

AAI launches India's first indigenous friction testing machine at city airport

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
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The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has introduced the country's first indigenously developed friction testing machine or vehicle at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport in Kolkata.

This state-of-the-art equipment plays a crucial role in ensuring safe aircraft operations by conducting mandatory friction tests on runways as per Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regulations. The friction testing machine offers several advantages, enhancing runway safety and compliance with international aviation standards.

An official of the AAI said that the key benefits of the indigenous friction testing machine are meant to enhance runway safety. "The machine measures the friction levels on the runway during aircraft takeoff and landing, reducing



the risk of skidding and improving overall safety. As the DGCA mandated testing, so it ensures that the airport adheres to DGCA regulations, which require periodic friction tests for safe aircraft movement," said the officials. Another benefit is it is a boost to the 'Make in India' Initiative, the official said. "Developed under the 'Make in India' initiative, this innovation reduces dependence on imported equipment, making Indian airports more self-reliant. It also will provide

accurate and quick results. "Equipped with advanced technology, the machine provides precise data, enabling airport authorities to take timely corrective measures. At the same time, it will also provide an all-weather reliability. The system functions efficiently even in adverse weather conditions, such as heavy rain, ensuring accurate surface analysis of the runway.

With the machine, the airport can lower its maintenance cost. Since the machine is

indigenously manufactured, its maintenance and repair costs are significantly lower compared to foreign alternatives," said the official. With this launch, Kolkata airport became the first in the country to adopt a fully Indian-made friction testing vehicle, marking a milestone in India's aviation safety infrastructure. Ensuring safer skies with advanced technology, the introduction of this indigenous friction testing machine is expected to significantly enhance safety measures at Indian airports. By reducing foreign dependence, ensuring regulatory compliance, and providing real-time data on runway conditions, AAI has taken a major step toward strengthening India's aviation ecosystem.

This development aligns with India's broader goal of self-reliance in critical airport infrastructure and reinforces the country's commitment to world-class aviation safety standards.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

चेन्नई के लिए 177 लोगों ने भरी उड़ान

साहिबाबाद। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से अलग-अलग शहरों के लिए उड़ान का सिलसिला बढ़ रहा है। शनिवार को यहां से चेन्नई के लिए फ्लाइट शुरू हो गई। रविवार से जम्मू के लिए भी उड़ान शुरू हो रही है। शनिवार को चेन्नई की पहली फ्लाइट में 177 लोगों ने सफर किया। चेन्नई से 172 यात्रियों को लेकर विमान हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर उतरा। वहीं हिंडन से जम्मू की फ्लाइट शनिवार को छोड़कर रोज उपलब्ध रहेगी। यह सुबह 9:45 बजे रवाना होगी और जम्मू सुबह 11:20 बजे पहुंचाएगी। जम्मू से हिंडन की फ्लाइट दोपहर एक बजे की होगी जो हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर दोपहर 2:30 बजे पहुंचाएगी। संवाद



Corporate Communications Directorate

DANIK BHASKAR

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

हिसार एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान की तैयारी, एलाइंस एयर लेगी डीजीसीए से मंजूरी

चंडीगढ़। हिसार एयरपोर्ट से पांच शहरों में शुरू होने वाली उड़ानों को लेकर सरकार की तैयारी तेज हो गई है। हिसार एयरपोर्ट को डीजीसीए से पहले ही लाइसेंस मिल चुका है। अब उड़ान शुरू करने वाली एलाइंस एयर को डीजीसीए से उड़ान की अनुमति लेनी है। जब यह अनुमति मिल जाएगी, तब एलाइंस एयर को

एयरपोर्ट अथारिटी ऑफ इंडिया से रूटों का परमिट मिलेगा। हिसार से उड़ान की अनुमति उसी समय की मिलेगी, जिस समय पांचों शहरों के रूट खाली होंगे। एलाइंस एयर को जब डीजीसीए से अनुमति मिल जाएगी, तब एलाइंस एयर हिसार में ट्रायल लैंडिंग शुरू कर देगा। यह 10 से 15 दिनों का भी हो सकता है।

Fire shuts down Heathrow Airport

Global travel disrupted; at least 1,350 flights affected

London, March 21: A large fire near London's Heathrow Airport knocked out power on Friday to Europe's busiest flight hub, forcing it to shut and disrupting global travel for hundreds of thousands of passengers.

Heathrow said it didn't know when power would be returned, but energy distributor National Grid said in the mid-afternoon that an interim solution that reconfigured its network would restore electricity to Heathrow and other customers.

It was unclear whether power to the airport had been fully restored, but lights were on in Terminal 4 and elevators were working in the parking garage.

At least 1,350 flights to and from Heathrow were affected, flight tracking service FlightRadar 24 said, and the impact was likely to last several days as passengers try to reschedule their travel and airlines work to get planes and crew to the right places.

Authorities do not know what caused the fire but so far say they have no evidence it was suspicious.

Residents in west London described hearing a large explosion, followed by a fireball and clouds of smoke, when the blaze ripped through the electrical substation near the airport. Some 120 flights were in the air when the closure was announced, with some turned around



An aerial photograph shows smoke billowing from a substation supplying power to Heathrow Airport amid efforts to douse the remainder of the flames after a fire broke out in Hayes, on Friday. — AP

and others diverted to Gatwick Airport outside London, Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris or Ireland's Shannon Airport, tracking services showed.

Lawrence Hayes was three-quarters of the way to London from New York when Virgin Atlantic announced they were being diverted to Glasgow.

"It was a red-eye flight and I'd already had a full day, so I don't even know how long I've been up for," Hayes told the BBC as he was getting off the plane in Scotland. "Luckily I managed to get hold of my wife and she's kindly booked me a train ticket to get back to Euston, but its going to be an incredibly long day."

Heathrow is one of the world's busiest airports for international travel. It had its busiest January on record earlier this year, with more than 6.3 million passengers, up more than 5 per cent from the same period last year.

Still, the disruption Friday fell short of the one caused by the 2010 eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which spewed clouds of ash into the atmosphere and created trans-Atlantic air travel chaos for months.

Unclear what caused the fire but foul play not suspected. It was too early to determine what sparked the huge blaze about two miles (3 kilometers) from the airport, but there's no suggestion of foul play, energy secretary Ed Miliband said.

The Metropolitan Police force said counterterrorism detectives were leading the investigation because of their ability to find the cause quickly and because of the location of the electrical substation fire and its impact on critical national infrastructure.

Heathrow said its backup power supply designed for emergencies worked as expected, but it was not enough to run the whole airport. — AP

INDONESIA'S VOLCANO ERUPTS, MANY EVACUATED

Jakarta, March 21: At least seven international flights from Indonesia's resort island Bali have been cancelled, an airport official said Friday, after a volcano in the archipelago nation's east erupted, shooting dark ash eight kilometres into the sky and forcing thousands to evacuate.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a 1,703-metre (5,587-foot) twin-peaked volcano on the tourist island of Flores, erupted for 11 minutes and nine seconds late Thursday, authorities said, raising the volcano's alert status to the highest level.

As of 9:45 am (7:15 am IST) Friday, "seven international flights had been cancelled, six of them are Jetstar flights bound to Australia and one Air Asia flight to Kuala Lumpur," Bali's Ngurah Rai International Airport spokesman, Andadina Dyah, said in a statement.

Several other flights — both domestic and international, including to Thailand, Singapore and Australia — have been delayed, it said.

The local government has declared a 14-day emergency and established a command post to coordinate response efforts, disaster agency spokesman Abdul Muhari, said. — AFP

Major fire at Heathrow, 1,350 flights hit; impact to last 'several days'

First plane lands after 18 hours at Europe's busiest airport

LONDON, AP/PTI

The first plane landed at Heathrow Airport late on Friday, about 18 hours after an inferno at an electrical substation caused a power outage that shuttered Europe's busiest air travel hub.

The British Airways jet touched down just before sunset after Heathrow lifted its closure order that disrupted global travel for hundreds of thousands of passengers. At least 1,350 flights to and from Heathrow were affected, flight tracking service FlightRadar 24 said, and the impact was likely to last several days as passengers try to reschedule their travel and airlines work to reposition aircraft and crews.

Cause not clear

Authorities do not know what caused the fire but so far have found no evidence it was suspicious. Residents in west London described hearing a large explosion, followed by a fireball and clouds of smoke,



People wait at the Paddington railway station, after a fire at a nearby electrical substation wiped out power at the Heathrow International Airport, in London, on Friday. REUTERS

when the blaze ripped through the electrical substation near the airport.

About 120 flights were in the air when the closure was announced, with some turned around and others diverted to Gatwick Airport outside London, Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris or Ireland's Shannon Airport, tracking services showed. Lawrence Hayes was most of the way to London from New York when Virgin Atlantic announced the plane was being diverted to Glasgow. "It was a red-eye flight and

I'd already had a full day, so I don't even know how long I've been up for," Hayes told the BBC as he was getting off the plane in Scotland. "Luckily I managed to get hold of my wife and she's kindly booked me a train ticket to get back to Euston, but it's going to be an incredibly long day."

Heathrow is one of the world's busiest airports for international travel. It had its busiest January on record earlier this year, with more than 6.3 million passengers, up more than 5 per cent from the

same period last year.

Still, the disruption Friday fell short of the one caused by the 2010 eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which spewed clouds of ash into the atmosphere and created trans-Atlantic air travel chaos for months. It was too early to determine what sparked the huge blaze about 3 kilometres from the airport, but there's "no suggestion" of foul play, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband said.

The Metropolitan Police force said counterterrorism detectives were leading the

investigation because of their ability to find the cause quickly and because of the location of the electrical substation fire and its impact on critical national infrastructure.

Heathrow said its backup power supply designed for emergencies worked as expected, but it was not enough to run the whole airport. "We expect significant disruption over the coming days, and passengers should not travel to the airport under any circumstances until the airport reopens," the airport said.

The widespread impact of the fire that took seven hours to control led to criticism that Britain was ill prepared for disaster or some type of attack if a single blaze could shut down Europe's busiest airport.

"The UK's critical national infrastructure is not sufficiently hardened for anywhere near the level it would need to be at to give us confidence this won't happen again," said Alan Mendoza, the executive director of the Henry Jackson Society, a security think tank. "If one fire can shut down Heathrow ... it tells you something's badly wrong with our system of management of such disasters."

Tom Wells, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Keir Starmer, acknowledged that authorities had questions to answer and said a rigorous probe was needed.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

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BANGLORE

22 MARCH 2025

India flights hit in chaos triggered by shutdown of Heathrow Airport

NEW DELHI/LONDON/BENGALURU, AGENCIES & DHNS: Air India said its operations to and from London's Heathrow Airport, one of the busiest in the world, have been disrupted after a power outage shut down the air hub on Friday.

The outage, caused by a fire at a London electricity substation, triggered travel chaos for passengers around the world and the cancellation or diversion of hundreds of flights. Europe's busiest airport began resuming flights late on Friday and officials hoped it would be fully operating by Saturday. Heathrow said its teams had worked tirelessly to reopen the airport.

Earlier, Air India said one flight had returned to Mumbai, another diverted to Frankfurt and other flights remaining cancelled due to temporary suspension of operations at the airport.

Five direct flights — three departures and two arrivals — linking Heathrow and Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport were cancelled.

KIA sources told DH that three flights of three airlines — Virgin Atlantic, Air India and British Airways — departing Bengaluru for London were cancelled, while arrivals of an Air India and a British Airways flight suffered a similar fate.

Apart from Air India, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic have daily direct flights between various Indian cities and Heathrow.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DANIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

22 MARCH 2025



चकेरी हवाई अड्डे पर महिला प्रतिमा के अनावरण के बाद डा. वंदना पाठक को स्मृति चिन्ह देती डा. अनुराधा वाष्णैय, साथ में चेयरपर्सन नलिनी सावल (बाएं) ● संस्था

एयरपोर्ट में महिला सशक्तिकरण को समर्पित स्मृति चिन्ह का अनावरण

जगरण संवाददाता, कानपुर : कानपुर। महिलाओं के उत्थान और सशक्तिकरण के लिए समर्पित फिक्की फ्लो संस्था द्वारा शुक्रवार को चकेरी एयरपोर्ट प्रवेश द्वार में महिला सशक्तिकरण दर्शाते स्मृति चिन्ह का अनावरण हुआ। जिसमें नारी के शक्ति और विभिन्न रूपों को दर्शाया गया है। बताया गया कि नारी आज सभी क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ रही हैं। कार्यक्रम में संस्था द्वारा 10 वर्षों के समाज को समर्पित कार्यों पर प्रकाश डाला गया। कहा गया कि संस्था वर्षों से महिलाओं

की उन्नति के लिए कार्य कर रही है। इस मूर्ति को मिश्रित धातुओं से शिल्पकार प्रहलाद सिंह और संतोष कुमार ने निर्मित किया है। वहीं इसे एयरपोर्ट पर स्थापित जयेश गुप्ता ने किया। इस दौरान कार्यक्रम की मुख्य अतिथि आयुर्वेदाचार्य डा. वंदना पाठक, गेस्ट आफ आनर एयरपोर्ट डायरेक्टर संजय कुमार थे। वहीं कार्यक्रम को पारुल राजोरिया, श्वेता श्रीवास्तव, चेयरपर्सन नलिनी सावल के निर्देशन सफल हुआ। वहीं अर्चना खेता, डा. अनुराधा वाष्णैय ने सहयोग किया।

BLAZE AT A POWER STATION FORCED CLOSURE OF AIRPORT IN LONDON FOR MOST OF FRIDAY

Day after Electrical Fire, Heathrow Back to Full Ops

Heathrow Airport said it was "fully operational" Saturday but there were some delays and cancellations as Europe's busiest air hub resumed flights a day after a power station fire caused mayhem.

The electricity substation blaze knocked out power at the London airport, closing it for most of Friday before some flights began to arrive and take off later in the evening. The shutdown affected thousands of passengers around the world and raised serious questions about the reliability of one of the United Kingdom's most critical pieces of infrastructure.

"We can confirm that Heathrow is open and fully operational today," an airport spokesperson said Saturday. "Teams across the airport continue to do everything they can to support passengers impacted by yesterday's outage at an off-airport power substation."

About 1,350 flights were affected by Friday's closure, according to the *Flightradar24* tracking website. Around 120 Heathrow-bound planes were in the air when the closure was announced and had to be diverted.

SOME DELAYS, CANCELLATIONS

Delays and cancellations were likely throughout Saturday as airlines scrambled to clear a backlog of flights and reposition aircraft and crews. "We have hundreds of additional colleagues on hand in our terminals and we have added flights to today's schedule to facilitate an extra 10,000 passengers travelling through the airport," the spokesperson said.



Passengers walking through terminal 5 of the Heathrow Airport in London on Saturday Reuters

British Airways said it expected to operate around 85% of its scheduled flights at the airport throughout the day. The airline would normally run about 600 arrivals and departures on a Saturday.

"We are planning to operate as many flights as possible to and from Heathrow on Saturday, but to recover an operation of our size after such a significant incident is extremely complex," a British Airways spokesperson said.

"We expect around 85 percent of our Saturday Heathrow schedule to run, but it is likely that all travelling customers will experience delays as we continue to navigate the challenges posed by Friday's power outage at the airport."

Virgin Atlantic said it plans "to run a near full schedule with limited cancellations today".

Travellers appeared jolly as pla-

nes took the skies again.

"We feel lucky. It feels everything is running quite smoothly," said 45-year-old Claire Montgomery, whose flight home to Austin, Texas, was scheduled on time.

David Storck, a university professor, said it was "miraculous" his flight to Savannah in the US state of Georgia, was reported as just five minutes late. "Everyone's in a positive mood. I was expecting people to be sour but I think everyone is just so relieved," he said of the atmosphere.

OVERNIGHT FLIGHT CURBS LIFTED

Restrictions on overnight flights have been temporarily lifted to help ease congestion, according to the UK's transport department.

Around 230,000 passengers use Heathrow every day--83 million a year--making it one of the world's



About 1,350 flights were affected by Friday's closure of the airport, according to Flightradar24

busiest airports. Planes from Heathrow serve around 80 countries.

The scale of the disruption--which saw a back-up transformer fail, meaning systems had to be closed down--raised questions about Heathrow's vulnerability.

Heathrow Airport's chief executive Thomas Woldbye told the BBC he was "proud" of the airport's response and said he would "let others judge" if he should step down.

UK transport secretary Heidi Alexander said the government would "need to understand what caused an incident of this magnitude at an electricity substation that is very close to a critical piece of national infrastructure".

London's Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command is leading the investigation into the fire given its impact, but said that there was "currently no indication of foul play".

Fire officials said the blaze, which broke out on Thursday night, was "believed to be non-suspicious" and that an investigation would "focus on the electrical distribution equipment".

Around 150 people were evacuated from nearby properties and the outage left 100,000 homes without power for several hours.

Smoke could still be seen coming from the electrical substation on Saturday morning. **AFP**



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से चेन्नई के लिए विमान सेवा शुरू

 **अच्छी खबर**

ट्रांस हिंडन, बरिष्ठ संवाददाता। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से शनिवार को चेन्नई की उड़ान शुरू हो गई। पहली फ्लाइट में 177 यात्रियों ने सफर किया।

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से मार्च में अब तक पांच शहरों की उड़ान शुरू हो चुकी है। सभी शहरों के लिए व्यावसायिक 180 सीटर विमान की उड़ान शुरू हुई है। चेन्नई से शनिवार तड़के 5:25 बजे विमान ने हिंडन के लिए उड़ान भरी और यहां सुबह

साढ़े आठ बजे पहुंचा। इस विमान में 172 यात्री सवार थे। वहीं, हिंडन से चेन्नई के लिए उड़े विमान में 177 यात्री सवार थे। यह उड़ान सुबह 9:34 बजे शुरू हुई, जो चार मिनट लेट थी। चेन्नई जाने वाले प्रदीप का कहना था कि अब हिंडन से ही उड़ान मिल सकेगी, जो काफी राहत की बात है। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट जाने में लगने वाले करीब दो घंटे बच जाएंगे। चेन्नई आए रवि कुमार ने बताया कि वह अपने तीन दोस्तों के साथ हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर उतरे। यहां से उत्तराखंड जा रहे हैं।



A British Airways plane takes off as Heathrow Airport resumed flights in London, on Saturday. AP

‘Fully operational’, claims Heathrow after fire shutdown

Agencies

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LONDON/NEW DELHI: Heathrow Airport said it was “fully operational” on Saturday, but passengers faced some delays and cancellations as Europe’s busiest air hub resumed operations a day after a power station fire caused travel mayhem.

The electricity substation blaze knocked out power at the London airport, closing it for most of Friday before some flights began to arrive and take off later in the evening.

The shutdown affected thousands of passengers around the world and raised serious questions about the reliability of one of the UK’s most critical pieces of infrastructure.

“We can confirm that Heathrow is open and fully operational today,” an airport spokesperson said early on Saturday.

“Teams across the airport continue to do everything they can to support passengers impacted by yesterday’s outage at an off-airport power substation.”

About 1,350 flights were affected by Friday’s closure, according to the Flightradar24 tracking website. Around 120

Heathrow-bound planes were in the air when the closure was announced and had to be diverted. Delays and cancellations were likely throughout Saturday as airlines scrambled to clear a backlog of flights and reposition aircraft and crews.

“We have hundreds of additional colleagues on hand in our terminals and we have added flights to today’s schedule to facilitate an extra 10,000 passengers travelling through the airport,” the spokesperson said.

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“We are planning to operate as many flights as possible to and from Heathrow on Saturday, but to recover an operation of our size after such a significant incident is extremely complex,” a BA spokesperson said.

Virgin Atlantic said in a statement it plans “to run a near full schedule with limited cancellations today”.

Travellers appeared jolly as planes took the skies again.

The UK government temporarily lifted restrictions on over-

night flights to help ease congestion.

Around 230,000 passengers use Heathrow every day — 83 million a year — making it one of the world’s busiest airports. Planes from Heathrow serve around 80 countries.

The scale of the disruption — which saw a back-up transformer fail, meaning systems had to be closed down — raised questions about Heathrow’s vulnerability.

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband ordered the National Energy System Operator, which operates Britain’s electricity grid, to “urgently investigate” the incident.

Air India restarts flight operations to Heathrow

Air India on Saturday said it has recommenced flights to and from the London Heathrow airport. From the national capital, apart from Air India, Virgin Atlantic and British Airways also operated their scheduled flights to London Heathrow (LHR). “Our operations to and from London Heathrow (LHR) have recommenced after the disruption at the airport yesterday due to a power outage,” Air India said in a statement.

More commercial flights now at Hindon airport: Villagers now hope change on cards

NEETIKA JHA
GHAZIABAD, MARCH 22

ON SATURDAY morning, the roads leading to Hindon Airport in Ghaziabad were busier than usual. Police patrol teams could be seen taking rounds after rounds. White taxis with yellow numberplates lined up on both sides of the road leading to the airport, their drivers continuously checking their phones for a booking.

Cab driver Rashid Chaudhary, 35, said, "When I heard that common people can also take the flights from here, I was very happy. I stay in Sikanderpur (village) nearby so it will be easy for me to get customers. I want the government to announce more flights and also make proper parking areas. It will be helpful." Chaudhary has been in the business for the last six years.

On March 1, Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated commercial flight operations of Air India Express from Hindon Airport, connecting Ghaziabad to Bengaluru, Chennai, Goa, Jammu and Kolkata. "Operations from Hindon Airport Ghaziabad will enhance connectivity for NCR, Western UP and Southern Uttarakhand," he said after the inauguration.

With the aerodrome licence for flight operations at Noida International Airport at Western UP's Jewar expected in May, Hindon Airport — the third in the NCR and the second operational one — could be a blessing for those who want to avoid going to IGI Airport in Delhi 35 km away.

During the day, officials at the airport were seen checking documents of those boarding the first flight to Chennai. It departed at 9.30 am. "The aircraft, with a seating capacity of 180, flew at full capacity," officials said. "Other flights scheduled for departure were to Bengaluru and Goa."

"Travelers are checking in every hour... We are on alert as the airport is seeing flights to and from several cities. We need to keep an eye on passenger movement," said a security personnel.



Outside the Hindon Airport on Saturday. Photos: Gajendra Yadav

THE DETAILS

On March 1, Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated flight ops of Air India Express from Hindon Airport, connecting Ghaziabad to Bengaluru, Chennai, Goa, Jammu and Kolkata

March 22
Flights to Chennai began



March 23
Flights to Jammu begin



According to Umesh Yadav, Hindon Airport Director, Airports Authority of India, the decision to commercialise the airport was taken considering the requirements of the vicinity. "Traffic in Delhi is bad. One has to reach the airport three hours before the flight..."

"It will also boost the economy of the area and generate

employment," he added.

In a day, the airport sees 3-4 departures and arrivals each. Yadav said daily passenger footfall has increased from 100 to 1,600 now.

He also said more routes are under discussion. "We will also have a flight to Bhubaneswar on March 30," he added.

From Sunday, Air India

Express will operate flights between Hindon and Jammu six days a week.

'Hope for development'

The start of commercial operations at the airport might also pave the way for the development of Sikanderpur village, half a kilometre away, and adjacent areas.

While most of the land around the airport is empty and is owned by local farmers, around 15 acres are being developed for Gaur Airocity — a joint venture of Gaurs Group and Landcraft Developers — a kilometre away.

"We began construction in 2023 in three pockets. We are developing the area for both commercial and residential areas," said Head of Project Development, Nitin Panchal.

Panchal said possession of flats has begun in Pocket 1.

On whether there has been any change in the pricing of homes since the announcement of commercial operations, he said a new price rate was announced on March 1. He said before that, a studio apartment (450 sq metres) would cost Rs 28 to 30 lakh but the revised price is now Rs 38 lakh.

"It is similar for commercial property," Panchal said.

The population of Sikanderpur village is around

1,000. A majority of residents are from the Jat community. The major source of employment for residents is from farmhouses and marriage halls in the area.

Shiv Pujan Amit, 42, a resident, said: "We noticed that the area has become more clean. Tourists who come from Goa want to see and experience the village life and our food..."

"Since the airport is near, we hope one day, people from outside will come to get married here," said Deepak Dagar, 28, a businessman.

But for Veer Pal, a farmer, the benefits of commercialisation will only be encashed by the builders. "We sold our land to the government in 2018... but now, seeing the airport open for people, we feel we made a mistake," said the 70-year-old, since the price of the land has shot up.

According to officials of the Ghaziabad Development Authority, the impact of commercialisation will be slow and gradual. "... any kind of commercial activity will not be permitted as of now," said Secretary, Ghaziabad Development Authority, Rajesh Kumar Singh.

Singh said the IGI Airport will still cater to the passengers' needs as flights operating from Hindon Airport are not popular. "We had a similar assumption when the Rapid Rail became operational, but the property rates remained the same," said Singh.

"However," he said, "the rates of property in Sikanderpur may increase. We are responsible for development of the area, but property rates are builder-driven..."

Others complained that nothing had changed since March 1. "There is no extra income," said Harsh Chauhan, 40, a cab driver. "I thought it would be an opportunity for more money, but I think it was a wrong decision." He also said there are no parking facilities for vehicles.

Mohit Kumar, another cab driver, said the Delhi-UP toll tax could be a reason why people are not opting for cabs for long distances and prefer heading to the Metro.

Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLANIUM POST

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

Noida Airport proj delayed; daily ₹10L penalty imposed

Land disputes delay Airport's Phase-III development

DIPIKA KIROLA

NOIDA: The development of Noida International Airport Phase-III faces challenges due to land disputes, leading Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) and the Gautam Budh Nagar district administration to take action against unauthorised construction near the airport site.

According to officials, landowners are carrying out construction activities expecting compensation for structures, despite authorities' promises of fair compensation. YEIDA plans to acquire 2,053 hectares across 14 villages for the third phase. A senior YEIDA officer revealed that notices have been issued to approximately 100 landowners regarding illegal activities, with demolition permits obtained. "The authority will soon take demolition action against those who refuse to remove unauthorised structures. The initiative is scheduled to commence next week. It was initially planned for Thursday but postponed to Monday owing to unforeseen circumstances," the senior officer said.

Teams have been formed to monitor and prevent illegal construction in Jewar villages,



including Neemka, Thora, Banwari Bas, Mukimpur Shivara, Kishorepur, and Ramner.

YEIDA CEO Arun Vir Singh asserted that unauthorised construction would not be permitted on land designated for Asia's largest airport.

The third and fourth phases require relocating about 9,500 farmers. Officials have promised appropriate compensation at set rates, including payment for permanent structures.

The administration has implemented strict measures to stop unlawful activities on the designated airport land.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh government has directed the airport concessionaire to ensure domestic flights begin from May 15 and international operations from June 25. This came after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed concerns about construction delays during a review meeting.

The project is delayed by six months, with the original September 29, 2024 deadline moved to April 2025. Officials confirmed daily penalties of Rs 10 lakh on concessionaire YIAPL as per the CM's instructions. The penalty, starting from January 1, following a three-month grace period post-original deadline, totals Rs 3 crore monthly. "The concession agreement was signed in October 2020, which experienced setbacks during the Covid period. The construction contract was awarded to Tata Projects in June 2022. A daily penalty of Rs 10 lakh has been enforced as per UP government directives," said CEO Singh.

Currently, 8,000 workers are on-site, with plans to accelerate work using additional labour, equipment, and subcontracting. NIAL has asked YIAPL for a recovery plan to meet the revised timeline.

Flights resume at London Heathrow

Daylong closure sparked travel chaos around the world

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

London Heathrow Airport said it was "fully operational" on Saturday, after an almost daylong closure sparked by an electrical substation fire. But airlines warned that severe disruption will last for days as they scramble to relocate planes and crews and get travellers to their destinations.

The airport's boss said he was proud of Heathrow's response to the incident. But inconvenienced passengers, angry airlines and concerned politicians sought answers about how one seemingly accidental fire could shut down Europe's busiest air hub.

"We have hundreds of additional colleagues on hand in our terminals and we have added flights to today's schedule to facilitate an extra 10,000 passengers travelling through the airport," Heathrow said in a statement, advising passengers to check with their airline before going to the airport.

British Airways, Heathrow's biggest airline, said it expects to operate about 85% of its 600 scheduled flights at the airport on Saturday. It said that "to recover an operation of our size after such a significant incident is extremely complex".

More than 1,300 flights were canceled and some 200,000 people stranded Friday after an overnight fire at a substation 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) away



from the airport cut power to Heathrow, and to more than 60,000 properties.

Residents in west London described hearing a large explosion and then seeing a fireball and clouds of smoke when the blaze ripped through the substation. The fire was brought under control after seven hours, but the airport was shut for almost 18. A handful of flights took off and landed late Friday.

Police said they do not consider the fire suspicious, and the London Fire Brigade said its investigation would focus on the electrical distribution equipment at the substation.

Still, the huge impact of the fire left authorities facing criticism that Britain's creaking infrastructure is ill-prepared to deal with disasters or attacks.

The British government acknowledged that authorities had questions to answer and said a rigorous investigation was needed to make sure "this scale of disruption does not happen again". Heathrow chief executive Thomas Woldbye said he was "proud" of the way airport and airline staff had responded.

"Remember, the situation was not created at Heathrow Airport," he told the BBC. "The airport didn't shut for days.

We shut for hours."

He said Heathrow's backup power supply, designed for emergencies, worked as expected, but it wasn't enough to run the whole airport, which uses as much energy as a small city.

"That's how most airports operate," said Woldbye, who insisted "the same would happen in other airports" faced with a similar blaze.

Heathrow is one of the world's busiest airports for international travel, and saw 83.9 million passengers last year.

Passengers on about 120 flights were in the air when the closure was announced found themselves landing in different cities, and even different countries.

Friday's disruption was one of the most serious since the 2010 eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which spewed clouds of ash into the atmosphere and shut Europe's airspace for days.

Mark Doherty and his wife were halfway across the Atlantic when the inflight map showed their flight from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport to Heathrow was turning around.

"I was like, you're joking," Doherty said before the pilot told passengers they were heading back to New York.

Doherty called the situation "typical England — got no back-up plan for something happens like this. There's no contingency plan".

Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

22 MARCH 2025

भीषण आग के बाद लंदन का हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डा बंद

लंदन। लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे पर एक बड़ी घटना ने वैश्विक उड़ानों को प्रभावित किया है। 20 मार्च को देर रात, पश्चिम लंदन के हेस क्षेत्र में एक इलेक्ट्रिकल सबस्टेशन में आग लगने के कारण

एयर इंडिया समेत 1350 उड़ानों पर असर

हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे को पूरे दिन के लिए बंद कर दिया गया। इस आग की वजह से हवाई अड्डे को बिजली आपूर्ति में भारी व्यवधान हुआ, जिसके चलते 1300 से अधिक उड़ानों पर असर पड़ा है। इसमें एयर इंडिया की कई उड़ानें भी शामिल हैं, जिन्हें या तो रद्द करना पड़ा, वापस लौटाना पड़ा। 20 मार्च की देर रात, हेस में एक इलेक्ट्रिकल सबस्टेशन में ट्रांसफॉर्मर में आग लग गई। लंदन फायर ब्रिगेड ने तुरंत कार्रवाई की और 10 फायर इंजन व लगभग 70 अग्निशामकों को घटनास्थल पर भेजा। इस आग के कारण हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे की बिजली आपूर्ति ठप हो गई, जिसके



चलते हवाई अड्डे को 21 मार्च की मध्यरात्रि (23.59 स्थानीय समय) तक बंद करने का फैसला लिया गया। आग की वजह से न केवल हवाई अड्डे का संचालन प्रभावित हुआ, बल्कि आसपास के क्षेत्र में 16,300 से अधिक घरों की बिजली भी गुल हो गई। लगभग 150 लोगों को आसपास की इमारतों से सुरक्षित निकाला गया, और 200 मीटर का सुरक्षा घेरा बनाया गया। हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डा दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त दो-रनवे

हवाई अड्डों में से एक है। यह प्रतिदिन औसतन 1,300 उड़ानों का संचालन करता है। इस व्यवधान के कारण कम से कम 120 उड़ानें, जो पहले से ही हवा में थीं, उन्हें अन्य हवाई अड्डों जैसे गैटविक, स्टैनस्टेड, पेरिस के चार्ल्स डी गॉल, और आयरलैंड के शैनन की ओर डायवर्ट करना पड़ा। कुछ उड़ानों को तो अपने मूल स्थान पर वापस लौटाना पड़ा।

एयर इंडिया की उड़ानों पर प्रभाव

एयर इंडिया भारत से लंदन हीथ्रो के लिए रोजाना छह उड़ानें संचालित करती है (मुंबई से तीन, दिल्ली से दो, और बेंगलुरु से एक)। एयरलाइन ने अपने यात्रियों के लिए एक एडवाइजरी जारी की, जिसमें कहा गया कि हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे पर संचालन 21 मार्च की मध्यरात्रि तक निलंबित रहने के कारण उनकी उड़ानों में भारी व्यवधान हुआ है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

STATEMENT

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

Heathrow reopens and chaos eases; critics say the airport's shutdown exposes UK vulnerability

AGENCIES

LONDON, 22 MARCH

London Heathrow Airport said it was "fully operational" on Saturday, after an almost day-long closure sparked by an electrical substation fire. But thousands of passengers remained stuck, and airlines warned that severe disruption will last for days as they scramble to relocate planes and crews and get travellers to their destinations.

Friday's travel mayhem raised concerns about Britain's ability to withstand disasters or attacks on critical infrastructure. Inconvenienced passengers, angry airlines and concerned politicians all want

answers about how one seemingly accidental fire could shut down Europe's busiest air hub.

"This is a huge embarrassment for Heathrow airport. It's a huge embarrassment for the country that a fire in one electricity substation can have such a devastating effect," said Toby Harris, a Labour Party politician who heads the National Preparedness Commission, a group that campaigns to improve resilience.

Heathrow said it had "hundreds of additional colleagues on hand in our terminals and we have added flights to today's schedule to facilitate an extra 10,000 passengers." It advised passengers to check with their airline before going to the air-

port.

British Airways, Heathrow's biggest airline, said it expected to operate about 85% of its 600 scheduled flights at the airport on Saturday. It said that "to recover an operation of our size after such a significant incident is extremely complex."

While many passengers managed to resume stalled journeys, others remained in limbo.

Laura Fritschie from Kansas City was on vacation with her family in Ireland when she learned that her father had died. On Saturday she was stranded at Heathrow after her BA flight to Chicago was canceled at the last minute.

"I'm very frustrated," she

said. "This was my first big vacation with my kids since my husband died, and ... now this. So I just want to go home."

More than 1,300 flights were canceled and some 200,000 people stranded Friday after an overnight fire at a substation 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) away from the airport cut power to Heathrow, and to more than 60,000 properties.

Residents in west London described hearing a large explosion and then seeing a fireball and clouds of smoke when the blaze ripped through the substation. The fire was brought under control after seven hours, but the airport was shut for almost 18. A handful of flights took off and landed late Fri-

day.

Police said they do not consider the fire suspicious, and the London Fire Brigade said its investigation would focus on the electrical distribution equipment at the substation.

Still, the huge impact of the fire left authorities facing questions about Britain's creaking infrastructure. The government acknowledged that authorities had questions to answer and said a rigorous investigation was needed to make sure "this scale of disruption does not happen again."

Harris, from the preparedness commission, said the airport shutdown points to a broader problem with Britain's economy and infrastructure.

Corporate Communications Directorate

STATEMEN

KOLKATA

22 MARCH 2025

Fire shuts down London's Heathrow Airport, disrupting travel for hundreds of thousands

AGENCIES

LONDON, 21 MARCH

A large fire near London's Heathrow Airport knocked out power Friday to Europe's busiest flight hub, forcing it to shut all day and disrupting global travel for hundreds of thousands of passengers.

At least 1,350 flights to and from Heathrow were affected, flight tracking service FlightRadar 24 said, and the impact was likely to last several days as passengers try to reschedule their travel and airlines work to get planes and crew to the right places.

Authorities do not know what caused the fire but so



far found have no evidence it was suspicious.

Residents in west London described hearing a large explosion, followed by a fireball and clouds of smoke, when the blaze ripped through

the electrical substation near the airport.

Some 120 flights were in the air when the closure was announced, with some turned around and others diverted to Gatwick Airport outside

London, Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris or Ireland's Shannon Airport, tracking services showed.

Lawrence Hayes was three-quarters of the way to London from New York when Virgin Atlantic announced they were being diverted to Glasgow.

"It was a red-eye flight and I'd already had a full day, so I don't even know how long I've been up for," Hayes told the *BBC* as he was getting off the plane in Scotland. "Luckily I managed to get hold of my wife and she's kindly booked me a train ticket to get back to Euston, but it's going to be an incredibly long day."

Can Heathrow nightmare hit Indian airports?

Relying on a single source of power is a recipe for crisis for any airport. Ensuring uninterrupted operations though is increasingly a complex task in clean energy era

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

The power outage that crippled London-Heathrow on Friday was not an isolated incident for the global airline industry, except for the scale of flight disruptions, which was unprecedented. Ask aviation experts and they'll tell you that it's more than just an operational mishap but a warning for the entire airline industry.

A Question Of Backup

International Air Transport Association (IATA) director general Willie Walsh voiced the questions now on everyone's mind. "First, how is it that critical infrastructure, of national and global importance, is totally dependent on a single power source without an alternative? If that is the case, as it seems, then it is a clear planning failure by the airport."

Heathrow is the UK's largest hub, handling over 1,300 flights a day. For comparison, Mumbai airport handles about 950 flights a day. Heathrow had to shut down after a fire at the North Hyde substation, located about 1.5 miles north of the airport, caused a "significant power outage". A Heathrow spokesperson said "backup systems have been working as they should but they are not sized to run the entire airport".

Can such an incident occur at any airport in the world or was it merely a result of Heathrow's legacy infrastructure? Experts said a substation fire may not be a risk unique to Heathrow, but it exposes the pitfalls of relying on a single external power source without sufficient backup systems or on-site supply in the form of solar, wind, or diesel generators, etc. Aviation norms ensure critical units like air traffic control towers, runway lighting, etc, are typically fed by uninterruptible power supply (UPS). The problem is with non-essential operations, the kind that involves operations at passenger terminals.

Where Indian Airports Stand

Mumbai airport, India's second largest airport with its two passenger terminals and one cargo terminal, consumes 26.9 MW power a day. "We receive power through two independent, redundant (back up) sources. In the event of a failure at one source, the other can seamlessly take over 100% of the power load to ensure operational continuity. Each terminal gets electricity from more than one power station," said a Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) spokesperson.

There are multiple pathways to deliver power to each terminal. "The system is designed to handle not just one failure, but two back-to-back failures without stopping operations. Both the terminals and the airfield have their own diesel generators, with a total capacity of 30 MW. These get activated in the case of a rare, major failure," the official said. Mumbai airport runs on 100% renewable energy,

IT COULD HAPPEN ANYWHERE, BUT...

- In Dec 2017, an 11-hour power outage at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport led to the cancellation of about 1,200 flights and cost Delta Air Lines about \$50 million
- A 2023 US govt study found that between 2015 and 2022, 24 American airports faced a total of 321 power outages, lasting from 5 minutes to more than a week
- In airports like Mumbai and Bengaluru, officials said backup systems are in place to ensure smooth operations and avoid any closure due to power failure
- Experts say that microgrids and on-site renewable generation can provide uninterrupted power to airports



A plane takes off from Heathrow on Saturday as smoke rises from the nearby power substation where a fire accident on Friday ended up bringing operations at the London airport to a grinding halt

5% comes from on-site solar generation and 95% from hydro and wind energy.

Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) said it uses a highly resilient and redundant power infrastructure for uninterrupted operations. "BLR airport receives power from Begur substation, which gets power through four independent supply lines from different substations," said Hari Marar, MD and CEO, BIAL. "BIAL has also installed a separate transformer at the Begur substation dedicated for airport operations, minimising the risk of disruptions and also integrated on-site solar power generation and gone for tie-ups with off-site external renewable energy suppliers, ensuring a steady supply of green power," he added.

Pressure To Make Green Break

Unlike the 16-year old Bengaluru airport, many major airports rely on infrastructure designed long before modern digital systems and sustainability requirements became key concerns. While airports have kept upgrading facilities, many remain dependent on outdated power grids, centralised energy supply, and legacy IT systems that can be difficult to overhaul. Heathrow, for instance, opened in 1946 and expanded incrementally. Its electrical systems reflect a patchwork of upgrades rather than a fully modernised design, said an aviation expert.

Most major hubs and airports of the world have started moving towards 2050 net-zero carbon emission goals (India's net-zero target is set for 2070). In the coming decades, the demand for electricity at

airports will see a steep rise as it powers everything from vehicles to aircraft.

The move towards sustainable energy will happen even as terminal buildings and runways handle ever-increasing volumes of passengers and flights. Airports have begun preparing for this and "electrical resilience" has become a critical aspect of operations in recent years.

How To Avoid Hiccups

All the 40 airports surveyed in a US study were found to be planning for or completing electrical infrastructure projects aimed at increasing their power resilience. These include removing overhead routes for an airport's main feeder lines and taking those underground, and upgrading infrastructure to eliminate single points of failure. The latter is exactly the kind of upgrade that would prevent a Heathrow-like crisis.

One of the most promising solutions — which began to find takers starting in the early 2000s — is the adoption of microgrids. These are localised grids that can operate independently or in tandem with the main grid, offering a self-sustained power supply. Microgrids can integrate renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Through these, and along with battery storage and backup generators, airports can reduce their reliance on external power sources.

As airports move towards an increasingly electrified future, ensuring power reliability is no longer optional. Heathrow's disruption should not just be another unfortunate event in aviation history — it should be a turning point.

TOI Explains

Sule slams Air India for flight delays, seeks accountability

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule is the latest to slam Air India for its poor services. Ms Sule on Saturday blamed the airline for “constant mismanagement” and termed the flight delays as a continuous trend, affecting passengers despite paying premium fares.

Ms Sule’s outburst came after an Air India flight she booked was delayed by 1 hour and 19 minutes. She highlighted that flights are delayed despite paying premium fares and demanded that civil aviation minister Rammohan Naidu hold the airline accountable for frequent delays.

“Flights are endlessly delayed — this is unacceptable! We pay premium



Supriya Sule

fares, yet flights are never on time. Professionals, children, and senior citizens — all affected by this constant mismanagement,” the Baramati MP posted on X.

Ms Sule said she was travelling on Air India flight AI0508, which was delayed by 1 hour and 19 minutes. “Part of a continuous trend of delays affecting passengers,” she added. The MP demanded stricter regulations be enforced to hold airlines

like Air India accountable for repeated delays and ensure better service standards for passengers.

She later told reporters that flight trackers were faulty, which gave misleading results. “I was stranded at the Delhi airport on the flight but the tracker showed that the flight was airborne. I would take up the issue of trackers with the civil aviation minister,” Ms Sule added.

Air India apologised for the delay, and said, “We recognize that delays can be very frustrating. However, there are occasional operational issues outside of our control that can affect flight schedules. Your flight to Mumbai this evening was delayed by one hour due to such an issue. We appreciate your understanding.”

India's air passenger traffic to see 7 pc growth in 2025: Alton Aviation's Joshua Ng

SINGAPORE, March 21: India's air passenger traffic is expected to grow at a strong pace of 7 per cent in 2025, supported by a growing middle class and increasing air travel affordability, according to Joshua Ng, Director of US-headquartered Alton Aviation Consultancy.

Bullish on aviation prospects in India, Ng said the country, which contributes approximately 10 per cent of Asia Pacific's domestic and international air traffic demand, has already returned to pre-pandemic levels.

"Such growing demand in turn supports India's massive aviation development programmes, including setting up of 150 airports across the country," Ng said.

He also noted that "India's



passenger traffic is expected to grow at a strong pace of 7 per cent in 2025, supported by an order book of nearly 1,900 aircraft among airlines based in the country."

Besides, "the recent merger between Air India and Vistara is also expected to bring more stability to the industry, with Air India and IndiGo emerging as the two primary players in the full-service and low-cost carrier segments respectively," he

underlined.

Giving a global perspective, he said as global air traffic has returned to pre-pandemic levels, the aviation industry will continue its long-term growth trend of 4 per cent per annum from 2024 to 2034, supported by a 2.7 per cent annual growth in global GDP.

The Asia-Pacific region is projected to remain the largest market for air travel, with an anticipated growth rate of

5.1 per cent per annum, driven primarily by increasing long-term demand from China and India, added Ng.

Citing data from Alton's 'Aviation Outlook 2025 – Supply Chain Challenged', he said, order backlog for A320 Neo aircraft is 7,216, and the 10-year forecast average annual production rate is 741, which implies 9.7 years of backlog.

Major aircraft deliveries face a backlog of 9.7 years, Ng said, citing data from Centre for Aviation (CAPA) and Alton's own analysis.

However, as the aviation industry rebounds into record passenger and revenue numbers in 2025, industry stakeholders need to watch out for risks such as normalising yields, inflation,

and geopolitical pressures.

Prime among these challenges are the supply chain and labour shortage issues that COVID-19 has left as a long-lasting legacy.

For airlines in particular, the focus is also on how to maximize the use of aircraft resources – reducing turn-around times or optimizing schedules in order to increase daily utilization. Some have even turned to wet-leasing aircraft to supplement their capacity – although doing so will depend heavily on specific route economics, he noted.

"Navigating these hurdles is essential for aviation stakeholders, particularly as these challenges look to persist for the next few years," cautioned Ng. – PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

उड़ान में देरी पर फूटा सुले का गुस्सा, बोलीं-रवैया बर्दाश्त नहीं

मुंबई। उड़ान में एक घंटे से अधिक की देरी से परेशान राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (एसपी) की सांसद सुप्रिया सुले का गुस्सा शनिवार को एअर इंडिया पर फूटा। एअर इंडिया को खरी-खोटी सुनाने के साथ ही उन्होंने केंद्रीय उड़डयन मंत्री राम



सुप्रिया सुले

मोहन नायडू से एयरलाइंस को जवाबदेह ठहराने के लिए सख्त नियम लागू करने की मांग की।

बारामती से सांसद सुले ने अपने सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट से पोस्ट किया, मैं एअर इंडिया की उड़ान एआई 0508 से यात्रा कर रही थी, लेकिन इसमें एक घंटा 19 मिनट की देरी हुई। यात्रियों पर असर डालने वाला देरी का यह रवैया नाकामिल बर्दाश्त है। मैं नागरिक उड़डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू से बार-बार देरी के लिए एअर इंडिया जैसी एयरलाइनों को जवाबदेह ठहराने और यात्रियों के लिए बेहतर सेवा मानक पक्के करने के लिए सख्त नियम लागू करने का आग्रह करती हूं। वहीं, सुले की पोस्ट के जवाब में एअर इंडिया ने कहा, महोदया, हम मानते हैं कि देरी बहुत निराश करती है। हालांकि, कभी-कभी परिचालन से जुड़े मामले हमारे नियंत्रण से बाहर होते हैं और यह उड़ान के तय वक्त पर असर डाल सकते हैं। इस वजह से ही आज शाम मुंबई जाने वाली आपकी उड़ान में एक घंटे की देरी हुई। एजेसी



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DANIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

22 MARCH 2025

फरवरी में 11 प्रतिशत बढ़ा घरेलू हवाई यातायात

मुंबई: इस वर्ष फरवरी में घरेलू हवाई यातायात में 11.04 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि रही है। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय के अनुसार, पिछले महीने 1.40 करोड़ लोगों ने घरेलू हवाई यात्रा की है। पिछले वर्ष फरवरी में 1.26 करोड़ लोगों ने घरेलू हवाई यात्रा की थी। पिछले महीने विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो की बाजार हिस्सेदारी 63.7 प्रतिशत रही है। इस दौरान एअर इंडिया समूह की हिस्सेदारी 27.3 प्रतिशत रही है। (प्रेट्र)



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FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

Heathrow: Air India, other airlines resume operations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 22

AIR INDIA ON Saturday said it has recommenced flights to and from the London Heathrow airport, which had witnessed operational disruptions due to a power outage. From the national capital, apart from Air India, Virgin Atlantic and British Airways also operated their scheduled flights to London Heathrow (LHR). Travel plans of thousands of passengers who were scheduled to fly to LHR, including from Indian cities, were disrupted on Friday due to the cancellation of flights, as operations were suspended following the power outage.

"Our operations to and from LHR have recommenced after the disruption at the airport yesterday due to a power outage," Air India said in a statement on Saturday. According to Air India, flight AI111 was on schedule and other flights, to and from London, are expected to operate as per schedule. "Flight AI161 of 21 March, which was diverted to Frankfurt, is expected to leave Frankfurt at 14:05 pm local time," the statement said. An official said Air India, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic operated their flights to LHR on Saturday morning, and another Air India flight is scheduled to depart in the afternoon.

Delhi Airport has six daily flights connecting with LHR. British Airways has eight flights per day between India and LHR, including three from Mumbai



■ LHR airport says flights have resumed and they are now 'fully open and operational'

■ The airport added flights to Saturday's schedule to facilitate an extra 10,000 passengers travelling

and two from Delhi. Virgin Atlantic has five daily flights to LHR from Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Air India has six daily flights to LHR.

In a statement, British Airways said it was planning to operate as many flights as possible to and from LHR Heathrow on Saturday, but to recover an operation of our size after such a significant incident is extremely complex. "We expect around 85% of our Saturday Heathrow schedule to run, but it is likely that all travelling customers will experience delays as we continue to navigate the challenges posed by Friday's power outage at the airport," it said. On X, LHR Airport on Saturday said flights have resumed and "we are open and fully operational". Teams across the airport continue to do everything

they can do to support passengers impacted by yesterday's outage at an off airport substation, it said. But airlines warned that severe disruption will last for days as they scramble to relocate planes and crews and get travellers to their destinations. Inconvenienced passengers, angry airlines and concerned politicians sought answers about how one seemingly accidental fire could shut down Europe's busiest air hub.

"We have hundreds of additional colleagues on hand in our terminals and we have added flights to today's schedule to facilitate an extra 10,000 passengers travelling through the airport," Heathrow said in a statement, advising passengers to check with their airline before going to the airport.





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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

22 MARCH 2025

Domestic air pax traffic rises 11% to 140.44L in Feb: DGCA

PTI

MUMBAI

India's domestic air passenger traffic increased 11.04 per cent to 140.44 lakh in February over the same month last year, according to monthly traffic data by the DGCA. The number of domestic passengers flown by the Indian airline in February 2024 was recorded at 126.48 lakh, data show.

During the month under review, IndiGo flew a total of 89.40-lakh passengers with a market share of 63.7 per cent, followed by the Air India Group, which transported 38.30 lakh passengers and chipped away with 27.3 per cent market share.

Air India last year completed consolidation of its airlines business with AIX Connect merging into Air India Express in October and Vistara's merger with Air India on November 11. The two other major carriers SpiceJet and Akasa Air transported 6.59 lakh and 4.54 lakh passengers, respectively, during the month under review.



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MUMBAI

22 MARCH 2025

'Air passenger traffic to see 7% growth in 2025'



PTI

SINGAPORE

India's air passenger traffic is expected to grow at a strong pace of 7 per cent in 2025, supported by a growing middle class and increasing air travel affordability, according to Joshua Ng, Director of US-headquartered Alton Aviation Consultancy.

Bullish on aviation prospects in India, Ng said the country, which contributes approximately 10 per cent of Asia Pacific's domestic and international air traffic demand, has already returned to pre-pandemic levels.

"Such growing demand in turn supports India's massive aviation development programmes including setting up of 150 airports across the country," Ng told PTI on

Friday.

He further noted that "India's passenger traffic is expected to grow at a strong pace of 7 per cent in 2025, supported by an order book of nearly 1,900 aircraft among airlines based in the country."

Besides, "the recent merger between Air India and Vistara is also expected to bring more stability to the industry, with Air India and IndiGo emerging as the two primary players in the full-service and low-cost carrier segments respectively," he underlined.

Giving a global perspective, he said as global air traffic has returned to pre-pandemic levels, the aviation industry will continue its long-term growth trend of 4 per cent per annum from 2024 to 2034, supported by a 2.7 per cent annual growth in global GDP.



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HINDUSTAN

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

उड़ान में देरी, एयर इंडिया पर भड़कीं सुले

मुंबई। एनसीपी (एसपी) की नेता एवं सांसद सुप्रिया सुले ने शनिवार को उड़ान में देरी को लेकर एयर इंडिया की आलोचना की। सांसद के उड़ान में एक घंटे 19 मिनट की देरी हुई थी। उन्होंने एयर इंडिया पर लगातार कुप्रबंधन का आरोप लगाते हुए कहा कि उड़ानों में देरी एक चलन बन गया है। प्रीमियम किराया चुकाने के बावजूद उड़ानें देरी से संचालित हो रही हैं।

AAIB to conduct in-depth probe into all tail strikes involving IndiGo aircraft

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

With an IndiGo A321 Neo aircraft scraping the runway in Chennai earlier this month – the sixth known incident in two years – the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is now digging into every prior tail strike by the airline.

“Due to the criticality of the recent cases as well as the frequent occurrence of tail strikes at IndiGo, we have decided to investigate them in totality,” a senior AAIB official told *The Hindu*. The official said it will be investigating various factors such as training or procedural lapses, air crew profiling, and any glaring pattern behind the incidents.

On March 8, the tail section of an IndiGo Airbus A321 Neo aircraft from Mumbai hit the runway at



IndiGo flights scraped runways six times in two years, most recently on March 8 in Chennai.

the Chennai airport during landing. The aircraft registered as VT-IBI was also involved in a previous tail strike on September 9, 2024, following which it was grounded for over five months for maintenance until February 6. The aircraft conducted 190 flights before it encountered another tail hit in March.

Both pilots on the Mumbai-Chennai flight were

“reasonably” experienced. The flight was an annual proficiency check flight for a captain, under the supervision of a trainer. At the time of landing, the trainer was commanding the flight, said sources.

Significant damage

Initial investigation into the incident was carried out by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), but as there were significant internal damage to the aircraft due to the scraping of its tail section, it was categorised as a “serious incident” and the probe transferred to the AAIB.

The investigation into the September 9 tail strike of IndiGo, which was also categorised as a serious incident, is still under way. Airbus has also submitted its inputs to the probe agency.



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HINDU

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025



Sule slams Air India over flight delay: 'we pay premium fares'

MP Supriya Sule slammed Air India on Saturday for "constant mismanagement" and termed the flight delays as a continuous trend affecting passengers despite paying premium fares. Ms. Sule's furious response came after an Air India flight she booked was delayed by 1 hour and 19 minutes. She highlighted that flights are delayed despite paying premium fares and demanded that Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu hold the airline accountable for frequent delays. Speaking to reporters, Ms. Sule claimed flight trackers were faulty which gave misleading results. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

10 flights diverted from B'luru amid heavy rain

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: Heavy rainfall across Bengaluru on Saturday led to flooding, widespread chaos on the roads and diversion of at least 10 flights to Chennai, officials said.

In a post on X, IndiGo said unfavourable weather conditions in Bengaluru continue to impact flights. "We're closely monitoring the weather and will keep you informed...", it said. The airline later said that while there has been some "relief on the congestion front", the weather impact may take a "little longer to clear".

Air India also said that flight operations were impacted due to

adverse weather conditions, resulting in air traffic congestion in Bengaluru. "We advise all our passengers to check their flight status before proceeding to the airport," it said on X.

Meanwhile, local residents posted pictures of heavy flooding on the roads and traffic jams.

The Bengaluru traffic police alerted about congestion on the way to the airport. "Due to heavy waterlogging at Hunsmaranahalli, there is severe traffic congestion, affecting the traffic towards the International Airport," it said.

The official account of the Madiwala Traffic Police shared a post that showed police personnel clearing the roads to drain the waterlogging issue.

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

22 MARCH 2025

Legal woes mount as fresh insolvency plea hits SpiceJet

Krishna Yadav

krishna.yadav@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Budget carrier SpiceJet is facing fresh insolvency proceedings, this time from Indonesia's PT BBN Airlines over unpaid lease rentals totalling \$5.94 million.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Delhi bench, heard the case on Friday but is yet to issue a notice after SpiceJet sought time to respond. The next hearing is scheduled for 21 April.

PT BBN Airlines claims SpiceJet leased three Boeing aircraft under specific agreements, took possession on 9 June 2024,

and used them for operations. However, the airline allegedly defaulted on lease payments between May and September 2024.

According to the lessor, SpiceJet acknowledged the outstanding dues multiple times via emails and WhatsApp messages, never ever disputing it until the demand notice was issued. Partial payments were also made, reinforcing the airline's liability.

"In light of the various acknowledgements, your lordships, I would say that this is a fit case for insolvency to be initiated for SpiceJet," PT BBN Airlines' counsel argued, urging



The next hearing is scheduled for 21 April. HT

the tribunal to act swiftly.

SpiceJet's senior counsel, Krishnendu Datta, countered that the aircraft were delivered

late, causing financial as well as operational losses, a fact the lessor acknowledged in communications but omitted from the petition. He said early termination agreement had been signed but was voided by the lessor before insolvency plea.

SpiceJet had lodged claims for damages before receiving the demand notice, Datta said, urging the tribunal to consider the airline's full defence before issuing a notice. The latest case adds to SpiceJet's deepening legal troubles.

As of March, over 20 insolvency petitions have been filed with the NCLT's Delhi bench, alone primarily by aircraft les-

sors, vendors, and former employees. But, none resulted in a full fledged insolvency proceeding yet. On 6 March, the NCLT issued a notice to SpiceJet on insolvency claims from three lessors from Ireland and a former pilot. The lessors—NGF Genesis Ltd, NGF Charlie Ltd, and NGF Alpha Ltd—alleged the airline defaulted on \$12.4 million in rental payment. Former pilot Devesh Bbyan also filed a ₹1.70 crore claims for unpaid dues covering March 2020 to August 2022.

SpiceJet is making efforts to resolve disputes and stabilize operations. It recently raised ₹3,000 crore via a QIP.

AAIB to conduct in-depth probe into all tail strikes involving IndiGo aircraft

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

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“reasonably” experienced. The flight was an annual proficiency check flight for a captain, under the supervision of a trainer. At the time of landing, the trainer was commanding the flight, said sources.

Significant damage

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LOKH SATYA

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

एयरलाइंस ने लंदन के लिए निर्धारित उड़ानें बहाल कीं

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य। एअर इंडिया, वर्जिन अटलांटिक और ब्रिटिश एयरवेज ने शनिवार को नई दिल्ली से लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे (एलएचआर) के लिए अपनी निर्धारित उड़ानें बहाल कर दी हैं। एलएचआर ने 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट पर एक बयान में बताया कि उड़ानें फिर से शुरू हो गई हैं, हवाई अड्डा पूरी तरह से चालू है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि एअर इंडिया, ब्रिटिश एयरवेज और वर्जिन अटलांटिक ने आज सुबह लंदन के हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट के लिए अपनी उड़ानें संचालित कीं और एअर इंडिया की एक और उड़ान रवाना होने वाली है। हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट पर भारतीय समय के अनुसार शुक्रवार देर रात परिचालन बहाल हुआ। एअर इंडिया की दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से एलएचआर के लिए छह उड़ानें हैं। भारत और एलएचआर के बीच ब्रिटिश एयरवेज की प्रतिदिन आठ उड़ानें हैं, जिनमें मुंबई से तीन और दिल्ली से दो उड़ानें शामिल हैं। वर्जिन अटलांटिक की दिल्ली, मुंबई और बेंगलुरु से एलएचआर के लिए पांच दैनिक उड़ानें हैं।



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NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

Air India पर बरसीं सुप्रिया सुले

■ भाषा, मुंबई: राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (SP) की नेता और सांसद सुप्रिया सुले ने शनिवार को कहा कि प्रीमियम किराया चुकाने के बावजूद एयर इंडिया की उड़ानों में देरी आम बात हो गई है। सुले ने एयर



इंडिया को जिस उड़ान में बुकिंग कराई थी, उसमें एक घंटे 19 मिनट की देरी हुई। सुले ने कहा कि 'फ्लाइट

ट्रैकर' (विमान के समय की जानकारी देने वाली प्रणाली) खराब थे, जिससे भ्रामक जानकारी मिल रही थी। मैं उड़ान में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर फंसी हुई थी, लेकिन 'ट्रैकर' में दिखाई दे रहा था कि विमान उड़ान भर चुका है। मैं 'ट्रैकर' के मुद्दे को नागर विमानन मंत्री के समक्ष उठाऊंगी। सुले ने मांग की कि एयर इंडिया जैसी विमानन कंपनियों को जवाबदेह बनाने के लिए सख्त नियम लागू किए जाएं।



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PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

23 MARCH 2025

फिर लेट हुई एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट सुप्रिया सुले ने सरकार से की कार्रवाई की मांग

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट देरी का मुद्दा एक बार फिर चर्चा में आ गया है। इस बार नाराजगी जताने वालों में एनसीपी एसपी सोसद के साथ सुप्रिया सुले भी शामिल हो गई हैं। उनकी फ्लाइट लगभग एक घंटे 19 मिनट देरी से खाना हई, जिस्से परेशान होकर उन्होंने सोशल मीडिया पर एयर इंडिया को जमकर लताड़ा और नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू से कड़े नियम लागू करने की मांग की। सुप्रिया सुले ने अपनी नाराजगी जाहिर करते हुए कहा, हर बार यही कहानी दोहराई जाती है। हम प्रीमियम किराया देते हैं, लेकिन बदले में लेट उड़ानें और खराब सेवा मिलती है। बच्चे, बुजुर्ग और कामकाजी लोग सभी इस बदइतजामी से परेशान होते हैं। उन्होंने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री से अनुरोध किया कि



इंडिगो की दो फ्लाइट रद्द, यात्रियों को हुई परेशानी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : शनिवार को इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की दिल्ली से पंतनगर जाने वाली दो उड़ानें त क नी की कारणों के चलते रद्द कर दी गईं, जिससे यात्रियों को भारी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। जानकारी के मुताबिक, दिल्ली से पंतनगर के लिए पहली फ्लाइट 6ई-7156 को दोपहर 12:06 बजे उड़ान भरनी थी और यह 1:00 बजे पंतनगर पहुंचने वाली थी। दूसरी फ्लाइट 6ई-7324 को दोपहर

12:45 बजे दिल्ली से खाना होकर 3:45 बजे पंतनगर पहुंचना था। लेकिन दोनों ही उड़ानें निर्धारित समय पर टेक-ऑफ नहीं कर सकीं और अंततः रद्द कर दी गईं। अचानक फ्लाइट कैसिल होने की वजह से यात्रियों को काफी दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ा। कुछ यात्रियों ने इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की प्रबंधन व्यवस्था पर सवाल उठाए और जल्दबाजी में वैकल्पिक यात्रा साधन तलाशने को मजबूर हुए। सूत्रों के अनुसार, तकनीकी कारणों से इन उड़ानों को रद्द किया गया, हालांकि एयरलाइन की ओर से इस संबंध में कोई विस्तृत जानकारी नहीं दी गई।

एयरलाइंस को उनकी देरी के लिए नवाबंदेह ठहराने के लिए सख्त नियम लागू किए जाएं। सुप्रिया सुले के ट्वीट के बाद एयर इंडिया ने तुरंत स्फार्ड दी। एयरलाइन ने कहा, हम समझते

हैं कि फ्लाइट देरी से उड़ान यात्रियों के लिए असुविधाजनक हो सकता है। लेकिन कई बार परिचालन से जुड़ी अनिवार्य परिस्थितियों के कारण ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न होती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

TIMES OF INDIA

BANGLORE

22 MARCH 2025

At least 19 flights disrupted

At least 19 daily flights from airports across India to Britain's Heathrow airport were disrupted on Friday. Air India said its operations to and from Heathrow had been significantly impacted, with one flight returning to Mumbai, another from Delhi diverted to Frankfurt and other flights cancelled. British Airways operates 8 flights per day between Indian airports and Heathrow, including one from

Bengaluru, all of which were affected. Virgin Atlantic said all its "arriving and departing flights are cancelled until 21:30 on March 21, with the rest of today's schedule currently under review".

At Bengaluru airport, a total of five flights were hit, including a Virgin Atlantic flight with 150 passengers on board, which had to return midway. A source later confirmed the flight will take off early Saturday. TNN