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Biden admin approves first-ever US military transfer to Taiwan under a programme generally reserved for assistance to independent states, P2

# Ludhiana-Dehradun flight service set to begin from Hindon terminal

## Operations To Start From Sept 6, One Flight Daily With 20-Min Halt In Gzb

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**Ghaziabad:** FlyBig, a Gurgaon-based aviation company, has announced a flight service from the Hindon civil terminal on the Dehradun-Hindon-Ludhiana route. The airline is scheduled to begin services on September 6 and has opened bookings on its website.

Other than the occasional VVIP visitor, the terminal has had no operating flights since January 25 when Star Air stopped operating its Karnataka service. A few flights carrying foreign delegates, arriving to attend the G20 summit in Delhi, will be landing at the IAF base and guided toward the civil terminal for departure from September 8 to 10.

"FlyBig Airlines last week had informed us they intend to start flight operations on the Dehradun-Hindon-Ludhiana route from September 1," Saraswathi Venkat, the director of Hindon civil terminal, told TOI.

Though the airline has listed the route from Friday, its official website showed no flights were available till September 5. Only two seats were available from Dehradun to

### LAST FLIGHT TOOK OFF ON JAN 25

**March 8, 2019** | PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the civil terminal

**October 11** | The first flight, Heritage Aviation's nine-seater Beechcraft King Air 350, takes off to Pithoragarh

**October 14** | Flight to Pithoragarh is suspended due to a technical glitch

► Since then, there have

been frequent disruptions and finally Heritage Aviation suspended its operations

**November 6** | Star Air becomes the second airline to start services to Hubli thrice a week

**November 18** | The airline introduces a new route to Kalburgi; flights thrice a week

**January 25, 2023** | Star Air suspends flight operation on both the routes

**September 1** | FlyBig lists flight operations on the Dehradun and Ludhiana routes via the Hindon civil terminal

Flight operations to start on Sept 6

20-minute stopover at the Ghaziabad terminal

► One 19-seater plane will operate daily on the route in the initial days

Photo: Umesh Kumar



Ludhiana and back, with a 20-minute stopover at Hindon terminal on September 6.

"Ticket bookings and flight operation Dehradun-Ghaziabad-Ludhiana route will commence from the first

week of September," a Flybig official said.

According to the airline's official website, a DCH6-400 aircraft — a 19-seater plane — will fly from Dehradun around 8.10am to reach Ghazia-

bad at 9.05am and take off for Ludhiana airport at 9.25am and reach there at 10.50am. The ticket is priced at Rs 6,329.

On the return journey, the flight is scheduled to take off at 11.10am from Ludhiana and re-

ach Hindon terminal at 12.35pm. As per the Flybig website, the aircraft will take off from Ghaziabad at 12.55 and reach Dehradun by 1.50pm.

Only one flight is likely to operate on the route in the initial days.

"We have also been intimated that after September 15, operations will begin on a new route — Bhatinda — which will take off from Hindon civil terminal. We are told that it is going to be an 18-seater plane," Venkat said.

Currently, FlyBig operates on 11 routes — Kolkata, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Patna, Itanagar, Imphal, Agartala, Silchar, Pasighat, Rupsi and Tezu.

Under UDAN or Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik scheme, Hindon civil terminal was prepared as NCR's second base for aircraft should Delhi's IGI airport run out of space. Heritage Aviation was the first airline to commence operations on the Pithoragarh route on October 11, 2019, but the service was suspended soon.

Star Air commenced operations from the terminal to Hubli thrice a week on November 6 that year and later to Kalburgi from November 18.