



Corporate Communications Directorate

MIRROR

AHMEDABAD

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

Ugandan national held with Rs 4.81cr cocaine at airport

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 981 grams of cocaine, valued at approximately Rs 4.81 crore in the international market, from a Ugandan national who arrived at Ahmedabad airport from Doha on a Qatar Airways flight. The passenger was subsequently arrested under the NDPS Act.

Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officers intercepted the passenger, who initially denied carrying contraband. A detailed inspection revealed abnormalities in his trolley bag. Officers dismantled the telescopic handle and plastic base supports, discovering white powder packed in polythene. Field tests confirmed the substance was cocaine.

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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

HC to hear plea over Kolkata airport mosque issue

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, September 25

Calcutta High Court on Thursday fixed October 1 for hearing a petition concerning the 136-year-old Bankra Mosque located within the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata, complex.

The petition before Justice Krishna Rao challenges the indefinite restriction on access to the mosque, imposed by airport authorities citing security and aviation safety requirements.

During the hearing, senior advocate Kishore Datta sought protection against any demolition pending adjudication of the plea. He said access arrangements that had earlier allowed devotees to reach the mosque during prayer hours had since been discontinued.

Additional Solicitor General Dhiraj Trivedi, appearing for the authorities, opposed the plea, stressing that the issue involved national security considerations. He questioned the basis of seeking such relief in the matter. Additional Advocate General Bilwadal Bhattacharya also raised concerns over law-and-order implications if access was restored. The court will take up the matter on October 1.



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MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

Andhra's 1st flight training academy at Kurnool airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kurnool

ANDHRA Pradesh took a significant step toward developing a comprehensive aviation ecosystem with the launch of the State's first Flight Training Organisation (FTO) at Kurnool Airport on Saturday.

Union Civil Aviation Minister K. J. Somaiya, who inaugurated Orient Flights Aviation Academy, said developing Andhra Pradesh into an aviation hub was the vision of CM Naidu, and Kurnool is being developed as a key centre for aviation, drones and industries.

He termed the launch of the FTO a "historic development" for the State, and stressed the need to expand flight training facilities beyond major cities to rural and remote areas. "India has currently 36 FTOs, which are not sufficient to meet the growing demand for pilots. The Centre is encouraging setting up of FTOs, so that youngsters need not go abroad for pilot training," he said.



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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

'विमान हादसे की अंतिम जांच रिपोर्ट से पहले सुझावों पर हो विचार'

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस: फेडरेशन आफ इंडियन पायलट्स (एफआईपी) ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय से अनुरोध किया है कि अहमदाबाद में हुए विमान हादसे की जांच रिपोर्ट को अंतिम रूप देने से पहले उसके तकनीकी सुझावों पर औपचारिक रूप से विचार किया जाए। एफआईपी ने शुक्रवार को नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के. राममोहन नायडू को पत्र भेजकर खुद को विमान एआई171 की अंतिम जांच रिपोर्ट के मसौदे की समीक्षा में स्वतंत्र तकनीकी प्रतिभागी के रूप में शामिल करने की मांग की। 12 जून 2025 को एयर इंडिया का बोइंग 787-8 विमान अहमदाबाद से लंदन के लिए उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया था।

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HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

Pilot body seeks say on independent review of AI-171 crash probe report

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: A body representing commercial pilots in India has written to civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu asking whether the government intends to have an independent committee examine the draft final investigation report into the Air India AI-171 crash before it is circulated or finalised.

In the letter, dated September 25, the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) said it had "reliably learnt that the Government/Ministry has directed or is considering requiring the draft report to undergo examination by an independent committee before it is circulated/finalised".

HT could not independently confirm whether such a review has been ordered or is under consideration. A query on whether the government had asked the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) to put the draft final report before an independent committee did not elicit a response.

One pilot said the ministry was reportedly keen for an independent committee to examine the draft before it is made public, and



The AAIB is at an advanced stage of preparing the draft final report into the June 12, 2025 crash of the Air India Boeing 787-8. PTI

had recently written to the AAIB saying so.

The AAIB is at an advanced stage of preparing the draft final report into the June 12, 2025 crash of the Air India Boeing 787-8 in Ahmedabad, which killed 260 people.

A former bureaucrat said the AAIB head has, as a settled practice, been able to form an experts committee to review a report before approving it for publication. "In fact, yet another committee can be formed even after the report is out to ensure the action is taken on the recommendations mentioned in the report," he said.

In its letter, the FIP asked the ministry to confirm whether such a committee has been con-

stituted or is proposed, its composition and terms of reference, whether independent aviation professionals would be on it, and whether the federation would be invited or nominated to take part.

It also asked how the technical observations it had submitted earlier would be considered and responded to, and requested that its representation be taken up before the draft is circulated for final consultation or moved towards acceptance and publication.

The federation said any review should include a professional pilot perspective. "An independent review which does not include an appropriate professional pilot perspective would

leave an important technical dimension insufficiently represented," the letter said. A "transparent and technically independent review" with "meaningful representation of the Professional Pilot community" would be consistent with the goal of improving aviation safety in India, it added.

The FIP has previously flagged what it says are discrepancies between the AAIB's preliminary report and independent simulator evaluations, particularly over when the Ram Air Turbine (RAT), a small propeller-driven generator that drops out of the aircraft to supply emergency power when the engines fail, deployed and when hydraulic power became available.

According to the preliminary report, the fuel-system interruption occurred at about 08:08:42 UTC, and the RAT began supplying hydraulic power about four seconds later. The FIP said simulator testing showed that about 18 seconds were needed after a fuel-system interruption for RAT-generated power to become available. The federation has also questioned differences in take-off performance timings between the preliminary report and simulator runs.



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SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

एअर इंडिया पायलट सस्पेंड

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया के पायलट को 6 सितंबर की ज्यूरिख-दिल्ली फ्लाइट से पहले अल्काहल टेस्ट में फेल होने पर शुक्रवार को सस्पेंड कर दिया गया है। टेकऑफ से कुछ समय पहले उसे ज्यूरिख एयरपोर्ट पर विमान से उतार दिया गया था और यात्री के तौर पर भारत भेजा गया था। अंतिम मेडिकल रिपोर्ट और जांच पूरी होने तक पायलट का निलंबन जारी रहेगा। एअर इंडिया ने कहा कि वह सुरक्षा, नियमों और प्रोटोकॉल के उल्लंघन को बर्दाश्त नहीं करती।

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TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

AI pilot fails breath analyser test at Zurich int'l airport, suspended

'Disciplinary Action Will Be Taken Based On Final Report'

New Delhi: Air India has suspended a pilot for failing a breath analyser test at Zurich airport earlier this month before he was to operate a flight to the national capital and the airline is taking steps to strictly ensure regulatory compliance and curb violations, according to officials.

The incident that happened on Sept 6 came days after AI terminated the services of the pilot-in-command of a Phuket-Delhi flight who had tested positive for drug use.

On Friday, the officials said the pilot was to operate Air In-



The pilot was repatriated to India as a passenger

dia flight AI151 from Zurich to Delhi on Sept 6, and at the airport, he smelt of alcohol. Subsequently, the airline officials voluntarily informed the local authorities and requisite action was taken, they added.

There was no official statement from Air India.

The officials said in the Zurich incident, the pilot was immediately removed from ope-

rating duties upon receipt of a preliminary breath analyser test report from local authorities and referred for further medical evaluation.

The pilot was subsequently repatriated to India as a passenger and remains under suspension pending the final medical examination report and completion of the investigation. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken based on the findings, the officials said.

Regarding the incident, a Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) spokesperson on Friday told PTI that necessary measures were taken in accordance with applicable national and international regulations.

"The operator and the Directorate General of Civil Av-

iation of India (DGCA) have been informed accordingly. As a result, flight AI151 from Zurich to Delhi could not be operated as scheduled," the spokesperson said. For reasons of data protection, the spokesperson said FOCA cannot provide further details on the case.

"The responsibility for the further handling of this case lies with the DGCA as the competent authority of the State of the Operator, to which any further enquiries should be addressed," the spokesperson said in an e-mail response.

Meanwhile, in the wake of recent incidents, including a pilot testing positive for drug use, the officials said Air India is strengthening accountability of people across flight operations. **PTI**