



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

26 DECEMBER 2025



An aircraft accorded a ceremonial water cannon salute as Navi Mumbai International Airport commenced commercial flight operations on Thursday. – PTI

### Commercial flights start at Navi Mumbai Int'l Airport

MUMBAI, Dec 25: The Navi Mumbai International Airport commenced commercial flight operations on Thursday, marking a key milestone for India's civil aviation sector, while expanding air travel capacity for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) began operations, with the first flight from Bengaluru, operated by IndiGo, touching down the runway at 8 am.

The aircraft was accorded a ceremonial water cannon salute on arrival, a time-honoured aviation tradition marking NMIA's first commercial touchdown and departure, the airport operator said in a statement.

The inaugural arrival was followed by the airport's first departure IndiGo flight 6E882 to Hyderabad at 08:40 am, completing NMIA's inaugural arrival and departure cycle, it said.

On the first day, IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and Star Air operated domestic services, connecting the new facility to nine destinations across India.

The airport handled 15 scheduled departures

on the first day, it said, adding that during the initial phase, the facility will operate for 12 hours – between 8 am and 8 pm, with up to 24 scheduled daily departures to 13 destinations and the capability to manage up to 10 aircraft movements (arrivals and departures) per hour, it added.

The airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 8 this year. The first phase of the five-phased airport was built at Rs 19,650 crore.

By the time all five phases of the airport are completed, it will be catering to 90 million passengers annually, along with dedicated cargo terminals and multimodal connectivity.

The entire project is being developed in multiple phases under a special purpose vehicle, Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd, in which the Adani Group has a 74 per cent stake, and the remaining 26 per cent is owned by CIDCO.

From February next year, operations are planned to progressively scale up to round-the-clock services. – PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## एयरपोर्ट के तीनों टर्मिनल से सीधे जुड़ेंगे यात्री, समन्वय बैठक में बनी रणनीति

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। जयपुर मेट्रो रेल कॉर्पोरेशन (जेएमआरसी) की ओर से जयपुर मेट्रो फेज-2 के क्रियान्वयन को लेकर एक बैठक आयोजित की गई। मेट्रो प्रशासन और एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के बीच यह बैठक जयपुर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर हुई।

बैठक में डीजीसीए, सीआईएसएफ, बीसीएस, एएआई और एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने हिस्सा लिया। उस दौरान एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-1, टर्मिनल-2 और भविष्य में बनने वाले टर्मिनल-3 को प्रस्तावित भूमिगत मेट्रो स्टेशन से सीधे जोड़ने की योजना पर विस्तृत चर्चा हुई। संयुक्त महानिदेशक (नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय) सूरजमल और मेट्रो के निदेशक महेश भुराडिया ने बताया कि सीतापुरा से टोड़ी मोड़ के बीच प्रस्तावित यह कॉरिडोर जयपुर को



बैठक में शामिल अधिकारी।

विश्व स्तरीय परिवहन सुविधा प्रदान करेगा। चीफ एयरपोर्ट ऑफिसर अनिमेष भट्ट ने कहा कि मेट्रो अलाइनमेंट और यात्री सुरक्षा मानकों पर सभी एजेंसियों ने सहमति जताई है। इस सीधे कनेक्टिविटी से यात्रियों को जाम से मुक्ति मिलेगी और सुरक्षित व सुगम सफर सुनिश्चित होगा। वहीं, परियोजना से जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पहुंचने वाले यात्रियों को बड़ी राहत मिलने की उम्मीद है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

26 DECEMBER 2025

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## Navi Mumbai Int'l Airport begins operations

**Mumbai, Dec. 25:** Nearly three decades after the ambitious project was first conceived to decongest the existing airport in the financial capital, greenfield Navi Mumbai International Airport became a reality on Thursday as an IndiGo Airbus A320 from Bengaluru landed on the tarmac at 8 am amid a traditional water cannon salute.

The commencement of commercial flight operations marked a landmark expansion in the finan-

cial capital of India aviation capacity and a decisive step in country's infrastructure journey.

The airport's first departure, IndiGo flight 6E 882 to Hyderabad at 8:40 am, completing its inaugural arrival and departure cycle.

Mumbai joins the ranks of aviation hubs like London, New York, Moscow, Tokyo, and Shanghai, each supported by multiple airports to meet rising demand, Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd (NMIA) said. — PTI

## आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट के इमिग्रेशन काउंटर पर भारी भीड़, घंटों करना पड़ा इंतजार

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आइजीआइ) हवाई अड्डे पर शुक्रवार सुबह उस वक्त अफरा-तफरी का माहौल बन गया, जब इमिग्रेशन क्लियरेंस के लिए यात्रियों की भीड़ जमा हो गई। अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के पीक आवर्स के दौरान पर्याप्त काउंटर न होने के कारण यात्रियों को लंबी कतारों में घंटों इंतजार करना पड़ा।

जानकारी के अनुसार, शुक्रवार तड़के एयरपोर्ट के इमिग्रेशन एरिया में यात्रियों की जबरदस्त भीड़ देखी गई। यात्रियों का आरोप है कि भीड़ के अनुपात में वहां बेहद कम कर्मचारी तैनात थे और केवल चार काउंटरों से ही यात्रियों को क्लियरेंस मिल रहा था। जांच प्रक्रिया धीमी होने के कारण यात्रियों की कतार इमिग्रेशन हाल से बाहर तक पहुंच गई। कई यात्रियों को आगे की कनेक्टिंग फ्लाइट्स छूटने का डर



आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट के इमिग्रेशन काउंटर पर उमड़ी भीड़ • सी. इंटरनेट मीडिया

सताने लगा।

अव्यवस्था से परेशान एक यात्री, डा. अमिताभ ने वीडियो एक्स पर पोस्ट कर डायल के अधिकारियों के प्रति नाराजगी जताते हुए कहा कि सुबह के 5:00 बज रहे हैं और इमिग्रेशन काउंटर पर बुरा हाल है। इंटरनेट मीडिया पर वीडियो प्रसारित होने और शिकायत मिलने के बाद डायल ने यात्री को जवाब देते हुए कहा कि हमारे अधिकारी

पूरे एयरपोर्ट परिसर में यात्रियों की आवाजाही पर लगातार नजर बनाए हुए हैं।

बता दें कि आइजीआइ एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-3 पर इमिग्रेशन और सिक््योरिटी चेक के दौरान भीड़ होना एक पुरानी समस्या है। हालांकि प्रशासन ने डिजी यात्रा और काउंटरों की संख्या बढ़ाने के दावे किए हैं, लेकिन शुक्रवार की घटना ने एक बार फिर दावों की पोल खोल दी है।

## Silk Stalkings



**Reshmi Dasgupta**

# Negotiating Airports Is No Mean Feet

When will they become more passenger friendly rather than retail friendly?

Taking a flight in India is a game of chance nowadays. The probability of a smooth journey is dim for all passengers as the causes for delays and cancellations are class-agnostic. Weather and crew availability are the main reasons, and holiday seasons are invariably the times when both are hard to predict. With smog now complicating matters in the two cities that I mainly travel to and from — Delhi and Kolkata — flying is rather like playing Russian roulette.

Travellers end up spending inordinate amounts of time at airports. Yet those who build and operate airports, in India and abroad, seem oblivious to passengers' concerns other than food and shopping. Even much-touted new private airports, such as those in Mumbai and Bengaluru, while being visually appealing, have the deliberate design flaw like most airports worldwide: passengers have to walk very long distances from the check-in area to most of the boarding gates.

As former Harvard University president and economist Larry Summers once presciently observed, "I

have just travelled through the new LaGuardia airport (in New York). It confirms a theory of mine: the newer the terminal, the less convenient it is to use because all the walks are longer." This is a bonanza for retailers, who offer highly priced refreshments to help passengers manage the trudge to distant gates, but no one spares a thought for weary feet!

Dallas-Fort Worth Airport in the US, it seems, has the longest trek between check-in area and departure gates at 3.6 km; in Europe, the furthest gate at Madrid-Barajas Airport is 2.5 km away and even Athens and Paris Charles de Gaulle airports have gates 2 km away. When new terminals are unveiled by airport operators in any country, passenger convenience in terms of shorter distances to be walked are never among the amenities innovated or offered.

But there has not been any public pressure to make design interventions to ameliorate the marathon-

runner stamina expected of travellers either. Instead of gates lined up along mile-long concourses jutting out from the central building holding the check-in, security and baggage retrieval areas, why not make multiple short-fingered decentralised "palms"? Do they think passengers are enthused or duped by promises of "only an 8-minute walk" to the gates?

Rather than understanding passenger angst on this issue, airlines carp about the hordes of perfectly mobile people opting for free wheelchair services. They now

want to wring even more money from them by charging for wheelchairs, instead of admitting the root cause: distance. It would be simpler to get airport operators to make more buggies available, as they clearly do not want to invest in designs to make airports more passenger-friendly than retail-

friendly.

Electric shuttles are available according to signs at, say, Delhi's Terminal 3 but I have never yet been able to actually get one. They are either being charged or there are no drivers. Perhaps they are meant only for VIPs, in typical desi style! It is healthy to walk, but after getting off a delayed flight, with acidity-inducing food and a co-passenger who refused to use earphones when watching a south Indian blockbuster, an assured buggy ride would be appreciated.

Yet the 'mall-ification' of airports persists. No wonder I yearn for a return to the days when passengers were ferried to aircraft parked out on the apron by buses and deposited at the arrival area near the baggage carousels. It still happens, but far too rarely in the bigger Indian airports, though some older European ones do so due to lack of space to expand terminals outwards. All airlines need to do now is get portable escalators...But what are the chances of that?

**Dallas-Fort Worth Airport in the US, it seems, has the longest trek between check-in area & departure gates at 3.6 km**



A water canon salute marked the first landing at the Navi Mumbai International Airport, which commenced the highly-anticipated operations from December 25 —Farooq Sayed

# NMIA Day 1 thrills: Flyers prove sky's the limit

**ARDOUR** | Several enthusiasts flew to Delhi, B'luru so they could return on maiden flights landing at brand new aviation hub

**Raina Assainar**  
NAVI MUMBAI

Apart from Christmas, there was another reason to celebrate December 25 this year — the highly-anticipated opening of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA). And, several enthusiasts pulled out all stops to become the first ones to take off from the brand new aviation hub. One among them is Jaideep Kane, a Panvel resident, who hopped on three flights in a day just to be part of the inaugural operations of the NMIA.



**Despite first-day issues, the airport staff was helpful. Being from Navi Mumbai, I will prefer the NMIA in future**  
**Tarnam Goel**  
Ghansoli

A drone pilot and YouTuber, Kane first travelled to Bengaluru on Wednesday night to catch the maiden commercial flight back to Navi Mumbai on Thursday morning. He later flew from Navi Mumbai to Ahmedabad on IndiGo and returned the same day via a Star Air flight.

"After waiting for 28 years, this is a dream come true. I used to watch the airport construction for hours. Flying on the first day is something I cannot express in words. It's a lifetime experience for a proud Panvelkar," said an elated Kane.

The inaugural IndiGo flight from Bengaluru landed at the NMIA at 8am and passengers were greeted with a water canon salute and a ceremonial welcome led by Gautam Adani. Passengers were garlanded, presented with bouquets, issued certificates declaring them 'Certified Inaugural Flight Passengers' and offered polaroid photographs captioned — 'Take home a piece of our celebration.'

Like Kane, professors from Vashi, Atharva Khandare and Ravi Prakash Thombre,

proved that the sky's the limit when it comes to experiencing the first day's thrill. The duo flew to Delhi on Wednesday and returned the next day to be a part of the passenger groups, who first set foot on the NMIA. "The Akasa flight from Delhi was supposed to be the first to arrive. However, it landed at 5.50am, instead of 5.25am due to delays, becoming the second flight at the NMIA," Khandare said.

Vloggers Yash Shah and Sushant Patra from Pen in Raigad district, along with Akshay Malhotra from Haryana, also travelled exclusively for the experience. Though the trio knew each other, the airport opening turned out to be a sweet surprise as they serendipitously met there. Malhotra, who returned to Delhi the same day, said, "The arrival was smooth and the vibe was great. However, food courts, shopping options and the lounge are not ready

yet." For Sneha Iyer and her 10-year-old daughter Anvi, the journey felt like a New Year celebration. "The water canon salute and gifts made it special. Travelling back home to Thane from Bengaluru will now be much easier," she said. Students Vedant Patil and Rohit Igor, who flew from Bengaluru, were greeted by excited family members. "Not just me, even those who came to receive me were equally excited," Vedant said.

Some passengers pointed out initial logistical issues. Ghansoli resident Tarnam Goel, who was travelling to Delhi, said autos were not allowed up to the terminal and passengers had to use buses. "Despite first-day issues, the airport staff was helpful. Being from Navi Mumbai, I will prefer NMIA in the future," he said.

Kavin Chauhan, 19, from Belapur, who flew to Goa, praised the efficiency but flagged gaps. "Accessibility was excellent and saved travel time. However, food services need improvement and a ladies' washroom near the gate was not operational," he said.

Adding to the buzz, a group of 26 farmers from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, escorted by Adani Group officials, were also seen at the airport. The group, reportedly invited by Gautam Adani, visited the NMIA as part of a joy ride and returned the same night after a brief tour of Mumbai.

All in all, the aviation hub's first day unfolded as a blend of celebration and high expectations for the future.

## Gifts, special welcome for inaugural pax

**Dhairya Gajara**  
MUMBAI

Amid all the fanfare around the NMIA's opening, a short trivia is that while IndiGo's 6E460 from Bengaluru was the maiden commercial flight to land, Gautam Adani's private jet was the first plane to touch down the airstrip at 721am. The tycoon, whose firm has co-developed the aviation hub, flew from Ahmedabad on his Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft to welcome the passengers.

While Adani greeted each one of them, several jubilant flyers queued up to click selfies with him. To make it a memorable journey for inaugural travellers, there were cultural performances, including Lezim folk dance on the beats of dhol and tutari India Post also released a commemorative 'First Flight Carried Special Cover' flown on an IndiGo service to Goa. Those taking the first departing flight were given symbolic boarding passes by the respective air-

lines to honour them as the maiden passengers on the new routes. A total of 4,000 passengers passed through the NMIA on day one of the operations.

The first day recorded flights — operated by IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and Star Air — to and from Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Cochin, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Nagpur and Goa. The airport will continue with 15 arrivals and departures on Friday. The number of services will increase from December 29 as IndiGo will commence daily flights for Chennai and Coimbatore and five weekly flights for Vadodra from December 29. While the airport is currently limited to domestic flights from 8am to 8pm, it is slated to transition to round-the-clock operations from February 2026 and commence international trips from April 2026.

Apart from decongesting the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, the new aviation hub is set to be a feasible alternative for flyers from Raigad, Pune and the Konkan belt. By the time, the NMIA's all five phases are complete, it will be one of the largest airports in the world, with a capacity of 90 million passengers per year.

**4,000**  
Day 1 footfall

## Going the extra mile, with few delays

**Excitement overflows**  
The captain of IndiGo 6E460, coming from B'luru, greeted the pax, saying they were the first lot to land at India's largest greenfield airport, while informing that Gautam Adani will be present to welcome them.

**A memorable experience**  
IndiGo 6E460 pax were welcomed with a garlands and were in for a sweet surprise as they reached the baggage belt. They were treated with goodie boxes and given 'Inaugural Flight Passenger' certificates as souvenirs.

**Joyride for erstwhile holders of NMIA land**  
The villagers, whose land was procured to construct the airport, were given a 40-minute plane joy ride in a chartered Air India Express plane. They flew over the Arabian Sea at an altitude of 14,000 feet.

**Tribute to construction workforce**  
On the eve of the NMIA opening, around 1,515 drones created striking aerial formations to honour employees and construction workers, who shaped the mega facility.

**AIX's late arrival on very first day**  
Air India Express' IX2914 was scheduled to depart from B'luru at 6am and land at 8.10am. However, it arrived after a 40-minute delay. Similarly, IndiGo's 6E884 from Hyderabad reached 17 minutes late.

**New aircraft for big day**  
Akasa Air deployed its brand-new Boeing 737 Max 8-200 aircraft, which was delivered on December 10. It departed from Delhi at 5.53am, landed at 7.38am and again flew back to Delhi at 9.17am.

## DB Patil's grandson among first arrivals

**FROM PAGE 1**

The symbolic journey was aimed at reminding the airport's renaming, demanded by villagers from 27 surrounding villages, is yet to be fulfilled.

Ex-MLA Sanjeev Naik and his wife Kalpana accompanied Anup Patil on the flight in solidarity. Upon landing Anup Patil said, "This travel was a reminder to the government that they are yet to rename the

airport in the name of Loknete D.B. Patil."

Recalling the airport's long political and administrative journey, Naik said, "Around 15 years ago, when I was an MP, I got the resolution for the airport passed. The Manmohan Singh government had promised environmental clearance within six months, and it was granted within that period. Travelling on the first flight on the inaugural day is a historic moment. Once the third runway is approved, it will boost

the economy tremendously!"

Also travelling on the inaugural flight was 80-year-old Brigadier Suraj Prakash (retd), a key figure associated with the airport's land acquisition process. In 1995, he served as the task force commander overseeing land acquisition. Naik acknowledged his contribution, stating that without Brigadier Prakash, the acquisition may not have been possible.

Sharing the experience, Brigadier Prakash said,

"IndiGo was not prepared with a wheelchair, and we had

to wait for nearly half an hour. However, the overall environment was warm and welcoming." He added that now his frequent travel to Delhi would now become significantly easier. Brigadier Prakash had travelled from Delhi with his wife, Sashi.

Supporters of the D.B. Patil Bhumi Putra group were also seen at the terminal wearing similar T-shirts and raising slogans as they exited the airport.

## Turbulent times ahead: Noise worries Ulwe locals

**Amit Srivastava**  
MUMBAI

On Thursday morning, the Ulwe residents woke up to an aeroplane's roar as the first flight took off from the NMIA. Morning joggers, shop owners, residents and passers-by paused in surprise as the flight passed remarkably close to the high-rise buildings.

While some residents casually said that they would eventually get accustomed to the loud noise, others expressed concern over losing peace. The other issue which has worried many is the probable steep hike in rents and

**PREVAILING REALTY RATES**

<b>G+7-storey building</b>	₹55L 1BHK	₹48L to ₹50L Resale units
<b>G+13 storeys</b>	₹65L 1BHK	<b>Steep surge in property prices and continuous roar of aeroplanes have become cause of concerns</b>
<b>Premium category</b>	₹1.5cr to ₹2cr 2,3 BHK	

property prices, given Ulwe's proximity to the NMIA. Ulwe, which is nearest to the airport, is also one of the fastest-growing areas of Navi Mumbai. Over the past five years, the newly-developed

node has witnessed the execution of several mega infrastructure projects, triggering a cascading effect on real estate values and rental rates. In 2018, partial operations of the Nerul/Belapur-Uran

railway line began, gradually drawing residents from other parts of Navi Mumbai and Mumbai to Ulwe, attracted by lower rents and ample open spaces. Over the past two years, Atal Setu became operational, followed by the full commissioning of the said rail corridor.

As NMIA has now spanned wings, tenants fear a sharp rise in rents and a tightening housing market. Dinesh Jogi, a resident of sector 17, Ulwe, said that anticipating this situation, he decided to purchase a home. However, the sudden price surge has made the dream to buy homes a costly affair. Even the City And

Industrial Development Corporation, which has constructed over 5,000 homes under PM Awas Yojana, is offering units at prices comparable to those of private developers.

Manohar Shroff, a developer and former senior member of Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry, Navi Mumbai, said emerging nodes such as Pushpak Nagar may offer relatively affordable housing, with IBHK priced between Rs45 lakh and Rs50 lakh. "Property prices are likely to rise further. However, most builders in Navi Mumbai have already factored in the airport project," Shroff said.

## Navigating the way to the new airport

<b>From south Mumbai</b> Colaba - P D'Mello Road - Eastern Freeway - Atal Setu - JNPT Road - Uran Road	<b>From eastern suburbs</b> Mulund-Goregaon Link Road - Mulund-Airoli Road - Thane-Belapur Road - Palm Beach Road	<b>From Raigad</b> Sion-Panvel Highway - Uran Phata - Aamra Marg
<b>From Kalyan, Dombivli, Ambernath, Badlapur</b> Shilphata-Mahape Road - Thane-Belapur Road - Satara Highway	<b>From Thane</b> Thane - Airoli - Belapur Rd - Palm Beach Road	<b>From Navi Mumbai (Airoli, Digha, Nerul)</b> Palm Beach Road - Belapur - Ulwe



**FLYERS' FEEDBACK**

I used to watch the airport construction for hours. Flying on the first day is something I cannot express in words. It's a lifetime experience and a dream come true

**Jaideep Kane**  
Drone pilot and YouTuber from Panvel



The journey felt like a New Year celebration. The water canon salute and gifts made it even special

**Sneha Iyer, Thane**

Accessibility was excellent and saved travel time. However, food services need improvement and a women washroom near the gate was not operational

**Kavin Chauhan, Belapur**

The arrival was smooth and the vibe was great. However, food courts, shopping options and the lounge are not ready yet

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The Akasa flight from Delhi was supposed to be the first to arrive. However, it landed at 5.50am, instead of 5.25am due to delays, becoming the second flight at the NMIA

**Atharva Khandare**  
Professor Vashi



Not just me, even those who came to receive me were equally excited

**Vedant Patil**  
Student

## Navi Mumbai airport goes live

**Dhairya Gajara**

MUMBAI

Christmas day marked a historic turning point in Indian aviation as the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) officially commenced commercial flight operations. After nearly three decades of planning and construction, the grand Lotus structure finally opened its gates, transforming Mumbai into a dual-airport city, joining global aviation cities such as London, New York, Moscow, Tokyo and Shanghai.

The atmosphere at the airport turned electric as IndiGo flight 6E460 from Bengaluru descended through the morning mist. While the first flight was scheduled to arrive at 8am, its tires kissed the 3,700-meter runway much earlier, at 7:32am, making it the first commercial flight to land at NMIA. As the aircraft taxied toward the terminal, it was greeted with the traditional water cannon salute, a celebratory gesture that signalled the birth of a new era.

Adani Group's chairman Gautam Adani, along with his wife Priti Adani, also reached the airport early on Thursday morning to personally greet and welcome the passengers of the inaugural flight. He also interacted with airport staff, frontline workers and first-time flyers. He also joined a ceremonial walk through the departure terminal with air-



Adani Group's chairman Gautam Adani (top) welcomed the passengers of the inaugural flight on Thursday.

port employees, community representatives and Adani Foundation beneficiaries.

The first flight flew unusual passengers with it as it included war heroes, airport's construction workers, farmers, social workers associated with Adani Foundation and specially-abled employees of the Adani Group. Leading sportspersons including Su-

ryakumar Yadav, Mithali Raj and Sunil Chhetri were also present during the ceremony.

Calling it a proud day for Mumbai and for India, he said, "NMIA stands as a promise of what the country can achieve when ambition is guided by purpose and delivered with speed and execution."

▶ [Contd on | nation](#)

▶ [See also | mumbai](#)

## DB Patil's kin among first arrivals

**Raina Assainar**

NAVI MUMBAI

Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) received Anup Patil, grandson of late Loknete DB Patil, who arrived on the first IndiGo flight from Bengaluru, in a symbolic reminder of the long-pending demand that the airport be named after the farmers' leader. Though Maharashtra government has recommended Patil be honoured by naming the airport after him, the Centre is yet to take a call.



Patil sported a T-shirt that read "Loknete DB Patil Antar-rashtriyi Vimantali, Navi Mumbai Madhye Aaple Swagat" (Welcome to Loknete DB Patil International Airport), and carried a hoarding bearing Patil's photograph.

▶ [Contd on | mumbai](#)

## Navi Mumbai airport...

The airport recorded its first departure at 8.55am after welcoming five arrival flights. The IndiGo flight 6E882 to Hyderabad completed NMIA's inaugural arrival and departure cycle. While the first day recorded 15 departures to nine major Indian cities, the operations and destinations are set to increase by Tuesday as IndiGo will add three more destinations including Jaipur, Coimbatore and Vadodara.

Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu congratulated Mumbai and Maharashtra for commencement of NMIA's operations. "With this historic milestone, Mumbai becomes India's first true double-airport metropolis. The state-of-the-art, technology-driven Navi Mumbai International Airport marks a defining moment in India's airport infrastructure journey and sets new benchmarks for capacity, efficiency and passenger experience," he said.

Jeet Adani, director of Adani Airport Holding Ltd., said, "NMIA establishes a resilient multi-airport system for the MMR, boosting capacity, enhancing passenger experience and futureproofing the region's aviation growth."



Scan & Watch

## Flight ops begin at Navi Mumbai airport



At 8 am on Thursday, an IndiGo flight from Bengaluru touched down at NMIA and received a water cannon salute. PTI

**G Mohiuddin Jeddy**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NAVI MUMBAI:** At 8 am on Christmas Day, an IndiGo flight from Bengaluru touched down at the newly opened Navi Mumbai International Airport to a water cannon salute, formally launching passenger operations, making Mumbai the first Indian city with two airports.

Applause broke out inside the aircraft as it rolled to a halt, while residents gathered along nearby highways and access roads to watch and record a milestone that had been decades in the making. Built through a public-private partnership between the Adani Group and the City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (Cidco), the airport is designed to handle up to

90 million passengers annually by 2032.

The airport completed its inaugural arrival-departure cycle within 40 minutes of the first landing, when an IndiGo flight departed for Hyderabad at 8.40 am, becoming NMIA's first commercial take-off. On its first day, NMIA handled 30 domestic flights—15 arrivals and 15 departures—between 8 am and 8 pm, with IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and Star Air operating services. More than 4,000 passengers travelled through the airport on Thursday.

Even as celebrations unfolded inside the terminal, several PAPs gathered outside the airport, many dressed in traditional Agri-Koli attire, to press their demand for renaming the airport after DB Patil. →P3

# Navi Mumbai airport finally takes off

Passenger ops begin amid celebrations, protests by PAPs and demands to name the airport after DB Patil

**G Mohiuddin Jeddy**  
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NAVI MUMBAI:** At 8 am on Christmas Day, an IndiGo flight from Bengaluru touched down at the newly opened Navi Mumbai International Airport to a water cannon salute, formally launching passenger operations after nearly 30 years of bureaucratic delays, environmental challenges and protests by project-affected persons.

Applause broke out inside the aircraft as it rolled to a halt, while residents gathered along nearby highways and access roads to watch and record a milestone that had been decades in the making. Built as a greenfield project through a public-private partnership between the Adani Group and the City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (Cidco), the airport is designed to handle up to 90 million passengers annually by 2032, promising to transform connectivity for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani was present inside the terminal to welcome the first batch of arriving passengers, who were issued commemorative photo certificates and presented with gifts.

The airport completed its inaugural arrival-departure cycle within 40 minutes of the first landing, when an IndiGo flight departed for Hyderabad at 8.40 am. On its first day, NMIA handled 30 domestic flights—15 arrivals and 15 departures—between 8 am and 8 pm, with IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and Star Air operating services. More than 4,000 passengers travelled through the airport on Thursday, the operator said in a



At 8 am on Thursday, IndiGo flight 6E460 from Bengaluru landed at Navi Mumbai International Airport and was greeted with a ceremonial water cannon salute, marking the formal start of passenger operations at the newly opened airport.



Passengers were issued commemorative photo certificates and presented with gifts.

statement. From February, operations are planned to progressively scale up to round-the-clock services.

**Regional anchor**  
Cidco vice-chairman and managing director Vijay Singhal told HT that the airport is being built

as the anchor of a region-wide mobility and economic system. "This is not a standalone airport that has been added to Mumbai's map," he said. "NMIA has been planned as a system—integrated with road, rail, metro, high-speed rail and logistics networks—so that it scales effi-

ciently as demand grows." Together with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, the two facilities are expected to handle 150 million passengers annually by 2037. "Mumbai cannot remain a single-airport city," Singhal said. "NMIA ensures growth is planned, not improvised."

### Happy passengers

Former Thane MP and BJP leader Sanjeev Naik, who took the inaugural IndiGo flight to Hyderabad with his wife Kalpana, said December 25, 2025, would be written "in golden letters" in the history of Navi Mumbai and Maharashtra. "To be a passenger on this inaugural flight is a matter of pride," he said.

Also on board the first departure was former Panvel corporator Pushpalata Madhvi. "Our village used to be right where this airport is now, and it brings us joy to see it built on our land," she said. She also reiterated the

long-standing demand that the airport be named after the late farmer leader DB Patil, who led protests against land acquisition by Cidco for the development of Navi Mumbai in the 1970s.

Harishchandra Madhvi, a PAP travelling on the same flight, said flying on the opening day was a deliberate decision. "When it was announced, we decided we would take the first flight," he said.

Even as celebrations unfolded inside the terminal, several PAPs gathered outside the airport, many dressed in traditional Agri-Koli attire, to press their demand for renaming the airport after DB Patil.

Santosh Gharat, sarpanch of Jasai village, the native village of the late farmer leader, said the protest was rooted in decades of broken assurances to local communities.

"For 40 years, our emotions have been played with. We gave our land and our livelihoods. We booked tickets only to register our protest," he said.



Several PAPs gathered outside the airport dressed in traditional Agri-Koli attire, to press their demand for renaming the airport after the late farmer leader DB Patil.

BACHCHAN/KUMAR/HT PHOTO

### Free joyride for PAPs

As part of the launch-day programme, NMIA felicitated several villagers whose land had been acquired for the greenfield airport. Some PAPs were taken on a 40-minute joyride aboard an Air India Express aircraft and presented with gifts, which participants said acknowledged their sacrifices.

### DB Patil's grandson



Among those arriving on the inaugural Bengaluru flight was **Anup Atul Patil**, DB Patil's grandson, wearing a t-shirt bearing his grandfather's photograph and the words "D.B. Patil Navi Mumbai International Airport".

"I came from Bengaluru mainly to land at this airport first," Patil said. "It was a very good experience, with the water salute." Regarding the naming issue, he expressed hope that it would be resolved soon, adding that the airport would bring development and jobs—the cause for which his grandfather had worked.

### Star sightings

Adding to the buzz, football icon **Sunil Chhetri** and cricketer **Suryakumar Yadav** were spotted at NMIA, drawing attention from fellow passengers as the airport handled its first wave of travellers.

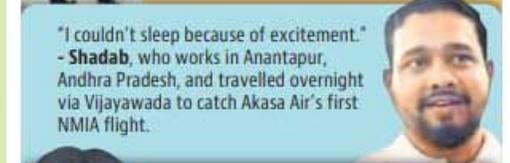


### Delighted passengers

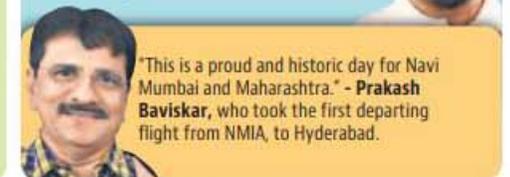
"Everyone on the plane was waiting for this moment. Today, that dream has come true." - **Murtuza Lakdawala**, who was on the first flight to arrive at NMIA, from Bengaluru.



"I couldn't sleep because of excitement." - **Shadab**, who works in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, and travelled overnight via Vijayawada to catch Akasa Air's first NMIA flight.



"This is a proud and historic day for Navi Mumbai and Maharashtra." - **Prakash Baviskar**, who took the first departing flight from NMIA, to Hyderabad.





## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

26 DECEMBER 2025

# Navi Mumbai International Airport starts operations

In initial phase, NMIA is designed to handle 20 million passengers per annum (MPPA), with future expansion planned to scale capacity up to 90 MPPA, supported by dedicated cargo terminals

**Lalatendu Mishra**  
MUMBAI

**A**dding a new aviation gateway to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), developed and operated by Adani Airports, on Thursday commenced commercial flight operations making an over-30-year dream and planning a reality.

This greenfield airport, established to take the load off the existing Mumbai airport, is being built in phases. In its initial phase, NMIA is designed to handle 20 million passengers per annum (MPPA), with future expansion planned to



**Taking flight:** The airport, built to take the load off Mumbai airport, is being constructed in phases. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

scale capacity up to 90 MPPA, supported by dedicated cargo terminals and multi-modal connectivity.

The launch positions Mumbai toward a distributed, multi-airport model seen in global city-regions

such as London, New York, Moscow, Tokyo and Shanghai.

### **New gateway**

The opening adds a critical new gateway for a region that has faced sustained

congestion for over a decade. Planned as part of a distributed aviation framework, NMIA supports Mumbai's transition to a multi-airport system aimed at improving capacity, operational resilience and long-term scalability, the airport operator said.

On the first day, domestic services were operated by IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and Star Air, connecting NMIA to nine destinations across India.

NMIA handled 48 flights connecting nine domestic destinations, serving over 4,000 passengers, with peak traffic recorded between 05:00 and 07:00 hours.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

26 DECEMBER 2025

## Navi Mumbai region may head for rapid infra, realty growth

**The Hindu Bureau**

MUMBAI

The commencement of commercial flight from the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) is expected to speed up infrastructure and real estate development across Navi Mumbai and surrounding regions, according to analysts and industry executives.

Several major infrastructure projects have gained pace. These include the Atal Setu (Mumbai Trans Harbour Link), the Alibaug-Virar Multimodal Corridor, the Mumbai-Navi Mumbai Metro and improved connectivity to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

This enhanced infrastructure network is directly boosting demand for re-



Navi Mumbai International Airport SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sidential as well as luxury housing in the region, officials said.

“While micro-markets closest to NMIA will benefit immediately, its larger impact will unfold across strategically connected locations such as Khopoli,” said Mohit Malhotra, founder & CEO, NeoLiv.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

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## Ninjas Electric to establish EV unit near Jewar Airport

**DIPIKA KIROLA**

**NOIDA:** Ninjas Electric has received a Letter of Intent (LOI) from the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) for the allotment of a 20,000 square metre mega-facility plot in Sector 8D. Aligned with the Government of India's 'Make in India' initiative and the national push towards strengthening EV infrastructure, the new facility will serve as a key hub for Ninjas Electric's expansion in advanced EV technologies and renewable energy storage solutions.

Strategically located near the upcoming Noida International Airport, the Sector 8D site is part of an emerging EV manufacturing cluster offering

strong logistics and connectivity advantages.

The LOI was formally handed over by YEIDA Chief Executive Officer Rakesh Kumar Singh to Ninjas Electric Managing Director Vineet Gupta. Senior officials from YEIDA, including Additional CEO Shailendra Bhatia, along with company representatives, were present during the ceremony.

The facility will manufacture onboard EV chargers and solar power banks for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and light commercial vehicles, focusing on robust, high-IP chargers. With an investment of ₹169 crore, the project aligns with India's green energy policies and will create significant local employment.

## Navi Mumbai International airport commences commercial flight ops

*Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani personally welcomed passengers from the inaugural flight*

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**MUMBAI:** Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) commenced commercial operations on Thursday, marking a major expansion of Mumbai's aviation capacity and a significant milestone in India's infrastructure development.

With NMIA becoming operational, Mumbai joins global aviation hubs such as London, New York, Tokyo and Shanghai that are supported by multiple airports to meet rising passenger demand. For the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), the launch signals the beginning of a full-fledged multi-airport system aimed at scale, resilience and long-term growth.

Developed and operated by Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited, NMIA is among India's largest greenfield airport projects. Conceived to ease congestion at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, the project highlights the Adani Group's capability to deliver complex infrastructure within tight timelines.

The inaugural commercial arrival—IndiGo flight 6E460 from Bengaluru—landed at 8 am and was accorded a water cannon salute. On its first day, the airport handled 48 flights connecting nine domestic des-



**The inaugural commercial arrival—IndiGo flight 6E460 from Bengaluru—landed at 8 am and was accorded a water cannon salute**

tinations and served over 4,000 passengers, with peak traffic recorded between 5 am and 7 am. Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani personally welcomed passengers from the inaugural flight and interacted with airport staff and frontline workers.

The launch featured a ceremonial walk through the terminal, a flag-hoisting ceremony led by Param Vir Chakra awardees Captain Bana Singh and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, and

the national anthem. Prominent sportspersons and social influencers were also present.

Calling it a proud day for Mumbai and India, Adani said NMIA reflects what the country can achieve when ambition is guided by purpose and executed with speed.

Airline leaders from IndiGo, Air India Express and Akasa Air confirmed the start of scheduled operations. Cultural performances showcasing Maharashtrian traditions added local flavour, while farmers, underprivileged families and colleagues with disabilities experienced their first flight through a special aerial tour. India Post released a commemorative First Flight Carried Special Cover.

Jeet Adani, Director, AAHL, said NMIA strengthens the MMR's aviation ecosystem by enhancing capacity, passenger experience and future readiness.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## जेवर एयरपोर्ट सुरक्षा जांच में नहीं हो सका पास

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली: देश का सबसे बड़ा छह रनवे वाला इंटरनेशनल जेवर एयरपोर्ट ओपन होने में अभी और वकत लगेगा। इसका अहम कारण इस एयरपोर्ट के विदेशी सीईओ होने के साथ ही इसके सुरक्षा मानकों पर भी खरा नहीं उतरना है। जिसमें हाल ही में इस नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (NIA) की जब सिस्कोरिटी ऑडिट की गई तो उसमें यह 25 से अधिक मानकों में फेल पाया गया। इनमें सबसे अहम इसकी करीब 14 किलोमीटर दूरी में बनी पेरीमीटर वॉल भी रही। जिसके केवल तकरीबन पांच किलोमीटर हिस्से को ही कंक्रीट का बनाया गया है, बाकी में चेत लिंक फेंसिंग खड़ी कर दी गई है। जिसमें नीचे से कोई कुत्ता या सियार समेत थोड़ी सी खुदाई करके कोई अराजक तत्व भी एयरपोर्ट के अंदर रनवे के नजदीक तक जा सकता है।

नगर विमानत मंत्रालय सूत्रों का कहना है कि इस एयरपोर्ट के खुलने में कई बार

डेडलाइन मिस हुई हैं। अब इसके ओपन होने में नए साल जनवरी 2026 बताया गया है। लेकिन सुरक्षा लिहाज से जितनी कमियां अभी तक इस एयरपोर्ट में मिली हैं। उसे देखते हुए लग रहा है कि इसका पहला चरण मार्च के बाद ही शुरू हो सकेगा। हालांकि, कमियों को दूर करने के लिए जोरशोर से काम किया जा रहा है।

25 से अधिक मानकों पर खरा नहीं उतरा

जिससे यह पहले भी खुल सकता है। फिलहाल सूत्रों ने बताया कि इसके ओपन होने की डेट तय करने से पहले ब्यूरो ऑफ सिविल एविएशन सिस्कोरिटी (BCAS) और मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों द्वारा इसकी सुरक्षा जांच की गई।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि इसमें 25 से अधिक पाइंटस पर कमियां पाई गईं। जिसमें इसकी बनाई गई बाउंड्री वॉल ही अभी आधी-अधूरी तैयार की गई है। मानक कहते हैं कि भारत के किसी भी एयरपोर्ट की चारदीवारी कंक्रीट से बनी होनी चाहिए और वह भी जमीन में करीब तीन फुट अंदर से शुरू होनी चाहिए।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## रिपोर्ट में संकेत, इंडिगो संकट में टॉप मैनेजमेंट की कमियां

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

दिसंबर के पहले सप्ताह में बड़े स्तर पर इंडिगो की फ्लाइटों के कैंसल और डिले होने के मामले में डीजीसीए की चार सदस्यीय पैनल ने शुक्रवार शाम को अपनी रिपोर्ट डीजीसीए को सौंप दी है। हालांकि, अभी नागर विमानन मंत्रालय और डीजीसीए की तरफ से रिपोर्ट के बारे में कोई आधिकारिक जानकारी साझा नहीं की गई है। लेकिन सूत्रों का कहना है कि इसमें इंडिगो ऑपरेशन में टॉप मैनेजमेंट लेवल पर कई तरह की कमियां मिली हैं।

मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने रिपोर्ट सौंपने की बात को कंफर्म करते हुए बताया कि मामले में जल्द ही ऐक्शन भी होगा, जिसके बारे में जानकारी दी जाएगी। फिलहाल, जांच रिपोर्ट में क्या निकला। इसका खुलासा नहीं किया गया है। डीजीसीए के संयुक्त महानिदेशक संजय के ब्रम्हाणे की अध्यक्षता में यह जांच समिति पांच दिसंबर को बनाई गई थी। जिसे 20 दिसंबर तक अपनी रिपोर्ट



सौंपनी थी। बाद में 26 दिसंबर तक का समय दिया गया।

सूत्रों के अनुसार, रिपोर्ट की प्रतियां नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री के, राममोहन नायडू और नागरिक उड्डयन सचिव समीर कुमार सिन्हा के कार्यालयों को भी भेज दी गई हैं। हालांकि, रिपोर्ट की विस्तृत जानकारी अभी सामने नहीं आई है। जांच पैनल में संजय ब्रम्हाणे के अलावा डीजीसीए के उप-महानिदेशक अमित गुप्ता, वरिष्ठ उड़ान संचालन निरीक्षक (Senior Flight Operations Inspector) कैप्टन कपिल मांगलिक और उड़ान संचालन निरीक्षक कैप्टन रामपाल शामिल थे।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

26 DECEMBER 2025

## Adani-owned Navi Mumbai Airport opens with IndiGo flights

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**  
*Mumbai, 25 December*

The Adani Group-owned Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) began commercial operations on Thursday after its first scheduled flight, IndiGo's 6E460 from Bengaluru, landed at 8 a.m., greeted with a ceremonial water cannon salute, according to an official statement.

Ahead of the inaugural flight landing, the IndiGo staff cut a cake and broke coconuts, the statement mentioned. Speaking after the first commercial flight landed at the airport, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani expressed his joy and said: "This is a very proud moment for Mumbaikars (people of Mumbai), and we are really fortunate to have the rights to develop this airport. It is a brand-new airport, and we have tried to make it a world-class airport".

In a message to air passengers, Gautam Adani assured ease of congestion at Mumbai's existing airport.

"Mumbai was struggling for the last 10 years. The present Mumbai airport was fully jammed, and this will ease air traffic. The airport is here to cater to all passengers. From the food to the art to the hospitality, everything has been carefully curated, keeping in mind our passengers," Gautam Adani said.

To further support passengers and ensure ease of travel, the airport has introduced location-specific digital signages which will display destination names in the local language of the city to which the passenger is travelling.

Later on Thursday, NMIA handled its first outbound service as IndiGo flight 6E882 departed for Hyderabad at 8:40 a.m., completing the airport's maiden commercial turnaround. Sharing real-time

updates on social media, the Adani Group wrote: "A new era for Indian aviation takes shape. After years of planning and execution, Navi Mumbai International Airport stands ready to welcome its first flight. Built to serve 90 million passengers annually by the final phase, NMIA is set to unlock new possibilities not just for Mumbai, but for the entire nation." On the opening day, flights operated by IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air and Star Air connected the new Mumbai airport to nine cities across the country, the airport operator said. The airport is scheduled to handle 15 outbound flights on day one. During the initial phase, operations will run for 12 hours, with plans to scale up to 24 daily departures serving 13 destinations. At full utilisation in this phase, the facility can handle up to 10 aircraft movements, including arrivals and departures, per hour.

## Navi Mumbai airport commences operations, sees 48 flights on Day 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Marking a long-awaited milestone for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) formally entered India's commercial aviation map on Thursday with the arrival and departure of its first scheduled passenger flights.

The inaugural arrival was IndiGo flight 6E-890 from Bengaluru, which touched down at 8am and was welcomed with a ceremonial water cannon salute. Over half an hour later, NMIA saw its first departure, an IndiGo flight to Hyderabad, which took off at 8.40am. Day 1 saw 48 flights connecting nine domestic destinations and serving over 4,000 passengers, with peak traffic recorded between 5pm and 7pm.

NMIA's take-off is a big step in expansion of air connectivity for the Mumbai region, constrained for decades as the existing city airport



Passengers take a selfie at the NMIA on Thursday

functions out of a single runway. The Mumbai airport handles about 950 flights in 24 hours.

The 'Navi' or 'newness' factor was underscored even by aviation professionals. "For us, the new airport is called Navi," said a pilot. It's not an informal nickname; it's the official name to be used for the airport by pilots and air traffic controllers in radio communication. "When the first flight was handed over to Navi Mumbai tower control, we radioed to the pilots, 'Welcome to Navi,'" said an aviation official. **P 18**

► Continued on P 13

## NMIA ops take off with four carriers

► Continued from P1

There were teething troubles for flyers, though. Many said road signage was unclear and missing at some junctions, causing motorists to drive to the cargo terminal before rerouting to the passenger terminal. Approach roads too are shoddy as of now as JCBs have been deployed for repairs and for road-widening.

Despite the Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT) launching bus services on five routes to and from the airport, most flyers chose to hire app cabs as auto and taxi stands were not fully ready.

Those who travelled from areas such as Matunga and Dadar said the distance to the new airport is a considerable 35km. "Signage is not visible clearly on the Atal Setu when you enter Navi Mumbai," said Matunga resident Dinesh Gandhi.

Many curious visitors came just to see the airport, but it was difficult to get past private security, which insisted on seeing their air tickets if they were to enter the airport building.

The first day's operations began with four carriers: IndiGo, Akasa Air, Air India Express and Star Air.

Developed and operated by Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), NMIA is among India's largest greenfield airport projects.



An aircraft gets a ceremonial water cannon salute as commercial flight operations commence at Navi Mumbai International Airport, Thursday

"Chairman Gautam Adani welcomed passengers from the inaugural flight and interacted with airport staff, frontline workers and first-time flyers. He later joined a ceremonial walk through the departure terminal with airport employees, community representatives and Adani Foundation beneficiaries," said an NMIA spokesperson.

"It's a proud day for Mumbai and for India," said Gautam Adani.

Jeet Adani, director, AAHL, said NMIA establishes a resilient multi-airport system for MMR, boosting capacity, enhancing passenger experience, and future-proofing the region's aviation growth.

Cultural performances featuring traditional Maharashtra lezim (folk dance), dhol (percussion drums) and tutari (ceremonial wind instrument) added a local flavour, offering visitors a

vivid glimpse into Maharashtra's cultural heritage. "Farmers, underprivileged families and colleagues with disabilities experienced their first-ever flight through a special chartered aerial tour of Mumbai. India Post also released a commemorative First Flight Carried Special Cover featuring the NMIA terminal, flown on an IndiGo service to Goa," said the NMIA spokesperson.

The demand to name the airport after D B Patil also found fresh new momentum. Ex-MP Sanjeev Naik said, "It is the wish of all Navi Mumbaiers that this airport should bear the name of D B Patil saheb. To express this sentiment, we travelled on the first flight. Had the airport been named after him today, our happiness would have been doubled," he told PTI.

No lounges were open. "In a few days, we will have a

temporary lounge with 100 seats in the central area of the terminal building. The Adani-1 lounge with over 125 seats will open about a month later with segregated seating for business and economy class passengers," a source said.

Only one hot meals option was available on Day 1. Early morning, passengers queued up in numbers to buy breakfast. "We were expecting only idlis and dosas to be the frontrunners and they were, but were surprised to find even poha and upma as popular orders," said a restaurant staffer. The cheapest dish on offer was upma priced at Rs 250, followed by poha and idli sambar, starting around Rs 350.

Niraj Pratap, a passenger said, "We tried dosa pockets and dosa rolls with flavours like podi roast potato and peri peri chicken, which cost about Rs 450 each. It was delicious and filling." In a few months' time, the airport plans to have a 'foodhall,' a food court of sorts with curated gourmet offerings from different cuisines, said an official.

The launch concluded with a flag-hoisting ceremony followed by the national anthem led by Param Vir Chakra awardees Captain Bana Singh and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar along with sportspersons Suryakumar Yadav, Mithal Raj and Sunil Chhetri.

## Woman held with cannabis worth ₹3.1cr at Surat airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Surat:** Cannabis worth Rs 3.11 crore was seized from a woman passenger at Surat International Airport on Wednesday after she arrived from Bangkok, marking the second such case involving a woman carrier within a week. A series of recent seizures has raised concerns among enforcement agencies that the city airport was emerging as a preferred transit point for international ganja smugglers.

Acting on specific intelligence, the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of the customs department intercepted the passenger, identified as Varsha Raikwar, during routine checks. A thorough examination of her luggage led to the recovery of 3.11 kg of cannabis concealed inside seven vacuum-packed transparent polythene packets.

Officials from the regio-



Cannabis was concealed inside seven vacuum-packed transparent polythene packets

nal forensic science laboratory were called to the airport to test the seized substance, which was confirmed to be cannabis. Raikwar was subsequently arrested under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for further investigation. During questioning, she admitted to carrying the prohibited substance.

Investigators believe Raikwar was acting as a courier and suspect that she was offe-

red a foreign trip and monetary compensation for transporting the contraband. The packets had been packed to resemble regular travel items, but intelligence inputs led officials to single her out for inspection.

Authorities are now working to identify her contacts in Thailand who supplied the ganja, as well as the intended recipients in India.

The seizure follows two similar cases in Dec. On Dec 22, the city police's detection of crime branch arrested Rasiya Kapoor and Mohammad Iqbal Khan after they were found carrying 17.65 kg of ganja worth Rs 6.18 crore from Bangkok. Earlier, on Dec 12, Adilnavaj Shaikh was arrested on arrival from Bangkok with 1.68 kg of ganja valued at around Rs 1.50 crore in a joint operation conducted by the AIU of customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

# After decades of constraints, Mumbaikars get 2nd airport

**NMIA Handles 48 Flights & 4,000 Flyers On Day 1**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Marking a long-awaited milestone for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) formally entered India's commercial aviation map on Thursday with the arrival and departure of its first scheduled passenger flights.

The inaugural arrival was IndiGo flight 6E460 from Bengaluru, which touched down at 8am and was wel-

**FULL COVERAGE: P 2**

comed with a ceremonial water cannon salute. Over half an hour later, NMIA saw its first departure, an IndiGo flight to Hyderabad, which took off at 8.40am. Day 1 saw 48 flights connecting nine domestic destinations and serving over 4,000 passengers, with peak traffic recorded between 5pm and 7pm.

NMIA's take-off is a big step in expansion of air connectivity for the Mumbai re-

Pics: KK Choudhary



**'TIS THE SEASON OF JOY:** Navi Mumbai airport began operations on Christmas amid big smiles and a few grumbles about teething troubles like signage, approach roads, last-mile connectivity, and the 30-plus-km distance from areas in Mumbai city. The hope remains the new airport will extensively increase options for flyers who have been bearing with the limitations of a single-runway airport for decades now

gion, constrained for decades as the existing city airport functions out of a single runway. The Mumbai airport handles about 950 flights in 24 hours at present.

The 'Navi' or 'newness' factor was underscored even by aviation professionals. "For us, the new airport is called Navi," said a pilot. It's not an informal nickname: it's the official name to be used for the airport by pilots and

air traffic controllers (ATCs) in radio communication. "When the first flight was handed over to the Navi Mumbai tower control, we radioed to the pilots, 'Welcome to Navi,'" said an aviation official.

There were teething troubles for flyers, though. Many said road signage was unclear and missing at some junctions, causing motorists to drive to the cargo terminal before rerouting to the passeng-

er terminal. Approach roads too are shoddy as of now as JCBs have been deployed for repairs and for road-widening work.

Despite the Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport launching bus services on five routes to and from the airport, most flyers chose to hire app cabs as auto and taxi stands were not fully ready.

**► Curious visitors, P 2**

# Sans ticket, curious visitors turn up to see new airport

**► From P 1**

Those who travelled from areas such as Matunga and Dadar said the distance to the new airport is a considerable 35km. "Signage is not visible clearly on the Atal Setu when you enter Navi Mumbai," said Matunga resident Dinesh Gandhi.

Many curious visitors came just to see the airport, but it was difficult to get past private security, which insisted on seeing their air tickets if they were to enter the airport building.

The first day's operations began with four carriers: IndiGo, Akasa Air, Air India Express and Star Air. Developed and operated by Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), NMIA is among India's largest greenfield airport projects. "Chairman Gautam Adani welcomed passengers from the inaugural flight and interacted with airport staff, frontline workers and first-time flyers. He later joined a ceremonial walk through the departure terminal with airport employees, community representatives and Adani Foundation beneficiaries," said an NMIA spokesperson.

## FLIGHT OPS



**48 flights, connecting 9 domestic destinations**  
**4,000+ passengers served**

**Peak traffic: 5-7 pm**

**AIRLINES | IndiGo largest operator (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Nagpur, Goa-Mopa); Air India Express (Bengaluru, Delhi); Akasa Air (Delhi, Goa)**

"It's a proud day for Mumbai and for India," said Gautam Adani. Jeet Adani, director, AAHL, said NMIA establishes a resilient multi-airport system for MMR, boosting capacity, enhancing passenger experience, and futureproofing the region's aviation growth.

Cultural performances featuring traditional Maharashtrian lezim (folk dance), dhol (percussion drums) and tutari (ceremonial wind instrument) added a local flavour, offering visitors a vivid glimpse into Maharashtra's cultural heritage. "Farmers, underprivileged families and colleagues with disabilities experienced their first-ever flight through a special chartered aerial tour of Mumbai," said the NMIA spokesperson.

The demand to name the airport after D B Patil found fresh momentum. Ex-MP Sanjeev Naik said, "It is the wish of all Navi Mumbaikars that this airport should bear the name of D B Patil saheb. To express this sentiment, we travelled on the first flight," he told PTI.

No lounges were open. "In a few days, we will have a temporary lounge with 100 seats in the central area of the terminal building. The Adani-1 lounge with over 125 seats will open about a month later with segregated seating for business and economy class passengers," a source said. Only one hot meals option was available on Day 1. Early morning, passengers queued up in numbers to buy breakfast.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

26 DECEMBER 2025

## NMIA RAISES BAR WITH AI-POWERED JOURNEY FROM ENTRY TO BOARDING

**NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
 NMIA, Ulwe, Navi Mumbai  
**IATA code: NMI** (used in ticket booking)  
**ICAO code: VANM** (used by air traffic control, airlines)



**WHAT SETS NMIA APART FROM MUMBAI T1 & T2**

- **Digi Yatra:** Airport entry to boarding gate (Mumbai: entry to security only)
- **Fast-track immigration** (planned when international ops start in March 2026)
- **AI-based passenger flow tracking:** Live waiting-time displays at entry, security, immigration
- **AI-powered surveillance:** Identifies passengers needing medical or special assistance

**AIRPORT AT A GLANCE**

**AREA**  
 NMIA **2,860 acres**  
 Equivalent to 115 Azad Maidans

**In comparison, area of Mumbai airport**  
 CSMIA **1,976 acres**

**DESIGN CAPACITY (full build-out):**  
**90 mn PASSENGERS/YEAR**  
**3.2 mn TON CARGO/YEAR**

**TERMINAL 1**  
 Opening phase; 3 more to come  
**Built-up area: 3 lakh sq m**  
**Declared passenger capacity: 20 mn/year**  
**Cargo: 0.8 mn ton/year**  
 Expected to be saturated by mid-2026

**AIRCRAFT & GATES**  
**42** operational slots  
**29** aerobridges + 13 remote bays

**PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**70** general aviation aircraft stands  
**17** GA hangars  
**7** cargo aircraft stands

**AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC)**  
 Integrated operations with Mumbai ATC  
**HOW IT WORKS**  
**Tower controller at NMIA:** Manages take-off, landing, pushback, and ground movements

**SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY**  
 Total power demand: **28 MW**  
 Solar power: **17 MW (Phase 1)**

**Future solar generation: 47 MW**  
**4 ATF FUEL TANKS**  
 First Indian airport to offer SAF for general aviation aircraft



**RUNWAY SYSTEM**  
 2 parallel runways (unlike Mumbai's cross-runways)  
**OPERATIONAL RUNWAY 08-26** (south runway)  
**Length: 3.7 km**  
**Displaced threshold: 600 m** (Ensures obstacle clearance on approach)

**RAPID EXITS**  
**3** on Runway 26  
**1** on Runway 08

**Departures:**  
 NMIA tower handles departures up to 2,000 ft. Then handover to Mumbai air traffic control, approach controller

**Arrivals:**  
 > Managed by Mumbai approach until about 3,900 ft  
 > Final descent handled by NMIA tower





# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## FedEx strongly committed to India, says senior executive

**Our Bureau**  
Mumbai

FedEx remains strongly committed to the Indian market on the back of improved supply chain resilience and manufacturing, Kami Viswanathan, the company's President for Middle East, India subcontinent and Africa, has said.

The world's largest express transport company operates 36 freighter flights per week to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

It is also setting up a facility at the Navi Mumbai airport to serve its parcel and mail business.

"We will continue investing in strengthening our network and capabilities enabling businesses to integrate seamlessly into



global value chains with reliability, transparency and speed," said Viswanathan. She, however, refused to divulge specific details about the Navi Mumbai facility.

Over the past few months, the company has stepped up its India focus. These include the creation of a 60,000 sq m integrated hub at the AISATS Logistics Park in Bengaluru.

Last November, it also introduced a new freighter ser-

vice connecting Bengaluru with Guangzhou.

Investments have also been made in digital solutions to support exim trade.

### STRUCTURAL SHIFT

"India's logistics ecosystem is undergoing a structural shift, supported by integrated infrastructure planning and faster execution across multimodal networks. Initiatives such as PM GatiShakti are strengthening supply-chain resilience and improving efficiency at scale, even amid global uncertainty. At the same time, sustained growth in air cargo, driven by sectors such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, and engineering goods, reflects continued confidence in India's role as a manufacturing and export hub," Viswanathan added.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

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## **IndiGo faces ₹13 lakh penalty related to GST**

**New Delhi:** IndiGo has been slapped with a penalty of around ₹13 lakh in relation to GST, and the company will contest the ruling, it said on Thursday. The Office of the Assistant Commissioner of State Tax, Excise and Taxation Department, Punjab, has imposed the penalty pertaining to the financial year 2021-22. PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## Virgin Atlantic to increase flights between London and Bengaluru

**SPREADING WINGS.** Reflecting strong demand, services to rise to 11 per week during January-March 2026

**Rohit Vaid**  
New Delhi

Reflecting strong passenger demand, airline major Virgin Atlantic is increasing services between London Heathrow and Bengaluru (Bangalore) next year.

Speaking to *businessline*, Shivani Singh Deo, Country Manager-India, Virgin Atlantic, cited that the service will be increased from seven to 11 flights per week in January, February and March 2026.

"These additional flights supplement the airline's existing daily schedule to Bengaluru, first launched in March 2024," she said.

### DAILY SERVICES

"With India representing Virgin Atlantic's largest area of growth outside the United States, the enhanced schedule complements the airline's double daily services from London Heathrow to



**VOLUME SURGE.** Since 2019, Virgin Atlantic has increased capacity to India by 250 per cent, now offering over 5,00,000 seats annually between the UK and India

both Delhi and Mumbai and builds on our successful partnership with IndiGo."

Since 2019, Virgin Atlantic has increased capacity to India by 250 per cent, now offering over 500,000 seats annually between the United Kingdom and India.

Besides the increase in Bengaluru frequencies, the airline underlined the growing importance of the Indian market to its global network.

The carrier recently

marked 25 years of operations in India, having first launched flights between London Heathrow and Delhi.

According to Deo, India has emerged as its third-largest market globally and is currently served by five daily flights across Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

### GROWTH PLANS

Furthermore, she noted that its growth plans include offering close to one million

seats in India, and higher capacity on the Mumbai route.

Additionally, the airline referred to plans announced in June this year during the International Air Transport Association Annual General Meeting, outlining a multi-airline partnership connecting India with Europe and North America.

The partnership brings together IndiGo's domestic network, Delta Air Lines' North American and transat-

lantic operations, Air France-KLM's reach across Europe and North America, and Virgin Atlantic's the United Kingdom and transatlantic network.

Apart from network growth, Virgin Atlantic said it continues to review opportunities in India, although no new routes are currently planned.

However, the airline clarified that its immediate focus remains on maximising existing services and leveraging strategic airline partnerships to provide wider connectivity between India, the United Kingdom and other international markets.

As per the airline, its code-share partnership with IndiGo, launched in September 2022, has expanded from eight destinations to 34 cities across India, including Goa, Hyderabad,

Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Amritsar, reflecting sustained customer demand across multiple markets.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

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## **DGCA panel submits IndiGo probe report**

**New Delhi:** The committee constituted by India's civil aviation safety regulator to investigate the recent operational disruption at IndiGo has submitted its 'confidential' report on the causes behind the largescale flight cancellations, sources told *businessline*. The four-member committee has submitted the report, which also contains recommendations aimed at averting similar incidents in the future, they said. Earlier, the committee had sought additional time to complete its probe. As per sources, the airline submitted extensive data points that required detailed analysis. Accordingly, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation approved the request and extended the deadline for submission of the report until Friday, December 26. Apart from this, the committee was examining IndiGo's flight cancellations, including aspects related to planning, crew management and regulatory oversight. Notably, the four-member committee is being led by Joint Director General Sanjay K. Bramhane. OUR BUREAU



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

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## DGCA committee submits report on IndiGo disruption

A four-member committee of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), formed on December 5 to investigate IndiGo's operational meltdown earlier this month, submitted its report on Friday to Director General Faiz Ahmed Kidwai. "An enquiry committee, headed by Joint Director General Shri Sanjay K Bramhane, has submitted its report in the evening today. The report is confidential," the DGCA said in a statement. Along with Bramhane, the committee has Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, Senior Flight Operations Inspector Kapil Manglik, and Flight Operations Inspector Lokesh Rampal as members.

BS REPORTER



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

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## IndiGo faces ₹13 lakh GST penalty, to contest ruling

IndiGo has been slapped with a penalty of a little over ₹13 lakh in relation to goods and services tax (GST), and the company will contest the ruling. The Office of the Assistant Commissioner of State Tax, Excise and Taxation Department, Punjab has imposed the penalty of ₹13,28,255 pertaining to the financial year 2021-22. "The department has raised GST demand along with penalty. The company believes that the order passed by the authorities is erroneous. Further, the company believes that it has a strong case on merits, backed by advice from external tax advisors. Accordingly, the company will contest the same before the appropriate authority," InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, said in a regulatory filing on Thursday. It also said there was no significant impact on financials, operations or other activities of the company.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

26 DECEMBER 2025

## AI Exp flight links B'luru with NMIA

► **BENGALURU, DHNS:** With the Navi Mumbai International Airport

(NMIA) open for operations, Air India Express has launched flights from Bengaluru to the new airport and vice versa. The low-cost carrier launched a daily flight between Kempegowda International Airport and NMIA on December 25. The

daily flight will take off from Bengaluru at 6 am and land at Navi Mumbai at 8.55 am.

LAST 2 DAYS  
TOMORROW & SUNDAY  
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P.C. SORCAR  
A 116 Branded FOURUSH  
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## Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

26 DECEMBER 2025

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### IndiGo cancels 67 flights due to bad weather, op issues

**MUMBAI, PTI:** India's largest airline IndiGo on Thursday cancelled 67 flights from multiple airports due to "forecasted" bad weather and operational reasons, according to its website.

Of the 67 cancelled flights, only four were for operational reasons, and the rest were due to "forecasted" bad weather at various airports, including Agartala, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Varanasi, and Bengaluru, among others.

Aviation regulator DGCA has announced that the period between December 10 and February 10 next year as the official fog window this winter. As part of the DGCA fog operations (CAT-IIIB) norms, airlines have to mandatorily roster pilots who are trained to operate in low-visibility conditions, as well as deploy a CAT-IIIB-compliant aircraft fleet for such operations.

IndiGo, whose operations are under DGCA monitoring after the cancellations of thousands of flights early this month, is already operating a curtailed schedule in compliance with the government's order.

## आसमान नहीं छुएगा शंख एयरलाइंस का किराया

जागरण संवाददाता, कानपुर

लाटूश रोड की तंग गलियों में बचपन बिताने वाले शंख एयरलाइंस के संस्थापक अध्यक्ष श्रवण कुमार विश्वकर्मा का मानना है कि उनकी कंपनी का हवाई किराया हमेशा नियंत्रित रहेगा। 'नो डायनामिक प्राइसिंग' उनका ध्येय है। सुबह पांच हजार और शाम को 25 हजार का टिकट नहीं होगा। किसी पर्व-त्योहार तक में शंख एयरलाइंस का किराया आसमान नहीं छुएगा। 24 दिसंबर को नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने इस एयरलाइंस के संचालन की अनुमति दी है। नए साल की पहली तिमाही में पहली फ्लाइट लखनऊ से दिल्ली व लखनऊ से मुंबई की होगी। फिर कानपुर की फ्लाइट का संचालन होगा।

श्रवण कुमार विश्वकर्मा सरिया (टीएमटी), सीमेंट, माइनिंग और ट्रांसपोर्ट सेक्टर के कारोबार में अपनी पहचान बना चुके हैं। कानपुर में टैंपो चलाने के सवाल पर उन्होंने कहा कि

▶ कानपुर की गलियों में खेले कारोबारी श्रवण विश्वकर्मा ने की घोषणा, नए साल में शुरू होगी उड़ान



मंत्री किजरापु राममोहन नायडू को स्मृति चिह्न शंख देते शंख एयरलाइंस के मालिक श्रवण कुमार विश्वकर्मा (दाएं से बाएं)। स्वयं

टैंपो में न सिर्फ सफर किया, बल्कि आनंद लेने के लिए दोस्त का टैंपो खुद चलाया। उन्होंने कहा कि नीचे से ऊपर आने वाला आदमी साइकिल, बस, ट्रेन,

टैंपो सब देखता है। यही अनुभव उसके काम आता है। 'शंख' नाम उनके लिए नया नहीं था। उनकी पहले से मौजूद कंपनी में भी यह संज्ञा जुड़ी है। हर घर में शंख होता है, लेकिन हर कोई उसे बजा नहीं पाता। श्रवण कहते हैं कि, 'हम भी कुछ ऐसा ही करना चाहते हैं, जो सबके पास हो, लेकिन अलग पहचान बनाए।' उन्होंने बताया कि वह मूलरूप से उन्नाव के रहने वाले हैं। उनके पिता रमाशंकर विश्वकर्मा व मां सुशीला कानपुर के लाटूश रोड में आकर रहने लगे। पिता का लोहे का कारोबार था। अब लखनऊ के गोमतीनगर एक्सटेंशन में रहते हैं। पिता के निधन के बाद उन्होंने कारोबार संभाला है। बचपन से ही बड़ा सपना था। बोले-जब यूपी ने मुझे बनाया है तो पहली उड़ान भी उत्तर प्रदेश के लखनऊ या जेवर एयरपोर्ट से होगी। कानपुर, वाराणसी, गोरखपुर, प्रयागराज जैसे शहरों को दिल्ली, मुंबई, बंगलुरु, कोलकाता और चेन्नई से जोड़ने का उनका प्लान है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

26 DECEMBER 2025



## सवा दो घंटे देर से आई बेंगलुरु की फ्लाइट

जागरण संवाददाता, कानपुर : कोहरे का असर फ्लाइट पर भी दिखाई पड़ा। बेंगलुरु की फ्लाइट सवा दो घंटे और मुंबई की 40 मिनट देर से आई। बेंगलुरु की फ्लाइट आने का समय दोपहर 12:50 और जाने का 1:25 बजे है। यह फ्लाइट 3:05 बजे आकर 4:05 बजे गई। बेंगलुरु से 212 यात्री आए और 216 गए। दिल्ली की फ्लाइट दो बजे आकर 2:40 बजे जाती है। यह फ्लाइट 2:01 बजे आई। यहां से 2:43 बजे गई। दिल्ली से 215 यात्री आए और 219 गए। मुंबई की फ्लाइट 2:35 बजे आकर 3:15 पर उड़ती है। यह फ्लाइट 3:21 बजे आकर 4:15 पर गई। मुंबई से आने वाले 178 व जाने वाले 117 यात्री रहे।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## Probe Panel Submits Report on IndiGo's Flight Disruptions

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** A government-appointed committee investigating recent flight disruptions at IndiGo has submitted its report to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Friday.

The findings of the report weren't disclosed, as the Delhi High Court has asked DGCA to submit the report in a sealed cover.



**Panel was tasked with examining possible operational lapses at the country's largest airline**

The panel, constituted by the Centre earlier this month, was tasked with examining possible operational lapses at the country's largest airline following a spate of flight delays and cancellations.

The eight-member panel, headed by joint director general of civil aviation Sanjay K Bramhane, submitted its findings on Friday evening.

The report is expected to guide further regulatory action by the DGCA, including any corrective measures or enforcement steps deemed necessary.

IndiGo has faced heightened scrutiny from aviation regulators in recent weeks amid operational disruptions that affected passengers across multiple airports.

The airline has maintained that it is working to stabilise operations and minimise inconvenience to travellers.

Officials said the findings of the report are marked as confidential and are not being made public at this stage.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## Alhind Air staff on unpaid leave amid AOC delays

● Airline recently got civil aviation ministry NOC

AKBAR MERCHANT  
Mumbai, December 26

**KOCHI-BASED STARTUP** airline Alhind Air, which recently received a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the civil aviation ministry, has placed a large number of its employees on a "no work, no pay" basis citing delays in securing its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Around 120 employees have been issued a formal notice informing them that they will be placed on leave without pay until further notice, effective November 15, 2025, according to internal communication reviewed by FE. The airline needs final regulatory clearance from the

### AIR POCKET



■ Around 120 employees have been put on 'no work, no pay' basis until further notice

■ The airline needs final regulatory clearance from the DGCA in the form of AOC

DGCA in the form of AOC before it can commence commercial flight operations.

In the letter to the employees, the airline has said that prolonged delays in obtaining regulatory approvals, including the AOC, have put significant pressure on its finances. It

has noted that its monthly expenses, including employee salaries, are about ₹2 crore, resulting in "substantial financial losses" and making it "increasingly difficult" to sustain operations.

"Despite our best efforts, the company has not been able to achieve the desired results, and the survival of the establishment has become increasingly difficult," the letter said.

Employees were informed that they should not report to work after November 15 and would be notified once the AOC approval is received. The letter also directed employees to hand over any company assets in their possession to the human resources department immediately.

The communication added that staff had been verbally informed of the decision earlier in November, and that the written notice was issued after some employees sought official confirmation.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## IndiGo faces ₹13-lakh GST penalty, to challenge

**INDIGO HAS BEEN** slapped with a penalty of little over ₹13 lakh in relation to the goods and services tax (GST), and the company will contest the ruling.

The Office of the Assistant Commissioner of State Tax, Excise and Taxation Department, Punjab, has imposed the penalty pertaining to the financial year 2021-22.

"The department has raised GST demand along with penalty. The company believes that the order passed by the authorities is erroneous. Further, the company believes that it has a strong case on merits, backed by advice from external tax advisers. Accordingly, the company will contest the same before the appropriate authority," Inter-Globe Aviation, parent of IndiGo, said in a filing.

Meanwhile, the four-member panel that probed the recent massive flight disruptions at IndiGo has submitted its report to the aviation regulator DGCA. The inquiry committee, headed by DGCA Joint D-G Sanjay K Bramhane, was constituted on December 5.

—PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## इंडिगो संकट से जुड़ी रिपोर्ट समिति ने डीजीसीए को सौंपी

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। इंडिगो उड़ान संकट को लेकर चार सदस्यीय जांच टीम ने अपनी रिपोर्ट नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय ( डीजीसीए ) को सौंप दी है। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि समिति ने शुक्रवार शाम को रिपोर्ट समिति को दी है।

सूत्रों ने बताया, रिपोर्ट की एक कॉपी नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री और नागरिक उड्डयन सचिव को सौंपी गई है। रिपोर्ट में क्या है इसकी विस्तृत जानकारी सामने नहीं आ सकी है। मालूम हो इस महीने की शुरुआत में इंडिगो उड़ानें बुरी तरह प्रभावित रही थीं। एक दिन में सर्वाधिक 1600 उड़ानों को तकनीकी खामो, क्रू और पायलट संकट के कारण रद्द करना पड़ा था। इसके बाद सरकार ने इंडिगो की उड़ानों में दस फीसदी की कटौती की थी।

## DGCA committee files report on IndiGo chaos

Neha LM Tripathi

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** A government inquiry committee submitted its confidential report on IndiGo's operational crisis Thursday evening, as a separate systemic review found the airline in November employed 891 more pilots than global standards require—revealing that scheduling failures, not crew shortages, were more likely to have triggered the mass cancellations that stranded tens of thousands of passengers earlier this month.

The four-member government inquiry committee is headed by joint director general Sanjay K Bramhane and its report is confidential, officials told HT. The committee was constituted by the DGCA on December 6 to examine the airline's manpower planning, operational failures, and accountability for the disruption that led to cancellation of over 5,000 flights



within six days, which stranded tens of thousands of passengers across the country.

The civil aviation ministry had also ordered a broader systemic review to determine whether the airline's preparedness was adequate in the context

of revised crew fatigue rules. An internal document from this review, accessed by HT, found IndiGo employed 4,575 pilots in November to operate its 307 Air-

continued on →15

→PROBE TEAMS STILL AT ODDS OVER AIR CRASH REPORT, P13

### INDIGO CHAOS REPORT

bus-aircraft fleet—a surplus of 891 pilots above the 3,684 required under global best practices that maintain six crew sets per aircraft to cover operations, training, leave and contingencies.

These numbers challenge IndiGo's explanation that new crew fatigue rules contributed significantly to the operational collapse, and reinforce rostering failures—not pilot strength—as the probable trigger for the crisis that prompted a regulatory rollback in December.

The data, submitted by IndiGo to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, indicates "pilot strength is more than sufficient" and that "the main challenge lay in scheduling and rostering pilots, not in a shortage of crew," according to the document.

"The current pilot strength provides a sizeable operational buffer that already covers training, leave, recurrent checks, and seasonal disruptions, even when measured against global industry norms," the review states, noting that airlines worldwide typically maintain between 5.5 to 6 crew sets per aircraft to ensure smooth operations.

The review also noted, based on the airline's submissions, that crew utilisation was at 55% of the 100 hours a month utilisation allowed as per regulation. HT reported on December 16 that the utilisation rate was comparable to other airlines, and not much different from before the stricter crew rest rules kicked in—another indication that the airline's crew rostering system did not keep up to the changes despite months of notice.

IndiGo's pilot complement represented approximately six crew sets per aircraft—matching global best practice—yet the airline cancelled over 5,000 flights within six days in early December, stranding tens of thousands of passengers and triggering government intervention including emergency fare caps and show cause notices to senior executives.

The review notes that "the airline had ample flying capacity" during the November period, when the stricter Flight Duty Time Limitations were in force.

DGCA's minimum standard requires only three crew sets per aircraft, or 1,842 pilots for IndiGo's November fleet—less than half the number the airline actually employed.

"The data clearly indicates that pilot availability, in terms of permitted flying hours and crew strength, was not the binding constraint during the disruption period," an official requesting anonymity said.

"Airlines are primarily constrained by their own rostering practices and pilot contract clauses, not regulatory limits on flight hours."

A second official said the analysis formed part of a broader DGCA review conducted after IndiGo cancelled hundreds of flights and refunded more than ₹1,500 crore to passengers between late November and mid-December.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## Indian, American investigators still at odds on framing AI crash report: Paper

**HT Correspondent**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Six months after the Air India Flight 171 disaster that killed 260 people, Indian and American investigators remain at odds over key findings and how the final report should characterise the June 12 crash, according to a report by Italian publication *Corriere della Sera* that offered new details of discussions between the two sides.

The dispute centres on the sequence of events in the cockpit during the critical seconds after takeoff from Ahmedabad, with Western experts concluding captain Sumeet Sabharwal moved the aircraft's fuel control switches from "run" to "cutoff" position, cutting power to both engines, the newspaper reported on Thursday, citing five Western



**The dispute is on the sequence of events in the cockpit.** PTI

and local sources with knowledge of the investigation.

According to the *Corriere's* reporting, the final seconds before impact, the implications from the data align with the preliminary report released by India's Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on July 12, which revealed cockpit voice

recordings showing one pilot realising fuel had been cut off to both engines while his colleague denied initiating the action. However, that report did not identify which pilot made which statement.

The Italian newspaper reported that recent discussions between AAIB and US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) officials have addressed "the most delicate" issue: how to write a final report that "does not embarrass India".

The AAIB did not respond to a request for comment from HT.

According to the report, one of the hypotheses being discussed is characterising the crash as a "crossroads of events—with an 'almost no' probability of repeating itself in thousands of years—which led to the disaster", essentially attribut-

ing it to unprecedented circumstances and bad luck, according to the *Corriere's* sources.

"Washington will hardly accept" such an explanation, the newspaper reported.

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner, flying from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, crashed immediately after takeoff on June 12, killing 241 of the 242 passengers on board and 19 people on the ground when it struck a hostel for medical students.

HT reported on December 8 that an AAIB team travelled to the US this month with cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder information for detailed analysis at NTSB facilities. The visit is being seen as the last major step before the investigation is completed, with the final report expected before the June 2026 deadline.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## IndiGo faces ₹13 lakh GST-related penalty

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

IndiGo has been slapped with a penalty of little over ₹13 lakh in relation to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the company will contest the ruling.

The Office of the Assistant Commissioner of State Tax, Excise and Taxation Department, Punjab has imposed the penalty of ₹13,28,255 pertaining to the financial year 2021-22.

“The department has raised GST demand along with penalty. The company believes that the order passed by the authorities is erroneous. Further, the company believes that it has a strong case on merits, backed by advice from



Indigo said there was no significant hit to financials.

external tax advisors.

“Accordingly, the company will contest the same before the appropriate authority,” InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, said in a filing.

It also said there was no significant impact on financials or operations.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## DGCA's 4-member inquiry committee probing IndiGo meltdown submits report

**Sukalp Sharma**

*New Delhi, December 26*

THE FOUR-member inquiry committee set up by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to probe the massive operational disruption at IndiGo earlier this month submitted its report to the regulator on Friday. Senior officials with the DGCA said the report is currently confidential, and details are likely to be made public after a few days.

The committee, headed by DGCA's Joint Director General Sanjay K Bramhane, was initially asked to submit its findings by December 20. It was later given an additional week to submit the report. The panel was asked to identify underlying causes for the disruption, assess manpower planning by IndiGo and

its preparedness for the new rest and duty duration rules for pilots, review IndiGo's compliance with the new rules, and fix accountability and responsibility for the airline's planning failures, among others.

The regulator and the government are likely to decide on action against the airline and its management based on the report. Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu had assured stringent action basis the report against those found responsible for the IndiGo meltdown. He had blamed lapses on the airline's part for the disruption, adding that the government action in this case will "set an example", indicating even the top leadership's jobs may be on the line.

**FULL REPORT ON**

[WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## इंडिगो संकट पर उच्च स्तरीय जांच पूरी, समिति ने सौंपी रपट

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 26 दिसंबर।

देश की सबसे बड़ी एअरलाइंस इंडिगो की उड़ानें बड़े पैमाने पर रद्द होने के मामले की जांच के लिए गठित चार सदस्यीय समिति ने विमानन नियामक (डीजीसीए) को अपनी रपट सौंप दी है। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने शुक्रवार को यह जानकारी दी। हालांकि, रपट के निष्कर्षों का ब्यौरा अभी सार्वजनिक नहीं किया गया है। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के संयुक्त महानिदेशक संजय के ब्रम्हाणे की अध्यक्षता में पांच दिसंबर से समिति का गठन किया गया था।

समिति को यह जिम्मेदारी दी गई थी कि वह उन परिस्थितियों की व्यापक समीक्षा करे, जिनकी वजह से इंडिगो की सैकड़ों उड़ानें कई दिनों तक रद्द हुई थीं। अधिकारी के मुताबिक जांच समिति ने शुक्रवार शाम अपनी रपट डीजीसीए को सौंप दी और रपट की प्रतियां नागर विमानन मंत्री के राममोहन नायडू और नागर विमानन सचिव समीर कुमार सिन्हा के कार्यालय को भी भेजी गई हैं। हालांकि, रपट के निष्कर्षों का ब्यौरा अभी सार्वजनिक नहीं किया गया है।

इस समिति में ब्रम्हाणे के अलावा डीजीसीए

दिसंबर के पहले सप्ताह में बड़े पैमाने पर इंडिगो की उड़ानें रद्द हुई थी और सैकड़ों उड़ानों की देरी की वजह से देश के तमाम हवाई अड्डों पर यात्रियों को कई दिनों तक भीषण संकट से जूझना पड़ा था।

के उप महानिदेशक अमित गुप्ता, वरिष्ठ उड़ान संचालन निरीक्षक कैप्टन कपिल मांगलिक और उड़ान संचालन निरीक्षक कैप्टन रामपाल शामिल थे। दिसंबर के पहले सप्ताह में बड़े पैमाने पर इंडिगो की उड़ानें रद्द हुई थी और सैकड़ों उड़ानों की देरी की वजह से देश के तमाम हवाई अड्डों पर यात्रियों को कई दिनों तक भीषण संकट से जूझना पड़ा था।

अधिकतम एक दिन 1,600 से अधिक उड़ानें भी रद्द करनी पड़ी थीं। चालक दल के सदस्यों की तैनाती एवं विश्राम से संबंधित नए मानकों को लागू करने के लिए इंडिगो ने समय पर तैयारी नहीं की थी जिसकी वजह से यह व्यापक गतिरोध पैदा हुआ। उड़ान बाधाओं के बाद डीजीसीए ने इंडिगो को अपना शीतकालीन उड़ानों की संख्या में 10 फीसद तक कटौती करने का निर्देश दिया था।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## IndiGo faces GST related penalty of ₹13 lakh



**NEW DELHI:** IndiGo has been slapped with a penalty of little over Rs 13 lakh in relation to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and the company will contest the ruling.

The Office of the Assistant Commissioner of State Tax, Excise and Taxation Department, Punjab has imposed the penalty of Rs 13,28,255 pertaining to the financial year 2021-22.

"The department has raised GST demand along with penalty. The company believes that the order passed by the authorities is erroneous. Further, the company believes that it has a strong case on merits, backed by advice from external tax advisors.

"Accordingly, the company will contest the same before the appropriate authority," InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, said in a regulatory filing on Thursday.

The company also said there was no significant impact on financials, operations or other activities of the company. PII

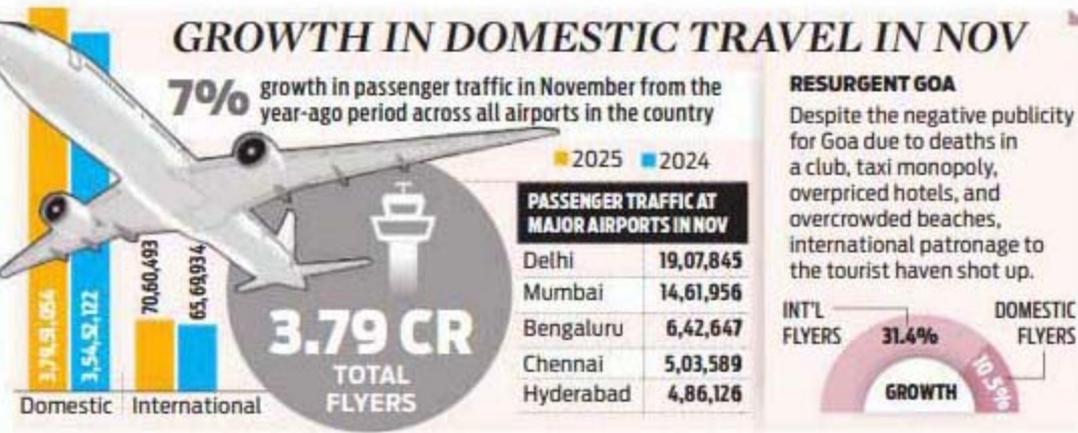
## New airlines may have little impact: Experts

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE sudden clearance given to two new airlines—the Kozhikode-based Alhind and FlyExpress—by the Centre, which awaited the nod for nearly a year, and the Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu himself announcing the decision appears to be a strong message in light of the disruption caused by the IndiGo crisis from December 1 to 9. However, experts are weighing in if the new airlines can impact the domestic market.

The dominant opinion among aviation professionals is that the newbies may not have any impact on the market share of players like IndiGo, Air India, and Air India Express. Captain C S Randhawa, president of the Federation of Indian Pilots, is critical of the decision. He said, "All these three airlines have neither enough funding nor expertise. The best of the airlines have not survived. No regional airlines have survived in this country. These airlines are not a threat to any operating airlines in the country as they cannot survive on non-UDAN routes."

Shank Air, based in Uttar Pradesh, too was given the nod last year and plans to begin operations in 2026.



tainability, and competitive fares, he said. "The government needs to bring fuel under GST and give subsidies to encourage big corporate houses to enter aviation with a big bang to break the existing duopoly," he added.

Randhawa is of the opinion that regional airlines only increase regional connectivity and the government needs to change its outlook for the sector to change. "There is an urgent need for the government to relook at the aviation policies of the country," he said.

An Airline Pilots Association of India representative told this newspaper that the new airlines cannot have big aircraft to disturb the existing market share pattern. "IndiGo presently has 434 aircraft, and it took them two decades to

reach this position. The new airlines need to lease A320 aircraft only from it. Orders placed at Boeing by Air India for the 737s are getting delayed. It will take the new airlines at least two decades to reach the position of these airlines," the source said. SpiceJet and Akasa Air have been around for some time, but they have between 20 and 30 aircraft and cannot match up to IndiGo and Air India, he added.

However, Captain G R Gopinath, who pioneered the low-cost airline concept in the country through Air Deccan, seemed positive about the move. He said, "Permitting new airlines to operate is good for the country, as the industry will become more vibrant. The public stand to benefit, as the prices will be kept under check. Airlines will

become more effective and service-minded. It is good that the government is doing it and it will benefit all."

Aviation expert Captain Mohan Ranganathan gave zero chances of the new airlines offering any competition. "Where are the captains? The title of a 1971 Robert Stirling novel 'She'll Never Get off the Ground' is apt to describe their situation," he said.

Earlier, Alhind CEO Reena Abdul Rahiman told this newspaper that the Thiruvananthapuram-Kochi-Kozhikode sector was its priority and to facilitate this, the company had started a base in Kochi airport as early as August 2024. Alhind Air will begin its operations with two ATR 72-600 aircraft, with plans to scale up to seven within the first year.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE PIONEER

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

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## **DGCA panel submits report on IndiGo operational meltdown**

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**

■ New Delhi

A four-member panel of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has submitted its report to the Civil Aviation Ministry on IndiGo's operational meltdown earlier this month. Sources said the report has been confidentially filed. The committee was tasked with assessing the circumstances that led to the massive disruption and investigating the cancellations and delays involving the airline. It was initially given a 15-day deadline to submit its report, which was later extended until December 26.

The probe panel was mandated to examine several aspects, including flight planning, crew management, and regulatory oversight. The objective is to determine whether shortcomings in these areas contributed to the large-scale disruptions. The operational meltdown has been linked to the implementation of new FDTL rules, which came into force on November 1. These rules increase mandatory rest periods for pilots, limit night-time flying duties, and require at least 48 hours of rest each week.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## इंडिगो संकट की जांच रिपोर्ट डीजीसीए को सौंपी गई

पंजाब केसरी/नई दिल्ली

देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो में बड़े पैमाने पर उड़ानें रद्द होने के मामले की जांच करने वाली चार-सदस्यीय समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट विमानन नियामक डीजीसीए को सौंप दी है। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने शुक्रवार को यह जानकारी दी। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के संयुक्त महानिदेशक संजय के. ब्रम्हाणे की अध्यक्षता में इस समिति का गठन पांच दिसंबर को किया गया था। समिति को यह जिम्मेदारी दी गई थी कि वह उन परिस्थितियों की व्यापक समीक्षा करे, जिनकी वजह से इंडिगो की सैकड़ों उड़ानें कई दिनों तक रद्द हुई थीं। अधिकारी ने कहा कि जांच समिति ने शुक्रवार शाम अपनी रिपोर्ट डीजीसीए को सौंप दी। सूत्रों ने बताया कि रिपोर्ट की प्रतियां नागर विमानन मंत्री के.



राममोहन नायडू और नागर विमानन सचिव समीर कुमार सिन्हा के कार्यालय को भी भेजी गई हैं। हालांकि, रिपोर्ट के निष्कर्षों का ब्योरा अभी सार्वजनिक नहीं किया गया है। इस समिति में ब्रम्हाणे के अलावा डीजीसीए के उप महानिदेशक अमित गुप्ता, वरिष्ठ उड़ान संचालन निरीक्षक कैप्टन कपिल मंगलिक और उड़ान संचालन निरीक्षक कैप्टन रामपाल शामिल थे। इस महीने के शुरुआती सप्ताह में इंडिगो की उड़ानें बड़े पैमाने पर निरस्त हुई थीं। इस दौरान एक दिन 1,600 से अधिक उड़ानें भी रद्द करनी पड़ी थीं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

26 DECEMBER 2025

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## IndiGo cancels 67 flights

■ **MUMBAI:** IndiGo cancelled 67 flights on Thursday because of bad weather and operational issues, according to the airline's website. Most disruptions were weather-related, with fog at airports like Agartala, Dehradun and Varanasi. 77



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

27 DECEMBER 2025

## ‘Exemplary’ action on IndiGo likely as DGCA tables report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The stage is now set for “exemplary” govt action against IndiGo—a likely combination of steep fines along with regulatory glare on some airline officials among other things—for its schedule collapse earlier this month that affected over 5,000 flights and left lakhs of passengers stranded.

DGCA on Friday evening submitted its report on the “circumstances leading to operational disruptions” to the civil aviation ministry, which is also expected to shed light on why only the airline’s domestic network collapsed while international flights were barely affected.

Aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu had said in Parliament that govt would take “exemplary” action against IndiGo once the probe was over. “An inquiry committee, headed by (DGCA’s) joint DG Sanjay K Bramhane, submitted its report Friday evening. The report is confidential,” said a ministry spokesperson.

It is learned that the accountable manager of the airline, an expat, could have his approval withdrawn. While a number of factors led to the schedule collapse at India’s

largest domestic airline, the failure of its operations control centre and a breakdown of trust between pilots and expats-led management added fuel to the fire.

Govt wants IndiGo to set its house in order given the critical role the airline plays with over 64% domestic market share and also being the largest airline in terms of international traffic. In banking parlance, IndiGo and Air India Group are now “too big to fail” as all other players in the domestic market are either fledgling or struggling to survive.

IndiGo had cancelled only 2.4% of its 2,702 international flights between Dec 1 and 9. Domestic cancellations were 10 times higher at almost 25% of the 17,404 scheduled flights not being operated.

IndiGo is also probing this collapse but govt action is going to be decided on the basis of the DGCA report. The regulator’s probe panel under joint DG Bramhane was set up Dec 5, to “identify underlying causes leading to widespread operational disruptions.” It was also to “assess adequacy of manpower planning, fluctuating rostering systems, and implementation preparedness in the context of (new flight duty norms for pilots).”





# Corporate Communications Directorate

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## IndiGo chaos: Probe panel submits report to DGCA

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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A four-member inquiry committee constituted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to probe the massive operational disruption at IndiGo has submitted its confidential report to the regulator, official sources said on Friday.

Headed by Joint Director General of Civil Aviation Sanjay K Bramhane, the committee was formed on December 5 to investigate widespread flight cancellations, delays and network disruptions involving the country's largest airline. The panel, which had been granted an extension until Friday, submitted its findings in the evening.

Sources say the report has been classified as confidential and its contents have not been made public.

The inquiry panel comprised the Joint DG, DGCA; a Deputy Director General of the regulator; a senior flight operations

inspector; and a flight operations instructor. It was mandated to assess the circumstances that led to the large-scale disruption of scheduled flights and examine whether lapses in planning, preparedness or regulatory compliance contributed to the crisis.