



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

'Chennai airport will not be privatised'

Our Bureau
Chennai

"Chennai is not there in the privatisation list. Don't worry," Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Thursday.

This was in response to rumours that the airport may be privatised once all constructions are over.

"Before the general elections, a proposal on privatisation of 11 airports was given. It is there with the Cabinet, it is in that stage," he told newsmen at the Chennai airport. He was here to launch the Udan Yatri Cafe at the International airport.

"When there is privatisation, there is some improvement in services also. There is an inflow of investment also. Right now, we are trying to build more airports. Now for Airports Authority of India (AAI), we are building airports in locations where there is no viability. So, it is a lot of burden for AAI also," he said.

"But it is not exactly privatisation. We are just leasing the operations of the airport. The land is still

Chennai is a very important airport for the AAI. So, definitely, we have to put a lot of focus on more development of this airport," said Civil Aviation Minister

with the central government. We are telling that someone will come in and do the operations there. And in that if they can bring in more money to give better services, it ultimately helps the passenger," he said.

CHENNAI AIRPORT

When asked if Chennai will be considered for the new model once all construction work is completed, the Minister categorically said, "No, no, see this one (Chennai) we are keeping it very close to our heart. We want to better the services here ourselves.

So, we are trying to do our best in Chennai airport.

Chennai, which is the

fourth largest airport, is a very important airport for the AAI. So, definitely we have to put a lot of focus on more development of this airport," he said.

"We have T1 and T4, which are also handling domestic passengers. Right now, we have around 22 million annual capacity, we can take it up to 35 million," he said.

"We have to seamlessly do efficient construction of the other terminal buildings and operations," he added.

"So, we are going to keep Chennai airport as a top most priority from our side and any issues that come

up here are going to be tackled on a real time basis," he said.

The terminal 3 construction would be completed by March 2026, he added.

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Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

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Metro 7A corridor breaches flight path, construction halted

Ateeq Shaikh

ateeq.shaikh@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The fate of Mumbai Metro 7A or the Gundavali-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport line is hanging in the air. During the construction of the line, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) discovered that the Airport Authority of India's (AAI) permission on the air funnel zone had been breached by a general consultant, and a revised nod has now been sought.

An air funnel zone is a flight path, similar to road lanes, in which an aircraft is supposed to be airborne.

A funnel zone is defined for safety, hence any impediments to it can potentially endanger aviation safety.

The 3.42-km Metro 7A corridor, partially elevated and partially underground, is being constructed by J Kumar Infraprojects Ltd. For the general consultancy service, Systra India and Consulting Engineers Group Ltd have formed a consortium called Systra MVA Consulting.

In November 2023, MMRDA applied for AAI's clearance to construct the Airport Colony station and ramp area, which came in on January 2, 2024. The clearance received was 2.9 metres lower than the project's design requirement.

"This restriction immediately caused delays, as construction could not proceed in this section of the project without compli-



The project, initially set for completion in 2021, has faced repeated delays, with the latest deadline now Dec 2026.

ance with the height limitation. MMRDA was forced to halt work in the affected areas, which began to disrupt the overall project timeline," states an internal document accessed by Hindustan Times.

Subsequently, on January 31, 2024, another height clearance was sought for the viaduct between the Airport Colony station and the ramp. However, the situation deteriorated further on March 18, 2024 when another No Objection Certificate issued by AAI had another set of height restrictions.

This one limited the height of the viaduct in the 0.53-metres-to-2.75-metre range. This is lower than the required height for safe operation of the metro system. Therefore, the work

once again came to a standstill.

Once again, MMRDA requested AAI for a relaxation, reasoning that altering the metro line's height was not possible due to the engineering challenges of maintaining a certain gradient of the ramp. According to a senior MMRDA official, the wait to secure a revised approval continues.

"The station was designed without referring to the contents of the NOC, and the drawings were also issued with higher height...The initial failure was on the General Consultant's part, as the permissible limits issued by AAI were to be referred to by the experts of the General Consultant before finalising of the Airport Colony station architectural design," the internal note states.

This has led to a substantial impact on the project's timeline and costs, apart from causing inconvenience to airport-bound passengers.

Initially, the project was scheduled to be ready by 2021, but the deadline continues to be regularly revised, the latest one being December 2026 at an estimated cost of ₹812 crore. While Mumbai Metro 3 has reached the airport, the last-mile connectivity remains a sore point, with passengers complaining about the long detour to the terminal and back. Metro 7A is being built between the Aqua line and Terminal 2.

A questionnaire sent to Systra India's Managing Director Hari Kumar Somalraju did not receive a response.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

TN mahila court hears MoD grievance, slaps ₹45L penalty on AAI for damage to def cargo

Ram.Sundaram
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: A 'domestic dispute' of a different kind played out in a Tamil Nadu mahila court this week, involving two central agencies holding each other accountable for damage to uninsured defence cargo ferried by a Chinese airline.

Sparks flew inside the time-worn courtroom in Chengalpattu near Chennai after Embarkation Headquarters (EH), a military unit that manages movement of troops and equipment, accused Airports Authority of India (AAI) of being responsible for dam-

age to imported consignment while it was being unloaded from an Air China flight.

AAI sought to distance itself from the dispute, saying it was merely a cargo processing centre and not liable for anything that happens to a shipment during the journey or unloading. AAI's lawyers argued that the issue was strictly between the defence unit and the airline, and that the consignor had failed to insure the shipment, rendering the claim for damages invalid.

EH countered that govt policy permits insurance for imported defence goods only if their value exceeds Rs 2.5

crore. It said the damaged cargo was worth Rs 45.8 lakh, falling below the insurance threshold.

AAI dismissed this reasoning, terming it an attempt to shift blame. It said that a claim had been forwarded to state-owned New India Assurance, the designated underwriter for such disputes, but the process had stalled without any resolution.

During the hearing, AAI pointed out that Bhadra International India, the ground handling agency responsible for loading and unloading cargo, hadn't even been named in the case. It also argued that the

liability of an airline ferrying critical equipment extended beyond landing and till the delivery of the shipment.

That argument fell apart when the consignor produced a segregation report, a crucial document detailing cargo condition during handover. The report confirmed that Air China delivered the consignment in sound condition, leaving AAI solely accountable for the damage.

On Feb 6, sessions judge M Ezhilarasi ordered AAI to pay EH Rs 45 lakh in compensation, which is equivalent to the price of the damaged military equipment.

Daily capacity is 20 flights but Prayagraj handled 748 in Maha Kumbh's last 3 days

Arvind.Chauhan
@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: With over 75,500 passengers and 748 flights, 394 of them chartered, Prayagraj airport created a new record in last three days of Maha Kumbh. It handled a record 282 flights on Monday and a whopping 27,322 passengers Tuesday, both all-time records and way above what Lucknow international airport handles. Average handling capacity of Prayagraj airport is 300 passengers during peak hour and only 3,500 passengers per day with 20 aircraft movements.

Airport Authority of India (AAI) data accessed by **TOI** shows that flyers' numbers soared significantly during last 10 days of Maha Kumbh as compared to the period between Jan 11 to Feb 16.

Total passenger footfall between Feb 17 to 26 was 2.38 lakh while the first 36 days saw movement of 3.20 lakh passengers. The total count during 46



UP CM Yogi Adityanath at a cleaning drive in Prayagraj on Thursday. The total count during 46 days of Maha Kumbh was 5,59,178 flyers

days of Maha Kumbh festivity was 5,59,178 flyers.

Highest passenger footfall during Kumbh of 27,673 was recorded on Feb 25 when the airport handled 262 flights. On Feb 24, the airport handled 282 flights with a passenger count of 26,182. Lucknow airport recorded its highest footfall of 24,297 on Feb 8 this year with 155 aircraft movements.

Prayagraj airport recorded 5,229 aircraft movements in 46 days, of which 2,319 movements were recorded in last 10 days, while 2,910 aircraft movements were recorded in the initial 36 days. Total 15 bays were activated, including eight, for chartered flights, and seven for special scheduled flights for Maha Kumbh. AAI also used technical areas of

IAF airstrip to park aircraft during Kumbh.

"Since Feb 11, airlines have increased flight movements by multiple times due to heavy demand. We operated the airport round-the-clock in close-coordination with IAF, who were responsible for Air Traffic Control," Prayagraj airport director Mukesh Chandra Upadhyay told **TOI**. "There were times when we made an aircraft land, deboard passengers with their full luggage, allow boarding of departing passengers, and final take off in 20-30 minutes," he added.

To manage passenger movement, on an average, AAI had deployed a team of 13 personnel for operation and terminal duty. "Five groups were formed with manpower enlisted from Udaipur, Kolkata, Chennai, Leh, Dehradun, Delhi, Srinagar and Bhopal. Each group was deployed for 10 days each. In total, over 60 personnel were assigned for Maha Kumbh duty," said a source in AAI.



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Kempegowda Airport to handle 10 lt cargo by 2030

Aishwarya Kumar
Bengaluru

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport has launched a domestic cargo facility with an initial capacity of 3.45 lakh tonnes, expandable to 4 lakh tonnes. The facility is operated by Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) in partnership with Menzies Aviation.

INCREASE CAPACITY

Menzies Aviation has invested over ₹120 crore in the project.

With this expansion, the airport aims to handle 1 million tonnes of cargo by 2030.

"We have a total capacity of 51 million passengers and 7.15 lakh tonnes of cargo. In CY24, we handled approximately 40.7 million passengers and just under 5 lakh tonnes of cargo. By the end of this



A BOON. The new facility has an initial capacity of 3.45 lakh tonnes, expandable to 4 lakh tonnes

year, we expect to reach 42 million passengers, with a possible variation of 10 per cent depending on the coming weeks. We are also on track to surpass 5 lakh tonnes of cargo handling," said Satyaki Raghunath, COO, Bangalore International Airport Ltd.

The airport observed over 15 per cent growth in passenger traffic, with cargo volumes following a similar trend.

PROJECTED GROWTH

By the end of this decade, passenger traffic is expected to reach 80 to 90 million,

By the end of this year, the airport expects to handle 42 million passengers and is on track to process 5 lt of cargo

while cargo volumes are projected to approach 10 lakh tonnes, Raghunath added.

With India's air cargo sector expected to reach 58 lakh tonnes by 2029, this facility is designed not only to meet current demand but also to scale up for future growth, according to Charles Wyley, EVP, Middle East, Africa & Asia, Menzies Aviation.

Over the past five years, cargo volumes, domestic and international, have grown at a 4 per cent compound annual growth rate.



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Pocket-friendly café opened at Chennai airport

Our Bureau
Chennai

Passengers need no longer shell out ₹100 for a cup of tea or coffee at the Chennai airport. Now, a cup of tea will be available for ₹10 and coffee at ₹20, thanks to the UDAN Yatri Cafe launched on Thursday.

The cafe is located in the pre-check area of the T1 domestic terminal.

The high cost of snacks at airports is a common grouse of travellers. However, at UDAN Yatri Cafe, a water bottle will cost ₹10, and a samosa or a sweet ₹20.

"We feel nobody should be hungry at the airport just because the prices are high," Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu told newsmen on Thursday at the Chennai airport.

The first UDAN Yatri cafe was inaugurated on December 19, 2024, at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata. The daily sales are nearly ₹35,000, he said.

There is a plan to launch the cafes at other airports. Tamil Nadu Industries Minister TRB Rajaa attended the event, according to a release.



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DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के कार्गो टर्मिनल की कनेक्टिविटी को मिली मंजूरी

जागरण संवाददाता, ग्रेटर नोएडा: नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के कार्गो टर्मिनल की यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे से चार माह में कनेक्टिविटी हो जाएगी। भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (एनएचएआइ) ने आठ किमी लंबी सड़क के निर्माण के लिए 235.70 करोड़ के एस्टीमेट के सापेक्ष प्रदेश के वित्त विभाग की समिति ने 196.79 करोड़ खर्च करने की स्वीकृति दे दी है। यह सड़क एयरपोर्ट की उत्तर व पूर्व की चारदीवारी से होकर बनेगी। इसके अतिरिक्त वीवीआइपी के लिए एयरपोर्ट पहुंचने के लिए अलग मार्ग के तहत पश्चिमी छोर से यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के 33 किमी प्वाइंट तक 750 मीटर रोड बनेगी।

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से अप्रैल में यात्री सेवाओं की शुरुआत होनी

- एनएचएआइ के 235.70 करोड़ के सापेक्ष विभाग ने 196.79 करोड़ खर्च की दी स्वीकृति
- यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे से कार्गो टर्मिनल की कनेक्टिविटी के लिए बनेगी आठ किमी लंबी सड़क

है। एयरपोर्ट को यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे से जोड़ने के लिए 750 मीटर लंबी व आठ लेन सड़क का निर्माण किया है। कार्गो टर्मिनल की यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे से कनेक्टिविटी के लिए सड़क निर्माण का प्रस्ताव तैयार था। एक्सप्रेसवे से 30 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क का एयरपोर्ट के उत्तर व पूर्व दिशा में निर्माण होना है। वीवीआइपी के आवागमन के लिए एयरपोर्ट व यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे के बीच 750 मीटर लंबी एक और सड़क बनेगी।



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RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

चेन्नई एयरपोर्ट के कैफे में 20 में खाना, जल्द दिल्ली में भी

नई दिल्ली: केंद्रीय नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने गुरुवार को चेन्नई एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ान यात्री कैफे का उद्घाटन किया। इस कैफे में लोगों को केवल 20 रुपये में खाना मिलेगा। जल्द ही दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर भी यह सुविधा शुरू की जाएगी। इस कैफे यात्रियों को 10 रुपये में पानी की बोतल, 10 रुपये में चाय, 20 रुपये में काफी, 20 रुपये में समोसा मिलेगा। देश के पहले उड़ान कैफे का उद्घाटन पिछले साल दिसंबर में कोलकाता एयरपोर्ट पर किया गया था। मंत्री ने कहा, उड़ान यात्री कैफे से यात्रियों को सहूलियत होगी। (एएनआइ)

मांग और यात्री भरपूर ... आखिर और क्या चाहिए उड़ान बढ़ाने को

जासं, कानपुर : भरपूर यात्री और मांग के बावजूद चकेरी एयरपोर्ट से अन्य शहरों के लिए अभी उड़ान मिलने की उम्मीद नहीं नजर आ रही है। एक मार्च से लखनऊ हवाई अड्डा दिन की फ्लाइट के लिए बंद होने से यहां विमान बढ़ने की उम्मीद बंधी थी लेकिन अभी तक किसी भी विमानन कंपनी ने नई फ्लाइट का प्रस्ताव नहीं दिया है।

लखनऊ के अमौसी हवाई अड्डे के रनवे को एक मार्च से 15 जुलाई तक सुबह 10 बजे से शाम पांच बजे तक मरम्मत कार्य के कारण बंद करने की तैयारी है। ऐसे में चकेरी एयरपोर्ट नजदीक होने के कारण विमानन कंपनियों के यहां से कुछ उड़ान शुरू करने की उम्मीद थी। माना जा रहा था कि शहर को पांच माह तक कुछ अतिरिक्त उड़ान मिल जाएंगी। अभी यहां से दिल्ली, मुंबई, बंगलुरु और हैदराबाद की



कानपुर हवाई अड्डा ● जागरण आर्काइव

फ्लाइट है। शहर से काफी संख्या में उद्यमी, व्यापारी, छात्र और अन्य यात्री लखनऊ से यात्रा करते हैं। दिल्ली से यहां दोपहर की ही उड़ान है। इसलिए कुछ लोग अपनी सुविधा के अनुसार लखनऊ से जाते हैं। शहर से इंडिगो की उड़ान संचालित हैं। इसलिए इंडिगो का

सेटअप तैयार है। इंडिगो लखनऊ से चेन्नई, चंडीगढ़ और कोलकाता के लिए उड़ान की सुविधा दे रहा है, इसलिए इंडिगो के चकेरी एयरपोर्ट से इन फ्लाइट की सुविधा शुरू करने की उम्मीद थी। एक से 10 मार्च तक का फ्लैक्सि फेयर देखें तो स्पष्ट है कि यहां से उड़ान भरने



15

जुलाई तक बंद रहेगा अमौसी हवाई अड्डे का रनवे



- एक मार्च से लखनऊ हवाई अड्डा दिन में बंद होने से बंधी थी उम्मीद
- विमानन कंपनियों ने अभी नहीं दिया किसी शहर की उड़ान का प्रस्ताव

शहरों के लिए विमान का किराया

शहर	सामान्य किराया	फ्लैक्सि किराया
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बंगलुरु	6000-7000	12000-13000
हैदराबाद	5500-6000	15000-17000
मुंबई	5500-6000	7000-8000

वाले विमानों को भरपूर यात्री मिल रहे हैं। ट्रेवल एजेंट शारिक अल्वी ने बताया कि सामान्य रूप से कानपुर से दिल्ली का किराया चार हजार रुपये रहता है। यह इस समय 7800 तक पहुंच गया है। मुंबई का किराया आठ हजार तक हो गया है। छह हजार तक रहने वाला बंगलुरु

का किराया 12 हजार तक है। इसी तरह हैदराबाद का किराया 15 से 17 हजार तक पहुंच गया है। एयरपोर्ट निदेशक संजय कुमार ने बताया कि अभी तक किसी विमानन कंपनी ने उड़ान का प्रस्ताव नहीं दिया है। अगर कोई कंपनी प्रस्ताव देती है तो प्रबंधन की तैयारी पूरी है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

27 FEBRUARY 2025

वाराणसी एयरपोर्ट पर शारजाह जा रहे यात्री के बैग में मिला तमंचा

जासं, वाराणसी : लाल बहादुर शास्त्री अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर एक यात्री के बैग से तमंचा मिला है। सुरक्षाकर्मियों ने आजमगढ़ के सगड़ी निवासी मोहम्मद आजम को तमंचा समेत पुलिस को सौंप दिया। आजम को शारजाह जाना था। पुलिस उससे तमंचा लाने की वजह पता लगाने के लिए पूछताछ कर रही है। मोहम्मद आजम को एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के विमान (आइएक्स

183) से शारजाह जाना था। वह शाम छह बजे एयरपोर्ट पहुंचा। एअर इंडिया के काउंटर से बोर्डिंग पास लेकर यात्री इमीग्रेशन और कस्टम जांच के लिए पहुंचा। एयरलाइंस कर्मियों ने यात्री के बैग की जांच की तो उसमें तमंचा मिला। सीआइएसएफ के जवानों ने उसे पकड़ लिया। पूछताछ में आजम ने खुद को निर्दोष बताया और कहा कि उसे नहीं पता कि बैग में तमंचा कहां से आया।

MOVES AND COUNTERMOVES IN RETAIL AS COMPETITION HOTS UP

Adani Plans to Take Over Retail Biz at Its Airports

Co may also expand biz to highways and malls, competing with local and global retailers

**Sagar Malviya
& Forum Gandhi**

Mumbai: As a part of a strategy to diversify and increase the non-aeronautical revenue from its airport business, the Adani Group is entering more than two dozen retailing categories on its own hoping to cash in on a captive consumer base — over 300 million people who travel through or visit its airports annually.

It is also planning to extend the retailing business beyond airports to highways and malls in the next phase, thereby competing with global and local retailers including Domino's, Yum Brands, the Tata Group and Reliance.

The plan is to increase the contribution of non-aero businesses to about three-fourths of the revenue of Adani Airport Holdings from less than half now, by practically owning nearly every segment of airport retailing and food services. These segments include electronics, beauty, chocolates, alcohol, coffee, lifestyle products and food and beverages.

“Our aim in the domestic side is to take over the entire airport business and run the entire retail operations ourselves over a period of time as the concession gets over for existing players,” Gaurav Singh, the chief executive of Adani Airport and Osprey, the group's airport retail venture. “We are ex-

Widening Footprint

Planning to expand from nearly 50 stores in FY25 to around **310** next fiscal

Adani Airport Holdings

Passenger movement of **69.7 million*** as of Dec

Over three-fourths of passengers don't shop at the airport

Reason: Limited budget-friendly options

Co will also use land around the airports for city-side development

City-side development plan: **19 million square feet**

*for the nine months through Dec



panding from nearly 50 stores this year to around 310 next year, including 270 retail stores and 40 F&B outlets. Given the growth we have seen, we are exploring expansion beyond airports to highways and malls in the near future,” he said.

Adani Airport, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, has been acquiring, developing and maintaining airport infrastructure assets. It has eight airports including seven operational — Ahmedabad, Mangaluru, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai International Airport.

The airport operator recorded passenger movement of 69.7 million in the 9 months through December; the visitors accompanying the passengers are estimated to be more than double of that. More than three-fourths of them do not shop at the airport due to limited budget-friendly options.

Apart from the airport, the company will also use the land around the airports for city-side development which will house these brands, said people privy with the

development. The city-side development at airports includes hospitality, retail, hospitals, office and entertainment facilities, with a development plan of around 19 million square feet as part of the initial phase and ramp-up subsequently. Adani Airports recorded non-aero income of ₹3,681 crore in fiscal 2024. Duty-free sales accounted for 30%, followed by cargo and ground handling at 10%. Car parking, advertising, and food & beverage each contributed 7-8%.

“Next year (FY26) we're looking at roughly around a full year. Given that most of the shops are coming in the second half of the year, our revenue target is roughly around about ₹600-odd crore (from IPs and franchisees),” Singh said.

The move pits Adani against the Tata Group and Reliance that run brands such as Starbucks, Croma and Marks & Spencers at airports. Last year, it acquired brands such as Le Marche and Cococart. It has registered IPs of 15 brands ranging from bookstore brand Toyshire and Indian mithai Sweet Cart to liquor store House of Elixir and convenience store format On365 on lines of Dollar Store.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Bengaluru airport, Menzies Aviation unveils greenfield domestic cargo terminal

ANEES HUSSAIN
Bengaluru, February 27

BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BIAL) and Menzies Aviation have launched the country's largest greenfield domestic cargo terminal (DCT) at Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (KIAB/BLR Airport).

Spanning 245,000 sq ft across seven acres, the terminal has a peak handling capacity of 360,000 metric tonnes, expandable to 400,000 metric tonnes. Equipped with 42 truck docks, over 400 cargo bins, X-ray-integrated conveyors, and 30ULD stations, the facility also features real-time data capture with 40 handheld terminals and self-service kiosks for agents.

"Previously, our total cargo capacity was 750,000 metric tonnes. This terminal adds another 360,000 to 400,000 metric tonnes, pushing our overall capac-



The terminal has a peak handling capacity of 360,000 metric tonne, expandable to 400,000 metric tonnes

ity beyond 1 million metric tonnes," said Satyaki Raghunath, COO, BIAL. He anticipates the airport will handle 1 million metric tonne of cargo and serve 80-90 million passengers by 2030, ultimately reaching a saturation capacity of over

100 million passengers and 1.5 million metric tonnes of cargo.

Bengaluru Airport now connects directly to over 100 destinations—75 domestic and 31 international—via 38 passenger airlines and 12 dedicated

cargo airlines. It remains the country's third busiest airport for both passenger and cargo traffic and the only airport in South India with two independent parallel runways.

"Domestic cargo growth is fueled by express shipments and perishable goods. E-commerce giants like Amazon and Flipkart depend on air cargo for rapid deliveries, while fresh produce, seafood, and pharmaceuticals require efficient logistics solutions," Raghunath added.

Built to Indian Green Building Council standards, the terminal integrates eco-friendly features such as skylights, advanced ventilation, water conservation measures, and energy-efficient infrastructure.

BIAL is a joint venture between Fairfax India (64%), Airports Authority of India (13%), and Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (13%).



Corporate Communications Directorate

GREATER KASHMIR

SRINAGAR

27 FEBRUARY 2025

Higher tariffs will increase domestic airfares at Delhi airport by 1.5-2%: DIAL

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, Feb 26

The proposed tariff hike at the Delhi airport will result in a 1.5 to 2 per cent increase in domestic airfares for passengers, according to a top official.

The Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which is operating the Indra Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, has proposed different user fees for economy and business class passengers as well as for peak and off-peak hours.

The airport has an annual passenger handling capacity of around 109 million.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria on Wednesday said the Yield Per Passenger (YPP) will rise to Rs 370 once the higher tariffs are approved from the current level of Rs 145.

YPP includes airline and

passenger charges. The proposed increase is around 140 per cent compared to the level of 2006, when DIAL, a consortium led by the GMR Group, had taken over the airport.

"Out of Rs 370, as suggested by AERA, about 30 per cent should be towards airline charges and 70 per cent towards passenger charges... now, it is 68 per cent airline charges and 32 per cent passenger charges," Jaipuria said at a media briefing.

With the higher tariffs, he said the maximum increase on average on domestic fares will be 1.52 per cent and on international fares, it will be less than 1 per cent.

Consultations are going on with respect to the tariff proposal submitted to the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA). The proposal is for the period April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2029.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

चेन्नई एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ान यात्री कैफे की शुरुआत यात्रियों को सस्ते दामों पर उपलब्ध होंगी खाद्य वस्तुएं

एजेसी | चेन्नई

देश के एयरपोर्ट पर किफायती दाम में यात्रियों के लिए खाना-पीना उपलब्ध कराने के लिए केंद्र सरकार की ओर से उड़ान यात्री कैफे की शुरुआत की गई है। इसी के तहत केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने चेन्नई एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ान यात्री कैफे का उद्घाटन किया जो भारतीय हवाई अड्डों पर इस तरह की दूसरी सुविधा है। इससे पहले 19 दिसंबर 2024 को कोलकाता के नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के 100वाँ वर्षगांठ पर वहां उड़ान यात्री कैफे खोला गया था। तब से कोलकाता हवाई अड्डे का यह कैफे यात्रियों में काफी लोकप्रिय है और वे इसकी गुणवत्ता, स्वाद और कीमत को लेकर बेहद संतुष्ट रहे हैं। यात्रियों की मांग के बाद इस पहल को पूरे देश में विस्तारित किया जा रहा है।

केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री नायडू ने चेन्नई एयरपोर्ट पर बढ़ाई सुविधा



अन्य हवाई अड्डों पर भी सुविधा आरंभ करने की मांग



कम कीमतों में यात्रियों को मिलेंगी खान-पान की चीजें

हवाई अड्डे के बुनियादी ढांचे का आधुनिकीकरण कर रहे

उन्होंने कहा कि यात्री कैफे, उड़ान योजना (उड़ें देश का आम नागरिक) की भावना के अनुरूप है, जिसका उद्देश्य हवाई यात्रा को सबके लिए सुलभ बनाना और हवाई अड्डे के बुनियादी ढांचे का आधुनिकीकरण करना है।

नायडू ने बताया कि उड़ान यात्री कैफे पौरुष मोदी की हवाई यात्रा को सबके लिए अधिक सुविधाजनक, सुलभ और किफायती बनाने के समावेशी उड़ान दृष्टि योजना के अनुरूप है। कोलकाता पर कैफे खोले जाने के बाद यात्रियों ने इस सुविधा की मांग की थी।



डिजी यात्रा और ई-गेट्स के माध्यम से सहूलियतें बढ़ाई जा रही

मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार यहां यात्री सुविधा बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है और डिजी यात्रा (वेहरे से यात्रियों की पहचान और टर्मिनल में प्रवेश तथा बोर्डिंग की प्रक्रिया तेज की जाएगी।

विकासकर्ता कंपनियों ने यमुना प्राधिकरण से पहले चरण की जमीन पर कब्जा लिया नोएडा एयरपोर्ट शुरू होने से पहले फिल्म सिटी का शिलान्यास होगा



ग्रेटर नोएडा, चरिष्ठसंवाददाता। यमुना प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र में बनने वाली अंतरराष्ट्रीय फिल्म सिटी का शिलान्यास नोएडा एयरपोर्ट शुरू होने से पहले होगा। यह जानकारी फिल्म निर्माता बोनी कपूर ने गुरुवार को दी। वह पहले चरण के तहत फिल्म सिटी की 230 एकड़ जमीन का भौतिक कब्जा लेने के लिए ग्रेटर नोएडा पहुंचे थे।

बोनी कपूर ने बताया कि फिल्म सिटी में साउंड प्रूफ दीर्घा (गैलरी) बनेगी, ताकि विमानों के उतरने और उड़ने से शूटिंग के दौरान शोर या फिर अन्य प्रकार की बाधा उत्पन्न न हो। शूटिंग देखने वाले आने लोगों के शोर से डायलॉग में विघ्न न पड़े। उन्होंने



यमुना विकास प्राधिकरण के दफ्तर में गुरुवार को सीईओ डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह से फिल्म सिटी की जमीन का कब्जा लेते बोनी कपूर और आशीष भूटानी। • हिन्दुस्तान

जमीन का भौतिक कब्जा लेने के साथ ही निर्माण शुरू करने की तैयारी शुरू कर दी है। बोनी कपूर की कंपनी बेव्यू प्रोजेक्ट लिमिटेड और भूटानी ग्रुप मिलकर फिल्म सिटी का निर्माण करेंगे। चूंकि फिल्म सिटी एयरपोर्ट के काफी नजदीक है, इस कारण विमानों का शोर

रोकने के लिए साउंड प्रूफ गैलरी बनाई जाएगी। उन्होंने इस फिल्म सिटी प्रोजेक्ट के जरिए उत्तर प्रदेश को बॉलीवुड और इंटरनेशनल सिनेमा के लिए एक नया हब बनाने की प्रतिबद्धता जताते हुए कहा कि वह अपनी आगामी सात में से एक फिल्म की शूटिंग इसी फिल्म सिटी

मुख्यमंत्री से नींव रखने के लिए समय मांगा: बोनी कपूर

बोनी कपूर ने बताया कि मार्च के अंतिम या फिर अप्रैल के पहले सप्ताह में नई फिल्म सिटी की नींव रखी जाएगी। इसके शिलान्यास के लिए मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ से समय मांगा गया है। वहीं, भूटानी इंप्रॉव के सीईओ आशीष भूटानी ने कहा कि नई फिल्म सिटी का खाका तैयार है। इसके लिए कई देशों की फिल्म सिटी का अध्ययन किया गया। विदेश की तुलना में यहां कम लागत में उन्नत तकनीक से फिल्म बनाना आसान होगा। एक्टिंग की दुनिया में कदम रखने वाले नौजवानों को प्रशिक्षण भी दिया जाएगा।

में करेंगे। वहीं, यमुना प्राधिकरण के सीईओ डॉ. अरुणवीर सिंह ने कहा कि बोनी कपूर और आशीष भूटानी को प्रथम चरण की जमीन का कब्जा दे दिया गया है। अगले महीने से कंपनी को निर्माण कार्य शुरू करना होगा। इससे लाखों रोजगार के अवसर भी पैदा होंगे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

उड़ान यात्री कैफे में मिलेगा किफायती नाश्ता

नई दिल्ली। देश के हवाई अड्डों पर किफायती दाम में यात्रियों के लिए नाश्ता और भोजन उपलब्ध कराने के लिए केंद्र सरकार की ओर से उड़ान यात्री कैफे की शुरुआत की गई है। इसी के तहत केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने गुरुवार को चेन्नई एयरपोर्ट पर उड़ान यात्री कैफे का उद्घाटन किया। इस कैफे में यात्रियों को 10 रुपये में पानी की बोतल, 10 रुपये की चाय और 20 रुपये का समोसा मिलेगा। नायडू ने मीडिया से बात करते हुए कहा कि केंद्र सरकार का उद्देश्य है कि हवाई यात्रा हर नागरिक की पहुंच में हो।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

तैयारी: पीडब्ल्यूडी ने शुरू किया उन्नयन, 40 दिन तक उड़ानें बंद खजुराहो की तरह ढाना हवाई पट्टी का होगा विस्तार, जल्द उड़ान भरेंगे 12 सीटर विमान

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

सागर, ढाना हवाई पट्टी को एयरपोर्ट के रूप में विकसित करने का प्लान है, लोक निर्माण विभाग ने 6.50 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से इसके उन्नयन का काम कर दिया है, जिसमें मुख्य रूप से रनवे की चौड़ाई 23 से बढ़ाकर 30 मीटर कर दी गई है। डेवलपमेंट के चलते यहां पर संचालित पायलट ट्रेनिंग सेंटर भी करीब 40 दिन तक बंद रहा, लेकिन अब वापस प्लाईंग शुरू हो गई है। इसके बाद यह कहा जा रहा है कि यदि कोशिश की जाए तो ढाना



एयरस्ट्रिप से भी खजुराहो, रीवा, सिंगरौली की तरह 12 सीटर छोटे विमानों की उड़ान शुरू कराई जा सकती है। चूंकि मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव ने भी कुछ समय पहले ढाना हवाई पट्टी से उड़ान योजना के तहत छोटे विमानों को शुरू करने की बात कही थी, इसलिए उम्मीद ज्यादा है।

रनवे की लंबाई बढ़ाकर
बना सकते हैं एयरपोर्ट

सागर में आयोजित रीजनल इंडस्ट्री कॉन्क्लेव में विमानन विभाग के प्रमुख सचिव संजय कुमार शुक्ल ने ढाना एयरस्ट्रिप को एयरपोर्ट के रूप में डेवलप करने की बात कही थी। रनवे की लंबाई 969 मीटर है, जिसे भविष्य में बढ़ाकर 1.75 किमी से 2 किमी तक किया जा सकता है। क्योंकि एयरपोर्ट के लिए कम से कम 1.5 किमी लंबे रनवे की जरूरत होती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

एयरपोर्ट को सैद्धांतिक मंजूरी देने पर किया जा रहा विमर्श : नायडू

चेन्नई. केंद्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री किजरापु राममोहन नायडू ने गुरुवार को कहा कि परंदूर ग्रीनफील्ड हवाई अड्डे के लिए सैद्धांतिक मंजूरी पर विचार-विमर्श किया जा रहा है और इस बारे में दो सप्ताह के भीतर नई दिल्ली में समीक्षा बैठक निर्धारित है। मंत्री ने गुरुवार को चेन्नई एयरपोर्ट पर इस विषय पर पूछे गए सवाल के जवाब में कहा, राज्य ने पहले ही साइट के लिए मंजूरी हासिल कर ली है और सैद्धांतिक मंजूरी अनुमोदन का अगला चरण है। नए हवाई अड्डे के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण के बारे में परंदूर के निवासियों द्वारा उठाई गई चिंताओं पर, मंत्री ने स्पष्ट किया कि साइट का चयन राज्य सरकार का निर्णय था, जबकि केंद्र की भूमिका व्यवहार्यता अध्ययन और तकनीकी मंजूरी तक सीमित थी। स्थानीय विरोध और भूमि संबंधी चिंताओं को दूर करने की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार की थी। चेन्नई हवाई अड्डे के विस्तार के बारे में मंत्री ने कहा कि यात्रियों की मौजूदा क्षमता को सालाना 22 मिलियन से बढ़ाकर 35 मिलियन करने के प्रयास चल रहे हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

27 FEBRUARY 2025

Delhi airport T2 shutdown

■ **NEW DELHI:** Delhi airport operator DIAL on Wednesday said Terminal 2 (T2) is expected to be shut down for four to five months from April. One of the runways will also be closed for upgrade during the period. The Delhi airport has three terminals — T1, T2 and T3. The work at T1 is expected to be completed by March 15 and it will be opened for flights after getting requisite approvals. During the shutdown, the capacity of around 15 million passengers at T2 will be moved to T1. A section of T3 will also be converted for international flights. [rtn](#)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

27 FEBRUARY 2025

DRI seizes 3.5kg gold at airport

Venkadesan.S
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a gang of three from Mumbai carrying 3.5kg of gold in their rectum.

Based on a tip-off, DRI sleuths camped at the TI domestic terminal and intercepted a group of passengers arriving from Mumbai on an

THREE DETAINED

Indigo flight. They were taken to the DRI office in T Nagar, where 3.5kg of gold paste worth ₹2.8 crore was retrieved.

The three men were identified as Varun, Hidayathullah, and Mohammed Iqbal.

Customs officials said tight vigil has made it difficult for smugglers to bring gold directly to Chennai from the Middle East and other countries. "Smugglers have

opted for not-so-risky domestic routes for the business. Mumbai is a larger and busier airport compared to Chennai. It is easier to smuggle gold into Mumbai airport. From there, the gold is distributed to other regions. This is one such case," said a DRI official.

All three detained men were carriers and natives of Chennai who flew to Mumbai to bring this consignment. "It is safer to bring gold by air since it is quick and the chances of getting caught or losing the precious metal are minimal. Also, there must be a specific demand and bigger profit margin for them to choose the air route," the official said.

All three will be produced before the court for judicial remand, said DRI. Though smuggling gold from other domestic destinations was common until a year ago, such an attempt was reported after a hiatus. Further investigation is underway.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Special meeting in Delhi for in-principle approval for second airport in Chennai: Aviation Minister

Our Bureau
Chennai

A special meeting will be held in Delhi within two weeks for the in-principle approval of the greenfield airport planned near Chennai, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Thursday.

The second airport at Parandur has been under discussion for quite some time, and the site clearance has been given. The second stage is giving in-principle approval, he told newsmen.

Naidu was here to launch the Udan Yatri Cafe at the international airport.

Tamil Nadu had sent a request for in-principle approval, on which the Centre had done a thorough consultation.

"We are following the due process. In Delhi, we will have a special meeting for the in-principle approval," he added.



Ram Mohan Naidu,
Civil Aviation Minister

To a question on villagers protesting against the project in and around Parandur, the Minister said, "While the Centre wants more airports in the country, the States are the ones selecting the project sites."

"Any issues related to the land lies with the State government. Wherever they show us the land, we do the feasibility study," he said.

The Tamil Nadu government had said the Parandur airport would serve as the second airport near Chennai.

It envisaged an investment of ₹20,000 crore to annually handle 10 crore passengers. It will have two runways, terminal buildings, taxiways, an apron, and a cargo terminal.

The Ministry of Defence has granted a no objection certificate for site clearance at Parandur.

COIMBATORE AIRPORT

On other airports in Tamil Nadu, the Minister said Coimbatore is a high demand airport with a lot of activity.

The Centre wanted to improve the operations and had requested the State government for some land, which they agreed recently to provide. "Once that is done we will go for expansion, then more aircraft and more activity can happen from there," Naidu said.

Under the regional connectivity scheme Udan (RCS-Udan), three airports — Neyveli, Salem and Vellore — are being developed

in Tamil Nadu. One airline plans to start operations between Chennai and Vellore.

"We are waiting for the operational licence," he said.

The RCS-Udan is designed to start in airports with minimum or no activity by providing viability gap funding for three years to help airlines kick-start operations, he said.

HIGH AIR FARES

On the government's intervention to control the increase in air fares, the Minister said that the ticket fare system works according to demand.

"We are trying to sensitise the airlines and requesting them to keep it reasonable. Internationally, all countries have kept it open. There is no regulation of airfares anywhere because we want the competition to play it. It ultimately has to be an advantage for the passenger who is travelling," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Citing privacy laws, European airlines refuse to share passenger data with govt

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

European airlines have informed the Indian government about their inability to share passenger name record (PNR) data citing their privacy regulations and the absence of a bilateral agreement between the European Union and India for transfer of information.

An airline PNR contains details such as passenger name, contact details, itinerary and can include information such as frequent flyer status, meal preference, wheelchair request, etc.

As per a CBIC communication of last December, PNR-GOV (PNR Government) system is to be rolled out from April 1, and this requires airlines to share passenger data with the govern-



All airlines have been told to share passenger data for the PNR-GOV rollout from April 1

ment. This is to allow the Customs Department to do risk analysis of international travellers and enhance its anti-smuggling capabilities.

Twenty airlines are participating in a Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs-led pilot programme for collection of PNR data. While Indian and Asian airlines have come on board for the trials that began on February 10, European airlines have given it a miss. "We are in

contact with the Indian authorities, and they are aware of our restrictions," said a senior official of a European airline. "No discussion has taken place concerning the implementation of the PNR-GOV system between the Indian authorities and the EU. At the moment, there is no international agreement between India and EU concerning transfer of PNR data," an EU Commission spokesperson said in an emailed response.

COMPLIANCE BURDEN

At present, 70 countries have programmes in place for collection of PNR data. While data protection laws in 15 countries are deemed "adequate" by the EU, it has agreements with only three countries (Australia, Canada and the US) for sharing passenger data. This complexity

poses challenges for airlines and increases the compliance burden.

"Indian authorities have been proactively engaging the industry on the implementation of the PNRGOV system since it was announced in 2022. This is welcomed by the industry. Regarding PNR data, what the industry needs is a single window for transmission of passenger data and must be in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) norms. Sufficient lead time should also be provided before implementation. This is indeed what we are seeing in India," said Amitabh Khosla, IATA's Country Director for India.

IATA has asked the ICAO to look into these issues and to explore potential solutions, though this will take time, he added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

27 FEBRUARY 2025

SpiceJet sees net worth turns positive

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, FEB. 26

SpiceJet Airline reported improved financial performance during the third quarter and said its net worth turned positive for the first time in a decade.

The airline reported profit after tax of ₹26 crore and revenue of

₹1,651 crore driven by strong passenger demand, improved yields, and enhanced operational efficiency. Passenger load factor (PLF) stood at an impressive 87 per cent.

"The airline's successful ₹3,000 crore qualified institutional placement (QIP) has significantly strengthened its financial

position. This has enabled the resolution of major legacy liabilities, fleet expansion, and accelerated operational growth," SpiceJet said.

Company achieved a positive net worth of ₹70 crore. "We have significantly strengthened our balance sheet, resolved key disputes, and are con-

tinuously expanding our fleet. We are in discussions with original equipment manufacturers for advanced deliveries of aircraft and are actively exploring both organic and inorganic growth opportunities," said Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director, SpiceJet.

The company has successfully settled multiple outstanding disputes with aircraft and engine lessors, amounting to ₹1,700 crore at ₹1,233 crore, resulting in a financial benefit of ₹467 crore, SpiceJet said.

During the quarter SpiceJet inducted 10 aircrafts in its fleet.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

27 FEBRUARY 2025

HOTEL ROOM RENTS, FLIGHT FARES SOAR ON KUMBH DEMAND

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, FEB. 26

Mahakumbh, which saw crores of pilgrims thronging in, witnessed air fares and hotel tariffs shooting up multi-fold. For the upcoming summer, the travel sector is seeing an increase in enquiries, but the geo-political tensions and uncertainties are working against bookings.

Airfares from different cities in the country to Varanasi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad airports, which are closer to Prayagraj were up more than 30 per cent during the Mahakumbh days. The hotel rates went up over 10-fold in many cases.

"All the flights were operating in full occupancies and the rates were at least 30 per cent more. We have seen 3-star hotels charging upto 38,000 per night against ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 charged in regular times," said Iqbal Mulla, president, Global Tourism Council.

"Higher disposable income due to higher rate of tax exemptions is supporting travel industry. Enquiries are higher for international destinations," said Mulla.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

27 FEBRUARY 2025

Flyers stranded for hours as flight fails to take off to reach Prayagraj

M. SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Irate passengers staged a protest against the negligent attitude of the SpiceJet airlines at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad on Wednesday for causing inordinate delay to take off the flight to reach Prayagraj.

Trouble started when the airlines announced last

● **TROUBLE STARTED** when the airlines announced last minute flight delay to take off when passengers went inside after obtaining their boarding passes.

minute flight delay to take off when passengers went inside after obtaining their boarding passes. This resulted in heated arguments between the staff and the passengers,

who demanded to inform them about the exact time for the flight to take off from RGIA.

The flight was supposed to take off as per its schedule at 10 am. As it did not happen, passengers became frustrated when the airlines announced the delay in flight service. Passengers criticized the airlines for causing problems to them and leaving them stranded.

A few passengers raised

'Hara Hara Mahadev...' slogans demanding that the airlines ensure hassle-free journey to reach Prayagraj

As it was the last day for taking a holy dip at Triveni Sangam during Mahakumbh mela in Prayagraj, several passengers booked flight tickets but the delay left them annoyed. They alleged that the airlines could not reveal proper information about the service.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

कल से हिंडन से गोवा, बेंगलुरु व कोलकाता की उड़ानें होंगी शुरू

जागरण संवाददाता, गाजियाबाद: हिंडन एयरपोर्ट सिविल टर्मिनल से शनिवार से गोवा, बेंगलुरु व कोलकाता के लिए उड़ान शुरू हो जाएंगी। शुक्रवार दोपहर 12 से एक बजे के बीच एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की टीम निरीक्षण कर व्यवस्था देखेगी। जो भी कमियां होंगी उन्हें पूरा किया जाएगा।

बताया जा रहा है कि पहले दिन सांसद अतुल गर्व व कई विधायक भी सफर करेंगे। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट प्राधिकरण के निदेशक उमेश यादव ने बताया कि एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस को बेंगलुरु, गोवा और कोलकाता के लिए उड़ान की अनुमति मिली थी। रोजाना तीनों शहरों के लिए हिंडन एयरपोर्ट सिविल टर्मिनल से फ्लाइट मिलेगी। जिन शहरों के लिए फ्लाइट जाएगी उनसे हिंडन के लिए रोजाना आएगी। तीनों शहरों के लिए करीब 120 से 150 टिकट की बुकिंग हो चुकी है।



हिंडन एयरपोर्ट सिविल टर्मिनल

इन शहरों के लिए हैं पहले से उड़ान

हिंडन से अभी तक आदमपुर, किशनगढ़, नांदेड़, लुधियाना, बटिंडा के लिए छोटी उड़ान हो रही है। अन्य शहरों के लिए भी गाजियाबाद की कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाने के लिए लंबे समय से प्रक्रिया जारी थी। गोवा, बेंगलुरु व कोलकाता के लिए फ्लाइट सेवा शुरू होने से लोगों को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी।

अभिमत

कम नहीं हैं विमानन क्षेत्र की चुनौतियां

हाल ही में एयर इंडिया की सर्विस को लेकर एक बार फिर विवाद खड़ा हो गया। इस विवाद के पीछे वजह यह है कि अबकी बार सवाल मध्य प्रदेश के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री और केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान द्वारा उठया गया है। यह पहली बार नहीं है, जब विमान सेवाओं पर सवाल उठया गया हो। इससे पहले भी अनेकों बार देश में खराब होती विमान सेवाओं के यात्री लंबे समय से शिकायत करते रहे हैं और विमानन सर्विस पर सवाल उठाते रहे हैं। ताज मामला मौजूदा सरकार के वरिष्ठ मंत्री का है, इसलिए शायद यह मामला ज्यादा चर्चा में आ गया है। आज देखने में आता है कि विमानों में भी हालत कमोबेश किसी बस जैसे हैं। शिवराज सिंह चौहान के बाद अब पंजाब बीजेपी के प्रमुख सुनील जाखड़ ने भी चंडीगढ़-दिल्ली उड़ान की टूटी सीटों की तस्वीरें साझा की हैं। पंजाब बीजेपी अध्यक्ष सुनील जाखड़ ने भी हाल ही में फ्लाइट की टूटी हुई सीटों की तस्वीरें शेयर कीं। यह फ्लाइट उन्होंने जनवरी में ली थी। जाखड़ ने बताया कि 27 जनवरी की फ्लाइट में उन्होंने टूटी सीटों के बारे में केविन क्रू को बताया था। इस पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए एयरलाइन ने जवाब दिया था कि उनकी फ्लाइट्स की सीटों में निकालने वाले कुशन होते हैं। हमारे लिए यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सबसे जरूरी है। जाखड़ ने इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया पर चलता है रवैया अपनाने का आरोप लगाया। उन्होंने अपील की कि दोनों एयरलाइन्स उड़ानों के सुचारू संचालन के साथ-साथ सुरक्षा मानकों से समझौता न करें। पाठकों को यह भी बताता चलूँ कि जाखड़ का यह

बयान केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान के एयर इंडिया की शिकायत के एक दिन बाद आया है। चौहान को भोपाल से दिल्ली की हॉलिया उड़ान में टूटी हुई सीट मिली थी। दरअसल केंद्रीय मंत्री को भोपाल से दिल्ली जाते समय एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट में टूटी सीट मिली तो इस पर उन्होंने नाराजगी ज़ाहिर करते हुए पूछ था कि क्या यह यात्रियों से चोटिंग नहीं है, इसके बाद एयर इंडिया ने भी सोशल मीडिया पर चौहान से खेद प्रकट किया और यह वादा किया कि

पोस्ट के बाद सोशल मीडिया पर लोगों की प्रतिक्रियाओं की बाढ़ सी आ गई और लोगों ने रेल और बस सेवाओं में महसूस की जाने वाली अनेक समस्याओं की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया। यहां तक कि अनेक लोगों ने एयर इंडिया को निजी हथों में सीपने से सरकार के फैसले पर भी सवाल खड़े कर दिए। पूरा पैसा वसूलने के बाद यात्रियों को अच्छी सीट मिलनी चाहिए, क्यों कि यदि ऐसा नहीं होता है तो यात्रियों को यात्रा के दौरान अनेक प्रकार की

कष्टदायक सीट पर बैठना अनैतिक है। यहां प्रश्न यह उठता है कि जब विमान में यात्रियों को ऐसी परेशानी झेलनी पड़ रही है तो यातायात के अन्य साधनों की परिकल्पना बखूबी की जा सकती है। विदित हो कि प्रयोजकता विमान में यात्रा के समय यातायात के किसी भी अन्य साधनों की तुलना में कहीं अधिक या एक बड़ी धनराशि चुकता है, ऐसे में क्या उसे सुविधाएं प्राप्त करने का हक या अधिकार नहीं है, यह प्रश्न यह एक यथ प्रश्न है। एविएशन की निवामक संस्था डीजीसीए ने तत्परता दिखाते हुए तत्काल एयर इंडिया को नोटिस भेज दिया है। नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय नागरिक उड्डयन के क्षेत्र में नियामक निकाय है, जो मुख्य रूप से सुरक्षा मुद्दों से निपटता है। यहां यह उल्लेखनीय है कि डीजीसीए की ओर से वर्ष 2022 में जारी डायरेक्टिव में यह स्पष्ट तौर पर कहा जा चुका है कि एयरलाइन कोई ऐसी सीट नहीं बेचेगा जो सर्विस के लायक न हो। जानकारी के अनुसार क्रू मैम्बर्स ने मैनजमेंट को खराब सीटों के बारे में जानकारी भी दे दी थी, लेकिन इसके बावजूद उन सीटों के लिए टिकट बुक की गईं। वास्तव में प्रबंधन को इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिए था। बहरहाल यह भी एक आम सोच रही है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर की इस कंपनी को प्राइवेट हाथों में देने से सबकुछ ठीक हो जाएगा, लेकिन सिर्फ पब्लिक से प्राइवेट में आ जाने भर से किसी कंपनी की बेहतर सुनिश्चित नहीं हो जाती। आज विमानन क्षेत्र में अनेक प्रकार की चुनौतियां हैं।

—सुनील कुमार महाला
(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)



केंद्रीय मंत्री की एक्स पर पोस्ट के बाद सोशल मीडिया पर लोगों की प्रतिक्रियाओं की बाढ़ सी आ गई और लोगों ने रेल और बस सेवाओं में महसूस की जाने वाली अनेक समस्याओं की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया।

भविष्य में ऐसा नहीं होगा। कृषि मंत्री ने एक्स पर लिखा मैंने विमान कर्मियों से पूछा कि खराब सीट थी तो आवर्तित क्यों की, उन्होंने बताया कि प्रबंधन को पहले सूचित कर दिया था कि ये सीट ठीक नहीं है, इसका टिकट नहीं बेचना चाहिए। ऐसी और भी सीटें हैं। केंद्रीय मंत्री की एक्स पर

समस्याओं से रूबरू होना पड़ता है। विशेषकर जब कोई यात्री लंबी यात्रा करता है तो उसे बहुत परेशान होना पड़ता है। इस संदर्भ में स्वयं कृषि मंत्री ने यह बात लिखी है कि यात्रा के दौरान मुझे बैठने में कष्ट की चिंता नहीं है, लेकिन यात्रियों से पूरा पैसा वसूलने के बाद उन्हें खराब और



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Domestic Air Traffic in Jan Rises 11.3% On-year

New Delhi: Domestic air traffic grew 11.28% to 14.6 million in January compared to the year-ago period, according to official data.

IndiGo saw its market share climb to 65.2% while that of Air India Group declined to 25.7% last month. Akasa Air and SpiceJet saw their respective market share increase to 4.7% and 3.2%.

“Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January 2025 were 14.6 million as against 13.13 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 11.28% and monthly growth of 11.28%,” DGCA said on Thursday.

Last month, the overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines stood at 1.62%, with the highest cancellation rate for Fly Big at 17.74% followed by Fly91 (5.09%) and Alliance Air (4.35%).

The data released by the Directo-



Cancellations impacted 41,119 passengers and airlines shelled out ₹46.46 lakh towards compensation

metro airports—Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

In January, flight cancellations impacted 41,119 passengers and airlines shelled out ₹46.46 lakh towards compensation and facilities. Flight delays affected 1,78,934 passengers and airlines paid ₹2.38 crore towards facilitation. —PTI

rate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed that IndiGo recorded the highest On Time Performance (OTP) at 75.5% while that of Akasa Air stood at 71.5% in January.

Air India Group's OTP was at 69.8%, Alliance Air at 57.6% and SpiceJet at 54.8%. The OTP is computed for six



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Domestic air traffic rises 11% in January

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, February 27

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

27 FEBRUARY 2025

IndiGo to damp lease 3 more Boeing 787-9

PTI

NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Wednesday said it will induct three more Boeing 787-9 planes in its fleet under a damp lease arrangement with Norse Atlantic Airways, as it prepares to launch flights to Europe from mid-summer this year. Currently, the airline operates two widebody Boeing 777 planes, wet leased from Turkish Airlines, to Istanbul from Delhi and Mumbai. Earlier this month, IndiGo had announced signing a deal for one Boeing 787 with Norse Atlantic Airways. IndiGo on Wednesday said it is facing a fine of nearly Rs 14 lakh in relation to input tax credit and is evaluating necessary legal recourse.



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THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

28 FEBRUARY 2025

AI flight connection time from UK reduced

NEW DELHI: Air India on Thursday said connection time for passengers taking flights from the UK and the rest of Europe to Australia and South East Asia via India has reduced to two-and-a-half hours. "The optimised flight schedule makes AI flights among fastest for travel between Europe and Australia, South-East Asia, with transit times at Air India's hubs in Delhi and Mumbai," the airline said in a release. *ENS*

Domestic air traffic rises 11% in January

NEW DELHI: Domestic air traffic grew 11.28% to 1.46 crore in January compared to the year-ago period, according to official data. IndiGo saw its market share climb to 65.2% while that of Air India Group declined to 25.7% last month. Akasa Air and SpiceJet saw their respective market share increased to 4.7% and 3.2%. Last month, the overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines stood at 1.62%. *ENS*



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

26 FEBRUARY 2025

जयपुर-मुंबई उड़ान में तकनीकी खराबी पांच घंटे विमान में बैठाए रखा, फिर रद्द की फ्लाइट

जयपुर @ पत्रिका. जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर हवाईयात्रियों को आए दिन परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। मंगलवार को एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के मुंबई जाने वाले विमान में तकनीकी खामी आने के कारण यात्रियों को पांच घंटे विमान में बैठाए रखा। इससे यात्रियों ने एयरलाइन स्टाफ से दूसरे विमान का इंतजाम करने की बात कही लेकिन कार्मिकों ने कोई इंतजाम नहीं किया। इससे यात्रियों ने विमान के भीतर ही हंगामा कर दिया। आखिरकार फ्लाइट को रद्द कर दिया गया। हंगामे के बाद एयरलाइंस स्टाफ यात्रियों



वीडियो देखने के लिए इस क्यूआर कोड को

स्कैन करें

को अराइवल एरिया में लाया। यात्रियों को शाम छह बजे दूसरी फ्लाइट से रवाना किया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

27 FEBRUARY 2025

SpiceJet back in black with profit of ₹26cr

New Delhi: Budget airline SpiceJet on Wednesday reported a profit after tax of ₹26 crore for the three months ended December 2024, helped by an overall improved performance.

The carrier had posted a loss of ₹300 crore in the year-ago period.

"Total revenue surged by 35 per cent sequentially to ₹1,651 crore, driven by strong passenger demand, improved yields and enhanced operational efficiency. Passenger Load Factor (PLF) stood at an impressive 87 per cent," the airline said in a release.

Total revenue stood at ₹1,077 crore in the 2024 September quarter.

However, compared with ₹2,149 crore reported in the three months ended December 2023, the total revenue is lower in the latest December quarter.

The results for the third quarter of the current financial year were scheduled to be announced on Tuesday.

However, the meeting of the company's board of directors, through video con-

REPORT CARD		
Quarter ended December		
(₹ crore)	2023	2024
Revenue	2149	1651
Net profit	(300)	26

ferencing, started at 1.30 pm and ended only at 11.50 pm on Tuesday, according to a filing made to the BSE at 12.51 am on Wednesday.

In the 2024 December quarter, the airline, which had been facing multiple headwinds, raised ₹3,000 crore from qualified institutional investors.

"For the first time in a decade, the company turned net worth positive—an important milestone that underscores the success of our turnaround strategy. The past is behind us and we are now firmly focused on building a stronger, more resilient future for SpiceJet," its chairman and managing director Ajay Singh said in the release.

The net worth stood at ₹70

crore in the latest December quarter.

SpiceJet also said that ₹170 crore was spent for ungrounding of aircraft.

The revenue available per seat kilometre (RASK) stood at ₹4.57 in the third quarter of this financial year.

"Strong demand and effective network optimisation are expected to drive a double-digit growth in RASKs during the fourth quarter of FY25 compared with the previous year," SpiceJet chief business officer Debojo Maharshi said.

According to a regulatory filing, the airlines earned a net profit (after comprehensive income) of ₹26.26 crore and incurred a net loss of ₹270.83 crore during the quarter ended and nine months ended December 31, 2024, respectively.

As of December 31, 2024, the airline had "negative retained earnings of ₹80,834.09 million, positive net worth of ₹697.32 million and the current liabilities have exceeded current assets by ₹38,180.56 million," the filing said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

27 FEBRUARY 2025

4-hr flight delay irks Kumbh pilgrims

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Several devotees on Wednesday expressed their frustration at the RGI Airport over a private airlines as the flight from Hyderabad to Varanasi faced a delay of nearly four hours. The delay affected devotees who planned to take a holy dip at Prayagraj, as it was the final day of the Maha Kumbh Mela.

Devotees with confirmed bookings on SpiceJet reached the airport early and completed their check-in formalities, receiving their boarding passes too. The flight was to depart at 10 am with 191 passengers. However, airline staff made an unexpected announcement about the flight delay moments before the scheduled departure time, which triggered frustration among the travellers.

The passengers claimed that the staff were unresponsive to their queries, leaving them stranded for 3 hours and 43 minutes. Many expressed their disappointment, stating that they had paid high fares only to face such inconvenience. The situation escalated into heated verbal exchanges between the disgruntled passengers and airline personnel. Finally, their flight took off at 1.43 pm.