

As Pak shuts airspace, longer flights, price hikes expected

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NEW DELHI: Pakistan's move on Thursday to close its airspace to Indian-registered aircraft and airlines will result in longer flights to Europe, North America and the Middle East from northern India and higher airfares on these routes, experts said.

Experts expected a 30% increase in airfares for flights to Middle East and around 40% increase in ticket prices for Europe and North America as a consequence of Pakistan's move.

The restrictions were part of Islamabad's response to India's diplomatic curbs on Pakistan announced on Wednesday in retaliation to the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 people on April 21. Pakistan civil aviation authority (PCAA) later issued a notice to pilots and other stakeholders alerting them of the closure.

A Delhi airport official said around 550 flights of various Indian and foreign airlines originating from India overfly Pakistan daily. At least 120 flights of Indian carriers from North India will now have to go south, over Mumbai airspace, then fly west-bound over the Arabian sea and then enter Muscat airspace to continue on their regular route. Avoiding Pakistani airspace would add up to 90 minutes to

AIRLINES ARE EXPECTED TO SPEND 15% MORE FUEL FOR FLIGHTS TO THE UK AND AROUND 10% MORE FUEL FOR NORTH AMERICAN DESTINATIONS

the duration of all flights departing from Northern Indian airports to Europe, Canada, and the US, a former Airports Authority of India (AAI) official said. According to airline officials, Air India, which operates non-stop flights from Delhi to Europe, the US, and Canada, will be most affected.

"Due to the announced restriction of Pakistan's airspace for all Indian airlines, it is expected that some Air India flights to or from North America, the UK, Europe, and the Middle East will take an alternative extended route," Air India said in a post on X.

IndiGo, which operates flights to the Middle East, said, "In light of the ongoing situation and the closure of Pakistan's airspace, a few international flight schedules may be impacted. We're working to minimize the inconvenience."

The country's newest airline,

Akasa Air said the company had "proactively decided to re-route any flights expected to fly over Pakistan airspace as a precautionary measure. This has no significant impact to our operations and will not cause any inconvenience to our passengers."

A SpiceJet spokesperson said that their flights to the UAE from North India will now operate via alternative routes. "As a result, these flights will carry additional fuel to account for the longer flying time," he added.

A former airline official pointed out that this situation will likely lead to an increase in airfares as the longer routes will force airlines to use more fuel, raising costs.

Airlines are expected to spend 15% more fuel for flights to the UK and Europe and around 10% more fuel for North American destinations by avoiding Pakistan's airspace, said an airline official. "The airline industry is always hit hard in such situations. Let's hope this situation de-escalates soon, as it will impact airlines' earnings," this official added.

"It is extremely poor timing for such escalations, especially with Pakistan closing its airspace for Indian-registered aircraft right at the start of the peak summer holiday season," said Mark D Martin, CEO of an aviation consulting firm.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

मिजोरम के लेंगपुई एयरपोर्ट की कमान अब सीआईएसएफ के हाथ

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (सीआईएसएफ) ने बृहस्पतिवार को मिजोरम के एकमात्र राष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे की सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी की कमान संभाल ली। लेंगपुई हवाईअड्डा सीआईएसएफ की पहली इकाई है जो पूर्वोत्तर भारत में बल की उपस्थिति को सुदृढ़ करती है। सीआईएसएफ प्रवक्ता ने अपने बयान में कहा भारत-म्यांमार और भारत-बांग्लादेश सीमाओं के निकट स्थित लेंगपुई हवाई अड्डा सुरक्षा और संपर्क की दृष्टिकोणों से अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण है। ब्यूरो

एक समय कर्ज में डूबा यीडा, 5000 करोड़ मुनाफा वाला प्राधिकरण बना

विभिन्न योजनाओं से 107 से 5000 करोड़ लाभ वाला प्राधिकरण बना
यमुना प्राधिकरण के 25 साल मुकम्मल, शहर ने हासिल की कई उपलब्धियां

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 24 अप्रैल (देशबन्धु)। यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण गुरुवार को स्थापना दिवस के लिए 25वें साल में प्रवेश कर गया। इन 24 साल में प्राधिकरण 2025 में एयरपोर्ट के साथ विकास की उड़ान भरने को तैयार है। जहां एक समय प्राधिकरण को ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण में समायोजित करने की योजना चल रही थी। अब वही प्राधिकरण विकास के मामले में ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण को बहुत पीछे छोड़ दिया है। 2016 से पहले प्राधिकरण 8800 करोड़ रूपए के कर्ज में डूबा हुआ था। अब प्राधिकरण करीब पूरी तरह कर्ज से मुक्त होने वाला है। सभी बैंकों और प्राधिकरण के कर्ज का भुगतान करने के साथ प्राधिकरण ने दूरदर्शी सोच के आधार पर 2017 में 107 का लाभ हासिल किया। 2024-25 में प्राधिकरण 5000 करोड़ लाभ हुआ है।

24 अप्रैल 2001 को यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण का स्थापना ग्रेटर नोएडा से लेकर आगरा तक 165 किमी लंबा एक्सप्रेस वे बनाने के लिए गठन हुआ था। एक्सप्रेस वे दोनों तरफ शहर विकसित करने की योजना बनी। छह जिलों के 1149 गांवों की 3352 हेक्टेयर जमीन पर औद्योगिक शहर विकसित की योजना तैयार हुई।

स्मार्ट शहर की परिकल्पना हो रही साकार

बीते 24 वर्षों में दिल्ली-एनसीआर क्षेत्र में एक आधुनिक, सुनियोजित और स्मार्ट शहर की परिकल्पना को साकार करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए हैं। यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के आसपास 2,688 वर्ग किलोमीटर के क्षेत्र में फैला यह प्राधिकरण नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और आगामी जेवर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के साथ मिलकर एक औद्योगिक, आवासीय



और पर्यावरणीय रूप से संतुलित शहरी केंद्र विकसित करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।

25 साल के सफर और उपलब्धियों पर नजर

मुकम्मल शहर की परिकल्पना यमुना प्राधिकरण की स्थापना का मूल उद्देश्य एक ऐसा शहर विकसित करना था, जो आधुनिक बुनियादी ढांचे, औद्योगिक विकास, आवासीय सुविधाओं और हरित पर्यावरण का आदर्श मिश्रण हो। इसकी परिकल्पना में निम्नलिखित प्रमुख बिंदु शामिल हैं स्मार्ट इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर सेक्टर-आधारित विकास मॉडल, जिसमें आवासीय, औद्योगिक, वाणिज्यिक और मनोरंजन क्षेत्रों का सुनियोजित समावेश हो। कनेक्टिविटी दिल्ली, नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और आगरा को जोड़ने वाला यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे, जो क्षेत्रीय विकास का आधार बना। हरित विकास कुल क्षेत्रफल का 22 फीसदी (5,148 हेक्टेयर) हरित क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित, जो पर्यावरण संरक्षण को प्राथमिकता देता है।

आर्थिक केंद्र जेवर हवाई अड्डे, एमएसएमई क्लस्टर, खिलौना पार्क, परिधान पार्क और अन्य औद्योगिक इकाइयों के माध्यम से रोजगार सृजन। सांस्कृतिक और सामुदायिक विकास मंदिर, सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों जैसे सामाजिक ढांचे का निर्माण। 25 साल में हासिल उपलब्धियां यमुना प्राधिकरण ने अपने 25 साल के सफर में कई क्षेत्रों में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है। यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे का निर्माण 165 किलोमीटर लंबा यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे दिल्ली को आगरा से जोड़ता है, जिसने क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ावा दिया। यह प्राधिकरण की सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धियों में से एक है, जिसने औद्योगिक और आवासीय विकास को

गति दी जेवर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा एशिया के सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डों में से एक के रूप में प्रस्तावित जेवर हवाई अड्डे का निर्माण तेजी से चल रहा है। यह 2025 में परिचालन शुरू करने के लिए तैयार है, जो क्षेत्र को वैश्विक व्यापार और पर्यटन का केंद्र बनाएगा।

आवासीय और वाणिज्यिक विकास

प्राधिकरण ने 2024-25 में आवासीय प्लॉट योजनाएं शुरू कीं, जो यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे के पास स्थित हैं। ये योजनाएं नोएडा और ग्रेटर नोएडा के रियल एस्टेट विकास को पूरक बनाती हैं। निजी डेवलपर्स जैसे गौर यमुना सिटी और अजनारा पैनोरमा ने एकौकृत टाउनशिप विकसित कीं, जिनमें लक्जरी विला, अपार्टमेंट और व्यावसायिक संपत्तियां शामिल हैं। औद्योगिक विकास कुल क्षेत्रफल का 26 प्रतिशत औद्योगिक उपयोग के लिए आरक्षित है। प्राधिकरण ने एमएसएमई क्लस्टर, खिलौना पार्क, फर्नीचर पार्क और परिधान पार्क की स्थापना की योजना बनाई है। बुद्ध इंटरनेशनल सर्किट (एफ वन ट्रैक) और 25,000 दर्शकों की क्षमता वाला नोएडा क्रिकेट स्टेडियम पहले ही चालू हो चुके हैं।

सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक ढांचा

गौर यमुना सिटी में 108 फीट ऊंची भगवान कृष्ण की मूर्ति और भव्य मंदिर का निर्माण चल रहा है, जो सांस्कृतिक महत्व को बढ़ावा देगा। तीन सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों और लड़कियों के इंटर-कॉलेज के लिए भूमि आवंटित की गई है।

पर्यावरणीय संतुलन : प्राधिकरण ने 5,148 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र को हरित कवरेज के लिए समर्पित किया है, जो कुल क्षेत्र का 22: है।

यह सतत विकास की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। आर्थिक अवसर प्राधिकरण ने चार बैंकों के साथ समझौता किया है, जो प्लॉट खरीद और रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए लोन सुविधा प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे आम लोगों के लिए निवेश आसान हुआ। चुनौतियां और भविष्य की राह हालांकि यमुना प्राधिकरण ने कई उपलब्धियां हासिल की हैं, लेकिन कुछ चुनौतियां भी सामने आई हैं परियोजनाओं में देरी जेवर हवाई अड्डे और कुछ औद्योगिक परियोजनाओं में समय-समय पर देरी हुई है। पर्यावरणीय चिंताएं यमुना नदी के प्रदूषण और क्षेत्र में अवैध खनन जैसी समस्याएं चिंता का विषय हैं।

शहरीकरण का दबाव: तेजी से बढ़ता शहरीकरण और अतिक्रमण क्षेत्र के प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर दबाव डाल रहा है। भविष्य में, प्राधिकरण का फोकस जेवर हवाई अड्डे को चालू करने, औद्योगिक क्लस्टरों को बढ़ावा देने और स्मार्ट सिटी की अवधारणा को पूरी तरह लागू करने पर है। साथ ही, यमुना नदी की सफाई और पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए ठोस कदम उठाए जाने की जरूरत है, ताकि क्षेत्र का विकास सतत और समावेशी हो।

यमुना प्राधिकरण ने 25 वर्षों में यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे, जेवर हवाई अड्डा, और आवासीय-औद्योगिक विकास जैसे क्षेत्रों में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है। मुकम्मल शहर की परिकल्पना को साकार करने के लिए प्राधिकरण ने ठोस नींव रखी है, लेकिन पर्यावरण, समयबद्धता और सामाजिक समावेश जैसे क्षेत्रों में और प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है। यदि योजनाएं सही दिशा में लागू होती हैं, तो यमुना प्राधिकरण का क्षेत्र न केवल दिल्ली-एनसीआर बल्कि पूरे उत्तर भारत के लिए एक मॉडल शहर बन सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

24 APRIL 2025

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रीभार पहुंचा 60 लाख पार पिछले साल की तुलना में 6 लाख यात्री बढ़े

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से अब हवाई सेवाओं का संचालन नई ऊंचाइयों पर चल रहा है। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर पहली बार वर्ष 2024-25 में यात्रीभार का आंकड़ा 60 लाख से अधिक रहा है। पिछले साल की तुलना में इस वर्ष छह लाख यात्री बढ़े हैं। इनमें एक लाख इंटरनेशनल यात्री शामिल हैं। वर्ष 2024-25 में कुल 52,693 विमानों का आवागमन हुआ। कोविड से पूर्व भी जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर सर्वाधिक यात्रीभार वर्ष 2018-19 में रहा था। उस दौरान जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से कुल 54 लाख 71 हजार हवाई यात्रियों ने यात्रा की थी। पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष में भी यात्रीभार का आंकड़ा प्री कोविड लेवल के बराबर रहा था। लेकिन हाल ही समाप्त हुए वित्तीय वर्ष में जयपुर एयरपोर्ट ने प्री कोविड लेवल के अपने पुराने आंकड़ों को पीछे छोड़ दिया है। एएआई रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट से 2024-25 में 60 लाख से अधिक यात्रियों ने यात्रा की है। प्री कोविड लेवल की तुलना में और पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष की तुलना में यात्रीभार में 6 लाख की बढ़ोतरी हुई। पिछले साल से 1.13 लाख अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्री बढ़े हैं, जबकि करीब 4 लाख 87 हजार घरेलू यात्री बढ़े हैं।

प्रतिदिन 72 विमानों का संचालन

विमान संचालन के आंकड़ों को देखें तो शेड्यूल्ड और नॉन शेड्यूल्ड फ्लाइट संचालन को मिलाकर प्रतिदिन 72 विमानों का संचालन हो रहा है। यानी प्रतिदिन औसतन 72 फ्लाइट संचालित हुई हैं। हालांकि शेड्यूल्ड फ्लाइट्स की संख्या औसतन 67 रही है, जबकि नॉन शेड्यूल्ड फ्लाइट 5 रही हैं।

वर्ष	यात्री	विमानों का आवागमन
2020-21	18.50 लाख	18933
2021-22	29.47 लाख	28069
2022-23	47.62 लाख	43643
2023-24	54.67 लाख	49092
2024-25	60.67 लाख	52693



वर्ष 2024-25 में कुल 52693 विमानों का आवागमन हुआ है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Mumbai airport to allow hand-carriage jewellery exports

THE GEM AND Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) on Thursday said that Mumbai International Airport will roll out hand-carriage jewellery export operations starting May 1, marking a major milestone for the country's gem and jewellery trade. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) formalised the procedure on March 28, this year that will enable import or export through personal carriage, the apex industry body said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Navi Mumbai Airport to offer India's first water taxi service



THE UPCOMING NAVI
Mumbai international
airport will be the first
one in the country to

have water taxi facilities,
Maharashtra Chief Minister
Devendra Fadnavis said on
Thursday. Speaking at a review
meeting of state-run planning
authority CIDCO, the CM also
said "multi-modal transport
connectivity" must be
established at Navi Mumbai
International Airport.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025



CISF takes over security of Lengpui airport in Mizoram

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) took over the security of Mizoram's Lengpui Airport on Thursday. Lengpui became the 69th airport in India to come under the protection of the national civil aviation security force. The CISF said it would work closely with local authorities and other stakeholders to develop and implement advanced security protocols that were effective, convenient and people-friendly. "These enhanced measures aim to provide passengers with a secure and seamless travel experience, while proactively addressing emerging threats such as terrorism, smuggling and other unlawful activities," it said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

24 APRIL 2025

ADANI AIRPORT UNIT SEEKS LOAN OF \$750 MN FROM GLOBAL BANKS

Bloomberg

feedback@livemint.com

Adani Group is in talks with a group of international lenders for an offshore loan for as much as \$750 million for its airport unit, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Lenders include Barclays Plc, First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC and Standard Chartered Bank Plc, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is not public.

The proceeds would fund capital expenditure and refinance dollar debt due in September. The unit aims to conclude the debt raise by early May, they added.

Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. manages seven major airports across India and is nearing the launch of a new \$2 billion international hub on the outskirts of Mumbai.

The loan's tenor will likely be less than five years, though terms are not yet finalized and could still change, the people said.

If successful, the borrowing would mark Adani's second major offshore fund raise in less than a month.

State government approves CMRL's Airport-Kilambakkam project; DPR sent to Centre

To be built at an estimated cost of ₹9,335 crore, corridor will ease travel woes of residents living in the city's southern areas such as Chromepet, Pallavaram, Tambaram, and Perungalathur

TRACK TALES

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

After years of wait, the Tamil Nadu government has approved the Chennai Metro Rail Limited's (CMRL) Airport-Kilambakkam project and forwarded the Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the Centre.

To be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹9,335 crore, the Airport-Kilambakkam corridor has been one of the most-anticipated projects for residents of Chennai as it would significantly improve the commute for those living in the city's southern areas such as Chromepet, Pallavaram, Tambaram, and Perungalathur.

The corridor became essential, particularly after the Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminus (KCBT) was opened in Kilambakkam in December 2023. Thousands of people travel on this route to board buses from the KCBT.

The corridor will be constructed entirely as an elevated stretch along the GST Road, covering a distance of 15.46 km. Stations are to come up at Pallavaram, Chromepet, Thiru Vi



Pivotal project: The corridor became essential, particularly after the Kalaingar Centenary Bus Terminus was opened in 2023. Thousands of people travel on this route to board buses from the terminus.

Ka Nagar, Tambaram, Irumbuliyur, Perungalathur, Vandalur, Anna Zoological Park, and Kilambakkam.

Land acquisition

Sources said the government had forwarded the DPR to the Centre "for its approval and funding under equity sharing basis." The land acquisition and shifting of utilities would begin soon.

"To begin land acquisition, we need yet another notification, which will take six months. Once that comes through, acquisition can commence. But, it could go on for at least a year and a half. But shifting of utilities can start within

a few months..." a source said.

The project would need the Centre's approval by then for the construction to commence.

There were a lot of delays for this project owing to design changes.

Commuters have said that those residing in the southern areas find it difficult to reach the nearest Metro station – the Chennai airport station – owing to lack of adequate last-mile connectivity. For some, it could cost as much as ₹100-₹200 if they take an autorickshaw.

Dayanand Krishnan, a resident of Chitlapakkam, said people waited for over four years for the project

approval. In the meantime, the number of vehicles has gone up and congestion has increased manifold, especially after the opening of the KCBT.

"The design revisions and bureaucratic delays end up causing inconvenience to the public. I am glad that the State's approval has come, but the Centre should also provide the final approval and funding without any delay," he added.

He further said that over the years, people moved to areas such as Chromepet, Tambaram, and Perungalathur, as rent and properties were affordable there when compared with core areas of the city.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

TIMES

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NE



NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT TO BE INDIA'S FIRST WITH WATER TAXI FACILITY, ANNOUNCES CM FADNAVIS

Saurabh Sinha @timesofindia.com

Last week, a young pilot, operating a flight from Mumbai, told his wife: "I am taking off for Delhi and could be home by midnight. Or I may have to divert to Jaipur, or Lucknow, or Chandigarh, in which case I will be home by morning."
Luckily for everyone on the plane he was flying, it did not divert but landed in Delhi after an almost three-hour delay.
The worsening congestion at Delhi Airport, which has been seeing average flight delays of at least an hour since April 8 (when the main runway was shut and easterlies began

workload. Also, it is not defined how many flights one controller will handle at a time and this capacity should be defined," they say.
While they are juggling this, one issue troubling them is: "The Delhi ATC unit's fifteen shuts at night and we don't get ten or coffee from midnight to 4 am. How do we stay alert? We make do with hot water."
What pilots and ATCOs don't understand is this: When it is known that IGIA can't handle more than 32 arrivals an hour (easterly wind time), more flights than that are being sent to Delhi, which will lead to delays and diversions. "Every time we act surprised," said a pilot.

WHAT'S WIND GOT TO DO WITH IT?

The main culprit, as it turns out, is the direction of the wind. This is a time when westerlies blow, but as luck would have it, Delhi is experiencing easterlies

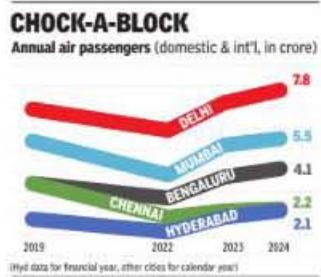
Now, when an **easterly** blows, an aircraft can only land from the Dwarka side and take off towards Vasant Vihar

But when a **westerly** is blowing, flights can land from the Vasant Vihar side and take off towards Dwarka

Delhi airport has four runways. This is how the runways are used:	WIND FLOW	RUNWAY	09/27	10/28	11L/29R	11R/29L
Westerly	→	→	Arrivals	Departures	Departures	Arrivals
Easterly	←	←	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals

Why Flying In And Out Of Delhi Is A Mess Right Now

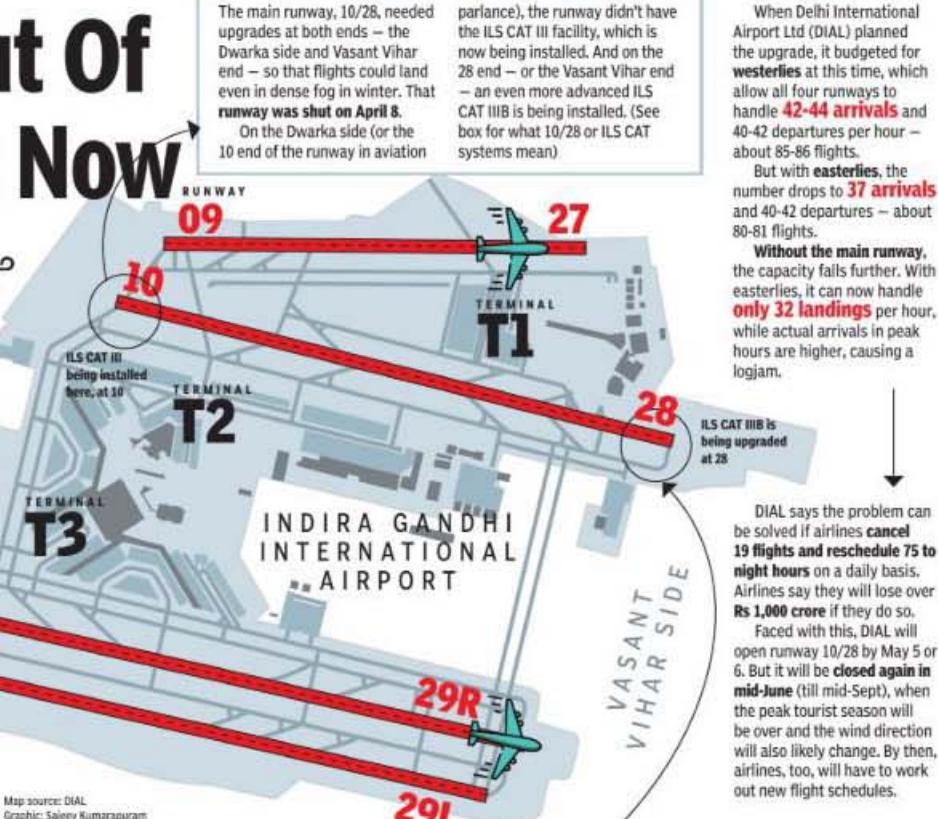
to blow unexpectedly), is leading to a pressure cooker situation for everyone, including passengers, flight crew, air traffic controllers (ATCOs) and airport and airlines' ground staff. Tackling uncertainty on a daily basis is now adding to their stress, and fatigue.
"When you are holding near Delhi, waiting to land at IGIA and simultaneously keeping an eye on when to head to the diversion airport, everyone onboard the aircraft — crew and passengers — has frayed nerves. After the long



wait, people want to hear they are heading to their destination and not getting diverted. The stress and tension while waiting at a diversion airport is another level with passengers rightly wanting to know when they will fly to Delhi and cabin crew having a tough time trying to give answers when they have none. We just wait in the flight deck to hear these magic words: "You can now take off for Delhi," said a pilot, a sentiment many others echoed.
The almost fortnight-long congestion could stay till May 5 or 6, when the closed runway reopens, unless the wind direction changes to westerlies (see explainer).
The understaffed ATCO at IGIA has its own woes. "DGCA duty-time limitation for us prescribes a minimum 30-minute rest after working for two hours. But that's the same for a small airport handling a few flights daily to the mega hub that Delhi is with its major

The airport operator is facing overflowing terminals with passengers turning up in time for their flights out of IGIA. But with the aircraft supposed to fly them out of there either holding in air or waiting at a diverted airport to fly to Delhi, they just spend hours waiting at T1 or T3 (T2 is closed). The ground staff of airlines bear the maximum brunt of angry passengers.
When flights are delayed, incoming passengers run the risk of missing a connecting flight from T1 or T3, which are almost 8km apart. These passengers need to take buses — there's no air train for the next 3-4 years.
Airlines say they have sold tickets for flights per the approved summer schedule for this peak summer travel season. Cancelling flights will mean a hit of Rs 1,000 crore for the biggest domestic airlines.
"People have made travel plans based on these tickets. Cancelling/rescheduling flights at the last minute will greatly inconvenience them," said airline officials. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has blamed airlines for not doing so despite having agreed earlier on.
Caught in this perfect storm are the passengers who face delays, diversions and cancellations, right in the peak summer travel season. With everyone waiting for wind flows to change their course, to go or not to go, that is the question.

SCIENCE BEHIND RUNWAY NUMBERS
Runway numbers are based on the direction a plane faces when taking off or landing, measured in degrees on a compass. North is 0°/360°, east is 90°, south is 180°, and west is 270°. These directions are rounded and shortened — so a runway facing east (90°) is labelled 09 and the opposite end, facing west (270°), is labeled 27. So, for the main runway 10/28: a flight taking off at 10 end will be taking off at a compass angle of 100° (eastward), whereas if it's taking off from the 28 end, it will be taking off at 280° (westward).



ALL ABOUT CAT
ILS stands for an airport's instrument landing system, and CAT is short for category. ILS CAT III allows an aircraft to land in dense fog when runway visibility range is a minimum of 175 metres (for III A) and a minimum of 50 metres (for III B). CAT III is the highest category, with the others being CAT I and CAT II. And even within CAT III, there are three sub-categories — A, B and C.

"ILS has components like localiser, glide path and embedded runway lighting. The sensitive, critical ground equipment being installed has to be protected from aircraft movement. Landing from the 10 side, which has never had CAT III, means installing embedded lighting on the runway from this end at the aircraft touchdown zone," said a source.
While two other runways, towards the Vasant Vihar side (11L/28R & 11R/28L) also have CAT III ILS, they see more fog during peak winter, and 10/28 remains the best bet in the Dec-Feb period. And the 28 end sees maximum landings in dense fog.
If the ILS work is delayed or remains incomplete before winter, Dec would see a return of the kind of flight delays that this summer has suffered.

When Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) planned the upgrade, it budgeted for westerlies at this time, which allow all four runways to handle **42-44 arrivals** and 40-42 departures per hour — about 85-86 flights.
But with **easterlies**, the number drops to **37 arrivals** and 40-42 departures — about 80-81 flights.
Without the main runway, the capacity falls further. With easterlies, it can now handle **only 32 landings** per hour, while actual arrivals in peak hours are higher, causing a logjam.
DIAL says the problem can be solved if airlines **cancel 19 flights and reschedule 75 to night hours** on a daily basis. Airlines say they will lose over **Rs 1,000 crore** if they do so.
Faced with this, DIAL will open runway 10/28 by May 5 or 6. But it will be **closed again in mid-June** (till mid-Sept), when the peak tourist season will be over and the wind direction will also likely change. By then, airlines, too, will have to work out new flight schedules.

Saurabh Sinha @timesofindia.com

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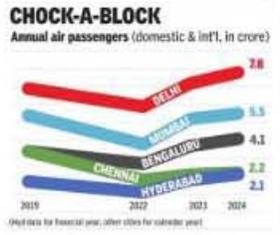
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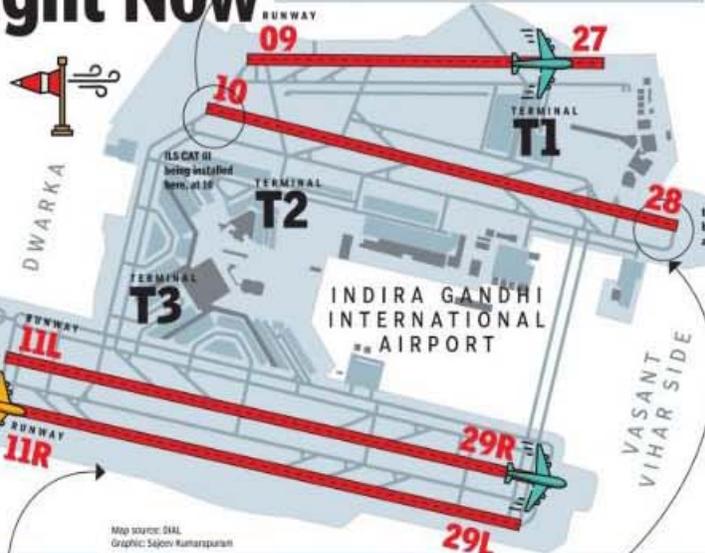
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The main runway, 10/28, needed upgrades at both ends — the Dwarka side and Vasant Vihar end — so that flights could land even in dense fog in winter. That runway was shut on April 8.
On the Dwarka side (or the 10 end of the runway in aviation parlance), the runway didn't have the ILS CAT III facility, which is now being installed. And on the 28 end — or the Vasant Vihar end — an even more advanced ILS CAT IIB is being installed. (See box for what 10/28 or ILS CAT systems mean)

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Map source: DIAL
Graphic: Sajeev Kumarpani



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

24 APRIL 2025

Ensure no surge in airfares, govt warns all airlines

Carriers to operate additional flights

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 23

Travel websites on Wednesday showed exorbitant airfares from Srinagar to other cities, particularly Mumbai, as tourists rushed to return

◆ **DGCA ASKED** airlines to increase the number of flights from Srinagar to facilitate the return of tourists in the aftermath of the attack and keep fares under check

home on the first available flight in the wake of the terror attack in Pahalgam on Tuesday, prompting the government to crack the whip. Aviation regulator DGCA asked airlines to increase the number of flights from Srinagar to facilitate the return of tourists in the aftermath of the attack, keep fares under check and waive cancellation and rescheduling charges.

Meanwhile, tour operators in J&K that survive on tourism fear this year will be a lull as several tourists across India have started cancelling bookings in the Valley.

The return tickets for Wednesday and Thursday from Srinagar were all sold out despite two extra flights being pressed into service by Air India, IndiGo and Akasa and their scheduled flights to Mumbai and Delhi. The ministry of civil aviation said as part of immediate relief measures, four special flights from Srinagar to Delhi and two for Mumbai have been arranged, with additional flights kept on standby to

cater to further evacuation needs.

Passengers complained on social media platforms about the airfares, which on some travel websites were as high as ₹56,000 between Srinagar and Mumbai for Thursday for Air India for about a two-hour flight. Amid complaints, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the minister for civil aviation Ram Mohan Naidu swung into action and asked airlines to keep fares under check and not charge for cancellations and reschedulings. Mr Naidu held an urgent meeting with all airline operators and issued a strong advisory against surge pricing.

All airlines were directed to maintain regular fare levels, ensuring no passenger gets burdened at this point of time. The DGCA has also issued an advisory to increase the number of flights in response to heightened demand and ensure uninterrupted connectivity from Sri-nagar to various destinations across India, facilitating the evacuation of stranded tourists.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने से बढ़ेगा यूरोप-अमेरिका का किराया

नई दिल्ली। पाकिस्तान की ओर से भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों पर रोक लगाने से पश्चिमी देशों की ओर जाने वाली उड़ानों पर असर पड़ेगा। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें, खास तौर पर दिल्ली और अन्य उत्तरी शहरों से, अपने गंतव्य तक पहुंचने में अधिक समय लेंगी और इसे निकट भविष्य में किराए में भी वृद्धि होने की संभावना है।

इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया के अलावा, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस व स्पाइसजेट भी इस रूट पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिचालन करती हैं। दिल्ली समेत उत्तर भारतीय शहरों से यूरोप, अमेरिका की ओर जाने वाली सभी उड़ानें बंद होने के कारण प्रभावित होंगी। वरिष्ठ एयरलाइन अधिकारियों और पायलटों के अनुसार, इन उड़ानों को वैकल्पिक मार्ग अपनाना होगा, जो अरब सागर के ऊपर से अब घूम कर जाएंगी। इससे ईंधन की लागत भी बहुत बढ़ जाएगी। सोशल मीडिया पर एयर इंडिया ने कहा कि सभी भारतीय एयरलाइनों के लिए पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र पर प्रतिबंध की घोषणा के कारण, यह उम्मीद की जाती है कि उत्तरी अमेरिका, यूके, यूरोप और मध्य पूर्व के लिए या वहां से आने वाली एयर इंडिया की कुछ उड़ानें वैकल्पिक विस्तारित मार्ग का उपयोग करेंगी। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Pak retaliates, suspends all agreements and halts trade, blocks airspace for Indian airlines

Dalip Singh
New Delhi

Pakistan on Thursday retaliated to India's action post the Pahalgam terror attack and announced suspension of the Shimla and other bilateral agreements, closed its airspace for India's airlines, and shut the Wagah border with immediate effect.

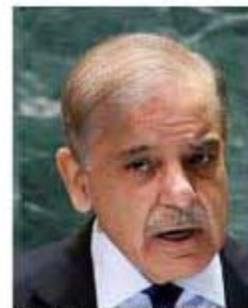
NSC OKAYS RESPONSE

These steps were announced after they were approved by the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to articulate a response to New Delhi's tough stand following the massacre of 26 tourists in the Pahalgam area of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Any threat to Pakistan's sovereignty and to the security of its people will be met with firm reciprocal measures in all domains. India should refrain from its reflexive blame game and cynical staged, managed exploitation of incidents like Pahalgam to further its narrow political agenda," a statement issued by Sharif's office read.

"Such tactics serve only to inflame tensions and obstruct the path to peace and stability in the region," Pakistan observed on a day when PM Narendra Modi vowed to hunt down the terrorists and their backers for the bloodbath at Pahalgam.

The NSC disapproved of, what it said, the implicit threat contained in Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's



Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

statement that the terrorists and actors will be smoked out wherever they are.

VISAS SUSPENDED

The NSC also announced tiff-tat suspension of visas under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme to Indians,

but not for Sikh pilgrims.

Similarly, Islamabad declared Indian defence, naval, and air attaches *persona non grata* and asked them to leave the country by April 30. It also reduced the Indian High Commission staff to 30 personnel as New Delhi had done on Wednesday.

Pakistan discontinued all trade with India, including those routed through third countries.

Rejecting India's decision to keep in abeyance the Indus Water Treaty, Pakistan stated that the river is the lifeline for 240 million Pakistanis.

According to the statement, "Any attempt to divert or stop water meant for Pakistan under the Indus Water Treaty will be considered an act of war."

श्रीनगर से हवाई किराया घटा

दीपक पटेल

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने गुरुवार को कहा कि सरकार के हस्तक्षेप के बाद श्रीनगर से हवाई किराए में पिछले दो दिनों में 'उल्लेखनीय कमी' देखी आई है। अब श्रीनगर-दिल्ली उड़ान का किराया 20,000 रुपये से घटकर 10,000 रुपये हो गया है।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किंजरापु राममोहन नायडू ने एयरलाइनों को फंसे हुए यात्रियों के लिए सुरक्षित

पारगमन सुनिश्चित करने और बढ़ते हवाई किराए को नियंत्रित करने के लिए तत्काल कदम उठाने का निर्देश दिया।

नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय ने भी सभी एयरलाइनों और ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल एजेंसियों को तत्काल सलाह जारी करते हुए श्रीनगर से भारत भर के गंतव्यों के लिए निर्बाध उड़ानें, स्पष्ट और पारदर्शी किराया प्रदर्शन और प्रभावित यात्रियों को ऑन-ग्राउंड सहायता देने का आह्वान किया।

पाकिस्तान ने बंद किया अपना हवाई क्षेत्र

हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने से भारतीय विमानन कंपनियां तलाश रहीं वैकल्पिक मार्ग, यात्रियों के लिए नई एडवाइजरी जारी

दीपक पटेल

जम्मू-कश्मीर के पहलगांम में आतंकवादी हमले के दो दिन बाद गुरुवार को पाकिस्तान ने भारतीय विमान कंपनियों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र बंद कर दिया। इसके बाद देश की प्रमुख एयरलाइंस, विशेष रूप से इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया के अधिकारियों ने पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से होकर गुजरने वाली सभी उड़ानों के वैकल्पिक मार्ग तलाशने के लिए आंतरिक बैठक की। एक एयरलाइन के अधिकारी ने बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड को बताया, 'विशेष रूप से यूरोप और अमेरिका के लिए नए रूट लंबे होंगे जिससे हमारी परिचालन लागत में वृद्धि होगी और हवाई किराये बढ़ेंगे।'

स्पाइसजेट के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि उत्तर भारत से संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) के लिए एयरलाइन की उड़ानें अब वैकल्पिक मार्गों से संचालित होंगी। नतीजतन, इन विमानों में उड़ान के लंबे समय को ध्यान में रखते हुए अतिरिक्त ईंधन रखना होगा। हालांकि, प्रवक्ता ने स्पष्ट किया कि स्पाइसजेट के उड़ान कार्यक्रम पर कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा।

उपरोक्त एयरलाइन के अधिकारी ने कहा कि पुलवामा हमले के बाद 2019 में भारतीय विमान कंपनियों को लगभग पांच महीने तक ऐसी ही स्थिति का सामना करना पड़ा था।



■ यूरोप और अमेरिका के लिए नए मार्ग लंबे होंगे जिससे परिचालन लागत में वृद्धि होगी

■ एयर इंडिया के विमान अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, यूरोप एवं पश्चिमी एशिया के लिए वैकल्पिक मार्गों से जाएंगे

■ इंडिगो की कुछ उड़ानें प्रभावित होंगी और यात्री दोबारा टिकट बुक कर सकते हैं

अधिकारी ने कहा, 'अगर अब भी हवाई क्षेत्र इतने ही समय तक बंद रहता है, तो काफी वित्तीय बोझ पड़ेगा।' एयर इंडिया के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि पाकिस्तानी रास्ता बंद होने के बाद उसके विमान अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, यूरोप के अन्य देशों एवं पश्चिमी एशिया के लिए वैकल्पिक मार्गों से जाएंगे। इंडिगो ने भी कहा कि उसकी कुछ उड़ानें प्रभावित होंगी और यात्री दोबारा टिकट बुक कर सकते हैं।

14 फरवरी, 2019 को हुए पुलवामा आतंकी हमले में 40 सीआरपीएफ जवान शहीद हो गए थे। जवाबी कार्रवाई में भारतीय वायु सेना ने 26 फरवरी को पाकिस्तान के

बालाकोट में जैश-ए-मोहम्मद के प्रशिक्षण शिविरों पर हवाई हमले किए थे। इसके बाद पाकिस्तान ने तुरंत भारतीय विमान कंपनियों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र बंद कर दिया था। उस समय पांच महीने बाद 16 जुलाई, 2019 को हटाया गया। तत्कालीन नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने राज्य सभा को बताया था कि पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने के कारण 26 फरवरी से 2 जुलाई, 2019 के बीच भारतीय विमान कंपनियों को 540 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा का नुकसान हुआ। अकेले एयर इंडिया को 491 करोड़ रुपये का की चपत लगी थी, जबकि निजी एयरलाइंस स्पाइसजेट, इंडिगो और गोएयर

को उस दौरान क्रमशः 30.73 करोड़ रुपये, 25.1 करोड़ रुपये और 2.1 करोड़ रुपये का की हानि झेलनी पड़ी थी।

उस समय एयर इंडिया के एक बयान से हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने के कारण एयरलाइन को होने वाले नुकसान का अंदाजा लगाया जा सकता है। उस दौरान 16 जुलाई, 2019 को एयर इंडिया ने एक बयान में बताया था कि पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र को दोबारा खोलने तथा अमेरिका एवं यूरोप के लिए वन-वे उड़ानों के लिए उसकी परिचालन लागत में क्रमशः 20 लाख रुपये और 5 लाख रुपये की कमी आने की उम्मीद है। यह लागत उस समय के हिसाब से थी। अब उड़ानों के लिए

दोबारा मार्ग तैयार करना तो और भी जटिल एवं महंगा साबित हो सकता है, क्योंकि भारतीय विमान कंपनियों का अंतरराष्ट्रीय संचालन 2019 से 2025 के बीच काफी बढ़ गया है। एविएशन एनालिटिक्स फर्म सिरियम के अनुसार, एयर इंडिया अब प्रति सप्ताह लगभग 1,188 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें संचालित करती है, जो अप्रैल 2019 से 56.7 प्रतिशत अधिक है। इसकी भारत-यूरोप उड़ानें, जिनमें से कई पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र से होकर गुजरती हैं, लगभग 80 प्रतिशत बढ़कर प्रति सप्ताह 242 हो गई हैं। इसी तरह, भारत-उत्तरी अमेरिका उड़ानें, जो पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र से जाती हैं, भी दोगुने से ज्यादा बढ़कर प्रति सप्ताह 144 हो गई हैं।

एयर इंडिया की कम लागत वाली सहायक कंपनी, एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस अब प्रति सप्ताह लगभग 954 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें संचालित करती है। इसकी उड़ानों में अप्रैल 2019 से अब तक 65.1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। इंडिगो प्रति सप्ताह 1,904 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें चलाती है, जो अप्रैल 2019 में चलने वाली उड़ानों की संख्या से लगभग 2.5 गुना अधिक है। फरवरी में इंडिगो ने नॉर्स अटलांटिक एयरवेज से डैम्प लीज पर चार बी787-9 वाइड-बॉडी एयरक्राफ्ट के अधिग्रहण की घोषणा की, जिसमें मौजूदा गर्मी के मौसम के मध्य में भारत-यूरोप उड़ानें शुरू करने की योजना है।

पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र पर प्रतिबंध से एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो की उड़ानें हुईं प्रभावित

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : पहलगाम आतंकी हमले के कारण बढ़ते तनाव के बीच पाकिस्तान द्वारा भारतीय एयरलाइनों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र बंद करने के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को अपने गंतव्य तक पहुंचने में अधिक समय लगेगा, क्योंकि भारतीय विमान लंबे रूट से उड़ान भरेंगे। किराये में भी आठ-12 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होने की आशंका है। एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो ने गुरुवार को कहा कि पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने से उसकी कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं।

एअर इंडिया ने एक्स पर पोस्ट कर कहा कि उत्तरी अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, यूरोप और पश्चिम एशिया की कुछ उड़ानें वैकल्पिक लंबे रूट से संचालित की जाएंगी, वहीं इंडिगो ने कहा कि पाकिस्तान द्वारा हवाई क्षेत्र बंद करने की घोषणा के कारण कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें प्रभावित हो रही हैं।

दिल्ली समेत उत्तर भारतीय शहरों से उड़ान भरने वाली पश्चिम की ओर जाने वाली उड़ानें इससे प्रभावित होंगी। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और स्पाइसजेट भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें संचालित करती हैं। एएनआइ के अनुसार एअर इंडिया, इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट समेत कई एयरलाइनों ने अपने यात्रियों के लिए यात्रा सलाह जारी की है।

वरिष्ठ एयरलाइन अधिकारियों और पायलटों के अनुसार वैकल्पिक रूटों के साथ, उड़ान की अवधि बढ़



● उत्तरी अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन व यूरोप जाने वाले यात्रियों को गंतव्य तक पहुंचने में लगेगा अधिक समय, किराया भी बढ़ेगा

आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट से कई उड़ानों में विलंब, सात रद्द

जासं, नई दिल्ली: पाकिस्तान की घोषणा का असर नई दिल्ली से संचालित होने वाली उड़ानों पर नजर आने लगा है। गुरुवार को खाड़ी देशों को जाने वाली कई उड़ानों में विलंब हुआ। करीब सात उड़ानों को रद्द भी किया गया। यात्रा के समय और लागत में बढ़ोतरी की आशंका के बीच बृहस्पतिवार को आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट से कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों

के प्रस्थान में विलंब हुआ। जेद्दा जाने वाली एअर इंडिया की उड़ान में करीब तीन घंटे का विलंब हुआ। इसी तरह एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की बहरीन जाने वाली उड़ान करीब ढाई घंटे की देरी से रवाना हुई।

जाएगी और ईंधन की खपत और खर्च बढ़ जाएगा। नतीजतन, हवाई किराये में वृद्धि होने की आशंका है।

वरिष्ठ पायलट ने बताया कि भारतीय एयरलाइनों द्वारा संचालित कुछ अमेरिकी और यूरोपीय उड़ानों

एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की ही मस्कट की उड़ान करीब तीन घंटे की देरी से रवाना हुई। एयर अरबिया की शारजाह जाने वाली उड़ान में भी देरी हुई। वहीं, स्पाइसजेट व इंडिगो ने अपनी सात अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कीं। इसमें पांच उड़ानें संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, एक उड़ान उज्बेकिस्तान और एक उड़ान कजाकिस्तान की थी। इस बीच कई प्रमुख एयरलाइंस

ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान वाले यात्रियों के लिए एडवाइजरी की है। इसमें कहा किया गया है एयरपोर्ट के लिए रवाना होने से पहले एक बार एयरलाइंस से संपर्क कर उड़ान के समय के बारे में जानकारी ले ले।

की अवधि दो से ढाई घंटे तक बढ़ सकती है। दिल्ली, अमृतसर, जबपुर, लखनऊ और वाराणसी जैसे शहरों से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें सीधे तौर पर प्रभावित होंगी, क्योंकि उन्हें अब लंबा रास्ता अपनाना पड़ेगा।

TATA SONS DIRECTIVE

Last Call for Air India to Board Global Turf Wars

Budget arm AI Express to focus on domestic market

Kala Vijayraghavan & Arindam Majumder

Mumbai | New Delhi: Tata Sons has asked Air India to aggressively pursue growth on international routes and intensify competition with foreign carriers, especially after becoming a bigger entity following the merger with Vistara. Its low-cost arm, Air India Express, will meanwhile sharpen focus on domestic market, competing with local airlines such as market leader IndiGo, people said.

The Air India board met on Tuesday in New Delhi to deliberate on future plans and align them with the Tata Group's strategic goals in the aviation business, the people said. Towards this, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson stepped down as Air India Express chairman on Tuesday, handing over the role to Nipun Aggarwal, the airline's chief commercial officer.

Also, Basil Kwauk, the newly appointed chief operations officer of Air India, has been inducted to the board.

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Targets Operational Breakeven by FY27-end

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Basil, a former Singapore Airlines executive, is an old Vistara hand, instrumental in expanding operations of the erstwhile airline joint venture of Tata Sons and SIA.

After the merger of Vistara with Air India, it was felt that there is a need for better synergy at the group level for achieving operational profitability, the people said. Parent Tata Sons is also understood to have stressed upon the Air India management on achieving operational breakeven by FY27-end.

Top officials close to the development said operations at Air India Express have been largely streamlined and can be handled by Aggarwal, seen as an expert in commercial roles. Aggarwal is already a board member in Air India Express and closely aligned with daily operations.

"Both Air India and Air India Express need full attention at this point of time. While Wilson will be able to focus his complete energies on making Air India globally competitive, the plan is to make Air India Express a strong No 2 challenging IndiGo. After Vistara's merger, the plan is to quickly seize international networks, which are also hugely profitable," one of the officials said.

Since acquiring Air India in January 2022, Tatas have moved to consolidate the airline business with Air India absorbing Vistara, and AirAsia India merging with Air India Express for the budget airline operations.

Air India Express has grown at a faster pace since the acquisition, adding 45 aircraft so far.

Aggarwal, who led Tata Sons' move to acquire Air India and a record 470 aircraft order in 2023, is known to be a hard taskmaster. He is currently leading the extensive activity

of synergising Air India's network with Air India Express.

"Air India will focus on building strong international hubs, with Air India Express feeding these hubs. We have and will be segregating markets where each airline will operate to reduce overlap," Aggarwal had told ET in January.

While Tatas carry on the long-drawn transformation of Air India including refurbishing older planes, ordering new aircraft, and manpower restructuring, they continue to face criticism from flyers, especially over poor condition of some of the older planes.

"It's not an easy task to manage transformation and a merger at the same time and while the group acknowledges the expectations from the Tata name, the task is gigantic in proportion, but we have had visible success in many areas," an official said.

The Flight Club

NUMBER OF DAILY FLIGHTS BY AIR INDIA GROUP



Source: Industry
Short haul includes flights to Middle East, South East Asia, SAARC

Long haul includes flights to North America, Europe, UK, Australia, Far East Asia & Africa



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Ex-FAA Administrator Whitaker is IndiGo Independent Director

New Delhi: InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of airline IndiGo, on Thursday announced the appointment of former administrator of US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and pilot Michael Whitaker as an independent director.

Whitaker's appointment, subject to regulatory and shareholders' approvals, comes as the term of Venkataramani Sumantran as an independent di-

rector ends on May 27. Sumantran, who is currently a non-executive independent director and chairperson, has decided not to seek re-appointment for a second term, according to a BSE filing.

"Mike's deep and varied industry and government experience will contribute significantly to having an effective and diverse board," IndiGo's managing director Rahul Bhatia said.—PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK AFTERMATH

Indian Carriers to Take Longer Routes as Pak Shuts Airspace

Airlines cancel, divert some flights; costs to rise on higher fuel burn & deployment of more crew

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Pakistan on Thursday shut its airspace to all Indian-owned or operated airlines, forcing Air India and other homegrown carriers to cancel or divert some flights, inflating costs due to longer detours.

Islamabad's move came a day after New Delhi announced a raft of measures including suspension of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people.

For Air India, an airspace closure over Pakistan would mean the airline's flights to the US and Europe will have to take a longer route, stretching the travel time by almost two hours.

Flight durations of other Indian carriers like IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India Express and Akasa Air will also get extended by 20-30 minutes on routes from New Delhi to the Middle East.

A network planner at an airline sa-

Air Pocket
Pak closes skies to Indian-owned/operated carriers

Trigger: India suspends Indus Water Treaty post Pahalgam attack

Impact on Indian Airlines
AI flights to US, Europe rerouted
Extra 2 hrs of flight time

IndiGo, SpiceJet, AI Express & Akasa Air flights to Middle East extended
Extra 20-30 minutes flight time

Cost Implications
Disruption of operations | Burning additional fuel | Extra crew, extended rest periods

id Air India's flights to North America from New Delhi will now first go to Ahmedabad, turn right to avoid Pakistani airspace, head to Muscat, and subsequently reach North America traversing Iran. The route may entail an additional two hours flying time, and could require a fuel

stop, probably in Sharjah, depending on the payload.

"Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to our passengers due to this unforeseen airspace closure that is outside our control. We would like to reiterate that at Air India, the safety of our customers and

crew remains top priority," the Tata Group airline said in a statement.

A SpiceJet spokesperson told ET that its flights to the Gulf will carry additional fuel.

Longer travel duration for Indian-registered aircraft would not only entail burning additional fuel but invol-

ve complexities due to extra flight duty timings of the crew. This may require airlines to deploy extra crew for the return flight too as they will need an additional day's rest. "On an average, an Airbus A320 burns about 2,000 kg fuel per hour but it may vary depending on the weight and variant," a pilot said.

In 2019, when Pakistan shut its airspace—after India's Balakot air strikes—for a little more than four months, Air India lost around ₹100 crore per month.

Travel time to US and Europe to rise by almost 2 hours, Middle East by 30 minutes



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

‘Air India Eyes 10 Boeing Jets Rejected by Chinese Airlines’

New Delhi: Air India is in talks with US planemaker Boeing to acquire around 10 737 MAX jets after Chinese customers started rejecting deliveries amid a trade war with the United States, two people familiar with the discussions told Reuters.

Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg said on Wednesday that "due to

the tariffs, many of our customers in China have indicated that they will not take delivery", and the company could redirect jets to other customers in need.



The United States and China, the globe's two largest economies, have each imposed duties exceeding 100% on the oth-

er. Two sources, who declined to be named as the discussions are private, said Air India was seeking around 10 narrowbody planes from Boeing for its budget carrier Air India Express, which has a fleet of more than 100 aircraft.

Air India, Air India Express and Boeing did not immediately respond to requests for com-

ment. "Air India is very interested ... if the deal goes through, the planes are expected to be added to the fleet by end of the year," the first person said, adding the talks were in early stages. Air India Express has previously taken white tail aircraft - or jets manufactured for one customer but acquired by another. —Reuters



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

IndiGo appoints Michael Whitaker as independent director

InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, on Thursday announced the appointment of former administrator US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and pilot Michael Whitaker as an Independent Director. The appointment is subject to the necessary regulatory and shareholders' approvals.

< **FE BUREAU & AGENCIES**

NIPUN AGGARWAL, CHAIRMAN, AIR INDIA EXPRESS

The low-key high-flyer

THE BOEING & AIRBUS TEAM, WHO NEGOTIATED THE AIRCRAFT DEAL WITH AIR INDIA, WOULD PROBABLY NOT FORGET AGGARWAL IN A HURRY

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR

NIPUN AGGARWAL, 51, who was appointed chairman of Air India Express on Tuesday, is not an aviation industry veteran, but the Boeing and Airbus top brass would probably never forget him.

In late 2022, a few months after boarding Air India, Aggarwal led a five-member team of the Tata Sons-owned airline to negotiate the biggest aircraft deal in commercial aviation. The deal was crucial for the transformation of the legacy carrier as this would meet its growing appetite for aircraft for the next 5-6 years at least. As chief commercial and transformation officer at Air India (before that he was chief due diligence officer), Aggarwal drove a hard bargain, prompting the aircraft manufacturers to say, "the Air India team compares with some of the best dealmakers in the business".

The Boeing and Airbus team should have known better: After all, the low-key Aggarwal was perceived as a hard-nosed investment banker by Air India officers who faced his questions before the dealmaking stage.

In early 2023, Air India announced the purchase of 470 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus with an option to purchase an additional 370. While the purchase price wasn't disclosed, the total deal value is estimated at around \$80 billion, going by the list prices of the aircraft.

An alumnus of IIM Calcutta, Aggarwal was part of a major reshuffle in the top management of the carrier. He was previously senior vice president at Tata Sons for a little over five years after being a banker at

Standard Chartered and Bank of America Merrill Lynch for 10 years. His appointment predates the joining of Campbell Wilson, who is the managing director and CEO of Air India.

Barely a fortnight before Aggarwal's appointment in 2022, Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayci had declined an offer to be Air India's new CEO after his appointment raised a political storm because of his previous political links with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In July of 2022 Campbell Wilson, CEO of Scoot, a wholly-owned low-cost subsidiary of Singapore Airlines joined Air India.

"Over the past 18 months we completed many structural changes critical to transforming the rebuilding of the Air India Group, including merging our four airlines into two, consolidat-

ing our non-flying teams in Gurugram, and refreshing the leadership teams of both Air India and Air India Express," Wilson said in a letter to staff on Tuesday.

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

to step down as chairman of the Air India Express Board, and for Nipun Aggarwal, to assume the role, thus

enabling greater coordination of the Group's network and commercial efforts," Wilson added.

While steering Air India Express, Aggarwal will continue to be the CCO of Air India. This will allow him and the group to execute a host of plans including precisely segregating the roles of its two carriers, building multiple hubs within the country and challenging foreign carriers on international routes.

With a combined group strength of around 300 aircraft, full-service carrier AI will serve the international market and markets with demand for premium traffic including domestic. Low-cost carrier Air India Express will aim to capture the remaining domes-

tic and short haul international routes.

The company is realigning the network and segregating the market for the two carriers which has already resulted in reduction in overlaps. In percentage terms, the overlap in total routes has come down from 20% to 12%. In the short haul the overlap has come down from 26% to 5%.

Air India wants to bring traffic from South East Asia, Far East and SAARC and aggregate them at its hubs before taking them to long haul and ultra long-haul markets of Europe, US and Canada. This will make its India hubs compete with hubs of the West Asia such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha. And to make sure there is no shortage of planes, Air India in December 2024, placed an additional order of 100 Airbus aircraft comprising 10 wide body A350 and 90 narrow body A320 family aircraft.

"We will focus on building strong corridors at our hubs and all other point-to-point opportunities," Aggarwal had said in an interaction with the media in January this year.

Around 26 million passengers flew on the long-haul routes in FY24 and generated \$16 billion in revenue. "The 21% share in long-haul contributes more than 50% in revenue for Air India," he said.

As IndiGo is the only major player, Air India has little competition at home. The airline is targeting 30% market share in domestic and international markets by 2030.

With domestic share reaching 28%, Air India is inching closer to the target and the changes in the roles of some of the senior executives is one of the vital cogs in that wheel.

NEWS
POINT



SHYAM KUMAR PRASAD





Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

24 APRIL 2025

Civil Aviation Ministry arranges 4 special flights from Srinagar to Delhi, Mumbai

Airlines directed
to maintain
regular fare levels

GK News Service
Srinagar, Apr 23

In the wake of the tragic terror attack in Kashmir, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu moved swiftly to ensure the safety and well-being of affected tourists and victims. As per an official statement, the Minister personally spoke to the Home Minister and is monitoring the situation round the clock, working in close coordination with relevant authorities. "As part of immediate relief measures, four special flights from Srinagar—two to Delhi and two to Mumbai—have been

arranged, with additional flights kept on standby to cater to further evacuation needs," said the statement.

The minister also held an urgent meeting with all airline operators and issued a strong advisory against surge pricing. Airlines have been directed to maintain regular fare levels, ensuring that no passenger is burdened during this sensitive time. Additionally, Ram Mohan Naidu has directed all airlines to extend full cooperation for the transportation of deceased individuals to their respective home states, working in sync with state governments and local authorities. The Ministry of Civil Aviation remains on high alert and committed to extending every possible assistance to those affected, the statement added.

घाटी से लौटने के लिए टिकटों के लिए मची मारा-मारी, 5 से 7 हजार की टिकट नौ से 19 हजार रुपये में मिल रहा श्रीनगर से हवाई टिकट चार गुना तक महंगा

संकट में सैलानी

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। पहलगाम हमले के बाद नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के सख्त निर्देश के बाद भी श्रीनगर दिल्ली व अन्य जगहों के लिए लौटने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए हवाई टिकट महंगा पड़ रहा। गुरुवार को श्रीनगर से दिल्ली के बीच हवाई जहाज का टिकट नौ से लेकर 19 हजार के बीच मिला। सामान्य दिनों में टिकट की कीमत पांच से सात हजार के बीच होती है।

हमले के बाद बड़ी संख्या में लोग कश्मीर से निकलना चाहते हैं, जिसको देखते हुए बुधवार को केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राममोहन नाइसु ने सभी विमानन कंपनियों को निर्देश दिया था कि वह हवाई टिकट की कीमतें नियंत्रण में रखें। इस पर सरकार द्वारा निगरानी की जा रही है। इसके बाद कुछ कंपनियों की तरफ से कीमतों में कमी की गई थी लेकिन फिर भी कीमतें सामान्य दिनों के मुकाबले अधिक थीं। गुरुवार को भी यह स्थिति रही।

सुबह के समय में श्रीनगर से दिल्ली की फ्लाइट टिकट नौ हजार रुपये में मिल रही थी। दोपहर में यह टिकट 14 से 19 हजार के बीच की थी। उधर, गुरुवार को श्रीनगर से सीधे महाराष्ट्र के बीच इंडिगो

और एयर इंडिया ने विशेष विमान एक-एक विशेष उड़ान सेवा संचालित की। इंडिगो द्वारा 83 और एयर इंडिया द्वारा 100 यात्रियों वाली फ्लाइट सेवा से काफी यात्रियों को श्रीनगर से निकलने में मदद मिली। इस तरह से अन्य मार्गों पर भी अतिरिक्त उड़ान संचालित की गई। ध्यान रहे कि मंत्रालय के हस्तक्षेप के बाद विमानन कंपनियों ने श्रीनगर आने-जाने वाले यात्रियों को 30 अप्रैल तक टिकट रद्द करने या फिर यात्रा तिथि को परिवर्तन करने पर सभी तरह के शुल्क को हटा लिया था लेकिन तत्काल टिकट सामान्य दिनों से महंगे हैं।

सीधे मुंबई के लिए फ्लाइट सरती : स्पाइस जेट, इंडिगो, एयर इंडिया और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की तरफ से श्रीनगर से मुंबई के बीच विमानन सेवा उपलब्ध कराई गई। कुछ विमान सेवा सीधे (नॉन स्टॉप) और कुछ बीच में दिल्ली, चंडीगढ़ रुककर जाने वाली थी। सीधे जाने वाली उड़ान सेवा का टिकट सरता था। जबकि बीच में रुक कर जाने वाले विमान का टिकट महंगा था। श्रीनगर से चलकर दिल्ली रुक कर मुंबई जाने वाले इंडिगो विमान का टिकट 13 हजार से अधिक था। जबकि बिना रुके मुंबई जाने वाला अक्सास एयर और एयर इंडिया का टिकट 10 हजार से कम का था।



जम्मू-कश्मीर से वापस आने के लिए बड़गाम के सहायता केंद्र पर गुरुवार को पर्यटकों की भारी भीड़ लगी रही।

कश्मीर से 14 हजार पर्यटक लौटे

पहलगाम हमले के बाद जम्मू-कश्मीर घूमने गए पर्यटकों के लौटने का सिलसिला जारी है। डीजीसीए के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि गुरुवार को श्रीनगर से सुबह छह से रात आठ बजे तक 110 विमानों का संचालन किया गया। इससे 14,197 पर्यटकों को उनके गंतव्य तक पहुंचाया गया है। वहीं 4,107 लोग एयरपोर्ट पर अपने विमान का इंतजार कर रहे हैं। जानकारों की माने तो शुक्रवार को भी बड़ी संख्या में लोगों को श्रीनगर से लाने की तैयारी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

यूरोप जाने वालों को लगेगा डेढ़ घंटा अतिरिक्त समय

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। पाकिस्तान का एयर स्पेस बंद होने से दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से यूरोप और अमेरिका जाने वाले विमानों को डेढ़ घंटा अतिरिक्त समय लगेगा।

भारत की विमान कंपनियों ने पाकिस्तान के फैसले के बाद ये जानकारी दी। फैसले के बाद पाकिस्तान के रास्ते न तो विमान दिल्ली से उड़ान भरेंगे और न ही इस रास्ते से वापस आएंगे। अब ईरान तक जाने के लिए विमानों को दूसरे रास्ते

- पाकिस्तानी एयर स्पेस बंद होने का असर
- बढ़ सकता है विमान किराया

का इस्तेमाल करना होगा। विमानों को ईरान से पश्चिम देश जैसे अमेरिका, यूरोप, यूके, मिडल ईस्ट आदि के लिए अतिरिक्त सफर तय करना होगा। जानकारों का कहना है कि फैसले से विमान किराया बढ़ सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Akhilesh questions 'exorbitant' rise in airfares from Srinagar

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday questioned the Centre over reports of exorbitant increase in airfares from Srinagar, calling it "inhuman and highly condemnable". He said charging arbitrary fares from tourists at the time of such a tragedy cannot be justified in any way and asked the government to clarify whether it is responsible for the "exorbitant fare collection" as the tax related to the fares goes to the government. "This means that the public should understand that all this is happening in connivance with the government. Highly reprehensible," he said on X.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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25 APRIL 2025

'AIR INDIA MAY BUY 10 BOEING JETS NIXED BY CHINA'

NEW DELHI: Air India is in talks with US planemaker Boeing to acquire around 10 737 MAX jets after Chinese customers started rejecting deliveries amid a trade war with the United States, two people familiar with the discussions told *Reuters*.

Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg said on Wednesday that "due to the tariffs, many of our customers in China have indicated that they will not take delivery", and the company could redirect jets to other customers in need.

The US and China, the globe's two largest economies, have each imposed duties exceeding 100% on the other.

Two officials, who declined to be named, said Air India was seeking around 10 narrowbody planes from Boeing for its budget carrier Air India Express, which has a fleet of more than 100 aircraft.

REUTERS



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HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

24 APRIL 2025

Airlines told not to raise fares as tourists scramble to leave J&K

**Ashiq Hussain and
Ravi Krishnan Khajuria**

letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: Civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu held an urgent meeting with all airline operators on Wednesday even as Tuesday's terror strike set off a scramble among an estimated 200,000 tourists in

Jammu & Kashmir to exit the Union Territory.

"Airlines have been directed to maintain regular fare levels, ensuring that no passenger is burdened during this sensitive time," the ministry said in a statement. It added that special evacuation flights from Srinagar — two each to Delhi and Mumbai — have been arranged, while an offi-

cial in Srinagar separately said seven special flights were operated for stranded tourists. "All these flights were fully occupied," the official said requesting anonymity. The railways, meanwhile, said that special trains are being arranged for people returning from Jammu and additional rakes will be deployed "as and when needed".

→P8

Flights arranged, roads cleared as panicked tourists leave J&K

Ashiq Hussain and Ravi Krishnan Khajuria

letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: The Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, almost all of them tourists, has set off a scramble among an estimated 200,000 tourists in Jammu & Kashmir to exit the Union Territory.

With limited flights and trains, and road transport fraught with risks, authorities, including security agencies, were engaged in a mammoth evacuation operation on Wednesday.

"It's heartbreaking to see the exodus of our guests from the Valley after yesterday's tragic terror attack in Pahalgam but at the same time we totally understand why people would want to leave," chief minister Omar Abdullah posted on X.

Inclement weather had closed the road between Jammu and Srinagar but the state government opened it partially on Wednesday to help tourists return home.

"While DGCA & the Ministry of Civil Aviation are working to organise extra flights, NH-44 between Srinagar & Jammu has been reconnected for traffic in a single direction," Abdullah added on X.

"I've directed the administration to facilitate traffic between Srinagar and Jammu allowing tourist vehicles to leave. This will have to be done in a controlled and organised way because the road is still unstable in places and we are also working hard to clear all the stranded vehicles. We will not be able to permit completely free movement of vehicles at the moment and we hope that everyone will cooperate with



(Left) Tourists aboard a tempo as they head to the airport; vehicles carrying tourists leave Pahalgam a day after the terror attack.

REUTERS; WASEEM ANDRABI/HT PHOTO

us," he said.

The security establishment deployed a three-tier security cover along the highway to facilitate the movement of vehicles.

But the bigger challenge was at Srinagar, the hub of flight operations and at Jammu railway station.

Civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu held an urgent meeting with all airline operators. "Airlines have been directed to maintain regular fare levels, ensuring that no passenger is burdened during this sensitive time," the ministry said in a statement.

The statement said that special evacuation flights from Srinagar — two each to Delhi and Mumbai — have been arranged, while an official in Srinagar separately said seven special flights were operated for stranded tourists. "All these flights were fully occupied," the official said requesting anonymity.

The Srinagar airport operates 104 flights everyday.

The railways, meanwhile, said that special trains are being arranged for people returning from Jammu and additional rakes will be deployed "as and when needed".

"Around 40 to 42 trains daily operate from Jammu railway station for various cities. A special train with seven general coaches, eight sleeper coaches, two 3rd AC coaches and one 3rd AC economy coach... will leave on Wednesday night from Katra via Udhampur and Jammu to New Delhi," chief public relations officer (CPRO) Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay said.

"To cater to the travellers returning from Jammu the Indian Railways will be running special trains... The Northern Railways will be deploying additional rakes as and when needed," Upadhyaya said.

The Railways also set up a help desk at Jammu station and

Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station.

The family members of the deceased were given priority while leaving the Union territory. "It was ensured that the family members take the same flight in which deceased are being flown back," said an airport official.

There was no immediate response from the UT administration on the return of the tourists. Meanwhile, security around tourist spots, and hotels and resorts was stepped up on Wednesday. While most tourists spent the day in their hotels, people still in Pahalgam after the attack were shifted to Srinagar. Survivors from Tuesday's attack were provided accommodation at the Pahalgam Club.

The administration also set up an emergency control room in deputy commissioner's office in Srinagar to assist tourists.

(With inputs from Vrinda Tulsian and Neha LM Tripathi)

HEARD GUNSHOTS FOR 15 MINS: BIHAR FOOD SELLER VOWS NEVER TO RETURN

Sanjeev K Jha

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Hours before at least 26 people were killed in a terrorist attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam, Abu Basar — who hails from Bihar's Araria, and runs a food stall at the exit gate of the meadow where the attack happened — had spoken to three of his cousins in his village to and encouraged them to board the next train to Kashmir and come to Pahalgam for work. After all, it's peak tourist season there.

In the evening, however, a nightmare unfolded in front of Basar's eyes. Around 3pm, as he was making a papri chat for a tourist and talking with his co-villager Mohammad Saifullah, the 25-year-old heard gunshots reverberating in the air for 15 minutes. "I saw some men fire at the tourists at the meadow. They had stormed in from the hillside opposite us. I saw people running out of the area, some were injured," he said.

He immediately closed his food-cart and fled with Saifullah to Pahalgam, where Saifullah works as a chef, said Basar, who lives in Pahalgam, 3km from the meadow.

Basar has been living in Kashmir for six years, where he earns ₹2,000 a day during tourist season between March and September.

Basar, who is planning to leave the Union territory, said, "I'll never come to Kashmir again, as I can't lose my life to eke out livelihood."



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
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THE HINDU

CHENNAI

24 APRIL 2025

Airlines told to provide more flights, curb fare surge

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said that he was monitoring flight connectivity for Srinagar to ensure the safe return of stranded tourists. They have also been instructed to avoid fare surges, he said.

Seven flights were added on Wednesday. All airlines have also announced a waiver on cancellation and rescheduling fees.

Tariff war and aviation: A globalised industry braces for disruption

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 24

THE PAST few days saw two Boeing 737 MAX aircraft meant for Chinese carrier Xiamen Airlines return from China to Boeing's production hub in Seattle. Boeing jets flying in and out of Seattle is a regular affair, but these flights were anything but routine. For they represented the tariff war flying right in face of the aviation industry, which is among the most globalised and internationally integrated sectors.

With heavy tariffs imposed by the US on China and Beijing returning the favour, the effective price of the aircraft for Chinese carriers would have skyrocketed. Besides, there have been reports that Beijing has asked its airlines to halt aircraft deliveries from Boeing, virtually locking out the US aerospace major from a top aviation market. Moreover, the development indicates potential disruption in aircraft deliveries even beyond China as the implications of American trade tariffs — and reciprocal levies — begin to play out.

The international aviation sector would be bracing for headwinds due to the tariffs. To be sure, there is considerable uncertainty around the tariff war, mainly due to the mercurial behaviour of the Donald Trump administration. Much of the world, including the aviation and aerospace industry, would be hoping and praying for a quick dialling down of the trade tensions. But if the tariff war goes on unabated or intensifies, it could get painful.

A fleeting silver lining

While aviation industry insiders and trade experts warn that tariffs are particularly detrimental to a globally integrated sectors like aviation as they drive up manufacturing costs and complicate supply chains, among other negatives, there may be a silver lining for some Boeing customers including Indian carriers Air India Express and Akasa Air, at least in the short term. If Chinese airlines continue to refuse Boeing aircraft deliveries going forward, they could be up for grabs for other carriers who want to quickly expand their fleet



A Boeing 737 MAX 8, intended for use by a Chinese airline, sits parked at Boeing Field, in Seattle. *Reuters*

to fuel growth. Over the past few years, Air India Express and Akasa Air inducted dozens of Boeing aircraft that were originally meant for other airlines — mainly Chinese carriers — who could not take deliveries on time.

Both the Indian airlines still have a large number of Boeing planes on order with multi-year delivery schedules, and are expected to capitalise on opportunities to expedite deliveries. They are not alone though and might have to compete with carriers from other countries. Reports suggest that Malaysia Airlines is in talks with Boeing to acquire some of the 737 MAX jets originally meant for Chinese airlines.

Brace for impact

The status of aviation as one of the most globalised industries cannot be overstated. From facilitating worldwide transportation of people and goods to having a truly expansive international supply chain for aircraft manufacturing and maintenance, the sector is a true poster child of globalisation. And like for any globally integrated industry, international tariff war could hurt the sector — from aircraft manufacturers and their suppliers to airlines, and ultimately flyers.

For starters, the cost of producing aircraft could jump significantly. This is because aircraft manufacturers like Boeing and Airbus depend on global supply chains with highly specialised and difficult-to-replace component suppliers dotted across the world. So, while a Boeing jet may be assembled and readied in the US, it

is actually manufactured in various countries as its components are sourced from various suppliers spread all over the world.

US tariffs and potential retaliatory tariffs will make aircraft and component imports costlier, which in turn would bump up aircraft manufacturing costs, which may be passed on to airlines, and ultimately to passengers. Tariffs are also likely to add to logistical complexities, which could potentially slow down or disrupt critical supply chains, which would then impede aircraft manufacturing, apart from further inflating and complicating cost structures.

Industry watchers caution that airlines may also be forced to delay aircraft purchases and deliveries due to higher costs, hurting demand for new aircraft while further heating up competition in the aircraft leasing market. Depressed new aircraft demand could then hit aircraft manufacturers, component makers, and their suppliers, potentially leading to capacity cuts and job losses in the sector.

The irony

Although the Trump administration wants to protect and encourage American manufacturing and exports, the already embattled Boeing — among the country's biggest manufacturers and exporters — might be hurt badly by tariffs, much more than its European rival Airbus. Import tariffs primarily tax importers, which in this case would be Boeing as it relies on innumerable imported parts to assemble and roll out its Made-in-America aircraft.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com



पाकिस्तान ने भारतीय विमानों के लिए हवाई क्षेत्र के प्रयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया

इस्लामाबाद, एजेंसी

भारत के जम्मू-कश्मीर के पहलगाम में हुए आतंकी हमले पर नई दिल्ली के दंडात्मक कूटनीतिक उपायों की घोषणा से तिलमिलाए पाकिस्तान ने आज अपने अन्य उपायों के साथ वाघा सीमा को बंद करने की घोषणा की। यह घोषणा राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा समिति (एनएससी) की बैठक के बाद की गई। बैठक में कहा गया कि अगर भारत, पाकिस्तान के स्वामित्व वाले पानी के प्रवाह को रोकता या मोड़ता है, तो इसे युद्ध की घोषणा माना जाएगा। संघीय सरकार ने 30 अप्रैल से इस्लामाबाद में भारतीय उच्चायोग के राजनयिक कर्मचारियों की अधिकतम संख्या 30 तक सीमित करने और तत्काल प्रभाव से सभी भारतीय स्वामित्व वाली या संचालित उड़ानों के लिए अपना हवाई क्षेत्र बंद करने की घोषणा की। डॉन अखबार और जियो न्यूज की खबर के अनुसार, यह बैठक भारत



के आक्रामक कदमों के जवाब में बुलाई गई। पहलगाम में मंगलवार को इस हमले में दो दर्जन से अधिक लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ ने बैठक की अध्यक्षता की। इस बैठक में शीर्ष नागरिक और सैन्य नेतृत्व ने भाग लिया। रैंडियो पाकिस्तान ने बताया कि बैठक में पाकिस्तान की आंतरिक और बाहरी स्थिति पर विचार-विमर्श किया गया। बैठक में सिंधु जल संधि को स्थगित करने के भारत के फैसले पर भी चर्चा की गई। बैठक में सेना प्रमुख जनरल असीम मुनीर भी

मौजूद रहे। बैठक शुरू होने से पहले उप प्रधानमंत्री और विदेश मंत्री इशाक डार, रक्षा मंत्री ख्वाजा आसिफ और कुछ अन्य मंत्री इस्लामाबाद में प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ के आधिकारिक आवास पहुंचे। राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा समिति ने चेतावनी दी है कि भारत के पाकिस्तान के स्वामित्व वाले जल के प्रवाह को मोड़ने के किसी भी कदम को युद्ध की कार्रवाई माना जाएगा। समिति ने कहा कि सिंधु जल संधि को निलंबित करने का भारत का फैसला एकतरफा है।

सिंधु जल संधि 240 मिलियन पाकिस्तानियों के लिए जीवन रेखा है। पाकिस्तान हर हाल में अपने जल अधिकारों की रक्षा करेगा। पाकिस्तान ने 30 अप्रैल से इस्लामाबाद में भारतीय उच्चायोग दो-राष्ट्र के सिद्धांत को मान्य करती है और कायदे-आजम मोहम्मद अली जिन्ना की व्यक्ति की गई आशंका की पुष्टि करती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Airfares to Srinagar from Delhi, Mumbai drop 20-30%

Daanish Anand

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NEW DELHI

The average airfare in the upcoming peak summer travel season from Delhi and Mumbai to Srinagar has dropped 20-30% Google Flights data shows. As per Mint's analysis, the double-digit drop—following the terror attack in Pahalgam—has been calculated for the period between 25 April and 25 May.

Prodded by the civil aviation ministry, airlines increased flights to and from Srinagar and waived cancellation and rescheduling charges after Tuesday's attack. As per Airports Authority of India (AAI) data, Srinagar International Airport sees 45-50 flight landings everyday.

As per Google Flights data, the average Delhi-Srinagar airfare for the 7 days forward period from 25 April to 1 May is ₹4,720-5,859, 15 days forward ₹4,715-5,345 and 30 days forward ₹6,670-8,640. As per the portal, the usual airfare during this period is ₹6,600-11,000.

Average airfare between



Airlines have increased flights to and from Srinagar after Tuesday's attack.

HT

Mumbai and Srinagar for 7 days forward and 15 days forward period is ₹4,775 and for 30 days forward period ₹4,775-11,810. As per the portal, usually the average airfare during this period is ₹10,500-17,500.

Ajay Prakash, president Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) said the incident will impact tourism in the valley, which had rebounded as a popular destination over the last few years.

"In the short term there will

be a significant impact on flights, there could even be a reduction in the number of flights depending on the load and as a result we could perhaps see airfare increasing for flights to other popular tourist destinations," said Prakash.

Two senior industry executives from online air ticket bookings companies who did not wish to be named said there was an increase in cancellations for flights to Srinagar. "The rise in cancellations is much higher than rescheduling of flights. There is a rise in cancellations of flights especially in the peak travel season," said one of the executives. The other executive told *Mint* that the company is still assessing the total refund value.

On Wednesday the ministry of civil aviation met all airlines and issued an advisory against surge pricing. All carriers were directed to maintain regular fares. IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet operated extra flights to and from Srinagar on Wednesday. *Mint* reached out to all airlines, however there was no comment till print time.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Boeing set to resell jets as tariffs hit China trade

Reuters
feedback@livemint.com
SEOUL/PARIS

Boeing is looking to resell potentially dozens of planes locked out of China by tariffs after repatriating a third jet to the United States rather than store it without willing buyers.

The move to prevent a repeat of the costly build-up of undelivered jets seen during past fluctuations in Chinese imports comes as the plane-maker redoubles efforts to save cash and pay off debt by selling off part of its services business.

Boeing took the rare step of publicly flagging the potential aircraft sale during an analyst call on Wednesday, saying there would be no shortage of buyers in a tight jet market.

"Customers are calling, asking for additional airplanes," chief financial officer Brian West said. Such negotiations are usually kept tightly under wraps.

"Due to the tariffs, many of our customers in China have indicated that they will not take delivery," chief executive officer Kelly Orberg said.

People in the industry said the comments were seen as a message to Beijing and Washington that the tariff war between the world's two largest economies would be hugely costly as airlines scramble for capacity and Boeing recovers from multiple crises.

US President Donald Trump this month raised baseline tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%. In retaliation, China imposed a 125% tariff on US goods.

However, West cautioned that things could change quickly.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Michael Whitaker joins IndiGo's board

InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, on Thursday announced the appointment of former administrator US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and pilot Michael Whitaker as an independent director.

Whitaker's appointment, which is subject to regulatory and shareholders' approvals, comes as the term of Venkataramani Sumantran as an Independent Director ends on 27 May. Sumantran, who is currently a non executive independent director and chairperson, has decided not to seek re-appointment for a second term, according to a BSE filing.

"Mike's deep and varied industry and government experience will contribute significantly to having an effective and diverse board. His focus on efficiency, operations, air safety as head of the FAA will reinforce IndiGo's longstanding focus on operating at the highest levels," IndiGo's managing director Rahul Bhatia said.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Airlines warn passengers of disruption due to Pak airspace closure

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TWO of India's largest airlines—IndiGo and Air India—have warned passengers of service disruptions following Pakistan closing its airspace to Indian airlines.

"In light of airspace closure by Pakistan for Indian airlines, schedules of a few of our international flights are impacted. We understand this may cause inconvenience to our customers, which our teams are working hard to minimize as much



as possible. Our teams will be in touch with impacted customers, keeping them informed and offering alternate solutions," said IndiGo in a statement. "We recommend all our customers to check the latest

flight status and stay updated. The changes/ cancellations can be processed through our website. We remain committed to prioritizing safety over everything and look forward to our customers' under-

standing and support in these challenging times," it added. Air India said some flights to the United States, Europe, and Middle East might be impacted.

"Due to the announced restriction of Pakistan airspace for all Indian airlines, it is expected that some Air India flights to or from North America, UK, Europe, and Middle East will take an alternative extended route. Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to our passengers due to this un-

foreseen airspace closure that is outside our control. We would like to reiterate that at Air India, the safety of our customers and crew remains top priority," said the Tata Group airline. Pakistan government on Thursday announced the closure of its airspace for all Indian owned or Indian operated airlines. Among others measures, Pakistan also suspended all trade with India. This action by Pakistan came after India announced a slew of diplomatic measures.

पाक एयर स्पेस बंद, लंबा होगा सफर, जेब पर पड़ेगा असर

नई दिल्ली, 24 अप्रैल (प्रदीप सिंह/नवोदय टाइम्स): पाकिस्तान द्वारा एयर स्पेस बंद करने की घोषणा से भारतीय विमान कंपनियों और यात्रियों को थोड़ी असुविधा तो होगी लेकिन पाकिस्तान का यह कदम उसके लिए ही आत्मघाती साबित होगा। इसका सीधा असर पाकिस्तान की अर्थव्यवस्था पर पड़ेगा। यह और बात है कि भारतीय विमान कंपनियों को करीब 70 से 80 मिनट का अतिरिक्त समय लगेगा और संभव है यात्रियों की जेब पर कुछ अतिरिक्त वजन भी पड़े। जानकर मानते हैं कि भारत के लिए यह पहली बार नहीं है। 2019 में भी पाकिस्तान ने अपना एयर स्पेस भारत के लिए बंद किया था और उसकी अर्थव्यवस्था किस कदर डगमगा गई यह सबने देखा था।

पाकिस्तानी एयर स्पेस बंद होने से सबसे ज्यादा असर उत्तर भारत से उड़ने वाली पश्चिमगामी उड़ानों पर पड़ेगा। दिल्ली, लखनऊ, जयपुर, चंडीगढ़ और अमृतसर जैसे शहरों से यूरोप, अमेरिका और पश्चिम एशिया जाने वाली फ्लाइट्स को अब गुजरात या महाराष्ट्र के रास्ते अरब सागर की ओर मुड़ना पड़ेगा, जिससे उड़ान का समय औसतन 70-80 मिनट बढ़ जाएगा।

बढ़ सकता है किराया

भारतीय विमान कंपनियों को ज्यादा ईंधन खर्च करना पड़ेगा। उन्हें घाटा होगा। उड़ान का समय बढ़ने से चालक दल के काम के घंटे और अन्य परिचालन लागतें भी बढ़ सकती हैं। परिचालन लागत में बढ़ोतरी के कारण विमानन कंपनियां टिकट की कीमतें बढ़ा सकती हैं। इससे यात्रियों के लिए हवाई यात्रा महंगी हो जाएगी। उड़ानों में अधिक समय लगने से यात्रियों की यात्रा की अवधि बढ़ जाएगी। इससे खासकर लंबी दूरी की यात्रा करने वालों के लिए असुविधा बढ़ सकती है।

भारतीय एयरलाइंस को नुकसान

प्रमुख एयरलाइंस एयर इंडिया की कई लंबी दूरी की अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र से होकर गुजरती हैं। वह सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होंगी। हालांकि कंपनी ने पहले ही कुछ उड़ानों के लिए वैकल्पिक रूट अपनाने की घोषणा की है। इंडिगो, स्पाइसजेट और अन्य निजी एयरलाइंस की मध्य पूर्व और अन्य पश्चिमी गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ानों पर भी असर पड़ेगा।

पाकिस्तान के हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने से एयर इंडिया

जैसी एयरलाइनों को अब उत्तरी अमरीका, यूरोप, यूके और मध्य पूर्व की उड़ानों के लिए लंबे मार्ग लेने पड़ेंगे। इन लंबे मार्गों का मतलब है कि विमानों को अधिक ईंधन की आवश्यकता होगी।



उड़ानों के अब संभावित रूट

अफगानिस्तान के काबुल से दिल्ली के लिए भारतीय विमान उड़ान भरता है तो वह पाकिस्तान के रास्ते से नहीं जाएगा, बल्कि अब ईरान से होकर अरब सागर होते हुए दिल्ली पहुंचेगा। पाकिस्तानी एयर स्पेस के बंद होने से सबसे ज्यादा असर उत्तर भारत से उड़ने वाली पश्चिमगामी उड़ानों पर पड़ेगा। दिल्ली, लखनऊ, जयपुर, चंडीगढ़ और अमृतसर जैसे शहरों से यूरोप, अमरीका और पश्चिम एशिया जाने वाली फ्लाइट्स को अब गुजरात या महाराष्ट्र के रास्ते अरब सागर की ओर मुड़ना पड़ेगा। जिससे उड़ान का समय औसतन 70-80 मिनट बढ़ जाएगा।

एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक वर्ष 2019 में भी पाकिस्तान ने ये कदम उठाया था। उस समय भारतीय एयरलाइनों को करीब 700 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ था। सबसे बड़ा नुकसान पाकिस्तान को हुआ। एयरस्पेस बंद करने से पाक को करीब 50 मिलियन डॉलर (लगभग 400 करोड़ रुपए) की आमदनी का नुकसान हुआ था। विदेशों से चंदा मांग रहे पाकिस्तान के लिए यह बड़ी चोट थी। एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो ने एक्स पर पोस्ट कर कहा है कि पाकिस्तान के द्वारा एयर स्पेस बंद करने से यात्रा थोड़ी लंबी होगी। भारतीय विमानों को अब यूरोप, उत्तरी अमरीका और मध्य पूर्व जैसे गंतव्यों तक पहुंचने के लिए लंबा रास्ता तय करना होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Flight fares likely to surge after Pakistan closes airspace

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

International flights, especially from Delhi and other northern cities, will take a longer time to reach their destinations and fares are also likely to rise in the range of 8-12 per cent in the near term, with Pakistan closing its airspace for Indian airlines.

Air India and IndiGo on Thursday said some of its international flights have been impacted by the Pakistan airspace closure, with the Tata Group-owned airline mentioning that its flights connecting North America, UK, Europe and Middle East are likely to take an alternative extended route.

Apart from IndiGo and Air India, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa Air also have international operations.

All West-bound flights flying from north Indian cities, including Delhi, will be impacted due to the closure. These flights will have to take alternative routes that will be longer over the Arabian Sea, according to senior airline officials and pilots. With longer routes, airlines will need more fuel to operate the flights resulting in higher costs as well as deal with payload issues.

Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan due to Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan on Thursday said it will bar Indian airlines from using its air-

space. The airspace cannot be used by India-registered aircraft as well as planes owned or leased by Indian operators.

In a post on X, Air India said that due to the announced restriction of Pakistan airspace for all Indian airlines, it is expected that some Air India flights to or from North America, UK, Europe, and Middle East will take an alternative extended route. "Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to our passengers due to this unforeseen airspace closure that is outside our control. We would like to reiterate that at Air India, the safety of our customers and crew remains top priority," the airline said.

IndiGo said that due to the sudden announcement of air space closure by Pakistan, a few of our international flights are being impacted. "We understood the inconvenience this may cause and our teams are doing their best to help you reach your destination at the earliest," the airline said in a post on X.

A senior pilot said that the duration of some of the US and European flights operated by Indian airlines will increase in the range of 2 to 2.5 hours.

The duration of the international flights will depend on routes that will be taken by the airlines and there are different route options. A clearer picture will emerge once airlines file their flight plans, a senior Air Traffic Controller said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

श्रीनगर से आज 110 उड़ानें हुईं संचालित, हवाई किराए में कमी

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। पहलगाम में हुए आतंकी हमले के बाद जम्मू-कश्मीर में फंसे पर्यटकों को वापस लाने के लिए बृहस्पतिवार को आठ अतिरिक्त सेवाओं सहित 110 उड़ानें संचालित की गईं जिनसे 14,000 से अधिक यात्रियों ने यात्रा की। इसके साथ ही नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने कहा कि श्रीनगर को जोड़ने वाले हवाई मार्ग पर उड़ानों के किराये में दो दिनों के भीतर उल्लेखनीय कमी भी आई है। पहलगाम हमले के बाद हवाई किराया बहुत अधिक बढ़ा दिए जाने पर कई लोगों ने चिंता जताई थी।

मंत्रालय ने कहा, संपर्क उड़ानों के लिए एयरलाइंस आमतौर पर एक किराया संरचना लागू करती है, जो यात्रा के प्रत्येक व्यक्तिगत खंड की लागतों को जोड़ती है और कुछ मामलों में, इकोनमी (किफायती) श्रेणी और 'बिजनेस' श्रेणी की टिकटों के दाम लगभग करीब पहुंच जाते हैं। पहलगाम में मंगलवार को आतंकी हमले में 26 लोग मारे गए थे, जिनमें से अधिकतर पर्यटक थे। इसके बाद से बढ़ी संख्या में पर्यटक जम्मू-

कश्मीर से लौट रहे हैं। पर्यटकों की वापसी को सुविधाजनक बनाने के लिए एयरलाइन कंपनियां अतिरिक्त उड़ानें संचालित कर रही हैं और मंत्रालय हवाई टिकट की कीमतों पर नज़र रख रहा है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित हो सके कि टिकटों के दाम में कोई उछाल न आए।

आधिकारिक आंकड़ों से पता चला है कि श्रीनगर हवाईअड्डे पर बृहस्पतिवार को सुबह छह बजे से शाम आठ बजे तक 57 उड़ानें आईं और 53 उड़ानें रवाना हुईं, जिससे कुल 14,197 यात्रियों ने यात्रा की। मंत्रालय ने कहा, एयरलाइंस ने टिकट निरस्तीकरण और पुनर्निर्धारण शुल्क को माफ कर दिया है, और श्रीनगर को जोड़ने वाली उड़ान क्षमता में वृद्धि की है। मंत्रालय ने एक सार्वजनिक सूचना में कहा, पिछले दो दिनों में श्रीनगर से हवाई किराए में उल्लेखनीय कमी देखी गई है। मसलन, श्रीनगर से दिल्ली की उड़ान के एक टिकट की कीमत 21 अप्रैल 2025 को 20,000 रुपये से अधिक थी लेकिन वह 24 अप्रैल 2025 तक 10,000 रुपये से कम होकर अधिक किफायती हो गई है।

DGCA: Don't charge for
cancellation, rescheduling

Govt leash plea on plane fares

AMIYA KUMAR
KUSHWAHA

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday urged airline operators to consider waiving cancellation and rescheduling charges for passengers wanting to return home from Kashmir following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26, most of them tourists, on Tuesday.

The aviation watchdog also advised airlines to increase the number of flights and ensure uninterrupted connectivity from Srinagar to various destinations across India, "facilitating evacuation of stranded tourists".

"The airlines are requested to consider waiving cancellation and rescheduling fees and provide all necessary assistance to tourists facing unexpected circumstances and challenges during this difficult time," the DGCA said in its advisory.

The development follows social media outrage over a surge in airfares in the aftermath of the attack. Tourists complained that they were being charged between ₹3,000 and ₹37,000 for flights out of Srinagar, several times higher than the normal rates.

Civil aviation minister K. Rammoohan Naidu held an urgent meeting with the airline operators on Wednesday and directed them to monitor and

keep fares at reasonable levels.

After the terror attack in Pahalgam, many people took to social media and shared screenshots of exorbitant airfares from Srinagar to other places.

An X user claimed that private airlines were charging three times the regular fare from "panic-stricken" tourists from Srinagar. Another user termed the hike in fare "inhuman" and accused the airlines of "taking advantage" of the situation. Some accused the government of "inaction".

In a post on X, Air India said: "Fares on Air India flights from Srinagar to Mumbai and Delhi have been capped to ensure affordability. Any high fares shown on booking sites may be due to multi-stop routes or higher cabin classes, offering a mix of direct and indirect options."

Naidu said IndiGo, Air India and SpiceJet were operating seven extra flights from Srinagar in addition to their scheduled services.

The three airlines, along with Air India Express, have waived cancellation fees or rescheduling charges for flights from or to Srinagar until April 30. Air India and IndiGo have also announced two additional flights each from Srinagar to Delhi and Mumbai.

Naidu said as many as 3,337 passengers flew out of Srinagar in 20 flights between 6am and 12pm on Wednesday.



Tourists head towards the Srinagar airport on Wednesday, a day after the militant attack. (Reuters)

Pak closes airspace for Indian carriers

Flights To West Will Get Longer

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New Delhi: Aircraft operated by Indian carriers, charter operators and private jets registered here will have to take longer routes between North India and the west (Gulf, Middle East, CIS, Europe and North America) with Pakistan having closed its airspace for them starting Thursday 6pm (IST).

Pilots say flying times of Air India's direct flights from Delhi to North America could increase by up to two hours if they remain non-stop and are not required to take a midway fuelling halt, say in Europe. If that happens, the journey could take up to four hours longer.

Delhi-Europe flights could take up to an hour more and those to Gulf 30-45 minutes, say pilots. Some flights will be cancelled and a few rescheduled to beat night curfews at western airports. IndiGo routes flights between Delhi and Tashkent/Almaty will take 80-90 minutes longer. IndiGo cancelled its Almaty and Tashkent flights Thursday. Its Sharjah-Amritsar had to change course on Thursday to avoid Pakistan airspace. International flights between rest of the country and the west won't be impacted as they don't overfly Pakistan.

While Pakistan has not

ON-OFF, ON-OFF

Since Oct 7, 2023 | Iran-Israel conflict has often impacted Iran, Iraq & Jordan airspace

Since Feb 2022 | Russia no fly zone for western airlines

Since Aug 2021 | Afghanistan airspace closed for civilian flights

Feb 27-July 16, 2019 | Pakistan airspace closed after Balakot airstrike



NIA searches two hotels in Ferozepur

After Pahalgam terror attack, NIA searched two Ferozepur hotels and the residences of hotel owners Thursday, reportedly in connection with calls made to Pakistan. The searches were conducted at Taj Hotel, a small local establishment, and at City Resorts, as well as residences of Taj Hotel owner Mandeep Singh and City Resorts owner Sardul Singh. NIA teams reportedly seized mobile phones and other electronic gadgets. After the searches, Mandeep said he was questioned about calls made to Pakistan from his mobile, which he claimed were never made. He said his mobile has been confiscated and his laptop checked. NIA team also inspected the hotel rooms. Sardul also confirmed that his resort and residence were searched. He, too, claimed he had never made any calls to Pakistan. TNN

barred foreign carriers, countries do their own risk assessment for overflying any region and if they deem the geopolitical situation on India-Pakistan border risky, some of them may suspend flights. When Pakistan closed its airspace in 2019, some North American airlines had suspended Delhi flights. So there are going to be fewer and more expensive flights options between the west and North India now.

Advising passengers to check if their flight is affected, Air India posted on X, some "flights to or from North America, UK, Europe, and

Middle East will take an alternative extended route." IndiGo said, "Schedules of a few of our international flights are impacted... keeping (impacted customers) informed, offering alternate solutions." SpiceJet said its flights to UAE from "north India will operate via alternate routes (&) carry additional fuel for longer flying time."

Closure of Pak airspace means flights between north India and the west will go close to Mumbai and Ahmedabad; then turn right over the Arabian Sea to head to Muscat and then fly to their destination. Ditto on the way back.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

25 APRIL 2025

Ex-FAA chief joins IndiGo's board

New Delhi: IndiGo has announced the appointment of former Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) chief Michael Whitaker as an independent director, indicating the airline's plans to expand its global presence. This marks Whitaker's second tenure at InterGlobe Enterprises, the parent company of IndiGo. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

24 APRIL 2025

Airfares on Srinagar-bound flights drop as tourist cancellations surge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Airfares on flights to and from Srinagar have become an indicator of the markedly changed status of the once-popular tourist destination that was Jammu & Kashmir. Fares on flights going to Srinagar have dropped to an all-time low, while air tickets on flights operating from Srinagar are higher in comparison.

A day after terrorists gunned down tourists in Pahalgam, holiday plans are being cancelled, rescheduled, and those already in the Valley have cut short their stay to return home.

The cheapest 24-hour advance purchase fare to travel from Mumbai to Srinagar on a non-stop flight on Thursday started at an all-time low of Rs 4,800 on Wednesday. The cheapest fare to fly from Srinagar to Mumbai on Thursday started at Rs 14,000. While one might think that to be a high fare, it is not. For instance, for year-end travel in Dec

DGCA: ADD FLIGHTS, WAIVE FEES

► May is peak season for travel to Srinagar, & the terror attack will hit summer tourist arrivals

► J&K gained in popularity during the pandemic years of 2021 and 2022 when most countries banned international tourist arrivals

► In April 2019, Srinagar airport handled 2.55L passengers. Even as Covid restrictions were



on, in April 2021, Srinagar handled 2.54L flyers



► The number shot up in April 2022 to 4.15L flyers. It dipped a bit in April 2023 with 4L flyers as GoAir cut flights to eventually shut down ops. In April 2024, the growth returned with 4.4L passengers

“...Airlines are advised to take swift action to increase the number of flights...and to ensure uninterrupted connectivity from Srinagar to destinations across India, facilitating evacuation of...tourists. Airlines are also requested to waive cancellation and rescheduling fees... —DGCA advisory

2024, the cheapest three-week advance purchase return fare on the Mumbai-Srinagar route began at Rs 44,000.

“As per the early observations, flight cancellations

jumped by seven times, and there was a drop in future bookings by about 40%,” said Manjari Singhal, chief growth and business. Clear-trip. Throughout the day, tra-

vel companies put out statements condemning the attack and extending support to tourists wanting to cancel or reschedule their forthcoming trip or merely cancel the stay and return from J&K.

Early on Wednesday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) responded to the sudden rise in demand for seats on flights out of Srinagar with an advisory asking airlines to add flights to J&K and waive the cancellation and rescheduling charges. IndiGo said it has added special flights to Srinagar from Delhi and Mumbai, and these will be operated over and above the 160 weekly flights it operates to Srinagar from various parts of India. IndiGo also announced a waiver of cancellation and rescheduling charges for passengers travelling to/from Srinagar, while Air India Express waived these charges for passengers booked on flights till April 30, and Akasa Air waived it for flights till April 29.

11,000 take flight out of Srinagar on Wed, 2k more than normal

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New Delhi: About 11,000 people — mostly peak summer season holidayers — are expected to have flown out of Srinagar on Wednesday, a day after the Pahalgam attack.

Airport sources say Srinagar on an average sees 52 aircraft arrivals and as many departures daily with 10,000-12,000 passengers (about half of them arrivals and half de-

ATTACK ON PEACE: P 10, 13

partures) in non-peak and 16,000-18,000 in the current peak season. Srinagar Airport, which handles flights from 6am to 10 pm, on Wednesday saw 9,251 passengers fly out on 47 flights till 7 pm.

With several more flights in the remaining three hours, this number is expected to swell further by anywhere up to 2,000.

Given the exodus, airlines, including Air India, IndiGo and AI Express, operated seven extra flights on Wednesday, which mostly ferry flights to fly out people from there. Srinagar-bound flights saw a large number of passenger cancellations. The rush to fly out caused fares for flights out of Srinagar to briefly rise to as high as Rs 32,000 for a one-way journey to Delhi, prompting govt to step in.

Union aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu ordered airlines to refrain from surge pricing and keep fares in check. Ministry says it has kept "additional flights on standby to cater to further



Airlines have waived cancellation and rebooking charges for flights to and from Srinagar up to May 7

needs". Airlines have waived cancellations and rebooking charges for Srinagar flights till up to May 7. ITC Hotels said it is "extending guests option of rescheduling or refunding their stays at Srinagar & Pahalgam properties."

"Flights are going chock-a-block. Airlines are coordinating with each other. A family were to fly with the mortal remains of their kin from Srinagar to Surat on one airline. That airline could fly them to Delhi and AI Express delayed its Delhi-Surat flight to ensure they are on board," said sources. J&K CM Omar Abdullah said on X: "It's heartbreaking to see exodus of our guests, but at we understand why people would want to leave. While DGCA & aviation ministry are working to organise extra flights, NH-44 between Srinagar and Jammu has been reopened." On Wednesday, 25 mortal remains were sent to their respective destinations along with 123 accompanying kin.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

24 APRIL 2025

3,337 passengers fly out of Srinagar

UJWAL JALALI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 23

The government on Wednesday announced additional flights will be operated from Srinagar and that airfares on the route are being kept at reasonable levels amid a large number of tourists looking to return from J&K in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack.

As many as 3,337 passengers flew out of Srinagar in 20 flights between 6 am and 12 pm on Wednesday.

As tourists began thronging the Srinagar airport, the airfares rose sharply, prompt-

ing the Ministry of Civil Aviation to intervene and keep the prices in check. Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu held an urgent meeting with all airline operators and issued a strong advisory against surge pricing. "Airlines have been directed to maintain regular fare levels, ensuring that no passenger is burdened during this sensitive time," the Ministry said.

As part of the immediate relief measures, four special flights from Srinagar — two to Delhi and two to Mumbai — have also been arranged, with

additional flights kept on standby to cater to further evacuation needs.

Since Tuesday night, the airfares had skyrocketed and reached up to Rs 30,000 for a 90-minute Srinagar-Delhi flight. On a normal day, it is usually in the price range of Rs 5,000-Rs 10,000. It sometimes cost more during the peak season.

The Civil Aviation Minister directed all airlines to extend full cooperation for the transportation of deceased individuals to their respective home states, working in sync with the state governments and local authorities.