

## AAI hands over final feasibility report of Hosur airport project to T.N. government

**Sunitha Sekar**

CHENNAI

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has handed over the final feasibility report of the Hosur airport project to the Tamil Nadu government. As the next step, the State government will have to write to the Ministry of Defence, seeking its approval, a source in Delhi said.

Last year, Tamil Nadu proposed the development of a new greenfield airport in Hosur, considering how the city had evolved into an automobile and industrial hub. Further, as the government planned to turn Hosur into an information technology hub, with the 'Knowledge Corridor', the presence of an airport had become a necessity. Two runways have been proposed for the airport, which will be built on nearly 2,000 acres.

The AAI examined five sites in and around Hosur last year. Based on its report, the State government narrowed it down to two sites – one south of Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited's (TAAL) and Hosur taluk, and another east of Hosur and north of Shoalagiri.

### Study carried out

Last month, the AAI submitted a draft report indicating there may not be much difficulties in building the airport in both locations. Subsequently, it studied the airspace and then submitted the final report. "The study of airspace is important, as it is necessary to see if the departing and arriving flights at Ho-



Two runways are proposed for the airport, which will be built on nearly 2,000 acres.

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

sur don't infringe on other airspaces and if the runway will have optimum utilisation. Since, the Ministry of Defence controls the airspace in that region, its permission and approval are needed," a source said.

After this, the State government will choose the site and then an Obstacle Limitation Surfaces survey will have to be carried out.

"But the biggest challenge before us is the agreement between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Bangalore International Airport Limited [which prohibits development of any other airport within a 150 km aerial distance until 2033]. So, even if it takes time, it is only ideal that we at least begin to pursue it early," another source said.

S. Sundariya, president of the Hosur Industries Association, said the Hosur airport will be a hugely beneficial project for Tamil Nadu.

"It could add value to the State and attract further investments. For both passenger traffic and cargo movement, there is a huge benefit if this airport is developed at the earliest," he said.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

22 APRIL 2025

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### CISF cover to Mizoram's lone airport from April 24

NEW DELHI, April 21: The Centre has ordered deployment of an armed security contingent of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Lengpui airport in Mizoram.

This will be the 69th airport under the counter-terrorist cover of the paramilitary, designated as the national civil aviation security force, and the first unit guarded by it in the Northeastern State. The lone airport of the State is located about 35 km north of capital Aizawl in Mamit district. It is the first airport in the country to be constructed by a State government, according to the Airports Authority of India.

"The force will take charge of the airport on April 24," a CISF officer told PTI. It is currently protected by a joint team of the State police and the CRPF, he said.

The force, like other airports, will control access and exit at the Lengpui facility, check departing passengers and their baggage and deploy vehicle-borne armed commandos as part of a quick reaction team (QRT) that responds in case of threat or attacks, the officer said. —PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## Mumbai airport to halt freighter operations from August 16

**Aneesh Phadnis**  
Mumbai

Mumbai airport will suspend all freighter operations from August 16 till further notice to carry out infrastructure upgrade.

Mumbai airport is the second busiest in India for cargo operations, handling 24 per cent of the country's total freight movement. The airport's move is being seen as a pressure tactic to force airlines to shift operations to Navi Mumbai airport, which is to open in June.

While freighter movement is being restricted, cargo will continue to be carried on passenger aircraft to/from Mumbai. However, a ban on freighters will mean reduced capacity as a Boeing 777 or 747 cargo aircraft can take around 100 tonnes of payload.

"Mumbai International



Airport Limited (MIAL) needs to carry out multiple airside works including building new taxiways for runway 14/32 to enhance its capacity and bring efficiency in operations. MIAL, therefore, has no option but to temporarily shut down part of cargo facilities," the airport operator wrote in a letter to airlines on Monday.

### CAUGHT UNAWARES

The letter states that freighter operations will be closed from August 16 till further notice.

The airport's move has taken carriers by surprise and some said there had been no consultation with them. "We think this is just a move to force airlines to shift their operations to Navi Mumbai," said an airline executive. The issue is likely to be discussed in a meeting between airlines and airports on Friday.

An aviation source said warehouse and cold storage facilities are being readied in Navi Mumbai. These would require regulatory approvals. Besides, certified screeners would be needed for X-raying cargo. This is expected to be ready by August, he said.

Neither Mumbai nor Navi Mumbai airports responded to email queries on the topic. An airport executive said engagement is on with airlines and the best solution will be found. "There will be no interruption in cargo movement," he said.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

### AISATS sets up ₹200 cr logistics park at Bengaluru airport

FE BUREAU  
Bengaluru, April 22

**AIR INDIA SATS** Airport Services (AISATS) has opened a logistics park at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru with an investment of ₹200 crores. The facility, one of the largest on-airport logistics parks in south India, spans 8 acres.

The AISATS BLR Logistics Park comprises 3 buildings: a 2-level main warehouse with over 240,000 sq. ft of Grade A space, an 11,000 sq. ft public bonded warehouse, and a 24,000 sq. ft office block for customs house agents and logistics firms.

"This world-class facility will enhance regional economic prosperity and position Bengaluru and Karnataka as hubs for logistics innovation and trade excellence," said Nipun Aggarwal, chairman of AISATS.

The facility serves Bengaluru airport, which handles 40% of south India's air cargo volumes. KIA recorded 502,480 metric tonne of cargo in FY25 and targets 1 million metric tonne by 2030.

The logistics park incorporates sustainability features including rainwater harvesting, natural lighting, LED systems, and waste management.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

22 APRIL 2025

# HC slams airlines over wheelchair shortage at Mumbai airport; calls for heavy penalties

**Karuna Nidhi**

karuna.nidhi@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The Bombay high court on Monday strongly criticised the shortage of wheelchair assistance at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), calling it a matter of “human dignity” and suggesting that heavy penalties be imposed on airlines failing to provide adequate facilities.

A division bench comprising Justice Girish S Kulkarni and Justice Advait Sethna was hearing two separate petitions—one filed by a 50-year-old woman suffering from arthritis, and another by a 53-year-old man—both highlighting the serious difficulties they faced due to the lack of wheelchair support at the international airport.

The woman, who travelled to Colombo with her 80-year-old mother in September 2023, said

she experienced severe discomfort when only one wheelchair was provided for both of them. The other petitioner raised broader concerns about the chronic shortage of mobility assistance at the busy airport.

In response to the petitions, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) pointed to factors such as overbooking contributing to the scarcity. The court, however, rejected this justification outright.

“We are concerned about human lives. Nobody should suffer. What is required is sensitivity from the airport management and all airlines,” the bench said. “We want the highest international standards to be implemented in India. Overbooking wheelchairs is unfathomable.”

Senior advocate Zal Andhyarujina, appearing for Air India, assured the court that steps



**The bench stressed that senior citizens and persons with disabilities are vulnerable, especially during flight delays.**

would be taken to ensure wheelchair availability.

The bench stressed that senior citizens and persons with disabilities are particularly vul-

nerable, especially during flight delays. It noted that the issue affects thousands of passengers across India every day and called for immediate systemic reform.

“The facilities must be available before time. Authorities need to adopt preventive measures rather than react to each crisis,” the court said.

The judges suggested that the DGCA consider imposing substantial penalties on airlines that fail to comply and proposed the formation of an expert committee to review the situation and submit recommendations to the airport authorities.

“India can set an example in this regard,” the bench remarked. “Airlines should not wait for regulation but must act with spontaneity and compassion.”

The matter will be heard further on Tuesday.



**We are concerned about human lives. Nobody should suffer. What is required is sensitivity from the airport management authority and all airlines. We want the highest international standards to be implemented in India by all airlines.**

Division bench of justices Girish S Kulkarni and Advait Sethna



## Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

22 APRIL 2025

### दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट : एक रनवे बंद होने से बढ़ा दबाव 900 उड़ानों में देरी से यात्रियों का सब्र टूटा, ग्राउंड स्टाफ से झड़प

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आइजीआई) एयरपोर्ट पर शनिवार रात से रविवार के बीच करीब 900 उड़ानों में देरी के कारण यात्रियों के सब्र का बांध टूट गया। परेशान यात्रियों की ग्राउंड स्टाफ के साथ झड़प हुई। करीब 68 फीसदी उड़ानों में देरी से यात्रियों को घंटों इंतजार करना पड़ा और गंतव्य पर देरी से पहुंचे।

फ्लाइट ट्रैकिंग सेवा फ्लाइंगट्रेडरवे के अनुसार रविवार रात 11:30 बजे तक जाने वाली 501 उड़ानों में औसतन एक घंटा, जबकि आने वाली 384 उड़ानों में 75 मिनट की देरी हुई। कुछ उड़ानों में तो सात घंटे तक का विलंब हुआ। देरी की वजह अपग्रेडेशन के कारण चार में से एक रनवे का बंद होना और हवा का रुख बदलना बताया जा रहा है। रनवे बंद करने के बाद एयरपोर्ट की क्षमता में भारी कमी आई। केवल 31-32 उड़ानों का आगमन प्रति घंटे हो पा रहा था, जबकि सामान्य रूप से यह संख्या 45 उड़ानों तक होती थी। अव्यवस्था के बाद एयरपोर्ट ने रनवे के अपग्रेडेशन का कार्य रोक दिया है। रनवे से 20 अप्रैल को परिचालन रोक

#### यह गलती पड़ी भारी

एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों ने इस परेशानी के लिए खराब प्लानिंग और महीनों से चल रहे मिसकम्युनिकेशन को जिम्मेदार ठहराया है। एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डीआइएएल) ने कहा कि एयरलाइन को चार महीने पहले ही रनवे अपग्रेड और हवा के संभावित व्यवधान के बारे में सूचित किया गया था, लेकिन एयरलाइंस ने इस पर ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया। यह सूचना इसलिए दी जाती है कि एयरलाइंस यात्रियों की सुविधा और सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए उड़ानों को रिशेड्यूल कर सकें। हालांकि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ।

दिया गया था। मई के पहले सप्ताह में इसे खोल दिया जाएगा। इससे पहले रविवार सुबह जम्मू-कश्मीर के मुख्यमंत्री उमर अब्दुल्ला ने भी लंबे विलंब लिए एयरपोर्ट की आलोचना की थी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## जेवर एयरपोर्ट के पास वाणिज्यिक, ग्रुप हाउसिंग व औद्योगिक प्लॉट भी उपलब्ध

ग्रेटर नोएडा (आईएनएस)। यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे प्राधिकरण इस सप्ताह कई नई प्लॉट योजनाएं लांच कर रहा है। इसकी शुरुआत आवासीय प्लॉट स्कीम से हो चुकी है। इस स्कीम के तहत सेक्टर-18 के पॉकेट 9बी में 200 वर्ग मीटर क्षेत्रफल के कुल 276 प्लॉट शामिल हैं। आवेदन प्रक्रिया 21 मई 2025 तक खुली रहेगी। ड्रा 11 जुलाई को किया जाएगा।

यमुना अथॉरिटी के सीईओ अरुणवीर सिंह ने बताया कि जेवर एयरपोर्ट, मेडिकल डेवल्पमेंट पार्क और प्रस्तावित फिल्म सिटी के पास बड़े प्लॉट्स की भारी मांग है। ये सभी प्लॉट एयरपोर्ट से मात्र 10 से 15 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित हैं। इन 276 प्लॉट्स में से 214 सामान्य श्रेणी के लिए हैं, जबकि 17.5 प्रतिशत प्लॉट किसानों के लिए और 5 प्रतिशत इंडस्ट्री से जुड़े व्यक्तियों के लिए आरक्षित रखे गए हैं। यमुना अथॉरिटी ने हाल ही में आवासीय भूमि की दरों

में संशोधन कर इन्हें बढ़ाकर अब 35 हजार रुपए प्रति वर्ग मीटर कर दिया है। यह पिछले वर्ष 25,900 रुपए

■ सेक्टर-18 के पॉकेट 9बी में 200 वर्ग मीटर क्षेत्रफल के 276 प्लॉट

■ आवेदन प्रक्रिया 21 मई तक

■ 11 जुलाई को होगा ड्रा

प्रति वर्ग मीटर थी। यह करीब 35 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि है। प्लॉट खरीदने के इच्छुक आवेदकों को पंजीकरण शुल्क के रूप में 10 प्रतिशत यानी लगभग सात लाख रुपए अग्रिम जमा कराने होंगे। शेष राशि आवंटन के 60 दिन के भीतर जमा करनी होगी। आवंटन प्राप्त करने के बाद तीन साल के भीतर निर्माण कार्य पूरा करना अनिवार्य है अन्यथा समय विस्तार शुल्क देना

होगा। यमुना अथॉरिटी आने वाले चार दिनों में ग्रुप हाउसिंग, होटल और वाणिज्यिक श्रेणी की स्कीमें भी लांच करेगा। ग्रुप हाउसिंग योजना के तहत 2.5 से लेकर 50 एकड़ तक के कुल 15 प्लॉट्स की योजना है। इसके अलावा नौ होटल प्लॉट्स की स्कीम भी जल्द लांच की जाएगी। वाणिज्यिक श्रेणी में दुकानों के लिए 100 वर्ग मीटर के 140 भूखंडों की योजना प्रस्तावित है। औद्योगिक श्रेणी में यमुना अथॉरिटी कुल 101 प्लॉट्स की योजना लेकर आ रहा है। छोटे औद्योगिक प्लॉट्स का आवंटन ई-नीलामी के माध्यम से किया जाएगा, जबकि बड़े प्लॉट्स का आवंटन साक्षात्कार के माध्यम से होगा। यमुना अथॉरिटी ने इस बार कॉरपोरेट ऑफिस प्लॉट्स की दरों में सबसे ज्यादा बढ़ोतरी की है, जिसे 25 हजार रुपए प्रति वर्ग मीटर से बढ़ाकर 52,500 रुपए प्रति वर्ग मीटर कर दिया गया है। इसमें 110 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की गई।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

22 APRIL 2025

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### Maharashtra CM inaugurates Amravati airport

In a monumental step towards boosting regional connectivity and socio-economic development, Devendra Fadnavis, chief minister of Maharashtra, in the presence of dignitaries from the union and state governments, and senior officials from various aviation and administrative bodies,

officially inaugurated and operationalised the airport in Amravati.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the arrival of Alliance air flight 9I-633 at Amravati airport followed by a ceremonial water cannon salute, signifying the commencement of commercial operations.





भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## निजी विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त प्रशिक्षु पायलट की मौत



अमरेली में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान।

अमरेली। गुजरात के अमरेली में मंगलवार दोपहर एक प्रशिक्षण विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया, जिसमें प्रशिक्षु पायलट की मौत हो गई। विमान ने अमरेली हवाईअड्डे से उड़ान भरी थी। विमान दिल्ली की एक निजी विमानन अकादमी का था।

अमरेली के पुलिस अधीक्षक संजय खरात ने बताया कि विमान रिहायशी इलाके में क्रैश होने से पहले एक पेड़ से टकराया था। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों ने बताया कि दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने के बाद विमान में आग लग गई, जिसमें सवार प्रशिक्षु पायलट की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई। एजेंसी



## Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

### Air India Express gets a new chief, board member

**Rohit Vaid**

New Delhi

Air India Group has initiated a board-level rejig at its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express (AIX) to bring in greater coordination between the budget and full-service carriers. Campbell Wilson, CEO of Air India, has stepped down as Chairman of the carrier. Wilson is succeeded by Nipun Aggarwal, a board member of AIX.

Besides his new role, Aggarwal will continue his duties as Air India's Chief Commercial Officer. The move was communicated to employees by Wilson via an internal communication.

#### **STRUCTURAL CHANGES**

Wilson told employees that over the past 18 months, many structural changes critical to transforming the rebuilding of the Group had been completed. He listed the recent merger of four airlines into two, consolidation of non-flying teams in Gurugram, and refreshing the leadership teams of both Air India and Air India Express as the completed tasks.

"With this structural work largely complete, the task at hand now is to fully leverage and optimise the group's fleet, network, sales, distribution, and loyalty assets. I've therefore decided that the time is right for me to



Nipun Aggarwal, Chairman, Air India Express

step down as Chairman of the Air India Express Board...," he said.

"Concurrently, to ensure operational synergy between the airlines, Captain Basil Kwauk, Air India Chief Operations Officer, will replace me on the Air India Express Board once the necessary regulatory approvals are secured."

Sources told *businessline*, that the group CEO was no longer required to oversee the LCC, as the structural changes like the merger, leadership renewal, system interfacing, and better communication and collaboration structures between the full-service and low-cost airlines have been achieved. "AIX will greatly benefit as Aggarwal and Kwauk take stronger roles on the AIX board. The move will usher in more productivity as commercial functions and operations are well coordinated," sources told *businessline*. "Wilson will remain responsible for the overall group's performance. He can step in if the need arises."

## Campbell Wilson quits as A-I Express chairman

DEEPAK PATEL

New Delhi, 22 April

Air India Chief Commercial Officer Nipun Agarwal was on Tuesday appointed chairman of Air India Express, replacing Campbell Wilson (*pictured*). Wilson will continue as the chief executive officer and managing director of Air India. He is vacating his position on the board of Air India Express for Basil Kwauk, chief operations officer of Air India.

Air India Express is a wholly-owned subsidiary and low-cost airline of Air India.

Before joining Air India, Aggarwal was the senior vice-president at Tata Sons, where he played a key role in transforming several Tata Group companies.

He has also worked with Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Standard Chartered Bank, and BP PLC.

In contrast, Wilson is a seasoned airline executive with over two decades at Singapore Airlines, where he held various leadership roles, including the founding CEO of Scoot, the group's low-cost carrier. In an internal message to employees, Wilson said that over the past 18 months, Air India group has completed several structural changes critical to transforming itself, including merging our four airlines into two, consolidating its non-fly-

ing teams in Gurugram, and refreshing the leadership teams of both Air India and Air India Express.

“With this structural work largely complete, the task at hand now is to fully leverage and optimise the group fleet, network, sales, distribution and loyalty assets. I’ve therefore decided that the time is right for me to step down as chairman of the Air India Express Board, and for Nipun Aggarwal, who is already on the board of AIX, to assume the role (while also continuing his Air India Chief Commercial Officer duties), thus enabling greater coordination of the Group’s network and commercial efforts,” Wilson said.

“I will remain interested in Air India Express’s progress and success, fully support Nipun and Basil in their additional roles, and remain responsible for the overall performance of the Air India Group,” he added.



# Air India keen to take Boeing planes refused by Chinese airlines

BLOOMBERG

**A**ir India Ltd is looking to take Boeing Co planes rejected by Chinese carriers, people familiar with the matter said, joining the ranks of Asian airlines vying to benefit from the trade war between Washington and Beijing.

The Tata Group-owned carrier, which urgently needs aircraft to expedite its revival, plans to approach Boeing about acquiring a number of jets the US planemaker was readying for Chinese airlines before reciprocal tariffs thwarted the handovers, according to the people, who are familiar with discussions at the Indian airline and didn't want to be identified because the information isn't public.

Air India is also eager to take up slots for future deliveries should they become available, the people said. The carrier has benefited from China's pullback in the past — through March, it had accepted 41 737 Max jets originally built for Chinese airlines. Their deliv-



eries had been deferred due to issues including safety concerns with lithium batteries in the planes' cockpit voice recorders.

Representatives for Air India and Boeing declined to comment. Malaysia Aviation Group Bhd. too is in talks with Boeing over delivery slots vacated by Chinese carriers, Bernama reported on Sunday.

Chinese airlines were told by the government not to accept Boeing aircraft, Bloomberg News reported last week, after Beijing set reciprocal tariffs of up to 125% on US-made goods. About 10 planes were being prepared for delivery at the time, and some 737 Max jets in China already have since

been sent back to the US.

Any Boeing planes already built or in progress will present complications for potential buyers, as the cabin configurations for many will already have been set by the original customer, and some payments will have been made.

The interest from non-Chinese airlines is likely to soften the short-term blow for Boeing, one of the highest-profile US exporters, should the tariff war continue. Still, the trade conflict may complicate efforts to wind down a so-called shadow factory for stored 737s this summer. The US manufacturer is expected to provide an update on the situation with its quarterly results this week.

# जम्मू-श्रीनगर राजमार्ग बंद हुआ तो हवाई टिकट सात से आठ गुना महंगा

जागरण संवाददाता, जम्मू

रामबन में प्राकृतिक आपदा के कारण जम्मू-श्रीनगर हाईवे बंद होते ही एयरलाइंस कंपनियों ने आपदा में अवसर तलाशना शुरू कर दिया। इकोनमी क्लास में हवाई यात्रा के लिए सात से आठ गुना ज्यादा किराया वसूला जाने लगा है। मंगलवार को जम्मू-श्रीनगर के बीच का हवाई टिकट 25 हजार में बेचा गया। वहीं, दिल्ली से श्रीनगर के लिए हवाई किराया 35 हजार पार कर गया। फंसे लोग मजबूरी में हवाई सफर करने को मजबूर हैं।

रामबन में बादल फटने से आई तबाही के बाद रविवार से जम्मू-श्रीनगर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पूरी तरह बंद है। जम्मू-श्रीनगर के बीच यात्रा करने के लिए एकमात्र साधन विमान सेवा ही है।

जम्मू-श्रीनगर का टिकट 25 हजार में, दिल्ली-श्रीनगर का 35 हजार पार

रामबन में बादल फटने से आई तबाही के बाद फंसे हैं लोग



जम्मू-श्रीनगर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग बंद होने से जम्मू में फंसे यात्री रास्ता खुलने का इंतजार करते हुए।

मजबूरी में लोग महंगे टिकट भी खरीद रहे हैं। इसका कारण यह है कि अगर दो-तीन दिन और मार्ग नहीं खुला तो उन्हें

होटलों में ठहरना पड़ेगा। वहां कमरे का किराया और खाना-पीना इससे भी महंगा पड़ेगा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## ■ AI Express Chief Wilson Quits, Nipun Aggarwal to Take Over



**NEW DELHI** Air India CEO Campbell Wilson will step down as the chairman of Air India Express and Air India's Chief Commercial

Officer Nipun Aggarwal will assume the chairmanship of the budget airline. Wilson, who has been the chairman of Air India Express since June 2022, will also be moving out of the budget airline's board. In an internal message to the staff on Tuesday, Wilson said he has decided that the time is right for him to step down as chairman of the Air India Express Board. Aggarwal will assume the role while also continuing as Air India Chief Commercial Officer duties. —PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## Campbell to step down as AI Express chairman

● Tata Group veteran Nipun Aggarwal will take over the role

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, April 22

**IN A SIGNIFICANT** board-level reshuffle, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson has announced his decision to step down as the chairman of budget airline Air India Express, as per an internal message shared with staff on Tuesday. Wilson will be succeeded by Tata Group veteran and Air India chief commercial officer, Nipun Aggarwal.

Wilson, who has been the chairman of Air India Express since June 2022, will also vacate his seat on the airline's board. His board position will be filled by Air India chief operations officer, Basil Kwauk, after receiving necessary regulatory approvals. In an internal message to employees on Tuesday, Wilson said he believes the time is right to step aside from the Air India Express Board.

Wilson noted that the move is aimed at enhancing coordination across the group's network and commercial strategies.

Aggarwal is a board member at Air India Express. He will assume the chairmanship while continuing in his role as Air India's chief commercial officer. At Air India, Aggarwal oversees a wide range of



Campbell Wilson Nipun Aggarwal

strategic and operational functions, including aircraft acquisition and financing, strategic procurement, network planning, product development, sales and marketing, revenue management, and the Flying Returns loyalty programme.

"I will obviously remain keenly interested in Air India Express's progress and success, fully support Nipun and Basil in their additional roles, and remain responsible for the overall performance of the Air India Group," Wilson said in the message.

Air India Express is a subsidiary of Air India. The restructuring comes a little over six months after the merger of Air India Express and AIX Connect (earlier AirAsia India).

Air India Group comprises Air India, which completed the merger of Vistara with itself in November 2024, and Air India Express.





# Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

22 APRIL 2025

## Airfare exploitation takes off

**Mukeet Akmal**  
Srinagar, Apr 21

Airfares to and from Kashmir have skyrocketed following the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway due to landslides, leaving residents and businesses in a lurch as they face what many are calling "exploitation" by airlines.

The highway, which serves as the primary surface connection between Kashmir and with rest of the country, has been rendered impassable, forcing travelers to rely on air travel,

now available only at exorbitant prices.

A survey of current airfares reveals alarming figures: the short Srinagar-Jammu route, typically an economical journey, now costs between Rs 12,000-15,000 per passenger.

Longer routes have seen even more dramatic increases, with Srinagar-Delhi tickets ranging from Rs 24,000-28,000 and Srinagar-Mumbai fares reaching Rs 26,000-30,000 per passenger in the coming days.

Muhammad Ibrahim, a  
» See **Airfare...** on Pg-08

## Airfare exploitation...

Srinagar resident, shared his plight saying, "I have to travel to Delhi for medical treatment of my daughter. We were four family members and tickets alone cost Rs 1 lakh. So, I decided not to go and wait."

The price surge has affected not only locals but also potentially deterred tourists, students, and businesspeople from travelling to the region, dealing a blow to Kashmir's economy.

With many unable to afford these rates, essential travel plans including medical treatments, education, and business commitments are being postponed indefinitely, creating a ripple effect across various sectors.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Javid Ahmad Tenga expressed frustration over the persistent issue.

"Our national highway is closed and airfares have increased exponentially. From parliamentary panels to the Civil Aviation Ministry, we have raised the issue of exorbitant airfares at every power centre in Delhi, but there is no action on it. Though the Parliamentary Standing Committee had issued strictures to these airlines to cap the upper limit of airfares, it is being tossed aside," Tenga said.

He questioned the airlines' justification of high prices based on demand and supply principles saying, "The logic of demand and supply lacks sense. We have been asking them to increase flight numbers if they feel the demand is high - it will automatically match the demand and supply. But the people of Kashmir are suffering, our tourism is suffering, and trade and commerce is suffering due to exorbitant airfares."

The tourism industry, a significant economic driver for the region, is reporting numerous cancellations as visitors reconsider their travel plans due to the inflated costs.

Local businesses dependent on tourist traffic are already feeling the pinch, with many reporting decreased footfall and declining revenues.

Jammu and Kashmir Hotels and Restaurants Association (JKHARA) President, Babar Chowdhary emphasised the need for governmental action in the face of these challenges.

"The current airfare situation represents not just a transportation issue but an economic crisis for our region," he said. "We call upon the government to implement immediate regulatory measures to ensure fair pricing. Kashmir's connectivity cannot be held hostage to profit margins while an essential transportation link remains closed. Our hospitality sector, which forms the backbone of the local economy, is facing cancellations daily due to these prohibitive costs."

Adding to the frustration is the fact that the much-awaited railway link, which could provide an alternative transportation option, remains unopened, still awaiting inauguration.

This has left air travel as the only viable option for urgent travel needs, giving airlines considerable leverage in setting prices.

Local travel agents report being inundated with cancellation requests and complaints from customers unable to afford the steep airfares.

Many agents are advising clients to postpone non-essential travel until either the highway reopens or airfares normalise, further impacting the region's economic activity.

Industry observers note that this pattern of price surges during highway closures has become distressingly predictable, raising questions about the need for long-term regulatory frameworks to prevent such situations in the future.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

{ **MY INDIA** } IN AMRELI DISTRICT

### 1 dead as pvt trainer plane crashes in Guj



**A trainee pilot was killed when a trainer aircraft** belonging to a private aviation academy crashed in a residential area in Gujarat's Amreli district on Tuesday afternoon and caught fire, a police official said. The plane fell on a tree before crashing into an open plot. The aircraft crash-landed into a residential area, caught fire, and was engulfed in flames, in the Giryia Road area of Amreli town at around 12.30pm due to unknown reasons, killing the trainee pilot Aniket Mahajan on the spot, officials said.

AGENCIES



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## Trainee pilot killed as aircraft crashes after take-off in Amreli

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 22

A 22-YEAR-OLD trainee pilot was killed Tuesday afternoon when a trainer aircraft crashed and subsequently caught fire in a residential area of Gujarat's Amreli district, said police.

The police identified the deceased as Aniket Mahajan, a resident of Adani Shantigram area in Ahmedabad. He was a trainee at Vision Flying training institute located at Amreli airport. Police officials said that the crash took place shortly after take off.

Police Inspector Omdevsinh Jadeja of Amreli taluka police station said, "The control room received a message about the crash around 12:50 pm. As per the preliminary probe, the crash took place shortly after take off. The reason for the same is yet to be ascertained."

The aircraft crash landed a very short distance from Amreli



**This is the second crash of a civilian trainee aircraft and the fourth overall in Gujarat this year.** *Express*

airport in Bakshi Nagar area of Amreli town's Shashtri Nagar locality, said the police.

Following the incident, personnel from the Amreli Fire Department along with the police rushed to the spot. District Fire Officer Harikrushna C Gadhvi said, "We doused the burning aircraft and then attempted to rescue the pilot who was stuck inside the

cockpit due to damage caused by the crash. He was retrieved and sent to the local hospital."

Officials later confirmed that Mahajan succumbed to his injuries. This is the second crash of a civilian trainee aircraft and the fourth overall aircraft case in Gujarat this year, with the other two being crashes of military aircraft.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## गुजरात में प्रशिक्षण उड़ान के दौरान आवासीय क्षेत्र में हादसा एक प्रशिक्षु पायलट की मौत

अमरेली, 22 अप्रैल (भाषा)।

गुजरात के अमरेली जिले में मंगलवार की दोपहर एक निजी विमानन अकादमी का प्रशिक्षण उड़ान पर रवाना हुआ विमान आवासीय क्षेत्र में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया, जिससे एक प्रशिक्षु पायलट की मौत हो गई। पुलिस के एक अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी दी। विमान पहले एक पेड़ पर गिरा और उसके बाद एक खाली जमीन पर दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया।

अमरेली के पुलिस अधीक्षक (एसपी) संजय खरात ने बताया कि अमरेली शहर के गिरिया रोड इलाके में दोपहर करीब साढ़े 12 बजे अज्ञात कारणों से एक विमान एक आवासीय क्षेत्र में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया, जिससे प्रशिक्षु पायलट की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई। उन्होंने बताया कि विमान में पायलट अकेले थे और विमान ने अमरेली हवाई अड्डे से उड़ान भरी थी।

खरात ने बताया कि शास्त्री नगर इलाके के निकट दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने के बाद विमान में आग लग गई और वह लपटों में घिर गया। खरात ने कहा, 'अमरेली हवाई अड्डे से उड़ान भरने के बाद, हवाई अड्डे से संचालित होने वाली एक विमानन अकादमी का प्रशिक्षण उड़ान पर रवाना हुआ विमान एक आवासीय क्षेत्र में दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। हादसे में, प्रशिक्षु पायलट की मृत्यु हो गई, जबकि विमान लपटों में घिर गया। दुर्घटना में कोई अन्य हताहत नहीं हुआ।'

एसपी ने बताया कि स्थानीय पुलिस ने दुर्घटना के वास्तविक कारण का पता लगाने के लिए आकस्मिक मौत का मामला दर्ज कर जांच शुरू कर दी है। अग्निशमन अधिकारी एससी गढ़वी ने बताया कि विमान के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने और उसमें आग लगने की सूचना मिलने पर स्थानीय अग्निशमन विभाग की चार टीमों शास्त्रीनगर पहुंचीं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MINT

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

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## Nipun Aggarwal to be AI Express chair

**A**ir India chief executive officer (CEO) Campbell Wilson will step down as the chairman of Air India Express and Air India's chief commercial officer Nipun Aggarwal will assume the chairmanship of the budget airline. Wilson has been the chairman of Air India Express since June 2022.

In an internal message to the staff on Tuesday, Wilson said he has decided that the time is right for him to step down as chairman of the Air India Express board.

Aggarwal, who is already on the board of Air India Express, will assume the role while also continuing as Air India chief commercial officer duties. This will enable greater coordination of the group's network and commercial efforts, according to the message.

"Concurrently, to ensure operational synergy between the airlines, Capt Basil Kwauk, Air India chief operations officer, will replace me on the Air India Express board, once the necessary regulatory approvals are secured," the message said.

PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## AI plane took wrong taxiway in December 2024: Air Accidents Investigations Bureau

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In its final report, Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has mentioned situational awareness deficit and non-adherence to Air Traffic Controller's (ATC) instructions as among the probable causes for the incident at Goa's Manohar International Airport in December 2024. The final report stated that situational awareness deficit of the cockpit crew and failure to fully adhere to the air traffic controller's instructions probably led to an Air India aircraft taxiing on a wrong taxiway before aborting the

received line up and take-off clearance. However, the aircraft lined up on taxiway TWY A which was parallel to runway RWY28.

As the aircraft started take-off roll on the wrong runway, ATC instructed the crew to abort the take-off and the aircraft was taxied back to the bay.

AAIB said the issuance of take-off clearance by ATC likely caused the crew's cognitive focus to shift entirely toward executing the take-off. At the time of incident, the aircraft was in contact with Tower on frequency 119.4 MHz.

There was two-way communication

section," the report said and added that both take-off clearance was issued by ATC and take-off checks completed by crew on TWY E near TWY intersection.

"The flight crew did not fully adhere to the ATC taxi instructions and failed to enter TWY A5 before lining up. If the crew had completed the taxi instructions and properly entered TWY A5 before turning for LINEUP, the incident could have been avoided," it noted.

Mentioning about the contributing factors for the incident, AAIB said the Pilot Monitoring (PM) was busy with head down as he was trying to login on Electronic Flight Bag (EFB) to bring the display back to 'on' mode to initiate the lineup checklist and did not check the departure runway when Pilot In Command (PIC) was incorrectly lining up on Taxiway A.

Also, it said the airport is not equipped with an Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (A-SMGCS) which might have improved situational awareness for ATC with this topography.

AAIB has also made safety recommendations in the 22-page final report, including asking all operators to encourage their crew to cross-check their position using the AMM (Aircraft Moving Map) functionality of the EFB, if available as an additional measure alongside primary navigational instruments before take-off.

EFB systems include real-time GPS positioning and airport charts along with AMM, which allow flight crew to cross-check their actual position on the airfield against the planned taxi route and assigned runway.

According to AAIB, this verification process is a vital step in preventing errors such as taxiing to or departing from the wrong RWY/TWY, enhancing overall situational awareness and safety.



take-off at the Airport.

The serious incident involving an A320 aircraft of Air India that was to operate the flight AIC2592 from Goa to Hyderabad on December 5, 2024, and there were a total of 158 people, including 7 crew members onboard the plane.

After ATC cleared the taxiing of the aircraft to the holding point of runway RWY28 via taxiway TWY A5, the plane

between both the aircraft and ATC. No abnormality was reported in any communication system. CVR recording and ATC recording were obtained with transcript.

"This shift may have diminished their situational awareness, resulting in expectation bias or cognitive overload, which prevented them from recognising the visual cues indicating they were at the TWY intersection instead of RWY inter-



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

**दिल्ली से सूरत आ रहा था एयर इंडिया का विमान**

## फ्लाइट में डेढ़ घंटे एसी बंद रहने से यात्रियों का बुरा हाल, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर हंगामा

पत्रिका ब्यूरो  
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. सूरत. दिल्ली से सूरत आने वाली एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट के यात्रियों को दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर डेढ़ घंटे तक विमान के अंदर एसी बंद होने के कारण परेशानी हुई। तेज गर्मी के बीच एसी बंद होने से यात्री पसीने से बेहाल हो गए। इस घटना को लेकर कोई जिम्मेदारी लेने को भी तैयार नहीं दिखा।

सूत्रों के अनुसार एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट संख्या आइएक्स 1122 के यात्रियों के लिए यह सफर कड़वा अनुभव बन गया। यात्रियों ने बताया कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से फ्लाइट टेकऑफ से पहले उन्हें लगभग 1.5 घंटे तक विमान के अंदर बैठाए रखा गया। इस दौरान एसी पूरी तरह बंद था। तेज गर्मी के कारण विमान के भीतर बैठे यात्रियों का बुरा हाल हो गया। यात्रियों ने बताया कि आमतौर



पर इंडिगो की फ्लाइट में सफर करते हैं। इस बार एयर इंडिया का चुनाव महंगा पड़ गया। यात्री पसीने से तरबतर थे, लेकिन विमान के कर्मचारियों ने कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं

ली। इस समस्या के बाद दिल्ली में यात्रियों ने एयर इंडिया प्रबंधन के खिलाफ हंगामा किया और कर्मचारियों को खरी खोटी भी सुनाई।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

23 APRIL 2025

## Air India CEO steps down as AI Express chief

**New Delhi:** Air India MD & CEO Campbell Wilson has stepped down as chairman of the AI Express and Nipun Aggarwal will take over that role. Aggarwal, who is on the board of the budget airline, will continue in his role as AI's chief commercial officer. AI's chief operating officer Captain Basil Kwauk will replace Wilson on the AI Express board. Wilson will continue as Air India MD & CEO. "I will obviously remain keenly interested in AI Express' progress and success, fully support Nipun and Basil in their additional roles, and remain responsible for the overall performance of the Air India Group," Wilson said in a message to employees. At AI Express, Captain Basil Kwauk will ensure "operational synergy between the (two) airlines." TNN