



Corporate Communications Directorate

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Centre prepares plan for construction of dual-use green field airport at Great Nicobar

NEW DELHI: The central government has drawn up an ambitious plan to develop a dual-use greenfield international airport at Great Nicobar, aimed at strengthening national security while also boosting tourism and regional connectivity.

According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the proposed airport will function as a dual-use military and civil facility. The Indian Navy will have control over the airside operations and Air Traffic Control, while the Airports Authority of India (AAI) will manage the civil apron, passenger terminals and related facilities.

Great Nicobar is the southernmost and largest island in the Nicobar group. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands' main city, Port Blair, is located more than 500 km away, while inter-

Indian Navy will have control over airside operations and ATC, while the AAI will manage the civil apron

national destinations such as Phuket and parts of Sumatra lie within a 500-km radius of the proposed airport.

The DPR notes that beyond strategic requirements, the airport will significantly improve connectivity and open up major opportunities for tourism-led development, helping position the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the global tourism map. The Indian mainland is at least 1,500 km from Great Nicobar, with Delhi around 3,000

km away. Kolkata and Mumbai are approximately 1,850 km and 2,250 km distant, respectively. Several international destinations, including Singapore, Vietnam and Bali, fall within a 1,000–1,500 km range of the proposed facility.

Geographically, Great Nicobar extends from Ranganatha Bay on the east coast to Galathea Bay in the south, and around Indira Point—the southernmost tip of India—to Pemayya Bay. Indonesia's Sumatra island lies just 180 km south of Indira Point. The island spans about 910 sq km, with a large portion designated as the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.

The proposed airport site is located along the coast between Gandhi Nagar and Shastri Nagar on the southern side of the island and is accessible via

a road connecting Galathea Bay to Campbell Bay, about 30 km away. Surrounded by hills, the site will require grading to ensure safe aircraft operations. The DPR states that flight paths will largely pass over the sea, minimising disturbance from low-flying aircraft. The runway is planned in a north-south orientation, aligned with prevailing wind conditions.

The island is home to indigenous Shompen and Nicobarese tribes. The DPR also refers to the broader Great Nicobar Development Plan, a large-scale infrastructure initiative that includes a transshipment port, the airport and enhanced strategic defence infrastructure. Under this plan, the island's population is projected to rise to about 6,50,000 by 2050, from the current estimated 6,500. AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

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Great Nicobar Airport: A boost to India's defence, connectivity

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

Planned as a dual-use facility, the Modi Government has prepared an ambitious plan for the construction of a dual-use greenfield international airport at Great Nicobar that will play an important role in the country's national security while improving connectivity in the Indian Ocean Region. Great Nicobar is the southernmost and largest of the Nicobar Islands.

According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared for the strategic airport, it will be developed as a dual-use military airfield with the

control of the airside and Air Traffic Control with the Indian Navy and civil apron control and associated passenger-related facilities with the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The DPR also mentioned the Great Nicobar Development Plan, which is a massive infrastructure plan envisaged by the Government and includes a major trans-shipment port, airport and future strategic defence for the southern tip of Great Nicobar Island.

The population of Great Nicobar Island is projected to reach around 6.5 lakh by 2050. Of this, about 3.25 lakh



is expected during Phase 1 between 2025 and 2040, with another 4 lakh added in Phase 2 from 2041 to 2055. By 2075, the population is estimated to rise to 13-15 lakh. The broader development plan includes hotels, resorts, dining and

retail facilities concentrated in coastal urban hubs. The current population of the island is only around 6,500. The island's marine and forest ecosystems are expected to support eco-tourism and scientific research, alongside

economic activity.

The documents estimate that investments linked to the airport, a proposed trans-shipment hub, and tourism facilities could create about 1,05,000 direct jobs by 2050. A further 1,57,700 jobs are expected through indirect employment in services and support sectors.

Located near the crucial Six Degree Channel, one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes, the airport is projected to enhance India's surveillance and response capabilities across the eastern Indian Ocean.

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Great Nicobar Airport: A boost to India's...

It will enable operations by larger military aircraft and sharply reduce response times, particularly as the nearest civilian airport in Port Blair is over 500 km away.

The site is surrounded by hills, and necessary site grading has been planned to facilitate safe aircraft operations. The flight path of the aircraft will run over the sea, and there will be minimal disturbance due to the overflying of aircraft at low altitude. The runway at this site is oriented in an approximate north/south direction, which is suitable for the prevailing wind direction, according to the DPR.

Apart from strategic needs, the airport will ensure ease of connectivity and hence present a great opportunity for tourism-oriented development that would put Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the map of global tourist destinations as well, according to the DPR.

AAI spends ₹1cr a year on flyers' buggy rides to cab pick-up point

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Chennai: Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been paying around ₹1 crore annually to two private agencies to ferry passengers from the arrival terminals to the multi-level cab pick-up point. Though the authorities plan to shift the cab pick-up area closer to the flag mast near Terminal 1 (T1) building soon, the existing contracts with the agencies are valid until 2029.

Passengers have criticised AAI ever since the pick-up point was relocated from the flag mast in July 2024. After an outrage, it announced that buggies will drop passengers at the multi-level cab pick-up points. In response to an RTI query, AAI said its contract with one of the operators, Maini Materials Pvt Ltd ended on Dec 9, while two other contracts signed with TRI Electric Pvt Ltd will be in effect till 2029. TRI Electric has deployed 56 drivers to operate 16 buggies round the clock. The cost of operating each buggy exceeds ₹1 lakh a month, including a monthly salary of about ₹35,000 for each driver.

Dayanand Krishnan, a mobility activist who obtained the information through



CONTRACTORS	CONTRACT PERIOD	VALUE / SPENDING	FLEET STRENGTH	DRIVERS
Maini Materials Movement Pvt Ltd	March 3, 2023 - Dec 9, 2025	₹1.34cr (2024-25)	5 buggies	18
TRI Electric Pvt Ltd	Nov 8, 2024 - Nov 8, 2029	₹2.13cr (2025-26)	16 buggies	56

the RTI Act, said the expenditure was unnecessary. "There was zero cost incurred by AAI when cabs picked up passengers from the flag mast near Terminal 1. It was far more convenient for arriving passengers. The pick-up point was shifted to the multi-level parking lot without seeking public opinion, and passengers still struggle to reach there," he said.

Long waits for buggies, unfriendly operators, lack of space for luggage, and cramped lifts connecting floors have added to passengers' woes. Many flyers have shared their unpleasant experiences on social media. Recently, one passenger posted a video showing dirty, crowded lifts with no space for trolleys at the

parking lot. "Can you believe this is the condition of lifts at a major international airport in a state capital? Politicians, celebrities, and wealthy travellers do not face such hardships because AAI rolls out the red carpet for them," the post said.

Airport officials maintained that the buggy contracts were signed to address passenger needs when the pick-up area was moved. Once the new pick-up point opens, passengers can board vehicles in front of T1 terminal, while the multi-level parking area will continue to function as an additional pick-up point. "The buggy contracts can be short-terminated when the service is no longer required," an official added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

पायलट से जुड़े मारपीट मामले में जांच तेज

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली पुलिस इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर ड्यूटी से बाहर रहे एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के एक पायलट द्वारा एक यात्री से मारपीट के मामले में सीसीटीवी फुटेज और अन्य भौतिक साक्ष्य जुटाने शुरू कर दिए हैं। टर्मिनल-1 के सुरक्षा क्षेत्र के अंदर और आसपास लगे कई कैमरों की फुटेज की जांच की जा रही है, ताकि घटनाक्रम का क्रम दोबारा तैयार किया जा सके। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट के एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी ने कहा कि मौके पर मौजूद गवाहों के बयान भी जांच का हिस्सा होंगे। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट-टेक महिंद्रा में करार

नोएडा इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट (एनआईए) और आईटी सेवा कंपनी टेक महिंद्रा ने हवाई अड्डे के लिए एकीकृत नेटवर्क एवं सुरक्षा संचालन केंद्र (एनओसी-एसओसी) की स्थापना और संचालन के लिए साझेदारी की मंगलवार को घोषणा की। टेक महिंद्रा, नोएडा इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट के साथ मिलकर एक मजबूत एवं प्रक्रियाधारित परिवेश स्थापित करेगी। भाषा

37 एकड़ क्षेत्र में बना टर्मिनल: अगले साल से होगा शुरू, पर्यावरण के लिए अपने प्राण न्यौछावर करने वाली अमृता देवी व वीर दुर्गादास की पेंटिंग भी होंगी स्थापित जोधपुर एयरपोर्ट: नए टर्मिनल भवन में दिखेगी मारवाड़ की संस्कृति व आधुनिकता की झलक

मनोज कुमार पुरोहित, जोधपुर | जोधपुर एयरपोर्ट के नए टर्मिनल भवन का निर्माण पूरा हो चुका है। अब केवल सौंदर्यकरण का कार्य बाकी है। वर्ष 2026 की शुरुआत में यह भवन शुरू कर दिया जाएगा। नए भवन का फ्रंट छिन्न का दिखाई देता है और इसके प्रवेश द्वारों पर भी बारिख नक्कासी का कार्य किया गया है। दूसरी ओर इस भवन में पेंटिंग के माध्यम से राजस्थानी संस्कृति का चित्रण किया गया है। जोधपुर व राजस्थान से जोड़ते हुए यहां पर्यावरण के लिए प्राणों की आहुति देने वाली अमृता देवी और वीर दुर्गादास की पेंटिंग भी लगवाई गई है। यह भवन आधुनिक सुविधाओं के साथ-साथ सांस्कृतिक पहचान को भी दर्शाता है। करीब 37 एकड़ क्षेत्र में तैयार हुआ यह टर्मिनल भवन मौजूदा टर्मिनल



से 6 गुना बड़ा है और इस टर्मिनल से यात्री क्षमता 10 गुना तक बढ़ जाएगी। भवन का निर्माण 24 हजार वर्गमीटर में किया जा रहा

है और इस पर लगभग 480 करोड़ रु. की लागत आई है। जबकि वर्तमान टर्मिनल केवल 3,900 वर्गमीटर का है।

ये सुविधाएं जो विकसित हो चुकी हैं

- भवन में 6 आधुनिक एरोब्रिज तैयार किए गए हैं, जिनसे यात्री विमान में प्रवेश अथवा निकास करेंगे।
- यात्रियों को प्रथम तल पर जाने अथवा आने के लिए एस्केलेटर 5 लिफ्ट इंस्टॉल हो चुकी है।
- यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए चार्जिंग प्वाइंट वाली चेयर लगाई जानी है।
- 7 इलेक्ट्रिक चार्जिंग वाहन की सुविधा उपलब्ध इस नए भवन में की जाएगी।
- अत्याधुनिक टेक्नोलॉजी के साथ 3 कन्वेयर बेल्ट स्थापित किए जा चुके हैं।
- दो वीआईपी लाउंज और एक एग्जीक्यूटिव लाउंज तैयार किए हो चुके हैं, फर्नीचर का कार्य अंतिम चरण में है।

पीएम कर सकते हैं उद्घाटन

एयरपोर्ट के नए भवन के तैयार होने के साथ दूसरी तरफ एलिवेटेड रोड फाइनेंशियल बिड खुल चुकी है अब इसके शिलान्यास की भी तैयारी है। पहले ही केंद्रीय संस्कृति एवं पर्यटन मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत बता चुके हैं कि इन दोनों कार्यों के लिए प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को आमंत्रित किया गया है। मौजूदा परिस्थितियों के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण कार्य 31 जनवरी 2026 तक पूर्ण होगा तथा संभवतया फरवरी अथवा मार्च 2026 में एयरपोर्ट के नए टर्मिनल भवन का उद्घाटन हो जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

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नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को मिला डिजिटल कवच टेक महिंद्रा के साथ मेगा साझेदारी

- एकीकृत एनओसी-एसओसी से चौबीस घंटे साइबर सुरक्षा व नेटवर्क को मजबूती
- भविष्य के लिए तैयार होगा नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 23 दिसम्बर (देशबन्धु)। उत्तर प्रदेश के महत्वाकांक्षी नोएडा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनआईए), जेवर ने अपनी डिजिटल सुरक्षा को अजेय बनाने की दिशा में बड़ा कदम उठाया है। वैश्विक आईटी दिग्गज टेक महिंद्रा के साथ रणनीतिक साझेदारी कर हवाई अड्डे ने एक एकीकृत नेटवर्क ऑपरेशंस सेंटर और सिक््योरिटी ऑपरेशंस सेंटर (एनओसी-एसओसी) की स्थापना का ऐलान किया है। यह सेंटर हवाई अड्डे के पूरे डिजिटल



इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को सुरक्षित, लचीला और भविष्योन्मुखी बनाएगा। इस पार्टनरशिप के तहत टेक महिंद्रा हवाई अड्डे के क्रिटिकल आईटी सिस्टम्स - जैसे एप्लिकेशंस, डेटाबेस, नेटवर्क, सर्वर, स्टोरेज और अन्य डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म की चौबीसों घंटे निगरानी और मैनेजमेंट करेगी। एकीकृत एनओसी-एसओसी के जरिए साइबर खतरों और नेटवर्क इश्यूज का रियल-टाइम

डिटेक्शन, एनालिसिस और त्वरित रिस्पॉन्स सुनिश्चित होगा, जिससे परिचालन में उच्च उपलब्धता और निरंतरता बनी रहेगी।

यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड के सीईओ क्रिस्टोफ श्नेलमन ने कहा कि एक नए ग्रीनफोल्ड एयरपोर्ट के रूप में हमें शुरुआत से ही साइबर सुरक्षा और ऑपरेशनल एक्सीलेंस को डिजिटल फार्डिशन में एम्बेड करने का अनोखा मौका

मिला है। टेक महिंद्रा के साथ यह साझेदारी हमें मजबूत, फ्यूचर-रेडी साइबर ढांचा देगी, जो सुरक्षित और निर्बाध उड़ान संचालन की गारंटी देगी।

टेक महिंद्रा के भारत, मध्य पूर्व और अफ्रीका बिजनेस हेड साहिल धवन ने जोड़ा, आज के एयरपोर्ट्स जटिल डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम हैं, जहां साइबर सुरक्षा उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण है जितनी फिजिकल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर। हमारा एकीकृत सेंटर प्रोएक्टिव थ्रेट डिटेक्शन और रैपिड रिस्पॉन्स प्रदान करेगा, ताकि एनआईए को शुरुआत से ही विश्वसनीय और स्केलेबल टेक बेस मिल सके।

यह साझेदारी नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को भारत के सबसे आधुनिक और सुरक्षित हवाई अड्डों में शुमार करने की दिशा में मील का पत्थर साबित होगी।

विकसित भारत के लिहाज से बनेगी एयरपोर्ट क्षमता नीति

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: वर्ष 2025 देश के एजिडेशन सेक्टर के लिए बहुत अच्छा नहीं रहा है। एयर इंडिया विमान दुर्घटना और हाल ही में इंडिगो एयरलाइन के सैकड़ों उड़ानों के रद्द होने की घटना ने भारतीय एजिडेशन सेक्टर की छवि को गहरा धक्का लगाया है। लेकिन केंद्र सरकार इन स्थिति को संभालते हुए अब एक दीर्घकालिक एयरपोर्ट विस्तार नीति पर काम कर रही है। इस नीति की घोषणा आगामी आम बजट 2026-27 में वित्त मंत्री की तरफ से किए जाने की संभावना है। इस नीति का उद्देश्य देश में हवाई अड्डों के विस्तार, आधुनिकीकरण और निजीकरण के अगले दौर को सुनिश्चित करना है ताकि वर्ष 2047 तक विकसित भारत की परिकल्पना के मूलांकित घरेलू एजिडेशन क्षेत्र को तैयार किया जा सके। इस नीति के केंद्र में अगले 20-22 वर्षों में हवाई यात्रा करने वाले भारतीयों की संख्या में आठ गुना की संभावित वृद्धि को केंद्र में रखा जाएगा।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नयदू ने हाल ही में बताया था कि 2025 में हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या लगभग 25 करोड़ पहुंच गई है, जो 2014 के 11 करोड़ से दोगुना से अधिक है। एयरपोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया (एएआई) के एक ड्राफ्ट प्लान के अनुसार, भारत में हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या में सबसे तेज वृद्धि वर्ष 2030 से वर्ष 2045 के बीच होने जा रही है। तब भारत की अधिकांश आबादी शहरों में रहेगी। अभी भी घरेलू उड़ानें 7-10 प्रतिशत और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें 15-20 प्रतिशत की वार्षिक दर से बढ़ रही हैं। इस मांग को देखते हुए भारत में हवाई अड्डों की संख्या को मौजूदा 163 से बढ़ाकर 300 से 350 के बीच करना होगा। सरकार का मानना है कि वर्ष 2047 तक एजिडेशन सेक्टर का सही तरीके से विकास किया जाए तो इसमें ढाई करोड़ युवाओं को रोजगार के अवसर हासिल होंगे। यात्री कम होने की वजह से संचालन से बाहर हवाई अड्डों को प्रोत्साहन पर अधिकारियों

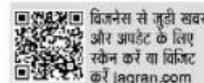
- 2047 तक देश में 300 से ज्यादा एयरपोर्ट की जरूरत को देखते हुए बनाई जा रही नीति
- अगले 20-22 वर्षों के दौरान आठ गुना बढ़ सकती है घरेलू हवाई यात्रियों की संख्या

आगे बढ़ेगी 25 हवाई अड्डों के निजीकरण की योजना

नेशनल मोनेटाइजेशन पाइपलाइन (एनएमपी) के तहत 25 हवाई अड्डों के निजीकरण की योजना को आगे बढ़ाए जाने की भी संभावना है। इसके अगले चरण में 11-13 हवाई अड्डों को सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (पीपीपी) मॉडल के जरिए निजी हाथों में सौंपने की घोषणा शामिल हो सकती है। इससे न केवल क्षमता में वृद्धि होगी, बल्कि निजी निवेश को भी आकर्षित किया जा सकेगा। इस क्षेत्र की सबसे बड़ी कंपनी अदाणी एयरपोर्ट्स ने हाल ही में एयरपोर्ट विस्तार पर अगले पांच वर्षों में एक लाख करोड़ रुपये निवेश की घोषणा की है।

का कहना है कि अभी इससे भी इन हवाई अड्डों को फायदा नहीं होगा। हाल ही में सरकार ने संसद में बताया था कि 15 ऐसे हवाई अड्डे हैं जो यात्रियों की संख्या नहीं होने की वजह से संचालित नहीं हो रहे हैं।

एजिडेशन सेक्टर को एक पुरानी मांग विमान ईंधन या एटीएफ पर जीएसटी को युक्तिसंगत बनाने की है। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इस पर वित्त मंत्रालय को राज्यों के साथ विमर्श करके फैसला करना है। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने वित्त मंत्रालय से आगामी बजट में एयरपोर्ट इन्फ्रस्ट्रक्चर के लिए पूंजीगत आउटन बढ़ाकर 5,000 करोड़ रुपये करने का आग्रह किया है।



वित्तनेस से जुड़ी खबरों और आइट के लिए स्कैन करें या विजिट करें jagran.com



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAI PUR

23 DECEMBER 2025

घना कोहरा हवाई यातायात में बाधा

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर 2 फ्लाइट नहीं कर सकी लैंड

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर घने कोहरे के चलते एक बार फिर हवाई यातायात प्रभावित हुआ। कम दृश्यता के कारण इंडिगो की दो फ्लाइटों को जयपुर में लैंडिंग की अनुमति नहीं मिल सकी और उन्हें डायवर्ट करना पड़ा। अहमदाबाद से जयपुर आ रही इंडिगो की फ्लाइट जयपुर के आसमान में करीब 1



घंटे 10 मिनट तक होल्ड पर रही। लंबे इंतजार के बावजूद दृश्यता में सुधार नहीं हुआ, जिसके बाद सुरक्षा कारणों से फ्लाइट को वापस अहमदाबाद के लिए डायवर्ट कर दिया गया। इसी तरह इंदौर से जयपुर आ रही इंडिगो की एक अन्य फ्लाइट को भी लगभग आधे घंटे तक होल्ड पर रखने के बाद इसे भोपाल एयरपोर्ट पर डाबवर्ट किया गया। मौसम सही होने के बाद यह फ्लाइट वापस भोपाल से जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पहुंची, जहां सुरक्षित लैंडिंग कराई गई।

यह फ्लाइट लेट

उत्तर भारत में एयरपोर्ट्स पर कोहरे के कारण फ्लाइट्स का संचालन गड़बड़या है। इसके चलते जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से अलग-अलग शहरों की फ्लाइट लेट हुई है। जिनमें सुबह 8.10 बजे इंडिगो अहमदाबाद की फ्लाइट 5 घंटे 20 मिनट, सुबह 8.25 बजे इंडिगो देहरादून की फ्लाइट 3 घंटे, सुबह 9.20 बजे इंडिगो जैसलमेर की फ्लाइट 2 घंटे 20 मिनट और सुबह 9.45 बजे इंडिगो चंडीगढ़ की फ्लाइट छेड़ घंटे लेट हुई। गौरतलब है कि जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर अत्याधुनिक उपकरण (केट 3-बी रनवे लाइट्स और इंस्ट्रूमेंट लैंडिंग सिस्टम) लगे हुए हैं। इस कारण करीब 75 मीटर दृश्यता में भी विमानों की लैंडिंग और टेक ऑफ संभव है, लेकिन कोहरा अधिक होने के कारण फ्लाइट को डायवर्ट किया गया।



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT TO START OPS TOMORROW



AFTER
DECADES
OF planning,
greenfield
Navi Mumbai
International

Airport is all set to start commercial operations from Thursday, which will reduce travel time and attract large-scale investments in the region. The launch is expected to alleviate congestion at the existing Mumbai international airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

Noida Airport ties up With TechM for cybersecurity

Noida International Airport and IT services firm Tech Mahindra on Tuesday announced their partnership to establish and operate an integrated Network and Security Operations Centre for the airport. Tech Mahindra will collaborate with NIA to establish a process-driven ecosystem that places cybersecurity at the heart of airport operations.

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

यात्री पर पायलट के हमला मामले में हम सबूत जुटा रहे हैं: दिल्ली पुलिस

एजेसी नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली पुलिस ने मंगलवार को कहा कि उसने इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के पायलट द्वारा कथित रूप से एक यात्री पर हमला किये जाने के सिलसिले में सीसीटीवी फुटेज और अन्य प्रमाण जुटाना शुरू कर दिया है। पुलिस ने बताया कि टर्मिनल एक के सुरक्षा क्षेत्र और उसके आसपास लगे कई कैमरों की फुटेज खंगाली जा रही है ताकि घटना की कड़ियों को जोड़ा जा सके। एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी ने बताया कि घटनास्थल पर मौजूद गवाहों के बयान भी जांच का हिस्सा होंगे।

अधिकारी ने कहा कि जांच अभी प्रारंभिक चरण में है। टर्मिनल से सीसीटीवी फुटेज एकत्र कर उसकी जांच की जा रही है। अन्य संबंधित सबूत भी जुटाए जाएंगे। उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि जांच के दौरान आरोपी



को पूछताछ के लिए बुलाया जाएगा। सोमवार को पीड़ित अंकित दीवान से ईमेल के माध्यम से शिकायत मिलने के बाद पुलिस ने भारतीय न्याय संहिता (बीएनएस) की धाराओं 115 (स्वेच्छा से चोट पहुंचाना), 126 (गलत तरीके से रोकना) और 351 के तहत प्राथमिकी दर्ज की। पुलिस ने बताया कि शिकायत और उपलब्ध सबूतों के आधार पर मामले की जांच की जा रही है तथा जांच आगे बढ़ने पर कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी। यह मामला 19 दिसंबर को टर्मिनल एक के सुरक्षा चौकी के पास हुई एक कथित घटना से संबंधित है। शिकायतकर्ता दीवान

ने दावा किया कि उस दिन एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के कैप्टन वीरेंद्र सेजवाल ने उनके साथ मारपीट की थी। सेजवाल उस समय ड्यूटी पर नहीं थे और एक यात्री के रूप में यात्रा कर रहे थे। दीवान ने आरोप लगाया कि सुरक्षा चौकी पर कुछ कर्मचारियों द्वारा लाइन तोड़े जाने पर आपत्ति जताने के बाद कहासुनी शुरू हुई। उन्होंने दावा किया कि पायलट ने उन्हें गाली दी और फिर उन पर हमला किया, जिससे उनके शरीर से खून बहने लगा और घटना की चश्मदीद उनकी सात वर्षीय बेटी सदमे में आ गई। बाद में एक बयान में, दीवान ने कहा कि सीटी स्कैन से उनकी बाई नाक की हड्डी में फ्रैक्चर की पुष्टि हुई है और वह इस मामले में न्याय की मांग कर रहे हैं। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने कहा है कि उसे अपने एक कर्मचारी से जुड़ी घटना की जानकारी है, जो घटना वाले दिन किसी अन्य एअरलाइन में यात्रा कर रहा था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

एयरपोर्ट मारपीट मामले में पीड़ित यात्री का बयान दर्ज

नई दिल्ली, कार्यालय संवाददाता। इंदिरा गांधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल एक पर मारपीट में शिकायत मिलने के बाद मंगलवार को पुलिस ने पूछताछ के लिए शिकायतकर्ता को थाने बुलाया।

मंगलवार को पीड़ित का विस्तृत बयान दर्ज किया गया। बयान के आधार पर जरूरी सुराग इत्यादि भी जुटाए गए हैं। साथ ही पीड़ित का मेडिकल इत्यादि कराने की प्रक्रिया भी शुरू कर दी गई। पुलिस उपायुक्त विचित्रवीर ने बताया कि मामले में अन्य लोगों के बयान भी जल्द ही दर्ज किए जाएंगे। इसके साथ

ही मौके की जांच और सुरागों को एकत्र करना भी शुरू किया जाएगा।

गौरतलब है कि घटना के तीन दिन बाद सोमवार को शिकायतकर्ता अंकित दीवान की तरफ से पुलिस को ईमेल के जरिए शिकायत मिली। इससे पहले दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल-एक पर शुक्रवार दोपहर एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के कैप्टन पायलट वीरेंद्र सेजवाल पर यात्री अंकित दीवान को परिवार के सामने पीटने के मामले में अंकित ने अपना लहलुहान चेहरा सोशल मीडिया पर साझा किया था। इसके बाद से मामला संज्ञान में आया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

Police record passenger's statement in IGI assault

Karn Pratap Singh

karn.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI : Police on Tuesday have recorded a detailed statement of the passenger who was allegedly assaulted by an off-duty Air India Express pilot at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport last week, a day after a first information report (FIR) was registered in connection with the case, two senior police officers aware of the matter said.

"The complainant (Dewan) was called today for recording

his detailed statement, collection of evidence, and for getting his medical examination conducted. Further recording of statements of all relevant individuals and collection of evidence in the case will continue," said deputy commissioner of police (IGI Airport) Vichitra Veer.

On Friday, a passenger, Ankit Dewan posted on social media that an Air India Express captain, later identified as Captain Virender Sejwal, assaulted him at Terminal 1 of the airport.

After Dewan's social media post, Sejwal was suspended.



Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर उड़ानों का संकट

10 रद्द, 270 से अधिक विलंबित

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या। घने कोहरे और बेहद कम दृश्यता के चलते मंगलवार को दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर कम से कम 10 उड़ानें रद्द करनी पड़ीं, जबकि 270 से अधिक उड़ानें देरी से संचालित हुईं।

एक अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि दिन के दौरान छह आगमन और चार प्रस्थान उड़ानें रद्द की गईं हैं। उड़ानों के परिचालन पर नजर रखने वाली वेबसाइट 'फ्लाइटरेडार24.कॉम' के अनुसार, 270 से अधिक उड़ानों में देरी दर्ज की गई और प्रस्थान उड़ानों का औसत विलंब समय 29 मिनट रहा।

दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे के संचालक



'दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डा लिमिटेड' (डायल) ने सोशल मीडिया मंच 'एक्स' पर एक पोस्ट में कहा, 'हवाईअड्डे पर दृश्यता में सुधार हो रहा है, हालांकि कुछ गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ानों के प्रस्थान में देरी हो सकती है।' राष्ट्रीय राजधानी स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डा (आईजीआईए) प्रतिदिन लगभग 1,300 उड़ानों का संचालन करता है।

IGIA assault: Passenger says CT scan shows nasal fracture

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A passenger allegedly assaulted by an off-duty Air India Express pilot at the Delhi airport has said a CT scan confirmed a displacement of his left nasal bone.

The complainant, Ankit Dewan, said he is now seeking justice in the matter. Dewan said he has submitted a written complaint to the Delhi Police and learned through media reports that an FIR has been filed.

"I am right now focusing on my health, and a CT scan today showed a displaced fracture of left nasal bone. I hope I get justice in the matter," Dewan said.

The Delhi Police on Monday said based on Dewan's complaint received via email, a case has been registered under sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 126 (wrongful restraint) and 351 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

An investigation is underway, they said. Earlier, the police had said they had not received a formal complaint and only became aware of the incident after Dewan's post surfaced on social media platform X. Dewan alleged that he was

Cops collect evidence in assault case

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Tuesday said it has begun collecting CCTV footage and other material evidence in connection with an alleged assault involving an off-duty Air India Express pilot at the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Police said footage from multiple cameras installed in and around the security area of Terminal 1 is being examined to reconstruct the sequence of events. Statements of witnesses present at the spot will also be recorded, a senior officer said. An FIR has been registered under sections 115, 126 and 351 of the BNS after a complaint was received via e-mail from the passenger on Monday. "The investigation is at a preliminary stage. Relevant evidence is being gathered and the accused will be called for questioning," the officer said.



physically assaulted by Air India Express captain Virender Sejwal near the security area of Terminal 1 of the airport on December 19. He claimed the assault caused him to bleed and traumatised his seven-year-old daughter, who witnessed the encounter.

According to Dewan, the altercation began when he objected to certain staff members allegedly cutting the queue at the security checkpoint.

He alleged that the pilot verbally abused him

before the physical attack. Air India Express issued a statement, saying it is aware of the incident involving an employee who was travelling as a passenger on another airline at the time.

The airline has removed the pilot from official duties with immediate effect, pending an internal investigation. Police officials said they will examine the matter based on the complaint and available evidence, including CCTV footage from the terminal.

MPOST



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर 10 फ्लाइट कैंसिल, 270 से ज्यादा डिले

नई दिल्ली, 23 दिसम्बर (नवोदय टाइम्स): इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल (आईजीआई) एयरपोर्ट पर कोहरे के चलते मंगलवार को 10 फ्लाइट कैंसिल कर दी गई। इस दौरान करीब 270 से अधिक फ्लाइट डिले हो गईं। इससे यात्रियों को काफी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। फ्लाइट डिले का औसत 45 से 85 मिनट रहा। संबंधित एयरलाइन एवं एयरपोर्ट का संचालन करने वाली दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने सुबह से ही एडवाइजरी जारी कर यात्रियों से फ्लाइट स्टेटस देखकर ही घर से निकलने की अपील की थी।



एयरपोर्ट अधिकारियों से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार घने कोहरे के चलते आगमन वाली 6 तथा प्रस्थान करने वाली 4 फ्लाइट को कैंसिल करना पड़ा। दृश्यता में सुधार होने के बाद एयरपोर्ट पर फ्लाइट का संचालन सामान्य हो पाया। वहीं 270 से अधिक फ्लाइट विलंब से उड़ीं। कुछ फ्लाइट एक घंटे तक की देरी से उड़ीं। इससे यात्रियों को खासी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। हालांकि यात्रियों की सहायता के लिए संबंधित एयरलाइन व डायल कर्मचारियों की टीम मौजूद थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

नोएडा इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट ने नैटवर्क एवं साइबर सुरक्षा संचालन के लिए टैक महिंद्रा से की सांझेदारी

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी): नोएडा इंटरनैशनल एयरपोर्ट (एन.आई.ए.) और आई.टी. सेवा कंपनी टैक महिंद्रा ने हवाई अड्डे के लिए एकीकृत नैटवर्क एवं सुरक्षा संचालन केंद्र (एन.ओ.सी.-एस.ओ.सी.) की स्थापना और संचालन के लिए सांझेदारी की घोषणा की।

टैक महिंद्रा एन.आई.ए. के साथ मिलकर एक मजबूत एवं प्रक्रियाधारित परिवेश स्थापित करेगी। इसमें हवाई अड्डे के संचालन के केंद्र में साइबर सुरक्षा को रखा जाएगा ताकि शुरूआत से ही भरोसेमंद, सुरक्षित एवं विस्तार योग्य प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित ढांचा सुनिश्चित किया जा सके। संयुक्त बयान के अनुसार इस सांझेदारी के तहत टैक महिंद्रा हवाई अड्डे के महत्वपूर्ण आई.टी. बुनियादी ढांचे के लिए नैटवर्क और सुरक्षा संचालन की चौबीसों घंटे निगरानी एवं प्रबंधन करेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

23 DECEMBER 2025

UP allocates ₹1,246 crore for Jewar Airport-Ganga Expressway link

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Lucknow, 22 December

To boost industrial development and global connectivity, the Uttar Pradesh government has allocated ₹1,246 crore in the supplementary budget for the construction of an access-controlled greenfield expressway from Jewar Airport to the Ganga Expressway.

This funding will expedite the land acquisition process. This project is considered a decisive step towards further strengthening Uttar Pradesh's position on the global map for international investment, logistics, and industrial expansion.

This greenfield



expressway will directly connect Noida International Airport (Jewar) to the Ganga Expressway, providing seamless transportation, exports, industrial supply chains, and passenger traffic.

The government believes that this corridor will provide an unprecedented boost to investment

attraction, employment generation, and the development of industrial clusters in the state.

Providing comprehensive support for industrial and infrastructure development, the supplementary budget has allocated ₹1,835 crore under the BGF for the Ganga Expressway project and ₹100 crore for the Gorakhpur Link

Expressway project. This proposed funding will address obstacles to the development of expressways.

A token demand of ₹5 lakh has been placed for the construction of new public convenience complexes and vehicle parking spaces on the left side of the 292-km stretch of the Agra-Lucknow Expressway, which will be borne from savings in grants.

To boost industrial investment, the government has proposed significant funding under various investment policies. Funds have been proposed to meet additional requirements of ₹75 crore for the implementation of the Accelerated Investment Promotion Policy 2020.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

23 DECEMBER 2025

HC disposes PIL on airport 'land grab'

Pinto.Deepak@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Telangana high court on Monday disposed of a public interest litigation alleging encroachment of 97.6 acres of airport land in Mankhal village of Maheswaram mandal in Rangareddy district.

The court directed the petitioner to submit a fresh representation to the Rangareddy district collector along with all documents, details and evidence in support of his claim that the land had been encroached upon.

The petitioner, Kukkala Krishna, alleged that the land, acquired for the international airport, was illegally occupied by Vertex Developers LLP. He said several complaints submitted to the authorities had not yielded any action and sought directions for removal of the alleged encroachments, restoration of the land to govt control, and cancellation of two layout permits issued in 2021. The PIL was heard by a division bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin.

The petitioner further alleged that the private developer misrepresented facts and documents before the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority to secure construction permissions on the acquired land.

Recording the submissions, the bench allowed him to submit a fresh representation before the Rangareddy collector.

Bomb threat mails take toll on RGIA staff, fliers

Mahesh Buddi
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Hyderabad: Cyberabad police registered 16 bomb threat cases at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Decalone, including one on Monday. All threats were later declared hoaxes after verification. However, their frequency placed immense pressure on airport security personnel and airlines, besides causing inconvenience to passengers, with three flights diverted, police said.

Around midnight on Monday, a representative of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) lodged a complaint with RGIA police stating that an email warning of explosives on board KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight KLM 873 had been received. The aircraft landed at 1.12 am.

“CISF personnel carried out anti-sabotage checks on the aircraft, and passengers were also screened. No suspicious material was found. It was a hoax. A case has been registered,” RGIA police said. Earlier this month, three flights—two IndiGo services from Madina and Kuwait,

AFTERMATH OF A THREAT MAIL



- Threat email or phone call is first forwarded to Airport Predictive Operations Centre (APOC)

- APOC alerts Security Operations Control Centre (SOCC) operated by CISF

- Bomb Threat Assessment Committee assesses credibility of threat

- In case of specific threats mentioning time or location, flight is diverted or inspect at origin/destination

- 50+ personnel take part in checks for each threat mail

- Flight diversions significantly increase operational burden on airlines and cause major inconvenience to passengers

and a Kuwait Airways flight from Kuwait to Hyderabad—were diverted to Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Muscat following similar threat emails.

Before Monday’s incident, 15 similar emails were received this month through RGIA’s customer support email. Investigators found that senders used anonymity-focused email services such as mail2tor.email, ProtonMail and even spoofed domains of media organisations. “Some email IDs were spoofed, while

others were created using Tormail. All threat emails were sent via VPNs, making it difficult to identify the accused. More than half a dozen emails were sent using the same name. We’re analysing technical details to trace the culprits,” an official said.

Twenty-two of the 28 hoax bomb threat cases registered at RGIA police station in 2025 were transferred to the cyber-crime police station a few days ago. The other cases will be transferred soon.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

Airside Transfer: Domestic To Int'l Transit May Be A Breeze At Airport

To Be Followed By Int'l-Domestic Movement Later, Linking T3 With T1 & T2

Saurabh Sinha
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New Delhi: Transiting between the three terminals of Indira Gandhi International Airport could become less of a hassle from next year.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) is learnt to be planning a dedicated corridor between Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 so that domestic-to-international passengers, to begin with, can be transferred airside, instead of them having to use the road. Depending on clearances from multiple govt agencies, the airport operator plans to start doing so before March 2026. This will be followed by international to domestic transfers from T3 to T2.

The biggest relief could

come by next June when a similar airside connectivity is likely to be provided for domestic to international transfers from T1 to T3, followed by T3 to T1 for passengers flying from international to domestic sectors.

Domestic-to-domestic airside transfers between the three terminals are not yet in the works.

Commuting between T1 and T2/3, which are almost 9 km apart, has been a sore point. Despite IGIA being one of the world's busiest airport, DIAL's plan to operate an air train, like most big global hubs, including Changi, JFK, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Heathrow and Zurich airport, has been gathering dust for almost a decade now.

"An internal team of DI-

Buses on the airside will have a speed limit of 20 kmph, but even then, the commute will be much more faster and convenient than roadside transfers

AL and external consultants are working on finding a technical solution for dedicated corridors for transfers between T3 — the airport's sole international terminal — and T1 and T2, both of which handle only domestic traffic," sources said.

The operator is cognisant of the fact that in the continued absence of an automated people mover — usually air trains at airports — a way ne-

eds to be found for making transfers seamless. The plan to start off with domestic-to-international operations is owing to the fact that flyers can directly carry their check-in bags from an incoming domestic flight to an outgoing international one, the sources said.

The baggage of international passengers entering India, on the other hand, needs to pass through Customs first before the flyers can carry them on a connecting domestic flight. A seamless route for this is also reportedly being worked out.

"The airport operator hopes to present the plan to govt agencies, including aviation ministry, DGCA, BCAS, customs and CISF for their suggestions and approvals. Buses

used for transfers on the airside will have a speed limit of 20 kmph, but even then, the commute will be much more convenient and faster than roadside transfers, said the sources.

DIAL, which is backed by GMR Group, took over the airport in May 2006 based on a PPP model. It plans to implement these passenger-friendly moves to coincide with it marking two decades at IGIA.

With DIAL's first 30-year concession period ending in 2036, the time between an air train becoming operational, say in 2030, and 2036, is too short for a bidder to recover the expense. Hence, the air train remains a dream for now. Hence, a dedicated airside corridor, to begin with, will be of great help for the transit passengers.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

23 DECEMBER 2025

Sarla Aviation commences ground testing of air taxi

MUMBAI, Dec 22: Aerospace startup Sarla Aviation, which plans to roll out electric air taxis for local commuting by 2028, on Monday announced the commencement of ground testing of its taxi programme at its Bengaluru manufacturing facility.

With ground testing now under way, the company's air taxi programme enters its core validation phase, moving decisively beyond digital concepts and laboratory-scale experimentation into real aircraft-scale testing, it said.

It also said that the achievement places India among a small group of nations actively developing next-generation vertical flight systems at an industrial scale.

The platform also said it has raised a total of USD 13 million (around Rs 116 crore) so far across its Pre-Seed and Seed rounds in 2024, followed by a Series A round in January 2025 led by investors Accel and Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath.

The platform in January this year unveiled its prototype air taxi, Shunya, at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo with plans to roll out electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft in Bengaluru in 2028.

"Sarla Aviation has commenced ground testing for its half-scale (7.5-metre wingspan) eVTOL demonstrator, SYLLA SYL-X1, at the company's Bengaluru test facility," the company said.

With a 7.5-metre wingspan, SYL-X1 represents the largest and most advanced private eVTOL demonstrator of its kind currently under development in India. Achieved in approximately 9 months of development and at a fraction of the capital typically required for comparable global programs, the milestone, the company claimed, marks a level of engineering scale, execution speed, and systems maturity not previously demonstrated by a private aerospace company in the country.

The current demonstrator is a functional sub-scale aircraft, purpose-built to validate structural behaviour, propulsion integration, and system-level safety architecture at a meaningful scale. Unlike academic prototypes or small RC-scale platforms, SYL-X1 is designed with certification intent from the outset, forming a direct bridge toward Sarla Aviation's 15-metre wingspan full-scale aircraft, it said. – PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

23 DECEMBER 2025

Boeing to deliver Air India's first 787-9 Dreamliner, second is in the works

CAPACITY BOOST. The move will expand the airline's wide-body capability, address growing long-haul demand

Rohit Vaid
Charleston

The induction of Air India's first Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft is expected to expand the airline's wide-body capacity while addressing growing long-haul demand, said Salil Gupta, President of Boeing India and South Asia.

Speaking to *businessline*, Gupta said that the company is set to deliver the first Boeing 787-9 aircraft to Air India in the coming weeks.

He added that the production process for the next Boeing 787-9 aircraft for Air India is underway.

The Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner is a wide-body, twin-aisle aircraft designed for medium- to long-haul operations. It is part of the Boeing



Aircraft availability is only one of several factors influencing capacity deployment

SALIL GUPTA
President of Boeing India and South Asia



787 family and offers a longer fuselage and higher passenger capacity — 250 to 290 passengers in a three-class configuration) compared to the 787-8.

The 787-9 is powered by next-generation engines and is designed to operate on a wide range of long-haul routes. It features an updated cabin architecture, including larger windows, improved air quality systems

and higher cabin humidity levels compared with older wide-body aircraft. Its range (about 7,565 nautical miles) as well as payload capabilities allow airlines to deploy the aircraft on both high-density and long-range international sectors.

MEGA DEAL
Air India has ordered 20 of these aircraft as part of its mega order of over 200 Bo-

eing jets of different types placed in 2023.

Earlier, the airline highlighted that in 2026 it plans to induct six new wide-body aircraft, comprising Boeing 787-9s and Airbus A350-1000s, alongside around 20 narrow-body aircraft. However, the fleet size will remain flat due to the return of older leased jets.

On the widening gap between capacity and demand in India's aviation industry, Gupta said aircraft availability is only one of several factors influencing capacity deployment.

Further, aircraft supply, infrastructure readiness, including airports and the availability of landing and parking slots, regulatory frameworks, global maintenance capacity, especially for engines, and pilot availability

also play a role. These factors together determine how much capacity can be deployed in the market.

Boeing also underscored that it is not only continuing to manufacture advanced airplanes that serve airline and passenger requirements but also transforming the process by which they are built and supported, leading how the aerospace industry continues to evolve.

The aerospace giant has brought in systemic changes into production which have been implemented over the last 18 months. These initiatives, Boeing said, were committed to safety, quality, customer support and to rebuilding trust, "one airplane at a time".

The writer was in Charleston at the invitation of Boeing

IndiGo to hand out travel vouchers from Dec 26 to fliers affected by crisis

Our Bureau
New Delhi

IndiGo has moved to compensate passengers who were severely affected during the recent disruption to its operations. The airline had earlier stated that it would issue ₹10,000 travel vouchers to impacted travellers, in addition to statutory refunds starting at ₹5,000.

IndiGo took to X on Monday and stated that, in keeping with this commitment, it is extending the ₹10,000 'Gesture of Care' voucher to severely impacted and heavily stranded customers at airports from noon on December 3 until the end of day on December 5. As per the airline's post, starting December 26, its teams will begin reaching out to customers of identified flights whose contact details are already available.

IndiGo added that its

teams will take care of the rest of the process and ensure it is completed for these customers. The airline said that for customers who have booked through a travel partner, it is closely coordinating with them to receive the contact details. However, the airline added that if, for any reason, customers have not been reached out to, a dedicated webpage will be available from January 1, 2026, allowing customers to share their journey details.

Notably, IndiGo said travellers who were stranded between December 3-5 due to airport congestion will receive ₹10,000 travel vouchers valid for any IndiGo journey over the next 12 months.

The airline said this amount is over and above the compensation mandated under government rules, which ranges from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 depending on block time.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

23 DECEMBER 2025

DGCA to supervise Air India probe into in-flight engine shutdown

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Civil aviation regulator DGCA will supervise Air India's probe into the in-flight engine shutdown on its Delhi-Mumbai Boeing 777-300ER.

The incident occurred on Monday when an Air India aircraft, registered as VT-ALS, operating flight AI 887 from Delhi to Mumbai, turned back after take-off.

The manoeuvre was triggered due to a low engine oil pressure indication on engine no 2, the right-hand engine, during flap retraction. Shortly thereafter, the engine oil pressure dropped to zero. According to the Dir-



ectorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), following standard procedures, the flight crew shut down engine no 2 and the aircraft landed safely at Delhi. Inspection and rectification are in progress.

The regulator said the incident will be investigated by the airline's Permanent Investigation Board under the supervision of the Director of Air Safety (Northern Re-

gion), DGCA. Air India said the crew operating the flight decided to return to Delhi shortly after take-off due to a technical issue, as per standard operating procedure.

CHECKS UNDERWAY

The aircraft landed safely at Delhi, and passengers and crew disembarked. The airline expressed regret for the inconvenience caused due to the unforeseen situation.

Air India said the aircraft is undergoing the necessary checks. The airline said added that its ground team at Delhi is providing immediate assistance to passengers and that alternative arrangements have been made to fly them to their destination.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

इंडिगो की दिल्ली समेत अन्य शहरों में 50 फ्लाइट्स रद्द

मुंबई। विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने मंगलवार को देश के कई एयरपोर्ट्स से करीब 50 फ्लाइट्स रद्द कर दीं। ये उड़ानें मुंबई, दिल्ली, वाराणसी, पुणे, चंडीगढ़, अमृतसर, इंदौर और पटना समेत कई शहरों से रद्द की गईं। हालांकि, कंपनी ने फ्लाइट रद्द करने की कोई वजह नहीं बताई है। एयरलाइन को रोजाना अधिकतम 1,930 घरेलू उड़ान की अनुमति है।

ब्रिटिश एयरवेज की फ्लाइट को मिली बम की धमकी

हैदराबाद। लंदन से हैदराबाद आ रही ब्रिटिश एयरवेज की फ्लाइट बीए 277 को बम की धमकी मिली। यह धमकी सोमवार को राजीव गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के कस्टमर सपोर्ट को ईमेल के जरिए भेजी गई। फ्लाइट हैदराबाद पहुंचने के बाद तय प्रोटोकॉल के तहत सुरक्षा जांच की गई है। इसके बाद फ्लाइट को वापस लंदन के हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट के लिए रवाना कर दिया गया।

Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

23 DECEMBER 2025

Sarla Aviation's eVTOL platform undergoes ground-testing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sarla Aviation commenced ground-testing for its half-scale electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) demonstrator, SYL-LA SYL-X1, at its Bengaluru test facility on Monday. With a 7.5-metre wingspan, the SYL-X1 represents the largest and most-advanced private eVTOL demonstrator of its kind currently under development in India, the company said in a statement.

With ground-testing underway, Sarla Aviation's air taxi programme is entering its core validation phase, moving beyond digital concepts and laboratory-scale experimentation into real aircraft-scale testing. Accordingly, the



current eVTOL demonstrator is a functional sub-scale aircraft, purpose-built to validate structural behaviour, propulsion integration, and system-level safety architecture at meaningful scale.

Meanwhile, Sarla Aviation also delivered a full-scale static aircraft for national showcase at Bharat Mobility, while raising \$13 million in funding to strengthen long-term execution capability.

विमान में तकनीकी खराबी, बीच सफर से लौटा

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: नई दिल्ली से मुंबई जा रही एअर इंडिया की उड़ान को प्रस्थान के कुछ ही देर बाद एक इंजन में आई तकनीकी खामी की वजह से वापस लौटना पड़ा। आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर विमान की दूसरे इंजन की मदद से इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग कराई गई, जो पूरी तरह सुरक्षित रही। विमान में 335 यात्री सवार थे। बाद में यात्रियों को वैकल्पिक उड़ान की व्यवस्था कर दिल्ली से मुंबई भेजा गया। फिलहाल, विमान की तकनीकी जांच की जा रही है। डीजीसीए ने घटना की जांच के आदेश दिए हैं। पिछले सात दिनों में एअर इंडिया की उड़ान के साथ हुई यह दूसरी घटना है।

उड़ान संख्या एआइ-887 को सोमवार तड़के करीब 3:20 बजे आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरनी थी। हालांकि, विमान को तीन घंटे से अधिक का विलंब हुआ



335 यात्री थे विमान में, दिल्ली से मुंबई जा रहा था डीजीसीए ने जांच के लिए आदेश

● दाहिने इंजन का आयल प्रेशर शून्य होने पर दूसरे इंजन से दिल्ली में कराई गई लैंडिंग

और उसने 6:31 बजे उड़ान भरी। टेकआफ के कुछ ही समय बाद पायलट ने विमान के दाहिने इंजन में आयल प्रेशर सामान्य से काफी कम पाया, जो थोड़ी ही देर में शून्य पहुंच गया। स्थिति को देखते हुए पायलट ने सावधानी बरती और उड़ान जारी रखने से पहले सुरक्षा

जापान का राकेट सैटेलाइट को कक्षा में पहुंचाने में नाकाम

टोक्यो, एपी : जापान की अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी ने कहा कि एच3 राकेट पेलोड को तय कक्षा में पहुंचाने में नाकाम रहा। वह एक नेविगेशन सैटेलाइट ले जा रहा था। यह देश के स्पेस लांच प्रोग्राम के लिए झटका है। इससे पहले 2023 में अपनी पहली उड़ान में भी गड़बड़ी का सामना किया था। जापान एयरोस्पेस एक्सप्लोरेशन एजेंसी ने कहा मिचिबिकी 5 सैटेलाइट ले जाने वाला एच 3 राकेट सोमवार को जापान के तनेगाशिमा स्पेस सेंटर से लांच हुआ था।

को प्राथमिकता दी। एअर इंडिया के कंट्रोल सेंटर व एटीसी से परामर्श कर पायलट ने दूसरे इंजन को चालू किया और यू-टर्न लेकर दिल्ली वापस आ गया। इस बीच एयरपोर्ट पर निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के तहत सभी एजेंसियों को इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग के लिए सतर्क कर दिया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

No extension to IndiGo on using wet-leased planes from Turkey

SUKALP SHARMA
New Delhi, December 23

INDIGO HAS THE permission to use wet-leased aircraft from Turkey-based airlines only till March, and no further extension will be provided, aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said late Monday. Moreover, the lease on two wide-body Boeing 777 aircraft that are among the planes IndiGo has on lease from Turkish carriers is valid only till the end of February, and has not been extended. The clarification came amid speculation in a section of the media that IndiGo had received the DGCA's nod for a six-month lease extension on the two Boeing 777s.

IndiGo has a total of seven aircraft on wet-lease — taking



the aircraft on lease along with the operating crew — from Turkish carriers — five Boeing 737 planes from Corendon Airlines till March-end, apart from the two Boeing 777 jets from Turkish Airlines till February-end. IndiGo also has the regulator's permission to lease five Airbus A320 planes from another

Turkish carrier Freebird Airways, but these are yet to be inducted by the Indian airline.

"M/s IndiGo has been permitted to operate aircraft on wet lease from Turkey with a last extension valid till March 2026 with a sunset clause that no further extension will be given. This is based on the undertakings sub-

mitted by IndiGo airlines in the instant case wherein they have sought last time extension, since their long-range aircraft (A321-XLR) are to be delivered by February 2026," the DGCA said.

A senior official said that while the lease validity for the narrow-body planes from Turkish carriers is there till March, the Turkish Airlines' Boeing 777s will have to go back after February.

IndiGo uses the two wet-leased Boeing 777s for its flights to Istanbul from Delhi and Mumbai. Amid backlash against Turkey in India due to the former's public backing of Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, the DGCA had informed IndiGo that it would not allow lease extensions for the two aircraft beyond August.

AI flight in emergency landing, probe ordered

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has ordered a high-level probe into a serious technical incident involving a Mumbai-bound Air India flight that was forced to return and make an emergency landing at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Monday morning.

The flight, AI-887, was operated using a long-haul category Boeing 777-300ER and was carrying around 335 passengers and crew. It departed from Delhi at 6:31 am for Mumbai. However, less than an hour after take-off, the flight crew detected a critical



Delhi-Mumbai flight AI-887 turns back after trouble in one engine

technical failure in one of the engines.

Flight tracking data showed that the aircraft, registered as VT-ALS, had been in the air for about 45 minutes when the cockpit crew noticed a low engine oil pressure warning in engine number two, the right-wing engine, during the flap retraction phase.

► **Contd on | nation**

AI flight in emergency...

The situation worsened when the oil pressure dropped to zero, prompting the pilots to follow standard operating procedures (SOP) and shut down the affected engine mid-air.

The crew then decided to return to the origin airport and landed back in Delhi at around 6:52 am. A full emergency was declared at the airport between 6:40 am and 6:52 am, during which fire tenders, ambulances and rescue teams were placed on high alert and positioned along the runway. The aircraft landed safely on a single engine, and all passengers disembarked through regular gates without any injuries.

After the incident, the MoCA sought a detailed report from Air India and directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to conduct a thorough investigation. The ministry also asked the airline to assist passengers and accommodate them on subsequent flights.

The DGCA said it would review the aircraft's recent maintenance records. Sources indicated that preliminary checks did not show any earlier abnormalities in oil consumption for this particular aircraft.

Air India said the aircraft would undergo the required technical checks and that an alternative Boeing 777 aircraft had been arranged, which departed after 10 am to carry the stranded passengers to Mumbai.

"Air India sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused due to this unforeseen situation. The aircraft is undergoing the necessary checks. At Air India, the safety and well-being of our passengers and crew remain top priority," an airline spokesperson said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

22 DECEMBER 2025

15 flight cancellations at Srinagar, 8 at Jammu

Saqib Malik
Srinagar, Dec 21

Bad weather conditions, causing poor visibility, coupled with operational reasons, led to the cancellation of 15 flights at the Srinagar International Airport on Sunday and eight flights scheduled for Jammu.

As per the data provided by the Srinagar airport officials, of the 15 cancelled

» See **15 flight...** on Pg-08

15 flight cancellations...

flights, eight were of low-cost carrier IndiGo, two were to be operated by Air India Express, and one each cancelled flight was of Air India, SpiceJet, and Air Akasa.

The officials said five flights were able to land at Srinagar and also take off from the summer capital.

However, three of these were ferry flights, which are flight operations without any passengers.

As per the airport data, 862 passengers arrived at Srinagar on Sunday, while the outgoing passengers were 312.

Speaking with Greater Kashmir, Raja D, a videographer from Bengaluru, who was in Srinagar for a professional tour for the last two days, said he, along with other passengers, waited in an aircraft for an hour, following which they were made to deboard as the flight got cancelled.

"The flight on which we were scheduled to travel landed here in the afternoon. We were made to board the aircraft, but after waiting for an hour, there was an announcement that the flight was cancelled. As a result, all the passengers were made to deboard the plane," Raja said. "My colleague and I are now on our way to Jammu, travelling by road. We have booked a connecting flight ticket from Jammu to Bengaluru for Monday." Meanwhile, as per the data shared by the Jammu airport officials, the eight cancelled flights included five IndiGo flights, two Air India Express flights, and one Air India flight.

Besides, the four cancelled flights at Jammu airport included one Air India and three IndiGo flights, it said. At the 14th General Meeting and Tourism Promotion Event of the Tourist Trade Interest Guild in Srinagar last month, Director, Srinagar International Airport, Javed Anjum, told reporters that the runway at the airport has been upgraded to the Instrument Landing System Category-2 (ILS-2), which essentially means that even in low visibility, a flight can make a landing.

Full story on greaterkashmir.com



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

24 DECEMBER 2025

कोहरे के कारण दस उड़ानें निरस्त

नई दिल्ली। राजधानी दिल्ली में छाए घने कोहरे का असर मंगलवार को भी विमान सेवाओं पर पड़ा। घने कोहरे के चलते दस उड़ानों को रद्द कर दिया। इसमें से छह उड़ानें दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर पहुंचने वाली थीं जबकि चार उड़ानें यहां से उड़ान भरने वाली थीं। वहीं, घरेलू विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने मंगलवार को देश के विभिन्न हवाई अड्डों से अपनी लगभग 50 उड़ानें रद्द कर दीं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

23 DECEMBER 2025

Month-long campaign to mark NMIA launch on Dec 25; 33 flights on roster

G Mohiuddin Jeddy

letters@hindustantimes.com

NAVI MUMBAI: Commercial operations at the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will commence on December 25 with an extended, month-long campaign featuring curated welcome programmes, gifts and technology-led passenger services, said Jeet Adani, director at Adani Airports Holdings Limited, which operates and manages the NMIA.

"The opening has been planned as more than a routine operational start. Every passenger is going to feel special," Adani said while speaking to reporters last week. He refused to divulge any information about the main attraction of the launch, saying, "That is a surprise. I can't disclose that yet."

CIDCO vice-chairman and managing director Vijay Singhal said the December 25 launch will also mark the start of calibrated domestic flight operations, with 33 aircraft movements on the first day. "Flights



The launch has been deliberately phased and calibrated, said CIDCO vice-chairman and MD Vijay Singhal.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

on day one will be operated by IndiGo, Akasa Air, Air India Express and Star Air," he said.

Adani said passengers accessing the airport on the launch day will encounter a series of curated elements across the terminal, including airport-themed giveaways created exclusively for the launch, multiple selfie points and cultural showcases reflecting the airport's identity and Maharashtra's local heritage.

"We've brought local artists onto this stage so that millions of people can see them," Adani

said, pointing to installations themed around the Dadar flower market, Sassoon Dock, and forts in Maharashtra.

Tech-led operations

While the airport has been designed as a technology-forward facility, all mission-critical systems will retain human oversight, Adani said.

The Air Traffic Control and the Airport Operations Control Centre will be fully manned, and avoid untested automation deliberately, while the baggage handling system will be fully

automated, with no manual intervention between check-in and aircraft loading.

Flight operations will commence in a calibrated and phased manner, beginning with domestic passenger flights. Initially, the airport will handle around 30 domestic flights a day as systems and teams stabilise. International flights will commence once domestic operations settle, by February or March, Adani said.

Singhal too said the launch has been deliberately phased and calibrated. "We are not front-loading volumes. The focus is on operational stability, predictability and then scaling up in a structured manner," he said. Operations in phase I will be anchored by terminal 1, which has a designed capacity of 20 million passengers annually, Singhal said. "The south runway, cargo terminal, fuel farm and multi-level car parking will all be operational from day one, enabling NMIA to function as a complete airport ecosystem at launch," he noted.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

23 DECEMBER 2025

AI flight returns to Delhi after engine issue

Snehashish Roy

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: An Air India Boeing 777 flying to Mumbai had to return to Delhi airport on Monday after one of its two engines developed a technical snag shortly after take-off, prompting the civil aviation regulator to order a probe into the latest incident involving the airline and its subsidiaries.

Pilots observed a low engine oil pressure on the B777-300ER aircraft's right-hand engine during flaps retraction after take-off. The pressure shortly thereafter dropped to zero and the crew shut down the engine and turned back as per procedure, the Directorate General of Civil aviation said.

Following a safe landing, all passengers were safely disembarked and alternative travel arrangements were initiated, the airline said in a statement.

"The crew operating flight AI887 from Delhi to Mumbai on 22 December decided to return to Delhi shortly after take-off due to a technical issue as per standard operating procedure...Air India sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused due to this unforeseen situation. The aircraft is undergoing the necessary checks," the airline said.

The aircraft is 15 years old and has flown to locations such as Vienna, Vancouver and Chicago, according to Flightradar24.

The Union civil aviation



The pilots observed low oil pressure on the plane's right-hand engine. REUTERS

ministry took cognisance and sought a detailed report from the airline, while directing the civil aviation regulator to initiate a probe. "The Ministry has sought a detailed report from Air India, and DGCA has been directed to conduct a thorough investigation... Passenger safety

remains paramount," the ministry said.

"Inspection/rectification is in progress. The incident would be investigated by the permanent Investigation Board of the Airline under the supervision of the Director of Air Safety(NR)," the DGCA said.

Air India has been under increased scrutiny after a Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad airport in June, killing 260 people.

In November, an Air India A320 was found to have flown multiple commercial flights without a valid airworthiness certificate; DGCA suspended airline staff and order a detailed internal audit, underscoring regulatory concerns

over compliance and documentation.

On August 31, an Air India flight from Delhi to Indore was forced to return shortly after take-off following a fire indication in one of its engines, while another Air India international flight landed safely in Birmingham after its emergency RAM air turbine was deployed mid-air on October 5.

More recently, in December, an Air India Express flight operating between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam was cancelled after a technical issue was detected before departure, prompting the airline to ground the aircraft as a precautionary measure.

With inputs from Reuters



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

23 DECEMBER 2025

एअर इंडिया प्लेन का एक इंजन हवा में बंद

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली से मुंबई जा रही एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट को 40 मिनट में ही इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग करनी पड़ी। रिपोर्ट्स के मुताबिक बोइंग 777-300ईआरएआई887 फ्लाइट

- दूसरे इंजन से दिल्ली में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग
- 335 यात्रियों को मुंबई ले जा रहा था

का दाहिना इंजन टेक-ऑफ के बाद बंद हो गया। उसमें ऑइल प्रेशर जीरो हो गया था। इसके चलते उसे दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट लैंडना पड़ा। प्लेन ने सुबह 6.10 बजे एआई 887 के रूप में मुंबई के लिए उड़ान भरी थी और 6.52 पर यह वापस आ गया।

हालांकि 2 इंजन वाले प्लेन एक इंजन के जरिए भी सुरक्षित लैंड कर सकते हैं।

इसलिए इसे तुरंत ही लौटाने का फैसला लिया गया। दफ्लाइट ट्रैकिंग वेबसाइट के मुताबिक टेक-ऑफ के बाद लगभग एक घंटे तक हवा में थी।

विमान में लगभग 335 लोग सवार थे। इन सभी को दूसरे विमान से भेजे जाने की व्यवस्था की गई है। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट एआई-887 की घटना पर एक्शन लिया है, जिसमें टेक-ऑफ के तुरंत बाद तकनीकी खराबी आई थी। मंत्रालय ने एअर इंडिया से एक डिटेल्ड रिपोर्ट मांगी है। साथ ही डीजीसीए को पूरी जांच करने का निर्देश दिया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

23 DECEMBER 2025

AI Mumbai flight returns to Delhi shortly after take-off due to tech issue; DGCA to probe incident

NIKHIL VYAS

New Delhi, 22 December

Air India Flight AI887 operating from Delhi to Mumbai was forced to return to Indira Gandhi International Airport here on Monday shortly after take-off due to a technical issue.

The aircraft landed safely at the airport in the national capital and the passengers and crew have disembarked, an Air India spokesperson said.

"The crew operating Flight AI887 from Delhi to Mumbai on 22 December decided to return to Delhi shortly after take-off due to a technical issue as per standard operating procedure. The aircraft landed safely at Delhi and the passengers and crew have disembarked.



Air India sincerely regrets inconvenience caused due to this unforeseen situation," the spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson further said the aircraft is undergoing the necessary checks and that the ground team at Delhi is providing immediate assistance to passengers. Alternative arrangements have been made to fly them to their destination shortly. At Air India, the safety and well-being of our passengers and crew remain top priority."

Meanwhile, the Ministry of

Civil Aviation has sought a detailed report from Air India over the incident.

In a post on X, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said, "The Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken note of the Air India flight AI-887 incident involving a technical issue shortly after take-off. The aircraft landed safely."

"The Ministry has sought a detailed report from Air India, and DGCA has been directed to conduct a thorough investigation.

The airline has been directed to extend all assistance to passengers and accommodate them on subsequent flights. Passenger safety remains paramount," the Ministry further said in the post on X.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

23 DECEMBER 2025

Air fares dip amid IndiGo fiasco

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: The IndiGo fiasco earlier this month, coupled with other factors, has contributed to reduced demand for domestic travel this holiday season, tour operators and airline officials said.

Ticket prices for December 24 across various sectors, which typically experience high demand, were significantly lower than usual for this period of the year. Additionally, the major crisis faced by IndiGo in early December, resulting in the cancellation of approximately 3,500 flights, coupled with a fire at a nightclub in Goa, led many individuals to abandon their travel plans to this beach destination, according to tour operators.

The one-way fare from Calcutta to Goa for December 24

was showing around ₹17,000 on Monday afternoon. "Usually, with barely two days to go for the travel, the fare to Goa goes up to ₹25,000," said an official of an airline.

The one-way fare from Calcutta to Bagdogra for December 24 was around ₹9,000 on Monday afternoon, which usually reaches ₹15,000.

The fares for that day from Calcutta to Delhi and Mumbai ranged between ₹8,000 and ₹9,000 on Monday evening. Tour operators said the fares touch ₹20,000 to these destinations a day before Xmas eve.

The fares are low despite IndiGo cutting down 10% flights in the winter schedule following instructions from the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA). In Calcutta, IndiGo had 126 flights taking off every day on average. It has

come down to 110, said airport sources.

"Despite the reduction of flights, the fares are not sky high to domestic sectors like they were even last year. Usually, around Christmas, last-minute demands are very high, which pushes up the fares. However, this year, although the passenger loads are good, the last-minute demands are low," said a source in IndiGo.

"During the IndiGo crisis, many passengers also didn't receive baggage. All these are fresh in people's minds, and they don't want to get stuck again. The spirit of holiday travel seems to be missing. Also, the incident of fire at the Goa nightclub is fresh in people's minds," said Anil Punjabi, chairman, Travel Agents Federation of India, eastern region.

TRAVEL COST

One-way fare from Calcutta on December 24 (as of Monday)

- Goa: ₹17,000
- Delhi: ₹9,000
- Mumbai: ₹8,000
- Bagdogra: ₹9,000

Source: Travel industry

"However, the demand for short-haul international destinations like Thailand is there this time too. The IndiGo crisis did not hit international flights," said Punjabi.

A fire killed 25 people and injured 50 at the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora, Goa, on December 6.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 ►

Air fare

► FROM PAGE 7

The fire took place when a dance party was being hosted at around 11:45pm and then it spread through the venue.

"The bookings are around 25 percent less compared to last Christmas holidays. People are apprehensive because of IndiGo cancellations and also disruptions caused by fog," said Anjani Dhanuka, chairman, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAD), eastern region. "Many people who had booked much in advance have cancelled their bookings during the IndiGo fiasco. They didn't book again after the crisis was over," he said.

However, a couple from south Calcutta said they have not cancelled their travel plans to Varanasi and Lucknow.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

23 DECEMBER 2025

Engine snag: AI flight returns after take-off

AI's troubled 2025

- **JUNE 12 Flight AI171 (Ahmedabad-London):** Boeing 787-8 crashed seconds after takeoff from Ahmedabad, 260 killed.
- **AUGUST 31 Flight AI2913 (Delhi-Indore):** A320neo returned to Delhi shortly after takeoff following fire indication in right engine. Crew shut down affected engine mid-air; aircraft landed safely.
- **OCTOBER 4 Flight AI117 (Amritsar-Birmingham):** Boeing 787-8's emergency RAM air turbine deployed during final approach.
- **NOVEMBER 24-25:** An Air India A320neo aircraft operated eight commercial flights without valid airworthiness certificate. DGCA suspended staff and ordered internal audit.
- **DECEMBER 18 Air India Express (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam):** Flight cancelled after technical issue detected before departure; aircraft grounded as precautionary measure.



**Snehashish Roy and
Jasjeev Gandhlok**

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: An Air India Boeing 777 flying to Mumbai had to return to Delhi airport on Monday after one of its two engines developed a technical snag that required it to be shut down shortly after take-off, prompting the regulator to order a probe into the latest incident involving the airline and its subsidiaries.

Pilots observed low oil pressure on the B777-300ER aircraft's right-hand engine during flaps retraction after take-off. The pressure shortly thereafter dropped to zero and the crew shut down the engine and turned back as per pro-

cedure, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said. Officials said the flight took off around 6.10am and returned by around 6.55am.

All passengers were safely disembarked and alternative travel arrangements were initiated, the airline said in a statement. "The crew operating flight AI887 from Delhi to Mumbai on 22 December decided to return to Delhi shortly after take-off due to a technical issue as per standard operating procedure... Air India sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused due to this unforeseen situation," the airline said.

The aircraft is 15 years old and has flown to Vienna, Vancouver and Chicago, according to Flight-radar24.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

23 DECEMBER 2025

**Over 500 flights
delayed at Delhi**

airport: More than 500 flights were delayed, and at least 14 flights were cancelled at the Delhi airport due to bad weather and low visibility conditions. An official said that 14 flights, including 6 arrivals and 8 departures, were cancelled. These also include international flights.

Dense fog has been disrupting operations at various airports for the past several days. PTI



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

23 DECEMBER 2025

Bound for US, AI flyers stranded for over 60 hrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Air India passengers booked to fly from Mumbai to San Francisco via Delhi on Saturday were stranded for over 60 hours.

The flight, AI-179, departed Mumbai at 8.40am and landed in Delhi at 10.15am. It was scheduled to depart Delhi at 12.30pm but left an hour later only to be diverted to Kolkata because of a medical emergency on board.

One of the passengers, Ashwini Pokle, posted on X on Monday morning that the flight had turned into a "50 hour plus nightmare of mismanagement, hunger and exhaustion". "...We were starved for over 8 hours on the flight, no meal, no water. There were many senior citizens on board." She said at the Kolkata airport, they were made to wait at the exit for nearly 3-4 hours without an update. "We were put in a hotel but kept in the dark about the next steps for nearly over 15 hours." She said the flyers were taken back to Mumbai at 11.45pm on Sunday.

Air India in a statement said the flight was diverted to Kolkata in the interest of the passenger "who was in discomfort with a long flight ahead". However, the aircraft made a hard landing and three of its tyres were found impacted during ground checks, its spokesperson said. "Our ground team at Kolkata extended all immediate support. The passengers were flown to Mumbai from Kolkata on a special flight late [Sunday] night and departed for their destination [on Monday]."