



Corporate Communications Directorate

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AAI floats tender to seal boundary wall gaps at Surat airport

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SURAT

After years of neglect over the repeated incidents of animal intrusions on the operational area of Surat airport and risking the safety of the aircrafts and passengers, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has finally woken up. The AAI has issued a tender to close the gaps beneath the airport's boundary wall.

The tender involves civil engineering works including filling spaces under the plinth beam of the wall, along with strengthening measures to ensure no wildlife or domestic animals can enter the active runway zone.

The step comes in response to a long-standing safety concern. Over the years, multiple cases of wild and stray animals entering the runway have been reported, raising serious risks for flight operations.

In one such incident, two fox carcasses were found on the runway after the landing of the Udaipur-Surat flight in December 2019. The carcasses were disposed of by the airport authorities without notifying the Forest

Department, which later issued a notice under the Wildlife Protection Act, pointing out that laid down procedures for animal disposal were ignored.

The airport authorities had declined to share the incident report into the recovery of the two fox carcasses under the Right to Information Act (RTI).

Following this, the Forest Department carried out a detailed inspection of the airport's perimeter along with AAI officials and strongly recommended that the gaps beneath the boundary wall be sealed. The department even offered assistance in the work, but for years the issue remained unattended.

The most alarming episode took place in 2014, when a buffalo collision with a SpiceJet aircraft occurred at Surat Airport.

The incident was considered a unique case in world aviation history, severely damaging the reputation of the airport. SpiceJet suspended its services from Surat for a period after the mishap, underlining how critical the issue had become.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

26 AUGUST 2025

भुवनेश्वर एयरपोर्ट पर पानी-चाय 10 रुपये में मिलेंगे

भुवनेश्वर। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) ने सोमवार को बीजू पटनायक अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उड़ान यात्री कैफे की शुरुआत की। कैफे में पानी की एक बोतल और चाय का कप केवल 10 रुपये में, जबकि एक समोसा 20 रुपये में उपलब्ध है। इस सुविधा का उद्घाटन केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राममोहन नायडू किजरापु ने किया। मंत्री ने कहा, यह प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का दृष्टिकोण है कि हवाई यात्रियों को किफायती दरों पर भोजन एवं पेय पदार्थ उपलब्ध कराए जाएं।

विश्लेषण | वर्ष 2023-2024 में एएआई ने 121 हवाई अड्डे चलाए जिसमें 81 नुकसान में रहे, देश में हवाई सुरक्षा देने वाले डीजीसीए, बीसीएस, एएआई में कई पद पड़े खाली

भारत में हवाई यात्रा बढ़ी, छोटे शहरों के हवाई अड्डों में यात्री कम

नई दिल्ली। भारत में हवाई यात्रा लगातार बढ़ रही है। पहले ज्यादातर यात्री बड़े शहरों से हवाई यात्रा करते थे, लेकिन अब यह छोटे शहरों में भी फैल रही है। हालांकि छोटे शहरों के हवाई अड्डों में यात्रियों की संख्या कम रही है जिसके कारण वे घाटे में हैं।

भारत सरकार ने उड़ान-आरसीएस परियोजना शुरू की थी। इसके तहत सरकार एयरलाइंस को प्रोत्साहन देती थी ताकि वे छोटे शहरों तक उड़ान भरें। अब सरकार इस योजना से धीरे-धीरे पीछे हट रही है। इसका कारण छोटे हवाई अड्डों की हालत है। 2023-24 में एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (एएआई) ने 121 हवाई अड्डे चलाए। इनमें से 81 घाटे में रहे। इन 81 हवाई अड्डों पर केवल 6% घरेलू यात्री ही आते-

जाते हैं। पिछले 10 सालों में इन घाटे वाले हवाई अड्डों को कुल ₹ 10,852 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हुआ है।

तीन मुख्य संस्थाएं देख रही हवाई सुरक्षा: भारत में हवाई सुरक्षा देखने वाली तीन मुख्य संस्थाएं नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए), नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बीसीएस) और भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) हैं। हालांकि इन संस्थाओं में कई पद रिक्त हैं।

डीजीसीए एविएशन सेक्टर को रेगुलेट (नियम बनाना और लागू करना) करती है। बीसीएस सुरक्षा मानक तय करती है। वहीं, एएआई हवाई अड्डों का संचालन और एयर ट्राफिक को नियंत्रित करती है।

यहां सबसे अधिक घाटा हुआ

(2016 से 2025 तक घाटा करोड़ में)

दिल्ली (सफदरजंग)	674
अमरतला	605
हैदराबाद (बेगमपेट)	565
देहरादून	488
विजयवाड़ा	484
थोपाल	480
औरंगाबाद	448
राजकोट	419
तिरुपति	364
खजुराहो	356

(स्रोत : नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय। ये हवाई अड्डे एएआई के स्वामित्व और संचालन में हैं।)



एयरलाइनों की समय पर और रद्द उड़ानों का प्रतिशत

(जनवरी-जून 2025) (स्रोत : नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय)

समय पर	रद्द
इंडिगो 82.4	0.9
अकासा एयर 79.5	0.3
एयर इंडिया समूह 76.1	0.9
स्पाइसजेट 59.2	2.1
अलायंस एयर 58.1	4.9

संस्थाओं में रिक्त पद

संस्था	स्वीकृत पद	रिक्त
डीजीसीए	1,644	50.1%
बीसीएस	598	38.5%
एएआई	25,730	36.8%

डीजीसीए में लगभग 50% सीटें खाली

संसद में जब इन तीनों संस्थाओं के कर्मचारियों की संख्या पर सवाल उठे, तो पता चला कि इन संस्थाओं में बहुत कर्मचारी खाली पद हैं। डीजीसीए में लगभग 50.1% सीटें खाली हैं। बीसीएस में करीब 39% और एएआई में लगभग 37% सीटें रिक्त हैं। इसके अलावा डीजीसीए में ग्रेड-ए और तकनीकी पदों का आधा हिस्सा खाली है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल-1 पर जलभराव से राहत की तैयारी

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-1 के बाहर है जलभराव, खत्म करने के लिए पीडब्ल्यूडी करेगा अध्ययन

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (आईजीआई) के टर्मिनल-1 के बाहर जलभराव की समस्या जल्द दूर होगी। लोक निर्माण विभाग (पीडब्ल्यूडी) ने निर्णय लिया है कि एयरपोर्ट के आसपास और वहां तक जाने वाली प्रमुख सड़कों के ड्रेनेज नेटवर्क का अध्ययन किया जाएगा। यह जांच होगी कि नालों की पानी निकासी की क्षमता कितनी है और कहाँ पर बाधाएं हैं।

हाल ही में पीडब्ल्यूडी मंत्री प्रवेश साहिब सिंह की अध्यक्षता में एक अंतरविभागीय बैठक आयोजित हुई।

उसमें एयरपोर्ट क्षेत्र में हर मानसून के दौरान होने वाले जलभराव पर चर्चा की गई। मंत्रों ने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया कि समस्या का स्थायी समाधान निकालना अनिवार्य है।

पीडब्ल्यूडी अधिकारियों के अनुसार, इस अध्ययन में तीन प्रमुख सड़क मार्ग शामिल होंगे। इनमें पहला मार्ग झील पार्क से धौला कुआं जंक्शन होते हुए परेड रोड क्रासिंग और उलान वातार मार्ग जंक्शन तक, दूसरा मार्ग परेड रोड जंक्शन से एयरपोर्ट स्टेशन, सुब्रोतो पार्क तक और तीसरा मार्ग द्वारका रोड से धिमेया मार्ग जंक्शन तक का हिस्सा शामिल है। इन सभी इलाकों में ड्रेनेज सिस्टम की

झमाझम बारिश से दिल्ली हुई कूल-कूल

नई दिल्ली। राजधानी में मंगलवार को हुई झमाझम बारिश ने जहां गर्मी से राहत दी, वहीं सड़कों पर जलभराव और ट्रैफिक जाम ने लोगों की रफ्तार को थाम लिया। सुबह से शुरू हुई बारिश ने आईटीओ, कर्नाट प्लेस, आश्रम, और द्वारका में जलभराव के कारण लंबा ट्रैफिक जाम देखा गया। सड़कों पर पानी भरने से वाहन रोकते नजर आए। कई लोग अपने दफ्तर समय पर नहीं पहुंच सके। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, बीते 24 घंटे में दिल्ली में 10.4 एमएम बारिश दर्ज की गई। वहीं, मंगलवार शाम 5:30 बजे तक 1.6 एमएम बारिश हुई। इस दौरान अधिकतम तापमान सामान्य से 2.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस कम के साथ 31.6 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। वहीं, न्यूनतम तापमान सामान्य से 2.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस कम के साथ 23.9 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, बुधवार को आसमान में आमतौर पर बादल छाए रहेंगे। ब्यूरो

जांच की जाएगी। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि मई में पीडब्ल्यूडी, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचआई) और दिल्ली कैटोनमेंट बोर्ड

(डीसीबी) ने इन मार्गों का निरीक्षण किया था। उसमें सबसे बड़ी समस्या एनएच-48 पर पिलर संख्या 156 के पास सामने आई। यहां नाले का कोई

अगस्त में सामान्य से ज्यादा बारिश दर्ज

मौसम विभाग के आंकड़ों पर नजर डालें तो 12 साल में यह तीसरा मौका है, जब अगस्त में सामान्य से ज्यादा बारिश दर्ज की गई है। पिछले साल भी सफदरजंग मौसम केंद्र में सामान्य से 67 फीसदी बारिश हुई थी। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, यह लगातार दूसरा साल है जब अगस्त में सामान्य से ज्यादा बारिश दर्ज की गई है। इस बार अगस्त में अब तक सामान्य से 61 फीसदी ज्यादा हुई है।

आउटलेट नहीं है। यही वजह है कि बरसात में पानी जमा हो जाता है और परेड रोड की ओर जाने वाले अंडरपास तक भर जाता है।

पाइपलाइन से निकलेगा पानी

समस्या से निजात दिलाने के लिए तय किया गया कि एनएसजी चौक से धिमेया मार्ग जंक्शन तक 600 मिलीमीटर व्यास की पाइपलाइन बिछाई जाएगी। इसके जरिए जमा पानी को सुरक्षित तरीके से निकाला जा सकेगा। इस परियोजना को प्राथमिकता पर रखा गया है ताकि यात्रियों और स्थानीय लोगों को जल्द राहत मिले। वहीं, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण ने इलाके में जलनिकासी समाधान के लिए 3.5 करोड़ रुपये की राशि दिल्ली कैटोनमेंट बोर्ड को जारी की है। फिलहाल डीसीबी इलाके का अध्ययन कर रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

शिलॉन्ग: स्पाइसजेट ने शुरू की पेपरलेस बोर्डिंग

एजेंसी | शिलॉन्ग

स्पाइसजेट ने शिलॉन्ग एयरपोर्ट पर पेपरलेस बोर्डिंग की सुविधा शुरू कर दी है। अब यात्री एयरपोर्ट काउंटर पर चेक-इन करने के बाद अपना बोर्डिंग पास वॉट्स एप पर पा सकेंगे। स्पाइसजेट ने वॉट्स एप के जरिए बोर्डिंग पास देने वाली देश की पहली एयरलाइन बनने का दावा किया है। इससे पर्यावरण को नुकसान कम होगा। एयरलाइन के मुताबिक, जून 2025 में देश के एयरपोर्ट्स पर करीब 90 लाख बोर्डिंग पास प्रिंट किए गए। इतने बोर्डिंग पास प्रिंट होने से करीब 6 टन कार्बन उत्सर्जन हुआ।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

आइजीआइ के टी-एक के पास जलभराव का होगा समाधान

राज्य ब्यूरो, जागरण • नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल-एक के आसपास जलभराव से निपटने के लिए पीडब्ल्यूडी हवाई अड्डे के आसपास के जल निकासी नेटवर्क और उस स्थान तक जाने वाली तीन मुख्य सड़कों का आकलन करेगा। हाल ही में पीडब्ल्यूडी मंत्री प्रवेश वर्मा की अध्यक्षता में हुई अंतर-विभागीय बैठक में इस मामले पर चर्चा की गई। इसके बाद पीडब्ल्यूडी इन क्षेत्रों में विभाग द्वारा संचालित सभी नालों की जांच करेगा और सुधारात्मक उपायों के लिए नालों की जल निकासी क्षमता की जांच करेगा। आवश्यक हुआ हो तो प्राथमिकता के आधार पर नालों से गाद निकालने और जाम से मुक्ति दिलाने का काम भी होगा।

इस सर्वे में दक्षिण दिल्ली के झील पार्क क्षेत्र से शुरू होकर सुब्रतो पार्क स्थित वायुसेना स्टेशन से गुजरते हुए अध्ययन के अंतर्गत धौला कुआं जंक्शन से परेड रोड क्रासिंग, परेड रोड जंक्शन और उल्लान बटार मार्ग जंक्शन और

द्वारका रोड से थिम्मैया मार्ग जंक्शन तक की सड़क के हिस्से शामिल होंगे। इससे पहले मई में लोक निर्माण विभाग के अधिकारियों ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचएआइ) और दिल्ली छावनी बोर्ड (डीसीबी) के अधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर तीनों हिस्सों का स्थलीय निरीक्षण किया था। निरीक्षण में यह पाया गया कि राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-48 पर पिलर संख्या 156 के पास नाले का कोई निकास नहीं है, जिसके कारण जलभराव होता है। पानी परेड रोड की ओर जाने वाले अंडरपास में भी जाता है।

इस पर निर्णय लिया गया है कि आइजीआइ के पास एनएसजी चौक से थिम्मैया मार्ग जंक्शन से एकत्रित पानी को निकालने के लिए 600 व्यास की एक पाइपलाइन बिछाई जाएगी। इसके अतिरिक्त एनएचएआइ ने क्षेत्र में जल निकासी के समाधान खोजने के लिए दिल्ली छावनी बोर्ड (डीसीबी) को 3.5 करोड़ रुपये की राशि जारी की है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

PWD to study drainage around Delhi Airport T1

NEW DELHI: To address the problems of persistent waterlogging around Terminal 1 of the Delhi airport, the Public Works Department (PWD) will assess the drainage network around the airport and the three main roads leading to the location, officials said on Tuesday. According to officials, in a recent inter-departmental meeting headed by PWD Minister Parvesh Verma, the matter was discussed in detail, and necessary directions were given by the minister to find a solution.

"The PWD has been requested to examine all drains in these areas maintained by them and check for the discharge carrying capacity of these drains for corrective measures. If needed, also undertake desilting and declogging of these drains on priority," a government official said.

Starting from the Jheel Park area in South Delhi and passing through the Air Force station at Subroto Park, the road stretches that will be covered under the study will be from the Dhaula Kuan junction to the Parade Road crossing, the Parade Road junction and the Ullan Bataar Marg junction, and from Dwarka Road to the Thimmaya Marg junction.

Earlier in May, PWD officials, along with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials and the Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB), held an on-ground inspection of the three stretches.

"During inspection, it was noticed that the drain along National Highway-48 near pillar no 156 has no drain outlet, due to which waterlogging takes place. The water also goes to the underpass leading to Parade Road," the officials added. It has also been decided that from NSG Chowk, near IGI, a 600-diameter pipeline will be laid to dispose of collected water from Thimmaya Marg Junction, officials added.

AGENCIES

एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-1 के पास जलभराव नहीं हो, इसके लिए स्टडी करेगा PWD

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

मॉनसून में एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल-1 के आसपास पिछले कई सालों से जलभराव की समस्या को दूर करने के लिए अब आसपास के नालों की डिटेल स्टडी की जाएगी। यह काम पीडब्ल्यूडी को सौंपा गया है। एयरपोर्ट के आसपास की तीन प्रमुख सड़कों और उनके किनारे बने नालों की भी स्टडी का प्लान बनाया गया है। डिटेल स्टडी के बाद टर्मिनल-1 के आसपास जलभराव को दूर करने के लिए ड्रेनेज सिस्टम डिवेलप किया जाएगा।

पीडब्ल्यूडी अफसरों के अनुसार, कुछ दिन पहले पीडब्ल्यूडी मंत्री प्रवेश साहिव सिंह की अध्यक्षता में एयरपोर्ट के आसपास जलभराव की समस्या सुलझाने को लेकर एक मीटिंग हुई थी। मीटिंग में मौजूद रहे पीडब्ल्यूडी इंजिनियरों को आदेश दिया गया कि एयरपोर्ट के आसपास की जांच



File Photo

- एयरपोर्ट के आसपास की तीन मेन सड़कों और उनके किनारे बने नालों की स्टडी का है प्लान
- डिटेल स्टडी के बाद ड्रेनेज सिस्टम डिवेलप किया जाएगा
- नालों की डीसिल्टिंग की भी रिपोर्ट तैयार होगी

की जाए। यह पता लगाया जाए कि मॉनसून के दौरान किस नाले में कितना फ्लो होता है और कहां से पानी आता है। उन नालों की कैपिसिटी कितनी है और अतिरिक्त ड्रेनेज सिस्टम तैयार करने के लिए जमीन कितनी उपलब्ध है। इसके अलावा पीडब्ल्यूडी इंजिनियरों को नालों की डीसिल्टिंग कब-कब हुई थी या नहीं हुई थी, इस संबंध में भी डिटेल रिपोर्ट तैयार करने को कहा गया है।

यह होगा स्टडी एरिया : अफसरों के अनुसार,

एयरपोर्ट एरिया में जलभराव दूर करने के लिए साउथ दिल्ली के झील पार्क क्षेत्र से एयरफोर्स स्टेशन (सुब्रतो पार्क) से गुजरते हुए तीन सड़कों की स्टडी की जाएगी। जिसमें द्वारका रोड, उलन बाटार रोड, मेहराम नगर ईस्ट की ओर जाने वाली रोड है। इसके अलावा धौला कुआं जंक्शन से परेड रोड क्रॉसिंग तक, परेड रोड जंक्शन से उलन बाटार मार्ग जंक्शन तक, द्वारका रोड से थिम्मैया मार्ग जंक्शन तक तीनों सड़कों की स्टडी की जाएगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

SpiceJet की पेपरलेस बोर्डिंग

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली:
SpiceJet ने मंगलवार को बताया कि उसने शिलॉन्ग एयरपोर्ट पर पेपरलेस बोर्डिंग फेसिलिटी शुरू कर दी है। इससे पैसेजर्स का वॉटिंग टाइम कम होगा। कंपनी का कहना है कि आने वाले दिनों में यह पेपरलेस सर्विस दूसरे डोमेस्टिक एयरपोर्ट्स पर भी शुरू की जाएगी। मकसद ये है कि लोगों का समय बचे और पर्यावरण के लिए बेहतर ऑप्शन मिल सके।



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

आईजीआई टर्मिनल-1 के आसपास जलभराव की समस्या होगी दूर

नई दिल्ली, 26 अगस्त (नवोदय टाइम्स): दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल-एक के आसपास लगातार जलभराव की समस्या से निपटने के लिए लोक निर्माण विभाग (पीडब्ल्यूडी) हवाई अड्डे के आसपास के जल निकासी नेटवर्क और उस स्थान तक जाने वाली तीन मुख्य सड़कों का आकलन करेगा। हाल ही में लोक निर्माण मंत्री प्रवेश वर्मा की अध्यक्षता में हुई एक अंतर-विभागीय बैठक में इस मामले पर विस्तार से चर्चा की गई और मंत्री ने समाधान खोजने के लिए आवश्यक निर्देश दिए।

इसके बाद पीडब्ल्यूडी इन क्षेत्रों में अपने द्वारा संचालित सभी नालों की जांच करेगा और सुधारत्मक उपायों के लिए इन नालों की जल निकासी क्षमता की जांच करेगा। यदि आवश्यक हुआ हो तो प्राथमिकता के आधार पर इन नालों से गाद निकालने और जाम से मुक्ति दिलाने का काम भी करेगा।



इससे पहले मई में लोक निर्माण विभाग के अधिकारियों ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचएआइ) और दिल्ली छावनी बोर्ड (डीसीबी) के अधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर तीनों हिस्सों का स्थलीय निरीक्षण किया था। निरीक्षण के दौरान यह पाया गया कि राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-48 पर पिलर



संख्या 156 के पास नाले का कोई निकास नहीं है, जिसके कारण जलभराव होता है। पानी परेड रोड की ओर जाने वाले अंडरपास में भी जाता है। निर्णय लिया गया है कि आईजीआई के पास एनएसजी चौक से थिम्मैया मार्ग जंक्शन से एकत्रित पानी को निकालने के लिए 600 व्यास की एक

यहां पीडब्ल्यूडी करेगा सर्वे

इस सर्वे में दक्षिण दिल्ली के झील पार्क क्षेत्र से शुरू होकर सुब्रतो पार्क स्थित वायुसेना स्टेशन से गुजरते हुए अध्ययन के अंतर्गत धौला कुआं जंक्शन से परेड रोड क्रॉसिंग, परेड रोड जंक्शन और उल्लान बटार मार्ग जंक्शन और द्वारका रोड से थिम्मैया मार्ग जंक्शन तक की सड़क के हिस्से शामिल होंगे।

पाइपलाइन बिछाई जाएगी। इसके अतिरिक्त एनएचएआइ ने क्षेत्र में जल निकासी के समाधान खोजने के लिए दिल्ली छावनी बोर्ड (डीसीबी) को 3.5 करोड़ रुपये की राशि जारी की है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि डीसीबी वर्तमान में क्षेत्र का अध्ययन कर रहा है और लोक निर्माण विभाग के संबंधित अधिकारी संभावित समाधान खोजने के लिए मौके पर निरीक्षण करेंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

26 AUGUST 2025

TN govt finalises Hosur airport site, moves ahead for approvals

Chennai: Tamil Nadu govt has finalised the location for proposed Hosur airport, marking a major step in its aviation expansion plans.

The site, situated in Shoolagiri taluk between Berigai and Bagalur, lies about 15.5km east of Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited (TAAL) airstrip.

According to sources, a recent Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) survey revealed that the chosen site had only 75 obstacles, compared to nearly 350 at the earlier location closer to TAAL.

The earlier option was considered less viable due to hilly terrain and high-tension power lines. The new site is near Bengaluru Satellite

The new site is near Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road. This connectivity will improve access to Bengaluru and nearby towns, with Attibele just 19 km away

Town Ring Road being developed by National Highways Authority of India. This connectivity will improve access to Bengaluru and nearby towns, with Attibele—Karnataka entry point from Hosur—just 19 km away.

Officials note that the decision comes as Karnataka is simultaneously shortlisting sites for a second airport for Bengaluru. With the site

now identified, TN govt is moving towards regulatory clearances. It will approach Union civil aviation ministry for approval within two weeks. Meanwhile, Krishnagiri DC has been tasked with preparing a land acquisition plan within six weeks. Nearly 2,300 acres will be needed for the project.

One of the significant hurdles, however, will be obtaining a no-objection from BIAL. Under its concessionaire agreement with civil aviation ministry, no new international airport can be set up within 150km of Bengaluru until 2033. Nevertheless, given the scale of work, Hosur airport project is expected to take about 8 years to complete. IANS



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

26 AUGUST 2025

Nigerian with 20kg cocaine and couple with 1kg gold held at airport

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Chennai: Customs sleuths arrested a Nigerian woman for smuggling 2 kg of cocaine worth ₹20 crore at Chennai airport. Since smuggling drugs from Nigeria through Doha was detected after a hiatus, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) also joined the investigation and interrogated the smuggler.

The seizure occurred on Friday when the Nigerian, aged 36, arrived from Doha on a Qatar Airways flight. She was intercepted on suspicion, and her check-in luggage was thoroughly checked. She said she had come to the city to pursue education at a private university. Customs sleuths discovered that the trolley had a fal-



COCAINE WORTH ₹20 CRORE

se bottom separated by cardboard. They found two black plastic packs hidden underneath, containing a white powdery substance. Customs sleuths confirmed the substance as cocaine.

Customs officials said that African smugglers choose the Middle East as the transit point to avoid suspicion. This woman also travelled from Harcourt Port in Nigeria via Doha, said cus-

toms officials. "She has travelled to India for the first time, but her associates have travelled to India in the past. We have identified the handlers of the syndicate," said an NCB official. The foreign national has been remanded in judicial custody.

The sleuths also busted a gold smuggling modus operandi engaging family groups as mules by seizing 1.018 kg of gold from a couple. Air intelligence unit (AIU) intercepted them when they arrived from Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. The husband was found to be hiding a rubbery ball containing gold in paste form in his shoes, while another cylindrical ball was seized from the wife. In total, ₹1.01 crore worth of gold was seized. The couple was remanded in judicial custody.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

Govt mulls air ticket cancellation fee rejig

Rohit Vaid
Mumbai

In a move that could bring relief to passengers, the Centre will propose to airlines a revision of the ticket cancellation charges, industry sources told *businessline*.

The sector is deregulated, allowing airlines to set their own standards on cancellation charges.

The new proposal is part of the Civil Aviation Ministry's consultative process with stakeholders.

Presently, passengers often end up losing almost the entire booking amount on cancellation as airlines deduct the base fare along with the fuel surcharge.

According to industry sources, the new proposal will seek airlines' suggestions as well as feedback on the ways and means towards



“substantially reducing the penalty”.

EXCLUDE FUEL LEVY

It proposes that the cancellation charges exclude the fuel surcharge.

At present, some major airlines' policies lead to charges (one-way ticket price of over ₹5,000) ranging from ₹4,999 to ₹3,999 or base fare plus fuel surcharge, whichever is lower for cancellations made more than 72 hours before domestic departures. The penalty remains around ₹2,499 or base

fare (whichever is lower) if cancelled within 24-72 hours of departure.

On the other hand, a tiered structure is applied for international routes, where cancellation fees range between ₹3,000 and ₹7,500, depending on travel class, distance and how close to departure the cancellation occurs.

However, passengers can reduce these cancellation charges by paying “a little extra” unless they choose a non-refundable fare. For instance, cancellation charges reduce substantially on a one-way ticket priced over ₹5,000 with an additional payment of ₹500 to ₹1,000.

The cancellation charge issue has drawn public as well as parliamentary scrutiny. An earlier report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture found cancellation fees imposed by

airlines to be arbitrary, prompting calls for uniformity. The Committee recommended that no airline should charge more than 50 per cent of the base fare and urged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to monitor the practice.

NOT GOVT REGULATED

Cancellation charges are not directly regulated by the government. However, DGCA has issued a Civil Aviation Requirement, which stipulates that these charges must be displayed clearly at the time of booking.

Furthermore, airlines are barred from levying a fee higher than the basic fare plus the fuel surcharge. Carriers must refund statutory levies such as user development fee, airport development fee and passenger service fee if a ticket is cancelled, not used or in the case of no-show.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

InterGlobe-CAE to launch pilot training centre in Mumbai

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

InterGlobe Enterprises (which owns India's largest airline IndiGo) and CAE will jointly open a pilot training centre in Mumbai in the first quarter of CY 2026, the companies announced.

This will be the joint venture's fourth training centre and will support the training needs of Indian airlines, which have around 1,600 aircraft on order.

The development comes as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) considers the introduction of a multi-pilot licence (MPL) model, which emphasises on simulator-based training for budding pilots.

The training centre is set to become operational in the first quarter of next year. It will be spread over 44,000 sq ft with two Airbus A320 simulators and a total capacity for six full flight simulators.

"The new Mumbai centre expands our ability to meet the rapidly growing de-

mand for professional pilots in India — as many as 20,000 over the next 10 years," said Michael Azar-Hmouda, CAE's Division President (commercial aviation).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Currently pilots complete 200 hours of flying, pass written examinations and clear medical tests to obtain a commercial pilots licence (CPL).

They need to undergo simulator training upon induction in an airline, for type training (on a particular aircraft), while converting from one aircraft type to another, for obtaining commander's rank or to maintain proficiency. This training is carried out either in simulators in India or overseas, depending upon costs and availability of slots.

"Opening an additional training centre in Mumbai will make getting slots easier. Availability of pilots also improves if training is carried out within India as it involves less travel," said an aviation expert.

Training facilities in India are being enhanced with Airbus and Air India setting up their facilities. French company Simareo is also set to open a training centre in Delhi. While capacity is being added, questions are being raised whether this will prove adequate should India decide to adopt the MPL model.

MPL will serve as an alternative to the existing CPL-based training but its proposed implementation is being opposed by flying training schools. On the other hand, airlines such as Air India and IndiGo are supporting the move.

"MPL addresses this by integrating competency-based training, airline-specific SOPs and high-fidelity simulation from day one. Unlike CPL, MPL emphasises structured instruction in manual flying, automation management and monitoring. It also includes upset prevention and recovery training, a vital safety intervention not mandated in India's CPL programmes," he added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

SpiceJet starts paperless boarding at Shillong airport

New Delhi: SpiceJet has rolled out a paperless boarding process at Shillong airport. The airline said the process offers passengers a "faster, greener, and more seamless check-in experience". Accordingly, passengers checking in at the airport counter will now receive their boarding pass on WhatsApp, eliminating the need for physical printouts. "This initiative significantly reduces wait times at check-in and supports eco-conscious travel by cutting down on paper usage," the airline said. OUR BUREAU



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

Akasa Air to start daily Bengaluru-Phuket flights



Bengaluru: Akasa Air plans to start daily direct flights connecting Bengaluru with Phuket from October 1, 2025. The new route builds on the airline's recently introduced daily service between Mumbai and Phuket. Currently, Bengaluru has three international connections — Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, and Phuket.

OUR BUREAU



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

गंगवाल फैमिली इंडिगो में 3% हिस्सेदारी बेचेगी

मुंबई | राकेश गंगवाल फैमिली इंडिगो एयरलाइन चलाने वाली कंपनी इंटरग्लोब एविएशन में 3.1% हिस्सेदारी बेचेगी। यह बिक्री ब 5,808 रुपए प्रति शेयर के हिसाब से होगी। यह 2022 से शुरू चरणबद्ध निकासी का हिस्सा है। इस साल उन्होंने 9% से ज्यादा हिस्सेदारी बेचकर 12,900 करोड़ रुपए से जुटाए हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

अकासा एयर फुकेट के लिए शुरु करेगी सीधी उड़ान

नई दिल्ली। किफायती विमान सेवा कंपनी अकासा एयर ने मंगलवार को थाईलैंड के फुकेट के लिए सीधी दैनिक उड़ान शुरु करने की घोषणा की। एयरलाइंस ने एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि वह आगामी एक अक्टूबर से कर्नाटक की राजधानी बेंगलुरु और फुकेट के बीच उड़ान शुरु करेगी। हाल ही में उसने मुंबई से फुकेट के लिए सेवा शुरु की थी। उल्लेखनीय है कि अकासा एयर ने कुछ समय पहले दक्षिण और आसियान देशों में अपने नेटवर्क के विस्तार की बात कही थी। बेंगलुरु से फुकेट की उड़ान संख्या क्यूपी 623 सुबह 6.25 बजे रवाना होगी और स्थानीय समय के अनुसार 12.40 बजे वहां पहुंचेगी। वापसी की उड़ान संख्या क्यूपी 624 फुकेट से दोपहर 1.40 बजे (स्थानीय समय) रवाना होगी और अपराह्न 4.40 बजे बेंगलुरु पहुंचेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

दिल्ली में खराब मौसम के कारण जयपुर में हुई अस्ताना एयरलाइंस की आपात लैंडिंग

जागरण संवाददाता, जयपुर : कजाकिस्तान के अल्माटी से दिल्ली जा रहे अस्ताना एयरलाइंस के विमान को मंगलवार सुबह करीब 11 बजे आपात स्थिति में जयपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उतारा गया। दिल्ली में खराब मौसम के कारण विमान को वहां उतरने में असफलता का सामना करना पड़ा, जिसके चलते दिल्ली हवाई अड्डा प्राधिकरण ने इसे जयपुर के लिए डायवर्ट किया।

जानकारी के अनुसार, एयर अस्ताना का विमान केसी-307 ने सुबह 6:50 बजे अल्माटी से उड़ान भरी थी। लगभग तीन घंटे बाद जब यह दिल्ली के निकट पहुंचा, तब मौसम की खराबी के कारण इसे उतारा नहीं जा सका। बाद में मौसम साफ होने पर विमान ने 12:40 बजे दिल्ली के लिए उड़ान भरी और 1:30 बजे वहां सुरक्षित लैंडिंग की। इसी तरह, हैदराबाद से जोधपुर आ रहा इंडिगो का विमान भी खराब मौसम के कारण डायवर्ट किया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

Gangwals to Sell 3.1% in IndiGo Parent via ₹7,020-cr Block Deals

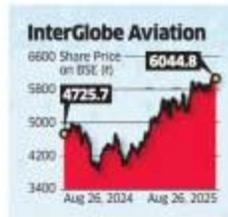
Our Bureau

Mumbai: The family of IndiGo co-founder Rakesh Gangwal is set to offload a 3.1% stake in InterGlobe Aviation through block deals worth about \$901 million (₹7,020 crore).

The shares are being offered at a price of ₹5,908 apiece, about 4% below the current market price, people said.

The promoters hold 7.81% in the budget airline, including 4.73% directly by Gangwal and 3.08% through the Chinkerpoo Family Trust, as of June-end.

Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan are bankers to the deal, the people said.



The latest transaction would mark another phase in Gangwal's gradual exit from IndiGo, which began after he stepped down from the board in February 2022. At the time, Gangwal and his related entities held about 37% in the company. Since then, both he and his wife, Shobha Gangwal, have been steadily reducing their exposure through a series of stake sales.

Gangwal's family have agreed for a 150-day lock-up period on further share sales, according to the terms.

IndiGo, and Gangwal did not respond to queries.

This May, Gangwal sold a 5.7% stake in IndiGo for about \$1.36 billion via a large block deal. Earlier tranches in 2022 and 2023 also saw gradual paring of the family's holding.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

**SpiceJet launches
paperless boarding
at Shillong airport**

BUDGET CARRIER SPICEJET on Tuesday said it has rolled out a paperless boarding facility at Shillong airport, reducing waiting time for passengers.

FE BUREAU & AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

Faltering connectivity

Need to address operational challenges to make UDAN work better

INDIA IS ONE of the fastest growing domestic air travel markets globally but the government's ambitious plans for regional connectivity to smaller cities by providing affordable air travel through its Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik scheme (UDAN) is still a work in progress. Since this demand-driven scheme kicked off in 2017—with the first inaugural flight between Delhi and Shimla—15 million passengers have availed of UDAN. But this regional connectivity scheme's passenger count has plunged by 57% to 1.4 million passengers in FY25 from the peak level of 3.3 million in FY22. The numbers make for a dismal reading. Currently, 637 out of the 915 valid routes have been operationalised, connecting 92 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and two water aerodromes across the country. Nearly 80% of the 92 airports still remain unserved. As if all of this weren't bad enough, 222 routes under the scheme have been discontinued since 2020 as airlines like Air India and Akasa Air do not fly on them. This does not augur well for the scheme's success as it depends on participation by the established airlines.

The UDAN scheme, which was intended to democratise aviation, clearly is at the crossroads and needs focused policy interventions to make it work better. Although the government offers viability gap funding—around ₹4,160 crore, including ₹2,233 crore between FY23 and FY25—to incentivise private airlines to provide subsidised air travel, these operators make their own assessment of demand to participate in this scheme. To be sure, there are serious challenges of providing flight services in hitherto unconnected regions, including low passenger demand, low visibility at certain airports, and a shortage of aircraft. Pakyong airport in Sikkim, built at 4,600 feet above sea level, exemplifies some of these challenges as flight operations to Kolkata have been frequently affected due to visibility issues and poor weather. If flights are suspended due to these challenges, this is bound to impact the economics of participating in the UDAN scheme even after all the subsidies are factored in. If a decent return is elusive, established airlines, including the smaller ones, are unlikely to be enthusiastic about UDAN.

The upshot is that UDAN can take off only if it makes business sense for the players. Operating in a high-cost environment—a problem that afflicts the domestic civil aviation industry as a whole—is indeed challenging. Government policy can certainly improve this state of affairs by lowering taxes on aviation turbine fuel (ATF)—which accounts for 40% of operating costs—by including petro products in the goods and services tax regime. The Centre has sought to remedy this state of affairs by capping excise duty at 2% on ATF purchases at regional connectivity scheme airports for the first three years.

The various state governments have also committed to reducing the value added tax on ATF to 1% or less for 10 years and providing fire and utility services at reduced rates. Addressing issues like last-mile connectivity from the city centre to the airport, frequent flight diversions or cancellations due to weather will also help. There is also a need to step up viability gap financing and budgetary outlays. The budgeted estimate for 2025-26 of ₹549 crore for the UDAN scheme is a third lower than the revised estimate for the previous fiscal.





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

26 AUGUST 2025

Airfares soar ahead of diwali rush

UP State Bureau

LUCKNOW

Travelling to Lucknow during Diwali is set to become expensive, with airfares already surging nearly four times the usual rates. Normally priced between ₹3,000 and ₹4,000, tickets from Delhi to Lucknow have now climbed to as high as ₹7,200.

This year, Diwali falls on October 20, and from October 18 onwards, people living in Delhi and Mumbai are expected to begin returning home. With train tickets booked out months in advance, many passengers are forced to turn to air travel, despite the steep increase in fares. An Air India ticket for flight AI-2477 from Delhi is currently priced at ₹4,747, while Indigo's direct flight 6E-2258 costs ₹4,831. Several other flights are charging between



Ticket doubled from Delhi to Lucknow, Mumbai and Bengaluru flyers face steepest costs

₹7,000 and ₹7,200. Travel experts predict that as the festival approaches, fares could rise further, reaching between ₹12,000 and ₹15,000.

Flights from Mumbai and Bengaluru to Lucknow are proving even costlier. Air India Express flight IX-1219 from Mumbai is priced at ₹16,241, while Indigo 6E-5379 has touched ₹18,399.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

26 AUGUST 2025

खराब मौसम से विमान डायवर्ट

अगरतला। गुवाहाटी आ रही इंडिगो की एक उड़ान को खराब मौसम के कारण त्रिपुरा के अगरतला हवाई अड्डे पर उतारना पड़ा।

एक अधिकारी ने सोमवार को यह जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि विमान में असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिश्व सरमा भी सवार थे। अधिकारी ने बताया कि रविवार शाम एहतियात के तौर पर उड़ान को अगरतला भेजा गया था।

अगरतला स्थित महाराजा वीर विक्रम (एमवीवी) हवाई अड्डे के निदेशक के.सी. मोणा ने बताया कि गुवाहाटी में मौसम की स्थिति में सुधार होने के बाद विमान ने गुवाहाटी के लिए उड़ान भरी।

Army officer put on SpiceJet's no-fly list for assaulting staff

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: A senior army officer who allegedly assaulted SpiceJet staff at Srinagar airport has been placed on the airline's no-fly list for five years, two officials close to the development confirmed on Monday.

The incident took place on July 26, at the boarding gate of flight SG 386 from Srinagar to Delhi.

"The passenger who hit the airline staff has been declared as unruly and it has been decided to put him in the airline's No Fly List. As per norms, he will not be able to fly in any of the SpiceJet domestic or international flights for five years," one of the officials said, requesting anonymity.

A second official, also declining to be named, said: "The decision was taken by the committee



The staff member sustained a spinal fracture and jaw injuries in the assault.

REUTERS

formed, as per civil aviation rules (CAR), after which the airline has been directed to ban the passenger."

SpiceJet did not respond to requests for a comment from HT. According to the airline's earlier statement, the dispute began after staff informed the officer that his two cabin bags weighed 16kg, more than double the 7kg limit.

"When politely informed of the excess baggage and asked to

pay the applicable charges, the passenger refused and forcefully entered the aerobridge without completing the boarding process – a clear violation of aviation security protocols. He was escorted back to the gate by a CISF official," the airline had said.

"At the gate, the passenger grew increasingly aggressive and physically assaulted four members of the SpiceJet ground staff," it added.

The staff suffered a spinal fracture and jaw injuries. A video of the incident, showing the officer hitting staff with a queue stand, was widely circulated on August 3.

An FIR was registered, while the airline wrote to the civil aviation ministry appraising them about the assault on its staff and had requested appropriate action against the passenger.

Gangwal to trim IndiGo stake

Planned \$801 million stake sale would take the airline co-founder's holding to less than 5%

Dipali Banka
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NEW DELHI

IndiGo co-founder and promoter Rakesh Gangwal plans to sell shares worth \$801 million in the country's largest airline, according to a term sheet seen by *Mint*. Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Morgan Stanley India and J.P. Morgan India are arranging the trade.

Under the updated terms, Gangwal and his Chinkerpoo Family Trust will sell up to 12.1 million shares—or about 3.1%—in InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, which runs IndiGo. The offer price of ₹5,808 reflects a nearly 4% discount to the stock's closing price of ₹6,050 on Tuesday on the NSE.

After this sale, Gangwal would own 4.7% in Indigo while his co-promoter and managing director of the airline, Rahul Bhatia, would hold 35.73%.

At December 2021-end, Gangwal held 36.6%, and Bhatia owned 37.8%



Gangwal has steadily pared his holding since 2022, when he stepped down from the board following disputes with co-promoter Rahul Bhatia. REUTERS

in InterGlobe Aviation.

Gangwal has continuously pared his stake in the airline over the past few years, after a feud between him and Bhatia—the two co-founded the airline in 2006—was laid to rest.

In 2019, Gangwal accused Bhatia of corporate governance lapses. The dispute became public when he wrote to market regulator Sebi, pointing to issues such as related-party transactions and the chairman's

lack of independence.

In 2022, Gangwal resigned from the board of directors of InterGlobe Aviation. In a letter to the board, he said he intended to pare down his then 37% stake over the next five years and asked that no unpublished price-sensitive information be shared with him.

Among the stake sales that he undertook, Gangwal sold 5.83% stake in April 2024, another 5.83% last August, and 5.7% this May.

With about 64% market share, IndiGo dominates the airline industry in India. Last month, the airline reported a 20% year-on-year decline in its profit to Rs 2,176 crore for the June quarter despite higher capacities.

Incidents, including the Pahalgam terrorist attack and the subsequent

India-Pakistan border clash, as well as the crash involving an Air India flight in June, had hit travel during the key summer break period.

However, revenue during the June quarter was up 6% year-on-year to Rs 21,543 crore. At the same time, the 16% growth in available seat kilometres (ASK) to 42.3 billion, a measure of flying capacity, far outstripped the revenue growth.

"The June quarter was shaped by significant external challenges that created headwinds for the entire aviation sector," said Pieter Elbers, chief executive officer of IndiGo in a press release.

"Despite these industry-wide disruptions, we reported a net profit of INR 21,763 million with a net profit margin of around 11% for the quarter ended June 2025," he said.

RUNWAY SALE

GANGWAL and his Chinkerpoo Family Trust will sell up to 12.1 million shares in InterGlobe Aviation

INDIGO'S profit fell 20% year-on-year in the June quarter to ₹2,176 crore, despite higher capacity



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

बिहार से नए विदेशी ठिकानों के लिए शुरू होगी फ्लाइट्स

■ **NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली :** बिहार में नए अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर हवाई संपर्क बढ़ाने और हवाई सेवाओं की स्थापना को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए एक नई नीति को मंगलवार को मंजूरी दी। इससे बिहार के हवाई अड्डों से नए डेस्टिनेशंस तक हवाई सेवाओं की शुरुआत



करने के लिए भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों वायविलिटी गैप फंडिंग के तहत आर्थिक सहायता दी जाएगी।

प्रदेश सरकार के मुताबिक, पटना और गया हवाई अड्डों से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों की मांग लगातार बढ़ने को देखते हुए यह कदम उठाया गया है। इसके तहत पटना से काठमांडू और गया से शारजाह, बैंकॉक, कोलंबो और सिंगापुर जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। राज्य सरकार के मुताबिक, इस नीति से पटना के जयप्रकाश नारायण अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा और गया अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा से नए अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई मार्गों से नॉन-स्टॉप हवाई सेवाओं की शुरुआत को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

Fragile Skies

India's aviation industry has soared into the global elite, now ranking as the world's third-largest aviation market - a remarkable feat. Yet, the recent air crash - a tragedy that claimed 260 lives in Ahmedabad on June 12 - casts a long shadow over this achievement. In its wake, a parliamentary review has sounded alarms over a more silent but deeply corrosive threat: the dwindling capacity of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), now functioning with almost half of its sanctioned positions unfilled. Out of 1,063 posts, only 553 are occupied.

That means nearly 50 per cent of critical roles - responsible for oversight, compliance, and safety - remain vacant. This is not merely a bureaucratic glitch; it's a fundamental breakdown in the architecture meant to safeguard our skies. Even as aviation flourishes, the watchdog wears thin, precariously close to being ineffective.

India's aviation growth story is often told through passenger numbers, new airport inaugurations, and record-breaking aircraft orders. Yet these achievements can easily be overshadowed if safety fails to keep pace. Public confidence is a fragile currency in aviation; once shaken, it is hard to rebuild. This is why strengthening oversight is not just a regulatory task but a national priority tied directly to economic growth and global credibility.

Meanwhile, air traffic controllers (ATCs) - who operate at the heart of airport operations - are under relentless strain. Metro airports see them working long, fatiguing shifts, with inadequate training adding to their burden. Fatigue among ATCs is not an abstract concern; it is a tangible risk, one that exacerbates the possibility of human error in high-stakes environments.

Indeed, there is already a troubling indicator: runway incursions - events where aircraft or vehicles enter protected runway space - are occurring at a rate much higher than the accepted target. Coupled with the inadequate reporting of near-misses and safety lapses, these disturbances reveal a system inching toward systemic failure. The silence around these dangers only deepens the peril.

For India to confront the memory of the recent crash, and to forestall another, the DGCA must be empowered swiftly. The parliamentary panel's recommendation should not just be considered, but acted upon: granting the regulator full financial and administrative autonomy. This would enable the DGCA to speed up hiring, invest in training, and bolster its monitoring capabilities.

Moreover, controllers deserve humane working conditions aligned with the latest scientific understanding of fatigue. And the culture within safety oversight must evolve: adopting a "Just Culture" framework where errors are reported without fear of reprisal, fostering learning rather than punishment.

The recent tragic crash is still fresh on the national conscience. Let it serve as a watershed moment, not only in collective grief but as a catalyst for reform. India's aviation ambitions can only fly on the wings of trust built upon safety. Strengthening the institutions that guard us is not optional - it is essential. Failing to do so risks not just flying machines, but the very faith we place in them, crashing alongside.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

26 AUGUST 2025

Fragile Skies

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Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

27 AUGUST 2025

Gangwal to sell 3.1% Indigo stake for over ₹7k cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Rakesh Gangwal along with the family's trust, part of the promoter family of Interglobe Aviation (Indigo), is selling about 1.2 crore shares of the airline, translating to 3.1% of its equity for at least Rs 7,028 crore (about \$801 million).

The Indian arms of Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan are managing the block deal, expected to be executed on Thursday at a floor price of Rs 5,808 per share, a 4% discount to Interglobe Aviation's Tuesday close, term sheet for the deal showed.

Gangwal, one of the founding-promoters of India's leading airline, has been selling his stake in the company since Sept 2022, after he and Rahul Bhatia, also a co-founder and promoter of the company settled their dispute. According to data since 2022, this will be Bhatia's seventh's round of stake sale in Indigo.

Usually, after each block deal by a large shareholder, there's a cooling off period of at least three months be-

After Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal ended their dispute, and the latter resigned in Feb 2022, Gangwal & family have reduced their stake in Indigo from nearly 37% in June 2022, to 7.8% in June 2025. Post Thursday's deal, Gangwal's holding in the airline he founded with Bhatia in 2006, is expected to fall to about 4.7%.

fore the same seller can go for another round of stake sale through another block trade. After Thursday's stake sale, Gangwal and family will not be able to sell another Indigo stake for 150 days, the term sheet showed.

In the last three-and-half years, the stock price of Indigo has gone up by more than three times: From Rs 1,807 on March 2, 2022 to its Tuesday close at Rs 6,045. The stock price jump came despite one of the promoters selling nearly 30% of the company's equity, a market player pointed out.



Corporate Communications Directorate

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SpiceJet bars Army officer from flights for 5 years

SpiceJet has barred an Army officer from flying on its domestic and international services for five years after a three-member panel found him guilty of assaulting four airline employees at Srinagar airport on July 26. The officer can appeal, though other airlines are also free to bar him. SpiceJet said the confrontation began when the officer was asked to pay for excess cabin baggage. 1/24