



Corporate Communications Directorate

BANGALORE MIRROR

BANGALORE

29 NOVEMBER 2024

Things are getting super busy at B'luru international airport

Kempegowda International Airport records 24.3% rise in October 2024, serving 4.8 lakh international passengers as compared to 3.9 lakh last October: Data

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Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has now secured the third spot among India's busiest airports, marking a significant milestone. Previously, the airport held the third position for domestic traffic but lagged behind Chennai and Kochi in terms of international operations.

However, recent statistics indicate that Bengaluru has regained its top-three standing for international flights in October 2024. According to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Bengaluru's international passenger traffic saw a remarkable 24.3 per cent increase in October 2024, handling 4,89,871 passengers, up from 3,94,171 passengers in the same month the previous year. Meanwhile, Chennai Airport, which recorded 4,61,658 international passengers in October 2023, saw a decline to 4,53,134 in October 2024. Kochi Airport experienced growth in international traffic, increasing from 3,87,544 passengers in October 2023 to 4,11,293 in October 2024.

The overall rankings for international travel show Delhi at the top with 1.75 million passengers, followed by Mumbai at 1.25 million. Bengaluru's growth places it firmly in third position, while Chennai, Kochi, and Hyderabad round out the top six airports for



The KIA's capacity expansion & modernisation are crucial in maintaining high service standards (file photo of KIA)

international passengers. This trend is reflective of the broader surge in international air travel across India. Between April and October 2024, international passenger traffic saw an overall increase of 21 per cent, with Bengaluru emerging as a key player in this growth.

City's stand in aviation sector

According to a civil aviation expert, Bengaluru's economic expansion, particularly in the tech and business sectors, has fuelled a significant rise in both domestic and international trav-

el. With its strategic geographic location, Bengaluru serves as a vital connector between India and global markets, making it a preferred gateway for international passengers. "The 24.3 per cent year-on-year increase in international passenger numbers in October 2024, alongside consistent growth in domestic traffic, highlights the city's strengthening position in the aviation sector. What sets Bengaluru apart is its ability to balance its rapid growth in passenger numbers with continued investments in infrastructure and connectivity. The Kempe-

gowda International Airport's capacity expansion and modernisation are crucial in managing this demand and maintaining high service standards."

Robust growth in domestic traffic

In terms of domestic passenger traffic, Bengaluru also displayed robust growth. With a 16 per cent increase in domestic passengers in October 2024, KIA handled 28.7 million passengers in total, securing its third-place ranking among domestic airports.

According to AAI data, Delhi and Mumbai remain the dominant players in domestic air travel, with Delhi handling 46.06 million passengers and Mumbai following closely with 32.1 million passengers. Bengaluru continues to outperform other major cities such as Hyderabad (Rank 4, 18.8 M passengers), Kolkata, and Chennai (Rank 6, 13.1 M passengers), reinforcing its status as a major aviation centre in India.

"Bengaluru's consistent rise in both domestic and international passenger traffic underscores the city's increasing significance in India's aviation sector. The city's strategic location, rapid economic growth, and prominence as a tech capital have been pivotal in driving the demand for air travel, contributing to the airport's impressive performance. Its upward trajectory not only reflects the city's economic vitality but also its strategic importance in the global travel network," added another civil aviation expert.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

29 NOVEMBER 2024

कोटा : दो चरण में बनेगा एयरपोर्ट, निर्माण मई 2025 में शुरू होगा, 2028 में उड़ सकेंगे विमान

पहले चरण में सालाना 20 लाख यात्रियों का आवागमन मानकर बनाया एयरपोर्ट का डिजाइन

कोटा | कोटा के ग्रीनफील्ड एयरपोर्ट का निर्माण एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया (एएआई) दो चरण में करेगी। डीपीआर में दोनों चरण की समयावधि तय कर दी है। पहले चरण का काम मई 2025 में शुरू होकर 2028 तक समाप्त होगा। इस फेज को 2 एमपीपीए (मिलियन पैसेंजर पर एनम) के अनुमान से डिजाइन किया है। यानी सालाना 20 लाख यात्रियों का आवागमन माना है। दूसरे फेज के काम 2043 से शुरू होकर 2046 में खत्म हो जाएगा। यह 6 एमपीपीए, यानी 60 लाख यात्री प्रतिवर्ष के अनुमान से विकसित किया जाएगा। हवाई अड्डे के लिए

440.646 हेक्टेयर जमीन मिली है, जिसका उपयोग इसी हिसाब से होगा। अब बहुत जल्दी शुरू होगी टेंडर प्रक्रिया : डीपीआर की प्रक्रिया 7 से 10 दिन में पूर्ण कर ली जाएगी। इसके समानांतर एयरपोर्ट से जुड़े सिविल कार्यों के टेंडर डॉक्यूमेंट्स तैयार करए जाएंगे। अगले महीने अंत तक टेंडर लगाए जा सकते हैं। फरवरी-मार्च के बीच टेंडर प्रक्रिया पूरी होने का अनुमान है। एएआई ने काम शुरू करने के लिए मई 2025 की डेडलाइन तय की है। लेकिन मौजूदा रफ्तार के हिसाब से एक्सपर्ट मान रहे हैं कि इससे पहले काम शुरू हो जाएगा।

पहले चरण में ये काम

45 मीटर चौड़ा 3200 मीटर लंबा रन-वे, दो लिंक टैक्सी-वे, टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग, जिसका कुल बिल्ट अप एरिया 20 हजार वर्ग मीटर, एयर ट्राफिक कंट्रोल टावर कम टेक्नीकल ब्लॉक, अलग-अलग श्रेणी के एअन, जीएसई हैंडलिंग एरिया, फायर स्टेशन (कैटेगरी-7), कार्गोशाला, अइसोलेशन बे, एअरसाइड ऑपरेशनल बाउंड्री, केट ऑपरेशन के लिए एजीएल एंड विजुअल सहायक उपकरण, हई मास्ट लाइटिंग, पैरीमीटर रोड, स्टॉर्म वाटर ड्रेनेज, प्रॉपर्टी बाउंड्री, सीसीआर हॉल, सीएनएस सुविधार्, लोकलइजर, डीवीओआर, ग्लाइड पाथ आदि निर्माण होंगे।

दूसरे चरण के काम

रनवे के अपग्रेडेशन सहित मांग के अनुरूप टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग, 23 मीटर चौड़ा पैरलल टैक्सी ट्रेक और तीन लिंक टैक्सी वेज, 15 अतिरिक्त पार्किंग स्टैंड्स, कार्गो टर्मिनल 2 हजार वर्गमीटर, जनरल एविएशन ब्लॉक, मैनेजमेंट बिल्डिंग, मंटीनेंस बिल्डिंग, एयरपोर्ट सिक्योरिटी बिल्डिंग, सीसीआर रूम, एयरोनॉटिकल ग्राउंड लाइटिंग, सीएनएस सिस्टम के लिए अलग से भवन, ऑपरेशनल सिक्योरिटी वॉल और वॉच टावर, एमआरओ और फ्लाइट ट्रेनिंग ऑर्गनाइजेशन, एएआई आवासीय कॉलोनी और गैर्स शामिल हैं।

सबसे ऊंचे स्तंभ पर
फहराएगा राष्ट्रीय ध्वज

अयोध्या एयरपोर्ट को एक साल हो गए हैं। इस दौरान करीब 7.50 लाख यात्रियों ने हवाई सफर का आनंद लिया। अब एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल के सामने आदमकद 6 फीट ऊंची महर्षि वाल्मीकि की प्रतिमा की स्थापना पर्यटन एवं संस्कृति विभाग करने जा रहा है।

अयोध्या एयरपोर्ट पर लगेगी महर्षि वाल्मीकि की प्रतिमा

एजेसी अयोध्या

महर्षि वाल्मीकि इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट को शुरू हुए करीब एक साल का समय होने जा रहा है। पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने इस एयरपोर्ट का लोकार्पण पिछले साल 30 दिसंबर को किया था। इस एक साल के समय में रोजाना औसतन दो हजार यात्रियों का आवागमन इससे हो रहा है। मोटे तौर पर करीब 7.50 लाख यात्रियों ने इसकी सुविधा हासिल कर ली है। एयरपोर्ट में यात्रियों की सुविधा की तमाम योजनाएं भी लॉन्च हो गई हैं, जिसमें रेस्टोरेंट, शॉप, जनरल स्टोर और विविध सामानों की दुकानें शामिल हैं। अब महर्षि वाल्मीकि एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल के सामने आदमकद 6 फीट ऊंची महर्षि वाल्मीकि की प्रतिमा की स्थापना पर्यटन एवं संस्कृति विभाग करने जा रहा है।

खास बातें

- एयरपोर्ट के दूसरे फेज का निर्माण 2025 में होगा शुरू
- एक साल में 7.50 लाख यात्रियों ने हवाई सफर किया
- नवीन ब्लाक का प्रयोग डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स के लिए होगा

सबसे ऊंचे स्तंभ पर राष्ट्रीय ध्वज फहराने का काम अगले माह में पूरा हो जाएगा



प्रतिमा की स्थापना के लिए स्थान का चिह्नांकन गुरुवार को हो गया है। उसी के पास ही 108 फीट ऊंचे स्तंभ का निर्माण करवाया गया है। जिसके ऊपर राष्ट्रीय ध्वज को फहराया जाएगा। स्तंभ के ऊपर रेड कलर की लाइट भी लगी है। अयोध्या एयरपोर्ट के डायरेक्टर विनोद कुमार ने एयरपोर्ट के विकास योजनाओं की विस्तार से जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि महर्षि वाल्मीकि की प्रतिमा स्थापित करने और अयोध्या के सबसे ऊंचे स्तंभ पर राष्ट्रीय ध्वज फहराने का काम अगले माह में पूरा कर लिया जाएगा।

विस्तार में 2 साल
का समय लगेगा

डायरेक्टर ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट का विस्तार ब्लाक का निर्माण अगले साल 2025 में शुरू हो जाएगा। जिसका निर्माण पूरा होने में दो साल का समय लगेगा। दूसरे फेज का आकार वर्तमान टर्मिनल से कई गुना बड़ा होगा, जिसमें अत्याधुनिक हाईटेक से सुसज्जित सुविधाएं उपलब्ध रहेंगी। उन्होंने बताया कि नवीन ब्लाक के निर्माण के बाद उसे डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स के लिए प्रयोग में लाया जाएगा, जबकि वर्तमान टर्मिनल का उपयोग इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स के संचालन के लिए किया जाएगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

30 NOVEMBER 2024

Agent arrested for facilitating fake Russian visa at IGI Airport

NEW DELHI: The IGI Airport Police arrested Vikram (26), a Haryana-based agent, for facilitating a fake Russian visa on an Indian passenger's passport. The arrest followed the apprehension of Karanveer Singh, a 26-year-old from Ludhiana, Punjab, who was detained during immigration checks at IGI Airport on November 22. Authorities found a forged Russian visa in his passport.

Karanveer had initially travelled to Russia on a student visa in July 2023 but sought Vikram's help to renew his visa after it expired. Vikram



charged Rs 1.5 lakh to provide a fake visa. Upon Karanveer's detention, police launched an investigation, tracing Vikram to a hideout in Sector 17, Gurugram, Haryana. Vikram admitted to forging visas for a commission, working

with other agents, and being involved in similar fraudulent activities.

Police are now examining Vikram's bank accounts and tracking his associates to uncover further operations. They have warned travellers to rely only on authorised agencies for travel documents and to verify their authenticity to avoid scams.

The ongoing investigation aims to uncover more individuals involved in the racket and protect the integrity of the air travel and immigration systems. **MPOST**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

30 NOVEMBER 2024

Delhi Police ban use of laser lights and drones near airport till Jan 26

NEW DELHI, 29 NOVEMBER

Delhi Police has imposed a ban on the use of laser lights and drone activities in the funnel area

within the approach path of flights to Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI).

The order, which came into effect on November 28, will remain in force till January 26, 2025 (both dates inclusive). According to the order, a number of farmhouses, banquets, hotels, restaurants etc. have come up in and around the jurisdiction of IGI Airport, wherein a lot of lights, including laser beams, are used on celebrations of marriage parties and different events held therein, which is a source of nuisance in general and a cause of vision distraction to the pilots in particular. agencies





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

30 NOVEMBER 2024

Customs seizes gold in form of chemical paste at Delhi airport

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 29 NOVEMBER

Delhi customs have seized gold in the form of chemical paste hidden in the strip of the traveler's underwear at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).

According to Delhi Customs, on the basis of intelligence developed by the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU), a passenger arriving from Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) to Delhi via Kuwait was intercepted after crossing the Green Channel of Customs.

On growing suspicion of the Customs officials, he was taken inside the AIU room for interrogation.

During interrogation, he

confessed to having concealed gold in chemical paste form in the strip of the underwear worn by him as he was wearing a pair of them. The paste was found to be weighing 1,321 grams which seemed to be appearing like gold. A further probe in the matter has been initiated.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Customs had seized approximately 19 kg of Hydroponic weed (Marijuana) valued at around 9.5 crores at IGIA.

Two Indian passengers who had arrived from Phuket (Thailand) to New Delhi were booked in this regard.

The NDPS substance was concealed in 20 polythene packets kept in three trolley bags.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

30 NOVEMBER 2024

Kerala man who killed Assamese vlogger held at B'luru airport

Bengaluru: Kerala native Aarav Hanoy (21), who allegedly murdered 19-year-old Assamese vlogger and private firm employee Maya Gogoi in a hotel room in Bengaluru's Indiranagar last week, was arrested at Kempegowda International Airport Friday. Hanoy told police he killed Gogoi over "personal issues" but refused to elaborate on what those were. TNN



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

29 NOVEMBER 2024

Besides new airport, govt hopes to reopen HAL facility

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Bengaluru: The govt is accelerating efforts to establish a second international airport for Bengaluru, narrowing down potential sites to Bidadi and Harohalli in Ramanagara district from an initial list of seven. This decision comes as part of a broader plan to ease pressure on Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), which is projected to reach full capacity by 2033.

Crucially, the govt is also exploring the possibility of reopening HAL Airport, once Bengaluru's international airport, for civilian passenger traffic. Operated by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd the airport is now primarily used

as a testing facility and VIP aviation. HAL Airport ceased commercial operations in 2008 due to a restrictive agreement with Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), which owns and operates KIA. The agreement prevents any new airport within a 150km radius of KIA.

But this agreement expires in 2033, opening the door for HAL Airport to resume civilian services. Proposals are already being discussed to upgrade the terminal building and parking facilities while maintaining the existing runway. "These are internal issues and we are not commenting on queries related to upgradation of the airport at this stage," said Gopal Sutar, HAL spokesperson.



PLANE TALK: Demands to reopen HAL Airport have persisted ever since it ceased commercial operations in 2008

However, MB Patil, industries and infrastructure development minister, suggested Bengaluru could eventually have three viable airports. "HAL Airport would be open

for commercial operations after 2033, and Bengaluru will have three airports. A small airport such as HAL's would help ease the load on KIA and the upcoming greenfield air-

port," Patil said.

Currently, KIA handles 37.5 million passengers and 439,496 tons of cargo annually, with the load expected to more than triple by 2033. The state govt had initially shortlisted seven locations for the second airport, but after consultations with experts, the shortlist was reduced to Bidadi and Harohalli. Patil, who is on a European tour, said on his return the govt will send a proposal to the Airports Authority of India after he holds consultations with chief minister Siddaramaiah.

Reopening HAL Airport has been a long-standing demand from various sectors, including civil society. Aviation and defence expert Anantha Krishnan M said, "A city

like Bengaluru needs many airports. Reopening it would be in the interest of all stakeholders, including HAL, which can expand its business operations through MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) activities."

'Let BIAL operate HAL Airport'

The urgency surrounding the second airport project intensified due to a proposal by neighbouring Tamil Nadu to develop an international airport in Hosur, just across the border. Urban expert V Ravichandar, who campaigned for HAL Airport's reopening, said that while the govt must wait for the agreement to expire in 2033, the hurdle could be overcome if BIAL operates the facility in the interim.

Cabs charge ₹60 'parking fee' even outside airport

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Chennai: Booking a cab near Chennai airport? Double-check the fare breakdown before confirming — cab aggregators are charging an extra ₹60 as parking fees, even for pickups outside airport premises, where the fee shouldn't apply.

K Sekar, who was at the airport on Thursday to see his son off, decided to walk out of the premises to book a cab through an aggregator. "The fare included parking charges, but when the driver called, he said he was parked outside the airport and hadn't paid any fee. If that's true, the aggregator is cheating both the driver and the customer," said Sekar.

V Shankar, a resident of Madipakkam, faced a similar issue after returning from a trip to Vietnam. Avoiding the hassle of walking to the new parking lot and climbing two floors to board a cab, he decided to book one outside the airport along GST Road. However, the fare on the aggregator's app appeared unusually high and directed him to the airport parking lot. On checking the fare breakdown, he found that ₹60 was added as a 'parking fee'. Despite trying to book from different locations



near the airport, the parking fee remained until he walked to the far end of the airport premises, where the fee finally disappeared from the fare.

"Cab aggregators might have geo-fenced the entire airport area, forcing passengers to pay the parking fee regardless of their location. How many people have the patience to check the fare breakdown before confirming a ride?" Shankar asked.

The airport's parking operations are managed by Meenambakkam Realty Private Ltd under a contract with the airport authorities. Parking spaces for prepaid taxis, cab

aggregators and private cars are designated across different floors of the multi-level car park, Aerohub West. Parking fees are charged for every cab exiting the lot, and this cost is added to the customer's bill. "Whether a cab picks up a passenger at the parking lot or leaves the airport empty, parking charges are applied for the duration it was parked," said Rajiv Shukla, spokesperson for Meenambakkam Realty Private Ltd.

When contacted, the aggregator said that cabs can't collect parking charges outside the airport premises and said the matter will be looked into.



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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

29 NOVEMBER 2024

'Unviable,' ₹4-crore Pathankot airport project fails to take off

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI, NOV 28
Developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme — Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS — UDAN) for better network of flights, the Pathankot airport awaits commercial flights since April 5, 2021, the day its three-year contract with Alliance Air ended on April 5, 2021.

Replying to a question of MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa during the ongoing Lok Sabha session in New Delhi today, Minister of State of Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol stated that the Delhi - Pathankot - Delhi route was commenced by

Alliance Air on April 5, 2018, and discontinued after the completion of its contract of three years.

The Pathankot airport, owned by the Indian Air Force, has been constructed at a cost of around Rs 4 crore during the first round of bidding under the RCS — UDAN. The airport was developed under the Visibility Gap Funding (VGF) wherein the Centre establishes the infrastructure projects, which are economically desirable, but commercially non-viable.

In reply to the question

No flight has taken off since April 5, 2021

whether the government proposes to operate any new flight from Delhi to Pathankot, the reply read, "Any airline may commence scheduled commercial operations between Pathankot and Delhi keeping in view the traffic and commercial viability."

Randhawa said, "The reply is very vague in nature. I have got representations from the people demanding commencement of the flights from Pathankot. They have to travel to Amritsar (124 km) or Chandigarh (258 km) for catch their flights."



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THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

30 NOVEMBER 2024

Proposed F'bad corridor to delay Jewar airport expressway, add ₹800-cr burden

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, NOVEMBER 29

The NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) has sought permission from the Union Ministry of Surface Transport and the state government for constructing an 8.55 km-long elevated corridor on the upcoming Greenfield Expressway project to connect Faridabad with the Jewar International airport in Greater Noida. The corridor may require additional funds of Rs 800 crore. The initial budget of the 31.5 km-long expressway is Rs 1,660.50 cr. The deadline of June 2025 for the completion of the e-way project is set to be missed as only 20 to 25 per cent of the work has been accomplished, it is reported.

Dhiraj Singh, Project Director, NHAI, said, "While a survey for the construction of the elevated corridor is on, work will start on it after a nod from the authorities, including the Union Ministry of Surface Transport and the state government". The additional cost of



Rs 800 crore is proposed to be shared by NHAI and the state government, he said adding the deadline was sure to get extended by over an year.

Announced in August 2021, work on the project started in June 2023. Known as the spur package under the Bharatmala Pariyojna, the expressway will begin from Sector 65 in Ballabhgarh town and culminate at Dayanapur village near Jewar in UP. It will pass through several villages including Chandawali, Sotai, Bahbalpur, Pha-

phunda, Panhera Khurd, Narhawali, Mahmadpur, Hirapur, Mohna and Chhainsa in the district, before crossing the Yamuna and the KGP Expressway. Around 22 km of Greenfield Expressway falls in Faridabad. The six-lane expressway aims to bolster transportation networks and foster economic growth along the Faridabad-Jewar corridor.

With a time period of two years set for its completion, it is being built on Hybrid Annuity Mode, according to which 40

per cent of the cost will be borne by NHAI and 60 per cent by the company which has been allotted the tender. The expressway will provide direct connectivity between Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and the Jewar airport, besides an access to the KGP Expressway.

However, the progress of work on this e-way was marred by agitation by the residents of several villages who staged a sit-in, which continued for 380 days, to demand access point to the expressway near Mohna

village. Though the agitation got over on October 30, the pace of work on the e-way was not enough to ensure meeting the June 2025 deadline, said an official on condition of anonymity. It is claimed that the project may take at least 18 months time, as around 75 per cent of the work was yet to be done. An early resolution of the technical and budget issues due to a change in the design incorporating the construction of the corridor will help in speeding up the work, it is believed.

ON SLOW TRACK

- The initial budget of the 31.5-km expressway connecting Faridabad with Jewar International Airport in Greater Noida is ₹1,660.50 crore
- The deadline of June 2025 for the completion of the expressway is set to be missed as only 20-25% of the work has been accomplished

<< An under-construction stretch of the Greenfield Expressway in Faridabad. TRIBUNE PHOTO



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

30 NOVEMBER 2024

दो सालों में उड़ानों में शराब से जुड़ी घटनाओं में आई कमी : एअर इंडिया

नई दिल्ली। एअर इंडिया के सीईओ कैपबेल विल्सन ने कहा कि पिछले दो सालों में उड़ानों में शराब से जुड़ी घटनाओं में कमी आई है, क्योंकि अधिकारियों को ऐसी घटनाओं की सूचना देने की संख्या में वृद्धि हुई है।

मीडिया से बातचीत में विल्सन ने कहा, यात्रियों को जागरूक करने की आवश्यकता है और उन्हें यह बताना होगी कि विमान में किस तरह का व्यवहार स्वीकार्य है। चालक दल को भी उनके दायित्व और उनके कार्यों के बारे में उचित जानकारी देने की जरूरत है। उन्होंने कहा, केबिन कू के लिए रिपोर्ट करने के लिए एक सुरक्षित माहौल है और जब कोई मामला रिपोर्ट किया जाता है तो अधिकारियों की ओर से गंभीरता से कार्रवाई की जाती है। ब्यूरो

फर्स्ट लुक | ये है दुनिया की बेस्ट एयरलाइन का सबसे नया जेट; कीमत 2,535 करोड़ रुपए



2,535 करोड़ रु. कीमत
15,450 किमी रेंज
259 इकोनॉमी सीट
21 प्रीमियम इको. सीट

दुबई | दुनिया की बेस्ट एयरलाइन सऊदी अरब की एमिरेट्स ने दुबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर अपना नया जेट एयरबस ए350 को शोकेस किया है। यह अगले साल 3 जनवरी से एडिनबर्ग से दुबई के बीच उड़ान भरना शुरू कर देगा। ए350 की ऊंची सीलिंग, लगभग खड़ी वॉल्स और हाई-क्वालिटी केबिन एयर, इसे कई यात्रियों और एयरलाइंस का पसंदीदा बनाती है। सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस सिंगापुर से न्यूयॉर्क तक की अपनी 19 घंटे की नॉन-स्टॉप फ्लाइट्स में इसी का इस्तेमाल करती है। क्वांटास भी 2026 में लंदन और न्यूयॉर्क से सिडनी और मेलबर्न तक की अपनी 21 घंटे की नॉन-स्टॉप फ्लाइट्स में इसी जेट का इस्तेमाल करने वाली है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

29 NOVEMBER 2024

एअरइंडिया के सीईओ ने कहा दो से ज्यादा एयरलाइन की जगह बनी रहेगी

विजनेस संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

एयर इंडिया के सीईओ और एमडी कैम्पबेल विल्सन ने भारतीय एयरलाइन सेक्टर में मोनोपॉली की आशंका खारिज की है। इस सेक्टर में इंडिगो और टाटा सन्स की एअर इंडिया ग्रुप की बाजार हिस्सेदारी 90% से ज्यादा है। कैम्पबेल ने गुरुवार को कहा, भारत का एविएशन मार्केट पहले के मुकाबले स्थिर होता नजर आ रहा है।

कंपनियों की आय बढ़ रही है। आगामी महीनों में यदि ऐसे ही हालात रहे तो देश में 2 से ज्यादा बड़ी एयरलाइन्स होंगी, जिनकी बाजार में मजबूत स्थिति रहेगी। अभी एअर इंडिया ग्रुप के पास 300 एयरक्राफ्ट्स का फ्लीट है। 2027 तक कंपनी इसमें करीब 400 विमान और जोड़ने का इरादा रखती है। कैम्पबेल ने स्पष्ट किया कि अगले साल भारतीय एयरलाइन इंडस्ट्री की ग्रोथ मुख्य रूप से घरेलू मार्गों पर ट्रैफिक बढ़ने और छोटी दूसरी की इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स की संख्या बढ़ने से देखी जाएगी। यह किसी भी देश में एयरलाइन इंडस्ट्री के मजबूत होने का संकेत होता है। इस चरण के बाद एयरलाइन इंडस्ट्री अमूमन तेज ग्रोथ देखती है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

29 NOVEMBER 2024

25,500 flights cancelled since 2022

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A little over 25,500 flights were cancelled between January 2022 and September 2024, affecting 10.67 lakh flyers in India, with weather conditions being responsible for 41.56% of the cancellations, according to official statistics presented in Parliament.

IndiGo accounted for 60.53% (15,464) of the 25,547 flight cancellations during the 33-month period, attributed to its large operational volume. It was followed by Alliance Air (2,707) and Air India (1,934).

The figures were part of a written reply by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, presented in the Rajya Sabha in response to questions posed

by CPI MP P P Suneer, who sought details on cancellations, reasons and compensations provided to passengers.

Of the 25,547 cancellations, the highest number occurred in the first nine months of 2024 (11,707), followed by 7,427 in 2023 and 6,413 in 2022. This year, IndiGo saw 7,135 flights cancelled by September.

IndiGo spent the least on compensation or passenger amenities. The airline disbursed only Rs 18,000 in 2022 and nothing in 2023 or 2024, despite affecting 5.47 lakh passengers.

Air India spent Rs 9.61 crore for 1.33 lakh passengers, and SpiceJet allocated Rs 6.19 crore for 1.68 lakh passengers.

SALE SEASON

■ Air India said it would offer up to **12%** off on base fares for flights to or from the **US, Europe, Australia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.**

■ Air India will offer more discounts if bookings are made via UPI, net banking & ICICI credit cards

■ The discounts can be availed only from the airline's website and mobile apps



Indigo said the sale would feature one-way fares starting from **₹1,199** for domestic routes and **₹5,199** for international. The offer is for Jan 1- Mar 31



Customers can also book seats for ₹99 and enjoy discounts of up to 15% on pre-paid excess baggage

DISCOUNT OFFERS LIVE FROM NOV 29 TO DEC 2

Now, airlines line up Black Friday deals

● **Air India offers up to 20% off on base fares for domestic flights**

RAGHAV AGGARWAL
New Delhi, November 29

INDIAN AIRLINES SUCH as Air India and IndiGo on Friday announced their Black Friday Sale, offering discounts of up to 20% for flights between January 1 to March 31. The bookings for these offers is open from November 29 till December 2.

The sale usually starts after Thanksgiving and marks the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. In the USA, it is considered to be the busiest shopping period.

Several consumer companies have announced their Black Friday sale including

apparel brands like H&M and Superdry, and tech giants like Apple, Samsung and Amazon.

On Friday, Tata Group-owned Air India said it would offer up to 20% off base fares for domestic flights in India, and up to 12% off base fares for flights to or from the United States, Europe, Australia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

The discount will be valid for travel until June 30, 2025. For flights to and from India to Australia and North America, the discounts will be available for travel until October 30, 2025. It can be availed only on the airline's website and mobile apps.

Air India will also not charge any convenience fee on bookings for domestic and international flights.

Moreover, it would offer additional discounts if bookings are made through UPI, internet banking and ICICI

Bank credit cards.

IndiGo, India's largest airline, announced that it would offer discounts for flights between January 1 to March 31, 2025.

The sale would feature one-way fares starting from ₹1,199 for domestic flight bookings and ₹5,199 for international ones.

"Customers can also book seats for ₹99, enjoy discounts of up to 15% on pre-paid excess baggage and save up to 50% on the fast-forward service, for both domestic and international sectors," IndiGo said in a statement.

Internationally, several other airlines have also announced similar Black Friday sales, including Etihad Airways, Qatar Airways and American Airlines. Singapore Airlines, which has a 25% stake in Air India, is also running its Black Friday sale since November 26.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

30 NOVEMBER 2024

EU aviation safety agency lifts ban on Pakistan Int'l Airlines



THE EUROPEAN UNION Aviation Safety Agency has lifted its ban on Pakistan

International Airlines from operating in the bloc, it said on Friday. EASA suspended PIA's authorisation to operate in the EU in June 2020 over concerns the ability of Pakistani authorities and its Civil Aviation Authority to ensure compliance with international aviation standards.

-AGENCIES

Surat-Bangkok flights boost to trade, tourism



FPJ News Service

SURAT

Surat's aviation sector is set for a landmark development with Air India Express launching a four-day-a-week Surat-Bangkok flight from December 20, 2024.

This international route is expected to significantly benefit the city's diamond, gems, jewellery, and textile industries, as well as boost Thailand's tourism sector.

The Surat-Bangkok-Surat route has long been demanded by Surat's business community and tourism stakeholders. The newly announced flights will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

The flight will depart Surat at 9:35 AM and return from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport at 7:35 PM the same day.

Strong Initial Response

The response to this new route has been overwhelming. Within 24 hours of opening ticket sales, 70% of seats were booked, with one-way tickets priced at 13,000. The launch aligns with the holiday season

when Surat residents frequently travel to Bangkok, ensuring robust passenger demand from the start.

Efforts of WWWAS and Stakeholder Support

This initiative follows extensive lobbying by We Work for Working Airport at Surat (WWWAS), a local organization advocating for improved air connectivity.

The Surat Diamond Bourse Committee and Air India Express officials, including MD Alok Singh, played a pivotal role in securing this flight route.

Economic and Tourism Impact

The Surat-Bangkok flight is expected to enhance Surat's reputation as a global trade hub. Surat's diamond industry and the textile sector, which imports yarn from Thailand, will see increased trade efficiency. Additionally, Thailand's tourism industry is poised for growth with a direct connection to Surat's population.

Additional Domestic Connectivity

In conjunction with the Surat-

Bangkok route, Air India Express is also launching a domestic Surat-Chennai flight. The flight will arrive in Surat at 10:00 PM, stay overnight, and then continue to Bangkok as an international flight at 6:30 AM.

On its return, the aircraft will resume domestic operations to Chennai, further strengthening Surat's connectivity within India.

Growing International Links

Surat already has international flights to Dubai and Sharjah, operated by Indigo Airlines and Air India Express. The new Surat-Bangkok flight adds to the city's growing prominence as an aviation hub, creating opportunities for trade, tourism, and economic development.

Challenges and Opportunities

While the Surat-Bangkok route marks a significant milestone, ticket prices are higher than flights from Mumbai, potentially diverting some passengers. However, group bookings by Surat-based tourists are likely to sustain demand.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 NOVEMBER 2024

Air India transformation is Test match, not T20; more work to do: Wilson

PTI
NEW DELHI

Air India's transformation journey is a cricket Test match and not a T20, and currently, it is like lunch on the third day of a Test match, the airline's Chief Campbell Wilson said on Thursday.

Tata Group-owned Air India has embarked on an ambitious five-year transformation plan 'Vihaan.AI' and little over two years of the programme has been completed.

"I acknowledge that we are not ultimately where we aspire to be and we have some work to do.. There is a reason why Vihaan.AI programme is for five years.. We are little over two years.. the first years



have been a good start," Wilson, who was born in New Zealand and took over the reins of Air India in 2022, said.

"It is a Test match and not a T20, we are at about lunch on Day 3," Wilson, the CEO and MD of Air India, said during a select media briefing.

A Test match is for five days while a T20 gets completed in less than four hours.

Since Tatas took over Air India in January 2022, it has consolidated the airline business – Air India has merged

Vistara with itself and Air India Express has integrated AIX Connect.

"A lot of heavy lifting for Air India transformation has been done, merger of airlines, establishment of new premises.. 2025 is about bringing all of the pieces to a level of efficiency, consistency and performance that ultimately Air India wants to be known for," Wilson said.

Now, Air India Group operates a combined fleet of 300 aircraft covering 55 domestic and 48 international destinations, with 312 routes and 8,300 flights per week.

The collective staff strength stands at over 30,000. Vihaan.AI has seen commitment to more than 500 new aircraft.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

30 NOVEMBER 2024

इंडिगो पर पांच लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगा

नई दिल्ली, एजेसी। नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो ने विमानन सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल के कुछ उल्लंघनों के लिए इंडिगो पर पांच लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया है।

एयरलाइन आदेश की समीक्षा करने और उचित अपील प्रधिकारी के समक्ष अपील दायर करने की प्रक्रिया में है। जुर्माना नियम 51 विमान (सुरक्षा) नियम, 2023 और निर्धारित आवश्यकताओं के संबंध में विमानन सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल के उल्लंघन के लिए लगाया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

29 NOVEMBER 2024



AI foresees growth from short international, domestic flights

Air India will see most of the air traffic growth coming from domestic and short-haul international operations in 2025 as more narrow-body planes are joining the fleet and legacy wide-body aircraft will be going for retrofit next year, the airline's chief Campbell Wilson said on Thursday. The Tata Group-owned airline, which has embarked on a five-year transformation journey, expects to have a fleet of 400 planes by 2027. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

29 NOVEMBER 2024

Air India sees growth from domestic, short international flights in 2025



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air India will see most of the air traffic growth coming from domestic and short-haul international operations in 2025 as more narrow-body planes are joining the fleet and legacy wide-body aircraft will be going for retrofit next year, the airline's chief Campbell Wilson said on Thursday.

The Tata Group-owned airline, which has embarked on a five-year transformation journey, expects to have a fleet of 400 planes by 2027.

Currently, the total fleet strength of Air India Group, including Air India Express, is around 300 aircraft.

During a select media briefing, Wilson, who has been at the helm of Air India for more than two years, said the airline group has a domestic market share of around 29 per cent and 55 per cent on the metro to metro routes.

On top 120 domestic routes, the market share is about 40 per cent, he said.

According to him, the retrofit of legacy wide-body aircraft will start in early 2025.

"We had hoped to start retrofit of 787s and 777s by now. Unfortunately, the global supply chains in some areas are still recovering and seats in particular are a challenge...

"Once it (retrofit) starts in 2025, we will be doing 3-4 aircraft every month until the full legacy 40 wide-body aircraft are completed," Wilson said.

About growth for 2025, he

said it will primarily come from domestic and short-haul international flights as most of the aircraft that are coming in are narrow-body ones.

"We are also taking the aircraft for the refit programme. So, the number of wide-body aircraft available will shrink a little bit," he added.

As part of Tata Group consolidating its airline business, Air India has merged Vistara with itself and AIX Connect has been integrated with Air India Express.

The CEO and MD of Air India noted that there is a delay in getting all the 50 white tail aircraft, which were earlier expected to join the fleet by December this year.

Out of the total 50 white tail Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, at least 35 have joined the fleet. These planes are being operated by Air India Express.

"50 white tail aircraft, all of them were to come by December this year.

They will stretch up to June next year and that in itself has a little bit of impact."

Wilson said while responding to a query about delays due to issues at Boeing, including the recent strike.

"It is not clear for how long the impact will be.

Six months is reasonable for some aircraft," he said.

Generally, white tail planes are those that were originally manufactured for a particular airline and later taken by another airline.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

29 NOVEMBER 2024

SpiceJet

■ **NEW DELHI:** SpiceJet announced Thursday it had resolved its dispute with aircraft lessor Aircastle, which withdrew an insolvency petition against the airline. SpiceJet's shares rose 1.43 per cent on the BSE.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

29 NOVEMBER 2024

“ We are not where we aspire to be and have some work to do. There is a reason why Vihaan.AI programme is for five years

Campbell Wilson,
Air India MD & CEO





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

29 NOVEMBER 2024

1,000 bomb hoaxes on airlines this yr

New Delhi: Airlines have received almost 1,000 bomb hoax messages so far this year. Junior minister for civil aviation Murlidhar Mohol on Wednesday said in Parliament: "As many as 27 hoax bomb threat calls were received between Aug and Dec 2022. The number increased to 122 in 2023, while the current year alone witnessed a sharp rise, with 994 calls reported as of mid-Nov 2024."

Govt data given in reply to another question says last three months have seen 680 hoax messages, with IndiGo, Air India, Vistara and Akasa receiving most of them. **TNN**



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

29 NOVEMBER 2024

Airlines got 1k bomb hoax messages so far this year: Mantri

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Airlines have received almost 1,000 bomb hoax messages so far this year: Junior minister for civil aviation **Murlidhar Mohol** on Wednesday said in Parliament: "As many as 27 hoax bomb threat calls were received between Aug and Dec 2022. The number

increased to 122 in 2023, while the current year alone witnessed a sharp rise, with 994 calls reported as of mid-Nov 2024."

Govt data given in reply to another question says last three months have seen 680 hoax messages, with IndiGo, Air India, Vistara and Akasa receiving most of



them. "Hoax bomb threats result in adversely affecting operations of some of the flights, resulting in impact on airlines and airports. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, aviation security regulator, take note of such threats and brings them to the notice of agencies con-

cerned for taking appropriate remedial action. BCAS issued advisory to stakeholders to streamline security measures in view of the recent bomb threats. Implementation of advanced technology at airports and increased security personnel training is a dynamic requirement," Mohol said in a reply.