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AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

22 NOVEMBER 2025

Bengaluru airport first to achieve ACI Level 3

Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR Airport) on Friday announced that it has become the first airport in India to be awarded Level 3 in the Accessibility Enhancement Accreditation programme by Airports Council International, marking another milestone for the airport. The airport is operated by Bangalore International Airport Ltd. ❧



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BANGLORE MIRROR

BANGLORE

22 NOVEMBER 2025

Metro-airport link planned via skywalk

BMRCL has drawn up plans to construct an elevated pedestrian walkway connecting Bengaluru International Airport's Terminal 1 directly to the upcoming metro station on the Blue Line. The walkway will be a moving walk (travellator) stretching 190 metres in length and 10 metres in width, covering about 1,900 square metres. Officials say construction will be planned so that metro station operations are not affected. The airport currently handles over 42 million passengers annually and aims to reach more than 65 million in the next five years.

The Blue Line is being built in two phases: Phase 1 from Silk Board to KR Puram with 13 stations, and Phase 2 from KR Puram to the airport with 17 elevated stations, spanning a total of 58.19 km. About 60 per cent of the work on this corridor is complete. SNC, Afcons and NCC are executing different sections, with NCC handling three stages and the others one stage each. Pillar and pillar-cap work in several segments have crossed 95 to 99 per cent completion, while girder installation is also nearing completion.

Construction of the Blue Line began in September 2021, with an initial target of completion in 2024. Owing to delays, BMRCL now plans to start train services in three phases between September 2026 and December 2027. NCC is executing a 37-km stretch in three stages from Benniganahalli to Kempegowda Airport, with pillar and girder installation progressing steadily and major civil works nearing significant completion.

-BMB

Couple detained at airport despite stay

L. RAVICHANDER
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti took strong exception to the detention of two Indian-born Singaporean citizens at the Chennai airport despite a High Court stay on proceedings in a cruelty case. The judge was hearing a criminal petition filed seeking quashing of proceedings arising out of allegations of cruelty by husband and relatives. The petitioners contended that despite a stay granted earlier by the High Court, they were detained at the Chennai airport on the ground that a look-out circular had been issued against them. They contended that the trial court later directed their appearance, and that this order was passed during the operation of the stay. The judge questioned how the trial court could restrain the petitioners from travelling or direct their appearance when the proceedings had been stayed. The judge directed the state to clarify who authorised the applications before the magistrate seeking arrest and how orders affecting foreign citizens were obtained when the stay was in force.

HC: ALLEGATIONS NOT ENOUGH FOR DIVORCE

A two judge panel of the Telangana High Court declared that mere omnibus allegations without evidence was insufficient for grant of divorce. The panel comprising Justice K. Lakshman and Justice V. Ramakrishna Reddy dismissed an



appeal filed by a woman challenging the order of the Family Court-cum-Additional District Judge, Khammam, which rejected her petition for divorce. She alleged that her husband subjected her to physical and mental cruelty, maintained an illicit relationship with an employee, and had driven her out of the matrimonial home in 2011. The panel noted that the wife failed to file any documentary proof of her charges. No independent witnesses were examined, including the couple's two adult sons, to support her claims. The panel observed that the couple continued to reside under the same roof, travel together, jointly operate their business, and was arranging their younger son's marriage. "These facts would reveal that there is no desertion between them as alleged," the panel observed.

NO RELIEF FOR COUPLE IN FAKE DOCU. CASE

Justice Nagesh Bheemapa refused to exercise the court's inherent jurisdiction to quash criminal proceedings against a couple accused of orchestrating a fraudulent property transfer by fabricating a legal heir certificate. The judge was dealing with a criminal petition filed by Akula Sudharani and

Akula Srinivasa Rao, arraigned as accused before the X Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Medchal. The petitioners sought obliteration of proceedings on the ground that the dispute was a civil inheritance issue clothed with criminal colour. Rejecting this contention, the judge noted that the FIR contained prima facie allegations of deception, dishonest inducement, and deliberate misrepresentation, including the allegation that the petitioners projected Sudharani as the sole legal heir to her parents in order to procure a family member certificate, which was later used to execute a gift settlement deed in favour of their daughter.

NO CHARGES: BIZMEN GET PRE-ARREST BAIL

Telangana High Court granted anticipatory bail to three businessmen from Kurnool who were accused of participating in a decade-old deposit scheme scam linked to Akshaya Gold Farms & Villas India Ltd. The judge was hearing a criminal petition filed by Shaik Latheef Basha and others. Counsel for the petitioners contended that they were innocent, were falsely implicated, and that the investigation was pending for over 12 years with no chargesheet filed. It was pointed out that the prime accused was arrested and released on bail and that custodial interrogation of the petitioners was unnecessary.

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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर दुश्मन ड्रोन हो जाएगा निष्क्रिय

गौतम कुमार मिश्रा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली : एयरपोर्ट व आसपास के क्षेत्र में ड्रोन से हमले के खतरे को देखते हुए आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट सहित देश के महत्वपूर्ण एयरपोर्ट पर एंटी ड्रोन सिस्टम लगाने की तैयारी चल रही है। केंद्रीय गृह और नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के निर्देश पर एयरपोर्ट अथारिटी आफ इंडिया (एएआई) इस काम को जल्द से जल्द पूरा करने की कवायद में जुट गई है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि दिल्ली और मुंबई जैसे एयरपोर्ट पर तो पहले से कुछ बेसिक सिस्टम हैं, लेकिन अब इसके लिए समर्पित सिस्टम लगेगा। कोशिश इस बात की हो रही है कि वर्ष 2026 के अंत तक देश के सबसे बड़े 10 एयरपोर्ट पूरी तरह ड्रोन प्रूफ हो जाएं।

एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों का कहना है कि अभी इस बात पर चर्चा हो रही है कि एयरपोर्ट की जरूरत के हिसाब

- एंटी ड्रोन सिस्टम लगाने की हो रही तैयारी, 2026 तक देश के 10 एयरपोर्ट हो जाएंगे ड्रोन प्रूफ
- जिस एयरपोर्ट की जैसी जरूरत, वहां लगेगा वैसा एंटी ड्रोन सिस्टम
- 5 किमी के दायरे में आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट के आसपास ड्रोन उड़ाना पूरी तरह वर्जित है
- विदेशी एयरपोर्ट पर लगे माडल का किया जा रहा अध्ययन

से जहां जो सिस्टम लगाया जाना है, उसमें क्या क्या खासियत होनी चाहिए। इसके लिए विदेश के एयरपोर्ट पर लगाए गए सफल एंटी ड्रोन सिस्टम माडल का अध्ययन किया जा रहा है। जैसे ही यह तय हो जाएगा कि किस एयरपोर्ट पर किस तरह के सिस्टम की जरूरत

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट में अभी क्या है हाल

आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट के पांच किलोमीटर के दायरे में ड्रोन उड़ाना पूरी तरह वर्जित है। इसमें रनवे, टर्मिनल और आसपास के इलाके शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा यदि दिल्ली में कहीं अन्य स्थान पर ड्रोन उड़ाना है तो आपको एयरपोर्ट अथारिटी आफ इंडिया में आवेदन देकर इसकी अनुमति लेनी होगी। इसके आगे यानि आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट से पांच से सात किलोमीटर के बीच की दूरी का

इलाका रेड जोन के अंतर्गत आता है। रेड जोन के अंतर्गत ड्रोन का संचालन तभी किया जा सकता है, जब सक्षम प्राधिकरण से इसकी मंजूरी ली जाए। दो वर्ष पहले भारत सरकार की ओर कृषि कार्य के लिए ऊजवा स्थित कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र को एक ड्रोन उपलब्ध कराया गया था। लंबे समय तक यह ड्रोन इस्तेमाल से दूर रहा। मंजूरी के बाद विज्ञानियों को एक निश्चित ऊंचाई पर ड्रोन उड़ाने की अनुमति मिली।

है, उसके बाद सिस्टम की खरीद से जुड़ी प्रक्रिया शुरू हो जाएगी।

एंटी ड्रोन सिस्टम आज के समय का ड्रोन शील्ड है जो अनधिकृत ड्रोन को आने से पहले ही रोक देता है या निष्क्रिय कर देता है। इसमें एक खास तकनीकी व्यवस्था होती है जो अनधिकृत, खतरनाक

या दुश्मन ड्रोन का पता लगाने, पहचान करने, ट्रैक करने और उन्हें निष्क्रिय करने के लिए बनाई जाती है। एंटी ड्रोन सिस्टम के मुख्य हिस्से और काम करने का तरीका डिटेक्शन रडार पर आधारित होता है जो छोटे ड्रोन को भी दूर से पकड़ लेता है।

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

22 NOVEMBER 2025

B'loru airport achieves ACI Level 3 accreditation

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR Airport) on Friday announced that it has become the first airport in India to be awarded Level 3 in the Accessibility Enhancement Accreditation programme by Airports Council International, marking another milestone for the airport.

The BLR Airport is operated by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

This recognition reflects BIAL's steadfast commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and delivering an equitable travel experience for every passenger, it said.

"Accessibility and inclusion are integral to BIAL's long-term vision of creating a barrier free, dignified, and empathetic travel experience for all. Guided by its Customer First philosophy, BLR Airport has steadily advanced from Level 1 (December 2024) to Level 3 (November



2025), within less than a year, demonstrating leadership and accountability in driving inclusive transformation," BIAL said in a statement.

Key achievements under this level 3 include: enhanced digital accessibility, collaborative partnerships, training and awareness expansion and universal design integration, it said.

Hari Marar, BIAL's Managing Director and CEO, stated, "At BLR Airport, accessibility is adopted as a mindset that defines how we design, operate, and engage. We are pleased to be the first airport in India to achieve ACI's Level 3 Accessibility Enhancement Accreditation, a reflection of our commitment to building a truly inclusive experience.

offgrid

Toll waiver at Chennai Airport for vulnerable passengers

HD Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai airport authorities have introduced a scheme allowing taxis and private vehicles that drop off or pick up senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, pregnant women, and mothers with infants to use the terminal area without toll charges for up to 15 minutes. Drivers must collect a special pass and a QR-coded entry slip at the entrance, surrender it when exiting, and thereby avoid toll payments during that time-

span.

The policy shift follows mounting complaints on social media and repeated disagreements at toll booths, where vehicles spending more than ten minutes inside the airport premises were fined—even when dealing with mobility-impaired passengers or large amounts of luggage.

Private cars had faced an ₹85 charge after ten minutes, while taxis paid ₹45 for initial entry and faced additional charges beyond ten minutes.

At the airport, drivers often

refused to pick up passengers with reduced mobility, citing fear of penalties.

Representatives of the Disability Rights Alliance Team met with the airport director-operated terminal to argue that the previous system did not account for the time required for wheelchair transfers, luggage handling and slower movement.

The parking contractor has since prepared the special passes, and an official confirmed that "toll charges will not be collected from those vehicles for up to 15



Private cars had faced an ₹85 charge after ten minutes, while taxis paid ₹45 for initial entry

minutes." DRAT welcomed the step but pointed out that 15 minutes may still be insufficient for individuals with severe mobility constraints who require specialised transfer equipment.

The change aligns with earlier adjustments: authorities had already extended the toll-free grace period from ten to fifteen minutes for vehicles serving passengers with mobility impairments, and pledged deployment of additional support staff and accessible buggies. The move now broadens eligibility to include

senior citizens, pregnant women, and mothers with infants, signalling a wider accessibility mandate.

On the operational side, vehicles entering the campus collect the QR-coded slip and, upon exit, present the pass to validate the toll waiver.

The airport's decision to issue distinct passes to eligible users aims to prevent misuse while granting extra time for those who genuinely need it. Observers note that the change may improve traffic flow by reducing rush exits

and preventing confrontation at toll booths.

Given the global emphasis on inclusive airport infrastructure, this initiative places Chennai's terminal among airports adapting to mobility-diverse passenger needs.

Nonetheless, critics argue that policy changes must be matched by on-ground support: beyond tolls, effective assistance with boarding, luggage, buggy availability and lift access remain crucial for differently-abled travellers and companions.

NEWS DIGEST



Customs opens PFC at airport

The customs department opened a Passenger Facilitation Centre (PFC) at the arrival hall near Gate No. 8 of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on Friday. It will provide guidance on customs procedures, baggage rules and declaration requirements, and will also address queries and grievances related to baggage clearance and passenger movement. "PFC will also enable timely redressal of complaints through coordination with relevant customs officials, and offer passengers an opportunity to submit feedback," an official said.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

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एअर इंडिया ने बहाल की एयर कनाडा के साथ कोडशेयर साझेदारी

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया ने पांच साल से



अधिक वक्त बाद
शनिवार को एयर
कनाडा के साथ
कोडशेयर साझेदारी
बहाल करने का

एलान किया है। दोनों एयरलाइन्स के बीच
कोरोना महामारी के दौरान यह सुविधा
निलंबित कर दी गई थी। कोडशेयर साझेदारी
से यात्रियों को एक ही टिकट पर अलग-
अलग एयरलाइन्स की फ्लाइट में यात्रा करने
की सुविधा मिलती है। इस कोडशेयर समझौते
के तहत एअर इंडिया के यात्रियों को कनाडा
के अंदर छह और जगहों तक पहुंच मिलेगी,
जो कैम्ब्रिज और लंदन हीथ्रो जैसे उसके मुख्य
गेटवे से आगे हैं।

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22 NOVEMBER 2025

IndiGo to invest \$820 m via IFSC arm to boost owned aircraft fleet

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

IndiGo has committed \$820 million (₹7,294 crore) to acquire planes as a part of its strategy to diversify aircraft financing and increase the share of its owned fleet.

In a stock exchange filing on Friday, the airline said it will invest \$820 million in its wholly owned subsidiary, InterGlobe Aviation Financial Services IFSC Private Ltd.

CAPITAL DEPLOYMENT

The investment will be made through a combination of equity shares and 0.01 per cent non-cumulative optionally convertible redeemable preference shares in one or more tranches. The funds raised by IndiGo IFSC shall primarily be deployed to acquire aviation assets, thereby enabling ownership of aircraft, the airline said.

"This move reflects IndiGo's commitment to prudent capital allocation and sustainable value creation for all stakeholders," it added.

The investment is in line with the airline's plan to increase the share of owned and finance-leased planes to 30-40 per cent by 2030. Under a finance lease, aircraft ownership



FLEET ECONOMICS. IndiGo expects that buying more planes would help in efficient use of capital, reduce supply chain risks and lead to long-term cost savings

transfers to the airline upon payment of the loan.

The airline sees buying more planes as helping in the efficient use of capital, reducing supply chain risks and delivering long-term cost savings.

At present, IndiGo has more than 415 aircraft, comprising Airbus, Boeing and ATR planes. The airline has over 900 planes on order, with deliveries stretching till 2035.

While IndiGo has largely relied on operating leases for growth, a mix of a strong balance sheet and a healthy cash balance has allowed it to navigate turbulence and make strategic calls on fleet ownership. As of September, the airline

had ₹38,500 crore of free cash on its balance sheet.

FLEET SNAPSHOT

IndiGo's current fleet includes 14 owned and 62 finance-leased planes. Fifty-six of these planes have been acquired through the IFSC Gift City subsidiary.

Last September, the airline's total fleet count stood at 410 and that included three owned and 37 finance leased planes.

Air India also uses a mix of operating and finance leases for fleet acquisition. It has inducted six Airbus A350s on finance lease, while the majority of its narrow-body planes have been taken on operating leases.



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Air India Express completes major network overhaul to strengthen hub operations

Rohit Vaid

New Delhi

The Tata group-led Air India Express has concluded a route realignment exercise aimed at fully optimising its network for efficient and profitable operations.

Accordingly, the move allows the airline to offer more direct, one-stop options across its domestic and international network of over 60 destinations.

"They (Air India Express) know that with a fleet of over 110 aircraft, they cannot compete profitably or efficiently on all sectors," several industry sources told *businessline*.

Consequently, the airline has minimised services from certain destinations such as Chennai and Hyderabad, among others, and consolidated its domestic operations at its larger hubs in Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai. At present, Air India Express operates about 550 weekly flights from Bengaluru and about 425 flights from Delhi.

The airline has started bookings for flights from the Navi Mumbai airport to its hubs at Bengaluru and Delhi.

"Playing on a hub-and-spoke model as the basis of this strategy, the airline has



WIDENING CONNECTIVITY. The move allows the airline to offer more direct, one-stop options across its domestic and international network of over 60 destinations

recently concluded a route rationalisation exercise," an industry insider told *businessline*.

AIRPORT SYNERGISES

A hub airport synergises both domestic and international operations in a manner that allows passengers to transit seamlessly between the two.

Such a hub requires well-synchronised flight connectivity to regional airports, in addition to efficient metro, road and highway access.

Under the hub-and-spoke model, passengers arriving from various smaller cities are grouped together and transferred in a co-ordinated manner to major hubs such as Delhi for international connections.

"After the exercise, a passenger can catch flights to 39 domestic destinations by taking a 45-minute flight

from Kochi to Bengaluru. The same applies to other destinations," the insider said. "Now, Bengaluru has become a major domestic hub for Air India Express — as Delhi and Mumbai."

With its simplified operational strategy, almost a third of AIX's domestic carriage is transferring over hubs.

According to a second industry executive, having a 100 per cent load factor does nothing for profitability if the fares have crashed.

COMMERCIALLY VIABLE

"The realignment is important as it makes operations commercially viable as competitors with numerical superiority in aircraft can mount three flights to the same destination," the second industry executive said.

The realignment exercise comes at a time when Air In-

dia Express has begun to enhance capacity and improve cost efficiency through a newly-launched cabin retrofit programme.

businessline was the first to report that the airline plans to add approximately 650 additional seats across its Boeing 737-8 fleet under this initiative.

The programme is part of a broader effort to standardise cabin configurations across the Boeing 737-8 fleet.

At present, Air India Express operates 116 aircraft — 76 Boeing 737s and 40 Airbus A320s — many of which were sourced through remarketing channels after being initially built for other carriers, including Chinese airlines.

These aircraft came with varied seating layouts which, according to a source, created operational complexity for a carrier that relies on quick turnarounds and high utilisation.

Industry insiders said the airline aims to replace the current mix of business and economy seating with a uniform all-economy layout, ensuring operational consistency and improved efficiency.

The airline currently operates over 500 daily flights across 41 domestic and 17 international airports.



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Air India increases S-E Asia flights, renews Air Canada code share

Anesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Air India is increasing connectivity, expanding airline partnerships and revamping its menu to grow its international business. The airline has added flights to destinations in South-East Asia in response to surging demand in the winter season. Extra flights have been added from Delhi to Bali (Indonesia), Kuala Lumpur and Manila.

While Indonesia is amongst the fastest growing destinations with 46 per cent rise in Indian arrivals in 2024 compared to 2019, the Philippines is gaining traction due to visa-free entry and direct flights. Air India is the only non-stop carrier between India and the Philippines and will increase frequency to daily (from 5x a week) from December 11. Addition of flights to South-East Asia is also a part of a strategy to capture traffic flows from Europe/US with one stop via Delhi. However, in recent months the connecting traffic has been impacted due to longer Air India flight durations as it cannot overfly Pakistan.

On Saturday, Air India also announced reinstatement of its code share partnership with Air Canada, effective Decem-

ber 2. It will give the airline access to six cities in Canada beyond Vancouver. Similarly, Air Canada passengers will benefit from seamless connectivity to six destinations in India. "The reinstatement of our partnership with Air Canada eases journeys for thousands of people," Air India's CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said in a statement.

BETTER REACH

Essentially, the airline will get a better reach and will be able to offer passengers better choices by marketing Air Canada operated flights. The code share renewal could be crucial as carriers are seeing demand pressure on the India-North America route. Air Canada has withdrawn its Montreal-Delhi flights in summer as traffic has been impacted by the tightened visa norms.

A REFRESHED MENU

Air India has also refreshed its menu on international flights incorporating diverse cuisines, signature Indian dishes and vegan options. The menus have been curated by Chef Sandeep Kalra who recently joined the airline.

The airline said its crew has undergone specialised training to enhance customer experience.



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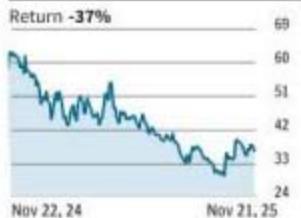
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SpiceJet (₹35): The stock is moving in a wide range for more than five years now. The trend is down within that. There is room on the downside to see ₹23 in the coming months. In a worst-case scenario, the fall can extend



even to ₹19 or ₹16. A fresh rise thereafter can have the potential to take SpiceJet share price up to ₹70-75.

But that would take another 12-18 months. If you prefer to wait, then you will have to accumulate around ₹23.

Keep a stop-loss at ₹12 and exit when the price goes up

to ₹73. But ideally, you have to exit the stock and accept the loss because it is not worth the wait. You can consider reinvesting the sales proceeds in some other stock that looks good on the chart.

I have bought Indian Hotels Company shares at ₹804. What is the outlook?

Ramakanth Bhat

Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025

एयर इंडिया ने एयर कनाडा के साथ किया समझौता

नई दिल्ली। टाटा समूह की विमान सेवा कंपनी एयर इंडिया ने कनाडा की एयरलाइंस एयर कनाडा के साथ कोडशेयर समझौता दोबारा बहाल किया है जिससे यात्रियों को दोनों देशों के बीच यात्रा के ज्यादा विकल्प मिल सकेंगे। एयर इंडिया ने शनिवार को एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि यह समझौता 02 दिसंबर से प्रभावी होगा। इससे उसके यात्री वैंकूवर और लंदन के हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डे के जरिए कनाडा के छह शहरों तक एयर इंडिया की वेबसाइट से एआई कोड के साथ टिकट बुक करा सकेंगे। वैंकूवर के रास्ते एयर इंडिया के यात्री एयर कनाडा की उड़ान से कैलगरी, एडमॉन्टन, विनिपेग, मॉन्ट्रियल और हेलीफैक्स जा सकेंगे जबकि लंदन हीथ्रो के जरिये वैंकूवर और कैलगरी जाने के विकल्प उपलब्ध होंगे। इसी प्रकार एयर कनाडा के ग्राहकों को दिल्ली के रास्ते अमृतसर, अहमदाबाद, मुंबई, हैदराबाद और कोच्चि तथा लंदन हीथ्रो के रास्ते दिल्ली और मुंबई जाने का विकल्प मिल सकेगा। एयर इंडिया के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी एवं प्रबंध निदेशक कैपबेल विल्सन ने कहा कि हर साल कनाडा और भारत के बीच 20 लाख से अधिक यात्री सफर करते हैं।



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AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025

Air India restores codeshare with Air Canada

AIR INDIA ON Saturday announced the reinstatement of its codeshare partnership with Air Canada, which was suspended more than five years ago during the Covid pandemic. The codeshare agreement will enable Air India to offer passengers access to six points across Canada beyond its gateways at Vancouver and London.

PTI

IndiGo parent to enter BSE's Sensex from Dec 22

INTERGLOBE AVIATION, THE operator of the country's largest airline IndiGo, will find a place in BSE's 30-share benchmark index Sensex from December 22, the BSE Index Services said on Saturday. At the same time, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd will be dropped from the index, it added. The changes have been announced by BSE Index Services as a part of the reconstitution of its indices, effective at the market open on December 22.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

22 NOVEMBER 2025

IndiGo to invest \$820 mn in arm for aircraft acquisition

Domestic carrier IndiGo on Friday said it has approved an investment of USD 820 million (about Rs 7,270 crore) in its wholly-owned subsidiary InterGlobe Aviation Financial Services IFSC Private Limited for aircraft acquisition.

The investment will be made through a combination of equity shares and 0.01 per cent non-cumulative optionally convertible redeemable preference shares (OCRPS), in one or more tranches, the airline said in a statement.

The funds raised by the subsidiary firm will be primarily deployed towards

acquisition of aviation assets, thereby enabling ownership of aircraft, the airline said.

IndiGo has 411 aircraft in its fleet as on November 21, according to aircraft fleet tracking website planespotter.net, with 365 in operations and the remaining 46 on ground.

IndiGo has historically maintained a fleet structure predominantly reliant on operating leases. In recent years, the organisation has undertaken a strategic development towards a more balanced ownership structure and diversified forms of financing.

-Agencies



Flying high: It plans to grow to a fleet size of more than 600 aircraft by 2030 has an order book of 1,070 aircraft .REUTERS

IndiGo to purchase aircraft for ₹7,294 cr. to reduce forex risk

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Budget carrier IndiGo has approved a capital investment of ₹7,294 crore to enable ownership of their aircraft instead of leasing.

“IndiGo has historically maintained a fleet structure predominantly reliant on operating leases. In recent years, the organisation has undertaken a strategic development towards a more balanced ownership structure and diversified forms of financing,” the airline explained its decision, adding that the move will enable “prudent capital allocation and sustainable value creation for all stakeholders.”

Cut forex risk

The move is expected to shield the airline from foreign exchange fluctuations, as lease payments are typically dollar-denominated. Until now IndiGo has relied on the sale and leaseback model for many of its aircraft, whereby it sells new planes to leasing

companies and immediately leases them back. This approach allows airlines to maintain liquidity.

The airline’s CFO Gau-rav Negi recently said that the airline plans to increase ownership of aircraft to 30-40% of its fleet by 2030.

In the quarter ended September the airline reported a loss of ₹2,582 crore, widening by 161% compared with the same time last year, which the airline attributed to foreign exchange rate fluctuations impacting dollar-based future obligations, due to lease liabilities and maintenance obligations denominated in U.S. dollars.

The airline currently has nearly 430 aircraft in its fleet. It has been adding an aircraft a week for the past many years and will soon start taking deliveries of A321 XLRs and its first widebodies in A350s from 2027. It plans to grow to a fleet size of more than 600 aircraft by 2030 and has an order book of 1,070 aircraft, including 70 A350s.

Emirates airline set to hire hundreds of pilots in 2026

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Dubai-based Emirates airline will recruit pilots in the 'three digits' in the financial year starting April 2026 and undertake an expansion of its flight training infrastructure by adding more simulators, according to a senior airline official.

"Yes, there is an industry shortage. A high demand for pilots exists and will continue to exist," Captain Bader Al Marzooqi, senior vice-president of flight training at Emirates said in response to a question on the chronic shortage of pilots globally.

But he explained that Emirates recruitment teams anticipate future demands six months ahead.

The airline aims to hire 1,500 pilots in 2025 and 2026, of which 550 are planned for 2025.

In the years between 2022 and 2025, the airline hired 2,000 pilots

'Met hiring target'

"Our recruitment team has been successful in attracting pilots, and six months before the financial year ends, we have already met our hiring target through March. In addition, we have a pool of shortlisted pilots ready for the next fi-



Ruling skies: Emirates has ordered 65 additional Boeing 777X aircraft and 8 Airbus A350-900 to expand its fleet of 269 aircraft. AP

ancial year, during which we plan to offer jobs in three digits," Mr. Marzooqi added.

Pilots lost to rivals

The airline currently has 4,800 pilots on its rolls. It has lost pilots in single digits to rivals in Saudi Arabia, where the brand new full service carrier Riyadh Air started flight operations last month.

He was speaking to journalists on a visit to the airline's new flight crew training centre in Dubai built with an investment of \$135 million and spread across 63,318 square feet.

The hiring plans are in step with the airline's growing aircraft order.

At the Dubai Airshow that opened on November 17, the airline has ordered 65 additional Boeing 777X aircraft and 8 Airbus A350-900 to expand its fleet of 269 aircraft.

Training infrastructure

The airline will continue expanding training infrastructure. Its existing 13 simulators include six Boeing 777-300ER, two Airbus A350 and five A380 units. To this, Emirates will add Boeing 777 simulator, an additional A350 simulator, and its first Boeing 777-9 simulator, which is expected to become operational by mid-2026, ahead of the induction of the first aircraft of this type.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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HINDU

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025



Air India reinstates codeshare partnership with Air Canada

Air India on Saturday announced the reinstatement of its codeshare partnership with Air Canada, which was suspended more than five years ago during the coronavirus pandemic. The codeshare agreement will enable Air India to offer passengers access to six points across Canada beyond its gateways at Vancouver and London (Heathrow). A codeshare partnership allows passengers to travel on a single ticket on different flights. ^{PH}

Thayyil Sethumadhavan

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Air travel has become common these days; one can find travellers from every stratum of society waiting patiently for their flights at all our airports. That not only reflects the overall development of the economy, but also the trickle-down effect which provides opportunity for all to enjoy the fruits of development. As John F. Kennedy famously said, a rising tide lifts all boats!

Airports are crowded and noisy unlike in the past when one could see only the well-heeled strolling around. The usual air travellers then consisted of affluent businessmen and corporate executives, with an occasional senior civil servant thrown in. Contrast it with the present, one can see that a large section of the travellers comprises ordinary businessmen, families from the middle class, tourists and even migrant workers.

First flight

My first experience of air travel was on my way to join the National Academy of Administration at Mussoorie after the well-earned success at the Civil Services Examination. My father smilingly paid for the flight in recognition of my efforts at cracking the exam, which was a tough nut even in those days. The cost of travel from Madras to Delhi by a Caravelle

The thrill of flying

Enthusiasm for air travel remains strong, signifying its enduring appeal



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

plane was about half the monthly salary I would make in the prestigious Service. Yet, the memory of that flight remains with me even after some sixty years! Watching the heavenly clouds passing below was such a thrilling experience. In fact, I felt let down when the pilot announced the landing at Palam after three hours of flight; I felt that it was too short for the money I doled out.

Later, while in the government, air travel became frequent, and the work took me to several airports in India and abroad. It became routine, but nothing ever gave me the thrill that I felt during my first flight. Nevertheless, there are a few flights that I remember.

One that sticks to memory is a flight from Bombay to

Bhubaneswar for an official visit to a remote factory. The Indian Airlines flight was to take some four hours with a halt in between; but due to inclement weather, it could not land at the destination. Instead, it flew straight to Calcutta, as the city was called then, and offloaded the passengers. Since there were no more flights that evening to Bhubaneswar, the airline officials offered to reimburse the passengers who wished to go by taxi all the way. And many did. Since I had travelled on a voucher, I had no choice but to wait till the next day for a special flight to arrive. After considerable delay, a small 21-seater took off with the remaining passengers, but had to return to the airport soon after take-off due to a mechanical problem. Finally, after repairs,



Most passengers started praying, some in tears, some embracing each other, and a few like us braving our fate with abandon

just a handful of us, the weary and desolate leftovers, flew to reach Bhubaneswar after a solid 24 hours' delay. To my pleasant surprise, the driver, a cheerful Sardar deputed by the undertaking was still waiting for me at the airport, all patience and smiles.

Concord, the unforgettable

Another memorable trip was by a Concorde supersonic aircraft from Paris to London, covering the entire journey in less than four hours, at twice the speed of sound. One did not feel any discomfort at the supersonic speed except for the periodic thrusts when the engine developed secondary combustion.

A pity that Concordes were discontinued after one of them crashed.

Another flight which cannot be obliterated from my memory is one which almost ended in a major accident. My wife and I were on a flight from Dallas to Washington DC, with a halt in between. We were returning after attending a wedding. But just before landing at Detroit, we were told that there was a storm passing by and landing was

uncertain. Fortunately, we landed safely, but our connecting flight had been cancelled.

We were worried about staying overnight and obviously looking perplexed when a kind official from the airline offered help by accommodating us on a late-night flight to Washington DC. When we thanked him profusely, he smiled and mentioned that when he saw us looking worried, he wanted to help. He was a kindred soul from Pakistan.

The flight was full. We were sleepy and waiting to land when a most unexpected announcement came in a grave tone: there was an emergency because the landing gear had failed to descend.

The pilot announced that we would be landing on an apron, with fire engines standing by all around. Meanwhile, the aircraft would circle the airport to exhaust maximum fuel. All of a sudden, there was a deathly silence. Most passengers started praying, some in tears, some embracing each other, and a few like us braving our fate with abandon.

A few minutes passed, all waiting for the worst, and then the miracle happened: the booming voice of the captain cheerfully announced to thunderous applause that the truant landing gear had miraculously come down.

I keep wondering why my wife and I were among the few who did not feel alarmed.



Flying high: It plans to grow to a fleet size of more than 600 aircraft by 2030 has an order book of 1,070 aircraft .REUTERS

IndiGo to purchase aircraft for ₹7,294 cr. to reduce forex risk

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

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Corporate Communications Directorate

JAANSATTA

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025

एअर इंडिया ने एअर कनाडा के साथ कोडशेयर साझेदारी फिर से शुरू की नई दिल्ली, 22 नवंबर (भाषा)।

एअर इंडिया ने शनिवार को एअर कनाडा के साथ अपनी कोडशेयर साझेदारी फिर से शुरू करने की घोषणा की। यह साझेदारी कोरोना महामारी के दौरान निलंबित कर दी गई थी। इस कोडशेयर समझौते के तहत एअर इंडिया यात्रियों को वैकूवर और लंदन (हीथ्रो) के अलावा कनाडा के छह और शहरों तक उड़ानों की सुविधा प्रदान कर सकेगी। कोडशेयर साझेदारी के जरिए यात्री एक ही टिकट पर दोनों विमानन कंपनियों की उड़ानों में यात्रा कर सकेंगे। विज्ञापित के अनुसार, एअर इंडिया एअर कनाडा की उड़ानों पर अपना 'एआइ' कोड लगाएगी। इनमें वैकूवर से कैलगरी, एडमन्टन, विनीपेग, मॉन्ट्रियल और हैलिफैक्स तथा लंदन हीथ्रो से वैकूवर व कैलगरी की उड़ानें शामिल हैं। बदले में एअर कनाडा के यात्रियों को दिल्ली होते हुए अमृतसर, अहमदाबाद, मुंबई, हैदराबाद और कोच्चि तथा लंदन (हीथ्रो) होते हुए दिल्ली व मुंबई तक सुगम घरेलू संपर्क मिलेगा।



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SUNDAY STANDARD

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025

Air India passenger develops mid-air emergency, dies

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

An 83-year-old flyer on an Air India flight from Vancouver to Delhi via Kolkata developed a medical emergency on Friday night, sources said. The Punjab native, Balbir Singh, later died in a local hospital.

The incident took place on board AI186. The Boeing 777-337, carrying 176 passengers, had taken off from Vancouver airport at 5.12 pm on November 20. "As it was heading towards Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on November 21 night, the octogenarian, who was travelling with his sister, developed health complications and became unconscious," said a source familiar with the matter.

"The cabin crew made an announcement seeking assistance from any doctor on board. A medical professional came forward and administered CPR. The crew also alerted the Kolkata airport authorities, and doctors along with an ambulance were kept on standby,"

the source added.

Balbir Singh was wheeled out of the aircraft immediately after it landed at 9.55 pm. "Airport doctors attended to him first," the source said.

Airport Director Vikram Singh told this newspaper, "The flyer was taken to a local hospital where he was declared dead." An Air India source said, "Our staff was very responsive throughout.



They did everything possible on board. Other staff members accompanied the patient to the hospital as well. The airline also facilitated the travel of the deceased's sister from Kolkata to Delhi on Saturday morning."

There was no major delay to the flight due to the incident. "Since Pakistan's airspace closure, the flight routinely has a 90-minute technical halt in Kolkata for crew change and refuelling. The same procedure was followed on Friday night, and the flight departed as usual," the source said. The body will be transported later.

Corporate Communications Directorate

SUNDAY STANDARD

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025

Indigo to enter Sensex on Dec 22

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

TATA Motors, which is among the original constituents of the Sensex, will be dropped from the BSE's 30-share benchmark index for the second time since 1986. It will be replaced with InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of India's largest airline Indigo, from December 22, the BSE Index Services said on Saturday.

The exit of Tata Motors comes after the company was spun off into two separate companies — one dealing with passenger vehicles as Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and com-



mercial vehicles as Tata Motors. This led to the market cap getting diluted of the parent company, which has been among the oldest Sensex constituents since 1986 when the benchmark index was launched with 30 largest valued stocks.

Tata Motors follows Nestlé,

which was dropped in June's re-balancing. In a statement, BSE said the changes have been announced by BSE Index Services (formerly Asia Index) as a part of the reconstitution of its indices, effective on December 22. In the BSE 100 index, IDFC First Bank will be included, replacing Adani Green Energy. Within the BSE Sensex 50, Max Healthcare Institute will be added, and IndusInd Bank will be removed.

Meanwhile, in the BSE Sensex Next 50 Index, IndusInd Bank and IDFC First Bank will replace Max Healthcare Institute and Adani Green Energy



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STATESMEN

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025

AAI pavilion inaugurated at IITF 2025 showcasing India's aviation innovations:

Airports Authority of India (AAI) inaugurated its pavilion at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan. Inaugurated by Civil Aviation Minister Shri Kirjrapu Rammohan Naidu, the pavilion highlights AAI's technological advancements, airport modernisation, UDAN scheme, and air connectivity initiatives under the theme "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat." Features include interactive kiosks, digital flip books, AI-powered selfie zones, and a live ATC demonstration. The pavilion offers an immersive experience for visitors, students, and media, reflecting AAI's commitment to innovation, safety, and India's vision for a Viksit Bharat @ 2047.



Corporate Communications Directorate

STATESMEN

DELHI

23 NOVEMBER 2025

IndiGo to join Sensex on Dec 22, Tata Motors PV exits

NEW DELHI: InterGlobe Aviation, the operator of the country's largest airline IndiGo, will find a place in BSE's 30-share benchmark index Sensex from December 22, the BSE Index Services said on Saturday.

At the same time, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd will be dropped from the index, it added.

The changes have been announced by BSE Index Services Pvt Ltd as a part of the reconstitution of its indices, effective at the market open on Monday, December 22.

In the BSE 100 index, IDFC First Bank Ltd will be included, replacing Adani



Green Energy Ltd. Within the BSE Sensex 50, Max Healthcare Institute Ltd will be added, and IndusInd Bank Ltd will be removed.

Meanwhile, in the BSE Sensex Next 50 index, IndusInd Bank and IDFC First Bank will replace Max Healthcare Institute Ltd and Adani Green Energy. AGENCIES



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AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

22 NOVEMBER 2025

IndiGo to buy planes

- **MUMBAI:** Domestic carrier IndiGo on Friday said it has approved an investment of \$820 million (about ₹7,270 crore) in its wholly-owned subsidiary InterGlobe Aviation Financial Services IFSC Private Limited for aircraft acquisition. ११