



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

28 JANUARY 2025

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## Man dies after jumping from departure flyover at city airport

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

KOLKATA, 27 JANUARY

A man died after he allegedly jumped from a flyover leading to the departure area of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport Kolkata, on Sunday, officials said. The incident took place at 3.23 p.m. when he fell on the airport's city-side arrival area after the plunge from the flyover, an Airports Authority of India (AAI) spokesperson said. The critically injured man, identified as Oinam Ranjan Singh, a resident of Imphal in Manipur, was immediately examined by a doctor on duty at the airport and referred to Barasat State General hospital, the spokesperson said.

"Personnel of the NSCBI police station took the injured man to a state-run hospital in Barasat in an ambulance, where the doctors pronounced him dead," a senior official of the Kolkata airport said. The Imphal resident had come to Kolkata a few days ago and was scheduled to return on Sunday, airport sources said. Authorities are investigating the circumstances leading to the incident.

## Building violations curtail usable length of runway as profiteers rush to construct high-rises in funnel zone

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

**O**bststructions along the aircraft approach path have forced NMIA officials to shift the threshold of Runway 26 by 600 metres from where it physically begins. Thus, Runway 26 is a 'displaced threshold' runway, meaning that its physical beginning is not considered its threshold or starting point.

Instead, a line further down the runway is designated as the threshold to ensure that aircraft descend to land from a height considered to be above obstruction clearance. What explains such a situation in a greenfield project?

The state gov announced the construction of a second airport for MMR in 1997. Three years later, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) determined that the Navi Mumbai site in Ulwe was technically and operationally feasible for a parallel-runway airport—MMR's first such, if all



would go as planned. While work on the new airport was delayed, builders quickly acquired land around the proposed site, and residential high-rises sprang up. Many buildings are now located under the

approach path (funnel zone) of runway 26—one of the two runways that has already been constructed.

Why did this happen? For five years, between 2007 and 2012, the City and Indus-

trial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (Cidco; Navi Mumbai's main planning authority), rather than the AAI, was responsible for issuing building height permissions. It was only after 2012 that buildings were granted no-objection certificates (NOCs) by Cidco based on AAI's height restriction norms. Under these norms, buildings and structures within a 20km radius of the airport centre are subject to height restrictions.

Within this radius, buildings located within 4km of the airport's centre point (and its runways) can be no taller than 45 metres—about 15 storeys, assuming the airport and the plot are at the same elevation. Then again, within this smaller radius, buildings situated along the aircraft approach paths of Navi Mumbai airport's upcoming two

parallel runways should face even stricter height restrictions, with the buildings closest to the runway threshold subject to the severest limitations. As mentioned, these height restrictions were not adhered to for NOCs issued by Cidco before 2012.

A 600-metre displaced threshold on a 3.7km-long runway means that only 3.1km can be used for landing calculations. But for take-off on Runway 26—heading west into the Arabian Sea—the entire runway length can be utilized. Several runways at Indian airports have displaced thresholds due to man-made obstructions along the aircraft approach path. The most extreme case is Runway 29L at Delhi Airport, which has a displaced threshold 1,460 meters from the physical beginning of the runway.

**WEB STORY**



How will the new airport grow in the coming years? Scan to find out



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

28 JANUARY 2025

## Domestic airport project in Ambala Cantt likely to be completed by Feb-end

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, JANUARY 27

A deadline of February 28 has been fixed to complete all formalities and pending works at the under-construction civil enclave (domestic airport) in Ambala Cantonment.

The Ambala's airport is expected to have flights to Ayodhya, Jammu and Lucknow, before adding more cities for air connectivity.

Haryana Cabinet Minister Anil Vij, who has been taking a keen interest in this project, presided over a joint meeting Sunday evening with officers from Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India, Police, PWD (B&R), and other departments regarding starting of flight services from the domestic airport in Ambala Cantonment. Haryana's Civil Aviation Minister Vipul Goel also joined the meeting via videoconferencing.

Anil Vij said, "Constructing a domestic airport in Ambala Cantonment, which once seemed impossible, was achieved through sincere efforts. As a major and important junction, Ambala Cantonment will gain consider-

May have flights to Ayodhya, Jammu, Lucknow



able advantages from the establishment of a domestic airport, and regional development and employment opportunities will also see a boost. Everything is in place, the machines are being installed and the work will be completed in a month."

Before the meeting, the minister inspected the airport and enquired about the machines installed for the security checks. He directed the off-

icials to expedite the work so that the operations could begin soon. Vij also directed the police officials to take the charge of the airport and ensure strict monitoring due to sensitivity, since the airport was next to the air force station.

Another meeting will be held soon in Chandigarh to finalise preparations for the commencement of flight services.

Civil Aviation Minister Vipul

Goel instructed officials to ensure the completion of all pending works and formalities related to the domestic airport by February 28. He also directed officials to provide security training and complete the work discussed during the meeting on priority.

Civil Aviation Adviser Dr Nahari Singh Bangar said, "The airport was inspected and the all issues were discussed in detail. The basic

### PROJECT APPROVED UNDER UDAN 3.0 SCHEME

In December 2018, the civil airport project was approved, under the Udan 3.0 scheme by the Centre. The project got stuck due to land-related issues. The foundation stone for the project was laid in October 2023. While the civil work is completed, due to the delay in installation of security equipment and baggage scanners, the project got delayed.

Cabinet Minister Anil Vij during an inspection of the domestic airport in Ambala Cantonment on Sunday.

infrastructure and the things required to make the airport operational are complete by almost 90 per cent. Some machines are to be sent by the Airports Authority of India and soon the machines will be delivered here. Every effort is being made to commence flight services soon. A meeting chaired by Civil Aviation Minister Vipul Goel is scheduled for Tuesday to address the remaining issues."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

## नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को 4 मंडल के 16 जिलों से जोड़ने के लिए तैयार हो रहा बस रूट मैप

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 28 जनवरी (देशबन्धु)। दिल्ली के बाद देश का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से विमानों का उड़ान अप्रैल से प्रस्तावित है। एयरपोर्ट के चालू होने से पहले पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के जिलों रोडवेज बस से जोड़ने के लिए रूट मैप तैयार किया जा रहा है। उत्तर प्रदेश परिवहन निगम यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण अधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर बस रूट को अंतिम रूप देने में जुटा है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से नोएडा-ग्रेटर नोएडा, दिल्ली और गाजियाबाद के बीच ईवी बस संचालन करने के लिए अलग से रूट निर्धारित किया जा रहा है।

नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से विमानों का उड़ान का 17 अप्रैल से पहले प्रस्तावित है। इस एयरपोर्ट के चालू होने से पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के लोगों को खासतौर से सबसे ज्यादा फायदा मिलने वाला है। अभी हवाई यात्रा करने वाले पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के लोगों को कई घंटे सफर करने के बाद दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट तक जाना होता है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के चालू

- उप परिवहन निगम व यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे प्राधिकरण मिलकर तैयार कर रहे रोडवेज बस का रूट मैप
- बसों को खड़ा करने के लिए चिह्नित किया जा रहा स्थान

होने से सहारनपुर, मेरठ, आगरा और अलीगढ़ मंडल के करीब 16 जिले के लोग एक घंटे के अंदर जेवर में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पहुंच सकेंगे। इन जिलों से नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक सीधे बस संचालन को लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश परिवहन निगम रूट मैप तैयार कर रहा है। शासन स्तर पर नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से 16 जिलों तक संचालन को लेकर शासन स्तर पर सहमति बन गई है। बसों का रूट निर्धारित करने के लिए गाजियाबाद क्षेत्रीय परिवहन अधिकारी को नोडल अधिकारी बनाया गया है। यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे प्राधिकरण और गौतमबुद्धनगर जिला प्रशासन के अधिकारियों के बीच कई दौर की बैठक हो चुकी है, जिसमें नोएडा एयरपोर्ट चालू होने से पहले रोडवेज बसों के संचालन

को रूट निर्धारित करने पर मंथन किया गया। मंथन के दौरान बसों के रूट करीब-करीब निर्धारित हो गए हैं, बसों को खड़ा करने के लिए नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के पास स्थान चिह्नित किया जा रहा है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग में ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्ट सिस्टम का निर्माण किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग में ग्राउंड ट्रांसपोर्ट सिस्टम के निर्माण कार्य पूरा होने में समय लग सकता है, ऐसी स्थिति में बसों को खड़ा करने के लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था तलाश की जा रही है। पहले दौर में नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से चार मंडलों के 16 जिलों के बीच करीब 500 से ज्यादा यूपी रोडवेज की बस संचालन की तैयारी है। इसके अलावा शहरी विकास मंत्रालय नोएडा-ग्रेटर नोएडा और यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे प्राधिकरण को 500 इलेक्ट्रिक बस संचालन पर सहमति बन चुकी है। नोएडा और ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण ने ईवी बस संचालन को लेकर रूट भी निर्धारित कर लिया है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से यमुना एक्सप्रेस वे, ग्रेटर नोएडा, नोएडा और दिल्ली के बीच बस संचालन का भी रूट निर्धारित किया जा रहा है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

## यूपी के 17 जिले एयरपोर्ट से जुड़ेंगे



ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। पश्चिमी उत्तरप्रदेश के 17 जिलों से नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट तक बसें चलाने की तैयारी है। इसके लिए उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम (यूपीएसआरटीसी) के साथ मिलकर रूट चार्ट तैयार किया जा रहा।

रोडवेज बसें के संचालन के लिए प्रस्ताव बनाकर शासन को भेजा जाएगा। वहां से अनुमति मिलने के बाद

### इन जिलों से पहुंचना आसान होगा

एयरपोर्ट से फिलहाल मेरठ मंडल के मेरठ, बागपत, बुलंदशहर, गाजियाबाद, गौतमबुद्ध नगर, हापुड़, सहारनपुर, मुजफ्फरनगर, शामली, अलीगढ़, हाथरस, कासगंज, एटा, आगरा, फिरोजाबाद, मथुरा और मेनपुरी तक बसें संचालित करने की योजना बनाई जा रही। उड़ानें संचालित होने से पहले ही बस सेवा शुरू करने का दावा है। भविष्य में गुरुग्राम, झज्जर, रेवाड़ी, रोहतक, सोनीपत, पानीपत, करनाल, फरीदाबाद, पलवल, मेवात (नूंह), भिवानी, महेंद्रगढ़ तक भी बसें चलेंगी।

बसें संचालित होंगी। इससे लोगों को एयरपोर्ट आने-जाने में आसानी होगी। प्राधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र के दूसरे अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट से अप्रैल में उड़ानें प्रस्तावित हैं।

पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश से जुड़ा यह एयरपोर्ट परिवहन केंद्र के रूप में भी

कार्य करेगा। इससे यहां के लोगों को देश के अन्य हिस्सों और विदेशों तक पहुंचना आसान होगा। दावा है कि एयरपोर्ट के 150 किलोमीटर के दायरे से यात्री विमान सेवा का लाभ पाने के लिए पहुंचेंगे। इस दायरे में उत्तरप्रदेश और दिल्ली समेत हरियाणा और राजस्थान के करीब 24 जिले आ रहे।

# 176 people evacuated as plane catches fire at S Korean airport

## Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA:** A passenger plane caught fire before take-off at an airport in South Korea late Tuesday, but all 176 people on board were safely evacuated, authorities said.

The Airbus plane operated by South Korean airline Air Busan was preparing to leave for Hong Kong when its rear parts caught fire at Gimhae International Airport in the southeast, the Transport Ministry said in a statement.

All of the plane's 169 passengers, six crewmembers and one engineer were evacuated using an escape slide, the ministry statement said. The National Fire Agency said in a release that three people suffered



**Authorities work to extinguish a fire that broke out on an Air Busan plane at Gimhae International Airport in Busan on Tuesday. AFP**

minor injuries during the evacuation. The fire agency said the fire was completely put out at 11:31pm (local time), about one hour after it deployed firefighters and fire trucks at the scene.

The cause of the fire wasn't immediately known. The Trans-

port Ministry said the plane is an A321 model.

Tuesday's incident came a month after a Jeju Air passenger plane crashed at Muan International Airport in southern South Korea, killing all but two of the 181 people on board.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE HINDU

CHENNAI

28 JANUARY 2025

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### CISF trashes man's claim of watch theft at Delhi airport

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

After a Gurugram-based doctor took to X to complain about his Apple watch being stolen at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, the CISF rubbished his claims, saying CCTV footage showed that the man strapped the watch on his wrist after completing security check.

Orthopaedic surgeon Tushar Mehta wrote a detailed post on X on January 25, alleging that a person walked away with his Apple watch at the airport after security screening before he nabbed him. He had also identified the alleged thief as belonging to a minority community.

"The review of the CCTV has contradicted the sequence of events. After security check, you were seen wearing your watch and heading for boarding gate," the CISF said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

## Mumbai airport operator MIAL to redevelop T1 to increase passenger handling capacity

**MUMBAI:** Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), operator of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), is set to embark on a landmark transformation with the redevelopment of Terminal 1 (T1).

This ambitious project will redefine passenger experience and set an unprecedented standard in sustainability and innovation. Once complete, the new terminal will be able to manage 20 million passengers annually, an impressive 42 per cent boost in capacity, reflecting the dynamic growth of Mumbai.

As Mumbai continues to soar

as an international aviation hub, the new terminal, with a built-up area of over two million sq. ft., is poised to become a hallmark of digitisation and consumer convenience. The redevelopment of Terminal 1 will be carried out in phases to minimise disruption to airport operations.

The initial phase involves the demolition of the existing structure, starting from November 2025, followed by construction of the new terminal.

CSMIA T2, along with Navi Mumbai International Airport, scheduled to be operational in 2025, will manage the capacity

gap created by the demolition of T1.

Together, the airports will accommodate passengers and flight schedules to meet the growing demands of both Mumbai City and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Speaking on the development, Jeet Adani, Director, Adani Airport Holdings Limited said, "The team at CSMIA is working tire-

lessly with our stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition, with minimum disruption to daily operations or passenger experience. This redevelopment is not only about expanding capacity—it is about future proofing our city's place on the global stage. Our priority remains to deliver the exceptional service that our passengers have come to expect."

MPOST





# Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

28 JANUARY 2025

## MP Manoj Tigga faces public ire over hospital and airport projects

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**ALIPURDUAR:** BJP MP Manoj Tigga faced public ire during his visit to Alipurduar Junction on Monday as locals raised questions about the progress of a hospital on railway land and the civil airport project at Hasimara. Slogans like 'Go Back' and 'Joy Bangla' were heard as residents voiced their dissatisfaction.

Tigga was attending a meeting organised by the Alipurduar Rail Bazaar Traders' Association when traders demanded updates on the hospital and airport projects. The agitation follows a December 27 protest, where a day-long dharna was held at the DRM office, accompanied by a business shutdown in the Alipurduar Junction area. Protesters had pledged to continue their movement until these demands were addressed.

Responding to the queries, MP Manoj Tigga stated, "The Hasimara civil airport project has progressed significantly, with 27 acres of land identified for a terminal. The Ministry of Civil Aviation will soon begin

### Takeaways

- » Tigga was attending a meeting organised by the Alipurduar Rail Bazaar Traders' Association when traders demanded updates on the hospital and airport projects
- » The agitation follows a December 27 protest, where a day-long dharna was held at the DRM office, accompanied by a business shutdown in the Alipurduar Junction area

work. Regarding the hospital, I will approach Union Health Minister JP Nadda and update the 'Unnayan Manch' officials on progress."

Tushar Ranjan Ghosh, joint convener of the 'Dooars Unnayan Manch', commented, "Our discussion with the MP was productive. We'll continue to press for our demands and won't back down."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

28 JANUARY 2025

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## Man from Imphal kills self at Kolkata airport

**GOURAB NETO**

**KOLKATA:** Tension spread among the other passengers and people at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport in Kolkata on Sunday afternoon after a man committed suicide by jumping from the departure flyover.

According to sources, the deceased identified as Oinam Ranjan Singh of Imphal aged about 50 years had arrived at the city on January 23. Singh since then was found strolling inside airport premises aimlessly. On Sunday Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel spotted Singh at the airport and questioned him about his intentions. While talking CISF personnel found that Singh was talking meaningless.

Suspecting Singh was mentally unstable, he was taken to a hospital from where the man was released after treatment.

After getting discharged, Singh again reached the NSCBI Airport premises.

He reached in front of the departure lounge on the departure flyover. All of a sudden, Singh jumped down from the flyover and fell on the taxi bay in front of the arrival lounge. Immediately Singh was rescued and rushed to Barasat District Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Controversy cropped up about how a person reached the place in front of the departure lounge on the flyover without getting noticed.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025



AFP

## **PLANE CATCHES FIRE AT SOUTH KOREAN AIRPORT:**

The tail of a passenger plane with 176 people on board caught fire before takeoff at an airport in Busan, South Korea on Tuesday night. The 169 passengers and crew were safely evacuated using an inflatable slide. The Air Busan plane was bound for Hong

Kong at Gimhae International Airport. This incident comes a month after the fatal crash of a Jeju Air plane that killed almost everyone on board, becoming the worst-ever aviation accident in the country. The Dec 29 crash of Boeing 737-800 jet brought a wide range of inspections into the country's safety standards

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

28 JANUARY 2025

## 30 MINS TO AIRPORT ONCE YOU HIT MTHL, ROAD IS YOUR BEST BET IN INITIAL YEARS

Chittaranjan Tembhekar & Manthan K Mehta | TNN

**N**MIA is set to transform connectivity in MMR, offering easy access through a network of roads, Metro lines and even water transport.

Currently, the upcoming airport is linked to Mumbai through two main routes: Sion-Panvel Highway which connects through Uran Pista (Amra Nagar), and MTHL (Atal Setu). MTHL is a major time-saver, cutting travel from south Mumbai to Navi Mumbai to just 30 minutes. But getting to Sewri from different parts of Mumbai can take longer during peak hours. Though, residents of areas like Cuffe Parade and Shivaji Park in the island city are set to go in immediately as their proximity to Sewri will take them to the new airport faster than the existing airport.

Those from the eastern suburbs can reach NMIA via Airoli-Mumbai Link Road or the Thane-Belapur route (which runs parallel to the trans-harbour railway line). But people from the western suburbs will have longer journeys. Airoli Link Road and JVL R are important routes, but traffic congestion often makes these slower, resulting in longer travel times. Residents from Mira Road and Dahisar will face additional delays because there aren't direct routes connecting them to the airport. Once Coastal Road is extended, travel for residents of the western suburbs will be quicker. For people living in areas further out, like Kalyan, Dombivli, and Ambernath, the Kalyan-Shilphata route connects to the airport through Sion-Panvel Highway. Though these routes are longer, they still offer important alternatives for those living in Mumbai's distant suburbs.

But the future of connectivity to NMIA is bright. Once the airport begins operations, passengers will have access to electric shuttle buses from suburban railway stations. Stations like Tarapur and Hamandogri on the Uran line will offer shuttles to the airport. Such buses will also serve passengers traveling from stations like Khurghar, Mansarovar, Khandeshwar, and Panvel, all of which are key transit points for those travelling from Thane, Mumbai, Pune, Korkan, and Kalyan-Dombivli. The buses will be equipped to carry luggage.

As for suburban trains, they

### HOW TO REACH METRO & WATER TAXIS LONG WAY OFF

**BY ROAD**

- Island city and eastern suburbs via MhPT road or Freeway to MTHL**  
Distance | 35-45km  
Time | 45-70 mins
- Sion-Panvel Highway through Vashi-Palm Beach or Nerul-Uran road**  
Distance | 40-45km  
Time | 50-75 mins
- Thane and beyond or distant western suburbs via Ahmedabad Highway | JVL R or Ghodbunder Road via Airoli and Thane-Belapur Rd**  
Distance | 45-55km  
Time | 1-2 hours
- Kalyan, Dombivli, Ambernath, Badliapur through Shilphata road**  
Distance | 35-50km  
Time | 45-120 mins
- Distant towns via Pune eway and Goa highway**  
Distance | 100-120km  
Time | 150-170 mins

**BY LOCAL TRAIN**

- CSMT or Goregaon-Andheri to Sewri, onto MTHL  
Distance | 32-55km  
Time | Up to 90 mins
- CSMT to Vashi/Seawoods/Belapur onto shuttle bus to airport  
Distance | 32-45km  
Time | 90 mins
- CSMT to Seawoods to Tarapur (Uran line)  
Distance | 36km  
Time | 80 mins
- Kalyan/Thane to Panvel via trans-harbour line to Seawoods to Tarapur  
Distance | 38-40km  
Time | 90 mins

**5 mins**  
Once the Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Mumbai-Hyderabad bullet train corridors are commissioned (to be interconnected), one can reach the new airport from BKC in a jiffy

**BY METRO**

- Direct Metro connectivity with NMIA from most parts of MMR will be established in a decade. But for the time being, the existing Metro lines can be used thus:
- FROM WESTERN SUBURBS**  
Take Metro 2A-7 or Metro 3 (Phase I) and connect with Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar Metro (Line 1). At Ghatkopar, take taxi or auto to the airport via Sion-Panvel Highway or Eastern Freeway-MTHL.  
Distance | 50-60km  
Time | 2 hours  
(Using the existing Metro lines to reach the new airport from the island city or the eastern suburbs won't be efficient. Travellers will have to wait for the entire Metro network to be up and running.)

**PITCH FOR WATER TAXI**

NMIA authorities are in talks with the Maharashtra Maritime Board to launch water taxi services from Radio Club in Colaba to the NMIA jetty. "We're preparing a feasibility report along the route, expecting services to start during the next phase of the airport's construction in 2029," an official said. "The mindset around water taxis needs to change and they should be utilized to connect to the airport. For example, at Radio Club, passengers could check in, and then passengers and their baggage could travel separately, ensuring a smooth transfer at the airport."

- A passenger terminal is proposed at Radio Club near Gateway, which will allow passengers to check in their luggage before boarding catamarans to the new airport. This airport will also feature a terminal for both passenger and cargo water transport  
Distance | 30 km; Time | 45 mins
- NMIA expects to handle significant cargo traffic from ports along the 700km Konkan coastline, Gujarat, and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), especially perishable goods like Alphonso mangoes. The upcoming Vadivhar port will have a strategic advantage, and JNPT's presence as a major cargo hub will help the airport capture a major share of the commercial logistics market  
Distance, time | Will depend on port location

will feed passengers to the airport, with the key hubs being CSMT, Thane, and Kalyan. Passengers from these areas will be able to take the harbour line till Sewri, which connects to the

airport through MTHL, reducing travel time for people coming from areas like Kalyan or Panvel. Ongoing discussions between civic authorities and the airport's developers aim to

expand shuttles to more areas within MMR, including far suburbs like Vasai-Virar and Ambernath. Although Metro connectivity won't be available immedi-

ately there are ambitious plans for an extensive Metro network that will eventually connect the airport to Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. Metro Line 8, which is in the works, will link Mum-

bai's airport to NMIA in just 30 minutes. This line will feature an underground section between Andheri and Ghatkopar before crossing Vashi Bay on a 2km bridge. Another Metro

line, 6A, will connect Belapur to Mumbai and integrate with Metro Line 2B, which is expected to be ready in the next couple of years. In addition to Metro, the Na-

vi Mumbai Metro network is expanding, with Cico planning to extend it to link Belapur directly to NMIA. This 70km network will make the airport even more accessible to people living in Navi Mumbai and surrounding areas.

NMIA will also benefit from two major high-speed rail projects. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train will connect NMIA to Gujarat, allowing travellers to reach the airport in a matter of hours. Additionally, the Mumbai-Hyderabad High-Speed Rail Corridor with NMIA as its terminal, will improve connectivity between Maharashtra and Telangana, further boosting passenger and cargo traffic at the airport.

Several important road infrastructure projects too have been planned to improve access to the airport. By 2026, the Sewri-Well Connector will cut travel time between Mumbai's western suburbs and the MTHL to just five minutes, bypassing congested city roads. Coastal road projects, like the Bandra-Versova Sea Link extension, will also provide quicker access to the airport for people from the western suburbs. In Navi Mumbai, Cico is developing two coastal roads—the Uwe Coastal Road and Khurghar Coastal Road—to improve connectivity to the airport. Additionally, the Goregaon-Mumbai Link Road and Thane-Belapur underground tunnel, expected to open by 2026, will reduce travel times and ease congestion.

Water transport will also play an important role in airport connectivity. The airport's location along the Belapur creek means it will feature both passenger and cargo terminals. Plans are in place for a water taxi service that will connect the airport to areas like Vasai-Virar, Kalyan, and Dombivli, providing a quicker and more efficient alternative to congested roads. The water taxis will help reduce travel time to the airport, making it more accessible for people living in the distant suburbs.

For cargo, the airport's proximity to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and other nearby ports along the Konkan coast is a major advantage. This will make NMIA a key hub for the export of goods like Alphonso mangoes and other perishable items. The development of an expressway connecting the MTHL to the old Pune Highway will also improve cargo movement, ensuring faster logistics for exporters and businesses.

## APRIL 17 A NEW FLIGHT PATH FOR THE METROPOLIS

MMR's Second Airport Is Set To Take Off This May After Inauguration In April, Offering Greater Connectivity And Convenience. NMA Is Slated For A Phase-Wise Launch, Beginning Operations With One Terminal And The First Of Two Planned Runways



Pics: SL Shanth Kumar

Manjiv@timesofindia.com

Indian carriers operating out of Mumbai airport's T1 & 2 will need to move a fraction of their flights to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMA) starting with the airline winter schedule at the end of Oct, officials say. Airlines will determine the flights to be shifted to NMA while planning their winter schedule, which runs from Oct-end to March-end. The airport is also expected to achieve on its own passenger growth of 2.3 million in its initial months. As an incentive, NMA has made a proposal to the state govt to reduce VAT on aviation turbine fuel from 18% to 1%.

NMA's aerodrome license is expected soon while the Aeronautical Information Publication (a manual containing regulations and procedures) is expected to be brought out on Feb 6. A formal inauguration will be held on April 17 and operations can start any time after, an NMA official said. The deadline is May-end.

A fifth of Mumbai's annual flyers will have to choose the new airport in their itinerary. When booking air tickets online, a drop down with two choices—'BOM', the existing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport, and 'NMI', the upcoming Navi Mumbai airport—will come up for flight options. Like Goa's two airports, for which passengers decide between 'GOI', the old Dabolim airport, or 'GOX', the new Mopa airport in North Goa. Unlike travelling between T2 and T1 of Mumbai airport, NMA officials said they do not expect passengers with itineraries that demand travel between two airports. For instance, a passenger who lands at Mumbai and has an onward connectivity from Navi Mumbai airport would need to sort between two airports. "Airline websites won't give such an inconvenient booking option, unless the passenger makes two different bookings with two PNRs," said an official.

The big question now is whether the airport, which has missed many deadlines, will stick to the latest one. It has been a 25-year wait for the Mumbai region—a time when airports across India expanded, added runways, flights and passengers, while the space-starved, single-runway Mumbai airport couldn't grow enough to meet the rising demand.

For now, work on the T1 building at Navi Mumbai is going on a war footing. "By the end of this month, the entire airside will be ready, and the nose-in bays will be ready by March end. The terminal building is still under construction, ceiling and facade works are on. But the baggage handling system is almost ready," the official said. Jeev Adani, director of Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL), said, "We are proud of the progress NMA has made. As AAHL's first greenfield airport, NMA represents years of planning, investment and hard work. This world-class airport will play a pivotal role in the region's growth, serving as a crucial hub for travellers across the globe."

Airlines did not respond to a query by TOI two carriers said their NMA operations are in the planning stage. The Navi Mumbai T1 is expected to reach saturation point by mid-2026—possibly the shortest saturation time in the world for a greenfield airport terminal. The existing terminals of both airports will be expanded to handle growth till 2028, when T2 will come up in Navi Mumbai. But for now, all eyes are on the inauguration of the new airport as the region will finally get its second airport, making it a momentous year in its history of air travel.

### NAVI MUM AIRPORT TO HAVE FAST-TRACK IMMIGRATION CHECK

Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMA) Ulwe, Navi Mumbai

AREA 2,860 acres

Equivalent to 115 Azad Maidans. In contrast, Mumbai airport's area is 1,976 acres

To be the first airport in India to offer dedicated sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for aircraft refuelling

**PLANNED TERMINALS**  
The west side of the airport will comprise Terminals 1, 2 and 3 (T1, 2, and 3)  
The east side will have Terminal 4 (T4)

**TERMINAL 1 BUILT-UP AREA**  
3 lakh sq m  
**ANNUAL CARGO EXPECTED**  
0.8 ton

**PASSENGERS PER ANNUM**  
20 million (declared capacity)

**OPERATIONS**  
42 stands  
29 Aerobridges  
13 Remote parking bays

**PARKING**  
16 General aviation aircraft stands  
7 Cargo aircraft stands

REMAINING TERMINALS	
To be ready by	Declared capacity (passengers per annum)
2029*	30 million
2032	20 million
2036	20 million

\*By when NMA will also have its own approach control tower

**2 RUNWAYS**  
Number of runways (parallel to each other, unlike Mumbai's airport's cross-runways)

**600 metres**  
**Displaced threshold**  
It is a runway threshold that is not at the physical beginning of the runway

**LARGELY UNIDIRECTIONAL RUNWAY**  
90% of landing will be on runway 26, with aircraft coming in from Matheran end, facing west to land

In winter, when wind direction changes, aircraft will use runway 08, coming in from Arabian Sea facing east, as with Mumbai airport

**INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM**  
Code F runway, CAT-I initially  
Later the more advanced CAT-II, allowing operations to continue even in 350-metre runway visibility

**OTHER FEATURES**  
Full length dual parallel taxiways  
3 rapid exits from runway 26 and one from 08 end  
2 exits, one each at runway ends

#### SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

**28 MW** will be T1's total electricity demand, out of which 11 MW will be solar power  
Four aviation turbine fuel tanks of 6,000 kl each  
Sustainable aviation fuel tank with 1,200 kl capacity operational from day one  
Provision for another SAF tank of similar capacity  
For airlines, moving to a new airport, a greenfield with latest technology and amenities would mean higher fees across the board



**FULL CAPACITY**  
ONCE ALL FOUR TERMINALS ARE OPERATIONAL ACROSS 1 MILLION SQ M BUILT-UP AREA

90 million passengers per annum  
3.2 million tons of cargo handling capability in integrated air cargo complex

138 aircraft contact stands  
107 remote stands

11 widebody cargo aircraft stands  
99 general aviation aircraft parking

47 MW solar energy generation

#### HOW DIFFERENT FROM MUMBAI?

- DigiYatra will be available from airport entry to boarding gate. At Mumbai airport, it is available only from airport entry to security clearance
- Fast-track immigration programme like at foreign airports by July
- AI-based passenger movement tracking system. Monitors to give passengers 'waiting time display' at entry, pre-embarkation security check and immigration check
- AI-based surveillance system for security to identify passengers who need medical assistance
- Adani-1 app to help with navigation through terminal, information on food and beverage outlets, shopping outlets. It will also allow passengers to book flights, book car parking, etc
- IATA 753 for real-time baggage tracking to allow passengers to track check-in bags pre-departure and post-arrival when bags are in Navi Mumbai airport. Post landing, passenger will get an SMS about check-in bag unloading status. The technology will be made available to airlines to allow passengers to track their bags at other airports as well
- IoT-based asset tracking system designed to monitor the location of essential assets such as wheelchairs and trolleys

#### AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

THE ATC UNIT AT NAVI MUMBAI WILL WORK IN COORDINATION WITH THE ATC UNIT AT MUMBAI  
The ATC unit at Navi Mumbai airport will have a tower controller, also called an aerodrome controller, who manages aircraft during takeoff and landing  
The tower controller gives clearances for landing, takeoff, and pushback, and oversets



The tower controller gives clearances for landing, takeoff, and pushback, and oversets  
The tower controller will be guided by the tower controller until reaching 2,000 ft, after which pilots will switch to the approach controller at Mumbai ATC in Sahar  
Similarly, arriving aircraft will be managed by the Mumbai approach controller until about 2,900 feet, then by the Navi Mumbai tower controller for the final descent





## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

28 JANUARY 2025

# *Maha Kumbh: Govt says taking steps to rationalise fares for Prayagraj flights*

NEW DELHI, Jan 27: The civil aviation ministry on Monday said steps are being taken to rationalise airfares for flights to Prayagraj and the number of flights has been increased to cater to the rising traffic demand in view of the Maha Kumbh.

Amid concerns over surging airfares for the flights to Prayagraj, where the Maha Kumbh will be on till February 26, officials of aviation regulator DGCA held a meeting with airline representatives last week and urged them to add more flights and rationalise the ticket prices.

Currently, there are 132 flights operating with approximately 80,000 monthly seats to Prayagraj from various Indian cities. Prayagraj is connected directly with 17 cities against 8 cities in December 2024.

In a release, the ministry said that with direct and connecting flights reaching 26 cities, including Srinagar and Visakhapatnam, Prayagraj is now a well-connected hub for devotees.

According to the ministry, the new flights are part of the ongoing efforts to ensure regional connectivity and ac-



commodate the influx of travellers to Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh period.

Further, the ministry said the addition of these flights is expected to ease the pres-

sure on airfares and improve overall accessibility for devotees and tourists.

“As per the directions of Civil Aviation Minister KRM Naidu to ensure that airfares

remain in check as the festival’s peak days approach, especially during the forthcoming Shahi Sanan on January 29th, February 3rd, and other important sanan on February

4th, February 12th, and February 26th; DGCA has advised airlines to ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate passengers,” the release said.

Under current norms, air-

fares are deregulated and are not controlled by the government.

Akasa Air will start flights on January 28 and 29 to Prayagraj from Ahmedabad. In February, the airline plans to operate 9 flights from Ahmedabad and 12 flights from Bengaluru to Prayagraj, adding around 4,000 seats.

SpiceJet will commence launch flights to Prayagraj from Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur and Hyderabad. This will add about 43,000 seats in February, as per the release.

For the ongoing Maha Kumbh, the Prayagraj airport witnessed 30,172 passengers and operated 226 flights in just one week, surpassing 5,000 passengers in a single day for the first time. Night flights have also been introduced.

Earlier this month, travel portal Ixigo said that bookings as well as airfares for flights to Prayagraj have jumped multifold with the air ticket prices rising up to 21 per cent for the Delhi-Prayagraj flights.

The Maha Kumbh, which started on January 13, will end on February 26. – PTI

thehindu **businessline.**

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 29, 2025

## Easing leasing

*New Bill bridges legislative gap in aviation*

**T**he Cabinet's recent approval of the Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircrafts Objects Bill addresses a gaping legislative anomaly that has placed India in conflict with global conventions on aircraft leasing. The Bill ratifies the Cape Town Convention (CTC), the global protocol on matters specific to aircraft equipment. The CTC has largely been inoperative in India, one of the largest aviation markets, despite the country having been a signatory to it since 2008 -- because Parliament has not ratified the CTC.



CTC is an essential mechanism to achieve efficient financing of high-value aircraft and parts by lowering the risk of lessors (or owners). In the highly capital-intensive aviation industry, the general practice adopted by airlines is to lease aircraft so that they can develop a fleet without having to make big investments in buying aircraft. Presently, a majority of around 700 passenger commercial aircraft in India are leased. International protocols such as the CTC are necessary to safeguard the interests of the lessors who would otherwise have to deal with high-value aircraft/equipment stranded in foreign territories for prolonged periods without being able to repossess them. But in the absence of ratification, its provisions remained in conflict with domestic statutes including the Civil Procedure Code, the Specific Relief Act, the Companies Act and, most importantly, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Symptomatic of this legislative anomaly was the case of Go First which initiated its voluntary insolvency under IBC which led to a freezing of the airline's assets, including the aircraft. The lessors were prevented from recovering their aircraft as bankruptcy protection superseded the international protocol. Although the government subsequently amended the IBC to exempt transactions involving aircraft, aircraft engines and helicopters from bankruptcy proceedings, it failed to reassure global entities who became increasingly wary of leasing aircraft to Indian airlines. The Aviation Working Group, a global aviation leasing watchdog, placed India on a watchlist with a negative outlook, for not meeting international aircraft possession obligations. The overall impact for the Indian aviation sector was that risk premiums charged by global lessors multiplied and aircraft financing costs rose exponentially. Airlines passed on the enhanced costs to consumers through high air fares.

The legislation proposed now circumvents legal conundrums which have aggrieved global players in India. It would allow settlement of cases between lessors and airlines under CTC provisions. This would lower risk premiums, make airlines' operations cost-effective and hopefully bring down passenger fares. The government hopes it will facilitate India's growth as a leasing financial centre not just for domestic players but for foreign airlines as well. Currently, aircraft leasing business is mostly undertaken through foreign financial centres like Ireland.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

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## SpiceJet plans to resume flights to Saudi Arabia

**Aneesh Phadnis**  
Mumbai

SpiceJet plans to restore its service to Saudi Arabia with the re-entry of Boeing 737 Max. Saudi Arabia is the second largest market for Indian travellers behind UAE and the re-entry of 737 Max aircraft into service would enable SpiceJet to carry higher passenger and cargo loads to the West Asian country.

The return into service of the fuel-efficient 737 Max aircraft follows the airline's tie up with US-based maintenance repair and overhaul unit Stand-

ard Aero Inc. In December, SpiceJet had seven 737 Max aircraft and these were grounded from last September.

### **CAPITAL INFUSION**

A ₹3,000 crore capital infusion last September enabled the airline to restore grounded aircraft and clear pending dues.

"The re-induction of our first grounded Boeing 737 MAX aircraft is a moment of immense pride and an important milestone for SpiceJet," Chairman Ajay Singh said in a statement.

The 737 Max aircraft will be back in action for SpiceJet from Wednesday.

# शहर से उड़ानें बढ़ें तो महाकुंभ जैसे आयोजनों में मिलने लगे सहूलियत

जासं, कानपुर : महाकुंभ पर दूसरे राज्यों से प्रयागराज आने-जाने वाले विमानों का किराया आसमान छू रहा है और आसानी से सीटें भी नहीं मिल रही। कानपुर से प्रयागराज की दूरी सिर्फ 200 किलोमीटर है। यहां से सड़क मार्ग के जरिये आसानी से पहुंचा जा सकता है। कानपुर का किराया भी प्रयागराज की अपेक्षा सस्ता पड़ रहा है और लोग यहां का विकल्प खोज रहे हैं, लेकिन उड़ानें कम होने से उन्हें परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।



चकेरी हवाई अड्डा • जगदश आकाश

चकेरी एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल की नई बिल्डिंग मई 2023 में तैयार हो गई थी। यहां से मुंबई और दिल्ली के लिए योजना एक, बंगलुरु के लिए सप्ताह में तीन दिन और चार दिन हैदराबाद के लिए उड़ान की सुविधा है। अन्य शहरों के लिए उड़ानें न होने से कारोबारियों को लखनऊ की दौड़ लगानी पड़ती है। लंबे से समय से मांग होने पर भी इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया।

पिछले वर्ष अयोध्या में रामलला की प्राण प्रतिष्ठा हुई तो चकेरी एयरपोर्ट के लिए योजना एक, बंगलुरु के लिए सप्ताह में तीन दिन और चार दिन हैदराबाद के लिए उड़ान की सुविधा है। अन्य शहरों के लिए उड़ानें न होने से कारोबारियों को लखनऊ की दौड़ लगानी पड़ती है। लंबे से समय से मांग होने पर भी इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया।

- दूसरे शहरों से प्रयागराज का किराया महंगा और लोग खोज रहे कानपुर का विकल्प
- कानपुर का किराया कम, पर उड़ानें ज्यादा न होने से लोगों को हो रही असुविधा

महाकुंभ के कारण यात्रियों की संख्या बढ़ी है। फिलहाल उड़ानें बढ़ाने का कोई फैसला नहीं हुआ है।  
संजय कुमार, निदेशक एयरपोर्ट

## प्रयागराज की उड़ानों के किराये पर सरकार की नजर

नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने सोमवार को कहा कि प्रयागराज की उड़ानों का किराया तर्कसंगत हो इसके लिए कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। डीजीसीए के अधिकारियों ने एयरलाइन प्रतिनिधियों के साथ बैठक कर टिकट की कीमतों को वाजिब रखने को कहा। इस समय विभिन्न शहरों से प्रयागराज के लिए लगभग 132 उड़ानें संचालित हो रही हैं। विश्व हिंदू परिषद (विहिप) ने सोमवार को दावा किया था कि कुछ एयरलाइन कंपनियां प्रयागराज के लिए उड़ानों के किराए में अत्यधिक बढ़ोतरी की है। सरकार को इस मुद्दे के समाधान के लिए तत्काल कदम उठाने चाहिए। कंपनियों ने सामान्य श्रेणी के किराये को भी 200 से 700 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ा दिया है। (नई दिल्ली, डे।)

पाने से लोग कानपुर का विकल्प खोज रहे हैं। कानपुर आने वाली फ्लाइट प्रयागराज से सस्ती : टैवल एजेंट शारिक अल्वी ने बताया कि आम दिनों में कानपुर से दिल्ली, बंगलुरु, हैदराबाद और मुंबई के बीच किराया अमूमन पांच तक पहुंच गया। फ्लेक्सो फेब्रु की मुंबई से आने का किराया 20 हजार रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। जबकि

बंगलुरु से 30 हजार, दिल्ली से 15000 और हैदराबाद से 21,400 रुपये तक देने पड़ रहे हैं। बंगलुरु से प्रयागराज के लिए टिकट की कीमत 47 हजार के पार पहुंच गई है। मुंबई से आने के लिए 30 से 36 हजार रुपये तक देने पड़ रहे हैं। वहीं दिल्ली से आने के लिए 20,250 रुपये तक देने पड़ रहे हैं।

लंबे समय से शहर से उड़ानें बढ़ाने की मांग चल रही है। नया टर्मिनल बनने के बाद लगा था कि अब उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ेगी। अगर और उड़ानें होतीं तो महाकुंभ जाने वाले यात्रियों को बहुत सहूलियत मिलती।  
सुनील वैश्य, पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष आइआइए



कानपुर से प्रयागराज दो या ढाई घंटे में पहुंच सकते हैं। अगर शहर से और उड़ानों की सुविधा होती तो लोगों को महाकुंभ पहुंचने में आसानी होती। जनप्रतिनिधियों की उदासीनता के कारण उड़ानें नहीं बढ़ सकी हैं।  
मनोज बंका, राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पीआइए

दिल्ली के लिए एक और उड़ान शहर को जल्द मिल जाएगी। अन्य शहरों के लिए भी उड़ानें बढ़ाने के लिए उड़यन मंत्री से बात हुई है। इस दिशा में काम भी शुरू हो गया है।  
देवेन्द्र सिंह भोले, सांसद व चेयरमैन हवाई अड्डा सलाहकार समिति



शहर से उड़ानें बढ़ाने के लिए उड़यन मंत्री से बात हुई थी। उन्होंने इस बारे में विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो और आकाशा से बात की है। सर्वो भी शुरू हो गया है। जल्द ही अन्य शहरों के लिए भी उड़ानें मिलने लगेगी।  
रमेश अवरुची, सांसद



- सुविधाओं से लैस है नई टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग
- एक साथ तीन हवाई जहाज खड़े होने की व्यवस्था।
  - डिपॉवर की ओर 300 व एराइवल में 150 यात्रियों के बैठने की क्षमता।
  - 150 चार पहिया वाहनों के लिए पार्किंग की व्यवस्था की गई है।
  - दावा है कि रात में जहाज उतरने और उड़ने की व्यवस्था भी है।
  - 400 यात्रियों को एक साथ आवाजाही हो सकती है।
  - आठ चैक इन काउंटर से यात्रियों के लिए आवाजाही होती है।
  - यात्रियों के लिए खरीदारी और भोजन की विविध रेंज क्षमता।
  - 200 यात्री वाले बड़े विमान भी यहां पर आ-जा सकते हैं।
  - जीआरआईएच-4 रेंटिंग मिली है। यह सतत विकास व जिम्मेदार संसाधन प्रबंधन को दर्शाने वाली राष्ट्रीय ग्रीन बिल्डिंग रेंटिंग प्रणाली है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

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## SpiceJet to re-induct Boeing 737 Max into operations



SPICEJET ON TUESDAY said it is set to re-induct one of its grounded Boeing 737 Max aircraft into operations from January 29, as part of its plan to put all these planes back into service in a phased manner.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

28 JANUARY 2025

## Mansarovar Yatra, direct air flights on

**FPJ News Service**

BEIJING

India and China on Monday decided to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra as the two sides agreed to take people-centric steps to "stabilise and rebuild" ties.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said this following Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's talks with his Chinese counterpart Sun Weidong in Beijing.

It said the two sides also agreed in principle to re-



sume direct air services between the two countries.

"As agreed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at their meeting in Kazan in October, the two sides reviewed the

► **Contd on** | nation

## Manasarovar Yatra...

state of India-China bilateral relations comprehensively and agreed to take certain people-centric steps to stabilize and rebuild ties," the MEA said.

The MEA said the two sides also agreed to hold an early meeting of the India-China expert level mechanism to discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data and other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers; the two sides agreed to take appropriate measures to further promote and facilitate people-to-people exchanges, including media and think-tank interactions.

Incidentally, 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China.

Xinhua reports the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri the two countries should meet half way and commit themselves to mutual understanding rather than mutual suspicion.

The visit of Misri, India's former Ambassador to China, comes ahead of the celebrations of China's Spring Festival and the Chinese New Year, beginning on January 29, during which the country will officially shut down for a week.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

## विमान में गलती से दबा पैनिक बटन

जोधपुर, एजेसी। राजस्थान के जोधपुर हवाई अड्डे पर मंगलवार सुबह एक उड़ान में एक यात्री ने गलती से पैनिक बटन दबा दिया। इससे अफरातफरी मच गई। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यह घटना सुबह 10.05 बजे बेंगलुरु के लिए उड़ान भरने वाली 6ई-603 में हुई, जब वह रनवे पर जाने वाली थी।

हवाईअड्डा पुलिस घटनास्थल पर पहुंची और यात्री बैंक अधिकारी सिराज किदवाई को पूछताछ के लिए हिरासत में लिया। हालांकि यह पुष्टि होने के बाद कि यह कार्रवाई अनजाने में हुई थी तो उन्हें रिहा कर दिया गया। अधिकारी ने कहा, उड़ान में 20 मिनट की देरी हुई। यात्री बैठा हुआ था और अपनी सीट के पास आपातकालीन अलार्म देख रहा था, तभी बटन गलती से दब गया।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

{ **MUMBAI-BOUND AI FLIGHT** } DGCA INITIATES PROBE

# Mid-air 'hijack' alert activates security protocol

**Neha LM Tripathi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** At 8.40pm on Monday night, Air India's Mumbai-bound flight AI 2957 which had just taken off from New Delhi's Indira Gandhi airport sent an emergency signal to air traffic control (ATC) in the Capital, suggesting it had been hijacked.

Delhi ATC immediately set in motion a protocol that requires alerting the destination airport, security agencies, the Indian Air Force. A central committee, comprising representatives from Delhi police, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which is responsible for airport security, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Air Force was formed.

Although the pilot informed ATC that it was a false alarm, there was no let up in the proto-

col. "How can the ATC assume that the pilot is not being pressured to tell the authorities that the flight is uneventful? What if he is at gunpoint and has been asked to say so?" asked a former ATC official who asked not to be named. The flight, with 126 passengers, landed in Mumbai at 9:47pm, where the authorities were ready for it. "An aerodrome committee at Mumbai airport was formed as per protocol and a full emergency was declared at the airport, at around 9:30pm, where all the local police and stakeholders along with NSG (National Security Guard) were deployed," a Mumbai airport official said, asking not to be named.

The aircraft was taken to an isolation bay, and passengers were allowed to deboard only after an hour, after establishing that all was in order, the official added.

### THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA) HAS BEGUN ITS PROBE INTO THE INCIDENT, AVIATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID

According to a Delhi airport official who asked not to be named, the drama started when "the aircraft's transponder sent a 'squawk 7500' code to the Delhi ATC immediately after its take off." The signal was up for three minutes, they added.

Squawk codes are four-digit codes ranging from 0000 to 7777 set on an aircraft's transponder. These unique identifiers allow air traffic control units to distinguish between different aircraft.

However, in ATC parlance,

7500, 7600 and 7700 are fixed codes for emergency situations. While squawk 7600 and 7700 indicate radio communication failure and any aircraft-related emergency respectively, squawk 7500 indicates unlawful interference — in other words, a hijack.

Aviation ministry officials said that the airline had reported the matter and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), along with along with BCAS and CISF, has begun its probe into the incident. "The aim is to find out the cause of the false indication. Whether it was the pilot error or the air traffic controller on duty who, may be, misread the indication will only be clear after the investigation is concluded," one ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

HT reached out to DGCA officials but did not get a comment till the time of going to print.

An Air India spokesperson

remained unavailable for a comment. However, an airline official familiar with the incident said, "There has been no indication of any crew involvement into the incident. It could have been a technical error, all of which will be known only after the regulator's (the DGCA) enquiry is concluded."

A second ministry official added: "The pilot, however, learnt about the false indication after take off. He informed the local ATC that the aircraft was operating in a regular situation and that it was not hijacked."

"However, once the indication is made, the stakeholders need to follow a protocol and prepare for the worst," this official added on condition of anonymity.

After landing, "the pilot repeatedly insisted that the plane had not been hijacked and that it had been a regular flight," the Mumbai airport official said,

{ LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTIES }

# Planes, trains and roads: Crowds swell in season of Kumbh — not just in Prayagraj



A rush of devotees in Prayagraj on Tuesday.

PTI

**Kenneth John and  
Neha LM Tripathi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**PRAYAGRAJ/NEW DELHI:** It is an event that organisers spend years to set up, given the sheer scale of visitors it attracts. But authorities at the Maha Kumbh are struggling to handle a rising tide of devotees inundating Prayagraj this week, leaving the mela grounds packed far beyond capacity and ensuring

that systems put meticulously in place are stretched to the limit.

The deluge ahead of the most auspicious day of the 45-day spectacle, Mauni Amavasya on Tuesday, has sent air and train fares zooming, and even spilled over across other religious towns, forcing authorities at the Ram Temple in faraway Ayodhya to issue appeals to people to defer their

continued on → 19

## KUMBH RUSH

visits.

The administration at the Maha Kumbh, elated and inundated at the same time, admitted on Tuesday that matters were now out of their hands.

"We have done our best and the rest is in the hands of Maa Gange (the river goddess). We are humans and have put in place the best of arrangements possible for an expected record turnout of 80 million to 100 million for a single event in a single day. Now, the rest is up to Bade Hanumanji," said Vivek Chaturvedi, additional district magistrate (Maha Kumbh).

Roughly 80 million people are likely to take the dip at the holy Sangam spot on Wednesday. This surge has left the grounds packed, the pontoon bridges groaning, and police struggling to keep queues and erect barricades.

The reverberations of the crowding are being felt even 160km away in Ayodhya.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Tuesday urged devotees to postpone their visits to Ayodhya for 15-20 days due to an unprecedented surge of pilgrims, which has brought the city to a standstill. Trust secretary Champat Rai appealed as the number of devotees visiting the temple town surged to an unprecedented five million over the last two days.

The influx coincides with pilgrims arriving from Prayagraj after participating in the Maha Kumbh. "The roads leading to Ayodhya are overwhelmed with traffic jams stretching over 20km. Managing this unexpected congregation has become exceedingly challenging for the administration, Rai said.

"We urge local devotees to postpone their visit to Ayodhya by 15-20 days. This will provide a more convenient experience for pilgrims travelling from distant places during this peak period," he added.

The rush of pilgrims has sent airfares through the roof. While the ticket costs for Delhi to Prayagraj flights have soared to ₹20,000 or more from ₹5,000, one seeking to fly in from Mumbai must shell out anywhere between ₹20,000 to ₹56,000.

The civil aviation ministry has urged airlines to add additional flights to meet the

increased demand. Amid a surge in air fares, the civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu has also asked the ministry to ensure that airfares remain in check.

"The addition of these flights is expected to ease the pressure on airfares and improve overall accessibility for devotees and tourists," a statement from the ministry read.

"To meet increased demand for air travel to Prayagraj during Mahakumbh, DGCA has approved 81 additional flights in January, raising Prayagraj's connectivity via 132 flights from across India," the government stated on Monday. Uttar Pradesh saw an immense rise in tourism with 33 crore visitors in 2024, and hosting 100 billion visitors as of 23rd January, 2025 for Mahakumbh," Rikant Pittie, CEO & co-founder of EaseMyTrip said.

Trains, too, are running full.

The Indian Railway, by running more than 300 trains for the day, expects to cater to approximately one million passengers in one day.

Around 13,500 trains are being operated in the Prayagraj area until the Mahakumbh 2025 ends. Out of these, around 10,000 trains are regular and 3,500 are Mela Specials.

"There will be a train to or from Prayagraj every four minutes," Satish Kumar, chairman and CEO of the Railway Board said.

There are multiple security challenges as well.

More than 30,000 police personnel from 70 districts have been deployed to keep track of tens of millions of people, with the help of 2,700 AI-powered cameras. In a first, underwater drones aided by 25 marine commandoes from Vizag are providing real-time surveillance, especially when millions of devotees are thronging the 48 ghats on a 12-km stretch to take the holy dip at Sangam.

A total of 102 checkpoints, manned by 1,100 police personnel, have also been set up in the Mela area.

Yet, there is agreement that only divine intervention can help in controlling the surge.

Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad president Mahant Ravindra Puri said, "Arrangements are fine, but the Mela runs on faith. Such a crowd has never been witnessed in the Mela... but Maa Gange will take care of everything."

## राघव चड्ढा ने की महाकुंभ के लिए विमान किरायों को नियंत्रित करने की अपील

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्य। उत्तरप्रदेश के प्रयागराज में महाकुंभ का आयोजन चल रहा है। जहां देश-दुनिया के लोग पहुंच रहे हैं। जिसके चलते रेलगाड़ियों और विमान सेवाओं में यात्रियों की भीड़ बेतहाशा बढ़ गई है। इसी का फायदा उठाते हुए विमानन कंपनियों ने प्रयागराज का सफर काफी महंगा कर दिया है।

इस किराया बढ़ोत्तरी को लेकर आम आदमी पार्टी के सांसद राघव चड्ढा ने सरकार से अपील की है कि वह विमानन कंपनियों की मनमानी पर रोक लगाए। उन्होंने कहा कि श्रद्धालुओं की सेवा करना सबसे बड़ा धर्म है, विमानन कंपनियां विमान किराए में मनमानी वृद्धि करके श्रद्धालुओं की आस्था से मजाक कर रही हैं। उन्होंने सरकार से अपील की कि वह हस्तक्षेप कर किराए में किए जा रहे मनमानी वृद्धि पर रोक लगाए और



सामान्य किराया बहाल कराया। इस दौरान उन्होंने बताया कि जो टिकट पहले 5000 से 8000 रुपए के मिलते थे, वह अब बढ़कर 50000 से लेकर 60000 रुपए तक पहुंच गए हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि लाखों श्रद्धालु कुंभ में स्नान करने जाना चाहते हैं, लेकिन मनमाने किराए की

वजह से उन्हें निराश होना पड़ रहा है। विमानन कंपनियां अपने फायदे के चक्कर में लोगों की भावनाओं से खेल रही हैं। चड्ढा ने यात्रियों की ओर से किराया कम किए जाने की मांग की। बता दें कि इससे पहले राघव चड्ढा ने हवाई अड्डों पर महंगे मिलने वाली पानी की बोतल और खाने-पीने की चीजों का मामला भी उठाया था। जिसके बाद सरकार की ओर से किफायती कैटीन की शुरुआत की गई।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

## India, China agree to resume air travel

Reuters  
feedback@livemint.com  
BEIJING/NEW DELHI

India and China have agreed to resume direct air services after nearly five years and work on resolving differences over trade and economic issues, New Delhi said, as relations continue to thaw after a deadly 2020 border clash.

Following a meeting on Monday in Beijing between foreign secretary Vikram Misri and China's foreign minister Wang Yi, India's foreign ministry said that both sides would negotiate a framework on the flights' resumption at an "early date".

China's foreign ministry confirmed on Tuesday that flights would resume, and said Wang had told Misri that China and India should commit to "mutual support and mutual achievement" rather than "suspicion" and "alienation".

"Specific concerns in the economic and trade areas were discussed with a view to resolving these issues and pro-



India's top diplomat Vikram Misri (left) with China's foreign minister Wang Yi. PTI

moting long-term policy transparency and predictability," the Indian statement said, without going into details.

Analysts say sluggish economies and trade threats from US President Donald Trump are encouraging China and India to work more closely together.

Trump has warned he will impose tariffs on China and India is a large market for China, while New Delhi wants Chinese expertise, components, and machinery to fuel exports and the economy, which is coming off recent highs.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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MINT

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

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SpiceJet will reinduct one of its grounded Boeing 737 Max aircraft into operations on 29 Jan. HT

## SpiceJet to reinduct grounded fleet

**D**omestic budget carrier SpiceJet on Tuesday said it is set to re-induct one of its grounded Boeing 737 Max aircraft into operations from 29 January, as part of its plan to put all these planes back into service in a phased manner.

The first such plane is set to be deployed on high-demand markets such as Jeddah and Riyadh, starting Wednesday, it said.

Grounded for several months, the aircraft's return marks a significant milestone in the airline's fleet restoration and operational enhancement efforts, SpiceJet said in a statement.

Under its ongoing fleet restoration plan, the airline aims to bring ten aircraft, including four Boeing 737 MAX planes, back into service by mid-April, it said.

This is the first 737 MAX aircraft to be brought back under the exercise, it added. PTI



# Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

## कुंभ के लिए सस्ती फ्लाइट सुविधा उपलब्ध कराए सरकार: चड्ढा

नई दिल्ली, 28 जनवरी (नवोदय टाइम्स): प्रयागराज महाकुंभ के लिए फ्लाइट के भारी भरकम किराए लिए जाने के मामले सामने आने पर आम आदमी पार्टी के वरिष्ठ नेता और राज्यसभा सदस्य राघव चड्ढा ने इस वृद्धि पर सवाल उठाते हुए केंद्र सरकार से मांग की है कि महाकुंभ जाने वाले श्रद्धालुओं के लिए केंद्र सरकार सस्ती फ्लाइट की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराए।

उन्होंने कहा कि दुनिया भर से करोड़ों लोग महाकुंभ में शामिल होने के लिए प्रयागराज जाना चाहते हैं।



एयरलाइंस कंपनियां उनसे 50 से 60 हजार रुपए किराया वसूल रहीं हैं। जबकि समान्य दिनों में 5-8 हजार रुपए ही किराया होता है। केंद्र सरकार से अपील है कि एयरलाइंस कंपनियों की मनमानी पर रोक लगाए। ताकि लोग अस्था के महाकुंभ में डुबकी लगा सकें। राघव चड्ढा ने कहा कि कुंभ जाने वाले श्रद्धालुओं के लिए किफायती फ्लाइट की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराएं या फिर फ्लाइट की कीमत में कैंपिंग करें। श्रद्धालु की सेवा से बड़ा धर्म कुछ नहीं हो सकता है।



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

28 JANUARY 2025

# India, China resume direct flights, Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in 2025

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

India and China on Monday decided to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra as the two sides agreed to take certain people-centric steps to "stabilise and rebuild" ties. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said this following Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's talks with his Chinese counterpart Sun Weidong in Beijing.

It said the two sides also agreed in principle to resume direct air services between the two countries. "As agreed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at their meeting in Kazan in October, the two sides reviewed the state of



India-China bilateral relations comprehensively and agreed to take certain people-centric steps to stabilise and rebuild ties," the MEA said.

In this context, the two sides decided to resume the Kailash

Mansarovar Yatra in the summer of 2025," it said. The MEA said the two sides also agreed to hold an early meeting of the India-China expert level mechanism to discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data

and other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers.

It said the two sides agreed to take appropriate measures to further promote and facilitate people-to-people exchanges, including media and think-tank interactions. "They agreed in principle to resume direct air services between the two countries; the relevant technical authorities on the two sides will meet and negotiate an updated framework for this purpose at an early date," the MEA said.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra was stopped in 2020 due to Covid restrictions, followed by border tensions started after tussle at Galwan, where both sides lost more than 50 soldiers

# Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

## प्रयागराज जाने वालों से मनमाने दाम वसूल रही हैं विमान कंपनियां

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): आम आदमी पार्टी (आप) सांसद राघव चड्ढा ने प्रयागराज महाकुंभ के लिए फ्लाइट किराए कम करने की सरकार से अपील करते हुए ये सवाल उठाया है कि जिन फ्लाइट

में आम दिनों में टिकट 5 से 6 हजार का होता था, वह 50 से 60 हजार का मिल रहा है। उन्होंने सरकार से अपील की है कि इस किराए पर कैपिंग लगाई जाए, ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा

श्रद्धालु महाकुंभ में पहुंचकर अपनी भागीदारी दर्ज कर सकें। उन्होंने कहा कि सनातन धर्मियों के लिए महाकुंभ आस्था और अध्यात्म का सबसे बड़ा पर्व है। आज जब 144 वर्षों के बाद प्रयागराज में महाकुंभ चल रहा है, तब देश ही नहीं बल्कि दुनिया भर के लाखों करोड़ों लोग स्नान, साधना और तपस्या करने के लिए प्रयागराज जाना चाहते हैं। उन्होंने आगे कहा, मगर हैरानी की बात यह है कि आस्था और पवित्रता के महापर्व को एयरलाइंस ने, यानी की फ्लाइट कंपनियों ने, अपनी मनमानी कमाई



● आप सांसद राघव चड्ढा ने कहा-5000 वाला टिकट 50 हजार में बिक रहा है

के अवसर में तब्दील कर दिया है। सामान्य दिनों में प्रयागराज की फ्लाइट का खर्च 5 से 8 हजार हुआ करता था। आज वही फ्लाइट आपको 50 से 60 हजार

रुपए तक की खरीदनी पड़ रही है। यानी की फ्लाइट कंपनियां श्रद्धालुओं से मनमाने रेट वसूल रही हैं। ऐसे में लाखों श्रद्धालु जो महाकुंभ जाना चाहते थे, आज उन्हें निराश होना पड़ रहा है। यह कंपनियां फायदे के चक्कर में ठीक नहीं कर रही हैं। राघव चड्ढा ने कहा कि मेरी सभी श्रद्धालुओं की ओर से सरकार से यह मांग है और मैं निवेदन करता हूँ कि सरकार इन एयरलाइंस की मनमानी पर रोक लगाए, कार्रवाई करें और कुंभ जाने वाले श्रद्धालुओं के लिए किफायती फ्लाइट की सुविधा उपलब्ध करवाए।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

**राहत:** केंद्र ने कंपनियों को दिए निर्देश

## महाकुंभ के लिए फ्लाइटें बढ़ेंगी, किराया कम होगा

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. महाकुंभ में जाने के लिए प्रयागराज की फ्लाइट का कई गुना किराया देख कर हैरान-परेशान श्रद्धालुओं के लिए थोड़ी राहत की खबर है। केंद्र सरकार ने विमान कंपनियों को विभिन्न शहरों से प्रयागराज की फ्लाइटें बढ़ाने और किराया कम करने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय और निदेशालय के अधिकारियों ने विमान कंपनियों के साथ मंगलवार को बैठक कर उन्हें यह निर्देश दिए। कंपनियों को कहा गया है कि अमृत स्नान के विशेष दिनों के लिए फ्लाइटें बढ़ाई जाएं। प्रयागराज के लिए 17 शहरों से सीधे उड़ानें हैं। मंत्रालय ने बयान में कहा कि फरवरी में अकासा एयर अहमदाबाद और बेंगलुरु से उड़ानें शुरू करेगी, जिससे 4,000 सीटें बढ़ेंगी। इस बीच, स्पाइसजेट दिल्ली, मुंबई, जयपुर, चेन्नई और हैदराबाद जैसे प्रमुख शहरों से

ट्रेन के दरवाजे नहीं खोले तो पथराव

**छतरपुर (मध्यप्रदेश) @**

पत्रिका. महु से प्रयागराज जा रही डॉ. आंबेडकर नगर-प्रयागराज एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन के छतरपुर और हरपालपुर स्टेशन पर गेट न खोले जाने पर यात्रियों ने हंगामा कर दिया। प्लेटफॉर्म पर खड़े यात्री दरवाजे खोलने की भिन्नता करते रहे, पर ट्रेन में बैठे यात्रियों ने नहीं खोले। आक्रोशित यात्रियों ने ट्रेन पर पथराव कर दिया और कई डिब्बों में तोड़फोड़ की। ट्रेन में बैठे कुछ लोगों को मामूली चोटें आई हैं। हरपालपुर, खजुराहो में भी ऐसी घटनाएं सामने आई हैं।

सेवाएं शुरू कर रही है, जिससे 43,000 अतिरिक्त सीटें जुड़ जाएंगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि विभिन्न शहरों से प्रयागराज का किराया सामान्य दिनों से 4-5 गुना तक बढ़ गया है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

28 JANUARY 2025

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## ■ फ्लाइट में परेशानी, 55 हजार का जुर्माना

चेन्नई @ पत्रिका . फ्रैंकफर्ट जाने वाली फ्लाइट में बुजुर्ग दंपती को हुई परेशानी के लिए चेन्नई की एक अदालत ने लुफ्थान्सा एयरलाइंस पर 55 हजार रुपए का जुर्माना लगाया है। दस घंटे की फ्लाइट में बुजुर्ग दंपती को गीली सीट के कारण परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। उन्होंने 3.50 लाख रुपए का मुआवजा मांगा था।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

29 JANUARY 2025

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## बोइंग 737 मैक्स विमान को फिर से परिचालन में लाने की तैयारी मुंबई (भाषा)।

घरेलू विमानन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट 29 जनवरी से अपने एक बोइंग 737 मैक्स विमान को फिर से परिचालन में लाने की तैयारी में है। यह उसकी सभी बोइंग 737 विमानों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से सेवा में वापस लाने की योजना का हिस्सा है।

कंपनी ने कहा, पहला विमान बुधवार से जेद्दा और रियाद जैसे बाजारों में तैनात किया जाएगा। कई महीनों तक उड़ान नहीं भरने के बाद विमान की वापसी कंपनी के बेड़े की बहाली और परिचालन वृद्धि के प्रयासों में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। चार बोइंग 737 मैक्स विमानों सहित 10 विमानों को अप्रैल के मध्य तक सेवा में वापस लाना है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

28 JANUARY 2025

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**Govt to airlines: Add Prayagraj flights, curb fares:** The Centre has directed airlines to add flights to Prayagraj in the wake of some round-trip fares surging to over Rs 50,000 around Mahakumbh's key snan dates – Jan 29 and Feb 3, 4, 12 & 26.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

28 JANUARY 2025

## Infy to set up a GCC for Lufthansa in India

### Tech Centre For German Airline Part Of Firm's Renewed \$300 Million IT Contract

Shilpa.Phadnis  
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Infosys is learnt to be setting up a global capability centre (GCC) for Lufthansa in India as part of the nearly \$300 million IT contract renewed with the German airline, sources told TOI. The move underscores how build-operate-transfer (BOT) has become an integral part of large renewal contracts.

Infosys's plan to set up a dedicated tech hub for Lufthansa follows Delta Airlines launching a tech centre in Bengaluru four years ago. With American Airlines' upcoming technology centre in Hyderabad, it further demonstrates the growing significance of aviation-focused global capability centres expanding their tech runway in India. Lufthansa Technik Services India (LTSI) operates as a wholly owned subsidiary of Lufthansa Technik and was set up in 2005, serving India and South Asia. Operating from Bengaluru, it employs over 300 employees who deliver component services globally for all primary commercial aircraft categories.

LTSI delivers support services to its clientele, encompassing access to Lufthansa Technik's spare parts inventory, repair and overhaul facilities within internal and partner MRO net-

works, extensive engineering assistance, and customised logistics arrangements to ensure uninterrupted aviation operations. An email sent to Infosys and Lufthansa didn't elicit a response by the time of going to the press.

In fact, Infosys set up an integrated manufacturing facility for an aerospace compa-

**Infosys's plan to set up a dedicated tech hub for Lufthansa follows Delta Airlines launching a tech centre in B'luu 4 years ago**

ny, which included monitoring devices across 500-plus machines distributed amongst 11 facilities. The facility incorporated a wireless network on the production floor that combined sensor information with analytical and visual data tools to enhance operational decisions.

Infosys has carved out GCCs for many customers in the past. Two years ago, Infosys and Rolls-Royce inaugurated a joint aerospace engineering and digital innovation centre in Bengaluru. The centre was established to provide high-end R&D services integrated with advanced digital capabilities to Rolls-Royce's engineering and group business services from India. According to Oliver

Wyman's analysis of the global fleet & MRO market forecast, by 2030, MRO demand is expected to reach \$118 billion, 13% below the pre-Covid forecast of \$135 billion.

Mrinal Rai, assistant director and principal analyst at ISG, said IT firms are offering services related to consulting, initial operational and infrastructure setup, and continuous innovation and improvement. "For many large service providers, GCC is a new service area they have carved out. They are assisting them across the service value chain. Our research says that the top two reasons for enterprises moving to GCC are cost savings and access to talent. IT service providers can help clients strategise their GCC initiatives to ensure that they are meeting these requirements."

Bharath M, vice-president in US-based IT research advisory Everest Group, said the growing adoption of the GCC model by airlines underscores its value in meeting the industry's high demands for real-time customer support, managing high-value transactions, and ensuring agile operations. "With American Airlines in Hyderabad, Delta Airlines in Bengaluru, and now Lufthansa joining, India is cementing its position as a strategic hub for global aviation innovation."



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

28 JANUARY 2025

## Govt to airlines: Add Prayagraj flights, check soaring Kumbh fares

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Centre has directed airlines to add flights to Prayagraj in the wake of some round-trip fares surging to over Rs 50,000 around Maha Kumbh's important *snan* dates — Jan 29 and Feb 3, 4, 12 & 26. The directive from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) followed a **TOI** report Monday on the skyrocketing fares to Prayagraj around these dates. Accordingly, it "advised airlines to ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate passengers".

Soon after, the aviation ministry said in a statement Monday that Akasa would operate flights to Prayagraj on Jan 28 and 29 from Ahmedabad. Next month, the airline "plans to operate nine flights

from Ahmedabad and 12 from Bangalore to Prayagraj, adding about 4,000 seats." SpiceJet "is set to launch flights to Prayagraj from Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur and Hyderabad, adding about 43,000 seats in Feb," the statement says.

UP govt says over 13 crore people have taken the dip during the Maha Kumbh that started on Jan 13. Given the sheer numbers, airfares have surged not just to Prayagraj but also to other nearby airports like Varanasi. "Kolkata-Varanasi airfares are usually Rs 3,000-4,000 but they are currently about Rs 25,000. Mumbai-Varanasi is up from the usual Rs 5-6,000 to about Rs 13,000," said a Mumbai-based devotee planning a trip to Kumbh.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

28 JANUARY 2025

## Add Prayagraj flights, check high fares, govt tells airlines

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Centre has directed airlines to add flights to Prayagraj in the wake of some round-trip fares surging to over Rs 50,000 around Maha Kumbh's important snan dates — Jan 29 and Feb 3, 4, 12 and 26. The directive from DGCA followed a TOI report Monday on skyrocketing fares to Prayagraj around these dates. Accordingly, it advised airlines to "ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate passengers".

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### Trains every 4 mins from Prayagraj on Mauni Amavasya

**G**earing up to meet high passenger demand on Mauni Amavasya Wednesday, railways will run special trains every four minutes from Prayagraj stations, mostly from the main junction. Around 48.7 lakh passengers have arrived across nine stations of Prayagraj from Jan 13 till Sunday. Of this, a maximum of 13.9 lakh passengers travelled to Prayagraj by train on Jan 14 on Makar Sankranti. **TNN**

Prayagraj from Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur and Hyderabad, adding about 43,000 seats in Feb," the statement says.