



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

13 MARCH 2025

Reopening HAL airport: Minister promised to hold meet, says MP

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Bangalore South BJP Lok Sabha member Tejasvi Surya said on Wednesday that Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu had assured him that a stakeholders' meeting would be convened soon to explore the possibility of reopening the HAL airport in Bengaluru for civil operations.

Surya, who met the minister here, told *DH* that Naidu acknowledged it was an important issue and assured to convene a meeting to deliberate on the matter soon. "I requested for a meeting with all stakeholders soon to discuss the modalities. Grateful that the minister is keen on supporting this for Bengaluru," Surya posted on X.

The MP, in his memorandum to the minister, said holding a meeting of key stakeholders — Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Kempegowda International Airport Limited (KIAL) would provide a platform to comprehensively address all outstanding concerns and pave the way for the immediate resumption of civil operations at HAL airport.

"The reopening of HAL airport will mark a landmark development for Bengaluru, signifi-



MP Tejasvi Surya, who met Union Minister Rammohan Naidu, said that the latter acknowledged that the HAL airport is an important issue and assured to convene a meeting soon.

cantly enhancing connectivity, reducing travel time for citizens and further fuelling the city's growth trajectory. This step will not only address the pressing

needs of our residents, but also reinforce Bengaluru's position as a global hub for technology and innovation," the memorandum said.



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HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

13 MARCH 2025

{ 400 BUILDINGS TO BENEFIT }

Govt to relocate transmission towers of AAI in Andheri West

Linah Baliga

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MUMBAI: In a significant relief for around 400 residential buildings in D N Nagar and Gulmohar area of Andheri West, industries minister Uday Samant on Wednesday announced that the government would complete the land allocation process to relocate the high-frequency transmission towers of the Airport Authority of India (AAI) to a new site within the next three months.

The government's announcement follows BJP MLA Ameet Satam's raising of the issue through a calling attention motion in the legislative assembly. Satam stated that the high-frequency transmission towers of AAI had limited the permitted height of buildings within their radius, preventing the redevelopment of old residential buildings in D N Nagar. There are currently no takers for redevelopment, as the height restriction in D N Nagar is 32 metres or seven to eight floors.

"Due to this height restriction, the redevelopment of several buildings has been stalled



The high-frequency transmission towers of AAI had limited the permitted height of buildings within their radius, preventing the redevelopment of old residential buildings in D N Nagar. HT PHOTO

in D N Nagar, Juhu, and the Gulmohar area," said Satam in the assembly. "It has been over four years since the government's response on December 17, 2020. People who have bought their own homes with their hard-earned money, and whose buildings have completed 45 years, will be issued notices for their buildings being dilapidated. Middle-class families will be out on the streets." Satam said they had been pursuing the matter with both the central and state governments but

there was still no solution. "The towers in D N Nagar cannot be shifted to Gorai so we need to know where they will be relocated," he said. "I want to know if a solution will be provided in a time-bound manner. Specifically, I want to know the time frame for shifting these transmission towers and when the BMC will scout for land and hand it over to AAI."

Responding to the issue, Samant said that a committee needed to visit the location to plan the shifting of the towers.

"After the committee visits the alternative plot, we can immediately start the process of relocating the towers," he said. "I spoke to civil aviation minister Muralidhar Mohol today, and he is also positive about resolving the issue. Our chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has also communicated the strong feelings of the elected representatives and the local people to the union government. Before the next assembly session, we will complete the process of land allocation for shifting the towers to a new location. We will then immediately work towards relaxing height restrictions."

Parag Sawant, an affected resident from D N Nagar, said, "Our building was planned with 16 floors and the agreement was signed with the developer in December 2020. The height restriction from AAI came in July 2021. Now it has been constructed up to 12 floors but not as per the agreed height and hence it has come to a standstill. But at least it has been redeveloped—there are so many buildings in D N Nagar where developers are not even willing to take up projects due to AAI's height restrictions."



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

DGCA to meet airlines, airports to review accessible travel policies

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

Officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will meet representatives of airlines and airports next week to review policies to make air travel more accessible to persons with reduced mobility and disabilities. This comes in the backdrop of a recent in-

cident at Delhi where an octogenarian passenger was denied a wheelchair by Air India.

The airline has denied the charges but the incident has highlighted the excessive demand for wheelchairs that is impacting its service delivery.

"Our concern is that passengers in real need are not deprived of the facilities," a senior official said.

DGCA has asked Air India for an explanation and its officials have also met family members of the passenger who lodged a complaint against the airline.

THE 2014 RULES

In 2014, the civil aviation regulator framed rules to protect physically challenged persons from discrimination and ensure they get all possible assistance

during air travel.

It lays down specific facilities that airlines and airports need to provide to persons with reduced mobility.

This includes provision of wheelchairs (by airlines/airports), dedicated drop off/pick up points, signage, ramps, accessible washrooms at airports among others. Akasa Air has introduced in-flight safety manuals and menu cards in braille

while Bengaluru airport has sign language trained staff along with various other facilities.

While airlines can't refuse carrying physically challenged persons, they need to be notified of the extra requirements at least 48 hours before the flight.

While airlines provide free wheelchair service, they have requirements related to reporting time by passengers.

Air India claims that octogenarian passenger, who had to be hospitalised after a fall at Delhi airport, arrived at the terminal much later than recommended two hours before departure.

The airline said it could not provide wheelchair within 15 minutes due to "unprecedented peak demand" and denied charges that passenger was made to wait for an hour.



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

'Noida Airport's terminal to be completed by June'

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Dashing hopes for an early start to full-fledged operations at the upcoming Noida International Airport, highly placed sources revealed to *businessline* that the facility's terminal building under phase I of the project will only be completed by June.

However, the airport's key stakeholders are contemplating a partial opening of the facility with select sections, catering to cargo and the domestic flights.

The proposed move for a partial opening assumes significance as the current pace of construction will render the operator with the option to either partially open the airport by May, whereas the full construction and operationalisation of the facility might stretch up to August.

Under the process, even after the full completion of the terminal building, which is expected by June, the airport operator will still require another eight weeks to operationalise the whole facility.

Notably, this entire exercise, sources said, will



GETTING READY. Construction work in progress at the Noida International Airport.

stretch the opening timelines to July or August.

LIMITED OPERATIONS

At present, sources told *businessline* that the construction work is in progress to create parking standards, roofing work, and the installation of conveyor belt-related equipment, as well as other key features at the terminal.

"The airport can start partial operations from May onwards. However, these operations will only be limited to the cargo segment," sources said.

"A cordoned-off area needs to be created for domestic operations. This area would require inspections

and clearances from BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) and DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) before opening."

A BCAS inspection is required for anti-sabotage checks. Thereafter, the DGCA is expected to grant the regulatory licence. Generally, it takes 90 days for the regulator to process the aerodrome application for licensing. Accordingly, a stakeholders' meeting on the various options to start the operations will be held on Monday, March 17.

It was widely speculated that the airport might be inaugurated and made operational by May; however, inspections by the central

aviation safety regulator and other authorities have not led to a definite timeline. "Several construction milestones have been achieved till now. The airside works have almost been completed; however, work remains on the city side, and the terminal building is not yet completed... The final clearances, including the aerodrome license might be granted anytime between May and beyond."

MISSED DEADLINES

The airport had already missed one completion deadline scheduled for 2024-end due to sourcing constraints of materials like structural steel.

In terms of the airport's readiness, the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) will become effective from May. Besides, the Air Control Tower (ATC) is expected to become operational by April 15.

When contacted, the office of the Minister of Civil Aviation and the officials at the Ministry of Civil Aviation clarified that no official statement on the date of the inauguration has been given as the due process is under

progress. On its part, Noida International Airport said that it is making steady progress towards operational readiness.

"The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is advancing its work in the air traffic control tower, while construction of the passenger terminal and associated infrastructure is progressing well," a NIA official said.

"The next major milestone is the granting of the aerodrome license, expected in May. The airport will begin operations with domestic flights, with international routes to follow in the subsequent months. Discussions are ongoing with the state and central government regarding the start of commercial operations."

In its first phase of development, the airport with one runway and one terminal will have a capacity to handle traffic of 12 million passengers annually. After the completion of the fourth phase, the airport will have the capacity to manage 70 million passengers per year.

Airline major IndiGo is expected to be the first passenger carrier to start services from the airport.

DGCA, IIT audit findings put T2 on repair runway

DIAL halts plan to build Terminal 4

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 13 March

Delhi International Airport (DIAL), which operates and manages the airport in the national capital, has halted plans for a new Terminal 4 (T4) and will instead fast-track the refurbishment of the old Terminal 2 (T2) after Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and IIT Madras audits flagged issues with its apron and boarding bridges. DIAL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Videsh Kumar Jaipuriar revealed this in a January meeting with aviation stakeholders, *Business Standard* has learnt.

These audit findings have come to light just months after the collapse of Terminal 1's (T1) canopy at Delhi Airport, which resulted in the death of a 45-year-old cab driver, Ramesh Kumar, and left at least eight others injured.



Delhi Airport has three terminals: T1 with a capacity of 40 million passengers per year, T2 with 15 million, and Terminal 3 (T3) with 45 million

Last month, the newspaper reported that a DGCA-appointed expert committee — comprising two professors from IIT Delhi and one from IIT Jammu — found that flawed design, poor workmanship, inadequate maintenance, and major discrepancies between design and construction were likely key factors

in the canopy collapse. Delhi Airport has three terminals: T1 with a capacity of 40 million passengers per year, T2 with 15 million, and Terminal 3 (T3) with 45 million. According to DIAL's 2016 master plan, T2 was to be demolished and replaced by T4, designed to handle 40 million passengers annually.

However, the collapse of T1's canopy and subsequent investigations have disrupted this plan.

In March last year, DIAL said T4 was expected to be operational by 2028-29. However, during a January 6 meeting, Jaipuriar said the operator is now prioritising T2's refurbishment as a short-term solution to meet current demand. In the same meeting, an airline questioned why T4, once central to DIAL's expansion plans, is now absent from the latest project file.

Jaipuriar said that the "life" of T2 can be extended by a few years with just a ₹120 crore investment before T4 is built, which would require high capital expenditure.

"Currently, the master plan is under review. Inputs from airlines are being taken. If there is a requirement for T4 development after the current master plan exercise, stakeholders and the regulator will be informed and consulted," he said. The DIAL CEO mentioned that T2's refurbishment is not being undertaken to increase

its capacity. "The DGCA audited T2 and made observations regarding apron refurbishment and boarding bridges. A structural audit has also been conducted by IIT Madras, which suggested certain

improvements. DIAL is planning to continue with T2 instead of constructing a new terminal (T4) with the required refurbishments," he explained. Jaipuriar said during the meeting that, based on DGCA's observations and nearly 40 years of operation, T2 requires major refurbishments on the airside and terminal to remain operational. He mentioned that T2 is expected to operate for no more than five years. DIAL, IIT Madras, DGCA, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation did not respond to *Business Standard's* queries regarding this matter.

At a press conference earlier this month, Jaipuriar said renovation work at T1 would be completed by March 15, and, subject to approval from security agencies, operations are expected to begin in April.

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With Jewar on tarmac, Delhi Airport prepares for 95 million fliers

Once fully operational, T1 will handle its full capacity of 40 million passengers per year. Following this, T2 will be closed for four to six months for repair work, with its entire 15-million-passenger capacity shifting to T1.

Planned upgrades for T2 include apron refurbishment, new flooring, renovated washrooms, and replacement of boarding bridges, he mentioned.

T3's annual handling capacity is currently 45-50 million passengers. Jaipuriar also spoke about the project to convert Pier C of T3 from domestic to international, which will gradually shift 10 million passengers from T3 to T1.

During the January meeting, Jaipuriar provided more details about the Pier C conversion, which will be carried out at a cost of ₹70 crore. T3 comprises four piers — two domestic and two international.

"After Pier C conversion into international, the domestic capacity of the airport would drop to 70 million (from the current 80 million passengers per year), whereas the international capacity would increase to 30 million (from the current 20 million passengers per year). This would be sufficient to accommodate the 25 million international passengers expected in 2028-29 (FY29)," Jaipuriar said during the January meeting.

Delhi Airport can currently handle 100 million passengers per annum. However, it is handling about 73 million passengers annually at present.

According to DIAL, by FY29, actual passenger traffic is expected to reach 95.6 million per annum. "This includes the impact of Jewar Airport's operationalisation," Jaipuriar mentioned at the January meeting.

Along with the refurbishment of T2, DIAL is also upgrading the instrument landing system for one runway (RWY 10/28) by September so it can handle more flights amid low visibility.



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

2 airport staff steal \$2,500 from US citizen, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

TWO EMPLOYEES of the Delhi Airport have been arrested for allegedly stealing \$2,500 from a passenger's bag.

The accused, Gaurav Kumar, 38, and Prakash Chand, 59, work in the Lost and Found department at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.

Police said a case was registered under Section 303(2) (theft) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) after a complaint was filed by the passenger, Roshan Patel, a US citizen and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holder.

Patel had arrived in Delhi from the United States on September 11, 2024, and realised her green camouflage bag, containing \$2,500 and other personal belongings, was missing. The bag was later recovered and deposited in the Lost & Found department by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, but upon retrieval, the cash was found missing, said police on Thursday.

A police team meticulously analysed CCTV footage from various cameras at the airport; footage confirmed the bag was not tampered with at the termi-

nal. Police then shifted the focus of the investigation to the Lost and Found department staff. After thorough questioning of the staff, suspicion eventually fell on Kumar and Chand.

Police said the duo initially denied their involvement but admitted to the crime when confronted with CCTV evidence showing them tampering with the bag inside the Lost and Found office.

During questioning, police said Kumar allegedly revealed details of the theft.

"On September 12, 2024, a CISF staff member deposited the alleged bag in their office. While he (Gaurav Kumar) was handing the bag over to Prakash Chand in the T-2 LP room, he discovered \$2,500 inside the bag. Overcome with greed, he suggested to Prakash that they could keep the money and divide it between them. Prakash agreed, and they each took \$1,250. Gaurav also revealed he had deleted the entry of the \$2,500 from the system with Prakash's complicity. Later, they exchanged the stolen currency at a money exchange office in Connaught Place, Delhi, and equally distributed it between them," said Usha Rangnani, Additional Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport).



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

Airlines seek lower levies to move to Jewar

Daanish Anand

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NEW DELHI

Air passengers in Delhi's national capital region can expect cheaper fares if they fly out of Noida's Jewar airport, as airlines are seeking discounts on various charges for shifting to the new airport that is likely to begin operations in the second half of 2025.

Airports impose several charges on carriers for using their amenities, including landing fees and parking fees (based on weight of the aircraft), charges for air traffic control services, ground handling fees (like baggage handling), and terminal charges for using passenger facilities. All these charges are built into the tickets sold by airlines, jacking up airfares.

The Noida International Airport (NIA) at Jewar, which is running behind schedule by



Jewar airport is running behind schedule by about six months

about six months, is operated by Yamuna International Airport Pvt. Ltd, a wholly owned arm of Switzerland's Zurich Airport International AG.

"These discounts in charges by the airport operator will help us offer cheaper fares that is likely to help attract passengers to the airport," said an airline official, who did not want to be identified.

Another official at a low-

cost carrier said airlines can bring passengers to Jewar airport if the fares are low. "No other incentive can bring passengers to Jewar."

Analysts say discounts will help keep airfares low.

"While we have low-cost carriers (LCC), their fares are hardly low in comparison to other airlines. This is because we don't have low-cost terminals, these airlines are paying

same charges just like legacy airlines. This should be an opportunity to create low-cost terminals for LCCs to make flying cheaper and to achieve the vision of Udan," said Ajay Prakash, president of the Travel Agents Federation of India.

Udan is a government scheme to connect underserved cities of the country via affordable air travel.

There are many ways an airport operator can provide discounts to the airline. Some discounts are linked to a target of achieving a certain number of passengers and some are provided on a per-passenger basis.

The other reason that could help cheapen airfares in Jewar is a value-added tax (VAT) of just 1% on jet fuel in Uttar Pradesh. By comparison, Delhi charges a 25% VAT on jet fuel, which makes up two-fifths of the cost of running an airline in India.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com).



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

Airport Lost & Found turns into loot and split for two employees

IGI Airport staff caught stealing \$2,500 from lost bag

PRAJYOT DEOGAHR

NEW DELHI: The IGI Airport Police team has arrested two Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) employees for allegedly stealing \$2,500 from a lost and found bag.

The police were informed about the incident through a complaint registered at the IGI Airport Police Station.

The accused were identified as Gaurav Kumar (38), a resident of Nidhi Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, and Prakash Chand (59), a resident of Raj Nagar, Palam Colony, Delhi.

According to the police, the accused were working in the Lost & Found Articles Department when they committed the theft. Both were taken into custody following an investigation that uncovered their involvement in the crime.

The incident came to light when Ms. Roshan Patel, a U.S. citizen and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder, reported her missing bag on September 11, 2024.

Upon arrival in Delhi from the United States, she lost track of her green army bag, which contained \$2,500 along with other personal belongings.

The bag was later found by CISF personnel and depos-



ited in the DIAL Lost Property Department.

However, when Ms. Patel retrieved it, the cash was missing. She subsequently lodged an e-FIR with the IGI Airport Police Station on February 5, under Section 303(2) BNS.

To solve the case, a special investigative team was formed under Inspector Sushil Goyal, SHO of IGI Airport Police Station, with SI Amit and Constable Sumit leading the probe.

CCTV footage from multiple cameras across the terminal was thoroughly analysed, revealing that the bag remained untampered with while at the terminal.

This led investigators to scrutinise the employees of the Lost & Found department. After detailed questioning, suspicion fell on Gaurav Kumar and Prakash Chand.

Initially, both employees denied any wrongdoing. However, when confronted with incriminating CCTV footage from their office, they confessed to the theft.

Gaurav, a B.Com graduate working as a Lost Property Operator, revealed that on September 12, 2024, a CISF staff member deposited the missing bag in their office.

While transferring the bag to another Lost Property room at Terminal 2, he found the \$2,500 inside. He then conspired with Prakash Chand, a Junior Manager in the department, to steal the money.

Gaurav admitted to deleting the cash entry from the system with Prakash's assistance. They later exchanged the stolen currency at a money exchange outlet in Connaught Place, Delhi, and split the amount equally. Both men confessed to using the stolen money for personal expenses. Following their arrest, both accused were presented in court and sent to judicial custody. The police have assured that strict action will be taken against employees found misusing their positions at the airport.

The investigation remains ongoing to determine if the accused were involved in any other similar incidents.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

2 airport employees arrested for theft

New Delhi: Two employees of the Delhi airport have been arrested for stealing USD 2,500 from a passenger's bag, police said on Thursday. The accused were identified as Junior Manager Gaurav Kumar (38) and Operator Prakash Chand (59) of the Delhi International Airport Limited's (DIAL) Lost and Found Department, they said. Kumar and Chand stole the money from a bag deposited in their office.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

हिसार एयरपोर्ट को जहाज उड़ाने का लाईसेंस मिला

हिसार, (पंजाब केसरी): हरियाणा के इकलौते एयरपोर्ट को हवाई जहाज उड़ाने के लिए लाईसेंस मिल गया है। एयरपोर्ट अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया ने वीरवार देर शाम को लाईसेंस जारी कर दिया है।

हिसार एयरपोर्ट से अब घरेलू उड़ान शुरू हो सकती है। अप्रैल में हिसार से जम्मू, अहमदाबाद, चंडीगढ़, दिल्ली,



जयपुर और अयोध्या की फ्लाइट शुरू होगी। पहली फ्लाइट रामनवमी के दिन शुरू हो सकती है। लाईसेंस मिलने के बाद अब हरियाणा सरकार प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय से संपर्क साधकर समय मांगेगी। सबकुछ ठीक रहा तो रामनवमी के दिन ही प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी अयोध्या जाने वाली फ्लाइट को हरी झंडी दिखाकर रवाना कर सकते हैं। बता दें कि दैनिक भास्कर ने पहले ही बता दिया था कि हिसार एयरपोर्ट को इसी सप्ताह लाईसेंस मिल सकता है। उत्तर प्रदेश के जेवर एयरपोर्ट से पहले हरियाणा सरकार फ्लाइट शुरू करने की योजना पर पहले से ही काम कर रही थी।

जेवर एयरपोर्ट से पहले शुरू होगी हरियाणा से फ्लाइट

हरियाणा का अपना पहला एयरपोर्ट उत्तर प्रदेश के जेवर एयरपोर्ट से पहले शुरू हो सकता है। दोनों ही राज्य अपना-अपना एयरपोर्ट शुरू करने को लेकर सक्रिय हैं। हरियाणा सरकार चाहती है कि यूपी के जेवर एयरपोर्ट से पहले हरियाणा का एयरपोर्ट शुरू हो सके। यूपी के जेवर एयरपोर्ट से 17 अप्रैल से फ्लाइट शुरू करने की योजना है। इसी को लेकर हरियाणा सरकार के एक्विशन मंत्रालय ने मॉनिटरिंग तेज कर दी थी। इसी का नतीजा है कि हिसार एयरपोर्ट को जेवर एयरपोर्ट से पहले लाईसेंस मिला है। हिसार को 6 महीने के लिए अभी घरेलू उड़ान के लिए लाईसेंस मिला है।

CONSTRUCTION OF 366m VIADUCT AT CHINGRIGHATA REMAINS

Last hurdle for New Garia-Airport Metro

SANJAY MANDAL AND
DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: The unavailability of land and other issues that stalled work on a large stretch of the New Garia-Airport Metro project have now been reduced to a mere 366m on EM Bypass, which, the authorities said, was the only remaining hurdle for the project delayed by several years.

The construction of the 366-metre viaduct at the Chingrighata crossing on EM Bypass now awaits permission from the state government for a traffic block to lift concrete segments for two spans, from pier 317 to 318, and pier 318 to 319.

"We have formally sought a traffic block at the Chingrighata crossing in two phases to complete the work, each for three nights, between 10pm and 6am. We are awaiting the nod from the state authorities," a senior official of Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd, the implementing agency for the project, told Metro.

He said the traffic blocks would be taken on weekends when the traffic volume is relatively lower.

A state government official said the proposal for the traffic block had been sent to Nabanna for clearance. "It is a bustling road, and a lot of aspects need to be taken into account before the clearance is given," said the official.

The 32km project from New Garia to the airport was originally supposed to be wrapped up by 2016-17 but was delayed because of land logjams at several places.

"Now, most of the land

problems have been resolved. The construction of the 4.46km Belegghata-Sector V section is almost complete except for this 366m gap on the Bypass. We are looking at a July 2025 completion for this section, but it depends on bridging this gap," said the RVNL official.

The Orange Line is now functional on a 5.4km stretch between New Garia and Ruby. Trial runs are underway in the next 4.4km stretch from Ruby to Belegghata. Construction is on from Belegghata to the airport, a distance of just over 19km. The current target to complete the project is March 2026, officials said.

The gap in the viaduct lies between Belegghata and Gour Kishore (Chingrighata) stations. The viaduct would cross the Bypass. Sources said the work has remained stalled since February 2, though construction materials are ready at the site.

"Initially, we were told that the traffic block could not be given because of the Bengal Global Business Summit and Madhyamik examinations," said a Metro official.

The RVNL has built a 600-metre diversion road following a communication from Kolkata Police. The road through Captain Bheri, the water body off the Bypass, will allow Ultadanga-bound vehicles to avoid the stretch where the traffic block has been planned. When the work starts on the Garia-bound flank, vehicles using that lane will also be diverted through this alternative road, said RVNL officials.



An aerial view of the 366m gap in the Metro viaduct at Chingrighata. The elevated Gour Kishore Ghosh station is on the left

Using the Salt Lake Bypass, those vehicles bound for the airport can take the right-turn flyover at Chingrighata towards New Town.

"We will dismantle the road as it cuts through the water body, part of the East Calcutta wetlands and a Ramsar site. The environment department has permitted the building of the road under this condition," said an RVNL official.

Metro Rail and RVNL officials said several meetings were held with the police and urban development department to resolve the impasse. Some of the ministers and senior officers of Kolkata Police have also held meetings with the railways at the site.

"The state government has helped us a lot. Construction in the Belegghata-airport section is in full swing. We are hopeful the permission for this traffic block will be issued soon," said an official.

A similar problem



Barricades at the Chingrighata crossing. The construction of the 366-metre viaduct at the crossing on EM Bypass now awaits permission from the state government for a traffic block to lift concrete segments

had occurred while constructing a 300m stretch at Nabadiganta station at Salt Lake, where land was unavailable.

"The land problem has been resolved, and work has started," said the RVNL official.

Another problem area was building the tracks from VIP Road to Jai Hind or NSCBI Airport station.

Calcutta airport officials said the problem

has been resolved.

"We have paid ₹230 crore to Metro rail authorities for constructing a 90m tunnel under VIP Road," said an airport official. "We have also provided land inside the airport premises for laying tracks," he said.

The tunnel will connect the Airports Authority of India residential colony and the airport. The Metro tracks would be built above the tunnel, said the official.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

2 IGIA staffers held for stealing money from passenger's bag

New Delhi: Two employees of the Delhi airport have been arrested for stealing \$2,500 from a passenger's bag, police said on Thursday.

The accused were identified as junior manager Gaurav Kumar (38) and Operator Prakash Chand (59) of the Delhi International Airport Limited's (DIAL) Lost and Found Department, they said.

According to police, Kumar and Chand stole the money from a bag deposited in their office and split it equally. Roshan Patel, a US citizen and an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder, arrived in Delhi on Sept 11, 2024, and found her bag missing. It was later found and deposited at the airport's lost and found department. After retrieving the bag, she found the cash missing and filed a complaint in the matter, police said. CCTV footage showed Kumar and Chand handling the bag suspiciously, they said.

The accused later told police that Kumar discovered the money while transferring the bag and convinced Chand to steal it. To cover the crime, they deleted the cash entry from the system and exchanged the money in Connaught Place. PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

13 MARCH 2025

Adani airports cross 6.8m

DigiYatra transactions:

Adani Airports Holdings Limited integrated Mangaluru and Thiruvananthapuram airports into the DigiYatra initiative, completing the rollout across all seven AAHL-operated airports. Jeet Adani, director, AAHL, said, "Since Aug 2023, DigiYatra adoption soared, with some airports recording 37% usage in a single day."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

13 MARCH 2025

8 exotic animals seized at Chennai airport, 2 flyers held

Chennai: Customs sleuths seized eight exotic animals, three of them dead, from two flyers who arrived at the city airport from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The seized animals include four Eastern Grey Gibbons—two of which were dead. The other animals were two marbled polecats, a silvery lutung, both vulnerable in conservation status, and a dead Sumatran white-bearded palm civet.

The flyers were intercepted on March 7. The duo concealed the animals in ventilat-

ed boxes in their check-in luggage. Officers of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) visited the airport and identified the species. The dead animals were incinerated, while the others were fed well before being deported to Malaysia. Inquiries showed the arrested flyers are part of a smuggling cartel bringing in exotic species from abroad to supply the pet trade. Police produced both the suspects before Alandur court, which remanded them in judicial custody. **TNN**

8 exotic animals seized at Chennai airport, two flyers arrested

The Animals Were Hidden In Ventilated Boxes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Customs sleuths at Chennai airport have seized eight exotic animals three of them dead from two flyers who arrived from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The seized animals included four Eastern Grey Gibbons an endangered species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora two of them dead. The other animals were two marbled polecats, a silvery lutung both vulnerable in conservation status and a dead Sumatran white-bearded palm civet.



The flyers, who reached Chennai on a Malaysian Airlines flight, were intercepted based on information on March 7. The animals were hidden in ventilated boxes in the check-in luggage. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) officers visited the airport and identified the species with their scientific names. The dead animals were safely incinerated, while the others were fed well before



SEIZED: Marbled polecat, silvery lutung, eastern grey gibbons, Sumatran white-bearded palm civet

ing deported to Malaysia. Inquiries showed the arrested flyers were part of a smuggling cartel bringing exotic species from abroad to supply the pet trade. Both were remanded in judicial custody.

While Chennai was once a hub for illegal pet trade due to its proximity to countries such as Malaysia and Thailand, smugglers of late have started bringing in wildlife into the country via different airports due to intensified checking at Chennai. Customs sleuths recently seized six black-collared starlings from a flyer from Malaysia, after which vigil was tightened, as sleuths believed smugglers were testing if Chennai airport remains tough for their trade.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

14 MARCH 2025

कुआलालंपुर की उड़ान रद्द हुई तो धरने पर बैठ गए यात्री

जासं, अमृतसर : श्री गुरु रामदास अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर बुधवार रात एयर एशिया की कुआलालंपुर उड़ान रद्द होने से नाराज यात्री धरने पर बैठ गए। विमान से 218 यात्री कुआलालंपुर जाने वाले थे।

एक महिला यात्री ने इंटरनेट मीडिया पर वीडियो साझा कर कहा कि सभी यात्री बुधवार शाम छह बजे एयरपोर्ट पर पहुंच गए थे। रात 10:30 बजे फ्लाइट जानी थी। करीब 11 बजे एयरलाइंस के

स्टाफ ने तकनीकी कारण से उड़ान रद्द होने की जानकारी दी। यात्रियों ने रात 12 बजे से साढ़े 12 बजे तक प्रदर्शन किया। एयरपोर्ट के कार्यकारी डायरेक्टर संदीप अग्रवाल ने बताया कि तकनीकी कारणों से उड़ान रद्द हुई है। ऐसे हालात में एयरलाइंस नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) के निर्देश मुताबिक यात्रियों को रिफ्रेशमेंट देती है। कई बार यात्री इससे संतुष्ट नहीं होते तो विवाद खड़ा होता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

SpiceJet MD Ajay Singh sells nearly 1% stake for ₹52 crore

AJAY SINGH, ONE of the promoters and MD of SpiceJet, on Thursday divested nearly 1% stake in the budget airline for ₹52 crore through an open market transaction.

FE BUREAU/AGENCIES



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

13 MARCH 2025

Two air passengers arrested for bid to smuggle exotic animals

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai Customs officials recently arrested two passengers at the Chennai airport and rescued five exotic animals from them.

Based on information, the customs officials intercepted two passengers from Kuala Lumpur and found exotic animals in their baggage.

Three of the exotic animals in their possession were dead.

Species identified

Officials of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau identified the species found in the baggage as a Silvery Lutung (Silvered Leaf Monkey), a dead Sumatran White Beard Palm Civet, two Marbled Pole Cats, and Eastern Grey Gib-

bons (two dead and two alive). The two passengers were arrested under the Customs Act and sent to judicial custody by the Customs officials.

Animals rescued

The rescued animals were given food and water, and returned to the country of their origin, a press release from Chennai Customs said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

Ajay Singh sells nearly 1% stake in SpiceJet

New Delhi: Ajay Singh, one of the promoters and MD of SpiceJet, has divested nearly 1 percent stake in the budget airline for Rs 52 crore through an open market transaction. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

14 MARCH 2025

Promoter Ajay Singh sells nearly 1% stake in SpiceJet for ₹52 crore

NEW DELHI: Ajay Singh, one of the promoters and MD of SpiceJet, on Thursday divested nearly 1 per cent stake in the budget airline for Rs 52 crore through an open market transaction.

According to the bulk deal data on the BSE, Ajay Singh sold over 1.15 crore shares, amounting to a 0.9 per cent stake in Gurugram-based SpiceJet.

The shares were disposed of at an average price of Rs 45.34, taking the transaction value to Rs 52.31 crore. After the stake sale, Singh's holding in SpiceJet has come down to 22 per

cent from 22.90 per cent. Also, the combined shareholding of promoters and promoter group of the company has declined to 28.23 per cent from 29.13 per cent.

Details of the buyer(s) of SpiceJet's shares could not be ascertained on the exchange. Shares of SpiceJet on Thursday declined 6.38 per cent to close at Rs 45.48 apiece on the BSE.

Earlier, the budget airline was facing a fresh round of troubles as three Ireland-based aircraft lessors and a former pilot filed insolvency pleas in NCLT against the budget car-

rier, claiming defaults. Three lessors - NGF Alpha, NGF Genesis and NGF Charlie - filed petitions under Section 9 of IBC, seeking initiation of insolvency proceedings against SpiceJet claiming dues totalling \$12.68 million (about Rs 110 crore).

Later, the company clarified that during the proceedings of NCLT, it sought some time to resolve the matter as settlement talks were going on. Last month, SpiceJet reported a profit after tax of Rs 26 crore for the three months ended December 2024, helped by overall improved performance. #11

रियाद एयर इंडिगो व एयर इंडिया से करार की इच्छुक

■ सऊदी जाने वाले जायरीनों को मिलेगा नया उड़ान विकल्प

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

सऊदी अरब की विमानन कंपनी रियाद एयर के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) टोनी डगलस ने बुधवार को कहा कि इस साल वाणिज्यिक उड़ानें शुरू करने की योजना बना रही एयरलाइन आने वाले समय में एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो के साथ साझेदारी की संभावना तलाशेगी। डगलस ने भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप को बेहद अहम बाजार बताते हुए कहा कि रियाद एयर ने सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस, टर्किश एयरलाइंस, वर्जिन अटलांटिक और डेल्टा एयरलाइंस जैसी कई वैश्विक एयरलाइन कंपनियों के साथ साझेदारी की है।

ड्रीमलाइनर और पतले आकार वाले एयरबस 321 नियोजित श्रृंखला के विमान शामिल होंगे। इसके अलावा बी777एक्स या ए350-1000 विमान भी इसके बेड़े का हिस्सा बनेंगे। डगलस ने यहां संवाददाता सम्मेलन में कहा कि भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप 'बेहद महत्वपूर्ण' है और उनकी एयरलाइन एयर इंडिया और इंडिगो के साथ साझेदारी की संभावनाएं तलाशेगी। उन्होंने कहा, 'कोई भी संबंध दोतरफा होता है। हम अभी संभावनाएं तलाशना चाहते हैं, (यह) शुरू आती चरण है।' उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि सऊदी अरब में भारतीय पर्यटकों की संख्या पिछले साल बढ़कर 15 लाख हो गई और सऊदी अरब में 'सऊदी' लोगों के बाद दूसरी सबसे

■ रियाद एयर के सीईओ टोनी डगलस ने कहा, हम जल्द शुरू कर देंगे अपनी कामशियल फ्लाइट्स

■ कहा, सऊदी अरब में सऊदी नागरिकों के बाद दूसरी सबसे बड़ी आबादी भारतीयों की

■ इसके चलते भारत की एयरलाइंस के साथ गठ जोड़ से कंपनी को होगा ज्यादा फायदा

रियाद एयर सऊदी अरब की 'सउदिया' के बाद दूसरी राष्ट्रीय एयरलाइन होगी। इसके बेड़े में चौड़े आकार वाले बोइंग 787-9

बड़ी आबादी भारतीयों की है। रियाद एयर इस साल के अंत में तीन विमानों के साथ परिचालन शुरू करने की तैयारी कर रही है।





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

13 MARCH 2025

Riyadh Air eyes tieups with Air India, IndiGo

New Delhi: Riyadh Air, which plans to start commercial flights this year, will explore partnerships with Air India and IndiGo, the Saudi Arabian carrier's CEO Tony Douglas said on Wednesday, describing the Indian subcontinent as a "super important" market.

With ambitious plans to connect Saudi Arabia to over 100 destinations globally by 2030, Riyadh Air has already entered into partnerships with various global carriers, including Singapore Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Virgin Atlantic, and Delta Air Lines.

Riyadh Air, which will be the second national carrier of Saudi Arabia after Saudia, will



TAKING OFF

have wide-body B787-9 Dreamliners and narrow-body A321neos in its fleet. It will also have extra wide-body B777Xs or A350-1000s.

At a select media briefing in the national capital on Wednesday, Douglas said the Indian subcontinent is "super super important" and that the airline will explore partnerships with Air India and IndiGo. P T



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

14 MARCH 2025

IndiGo to start direct Krabi flights on March 30

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: IndiGo is expanding its international network by launching daily direct flights between Bengaluru and Krabi, Thailand, starting March 30.

The new route is expected to enhance connectivity to one of Thailand's most-picturesque beach destinations, offering travellers a seamless travel experience, the airline said.

Bengaluru will be the second Indian city to have a direct flight to Krabi after Mumbai. TNN