



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Pvt jet first aircraft to officially land at Navi Mumbai airport

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Mumbai: A private jet carrying passengers from Ahmedabad quietly scripted aviation history this weekend, becoming the first aircraft to officially land at the long-awaited Navi Mumbai airport. The jet, operating under a Non-Scheduled Operator Permit (charter), touched down at 10:20am on Saturday and flew back to Ahmedabad past noon the next day, completing the first-ever runway operation at the greenfield airport.

Though an IndiGo Airbus 320 aircraft landed on the Navi Mumbai main runway 26 in Dec 2024, it was a validation flight mandated to test the airport's navigation systems. Prior to this, a symbolic touchdown took place in October, when an IAF Airbus C-295, a tactical airlifter, touched down on the main runway without using the airport's ground-based navigation aids.

"The Airports Authority of India (AAI) on September 19 granted approval for the



A Pilatus PC-24 comes in to land on the main Navi Mumbai runway

landing of a non-scheduled aircraft, marked 'passengers flight' at Navi Mumbai," said a source. To accommodate this arrival and departure, AAI cancelled its earlier notice (NOTAM to pilots, airlines) about Navi Mumbai runway's closure till 11:59pm, Sept 20. A new NOTAM was issued on Friday, which announced that the Navi Mumbai airport runway was open from 8:30am to 11am on Satur-

day and another three hours on Sunday.

The private jet, a Pilatus PC-24 (VT-APV), took off from Ahmedabad at 9am to head south, overfly the Gulf of Khambhat, and then the Arabian Sea, from where it turned east to cross into Mumbai over Bandra and Sion, flying south of the busy city airport. It came south of the new Navi Mumbai airport, from where it turned

north and then west to carry out an approach on runway 28 and land at 10:20 am. It departed Navi Mumbai airport at 12:40am on Sunday and took the land route to Ahmedabad.

Over the weekend, the flight also landed on X, with @hiravaero posting a clip of the landing captured by Sandeep Pilonia, a plane spotter. Industry experts pointed out that the new Navi Mumbai airport has other firsts still to come. The most awaited among these will be the first scheduled commercial airline flight.

While PM Modi is set to inaugurate the airport and its terminal building on Sept 30, the commissioning of the airport, after the security sweeping and other procedures, is likely to take a few more months. But the landing or take-off of the first airline flight carrying fare-paying passengers will be the most significant milestone, as it would signal the start of a major capacity boost for Mumbai's overstretched airport infrastructure.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

आईजीआईए दुनिया का 39वां सबसे कनेक्टेड हवाई अड्डा पहले स्थान पर लंदन का हीथ्रो एयरपोर्ट

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हवाई अड्डा दुनिया का 39वां सबसे अधिक कनेक्टेड हवाई अड्डा है। पहले पायदान पर लंदन का हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डा है। हालांकि, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी का इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा (आईजीआईए) 2024 में 24वें स्थान से काफी नीचे खिसक गया है। वैश्विक यात्रा उद्योग के लिए एक डाटा प्लेटफॉर्म ओएजी ने बुधवार को दुनिया के सबसे अधिक कनेक्टेड हवाई अड्डों की रैंकिंग मेगाहब्स 2025 जारी की।



टॉप- 50 वैश्विक हवाई अड्डा मेगाहब्स की सूची में इस्तांबुल और एम्स्टर्डम क्रमशः दूसरे और तीसरे स्थान पर हैं। टॉप-10 में कुआलालंपुर और फ्रैंकफर्ट (4), सियोल इंचियोन (6), शिकागो ओ'हारे (7), अटलांटा हार्ट्सफील्ड-जैक्सन (8), टोक्यो हानेडा (9) और पेरिस चार्ल्स डी गॉल (10) हैं। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, आईजीआईए 39वें स्थान पर है। यह 16,178 उड़ानें प्रदान करता है और 157 गंतव्यों को जोड़ता है। एजेसी

दक्षिण एशिया क्षेत्र में शीर्ष पर दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट

कम लागत वाली एयरलाइनों के हवाई अड्डों के मामले में आईजीआईए 11वें स्थान पर और मुंबई हवाई अड्डा ऐसे टॉप-25 हवाई अड्डों में 14वें स्थान पर है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, आईजीआईए दक्षिण एशिया क्षेत्र में शीर्ष मेगाहब है। यह रिपोर्ट दुनिया के 100 सबसे बड़े हवाई अड्डों और 100 सबसे बड़े अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों से ओएजी उड़ान डाटा पर आधारित है, जो सितंबर 2023 से अगस्त 2024 की अवधि के लिए कुल निर्धारित सीटों पर आधारित है। छह घंटे की अवधि में आने और जाने वाली उड़ानों के बीच सभी संभावित कनेक्शनों की कुल संख्या की गणना की गई है। इसमें उन उड़ानों को भी शामिल किया गया है, जिनमें आने, जाने वाली या दोनों उड़ानें अंतरराष्ट्रीय हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

एयरपोर्ट : बेंगलुरु फ्लाइट हुई तीन घंटे लेट, यात्री हुए परेशान

जयपुर | एयरपोर्ट पर बुधवार को इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट के घंटों लेट होने की वजह से हवाई यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। मामला इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट संख्या 6ई-498 का है। फ्लाइट सुबह 11:35 बजे बेंगलुरु जाती है, लेकिन इनकमिंग एयरक्राफ्ट के नहीं आने से लेट हो गई। दरअसल फ्लाइट 6ई-415 बेंगलुरु से सुबह 11:05 बजे जयपुर पहुंचती है। बेंगलुरु में तकनीकी कारणों के चलते फ्लाइट खाना नहीं हो सकी। ऐसे में जयपुर से बेंगलुरु जाने वाली करीब साढ़े तीन घंटे देरी से खाना हो सकी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE DAILY GUARDIAN

JAIPUR

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Jodhpur's new airport terminal to open soon

TDG NETWORK
JODHPUR

The new airport terminal at Jodhpur is set to open soon, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected to inaugurate the facility by the end of October. Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who inspected the under-construction terminal, mentioned that efforts would also be made to lay the foundation stone for an elevated road alongside the airport.

The terminal, covering 24,000 square meters and designed to meet the needs for the next 20 years, is constructed with Jodhpuri



Jodhpur Airport new under construction terminal

stones, giving it a heritage look. It will feature six aerobridges, enabling direct access to planes, and parking for 300 cars in the first phase. The terminal also boasts 40 check-in counters, 16 self-check-in ma-

chines, and three conveyor belts.

Air connectivity in the region is expected to improve, with Air India starting new flights. Additionally, a reduction in the air fuel tax by Chief Minister Bhajanlal

Sharma is anticipated to cut airline fuel costs by 25%, further boosting connectivity. The expansion project, costing Rs480 crore, began over three decades ago and gained momentum after 2014.

The terminal, covering 24,000 square meters and designed to meet the needs for the next 20 years, is constructed with Jodhpuri stones, giving it a heritage look.



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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

लापरवाही के कारण एयरपोर्ट पर हो गई कामगार की मौत

गौतम कुमार मिश्रा • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: आइजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर लापरवाही से एक कामगार की मौत हो गई। आरोपित पक्ष को जब लगा कि मामला लापरवाही से जुड़ा है तो उसने सुबूत तक मिटाने के प्रयास किए। आइजीआई थाना पुलिस ने पूरा मामला संज्ञान में आने के बाद न सिर्फ लापरवाही से मौत बल्कि सुबूत मिटाने की धारा में भी प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर घटना की जांच शुरू कर दी है।

मामले में इंस्पेक्टर रैंक के अधिकारी को जांच अधिकारी बनाया गया है। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन एजेंसी डायल का कहना है कि निर्माण ठेकेदार (तृतीय पक्ष) द्वारा किया जा रहा था। पुलिस को जांच में पता चला कि कामगार सुखदेव 10 फीट की ऊंचाई से गिरे थे। यह गोंडा के रहने वाले थे।

यह घटना एयर साइड की है। पुलिस के अनुसार टर्मिनल 3 के एग्रन एरिया की है। पुलिस को कालर ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट

- एयर साइड में एग्रन पर हो रहा था निर्माण, जहां हुआ हादसा
- घटनास्थल से सुबूत मिटाने की हुई कोशिश, प्राथमिकी हुई

पर दुर्घटना हुई थी। घायल को परमेश्वरी अस्पताल लाया गया, जहां चिकित्सकों ने उन्हें मृत घोषित कर दिया।

कालर से मिली जानकारी व अस्पताल से मिली जानकारी के आधार पर पुलिस टर्मिनल 3 के एग्रन एरिया पहुंची। यहां पुलिस ने पाया कि यह एरिया टोन रोड से घिरा था। यहां लोहे की पाइप का मचान बना था। पास ही एल्यूमिनियम की स्ट्रिप व लोहे की पाइपें पड़ी थी। घटनास्थल के निरीक्षण पर पुलिस ने पाया कि मचान के बीच खून के धब्बे हैं और इन धब्बों को धोने की कोशिश की गई है। आसपास पानी के कारण गीला है। मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए यहां फॉरेंसिक टीम को बुलाया गया। घटनास्थल की फोटोग्राफी कराई गई।



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Most Connected Airport Hubs

London Heathrow has retained its title as the world's most internationally connected airport for the third straight year, offering over 59,000 possible connections to 226 destinations* on the busiest day**, according to OAG's ranking of 50 most connected airports—11 from the US, two each in seven countries, and one each from 25 countries (including India)...

Global Airport Megahubs (top 10)

Rank 2025 (2024)	Airport Name	Connections	Destinations
1 (1)	London Heathrow	59,240	226
2 (8)	Istanbul	82,733	327
3 (4)	Amsterdam	66,798	275
4 (2)	Kuala Lumpur Int	36,159	151
4 (10)	Frankfurt Int	73,221	307
6 (5)	Seoul Incheon	41,572	179
7 (9)	Chicago O'Hare	65,141	297
8 (11)	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson	53,374	251
9 (3)	Tokyo (Haneda)	22,243	107
10 (7)	Paris Charles de Gaulle	57,014	299
39 (24)	Delhi	16,718	157

*Based on scheduled services to destinations operating between Sep 2024-Aug 2025. **Friday 1 August 2025; above rankings are generated by comparing the no. of scheduled connections to and from international flights with the number of destinations served from the airport
Source: OAG

SANJEEV RAJ JAIN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Navi Mumbai airport leases 405 flats

RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH
Mumbai, September 24

NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL Airport (NMIAL), managed by Adani Airport Holdings, has leased 405 ready-to-move-in apartments at a residential complex in Panvel, Navi Mumbai.

NMIAL has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Wadhwa Group to lease 405 flats at the latter's township Wadhwa Wise City, Panvel, for airport staff and their families from October 2025, Wadhwa Group said.

NMIAL has leased one, one-and-half and two bedroom apartments which it could buy at a later date, sources familiar with the development said.

Though Wadhwa Group did not share financial details of the deal, market sources said the price of a bulk deal of 400 apartments at the project could be around ₹350 crore.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

BANGALORE

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Airport City set to get CNG facility

Commuters, cab drivers and airport users will soon have easier access to cleaner fuel options. Bengaluru Airport City Limited Tuesday inked an agreement with GAIL Gas Ltd, a subsidiary of GAIL (India) Ltd, to set up a city gas distribution facility at Airport City. The move will help citizens get easy access to CNG stations for taxis, buses, logistics fleet and last-mile vehicles operating around the airport. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

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MUMBAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

RTI reveals why Surat airport lacks ILS approach lights

FPJ News Service

SURAT

An RTI reply has exposed the reason behind the non-installation of Instrument Landing System (ILS) Cat-1 approach lights at Surat Airport, a long-standing demand of flyers and activists. Despite repeated representations and concerns raised after air crashes in Surat (2019) and Kozhikode (2020), authorities have dismissed the demand, citing high costs and “low diversion rates.”

For years, the Surat Airport Action Committee (SAAC), led by its president Sanjay Ezhava, has been pressing the Union government and local authorities to acquire 20.33 acres of land for ILS approach lights and another 5 acres for ASR and MSSR facilities—a total of 25.33 acres. Recently, the proposal was officially rejected.

According to information shared by the Surat Airport Director under RTI, 37 aircraft were diverted due to bad weather in the last six years, averaging six diversions annually. The Airports Authority of India’s head office in Delhi concluded that the cost of land acquisition for installing approach lights was not justified for such a “low number” of diversions.

This explanation has sparked outrage among fre-



quent flyers and activists, who argue that aviation safety cannot be measured in numbers alone.

Speaking to reporters, Ezhava condemned the decision as dangerous negligence. “This is clear disregard for Surat. Even a single accident caused by poor landing conditions can put thousands of lives at risk. The administration’s responsibility is to ensure zero accidents, not to balance lives against costs,” he said.

He further warned that Surat Airport is located in a sensitive zone. “There are shrimp ponds, ONGC pipelines, and even hazardous buildings near the runway. One accident here can have catastrophic consequences far beyond just passengers,” Ezhava added.

Aviation experts echo these concerns, highlighting that ILS Cat-1 with approach lights is standard safety infrastructure at most major airports.

Without it, pilots face greater challenges in landing during bad weather, increasing the risk of diversions or, worse, accidents.

A senior airport official, however, defended the decision. “Compared to other airports, the diversion numbers here are very low. The cost of acquiring land and installing the infrastructure runs into hundreds of crores. From a cost-benefit standpoint, it was not found feasible,” he said.

But for flyers, cost arguments offer little comfort. “If Delhi and Mumbai deserve full safety systems, why not Surat? Passenger lives are equal everywhere,” said a frequent traveler from the city.

With Surat emerging as a major hub for diamonds, textiles, and global trade, activists argue that its airport deserves world-class safety standards. For now, however, the RTI makes clear that financial considerations—not safety—have dictated the decision.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

B'luru Airport City ties up with GAIL for distribution

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL) on Tuesday announced signing an agreement with GAIL Gas Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of GAIL (India) Limited, to develop a city gas distribution facility at Bengaluru Airport City, marking a significant step towards building a cleaner, greener energy ecosystem.

The upcoming facility will include a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station and associated infrastructure, Piped Natural Gas (PNG) installations, and other clean energy solutions, it said.

Alongside fuel services, the station will also feature non-fuel retail and convenience offerings for the wider public, officials said.

"By facilitating CNG infrastructure for taxis, buses, logistics fleets, and last-mile connectivity vehicles at and around Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR Airport), the project will position Bengaluru Airport City as a showcase for integrating sustainable energy solutions into urban and commercial hubs. The development also enhances the attractiveness of the Airport City as a smart, green busi-



ness destination aligned with international sustainability standards," BACL said, in a statement.

BACL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited, BIAL (operator of Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru).

According to Rao Munkutla, Executive Director and CEO of BACL, the upcoming city gas distribution facility of GAIL Gas in Bengaluru Airport City marks a transformative step in advancing India's clean energy transition. "To be established within our Airport City that has already achieved the prestigious IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating, this development reinforces our position as a leader in sustainable urban innovation,"

he said.

Goutom Chakraborty, Chief Executive Officer of GAIL Gas Limited said, "Our company continues to lead the way in promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly and cost-effective natural gas.

The establishment of the CNG station within Bengaluru Airport City will greatly benefit thousands of vehicles, providing convenient access to CNG refuelling for commuters traveling to and from the airport. GAIL Gas remains committed to making Bengaluru a cleaner and greener city with its continued efforts." According to an official statement, GAIL Gas has been authorised by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board.



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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Navi Mumbai airport to be inaugurated on Oct 30

Mumbai: The inauguration of the Navi Mumbai airport will now happen on Oct 30, and the Metro 3 project will be inaugurated on Oct 8, a senior official confirmed to TOI. The two projects were to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sept 30. It is likely that PM Modi will do both the inaugurations.

Last week, CM Devendra Fadnavis announced that PM Modi will inaugurate the final stretch of the underground Metro 3 corridor from Acharya Atre Chowk in Worli to Cuffe Parade on Sept 30.

Modi was also supposed to inaugurate the Navi Mumbai International Airport, a project expected to ease congestion at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, on the same day, officials said.

—Chaitanya Marpakwar

कवायद | यापल ने 30 अक्टूबर से ही कुछ शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट शुरू करने की प्रक्रिया तेज की, सुरक्षा मानकों के तहत भी सभी काम पूरे हो चुके

एयरपोर्ट के शुभारंभ से ही उड़ानें शुरू करने की तैयारी



ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से 30 अक्टूबर यानी शुभारंभ के दिन से ही उड़ानें शुरू करने की तैयारी है। यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (यापल) ने एक-दो शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट शुरू करने को लेकर कवायद तेज कर दी है।

यमुना प्राधिकरण के अधिकारी ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण कार्य लगभग पूरा हो गया है। एयर ट्रेफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी) टावर बनकर तैयार है। यहां सभी रडार सिस्टम लग चुके हैं। सुरक्षा मानकों के तहत भी सभी काम पूरे हो चुके हैं, जिसे नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (वकास) की मंजूरी मिल चुकी है। वहीं, टर्मिनल की छत बन गई है, सिर्फ फिनिशिंग का काम चल रहा है।

अधिकारी ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट की यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे से कनेक्टिविटी हो चुकी है। बिजली-पानी के पर्याप्त



इंतजाम हैं। सीआईएसएफ के जवान एयरपोर्ट पर तैनात हो चुके हैं। ऐसे में यापल शुभारंभ के दिन ही घरेलू,

प्रधानमंत्री के कार्यक्रम के लिए चार स्थल चिह्नित

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन करेंगे। इसे देखते हुए अधिकारी तेजी से तैयारी कर रहे। पुलिस आयुक्त लक्ष्मी सिंह, डीएम मेधा रूपम, यीडा सीईओ आरके सिंह, ओएसडी शैलेंद्र भाटिया समेत अन्य प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों ने मंगलवार को एयरपोर्ट साइट का निरीक्षण किया। इस दौरान प्रधानमंत्री की जनसभा को लेकर चार स्थान चिह्नित किए गए। इनमें से किसी एक जगह कार्यक्रम होगा। एसपीजी के निरीक्षण समेत अन्य एजेंसियों की जांच रिपोर्ट के बाद ही एक स्थान तय होगा। कार्यक्रम स्थल के चयन, आवाजाही, सुरक्षा, बिजली, पानी समेत अन्य प्रकार की व्यवस्थाओं को लेकर चार्ट बनाया जा रहा।

कार्गो और इंटरनेशनल की कम से कम एक फ्लाइट शुरू करने पर विचार कर रहा। दिसंबर तक उड़ानों

की संख्या बढ़ा दी जाएगी। विमान सेवा शुरू करने के लिए एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस मिलने का इंतजार है।



Jagdish Lal Sehgal

Manish Kumar and Rajesh Sharma

RP Mittal

CPS Teotia and Yogendra Garg

Y Kumar

An evening of learning and legacy



Marking an evening dedicated to learning and culture, the Ek Soach Saathiya Foundation (ESSF) hosted its Symposium on Education for All at the Airport Authority Officers' Institute. The gathering, held with much enthusiasm, brought together dignitaries, educationists and cultural patrons, with chief guests **Yogendra Garg**, Member, CBIC, and **Manish Kumar**, Chief Commissioner, Delhi Zone, in attendance.

One of the defining moments of the symposium was the awarding of 42 scholarships to meritorious students from marginalised backgrounds, an initiative that underlined ESSF's mission of empowerment through education. "Our work is built on the belief that every child deserves a chance to learn, grow and lead," said **Jagdish Lal Sehgal**, Director, ESSF.

The evening then transitioned into a vibrant cultural programme that celebrated India's artistic diversity. Audiences were treated to a mesmerising Bharatanatyam recital, an energetic Tabla performance and soulful vocal renditions.

Founded during the pandemic under the leadership of **Rakesh Gupta**, ESSF has since grown into a people's movement for social good. Alongside its work in education, the foundation actively champions causes such as environmental conservation through tree plantations and anti-plastic campaigns, while continuing to nurture the country's cultural heritage.

Navi Mum airport inauguration postponed due to heavy rains

Air India to begin ops once airport opens; inauguration now deferred to later date in October. Officials

Yogesh Naik, G Mohiuddin Jedy, and Shashank Rao

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI/NAVI MUMBAI: The inauguration of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), originally scheduled for September 30, has been postponed by at least a couple of weeks due to heavy rains across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and the Konkan area, according to officials familiar with the developments.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was expected to inaugurate the new airport, which is being developed in a public-private partnership (PPP) led by Adani Airports. However, an official from the Maharashtra chief minister's office said, "There is a lot of loose soil and muck on the roads leading up to the new airport in Ulwe, which may make it difficult for visitors to reach the airport."

As a result, the Prime Minister's Office informed the state government two days ago that Modi will not be coming on September 30. The inauguration has now been deferred to a later date in October. Modi was also scheduled to inaugurate the final phase of the Mumbai Metro 3 line from Worli to Cuffe Parade during the same trip. This too has been pushed to a later date, the official added.

Air India operations

Despite the postponement, preparations for NMIA's operational launch are underway. On Tuesday, Air India, following IndiGo and Akasa Air earlier this year, announced plans to begin commercial operations from the new airport once it opens.

In the airport's initial phase, Air India Express—Air India's low-cost carrier—will operate 20 daily flights connecting 15 Indian

Connecting NMIA

As the Navi Mumbai International Airport awaits inauguration, multiple infrastructure projects are gaining momentum to boost connectivity.

MUMBAI METRO LINE 8 (GOLD LINE)

Route: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Terminal 2 to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA)

Corridor length: 34.9 km
9 km underground. Remaining elevated along Sion-Panvel Highway

TIMELINE
Construction to begin: mid-2026
Services to begin: Late 2028 or early 2029

NERUL/BELAPUR - URAN SUBURBAN RAIL CORRIDOR

Route: Nerul/Belapur to Uran

Corridor Length: 27 km
Current Services: 40 daily
Planned Expansion: 60 daily services by October 2025

New Stations: Targhar (closest station to NMIA) and Gavhan (both 90% complete)

Daily Ridership: 330,000 passengers

KEY STOPS

- Chembur • Kurla
- Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) • Mankhurd • Vashi
- Nerul • Belapur

DAILY RIDERSHIP ESTIMATE
900,000 passengers

Metro Interchanges: 7
Estimated Cost: ₹20,000 crore

cities. The airline plans to scale up to 55 daily departures, including up to five international flights, by mid-2026, and aims to reach 60 daily departures by winter 2026.

"We look forward to commencing operations at Navi Mumbai International Airport, as Mumbai joins the league of world cities with more than one airport," said Air India chief executive and managing director Campbell Wilson.

NMIA is set to become the second major airport serving MMR, complementing the existing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA). The airport is being built in five phases, with the first phase

expected to open in late 2025. It will initially handle 20 million passengers and 500,000 metric tonnes of cargo annually, with full capacity projected at 90 million passengers and 3.2 million metric tonnes of cargo.

Connecting CSMIA, NMIA

As the airport awaits inauguration, multiple infrastructure projects are gaining momentum to boost connectivity.

The City and Industrial Development Corporation (Cidco) has floated a tender to appoint a consultant to review the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Mumbai Metro Line 8, also known as the Gold Line. This high-speed express metro will connect

CSMIA in Mumbai with NMIA.

The final DPR estimates the corridor length at 34.9 km, with an alignment change to run along the Sion-Panvel Highway after surfacing at Chhedha Nagar in Chembur. "Beyond its airport-to-airport role, Metro 8 is set to become a critical east-west transit spine, linking high-density residential and commercial zones and catalysing commercial activity in Navi Mumbai," said Cidco vice chairman and managing director Vijay Singhal.

Estimated to cost ₹20,000 crore, Metro 8 will be Mumbai's second metro corridor developed under the PPP model. It is projected to carry up to 900,000 passengers daily and alleviate

congestion on major routes like the Eastern Express Highway.

The proposed route will begin at Terminal 2 of CSMIA, run underground for approximately nine kilometers, and then surface to form an elevated corridor along the Sion-Panvel Highway. It will pass through key hubs including Kurla, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT), and Mankhurd, before crossing into Navi Mumbai and connecting Vashi, Nerul, and Belapur, culminating at NMIA.

Nerul/Belapur-Uran rail corridor expansion

In parallel, Central Railway (CR) is enhancing its suburban rail connectivity to NMIA by increasing services on the Nerul/Belapur-Uran corridor. With the airport expected to open for operations soon, CR is finalising the construction of two new stations, including one that directly connects to NMIA.

Currently, the 27-km corridor operates 40 services daily, but officials confirmed that 60 services—a 50% increase—will be introduced starting October. The change comes seven years after the corridor began operations in November 2018.

"This will benefit passengers, considering that the first phase of the new airport is expected to begin before the turn of this calendar year," said a CR official. "The headway between two train services will also reduce by an average of 15 minutes, which will help in easing the rush."

The corridor, which intersects with the Harbour line, serves approximately 330,000 daily commuters. The revised schedule will split the new services evenly: 30 in the Up direction and 30 in the Down direction. Officials added that services could be doubled in the future, depending on travel patterns once the airport becomes operational.

Two new stations—Targhar and Gavhan—are over 90% complete. Targhar, situated between Belapur and Bhandandongri, is the closest to the airport and will serve as a vital last-mile connection.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

UK arrests man over hack that disrupted European airports

REUTERS

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 24

BRITISH POLICE said on Wednesday a man had been arrested as part of an investigation into a ransomware attack against Collins Aerospace, owned by RTX, which knocked check-in systems at airports offline and caused widespread travel disruption across Europe.

The National Crime Agency said in a statement that the man, in his 40s, was arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of offences under the Computer Misuse Act and had since been released on conditional bail.

"Although this arrest is a positive step, the investigation into this incident is in its early stages and remains ongoing," NCA Deputy Director Paul Foster said.

It remained unclear which criminal group was behind last



Travellers at Heathrow airport after the cyberattack on Saturday. Reuters file

week's hack. An NCA spokesperson declined to provide further details. Ransomware gangs routinely publicise attacks and leak stolen data on dark web "leak sites" but websites that monitor those portals had not, as of Wednesday, detected any group claiming the hack.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Over 40 flights cancelled, 42 delayed at Kolkata airport

KOLKATA: Operations at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata, were severely disrupted on Tuesday after a night of torrential rain left access roads waterlogged and hampered crew movement.

Airport sources said more than 40 flights were cancelled while 42 others were delayed.

The impact was felt most on Tuesday morning, when many flights were scheduled to depart from Kolkata. Airport sources said pilots and cabin crew struggled to reach the airport on time through inundated roads, forcing the cancellation of more than 20 departures. Several connecting flights to Bhubaneswar, Patna and Guwahati were also scrapped, taking the total number of cancellations to over 40.

Airlines issued advisories urging passengers to plan travel with caution. IndiGo said some routes were impacted by heavy rain, leading to tempo-

rary blocks and diversions, and advised flyers to check updates via its app or website. SpiceJet warned that all departures and arrivals at Kolkata could be affected, while Air India urged passengers to allow extra time owing to traffic and waterlogging and to check flight status before heading out.

Around 3 am Monday, at the height of the downpour, an IndiGo flight from Pune attempted to land in Kolkata but was diverted to Bhubaneswar. It returned later in the day. Airport sources clarified that no other flights were diverted. Some parking bays and hangar areas on the apron saw water accumulation, which was pumped out. Passengers, however, complained that flight information display boards were not functioning properly on Tuesday morning.

Access roads to the airport were waterlogged, leaving vehicles stranded. MPO5T

आईजीआई, दक्षिण एशिया का शीर्ष मेगा हब हवाई अड्डा

कम लागत वाले वाहक हवाई अड्डों की श्रेणी में 11वें स्थान पर

नई दिल्ली 24 सितम्बर (नवोदय टाइम्स): दिल्ली का आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट दुनिया में सबसे अधिक कनेक्टिविटी वाले हवाई अड्डों की सूची में 39वें स्थान पर रहा जबकि लंदन का हीथ्रो हवाई अड्डा शीर्ष पर है। वर्ष 2024 में आईजीआई इस सूची में 24वें स्थान पर रहा था।

वैश्विक यात्रा उद्योग का डेटा मंच ओएजी ने बुधवार को दुनिया में सबसे अधिक जुड़े हुए हवाई अड्डों की रैंकिंग पर आधारित मेगा हब्स 2025 रिपोर्ट जारी की। इस सूची के मुताबिक, 178 संपर्कों की पेशकश करता है और यह 157 गंतव्यों से जुड़ा हुआ है। सर्वाधिक कनेक्टिविटी वाले शीर्ष 10 हवाई अड्डों में लंदन के हीथ्रो

के बाद इस्तांबुल और एम्सटर्डम हवाई अड्डे क्रमशः दूसरे एवं तीसरे स्थान पर हैं। अन्य शीर्ष हवाई अड्डों में कुआलालंपुर एवं फ्रैंकफर्ट, शामिल हैं। कम लागत वाले वाहक हवाई अड्डों की श्रेणी में आईजीआई 11वें स्थान पर है जबकि मुंबई हवाई अड्डा 14वें स्थान पर है।

■ वर्ष 2024 में IGI इस सूची में 24वें स्थान पर था



रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि आईजीआई दक्षिण एशिया का शीर्ष मेगा हब हवाई अड्डा है। ओएजी ने यह रिपोर्ट सितंबर, 2023 से अगस्त, 2024 तक के डेटा के आधार पर तैयार की है। इसमें 100 सबसे बड़े घरेलू और 100 सबसे बड़े अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों के कुल निर्धारित सीटों के आधार पर सभी संभावित कनेक्शन का विश्लेषण किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Drones over Copenhagen airport affect flights

ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ Copenhagen (Denmark)

A skilled drone pilot flew two to three large unidentified drones over Copenhagen Airport on Monday night, shutting down the airspace for hours as the unknown perpetrator appeared to be showing off their capabilities over Scandinavia's largest airport, police said on Tuesday.

Officials chose not to shoot down the drones because the risk was too great because of the airport being full of passengers, the planes on the runways and nearby fuel depots. Jes Jespersen, senior

police inspector of the Copenhagen Police, said during a news conference.

Jespersen called the pilot "a capable actor" and said the culprit seemed intent on showing off their skills and possibly practicing their techniques. The drones disappeared after several hours.

There were no signs that the drone pilot intended to cause harm to anyone, he added. The drones' lights turned on and off and appeared to engage in different flight patterns.

"It all indicates that you are not out to attack anyone, but you are out to show off and

maybe to practice," he said of the pilot.

Still, authorities couldn't rule out the possibility of the drones being part of a Russian hybrid attack, he said. The two to three drones appeared to have flown many kilometers to reach the airport. Investigators are looking at how the drones reached the airport — whether it was by land or possibly on boats coming through the strategic straits into the Baltic Sea.

Flights at the airport resumed early Tuesday, though delays and cancellations continued through the morning. "Copenhagen

Airport has reopened after being closed due to drone activity. However, there will be delays and some cancelled departures. Passengers are advised to check with their airline for further information," its official website said.

A drone incident the same evening at the airport in Oslo, Norway, forced all traffic to move to one runway, according to Norwegian broadcaster NRK. Traffic later returned to normal and it's unclear who was responsible.

Jespersen said nothing immediately linked the Oslo and Copenhagen incidents,

but officials would look into any potential ties.

Security concerns in northern Europe are heightened following an increase in Russian sabotage activities and multiple drones and fighter jet incursions into NATO airspace in recent weeks. In 2023, London's Gatwick Airport closed its runway for almost an hour after a drone was reported nearby. In December 2018, more than 140,000 travellers were stranded or delayed during the Christmas season after dozens of drone sightings shut down Gatwick for parts of three consecutive days.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Drones over Copenhagen airport affect flights

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A skilled drone pilot flew two to three large unidentified drones over Copenhagen Airport on Monday night, shutting down the airspace for hours as the unknown perpetrator appeared to be showing off their capabilities over Scandinavia's largest airport, police said on Tuesday.

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Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

एयरपोर्ट पर आए दिन बिगड़ रहा शेड्यूल, यात्री परेशान एक फ्लाइट रद्द-आधा दर्जन की देरी से हुई आवाजाही

जयपुर @ पत्रिका. जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर मंगलवार को लगभग आधा दर्जन फ्लाइटों की आवाजाही देरी से हुई, वहीं एक फ्लाइट का संचालन रद्द कर दिया गया। इससे यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा।

एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के अनुसार, इंडिगो एयरलाइन की कोलकाता से दोपहर 1:50 बजे जयपुर आने वाली फ्लाइट 5 घंटे की देरी से पहुंची। इसके अलावा, कोलकाता से शाम 6:25 बजे आने वाली फ्लाइट, एयर इंडिया एयरलाइंस की शाम 6 बजे आने वाली फ्लाइट और इंडिगो

एयरलाइन की उदयपुर से रात 8 बजे आने वाली फ्लाइट भी आधा-आधा घंटे की देरी से जयपुर पहुंची। जयपुर से शाम 6:10 बजे कोलकाता जाने वाली फ्लाइट का संचालन रद्द कर दिया गया। इसके अलावा, इंडिगो एयरलाइन की जयपुर से रात 9:20 बजे पुणे जाने वाली फ्लाइट एक घंटे की देरी से, शाम 5:30 बजे उदयपुर जाने वाली फ्लाइट 45 मिनट की देरी से रवाना हुई। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की शाम 6:35 बजे मुंबई जाने वाली फ्लाइट और शाम 7 बजे हैदराबाद जाने वाली फ्लाइट भी आधा-आधा घंटे की देरी से रवाना हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

7 pumps drain out water as 55 flights cancelled at city airport

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, 23 September

Air traffic at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (CCU) was severely hit on Tuesday as 55 flights, including 28 arrivals and 27 departures, were cancelled between midnight and 1 p.m., officials said. Airport data showed most cancellations were attributed to "bad weather at CCU," though a few were marked "operational." The affected flights included services to and from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Imphal, and international destinations such as Dubai and Bangkok.

The disruptions came as Kolkata reeled under heavy rainfall and waterlogging, which also triggered multiple deaths from electrocution in the city. The relentless downpour

caused massive flooding across the city, leaving thousands of commuters stranded and severely affecting transport services. Flight operations at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport were disrupted Tuesday morning, with at least 11 scheduled arrivals delayed between midnight and 1 p.m., as heavy overnight rainfall battered the city and left much of it waterlogged, airport officials said.

The affected flights included services from both domestic and international destinations, such as Bangkok, Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Imphal, according to airport data. All the flights were listed under the "J - Scheduled" category, with statuses marked delayed. The first delay occurred shortly after midnight when

IndiGo flight 6E0319 from Ahmedabad, scheduled to arrive at 12.40 a.m., touched down late and was on chocks at 1.00 a.m. Thai Airways flight TG0313 from Bangkok, expected at 12.55 a.m., landed at 1.06 a.m., followed by SpiceJet flight SL0242 from Bangkok's Don Mueang, which arrived at 1.52 a.m. instead of 1.35 a.m. IndiGo flight 6E6921 from Pune, due at 3.10 a.m., did not land until 7.01 a.m.

Another IndiGo service, flight 6E7562 from Dehradun, arrived at 11.08 a.m., nearly three hours after its scheduled 8.45 a.m. arrival. Arrivals from Imphal were also hit: Air India Express flight IX1591 landed at 12.53 p.m. instead of 9.40 a.m., while IndiGo flight 6E7014 reached Kolkata at 12.13 p.m., three hours late. From Patna, Star Air's flight SG0621 arrived

at 11.10 a.m. instead of 10.30 a.m. IndiGo flight 6E0513 from Delhi landed at 11.23 a.m., 40 minutes behind schedule, while another service, flight 6E2589 from Hyderabad, was delayed until 11.17 a.m. IndiGo's Jaipur service, flight 6E0207, touched down at 11.31 a.m., 26 minutes late.

While airport authorities cited "operational reasons" for some of the delays, officials did not immediately confirm whether weather conditions in Kolkata contributed to the disruptions. The city received very heavy rainfall overnight, which left several arterial roads submerged under waist-deep water and caused widespread disruption to transport and daily life. At least, seven people were killed in electrocution incidents across Kolkata on Tuesday morning, police said.

A Metro City Drowns, A River Dies And A Volcano Erupts

8 dead as a near-cloudburst dunks Kol days before festival

7km Tall Cloud Column Dumps 252mm In 7 Hrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: At least eight people died in Kolkata Tuesday as a 7km column of cloud dumped 252mm of rain – almost 20% of what the city during the entire year – in the span of seven hours overnight, submerging the city that was all decked up for Durga Puja in less than a week.

The deaths, all from electrocution in different city spots, occurred when most of the victims came in contact with power cables and lamp-posts while wading or cycling through flooded streets.

The Bengal govt held power utility CESC responsible for the casualties and asked

91 FLIGHTS CANCELLED, TRAINS HIT, SCHOOLS SHUT



An iconic Kolkata yellow taxi breaks down on a flooded street

the company to compensate the victims' families. CM Mamata Banerjee said she spoke to CESC chairperson Sanjiv Goenka. "I have never seen ra-

in like this. It's so unfortunate that people have lost their lives. Their families must be given jobs by CESC," she said.

Rain started pelting the ci-

> 98mm of rain in 1 hour (3-4am), just short of the 100mm criteria for a cloudburst

> 252mm recorded at Alipore stn from 11.30pm to 6.30am, nearly 20% of Kolkata's normal monsoon rainfall of 1,345.5mm; 81% of Sept rain quota. City's wettest spot: Garia (332mm)

> 369.6mm | Kolkata's highest 24-hr rain, on Sept 28, 1978

> Power supply to 1 lakh households cut off as precautionary measure

> 91 flights cancelled, 95 delayed; many passengers unable to reach airport. 30 suburban trains cancelled, long-distance trains rescheduled

ty around 11.30pm Monday and continued almost through the night till around 6.30am.

▶ Continued on P 4

Flyers grounded at Kolkata airport, 91 flights cancelled

▶ From P1

The most intense spell was between 3am and 4am, when Kolkata received 98mm of rain.

Thousands of travellers were stranded at Kolkata airport, with 49 departing flights and 42 arrivals cancelled until 7.30pm. Waterlogging across the city also held up airline crew and flyers, delaying 62 departures. Airport officials said 187 flights were affected by the late-monsoon dunking. These included international flights to Hanoi, Phuket, Dhaka and Chittagong.

There was flooding in ne-



Met office said a cloud build-up caused by a low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal led to the deluge

arly the entire city, compounded by high tide in the Hooghly.

The electrocution deaths were reported in Ballygunge,

Gariahat, Netaji Nagar, Behala, Ekbalpore, Haridevpur, Kabardanga and Beniapukur in south and central Kolkata.

A CESC official said three of the deaths were caused by people coming in contact with lampposts and one with a traffic light, while the rest were electrocuted inside their homes or factories. Grid supply to over one lakh homes was switched off till water receded, he said.

The Met office said a massive cloud build-up caused by a low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal led to the deluge. Kolkata's total annual average rainfall stands at 1,345mm.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

पायलट संघ ने एअर इंडिया हादसे की जांच को बताया पक्षपाती

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय पायलट संघ (एफआईपी) ने केंद्र से अहमदाबाद में हुए एअर इंडिया विमान हादसे की न्यायिक जांच कराने की मांग की है।

एफआईपी ने आरोप लगाया कि विमान हादसे की वर्तमान जांच प्रभावित लगती है और इसे तुरंत रोका जाना चाहिए। एफआईपी की ओर से यह मांग उस समय आई है, जब हादसे

में मारे गए पायलट कैप्टन सुमित सभरवाल के पिता पुष्कराज सभरवाल ने भी केंद्र सरकार से औपचारिक जांच की अपील की थी। एफआईपी ने 22 सितंबर को नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू को पत्र लिखकर कहा, पक्षपाती घरेलू जांच भारत की वैश्विक एविएशन छवि को नुकसान पहुंचाएगी। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Godrej's aerospace biz to double revenues in 5-6 years

POSITIVE OUTLOOK. With long-term contracts, 'aviation to be a consistent growth driver'

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Riding high on the global demand for aerospace components, Godrej Enterprises' aerospace business plans to double its revenues over the next five to six years.

At present, the combined aerospace and defence business generates around ₹700 crore. Notably, approximately 40 per cent of this revenue is derived from exports.

The company supplies high-precision components for engines such as the 'LEAP' and 'Trent' to leading global OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers).

Speaking to *businessline*, Maneck Behramkamdin, Executive Vice-President and Business Head of Godrej's aerospace business, said civil aviation continues to be a strategic growth area for the company.

"With long-term contracts in place with leading OEMs, we expect civil aviation to be a consistent driver of growth, balancing our defence and space programmes," Behramkamdin told *businessline*.

This strategy, he said, will position India as a reliable hub for high-precision aerospace manufacturing.

"Our goal is to demon-



PRECISION SUPPLIER. The firm supplies high-precision components for 'LEAP' and 'Trent' engines to global OEMs

strate that India can deliver complex, safety-critical components that meet the most stringent global standards. This builds confidence among international OEMs and strengthens India's role in the global supply chain," he said.

Accordingly, Godrej is constructing a 100-acre greenfield aerospace components facility in Khalapur, Maharashtra.

The facility is scheduled to be operational by 2027 and will house two units of approximately 6.5 lakh sq ft each.

Besides, Behramkamdin cited that the company has already invested ₹500 crore in the project, which will provide the scale required to serve both domestic and export aerospace programmes.

Notably, Godrej has built

its capabilities to participate in complex engine programmes.

SAFRAN CONTRACT
Earlier this month, Godrej signed a landmark five-year contract with SAFRAN Aircraft Engines to manufacture front and rear Titanium material-based complex ventilation assemblies for the LEAP engines.

"This partnership strengthens our long-standing relationship with SAFRAN and advances the vision of 'Make in India, for the world,' by producing complex, safety-critical components in India," Behramkamdin said.

Presently, the 'LEAP' is one of the world's most widely used commercial aircraft engines.

"The project involves

highly advanced processes such as complex machining, precision welding, and non-destructive testing, ensuring compliance with the most stringent global civil aviation standards," he said.

Furthermore, Godrej sees significant growth potential in India's civil aviation market.

FASTEST-GROWING

"India is one of the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world. As Indian carriers expand their fleets and place orders for new-generation aircraft, we are strategically positioned to supply components domestically while leveraging our global export capabilities," Behramkamdin said.

He noted that Godrej works closely with DRDO's (Defence Research and Development Organisation) Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), manufacturing eight modules of the DRDO engine.

The company, he said, has signed MoUs with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) to develop flight control actuators for the AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft) programme and with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) for critical defence and aerospace platforms.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Pilots' grouping seeks judicial probe in Air India plane crash

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has urged the government to order a judicial probe into the Air India Dreamliner crash that killed 260 people, alleging that the ongoing investigation was "compromised" and should be halted. The FIP's demand comes less than a month after Pushkaraj Sabharwal, father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal who was one of the pilots of the ill-fated Air India plane, sought a formal investigation by the central government even as the probe by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is in progress. "A judicial inquiry is a necessary mechanism for the ministry to cure these profound procedural defects and mitigate its own legal and reputational exposure," FIP said. ¶¶



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

पायलट एसोसिएशन ने की अहमदाबाद विमान दुर्घटना की न्यायिक जांच की मांग

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: भारतीय पायलट महासंघ (एफआइपी) ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय को पत्र लिखकर 12 जून, 2025 को अहमदाबाद में हुई विमान दुर्घटना की न्यायिक जांच का आदेश देने की मांग की है। इसने विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआइबी) द्वारा की जा रही जांच में खामी का आरोप लगाते हुए इसे रोकने की मांग की है। एफआइपी की मांग दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान के पायलटों में से एक कैप्टन सुमीत सभरवाल के पिता द्वारा केंद्र से जांच की मांग के बाद आई है।

एफआइपी ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू को लिखे एक पत्र में कहा, "जांच ब्यूरो ने मौजूदा जांच की सत्यनिष्ठा, निष्पक्षता और वैधता से मौलिक एवं अपरिवर्तनीय रूप से समझौता किया है।"



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

'अहमदाबाद विमान दुर्घटना की हो न्यायिक जांच'

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : भारतीय पायलट महासंघ (एफआइपी) ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय को पत्र लिखकर 12 जून, 2025 को अहमदाबाद में हुई एअर इंडिया विमान दुर्घटना की न्यायिक जांच का आदेश देने की मांग की है। साथ ही विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआइबी) की जांच में खामी का आरोप लगाते हुए इसे रोकने की मांग की है। एफआइपी की यह मांग दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान के पायलटों में से एक कैप्टन सुमीत सभरवाल के पिता पुष्करराज सभरवाल द्वारा केंद्र सरकार से औपचारिक जांच की मांग के बाद आई है।

5,500 पायलटों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाली एफआइपी ने 22 सितंबर को नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू को लिखे पत्र में कहा, एएआइबी ने मौजूदा जांच की सत्यनिष्ठा, निष्पक्षता और वैधता से मौलिक एवं अपरिवर्तनीय रूप से समझौता किया है। एक दोषपूर्ण घरेलू जांच वैश्विक विमानन समुदाय में भारत की स्थिति को कमजोर करती है। इसलिए न्यायिक जांच न सिर्फ न्याय का मामला है, बल्कि मंत्रालय के लिए इन गंभीर प्रक्रियागत खामियों को दूर करने और अपनी कानूनी तथा प्रतिष्ठा

भारतीय पायलट महासंघ ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू को लिखा पत्र

एएआइबी द्वारा की जा रही जांच में खामी का लगाया आरोप



अहमदाबाद विमान हादसा।

फाइल

संबंधी जोखिम को कम करने के लिए एक आवश्यक तंत्र भी है।" एफआइपी ने कहा, एएआइबी का आचरण "मात्र प्रक्रियागत अनियमितता से आगे बढ़कर स्पष्ट पक्षपात व गैरकानूनी कार्रवाई के दायरे में पहुंच गया है। इसने वर्तमान जांच को अस्थिर बना दिया है। इसके संभावित निष्कर्षों से पायलटों के मनोबल पर असर पड़ने की संभावना है। पत्र में एएआइबी पर संरक्षित काकपिट वायस रिकार्डर की जानकारी लीक करके अपने ही नियमों का घोर उल्लंघन करने का

भी आरोप लगाया गया है। एफआइपी ने कहा, "विमान (दुर्घटनाओं और घटनाओं की जांच) नियम-2017 का नियम 17(5) स्पष्ट रूप से काकपिट वायस रिकार्डिंग (सीवीआर) की आडियो सामग्री के सार्वजनिक प्रकटीकरण पर रोक लगाता है। इस स्पष्ट कानूनी प्रतिबंध के बावजूद सीवीआर के चुनिंदा विवरण व्यव्याख्याएं व्यवस्थित रूप से मीडिया में लीक की गई हैं।" इसके परिणामस्वरूप 30 साल के उड़ान अनुभव और 15,000 घंटे से ज्यादा सुरक्षित उड़ान अनुभव वाले "एक प्रतिष्ठित पेशेवर का चरित्र हनन" हुआ है। एफआइपी ने कहा कि 2017 के नियमों के नियम 3 के तहत, जांच का एकमात्र उद्देश्य दुर्घटनाओं व घटनाओं को रोकना होगा, न कि दोष या दायित्व का बंटवारा करना।" एएआइबी की कार्रवाई इसका सीधा उल्लंघन है। एफआइपी ने चेतावनी दी कि यह आचरण "अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन संगठन के अनुलग्नक 13 की भावना का उल्लंघन करता है, जो सदस्य देशों को स्वतंत्र एवं निष्पक्ष जांच करने के लिए बाध्य करता है। एक दोषपूर्ण घरेलू जांच वैश्विक विमानन समुदाय में भारत की स्थिति को खतरे में डालती है।

All a-Board! India Turns Airbus Stop

Group's directors will meet in country this week for first time as govt pushes for local mfg

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: The board of Europe's largest aerospace group Airbus is set to meet in Delhi this week for the first time, underscoring India's growing pro-

minence as a global aviation and aerospace market.

Such meetings tend to happen in Europe, or in countries where the company has a large manufacturing presence. In 2018, the board met in China where Airbus has a final assembly line

for the A320 family aircraft.

Airbus directors will arrive in the national capital for an annual off-site strategy session, said people aware of the development.

The meeting is happening at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is pushing aerospace companies to undertake local manufacturing as part of the Make-in-India initiative.

With Indian carriers ordering more than 1,500 passenger and cargo planes, the government has been asking companies like Airbus and Boeing to start aircraft manufacturing in the country.

During their visit, the board members will meet top officials of the government and IndiGo and Air India — its two largest customers who are slated to take delivery of more than 1,000 Airbus planes in total over the next few years.

Key Hub for Global Ops

►► From Page 1

In 2023, IndiGo placed an order for 500 Airbus A320 family jets—the largest in commercial aviation history.

With Air India, Airbus is setting up one of the largest pilot training facilities in the region featuring 10 full flight simulators.

The directors will also visit Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) in Hyderabad and Dynamatic Technologies in Karnataka—currently its global Tier 1 suppliers.

The board of directors' visit signals India is a country of strategic importance to Airbus, not just as a vibrant and growing market but as a critical hub for global operations, an Airbus spokesperson said in respon-

se to queries from ET.

"We continue to further integrate India into our global value chain. This visit will serve to reinforce our commitment, cementing Airbus' role as a reliable partner of India," the spokesperson said.

Airbus has over the last few years been striving to enhance its manufacturing footprint in India. The company is setting up manufacturing lines for the C-295, a military transport aircraft, at Vadodara in Gujarat and one for civilian helicopters at Kolar in Karnataka.

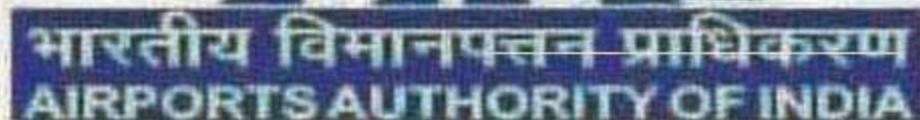
However, its approach towards commercial jets in India is mainly focused on increasing component sourcing from the country rather than setting up an assembly facility similar to China.

COMPONENT SOURCING

Airbus has more than 40 suppliers in India, sourcing components worth \$1.4 billion, which it plans to boost to \$2 billion by 2030. Earlier this year, responding to an ET query on Airbus' plans for a final assembly line in India, CEO Guillaume Faury said it may be in consideration for the next generation of planes, but for the current generation, it doesn't make sense for both India and Airbus.



Key Hub for Global Ops ►► 10



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

SAF tech gridlock could delay target of net-zero: IATA



THE GLOBAL
AIRLINE industry
has access to
enough

sustainable feedstock to
meet its net-zero emissions
target by 2050, but faces a
major hurdle in the slow
deployment of technologies
needed to convert these
feedstocks into sustainable
aviation fuel (SAF), according
to a new study released by
the International Air
Transport Association (IATA).



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Air India gears up for NMIA takeoff

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

Air India group on Tuesday announced its plan to commence commercial flights from the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), as the airport nears its inauguration date. Air India Express will daily operate 20 flights to 15 cities across the country. Mumbai metropolitan region's second airport, NMIA, is being prepared for its scheduled inauguration on September 30. IndiGo and Akasa Air also announced their plan to commence operations from the first day of the airport's operations.

In the first phase of the new airport's operations, Air India group's value carrier Air India Express is said to operate 20 daily departures, which will result in 40 air traffic movements (ATMs), connecting 15 Indian cities to and from NMIA. The airline group also intends to scale up to 55 departures by mid-2026, including up to 5 daily international flights.

Campbell Wilson, chief executive officer and managing director of Air India, said, "We look forward to commencing operations at Navi Mumbai International Airport, as Mumbai joins the league of world cities with more than one airport"

AIRLINES TO FLY FROM NMIA

INDIGO

18 departures daily;
first to announce ops

AKASA AIR

100 weekly flights;
largest percentage of
fleet

AIR INDIA

20 daily departures;
highest number of daily
departures



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Flight prices soar as festive season approach



UP State Bureau

VARANASI

As the festive season of Navratri, Dussehra, and Diwali approaches, flight ticket prices have more than doubled, causing hardship for travelers returning to Purvanchal. A significant portion of the seats, up to 75%, are already booked.

The highest demand is for flights from major metropolitan areas, including Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. Normally, a one-way ticket from Delhi to Varanasi costs

Tickets booked as festive season approached

around ₹3,000 to ₹3,500. However, for travel around Navratri, prices have surged to more than double that amount. Similarly, flights from Mumbai and Bengaluru are now priced at over ₹8,000. The sharp increase in prices is a direct result of the high demand for travel during the holiday season.



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

‘एअर इंडिया विमान हादसे की न्यायिक जांच की जाए’

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 24 सितंबर।

फेडरेशन आफ इंडियन पायलट्स (एफआईपी) ने सरकार से एअर इंडिया ड्रीमलाइनर दुर्घटना की न्यायिक जांच का आदेश देने का आग्रह किया है, जिसमें 260 लोग मारे गए थे। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि मौजूदा जांच को ‘प्रभावित’ किया गया है इसे रोक दिया जाना चाहिए।

एफआईपी की यह मांग, एअर इंडिया विमान के पायलटों में से एक कैप्टन सुमित सभरवाल के पिता पुष्कराज सभरवाल द्वारा केंद्र सरकार से औपचारिक जांच की

मांग के एक महीने से भी कम समय बाद आई है।

विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो (एएआईवी) द्वारा इस मामले की जांच की जा रही है। लगभग 5,500 पायलटों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले एफआईपी ने 22 सितंबर को नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू को लिखे एक पत्र में कहा कि एक दोषपूर्ण घरेलू जांच वैश्विक विमानन समुदाय में भारत की प्रतिष्ठा को खतरे में डालती है। न्यायिक जांच न केवल न्याय का मामला है, बल्कि मंत्रालय के लिए गंभीर प्रक्रियागत खामियों को दूर करने के लिए एक आवश्यक तंत्र भी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Pilots' body asks ministry for judicial probe into Ahmedabad plane crash

S LALITHA @NewDelhi

THE Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has written to the Civil Aviation Ministry demanding a judicial probe into the June 12 Air India flight AI171 crash in Ahmedabad that claimed 260 lives. The federation also plans to file a PIL in this connection in the Supreme Court shortly. It is demanding a court of inquiry (judicial probe) under Rule 12 of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017. "We will also be moving the Supreme Court early next week with a similar request," a source told this reporter.

The response follows the Supreme Court's castigation of the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AIB) on Monday for suggesting that pilot error caused the crash in its preliminary report submitted a month later (July 12).



The bench was responding to a plea by an NGO, Safety Matters Foundation, seeking an independent probe. The letter, dated September 22, is signed by the president of the FIP, which represents over 5,000 professional pilots and aviation professionals.

It suggested that the probe panel can be on the lines of the Court of Inquiry set up after the Mangalore accident on May 22, 2010, involving an Air India Express flight, which claimed 158 lives. "A Presiding Officer

which must be a retired Judge of the Supreme Court and a panel of unimpeachable, independent experts with knowledge of operational, aircraft maintenance, avionics and flight control systems," it said.

The letter to the ministry recalls that it had made a preliminary request in the aftermath of the accident for inclusion of subject-matter experts and a judicial inquiry. "This letter serves as a formal and urgent escalation of that position in light of grave and alarming developments," it said. It charged that the actions by the AIB have violated statutory rules and ethical norms. The letter alleged that a delegation of the AIB had made "an unsolicited visit" to the residence of Pushkar Raj Sabharwal, the 91-year-old bereaved father of deceased Pilot-in-Command Capt Sumeet Sabharwal, under the guise of offering condolences.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Cloud seeding project cleared for Oct-Nov

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Delhi is gearing up for India's first cloud seeding operations, aimed at providing relief from winter pollution, after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted permission for trials between October 1 and November 30, 2025.

The operations will be carried out by IIT Kanpur using aircraft VT-IIT (Cessna 206H) under strict safety and regulatory protocols.

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa announced the development on Tuesday, highlighting the historic nature of the initiative. "I have directed that the aircraft remain on standby. As soon as weather and scientific parameters are favourable, we will conduct cloud seeding trials in Delhi, first time in India, to provide immediate relief from pollution," he said.

The DGCA's approval outlines that all flights will follow Visual Flight Rules (VFR), with prior ATC clearances and coordination with AAI and airport authorities for NOTAMs.

Pilots must hold valid licenses, maintain medical fitness, and have prior experience in similar operations. Foreign crew members will not be involved, and aerial photography is prohibited.

Sirsa emphasised that the operations are part of Delhi's ongoing year-round clean air strategy.

"The cloud seeding trials will take place in October and November, subject to weather and inter-agency coordination," said the minister. Originally delayed from July, IIT Kanpur will proceed once conditions are optimal, marking India's first artificial rain initiative to combat Delhi's winter pollution.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Capital prepares for first artificial rain trials after DGCA approval

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @NewDelhi

THE Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted permission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to conduct cloud seeding operations over Delhi from October 1 to November 30 this year. The clearance allows the use of aircraft VT-IIT, a Cessna 206H, for the project.

Officials said the operations will be carried out under visual flight rules (VFR) with prior clearance from air traffic control and coordination with the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Safety protocols require that pilots hold valid professional licences, current medical certification, and prior experience in similar operations.

Flights will avoid prohibited areas and aerial photography will not be permitted. In addition, foreign crew will not be involved. Environment minister, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, said the aircraft would be kept on standby and trials would begin as soon as favourable weather



and cloud conditions emerge. "As soon as weather and scientific parameters are favourable, we will conduct cloud seeding trials in Delhi—first time in India—to provide immediate relief from pollution," he said.

The project is aimed at inducing artificial rain to help suppress air pollution during the capital's most polluted months. The city's air quality typically worsens in October and November due to a combination of crop stubble burning in neighbouring states, firecrackers during Diwali, and meteorological conditions that trap

Operations authorised from Oct 1 to Nov 30

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted permission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to conduct cloud seeding operations in Delhi from October 1 to Nov 30. It will be carried out under visual flight rules (VFR) with prior clearance from air traffic control and coordination with AAI.

pollutants close to the ground. IIT Kanpur had earlier secured approval for similar trials in July, but those were deferred after experts concluded that the conditions at the time would not yield meaningful results.

Officials said the current window has been chosen in anticipation of suitable cloud cover in the post-monsoon season. However, the trials will depend on real-time weather conditions and coordination among multiple agencies. If successful, this would mark the country's first operational attempt at using artificial rain.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

एफआईपी की एयर इंडिया विमान दुर्घटना की न्यायिक जांच की मांग

मुंबई/नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन पायलट्स (एफआईपी) ने सरकार से एयर इंडिया ड्रीमलाइनर दुर्घटना की न्यायिक जांच का आदेश देने का आग्रह किया है, जिसमें 260 लोग मारे गए थे। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि मौजूदा जांच को 'प्रभावित' किया गया है और इसे रोक दिया जाना चाहिए।

एफआईपी की यह मांग, एअर इंडिया विमान के पायलटों में से एक कैप्टन सुमित सभरवाल के पिता पुष्कराज सभरवाल द्वारा केंद्र सरकार से औपचारिक जांच की मांग के एक महीने से भी कम समय बाद आई है। विमान दुर्घटना जांच ब्यूरो द्वारा इस मामले की जांच की जा रही है। लगभग 5500 पायलटों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले एफआईपी ने 22 सितम्बर को नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू को लिखे एक पत्र में कहा, एक दोषपूर्ण घरेलू जांच वैश्विक विमानन समुदाय में भारत की प्रतिष्ठा को खतरे में डालती है। इसलिए न्यायिक जांच न केवल न्याय का मामला है, बल्कि मंत्रालय के लिए इन गंभीर प्रक्रियागत खामियों को दूर करने और अपने कानूनी तथा प्रतिष्ठा संबंधी जोखिम को कम करने के लिए एक आवश्यक तंत्र भी है। पत्र में कहा गया है कि एएआईबी की निजी, प्रशासनिक प्रक्रिया के विपरीत, अदालत शपथ के तहत गवाही देने के लिए बाध्य कर सकती है, समन जारी कर सकती है, तथा बॉयंग और जनरल इलेक्ट्रिक जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय निर्माताओं सहित किसी भी पक्ष से सभी दस्तावेजों को प्रस्तुत करने की मांग कर सकती है। पत्र पर टिप्पणी मांगने के लिए मंत्रालय को भेजे गए प्रश्न का तत्काल कोई जवाब नहीं मिला। इस बीच 22 सितम्बर को सुप्रीम कोर्ट की एक पीठ ने केंद्र और डीजीसीए को दुर्घटना की स्वतंत्र, निष्पक्ष और शीघ्र जांच के पहलू पर नोटिस जारी किया, क्योंकि इसमें यह भी उल्लेख किया गया कि पीड़ितों के परिवारों की गोपनीयता और सम्मान का तत्व भी शामिल था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

पाकिस्तानी विमानों के भारतीय एयरस्पेस पर पाबंदी बढ़ी

नई दिल्ली। भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच एयरस्पेस विवाद लगातार बढ़ता जा रहा है। भारत ने सोमवार को पाकिस्तानी एयरलाइंस और विमानों के लिए अपने हवाई क्षेत्र में प्रवेश पर लगे प्रतिबंध को एक महीने के लिए बढ़ा दिया है। अब यह प्रतिबंध 24 अक्टूबर सुबह 5.29 बजे तक लागू रहेगा। यह फैसला भारत की एविएशन अथॉरिटी की तरफ से नया नोटिस टू एयरमेन (नोटम) जारी करके लिया गया। इससे पहले पाकिस्तान ने दो दिन पहले ही अपने हवाई क्षेत्र को भारतीय विमानों और एयरलाइंस के लिए बंद करने का ऐलान किया था। पाकिस्तान का यह नया नोटम भी 24 अक्टूबर की तारीख और समय तक

के लिए प्रभावी है। इस तरह दोनों देशों के बीच एयरस्पेस प्रतिबंध अब लगातार छठे महीने में प्रवेश कर गया है। अप्रैल में जम्मू-कश्मीर के पहलगाम में हुए आतंकी हमले के बाद नई दिल्ली और इस्लामाबाद के रिश्तों में तनाव गहराया था। इसके बाद पाकिस्तान ने 24 अप्रैल को अचानक कदम उठाते हुए भारतीय विमानों और एयरलाइंस को अपने हवाई क्षेत्र का इस्तेमाल करने से रोक दिया। शुरुआत में यह प्रतिबंध केवल एक महीने के लिए था। भारत ने 30 अप्रैल को जवाबी कार्रवाई करते हुए पाकिस्तानी विमानों और एयरलाइंस, जिसमें सैन्य उड़ानें भी शामिल हैं, के लिए अपने एयरस्पेस को बंद कर दिया।

91 flights grounded

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: Nearly 100 flights were cancelled and 95 delayed at the Calcutta airport on Tuesday, leaving thousands of passengers stranded as torrential rain battered the city from midnight.

According to airport officials, 42 arriving flights and 49 departures were cancelled, while 33 arrivals and 62 departures faced delays, many stretching into late evening. Several flights were grounded as pilots and crew members couldn't reach the airport on time due to waterlogged roads.

"The heavy rain since midnight forced cancellations and delays in the morning. Later, the cascading effect and stranded crew led to further disruption," said an airport official.

Many passengers missed their flights despite delays, unable to make it through flooded streets. Airlines and airport counters were inundated with calls and requests to reschedule flights, with long queues forming near Gate 3C of the departure level as passengers



Fliers in long queues at airline counters on Tuesday

sought refunds or new bookings.

Sharmin Akhtar, a student from Agartala, had a 6.45pm IndiGo flight home for the Puja holidays. "Because of the waterlogging, I left my home in Howrah early, but after reaching the airport, I was told the flight had been cancelled," she said. IndiGo rescheduled her for Wednesday. "But I'll have to stay overnight at the airport, it's impossible to return home, my neighbourhood is completely waterlogged."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 ►

91 flights grounded

► **FROM PAGE 7**

A Salt Lake resident headed for Salem via Chennai was forced to abandon his trip on Tuesday. His 11.30am flight to Chennai was delayed by over two hours, making it impossible to catch the connecting flight. He returned home and was rebooked for Wednesday.

Pictures of waterlogged taxiways at the airport circulated on social media, further highlighting the chaos. Airlines issued public advisories throughout the day, warning passengers of traffic disruptions in the city.

"Kolkata travellers! Due to today's downpour, several roads across #Kolkata are currently blocked or experiencing slow movement," IndiGo posted on X. "Please allow extra



The city airport on Tuesday morning

time, take an alternate route if possible, and check your flight status on our website or app."

Airport authorities said operations remained affected till late evening.

Family wins ₹12k after flight delay spoils trip

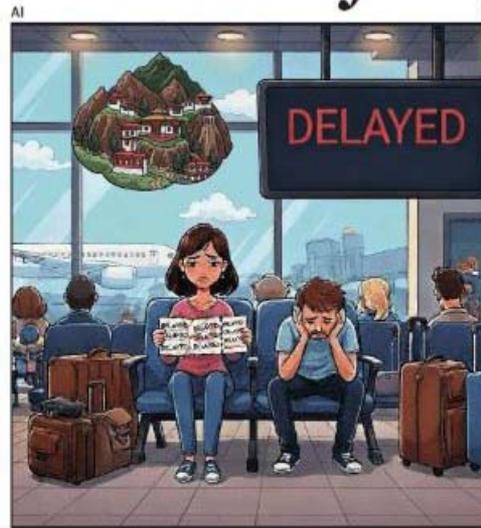
Vindhya.Pabolu
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Bengaluru: Delays in flight departure threw a wrench into a Sahakaranagar family's holiday to Bhutan and cost SpiceJet more than Rs 12,000 in compensation. Repeated changes caused "mental ag-



ny and financial loss" to the passengers, the Bengaluru I additional district consumer commission noted while delivering the order.

RN Nagaraj had booked tickets with SpiceJet to travel from Bengaluru to Bagdogra in West Bengal on April 4 last year. Based on their time of arrival at Bagdogra airport, he had meticulously planned their onward journey for the holiday. They had booked a package tour from Bagdogra to Bhutan from April 4 to 11. Excited, the family reached Bengaluru airport on April 4 for the 1.30pm flight, but was met with disappointment as SpiceJet rescheduled the depart-



ure time. They were initially told there was a delay of two hours and the flight would take off at 3.30pm. However, the airline kept delaying and the family finally departed around 5am the following day.

SpiceJet arranged hotel accommodation for the family of four on April 4, but they endured considerable inconvenience as Nagaraj's meticulous holiday plan collapsed. The trip, which was to start on April 4, got delayed by

a day and he was forced to alter his entire journey. Nagaraj incurred additional expenses of around Rs 30,000 towards changes, stay and transport, as well as legal charges of Rs 3,500 thereafter.

After returning from the trip, Nagaraj filed a consumer complaint on Nov 26, 2024. According to the complaint, the airline informed them about the first delay after the original departure time had already passed.

LONG WAIT & EXTRA COSTS

- ▶ The family's Bengaluru-Bagdogra flight, scheduled for 1.30pm on April 4, 2024, was repeatedly delayed and finally took off only at 5am the following day
- ▶ Despite airline arranging hotel stay, delays forced the family to alter entire travel itinerary and bear additional costs of Rs 30,000
- ▶ RN Nagaraj filed a consumer complaint on Nov 26, 2024, alleging SpiceJet informed them of first delay after scheduled departure time
- ▶ In July 2025, consumer forum ordered Rs 12,000 compensation (including Rs 2,000 litigation costs) with 7.5% interest, rejecting SpiceJet's defence of "uncontrollable operational reasons"

Operational reasons

The commission issued a notice to the airline after admitting the complaint, and SpiceJet's counsel sought time to file a response. However, the airline failed to file its response even as the deadline passed, resulting in the commission hearing the matter ex parte. SpiceJet sought more time, but the commission rejected the request. It allowed the airline's counsel to participate in the proceedings.

SpiceJet argued that the complaint was not maintainable, claiming operational reasons beyond its control, such as weather issues. It maintained that it was not liable for connecting travel losses. The commission noted that the airline had failed to either provide satisfactory service during the wait or offer a convincing explanation for rescheduling. It pointed out that SpiceJet also did not produce any cogent evidence of "uncontrollable operational reasons" while the complainant substantiated his inconvenience through documents.

It rejected SpiceJet's defence that the complaint was filed against a "non-legal or non-existent entity," holding that the airline's authorised person was rightly made a party and such a plea could not be accepted. The commission bench, comprising Syed Anser Kaleem and Sharavathi SM, ordered SpiceJet to pay Rs 10,000 with an interest of 7.5% from the date of the complaint as compensation, apart from Rs 2,000 as litigation costs.

Saurabh.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Depending on which airline you choose to fly, the travel time mentioned in the ticket for a Delhi-Mumbai flight can be less than two hours or stretch to almost three. How's that possible? Most airlines fly either Boeing or Airbus planes, so they fly at roughly the same speed, more or less at the same altitude, and follow similar routes. So, how do you account for the extra one hour of flying time? That's where OTP comes in. No, not the one-time password you are so familiar with, but On-Time Performance. Airlines, which, understandably, make a virtue out of punctuality, have long since realised that the safest way to ensure an on-time (or even before-time) performance is by inflating the journey time. That makes late arrival rather difficult.

Basically, airlines do a careful calculation of all factors at play from before a plane takes off till it lands. To be fair, there are many factors an airline doesn't control. Like bad weather or congestion on the ground and in air before landing in some choked airport like Delhi or Mumbai. Some, though, are very much the responsibility of airlines, like ensuring there are no snags and taking care of other logistical issues like making sure crew are present.

Wide Margins

Technically, a flight needs to be pushed back from the boarding gate within 15 minutes of its scheduled departure time to be counted as an on-time departure for the purpose of flight statistics, which are maintained by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The scheduled departure and arrival time of a flight is calculated keeping the historical and seasonal flying time (from getting airborne to touchdown) between the origin and destination city pairs and the taxi time at either airport. This is known as the "chocks off" to "chocks on" time, referring to the wedges placed in front and behind aircraft wheels before it is pushed back and after it lands to prevent accidental rolling when parked.

"The usual Delhi-Mumbai flying time is one hour and 40 minutes. Add to that 10 minutes of taxi each at IGIA (Delhi) and CSMA (Mumbai), giving a total time of two hours. Then, to factor in airport congestion and hovering at destination, the taxi time was increased to, from 20 to, say, 27 minutes. Some airlines added further buffer to their block time — the time an aircraft can start taxiing to the time it comes to a halt at its destination — to ensure they can announce an on-time arrival," said one pilot. If these inflated flying times are about airlines being smart, it is also a practice that has been driven by growing competition and hectic schedules.

Therefore, unless you are flying on a particularly bad weather day, or a particularly unreliable airline with poor aircraft maintenance/unpaid employees/jet fuel suppliers, or to and from

Choked airports, weather events, maintenance and staff woes, there's much that can hold up flight operations. But carriers have a simple strategy to stay on top of flight schedules: inflating the duration of the journey

How India's airlines turn delays into before-time arrival



Photos by representatives of airports

particularly choked airport/s, you are unlikely to miss the boast of "another on-time arrival" on touchdown at the destination by the crew. Queries to big and upcoming airlines — Air India, IndiGo and Akasa — on this issue went unanswered.

It was in 2003 that Indian skies started getting low-cost carriers (LCCs) that democratised air travel. And, with that, air traffic, terminal and runway congestion, too, became a fact of life.

"About two decades back, the total travel time from Delhi to Mumbai was given as 1 hour and 55 minutes. Then, congestion checked in and planes would routinely get delayed on ground and in air. Some smart private airlines started adding a buffer to the journey time to report on-time arrivals. Soon, almost everyone started to do the same, at least on city pairs with choked airports," said a pilot with over four decades of flying experience. Which brings us to today, when the exact same aircraft type often has different travel times on the same sector. But there's

more here than would appear obvious.

Bragging Rights

Arriving ahead of or on schedule triggers a virtuous cascading effect for the airline: the plane can then operate its next flight on time as well with the same buffer for the flight after and so on. That is unless it's caught in a big weather event like heavy rain or fog or develops a snag en-route or on landing and has to be grounded for checks and maintenance. But there are other reasons why there can be no fixed or standard travel time between two destinations common to all airlines.

How long it takes to fly between any two destinations depends on a number of things, like the routings given (direct or not), weather, wind flow and airport congestion. "If an aircraft gets tailwinds, it will reach its destination faster while headwinds will slow it down. Winters see strong west-to-east jetstreams, which means an Ahmedabad-Kolkata flight could take 10-15 minutes less than the Kolkata-Ahmedabad journey and a London-Delhi nonstop can take up to two hours less than the Delhi-London," said a senior commander.

DGCA issues monthly reports for domestic air travel that include, among other data points, OTP data of scheduled domestic airlines based on inputs from six metro airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kolkata. This "data" is crucial for airlines to project themselves as punctual in the eyes of the domestic traveller.

But tinkering with travel times is not done just for reasons of OTP. Sometimes, Indian carriers that oper-

ate long hauls, say between Delhi and London, report an under 10-hour flying time to ensure they can make do with two pilots. Reporting journey time of over 10 hours means they will have to fly with three pilots, which adds to their cost and also requires them to inform DGCA. The regulator routinely flags this issue with Indian carriers whenever it detects anomalies over under-reporting of travel time with a view to carrying fewer than required pilots.

When it comes to reporting inflated travel times on domestic routes, it may suit the airline well, though it also creates several problems on ground.

Blame Game

Airlines and operators of busy airports blame each other for air traffic congestion, which is among the potential delays factored in while inflating journey times. While airlines say delays in getting clearance for take-off from or landing at choked hubs is beyond their control, airport operators say that flights failing to operate on time upsets their slot allocation and accentuates OTP issues.

It was in 2003 that Indian skies started getting low-cost carriers (LCCs) that democratised air travel. And, with that, air traffic, terminal and runway congestion, too, became a fact of life. That was when "some smart private airlines started adding a buffer to the journey time to report on-time arrivals; soon, almost everyone started to do the same," a veteran pilot said

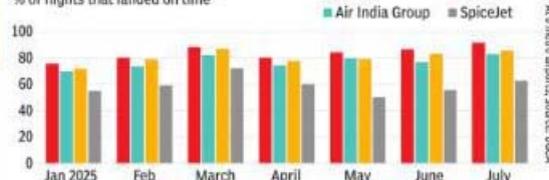
"Airport slots are given per schedules filed by airlines. If airlines don't adhere to that and planes come ahead of, or after, the time they were supposed to land, then it overlaps with the slot given to some other airline. While some mismatch is understandable depending on weather conditions and routings on a given day, what we see is significant distortion in schedules," said a senior official at one of India's busiest airports.

But going ahead, things could improve as India is now seeing a boom in airport infra with Delhi-NCR and Mumbai MMR going to get their secondary airports and Hyderabad and Bengaluru adding to their facilities. Many constrained places like Patna and Chennai, too, will get second airports.

On the airline front, India is now seeing well-funded players like IndiGo and Tata's Air India Group along with emerging players like Akasa, Star Air and others. These airlines focus on maintaining their young fleets, which, along with added airport infra, should cut down delays to an extent that airlines don't need to inflate travel times in a desperate bid to win brownie points with flyers.

How Punctual Airlines Are In India...

% of flights that landed on time*



Same Sector, Different Journey Times

Delhi-Mumbai
1 hr 55 min to 2 hr 50 min

Kolkata-Ahmedabad
2 hr 35 min to 2 hr 50 min

Chennai-Bengaluru
1 hr 5 min to 1 hr 20 min

Delhi-Bengaluru
2 hr 35 min to 3 hr

Source: MakeMyTrip



...And How They Compare With The Rest Of The World

107 global airlines ranked by OTP in Aug 2025



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Depending on which airline you choose to fly, the travel time mentioned in the ticket for a Delhi-Mumbai flight can be less than two hours or stretch to almost three. How's that possible? Most airlines fly either Boeing or Airbus planes, so they fly at roughly the same speed, more or less at the same altitude, and follow similar routes. So, how do you account for the extra one hour of flying time? That's where OTP comes in. No, not the one-time password you are so familiar with, but On-Time Performance. Airlines, which, understandably, make a virtue out of punctuality, have long since realised that the safest way to ensure an on-time (or even before-time) performance is by inflating the journey time. That makes late arrival rather difficult.

Basically, airlines do a careful calculation of all factors at play from before a plane takes off till it lands. To be fair, there are many factors an airline doesn't control. Like bad weather or congestion on the ground and in air before landing in some choked airport like Delhi or Mumbai. Some, though, are very much the responsibility of airlines, like ensuring there are no snags and taking care of other logistical issues like making sure crew are present.

Wide Margins

Technically, a flight needs to be pushed back from the boarding gate within 15 minutes of its scheduled departure time to be counted as an on-time departure for the purpose of flight statistics, which are maintained by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The scheduled departure and arrival time of a flight is calculated keeping the historical and seasonal flying time (from getting airborne to touchdown) between the origin and destination city pairs and the taxi time at either airport. This is known as the "chocks off" to "chocks on" time, referring to the wedges placed in front and behind aircraft wheels before it is pushed back and after it lands to prevent accidental rolling when parked.

"The usual Delhi-Mumbai flying time is one hour and 40 minutes. Add to that 10 minutes of taxi each at IGIA (Delhi) and CSMIA (Mumbai), giving a total time of two hours. Then, to factor in airport congestion and hovering at destination, the taxi time was increased to, from 20 to, say, 27 minutes. Some airlines added further buffer to their block time — the time an aircraft can start taxiing to the time it comes to a halt at its destination — to ensure they can announce an on-time arrival," said one pilot. If these inflated flying times are about airlines being smart, it is also a practice that has been driven by growing competition and hectic schedules.

Therefore, unless you are flying on a particularly bad weather day, or a particularly unreliable airline with poor aircraft maintenance/unpaid employees/jet fuel suppliers, or to and from

Choked airports, weather events, maintenance and staff woes, there's much that can hold up flight operations. But carriers have a simple strategy to stay on top of flight schedules: inflating the duration of the journey

How India's airlines turn delays into before-time arrival



particularly choked airport/s, you are unlikely to miss the boast of "another on-time arrival" on touchdown at the destination by the crew. Queries to big and upcoming airlines — Air India, IndiGo and Akasa — on this issue went unanswered.

It was in 2003 that Indian skies started getting low-cost carriers (LCCs) that democratised air travel. And, with that, air traffic, terminal and runway congestion, too, became a fact of life.

"About two decades back, the total travel time from Delhi to Mumbai was given as 1 hour and 55 minutes. Then, congestion checked in and planes would routinely get delayed on ground and in air. Some smart private airlines started adding a buffer to the journey time to report on-time arrivals. Soon, almost everyone started to do the same, at least on city pairs with choked airports," said a pilot with over four decades of flying experience. Which brings us to today, when the exact same aircraft type often has different travel times on the same sector. But there's

more here than would appear obvious.

Bragging Rights

Arriving ahead of or on schedule triggers a virtuous cascading effect for the airline: the plane can then operate its next flight on time as well with the same buffer for the flight after and so on. That is unless it's caught in a big weather event like heavy rain or fog or develops a snag en-route or on landing and has to be grounded for checks and maintenance. But there are other reasons why there can be no fixed or standard travel time between two destinations common to all airlines.

How long it takes to fly between any two destinations depends on a number of things, like the routings given (direct or not), weather, wind flow and airport congestion. "If an aircraft gets tailwinds, it will reach its destination faster while headwinds will slow it down. Winters see strong west-to-east jetstreams, which means an Ahmedabad-Kolkata flight could take 10-15 minutes less than the Kolkata-Ahmedabad journey and a London-Delhi nonstop can take up to two hours less than the Delhi-London," said a senior commander.

DGCA issues monthly reports for domestic air travel that include, among other data points, OTP data of scheduled domestic airlines based on inputs from six metro airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kolkata. This "data" is crucial for airlines to project themselves as punctual in the eyes of the domestic traveller.

But tinkering with travel times is not done just for reasons of OTP. Sometimes, Indian carriers that oper-

ate long hauls, say between Delhi and London, report an under 10-hour flying time to ensure they can make do with two pilots. Reporting journey time of over 10 hours means they will have to fly with three pilots, which adds to their cost and also requires them to inform DGCA. The regulator routinely flags this issue with Indian carriers whenever it detects anomalies over under-reporting of travel time with a view to carrying fewer than required pilots.

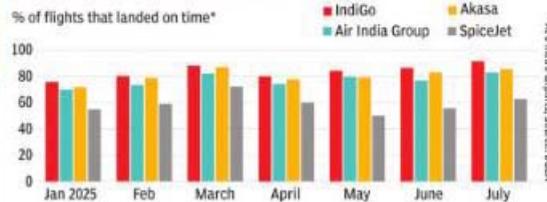
When it comes to reporting inflated travel times on domestic routes, it may suit the airline well, though it also creates several problems on ground.

Blame Game

Airlines and operators of busy airports blame each other for air traffic congestion, which is among the potential delays factored in while inflating journey times. While airlines say delays in getting clearance for take-off from or landing at choked hubs is beyond their control, airport operators say that flights failing to operate on time upsets their slot allocation and accentuates OTP issues.

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Source: MakeMyTrip

...And How They Compare With The Rest Of The World

107 global airlines ranked by OTP in Aug 2025

Rank	Airline	Fig in %
1	Royal Jordanian	93.2
2	Philippine Airlines	93.0
3	FlySafair (Africa)	91.9
4	IndiGo	87.2
5	Qatar Airways	84.8
6	Ethiadd Airways	79.6
7	Air India	78.5
8	United Airlines	76.0
9	Emirates	75.5
10	British Airways	75.1
104	SpiceJet	57.5

Source: OAG





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

Air India now plans 40 flights daily at Navi Mum as airport prepares for ops

Flyers To Soon Have BOM, NMI Options While Booking Tickets

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: With the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) expected to be commissioned in some months, more and more airlines have begun announcing their plans for the greenfield facility. Air India Express on Tuesday announced 40 daily arrival and departure domestic flights connecting 15 cities in the airport's first phase of operations.

The Air India group said it plans to scale up Navi Mumbai operations to 55 daily departures by mid-2026, including up to 5 daily inter-

national flights, and further to 60 daily departures (and 60 arrivals) by winter 2026. A few months ago, IndiGo and Akasa Air announced plans to operate from day one of the commissioning of the Navi Mumbai airport.

IndiGo planned 36 domestic departure and arrival flights connecting 15 cities from day one. By November, it planned to increase its flight frequency to 158 daily arrivals and departures, including 14 international departures. International operations are likely to begin only next year, said an aviation source. Akasa plans to start

with 15 daily domestic flights, increasing it to over 40, including 8-10 international flights, by summer 2026.

Navi Mumbai International Airport is being built in five phases, with the launch phase expected to accommodate 20 million passengers per annum (MPPA) and handle 0.5 million metric tons (MMT) of cargo. Upon full completion, NMIA will have capacity to serve 90 MPPA and handle 3.2 MMT of cargo annually.

When ticket booking for flights operated to and from the Navi Mumbai airport opens, passengers will get to

select flights that land or depart from either 'BOM', which is the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, or 'NMI', the new Navi Mumbai airport. The Mumbai airport, which handles an average of about 930 flights a day, will continue to handle both domestic and international flights. Currently, Mumbai airport handles about 55 million passengers per annum. By 2032, NMIA's 90 million capacity, combined with Mumbai's 55 million annual passengers, will have both these airports handle a total of 145 million passengers per annum.