



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

29 DECEMBER 2024

Guwahati airport records increased passenger, aircraft movements in 2024

GUWAHATI, Dec 28: The Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA), Guwahati, recorded the “highest-ever” international passenger and aircraft movements this year since the Adani Group began managing its commercial operations from October 2021, a company statement said on Saturday.

The airport also registered an increase in domestic passengers and added new domestic destinations during the year, it said. The facility managed 6.26 million domestic and over 85,000 international passengers.

Of the domestic passengers, 3.09 million were arrivals and 3.17 million departures. Additionally, it handled 47,578 international passenger arrivals and 38,528 international departures, the statement said.

The LGBIA has direct flights to three international destinations – Paris, Malaysia and Singapore – which have contributed to a significant increase in the international passenger count and air traffic movements (ATMs), with the airport witnessing 44,746 domestic and 970 international air traffic movements during the year.

The airport recorded the “highest-ever international

passenger numbers and ATMs since the commencement of commercial operations (October 8, 2021)”, the statement said.

The airport introduced three new domestic routes: Guwahati-Ahmedabad, Guwahati-Durgapur, and Guwahati-Ziro, with the routes expected to boost connectivity and open up new avenues for trade, tourism and cultural exchange, it added.

The Guwahati International Airport Ltd (GIAL) handled 225 million tonnes of perishable cargo in December 2024, making it one of the “highest-ever” for the airport. The total cargo handled by the airport this year has been 10,089 million tonnes.

During the year, LGBIA attained ‘Level 2’ of the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Customer Experience Accreditation.

It underscores the airport’s delivery of customer experiences and commitment to continuous improvement, the statement added.

The GIAL is managed by Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises.

GIAL is a public-private partnership venture between AAHL and the Airports Authority of India (AAI). – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

29 DECEMBER 2024

Fast Track Immigration from Jan. 2025 at Chennai airport

Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme is an initiative implemented by the Centre; the facility aims to reduce the time required for immigration clearance for registered passengers

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

Standing in a queue to get the immigration cleared following a long-haul flight may soon become a thing of the past as the Chennai airport is set to launch the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) in January 2025.

The initiative will ensure a hassle-free travel experience for passengers who have registered themselves for the initiative. They would only be required to produce their passport at the e-gates to exit.

Enhancing air travel

Implemented by the Union government, FTI-TTP of the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) has been aimed at reducing the time required for immigration clearance. Any air passenger, be it



Hassle-free travel: To avail the facility, registered passengers need to scan their passport at the e-gates. FILE PHOTO

an Indian national or a foreign national with OCI Card (Overseas Citizen Of India), who wishes to use this initiative should register themselves through <https://ftittp.mha.gov.in>.

Eligible passengers are required to record their fingerprint and face image at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office. Following verification, the passenger details will be uploaded into the system.

The verified passengers need to scan the passport at the e-gate.

Registration process

Passengers have already started registering in the portal, said sources.

According to officials of Airports Authority of India (AAI), nearly 16,000 of 66,000 passengers who use the Chennai airport are international travellers.

The facilities have been

made ready at the airport.

The international departure hall comprises four e-gates, while the arrival hall has four e-gates, officials said. Passengers could also avail themselves of on-the-spot registration by accessing the registration portal through the QR codes set up at the immigration counters.

“This way, passengers unaware of the initiative can register themselves for it. Registered passengers can provide their bio-metrics at a dedicated counter,” an official said.

The official said that the passengers opting for on-the-spot registration would have to wait for a few days after registration to use the facility as the verification process may take time.

Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi had launched this initiative in June this year.



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THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

29 DECEMBER 2024

Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Int'l Airport celebrates its 100th year

In the vibrant heart of Kolkata, where tradition meets innovation, stands the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (NSCBI Airport) - a gateway that has shaped India's aviation journey for a hundred years and is also an enduring symbol of resilience, progress, and connectivity. Established in 1924 as Dum Dum Airport, Kolkata Airport pioneered Indian aviation by hosting the Bengal Flying Club (1929), becoming one of the first jet service hubs (1964) and opening its first dedicated airline cargo terminal in 1975. It was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in 1995 and its New Integrated Terminal which was inaugurated in 2013 blends heritage with innovation, cementing its status as the gateway to East and Northeast India. Spreading across an area of 1566.3 acres of land and a built-up area of 2,30,000 Sqm, NSCBI Airport is equipped to serve 26 million passengers annually and caters to around 49 domestic and 15 International destinations. Marking the occasion, a budget-friendly café named "UDAN Yatri Cafe" at the NSCBI Airport, Kolkata as a pilot project supporting the transformative initiatives by MoCA and AAI.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

29 DECEMBER 2024

City and Navi Mumbai ATCs to coordinate 1st flight's navigation

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Navi Mumbai airport project is set for the first-ever commercial aircraft landing on the new runway 08/26 on Sunday. Two weeks ago, the Navi Mumbai International Airport, in collaboration with Airports Authority of India (AAI), successfully completed flight calibration of the PAPI equipment of its south runway 08/26. PAPI, an essential visual navigation aid, is a row of light boxes installed adjacent to the runway. It assists pilots in maintaining the correct glide slope angle of descent during approach and landing.

The air navigation service for the inaugural flight will be provided by the air traffic controllers (sitting at the Mumbai air traffic control) till it descends to 3,900 feet. Thereafter, the flight will be

GREEN TERMINAL

Phase 1 | Navi Mumbai airport will have a single runway and terminal building—design inspired by a lotus—with a capacity to handle 2cr flyers per annum



> 2L sq m T1 is being designed as per LEED gold standards (LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—a green building certification programme)

> Mumbai airport, with a single runway and 2 passenger terminals, is MMR's only option

> When both airports are operational, MMR will be served by about 1,500 flights a day

> Eventually, Navi Mumbai airport to have parallel runways

handled by the tower controller (the controller who gives permissions for landing, ta-

keoff, taxi, etc) based at the Navi Mumbai airport air traffic control tower. When the aircraft takes off, it will be handled by the Navi Mumbai tower controller up to 2,000 feet and thereafter it will be handled by Mumbai air traffic control. This arrangement is possible because Navi Mumbai and Mumbai airport runways are only 15km apart. Once Navi Mumbai airport gets enough traffic, say by 2026, it will have its independent air traffic control, said sources.

On the ground, for connectivity to the city and Mumbai airport, govt has planned a 'Gati Shakti model with multi-modal connectivity'—road, rail and Metro—as former civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced when he visited the airport site early this year; he announced it would begin commercial operation by March-end 2025.



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GUWAHATI

29 DECEMBER 2024

LGBI Airport

GUWAHATI, Dec 28:
The Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) here recorded the “highest-ever” international passenger and aircraft movements this year since the Adani Group began managing its commercial operations from October 2021, a company statement said on Saturday. – PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे पर पहली उड़ान का सफल परीक्षण

नवी मुंबई। महाराष्ट्र के नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर पहली उड़ान का परीक्षण सफल रहा। इंडिगो एयरलाइन्स का ए320 विमान यहां सफलतापूर्वक उतरा। इसे अग्निशमन वाहनों ने वाटर कैनन से सलामी दी। अदाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स लि. के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी अरुण बंसल ने कहा कि यह नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लिए महत्वपूर्ण दिन है। वैलिडेशन उड़ान का सफल परीक्षण एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है। अब हम एयरपोर्ट को चालू करने के एक कदम और करीब हैं। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

Navi Mumbai airport to launch service by May

Aneesh Phadnis

Mumbai

Navi Mumbai airport will start operations next May and construction of its second passenger terminal will commence two months later in July, with the Adani

group accelerating the development plans.

Adani Airport Holdings Limited CEO Arun Bansal disclosed this on Sunday after successful completion of a validation flight to test the approach and landing procedure at the airport.

An IndiGo Airbus A320

aircraft operated the trial flight.

Bansal said the ambition is to inaugurate the airport by April 17. Domestic passenger and cargo operations are expected to start from mid-May and international operations from July-end.

Details p10



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

Navi Mumbai airport to start ops from next May

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Mumbai

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Adani Airport Holdings Limited CEO Arun Bansal disclosed this on Sunday after successful completion of a validation flight to test the approach and landing procedure at the airport. An IndiGo Airbus A320 aircraft operated the trial flight. Its report will now be submitted to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. "This is a major milestone and we are now one step closer to operationalising the airport, priorit-



NEW BEGINNING. An IndiGo aircraft after landing at Navi Mumbai International Airport, which witnessed its first commercial aircraft landing on Sunday.

ising safety at every step," Bansal said.

Bansal said the ambition is to inaugurate the airport by April 17. Domestic passenger and cargo operations are expected to start from mid-May and international operations from July-end. Discussions are already underway with airlines for

development of schedules.

FIRST PHASE

The airport's first phase will see the opening of one runway and a terminal with passenger handling capacity of 20 million passengers per year.

Construction of the second terminal with annual

handling capacity of 30 million passengers was supposed to start in 2026. Now the construction is being advanced by a year. This is to cater for high traffic volume that is anticipated due to the planned renovation of Mumbai airport's terminal T1. As a result Navi Mumbai airport expected to handle 20 million passengers by March 2026.

While 25-30 per cent of existing traffic from T1 will shift to Mumbai airport's T2 terminal, the remainder will move to Navi Mumbai.

While this will create terminal capacity challenges (the second terminal in Navi Mumbai is expected to be ready in 3-4 years), the Adani group plans to address the issue through efficient slot management and automation.

नवी मुंबई हवाई अड्डे से मई तक वाणिज्यिक परिचालन

नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनमायल) का उद्घाटन अगले साल अप्रैल में होगा और उसके एक महीने बाद मई से वहां वाणिज्यिक संचालन शुरू किया जाएगा। यह जानकारी आज अदाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड (एएचएल) के एक अधिकारी ने दी। कंपनी के मुख्य कार्य अधिकारी अरुण बंसल ने कहा, 'निर्माणाधीन हवाई अड्डे पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिचालन अगले साल जुलाई में शुरू किया जाएगा।'

बंसल ने कहा, 'अगले साल 17 अप्रैल को उद्घाटन होने के बाद हमें सुरक्षा और हवाई अड्डे की अन्य जरूरी प्रक्रियाओं के लिए करीब चार हफ्ते लगेगे। इसलिए हम घरेलू परिचालन के लिए मई के दूसरे

पखवाड़े की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।'

एनमायल पर रविवार को एक वाणिज्यिक विमान के उतरने के बाद बंसल ने संवाददाता सम्मेलन में ये बातें कहीं। इस निर्माणाधीन हवाई अड्डे पर पहली बार कोई यात्री विमान उतरा था। इंडिगो का ए320 6ई 9165 विमान दोपहर 1.32 बजे नवी मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर उतरा। हालांकि, उसमें कोई यात्री सवार नहीं था। विमान ने दोपहर करीब 12.30 बजे मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (सीएसएमआईए) से उड़ान भरी थी।

बंसल ने कहा, 'आज पहली बार विमान उतरा। अब हमें डीजीसीए से औपचारिक एरोड्रम लाइसेंस से लेना होगा।'

बीएस

Navi Mumbai airport set to begin commercial ops in May 2025: AAHL

International operations to start by July next year; project expected to cost around ₹18,000 crore

AJINKYA KAWALE

Mumbai, 29 December

Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIAL) is set to be inaugurated in April next year, followed by the launch of commercial operations in May, said a senior executive from the Adani Airport Holdings (AAHL), after the first commercial validation test was conducted at the under-construction airport on Sunday.

The airport will start international operations by July next year, said Arun Bansal, chief executive officer, AAHL, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of Adani group.

"After the inauguration on April 17, we need roughly about four weeks for security sweep and other requirements of the airport procedures which is why we are looking at the second half of May 2025 for domestic operations," he told reporters after the IndiGo A320 6E9165 aircraft with no passengers on board touched down at 1.32 pm at NMIAL on Sunday.

The plane took off from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai at around 12.30 pm.

"The first validation flight has



The IndiGo aircraft that landed as part of a validation test at the Navi Mumbai International Airport on Sunday

PHOTO: AJINKYA KAWALE

happened today. We now need to get a formal aerodrome licence from the DGCA," Bansal said. The airport would apply for the aerodrome permit in February.

A validation landing assesses new flight instruments installed at an aerodrome. It confirms operational safety for aircraft pro-

cedures as part of an aerodrome certification process.

"A historic milestone as Navi Mumbai International Airport welcomed its first commercial validation flight! Proud of our team's hard work and grateful for our stakeholders' unwavering support," said Jeet Advani,

Director, AAHL in a post on social media platform X.

In its first phase of operations, the airport will have a capacity of handling 20 million passengers annually. It is projected to handle about eight to 10 million passengers for domestic operations within the first six months of its launch.

NMIAL will be the second airport to serve the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Currently, CSMIA is the only operational airport serving the Mumbai region. The CSMIA handles over 50 million passengers annually.

"There is a pent-up demand of almost 60-65 million today which means that 15 million passengers from Mumbai region travel to other airports. Navi Mumbai Airport will cater to and augment that capacity," the executive added.

Following the landing of the commercial jet, "NMIAL's established flight procedures will be published in the Electronic Aeronautical Information Publication for international promulgation," the airport said in a release. The airport conducted the flight calibration of the Instrument Landing System and Precision Approach Path Indicator, subsequently drafting

instrument approach procedures to prepare itself for the arrival of the validation flight.

In October, the Airbus C-295 of the Indian Air Force landed at the airport, marking the first touchdown of any flight at the aerodrome. Earlier, aviation consultancy firm CAPA, in its report published in October 2023, stated that Navi Mumbai airport's construction was facing delays, and therefore, was likely to commence commercial operations in 2025 instead of 2024.

In January, former civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia revised the timeline for the airport's operational launch to March 2025 from December 2024. With the latest announcement, the operational launch has been pushed further to May 2025.

The entire construction of the airport is expected to be completed in five phases. The project is expected to cost around ₹18,000 crore. It is the first airport in the country to have multi-modal connectivity. This includes a linkage to the project via road, rail, and a metro system. In the near future, it is set to be connected via a waterway. NMIAL is a jointly owned subsidiary with MIAL holding 74 per cent, and the rest by Cidco.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

नवी मुंबई एयरपोर्ट पर पहली कमर्शियल टेस्ट फ्लाइट



मुंबई | निर्माणाधीन नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर रविवार को पहली कमर्शियल फ्लाइट की टेस्टिंग सफल रही। इंडिगो की फ्लाइट रनवे पर उतरी, तो यात्रियों ने फोटो खिंचवाए। सीईओ बीवी जेके शर्मा ने कहा कि वाटर सैल्यूट से फ्लाइट का स्वागत किया गया।

• एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन अगले साल 17 अप्रैल को होगा। इसके बाद टर्मिनल जनता के लिए खोलने में एक माह लगेगा। कमर्शियल फ्लाइट मई 2025 में शुरू हो सकती है।
• फ्लाइट टेस्ट के दौरान डीजीसीए, एयरपोर्ट्स अथॉरिटी, कस्टम, इमीग्रेशन, मौसम विभाग, एविएशन सिक्युरिटी ब्यूरो और अदाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स के अफसर मौजूद रहे।

श्रीनगर हवाई अड्डे पर उड़ान संचालन फिर से शुरू

श्रीनगर, 29 दिसम्बर (एजेंसियां)। श्रीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर मौसम की स्थिति और दृश्यता में सुधार के बाद उड़ान संचालन रविवार को फिर से शुरू हो गया। अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी। इससे पहले दिन में घने कोहरे और कम दृश्यता के कारण उड़ानें बाधित हुईं, जिससे देरी और रद्दीकरण हुआ। श्रीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के निदेशक जावेद अंजुम ने बताया कि उड़ान संचालन फिर से शुरू हो गया है। हमारी रनवे विजुअल रेंज (आरवीआर) ठीक थी, लेकिन घने दृधिया कोहरे के कारण दृश्यता 400 मीटर से कम थी, जिसके कारण हमें सुबह चार उड़ानों को डायवर्ट करना पड़ा। उन्होंने बताया कि इनमें से दो वापस आ गए और दो रद्द कर दिए गए। बर्फबारी और खराब मौसम की वजह से 27 दिसम्बर को सात उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं और शनिवार को 37 उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं।

इससे पहले सुबह घने कोहरे और कम दृश्यता के बीच रविवार को श्रीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर उड़ान संचालन प्रभावित हुआ। शनिवार को भारी बर्फबारी के बाद कश्मीर घाटी का देश के बाकी हिस्सों से संपर्क टूट जाने के बाद श्रीनगर-जम्मू राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पर



■ बर्फबारी व खराब मौसम की वजह की हुई थी उड़ानें रद्द

ट्रेन सेवाएं और यातायात रविवार को फिर से शुरू हो गया है। जावेद अंजुम ने बताया कि श्रीनगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर घने कोहरे के कारण दृश्यता कम हो गई और कुछ आने वाली उड़ानों को डायवर्ट करना पड़ा, जबकि दिल्ली से केवल एक उड़ान ही रविवार सुबह हवाई अड्डे पर उतर सकी।

हमें उम्मीद है कि दृश्यता में सुधार होगा और दिन के दौरान सामान्य उड़ान संचालन फिर से शुरू होगा। रेलवे के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि कश्मीर घाटी में भारी बर्फबारी के कारण शनिवार को निलंबित रही रेल सेवा आज फिर से शुरू कर दी गई। बर्फ जमा होने के बीच ट्रेनें न्यूनतम गति से पटरियों पर चलेंगी और देरी होने की संभावना है। इस बीच, बर्फबारी के कारण पिछले दो दिनों तक निलंबित रहने के बाद रणनीतिक श्रीनगर-जम्मू राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पर यातायात फिर से शुरू कर दिया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

मुआवजा बढ़ाने व विस्थापन न करने की मांग को लेकर एयरपोर्ट प्रभावित किसानों की पंचायत

जेवर, 29 दिसम्बर (देशबन्धु)। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के विस्तारीकरण से प्रभावित आधा दर्जन से गांव के किसानों ने मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा की गई मुआवजा वृद्धि को नाकाफी बताते हुए ख्वाजपुर गांव स्थित शिव मंदिर परिसर में पंचायत का आयोजन किया।

जिसमें भूमि अधिग्रहण अधिनियम 2013 का पालन करने, गांव का विस्थापन न किये जाने आदि नौ मांगों को पूरा करने की मांग की। बता दें कि एयरपोर्ट के विस्तारीकरण के लिए चल रही स्टेज 2 फेज 2 व फेस 3 की भूमिअधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया से प्रभावित 14 गांव में से अधिकतर ग्रामीणों द्वारा लगातार विरोध किया जा रहा है। जिसकी वजह से

- एयरपोर्ट के लिए बढ़े मुआवजे को किसान बता रहे नाकाफी
- भूमिअधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया से प्रभावित 14 गांव में विरोध जारी

मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा किसानों को वार्ता के लिए आमंत्रित करना पड़ा था। विधायक धीरेंद्र सिंह के नेतृत्व में ग्रामीणों की मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ से वार्ता के बाद मुआवजा राशि में 12000 प्रतिवर्ग मीटर की बढ़ोतरी करते हुए 43000 किये जाने की घोषणा की गई। जिसको लेकर कुछ किसान संतुष्ट दिखाई दे रहे हैं जबकि असंतुष्ट किसानों का धड़ा भी नजर आ रहा है जिनके द्वारा विरोध के

स्वर सुनाई दे रहे हैं।

ख्वाजपुर गांव स्थित शिव मंदिर परिसर में आयोजित पंचायत में किसानों ने मुआवजा राशि 12 हजार रूपए वर्ग मीटर किये जाने, परिवार के सभी सदस्यों को प्लाट दिए जाने, एकमुश्त रोजगार राशि को दोगुना करने, नीमका, ख्वाजपुर व थोरा का विस्थापन न किये जाने, भूमि अधिग्रहण अधिनियम 2013 का पालन किये जाने आदि 9 मांगों को पूरा करने की मांग की।

मांग पूरी न किये जाने पर सहमति न देने के लिए एकजुटता का प्रदर्शन किया। पंचायत में ख्वाजपुर, नीमका, थोरा, बनवारीवास, रामनेर, रंहेरा व चौरोली आदि गांव के किसान मौजूद रहे।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

नवी मुंबई हवाई अड्डे के सत्यापन के लिए पहला यात्री विमान उतरा

नवी मुंबई, 29 दिसम्बर (एजेंसियों)। अडानी समूह द्वारा विकसित किया जा रहे नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के परिचालन की तैयारी के सत्यापन के लिए रविवार को पहली वाणिज्यिक उड़ान का सफलतापूर्वक परिचालन आयोजित किया। समूह का कहना है कि यह हवाई अड्डा अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुसार परिचालन के लिए तैयार है। उसे अब विनियामक से लाइसेंस की प्रतीक्षा है। नव विकसित हवाई अड्डे पर उड़ानों के आवागमन में सहायक प्रणालियों और सुविधाओं के सत्यापन पहले ही किया जा चुके थे।

वाणिज्यिक उड़ान की सत्यापन प्रक्रिया में आज इंडिगो एयरलाइंस का एक ए 320 विमान इस हवाई अड्डे की उड़ान पट्टी 08/ 26 पर उतरा गया। हवाई अड्डे का विकास और परिचालक करने के लिए गठित कंपनी नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट (एन एम आई ए) की ओर से जारी एक विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार विमान के हवाई पट्टी की ओर आने और हवाई पट्टी



■ हवाई अड्डा अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुसार परिचालन के लिए तैयार

पर उतरने की प्रक्रिया और प्रणालियों के सत्यापन के साथ इसे हवाईअड्डा विनियामक डीजीसीए (नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय) से परिचालन का लाइसेंस मिलने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार हवाई अड्डे पर पहले वाणिज्य विमान की सत्यापन उड़ान को देखने के लिए वहां डीजीसीए और उन एजेंसियों के अधिकारी भी उपस्थित थे। इंडिगो के विमान के हवाई पट्टी पर उतरने पर दोनों ओर से दो दमकल मशीनों द्वारा पानी की फुहार से परंपरागत तरीके से स्वागत किया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट तक पानी की लाइन बिछाने का काम पूरा

ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट तक पानी आपूर्ति के लिए सभी बाधाएं दूर हो गई हैं। फलेदा बांगर में तीन नलकूप के जरिए एयरपोर्ट तक पानी पहुंचाया जाएगा। इसके लिए आठ किलोमीटर लाइन बिछाने का कार्य अब पूरा हो गया है।

पाइपलाइन की टेस्टिंग शुरू हो गई है। अगले सप्ताह तक पानी की आपूर्ति शुरू हो जाएगी। एयरपोर्ट परिसर में बने वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (डब्ल्यूटीपी) से पानी शोधित कर

आपूर्ति होगी। प्राधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट का संचालन अप्रैल से शुरू करने की तैयारी है। इससे पहले एयरपोर्ट में सभी जरूरी सुविधाओं को अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा है। एयरपोर्ट को करीब आठ एमएलडी पानी की जरूरत होगी। हालांकि, शुरुआती चरण में एयरपोर्ट को रोजाना दो एमएलडी पानी ही चाहिए। पानी की आपूर्ति के लिए फलेदा बांगर में तीन नलकूप लगाए गए हैं। नलकूपों के जरिए एयरपोर्ट को पानी दिया जाएगा।

{ **MY INDIA** } APR 17 INAUGURATION

Navi Mumbai airport conducts 1st flight test



The upcoming Navi Mumbai International

Airport is set to be functional from next year with the expected inauguration of the facility on April 17, a senior Adani Group official said on Sunday. Earlier in the day, an IndiGo A320 passenger aircraft landed successfully at 1.32pm at runway 08/26 of the under-construction airport, paving the way for the Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd to seek an aerodrome licence from the aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation to start commercial flight services.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024



The airport's domestic operations are expected to start from the second half of May. PTI

First commercial flight test at NMIA

The upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) is set to be functional from early next fiscal year with the expected inauguration of the facility on 17 April, a senior Adani Group official said on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, an IndiGo A320 passenger aircraft landed successfully at runway 26/08 of the under-construction Navi Mumbai International Airport, paving the way for securing an aerodrome licence to start commercial operations.

"Our ambition is to do the commercial inauguration of the airport by 17 April," Adani Airport Holdings Ltd chief executive Arun Bansal told media after the successful trial landing of the first civil passenger aircraft.

Bansal said that the domestic operations will start from the second half of May as after the inaugural flight some procedures will have to be followed which will take about four weeks.

"This is a momentous day for Navi Mumbai International Airport. The successful completion of the validation flight is a major milestone," said Bansal. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

Navi Mumbai Airport conducts commercial flight test, to be functional from Apr

MPOST BUREAU

MUMBAI: The Navi Mumbai International Airport is expected to become operational early in the next fiscal year, with its inauguration slated for April 17, a senior official from the Adani Group announced on Sunday.

Earlier that day, an IndiGo A320 aircraft successfully landed on runway 26/08 of the under-construction air-



port, marking a significant milestone toward obtaining an aerodrome licence for commercial operations.

Continued on P4

Mumbai

"Our ambition is to do the commercial inauguration of the airport by April 17," Adani Airport Holdings Ltd CEO Arun Bansal told media after the successful trial landing of the first civil passenger aircraft. Bansal said that the domestic operations will start from the second half of May as after the inaugural flight some procedures will have to be followed which will take about four weeks time.

And by the end of July, he said, "we expect to start international operations."

Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMAI) took a further step toward becoming operational with its first commercial flight validation test, with the successful touchdown at 1.32 pm at runway 26/08, it said. The aircraft was welcomed with the traditional water salute by two Crash Fire

Tenders (CFT) of NMIA.

"This is a momentous day for Navi Mumbai International Airport. The successful completion of the validation flight is a major milestone, and we are now one step closer to operationalising the airport, prioritising safety at every step," said Bansal.

The touchdown of a commercial aircraft validates and establishes the synchronised functioning of Instrument Approach Procedures at NMIA.

The exercise includes technical assessment, landing and take-off manoeuvres, paving the way for the DGCA to validate the data collected from the flight and for NMIA to receive the aerodrome license, which is essential to operate the airport.

Post the successful landing, NMIA's established flight procedures will be published in the Electronic Aeronautical Information Publication (eAIP) for international promulgation.

Prior to the landing of the validation flight, NMIA successfully conducted the flight calibration of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI), subsequently drafting instrument approach procedures to prepare itself for the arrival of the validation flight.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से ये 6 इलाके जुड़ेंगे

नोएडा, (पंजाब केसरी) : ● **यमुना प्राधिकरण ने बनाई कनेक्टिविटी की नई योजना**

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से जल्द ही उड़ान सेवाओं की शुरुआत होने वाली है। इसे ध्यान में रखते हुए यमुना प्राधिकरण ने शहर और आसपास के क्षेत्रों को एयरपोर्ट से जोड़ने के लिए छह प्रमुख रूटों पर इलेक्ट्रिक बसों के संचालन की योजना बनाई है।

यह कदम यात्रियों को बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल परिवहन प्रदान करने की दिशा में एक बड़ा प्रयास है। यमुना प्राधिकरण ने उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम के सहयोग से नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और आसपास के शहरों को एयरपोर्ट से जोड़ने वाले रूटों का प्रस्ताव भेजा है। प्रस्तावित रूटों में जेवर, बुलंदशहर, सिकंदराबाद, खुर्जा और टप्पल जैसे प्रमुख शहर शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा यमुना प्राधिकरण ने रबपुरा से यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे होते हुए बटिनिकल गार्डन और यीडा कार्यालय से बटिनिकल गार्डन तक बस सेवा भी चलाई थी। हालांकि, सवारी की कमी के कारण यह सेवा अक्टूबर में बंद करनी पड़ी थी।

एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान सेवाओं की शुरुआत अप्रैल 2024 में होने की संभावना है। रनवे के सफल परीक्षण के बाद यमुना प्राधिकरण ने एयरपोर्ट को बुलंदशहर और अलीगढ़ के कई क्षेत्रों से जोड़ने के लिए इलेक्ट्रिक बस सेवा शुरू करने का निर्णय लिया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर पहला फ्लाइट वैलिडेशन टेस्ट सफल

नई मुंबई, (पंजाब केसरी): अगले वर्ष 2025 की शुरुआत में कमर्शियल लॉन्च से पहले नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट ने रविवार को पहला कमर्शियल फ्लाइट वैलिडेशन टेस्ट पूरा किया। इसके लिए इंडिगो

एयरलाइन का ए320 विमान सफलतापूर्वक रनवे पर उतरा। रनवे 08/26 पर हुए इस उड़ान परीक्षण की निगरानी नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए), भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई), सीमा शुल्क, इमिग्रेशन, केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल



(सीआईएसएफ), महाराष्ट्र नगर एवं औद्योगिक विकास निगम लिमिटेड (सिडको), भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी), नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बीसीएस) के साथ-साथ अडानी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड (एएचएल) और अन्य प्रमुख

हितधारकों के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों द्वारा की गई थी। अदानी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ), अरुण बंसल ने कहा, यह नवी मुंबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण दिन है।

वैलिडेशन उड़ान का सफल समापन एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है और अब हम एयरपोर्ट को चालू करने के एक कदम और करीब हैं। हम हर कदम पर सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं। वैलिडेशन फ्लाइट टायल को सफल बनाने के लिए हम डीजीसीए और सभी एजेंसियों के आभारी हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

29 DECEMBER 2024

जयपुर एयरपोर्ट फ्लाइट्स का संचालन गड़बड़ाया, यात्री परेशान



पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क

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जयपुर. जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर शनिवार को फ्लाइट्स का संचालन गड़बड़ा गया। इससे यात्रियों को परेशानी हुई। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार इंडिगो की बेंगलूर फ्लाइट 6 ई-839 रद्द रही। फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 5:40 बजे बेंगलूर जाती है।

एयरलाइंस ने विमान उपलब्ध नहीं होने की वजह से फ्लाइट को रद्द किया। इसी प्रकार अलायंस एयर की कुल्लू की फ्लाइट 9आइ-805 संचालन कारणों की वजह से रद्द रही। वहीं इंडिगो की उदयपुर की फ्लाइट 6ई-7465 भी रद्द रही। उदयपुर से जयपुर आने वाली फ्लाइट 6 ई-7718 भी रद्द कर दी गई। प्रयागराज महाकुंभ के लिए अलायंस एयर की नई फ्लाइट 10 जनवरी से शुरू होगी। जो जयपुर से प्रत्येक शुक्रवार को शाम 6:05 बजे रवाना होकर 7:55 बजे प्रयागराज पहुंचेगी। फ्लाइट प्रयागराज से हर रविवार शाम 6:45 बजे रवाना होकर रात 8:40 बजे जयपुर पहुंचेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

नवी मुंबई के हवाई अड्डे पर वाणिज्यिक उड़ान परीक्षण

■ अगले वित्त वर्ष में चालू होगा यह एयरपोर्ट



मुंबई (भाषा)। नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट का संचालन अगले वित्त वर्ष से शुरू होने वाला है और 17 अप्रैल को इसका उद्घाटन होने की उम्मीद है। अडाणी समूह के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने रविवार को यह जानकारी दी। इससे पहले दिन में इंडिगो ए320 यात्री विमान को निर्माणाधीन नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट के रनवे पर सफलतापूर्वक उतरा गया। इससे हवाई अड्डे के वाणिज्यिक परिचालन शुरू करने के लिए एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस हासिल करने का रास्ता साफ हो गया। अडाणी एयरपोर्ट होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड के सीईओ अरुण बंसल ने पहले नागरिक यात्री विमान के सफल परीक्षण के बाद मीडिया से कहा, 'हमारी महत्वाकांक्षा 17 अप्रैल तक हवाई अड्डे का वाणिज्यिक उद्घाटन करने की है।'

बंसल ने कहा कि घरेलू परिचालन मई के दूसरे पखवाड़े से शुरू होगा, क्योंकि उद्घाटन उड़ान के बाद कुछ प्रक्रियाओं का पालन करना होगा, जिसमें लगभग चार सप्ताह का समय लगेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि जुलाई के अंत तक, 'हमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिचालन शुरू करने की उम्मीद है।' एक बयान के मुताबिक नवी मुंबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे (एनएमएआई) ने अपने पहले वाणिज्यिक उड़ान सत्यापन परीक्षण के साथ परिचालन की दिशा में एक और कदम बढ़ाया है। रविवार को दोपहर डेढ़ बजे रनवे 26/08 पर सफल लैंडिंग हुई।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

KOLKATA

29 DECEMBER 2024

Locals press for hospital, airport at Alipurduar

Hundreds of DUSS members, temporarily shutting down their business establishments, took out a protest rally and submitted a memorandum to the Alipurduar divisional railway manager

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 28 DECEMBER

After securing the Madarihat Assembly segment in the recent by-election under the leadership of the local Trinamul Congress (TMC), the Dooars Unnayan Sangram Samiti (DUSS) has been formed to challenge the BJP on a three-point agenda for Alipurduar district.

Significantly, several members of market committees in Alipurduar town have joined the DUSS to press for the establishment of a super-specialty hospital in the district headquarters, the development of an airport at Hasimara, and the cessation of eviction drives by the railways without proper reha-



bilitation for local traders.

Yesterday, hundreds of DUSS members, temporarily shutting down their business establishments, took out a protest rally and submitted a memorandum to the Alipur-

duar divisional railway manager. The DUSS leadership warned of sustained agitation if their demands were not addressed.

DUSS president Dilip Kumar Roy stated, "We

observed a programme held on railways land a few months ago, during which there was an announcement about setting up a hospital near the Alipurduar railway junction. However, we are yet to receive any updates on the project. Additionally, there is a long-standing demand for an airport at Hasimara, near the Indian Air Force base, but there has been no initiative from the central government."

He further added: "Hundreds of marginal traders depend on their businesses for livelihood. Yet, the railway authorities have issued eviction notices without providing alternative arrangements. We demand an immediate halt to these eviction drives."

The protest saw participation from TMC leaders,

including Sourav Chakraborty, Mridul Goswami, and local MLA Suman Kanjilal, along with leaders from traders' organisations.

Suman Kanjilal, who was elected an MLA from Alipurduar on a BJP ticket but later joined the TMC, remarked: "The people here want clarity on the status of the hospital and airport projects. While there is reported clearance from the railway authorities for hospital land, there has been no response from the central government regarding the airport proposal at Hasimara."

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has outlined plans to develop an airport at Hasimara, aiming to enhance connectivity between North Bengal and Kolkata as well as other parts of the country.

After first civilian test flight landing, Navi Mumbai airport set for May ops

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Navi Mumbai airport missed its much-touted March-end deadline, but not by much as the city's second commercial flights airport is expected to be inaugurated on April 17. Access to the public will begin four weeks later, in the second half of May, when airlines commence domestic flights, along with cargo operations. By the end of July, international flights will start, said Arun Bansal, CEO, Adani Airport Holdings Ltd on Sunday.

Given that the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) is a greenfield airport — built on undeveloped land — and built in 2024-25, it will have “all the modern amenities from day one like biometrics, connectivity between terminals,” said Bansal.

On Sunday, around 12.30pm, an IndiGo A320 aircraft took off from Mumbai airport and spent an hour circling over Karjat, Pen, carrying out technical assessment and missed approach manoeuvres as part of the “validation flight” process.

At 1.32pm, the aircraft did a touchdown on runway 08-26, becoming the first airline jet to land at NMIA. The data collected from the validation flight will be submitted to the aviation regulator for grant of the mandatory aerodrome licence.

On Oct 11, an Indian Air Force C-295, a large multi-role tactical airlifter, carried out an inaugural landing on the NMIA runway.

The phase-1 terminal building has a capacity of 20 million passengers per annum (ppa). To put that in perspective, last fiscal, airports like Chennai and Kolkata handled about 20 million ppa. Mumbai airport handled 52.8 million ppa, while Delhi, the busiest airport in the country, handled 73.6 million ppa. “Navi Mumbai airport will start with 10-12 million ppa, with 8-9 million domestic and about 2-3 million international passengers,” said Bansal. By mid-2026, it will reach 20 million capacity. “NMIA's terminal 2 will have 30 million ppa capacity and will go live by the end of 2028,” Bansal said.

When commissioned, the much-awaited NMIA will share the burden of the congested Mumbai airport, which is served by a single runway. “About 15 million passengers from the Mum-

VALIDATION FLIGHT DONE AT NMIA



TEST FLIGHTS

Dec 29, 12.30pm: IndiGo A320 aircraft takes off from Mumbai airport, circles over Karjat for an hour as part of the validation flight process

1.32pm: Aircraft touches down on runway 08-26, is first airline jet to land at Navi Mumbai airport

Oct 11: An Indian Air Force C-295, a large multi-role tactical airlifter, carries out inaugural landing on the NMIA runway



The Navi Mumbai airport is set to begin domestic operations from May and international flights by July-end

Validation flight done, what other clearances needed?

Mumbai or Navi Mumbai airport? Flyers to choose

When booking an air ticket, passengers can compare fares for flights operating out of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai airports. They can then choose which airport they want to go to

> Technical data collected by the validation flight will be submitted to the DGCA for procurement of an aerodrome licence

> On Feb 6, NMIA will submit docs needed for Aeronautical Information Publication, which gives info on air navigation, local regulations, airport limitations, etc

> 70 days needed to get all approvals done, which is why NMIA has planned inauguration on April 17. After that, four weeks are needed for security processes to be completed, after which domestic flights will begin

> NMIA is in talks with airlines for slots, offices, and parking bays



Single runway is not a limiting factor

A single runway can handle flights that carry up to 50 million passengers per annum (ppa). But NMIA phase-1 terminal has a capacity of 20 million ppa, which is expected to be reached by mid-2026. In phase-II, terminal 2 with a capacity of 30 million ppa is expected to be ready by 2028 end

bai region are travelling to nearby states or other airports,” Bansal said. “Airlines are very keen to move to Navi Mumbai to capture that additional passenger growth from Mumbai,” he said, adding that all domestic airlines are big enough, and so they won't move their entire oper-

ations to NMIA.

“But certain international airlines with only a few flights per day might decide to have all their operations either out of Mumbai or Navi Mumbai,” he added.

Speaking about connectivity, Bansal said, “We're very hopeful that the last-

mile connectivity will continue to improve. There is a proposal for a new Metro line from Navi Mumbai to the existing Mumbai airport. A lot of highway connectivity has happened, and last mile connectivity will also be ready in time for commercial operations,” he said.

● **FLYING COLOURS**

Smooth takeoffs in a busy year

Aneesh Phadnis

India's aviation growth story touched newer highs in 2024 with record growth in traffic, big-ticket orders, mergers and acquisitions, and customer-centric initiatives.

While spiritual tourism received a fillip with the opening of Ayodhya airport in January, regional connectivity aimed higher with the launch of Goa-based carrier FLY91 in March. Two airline startups — Air Kerala and Al Hind Air — announced plans to connect Kerala with other parts of the country in 2025.

The big story of the year was, of course, the consolidation in the sector. Following two sets of airline mergers at the Tata group — AIX Connect with Air India Express and Vistara with Air India — Air India has cemented its place as the country's second largest aviation group. It made its growth ambitions clear with investments in a pilot training centre, maintenance repair and overhaul facilities, and an order for 100 new Airbus planes. Air India is locked in a fierce competition with IndiGo, which has pivoted from its no-frills brand to a hybrid carrier.

SpiceJet came back from the brink, raising ₹3,000 crore fresh capital in September. The airline is now stabilising its operations and paying off vendor dues. However, it was not a happy resolution for Go First and Jet Airways, both of which entered into liquidation.

LOVE OF FLYING

Domestic airlines flew over 146 million passengers in the first 11 months of the year, registering a 6 per cent year-on-year growth. Daily passenger traffic also crossed the five-lakh mark on four occasions in the past 50 days.

Digiyatra, the biometric-based paperless boarding process, is now available at 24 airports countrywide. A trusted traveller programme was rolled out at Delhi airport in June for quicker immigration checks.

December also saw the launch of Udan Yatri cafe at



AERO DYNAMIC. The number of flyers grew steadily in 2024 BLOOMBERG

Kolkata airport, offering affordable snacks to travellers.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu said the cafe is a testament to the government's vision to make air travel inclusive, affordable and accessible to all.

NEW AIRPORTS, ROUTES

Fliers can look forward to more new connections and improved travel experiences as airlines and airports expand their offerings in 2025.

Jewar and Navi Mumbai airports will begin operations in the first half of the year, helping ease the slot constraints and on-time performance challenges faced by airlines.

While Jewar airport is adding nine extra parking bays to the originally planned 25, Delhi airport is streamlining its procedures for added efficiency and expansion.

These initiatives come even as domestic airlines receive new aircraft and restore their grounded fleet.

Foreign airlines, too, are bullish about growth prospects. "We believe 2025 will be a pivotal year for India as it strengthens its position as a major global aviation centre, driven by increased demand and infra-

structure investments," says Shivani Singh Deo, country manager, Virgin Atlantic.

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) plans to launch various initiatives to enhance terminal capacity.

This includes optimising resource allocation in bays, gates, and other passenger touchpoints at terminal T3.

While a predictive operations centre was rolled out in Hyderabad in December, Delhi airport will also have it soon. The system leverages artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies for predictive planning of operations and real-time monitoring, a DIAL spokesperson says.

Noida International Airport (NIA) has been engaging with airlines even before it bid for the concession in 2019 to help design infrastructure that works well for carriers and passengers, says its CEO, Christoph Schnellmann.

"We have optimised various aspects, such as facilitating swift turnaround times, expeditious flight transfers, and minimising walking distances for passengers. Airlines from across West Asia and Southeast Asia are expressing strong interest in the airport," he says.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

Air India to fly to 5 new international destinations; Manila, Jakarta on radar

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

The Tata Group-promoted Air India plans to add five more major international destinations to its network in 2025, contingent on aircraft availability, sources told *businessline*. In the pipeline are destinations such as Manila, Jakarta, Dallas, and Los Angeles, which are planned to be added to the list of around 45 international destinations in Air India's international network. Air India did not respond to queries sent.

Sources told *businessline*, "Though supply-side issues will linger on for some more time to come, however, by and large, 2025 is expected to remain muted. This has given us hope to receive new aircraft and to deploy them on new overseas routes."

Besides, capacity addition as a result of the Vistara merger, as well as rationalisation of the network, has given the airline some bandwidth to consider such a move at a time when aircraft deliveries have been impacted due to supply-side issues.

In November, Air India



Dallas and Los Angeles will also be added to the existing 45 destinations in the carrier's international network

Group's Managing Director & CEO Campbell Wilson had said that the recent strike at Boeing's manufacturing facilities in the US and supply chain constraints have slowed down network expansion plans. "We just have to adjust our plans with respect to 2025," he said.

NEW ROUTES

Notably, the flight schedule to Manila and Jakarta has not yet been declared; however, these are expected to start in the first half of 2025. On the other hand, services to destinations such as Dallas and Los Angeles might start later during the next year. Apart from these destinations, ad-

ditional flight frequencies to Europe are also on the cards.

Air India recently commenced flights on new routes such as Mumbai-New York, Mumbai-Melbourne, Delhi-Amsterdam, Delhi-Zurich, and Bengaluru-London. In 2024, Air India added five new destinations outside India to its network: Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Zurich, Bali, and Mauritius. Furthermore, sources said that rising international passenger traffic to and from India is giving impetus to the airline's focus on international route expansion.

100% GROWTH

Per sources, since 2022, when the Tatas took over Air India's management, the airline has grown its I-to-I business by almost 100 per cent.

Since January 2023, Air India has added new flights from Delhi to Birmingham, Milan, Copenhagen, Vienna, Amsterdam, and Zurich in Europe, which are complemented by new flights to Phuket, Ho Chi Minh City, and Kuala Lumpur, along with frequency increases to Kathmandu, Colombo, Singapore, and Bangkok.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

Airlines to furnish details of international passengers, cabin crew to Customs Dept from April 1

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

Come April 1, all airlines flying to or from India will be required to submit details of all passengers (including transit) and cabin crew to Indian Custom Department for risk analysis.

In a communication to all the airlines (scheduled, non-scheduled and their authorised agents) operating international flights to and from India, CBIC said that the data need to be submitted to the National Customs Tar-



NCTC-Pax would store the passenger details for 5 years

geting Centre-Passenger (NCTC-Pax). "Every aircraft operator shall register with NCTC-Pax by January 10,"

the communication said. Further, it said that the system will be implemented on a pilot basis with some airlines by February 10, while full-scale operation is planned from April 1 for individual airlines. The date will be June 1 for airlines who intend to operate through GDS (Global Distribution System).

This move is being implemented based on the provision made in Finance Act 2017. CBIC has already said that passengers are not required to individually submit any information to Customs,

neither do they need to furnish any additional information to the Airlines on account of these regulations. Airlines are already collecting this information under the aegis of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

ENHANCE DETECTION

Further, these regulations are meant to enhance detection, interdiction and investigative capabilities of Customs authorities using non-intrusive techniques for combating offences related to smuggling of contraband

such as narcotics, psychotropic substances, gold, arms and ammunition etc. that directly impact national security.

Airlines are to provide 19 types of information related with passengers. These include available frequent flyer and benefit information (i.e., free tickets, upgrades, etc), other names on PNR, including number of travellers on PNR, all available contact (email, telephone number, mobile number information), all available payment/billing information (e.g. credit card number), travel

agency/travel agent, travel status of passenger (including confirmations and check-in status), baggage information, seat information, details of passport beside others.

NCTC-Pax would store these details for five years for the purpose of "prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution" of offences under the Customs Act. The information is also to be shared with the law enforcement agencies, government departments or even foreign governments. However, domestic and foreign entities

will be required to specify the purpose of seeking data.

SUBJECT TO PRIVACY

It was also said that the passenger name record information received by Customs designated system shall be subject to the strict information privacy and protection under the law. Processing of passenger name record information revealing a person's race or ethnic origin, political opinions, religion or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sexual life or sexual orientation, will not be permitted.

Section of Akasa Air pilots seeks detailed DGCA audit



Resentment among a section of Akasa Air pilots continued, allegedly, over training issues with these pilots seeking a detailed DGCA audit of the airline a day after the regulator ordered suspension of two senior airline officials for certain lapses. In a detailed communication to the civil aviation ministry and the DGCA on Saturday, the section of pilots

has also mentioned that they were in the process of forming a pilots' union at the airline.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

29 DECEMBER 2024

बेंगलुरु, उदयपुर, कुल्लू की फ्लाइट रद्द, यात्री परेशान

जयपुर | जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर शनिवार को फ्लाइट्स का संचालन गड़बड़ा गया। एयरपोर्ट से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार इंडिगो की बेंगलुरु फ्लाइट 6ई-839 रद्द रही। फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 5:40 बजे बेंगलुरु जाती है। एयरलाइंस ने एयरक्राफ्ट उपलब्ध नहीं होने की वजह से फ्लाइट को रद्द किया। इसी प्रकार अलायंस एयर की कुल्लू की फ्लाइट 9आई-805 संचालन कारणों की वजह से रद्द रही। तो वहीं इंडिगो की उदयपुर की फ्लाइट 6ई-7465 भी रद्द रही। फ्लाइट जयपुर से सुबह 6:55 बजे उदयपुर जानी थी। लेकिन जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पहुंचे यात्रियों को उदयपुर में खराब मौसम बताकर फ्लाइट को डिले

कर दिया गया। हालांकि करीब 1 घंटे बाद फ्लाइट को रद्द कर दिया गया। वहीं इस वजह से उदयपुर से जयपुर आने वाली फ्लाइट 6ई-7718 भी रद्द कर दी गई।

अलायंस एयर की फ्लाइट प्रयागराज से जयपुर भी आएगी... वहीं महाकुंभ के लिए अलायंस एयर की नई फ्लाइट शुरू होगी। फ्लाइट जयपुर से 10 जनवरी से प्रयागराज, के लिए शुरू होगी। जो जयपुर से प्रत्येक शुक्रवार को शाम 6:05 बजे रवाना होकर 7:55 बजे प्रयागराज पहुंचेगी। इसी प्रकार अब फ्लाइट वापिस भी आएगी। फ्लाइट प्रयागराज से प्रत्येक रविवार को शाम 6:45 बजे रवाना होकर रात 8:40 बजे जयपुर पहुंचेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

29 DECEMBER 2024

Several airlines call off flights to Russia

Moscow, Dec. 28: Several airlines have announced the suspension of flights to Russian cities, after Western experts and the US suggested the crash of the Azerbaijan Airlines this week may have been caused by a Russian anti-aircraft missile.

Moscow has declined to comment on reports the plane could have been accidentally shot down by its air defence.

Russia has said that Grozny, the Chechen capital where the plane was meant to land, was being attacked by Ukrainian drones that day.

It crashed near the Kazakh city of Aktau Wednesday, killing 38 of the 67 people on board.

Turkmenistan Airlines — the national carrier of

the reclusive Central Asian state — was the latest airline to announce cancellations Saturday.

It said that “regular flights between Ashgabat-Moscow-Ashgabat were cancelled from 30/12/2024 to 31/01/2025,” without giving an explanation.

The decision came after UAE airline flydubai suspended flights between Dubai and the southern Russian cities of Mineralnye Vody and Sochi that were scheduled between December 27 and January 3. Kazakhstan’s Qazaq Air has suspended its flights to Russia’s Urals city of Yekaterinburg until the end of January.

Earlier this week, Israeli airline El Al said it was suspending its flights to Moscow for a week.

The Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190 crashed near the western Kazakh city of Aktau, on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

It was carrying out a flight between Azerbaijan’s capital Baku and the city of Grozny in Russia.

For several days, some Western experts have been pointing to a crash caused by a Russian anti-aircraft missile.

Citing preliminary results of an investigation, Azerbaijan’s transport minister said Friday that the crash suffered physical “external interference.” Statements from Azerbaijan citing the investigation into the incident suggest Baku believes the plane was hit mid-air. — AFP

Fiery Plane Crash Kills 179 in Worst Airline Disaster in S Korea

Boeing 737-800 operated by Jeju Air skidded across runway and smashed into a wall

PHOTOS: BLOOMBERG

Muan County, South Korea: The deadliest air accident ever in South Korea killed 179 people on Sunday, when an airliner belly-landed and skidded off the end of the runway, erupting in a fireball as it slammed into a wall at Muan International Airport.

Jeju Air flight 7C2216, arriving from the Thai capital Bangkok with 175 passengers and six crew on board, was attempting to land shortly after 9 a.m. (0000 GMT) at the airport in the south of the country, South Korea's transport ministry said.

Two crew members survived and were being treated for injuries.

The deadliest air accident on South Korean soil was also the worst involving a South Korean airline in nearly three decades, according to the transport ministry.

The twin-engine Boeing 737-800 was seen in local media video skidding down the runway with no visible landing gear before crashing into navigation equipment and a wall in an explosion of flames and debris.

"Only the tail part retains a little bit of shape, and the rest of (the plane) looks almost impossible to recognise," Muan fire chief Lee Jung-hyun told a press briefing.

The two crew members, a man and a woman, were rescued from the tail section of the burning plane, Lee said. They were being treated at hospitals with medium to severe injuries, said the head of the local public health centre.

Authorities combed nearby areas for bodies possibly thrown from the plane, Lee said.

Investigators are examining bird strikes and weather conditions as possible factors, Lee said. Yonhap news agency cited airport authorities as saying a bird strike may have caused the landing gear to malfunction.

The crash was the worst for any South Korean airline since a 1997 Korean Air crash in Guam that killed more than 200 people, according to transportation ministry data. The previous worst on South Korean soil was an Air China crash that killed 129 in 2002.



(Clockwise from Top) The wreckage of Jeju Air Flight 2216 at Muan International Airport in Muan County, South Korea; Jeju Air CEO Kim E-bae and other executive members bow in apology to relatives of passengers; Family and relatives of victims of crash

Experts said the bird strike report and the way the aircraft attempted to land raised more questions than answers.

"A bird strike is not unusual, problems with an undercarriage are not unusual," said Airline News editor Geoffrey Thomas. "Bird strikes happen far more often, but typically they don't cause the loss of an airplane by themselves."

Under global aviation rules, South Korea will lead a civil investigation into the crash and automatically involve the National Transportation Safety Board in the United States where the plane was designed and built.

'MY LAST WORDS'

Hours after the crash, family members gathered in the airport's arrival area, some crying and hugging as Red Cross volunteers handed out blankets.

Many victims appeared to be residents of nearby areas returning from vacation, officials said.

Families screamed and wept as a medic announced the names of victims identified by their fingerprints. Papers were circulated for families to write down their contact details.

One relative stood at a microphone to ask for more information from authorities. "My older brot-

her died and I don't know what's going on," he said. "I don't know."

Another asked journalists not to film. "We are not monkeys in a zoo," he said. "We are the bereaved families."

Mortuary vehicles lined up outside to take bodies away, and authorities said a temporary morgue had been established.

The crash site smelled of aviation fuel and blood, according to Reuters witnesses. Workers in protective suits and masks combed the area while soldiers searched through bushes.

The control tower issued a bird strike warning and shortly afterward the pilots declared mayday and then attempted to land from the opposite direction, a transport ministry official said.

A passenger texted a relative to say a bird was stuck in the wing, the News1 agency reported. The person's final message was, "Should I say my last words?"

The aircraft was manufactured in 2009, the transport ministry said.

The two CFM56-7B26 engines were manufactured by CFM International, a joint venture between GE Aerospace and France's Safran, the transport ministry said.

A CFM spokesperson said, "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Jeju Air flight 2216. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families and loved ones of those on board."

Jeju Air CEO Kim E-bae apologized for the accident, bowing deeply during a televised briefing.

He said the aircraft had no record of accidents and there were no early signs of malfunction. The airline will cooperate with investigators and make supporting the bereaved its top priority, Kim said.

No abnormal conditions were reported when the aircraft left Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, said Kerati Kijmanawat, president of Airports of Thailand.

The passengers included two Thai nationals and the rest are believed to be South Koreans, according to the transportation ministry.—Reuters



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

■ Section of Akasa Air Pilots Seeks DGCA Audit

MUMBAI: Resentment among a section of Akasa Air pilots continued allegedly over training issues, with these pilots seeking a detailed DGCA audit of the airline after the regulator ordered suspension of two senior officials. In a communication to the civil aviation ministry and the DGCA on Saturday, the section of pilots has also mentioned that they are in the process of forming a pilots' union at the airline.



Corporate Communications Directorate

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30 DECEMBER 2024

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FINANCIAL EXPRESS

INTERNATIONAL 5

FLIGHT OPERATED BY JEJU AIR CRASHES AND CATCHES FIRE AFTER SKIDDING DOWN RUNWAY; NATION DECLARES 1 WEEK OF MOURNING

179 die as plane crashes in worst-ever accident in S Korea

BLOOMBERG
December 29

A BOEING 737-800 aircraft operated by Jeju Air crashed and caught fire after skidding down an airport runway in South Korea, killing most of the 181 people on board in one of the country's worst-ever aviation disasters.

Flight 2216 was carrying 175 passengers and six crew from Bangkok to Muan International Airport in the country's south, according to officials. Some 179 people were killed, with only a pair of flight attendants surviving, Yonhap reported.

The pilot issued a mayday emergency call minutes after the control tower warned of a bird strike. He aborted the landing, started a go-around and switched direction on the runway in his second attempt. The single-aisle plane



Rescue workers salvage remains at the site of the crash at Muan International Airport in South Korea on Sunday. Only two out of 181 people survived the accident

REUTERS

touched down without its landing gear deployed, sliding down the runway at high speed before hitting a wall at the end of the strip and exploding into flames.

The accident is the dead-

liest passenger airline disaster in South Korea to date.

Investigators, who managed to retrieve the two flight recorders from the wreckage, will seek to understand how a possible bird strike and the

landing-gear failure might be connected, and why the aircraft didn't come to a standstill before smashing into the embankment. Acting President Choi Sang-mok declared a week of mourning.

Did a bird strike cause it?

UNCERTAINTIES SURROUND THE plane crash in South Korea, experts said on Sunday, questioning initial suggestions that a bird strike might be behind the accident. The apparent absence of landing gear, timing of the twin-engine Boeing 737-800's belly-landing at the airport and reports of a possible bird strike all raised questions that could not yet be answered. Officials said they were probing the cause, including a possible bird strike.

REUTERS

A test for new acting prez

REUTERS
Seoul, December 29

WHEN SOUTH KOREA'S acting President Choi Sang-mok arrived at the scene of the deadliest air disaster on the country's soil on Sunday, he had been on the job for less than 48 hours.

Choi, the country's finance minister, became acting leader on Friday night after the impeachment of Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, who had been acting president since President Yoon Suk Yeol was impeached and suspended from power on December following his attempt to impose martial law.

The bewildering turnover at the top of Asia's fourth-largest economy and one of its



Choi Sang-mok became acting leader on Friday night

most vibrant democracies left the government scrambling when Jeju Air flight 7C2216 slammed into a wall at Muan International Airport on Sunday. Choi visited the site a few hours after the crash and declared it a special disaster

zone. Behind the scenes, government offices were still figuring out the chain of command and how press statements would be released, a ministry spokesperson and four other officials told Reuters. "Today Choi went to Muan with land ministry officials, not finance ministry officials," a spokesperson said. "A team of transportation ministry officials and safety ministry officials will report directly to Choi regarding the Muan plane crash for next few weeks. As for how we will distribute press releases on all his schedules - still undecided."

Each ministry involved in foreign policy, administrative issues or safety has teams reporting to Choi, but Yoon's presidential staff does not.





Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

29 DECEMBER 2024

Which way I fly is hell: 100 IndiGo pax face 16-hour delay

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

Over 100 passengers flying from Mumbai to Istanbul were stuck at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport for more than 16 hours after their Istanbul-bound IndiGo flight was cancelled owing to a technical glitch.

Scheduled to depart at 6.55am on Saturday, IndiGo's Flight 6E17 finally flew at 11pm after passengers posted their complaints on social media. The 4 hour-40 minute flight was expected to land in Istanbul at 5.40am on Sunday. The FPJ contacted IndiGo for their comment on the long delay but the airline did not provide any reply till the time of going to press.

A passenger, Shubham Singh posted on X, "Stuck at Mumbai airport; trying to board IndiGo flight to Istanbul. Airline refusing to justify delay, making passengers sit for hours in the aero-bridge..."

Since flyers usually take connecting flights to Europe via Istanbul, some of the passengers also shared their worries about further journeys. Atharva Pradhan wrote



on X, "... Pretty sure the connecting flight from Istanbul will be missed. Please provide an immediate solution for this." Sachin Chintalwad, wrote, "Dear IndiGo, this is not fair. Now it's a 5-hr delay.. I have a connecting flight to IAD Washington and I'm going to miss that."

On X, Sonam Saigal complained that her brother was stuck for more than 12 hours due to "extremely unprofessional behaviour by IndiGo and their staff". She said he had a flight to Istanbul which first got delayed, then he was made to board and deboard twice. "The staff is extremely rude and refuse to answer any questions about rescheduling and refund," she posted.

Another flyer, Jai Sandhu, wrote on X, "The most atrocious experience while trying to travel on IndiGo flight to Istanbul... The flight was scheduled for 6:55 am and was delayed... covered with false lies, putting people through hell."

विमान सेवा और सुरक्षा से नहीं हो कोई समझौता

विमान उद्योग के लिए रविवार का दिन काफी दुखद रहा। 29 दिसंबर को दो विमान हादसे हुए। एक, दक्षिण कोरिया के मुआन अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर, जहां जेजू एयर का एक जहाज रनवे पर उतरते वक्त फिसल गया, क्योंकि उसका लैंडिंग गियर नहीं खुला था। इस कारण उसमें आग लग गई और वह सामने दीवार से जा टकराया। इस हादसे में सवार 181 लोगों में से महज दो के ही बचने की संभावना है।

उधर, कनाडा में भी लैंडिंग के वक्त विमान में आग लग गई, हालांकि, इसमें किसी के हताहत होने की सूचना शुरुआती तौर पर नहीं है। इन सबसे पहले, 25 दिसंबर को एक अजरबैजानी विमान बाकु से ब्रोजनी जाते वक्त हादसे का शिकार हो गया था, जिसमें 38 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी। हालांकि, यह मिसाइल की जद में आ गया था, जिसके लिए रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन ने माफी भी मांगी है। वैसे, इस साल की बड़ी घटनाओं में चाइना ईस्टर्न एयरलाइंस का वह हादसा भी शामिल है, जो मार्च में हुआ था। इसमें विमान पहाड़ से टकरा गया था, जिसमें 133 यात्रियों की मौत हुई थी।

एक ऐसे साल में, जो हवाई यात्रा के लिहाज से सुरक्षित रहा हो, इस तरह के कुछ हादसे कचोटते हैं। दक्षिण कोरिया के हादसे में मानवीय भूल भी वजह हो सकती है और तकनीकी चूक भी, क्योंकि विमान के उतरने से पहले ही लैंडिंग गियर को खोला जाता है और यदि यह नहीं खुलता है, तो इमरजेंसी कॉल की जाती है। मगर इस मामले में ऐसा कुछ नहीं हुआ। इसका मतलब है कि या तो विमान के जमीन छूते ही लैंडिंग गियर खराब हो गया होगा या फिर पायलट इस बात से बेखबर होगा कि लैंडिंग गियर नहीं खुला है। हालांकि, यह शुरुआती अनुमान है, असल वजह तो पूरी जांच के बाद ही सामने आ सकेगी।

देखा जाए, तो अब 12 लाख उड़ानों में से कोई एक विमान हादसे का शिकार होता है और इसमें भी इंसानी जान के नुकसान वाले मामले बमुश्किल 10 फीसदी होते हैं। होता यह है कि जब हम हवाई यात्रा कर रहे होते हैं, तो पायलट के विवेक और जहाज की काबिलियत पर ही निर्भर रहते हैं। अकड़ों की मानें, तो करीब 70 फीसदी हादसे विमान के उतरते और उड़ने के वक्त होते हैं। इसके बाद 'ऑन रूट' होते हैं। दुर्घटनाओं का गहरा विश्लेषण बताता है कि 53 फीसदी हादसे पायलट की वजह से, यानी मानवीय भूल के कारण होते हैं, जबकि 21 फीसदी



हर्षवर्द्धन | विमानन विशेषज्ञ

मशीनी या जहाज की खामी के कारण। विमान हादसों में मौसम की हिस्सेदारी 11 फीसदी है।

फिर भी, आज हवाई यात्रा सबसे सुरक्षित मानी जाती है। यह सुरक्षित इसलिए है, क्योंकि विमानन उद्योग से जुड़े तमाम साझेदार हवाई यात्रा को सुरक्षित बनाने की कोशिशों में लगे रहते हैं। अब तो हमने इतनी क्षमता हासिल कर ली है कि उड़ते विमान के तमाम उपकरणों की सेहत पायलट को पता होती है। वह इंजन की क्षमता

भी देख लेता है और किसी तरह की खराबी पर उसका समाधान भी कर सकता है। मानवीय भूल पर भी काफी काफ़ी ध्यान दिया गया है। पहले मानवीय गलतियों के कारण 67 फीसदी हादसे होते थे, जो अब घटकर 53 फीसदी रह गए हैं। इतना ही नहीं, करीब दो दशक पहले जहां छोटे-बड़े 3,000 के करीब विमान हादसे होते थे, वे अब घटकर सालाना 700-800 रह गए हैं। यह उपलब्धि तब हासिल की गई है, जब हर साल 10-12 फीसदी की दर से विमान बढ़ रहे हैं।

हमने निस्संदेह पायलटों के प्रशिक्षण पर खास ध्यान दिया है, मौसम के लिहाज से संवेदनशील हवाई अड्डों पर विशेष तौर पर प्रशिक्षित पायलटों को ही भेजा जाने लगा है, लेकिन कुछ चुनौतियां अब भी हमारे सामने हैं। मसलन, पहले बहुत कम जहाज हवा में होते थे, लेकिन अब आवाजाही बढ़ने के कारण विमान सेवा का एप देखें, तो आपको दीपावली की जगमगाहट जैसे विमान उड़ते दिखेंगे। इस कारण भीड़भाड़ वाले हवाई अड्डों पर विमान एक-दूसरे के बहुत करीब आ जाते हैं। वास्तव में, चाक-चौबंद सिस्टम में भी चूक होने की गुंजाइश होती है और यही विमानन उद्योग के साथ हो रहा है। मगर सुखद है कि यह उद्योग ऐसे हादसों से सबक लेता है और जो भी जरूरी कदम उठाने की जरूरत होती है, उसे उठाने में पूरी संजीदगी दिखाता है।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)

अजरबैजान और दक्षिण कोरिया के विमान हादसों से चिंता बढ़ी है। कारणों को समझकर समाधान के गंभीर प्रयास करने पड़ेंगे।

179 killed in S Korea jet crash, deadliest air tragedy in 9 years

Associated Press

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SEOUL: A passenger plane skidded off a runway at a South Korean airport on Sunday, slammed into a concrete fence and burst into flames after its front landing gear apparently failed to deploy. All but two of the 181 people on board died in one of the country's worst aviation disasters, and the world's most fatal plane crash since 2015. The Jeju Air plane crashed while landing in the town of Muan, about 290km south of Seoul. The transport ministry said the plane was a 15-year-old Boeing 737-800 jet that had arrived from Bangkok and that the crash happened at 9.03am.

A total of 179 people — 85 females, 84 males and 10 others whose genders weren't immediately identifiable — died in the fire, the South Korean fire agency said. Emergency workers pulled two people, both crew members believed to be at the rear of the cabin at the time of the crash, to safety. Health officials said they are conscious and not in life-threatening condition.

Among the 177 bodies found so far, officials have identified 88, the fire agency said. The passengers were predominantly South Korean, as well as two Thai nationals.

Ju Woong, director of the Ewha Womans University Seoul Hospital, where one of the survivors was hospitalised, said the man was being treated in an intensive care unit for fractures to his ribs, shoulder blade and upper spine. Ju said the man, whose name wasn't released, told doctors he "woke up to find himself rescued."

Footage of the crash aired by South Korean television channels showed the plane skidding across the airstrip at high speed, apparently with its landing gear still closed, overrunning the

continued on →

How the last moments unfolded

1 Control tower issued bird strike warning during first approach



3 Plane attempted belly landing without visible landing gear

2 Pilots declared 'mayday'

4 Aircraft skidded down runway before hitting wall



Canadian airliner on fire after landing

OTTAWA: An Air Canada flight travelling from St John's City on Newfoundland Island had a rough landing at the Halifax airport in Goffs in Nova Scotia province, as the aircraft skidded down the runway and part of it caught fire.

A statement issued by the airport said the incident involved Air Canada Flight 2259, which was operated by PAL Airlines, CBC News reported. The incident happened around 9.30pm local time. The statement does not say how many people were on the plane.

The people on board were evacuated, and then taken to a



All passengers were evacuated safely, said officials.

hangar to be checked out by paramedics, CBC News said.

Due to the incident, the Halifax airport was temporarily closed on Saturday night. A passenger told CBC News that one of the plane's wheels did not deploy properly upon landing. **PTI**

Azerbaijan accuses Russia of cover-up

BAKU/MOSCOW: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said on Sunday that the Azerbaijani airliner that crashed last week was shot down by Russia, albeit unintentionally, and criticised Moscow for trying to "hush up" the issue for days.

"We can say with complete clarity that the plane was shot down by Russia... We are not saying that it was done intentionally, but it was done," he said.

Aliyev said that the airliner, which crashed Wednesday in Kazakhstan, was hit by fire from the ground over Russia and "rendered uncontrollable by elec-

tronic warfare." Aliyev said he was "upset and surprised" by versions of events put forward by Russian officials.

"For the first three days we heard nothing from Russia except delirious versions," he said.

Aliyev said Azerbaijan made three demands to Russia in connection with the crash.

"First, the Russian side must apologise to Azerbaijan. Second, it must admit its guilt. Third, punish the guilty, bring them to criminal responsibility and pay compensation to the Azerbaijani state, the injured passengers and crew members," he said. **→PTI**

S KOREA PLANE CRASH

runway and colliding head-on with a concrete wall on the outskirts of the facility, triggering an explosion. Other local TV stations aired footage showing thick plumes of black smoke billowing from the plane, which was engulfed in flames.

Lee Jeong-hyeon, chief of the Muan fire station, told a televised briefing that the plane was completely destroyed, with only the tail assembly remaining recognisable among the wreckage. Lee said that workers were looking into various possibilities about what caused the crash, including whether the aircraft was struck by birds.

Transport ministry officials later said their early assessment of communication records show the airport control tower issued a bird strike warning to the plane shortly before it intended to land and gave its pilot permission to land in a different area. The pilot sent out a distress signal shortly before the crash, officials said.

Senior transport ministry official Joo Jong-wan said workers have retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders of the plane's black box. He said it may take months for investigators to complete their probe. The runway at the Muan airport will be closed until January 1, the ministry said.

Thailand's prime minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, expressed deep condolences to the families of those affected by the accident in a post on social platform X. Paetongtarn said she ordered the ministry of foreign affairs to provide assistance immediately.

Boonchuay Duangmanee, the father of a Thai victim, told the Associated Press that his daughter, Jongluk, had been working in a factory in South Korea for several years and had returned to Thailand to visit her family.

"I heard that the plane exploded in Korea this morning. But I did not expect at all that my daughter would be on this flight," he said. "I never thought that this would be the last time we would see each other forever."

Kerati Kijmanawat, the director of Airports of Thailand, confirmed in a statement that Jeju Air flight 7C 2216 departed from Suvarnabhumi Airport with no reports of abnormal conditions with the aircraft or on the runway. Jeju Air in a statement expressed its "deep apology" over the crash and said it will do its "utmost to manage the aftermath of the accident."

In a televised news conference,

Kim E-bae, Jeju Air's president, bowed deeply with other senior company officials as he apologised to bereaved families and said he feels "full responsibility" for the incident. Kim said the company hadn't identified any mechanical problems with the aircraft following regular check-ups and that he would wait for the results of government investigations into the cause of the incident. Boeing said in a statement on X it was in contact with Jeju Air and is ready to support the company in dealing with the crash. The Muan crash is one of the deadliest disasters in South Korea's aviation history. The last time South Korea suffered a large-scale air disaster was in 1997, when a Korean Airline plane crashed in Guam, killing 228 people on board. In 2013, an Asiana Airlines plane crash-landed in San Francisco, killing three and injuring approximately 200.

Sunday's accident was also one of the worst landing mishaps since a July 2007 crash that killed all 187 people on board and 12 others on the ground when an Airbus A320 slid off a slick airstrip in Sao Paulo and collided with a nearby building, according to data compiled by the Flight Safety Foundation, a non-profit group aimed at improving air safety. In 2010, 158 people died when an Air India Express aircraft overshot a runway in Mangalore, India, and plummeted into a gorge before erupting into flames, according to the safety foundation.

The last time more people on a plane were killed was in 2015 when a Kogalymavia (Metrojet) aircraft was blown up by what investigators later said was a bomb planted by Islamic State terrorists, leading to the deaths of all 224 on board.

MANMOHAN FUNERAL

its leaders over the sad demise of the respected former Prime Minister of the country, Dr Manmohan Singh, is extremely unfortunate and condemnable. The whole country knows very well that the Congress never respected Manmohan Singh ji while he was alive. The Congress party has always insulted great personalities like Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, former Prime Minister Shri PV Narasimha Rao, President Pranab Mukherjee and the revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee," Scindia said.

The Congress criticised the central government on Saturday for what it described as a "shocking display of disrespect

Shock grips families at S Korea's crash site

Agence France-Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUAN: The stench of gasoline hangs over Muan International Airport. Behind a police cordon, plane seats, suitcases and twisted bits of metal are scattered, close to the wrecked fuselage of Jeju Air flight 2216.

The Boeing 737-800 carrying 181 people from Bangkok to South Korea crashed as it attempted an emergency landing on Sunday, smashing into a wall and bursting into flames, leaving all but two people aboard feared dead.

Hundreds of emergency workers put out the fire and combed through the wreckage, but only two people, both flight attendants, were rescued alive, with 179 confirmed dead.

By late afternoon, floodlights illuminated the twisted wreckage as a huge yellow crane lifted the fuselage, allowing officials to continue the search and rescue mission.

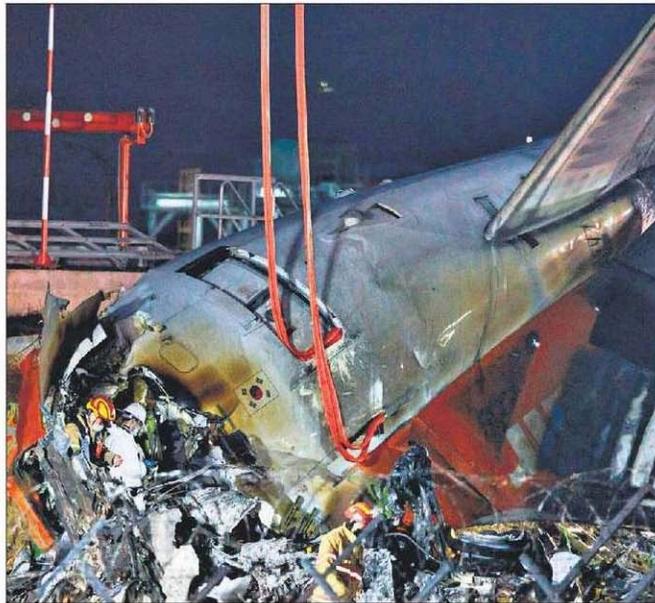
Behind a police cordon tape stretched across the wire fence at the edge of the runway, plane seats and other chunks of metal could be seen, offering a glimpse into the catastrophic impact of the crash.

Inside the airport terminal, family members gathered to wait for news, many looking stunned and tearful.

One woman was carried away on a stretcher, apparently having passed out from shock.

The boards typically used for arrival and departure information were instead displaying the names, dates of birth and nationalities of the victims.

"I had a son on board that



The wreckage of Jeju Air Co. Flight 2216, which was carrying 181 passengers, at Muan International Airport in Muan County, South Korea, on Sunday. BLOOMBERG



Plane crash victims' families in tears at Muan International Airport, Muan, on Sunday. REUTERS

plane ... He has yet to be identified," one elderly man waiting in the airport lounge, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

Youngest passenger, 3 Wailing and screaming echoed through the two-storey airport, as the names and identities of victims were confirmed.

Many of the passengers, who were all Korean nationals except for two Thais, had been returning home after their winter holidays. "My younger sister went to heaven today," one 65-year-old woman who gave only her surname Jo told AFP.

Her sister had been in Bang-

kok with her friends on holiday, the woman, wearing a mask and a grey knit hat, said.

"My husband is now trying to check whether she's been identified," Jo added.

The flight had 181 passengers, including two Thai nationals, and six crew onboard. According to authorities, the youngest passenger was a three-year-old boy and the oldest was a 78-year-old.

Five of the dead were children under the age of 10, authorities said, citing the passenger manifest.

The only sounds near the

crash site were the whirring of cameras and the murmur of reporters broadcasting live, as hundreds of relatives, lost for words, awaited news of their loved ones aboard the burned plane. In the area around the runway, AFP reporters could see duty-free booklets and sanitary gloves worn by the flight crew scattered across the field, not far from the charred tail of the aircraft.

Moment of silence It is the deadliest aviation accident on South Korean soil and the worst in years involving the country's carriers. A

moment of silence was held at sporting events, including volleyball and basketball games, on Sunday.

All major South Korean broadcasters changed their schedules to emergency news programming. End-of-the-year entertainment award shows and comedy shows were cancelled.

The accident comes as South Korea is in the midst of political chaos, after suspended president Yoon Suk Yeol was impeached earlier this month over his ill-fated attempt to declare martial law.

GPS interference on aircraft rising; 10% of flights report low navigation accuracy over India's borders

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Instances of GPS interference on passenger aircraft, including 'spoofing' with false signals, are on the rise over conflict zones globally, including on India's borders with Pakistan, which are among the top sites for such occurrences, according to OPS-GROUP, a voluntary group of 8,000 aviation personnel, including pilots, who share information on risks to flights.

The GPSjam portal also lists India's borders with Pakistan and Myanmar as among the top five regions where more than 10% of aircraft reported low navigation accuracy.

'Spoofing' is a form of cyberattack that includes false GPS signals to mislead navigation equipment. It is seen in conflict zones and is used to attack drones that are increasingly used in modern warfare. Interference with GPS was recently seen on the Embraer jet involved in the Azerbaijan Airlines crash



A drone view shows emergency specialists working at the crash site of an Azerbaijan Airlines passenger plane in Kazakhstan. REUTERS

on December 25 in which 38 people on board were killed. On Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin apologised to his Azerbaijan counterpart, Ilham Aliyev, for the "tragic incident that occurred in Russian airspace" and said that Russian air defence was repelling attacks from Ukraine's combat drones in Russian towns.

According to a report published by the OPS-GROUP in September 2024, the first series of GPS spoofing was identified in September 2023 in the area of northern Iraq, centred on Baghdad. In

2024, new spoofing locations were identified in the Black Sea region, western Russia and the Baltics, the North and South Korea border areas, western Ukraine, and the India-Pakistan border.

The report said there was "daily spoofing" since May 2024 in the Delhi Flight Information Region. It also ranked this area at the ninth position among the top 20 Flight Information Regions, with 316 aircraft impacted by spoofing between July 15 and August 15. The rank was based on the analysis of 17,000 flights.

Globally, instances of spoofing have increased from 300 flights impacted daily in January to 1,500 flights impacted daily by August, the report said.

In an advisory in November 2023, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asked airlines to develop standard operating procedures and provide bi-monthly reports on such occurrences.

This data is not available publicly. *The Hindu* requested the Ministry of Civil Aviation to share this data, but there was no response till the time of going to press.

One IndiGo pilot reported losing both GPS systems for a few minutes while he was flying out of Amritsar earlier this month.

Several other pilots have said that "nearly every flight" to Amritsar either experiences interference or spoofing.

Flights to Dubai, Doha and other Gulf destinations from northern parts of India also experience false GPS signals, as do flights to Bangkok, Vietnam, and

Hong Kong while crossing Myanmar.

Pilots have also said flight tracking website flightradar24 can sometimes show, albeit inaccurately, that there had been a flight diversion mid-air because of loss of data used to indicate the aircraft's location to other aircraft and air traffic control, resulting in an immediate message from the airline's operation control centre.

While aircraft systems are built with several redundancies, including the Inertial Reference System that is also used for navigation, which continue to operate safely for up to five hours even if a primary system fails, one pilot described the phenomenon of GPS spoofing and interference as one of flying with "one's hands tied to one's back".

Spoofing the GPS could also result in errors in the speed display, or trigger a terrain warning by tricking the navigation system into believing it's at a dangerously low altitude or in proximity to terrain.

179 killed as plane crash-lands in South Korea, 2 of crew rescued

Video shows plane skidding without landing gear and crashing into a wall

BY **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
& **KIM TONG-HYUNG**
SEOUL, DECEMBER 29

A JETJINER skidded off a runway, slammed into a concrete fence and burst into flames Sunday in South Korea after its landing gear apparently failed to deploy. All but two of the 181 people on board were killed in one of the country's worst aviation disasters, officials said.

The Boeing 737-800 operated

by Jeju Air arrived from Bangkok and crashed while attempting to land in the town of Muan, about 290 kilometres south of Seoul.

Footage of the crash aired by South Korean television channels showed the plane skidding across the airstrip at high speed, evidently with its landing gear still closed, and slamming into a concrete wall, triggering an explosion. Other TV stations aired footage showing thick, black smoke billowing from the plane, which was engulfed in flames.

THE WORLD

EXPERTS QUESTION BIRD STRIKE AS CAUSE OF SOUTH KOREA PLANE CRASH

AZERBAIJAN PLANE WAS SHOT AT FROM RUSSIA, CLAIMS PRESIDENT

PAGE 12

The crash killed 179 people, the South Korean fire agency said. Emergency workers pulled two crew members to safety. They were conscious and did not appear to have any life-threatening injuries, health officials said.

Lee Jeong-hyeon, chief of the Muan fire station, told a televised briefing that the plane was completely destroyed, with only the tail assembly still recognisable in the wreckage. Officials were investigating the cause of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

• South Korea plane crash kills 179

crash, including whether the aircraft was struck by birds, Lee said.

The control tower issued a warning about birds to the plane shortly before it intended to land and gave the crew permission to land in a different area, ministry officials said. The crew sent out a distress signal shortly before the crash, officials said.

Senior Transport Ministry official Joo Jong-wan said workers retrieved the jet's flight data and cockpit voice recorders. He said it may take months for investigators to complete their probe. The runway at the Muan airport will be closed until January 1, the ministry said.

Kyle Bailey, former FAA safety team representative in the US, told Fox News that it appeared to him that the aircraft was travelling too fast as it skidded on the runway before striking what he believed was a structure that housed instrument landing equipment.

"I think that's pretty much what spelled disaster for that airplane," he said.

One of the survivors was being treated for fractures to his ribs, shoulder blade and upper spine, said Ju Woong, director of the Ewha Womans University Seoul Hospital. Ju said the man, whose name was not released, told doctors he "woke up to find (himself) rescued." Details on the other survivor were not immediately available.

The passengers were predominantly South Korean and included two people from Thailand. Officials identified 88 of them in the hours after the crash, the fire agency said.

Thailand's Prime Minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, expressed condolences to the families of those aboard the plane in a post on X. Paetongtarn said she ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide assistance.

Boonchuay Duangmanee, the father of a Thai passenger, told The Associated Press that his daughter, Jongluk, had been working in a factory in South Korea for several years and returned to Thailand to visit her family.

"I never thought that this would be the last time we would see each other forever," he said.

Kerati Kijmanawat, the director of Thailand's airports, confirmed in a statement that Jeju Air flight 7C 2216 departed from Suvarnabhumi Airport with no reports of anything abnormal aboard the aircraft or on the runway.

Jeju Air in a statement expressed its "deep apology" over the crash and said it will do its "utmost to manage the aftermath of the accident."

In a televised news conference, the company's president,

Kim E-bae, bowed deeply with other senior company officials as he apologised to bereaved families and said he feels "full responsibility" for the crash. Kim said the company had not identified any mechanical problems with the aircraft following regular check-ups and that he would wait for the results of government investigations into the cause of the incident.

Family members wailed as officials announced the names of some victims at a lounge in the Muan airport.

Boeing said in a statement on X that it was in contact with Jeju Air and was ready to support the company in dealing with the crash.

The crash happened as South Korea is embroiled in a political crisis triggered by President Yoon Suk Yeol's stunning imposition of martial law and ensuing impeachment. South Korean lawmakers on Friday impeached acting President Han Duck-soo and suspended his duties, leading Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok to take over.

Choi, who travelled to the site in Muan, called for officials to use all available resources to identify the dead as soon as possible. The government declared Muan a special disaster zone and designated a weeklong national mourning period.

Yoon's office said his chief secretary, Chung Jin-suk, presided over an emergency meeting between senior presidential staff to discuss the crash and reported the details to Choi. Yoon expressed condolences to the victims in a Facebook posting.

In Rome's St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said he joined in "prayer for the survivors and the dead."

The Muan crash is one of the deadliest disasters in South Korea's aviation history. The last time South Korea suffered a largescale air disaster was in 1997, when a Korean Airline plane crashed in Guam, killing 228 people on board. In 2013, an Asiana Airlines plane crash-landed in San Francisco, killing three and injuring about 200.

Sunday's accident was also one of the worst landing mishaps since a July 2007 crash that killed all 187 people on board and 12 others on the ground when an Airbus A320 slid off a slick airstrip in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and hit a nearby building, according to data compiled by the Flight Safety Foundation, a non-profit group aimed at improving air safety.

In 2010, 158 people died when an Air India Express aircraft overshoot a runway in Mangalore and plummeted into a gorge before erupting into flames, according to the safety foundation. AP

A plane's tail end seats safer? What studies say on survival rate

**SUKALP SHARMA
& ANIL SASI**

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29

ON December 25, 38 of 67 people on board died when Azerbaijan Airlines flight J2-8243 — from Baku to Grozny in Russia's Chechnya region — crash-landed near Aktau in Kazakhstan after the aircraft (an Embraer 190) was purportedly hit, mistakenly, by Russian air defence. Videos of the accident site showed a few survivors crawling out of the rear of the aircraft, which was relatively less damaged.

On Sunday, a Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 aircraft operating a flight from Bangkok crashed during an emergency landing at Muan

International Airport in South Korea. Of the 181 people on board, only two are reported to have survived.

The plane was reportedly attempting a belly landing as its landing gear failed to deploy. During the emergency landing, the aircraft skidded off the runway and crashed into the airport's peripheral wall. The two survivors were reportedly pulled out by emergency responders from the tail section of the aircraft.

Even as investigations are on into the causes behind these accidents, it can be inferred that the two crashes were not similar on most counts. Be that as it may, there is one commonality — the survivors were mostly seated in the rear part of the aircraft.

Safer at the back, in the middle?

Most flyers don't like the idea of sitting in the last rows of a plane. And it is even worse if one is allocated a middle seat in the deep depths of the aircraft cabin, right? Perhaps not so much.

Statistically, those seated in the last few rows seem to have better odds of survival in the event of an accident. While underlining that air travel is statistically the safest form of transportation and survival in any crash depends on a plethora of factors, there are some limited studies that show that the rear section of a plane could be the safest spot to sit, if and when a crash occurs.

The *Time* magazine, in a 2015

study, analysed 35 years of crash data up to that year and reported that statistically fewer people who were sitting in the back died in plane crashes. This study, which went through US aviation regulator Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) database tracking accidents with both fatalities and survivors, found 17 with seating charts that could be analysed. While the oldest accident was in 1985, the most recent was in 2000.

According to the study, seats in the rear third of the aircraft had a 32 per cent fatality rate, compared to 39 per cent in the middle third, and 38 per cent in the front third. Looking at row position, the study found that the

middle seats in the rear of the aircraft had the best outcomes (28 per cent fatality rate). The aisle seats in the middle third of the aircraft cabin fared the worst (44 per cent fatality rate).

In April 2012, a team of television studios staged an airplane crash in Mexico where a Boeing 727-200 fitted with crash test dummies and other scientific instruments, was flown into the ground. The test result showed that passengers at the front would be the ones most at risk in a crash, while those seated closer to the airplane's wings were reported as having suffered survivable injuries. The test dummies near the tail section were largely intact.



Another study, done by popular American science magazine, *Popular Mechanics*, in 2007, also led to similar inferences. The study analysed the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) data for all commercial aircraft crashes in the US since 1971 that had fatalities as well as survivors, and for which seating charts were available. It found that those seated behind the trailing edge of the aircraft wing had a survival rate of 69 per cent. The survival rate was 56 per cent for those in the middle section, and 49 per cent for the seats in the front.

Conditions apply

These statistical trends, however, are very specific to the cir-

cumstances of the crash. In some crashes, such as when the tail hits the ground first, fatalities could be higher in the rear of the aircraft. In others, where the front or the middle of the aircraft bears the major brunt of the impact, those in the rear may have a better shot at surviving the accident.

It is worth noting that the *Time* magazine study found that in a number of crashes, survival was random — “those who perished were scattered irregularly between survivors”.

The FAA has consistently stated that there isn't any section of an aircraft that is more or less safe than another, and the most important thing passengers can do for their safety on any flight is to follow the crew's instructions.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

Air Canada flight catches fire on landing, all passengers safe

Ottawa: An Air Canada flight coming from St John's city on Newfoundland Island had a rough landing at the Halifax airport in Goffs in Nova Scotia province that saw the aircraft skid down the runway and part of it catching fire.

A statement issued by the airport said the incident involved Air Canada Flight 2259, which was operated by PAL Airlines. CBC News reported. The incident happened around 9:30pm local time. The statement does not say how many people were on the plane.

The people on board were evacuated, and then taken to a hangar to be checked out by paramedics, CBC News said.

Due to the incident, the Halifax airport was temporarily closed Saturday night. A passenger told CBC News that one of the plane's tyres did not deploy properly upon landing.

PTI

Indian airlines may see fewer aircraft joining their fleets in the year ahead

Daanish Anand
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NEW DELHI

The year 2024 saw India's aviation industry grow on the back of American aircraft manufacturer Boeing's white tail planes—those that are built without any pre-existing customer.

However, the new year is likely to see slower deliveries of Boeing aircraft, leading to Indian airlines inducting fewer planes than they did in 2024. Still, India's largest air carrier IndiGo could add to its fleet in the Indian skies if it's able to get some of its grounded planes airworthy with the availability of engines.

According to media reports, Indian carriers were expected to induct around 150 aircraft in 2024.

Data shared by Cirium, an

aviation analytics firm, showed Indian airlines have already taken delivery of 97 commercial aircraft so far in 2024, with 10 scheduled deliveries in the remaining days of December.

By contrast, Cirium's fleet data indicates Indian airlines expect to add 86 new commercial aircraft in 2025.

In 2024, deliveries by two main global manufacturers, Airbus and Boeing, were affected due to global supply chain challenges, precipitated by geopolitical tensions.

However, deliveries by Airbus to Air India group and IndiGo remained in line with expectations. But deliveries by Boeing were affected by the weeks-long workers' strike at its manufacturing facility in the US.

As per data available on Boeing's website, the American firm delivered only 30 B-737 MAX aircraft to Air India group and Akasa.

In 2025, Indian air carriers will not be able to induct white-tail aircraft. According to a Cirium official, "Neither Airbus nor Boeing has any

stock of white-tail aircraft remaining; so, this is unlikely to be a route to fleet expansion for Indian carriers."

Of the 86 aircraft that are likely to be delivered in 2025, a majority—about 55—will go to IndiGo, followed by Air India. As per Cirium, IndiGo will get deliveries of 22 A320neo, 30 A321neo (including 5 A321neoXLR) and 3 ATR 72-600).

Air India is likely to induct 19 new aircraft in 2025. This would include 8 A320NEO, 6 A321NEO, 1 A350-1000 and 4 A350-900. From Boeing, the Air India group is expected to get only 3 deliveries of B-737 MAX 8 aircraft for budget carrier Air India Express.

IndiGo currently has over 60 grounded A320NEO and A321NEO, due to issues with Pratt & Whitney's PW-1700G engines.

The airline anticipates that groundings will moderate

going forward. The number of grounded aircraft is expected to reduce to a little over 40 aircraft in the first half of 2025.

Currently, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has imposed a cap on the production of 737 MAX.

As per this cap, in 2025 Boeing will be able to manufacture only 38 MAX aircraft a month. It is expected to attempt to ramp up MAX production in 2025.

Cirium said, "Potentially, Boeing is expected to expand production beyond 38 aircraft every month once certain conditions are met. With that in mind, we expect to see increasing numbers of 737 MAX by 2026, including 22 for Akasa Air and four for Air India," Cirium analysts said.

Cirium's data indicates that both Indian domestic and outbound international capacities are expected to grow 12% year-on-year in the

first quarter of 2025. Cirium's fleet forecast projects the passenger aircraft fleet in service to reach almost 900 aircraft at the end of 2025.

Experts believe that revival of the grounded fleet, which is around 90 in the country, is a more important area to focus on in 2025.

Mark D. Martin of Martin Consulting believes that the government needs to take a stern action against Pratt & Whitney. "India fleet induction and deliveries need to be fast-tracked. Along with it, OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) need to work on component and engine reliability. The catch-22 we deal with today is brand new aircraft being inducted and simultaneously getting grounded as a result of the Pratt and Whitney GTF engine," Martin said.

"Today, there are around 90 aircraft grounded because of engines failing, and now it's time the government did something about this by taking up stern action on Pratt and Whitney," said Martin.



India's largest air carrier IndiGo could add to its fleet in the Indian skies if it's able to get some of its grounded planes airworthy with the availability of engines.

The revival of the grounded fleet, which is around 90 in India, is an important area to focus on in 2025, experts say

ONE OF THE WORST AIRLINE DISASTERS

Plane bursts into flames during landing in South Korea, killing 179; only 2 survive

There were 181 people on board the Jeju Air plane; 177 bodies recovered, 88 identified so far

SEOUL: A passenger plane skidded off a runway at a South Korean airport Sunday, slammed into a concrete fence and burst into flames after its front landing gear apparently failed to deploy. All but two of the 181 people on board died in one of the country's worst aviation disasters.

The Jeju Air plane crashed while landing in the town of Muan, about 290 kilometres south of Seoul. The Transport Ministry said the plane was a 15-year-old Boeing 737-800 jet that had arrived from Bangkok and that the crash happened at 9:03 am.

A total of 179 people — 85 women, 84 men and 10 others whose genders weren't immediately identifiable — died in the fire, the South Korean fire agency said. Emergency workers pulled two people, both crew members, to safety. Health officials said they are conscious and not in life-threatening condition.

Among the 177 bodies so far found, officials have so far identified 88 of them, the fire agency said. The passengers were predominantly South Korean, as well as two Thai nationals. Thailand's Foreign



Firefighters and rescue team members work near the wreckage of a passenger plane at Muan International Airport, South Korea, on Sunday. **PII**

Ministry said its embassy in Seoul received confirmation from South Korean authorities that the two Thai passengers were among the fatalities.

The fire agency deployed 32 fire trucks and several helicopters to contain the blaze. About 1,570 firefighters, police officers, soldiers and other officials were also sent to the site,

according to the fire agency and transport ministry.

Footage of the crash aired by South Korean television channels showed the plane skidding across the airstrip at high speed, apparently with its landing gear still closed, overrunning the runway and colliding head-on with a concrete wall on the outskirts of

the facility, triggering an explosion. Other local TV stations aired footage showing thick plumes of black smoke billowing from the plane, which was engulfed in flames.

Lee Jeong-hyeon, chief of the Muan fire station, told a televised briefing that the plane was completely destroyed, with only the tail assembly remain-

ing recognisable among the wreckage. Lee said that workers were looking into various possibilities about what caused the crash, including whether the aircraft was struck by birds, Lee said.

Transport Ministry officials later said their early assessment of communication records show the airport control tower

Highlights

- ▶ Video shows plane skidding with landing gear closed, overrunning the runway, and colliding with a concrete wall
- ▶ Only 2 survivors, both crew members, conscious and in stable condition
- ▶ Bird strike warning issued before landing; pilot sent distress signal before the crash
- ▶ Jeju Air president apologized, citing no prior mechanical issues with the plane

Continued from p1

Senior Transport Ministry official Joo Jong-wan said workers have retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders of the plane's black box, which will be examined by government experts investigating the cause of the crash and fire. He said it may take months for investigators to complete their probe. The runway at the Muan airport will be closed until January 1, the ministry said.

Thailand's prime minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, expressed deep condolences to the families of those affected by the accident in a post on social platform X. Paetongtarn said she ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide assistance immediately.

Kerati Kijmanawat, the director of Airports of Thailand, confirmed in a statement that Jeju Air flight 7C 2216 departed from Suvarnabhumi Airport with no reports of abnormal conditions with the aircraft or on the runway.

Jeju Air in a statement expressed its "deep apology" over the crash and said it will do its "utmost to manage the aftermath of the accident."

In a televised news conference, Kim E-bae, Jeju Air's presi-



dent, bowed deeply with other senior company officials as he apologized to bereaved families and said he feels "full responsibility" for the incident. Kim said the company hadn't identified any mechanical problems with the aircraft following regular checkups and that he would wait for the results of government investigations into the cause of the incident.

Family members wailed as officials announced the names of some victims at a lounge in the Muan airport.

Boeing said in a statement on X it was in contact with Jeju Air and is ready to support the company in dealing with the crash.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones, and our thoughts remain with the passengers and crew," Boeing said.

The incident came as South Korea is embroiled into a huge political crisis triggered by President Yoon Suk Yeol's stunning imposition of martial law and

ensuing impeachment. Last Friday, South Korean lawmakers impeached acting President Han Duck-soo and suspended his duties, leading Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok to take over.

Choi, who traveled to the site in Muan, called for officials to employ all available resources to find the missing and identify the victims as soon as possible. The government declared Muan a special disaster zone to provide assistance to the families of victims and designated a weeklong national mourning period through Saturday.

Yoon's office said his chief secretary, Chung Jin-suk, presided over an emergency meeting between senior presidential staff to discuss the crash and reported the details to Choi. Yoon expressed condolences to the victims in a Facebook posting.

The Muan crash is one of the deadliest disasters in South Korea's aviation history. The last time South Korea suffered a large-scale air disaster was in 1997, when a Korean Airline plane crashed in Guam, killing 228 people on board. In 2013, an Asiana Airlines plane crashed in San Francisco, killing three and injuring approximately

200.

Sunday's accident was also one of the worst landing mishaps since a July 2007 crash that killed all 187 people on board and 12 others on the ground when an Airbus A320 slid off a slick airstrip in Sao Paulo and collided with a nearby building, according to data compiled by the Flight Safety Foundation, a nonprofit group aimed at improving air safety. In 2010, 158 people died when an Air India Express aircraft overshot a runway in Mangalore, India, and plummeted into a gorge before erupting into flames, according to the safety foundation. World leaders expressed their sympathies as South Korea dealt with the tragedy.

During his Angelus prayer in Rome's St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said he joins in "prayer for the survivors and the dead." Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said he was "deeply saddened by the loss of many precious lives" in a message released through Tokyo's Foreign Ministry. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X that "each life lost is an immeasurable tragedy" and that he extends his "heartfelt condolences" on behalf of Ukrainian people and himself. **AGENCIES**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

Training issues: Section of Akasa Air pilots seeks detailed DGCA audit

MUMBAI: Resentment among a section of Akasa Air pilots continued allegedly over training issues with these pilots seeking a detailed DGCA audit of the airline a day after the regulator ordered suspension of two senior airline officials for certain lapses, according to a communication.

In a detailed communication to the civil aviation ministry and the DGCA on Saturday, the section of pilots has also mentioned that they are in the process of forming a pilots' union at the airline.

Queries to Akasa Air on this issue remained unanswered.

According to the communication, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has

served 10 showcause notices to the airline in recent weeks for various alleged lapses.

Earlier this month, allegations related to pilot training practices and attrition of pilots made by the section of pilots were termed baseless and untrue by the airline.

On December 27, the DGCA ordered the suspension of Akasa Air's directors of operations and training for six months for training lapses.

In the latest communication, the pilots have also flagged that the director of operations against whom the DGCA has passed the suspension order, remains the vice-president of operations.

As per the communication,

some pilots have resigned this month as well while many others have not resigned because the bond amount is huge.

Akasa Air, flying for over two years, has a fleet of 26 planes and about 870 pilots.

Many of the pilots are allegedly not getting adequate flying hours since the fleet expansion is taking longer time than anticipated earlier.

In its response to the section of the pilots' allegations over the exits, Akasa Air had said on December 14 that 324 pilots have joined the airline since October 2023, and during this period, it has recorded an annualised attrition of less than 1 per cent for this employee group.

PTI

179 killed as South Korean plane crash-lands, erupts into fireball

Two crew members of Bangkok-Muan flight survive; landing gear glitch, bird hit suspected



Rescue team members carry the body of a passenger at the crash site at Muan International Airport, South Korea on Sunday | AP/PTI

Narrow escape for passengers as Air Canada jet catches fire

AGENCIES

ANOTHER aviation tragedy was averted on Saturday night after an Air Canada flight suffered a suspected landing gear failure and a part of it caught fire as it skidded down the runway of Canada's Halifax airport.

All 73 passengers and crew members are safe, Air Canada spokesperson Peter Fitzpatrick said. He added that there was a

suspected landing gear issue as the plane arrived to land.

A spokesperson for the Nova Scotia Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which responded to the incident alongside paramedics, said some passengers suffered minor injuries. The people on board were evacuated, and then taken to a hangar to be checked out by paramedics, AP reported.

A passenger told a local television channel she heard a loud noise when the plane landed. "We heard a pretty loud—what almost sounded like a crash—sound as the wing of the plane started to skid along the (runway), along with what I presume was the engine," she said. She said the plane then skidded down the runway for a "decent" distance as the pilots worked to stop the plane. "The plane shook quite a bit and we started seeing fire on the left side of the plane and smoke started coming in the windows," she said.

The Air Canada Express flight operated by Pal Airlines was arriving from St John's, Newfoundland. Flight operations at the Halifax airport were temporarily suspended.

AGENCIES

IN one of the worst aviation disasters in recent times, all but two of 181 people on board a passenger flight were killed after it skidded off the runway while landing at South Korea's Muan International Airport on Sunday and burst into flames. Horrific visuals of the accident showed the plane skidding across the airstrip at high speed after its landing gear failed to deploy, overshooting the runway, ramming a concrete wall, and exploding.

The Korean transport ministry said the Jeju Air plane was a 15-year-old Boeing 737-800 jet that had arrived from Bangkok and landed at Muan, 290 km south of Seoul, around 9 am.

South Korean officials said the airport control tower had issued a bird strike warning to the plane shortly before it intended to land. The pilot reportedly sent out a distress signal shortly before the plane touched down without using its wheels or any other landing gear.

The flight had 175 passengers and six crew members on board. According to officials, 85 wom-

The Boeing 737-800 with 181 people on board approached to land at South Korea's Muan International Airport around 9 am local time. Pilots aborted the first landing attempt due to bird strike, which reportedly damaged the jet's landing gear

Soon, the pilots issued a "mayday" call and tried to land the plane again, this time without the landing gear deployed

A bird strike is a collision between a bird and an aircraft in flight



Upon touchdown, the plane skidded down the runway and hit a concrete barrier before bursting into flames

en, 84 men, and 10 others whose gender could not be immediately identified, died. Emergency workers managed rescue two crew members. Officials described their condition as 'not life-threatening'.

Lee Jeong-hyeon, chief of the Muan fire station, said the plane was completely destroyed, with only the tail assembly remaining recognisable among the wreckage. The two persons who survived the crash were rescued from the tail section. Lee said investigators were looking at various possibilities for the crash, including whether the

plane was struck by birds.

South Korean authorities deployed 32 fire trucks and several helicopters to contain the blaze. Over 1,500 firefighters, police officers, soldiers, and other officials were also rushed to the site to manage the situation.

Footage of the crash aired by local television channels showed thick plumes of black smoke billowing from the plane, which was still engulfed in flames.

The passengers were predominantly South Korean. Thailand's foreign ministry said two Thai passengers were among the fatalities.



Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

55 डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स ने देरी से भरी उड़ान

■ एनबीटी न्यूज, नई दिल्ली: खराब चल रहे मौसम की मार से लगातार डोमेस्टिक उड़ानें प्रभावित हो रही हैं। रविवार को भी कम विजिबिलिटी के कारण आईजीआई से 55 डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट्स ने देरी से उड़ान भरी। यह देरी आधे घंटे से लेकर छह घंटे तक रही। हालांकि कुछ इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स ने भी देरी से उड़ान भरी। लेकिन लगातार सबसे अधिक डोमेस्टिक उड़ानें खराब

मौसम के कारण प्रभावित हो रही हैं और यात्री परेशान हो रहे हैं। एयरपोर्ट सूत्रों के मुताबिक, हर साल ठंड के मौसम से सबसे अधिक डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट ही प्रभावित होते हैं क्योंकि ज्यादातर डोमेस्टिक फ्लाइट कैट-3 स्तर के नहीं हैं और न ही उनके पायलट कैट-3 के प्रशिक्षित होते हैं। एयरपोर्ट अधिकारी के मुताबिक, रविवार को आईजीआई से श्रीनगर जाने वाली

एक फ्लाइट सुबह 11:10 बजे उड़ान भरने वाली थी लेकिन उसने करीब 6 घंटे की देरी से शाम 5:20 बजे उड़ान भरी। गया जाने वाली एक फ्लाइट दोपहर 2:45 बजे के बदले शाम 4:39 बजे टेक ऑफ कर सकी। इसी तरह रांची जाने वाली एक फ्लाइट ने करीब चार घंटे की देरी से दोपहर 3:00 बजे उड़ान भरी। वहीं करीब 13 इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स भी देरी से टेक ऑफ कर सकी।





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

30 DECEMBER 2024

Air Canada flight catches fire on landing, all passengers evacuated safely

PTI ■ OTTAWA

An Air Canada flight coming from St John's city on Newfoundland Island had a rough landing at the Halifax airport in Goffs in Nova Scotia province that saw the aircraft skid down the runway and part of it catching fire.

A statement issued by the airport said the incident involved Air Canada Flight 2259, which was operated by PAL Airlines, CBC News reported. The incident happened around 9:30 pm local time. The statement does not say how many people were on the plane.

The people on board were evacuated, and then taken to a hangar to be checked out by paramedics, CBC News said.

Due to the incident, the Halifax airport was

temporarily closed Saturday night.

A passenger told CBC News that one of the plane's tyres did not deploy properly upon landing. "The plane started to sit at about a 20-degree angle to the left and, as that happened, we heard a pretty loud — what almost sounded like a crash sound — as the wing of the plane started to skid along the pavement, along with what I presume was the engine," she said.

The passenger said the plane then skidded down the runway for a "decent" distance as the pilots worked to stop the plane.

"The plane shook quite a bit and we started seeing fire on the left side of the plane and smoke started coming in the windows," she said.

The airport said one of its runways has since reopened.

A Flyer's Last Text: 'Bird Stuck In Wing'

Speculation Rife Bird-Hit Brought Down S Korean Plane, But Experts Doubt It As Possible Cause

Uncertainties surround the deadliest crash on South Korean soil, experts said on Sunday, questioning how much impact a potential bird strike cited by authorities could've had in bringing down the Jeju Air flight.

The apparent absence of landing gear, the timing of the twin-engine Boeing 737-800's belly landing at Muan International Airport and reports of a possible bird strike all raised questions that could not yet be answered. The single-aisle aircraft was seen skidding down the runway with no landing gear deployed before hitting a wall in an explosion of flame and debris. "At this point there are a lot more questions than we've answers. Why was the plane going so fast? Why were the flaps not open? Why was the landing gear not down?" said Gregory Alegi, an aviation expert.

South Korean officials are investigating the crash, including the impact of a potential bird strike and the weather, in which 179 of 181 people on board died. In the space of a few minutes, the control tower issued a bird strike warning, pilots declared mayday and then attempted to land, officials said, although it wasn't clear if the aircraft had hit any birds. A passenger texted a relative to say a bird was stuck in the wing. The person's final message was, "Should I say my last words?"

Deputy transport minister Joo Jong-wan said the runway's 2,800m length was not a contributing factor, and that walls at the ends were built to industry standards. "Both black boxes — flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder — have been found," he said. Low-cost carrier Jeju Air said it "sincerely" apologised — with top officials shown bowing deeply at a presser in Seoul — and vowed to do all it could to help.

Christian Beckert, a flight safety expert, said video footage suggests that aside from the reversers, most of the braking systems were not activated, creating a "big problem" and a fast landing. He said a bird strike was unlikely to have damaged the landing gear while it was still up, and that if it had happened when it was down, it would have been hard to raise again.

As speculation swirled about the cause, family members of passengers endured the painful wait for news of their loved ones. Wails and screams filled the airport. A young woman comforted an older woman weeping about her son. Two crying women embraced each other. Only 65 of the dead could be identified through fingerprints

181
No. of people on board
(175 passengers, 6 crew)

179 people
85 women, 84 men, 10 identifiable — dead

2 survive
both crew members

WHAT CAUSED THE CRASH?

Officials are investigating why the landing gear appears to have malfunctioned. **Bird Hit?** As the plane was landing, the airport warned it about a potential bird strike. The plane issued a mayday alert shortly after, and then crash-landed

Muddy tidal flats near Muan International Airport are favourite resting places for migrant birds. Photos in local media show flocks of birds flying near the airport on Sunday

Engine fire? A footage by MBC-TV showed one of the engines briefly emitting flames as it neared the airport

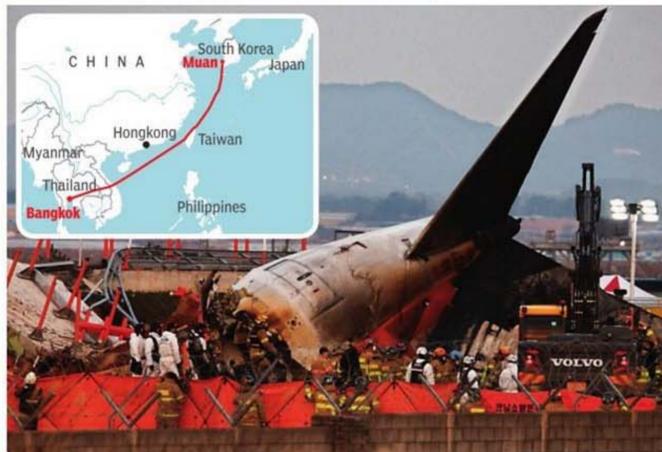
PLANE CRASH-LANDS ON ITS BELLY, HITS A BARRIER, EXPLODES INTO A FIREBALL

Videos show the plane skidding down the runway with no visible landing gear



A passenger texted a relative to say a bird was stuck in the wing. The person's final message was, "Should I say my last words?"

Short Runway? An official said this was likely not a factor. "The runway is 2,800 metres long, and similar-sized aircraft have been operating on it without issues," officials say



SOUTH KOREAN AIR DISASTERS

Crash the first fatal accident for Jeju Air
1983 | Soviet fighter jet shoots down a Korean Air flight above the Sea of Japan, **23 crew and 246 passengers die**
1997 | Korean Airline plane crashes in Guam, **killing 229**
2013 | Asiana Airlines plane crash-lands in San Francisco, **killing three, injuring 200**
2007 | Jeju Air-operated Bombardier Q400 carrying 74 veers off the runway, a dozen hurt
2002 | Air China plane crash **kills 129**, one of the worst on South Korean soil

Air Canada plane catches fire on landing, all safe

Ottawa: An Air Canada flight coming from St John's city on Newfoundland Island had a rough landing at the Halifax airport in Goffs in Nova Scotia province that saw the aircraft skid down the runway and part of it catching fire. A statement issued by the airport said the incident involved Air Canada Flight 2259, CBC News reported. The incident happened around 9:30pm local time. The statement does not say how many people were on the plane.

The people on board were evacuated, and then taken to a hangar to be checked out by paramedics, CBC News said. A passenger told CBC News that one of the plane's tyres did not deploy properly upon landing. "The plane started to sit at about a 20-degree angle to the left and, as that happened, we heard a pretty loud — what almost sounded like a crash sound — as the wing of the plane started to skid along the pavement, along with what I presume was the engine," she said. The passenger said the plane then skidded down the runway for a "decent" distance as the pilots worked to stop the plane.

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Azerbaijan prez confirms jetliner downed by Russia

Baku: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said Sunday that the Azerbaijani airliner that crashed last week was shot down by Russia, albeit unintentionally, and criticised Moscow for trying to "hush up" the issue for days. "We can say with complete clarity that the plane was shot down by Russia. (...) We are not saying that it was done intentionally, but it was done," he said. Aliyev said that the airliner was hit by fire from the ground over Russia and "rendered uncontrollable by electronic warfare." The crash killed 38 of 67 on board. Aliyev said Azerbaijan made three demands to Russia in connection with the crash. "First, the Russian side must apologise. Second, it must admit its guilt. Third, punish the guilty, and pay compensation," he said. Aliyev noted the first demand fulfilled when President Putin apologised.

Nearly 200 airlines use 737-800, making up about 15% of world's fleet of aircraft

The Jeju Air plane that crashed in South Korea was a Boeing 737-800, a model that is used widely around the world. There are about 28,000 passenger planes in service globally, according to Cirium, an aviation data provider. About 15%, or 4,400, are Boeing 737-800s. The plane belongs to the company's Next-Generation 737 family of jets, the precursor to the more modern 737 Max. Nearly 200 airlines use the 737-800, according to Cirium, including five in South Korea. Boeing has delivered about 5,000 to customers since 1998. "The plane in question is very safe and has a good safety record," said Najmedin Meshkati, a professor of engineering at the University of Southern California who has studied safety history of the Boeing 737 line. The age of the global fleet of

In Nepal, copter makes emergency landing after being hit by bird

A helicopter en route to Kathmandu carrying five US nationals had to make an emergency landing at Banepa, 50km east of the capital, after it was hit by a bird on Sunday. The 9N-AGK chopper, belonging to the private Heli Everest airlines, was coming from Lukla, gateway to Mt Everest, when it was struck by the bird at 11 am, an official said. The pilot managed to land the copter safely, the official added.

737-800 planes ranges from about 5 years old to more than 27 years old. A well-maintained passenger jet can fly 20 to 30 years or even longer. According to the flight tracking website Flightradar24, the plane that crashed

was 15 years old. Officials said they were investigating the cause of the crash, including the possibility that a bird strike led to a landing gear malfunction. Boeing said in a statement it was in contact with Jeju Air and was ready to help the airline. Bird strikes are not uncommon in aviation. Some airports deploy falcons and take other measures to keep their skies clear of birds. Muan International Airport, where the crash occurred, uses measures such as playing audio of distress calls to disperse birds as well as shooting them, according to the Korean office of civil aviation. Meshkati said the landing gear of the 737-800 line is well designed and has a history of reliability, though poor upkeep could result in it not deploying correctly.

179 killed, 2 survive in worst plane crash on S Korean soil

Muan (South Korea): A Jeju Air plane carrying 181 people from Thailand to South Korea crashed on arrival Sunday, smashing into a barrier and bursting into flames, killing everyone aboard except for two flight attendants plucked from the wreckage.

A bird strike was cited by authorities as the likely cause of the crash — the worst aviation disaster on South

► **Baku confirms Russia downed jetliner, P 18**

► **Air Canada plane catches fire, all safe, P 18**

Korean soil — which flung passengers out of the plane and left it “almost completely destroyed”, according to fire officials. Video showed the Boeing 737-800 landing on its belly at Muan International Airport, skidding off the runway as smoke streamed out from the engines, before crashing into a wall and exploding in flames.



Burning debris at the crash site at Muan International Airport Sunday

“Of the 179 dead, 65 have been identified,” the country’s fire agency said, adding that DNA retrieval had begun. Inside the airport terminal, tearful family members gathered to wait for news.

An official began calling out the names of the 65 victims who had been identified, with each name triggering fresh cries of grief from

waiting relatives.

Only two people — both flight attendants — were rescued from the crash.

“Passengers were ejected from the aircraft after it collided with the wall, leaving little chance of survival,” a local fire official told families at a briefing. AGENCIES

► **Flyer’s last text, P 18**



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

29 DECEMBER 2024

Flight bound for UAE delayed by four hours

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: An Abu Dhabi-bound Air Arabia flight from Chennai was delayed by about four hours on Saturday after a technical snag was detected when the flight reached the runway for take-off. There were 178 passengers on board.

The flight was originally scheduled to depart at 5am. The pilot identified the glitch seconds before take-off, and the flight tax-

The pilot spotted a technical glitch a couple of seconds before take-off. The flight was supposed to take off at 5am

ied back to the ramp.

The passengers were offloaded and given refreshments during their waiting period.

Engineers swung into action, and the flight was declared ready to fly. The flight took off around 9am.



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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

29 DECEMBER 2024

Big day for Navi Mum airport as IndiGo will land first test jet today

Mumbai: The Navi Mumbai airport project is set to cross a significant milestone Sunday with the stage set for the first-ever commercial aircraft landing, reports **Manju V.** IndiGo is expected to operate the inaugural flight, touching down on the new runway 08/26 around noon, said the Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd Saturday.

Commercial flights, carrying passengers and cargo, will begin after the airport is commissioned, expectedly around March-end.

In Oct, IAF operated the first flights to the airport with an Airbus C-295 touching down. "Unlike the IAF jet, an airline aircraft will land using the Instrument Landing Systems, Precision Approach Path Indicator; the run-



> An IAF Airbus C-295 aircraft touched down on new runway 08/26 in Oct. It didn't need too many of the technical aids

> The IndiGo jet will try out the Instrument Landing Systems, Precision Approach Path Indicator, runway markings, etc

ay markings will be present, none of which is needed for an IAF aircraft which can also land on an unpaved surface," said a senior pilot.

► City & Navi Mum ATCs, P 2