



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

 **Hindustan Times**

## HINDON AIRPORT LIKELY TO CONNECT PRAYAGRAJ AND LUCKNOW ROUTES

**Peeyush Khandelwal**

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**GHAZIABAD:** The civil terminal at the Hindon airport may connect to two more cities, Lucknow and Prayagraj, following a request by Ghaziabad MP Atul Garg during a meeting with the Airport Authority of India (AAI) officials in Delhi on Wednesday.

"We proposed that flights from the civil airport should also connect to popular routes like Lucknow and Prayagraj. Since the civil terminal airport has limited parking bays, it came out in the meeting that connecting flights to Lucknow and Prayagraj would be a better option instead of providing direct flights. We expect positive development around Diwali," Garg, also the chairperson of airport coordination committee, said.

AAI officials also said there is a possibility of the development.

The operators have sought some time to take up the plans and will revert to the AAI," said Umesh Yadav, director, civil airport, Hindon.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

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### Delhi's IGIA ranked world's 39th most connected airport

NEW DELHI, Sept 24: Delhi airport has been ranked as the world's 39th most connected airport in a list topped by London Heathrow airport, according to a report.

The National Capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), however, slipped significantly from the 24th position in 2024.

OAG, a data platform for the global travel industry, on Wednesday released Megahubs 2025, a ranking of the world's most connected airports.

In the list of top 50 global airport megahubs, London Heathrow is on top, followed by Istanbul and Amsterdam in the second and third positions, respectively. Other airports in the top 10 are Kuala Lumpur and Frankfurt (4), Seoul Incheon (6), Chicago O'Hare (7), Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson (8), Tokyo Haneda (9) and Paris Charles de Gaulle (10).

As per the report, IGIA is at the 39th spot, offering 16,178 connections and connecting 157 destinations.

In terms of low-cost carrier airport megahubs, IGIA is at the 11th position, and Mumbai airport is at the 14th place among the top 25 such airports. IGIA is the top megahub in the South Asia region, the report said.

The report is based on OAG flight data from the 100 largest airports and the 100 largest international airports in the world, based on total scheduled seats for the September 2023 to August 2024 period.

The total number of all possible connections has been calculated between inbound and outbound flights within a six-hour window, considering those where either the inbound, outbound, or both flights are international. – PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

25 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 रवाना नहीं हो सकी। ऐसे में जयपुर से बेंगलुरु जाने वाली करीब साढ़े तीन घंटे देरी से रवाना हो सकी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## Gas distribution facility at B'luru Airport City

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bengaluru Airport City Limited has signed an agreement with GAIL Gas Limited, a subsidiary of GAIL (India) Limited, to set up a city gas distribution facility at Bengaluru Airport City.

The facility, aimed at building a greener energy ecosystem and improving last-mile connectivity for vehicles and logistics fleets at the Kempegowda International Airport, will include a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station, Piped Natural Gas (PNG) installations, and other clean energy solutions.

The station will also have non-fuel retail and convenience outlets for public use, Bengaluru Airport City Limited said in a press note.

"The establishment of the CNG station within Bengaluru Airport City will greatly benefit thousands of vehicles, providing convenient access to CNG refuelling for commuters travelling to and from the airport," said Goutom Chakraborty, Chief Executive Officer, GAIL Gas Limited.

## आइजीआइ पर चोरी रोकने के लिए एयरलाइंस सुरक्षा प्रमुखों संग बैठक

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों के सामान से होने वाली चोरी की घटनाओं को रोकने और सुरक्षा नियमों का सख्ती से पालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए दिल्ली पुलिस ने कम्पनियों से मिल कर एक बैठक की। उपायुक्त कार्यालय परिसर में आयोजित इस बैठक का मुख्य उद्देश्य एयरलाइंस को विभिन्न सुरक्षा दिशा-निर्देशों के बारे में संवेदनशील बनाना और उनका कड़ाई से अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करना था। इसके अलावा, यात्रियों के सामान से चोरी की बढ़ती घटनाओं पर भी गंभीर चर्चा हुई। बैठक में उपायुक्त विचित्रवीर ने एयरलाइंस से अपने कर्मचारियों और ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग स्टाफ के बीच आंतरिक निगरानी तंत्र स्थापित करने को कहा। कहा कि एयरलाइंस को अपने ही स्टाफ में संदिग्ध व्यक्तियों



आइजीआइ जिला पुलिस उपायुक्त विचित्रवीर एयरलाइंस सुरक्षा प्रमुखों के साथ बैठक करते हुए ©सी: दिल्ली पुलिस

की पहचान करनी चाहिए।

**वर्षों पड़ी जरूरत :** आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों के सामान चोरी की घटनाएं समय समय पर आती रही हैं। 2023 में आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट पर ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग से जुड़े करीब 42 कर्मों गिरफ्तार हुए थे। ऐसे मामले में अक्सर संदेह की सूई एयरलाइंस के ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग कंपनियों पर जाती रही है। एयरपोर्ट पर सामान चोरी के ऐसे मामलों में लोडर गिरफ्तार भी होते रहे हैं। दिल्ली पुलिस ने तब कहा था कि ब्रेगेज हैंडलिंग स्टाफ (लोडर, ग्राउंड क्रू) की नियमित रैंडम जांच होनी चाहिए।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Indian Airports Get High on Liquor Sales

**PACKING A PUNCH** Duty-free sales at terminals grow at a faster pace than in local market as more begin to fly

Sagar Malviya

**Mumbai:** It's not just passengers taking flight from Indian airports—liquor brands are flying off the shelves too. India's duty-free and travel retail volume growth outpaced the country's domestic beverage sector in 2024 with 13% growth, compared to a 6% rise at local stores, according to IWSR Drinks Market Analysis.

Whisky, which accounted for three-fourths of the volumes, saw a 12% growth in contrast to the category's performance in the Indian domestic market, where volumes declined 8%. "With Indian passenger numbers expected to grow 50% over the next five years and beverage alcohol volumes rising rapidly, it is clear that Indian travellers will be vital to the future suc-



**12%**  
Growth in  
duty-free  
whisky sales  
against 8% fall  
in domestic  
market sales  
in 2024

cess of global travel retail (GTR)," said Charlotte Reid, senior insights manager, GTR at IWSR. This comes as global travel retail becomes an increasingly important growth engine for drinks companies, especially at a time when the wider alcohol industry faces stagnant volumes. While global total beverage alcohol

(TBA) consumption is expected to remain flat between 2024 and 2029, IWSR expects GTR volumes to grow at a 3% compound annual rate and 4% in Asia.

India's expanding middle class, rising disposable income, and evolving consumption patterns are reshaping retail dynamics at airport terminals.

"India's disposable income and travel demands are growing faster than their global counterparts, and this will in turn reshape consumer spending and drive demand in GTR," Reid added. "Indian consumers are changing from price- and utility-driven behaviours to brand consciousness and experiential spending, with Gen Z and millennial consumers to the fore."

Radico Khaitan chief operating officer Amar Sinha said travellers increasingly use airport dwell time to explore brands, especially premium and luxury options.

"People have enough time at the airport to window shop and discover the brand before they buy," he said. "Airports across the world are the best avenue to popularise brands, especially in the premium and luxury segment."

While Scotch grew 11% in 2024 and

US whisky rose 8%, Indian whisky volumes increased by 10%, with value growing even faster at 18%. Still, Indian whiskey, however, remained a small player in global travel retail, representing less than 2% of whisky volumes.

"Indian whisky has relatively little shelf space in GTR until about three years ago, it had virtually no presence in the channel but this is beginning to change as consumers broaden their repertoires," Reid said. Beyond whisky, early signs of diversification are emerging. Vodka volumes grew by 48% in 2024—nearly three times the growth in domestic markets.

However, industry players said the growing price competitiveness of domestic markets may limit the return of standard and premium spirits to pre-pandemic travel retail levels.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

## rodent menace

# Now, rat bite incident at Indore Airport

### Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

Just days after the 'rat bite' incident in MY Hospital, a similar shocking incident took place at the city's Devi Ahilyabai Holkar (DABH) Airport on Tuesday afternoon when a rat bit a passenger there, tarnishing the reputation of what was once ranked Asia-Pacific's No.1 airport for passenger sat-

isfaction. The episode also exposed glaring lapses in the airport's medical preparedness.

The victim, Arun Modi, a software engineer from Bhopal, was waiting to board IndiGo flight 6E-6739 to Bengaluru, scheduled to depart at 3:05 PM. With time to spare, he reclined on a seat in the lounge area when he suddenly felt something unusual inside his trousers. To

his horror, he discovered that a rat had crawled into his pants. He tried to catch the rat from outside but was unsuccessful in his attempt and the rodent bit him behind the knee. Modi quickly removed his trousers and was shocked to find a bleeding injury where the rat had bitten him. The commotion drew attention from other passengers, causing a stir at the airport.

Airport staff rushed to the scene and immediately took him to the Medical Help Centre located within the terminal. However, the centre had no anti-rabies vaccine in stock. The duty doctor, from a private hospital contracted by the airport, could only administer a tetanus shot. Modi had to wait until he landed in Bengaluru to receive the necessary anti-rabies injection.



We conducted pest control just eight days ago, on September 15. I have spoken to the victim and our staff. We are imposing a penalty on the pest control agency and will conduct another round of treatment. We've also received complaints about the conduct of the duty doctor, and he is being replaced

**-Vipin Kant Sheth**, Director, DABH Airport



# Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

## आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर एयरलाइंस के सुरक्षा अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य।  
आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर डीसीपी  
( आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट ) विचित्र  
वीर, की अध्यक्षता में एक अहम  
बैठक आयोजित की गई। यह बैठक  
उनके कार्यालय के कॉन्फ्रेंस हॉल में  
हुई, जिसमें 40 से अधिक  
एयरलाइंस के चीफ सिक्योरिटी  
ऑफिसर शामिल हुए।

इस बैठक का प्रमुख उद्देश्य  
एयरलाइंस को सुरक्षा से जुड़े दिशा-  
निर्देशों के प्रति जागरूक करना और  
उनकी सख्त अनुपालना सुनिश्चित  
करना था। डीसीपी ने सभी  
प्रतिनिधियों को स्पष्ट संदेश दिया कि  
सुरक्षा मानकों में कोई कोताही  
बर्दाश्त नहीं की जाएगी।

बैठक में यात्रियों के बैग से होने  
वाली चोरी की घटनाओं पर भी  
गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की गई।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

## दिल्ली हवाईअड्डे पर सुरक्षा को लेकर डीसीपी ने की बैठक

नई दिल्ली, 25 सितम्बर (नवोदय टाइम्स): इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (आईजीआई) पर यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और सामान चोरी की घटनाओं पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए उपायुक्त आईजीआई हवाईअड्डा, विचित्र वीर की अध्यक्षता में 24 सितंबर को एक महत्वपूर्ण बैठक आयोजित की गई। यह बैठक उपायुक्त आईजीआई कार्यालय के कॉन्फ्रेंस हॉल में हुई, जिसमें 40 से अधिक एयरलाइंस के मुख्य सुरक्षा अधिकारी (सीएसओ) शामिल हुए।

बैठक का उद्देश्य एयरलाइंस को सुरक्षा दिशानिर्देशों का सख्ती से पालन करने और आंतरिक निगरानी तंत्र को मजबूत करने के लिए प्रेरित करना था। उपायुक्त विचित्र वीर ने

### 40 से अधिक एयरलाइंस के अधिकारी शामिल



बैठक में बताया कि विभिन्न नियामक एजेंसियों द्वारा जारी सुरक्षा दिशानिर्देशों का पालन सुनिश्चित करना सभी एयरलाइंस की जिम्मेदारी है। उन्होंने

सामान चोरी की बढ़ती घटनाओं पर चिंता जताई और एयरलाइंस से इस पर तत्काल कार्रवाई करने को कहा। उपायुक्त ने सुझाव दिया कि एयरलाइंस अपने कर्मचारियों और ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग क्रू में संदिग्ध व्यक्तियों की पहचान के लिए एक प्रभावी आंतरिक निगरानी

तंत्र स्थापित करें। उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया कि दिल्ली पुलिस इस कार्य में हर संभव सहायता प्रदान करेगी, ताकि चोरी की घटनाओं को रोका जा सके और यात्रियों का विश्वास बढ़ाया जा सके।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

PIONEER

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

## आईजीआई पर सुरक्षा को लेकर डीसीपी की अहम बैठक

नई दिल्ली। आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों के सामान से होने वाली चोरी की घटनाओं को रोकने और सुरक्षा नियमों का सख्ती से पालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए दिल्ली पुलिस ने कदम कस ली है। इस क्रम में आईजीआई जिला पुलिस उपायुक्त ने 40 से अधिक एयरलाइंस के मुख्य सुरक्षा अधिकारियों के साथ एक महत्वपूर्ण बैठक की। उपायुक्त कार्यालय परिसर में आयोजित इस बैठक का मुख्य उद्देश्य एयरलाइंस को विभिन्न सुरक्षा दिशानिर्देशों के बारे में संवेदनशील बनाना और उनका कड़ाई से अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करना था। इसके अलावा, यात्रियों के सामान से चोरी की बढ़ती घटनाओं पर भी गंभीर चर्चा हुई। बैठक में उपायुक्त विचित्रवीर ने एयरलाइंस से अपने कर्मचारियों और ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग स्टाफ के बीच आंतरिक निगरानी तंत्र स्थापित करने को कहा।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Passenger bitten by rat at Indore airport



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
*Bhopal, 24 September*

In a bizarrely embarrassing incident, a rat bit a passenger in the departure waiting area of the Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport of Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

As per airport officials, a

male passenger travelling from Indore to Bengaluru was bitten by a rat inside the departure lounge on Tuesday.

Airport Director Vipinkant Seth said the airport doctor and medical staff immediately attended to the passenger and administered an injection, and also provided antibiotic medicines.

The official said that pest control was also carried out soon after the incident.

Just a few days ago, two newborn baby girls died after they were bitten by big rats inside the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharaja Yeshwantrao Hospital (MYH) of Indore, which is one of the biggest government hospitals of Madhya Pradesh.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## Air India Express to start 20 flights daily from Navi Mumbai International Airport

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
*Mumbai, 24 September*

The Tata Sons-owned Air India group has officially announced through a statement that Air India Express will begin flight operations from the newly constructed Adani Holdings-owned Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), after it becomes operational on 30 September.

The airport is a 74:26 joint venture between Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) and

City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO).

Besides Air India Express, Akasa Air and IndiGo have also committed a certain number of flights from NMIA as soon as operations commence. The Adani Airport Holdings Ltd-run airport will witness Air India Express operating 20 daily departures from NMIA, connecting 15 Indian cities, according to the statement. The airline plans to increase this frequency to 55 daily departures by

mid-2026, including up to 5 daily international flights from NMIA. Air India aims to further boost its operations by operating 60 daily departures (120 ATMs) from NMIA, by the winter of 2026, according to the statement. Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said that company is looking forward to commencing operations from the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), as Mumbai "joins the league of world cities with more than one airport".

"We are happy to work with Adani Airports to build NMIA not only as a point that connects to the rest of India, but also as one of the country's key global transit hubs for both passengers as well as cargo, given its strategic geographical location. At the Air India group, we are proud to lead the charge in connecting the West to the East and beyond via India, and our expansion at NMIA will support India's growth as a global aviation hub," Wilson said.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## Airport 'rat bite'

■ **INDORE:** A passenger has claimed he was bitten by a rat at Indore airport on Tuesday, weeks after two newborn girls died following alleged rodent attacks at a local hospital. Officials said the Bengaluru-bound passenger was immediately treated. [PTI](#)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## Rat bites man at Indore airport; doc replaced

**Indore:** A 33-year-old software engineer, waiting at Indore airport for a flight to Bengaluru, was bitten by a rat inside the terminal on Wednesday, reports **Sagar Choukse**.

The passenger, Arun Modi, was resting on a recliner when the rodent crawled inside his trousers and bit him near knee. He was accompanied by his wife. He said the staff was reluctant and unprepared to provide timely treatment. He received treatment in Bengaluru.

On Thursday, airport director V K Seth said Amaltas Group, which provides emergency medical services, was asked to replace the on-duty doctor. "The step was taken due to the doctor's lack of sensitivity in attending to the passenger.," Seth told **TOI**. Congress spokesperson Amit Chaurasia said the incident has tarnished the city's 'clean Indore' image.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Sikh alleges humiliation at Delhi airport

[IP.Singh@timesofindia.com](mailto:IP.Singh@timesofindia.com)

**Jalandhar:** Tamil-origin Sikh and Bahujan Dravida Party president **Jeevan Kumar Ilayaperumal**, also known as Jeevan Singh, alleged he faced "humiliating and discriminatory questions" at Delhi airport Wednesday before his flight to Singapore. He



claimed he was asked, "Your address is in Tamil Nadu but why are you wearing a Sikh turban?"

"I faced an unacceptable incident of humiliation at Air India International Counter No 5 while checking in for my flight to Singapore. After I handed over my passport to the ground staff, who wasn't

wearing her ID card, she made offensive remarks, questioning whether the face on the passport matched mine," he said.

Singh, who embraced Sikhism in Jan 2023, claimed the staff refused to issue his boarding pass until he strongly asserted his rights and condemned their conduct. He said he would initiate legal action against Air India on his return.

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

## इंडिगो व एसबीआई ने पेश किया को-ब्रांडेड क्रेडिट कार्ड

नई दिल्ली, 25 सितम्बर (एजेंसियां)। विमान सेवा कंपनी इंडिगो ने देश के सबसे बड़े ऋणदाता भारतीय स्टेट बैंक के साथ साझेदारी में गुरुवार को को-ब्रांडेड इंडिगो एसबीआई कार्ड पेश करने की घोषणा की।

यह प्रीमियम क्रेडिट कार्ड दो वेरिएंट, 'इंडिगो एसबीआई कार्ड' और 'इंडिगो एसबीआई कार्ड एलीट' में लॉन्च किया गया है। ग्राहकों को इंडिगो के इकोसिस्टम के अंतर्गत आने वाले सभी ऑफर, होटल और यात्रा बुकिंग सहित अन्य श्रेणियों पर किए गए सभी खर्चों पर रिवाॉर्ड प्वाइंट मिलेंगे।

इंडिगो के टिकट बुक कराने या उसके साझेदारों से साथ होटल बुकिंग आदि पर इंडिगो एसबीआई कार्ड एलीट के माध्यम से खर्च करने पर सात प्रतिशत और इंडिगो एसबीआई कार्ड का उपयोग करके खरीदारी पर तीन प्रतिशत रिवाॉर्ड मिलेगा।

इंडिगो इकोसिस्टम से बाहर अन्य प्लेटफॉर्म पर होटल और यात्रा बुकिंग के लिए इंडिगो एसबीआई कार्ड एलीट के धारकों को तीन प्रतिशत और इंडिगो



### प्रीमियम क्रेडिट कार्ड दो वेरिएंट, 'इंडिगो एसबीआई कार्ड' व 'इंडिगो एसबीआई कार्ड एलीट' में किया लांच

एसबीआई कार्ड के उपयोगकर्ताओं को दो प्रतिशत रिवाॉर्ड मिलेगा। अन्य सभी श्रेणियों में खर्च के लिए क्रमशः दो प्रतिशत और एक प्रतिशत रिवाॉर्ड मिलेगा।

ये रिवाॉर्ड इंडिगो ब्लूचिप्स के रूप में होंगे। कार्डधारक इन्हें इंडिगो की सेवाओं जैसे फ्लाइट बुकिंग, होटल बुकिंग, सीट अपग्रेड, भोजन और फास्ट फॉरवर्ड जैसी सेवाओं के वाउचर आदि के माध्यम से भुना सकते हैं। सलिला पांडे ने कहा कि एसबीआई कार्ड में, हमने देखा है कि यात्रा

### तिरुवनंतपुरम से माले के लिए उड़ान शुरू करेगी इंडिगो

नई दिल्ली। यात्री संख्या के लिहाज से देश की सबसे बड़ी विमान सेवा कंपनी इंडिगो अगले महीने केरल की राजधानी तिरुवनंतपुरम से मालदीव की राजधानी माले के लिए उड़ान शुरू करेगी। एयरलाइंस ने गुरुवार को बताया कि दोनों शहरों से बीच सीधी दैनिक उड़ान 26 अक्टूबर से शुरू होगी। कंपनी बेंगलुरु, मुंबई और कोच्चि से पहले ही माले के लिए विमान सेवा मुहैया करा रही है। तिरुवनंतपुरम से माले के बीच एटीआर विमानों का परिचालन किया जाएगा। इंडिगो के मुख्य विपणन अधिकारी विनय मल्होत्रा ने कहा कि इसके साथ ही भारत से मालदीव के बीच एयरलाइंस की उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़कर सप्ताह में 28 हो जाएगी।

हमारे कार्डधारकों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण व्यव श्रेणी है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

26 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## जयपुर हवाई अड्डे पर विमान का संचालन गड़बड़ाया

जयपुर: जयपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमानों के संचालन में गुरुवार को गड़बड़ी हुई। एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का विमान तय समय पर दुबई के लिए उड़ान नहीं भर सका, जबकि दुबई से आने वाला विमान अंतिम समय में रद्द कर दिया गया। इस कारण यात्रियों को कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा। एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ने बताया कि आइएक्स-196 विमान को तकनीकी खराबी के चलते रद्द किया गया, जिससे दुबई के लिए उड़ान प्रभावित हुई। अंततः विमान ने लगभग आठ बजे उड़ान भरी, जिससे यात्रियों को राहत मिली। (जास)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

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## Jet Fuel Demand Slows After 4 Yrs of Strong Growth

**Sanjeev Choudhary**

**New Delhi:** Demand for jet fuel in the country has slowed sharply so far in 2025, after four years of robust growth, as heavy rains, aircraft maintenance, a plane crash and border skirmishes weighed on air traffic.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) consumption fell in August for the second consecutive month, declining 2.9% year-on-year. For April-August, consumption increased only 1.3%, according to petroleum and natural gas ministry data. By con-

trast, ATF sales had expanded 9% in 2024-25. Growth in previous years was far stronger — 11.8% in 2023-24, 47.3% in 2022-23 and 35.4% in 2021-22 — as the sector rebounded from the Covid-19-induced plunge of 53.8% in 2020-21. The pandemic



had begun hurting the aviation industry toward the end of 2019-20, pulling down ATF consumption by 3.6% that year. In the two years prior, domestic ATF consumption had grown by 9% on average. After this roller-coaster trajectory, ATF consumption crossed the earlier peak of 8.3 million metric tonnes from

2018-19 only in 2024-25, when sales reached 8.9 million metric tonnes.

The decline in August consumption was “primarily due to the flight disruptions caused by heavy rainfall in the northern states coupled with aircraft downtime due to maintenance”, the ministry said in its analysis. “Delhi & Maharashtra, which contribute more than 40% to total ATF” consumption, recorded declines, it noted, adding that flight operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi were affected by the runway closure from June 15 to September 15 for upgradation.

## RESUMPTION LIKELY ONLY IN 2026

# Flights between China, India delayed by another quarter

NITIN KUMAR  
New Delhi, September 25

**THE MUCH-AWAITED RESUMPTION** of direct flights between India and China is expected to be delayed by at least another quarter despite recent diplomatic breakthroughs between the two countries. Both the countries are working through complex regulatory processes required to restart services suspended since early 2020.

Officials familiar with the matter said that although the resumption of direct flights was initially expected in the winter schedule, services are now unlikely to begin before early next year. Both sides are currently working on renewing the Air Services Agreement (ASA), while airlines from both countries are in the process of seeking mandatory operational clearances from each other's aviation authorities.

A source said that airlines from both countries have yet to receive operational authorisation.

"The resumption of flights is unlikely to happen this year, as it typically takes at least three months for airlines to

### TAKE-OFF PREPARATIONS



■ Services between the two countries have been suspended after the Galwan clashes in 2020

■ In 2019, India and China had 539 direct flights operated by airlines including Air India, IndiGo, China Southern and China Eastern

■ Industry experts believe the introduction of direct flights could potentially triple this figure to 3 million

■ Currently, an estimated 1 million passengers travel annually between the two nations via indirect routes

complete the required applications and obtain necessary approvals," an official said.

A query sent to the ministry of civil aviation remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

Indian carriers such as Air India and IndiGo are currently in discussion with the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) to obtain necessary approvals. On the other side, Chinese airlines, including Air China, China Eastern, China Southern, and Shandong Airlines are working to secure clear-

ance from India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Airlines will also need to revalidate expired certifications, such as the Air Operator Certificate (AOC), and ensure compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. This includes updating operational manuals and demonstrating financial and operational readiness.

Takeoff and landing slots at key airports must also be secured through designated coordinators, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the

Airports Council International (ACI) for Chinese airports.

In 2019, India and China had 539 direct flights operated by airlines including Air India, IndiGo, China Southern and China Eastern. Airlines operated direct services connecting major cities including New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

In March 2020, international flights were halted during Covid. The Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020 resulted in a complete breakdown of trust between the two countries.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

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## हिंडन से लखनऊ-प्रयागराज के लिए उड़ान जल्द शुरू होगी

ट्रांस हिंडन, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से जल्द लखनऊ और प्रयागराज की उड़ानें शुरू होंगी। मंगलवार को सफदरजंग स्थित भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) के कार्यालय राजीव गांधी भवन में हुई बैठक में एयरलाइंस कंपनियों से दीवाली से पहले इन दोनों शहरों के लिए प्रस्ताव मांगे गए हैं। एयरपोर्ट के लिए अतिरिक्त पार्किंग और इसके विस्तार को लेकर भी चर्चा हुई।

गाजियाबाद के सांसद एवं हिंडन सिविल टर्मिनल विमानपत्तन सलाहकार समिति के अध्यक्ष अतुल गर्ग की अध्यक्षता में बैठक हुई। एएआई के ऑपरेशन हेड शरद कुमार ने इस साल हिंडन से व्यावसायिक उड़ानों की शुरुआत और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर व यात्री सुविधाओं में हुई बढ़ोतरी के बारे में जानकारी दी। सांसद ने कहा कि छह माह में छह लाख से अधिक यात्रियों ने हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से यात्रा की है। यहां

### रक्षामंत्री से मिलेंगे अधिकारी

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर एक ही पार्किंग होने से अक्सर अव्यवस्था होती है और एक विमान के रुकते ही तीन से चार उड़ान प्रभावित हो जाती है। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट स्टेशन के अधिकारियों से अतिरिक्त पार्किंग मांगी गई थी। अतुल गर्ग ने बताया कि बैठक में वायुसेना अधिकारियों ने पार्किंग को लेकर न तो इनकार किया और न ही हामी भरी। उनके पास वर्तमान समय में चार पार्किंग मौजूद हैं। इसलिए वह इसके लिए रक्षामंत्री राजनाथ सिंह से मुलाकात करेंगे।

की उड़ानों में 92 फीसदी ऑक्यूपेंसी रही है। सांसद के अग्रह पर शरद कुमार ने सभी विमानन कंपनियों से आग्रह किया कि वे दीवाली से पूर्व लखनऊ और प्रयागराज के लिए प्रस्ताव दें। इस पर इंडिगो व एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने रुचि दिखाई।

## Air India crash: pilot's father says AAIB officials hinted his son moved the fuel switch

**Reuters**  
NEW DELHI

The 91-year-old father of the fatal Air India flight's captain has said officials from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) visited him last month and suggested that his son cut the fuel to the plane's engines after take-off, correspondence obtained by *Reuters* showed.

Pushkar Raj Sabharwal emailed the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) last week to say that AAIB officials had visited him at home on August 30 "under the pretext of offering condolences", and implied his son, Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, was the one who moved the fuel switches.

"During this interaction...they went beyond their mandate – speaking in in-



Pushkaraj Sabharwal father of Capt. Sumeet Sabharwal.

nuendos and insinuating, on the basis of selective CVR (cockpit voice recorder) interpretation and a so-called 'layered voice analysis', that my son had moved the fuel control switches from RUN to CUTOFF after take-off," the September 17 email said.

The day before the AAIB visit, he wrote to the Ministry of Civil Aviation to request the Union government to open an additional investigation into the dead-

ly crash, criticising what he said were investigators' "selective" releases of information, which had led to speculation about Captain Sabharwal's actions.

The crash of Air India flight 171 in June killed 241 of the 242 people on board and 19 persons on the ground.

A preliminary investigation report by AAIB showed the plane's fuel engine switches had almost simultaneously flipped from run to cut-off just after taking off from the runway.

The AAIB did not respond to *Reuters* queries. On Thursday, a *Reuters* reporter was denied access to Mr. Sabharwal's home in Mumbai. The Civil Aviation Ministry and Air India did not respond to *Reuters* requests for comment.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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Hindustan Times

AVIATION DISASTER |

## 100 days after the AI-171 jet crash, questions persist

Anjali Bhargava



Can 260 lives be lost in the blink of an eye, in what is globally acknowledged as one of the safest modes of transport, and nobody be to blame? That's the question that is increasingly being asked, now of the courts — both in the US and in India — by those who directly feel the pain of this tragedy but have found themselves stone-walled and unable to obtain any answers from those who ought to be answering them.

Time and again after the June 12 crash, the Air India brass has publicly absolved itself and reiterated that there were no mechanical or maintenance issues with the aircraft or engine. In statements issued to the media, the Air India

the preliminary report on July 12.

On September 16, just over three months after the AI171 crash that killed 260, the families of four victims of the accident filed a lawsuit against American manufacturer Boeing and Honeywell, accusing the companies of negligence. The lawsuit, filed in Delaware Superior Court, claims the accident was caused by a defective design of the aircraft's fuel switches, which were manufactured by Honeywell and installed by Boeing. The suit alleges that the switches' location in the cockpit, just below the thrust levers, made it likely for them to be inadvertently moved during normal flight operations. Further, as per the suit filed, a locking mechanism meant to secure the switches was either prone to disengaging or was missing altogether. It further argued that prior warnings were repeatedly ignored and refers to the 2018 US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) advisory that warned operators of certain Boeing aircraft, including the 787-8, to inspect the locking feature on fuel control switches. This warning was a recommendation, not a requirement, one Air India chose to ignore.

Meanwhile a day later on September 17, a writ petition (a copy is with this writer) filed by a NGO Safety Matters Foundation made its way to the Supreme Court in India, seeking two actions. One, the writ asks for disclosure of all basic factual data pertaining to the accident, including the complete Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR)

output and the full Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) transcript with timestamps and it seeks the appointment of an independent investigator of appropriate qualification and standing, under the supervision and control of the courts to oversee and monitor the ongoing investigation into the accident.

The writ takes apart and strongly condemns the preliminary report released by the AAIB in July and raises several inadequacies, some of which have been highlighted by experts and media and some which it highlights for the first time.

The strongest indictment of the report by the petition is with regard to its "selective disclosures" and paraphrased references to cockpit voice recordings "without timestamps or corroborative context". This selective presentation, it is argued, creates a misleading impression and undermines transparency. Moreover, it has the effect of "shaping a biased public perception", one that tends to attribute the cause of the accident to pilot error while absolving the manufacturer and the airline of potential responsibility. The report further argues that "by releasing incomplete and unverified extracts of the cockpit voice recording, the Respondent has created an information environment that unfairly tilts the narrative in favour of the operator and manufacturer".

But perhaps what is even more worrying is that the writ points out several technical aspects of the investigation that seem lacking and appear to have been overlooked or not examined in as much detail as would befit an accident of this

nature and magnitude.

As is well known, aircraft depart with a minimum equipment list and deferred maintenance items that are acceptable to the Captain in charge but the report highlights the role of BPCUs (Bus Power Control Unit), which are central to the 787's electrical and data distribution network, and which, in this case, were defective. This can lead to an inability to correctly transmit or receive control signals, including the "RUN" command to the Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC). The writ argues that these findings strongly support the "electrical disturbance theory," whereby signal anomalies rather than pilot actions triggered the dual engine shutdown.

It goes on to highlight the much discussed RAT (Ram Air Turbine, a sort of a back-up) deployment, pointing out that the preliminary report itself records that the RAT deployed during the initial climb and



Air India Flight 171, a Boeing 787, crashed seconds after take-off in Ahmedabad on June 12.

arguing that this activation, corroborated by CCTV footage, is "incontrovertible evidence that the aircraft was experiencing a severe electrical or propulsion emergency well beyond ordinary operational anomalies". The writ therefore questions the reports failure to analyse the technical implications of RAT deployment, including how it does not establish the exact moment when the deployment command was issued by onboard computers or the sequence of events leading to RAT activation.

It also discusses the transitioning of fuel switches from "cut off" to "run" within seconds of initial shutdown and argues that these sequences occurred without any manual intervention by the pilots, indicating that the system itself was attempting to restore thrust. As per the petition, the preliminary report "fails to analyze these automatic relight attempts or their significance" and further argues that the relight activity is

consistent with transient electrical faults or signal restorations. It alleges that the report ignores crucial evidence and "continues to focus solely on alleged human error, thereby suppressing technical findings that point to deeper systemic instability".

While some of the above has been discussed in videos and news reports that followed the crash, the writ highlights two lesser discussed aspects of the crash and the preliminary findings: one, the state in which the aft EAFR (Enhanced Aircraft Flight Recorder), which the is flight recorder located at the rear of the aircraft was found. The petitioners say that the nature of the aft (or rear) recorder's destruction, including melting of its crash-proof housing and absence of soot deposits, was "highly irregular" and consistent with high-temperature lithium-ion type combustion rather than ordinary fuel fire. In other words, this suggests some kind of sabotage or tampering with the rear recorder. The writ further argues that "both recorders were inexplicably retained in Ahmedabad until 24.06.2025 before being sent for readout, during which time sensitive details of the investigation appeared in the Wall Street Journal, raising concerns about data integrity and possible leaks".

Lastly, the writ argues that the failure of AAIB to include the testimony of the sole survivor is another glaring omission that could materially impact the investigation. The petition points out that Vishwash Kumar Ramesh recounted that moments after takeoff the lights inside the aircraft began "flick-

ering green and white," and within five to ten seconds the plane appeared "stuck in the air" before slamming into a building and exploding. His account, the writ argues, directly contradicts the insinuation of deliberate pilot error and provides critical first-hand evidence of electrical anomalies and the sequence of impact. It goes a step further to argue that the "suppression of Mr. Ramesh's testimony, the only direct evidence from within the cabin, represents a serious breach", implying that this was deliberate.

The writ also argues that the respondents (Union of India, DG AAIB and DGCA) have failed to discharge their statutory duty by issuing a full and comprehensive report with legitimate recommendations. Had they done so, a far wider regime of preventive measures could have been adopted. It points out that after the preliminary report was published Authorities in South Korea and Egypt mandated compliance with FAA's Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin on fuel control switches. Etihad Airways conducted fleet-wide inspections, and the DGCA in India required all Indian airlines operating Boeing 787 aircraft to undertake mandatory checks. These proactive measures were taken despite the absence of any formal safety recommendation in the preliminary report.

People close to the court proceedings told this writer that the next hearing in this case will be in early November but that a second writ was likely to be filed by the Pushkaraj Sabharwal, the 91-year old father of AI171's commander Sumeet Sabharwal, with the assistance

of a group of pilots, who worked closely with his son, which is likely to ask for a retired or sitting judge to oversee the investigation as it proceeds in addition to the existing demands by the Safety Matters foundation. "Essentially, AAIB by releasing such a sub-standard, shoddy and unsigned report has made matters worse and we have lost faith in the body and its ability to produce an unbiased final report", said a senior serving commander of the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP). FIP is likely to join hands with Sabharwal Sr. and be included as a petitioner in the writ.

That AAIB has been trying to repair some of the damage done to its credibility after the preliminary report is evident in the addition of new experts including a senior Air India Dreamliner captain RS Sandhu and others who can materially guide the investigation since. More recently, the Airline Pilots Association of India (ALPA) has been invited for a meeting in October with AAIB, following a letter sent by the association to the civil aviation minister, to discuss ways of better representing the pilots' stand point and views during the course of the investigation.

But the good news in this otherwise sad saga is that the lawsuits in the US and the writ petitions in India are likely to force the hand of the authorities to bring in more transparency in the proceedings and help bring to book hold those who might be keen to avoid sharing the blame for this tragedy.

Anjali Bhargava writes about governance, infrastructure, and the social sector. The views expressed are personal.

are personal

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of a group of pilots, who worked closely with his son, which is likely to ask for a retired or sitting judge to oversee the investigation as it proceeds in addition to the existing demands by the Safety Matters foundation. "Essentially, AAIB by releasing such a sub-standard, shoddy and unsigned report has made matters worse and we have lost faith in the body and its ability to produce an unbiased final report", said a senior serving commander of the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP). FIP is likely to join hands with Sabharwal Sr. and be included as a petitioner in the writ.

That AAIB has been trying to repair some of the damage done to its credibility after the preliminary report is evident in the addition of new experts including a senior Air India Dreamliner captain RS Sandhu and others who can materially guide the investigation since. More recently, the Airline Pilots Association of India (ALPA) has been invited for a meeting in October with AAIB, following a letter sent by the association to the civil aviation minister, to discuss ways of better representing the pilots' stand point and views during the course of the investigation.

But the good news in this otherwise sad saga is that the lawsuits in the US and the writ petitions in India are likely to force the hand of the authorities to bring in more transparency in the proceedings and help bring to book hold those who might be keen to avoid sharing the blame for this tragedy.

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# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

## Air India Express to start 20 flights daily from Navi Mumbai International Airport

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
*Mumbai, 24 September*

The Tata Sons-owned Air India group has officially announced through a statement that Air India Express will begin flight operations from the newly constructed Adani Holdings-owned Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), after it becomes operational on 30 September.

The airport is a 74:26 joint venture between Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) and

City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO).

Besides Air India Express, Akasa Air and IndiGo have also committed a certain number of flights from NMIA as soon as operations commence. The Adani Airport Holdings Ltd-run airport will witness Air India Express operating 20 daily departures from NMIA, connecting 15 Indian cities, according to the statement. The airline plans to increase this frequency to 55 daily departures by

mid-2026, including up to 5 daily international flights from NMIA. Air India aims to further boost its operations by operating 60 daily departures (120 ATMs) from NMIA, by the winter of 2026, according to the statement. Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said that company is looking forward to commencing operations from the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), as Mumbai "joins the league of world cities with more than one airport".

"We are happy to work with Adani Airports to build NMIA not only as a point that connects to the rest of India, but also as one of the country's key global transit hubs for both passengers as well as cargo, given its strategic geographical location. At the Air India group, we are proud to lead the change in connecting the West to the East and beyond via India, and our expansion at NMIA will support India's growth as a global aviation hub," Wilson said.





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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## Pilots' assn alleges bias in Air India crash probe, seeks judicial inquiry

**SHEKHAR SINGH**  
INDIAN NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 24** The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) have accused the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of pushing a premature and biased "pilot error" narrative in the AI 171 crash and demanded that the probe be replaced by a judicial inquiry.

In a letter to the Ministry of Civil Aviation on September

22, accessed by The Tribune, the FIP said the ongoing investigation into the June 12 crash had been "fundamentally and irrevocably compromised".

The FIP alleged that AAIB officials overstepped their mandate by visiting the residence of 91-year-old Publicar Raj Sabharwal, father of the late Pilot-in-Command Capt Sumeet Sabharwal, under the "pretext of offering condolences".

During the visit, the letter claimed, officials made "damaging insinuations" that Capt Sabharwal had deliberately moved the fuel control switches to cut-off position after takeoff.

They described the conduct as "procedurally improper and professionally indefensible", accusing investigators of a "deliberate strategic manoeuvre designed to pre-emptively establish a 'pilot error' narrative".