



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

27 JULY 2025

LGBIA exhibits strong operational performance

1st quarter of current financial year



Construction under way at the new integrated terminal building of LGBIA airport, as on Saturday. – UB Photos

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 26: Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA), Guwahati, has demonstrated a strong operational performance in the first quarter of the current financial year (April to June 2025), posting significant year-on-year growth in both aircraft movements and passenger traffic.

“This performance reaffirms the airport’s role as a critical aviation hub in North-east India and reflects the increasing demand for air connectivity across the region. With continuous investments in infrastructure, technology, and passenger experience, LGBIA continues to support

the region’s economic integration with the rest of the country and abroad,” an LGBIA spokesperson said.

During the quarter under review, LGBIA handled 12,470 aircraft movements and 1.81 million passengers, both registering double-digit growth when compared with the same period last year.

The highest single-day passenger footfall was recorded on April 10, 2025, when 21,594 passengers passed through the terminal.

The top three destinations by passenger volume remained consistent – Delhi, Kolkata, and Bengaluru – reaffirming strong interconnectivity with major metro cities.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

Scent of travel

The next time you are flying out of Bengaluru's T2, a fragrance will greet you. Kempegowda International Airport



Bengaluru (BLR airport) has unveiled Dancing Bamboo, a signature fragrance developed in collaboration with Aéromé.

With this launch, BLR airport deepens its commitment to experiential innovation, adding olfactory design to its rich visual identity and brand promise of delivering magical experiences.

Shalini Rao, Chief Marketing Officer, BLR airport, says, "With our signature fragrance, we aim to transform that vision into a sensory journey that embodies the spirit of the airport — serene, rooted in nature, and quietly luxurious."

● SUSTAINABLE AVIATION

Cochin airport's carbon-smart mix

CLEAN TAKE-OFF. From green hydrogen to digital upgrades, India's first PPP airport bets on a future-ready flight plan



V Sajeew Kumar

Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), the first Indian airport set up under a public-private partnership model, is embarking on a major expansion drive focused on green energy, smart tech and integrated growth.

The plans include a dedicated IT park, a green hydrogen production facility and airport-wide digital upgrades, all of which are expected to usher CIAL into a new era of sustainable and tech-driven growth.

More than 150 projects have been envisaged. According to S Suhas, Managing Director of CIAL, the exercise goes beyond mere expansion of the airport's infrastructure.

"We are redefining the role of an airport in today's world. From green hydrogen production to advanced digital systems and the creation of a vibrant commercial ecosystem, each step is part of a larger vision: to integrate sustainability, technology and regional development into the core of airport operations. Our aim is to ensure that CIAL remains future-ready, efficient and deeply aligned with the evolving needs of passengers and partners alike," he said.

SMARTER, SAFER

The ₹200-crore digital infrastructure programme will harness smart technology to create a safer and seamless airport experience, he said. Moreover, CIAL is now part of an exclusive group of seven Indian airports that offer the Fast Track

Immigration — Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP).

CIAL is collaborating with BPCL to build a green hydrogen plant. Slated to be inaugurated by August, it will be the first ever hydrogen production facility at an airport globally. With an installed capacity of 1 MW and production capacity of 220 kg per day, the project is primarily targeted for green mobility solutions within and around the airport.

The initiative complements CIAL's legacy as a solar-powered airport and aligns with global carbon neutrality goals by promoting cleaner alternatives to conventional fuels, Suhas said.

MRO SERVICES

To position Kochi as a leading destination for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services in South Asia, catering to both domestic and foreign airlines, Cochin International Aviation Services, a subsidiary of CIAL, is constructing its third MRO hangar at an investment of ₹50 crore.

Currently, major aircraft maintenance hubs are located in Nagpur, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, while many Indian airlines continue to rely on international facilities in Singapore, UAE, and Sri Lanka, resulting in massive foreign exchange outflows. The expansion at Kochi aims to offer a competitive, high-quality alternative for MRO services within India, Suhas said.

This initiative supports the broader goals of the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programmes by enhancing domestic capabilities, reducing dependence on overseas service pro-



S Suhas, Managing Director, CIAL

viders and attracting overseas business to Indian soil, he added.

KEY WORKS

On the infrastructure front, CIAL is executing a diverse array of projects to strengthen aviation and allied sectors. The projects are designed to enhance capacity, improve efficiency, and generate long-term revenue.

The key works include an import cargo terminal (1 lakh sq ft); airport emergency services modernisation with the induction of the latest safety systems; perimeter intrusion detection system (PIDS); India's largest aero lounge — 0484 Aero Lounge; golf resorts; and the ongoing phase 1 of the international terminal (T3) expansion project.

The secondary runway project, with an estimated land acquisition value of ₹1,200 crore, is progressing, and plans for a railway overbridge and three new access

bridges are at an advanced stage.

CIAL aims to follow an aerropolis model by integrating commercial and lifestyle zones around the airport. These developments support Kerala's vision of becoming a global investment and tourism hub.

During FY2024-25 the airport handled 49,002 tonnes of international cargo and 16,648 tonnes of domestic cargo (up by 8 per cent year-on-year). CIAL also inaugurated a dedicated Animal Quarantine & Certification Services (AQCS) centre in October 2024, becoming the seventh Indian airport to offer pet import facilities, significantly easing international animal transport.

GREEN GOALS

Even as it expands, CIAL continues to hold firm to its green energy goals. The solar capacity has been scaled up to 50 MWp, producing over 2 lakh units per day; over 35 crore units of clean power generated; and 66,000 tonnes of carbon offset annually, equal to planting 3 million trees. Further investments are being planned to scale up renewable power use, reduce emissions, and conserve resources across all operational areas.

CIAL was designated as an authorised entry port for drugs and cosmetics under the amended Drugs & Cosmetics Act (1940). The airport also received the prestigious Authorised Economic Operator - LO (AEO-LO) status from the Directorate of International Customs, recognising the airport's high level of compliance with the WCO SAFE Framework and its allegiance to secure, efficient international supply chain practices.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

● GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY

Mangaluru airport awaits PoC status



STRATEGIC LOCATION. Mangaluru airport can serve as a transit point for connectivity to West Asia

AJ Vinayak

Stakeholders in coastal Karnataka want the State government to grant a point-of-call (PoC) status to Mangaluru International Airport — enabling foreign airlines to fly to, and from the city — for improved connectivity to the rest of the world. They point out that the PoC status would help unlock the region's full potential in several sectors, including technology, tourism, education and healthcare, to name a few.

Rajesh Acharya, a native of Udupi district who currently works in Singapore, rues that Mangaluru airport has been operating below its full potential. He wants the government to push Indian carriers to launch new routes and offer support for two years to assess the viability of these routes. Alternatively, he suggests granting a PoC to authorise foreign airlines to service destinations that Indian low-cost carriers avoid due to commercial reasons.

Mangaluru's connectivity to Southeast Asian destinations, particularly Singapore's Changi airport, needs to be developed urgently, he says. Airlines like Air Asia and Scoot may be convinced to explore the route, he adds, especially given that they have onward connectivity to several destinations in South Asia, the Far

East and Australia, and can benefit from the addition of fliers to, and from Mangaluru airport.

LONG-PENDING DEMAND

Trade and investments worth \$2 billion are long pending between Singapore and coastal Karnataka due to the lack of direct connectivity, Acharya says.

Capt Brijesh Chowta, Member of Parliament representing Dakshina Kannada district, says Mangaluru airport, despite its modern infrastructure and rising passenger and cargo traffic, remains underdeveloped due to the paucity of direct international air connectivity.

A PoC status for Mangaluru will open up new routes and offer significant economic benefits, given the region's strategic proximity to international markets.

Flights from Southeast Asia and South Asia can use Mangaluru as a transit point for efficient connectivity to West Asia, creating a seamless travel network, he adds.

As a regional hub for international travel and trade, the airport will also boost tourism and industrial growth in Karnataka. This, in turn, would bring in foreign exchange, facilitate job creation, promote skill development and infrastructure development, and strengthen India's position in global aviation networks, he says.

Chowta recently approached the Union Civil Aviation Min-

istry, seeking a PoC status for Mangaluru.

Karnataka Assembly Speaker UT Khader, too, has approached the Civil Aviation Minister with a similar request, while pointing out that Mangaluru holds strategic importance due to its geographic proximity and strong connectivity with countries in West Asia and the Far East.

Stating that a large diaspora from the coastal Karnataka region resides across ASEAN and SAARC nations and frequently travels to Mangaluru for family reunions, business, and cultural engagements, Khader says enhanced connectivity through direct international flights will improve passenger convenience and boost the local economy.

Many foreign carriers fly to multiple international airports in neighbouring Kerala. Despite its size and economic significance, Karnataka has only one international airport, in Bengaluru, with PoC status. Given this lacuna, Mangaluru should be designated as the second PoC in Karnataka, he says.

The PoC status can additionally facilitate the export of perishable goods from the region, which are in high demand in West Asia and beyond, he adds.

We value your feedback.
Do send your comments to
bl.logistics@thehindu.co.in



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

27 JULY 2025

एयरपोर्ट और सीएमओ को उड़ाने की धमकी

जयपुर। मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय और जयपुर एयरपोर्ट को उड़ाने की धमकी भरा ई-मेल प्रशासन को मिला। हालांकि जांच में कोई संदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली। एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन को ई-मेल में 4 एक्सप्लोसिव डिवाइस लगाने की धमकी दी गई। सुबह 7:45 बजे आए मेल में एयरपोर्ट पर 11 बजे धमाके की धमकी दी गई थी। इसके बाद सीआईएसएफ ने एयरपोर्ट पर सर्च ऑपरेशन चलाया। दूसरी ओर, शाम साढ़े चार बजे फिर मेल भेजा गया। इसके बाद एयरपोर्ट पर फिर से सर्च अभियान शुरू किया गया। हालांकि दुबारा भी सर्च में कुछ नहीं मिला।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

27 JULY 2025

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट और सीएमओ को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

ब्यूरो/नवज्योति, जयपुर। शहर में शनिवार सुबह जयपुर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट और मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय (सीएमओ) को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी भरा ईमेल मिलने से हड़कंप मच गया। मेल में लिखा गया कि एक से दो घंटे के भीतर दोनों स्थानों पर बम धमाका किया जाएगा। ईमेल मिलते ही सीआईएसएफ और पुलिस अलर्ट मोड में आ गई और तुरंत सच ऑपरेशन शुरू किया गया। जानकारी के अनुसार सुबह करीब 7:45 बजे एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन को मिले ईमेल में लिखा कि एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल-1 और टर्मिनल-2 पर चार नाइट्रिक इम्प्रोवाइज्ड एक्सप्लोसिव डिवाइस (आईईडी) प्लॉट किए गए हैं, जिन्हें सुबह 11 बजे एक्टिवेट किया जाना है। इस सूचना के बाद एयरपोर्ट की सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने बिल्डिंग, एप्रन

एरिया, पार्किंग सहित सभी क्षेत्रों में गहन तलाशी अभियान चलाया, लेकिन कोई सदिग्ध वस्तु नहीं मिली। मेल में धमकी के साथ-साथ तमिलनाडु सरकार पर भी गंभीर आरोप लगाए गए। इनमें मुख्यमंत्री एमके स्टालिन के अमेरिका दौरे के दौरान एक आईपीएस अधिकारी को हनी ट्रैप में फंसाने, पत्रकारों को सरकार के पक्ष में करने तथा अनाथालयों से गरीब बच्चियों को लाकर उनके वैन शोषण के आरोप शामिल हैं। दिलचस्प बात यह रही कि सुबह का मेल भेजे जाने के करीब 12 घंटे बाद शाम करीब साढ़े चार बजे फिर से वही मेल दोबारा भेजा गया। इस पर दोबारा सच ऑपरेशन चलाया गया, लेकिन इस बार भी कुछ सदिग्ध नहीं मिला। जांच एजेंसियां मेल भेजने वालों की तलाश में जुटी हैं।

Hosur airport: T.N. may start acquiring land in 3 months

Sunitha Sekar

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government could begin land acquisition for the proposed Hosur airport in about three months. The consultant submitted the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) survey for the two shortlisted sites recently, and the administration was expected to finalise the location within a month and a half.

Joint venture

It may be noted that a few months ago, Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited (TAAL) had also expressed interest to the State government, and talks were held to explore the possibility of a joint venture for the proposed airport. However, sources said it was too early to say whether this would materialise, as everything depended on the site the government selected for the project.

Obstacle Limitation Surfaces survey for the two sites has been submitted and the location is likely to be finalised soon

According to sources, the OLS report said it was feasible to build an airport on both identified sites – one located about 1.5 km from the TAAL airstrip, and the other approximately 15.5 km east of Hosur and north of Shoolagiri. However, it also indicated that there would be challenges.

“The report shows that there is undulating land and quite a lot of obstacles around both sites. But it is feasible to construct an airport after implementing the necessary measures in both these locations. The State government will be presented with the advantages and disadvantages of both sites, and it will be up

to it to decide the project’s final location,” a source said.

Air-control zone

Meanwhile, the State government, which has written to the Ministry of Defence regarding the formation of a separate air-control zone to set up the airport, is expecting the approval within two months.

The government will also have to hold a meeting with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in this regard soon.

From automobile to electronics manufacturing and new investments in the pipeline, the State stands to benefit significantly if the Hosur airport plan materialises. As of now, progress is steady. A year after the airport was announced and some preliminary studies conducted, the State government is now close to finalising a site.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

IndiGo flight from Goa to Hindon airport diverted to IGIA

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

AN INDIGO flight from Goa, which was scheduled to land at the Hindon airport in Ghaziabad, was diverted to the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on Sunday evening. The diversion happened due to a lack of parking spots, according to a source.

According to flight tracking website Flightradar24, IndiGo flight 6E2575 was scheduled to depart from Goa at 2:20 pm and land in Ghaziabad at 4:50 pm. The flight took off at 2:33 pm and was diverted to Delhi eventually.

"As the flight was approaching to land at Hindon Airport, we were given directions to divert to IGIA due to unavailability of parking," a source said. Passengers deboarded the plane at IGIA after some confusion.

"When we reached Hindon, the pilot kept flying around the airport for around 45 minutes before taking us to the IGIA, where we eventually landed at Terminal 3," said Ajay Mishra, a neurosurgeon and a passenger on the plane. "When we said we wanted to exit the plane, the crew said we will go to Hindon again. That is when the passengers created a ruckus, after which we were allowed to leave the plane," Mishra said.

According to a source, the airline had to take permission from the Hindon airport for another attempt at landing, which took time. *The Indian Express* tried reaching out to IndiGo for an official response but could not get a comment.

New facility, part of ₹4200cr expansion plan, to handle international operations

Airport terminal to go domestic-only

SANJAY MANDAL

Calcutta: The city airport's existing terminal will exclusively serve domestic passengers once a new terminal becomes operational, reflecting the stark disparity between domestic and international traffic at Calcutta's main airport.

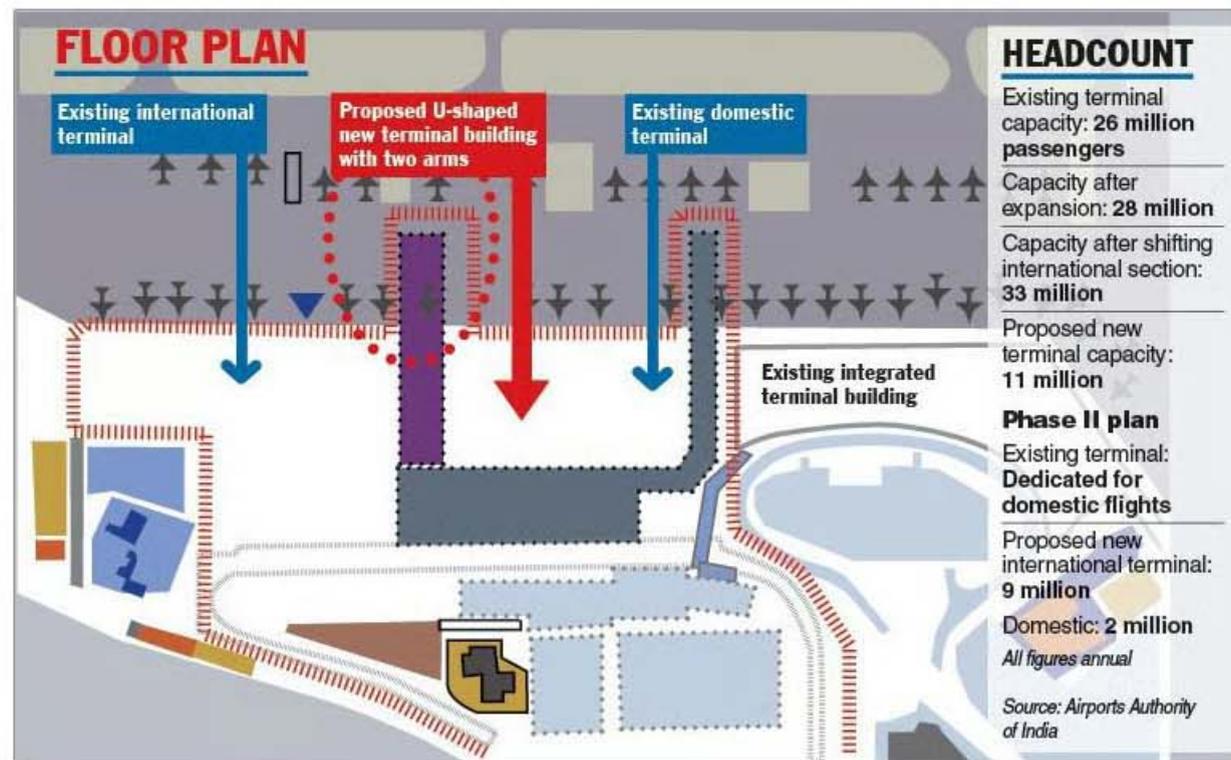
The new terminal building, part of the Phase II expansion worth ₹4,200 crore, will handle both international and domestic passengers, airport officials said.

"The existing integrated terminal will be exclusively for domestic flight passengers once the new terminal becomes operational. It will be more convenient for passengers," said airport director Pravat Ranjan Beuria. "The number of domestic passengers is much higher compared to international passengers."

Passenger numbers

The numbers underscore this reality. On Thursday, the airport handled 46,183 domestic passengers across 300 flights, while international traffic comprised just 4,619 passengers on 35 flights. Officials see no change in this pattern in the near future.

"There is no indication that the ratio will improve in the near future. The state government and airport authorities have approached several international airlines to start flights to Europe, but there has



been no positive response," said an airport official.

Most of the international flights from Calcutta are to neighbouring countries and Southeast Asia or to the Gulf nations. Airlines such as Lufthansa and British Airways discontinued services to the city several years ago.

Domestic travel

The restructuring will significantly boost domestic pas-

senger capacity. The existing terminal currently handles 26 million passengers annually and will gain an additional 2 million capacity after the construction of an extension.

"Once the international terminal's infrastructure is shifted to the new building, five million more domestic passengers can be handled at the existing terminal in a year," said Beuria.

The existing integrated terminal currently has two segregated sections for domestic and international flights. The international section houses immigration counters, customs X-ray machines, and duty-free areas — all of which will be relocated to the new facility.

"All these facilities will be shifted to the new terminal, creating space to handle more domestic passengers in the ex-

isting terminal," said Beuria.

New terminal

The new terminal will handle 11 million passengers annually — 9 million international and 2 million domestic. While the existing terminal handles 8,460 passengers per hour, the new building will handle 4,800 passengers hourly.

The U-shaped structure will feature 21 boarding bridge-

es compared to the existing terminal's 18. The building's two arms will extend into the airside, with the right arm having seven boarding gates facing north, while the left arm will have seven gates facing north and seven facing south.

The facility will include retail and food outlets, plus a multi-level car park for 1,000 vehicles — matching the existing parking capacity. Plans also include elevated roads connecting the terminal to the city, with the number of lanes yet to be finalised but expected to range between two and six.

International connectivity

Calcutta airport's international connectivity has declined over recent decades. Several airlines offering direct European connections have withdrawn operations, citing low yields and insufficient business passenger traffic. Currently, no direct flights operate to Europe or the US.

The new terminal will be constructed adjacent to the existing facility, with both buildings interconnected. As part of the project, the old domestic building will be demolished, while the domestic section in the new building will be positioned near the existing terminal for smoother operations.

The Phase II expansion is scheduled for completion by 2030.

City artists to add creative touch to Maldives airport

Sachin.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

Vadodara: Hanimaadhoo Airport in the Maldives which is being developed with Indian assistance, will showcase the work of artists from Vadodara. The airport project was mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the Maldives on Friday.

India is supporting several infrastructure projects in the Maldives, including the Hanimaadhoo International Airport on the Haa Dhaalu atoll. The project is being executed with financial assistance through a line of credit from the Exim Bank of India. The airport is expected to enhance connectivity to the northern Maldives and ease congestion at Male Airport.

Vadodara-based curator Sachin Kaluskar, who is overseeing the installation of artworks at Hanimaadhoo Airport, said their team was selected due to their earlier work at airports in Ayodhya, Dehradun and Surat, as well as projects in Kedarnath and the Congo. The assignment came through Kalpataru Projects International Ltd, the airport developer.

The work involves collaboration with five Maldivian artists — Mohammed Zain Riy-



An artist's impression of the proposed Hanimaadhoo Airport

az, Ahmed Aleem Shakoor, Aminath Lauza, Aishath Shiman Solah and Aminath Zainath Azim — who were selected through a competition held by Regional Airports Company Ltd. The artists worked with Kaluskar's Vadodara-based team to finalize the design concepts.

“The execution was done in Vadodara. Completed murals were sent to Tuticorin and shipped to the Maldives,” Kaluskar said.

Artists from Vadodara who contributed to the project are Jitendra Solanki, Mrunal Kahar, Kunal Kahar, and Parth Solanki. The artworks comprise 15 mixed-media murals, each 3.5 metres wide and 2.5 metres high. The pieces highlight the Maldives' vibrant marine life, culture and heritage. A sculpture is also in the works.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

27 JULY 2025

Centre to launch 'one airport, one product': Minister



MODERNISED: Minister said the old terminal to be used for cargo handling

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Tuticorin: The ministry of civil aviation is planning to launch an initiative called 'one airport, one product' for cargo terminals to facilitate transportation of the best products from an area across the country and the world, civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu said in Tuticorin on Saturday evening. This draws inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'one district, one product' initiative, he said at the inauguration of Tuticorin airport's new terminal building.

He said that like the Cholas, who built grand temples and harbours, today we are building world-class modern infrastructure under the visionary leadership of PM Modi. The budget for railways, roads, airports, ports, electricity, water, and gas pipelines increased by nearly 6% in the last 10 years. A remarkable phase of airport development in the country was operationalising one airport every 50 days in the last 10 years. No other country has done it, he said.

The minister said the new airport terminal blends tradition with modernity, showcasing TN's rich cultural heritage through its de-

sign and interiors. Built at ₹452 crore, it will be the gateway for travel, trade, and tourism for the entire southern TN. If there were only 1,300 aircraft movements in the old terminal in 2014, it will now increase to almost 3,600.

The building spans 17,341 sqm, which is 17 times bigger than the old terminal. The runway was extended from 1,900m to 3,100m, which is 2.5 times bigger. In the old terminal, only small flights were operated, but now, bigger flights could be operated, which could provide bigger opportunities and growth.

He said the old terminal will be made a dedicated cargo terminal, unlocking new possibilities for farmers, fishermen, traders, and small industries from Tuticorin.

"Right now, fisheries are transported all the way to Kochi and Bengaluru. With this dedicated cargo terminal, Tuticorin can become a sea-food export hub," he said.

Thovalai flower market in Kanyakumari district, which is just 70km away, won't have to use Thiruvananthapuram airport to send flowers across the world anymore. Banana and palm farmers can also utilise the new cargo terminal, he added.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

तकनीकी खराबी के कारण एअर इंडिया का विमान उड़ान नहीं भर सका, आज हिंडन से होगा रवाना

नई दिल्ली। उत्तर प्रदेश के गाजियाबाद से एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का एक विमान रविवार को तकनीकी खराबी और फिर हवाई अड्डे पर निगरानी समय की पाबंदियों के कारण उड़ान नहीं भर सका। एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों को होटल में ठहरने, निशुल्क पुनर्निर्धारण या पूर्ण धन वापसी के साथ रद्दीकरण जैसे विकल्प दिए हैं।

एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के एक प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि सोमवार की सुबह हवाई अड्डा वाणिज्यिक परिचालन के लिए उपलब्ध होने पर उड़ान रवाना होगी। इससे पहले 23 जुलाई को कोशिकोड से दोहा जाने वाली एअर इंडिया



एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान आईएक्स-375 तकनीकी खराबी के कारण उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद अपने मूल स्थान पर लौट आई थी। उड़ान सुबह 9:17 बजे रवाना हुई और सुबह 11:12 बजे कालीकट अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर सुरक्षित रूप से उतरी। व्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

DGCA registers banned Chinese drones; over 8,700 have got UINs

Dalip Singh
Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Overlooking the ban imposed on Chinese drones since 2021, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has registered more than 8,700 drones till date.

The official website (https://digitalsky.dgca.gov.in/issued_uins) gives the status of registration of drones meant only for civilian, police and central armed police force (CAPFs) usages.

On typing Da-Jiang Innovation (DJI, a Chinese drone company) on the landing page, the website throws details of Chinese drones like the serial number, name of the owner, UIN, type, weight, among others. On searching under "UAS Model Name" column, "DJI MI NI 2" appears, which is a banned Chinese drone.

GRANT OF UIN

The illegally imported DJI drones carry DGCA provided unique identification numbers. The widespread grant of UINs and availability of imported Chinese drones allow China continuous access to country-wide geo-tagged images and videos, defeating the purpose of banning the use of these flying objects for civilian and military pur-



Chinese drones without 'Type Certification' are prohibited from import and their usage

poses. Significantly, they carry UINs but without 'type certification' which is technical and safety evaluation of drones carried out by the DGCA. The Drone Rules, 2021, state that the UINs will be issued only to drones that are type-certified by them.

Any drone other than nano and model drones is required to undergo type certification. The "model drone category," originally introduced to support educational, recreational, and R&D use, is limited to drones under "25 kg" and must be operated strictly "within visual line of sight."

Mostly, this clause is being used by buyers to circumvent the law and get DGCA registration.

Most of these drones are used for commercial purposes, sold and advertised openly on e-commerce platforms, social media, and even in popular physical retail markets across major Indian cities. While Indian drone manufacturers are required

to go through the type certification process which costs lakhs of rupees and almost a year, owners of smuggled Chinese DJI drones can obtain an UIN from the DGCA in a matter of just few days, a leading drone developer said.

CHINESE DRONES

This proliferation of Chinese imported drones violates Drone Rules, 2021, which mandate that "all drones, including nano drones" (up to a certain weight category) must be registered prior to operation but exempts those that are meant for the R&D.

It also contravenes a notification issued by the DGFT on February 9, 2022, banning import of Chinese drone in any form, be it completely built unit, semi-knocked down kit, or completely knocked down kit.

Speaking to *businessline*, a government official said the matter will be taken up at an inter-ministerial meeting headed by the Home Secretary on July 29, 2025.

Smit Shah, President of Drone Federation of India, said the Federation has been pursuing this matter with the Centre for over six months. "This impacts India's security, technological advancement, and domestic industry demand immediate and decisive attention," Shah said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

Emirates' refurbished Boeing 777

Emirates, the world's largest international airline, has announced it will deploy its newly refurbished Boeing 777 aircraft to/from Madrid starting September 16.



Customers can look forward to an enhanced travel experience with upgraded interiors and premium signature travel touches across all cabins, the airline stated in a release. Madrid is the first destination in Spain to operate with the airline's next-generation interiors.

The deployment of Emirates' retrofitted Boeing 777 to Madrid marks a new era of premium travel to the Spanish city — offering fliers the airline's award-winning premium economy service, newly configured business class cabin, and an improved travel experience, the release added.

Bulker deliveries may touch six-year high in 2026: Shipowners' association

BIMCO, a global trade association for shipowners, has forecast that bulker deliveries will gradually increase this year, reaching 41.2 m deadweight tonnes (DWT) in 2026 — a six-year high.



Bulker newbuilding contracting was strong in 2023 and 2024, and several of these orders are expected to be delivered during this year and the next, says Filipe Gouveia, Shipping Analysis Manager at BIMCO.

Of the 59.3 million DWT expected to be delivered until the end of 2026, the panamax segment accounts for 33.9 per cent, while supramax accounts for 28.3 per cent. Orders in these segments rose during 2023 and 2024 as they were benefiting from comparatively higher freight rates.

Although capesize newbuilding contracting rose in 2024, supported by higher freight rates, the segment is estimated to account for only 23.9 per cent of deliveries. Capesize ships are the largest and take longer to build. Consequently, most of the orders from 2024 will be delivered after 2026.

Of the ships to be delivered, 9.1 per cent can use alternative fuels while an additional 10.7 per cent can be retrofitted.

LNG and methanol are the most popular choices for alternative fuels, accounting for 37.1 per cent and 34.9 per cent, respectively, of capacity.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

IndiGo flags profit risks from carbon offsetting scheme

Anesh Phadnis
Mumbai

IndiGo, India's largest and most profitable airline, has highlighted risk to its profitability from the mandatory implementation of global carbon offsetting scheme starting in 2027.

"IndiGo is subjected to regulatory risks from evolving climate change regulations at both national and international levels. One of the potential risks that we foresee on account of emerging regulatory requirement is ICAO's carbon offsetting and reduction scheme for international aviation (CORSIA). The regulation will be applicable to IndiGo from 2027, wherein we will be required to offset the emissions growth on international flights. The cost of offsetting may have an impact on the overall operational cost and profitability," the airline said in its latest annual report.

CORSIA is a market-based measure adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation to reduce carbon emissions. It is being implemented in three stages from 2021, and 129 countries are already participating in it. Essentially, under the scheme, airlines would be required to offset the emissions that cannot be reduced by using sustainable aviation fuel or other technologies.

Until now, no offsetting

requirement has come up for global carriers because emissions in 2021-23 have been lower compared to the 2019 baseline because of the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

The scheme's mandatory phase will begin in 2027. Sources said offset requirement for 2027 would be communicated by ICAO in second half of 2028, and actual obligations would need to be fulfilled in 2029.

"Yet, that doesn't mean there wouldn't be costs prior to that. Airlines can purchase credits depending upon price and availability beforehand. Also, the price of sustainable aviation fuel is going to be much higher than conventional fuel," a source said.

COUNTER MEASURES

IndiGo said it has taken necessary steps to overcome the heightened risk. "Around 78 per cent of our aircraft fleet belongs to the next generation, including Airbus A320Neo family, which is 15 per cent more fuel efficient and 50 per cent quieter than the older generation aircraft. This helps us in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions," the airline said.

IndiGo said it is investing in electric coaches and electric ground equipment.

"We are in active discussions with oil marketing companies regarding sustainable aviation fuel, the supply of which is constrained both globally and locally," it said.



STATSGURU

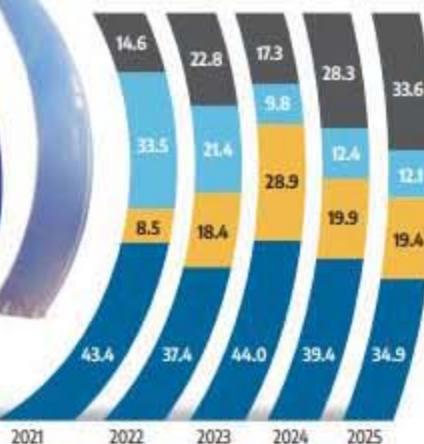
Engine failure hits Indian skies

StatsGuru is a weekly feature. Every Monday, Business Standard guides you through the numbers you need to know to make sense of the headlines

1 Flight cancellation high due to weather & technical woes

Reason-wise share of flight cancellations in India (%)

Reasons Weather Technical Operational Others



Note: Data for 2025 till May
Source: Written replies in the Rajya Sabha

JAYANT PANKAJ

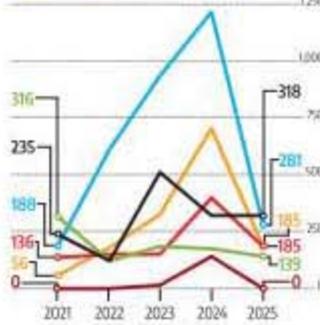
On July 16, an IndiGo flight was forced to make an emergency landing at the Mumbai airport following a reported engine failure. Two more similar incidents involving IndiGo took place within the same week. In the wake of the Boeing AI 171 crash, concerns over aircraft safety have intensified. However, these are not isolated cases. Flight cancellations in India, particularly those caused by technical glitches, have risen in the past four years to peak in 2023, with engine failures being a major contributing factor. Weather accounts for the highest proportion of flight cancellations, followed by others, such as commercial issues, security concerns and strikes, and technical reasons in recent years. (Chart 1)

Flight cancellations due to technical reasons have increased across airlines, barring Air India. IndiGo has replaced Air India with the highest share of flight cancellations since 2022. (Chart 2) Among 27 cases of engine failures recorded in serious commercial flight incidents between 2012 and 2020, engines manufactured by Pratt & Whitney accounted for the most failures. (Chart 3) Two of the three largest engine manufacturing companies recorded a decline in the share of research & development expenditure in total expenses in FY24. (Chart 4) The share of repairs & maintenance expenditure in total airline expenditure has remained modest. (Chart 5) The overall surveillance activity of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has increased significantly since 2021. (Chart 6)

2 Cancellation of flights due to technical reasons

(in number)

Indigo Alliance Air Spice Jet Air India Air India Express Others



Note: Data for 2025 till May
Source: Written replies in the Rajya Sabha

3 P&W engine failures common across aircraft

Number of engine failures between 2012 and 2020

Aircraft	Pratt & Whitney	International Aero Engines	CFM International	GE Aerospace
Airbus	18	1	2	0
ATR	4	0	0	0
Boeing	0	0	0	1
Bombardier	1	0	0	0

The AAIB investigated 115 cases of serious incidents from 2012 to 2024 among different airlines, of which 27 (till 2020) were reported as engine failures. ATR stands for Avions de transport regional. Source: AAIB Investigation Reports, BS Calculation

4 R&D share of spending declined in FY24

R&D expense as % of total expense of EMC*

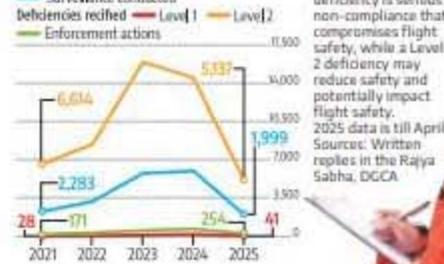
Pratt & Whitney GE Aerospace Safran Aircraft Engines



Note: *Engine Manufacturing Companies; CFM International is a joint venture between GE Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines. R&D stands for research & development. Sources: Company annual reports, BS Calculation

6 DGCA surveillance activities from 2021 to 2025

Surveillance conducted Deficiencies rectified Level 1 Level 2 Enforcement actions

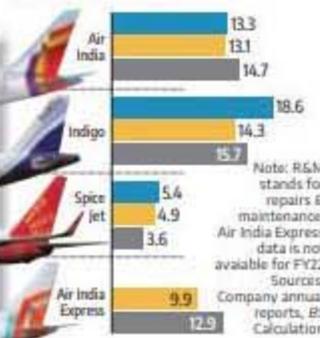


Note: Level 1 deficiency is serious non-compliance that compromises flight safety, while a Level 2 deficiency may reduce safety and potentially impact flight safety. 2025 data is till April. Sources: Written replies in the Rajya Sabha, DGCA

5 Modest rise in R&M in FY24

Share of expense on R&M in total expenditure on aircraft (%)

FY22 FY23 FY24



Note: R&M stands for repairs & maintenance. Air India Express data is not available for FY22. Sources: Company annual reports, BS Calculation

खुले कार्गो गेट के साथ उड़ा प्लेन 18 मिनट बाद ही आपात लैंडिंग

1:58 बजे मुंबई के लिए उड़ा, 2:16 बजे वापस आया

जयपुर | जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से शुरुवार को मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुई फ्लाइट को कुछ मिनट बाद वापस लैंड कराना पड़ गया। मामला एयर इंडिया की जयपुर-मुंबई फ्लाइट एआई-612 का है। दरअसल फ्लाइट जयपुर से दोपहर 1:35 बजे मुंबई जाती है, लेकिन शुरुवार को 1:58 बजे मुंबई के लिए टेकऑफ हुई। इसके थोड़ी देर बाद ही पायलट को दिखा कि विमान का कार्गो गेट का साइन ऑन है। पायलट ने वर्निंग साइन ऑन रहने के चलते सतर्कता बरती और उड़ान भरने के 18 मिनट बाद ही दोपहर 2:16 बजे लैंडिंग करा दी। इसके बाद ग्राउंड टेक्निकल टीम ने फ्लाइट को अटैंड किया। हालांकि थोड़ी ही देर बाद फ्लाइट मुंबई के लिए दोबारा रवाना हो गई। इस दौरान मुंबई जा रहे करीब 125 यात्रियों को फ्लाइट के अंदर ही बैठाए रखा।

जयपुर के यात्री पुणे एयरपोर्ट पर 6 घंटे परेशान होते रहे



इधर, गुरुवार देर रात पुणे एयरपोर्ट से जयपुर आ रहे 95 से अधिक यात्री 6 घंटे तक परेशान होते रहे। मामला स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट एसजी-1080 का है। यह पुणे से शाम 7:30 बजे जयपुर के लिए रवाना होती है। यात्री समय से एयरपोर्ट पहुंचे तो कहा कि फ्लाइट 7:30 बजे नहीं, बल्कि रात 9:30 बजे जाएगी। फिर 9:30 बजे भी बोर्डिंग नहीं हुई तो यात्रियों ने हंगामा किया। इसके बाद उनको शांत कराया और 12:30 बजे का समय दिया। हालांकि बाद में देर रात 1:20 बजे फरवाना हो सकी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

27 JULY 2025

स्पाइसजेट ने ऐनवक्त पर रद्द की अहमदाबाद फ्लाइट

सिटी रिपोर्टर | जयपुर

एयरपोर्ट पर शनिवार को स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट का शेड्यूल गड़बड़ा गया। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार स्पाइसजेट एयरलाइंस ने जयपुर-अहमदाबाद फ्लाइट को ऐनवक्त पर रद्द कर दिया।

दरअसल स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट एसजी-1081 को सुबह 9:30 बजे जयपुर उड़ान भरनी थी। ऐसे में अहमदाबाद जाने वाले यात्री सुबह करीब 8 बजे से ही एयरपोर्ट पहुंचना शुरू हो गए। एयरलाइंस ने ऐनवक्त पर संचालन कारणों का हवाला देते हुए रद्द कर दिया। इससे यात्रियों को परेशान होना पड़ा।

जबकि एयरलाइंस से जुड़े सूत्रों ने बताया कि एयरक्राफ्ट की कमी की वजह से फ्लाइट को रद्द किया है। उधर, दिल्ली में मौसम खराब होने की वजह से इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की फ्लाइट 6ई-2775 को जयपुर डायवर्ट किया गया।

ये फ्लाइट मुंबई से दिल्ली जा रही थी, लेकिन खराब मौसम की वजह से लैंडिंग की अनुमति नहीं दी गई। इसके बाद एटीसी ने फ्लाइट को अल सुबह करीब 4 बजे जयपुर डायवर्ट कर दिया। इसकी वजह से दिल्ली जाने वाले यात्रियों को जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर परेशान होना पड़ा। हालांकि जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर फ्यूजिलिंग के बाद फ्लाइट को दिल्ली रवाना किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

फ्लाइट में आई तकनीकी खराबी, परेशान रहे यात्री

जासं, गाजियाबाद: हिंडन एयरपोर्ट सिविल टर्मिनल से रविवार को एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट (IX1512) को कोलकाता के लिए शाम 5:05 बजे 200 यात्रियों को लेकर उड़ान भरनी थी। लेकिन यात्रियों के फ्लाइट में करीब एक घंटे अंदर बैठने के बाद भी फ्लाइट टेकआफ नहीं कराई गई। इसका कारण तकनीकी खराबी बताया गया है। इसके अलावा रविवार को मुंबई व अहमदाबाद की फ्लाइट भी कैंसिल बताई जा रही है।

ग्रेटर नोएडा की लोटस विला सोसायटी के अमर्त्य सिन्हा के अनुसार, उनके पिता जवाहर लाल सिन्हा व माता शिखा सिन्हा की हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से कोलकाता के लिए फ्लाइट थी। प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के दोनों फ्लाइट में बैठ गए। इंतजार के बाद भी फ्लाइट टेक आफ नहीं हुई। जब करीब एक घंटा हो गया तो यात्रियों को बताया गया कि फ्लाइट में तकनीकी खराबी आ गई है। इसके बाद उन्हें फ्लाइट से उतारकर वापस बस से टर्मिनल में ले जाया गया। फिर सभी यात्रियों को करीब 7:00 बजे बसों में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट लाया गया। लेकिन रात में ही यात्रियों को हिंडन एयरपोर्ट वापस लाया गया। सभी यात्रियों को यहां होटल में रुकवाया जाएगा और उन्हें सुबह जाने वाली कोलकाता की फ्लाइट से भेजा जाएगा। वहीं, अपूर्वा नामक यात्री ने एक्स पर एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस व पीएमओ को टैग करते हुए शिकायत की है। इसपर एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने लिखा कि यात्रियों की सुरक्षा प्राथमिक है। टीम समय (6:30) बजे तक प्रस्थान करने के लिए कार्य कर रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

26 JULY 2025

लखनऊ की फ्लाइट आगरा से वापस लौटी, जयपुर में सुरक्षित लैंडिंग

जयपुर। इंडिगो की जयपुर से लखनऊ जाने वाली फ्लाइट को बीच रास्ते से लौटना पड़ा। यह फ्लाइट शुकवार शाम 7.15 बजे जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से रवाना हुई थी। लखनऊ के लिए टैक ऑफ किया गया था लेकिन उड़ान के

दौरान आगरा के पास फ्लाइट को वापस जयपुर लौटाया गया। सूत्रों के अनुसार लखनऊ में खराब मौसम के कारण फ्लाइट को डायवर्ट किया गया और आखिरकार यह शाम 8.42 बजे जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर सुरक्षित लैंड कर गई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

26 JULY 2025

जयपुर से उड़ान भरते ही तकनीकी खराबी, फ्लाइट 18 मिनट में लौटी वापस

तकनीकी टीम ने विमान की जांच की, शाम 4.30 बजे मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुआ विमान

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुई एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट को तकनीकी खराबी के कारण उड़ान भरने के 18 मिनट बाद ही वापस लौटना पड़ा। यह फ्लाइट सामान्यतः दोपहर 1.35 बजे रवाना होती है, लेकिन गुरुवार को यह दोपहर 1.58 बजे टेक ऑफ हुई। टेक ऑफ के कुछ ही समय बाद विमान में तकनीकी दिक्कत सामने आई, जिसके बाद पायलट ने एटीसी से आपात लैंडिंग की अनुमति मांगकर दोपहर 2.16 बजे जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर दोबारा लैंडिंग की। इस दौरान यात्रियों को विमान से बाहर नहीं निकाला



गया और वे अभी भी विमान के अंदर ही हैं। तकनीकी टीम ने विमान की सभी जांच की। इसके बाद शाम 4.30 बजे यह विमान मुंबई के लिए रवाना हुआ।

जयपुर के यात्री पुणे एयरपोर्ट पर 6 घंटे परेशान

पुणे एयरपोर्ट पर जयपुर आने वाले यात्रियों को करीब 6 घंटे तक परेशान होना पड़ा। स्पाइसजेट की फ्लाइट को शाम 7.30 बजे जयपुर के लिए रवाना होना था, लेकिन यात्रियों के एयरपोर्ट पहुंचने पर बताया गया कि फ्लाइट अब रात 9.30 बजे चलेगी। इसके बाद जब 9.30 बजे भी बोर्डिंग नहीं हुई तो बाराज यात्रियों ने हंगामा कर दिया। एयरलाइन ने फिर समय बदलते हुए रात 12.30 बजे फ्लाइट रवाना होने की बात कही, लेकिन आखिरकार फ्लाइट 1.20 बजे पुणे से जयपुर के लिए उड़ान भर सकी।

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

IndiGo Plans More Int'l Flights, MRO Opportunities

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: IndiGo will continue to add more overseas destinations with A321 XLRs set to join the fleet this fiscal year and aims to increase its international capacity share to 40% by 2030.

Also, the country's largest airline plans to explore new opportunities in the MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) space, according to its annual report for 2024-25.

IndiGo, which has been flying for over 18 years, has a domestic market share of 64.5%, operates around 2,200 flights daily with more than 430 planes.

"We will continue to add more destinations internationally, especially with XLRs coming in along with our newly leased wide body aircraft for long haul operations. From 28% current international capacity share, we are aiming for 40% by FY 2030," IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said in his message in the annual report.

Earlier this month, the carrier started flights to Manchester and Amsterdam that are being operated with Boeing 787 Dreamliners leased from Norway's Norse Atlantic.

The long range A321 XLRs and wide-body A350-900s are expected to join the airline's fleet in the cur-



rent fiscal year ending March 2026, and 2027, respectively.

"IndiGo also plans to explore new opportunities in the MRO space as India's infrastructure development is picking up," it said.

The airline is setting up an MRO facility in Bengaluru.

In the annual report, the airline said its outlook remains promising, supported by a healthy demand environment and firm capacity growth.

"While macroeconomic uncertainties and operating headwinds such as aircraft groundings and fuel cost volatility remain, IndiGo continues to proactively manage these challenges through fleet diversification, damp leasing strategies and strategic agreements with OEMs," it said.

OEM refers to original equipment manufacturer.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

SECTORAL LOSSES, AIR INDIA CRASH WEIGH

IndiGo's Insurance Premium Likely to Rise, in Single Digits

Shilpy Sinha

Mumbai: IndiGo Airlines, country's largest carrier by fleet size and market share, is likely to face a single-digit percentage increase in aviation insurance premiums when its annual cover comes up for renewal this week, people familiar with the matter said.

The hike comes amid a hardening global reinsurance market following the recent fatal Air India crash in Ahmedabad, which could result in hull and liability claims exceeding \$200 million.

The insurance renewal for IndiGo and SpiceJet—whose policies are up for renewal in October—is being closely watched by the industry as reinsurers raise prices in the wake of increasing global aviation losses.

Reinsurers in the London market, which underwrite a large portion of Indian aviation risk, are tightening capacity and pushing up rates for both hull and liability covers.

IndiGo's policy last year was led by New India Assurance, with co-insurers such as ICICI Lombard participating domestically. A large portion of the risk was ceded to overseas reinsurers, particularly in London, which

continue to dominate aviation hull and liability insurance.

The carrier's combined hull, spares, and liability cover carries a premium of approximately \$13-15 million, industry sources said. The total insurance value for its 437 aircraft fleet stands at around \$20 billion. Each aircraft—primarily Airbus A320



The carrier's combined hull, spares, and liability cover carries a premium of approx \$13-15 million

and A321 models—is insured for a hull value between \$30 million and \$45 million. The fleet includes a few wide-body aircraft recently inducted for international operations.

On the liability front, narrow-body aircraft typically carry coverage up to \$750 million, while wide-body aircraft are covered for up to \$1 billion. The current combined single limit (CSL) for liability stands at \$1 billion, with maximum hull agreed value (MAV) at \$150 million and spares at \$300 million.

Reinsurance costs have been rising since late 2023, but the recent Air India crash has led to further tightening, with international reinsurers becoming more cautious on risk appetite.

All Air India Aircraft Records Handed Over: AIESL

DGCA is investigating engineering lapses at the airline, following the fatal Boeing 787 crash in Ahmedabad last month

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: AI Engineering Services (AIESL), the former maintenance arm of Air India, said on Sunday that it handed over all aircraft records to the airline that took over the maintenance oversight after its acquisition by the Tata Group.

"We are confident that the records we provided were complete and in full compliance with all regulatory standards," AIESL chief executive

Sharad Agarwal said in response to ET's queries.

AIESL is now a subsidiary of AI Assets Holding Company, a government-owned entity that owns the Air India assets that were not part of its privatisation in 2022.

The comments come as India's civil aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA),

investigates potential engineering lapses at Air India following a Boeing 787 crash last month that killed 260 people.

During an audit in June, the DGCA found that there were gaps in practices. The airline has allegedly been operating multiple components in aircraft beyond their life period.

People aware of the deve-

lopment had told ET that the new owners implemented a newer-generation system called AMOS and imported all maintenance records in 2024.

"As a matter of policy, we do not comment on issues concerning our business partners," Agarwal said. "We have a long-standing and positive relationship with Air India, and we hold the Tata Group in the highest regard."

He said all engineering documents were formally handed over when Air India assumed responsibility for maintenance oversight. "The handover was conducted in close coordination with Air India's engineering team," he said.

AIESL, now operating independently after Air India's privatisation, still handles line maintenance for the airline's widebody fleet like the Boeing 777 and 787.

Air India and the DGCA have not commented on whether the aircraft

involved in the crash had components fitted beyond their certified lifespan while under AIESL's maintenance. The investigation remains ongoing.

Aggarwal highlighted the company's recent efforts to enhance its capabilities as a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) provider.

"We now operate our hangars 24/7, which has dramatically reduced maintenance turnaround times," Agarwal said, noting that its facilities in Thiruvananthapuram, Mumbai, Delhi and Nagpur are upgraded to meet US Federal Aviation Administration standards. The Thiruvananthapuram site has also received certification from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency.

The company also offers rapid-response aircraft on ground (AOG) recovery services and has partnered with airlines on training initiatives.



Fitness Check

AI Engineering Services is the former maintenance arm of Air India

AI found operating multiple parts beyond life period

DGCA during its audit found that there were gaps in practices

AIESL has expanded its services to support new aircraft types



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

27 JULY 2025

Lease challenges stall Kerala airline take-off

HD Bureau

KOCHI

Air Kerala and Al Hind Air, both positioning themselves as Kerala's flagship carriers, are grappling with a significant setback in their bid to launch operations. The issue stems from stringent demands placed on them by foreign leasing companies, who are supplying the aircraft. The leasing companies have demanded advance rent payments for up to 12 months or a demonstration of financial capability amounting to Rs 200 crore. The situation is stalling what was intended to be a significant leap for the region's aviation



sector. Both airlines, initially seen as symbols of local pride, were hoping to revolutionise air travel in the state by offering affordable and accessible flights. However, the imposed financial conditions now threaten to delay or even derail their

ambitions.

The problem lies in the stringent terms set by the lessors.

Leasing aircraft is a common practice for airlines, especially new entrants, due to the high costs involved in purchasing aircraft. Ho-

wever, for these two Kerala-based carriers, the lessors' demand for a year's rent in advance is proving to be an unmanageable hurdle. Additionally, the Rs 200 crore bank guarantee requirement has placed further strain on the financial via-

Leasing aircraft is a common practice for airlines, especially new entrants, due to the high costs involved in purchasing aircraft

bility of the airlines. While the leasing companies argue that these stringent conditions are meant to safeguard their investments, industry experts suggest that such terms might be un-

sually harsh, particularly for emerging airlines that are still in the process of establishing their operations. The state's ambitious aviation projects are now caught in the crossfire of what some analysts describe as high-risk commercial practices by foreign firms.

There is also growing concern among local stakeholders about the broader implications for Kerala's aviation aspirations. With many residents and political leaders backing the initiative, the failure to secure affordable aircraft leases could undermine support for future regional aviation projects.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

Air India tells pilots to ensure adherence to rules in annual test

Neha LM Tripathi

neha.tripathi@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Air India has asked its pilots to ensure rules are followed during their mandatory annual test, officials told HT on Sunday.

In an internal email to the pilots, seen by HT, the airline also informed them that it is upgrading its training and rostering software. The internal email, sent by the director training late night on Saturday, is a notice to all pilots stating that the airline is upgrading the CAE system. CAE, a Canadian simulator company, is a pilot training management platform used by airlines.

The notice read, “..This step is being introduced as an additional mitigation measure, while our planning teams continue to monitor the process closely as well..”

“Pilots have been asked to double-check their assigned trainer for Annual Line Route check (ALC) against their previous ALC record,” an official aware of the development said.

ALC is a yearly flying test for pilots where a senior trainer flies with them during a regular flight to see how they perform. The test is done on an actual flight.

A comment from Air India was awaited till the time of going to press.

A second official aware of the matter, however, said that the software upgrade triggered the email to the pilots. “Civil Aviation Rules (CAR) mandate pilots

IN AN INTERNAL MAIL, THE AIRLINE INFORMED PILOTS THAT IT IS GOING TO UPGRADE ITS TRAINING SOFTWARE

to perform these annual tests with different trainers every year. Since the software is being upgraded, automated safeguards may not be fully functional and so manual verification has been requested from the pilots.”

“This is not related to the recent notices,” he insisted.

This is part of its strategy to ensure norms are followed during such planned training — non compliance has triggered slew of notices from the aviation safety regulator, another official said.

To be sure, India’s aviation regulator on Wednesday issued four show cause notices to Air India for multiple violations of operational procedures and regulations on training cabin crew and managing their duty hours.

The government, in its first meeting with the senior management of Air India including CEO Campbell Wilson received a detailed explanation of the airline’s efforts towards maintaining safety, reviewed recent incidents, discussed fleet maintenance, and asked the airline to reassess its operations within a month. These efforts are being made to ensure compliance and many more will follow.

{ **TRAVEL** } FLYING FROM LOS ANGELES TO LAS VEGAS

Southwest jet drops hundreds of feet in 30 secs to avoid collision

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

LAS VEGAS: Passengers aboard a Southwest Airlines jet that took a dramatic plunge to avoid an oncoming aircraft were told by the pilot that they nearly struck another plane before landing safely in Las Vegas. The Boeing 737 jet dropped hundreds of feet in a little over 30 seconds during a flight on Friday, according to a flight tracking website.

Caitlin Burdi, who was on the flight, said it took a short plunge and then a more drastic drop as passengers screamed in terror.

"We really thought we were plummeting to a plane crash," Burdi told Fox News Digital in an interview at the Las Vegas airport. She said the pilot told passengers they had nearly collided with another plane.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said the flight,



A Southwest Airlines Boeing 737-700 airplane. AFP

Southwest 1496, was responding to an on board alert about another aircraft in its vicinity. The FAA is investigating. Southwest said the crew responded to two alerts that required the pilot to climb then descend. The flight left Hollywood Burbank Airport in Los Angeles just before noon.

Another passenger, comedian Stef Zamorano, said she saw a woman who wasn't wearing her seat belt shoot up and out of her seat, and a man next to her was

clutching her arm. A woman across the aisle was panicking, she said. "She was pretty much verbalising how we all felt, saying, I want to get off this plane. I want to be on the ground," Zamorano told The Associated Press on Friday. Another woman was panicking and saying she wanted "to get off this plane".

The plane was in the same airspace near Burbank as a Hawker Hunter Mk 58, according to the flight tracking site, FlightAware. Records show it is owned by Hawker Hunter Aviation, a British defence contracting company.

Southwest said the flight continued to Las Vegas, "where it landed uneventfully".

This close call is just the latest incident to raise questions about aviation safety in the wake of January's mid-air collision over Washington, DC, that killed 67 people.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

Small plane crashes off California coast

CALIFORNIA/DENVER: Authorities were searching for three people who were aboard a private twin-engine plane that crashed off the central California coast. Emergency officials responded on Saturday night after receiving a lost radar alert and 911 calls from residents, KSBW-TV reported. Witnesses reported hearing an aircraft engine revving and a splash in the water near the coast of Pacific Grove, the station reported.

The small plane, a Beech 95-B55 Baron, took off from the San Carlos airport at 10:11pm (local time) and was last seen at 10:37pm near Monterrey, according to flight tracking data from FlightAware.com.

Several agencies responded to the crash and search effort, including the US Coast Guard and California's Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection. People on shore reported seeing debris wash up from the crashed aircraft. Coast Guard officials esti-

mated the plane crashed about 183 to 274 metres off shore, the news station reported.

The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

Passengers flee smoking jet on emergency slide

Passengers slid down an emergency slide of a smoking jet at Denver International Airport due to a possible problem with the plane's landing gear, authorities said.

American Airlines Flight 3023 reported a "possible landing gear incident" during its departure from Denver on Saturday afternoon, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The problem involved an aircraft tyre, the Fort Worth, Texas-based company said in a statement.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 carrying 173 passengers and six crew members was on its way to Miami International Airport, American said. **ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

तकनीकी खामी के बाद एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की हिंडन-कोलकाता उड़ान रद्द

नई दिल्ली, 27 जुलाई (ब्यूरो)।

तकनीकी खामी और निगरानी समय की पाबंदी के कारण हिंडन हवाई अड्डे से एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का विमान (आइएक्स 1512) रविवार को उड़ान नहीं भर सका। करीब एक घंटे के इंतजार के बाद करीब 200 यात्रियों को दिल्ली हवाई अड्डा के लिए भेजा गया, लेकिन रास्ते से ही बसें फिर हिंडन हवाई अड्डे पर लौट आईं।

उड़ान को रद्द करने के बाद यात्रियों को सोमवार सुबह कोलकाता के लिए अगली उड़ान में यात्रा का विकल्प दिया गया। देरी के बाद उड़ान के रद्द किए जाने से परेशान यात्रियों की कर्मियों के

साथ कहासुनी भी हुई। शाम करीब पांच बजे हिंडन-कोलकाता उड़ान के रवाना होने से पहले करीब 200 यात्री इसमें सवार हुए।

करीब एक घंटे के इंतजार के बाद उन्हें बताया गया, विमान जाने की स्थिति में नहीं है। एक यात्री ने बताया, करीब एक घंटे बाद सभी यात्रियों को दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे के लिए भेजा गया, लेकिन बाद में हिंडन हवाई अड्डा पर लौटना पड़ा। आखिरकार, रविवार की उड़ान रद्द करने की जानकारी देते हुए यात्रियों को सोमवार सुबह, कोलकाता के लिए दूसरी उड़ान का विकल्प दिया गया। आखिरी वक्त अचानक उड़ान के रद्द होने से कई यात्रियों को आगे की यात्रा और जरूरी काम नहीं हो सके।

Boeing 737 jet catches fire during takeoff in US

DENVER

PASSENGERS slid down an emergency slide of a smoking jet at Denver's airport due to a possible problem with the plane's landing gear, authorities said.

American Airlines Flight 3023 reported a 'possible landing gear incident' during its departure from Denver International Airport on Saturday afternoon, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The Boeing 737 MAX 8 was on its way to Miami International Airport.

Video aired by local media showed people sliding down the inflatable chute near the front of the plane while clutching



Passengers slide down an emergency slide of a smoking jet at Denver airport | x.com

luggage and small children. Some of the passengers, including at least one adult carrying a young child, tripped at the

end of the slide and fell onto the concrete runway tarmac. The passengers were then taken to the terminal by bus.

One of the passengers was transported to a medical facility, authorities said. Five people were evaluated for injuries at the scene but did not require hospitalisation, Denver International Airport officials said in a statement.

"About halfway to takeoff speed, we hear a big bang and a pop," passenger Shaun Williams told KUSA-TV. "The pilot immediately started abort procedures for taking off. You could feel him start to hit the brakes." Firefighters called to the airport extinguished a fire after responding to the aircraft, the Denver Fire Department said. In a statement, the FAA said it will investigate. AP



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

हिंडन से इंडिगो, एयर इंडिया की तीन उड़ानें रद्द

■NBT रिपोर्ट, टीएचए: हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से रविवार को इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान तीन शहरों अहमदाबाद, मुंबई और



कोलकाता के लिए कैंसल हो गई। इसके कारण यात्रियों ने एयरपोर्ट पर हंगामा किया।

एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की कोलकाता वाली फ्लाइट तकनीकी कारण से उड़ान नहीं भर सकी। यात्रियों की नाराजगी और विरोध के बाद एयरलाइंस कंपनी ने सभी को बस के जरिए दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट भेजा और वहां से यात्रियों के लिए कोलकाता जाने की व्यवस्था की गई।

पार्किंग, तकनीकी खामी ने रोकीं हिंडन की उड़ानें

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, टीएचए

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट रविवार को अव्यवस्था का केंद्र बन गया, जब तकनीकी खराबी और पार्किंग की जगह न होने जैसे कारणों से तीन महत्वपूर्ण उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस और इंडिगो की इन उड़ानों के रद्द होने से सैकड़ों यात्रियों को घंटों की देरी, परेशानी और गुस्से का सामना करना पड़ा। सबसे भयावह स्थिति एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की कोलकाता जाने वाली फ्लाइट के यात्रियों की हुई, जिन्हें बोर्डिंग के बाद विमान के अंदर बिना एसी के लगभग एक घंटे तक रहना पड़ा, जिससे कई लोगों का दम तक घुटने लगा।

मामले की शुरुआत शाम को तब हुई जब एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट संख्या IX1512 को शाम 5 बजे कोलकाता के लिए उड़ान भरनी थी। यात्रियों को विमान में बिठा तो दिया गया, लेकिन तकनीकी खराबी के कारण विमान टेकऑफ नहीं कर सका। इस दौरान यात्रियों ने शिकायत की कि 184-सीटर विमान का एसी सिस्टम पूरी तरह बंद था। ऊपर से ऑपरेशन सिद्ध के बाद वायुसेना के नए दिशा निर्देशों के तहत विमान की सभी खिड़कियां भी बंद थी, जिससे अंदर उमस और घुटन का माहौल बन गया। दूसरी ओर इंडिगो एयरलाइन को भी अपनी दो उड़ानें रद्द करनी पड़ीं। अहमदाबाद जाने वाली फ्लाइट 6E2568 को शाम 5:35 पर और मुंबई



22 उड़ानों का संचालन हो रहा है वर्तमान में यहाँ से

2500 से अधिक यात्री रोजाना आते-जाते हैं

लापरवाही

- एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की फ्लाइट में AC बंद, दम घुटा
- रविवार को कोलकाता, मुंबई और अहमदाबाद की फ्लाइट हुई कैसल

अभी दबाव झेलने को तैयार नहीं एयरपोर्ट

यह घटना हिंडन एयरपोर्ट पर अचूरी तैयारियों के साथ बड़े पैमाने पर संचालन शुरू करने की हकीकत को उजागर करती है। वर्तमान में यहाँ से 22 उड़ानों का संचालन हो रहा है और रोजाना

2500 से अधिक यात्री आते-जाते हैं। पार्किंग जैसी बुनियादी सुविधा का अभाव यह बताता है कि एयरपोर्ट का बुनियादी ढांचा इस दबाव को झेलने के लिए तैयार नहीं है।

बसों में बैठाकर भेजा गया दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट

यात्री अमर्ला शरद ने सोशल मीडिया पर लिखा कि फ्लाइट एक घंटा लेट है और बोर्डिंग के बाद AC काम नहीं कर रहा है। यह एक तरह का टॉर्च है। यात्रियों के बढ़ते विरोध के बाद एयरलाइन ने उन्हें नीचे उतारा और बसों में बिठाकर दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट भेज दिया, ताकि वहाँ से उनके लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की जा सके।

जाने वाली फ्लाइट 6E5091 को शाम 6:00 बजे उड़ान भरनी थी। इंडिगो के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि इन उड़ानों के रद्द होने का कारण पार्किंग के लिए जगह की अनुपलब्धता थी। दरअसल, जो विमान

यात्रियों को लेकर अहमदाबाद और मुंबई से हिंडन आने वाले थे, वे पार्किंग की जगह न होने के कारण यहाँ उतर ही नहीं पाए, जिस वजह से यहाँ से जाने वाली उड़ानें भी स्वतः रद्द हो गईं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

एयर इंडिया को चेतावनी बैकसीट ड्राइविंग तुरंत बंद करें

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): अहमदाबाद प्लेन क्रैश के बाद सरकार ने सख्त रुख अपनाया है। टाटा संस और एअर इंडिया के चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखर के साथ हुई बैठक में सरकार ने सख्त हिदायत देते हुए दो बड़े संदेश दिए हैं। पहला- सुरक्षा पर



सीधा असर डालने वाले प्रमुख एअर इंडिया डिपार्टमेंट में बैकसीट ड्राइविंग के कल्चर (पर्दे के पीछे फैसले लेने की संस्कृति) को तुरंत खत्म कर देना चाहिए। दूसरा- प्रमुख विभागों में पर्दों पर बैठे लोगों के पास फैसला लेना का अधिकार होना चाहिए, न कि जब चीजें खराब हों तो उन्हें केवल दोषी ठहराने के लिए। कई मामलों में फैसले कोई और ही ले रहा होता है, जबकि सीट पर कोई और बैठा होता है। यह व्यवस्था बेहद खतरनाक है और इसे तत्काल खत्म कर देना चाहिए।

दरअसल, केंद्रीय उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू, सचिव समीर कुमार सिन्हा और डीजीसीए प्रमुख फैज अहमद किदवाई ने शुक्रवार को चंद्रशेखरन से मुलाकात की। इस दौरान सुरक्षा में सुधार के उपायों पर चर्चा की गई, जिस पर चंद्रशेखरन ने सहमति जताई है। मामले से जुड़े लोगों का कहना है, "सिक््योरिटी, ट्रेनिंग, मेंटिनेंस, इंजीनियरिंग और एकीकृत संचालन नियंत्रण केंद्र (आईओसीसी) जैसे कुछ विभाग समग्र संचालन को सुरक्षित बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

28 JULY 2025

JULY 26

Air India flight to Mumbai returns to base minutes after take-off from Jaipur

JULY 23

IndiGo Flight From Ahmedabad Reports Engine Fire Before Takeoff; All Passengers Safe

JULY 27

Panic on Denver Airport runway: American Airlines aborts takeoff after gear malfunction; video shows passengers fleeing down slides as smoke engulfs plane

Image used for representational purposes only



JULY 26

Southwest aircraft takes a dive to avoid midair collision

JULY 25

Video: Plane Crashes Into Italian Highway, Killing Two In Fiery Explosion

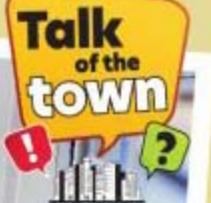
@GoofyGiri

Air Travel Is Sending Shockwaves.. THOSE Who Already Have Fear of Flying r In Constant Panic Mode 😞

'Flying is getting scarier day by day'

An American Airlines flight caught fire at Denver Airport on Sunday, marking the latest in a series of aviation-related incidents that have heightened public concern. From the Ahmedabad crash last month to global events in the past week, including a private plane crash in Italy and midair flight diversions closer home, headlines reflect a growing sense of unease.

Pics: iStock



@LostInAlabama2

Every person I know is having issues with flights. Delays, nose diving, near midair collisions, maintenance issues, the list goes on and on. Rare that a flight is eventful lately.

@ZuzaZasada

My fear of flying increases daily.

@Hindustani0707

Every few weeks, there seems to be some malfunction related to Boeing — and this raises serious concerns about the safety of air travel.

✈️ Passenger lives should never be at risk.

FAA and airlines must prioritize safety over profits now.

Boeing must be held accountable — before a major tragedy occurs.

@Heenu_Ri

All these news are making me paranoid. My last flight was horrible. The turbulence was so insane that one uncle shouted "kya ho gya". All of us were scared. I shared sobbing and couldn't control it. Flying is getting scarier day by day

@karanjohar

Chalo ji.... Passport tijori main rakh lo !

@singhbalam1111

This year will be remembered for plane crashes.

A surge in searches around flight safety and fear of flying

While flying remains statistically one of the safest modes of transport, reports from *Axios* and *CBS* note a surge in queries like "is it safe to fly" and "fear of flying." Platforms like *Reddit* and *X* have also seen a marked rise in flight anxiety discussions, with *Reddit* posts on the topic jumping over 70% in some communities.



Passengers and crew evacuated American Airlines Flight 302, a Boeing 737 MAX 8, at Denver International Airport on Sunday