



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Design flaw fixed at Patna airport ahead of launch

Ruchir Kumar

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PATNA: A missing staircase at the newly constructed terminal building of the Jay Prakash Narayan International airport in Patna was built on May 23, after the Airports Authority of India took down a wall separating the international and domestic departure lounges, for better passenger access, officials aware of the matter said.

The terminal is scheduled for inauguration by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on May 29.

The design flaw was noticed during an inspection — routine procedure before the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) issues clearance for operations to start — and flagged to Delhi-based Sikka Associate Architects (SAA), who designed the new terminal, an official said requesting anonymity.

The terminal was so designed that passengers could access the base and mezzanine floors of the

domestic departure lounge only through eight lifts and two sets of escalators in the security hold area. Such a design would not only pose access difficulties, officials said that in case emergencies the flaw could lead to chaos.

Two revised design plans were sent to accommodate a staircase in the domestic SHA from the exterior side of the building, the official cited above said. AAI officials, including chairman Vipin Kumar and member (planning) Anil Gupta, did not respond to HT's requests

for comment. The architect firm, meanwhile, said the design flaw has been fixed. "There was an access issue earlier to the staircase in the domestic departure SHA. We resolved it last Friday (May 23) by removing a partition internally, which now provides access to two separate staircases in the SHA. The domestic side circulation issue of accessibility through staircase in SHA has been resolved," said Ashwani Kumar, project director of the Sikka Associate Architects.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

26 MAY 2025

PM to inaugurate Patna airport new terminal building on May 29

Ruchir Kumar

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PATNA: Aviation regulator, the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA), has given all requisite clearances to operationalise the new terminal building of the Jayprakash Narayan International (JPNI) airport, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Bihar on May 29, said officials on Sunday.

PM Modi will inaugurate the Patna airport's new integrated terminal building, built at a cost of ₹1,200 crore (approx), and lay the foundation stone for a new civil enclave at Patna's Bihta airport, approx 35 kms from the existing airport, during a simple programme between 5.45pm and 6pm, after he arrives from Hasimara in West Bengal by a special plane at 5.30pm on May 29, said officials.

The air operations will, however, commence from the new terminal building by June 5.

A battery of senior officers from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) headquarters in New Delhi and its regional headquarters in Kolkata will be camping in Patna from Monday.

The DGCA, believed to be slow and fastidious in according

its nod due to safety concerns, gave three commissioning level clearances in a day on May 23.

The aviation regulator last Friday approved the commissioning of the lone passenger boarding bridge (PBB), also known as aerobridge. Of the total five aerobridges approved, only one has been constructed initially. The remaining four, likely to be constructed over the next six months, will come up after the existing old terminal building is demolished when the entire air operation shifts to the new terminal building in the first week of June, said a person familiar with the matter.

The DGCA also gave go ahead to commissioning of a part of the ground service equipment (GSE) area, where passengers wait either before boarding or alighting from an aircraft and the cargo is kept before loading or unloading from an aircraft, as part of the 'Apron phase 3' of the airport terminal building redevelopment project, said another person aware of the matter.

Besides, the regulator also gave nod to the commissioning of the Delta taxi track, the path linking the apron to the runway. The Delta taxi track has been constructed in addition to the

existing Alpha, Beta and Charlie parallel taxi tracks.

Prior to clearance by the DGCA, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had on May 21 given the formal security clearance of the terminal building, said the second person quoted above.

Patna airport's new integrated terminal building has a built-up area of 65,155 sqm against the existing 11,130 sqm, which is handling nearly three times the traffic given its capacity. It will cater to 3,000 passengers during peak hours, boosting the airport's capacity from 30 lakh (3 million) to 1 crore (10 million) passengers annually. It will have six additional aircraft parking bays, increasing their number to 11, and facilitate parking nine Airbus A320 and two ATR aircraft.

The new terminal has 64 check-in counters, nine automatic tray retrieval system (ATRS) at security checkpoints in phase I. The terminal building has two levels — the ground floor dedicated to arrival and elevated first floor for departure. It has a corridor to the multilevel car parking with capacity to accommodate 750 cars, along with a commercial floor.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Aviation regulator commences inspection of Noida airport for operational readiness

FLIGHT PATH. Domestic operations to start initially, which will be followed by international flights

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The civil aviation safety watchdog has commenced inspection of the Noida International Airport for grant of regulatory clearance required to start commercial flight operations, according to sources.

"Inspections by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) have commenced. The terminal facade is now at an advanced stage of completion, with some roofing work still remaining to be completed," sources told *businessline*.

The development assumes significance since the project has already missed two earlier deadlines. Ac-



GETTING READY. The Noida airport is expected to handle 5-6 million passengers in its maiden year of operation

According to sources, DGCA's inspection will include reviewing the airport's infrastructure readiness, along with established procedures before issuing the aerodrome licence.

A BCAS inspection is required for anti-sabotage checks and for checking the required apparatus for anti-hijacking as well as bomb

squad operations. "Once the airport gets a regulatory grant of an aerodrome licence, then it will take another three months to start operations. However, the final date will depend on the grant of DGCA and BCAS's approvals," said sources.

Initially, only domestic operations will start, followed by international

flights. Earlier, an NIA official had told *businessline* that the airport continues to progress steadily towards operational readiness.

"We expect to receive our aerodrome licence by mid-May. The Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP), which was issued in March, is also expected to become effective as of mid-May. Following this, the start of operations will be planned in coordination with airlines and other partners," the official had said.

In technical parlance, the AIP is a manual for pilots and aircrew that contains thorough details of regulations, procedures, and information regarding navigation and airspace that are required for operating to and from a given airport. Besides, the Air Con-

trol Tower (ATC) became operational in April. The airport missed its completion deadline two times, once scheduled at the end of 2024 and the other in April, due to sourcing constraints of materials such as structural steel and roofing work.

The Noida International Airport is expected to handle 5-6 million passengers in its maiden year of commercial operation.

FIRST PHASE

In its first phase of development, the airport with one runway and a terminal, will have a capacity to handle traffic of 12 million passengers annually. After the completion of the fourth phase, the airport will have the capacity to manage 70 million passengers per year.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Celebi contract: High Court stops MIAL from taking final decision on ground services bids till June

Press Trust of India
Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has temporarily halted Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) from finalising tenders for ground and bridge handling services until Turkish firm Celebi's plea against its contract termination is heard after the court reopens in June.

This interim order, issued by a vacation bench of Justice Somasekhar Sundaresan, ensures that no action is taken on the tenders until Celebi's legal challenges, stemming from the revocation of its security clearance and contract termination, are heard post-court reopening in June.

Amid the backlash in India over Turkiye's support to Pakistan, India's aviation security regulator BCAS earlier this month revoked the security clearance of Celebi Airport Services India on grounds related to national security with immediate effect. The company had

moved the High Court last week against revocation of its security clearance and subsequent termination of its contract with MIAL.

Celebi's plea was mentioned before Justice Sundaresan seeking urgent relief against any decision on the tenders issued by MIAL on May 17. The court said no final decision shall be taken on the tenders till the pleas filed by Celebi are heard post reopening of the court in June.

Turkiye-based airport ground handling services major Celebi's subsidiary had moved HC last week against revocation of its security clearance and subsequent termination of its contract with MIAL.

Three petitions were filed by Celebi Nas Airport Services India, which operated at the Mumbai airport, challenging the Centre's decision to revoke the security clearance and contract termination. The pleas said the decisions were arbitrary and illegal and sought that they be set aside.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Celebi gets HC reprieve amid contract row

MIAL stopped from finalising tenders for ground-handling until firm's plea is heard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, 26 May

The Bombay High Court on Monday temporarily halted Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) from finalising tenders for ground and bridge handling services until Turkish firm Celebi's plea against its contract termination is heard after the court reopens in June.

This interim order, issued by a vacation bench of Justice Somasekhar Sundaresan, ensures that no action is taken until Celebi's legal challenges, stemming from the revocation of its security clear-

ance and contract termination, are heard post-court reopening in June.

Amid the backlash in India over Turkiye's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, India's aviation security regulator Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) earlier this month revoked the security clearance of Celebi Airport Services India on grounds related to national security with immediate effect. Celebi holds 59 per cent capital of Celebi Nas Airport Services India Private Limited.

The company had moved the High Court last week against revocation of its security clearance and subsequent termination of its contract with MIAL.

Delhi HC dismisses appeal seeking ₹1,300 cr damages from SpiceJet

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed an appeal moved by KAL Airways and businessman Kalanithi Maran seeking over ₹1,300 crore in damages from SpiceJet, the budget airline disclosed in a regulatory filing on Monday. The appeal had already been rejected by an arbitral tribunal and later by a single judge Bench of the High Court. Arbitration proceedings, led by a panel of three retired Supreme Court judges, had also rejected the damages claim, SpiceJet said.

The court said Maran and KAL Airways had engaged in a calculated gamble by delaying and re-filing their challenge to the arbitral award.

"This...is a case of deliberate and wilful concealment of facts both from the Division Bench as well as from the respondents and a calculated gamble taken by the appellants," the Delhi HC said.

The court further declined to condone the delay of 55 days in filing and 226 days in re-filing the present appeals. BHAVINI MISHRA



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

HC Asks MIAL to Hold Celebi Replacement Plans

Court offers relief to Turkish aviation firm till its petitions are heard

Maulik Vyas

Mumbai: In a temporary reprieve for Turkish aviation firm Celebi, the Bombay High Court on Monday directed Mumbai International Airport (MIAL) to hold off on awarding new contracts for ground and bridge handling services at the city's international airport.

The local subsidiary of a Turkish firm has approached the court under Section 9 of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act after the Adani Group-owned airport operating company decided to appoint IndoThai as the interim ground handling provider at CSMIA (Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport) for the next three months.

Justice Somasekhhar Sundaresan, in an oral order, restrained the MIAL from taking any final decision on the tenders till the pleas filed by Celebi are heard post-reopening of the court in June. The detailed order was not uploaded till the time of filing the story.

Before the court's order, senior counsel advocate Chetan Kapadia and counsel Rohan Agarwal, appearing for Celebi NAS Airport Services India, argued that the decision taken by MIAL to terminate the concession agreement was not in accordance with the contract and was unilateral.

While senior counsel Vikram Nankani, appearing for the MIAL, argued that the contract was terminated as Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had revoked Celebi's security clearance,

which compelled the company to terminate the agreement.

In mid-May, the government revoked the security clearance required for Celebi to operate in India, citing national security concerns. The clearance is a prerequisite under Indian law for companies providing critical services at airports, including passenger and baggage handling.

The government's decision

follows reports that the Pakistani army had used Turkish drones against India in the recent conflict. Nonetheless, Turkey has also expressed its support to Pakistan in 'good and bad' times after India's Operation Sindoor targeted terrorist infrastructure in the neighbouring nation.

Currently, Turkish handling service provider Celebi has filed two separate suits in the Bombay High Court.



BREACH OF CONTRACT

Celebi argues MIAL's decision to cease the agreement was not in accordance with the contract and was unilateral



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

GMR AIRPORTS INFRA

BROKERAGE: **JEFFERIES**

Price Target: ₹100

CMP: ₹86.5 Upside: 15.6%

EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) is expected to grow at 29% from FY24-27 on a compounded basis.

Risk-reward is favourable, with upside from air traffic growth and non-aero expansion.

New tariff order at DIAL (Delhi International Airport) boosts profit visibility, with FY26 expected to be the first year of consolidated profitability in several years.

HC halts till June MIAL tenders for Celebi replacement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, May 26

THE BOMBAY HIGH Court on Monday temporarily halted Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) from finalising tenders for ground and bridge handling services until Turkish firm Celebi's plea against its contract termination is heard after the court reopens in June.

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Amid a backlash in India over Turkey's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, India's aviation security regulator BCAS earlier this month revoked the security clearance of Celebi Airport Services India on grounds related to national security with immediate effect.

The company had moved the high court last week against the revocation of its security clearance and subsequent termination of its contract with MIAL. Celebi's plea was mentioned before Justice Sundaresan seeking urgent relief against any decision on the tenders issued by MIAL on May 17.

Last week, three petitions were filed by Celebi Nas Airport Services India, which operated at the Mumbai airport, challenging the Centre's decision to revoke the security clearance



Celebi Nas Airport Services India has moved the Bombay High Court, challenging the Centre's decision to revoke its security clearance & MIAL's move to terminate contract

and contract termination. The pleas said the decisions were arbitrary and illegal and sought that they be set aside. Celebi holds 59% capital of Celebi Nas Airport Services India.

The petition sought suspension and annulment of the administrative decision of security clearance cancellation granted by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

It also sought annulment of terminations of Bridge Mounted Equipment Service Agreement and the Concession Agreement, and Ground Handling Services by MIAL.

By way of interim relief, Celebi had sought the high court to restrain MIAL from taking any final decision on the tenders issued on May 17 for the selection of a new ground handling agency for these services.





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

26 MAY 2025

Metro 8 to link city airports



Representative image

Mumbai is gearing up for a significant boost in urban transport. The upcoming Metro 8, also known as the Gold line, will be the first metro route to offer a direct link between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Andheri and the under-construction Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).

Spanning approximately 35 km, this corridor is expected to greatly improve connectivity between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, offering passengers a seamless transit option between the two major airports and reducing travel time across the metropolitan region.

The project is expected to be completed by 2029.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PIIONEER

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

जेवर एयरपोर्ट का रनवे तैयार, उड़ानों में कुछ देरी

● टर्मिनल और यात्री सुविधाओं से जुड़ा निर्माण कार्य अब भी बाकी

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नोएडा

जेवर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरने का सपना देख रहे लोगों के लिए राहत की खबर है। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशक फेज अहमद किदवई ने जानकारी दी है कि जेवर एयरपोर्ट का रनवे पूरी तरह बनकर तैयार हो चुका है, लेकिन टर्मिनल और यात्री सुविधाओं से जुड़ा निर्माण कार्य अब भी बाकी है। इसी कारण उड़ानों की शुरुआत में कुछ देरी तय मानी जा रही है।

किदवई ने बताया कि जेवर एयरपोर्ट भविष्य में मेंटेनेंस, रिपेयर और ओवरहालिंग के हब के रूप में विकसित किया जाएगा। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर लोड बढ़ने के कारण जेवर का महत्व और बढ़ गया है। यहां से घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का संचालन प्रस्तावित है, जिससे

उत्तर भारत के यात्रियों को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी। गौरतलब है कि जेवर एयरपोर्ट को सितंबर 2024 तक चालू करने की योजना थी, लेकिन टर्मिनल निर्माण में हो रही देरी के कारण यह लक्ष्य फि लहाल आगे खिसकता दिख रहा है। अलीगढ़ एयरपोर्ट के विस्तार को लेकर भी किदवई ने जानकारी दी कि यह राज्य सरकार के अधीन है और उसी के स्तर पर कार्य किया जा रहा है।

फिलहाल यहां से प्रशिक्षण उड़ानें संचालित हो रही हैं और भविष्य में घरेलू उड़ानों की शुरुआत की उम्मीद है। पायलटों के वर्क-लाइफ बैलेंस को ध्यान में रखते हुए एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव की घोषणा की गई है। अब सभी विमान कंपनियों के पायलटों को 48 घंटे का साप्ताहिक आराम मिलेगा। यह नियम 1 जुलाई 2025 से लागू होगा। पहले यह समय सीमा 36 घंटे थी।

यह बदलाव कोर्ट के आदेश के तहत किया जा रहा है। फेज अहमद किदवई अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम यूनिवर्सिटी में मदरसा-उल-उलूम के 150वें स्थापना दिवस कार्यक्रम में हिस्सा लेने पहुंचे थे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

26 MAY 2025

Airport canopy torn

■ **NEW DELHI:** Heavy rain in Delhi tore through the membrane shade at the arrival forecourt of Terminal 1 at the Indra Gandhi International Airport on Sunday morning. **NATION**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

HC halts MIAL tender move on Celebi's plea

Mumbai: Bombay HC's vacation bench on Monday restrained Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) from making a final decision on bids invited on May 17 to replace a Turkiye-based company's Indian arm for ground and bridge handling services, reports **Swati Deshpande**. The decision will remain in effect till a regular bench, after reopening, hears the challenge raised by the entity to its security clearance revocation.

On May 15, BCAS, citing security concerns, had revoked the clearance granted to Celebi Airport Services. Celebi Airport Services India and Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India then petitioned Delhi HC. Last week, Celebi NAS Airport Services India Pvt Ltd approached Bombay HC against the revocation.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

इंडिगो में 3.4% हिस्सा आज बेचेंगे राकेश गंगवाल

नई दिल्ली। इंटरग्लोब एविएशन के प्रवर्तक राकेश गंगवाल और उनका पारिवारिक ट्रस्ट मंगलवार को विमानन कंपनी में कम-से-कम 6,831 करोड़ रुपये में 3.4 फीसदी हिस्सा बेच सकते हैं। गंगवाल इंडिगो के दूसरे सह-संस्थापक राहुल भाटिया के साथ तीखे विवाद के बाद हिस्सेदारी बेच रहे हैं। एंजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Rakesh Gangwal
to sell up to 13.2 m
IndiGo shares
for ₹6,831 crore

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai



Rakesh Gangwal, Co-founder,
IndiGo

IndiGo Co-founder Rakesh Gangwal plans to offload up to 13.2 million shares in a block deal on Tuesday, according to a term-sheet viewed by *businessline*.

Per the term-sheet, the stake sale — which accounts to around 3.4 per cent of the total equity of the airline — could fetch the seller around ₹6,831 crore or \$ 803 million at the offer floor price of ₹5,175 per share.

The floor price is at 4.5 per cent discount to InterGlobe Aviation's last closing price of ₹5,420.

Investment banks Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley are managing the share sale on behalf of Gangwal.

HC halts MIAL tender move on Celebi's plea

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Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Delhi HC rejects KAL Airways, Kalanithi Maran's appeal: SpiceJet

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

SpiceJet said on Monday that a division bench of the Delhi High Court has rejected an appeal of KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran seeking damages of over ₹1,300 crore and other claims.

In a regulatory filing, the airline said KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran initially sought damages of more than ₹1,300 crore during the arbitration proceedings.

SPICEJET PROMOTERS Maran and KAL Airways were the former promoters of SpiceJet. "These claims were thoroughly examined and subsequently rejected by a panel of three retired Su-

preme Court judges.

Following this, KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran appealed to the single judge bench of the Delhi High Court, seeking the same amount in damages, which was also rejected by the court," it said.

DAMAGES SOUGHT

According to the filing, the division bench of Delhi High Court, in its order dated May 23, has dismissed the appeal filed by KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran seeking damages of more than ₹1,300 crore and other claims.

"These assertions were already previously rejected by the Arbitral Tribunal and then the Delhi High Court," said the airline.

IndiGo pilots, crew to receive bonus after airline posts strong Q4 profit

Aneesh Ashok Phadnis
Mumbai

IndiGo pilots and cabin crew will receive a bonus equal to 5 per cent of their annual salary, with the airline reporting its highest-ever fourth quarter profit of ₹3,067 crore for January-March period.

"In appreciation for the work done and the collective efforts to bring the company literally to new heights, we have decided that the crew bonus will be disbursed at its maximum that is 5 per cent of your salary for FY 24-25," said the airline's group chief human resources officer, Sukhjit Pasricha, in a email to staff. Last year, too, the air-



line had given 5 per cent bonus to pilots and crew.

Other employees, too, were given a bonus equal to one-and-a-half months of their salary. For FY25, non-flying staff will receive full bonus as per their contracts, but no separate ex-gratia has been announced.

"We have collectively worked hard to recover from Covid, and at the same time, started to build on our aspiration to become a global aviation giant by 2030...Last

year (FY24), we made a profit and returned to net worth positive company. FY25 results are an assurance to all of us that we continue to be on our growth path by executing our strategy well," said Pasricha.

PERFORMANCE

IndiGo's fourth quarter profit rose 62 per cent year-on-year to ₹3,067 crore, on the back of fleet addition, strong passenger demand and low fuel costs.

The airline's occupancy and yields saw year-on-year growth, with demand boost coming from Maha Kumbh Mela. Reduction in the number of grounded aircraft has helped airline lower expenses.

Gangwal may sell 3.4% in IndiGo for ₹6,831 crore via block deal

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 26 May

Rakesh Gangwal is likely to divest about 3.4 per cent stake in IndiGo for ₹6,831 crore via block deals. This is part of his long-term plan to gradually reduce his stake in India's largest airline, which he cofounded with Rahul Bhatia in August 2006.

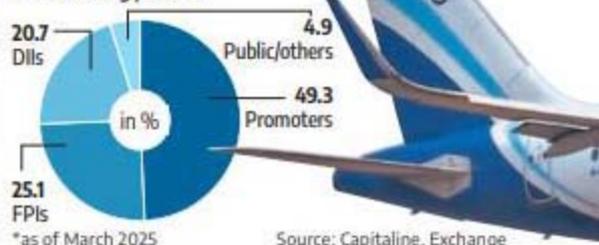
Sources said the floor price for the transaction had been set at ₹5,175 per share, nearly 4.6 per cent below the last closing price of ₹5,424. Currently, Gangwal and his related entities hold a 13.53 per cent stake in IndiGo.

Investment banking firms Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Morgan Stanley India Company, and JPMorgan India are said to be the placement agents for the stake sale.

Over the past few years,

A piece of the pie

InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) shareholding pattern*



Source: Capitaline, Exchange

Rakesh Gangwal and his related entities have gradually reduced their stake in IndiGo through multiple block deals. In August last year, Gangwal and his family trust sold a 5.83 per cent stake for about ₹10,500 crore. In March 2024, he offloaded another 6 per cent for ₹6,786 crore. In 2023, his

wife Shobha Gangwal sold 3 per cent in August for ₹2,802 crore, and his family a 4 per cent stake for ₹2,900 crore in February. Gangwal had resigned from IndiGo's board on February 18, 2022, declaring he would gradually exit his holding over five years.

His decision came in the

wake of a feud with copromoter Rahul Bhatia which lasted over two years until December 2021. The dispute became public in July 2019, when Gangwal wrote to the Securities and Exchange Board of India alleging corporate-governance lapses at the airline company — claims that the Bhatia group denied. Both promoters then took the matter to the London Court of International Arbitration, which gave its ruling in September 2021.

Following this, IndiGo held an extraordinary general meeting on December 30, 2021, where shareholders approved the removal of a clause in the Articles of Association that granted the promoters the right of first refusal on share sales.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

3 senior executives quit Akasa Air

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 26 May

Akasa Air, the low-cost Indian carrier launched in August 2022, is witnessing a churn in its senior leadership, with one executive already exiting the firm to join Air India earlier this month, and two others currently serving notice period after resigning, *Business Standard* has learnt.

Rishabh Dev, head of long-term operations, strategy, excellence and planning, is among those stepping down. Dev joined Akasa Air shortly after its launch and was head of strategy in the office of chief executive officer. Prior to Akasa, he worked with Adani Airports as assistant general manager for growth and strategy from January 2021 to June 2023.

While speaking to *Business Standard*, Dev said: "I led the long-term planning for Akasa, which spanned across all the operating departments. The team scaled from one member in 2023 to a 15 plus in 2025. As an employer and a company, Akasa is right there at the top and is going to be the strong challenger in Indian skies in years

to come. The team itself has strong leadership and will continue to deliver significant value for Akasa in coming years."

"My reason for separation is my own entrepreneurial journey where I am building AI/ML (artificial intelligence/machine intelligence) products within aviation, leveraging my decade-old experience in this space across airlines, airports and the associated ecosystem. The future is exciting and unlimited. More on this shortly in due course," he added.

Another senior executive to exit the airline is Amol Mane — vice-president of Aircraft Acquisition and Leasing. He joined Akasa Air after working with IndiGo between March 2019 and 2022 as assistant vice-president for aircraft acquisition and financing. At Akasa, he managed the airline's aircraft leasing and acquisition portfolio. Mane directed queries regarding his resignation to the firm's corporate communications department.

Vineet Mishra, deputy general manager for catering, who joined Akasa Air in November 2021, has already left the airline and joined Air India earlier this month.

Mishra had over four years of prior experience managing catering at Go First. He did not respond to the newspaper's queries regarding his resignation.

Akasa Air did not respond to queries sent by the newspaper.

Akasa Air's growth ambitions have been challenged in the last one year by delays in the delivery of its Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The airline placed an order for 226 planes but currently operates only 28 jets. Between June 2022 and June 2024, the airline added 24 planes in its fleet. In the last one year, the American plane-maker has delivered just four more planes to Akasa Air. The slow pace of deliveries has been attributed to several factors, including a January 2024 incident involving a mid-air cabin panel blowout and a seven-week strike at Boeing's production facilities. These disruptions have affected not just Akasa but many airlines worldwide awaiting Boeing aircraft.

Due to these delays, Akasa Air has struggled to expand its fleet as planned. It had in 2023 projected a fleet size of 72 aircraft by March 2027.

इंडिगो में और हिस्सेदारी बेचेंगे राकेश गंगवाल

दीपक पटेल
नई दिल्ली, 26 मई

इंटरग्लोब एविएशन (इंडिगो एयरलाइंस) के सह-संस्थापक राकेश गंगवाल के ब्लॉक डील के जरिये 6,800 करोड़ रुपये में अपनी 3.4 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी बेचने की उम्मीद है। भारत की सबसे बड़ी विमानन कंपनी में अपनी हिस्सेदारी धीरे-धीरे कम करने की यह गंगवाल की दीर्घकालिक योजना का हिस्सा है। इस कंपनी की स्थापना उन्होंने अगस्त 2006 में राहुल भाटिया के साथ मिलकर की थी।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि लेन-देन के लिए फ्लोर प्राइस 5,175 रुपये प्रति शेयर तय किया गया है जो पिछले बंद भाव 5,424 रुपये से करीब 4.6 फीसदी कम है। फिलहाल, गंगवाल और उनकी संबंधित

इकाइयों के पास इंडिगो की 13.53 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में, राकेश गंगवाल और उनकी संबंधित इकाइयों ने कई ब्लॉक डील के जरिये धीरे-धीरे इंडिगो में अपनी हिस्सेदारी घटाई है।

पिछले साल अगस्त में गंगवाल और उनके परिवार के ट्रस्ट ने 10,500 करोड़ रुपये में 5.83 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी बेची थी। उससे पहले मार्च में उन्होंने 6,786 करोड़ रुपये में 6 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी की बिक्री की थी। अगस्त 2023 में उनकी पत्नी शोभा गंगवाल ने 2,802 करोड़ रुपये में अपनी 3 फीसदी और फरवरी में परिवार ने 2,900 करोड़ रुपये में 4 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी बेची थी। उससे पहले, सितंबर 2022 में भी करीब 2,000 करोड़ रुपये में 2.8 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी बेची गई थी।

काल एयरवेज और मारन की अपील खारिज

भाविनी मिश्रा

नई दिल्ली, 26 मई

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने काल एयरवेज और कारोबारी कलानिधि मारन की अपील को खारिज कर दिया है। इसमें स्पाइसजेट से 1,300 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा के हर्जाने की मांग की गई थी। किफायती विमानन कंपनी ने सोमवार को नियामकीय सूचना में यह



जानकारी दी। इस अपील को पहले ही एक मध्यस्थता न्यायाधिकरण और उसके बाद उच्च न्यायालय के एकल न्यायाधीश वाले पीठ ने खारिज कर दिया था। स्पाइसजेट ने सूचना में कहा कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के तीन सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीशों के समूह की अगुआई में मध्यस्थता कार्यवाही में भी हर्जाने के दावे को खारिज किया जा चुका है।

अदालत ने कहा कि मारन और काल एयरवेज ने मध्यस्थता फैसले को चुनौती देने में देरी करके और फिर से फाइल करके सोची-समझी चाल चली है। दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि यह अपील को फिर से दाखिल करके आपत्तियों को दूर करने में देरी का कोई सरल मामला नहीं है। यह डिवीजन बेंच और प्रतिवादियों दोनों से तथ्यों को जानबूझकर और इरादतन छिपाने का मामला है और अपीलकर्ताओं द्वारा चली गई सोची-समझी चाल है। अदालत ने वर्तमान अपील दाखिल करने में 55 दिन और फिर से दाखिल करने में 226 दिन की देरी को माफ करने से इनकार कर दिया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Gangwal & family trust likely to sell IndiGo stake worth ₹6.8K cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, May 26

INTERGLOBE AVIATION PROMOTER Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust are likely to offload up to 3.4% stake worth at least ₹6,831 crore in the airline on Tuesday, according to sources.

Gangwal, the co-founder of IndiGo, has been offloading his holding in a phased manner following a bitter fallout with co-founder Rahul Bhatia.

Apart from Gangwal, the Chinkerpoo Family Trust, whose trustees are Shobha Gangwal and JP Morgan Trust Company will be divesting stake in IndiGo, the sources said.



Currently, Rakesh Gangwal and the family trust hold about 13.5% stake in IndiGo

Investment banking firms Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Morgan Stanley India Company and JP Morgan India are the placement agents for the stake sale, they added.

Currently, Gangwal and the family trust hold about 13.5% in IndiGo.

Under the proposed transaction, to be executed on May 27, up to 13.2 million equity shares will be sold at a floor price of ₹5,175 per share, as per the termsheet.

The floor price is at a 4.5% discount compared to the closing price of ₹5,420 per share on Monday.

The sources said 13.2 million shares will be around 3.4% stake in the company and the offer size, based on the floor price, is pegged at around \$803 million (₹6,831 crore).

Continued on Page 7

Gangwal & family trust likely to sell IndiGo stake

THE PROPOSED SHARE sale, to be done in multiple tranches on BSE and NSE, will be entirely secondary in nature and will not have any fresh issuance of equity.

As part of the deal structure, a 150-day lock-up period will apply to the vendors and their immediate relatives, barring one exception -- they

may transfer shares worth at least \$300 million to a single investor or investor group through a negotiated transaction, subject to certain pricing and lock-up conditions.

Since February 2022, Gangwal and his wife Shobha Gangwal have been offloading their shares in IndiGo.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

HC rejects plea of KAL Airways, Maran: SpiceJet

SPICEJET SAID ON Monday that the Delhi High Court had rejected an appeal of KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran seeking damages of over ₹1,300 crore and other claims.

Maran and KAL Airways were promoters of SpiceJet earlier. In a regulatory filing, the airline said their "claims

were thoroughly examined and subsequently rejected by a panel of three retired Supreme Court judges. Following this, KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran appealed to a single-judge bench of the Delhi High Court, seeking the same amount in damages, which was also rejected by the

court." According to the filing, a division bench of the Delhi High Court in its order dated May 23 dismissed the appeal filed by KAL Airways and Maran seeking damages of more than ₹1,300 crore and other claims.

"These assertions were already previously rejected by

the arbitral tribunal and then the Delhi High Court," the airline said. The dispute dates back to 2015, when Maran and KAL Airways transferred their entire stake back to SpiceJet's founder, Ajay Singh, for ₹2 along with ₹1,500 crore debt liability as the company faced financial problems. —PTI

Thunderstorm lashes Delhi, flights affected

Agencies

NEW DELHI

A powerful thunderstorm accompanied by heavy overnight rain lashed Delhi, bringing significant relief from the intense summer heat but also leading to major disruptions across the city. The storm caused widespread waterlogging, delayed and diverted dozens of flights, and uprooted trees and electricity poles in several areas. Civic agencies were hard pressed to clear waterlogged roads and restore disrupted services.

At Indira Gandhi Inter-



national (IGI) Airport, at least 49 flights — including 17 international services — were diverted due to poor visibility and wet conditions. Waterlogging was also reported at Terminal 3, further inconveniencing passengers.

► [Contd on | nation](#)

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Thunderstorm...

According to Flightradar24, nearly 180 flights were delayed, with some cancellations.

The canopy at the arrival forecourt of IGI's Terminal 1 partially collapsed due to rain, according to a source. The revamped terminal was recently opened for flight operations.

In a statement, airport operator DIAL said that as a part of the design's natural response to extreme conditions and to prevent excessive water retention, a section of the external tensile fabric at the T1 arrival forecourt adjusted under pressure, thereby aiding in water dispersal. The statement did not directly mention about the canopy collapse.

"Swift action was taken by the ground teams to restore normal conditions, ensuring safety and continuity of operations with minimal disruption," it said.

The Indian Meteorological Department reported that Delhi's primary weather station at Safdarjung recorded gusty winds reaching up to 82 kmph and 81.2 mm of rain between 11:30 pm and 5:30 am. The sudden weather change led to a steep drop in temperatures, with the minimum settling at 19.8 degrees Celsius — nearly 7 degrees below the seasonal average.

Several key roads in the capital, including Moti Bagh, ITO, Minto Road, Dhaula Kuan, Delhi Cantonment, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, and Chanakyapuri, were partially submerged. Videos circulated online showed vehicles stuck or floating in inundated underpasses, especially in the Delhi Cantonment and Minto Road areas.

The Indian Meteorological Department had issued a red alert on Saturday evening, warning of an approaching thunderstorm cell from the west and northwest.

The storm led to dramatic temperature drops across the city. Safdarjung recorded a decline from 31°C to 21°C within just over an hour. Similar drops were seen at Palam (29°C to 22°C), Pusa (31.8°C to 20.5°C), and Lodhi Road (31°C to 22.3°C).



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

26 MAY 2025

DGCA working on new norms for pilots flying in turbulent conditions

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is working on guidelines for pilots to handle severe turbulence episodes after a Delhi-Srinagar flight last Wednesday flew into a hailstorm, with passengers describing it as a “near death” experience.

While the aviation regulator is conducting a probe into the incident, officials familiar with the matter said that the goal is to ensure no such episodes occur in the future.

“The investigation into the turbulence incident is underway. However, the goal is to ensure there is no recurrence of such a severe turbulence episode, which could prove fatal,” an offi-

cial familiar with the matter said requesting anonymity

A major part of the investigation has been completed, a second official said. “We are working on strengthening the system and may issue specific guidelines for handling similar situations. However, this will require broader consultation with stakeholders, which will take some time,” the official said.

DGCA off rostered the two pilots operating the flight that on Wednesday evening flew through a severe hailstorm, with 227 people on board.

The incident unfolded on IndiGo flight 6E-2142, which departed Delhi’s Indra Gandhi International Airport at approximately 4:55pm and managed to land in Srinagar at 6:25pm, according to Flightradar24

tracking data.

The crisis began when the aircraft “entered hailstorm and severe turbulence near Pathankot” whilst “cruising at FL360” (36,000 feet), according to the regulator’s statement.

At the height of the crisis, “the aircraft rate of descent reached 8500 fpm,” the DGCA stated. “Crew flew the aircraft manually till they exit the hailstorm.”

While no passengers were injured in the incident, DGCA is now working to ensure no recurrence of the incident.

“The aim is to ensure pilots have a clear standard operating procedure when facing unexpected weather conditions in the future, but this requires thorough analysis before disseminating further information,” the second official said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Rakesh Gangwal to sell \$803 mn IndiGo stake in block deal today

Srushti Vaidya

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MUMBAI

IndiGo co-founder and promoter Rakesh Gangwal is expected to sell shares worth \$803 million in the airline in a block deal on 27 May, according to the deal's term sheet.

Gangwal and his Chinkerpoo Family Trust are expected to offload 13.2 million shares or 3.4% stake at an offer price of ₹5,175 per share in InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, which runs India's largest carrier, said the term sheet reviewed by *Mint*. That's a 4.5% discount to its Monday close price of ₹5,418.3 apiece on the BSE.

As on 30 March, Gangwal had a 5.3% stake in the aviation company, while the Chinkerpoo Family Trust owned 8.23% in the company, according to data on BSE.

When IndiGo listed in November 2015, Gangwal owned 16.89% of the airline,



Gangwal's sale will be at a 4.5% discount to market price.

while the trust held 15.64%.

Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt, Morgan Stanley India Co, and J.P. Morgan India are arranging the trade.

J.P. Morgan declined to comment. Queries emailed to Gangwal, and the two other bankers remained unanswered at the time of publishing.

InterGlobe Aviation's shares closed 1.76% lower at ₹5,424 crore on the NSE. Since January, the shares have gained 18% in the past year.

Gangwal has been reducing his ownership in the company following a settlement agreement with Rahul Bhatia, with whom he founded the airline. Gangwal sold a 5.83% stake in the airline on 29 August 2024, after offloading 5.83% on 11 April 2024.

IndiGo's profit surged 62% in the fourth quarter ended March, driven by a spike in air travel during the Mahakumbh.

"Indigo has a sturdy footing in its domestic business while enjoying over 60% market share. While covering over 89 destinations, the company has access to key ground slots at all prime airports," Axis Securities said in a 16 April report. The brokerage said the airline can benefit from better infrastructure at key airports and spending on building new airports at freshly recognised key micro markets.

The airline said it is also banking on cargo revenue, a major growth opportunity for Indian airlines.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

27 MAY 2025



HC dismisses Maran's appeal for ₹1,300 crore from SpiceJet

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court dismissed KAL Airways and businessman Kalanithi Maran's appeal seeking over ₹1,300 crore in damages from SpiceJet. The appeal was previously rejected by an Arbitral Tribunal and later by a Single-Judge Bench of the High Court.

"These assertions were already previously rejected by the Arbitral Tribunal and then the Delhi High Court. KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran initially sought damages of more than ₹1,300 crore during the arbitration proceedings. These claims were thoroughly examined and subsequently rejected by a panel of three retired Supreme Court judges," said SpiceJet on Monday. Following this, KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran appealed to the Single-Judge Bench of the Delhi High Court, seeking the same amount in damages,

which was also rejected by the court, added SpiceJet. The ruling, dated May 23, 2025, was disclosed by the airline in a regulatory filing on Monday.

The dispute between the two parties dates back to February 2015 when Maran and KAL Airways had transferred their 58.46% stake in SpiceJet to Singh for ₹2. Under the agreement, KAL and Maran were to receive redeemable warrants and preference share in return for the ₹679 crore which they spent on SpiceJet. In 2017, Maran approached Delhi HC and claimed that neither the convertible warrants and preference shares were issued nor the money was returned.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

RAKESH GANGWAL TO SELL 3.4% STAKE IN INDIGO FOR ₹6,800 CR

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INTERGLOBE Aviation promoter Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust will offload another 3.4% stake worth ₹6,831 crore in the airline on Tuesday, as per sources. Currently, Gangwal and the family trust together hold about 13.5% in IndiGo.

Under the proposed transaction, up to 1.32 crore equity shares will be sold at a floor price of ₹5,175 per share. The

floor price is at a 4.5% discount as against the closing price of ₹5,420 per share on Monday.

Gangwal, who co-founded India's largest airline IndiGo, has been offloading his stake in a phased manner following a bitter fallout with co-founder Rahul Bhatia over alleged corporate governance issues. The share sale is part of Gangwal's decision in February 2022 to trim his shareholding in the airline. He sold a 5.24% stake in

InterGlobe Aviation in August last year for ₹9,549 crore.

The fresh offloading will be the sixth time in less than 3 years when Gangwal will reduce his holding in the airline. The stake sale again comes when IndiGo shares continue to hit new highs. So far in 2025, IndiGo shares have risen by 18%. Last week, IndiGo reported a profit of ₹3,067.5 crore for the quarter ended March on the back of strong domestic travel demand.

‘पायलट के पास और कोई ऑप्शन नहीं था’

Maneesh.Aggarwal
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■ नई दिल्ली : 21 मई को भारी टबूलेस में फंसी दिल्ली से श्रीनगर जाने वाली इंडिगो की फ्लाइट को इससे उबारकर सुरक्षित लैंडिंग कराने के लिए इसके पायलटों की तारीफ की जा रही है। वहीं, सूत्रों का कहना है कि इसमें कई पेच भी सामने आ रहे हैं। जैसे कि जब एयरक्राफ्ट के फ्रंट में 150 किलोमीटर आगे का मौसम का हाल बताने वाला वेदर रेडार लगा था तो फिर पायलट को खराब मौसम का आभास क्यों नहीं हुआ?

सूत्र और एक्सपर्ट का कहना है कि सबसे पहले तो एयरक्राफ्ट के आगे लगा वेदर रेडार बादल समेत मौसम के बारे में कुछ और जानकारी देता है। वह हवाओं का रुख समेत रियल टाइम वेदर कंडीशन नहीं बता पाता। दूसरे, आमतौर पर श्रीनगर के लिए वेदर कंडीशन बहुत अच्छी नहीं रहती है। लेकिन खराब मौसम में भी आमतौर पर करीब 45 मिनट



FILE

खराब मौसम में फंसा था विमान।

बाद पायलटों के लिए ऐसी अप्रोच विंडो ओपन हो जाती है जिसमें वह एयरक्राफ्ट को टेक ऑफ या लैंड करा सकते हैं। इस मामले में ऐसा नहीं हो पाया और पायलट उसमें फंस गया। सूत्रों का यह भी कहना है कि खराब मौसम को देखते हुए पायलट यू टर्न ले सकता था, लेकिन मौसम के मिजाज को देखकर लगता है कि पीछे भी मौसम खराब हो गया था और पायलट प्लेन को एयरस्पेस पर लगे प्रतिबंध की वजह से बहुत ज्यादा लेफ्ट-राइट नहीं करा सकता था।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Himanta meets Rajnath and civil aviation minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and discussed the issue of establishing a defence corridor in the State.

The Chief Minister also called on Union Civil Aviation minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu and discussed expanding air connectivity and infrastructure in the Northeast Region.

"Had the honour to call upon Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Adarniya @rajnathsingh Ji today in New Delhi. We spoke about establishing a defence corridor in Assam. This will serve multiple purposes — fortify the needs of our armed forces in the Eastern Frontier, strengthen Hon'ble Prime Minister's 'Make in India' vision and create new economic opportunities in the North East," the CM posted on X.

Sarma had earlier in the day called upon the civil aviation minister who assured that work for Silchar's greenfield airport will begin this year and the crucial Rupsi airport will also be expanded.

Naidu also informed Sarma that Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar Airports will soon be connected to more Indian cities through new flight connections.

"Had an excellent meeting with Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation Shri @RamMNK Ji. We spoke at length on expanding air connectivity and infrastructure in the North East," he posted on



X. 'Some key takeaways: work for Silchar's greenfield airport is likely to begin this year, Hon'ble Minister has assured me that the crucial Rupsi airport will be expanded as well, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar will soon be accessible to more

Indian cities with new flight connections.

We will try to get several more first-time fliers airborne as we aim to revisit UDAN in the region, by making it more effective, vibrant and sustainable,' Sarma said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

27 MAY 2025

Gangwal to sell 3% in IndiGo for nearly ₹7k cr

IndiGo promoter Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust are likely to offload up to 3.4% stake worth at least Rs 6,831 crore in the airline on Tuesday, sources said. Gangwal has been offloading his holding after a fallout with co-founder Rahul Bhatia. Currently, Gangwal family holds about 13.5% in IndiGo. AGENCIES

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS

When pre-monsoon skies throw punches and planes duck

Last week, a Delhi-Srinagar IndiGo flight flew into severe turbulence during a hailstorm. When the flight finally landed, there was a hole in its nose. For many seasoned fliers, this was the worst turbulence they had ever experienced. This may have been rather extreme, but turbulence is very common during this season, when some of the most hazardous weather activity that a plane can run into takes place

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Passengers on the Delhi-Srinagar IndiGo flight were rattled for sure, but the good thing is no one was injured. However, three years ago, again in May, a SpiceJet flight from Mumbai to Durbhanga ran into turbulence, and though it was not as severe as what the IndiGo flight flew into, 10 passengers sustained injuries and one of them died a month later.

Every single year, in the recent past, there have been instances of airplanes in India encountering severe turbulence during the pre-monsoon months, stretching from April to mid-June.

TOI went through multiple investigation reports of past turbulence-related incidents to understand this peculiar weather behaviour in pre-monsoon months and why it is such a nightmare for pilots.

Trouble In The Skies

As the sun sears the Earth along the tropics, the skies above the Indian subcontinent turn dangerously volatile. During the day, the ground heats up rapidly sending hot streams of air into the cooler and moisture-laden upper altitudes, causing cloud formation and unstable conditions.

Violent thunderstorms originate over the Chota Nagpur plateau, which covers Jharkhand and extends up to Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha. Called Nor'westers or Kal Baisakhi, these gale-speed winds usually approach from the northwest and burst suddenly with great fury.

While every pre-monsoon turbulence event is not a Kal Baisakhi, all these storms are at their fiercest in the pre-monsoon season during the afternoon or just before sunset.

The turbulence that the IndiGo flight got caught in occurred at 5.57pm, but it has not been classified, in official aviation circles, as a Kal Baisakhi event. The SpiceJet 2022 incident occurred at

7pm and was most likely a Kal Baisakhi event, given its location and time.

Dangerous Cumulonimbus Clouds

At other places in India, the rising heat and moisture in upper altitudes in pre-monsoon months lead to the formation of 'cumulonimbus clouds' or Ch.

These clouds can build up vertically from as low as 700ft to over 50,000ft. Just for perspective: Mount Everest's peak is at 29,000ft. The maximum altitude a passenger jet can fly at is about 43,000ft, varying across aircraft types.

Pilots are trained to circumvent Chs. The environment inside a Ch carries strong updrafts and downdrafts, lightning discharges, heavy rain and hailstorms.

These can jolt and damage an aircraft. On a bad day a chain of Ch clouds could stretch across the sky to form what's called a 'squall line'. It's a pilot's veritable nightmare.

'Clear Air Turbulence'

The third type of turbulence — clear air turbulence (CAT) — is particularly hazardous to an aircraft because it is invisible to both radars and satellites. Unlike Ch, it is not visible to pilots from the cockpit either.

CAT is caused by jet streams, a fast-moving, narrow air current. Differences in wind speed and direction along the layers of air can cause CAT. CAT occurs at altitudes above 10,000ft. An aircraft that flies into CAT could experience an extremely sudden and violent drop or gain in altitude.

But it's not like CAT cannot be predicted. SIGMET (Significant Meteorological Information) charts that pilots have access to give information on jet streams and forecast the location and altitude where CAT could occur.

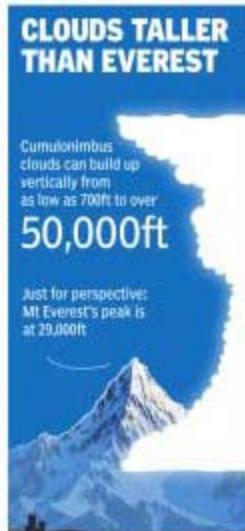
Preparing For Turbulence

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues a SIGMET report every six hours. Plus, a terminal forecast (specific

Passengers might get alarmed seeing the aircraft wings flapping up and down because of turbulence. But aircraft are designed to take that sort of beating



The nose and right side of an IndiGo flight from Delhi to Srinagar were damaged after it was caught in a hailstorm on May 21 over Pathankot in Punjab



CLOUDS TALLER THAN EVEREST

Cumulonimbus clouds can build up vertically from as low as 700ft to over 50,000ft

Just for perspective: Mt Everest's peak is at 29,000ft

Saviour Seat Belts

Let's take the examples of the recent IndiGo and the May 2022 SpiceJet accidents. In both cases, pilots warned passengers about turbulence ahead and issued instructions to remain seated and fasten seat belts. The IndiGo flight appears to have encountered much more severe turbulence than the SpiceJet flight, but no passenger was injured. It can be safely assumed that all passengers and crew had their seat belts fastened.

In the case of SpiceJet, the final report into the investigation said that the SpiceJet pilot-in-command issued two warnings asking passengers to keep seat belts on. When the turbulence hit, many passengers, not wearing seatbelts, were thrown off their seats and suffered injuries.

The probe report said, "Passengers were thrown up in their seats and hit the ceiling. A passenger fell from the seat to the aisle. A ceiling panel separated and fell in the aft cabin. Unsecured passenger belongings and food items got thrown across the cabin... There was panic amongst passengers and the cabin crew were continuously screaming, asking the passengers to remain seated." Fourteen SpiceJet passengers suffered minor injuries, three were seriously hurt and one passenger died a month later.

In May 2024, Singapore Airlines' London-Singapore flight faced severe turbulence over the Irrawaddy Basin in Myanmar. The seat belt sign was on, but not all passengers had fastened the belts. The turbulence killed one passenger, while 101 of the 211 on board were injured.

Air safety experts say it's advisable to keep the seatbelt on during all stages of the flight. Turbulence due to CAT can be sudden and unexpected.

Sturdy Aircraft

The IndiGo aircraft hit with hailstones suffered a hole in its nose. But aircraft are built to weather turbulence. Passengers might get alarmed seeing the aircraft wings flapping up and down because of turbulence. But aircraft are designed to take that sort of beating.

The wingtips of a large jet like the Boeing 777 or 747, can bend up to 30ft and they are certified for even more stress. So, safety buffers are in place.

CAT Events Increasing

Climate change is strengthening the wind shear (or the variation of wind velocity over vertical or horizontal distances). The jet stream over the North Atlantic Ocean is already 15% more sheared than when the satellites began observing it in the late 1970s, according to research done by Paul D Williams, a professor of atmospheric science in the department of meteorology at the University of Reading, UK.

Studies using climate models have found that there will be significant rise in CAT over India within the next few decades. The projected increases are strongest in the northern half of India and are especially strong in the pre-monsoon season, from March to May. It is estimated that there will be 100-200% more CAT events between 2050 and 2080.

at an airport and its surrounding area) is issued every 30 minutes with details of existing and emerging weather threats.

Before every flight, the airline's meteorology officer, dispatchers and pilots go through the various weather reports. The airline then carries out a route analysis and plans the day's flight routes. This exercise includes decisions to carry extra fuel for detours, re-routing, and possible diversions.

A critical aspect of the investigation into the recent turbulence incident involving the IndiGo Delhi-Srinagar flight would be the steps taken in the flight planning stage.

Air safety expert, Captain Amit Singh, said: "That day's latest weather report would've shown thunderstorm activity and squall line over the flight path. Then again, weather patterns and regional weather is documented in an

airline's operational manual. They expect thunderstorms at this time of the year towards the evening. The idea is to prepare at the planning stage itself. Airlines factor in the weather and the notices on airspace closures etc, and plan a route that circumvents bad weather conditions. If no such route is possible, the departure is delayed."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

26 MAY 2025

DGCA: Class 12 arts, commerce pass-outs can apply to be pilots

Saurabh.Sinha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed allowing Class 12 pass-outs from arts and commerce streams to pursue commercial flying courses and become a pilot in India. The current system limits it to science students.

The regulator has sent the recommendation to the Union civil aviation ministry, which will finalise the amendment. "Once it (the aviation ministry) finalises it, it will send the proposal to the law ministry to notify it. When that happens, the change will come into effect," said a senior official. TOI had first reported the



Getty Images/iStockphoto

Current rules make physics and maths mandatory in Class 12 to enrol for commercial pilot licence training

planned change on April 18, 2025.

Current rules make physics and maths mandatory in Class 12 to enrol for commercial pilot licence (CPL) training. Once the change is notified, all Class 12 pass-outs — subject to clearing medical

fitness and other tests — will be eligible to become commercial pilots in India.

Since mid-1990s, CPL training has been open only to science and math students. Before that, 10th pass (matric) was the only requirement. Senior captains say no other country has such a criteria.

They term it an archaic system that needs to go as the levels of physics and maths required by pilots are imparted in junior classes.

Anticipating a spurt in the number of students opting for CPL training once the rule is amended, aviation authorities have started work on improving flying schools in India.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

26 MAY 2025

Flight to Colombo delayed due to technical glitch

Chennai: An Air India flight bound for Colombo was delayed on Sunday morning after a technical issue forced the aircraft to return to the parking bay shortly before takeoff.

The flight was scheduled to depart Chennai International Airport at 5.45am. The aircraft pushed back from the stand at 5.41am but returned to the same stand at 6.02am due to a technical glitch identified during taxiing. The airline has not released details about the issue, but airport sources indicated that the return helped avoid possible complications during flight. All passengers remained safely on board during the return. Later, the flight took off at 6.45am to Colombo.

TNN

Delhi rain storm delays several flights to Hyd

Photo for representation



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Hyderabad: Domestic flight arrivals at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) experienced brief delays on Sunday due to severe weather conditions affecting operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

However, international flights operated as per schedule. The arrival times of several domestic flights to Hyderabad were delayed by 15 to 30 minutes. These delays were caused by heavy rainfall in Delhi, which disrupted the wider flight network.

The national capital experienced a severe overnight thunderstorm, leading to widespread flooding, fallen trees, and damage to electrical infrastructure. TNN



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

26 MAY 2025

DGCA opens cockpit door to commerce and arts pass-outs

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

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The regulator has sent the recommendation to Union civil aviation ministry, which will finalise the amendment. "Once it finalises it, it will send the proposal to the law ministry to notify it. When that happens, the change will come into effect," said a senior official. **TOI** had first reported the planned change on April 18, 2025.

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TAKE-OFF CLEARED

- > DGCA issued **1,342 commercial pilot licences (CPLs)** in CY 2024
- > CY 2023 saw highest ever CPLs being issued in India at **1,622**
- > CY 2022 | **1,165** CPLs issued
- > Figure includes CPLs issued by DGCA to both students who trained in India and those who trained abroad & then went in for India licence conversion

me commercial pilots in India.

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