी से उड़ान भर सका। विमान को दोपहर 2:55 बजे जाना था, इससे पहले ही एक यात्री को चूहा दिख गया। इसके बाद केमिकल छिड़क चूहे को बेहोश कर पकड़ा गया। वायरिंग समेत अन्य सुरक्षा बंदोबस्त परखे गए। सब सुरक्षित मिलने पर यात्रियों को फिर से विमान में बैठाया गया। दिल्ली की उड़ान शाम को 6:04 बजे 111 यात्रियों को लेकर रवाना हो सकी। देर होने की वजह से 29 यात्रियों ने टिकट रीशेड्यूल कराए और हवाई अड्डे से लौट गए।

चकेरी हवाई अड्डे से दिल्ली के लिए इंडिगो एयरलाइंस का एक विमान उड़ान भरता है। यह रोजाना दोपहर 2:10 बजे दिल्ली से आता है और 2:55 बजे दिल्ली के लिए रवाना होता है। रविवार को भी विमान तय समय पर आया और

- दिल्ली आ रहे विमान में यात्री को चूहा दिखने पर हुई चेकिंग
- यात्रियों को उतारा और केमिकल छिड़ककर चूहे को पकड़ा गया

विमान में चूहा घुसने के कारण चकेरी हवाई अड्डे के रनवे पर खड़े विमान की जांच करने पहुंचा तकनीकी स्टाफ ● सौजन्य : यात्री

यात्री सवार हो गए। करीब 2:50 बजे एक यात्री ने विमान के अंदर चूहा घूमते देखा। क्रू मेंबरों ने यात्रियों को उतारकर विमान खाली कराया। इसके बाद चूहा पकड़ा गया। इंडिगो के तकनीकी स्टाफ और ग्राउंड क्रू ने मिलकर विमान की वायरिंग व अन्य तकनीकी जांच की। इसमें करीब ढाई घंटे का समय

लग गया। इसके बाद विमान दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भर सका।

इंडिगो के मैनेजर पंकज पांडेय ने बताया कि विमान आने के बाद रोजाना की तरह जांच और सफाई कराई गई थी, लेकिन चूहा नहीं दिखा। चूहा विमान में दिल्ली से आया या चकेरी हवाई अड्डे पर घुसा, यह स्पष्ट नहीं हो सका है।

AI plane returns to Heathrow from taxiway

A DELHI-BOUND Air India aircraft returned to the London Heathrow airport on Sunday when it was taxiing for takeoff as a passenger who was issued the boarding pass failed to board the plane. According to a source, the flight AI 162 was already delayed by around 45 minutes.

AGENCIES

Hindustan Times

{ R RAMANA } CEO, AISATS

Ground handling market leader calls for 'fair play'

NEW DELHI: India's ground-handling industry is expanding rapidly alongside soaring aviation demand, but policy clarity on competition remains pending. AISATS, which manages nearly 70% of flights at key hubs, is calling for regulations that reflect actual flight volumes rather than just passenger counts. At the same time, the company is making a major bet on the upcoming Noida International Airport, where it is developing a large cargo hub and logistics zone to serve the growing e-commerce, pharma, and perishables sectors.

AISATS CEO R Ramana, in conversation with **Neha LM Tripathi,** spoke about the evolving regulatory landscape, infrastructure push, and the company's growth plans. *Key excerpts:*

How has the growth been for the ground-handling industry in FY 25 compared to the previous year?

India's ground-handling services market was valued at $1.83 billion in 2024, and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 6.1% to reach $2.78 billion by 2031. Major hubs such as Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru are witnessing significant infrastructure upgrades to handle higher passenger and cargo volumes, further fuelling demand for quality ground-handling services... Overall, the industry is on a strong upward trajectory, with growth coming not just from volumes but also from rising benchmarks in service quality, technology integration, and sustainability.

How are you going to leverage this growth?

The ground handling industry is evolving along with the rise in the number of airports. Of course, there are some people exiting, some people entering,... that always happens, but I believe the government is regulating it to a certain extent, so that they can manage the quality... which is why the DGCA recently came up with new safety clearance [mechanism] to regulate the ground handlers. SATS is present in more than 215 airports globally across more than 27 countries. This allows us to leverage global best practices and bring them into India's fast-growing aviation sector.

Within the industry growth, how has been the performance of AISATS in terms of flights and cargo volume handled this year?

Currently, we are present in eight airports. We are also providing ground handling services at five airports.

Across its network, AISATS has experienced healthy, broad-based growth over the past few months. Improved passenger loads and aircraft rotations have lifted turns and tightened OTP targets, where our digital resource-allocation and baggage-tracking tools have helped... We're focused on quality and safety.

You said the government's regional connectivity scheme UDAN is opening up new Tier-II and Tier-III markets. Despite that, UDAN airports see limited interest from big players versus metro airports. What are the factors you see for this kind of response?

UDAN has unquestionably expanded India's map of connectivity, but tier-3 and 4 stations operate on very different economics. Load factors are volatile, belly cargo is limited, schedules can be seasonal, and the turnaround envelope is tight relative to the fixed cost of deploying certified manpower and equipment to smaller airfields.

[But] the direction of travel is positive and as more UDAN routes get operationalised, more airports come up on the grid, and as volumes deepen, you'll see greater private participation, provided policy continuity and predictable schedules continue.

We have seen the recent exit of a major player, Celebi. At the time of its exit, the Turkish firm had over 10,000 people on its payroll. How much of that has been absorbed by you?

Currently, we already handle more than 70% of the flights in most of the key airports we are present in. Per month, we are handling about 16,000 flights and the number of flights that we had to handle went above that because of Celebi's exit, which was handling 500-600 each month. In percentage points, this addition is hardly about 3%.

But, what is more important is how the industry stakeholders came together when this exit happened.

The transition was seamless. Be it competitors, airport operators or the government agencies that all came together overnight. Currently, we employ 17,000 staff pan India and about 1,000-1,200 of these was absorbed from Celebi.

विमान में नहीं चढ़ पाया यात्री, लौटी एअर इंडिया की उड़ान

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 21 सितंबर।

दिल्ली जाने वाला एअर इंडिया का एक विमान रविवार को 'टैक्सीवे' से लंदन हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे पर उस समय वापस लौट आया जब 'बोर्डिंग पास' जारी होने के बावजूद एक यात्री विमान में चढ़ने में विफल रहा। एक सूत्र के अनुसार, उड़ान संख्या एआइ 162, विमान के 'टैक्सीवे' पर जाने से पहले ही लगभग 45 मिनट विलंबित हो चुकी थी।

विमान जब 'टैक्सीवे' पर था, तो चालक दल को पता चला कि जिन यात्रियों को बोर्डिंग पास जारी किया गया था, उनमें से एक यात्री विमान में चढ़ा ही नहीं। एअर इंडिया के एक

> *एअर* इंडिया के एक प्रवक्ता ने कहा, सुरक्षा प्रोटोकाल के अनुसार, विमान यात्री का सामान उतारने के लिए वापस लौटा और बाद में देरी से रवाना हुआ।

प्रवक्ता ने बयान में कहा, 21 सितंबर, 2025 को लंदन (हीथ्रो) से दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरने वाली उड़ान एआइ-162 को एक यात्री के बोर्डिंग पास स्कैन होने और बोर्डिंग के लिए चिह्नित होने के बावजूद, विमान में चढ़ने में विफल रहने के कारण वापस लौटना पड़ा। यात्री द्वार पर अपना बोर्डिंग पास स्कैन करवाने के बाद गलती से प्रस्थान द्वार के बजाय आगमन क्षेत्र में चला गया था। उन्होंने कहा, मानक सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल के अनुसार, विमान यात्री का सामान उतारने के लिए वापस लौटा और बाद में देरी से रवाना हुआ। यात्री को हवाई अड्डे के सुरक्षा अधिकारियों ने पूछताछ के लिए हिरासत में ले लिया।

Airfares to US spike amid H-1B visa confusion

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Airfares and last-minute bookings from India to the US spiked this week amid confusion over who the new $100,000 fee on H-1B employment visas applies to.

US President Donald Trump announced that all H-1B visa applications will require the fee starting Sunday, 21 September. American companies such as Microsoft and immigration attorneys soon advised H-1B visa holders to return before midnight on 21 September or risk being stranded. That triggered a scramble for flights to the US among those visiting home at the beginning of the festive season.

There has been a spurt in last-minute bookings to the US since Saturday morning, said a spokesperson of MakeMyTrip, India's largest online travel aggregator. This increase in bookings for same-day or next-day travel is atypical for a long-haul segment, the company said, without disclosing the percentage increase.

Cleartrip saw a spike in fares. "There has been a noticeable increase in airfares from major Indian cities such as Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai to prominent US destinations like New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco," a spokesperson for Cleartrip, owned by Flipkart, told *Mint*. "Over the week, average ticket prices on these routes have risen about 8-15%, with Mumbai-San Francisco reflecting the most significant hike."

The spokesperson said Cleartrip is monitoring developments in the H-1B visa regulations for short- and long-term impact. "From a bookings point of view, we're seeing a substantial rise in demand for the US."

Late Saturday, US officials clarified the H-1B visa fee was one-time, not annual, and wasn't applicable to existing holders. But confusion persists.

This is already peak season for India-US flights, as students prepare to start the academic year in the US and people with families in India visit home for festivals.

Besides, those picked in this year's lottery system and granted a new H-1B visa are expected to start work from 1 October. These H-1B visa holders can enter the US up to 10 days before they start work (or by 21 September).

Soumya Gupta contributed to this story.

> **A MakeMyTrip spokesperson said there has been a notable rise in last-minute US bookings since Saturday morning**

On a wheel and a prayer: Afghan teen stowaway survives flight to Delhi

Globally, only one in five wheel well fliers survive

Survival for wheel well stowaways are exceptionally rare due to hypoxia (oxygen deprivation), hypothermia, frostbite, and mechanical hazards like being crushed by retracting gear or falling during landing. Globally, 1 in 5 of all attempts survive

The Airbus A340 that landed in New Delhi Sunday with a stowaway | KAM AIR

Only second such instance at Indian airports

Sunday's stowaway incident appears to be only the second recorded instance at an Indian airport. On October 14, 1996, brothers Pradeep Saini (22) and Vijay Saini (19) stowed away on a Boeing 747 flight of British Airways from Delhi to London. Randeep survived while Vijay was found dead when the flight reached Heathrow airport

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

IN a daring but reckless act, a 13-year-old boy from Afghanistan clandestinely stowed away on a flight to India on Sunday by hiding in the rear wheel well of an aircraft.

The teenager survived the 94-minute journey and 'landed' safely at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport in stable physical condition, four sources familiar with the incident told this newspaper.

The incident occurred on flight RQ4401, operated by Afghanistan's KAM Air.

According to flightradar24.com, the Airbus A340 departed Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul at 8:46 am IST and landed at Terminal 3 at 10:20 am. A security source said the boy clad in a kurta and pyjama, intended to sneak into Iran but boarded the wrong flight. The teenager admitted to tailgating passengers at Kabul airport to access the flight, then hid in the wheel well during boarding. "This raises serious concerns about the security screening processes at Kabul airport," the source noted.

The incident came to light when a ground handler at T3 taxiway spotted the boy walking in the restricted apron area, after the flight landed and passengers had disembarked. He alerted authorities.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

The Central Industrial Security Force took the boy into custody, and later handed him over to airport police. As a minor, the boy is immune from legal charges, a source confirmed.

An aviation expert described the act as perilous, noting that survival outside the aircraft during flight is nearly impossible, while a doctor stressed on the improbability of surviving such extreme conditions.

Aviation expert Captain Mohan Ranganathan explained how the boy could have survived: "After takeoff, the wheel bay door opens, the wheel retracts, and the door closes. He likely entered this enclosed space, which may have been pressurized, maintaining a temperature similar to the passenger cabin. He could have clung to internal structures to survive."

Without such conditions, survival at 30,000 feet, where temperatures plummet, would be impossible, he added.

Dr Ritin Mohindra, associate professor at PGIMER, Chandigarh, echoed this view, stating, "Above 10,000 feet, oxygen levels drop significantly, causing unconsciousness within minutes and death as the plane reaches cruising altitude. Temperatures between -40°C and -60°C would cause frostbite in under a minute and fatal hypothermia soon after."

AI plane returns to Heathrow from taxiway

Mumbai: A Delhi-bound Air India aircraft returned to London Heathrow airport on Sunday when it was taxiing for takeoff as a passenger who was issued the boarding pass failed to board the plane.

As the plane was taxiing, the crew came to know that one of the passengers who was issued the boarding pass did not board the aircraft. "The passenger had mistakenly proceeded to the arrivals area instead of the departure gate after having their boarding pass scanned at the gate," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement.

As per standard security protocols, the aircraft returned to offload the passenger's baggage and, subsequently, departed with a delay. The passenger was detained by the airport security officials for questioning. PTI