



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

25 JULY 2025

Finalise location for B'luru's second airport, Patil urges Centre

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Minister for Heavy Industries and Infrastructure Development M B Patil on Thursday requested Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ramamohan Naidu to expedite the process of finalising the location for Bengaluru's second international airport.

Patil, who called on the minister here, urged the Centre to upgrade the Hubballi and Belagavi airports to international status and give approval for the inauguration of the Vijayapura airport.

The minister informed Naidu that an expert team from the Airports Authority of India had visited the three shortlisted sites for Bengaluru's second international airport and its report was awaited. Once finalised, this would enable the state government

to proceed with the necessary follow-up works, the minister said.

Regarding the Vijayapura airport, the minister said the project was ready for launch, with only clearance from the union ministry of environment pending.

Patil emphasised the need to upgrade Hubballi and Belagavi airports to international status in view of the region's development and to boost connectivity to North Karnataka, South Maharashtra and Goa. Both airports are being equipped with terminals capable of handling 2,400 passengers per hour and accommodate AB320 and A321 class aircraft, respectively.

They are also equipped with night landing facilities and dedicated cargo terminals, Patil said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

25 JULY 2025

Air India saw 'minor rise' in pilots reporting sick after Ahmedabad crash

NEW DELHI: Air India witnessed a "minor increase" in sick leaves reported by pilots across its fleet in the aftermath of the Ahmedabad plane crash, with 112 pilots reporting sick in a single day on June 16, the government said.

In response to a Lok Sabha member's query on whether Air India has been experiencing mass sick reporting by its flight crew members, following the crash, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol on Thursday said there has been a minor increase in sick leaves reported by pilots, and as many as 51 commanders reported sick on June 16.

"Air India reported a minor increase in sick leaves reported by pilots across all fleets in the aftermath of the AI-171 accident. On 16.06.2025, a total of 112 pilots reported sick, comprising of 51 Commanders (P1) and 61 First Officers (P2)," the min-

ister said in a written reply.

The airline's Boeing 787-8 aircraft, operating the flight AI 171, en route to London Gatwick, crashed into a building soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad on June 12. In the fatal accident, 260 people died, including 241 passengers who were onboard the plane, and 19 people on the ground. One passenger survived the crash.

The DGCA's medical circular, issued in February 2023, had advised airlines to have a separate, standalone and customised training capsule for the flight crew/ATCOs (Air Traffic Controllers) to recognise and manage the adverse effects of mental health conditions. "Additionally, on mental health monitoring, the organisations (scheduled and non-scheduled operators, FTOs and AAI) were also advised to have a Peer Support Programme (PSP) in place for their employees. P1



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

25 JULY 2025

Air India witnesses 'minor increase' in sick leaves reported by pilots: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ New Delhi

Air India witnessed a "minor increase" in sick leaves reported by pilots across its fleet in the aftermath of the Ahmedabad plane crash, with 112 pilots reporting sick in a single day on June 16, according to the Government.

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— MURLIDHAR MOHOL, MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION

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(Air Traffic Controllers) to recognise and manage the adverse effects of mental health conditions.

"Additionally, on mental health monitoring, the organisations (scheduled and non-scheduled operators, FTOs and AAI) were also advised to have a Peer Support Programme (PSP) in place for their employees. The organisations are required to enable, facilitate and ensure access to this proactive and non-punitive programme that will assist and support flight crew/ATCOs in recognising, coping with and overcoming any problem," Mohol said.

FTOs and AAI refer to Flying Training Organisations and the Airports Authority of India, respectively.

In another written reply, Mohol said that at present, there is no specific policy with the civil aviation ministry related to compensation for damages suffered by civilians on the ground due to a plane crash.

Boost for airlines, airports as transit cargo screening rule is relaxed



EASING RULE. A dedicated transfer cargo security hold area will be created as part of measures to remove re-screening of goods in transit.

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has relaxed the mandatory requirement of re-screening of transit cargo, giving a boost to transshipment of goods via Indian hubs.

Currently, all goods that are transhipped via airports need to be security screened. The rule also applies to domestic cargo if there is a change in aircraft at the transit airport. This adds to the cost and ground time, making Indian airlines and airports less competitive in comparison to others in the region.

Following multiple representations by industry bodies, such as the Air Cargo Forum of India, the rule has been amended. Transfer or transit cargo can be flown without re-screening, subject to certain conditions, BCAS said in its directions issued on Thursday.

This includes creation of a dedicated transfer cargo security hold area, where all transfer cargo will be stored and protected from unauthorised interference.

All such cargo will also have to be escorted by security staff to and from aircraft. However, there are also certain restrictions — cargo that has been tampered or deemed high-risk will need to be x-rayed in case of transit. The existing proced-

ure of handling transit cargo will continue for three months to allow for the creation of a dedicated hold area.

WELCOMED MOVE

The air cargo industry welcomed the move. "Transfer or transit cargo accounts for less than 10 per cent of India's total air cargo volume. The BCAS directions are a welcome step and will help India achieve its ambitions of handling 10 million tonnes of air cargo by 2030," said Manoj Singh, a senior air cargo professional.

In FY 2024 India handled 3.36 mt of cargo.

The relaxation will help Air India and IndiGo to grow their cargo volume and attract high yielding freight.

"The new rule will aid the airlines but there will be certain additional security related costs and these would need to be evaluated," said a senior airline executive.

Among the airports, Delhi had taken the initiative to grow the transshipment business by developing traffic lanes between Bangladesh and Europe.

"The BCAS guidelines aligns India with global cargo standards and strengthens our position as a key logistics hub in the region. We fully support the initiative and look forward to working closely with all stakeholders to bring it to life," said Express Industry Council of India CEO Vijay Kumar.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

25 JULY 2025

GMR AIRPORTS TO RAISE ₹5,000-CR VIA BOND SALE

New Delhi, July 23: GMR Airports is considering a ₹5,000 crore (\$579 million) in Indian currency bond sale, according to people familiar with the matter, in what could be a record rupee issuance for India's second-largest private airport operator.

The New Delhi-based company is considering to raise the funds through a note due in 18-months to three years and will use the proceeds to refinance existing debt, one of the people said, asking not to be identified as the details are private.

The company is planning to tap the market as a cumulative 100-basis-point reduction by central bank this year brings down borrowing costs.

Care Ratings last month upgraded GMR Airports' loans and bonds to A from BBB+ and expects the firm's business to be supported by favorable outlook for the airport sector.

GMR's unit Delhi International Airport is also planning to issue ₹1,000 crore worth of bonds. — *Bloomberg*



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

25 JULY 2025

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट को सर्विस क्वालिटी में मिली रैंकिंग



नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट को 2025 की दूसरी तिमाही के लिए एयरपोर्ट सर्विस क्वालिटी (एएसक्यू) सर्वेक्षण में एक उत्तम रैंकिंग प्राप्त हुई है। एयरपोर्ट को वैश्विक स्तर पर और एशिया-पसिफिक क्षेत्र में 5-15 मिलियन यात्री प्रति वर्ष (एमपीपीए) श्रेणी में पहला स्थान दिया गया है। दुनिया भर के 364 हवाई अड्डों में से

एशिया-पसिफिक क्षेत्र के 98 हवाई अड्डों और 5-15 एमपीपीए श्रेणी के 93 हवाई अड्डों में से, जयपुर एयरपोर्ट ने समग्र संतुष्टि और समग्र यात्री अनुभव, दोनों में 5/5 का स्कोर हासिल करके अपनी अलग पहचान बनाई। एसीआई-एएसक्यू ग्लोबल रैंकिंग में शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त करना जयपुर एयरपोर्ट के लिए एक बड़ा सम्मान है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 JULY 2025

AIR SAFETY | 4 decades-old 36-inch & 42-inch SBHT gas pipelines beneath the runway have been flagged as potential hazards

ONGC pipeline sparks safety concerns at Surat airport

Melvyn Thomas

SURAT

In a major development that raises alarming questions about aviation safety, four decades-old gas pipelines running beneath the Surat Airport runway have come under intense scrutiny. The 36-inch and 42-inch South Basin Hazira Trunk (SBHT) pipelines owned by ONGC have been flagged as potential hazards, with calls to immediately prevent aircraft from running or landing over them.

This follows a letter by Sanjay Ezhava, President of the Surat Airport Action Committee, who exposed seven critical risks of a catastrophic accident at Surat Airport. His detailed complaint led the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to seek clarification from ONGC on June 24, 2025. ONGC has since responded, but the explanation has raised more questions than answers.

According to ONGC's response, the 36" SBHT pipeline is laid on the Dumas beach (west) side and the 42"



pipeline on the Vesu (east) side, running about 1.5 to 2 meters beneath the surface on both sides of the runway before reaching the Hazira plant. The pipelines are separated by 3.5 kilometers and are currently certified as "fit for purpose" until late 2028.

ONGC stated, "All relevant safety aspects are constantly monitored and reviewed. There is no vibration or residual stress detected on the pipelines due to aircraft activ-

ity, as confirmed by a government scientific institute."

However, the same study also strongly recommends that "runway crossovers and aircraft landing or running over the pipelines should be avoided."

This contradiction did not go unnoticed by Ezhava, who slammed ONGC for "hiding its sins."

"On one hand, ONGC says the pipelines are safe. On the other hand, their own survey

warns against aircraft movement over these pipelines. If a plane overshoots, it could lead to disaster," Ezhava said.

He further pointed out that the 36" pipeline, laid in 1990 with a 25-year lifespan, had technically expired in 2015.

"For three years, ONGC ran it without a fitness check. Only after my complaint in 2018 did they assess it again. Now it has completed 35 years. It's a ticking time bomb beneath Surat Airport," Ezhava warned.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 JULY 2025

BENGALURU

B'luru Airport launches its own fragrance

Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday said it unveiled a signature fragrance called 'dancing bamboo' to create a deeper sensory connection with passengers.

In an official statement, Shalini Rao, chief marketing officer, Bangalore International Airport Ltd, said, "With our signature fragrance, we aim to recreate the spirit of the airport—serene, rooted in nature, and quietly luxurious."

"This fragrance adds a new dimension to our brand and reflects our commitment to creating spaces that resonate with the warmth, culture, and identity of the airport," she added.

The fragrance of the airport will be diffused at key passenger touchpoints, including check-in and arrival areas of terminal 2, infusing the space with a consistent and calming olfactory signature, it further said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

25 JULY 2025

State begins staffing for Navi Mum Int'l Airport, opening set for Sept

Yogesh Naik

letters@hindustantimes.com

NAVI MUMBAI: As preparations gather pace for the much-awaited launch of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) in September, the Maharashtra home department has approved a dedicated immigration staff of 285 personnel. The sanctioned team includes 20 inspectors, 55 sub-inspectors, 30 assistant sub-inspectors, 60 head constables, and 120 constables. The orders were issued on Thursday, marking one of the final administrative steps ahead of the airport's operational debut.

Designed to ease the load on Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), the upcoming NMIA will feature four terminals, two runways, and a dedicated cargo terminal. Once fully operational, it is expected to handle up to 90 million passengers and 360 metric tonnes of cargo annually. The state has committed ₹10.10 crore per year towards immigration-related staffing and infrastructure.



The state has committed ₹10.10 crore per year for immigration staffing at Navi Mumbai International Airport. RAJU SHINDE/HT PHOTO

In tandem, the home department is also finalising a proposal to establish a full-fledged police station within the airport premises to manage law and order on-site. This station will have a dedicated strength of about 300 personnel and will be led by a senior inspector. To manage the increasing jurisdictional load, the Navi Mumbai Police was

reorganised this week with the creation of a new post of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for Panvel. Airport operations will be overseen by DCP Zone II, based in Belapur.

Currently, all crimes at Mumbai's international airport are handled by the Sahar police, while Terminal I cases fall under the Airport Police Station. A sim-

ilar bifurcation is expected at NMIA once operational.

With NMIA poised to become a major transit hub for Mumbai, Thane and satellite towns like Kalyan and Panvel, traffic flow to and from the new airport is also expected to surge.

In anticipation, the Navi Mumbai police commissioner has proposed the creation of a dedicated traffic division for the airport zone. The proposed unit, comprising around 250 officers and constables, will be led by a police inspector and will oversee vehicular movement and congestion around the airport corridor.

Meanwhile, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which will handle airport security, has initiated its deployment planning. Sources in the force confirmed that the Ministry of Home Affairs has sanctioned 2,000 CISF personnel for the airport, who will be responsible for passenger screening, terminal security, and other aviation safety operations. The CISF unit at NMIA will be headed by a Deputy Inspector General (DIG)-rank officer.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

25 JULY 2025

State to Centre: Clear decks for Bengaluru's 2nd airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Industries and infrastructure development minister MB Patil Thursday pressed union civil aviation minister K Ramamohan Naidu to fast-track key aviation projects in the state, including finalising the location for Bengaluru's proposed second international airport.

"Once finalised, this would enable the state govt to proceed with follow-up works," Patil said.

He also sought central clearance for the inauguration of the Vijayapura airport, which is ready to launch

pending the environment ministry's nod.

Emphasising the potential of north Karnataka for investments, Patil sought international status for Hubballi and Belagavi airports.

Both airports now have passenger terminals with capacities of 2,400 passengers per hour and feature night-landing and cargo terminals. Upgrading them would "boost connectivity for north Karnataka, south Maharashtra and Goa," he said. During the meeting, airport development in Mysuru, Shivamogga, Hassan, Karwar, and Raichur also came up for discussion.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

25 JULY 2025

State OKs 285 police posts for Navi Mumbai airport

Mumbai: The govt approved 285 new posts to manage the immigration check-post at the upcoming international airport in Navi Mumbai. The newly approved officials will work under the Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner, who will have responsibilities to set up the police system at the new airport, a govt GR stated on Thursday. The govt made provisions of approximately Rs 11 crore for the creation and implementation of the posts.

The inauguration of phase 1 of the Navi Mumbai airport is proposed in the coming months. The entire airport

premises will include four passenger terminals, two runways, one cargo truck terminal, and other essential facilities, with arrangements made for civil aviation traffic operations. The Police Commissioner, Navi Mumbai, will be responsible for the airport's police security arrangements, and it will come under the jurisdiction of Panvel.

A day earlier, the govt decided to create an additional post of DCP in the Navi Mumbai Police Commissionerate by restructuring the existing zones of Panvel and Vashi and creating Panvel zone.—Vijay V Singh



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

24 JULY 2025

Cabin crew help deliver baby on Mumbai-bound Air India flight

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

Often in the news for the wrong reasons, Air India had something heartwarming to share on Thursday. An Air India Express flight from Muscat to Mumbai, carrying 115 passengers, landed with one extra — a baby born mid-air to a Thai national.

The delivery was successfully handled by the airline's crew, with timely support from a nurse onboard. As soon as the passenger went into labour, the crew swiftly responded, drawing on their training to ensure a safe and compassionate environment.

Demonstrating remarkable presence of mind and professionalism, the crew supported the mother through the delivery. Upon arrival, medical teams and an ambulance were already on standby.

Both mother and baby were immediately taken to a nearby hospital for further care, accompanied by a female airline staff member.

Air India praised the seamless coordination between cockpit, cabin crew, ground staff, and airport authorities. The airline added it is in touch with the Thai Consulate in Mumbai to support the guest's onward journey home.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

24 JULY 2025

DGCA issues four showcause notices to AI for violations

112 pilots call in sick after Guj crash

VINEETA PANDEY
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

Air India has once again drawn regulatory scrutiny from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), this time over staffing and crew rest issues.

The DGCA has issued four showcause notices to the airline for 29 violations, including breaches of duty and rest norms for pilots and cabin crew, training rule violations, and deploying fewer than the mandated number of cabin crew on four ultra long range (ULR) flights.

These notices were based on voluntary disclosures made by Air India to the DGCA. "We acknowledge receipt of these notices related to voluntary disclosures made over the last year. We will respond within the stipulated period and remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers," an Air India spokesperson said.

Three of the notices pertain to disclosures made on June 20, covering crew duty and rest violations on ULR flights operated on April 27, 28, and May 2. One flight had only 12 crew members instead of the required 15, and others had just 14.

The fourth notice,

▶ **THREE OF** the notices pertain to disclosures made on June 20, covering crew duty and rest violations on ULR flights operated on April 27, 28, and May 2. One flight had only 12 crew members instead of the required 15, and others had just 14.

based on disclosures from June 21, highlights three training violations and 19 other procedural lapses on various flights between December 2023 and May 2024.

Additionally, 112 pilots reported sick following the June 12 AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad. Minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol told the Lok Sabha that these reports reflected post-trauma stress.

Airlines have been advised to provide customised training and mental health support, including Peer Support Programmes (PSPs).

The crash investigation is ongoing, with flight data being analyzed at AAIB's lab in Delhi. Minister of state for civil aviation clarified that no flight recorders were sent abroad and no specific compensation policy exists for civilians affected by plane crashes.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

उड़ान भरते ही जयपुर लौटा एअर इंडिया का विमान

जयपुर। जयपुर से मुंबई जाने वाला एअर इंडिया का विमान शुक्रवार को बीच उड़ान में तकनीकी खराबी से जयपुर हवाईअड्डे पर लौट आया। एअर इंडिया ने कहा, उड़ान संख्या एआई-612 की जांच की गई। खराबी से जुड़ा गलत संकेत मिला था। सभी यात्री सुरक्षित हैं। विमान परिचालन की बाद में मंजूरी दे दी गई। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

DGCA to fill 116 posts amid mounting workload

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

In an effort to address staff crunch, India's civil aviation regulator has initiated a proposal to fill 116 posts through a mix of promotions and deputations, sources told *businessline*.

The move is part of an ongoing restructuring aimed at preparing the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA) for growth.

Sources said the posts cover both technical and non-technical roles, and that hirings are being prioritised given the regulator's mounting workload.

Notably, the DGCA has been tasked with ensuring safety oversight and regulatory compliance.

VACANT BY HALF

According to data, 441 new posts were created between 2022 and 2024 as part of a broader restructuring effort that was initiated in 2021-22.

This pushed DGCA's sanctioned headcount to 1,644, including 1,063 Group-A technical officers.

However, the ground reality reflects a shortfall. As of July 1, 2025, only 821 personnel are in place, leaving 823 positions vacant — a vacancy rate of 50 per cent.

Among technical posts, 523 out of 1,063 are filled, severely straining core regulatory functions like flight safety inspections, licensing, and airworthiness certifications.

Besides, the current recruitment drive includes deputation as one avenue, but, this strategy has struggled in the past.

DGCA had attempted to fill 79 posts through deputation from PSUs and autonomous bodies in the aviation sector, but only one post was filled.

Sources cite the absence



As of July 1, 2025, only 821 personnel are in place, leaving 823 positions vacant. RESHMAN VV

of deputation allowances at DGCA — unlike in public sector entities such as AAI, AIESL, and Pawan Hans — as a major deterrent.

HIRING VIA UPSC

According to sources, issues with deputations have increased the "urgency of finding alternative staffing routes".

Direct recruitment through UPSC exam remains the primary route for onboarding technical officers.

This process is slow, often stretching beyond two years due to multiple administrative stages.

A case in point is the ongoing recruitment of 190 'Group A' technical officers via the UPSC process. These vacancies are now expected to be filled by October 2025.

In the meantime, DGCA has turned to outsource to fill critical operational gaps — hiring consultants, young professionals, and data entry staff.

Sources added that for non-technical positions, the DGCA relies on authorities like the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and others to fill roles.

If these authorities fail to depute officers, DGCA is again compelled to hire on contract, creating a fragmented staffing structure.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

Air India has improved training, strengthened standards: CEO Wilson

Air India has improved training, strengthened standards and has been focused on improving reporting about safety and other matters, the airline's CEO Campbell Wilson said on Friday. Against the backdrop of its plane crash that killed 260 people on June 12, Wilson said it is natural that there is a period of intense scrutiny following an accident and that all commentary must be taken constructively with grace and an open mind. The Tata group-owned airline, which has come under intense scrutiny following the accident, has taken certain measures, including temporary curtailment of flights and completion of inspection of its Boeing 787 and 737 fleets.

PTI

Why hunt for the black box?

ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA



VIEWPOINT
DEVANGSHU DATTA



In a 1968 bestseller, *Airport*, Arthur Hailey described operations at Chicago's O'Hare Airport ("Lincoln International Airport" in the book) during a storm. Hailey lacked imagination, and his writing style would have turned a porn film script into a gynaecological report. But precisely due to these shortcomings, his plots adhered closely to real life.

One of the subplots in *Airport* was that of a bankrupt businessman trying to pull off an insurance fraud combined with suicide and mass murder. After taking out life insurance with his wife as beneficiary, he carried a suitcase bomb onto a flight.

This mirrored a real incident. On May 22, 1962, Continental Airlines Flight 11 from Chicago to Kansas City was blown up by Thomas Doty, killing all 45 persons on board. Doty had taken out insurance policies worth \$300,000 (several million in today's currency), with his wife as beneficiary. He was due to face trial for armed robbery. Investigators worked it out and insurers refused to pay Doty's claims. In an earlier incident in 1955, Jack Gilbert Graham blew up a flight with his mother on board for insurance.

In 1985, Khalistani terrorists blew up Air India's Kanishka, killing 329 people. That led to the induction of more sophisticated systems to check for explosives. The Kanishka tragedy also provided the backdrop for Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*.

In 1988, a Hercules C-130, carrying Pakistan's President-dictator, General Zia-ul-Haq and the US Ambassador, crashed, killing all 30 on board. US inves-

tigators said it was a mechanical failure. Pakistani investigators said there were explosives in a crate of mangoes — a theme explored by Md Hanif in his noir masterpiece, *A Case of Exploding Mangoes*.

After 9/11, aviation security tightened further. Chemical sniffers and X-ray machines are backed up by dogs in security checks. Cockpits can be securely locked to prevent hijackings. But pilots don't need to get past security if they decide to crash an aircraft.

This may have happened with Malaysia Airlines Flight MH 370. MH 370, a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, disappeared on March 8, 2014. Radio communication stopped. When last tracked, the plane was heading in entirely the wrong direction. All attempts to contact it by radio and satellite phone were refused. The transponder, which transmits radar signals, was switched off.

Data automatically transmitted to satellites by the plane indicated engines were fine. The plane flew out over the Southern Indian Ocean until the point when its fuel would have been exhausted. By then, it was thousands of km from the nearest land.

Despite the very expensive, high-tech searches covering 5 million sq km of ocean, the aircraft hasn't been found. All 239 on board are presumed dead. The most cited theory is that a pilot incapacitated the crew and the other pilot, or locked them out of the cockpit, and then flew in the general direction of Antarctica until the fuel ran out. There has been endless speculation as to

why a pilot might wish to commit mass murder in this way.

Apart from inspiring literary efforts of varying quality, there's a lot of money riding on answers to aviation mysteries. Insurers want to know the causes before they pay out. Manufacturers hope that future aircraft sales are not jeopardised. Travellers avoid the aircraft models and airlines in question. It all adds up to billions.

The cause of the Air India 171 crash is still a mystery. Many theories are being aired, including the possibility of a deliberate crash. The conclusions from the Flight 171 investigation, whatever those are, will not necessarily scotch all conspiracy theories, given the pushes and pulls, and the money and reputation riding on the investigation.

There is one relatively simple technical fix however, that may reduce the element of mystery in future aviation incidents. Aircraft are equipped with sensors and recorders, which capture everything mechanical and electrical, and record cockpit conversations. Every crash is followed by a hunt for the black box among the debris.

As the MH 370 incident indicates, aircraft also transmit data automatically to satellites. So why not also stream all that data in real time to multiple recipients to reduce the chance of tampering? This is technically feasible. Retooling systems to do this would add somewhat to costs, but the expense would be relatively minor in terms of the billions at stake. And, it would make the investigation of aviation incidents much easier and far more transparent.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

अकेले यात्री ज्यादा हवाई किराया चुका रहे

कुछ एयरलाइंस ने यात्रियों से अधिक पैसा लेने का नया तरीका अपनाया है। मई में शिफ्टी ट्रैवलर्स वेबसाइट ने बताया कि अमेरिका की तीन बड़ी एयरलाइंस अमेरिकन, डेल्टा और यूनाइटेड ने एक ही स्थान की यात्रा के लिए अकेले पैसेंजर से दो व्यक्तियों के मुकाबले अधिक किराया लिया है। एक अन्य ट्रैवल साइट ने लिखा कि एयरलाइंस का लालच बेकाबू होता जा रहा है। आलोचना के बीच डेल्टा और यूनाइटेड ने ज्यादा किराया लेना बंद कर दिया।

इकोनॉमिस्ट ने गूगल फ्लाइंग्स के ऑटोमैटेड इंटरफेस सेरपापी से तीन बड़ी एयरलाइंस के किरायों की जांच-पड़ताल की। पता लगा कि डेल्टा ने यह तरीका बंद कर दिया है। लेकिन अमेरिकन और यूनाइटेड एयरलाइंस ने अकेले यात्री से ज्यादा किराया लेना जारी रखा है। यूनाइटेड के 8% रूट्स पर वीक डे में यात्रा करने वाले अकेले यात्री से 5% अधिक किराया लिया गया। अमेरिकन एयरलाइंस ने 57% रूट्स पर दो यात्रियों की बुकिंग की तुलना में अकेले यात्री पर ज्यादा किराया लगाया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

स्पाइसजेट 5 बोइंग 737 विमान लीज पर लेगी

मुंबई | स्पाइसजेट 5 बोइंग 737 विमान लीज पर लेगी। इन्हें इसी साल अक्टूबर तक फ्लीट में शामिल किया जाएगा। शुक्रवार को की गई घोषणा के मुताबिक, यह डैम्प लीज व्यवस्था है। इसमें उड़ानों का संचालन कमर्शियल पार्टनर और एयरलाइन द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से किया जाएगा। यह कदम सर्दियों के ट्रेवल सीजन से पहले उठाया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य 2026 की गर्मियों तक बढ़ती डिमांड पूरी करना है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

स्पाइसजेट लीज पर ले रही है पांच बोइंग 737 विमान

गुरुग्राम। स्पाइसजेट ने बेड़े के विस्तार के लिए पांच बोइंग 737 विमान चालक दल समेत पट्टे पर लेने का करार किया है जो उसे उनके शीतकालीन व्यस्त अभियान से पहले अक्टूबर तक मिल जाएंगे। एयरलाइन ने शुक्रवार को एक विज्ञप्ति में कहा कि ये विमान पट्टे चाल 2026 में षीष्म ऋतु में भी उसकी सेवा में रहेंगे। स्पाइसजेट अपने बेड़े को और बढ़ाने तथा घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों परिचालनों को मजबूत करने के लिए अन्य पट्टादाताओं के साथ भी उन्नत बातचीत कर रही है। स्पाइसजेट के मुख्य व्यवसाय अधिकारी, देबोजो मर्हर्षि ने कहा, 'हमें पांच बोइंग 737 विमानों के इस लीज समझौते को अंतिम रूप देते हुए खुशी हो रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

25 JULY 2025

DGCA issues show cause notices to AI

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

Air India has once again come on the wrong side of the aviation regulator the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), this time over staffing and rest issues of the crew. The DGCA has issued four show cause notices to the airline for 29 violations pertaining to rest and duty time for pilots and cabin crew, violation of training rules and operational procedures, and assigning fewer cabin crew on at least four ultra long range (ULR) flights than mandated. The notices were issued on the basis of voluntary disclosures made by Air India to the DGCA.

"We acknowledge receipt of these notices from the regulator related to certain voluntary disclosures that were made over the last one year by Air India. We will respond to the said notices within the stipulated period. We remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers," Air India spokesperson said.

Three show cause notices have been issued based on the voluntary disclosures made by Air India on June 20, including violations of cabin crew duty and rest regulations with respect to four ultra long range flights – two operated on April 27 and one each on April 28 and May 2. The required cabin crew strength on ULR is of 15 but on one flight 12 were deployed and one other three 14 were deployed. "Such non compliance represents a serious breach of regula-

112 PILOTS TAKE SICK LEAVE AFTER AI-171 CRASH

New Delhi, July 24: Air India witnessed a minor increase in sick leaves reported by pilots across all its fleets in the aftermath of the Ahmedabad plane crash that killed 260 people last month.

In response to a Lok Sabha member's query on whether Air India has been experiencing mass sick reporting by its flight crew members, following the crash, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said there has been a minor increase in sick leaves reported by pilots, and as many as 51 commanders reported sick on June 16. "Air India reported a minor increase in sick leaves reported by pilots across all fleets in the aftermath of the AI-171 accident. On 16.06.-2025, a total of 112 pilots reported sick, comprising of 51 Commanders (P1) and 61 First Officers (P2)," the minister said in a written reply. — PTI

tory requirements and raises concerns about the safety management and operational oversight within your organisation," the DGCA notice said while asking for a response within 15 days. One of the DGCA show cause notices pertains to violations of flight duty period/ weekly rest violations with respect to flights operated on June 24, 2024, and June 13, 2025.



Now, four flights from B'luru to Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City

HO CHI MINH CITY, DHNS

Vietnamese low-cost carrier VietJet Air is now offering four round-trip flights a week between Bengaluru and Ho Chi Minh City, buoyed by the response it has received from tourists willing to explore the South-east Asian nation.

VietJet Air launched the Bengaluru-Ho Chi Minh City direct service in March this year, operating three round-trip flights per week. Now, the flight will ply every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The flight duration is approximately 4.45 hours.

"Vietnam's vibrant culture, affordability, and proximity continue to attract a growing number of Indian visitors," VietJet Air said in a statement.

Flights depart from Bengaluru at 23.30 and arrive in Ho Chi Minh City at 05.55 the next day. Flights from Ho Chi Minh City leave at 19.10 and arrive in Bengaluru at 22.30.

Apart from Bengaluru, VietJet Air, which is Vietnam's



VietJet Air launched the Bengaluru-Ho Chi Minh City direct service in March this year.

largest private airline, connects Ahmedabad, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi and Mumbai with Da Nang, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City through 44 round-trip flights per week.

"With budget-friendly fares and seamless transit options, travellers can easily connect through Vietnam to destinations like Australia, Bali, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore," the airline said.

Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon, is the largest and most populous city in Vietnam. Located south, it serves as Vietnam's economic engine. Named after Vietnamese

revolutionary Ho Chi Minh, the city has its urban swagger and a bustling nightlife.

The city has enough for tourists to soak in. Besides local food and coffee, the city houses the Saigon Opera House, the Independence Palace and the War Remnants Museum, the latter keeping alive the horrors of the Vietnam War. There is also the Bn Thành Market for a shopping spree, provided one knows how to bargain.

(DH recently visited Ho Chi Minh City at the invitation of VietJet Air)

जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर विमान की आपात लैंडिंग

जागरण संवाददाता, जयपुर : जयपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर शुक्रवार को एअर इंडिया के विमान को आपातकालीन स्थिति में उतारा गया। यह विमान जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुआ था। मात्र 18 मिनट बाद ही तकनीकी खराब के कारण पायलट ने वापस विमान को हवाई अड्डे पर उतारा। खराबी को ठीक करने के बाद शाम 4:29 पर विमान वापस मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुआ।

एअर इंडिया के विमान एआइ-612 को जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए रवाना होना था, लेकिन तकनीकी खराबी के कारण वापस उतारा गया।

एअर इंडिया ने प्रशिक्षण में सुधार के साथ मानकों को मजबूत किया है : सीईओ

नई दिल्ली, प्रेढ़ : एअर इंडिया के सीईओ कैपबेल विल्सन ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि उसने प्रशिक्षण में सुधार के साथ मानकों को मजबूत किया है। इसके साथ ही सुरक्षा और अन्य मामलों की रिपोर्टिंग में सुधार लाने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है।

12 जून को हुई विमान दुर्घटना की पृष्ठभूमि में आए विल्सन के बयान में कहा गया कि यह स्वाभाविक है कि किसी दुर्घटना के बाद गहन जांच

का दौर चलता है। सभी टिप्पणियों को रचनात्मक रूप से शालीनता और खुले दिमाग से लिया जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने एअर इंडिया के कर्मचारियों को दिए एक संदेश में कहा कि हमने बेन्स-सिमन्स जैसे सिद्धांतों को अपनाया है ताकि दोषारोपण या दंड देने से पहले सीखने और सुधार के अवसरों का लाभ उठाया जा सके। बेन्स-सिमन्स एक अग्रणी विमानन सुरक्षा प्रशिक्षण और परामर्श फर्म है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

■ SpiceJet to Lease 5 Boeing 737 Planes



NEW DELHI SpiceJet has finalized an agreement to lease five Boeing 737 aircraft, which are scheduled to join its fleet in October. The aircraft will be inducted on a damp-lease basis, with operational crew shared between the operator and the airline., according to a Friday statement. The airline said the aircraft will support demand during the peak winter season and early summer of 2026. "SpiceJet is also in advanced talks with other lessors to further expand its fleet and strengthen both domestic and international operations," the statement added.

AI Plane Crash: FAA Rules Out Fault in Boeing Fuel Control Unit

Reuters

Wisconsin: The head of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said on Thursday the fatal crash last month of an Air India Boeing 787 jet does not appear to have been caused by a mechanical issue or inadvertent movement of the fuel control unit or switches.

"We can say with a high level of confidence it doesn't appear to be a mechanical issue with the Boeing fuel control unit," Bryan Bedford, the FAA's administrator, told reporters on the sidelines of an air show in Wisconsin.

He said FAA employees had taken the units out, tested them and had inspectors get on aircraft and review them. "We feel very comfortable that this isn't an issue with inadvertent manipulation of fuel control," he said.



FAA staff had taken out and tested the units, with inspectors reviewing the aircraft, Bryan Bedford said

The probe into Air India crash, which killed 241 of the 242 people on board and 19 on the ground, is focused on the fuel control switches of the Boeing 787 jetliner.

Boeing and Air India did not immediately comment.

The switches control fuel flow to aircraft engines, allowing pilots to start or shut them down on the ground, or manually intervene during in-flight engine failures.

Air India said on Tuesday it has completed precautionary inspections of the fuel control switch locking mechanism on all 787 and 737 aircraft, with no issues detected.

A preliminary report from India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau earlier this month found the switches had almost simultaneously flipped from "run" to "cutoff" shortly after takeoff, causing the engines to lose power.

Reuters reported last week, citing a source, that the cockpit recording on the Air India flight from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick suggested the captain cut fuel to the engines. Earlier this month, the FAA and Boeing privately issued notifications that the fuel switch locks on Boeing planes were safe.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

Scrutiny calls for genuine improvement: Air India CEO

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, July 25

BATTLING INTENSE SCRUTINY, Air India MD and CEO Campbell Wilson called on its employees for the commentary from all sides to be taken constructively 'with grace and an open mind.'

In a note to the airline's staff sent on Friday, he said, "It is natural that, following an accident, there is a period of intense scrutiny. Some of it must come from internal examination and self-reflection, while some of it will come from external parties."

Following the Air India flight crash of June 12, which saw a total of 280 fatalities, the company has continued to remain at the centre of attention following multiple incidents including a plane's engine catching fire, an aircraft skidding off the runway and technical snags.

"Sometimes the extra attention means that normal issues get misinterpreted or sensationalised, but sometimes the scrutiny highlights genuine areas for improvement. We must take all commentary constructively with grace and an open mind, and where there is an opportunity to act, must do so," Wilson added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 JULY 2025

DGCA slaps 4 notices on Air India for lapses

Agencies

MUMBAI

Aviation regulator DGCA has warned Air India of action for breaching safety standards related to crew fatigue management and training.

DGCA has issued four show-cause notices to the airline for violations related to cabin crew rest and duty norms, training rules and operational procedures. The notices were issued on July 23 on the basis of volun-

tary disclosures made by AI on June 20 and 21. The airline self-reported the problems, which occurred this year and last year, just days after one of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners crashed in Ahmedabad, killing 260 people.

"We will respond to the notices within the stipulated period. We remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers," an AI statement said on Thursday.

► [Contd on | nation](#)

DGCA slaps 4 notices...

The notices criticised AI for repeated failures in safety compliance and follow many other warnings in the past. Potential regulatory action could include fines or ordering that executives be removed from their jobs. They cite a combined 29 violations, including pilots not being given mandatory rest, poor compliance with simulator training requirements, lack of training for a high-altitude airport and flying on international routes with insufficient cabin crew.

"Despite repeated warning and enforcement action of non-compliance in the past, systemic issues related to compliance monitoring, crew planning, and training governance remain unresolved," said one of the notices. "The recurrence of such violations suggests a failure to establish and enforce effective control mechanisms," it said.

DGCA found in May that AI flew three Airbus planes even though they were overdue for checks on emergency equipment. One of the notices said there had been "weekly rest violations" detected for two pilots in June 2024 and one in June 2025, though it did not say how many extra hours the pilots flew.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

18 मिनट हवा में रहने के बाद इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

आसमान में खुला एयर इंडिया का कार्गो गेट, मची अफरातफरी

एजेसी ►► जयपुर

राजस्थान में जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से शुक्रवार को एक एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट ने उड़ान भरी थी। इसके बाद पायलट को प्लेन का कार्गो गेट खुला रह जाने की जानकारी मिली, जिसके बाद यात्रियों में हड़कंप मच गया। पायलट ने तुरंत इसकी सूचना एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी को दी।

करीब 18 मिनट हवा में रहने के बाद फ्लाइट को एयरपोर्ट पर इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग की गई। फ्लाइट के इंजन में भी कुछ तकनीकी खराबी की बात सामने आई है। बताया जा रहा है कि एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट एआई-612 शुक्रवार दोपहर जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए उड़ान भरी थी। करीब 18 मिनट की उड़ान के बाद फ्लाइट में तकनीकी खराबी का पता चला। साथ ही कार्गो गेट भी खुले होने की जानकारी



मिली है। माना जाता है कि इसे उड़ान के दौरान काफी खतरनाक माना जाता है। इसके बाद पायलट ने जयपुर एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी के अधिकारियों और एयर टैफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी) को इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग के लिए मैसेज भेजा। अनुमति मिलने के बाद दोपहर 2:16 बजे फ्लाइट को इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग की गई।

सभी यात्री सुरक्षित

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग के बाद सभी यात्रियों को उतारा गया है। सभी यात्री सुरक्षित हैं। एयरपोर्ट की तकनीकी टीम फ्लाइट को जांच कर रही है। अभी तक की जांच में किसी तरह की खराबी को लेकर किसी भी तरह की जानकारी सामने नहीं आई है। वहीं इस घटना को लेकर अभी तक एयर इंडिया की ओर से कोई आधिकारिक बयान जारी नहीं किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

REPORTING ON SAFETY, TRAINING IMPROVED, SAYS AIR INDIA CEO

NEW DELHI: Air India has improved training, strengthened standards and has been focused on improving reporting about safety and other matters, the airline's CEO Campbell Wilson said on Friday.

Against the backdrop of its plane crash that killed 260 people on June 12, Wilson said it is natural that there is a period of intense scrutiny following an accident and that all commentary must be taken constructively with an open mind.

The Tata Group-owned airline, which has come under intense scrutiny following the accident, has taken certain measures, including temporary curtailment of flights and completion of inspection of its Boeing 787 and 737 fleets.

"We have focussed on improving reporting, whether it be of safety or other matters, by making it easier to do, more encouraged, more protected and put to more use, and we have adopted philosophies such as those from Baines-Simmons to take opportunities for organisational learning and improvement before jumping to blame or punishment," he said in a message to AI staff. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

25 JULY 2025

DGCA issues four show cause notices to Air India

Press Trust of India

feedback@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Aviation regulator DGCA has issued four show cause notices to Air India for various violations related to cabin crew rest and duty norms, cabin crew training rules and operational procedures, a month after the airline made certain voluntary disclosures to the watchdog, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The show cause notices were issued on July 23 on the basis of voluntary disclosures made by the airline to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA) on June 20 and 21, the people said.

"We acknowledge receipt of these notices from the regulator related to certain voluntary disclosures that were made over the last one year by Air India. We will respond to the said notices within the stipulated period. We remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement.

Three show cause notices have been issued based on the voluntary disclosures made by Air India on June 20, including violations of cabin crew duty and rest regulations with respect to at least four ultra

long haul flights—two operated on April 27 and one each on April 28 and May 2, the people cited above said.

According to the people, who did not want to be identified, there were also violations in crew training and operational procedure in relation to at least four flights, including those operated on July 26, 2024, October 9, 2024 and April 22, 2025.

One of the DGCA show cause notices pertains to violations of flight duty period/ weekly rest violations with respect to flights operated on June 24, 2024, and June 13, 2025, they added.

Another show cause notice,

based on airline's voluntary disclosures made on June 21, is about three instances of violations in cabin crew training and the operational procedures.

These violations happened in some of the flights operated on April 10-11, February 16-May 19 and December 1, 2024, the people said.

In recent times, Air India has come under the regulatory scanner for certain violations.

Meanwhile, the DGCA initiated punitive action against certain officials of Air India Express for the airline failing to comply with an airworthiness directive regarding engines installed on Airbus A320 air-

craft, the civil aviation ministry said on Thursday.

During a surveillance inspection of Air India Express by DGCA, it was found that the airline had not complied with the EASA (European Union Aviation Safety Agency) Airworthiness Directive on the engines installed on the Airbus A320 aircraft.

In a written reply, minister of state for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol said DGCA initiated punitive action against the airline's responsible personnel—continuing maintenance manager, quality manager and accountable manager—as per the Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

25 JULY 2025

DGCA issues four notices to Air India for safety violations

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued four show-cause notices to Air India over 29 violations, including non-compliance with crew rest norms, under-deployment of cabin crew on ultra long-haul flights, and lapses in pilot and crew training. The notices also flagged unresolved “systemic issues” and deficiencies in “safety management” despite previous regulatory interventions.

A total of 19 violations pertain to violations in pilot training and the timelines within which they have to complete refresher training programme where pilots operate commercial flights under the guidance of an instructor. These were observed for a 12-month period from July 2024 to June 2025.

The Hindu has reviewed the show-cause notices, obtained through industry sources. The violations were voluntarily disclosed by Air India.

Three violations concerning weekly rest periods for one first officer and two captains were recorded between June 2024 and June 2025.

“In its show-cause notices, the regulator has said that despite repeated warnings and enforcement action for non-compliance in the past, systemic issues related to compliance monitoring, crew planning, and training governance remain unresolved,” an official said.

The DGCA has given Air India 14 days to respond to the notices.

An Air India spokesperson said in a statement, “...We will respond to the said notices within the stipulated period.”



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

उड़ान भरने के 18 मिनट बाद जयपुर लौटा एअर इंडिया का विमान

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 25 जुलाई।

उड़ान भरने के महज 18 मिनट बाद शुक्रवार को एअर इंडिया का विमान (एआइ 612) जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर लौट आया। तकनीकी खराबी की वजह से जयपुर-मुंबई उड़ान को उड़ान भरने के कुछ देर बाद ही दोबारा जयपुर में ही उतारना पड़ा।

जयपुर हवाई अड्डे से करीब डेढ़ बजे विमान के उड़ान भरने के कुछ देर बाद ही तकनीकी खामी का पता चला। इसके बाद विमान को तत्काल जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर उतारना पड़ा। इस दौरान पायलट की सूझबूझ के कारण विमान को जयपुर हवाई पर सुरक्षित उतारा गया। एअर इंडिया की ओर से जारी बयान में कहा गया है, विमान में आई



विमानन कंपनी का कहना है, सुरक्षा और यात्रियों की कुशलता उनकी सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है।

संदिग्ध तकनीकी समस्या की जानकारी मिलते ही इसे दूर करने के लिए जांच की गई। इसमें एक संकेत गलत पाया गया। कुछ देर बाद विमान को दोबारा उड़ान भरने की इजाजत मिलते ही इसे अपने गंतव्य (मुंबई) के लिए

रवाना किया गया। विमानन कंपनी का कहना है, सुरक्षा और यात्रियों की कुशलता उनकी सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है।

पिछले हफ्तों के दौरान एअर इंडिया की उड़ानों में लगातार आ रही तकनीकी खामियों के कारण यात्रियों की मुश्किलें लगातार बनी हुई हैं। बार बार हो रही परेशानियों के कारण सफर के दौरान भी यात्रियों को सुरक्षा की चिंता भी

सता रही है। पिछले कुछ दिनों के दौरान यात्रियों को इंतजार, उड़ान की वापसी और यात्रा रद्द किए जाने सहित विभिन्न तकनीकी खामियों का खामियाजा भुगतना पड़ रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

Air India has improved training, strengthened standards, says airline's CEO Campbell Wilson

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Air India has improved training, strengthened standards and has been focused on improving reporting about safety and other matters, the airline's CEO Campbell Wilson said on Friday.

Against the backdrop of its plane crash that killed 260 people on June 12, Wilson said it is natural that there is a period of intense scrutiny following an accident and that all commentary must be taken constructively with grace and an open mind.

The Tata Group-owned airline, which has come under intense scrutiny following the accident, has taken certain measures, including temporary curtailment of flights and completion of inspection of its Boeing 787 and 737 fleets.



Air India CEO Campbell Wilson

In recent years, Wilson said the airline has improved training and promulgated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to give direction and clarity, strengthened standards, instilled processes to drive compliance and consistency, and introduced performance management practices to rise higher.

"We have focussed on improving reporting, whether it be of safety or other matters, by making it easier to do, more

encouraged, more protected and put to more use, and we have adopted philosophies such as those from Baines-Simmons to take opportunities for organisational learning and improvement before jumping to blame or punishment," he said in a message to Air India staff.

Baines-Simmons is a leading aviation safety training and consulting firm.

There have been some incidents involving Air India planes in recent weeks, and aviation regulator DGCA has also issued show cause notices for certain violations following voluntary disclosures made by the carrier.

"We have invested significantly in the adoption of digital systems to replace paper-based ones, so that we have more complete, accurate, accessible and usable data that does not reside in silos," Wilson said.

According to him, sometimes the extra attention means that normal issues get misinterpreted or sensationalised, but sometimes the scrutiny highlights genuine areas for improvement.

"We must take all commentary constructively with grace and an open mind and, where there is an opportunity to act, must do so," he noted.

Wilson, who is the CEO and MD, highlighted that the airline's Net Promoter Score (NPS) touched an all-time record high in July.

NPS is an indicator of passenger satisfaction across various touch points.

"... so far in July more than 1,00,000 have taken the opportunity to give such feedback, and have collectively delivered us an all-time record high NPS score of +34.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

SpiceJet to lease 5 Boeing 737 planes

NEW DELHI: SpiceJet has finalised an agreement to lease five Boeing 737 planes, and the aircraft are scheduled to join its fleet in October.

The aircraft are being inducted on a damp-lease basis, where operational crew will be shared between the operator and the airline, according to a release on Friday.

The airline said it has finalised a lease agreement to induct five Boeing 737 aircraft, and they are scheduled to join the fleet in October and will cater to the peak winter season as well as the early summer season of 2026.

"SpiceJet is also in advanced discussions with other lessors to further enhance its fleet and strengthen both domestic and international operations," it added.

The budget carrier, which had been facing multiple headwinds, operates Boeing 737s and Q-400s. It did not mention the current number of operational planes in its fleet.

As per data available on fleet tracking website Planespotters.net, the airline has 20 planes in operation and 33 on the ground for various reasons as on July 24.

Shares of SpiceJet declined 2.40 per cent to close at Rs 38.27 apiece on the BSE.

DGCA issues 4 show cause notices to Air India for various violations

The show cause notices were issued on July 23 on the basis of voluntary disclosures made by airline to DGCA on June 20 and 21, sources said

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: Aviation regulator DGCA has issued four show cause notices to Air India for various violations related to cabin crew rest and duty norms, cabin crew training rules and operational procedures, a month after the airline made certain voluntary disclosures to the watchdog, sources said on Thursday.

The show cause notices were issued on July 23 on the basis of voluntary disclosures made by the airline to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on June 20 and 21, the sources said.

"We acknowledge receipt of these notices from the regulator related to certain voluntary disclosures that were made over the last one year by Air India. We will respond to the said notices within the stipulated period. We remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement.

Three show cause notices have been issued based on the voluntary disclosures made by Air India on June 20, including violations of cabin crew duty and rest regulations with respect to at least four ultra long



'There were also violations in crew training & operational procedure in relation to at least 4 flights, sources said

haul flights -- two operated on April 27 and one each on April 28 and May 2, the sources said.

According to the sources, there were also violations in crew training and operational procedure in relation to at least four flights, including those operated on July 26, 2024, October 9, 2024 and April 22, 2025. One of the DGCA show cause notices pertains to violations of flight duty period/ weekly rest violations with respect to flights operated on June 24, 2024, and

Highlights

- » Three show cause notices have been issued including violations of cabin crew duty and rest regulations
- » Another show cause notice, based on airline's voluntary disclosures made on June 21, is about three instances of violations in cabin crew training and operational procedures
- » In recent times, Air India has come under the regulatory scanner for certain violations

June 13, 2025, they added.

Another show cause notice, based on airline's voluntary disclosures made on June 21, is about three instances of violations in cabin crew training and operational procedures.

These violations happened in some of the flights operated on April 10-11, February 16-May 19 and December 1, 2024, the sources said.

In recent times, Air India has come under the regulatory scanner for certain violations.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

25 JULY 2025

Domestic air travel rises to 1.36 crore in June: DGCA

NEW DELHI: Indian airlines carried more than 1.36 crore passengers in June, higher than the year-ago period, according to official data released by DGCA on Thursday.

The number of passengers flown by the carriers was 3 per cent more in June compared to 1.32 crore in May.

IndiGo's market share dipped to 64.5 per cent in June from 64.6 per cent in May, while that of Air India Group rose to 27.1 per cent last month compared to 26.5 per cent in May.

Last month, the market share of Akasa Air remained unchanged at 5.3 per cent while that of SpiceJet declined to 1.9 per cent from 2.4 per cent in May.

The overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines in June stood at 0.93 per cent.

Nearly 37 per cent of the flight cancellations in June were due to technical reasons, followed by operational (25 per cent) and weather (22.4 per cent).

In June, as many as 1,20,023 passengers were affected due to flight delays, and airlines shelled out little over Rs 1,68 crore towards facilitation. A total of 33,333 passengers were impacted by flight cancellations in June, and carriers spent Rs 72.40 lakh towards compensation and facilities.

As per the data, 1,022 passengers were denied boarding, and airlines paid Rs 99.57 lakh towards compensation and facilities. P11



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

25 JULY 2025

SC dismisses plea by KAL Airways, Maran seeking damages: SpiceJet

NEW DELHI: SpiceJet on Thursday said the Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal filed by KAL Airways and its former promoter Kalanithi Maran, who were seeking damages of over Rs 1,300 crore and other related claims against the airline.

In a regulatory filing, SpiceJet stated that the top court's order marks the final dismissal of these appeals. "The remaining issues before the Court pertain to SpiceJet's challenge of the interest levied—which has already been substantially deposited—and the premature refund of the



CRPS (Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares) amount by the Arbitral Tribunal," the airline noted.

The legal dispute began in 2015, when Ajay Singh, who had earlier owned SpiceJet, reacquired the airline from Maran and KAL Airways after it was grounded due

to financial distress.

Under the agreement, Maran and KAL claimed to have paid Rs 679 crore to SpiceJet for convertible warrants and preference shares, which they alleged were neither issued nor refunded—leading to a court case in 2017.

However, the Arbitral Tribunal, the Delhi High Court, and its Division Bench had previously rejected Maran's claims.

The Supreme Court's latest decision effectively ends the damages dispute, leaving only procedural matters to be resolved.

AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

25 JULY 2025

Air India witnesses 'minor increase' in sick leaves reported by pilots: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Air India witnessed a "minor increase" in sick leaves reported by pilots across its fleet in the aftermath of the Ahmedabad plane crash, with 112 pilots reporting sick in a single day on June 16, according to the Government.

In response to a Lok Sabha member's query on whether Air India has been experiencing mass sick reporting by its flight crew members, following the crash, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol on Thursday said there has been a minor increase in sick leaves reported by pilots, and as many as 51 commanders reported sick on June 16.

"Air India reported a minor increase in sick leaves reported by pilots across all fleets in the aftermath of the AI-171 accident. On 16.06.2025, a total of 112 pilots reported sick, comprising of 51 Commanders (P1) and 61 First Officers (P2),"

the minister said in a written reply. The airline's Boeing 787-8 aircraft, operating the flight AI 171, en route to London Gatwick, crashed into a building soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad on June 12.

Air India reported a minor increase in sick leaves reported by pilots across all fleets in the aftermath of the AI-171 accident

— MURLIDHAR MOHOL, MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION

In the fatal accident, 260 people died, including 241 passengers who were onboard the plane, and 19 people on the ground. One passenger survived the crash.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) medical circular, issued in February 2023, had advised airlines to have a separate, standalone and customised training capsule for the flight crew/ATCOs

(Air Traffic Controllers) to recognise and manage the adverse effects of mental health conditions.

"Additionally, on mental health monitoring, the organisations (scheduled and non-scheduled operators, FTOs and AAI) were also advised to have a Peer Support Programme (PSP) in place for their employees. The organisations are required to enable, facilitate and ensure access to this proactive and non-punitive programme that will assist and support flight crew/ATCOs in recognising, coping with and overcoming any problem," Mohol said.

FTOs and AAI refer to Flying Training Organisations and the Airports Authority of India, respectively.

In another written reply, Mohol said that at present, there is no specific policy with the civil aviation ministry related to compensation for damages suffered by civilians on the ground due to a plane crash.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

US regulator: Quite sure no issue with AI 171 fuel switch

FAA Head Rules Out 'Inadvertent Manipulation'

Suggesting that the fuel control switches on the doomed AI 171 were manually moved, the new head of the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has said the crash was unlikely to have been caused by a mechanical issue with the plane or inadvertent movement of the aircraft's fuel control switches.

"We can say with a high level of confidence it doesn't appear to be a mechanical issue with the Boeing fuel control unit. We feel very comfortable that this isn't an issue with inadvertent manipulation of fuel control," agencies quoted FAA administrator

THE SWITCH POSER

> Initial report of India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau had said the **fuel control switches of AI171 had been moved from 'run' to 'cutoff'** just after lift-off, and back after 10 seconds

> In cockpit voice recording, the report said, one pilot asked the other **why he had moved the switches**, to which the latter replied he hadn't

Bryan Bedford as saying.

Indian authorities who are investigating the crash and have requested patience for the final report before drawing conclusions did not comment on the claim. The doomed plane's fuel supply to engines had been cut off, causing it to crash. It is not known what caused the fuel switches' position to change. TNN & AGENCIES

After crash, red flags, govt & AI brainstorm on safety

New Delhi: Brainstorming is on at the highest levels of Tata Group and the aviation ministry to put Air India back on track after a spate of bad news led by the June 12 AI 171 crash and regulatory actions in the past few months, reports Saurabh Sinha.

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran met aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu and aviation secretary Samir Kumar Sinha Friday after three days of discussions between AI management (headed by CEO Campbell Wilson) and officials (headed by the secretary) led to concrete suggestions.

"We have discussed all issues... including those related to maintenance, leadership and

'SAFETY FIRST'

> Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran (pic) meets aviation minister after 3 days of discussions

> DGCA has served 9 show-cause notices to AI for five safety violations in past 6 months

> Sacrifice growth, ensure safety is the message, say sources in the loop on the airline-ministry talks



communications. The results will hopefully be visible in coming days once the suggestions are implemented," said a person in the know.

► Safety steps, P 18

Chandrasekaran said to have told govt about safety steps taken by AI

► Continued from P1

One such meeting went on till well after 10pm earlier this week.

"Something positive will come out of this. India needs strong carriers and govt will support airlines wherever needed," said the person.

Sources say Chandrasekaran informed govt about steps being taken by the airline after the AI171 crash and some recent incidents to bolster safety. "Basically, govt was informed how AI plans to win back flyers' confidence," another person close to the developments said.

It is learnt that the areas identified during the recent meetings for immediate attention include airworthiness, engineering and main-



Chandrasekaran informed govt about Air India's plans to win back flyers' confidence, a person close to the developments said

tenance. A lack of spares, for instance, often forces aircraft to fly under the "minimum equipment list" (MEL) for a long time. MEL is a list that conditionally allows aircraft to be used with some equipment inoperative, with

the condition that the same does not impact safety and that it would be replaced within a certain timeframe.

The main issue, say multiple people involved in the exercise, is of culture. "Vistara was merged into AI last Nov. Ideally, it should have been the other way round. But that is done. Both airlines have a very different culture and AI is now facing post-merger issues. During the meetings, solutions were suggested. The main issue is not operations but about engineering and maintenance," one of them said.

For some time, having the better-run Singapore Airlines — which holds a 25.1% stake in Air India — play a more visible handholding may be considered.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

26 JULY 2025

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

By Doreen Bora

Guess How Many Birds And Animals Hit Planes In India

Over 5,700 birds and 98 animals collided with aircraft at Indian airports in the last five years. Though no human lives were lost, these incidents highlight the growing conflict between humans and wildlife

No. of birds and animals hit at Indian airports (2020 to Jun 2025)





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

25 JULY 2025

DGCA again issues notices to Air India on crew duty rule violations

We Remain Committed To Safety Of Our Crew And Passengers: Airline

Saurabh Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) slapped four show-cause notices on Air India on Wednesday over what it said were violations related to crew flight-duty periods and weekly rest. AI crew have for long been complaining of being made to fly for longer than the rules allow. Such rules are meant to ensure, for safety, that only fully rested pilots operate flights.

The airline issued a statement saying that they “acknowledge receipt of these notices from the regulator related to certain voluntary disclosures that were made over the last one year by Air India.

We will respond to the said notices within the stipulated period. We remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers.”

AI has to reply within 15 days of the issuing of the notices.

While AI crew members have been unhappy over the way some key management people are running the Tata Group airline, the language of recent DGCA notices shows an increasing uneasiness at the state of affairs.

One notice issued Wednesday did not mince words: “These violations reflect serious deficiencies in crew scheduling, operational planning, and regulatory oversight within the flight operations function. Despite re-



AI has to reply within 15 days of the issuing of the notices

peated warnings and enforcement action of non-compliance in the past, systemic issues related to compliance monitoring, crew planning,

and training governance remain unresolved.” It added: “The recurrence of such violations suggests a failure to establish and enforce effective control mechanisms... Director flight operations of AI has failed to ensure the compliances.”

Nine days after the June 12 Ahmedabad crash, the regulator had asked AI to remove three officials who were in charge of crew rostering. The June 20 order had said: “Repeated and serious violations voluntarily disclosed by AI concerning flight crew being scheduled and operated despite lapses in licensing, rest, and recency requirements...

point to systemic failures in crew scheduling, compliance monitoring, and internal accountability.” Of particular concern, it had said, was “the absence of strict disciplinary measures against key officials directly responsible for these operational lapses”.

The regulator had at the time warned AI that “any future violation” of crew scheduling norms, licensing, or flight-time limitations detected in any post-audit or inspection would “attract strict enforcement action, including but not limited to penalties, license suspension, or withdrawal of operator permissions as applicable”.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

25 JULY 2025

With more AI pilots reporting sick after Guj crash, DGCA issues circular on mental health

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Air India has reported an increase in sick leaves by pilots in the aftermath of the AI-171 crash on June 12, prompting Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to ask airlines to take steps for mental well-being of crew members.

"Air India's 112 pilots, comprising 51 commanders and 61 first officers, reported sick on June 16... DGCA has already issued a medical circular regarding mental health of flight crews and air traffic controllers," MoS for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol told Lok Sabha Thursday.

DGCA had earlier this month directed Indian carriers, particularly the major ones like Air India and IndiGo, to hold a post-trauma mental health workshop for their flight crew.



Several pilots, especially of Boeing 787s, have been reporting trauma after the Gujarat crash involving an aircraft of the same type

Several pilots, especially of Boeing 787s that crashed in Ahmedabad last month, have been reporting trauma after the accident. "The conversation in cockpits these days is mostly limited to what could have caused the crash. What is it that really went wrong? That is really eating us up. We are not buying the pilot suicide theory that has been fuelled by AAIB's extremely questionable preliminary re-

port," said multiple pilots.

The DGCA medical circular advises "quick and effective methods to assess mental health that can easily be performed by DGCA empanelled medical examiners, and the introduction of a separate, standalone and customised training capsule for the flight crew/ATCOs to recognise and manage the adverse effects of mental health conditions".



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

25 JULY 2025

AI Express crew help deliver baby mid-air in Mumbai-bound flight

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A Thai passenger went into labour on board an Air India Express Muscat-Mumbai flight on Thursday and delivered a boy with the help of the cabin crew. There was no doctor on board among the passengers.

Upon landing in the city, the baby and mother were admitted to hospital. Both are in good health.

The unscheduled birth upset the travel plans of the passenger, who boarded the flight from Muscat with her one-year-old to fly to Bangkok via Mumbai, as travel documents need to be prepared, topmost being Indian visa for

the three. They have to stay in India for a week because of the airline's age restriction for babies. Also, the newborn will need a passport.

The passenger went into labour about 45 minutes before the flight was to land in Mumbai, said a source. Since Mumbai was the closest airport at that time, the flight did not divert. "The moment the Thai national went into labour, the crew responded swiftly, drawing on their rigorous training to ensure a secure and compassionate environment for the birth," said Air India Express in a media statement. Among the crew who helped with the delivery was senior cabin crew Sneha Na-

ga, along with other flight attendants, Aishwarya Shirke, Asiya Khalid, and Muskan Chauhan. The flight was piloted by Capt Ashish Vaghani and Capt Faraz Ahmed.

"The pilots alerted the air traffic control to request priority landing, where medical teams and an ambulance were ready on arrival. Upon touchdown, both mother and baby were transferred to hospital for further care, accompanied by a female airline staff member to provide continued support," it said. Air India Express is in touch with the Consulate General of Thailand in Mumbai to support the passenger's onward journey to their home country.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

25 JULY 2025

DGCA rings mental health alarm as more AI pilots report sick post crash

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Air India has reported an increase in sick leaves by pilots in the aftermath of the AI-171 crash on June 12, prompting Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to ask airlines to take steps for mental well-being of crew members.

"Air India's 112 pilots, comprising 51 commanders and 61 first officers, reported sick on June 16... DGCA has already issued a medical circular regarding mental health of flight crews and air traffic controllers," junior minister for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol told LS on Thursday.

DGCA had earlier this month directed Indian carriers, particularly the major ones like Air India and IndiGo, to hold a post-trauma mental health workshop for



The AI-171 crash site in Ahmedabad. One hundred and twelve AI pilots, comprising 51 commanders and 61 first officers, reported sick on June 16, junior minister for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol told LS on Thursday

their flight crew.

Several pilots, especially of Boeing 787 that crashed in Ahmedabad last month, have been reporting trauma after the accident. "The conversation in cockpits these days is

mostly limited to what could have caused the crash. That is eating us up. We are not buying the pilot suicide theory fuelled by AAIB's extremely questionable preliminary report," said multiple pilots.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

24 JULY 2025

DGCA raps AI over 29 safety lapses in a year

SHEKHAR SINGH
THE TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

Air India is facing intense regulatory scrutiny after aviation watchdog, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), issued four show-cause notices to the airline, citing 29 safety-related violations. These breaches include lapses in crew duty norms, fatigue management and training oversight.

The DGCA has warned that continued non-compliance could lead to enforcement actions such as monetary penalties or even the removal of senior executives.

The notices, dated July 23, follow voluntary disclosures made by Air India to the DGCA on June 20 and 21. Despite these disclosures, the regulator has sharply criticised the airline for

Regulator serves notices warns of strict action

FLIGHT ABORTS TAKE-OFF

An Air India Express flight bound for Mumbai with nearly 150 passengers aborted take-off at Delhi's IGI Airport on Wednesday night after the pilots flagged a technical fault inside the cockpit.

2K SNAGS SINCE 2021

The year-wise data presented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in Parliament has revealed that India's scheduled commercial airlines recorded 2,094 technical defects from 2021 to 2025.

persistent and systemic lapses. One notice stated, "Despite repeated warnings and earlier enforcement measures,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

DGCA raps AI over 29 safety lapses in a year

systemic problems in compliance monitoring, crew scheduling and training oversight remain unresolved."

Among the 29 violations, several involve breaches in flight duty periods and weekly rest norms for pilots and cabin crew. One notice specifically highlights ultra-long-haul flights operated on April 27 (two flights), April 28 and May 2 this year, where the airline failed to deploy the mandated number of cabin crew and ignored crew rest regulations.

Another notice points to failures in adhering to operational and training procedures on flights operated on July 26, 2024, October 9, 2024, and April 22, 2025. Additional violations related to crew fatigue rules were found in flights on June 24, 2024, and June 13, 2025.

Further violations involved cabin crew training and operational protocols on multiple

flights between April 10-11, February 16-May 19, and December 1, 2024. These included lapses in mandatory simulator training and inadequate preparation for operating at high-altitude airports.

Three of the four notices stemmed from Air India's own disclosures on June 20, while the fourth was based on separate disclosures made on June 21, flagging three instances of training and operational procedure failures for cabin crew.

Air India has acknowledged receiving the notices. A spokesperson said, "We will respond within the stipulated period and remain committed to the safety of our crew and passengers." While Air India is currently under scrutiny, industry observers suggest this crackdown could lead to broader regulatory action across Indian carriers, particularly those with weaker safety records.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

24 JULY 2025

Airlines report over 2,000 technical faults in 4 years

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

India's civil aviation sector is apparently facing a number of challenges. The year-wise data presented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in Parliament has revealed a concerning volume of technical defects reported in commercial aircrafts.

India's scheduled commercial airlines recorded 2,094 technical defects between 2021 and 2025. The data, collected from reports filed with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), stated that 514 defects were reported in 2021, 528 in 2022, 448 in

2023, 421 in 2024, and 183 in the first half of 2025.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol revealed this in response to a series of questions raised in Parliament. The bulk of these reports come from IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share, which has led the list with 179 defect reports in 2021, 215 in 2022 and 246 in 2023.

Tata-owned Air India, along with Air India Express, has seen a dramatic rise in technical issues. In 2025 alone, 85 issues have already been recorded, including 61 involving Air India Express.