



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

DGCA's new norms for fatigue risk management

**AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 4**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has come out with draft guidelines for the fatigue risk management system (FRMS) for the airline's crew. The DGCA has made significant changes in the regulations pertaining to flight duty time limitations (FDTL) for flight crew, in line with the international best practices.

In the draft advisory for flight crew members in scheduled air transport operations, the DGCA has mentioned detailed guidance on FRMS approval processes, implementation requirements, and oversight mechanisms to enhance flight safety through scientific, data-driven fatigue management approaches that

complement existing prescriptive FDTL regulations. This also includes increasing pilots' weekly rest from 36 to 48 hours and reducing night flying.

FRMS should have maximum flight time, flight duty period, and duty period limits based on scientific principles, minimum rest requirements that ensure adequate recovery opportunities and performance monitoring systems to track safety outcomes, among other elements, the DGCA said.

Airlines will have the option to either have the prescriptive FDTL regulations or implement FRMS or have a hybrid approach utilising both, as per DGCA. FRMS will be implemented by airlines, and they can modify the system, depending on their requirements, with the DGCA approval.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

4 SEPTEMBER 2025

MHA names designated immigration posts at airports, seaports, railports

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: The Union Home Ministry has named 37 airports, 34 sea and river ports, and 37 international land crossing points as the designated immigration posts for entry and exit of international passengers.

The Home Ministry also named six railway stations as the designated immigration posts for entry and exit of international passengers. The announcement was made by the Home Ministry through a gazette notification after the Immigration and Foreigners Order, 2025, was notified on September 1.

The airports with designated immigration posts are Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Amritsar, Varanasi, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Raja Bhoj International Airport,

Bhopal, Calicut (Kerala), Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Dabolim (Goa), Delhi, Gaya (Bihar), Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Jaipur, Kolkata.

The other airports are Kannur (Kerala), Madurai (TN), Mangalore, Mumbai, Manohar International Airport, Mopa (Goa), Nagpur, Patna, Port Blair, Pune, Srinagar, Surat, Trichy (TN), Thiruvananthapuram, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, and Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).

The seaports are Alang (Gujarat), Agati and Minicoy Islands (Lakshadweep), Bedi Bunder and Bhavnagar (Gujarat), Calicut (Kerala), Chennai, Cochin, Cuddalore (Chennai), Dhamra

Entry and exit of international passengers

(Odisha), Kakinada and Krishnapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Kolkata, and Kandla (Gujarat)

The other seaports are Katupalli (TN), Karimganj (Assam), Kamarajar (TN), Kollam (Kerala), Mandvi (Gujarat), Mormagoa Harbour (Goa), Mundra (Gujarat), Mumbai, New Mangalore, Nagapattinam (TN), Nhava Sheva (Maharashtra), Paradeep (Odisha), Portbender, Port Blair, Silghat (Assam), Tuticorin (TN), Visakhapatnam, Vallarpadam, Vizhinjam (both Kerala), Dhubri and Pandu (both Assam).

The landports are Attari Road, Dera Baba Nanak (both Punjab), Banbasa (Uttarakhand), Chagrahandha, Gho-

jadanga, Haridaspur, Hili, Jaigaon, Lalgaolaghat, Mahadipur, Phulbari, Radhikapur, Raniganj, Gede (all West Bengal), Dahu, Dawki (both Meghalaya), Darranga, Karimganj, Mankachar, Sutarkandi (all Assam).

The other landports are Agartala, Dhalaighat, Khowal, Muhurighat, Ragna, Kailashahar, Sabroom, Srimantapur (all Tripura), Gauriphanta, Rupaidiha, Sonauli (all Uttar Pradesh), Joghani, Raxaul (both Bihar), Moreh (Manipur), Sabroom (South Tripura), Kawrupu-ichhuah, Zorinpui, Zokhawthar (all Mizoram). The railports with immigration posts are Munabao (Rajasthan), Attari (Punjab), Gede Rail and Road Check Post, Petrapole/Chitpur, Haridaspur and New Jalpaiguri Railway Station (all West Bengal). - PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

4 SEPTEMBER 2025

Medical Health Care Unit opened at LGB International Airport

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 3: In a step towards enhancing rural healthcare, the Adani Foundation today inaugurated a Medical Health Care Unit (MHCU) at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA), Guwahati.

The initiative, part of the foundation's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, is designed to deliver essential medical services to villages in the airport's vicinity.

The MHCU was formally handed over to Helpage India, a non-profit organization with an established record of impactful healthcare outreach across the country.

The launch ceremony was attended by Jugasmita

Saikia, Block Programme Manager, Azara, National Health Mission (NHM), alongside senior representatives from Guwahati International Airport Ltd and Adani Airport Holding Ltd including Sanjib Kumar Gupta, Head-Operations, Aero, Vipin Nair, Head-HR, and Mantu Kumar, Head, Capex Finance Management and other senior officials of GIAL.

As part of its wider commitment to community development, the Adani Foundation has also installed water dispensers in local schools and health centres, and provided inverters, a wheelchair, and solar lights to surrounding villages.

Since its inception in 1996, the Adani Foundation

has positively impacted more than 9.6 million people across 7,060 villages in 21 States. In the healthcare domain alone, it has delivered over 9,50,000 consultations, operated 22 Mobile Healthcare Units, and supported 13 clinics and wellness centres.

"This initiative is a testament to our mission of inclusive development and community welfare," said a spokesperson for the Adani Foundation. "We remain committed to working in close partnership with communities to ensure access to quality healthcare and sustainable development."

The event concluded with a call for continued collaboration to make the vital healthcare mission a lasting success.



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

पायलटों की थकान रोकने के लिए नए दिशा-निर्देशों का मसौदा जारी

नई दिल्ली। नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने विमान कंपनियों के लिए थकान जोखिम प्रबंधन प्रणाली (एफआरएमएस) के नए दिशा-निर्देशों का मसौदा जारी किया है। यह व्यवस्था मौजूदा उड़ान ऊप्टी समय सीमा (एफडीटीएल) नियमों के साथ मिलकर काम करेगी।

पायलटों व विमानन कर्मचारियों में थकान को लेकर बढ़ती चिंताओं के बीच डीजीसीए पहले ही नए एफडीटीएल नियम लागू कर चुका है, जिन्हें धीरे-धीरे लागू किया जा रहा है। अब जारी मसौदे में कहा गया कि एफआरएमएस पायलटों की थकान पर निगरानी और नियंत्रण के लिए मंजूरी, लागू करने की प्रक्रिया और जांच की व्यवस्था बताएगी। इसका मकसद वैज्ञानिक तरीकों और डाटा



के आधार पर थकान कम करके उड़ान सुरक्षा को और मजबूत करना है। डीजीसीए ने कहा कि थकान जोखिम प्रबंधन प्रणाली में वैज्ञानिक आधार पर उड़ान समय, ऊप्टी अवधि और उनकी सीमाएं तय होंगी। इसमें पायलटों और कर्मचारियों को पर्याप्त आराम देने के नियम और सुरक्षा की निगरानी करने की व्यवस्था भी शामिल होगी। डीजीसीए ने प्रस्ताव दिया है कि यह प्रणाली चरणबद्ध तरीके से लागू की जाएगी और एयरलाइंस को नए नियमों के अनुरूप ढलने के लिए 12 महीने का समय दिया जाएगा। व्यू



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DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस के विमान से पक्षी टकराया, उड़ान रद्द



विजयवाड़ा (आंध्र प्रदेश)।
विजयवाड़ा से बंगलूरु जा रही
एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की एक
उड़ान बृहस्पतिवार को पक्षी से
टकरा गई, जिससे उसकी नोज
खानी सबसे अग्रभाग क्षतिग्रस्त हो
गया और उड़ान रद्द करनी पड़ी।
एयरलाइन के अधिकारियों ने
बताया कि घटना उस वक्त हुई,
जब विमान उड़ान भरने के लिए
रनवे की ओर जा रहा था। एक
घोस विमान की नोज से टकरा
गई, जिसके चलते उड़ान रद्द
करनी पड़ी और 90 यात्रियों के
लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की गई।
एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों को हुई
असुविधा के लिए खेद जताया
और कहा कि यह घटना उसके
नियंत्रण से बाहर थी। एजेसी

पर्यटन क्षेत्र पर बहुत ज्यादा असर नहीं

ट्रैवल और हॉस्पिटैलिटी क्षेत्र पर दिखेगा मिलाजुला असर

अक्षरा श्रीवास्तव, दीपक पटेल और रोहानी शेखर
नई दिल्ली/मुंबई, 4 सितंबर

उद्योग के अधिकारियों ने गुरुवार को कहा कि जीएसटी दर में कटौती का हॉस्पिटैलिटी, यात्रा और पर्यटन क्षेत्र पर मिला-जुला असर होगा। 7,500 रुपये प्रति रात से कम किराये वाले होटल के कमरों के 5 प्रतिशत स्लैब (इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट लाभ के बिना) में आने से यात्रा को बढ़ावा मिलेगा, वहीं प्रीमियम हवाई यात्रा 18 प्रतिशत स्लैब में आने से और महंगी हो जाएगी।

जीएसटी परिषद ने बुधवार को 12 प्रतिशत और 28 प्रतिशत के स्लैब को हटाकर दो स्लैब वाली व्यवस्था को मंजूरी दे दी। 7,500 रुपये प्रति रात से अधिक कीमत वाले होटल के कमरे 18 प्रतिशत के स्लैब में आने रहेंगे। लेकिन इससे कम कीमत वाले कमरों पर कर की दर 12 प्रतिशत से घटाकर 5 प्रतिशत कर दी गई है।

होटल एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया ने एक मीडिया नोट में कहा, 'स्लैब को संख्या कम करने सहित संरचनात्मक सुधार समय की मांग थी और वे बदलाव स्वागत योग्य हैं। 7,500 रुपये और उससे कम किराये वाले होटल अडवांस पर कर की दर 12 प्रतिशत से घटाकर 5 प्रतिशत करने से सिर्फ यात्रियों को ही कुछ राहत मिल सकती है। मेकमायट्रिप के सह-संस्थापक और समूह मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) राजेश मांगो ने कहा, 'जीएसटी दरों में यह बदलाव स्वागत योग्य कदम है जो न केवल डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन खर्च बल्कि सभी क्षेत्रों में खर्च को बढ़ावा देगा जिससे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा। यात्रा और पर्यटन के लिए 7,500 रुपये से कम किराये वाले होटल के कमरों पर जीएसटी में कटौती से भारतीय यात्रियों के एक बड़े हिस्से के लिए ठहरना अधिक सरल हो जाएगा, जिससे घरेलू बाजार में मांग बढ़ेगी।'

भारतीय पर्यटन एवं हॉस्पिटैलिटी क्षेत्र महामारी के बाद से मजबूत घरेलू मांग दर्ज कर रहा है। अब इसमें और अधिक मजबूती आने का अनुमान है, क्योंकि मिडस्कैल सेगमेंट (जिसमें आईएचसीएल के जिंजर, हिल्टन के टैम्पटन और ट्रीबो के मिडालिये जैसे ब्रांड परिचालन करते हैं) पर जीएसटी दर कटौती का सकारात्मक असर दिखेगा। क्विंटेंटल फर्म स्टेविस्टा के सह-संस्थापक अमित दमानो ने कहा, सरकार ने भारतीय उपभोक्ताओं को दीवानी से फुले ही तोहफा दे दिया है, जिससे मांग बढ़ेगी क्योंकि होटल और होमस्टे इसका लाभ यात्रियों को देंगे।



प्रीमियम हवाई यात्रा होगी महंगी

दीपक पटेल

भारत में गैर-इकोनॉमी श्रेणियों में हवाई यात्रा और महंगी होने वाली है। जीएसटी परिषद ने बुधवार रात प्रीमियम इकोनॉमी, बिजनेस और प्रथम श्रेणी के टिकटों पर वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) 12 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर 18 प्रतिशत कर दिया है। हालांकि इसका इकोनॉमी श्रेणी के किराये पर असर नहीं पड़ेगा, क्योंकि उस पर पूर्ववत् 5 प्रतिशत कर बरकरार रखा गया है।

इंटरनेशनल एयर ट्रांसपोर्ट एसोसिएशन (आईएटीए) में एशिया पैसिफिक क्षेत्र के वाइस प्रेसीडेंट शेल्डन ही ने इस फैसले पर निराशा जताई है।

उन्होंने कहा, 'जोरदार वृद्धि, एयरलाइन्स फे के रिक्वर्ड ऑर्डर और वैश्विक स्तर के खुनिवादी हांचे जैसी कई वजहों से भारत का नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र अद्भुत रहा है। उड्डयन क्षेत्र में अपार संभावनाएं हैं, जो भारत को आर्थिक वृद्धि में प्रत्यक्ष और परोक्ष रूप से अहम भूमिका निभा सकता है। प्रत्यक्ष रूप से इस क्षेत्र में जहां रोजगार सृजन होगा, यात्रियों और कारोबार के लिए कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ने से अर्थव्यवस्था को परोक्ष रूप से लाभ होगा। ऐसे में नॉन-इकोनॉमी क्लास पर जीएसटी बढ़ाए जाने का फैसला निराशाजनक है और इसका कोई औचित्य नहीं है।'



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

4 SEPTEMBER 2025

जयपुर, पटना समेत 37 एयरपोर्ट अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों के लिए तय

नई दिल्ली | केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय ने जयपुर, पटना समेत देश के 37 एयरपोर्ट, 34 समुद्री और नदी बंदरगाहों और 37 अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा चौकियों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों के आगमन और प्रस्थान के लिए अधिकृत इमिग्रेशन पोस्ट घोषित किया है। इसके अलावा भारत-पाकिस्तान और भारत-बांग्लादेश सीमा पर स्थित 6 रेलवे स्टेशनों को भी इमिग्रेशन पोस्ट के रूप में नामित किया गया है। यह घोषणा गृह मंत्रालय ने 1 सितंबर को जारी 'इमिग्रेशन एंड फॉरिनर्स ऑर्डर, 2025' की अधिसूचना के बाद की है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

4 SEPTEMBER 2025

Royal Dutch starts direct flight to Hyd

Hyderabad, Sept. 3: KLM Royal Dutch Airlines started its new direct service between Hyderabad and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, marking its fourth gateway in India. The inaugural flight, KL 874 departed from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on Wednesday. KLM chief operating officer Maarten Stienen said, "Hyderabad is a fast-growing city with a strong economy, driven by the pharmaceutical industry and global IT companies. We are pleased to add the direct connection between Hyderabad and Amsterdam to our network." GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd CEO Pradeep Panicker said, "The launch of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines' direct service from Hyderabad marks a transformative step in our mission to elevate international connectivity. This route to Amsterdam opens possibilities for travellers from South India, offering faster access to key global places."



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

विजयवाड़ा हवाई अड्डे पर पक्षी के टकराने से उड़ान रद्द

विजयवाड़ा: बंगलुरु जाने वाली एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की एक उड़ान गुरुवार को विजयवाड़ा हवाई अड्डे पर एक पक्षी के टकराने के बाद रद्द कर दी गई। एयरलाइन ने बताया कि उड़ान भरने से पहले रनवे पर टैक्सींग के दौरान एक चील विमान के अगले हिस्से से टकरा गई। इसके बाद एयरलाइन को उड़ान रद्द करनी पड़ी और उसमें सवार 90 यात्रियों के लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था करनी पड़ी। किसी भी यात्री या कू को कोई नुकसान नहीं हुआ, लेकिन यात्रियों को असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ा। एयरलाइन ने यात्रियों से हुई देरी के लिए खेद जताया और कहा कि सुरक्षा से किसी तरह का समझौता नहीं किया जाएगा। है। (प्रेट्र)



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

■ DGCA Issues Draft Rules for Fatigue Risk Mgmt



MUMBAI Aviation safety regulator DGCA has come out with draft guidelines for a fatigue risk management system (FRMS) for airlines,

designed to complement existing flight duty time limitation (FDTL) norms. Amid growing concerns over crew fatigue, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has already introduced revised FDTL rules for pilots, which are being implemented in phases. The draft advisory on 'FRMS Implementation for Flight Crew Members in Scheduled Air Transport Operations' offers detailed guidance on FRMS approval, implementation, and oversight. The regulator aims to enhance flight safety by promoting scientific, data-driven fatigue management alongside current prescriptive FDTL regulations. FRMS should have maximum flight time, flight duty period, and duty period limits based on scientific principles, minimum rest requirements that ensure adequate recovery opportunities and performance monitoring systems to track safety outcomes, among other elements, DGCA said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

■ SpiceJet Signs Interline Agreement with Gulf Air



NEW DELHI SpiceJet on Thursday said it has inked an interline agreement with Bahrain's Gulf Air.

"This partnership will provide SpiceJet passengers seamless access to Gulf Air's expansive network across the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Central Asia via Bahrain, while Gulf Air customers will gain enhanced connectivity to India through SpiceJet's extensive domestic network," SpiceJet said in a release. Ticket sales under the agreement are expected to commence by early 2026. Under an interline agreement, passengers can book connecting flights across different airlines under a single itinerary. Currently, Gulf Air operates flights to eight Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

4 SEPTEMBER 2025

Huge cocaine haul at Chennai airport

HD Bureau

CHENNAI

Chennai Customs and the Narcotics Control Bureau intercepted 5.618 kg of high-grade cocaine concealed in Ferrero Rocher-style packaging, valued between ₹56 crore and ₹60 crore, leading to multiple high-profile arrests.

Customs officers identified the illicit cargo during baggage screening of two young men arriving from Addis Ababa on an Ethiopian Airlines flight. The detained individuals, Himanshu Shah of Bageshwar district, Uttarakhand, and Sahil Attri of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh, had the contraband cleverly hidden within chocolate cans.



Customs officers identified the illicit cargo during baggage screening of two young men arriving from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A follow-up led to the arrest of a handler in Mumbai, while a controlled delivery operation resulted in the arrest of a Nigerian national

in Delhi, allegedly orchestrating distribution networks from the capital.

Sources indicate this bust is linked to an organised tr-

ansnational syndicate with Indian operatives based in African nations, exploiting overstayed visas and medical entries to establish drug supply lines. The Nigerian suspect reportedly entered India in 2023 for treatment at Gleneagles HealthCity, Chennai, and remained in the country unlawfully after his visa expired in 2024.

Investigators noted the sophistication of this operation: mules—aware of their illicit cargo—made repeated trafficking trips between Africa and various Indian airports, signifying a well-oiled network. The transporter in Mumbai managed logistical coordination, while the Nigerian managed distribution.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

GST hike to make premium air travel costlier

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: The Goods and Services Tax Council has raised the levy on non-economy air travel from 12% to 18%, a move experts believe will drive up fares for passengers travelling in premium economy (PE), business and first class.

While the rate for economy travel stays unchanged to keep airfares affordable for mass travellers, the steeper GST on upper classes has triggered concern among airlines and online travel agents. Prior to the Council announcing the new tax regime on Wednesday, two major airlines requested for GST on all classes to be brought to 5%, three government officials confirmed to HT.

Former president of Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) Ajay Prakash said the new GST rate has come at a time when the

Costlier air fares

GST on non-economy air travel raised from
12% to 18%

Experts believe GST hike will drive up airfares on all premium classes

"This increase runs counter to the efforts of Indian carriers, which have been investing in their premium products to enhance the travel experience on their flights"

— **SHELDON HEE**, Regional Vice President, Asia Pacific, International Air Transport Association (IATA)



Indian aviation market is going through a "very sensitive phase".

"Increasing the GST for upper class fliers directly means airfares for all the three classes will shoot up," he said. "While the government claims to promote Indian aviation by bringing in big aircraft, etc., levying higher GST is

only going to discourage individual fliers to book on non-economy classes."

Jitin Makkar, senior vice president and group head of corporate sector ratings in ICRA Limited, noted the additional levy will be passed on to the consumers.

An airline insider requesting

anonymity said that the increase is no revolution but it is enough to make airlines rethink budgets and booking strategies. "Let alone the Air India crash (June 12 disaster that claimed 260 lives) that shook passenger confidence, Indian airlines are facing major troubles due to the ongoing Pakistan airspace closure leading to more flying time and increased airfares. At such a time, it was needed that the sector be allowed to remain untouched," the official said.

A former airline official echoed similar views, saying, "India has only two major airlines now — while one is trying to regain passenger trust while facing a loss of ₹5,000 crore due to Pakistan closing its airspace, the other (IndiGo) has just entered into the segment and launched its business product."

Sheldon Hee, regional vice president, Asia Pacific, Interna-

tional Air Transport Association (IATA) termed the move "disappointing". IATA is a global trade association of airlines, representing around 300 airlines or about 80% of worldwide air traffic and acts as a global voice of the airlines.

"This increase runs counter to the efforts of Indian carriers, which have been investing in their premium products to enhance the travel experience on their flights. Tax on non-economy air travel has risen dramatically — GST is at 18% after yesterday's announcement, compared to the 8.6% rate in 2017 under the service tax regime."

Makkar, however, said that the increase should not have a significant impact on the business class segment considering this segment's low price elasticity, though there could be some amount of downtrading to the economy segment.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

4 SEPTEMBER 2025

India can be exporter of sustainable aviation fuel: Minister

Press Trust of India

feedback@live.mint.com

NEW DELHI: India has the capacity to be an exporter of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), a practical solution for decarbonisation, as the country has more than 750 million tonne of available biomass and nearly 230 million tonne of surplus agricultural residue, according to Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu.

Biomass, agricultural residue and used cooking oil are among the key feedstocks that can be tapped for production of SAF, which can be used as a

drop-in fuel for aircraft.

The civil aviation ministry in partnership with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and with support from the European Union have prepared an SAF feasibility study for India.

The study assesses the potential for producing and utilising drop-in SAF in India. It evaluates domestic feedstock availability, viable production pathways, infrastructure and policy readiness and the enabling conditions needed to establish a robust domestic SAF market, the ministry said in a release on Wednesday.

**INDIA IS THE
WORLD'S THIRD
LARGEST AVIATION
MARKET AND THE
PASSENGER
TRAFFIC IS LIKELY
TO DOUBLE TO
500 MN BY 2030**

Drawing upon international best practices and tailoring them to India's socio-economic and environmental context, the report provides a roadmap for sustainable fuel adoption, it added. The study was under-

taken under the ICAO's Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels programme (ACT-SAF) initiative.

India is the world's third largest aviation market and the passenger traffic is expected to double to 500 million by 2030.

In the release, Naidu said SAF is a practical and immediate solution to decarbonise the aviation sector, with the potential to cut lifecycle CO₂ emissions by up to 80% compared to conventional fuel.

"With over 750 million metric tonne of available biomass and nearly 230 million metric tonne of surplus agricultural

residue, India has the capacity not only to meet its own SAF demand but also to emerge as a global leader and exporter," he said.

The minister also said that SAF production will not only reduce crude imports and cut emissions by 20-25 million tonnes annually but also boost farmers' incomes by creating a strong value chain for agricultural residue and biomass.

Recently, Indian Oil Corporation became the first Indian company to get the ISCC CORSIA certification for production of SAF at its refinery in Panipat, Haryana.

CMRL gets T.N. govt.'s nod for Airport to Kilambakkam project

The State govt. has allocated ₹1,964 crore for the project, of which ₹1,816 cr. will be used for acquiring land. The total project cost is ₹9,335 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The State government has permitted the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) to start acquiring land for the 15.46 km Airport-Kilambakkam project.

In an order dated September 3, the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department said that the CMRL could commence land acquisition, utility shifting, and other preparatory work for this project.

The move comes at a time when the government is awaiting approval for this project from the Centre. While the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has already been sent to the Centre, the Comprehensive Mobility Plan will likely be sent soon.

The idea behind beginning such preparatory work and land acquisition is, as soon as the project approval comes from the Centre, the construction can start. Commuters have been eagerly waiting for the ₹9,335 crore Airport-Kilambakkam project as it



Putting it on track: The move comes at a time when the government is awaiting approval for the project from the Centre.

links many areas, including Pallavaram, Chromepet, Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar, Tambaram, Irumbuliyur, Perungalathur, Vandalur, Anna Zoological Park, and Kilambakkam.

Earlier, the CMRL had requested the State government to provide administrative sanction to start the preparatory work for this corridor.

The government has now allocated ₹1,964 crore towards land acquisition, shifting of utilities, and other related work. "The cost of ₹1,964 crore will be sanctioned as subordinate debt," the order said.

Of the ₹1,964 crore, a substantial portion of ₹1,816 crore will be used towards land acquisition. A total of ₹12.50 crore will be utilised for carrying out utility shifting, roadwork, geotechnical investigation, tree cutting and replanting, barricading, topographic surveys, and traffic management.

'Easy to complete'

CMRL sources further said that since the Airport-Kilambakkam corridor is an elevated one running along the GST Road, it would be fairly easy to build without much delay.

Flyers without mobility issues can pay for wheelchair: DGCA

Proposal aims to curb misuse of wheelchairs, and is part of draft norms released by the authority; the Bombay HC had ordered a committee to examine the issue of wheelchair shortage at airports

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has proposed that airlines offer paid assistance to passengers without mobility issues or disabilities to curb the alleged misuse of wheelchairs. It suggests documentation to verify any physical or mental challenges for free assistance to those with disabilities or restricted mobility.

Airports too will have to ensure that car drop-off points at airport entrances are earmarked for air travellers with special needs, and that these remain unobstructed and available for use, the DGCA suggests. Airports may be required to provide staff at these points to provide assistance and coordinate with airlines.

These proposals are part of revised draft rules for ferrying air travellers with disabilities and reduced mobility floated by the aviation safety regulator for stakeholder comments till September 19. The revised norms have been made public ahead of a Bombay High Court hearing on September 25



Easy travel: Airports will have to ensure that car drop-off points at entrances are earmarked for travellers with special needs. ISTOCK

after the court appointed a committee in April, headed by Justice Goda Raghuram, former judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, to study the matter of wheelchair availability and challenges faced by senior citizens and those with special needs, emphasising that access to adequate facilities was "a fundamental human right" for such persons.

New proposal
Clause 4.1.37 in the draft Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) says, "Airline may levy appropriate as-

sistance fee from passengers other than persons with disability (*Divyangjan*) and persons with reduced mobility who opt to use these services." International airlines such as Singapore Airlines offer "meet and assist services" which include support during boarding, disembarkation, or flight transfers for elderly and non-English speaking passengers or those with sensory impairment or cognitive disabilities as well as help with navigation at large and unfamiliar airports when travellers may not

necessarily require wheelchairs.

The move aims to curb misuse of wheelchairs so that the limited inventory with airlines and airports can be made available to those with a genuine need, which is reported by airlines largely on international flights though there are plenty of instances of wheelchair denial on domestic flights as well.

"There needs to be an effort to address infrastructure challenges that include lack of kerbside assistance and ambulifts resulting in wheelchair-borne passengers being carried down a step ladder in a manner that is not only humiliating and uncomfortable but also unsafe. Moreover, not all senior citizens may require or desire a wheelchair, for whom golf carts or buggies must be provided," says Vaishnavi Jayakumar, member, Disability Rights Alliance.

"Just like the highly discriminatory fit-to-fly addition in the last CAR revision, it is ominous that the latest provision appears in a disability-focussed document rather than an overarching passenger facilitation protocol," she said.

Premium air travel to become costlier; industry anguished

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The airline industry has termed the Centre's decision to raise goods and services tax on premium air travel, including premium economy and business class flight tickets, from 12% to 18% "disappointing".

The revised taxes will come into effect from September 22 and apply both for domestic and international flights offered by Indian and foreign carriers.

"Aviation has tremendous potential to contribute to India's economic growth, both directly as Indian airlines grow, and indirectly through increased connectivity for travellers and businesses alike. It is therefore disappointing to hear of a decision to increase the GST on non-economy travel with no clear justification," said International Air Transport Association's regional vice-president, Asia Pacific, Sheldon Hee.

Over the years, this component of tax had more than doubled, growing from the 8.6% rate in

2017 under the service tax regime to 18%, he added.

'Must consider risks'

"This increase runs counter to the efforts of Indian carriers, which have been investing in their premium products to enhance the travel experience on their flights," Mr. Hee said, adding that India must consider the risks of such policies on dampening demand and undermining profitability.



While first-, business- and premium economy-class travel is offered by foreign carriers, among Indian airlines, Air India offers business and premium economy travel on domestic and international flights. IndiGo too has introduced business-class seats on flights to Mumbai and Bengaluru from New Delhi as well as to Singapore, Bangkok and Dubai, which will grow to 12 total routes by the end of 2025.

Auto, pharma sectors cheer GST slabs; airlines say wings clipped

Auto-makers expect tax cut will boost demand; airlines slam higher GST on non-economy seats; small entrepreneurs worried about higher labour costs; textile industry disappointed over the 18% duty for garments priced above ₹2,500

Auto, pharma sectors cheer GST slabs

As per the new rates, entry-level and mid-segment cars priced up to ₹14 lakh will see a tax reduction of up to 12 percentage points, while high-end cars with engines above 1200 cc too are set to see an 8 to 10 percentage point cut in their tax rate.

Auto dealers, however, have voiced some worries about consumers postponing their purchases until September 22, when the new rates come into force, and have called for greater clarity on what happens to the cess on vehicles they have already bought from manufacturers but not yet sold to customers.

The healthcare industry's reaction has been more unequivocally positive, saying that the decision to reduce GST from 12% to 5% on a wide range of medical products.

Consumer appliance makers were also upbeat about the GST rate cuts, saying they would boost demand, especially in the run-up to the festive season.

(With inputs from Sharad Raghavan, Jagriti Chandra, M. Soudarjya Prantha, Lalitendu Mishra, Saptarshi Ghosh, and Binu Shajin Perappadan)

Likes & dislikes

The new GST rates were largely welcomed by most sectors, but there were also some discontents



POSITIVE	MIXED	UPSET
Auto manufacturers: Lower tax will boost demand	Insurance sector: Good for consumers, but could eat into profits of insurers	Airlines: 18% rate on non-economy tickets makes premium travel more expensive, potentially making some routes unviable
Pharma: Will make medicines more affordable	Apparel makers: Higher GST on expensive clothes a negative	Vegetable oil makers: Inverted duty structure should be removed for vegetable oils
Consumer appliance firms: Will lower prices ahead of the festive season	Automobile dealers: Though lower taxes are welcome, there are concerns about potential delays in purchases	Micro and cottage entrepreneurs: Increase in rate on labour charges will increase costs for MSMEs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

While the goods and services tax (GST) rate changes authorised by the GST Council on Wednesday night brought cheer to the auto, insurance, consumer appliances, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy sectors, among others, some of that was tinged with reproach. A few sectors are outright upset with the tax changes.

The stock market, too, reflected this mixed response on Thursday, initially reacting positively but ending the day nearly flat, with the Sensex up just 0.2% from the previous day.

The airlines slammed the higher GST on non-economy seats. Vegetable

oil producers called for the resolution of the inverted duty structure on edible oils, which means that the GST rate on raw materials in their industry is higher than the rate on the finished product. This mismatch was something that the Council corrected for the fertilizer and man-made textiles industries.

The increase in the GST rate for labour charges, from 12% to 18%, has also led to some resistance, with small entrepreneurs saying that they would be hit hard by the change.

Mixed response

While the textile industry has welcomed the revision of GST rates for both man-made fibre and cotton sectors, it has also expressed its disappointment over the 18% duty for garments

priced above ₹2,500 each.

The Cloth Manufacturers Association of India pointed out that such garments are also consumed in large numbers by the common man, especially in the form of woollens, wedding wear, traditional clothing, handlooms, and embroidered clothes. Charging 18% GST on these will make them significantly more costly, it said.

This nuanced cheer can be seen in the auto sector as well.

Auto manufacturers have welcomed the rate rationalisation for the sector, along with the removal of the GST Compensation Cess applicable on cars.

CONTINUED ON

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RELATED REPORTS ON

► PAGES 13 & 14



Poor, neo middle-class, middle-class women, students, farmers, youth... everyone will benefit

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

500 flights disrupted at IGIA and Hindon, airlines issue travel advisory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @NewDelhi

AS the city continued to brace for torrential rain on Thursday, Delhi airports and airlines issued travel advisories for the flyers, cautioning disruptions in flight operations. In the last three days, nearly 500 flights from Delhi and Hindon airports have either been delayed, cancelled or diverted to other cities due to poor visibility and inclement weather conditions, airport officials said.

"As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, Delhi is experiencing inclement weather conditions. There might be an impact on flight operations. Our on-ground teams are working diligently with all stakeholders to ensure your journey remains hassle-free. For the latest flight information, passengers are advised to contact their respective airlines," the Delhi airport said in an advisory.

The IMD on Thursday issued a heavy rain alert over Delhi-NCR for a few hours, raising concerns about further disruption to air traffic.

Airlines including IndiGo, SpiceJet and Air India among others urged passengers to check their flight status before



Heavy downpour continues to batter city

The capital recorded widespread showers for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, triggering widespread waterlogging and traffic snarls. The IMD said that these conditions are likely to remain as the city is set to experience an active monsoon phase over the next four days.

leaving for the airport.

SpiceJet, in an advisory on X, said, "Due to bad weather in Delhi, all departures/arrivals and their consequential flights may be affected. Passengers are requested to keep a check on their flight status." The airline also advised travellers to factor in extra time to reach the airport in view of waterlogging and traffic snarls across the city. IndiGo, the country's largest carrier, also cautioned of possible delays. "With heavy rainfall and thunderstorms in Delhi, we're seeing a chance of delays and slower traffic to and from the airport. While we

can't control the skies, we're doing everything possible to keep your journey steady on the ground," the airline said in a statement.

"Please check your flight status and consider giving yourself a little cushion of time to reach the airport," the statement added.

Despite the bad weather, airport officials maintained that ground staff were coordinating closely with airlines to minimise inconvenience to passengers, though they admitted that operations were likely to remain affected as long as the heavy downpour persisted.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

**CIVIL AVIATION
 KEY SECTOR
 FOR NDA
 GOVERNMENT:
 RAMMOHAN
 NAIDU**

**Public News Service
 @New Delhi**

Union Minister for Jaipur 2025/07/25 14:22:34
 The Union Minister for Civil Aviation has been a key player for the NDA Government, with the ministerial portfolio, form of aircraft and passenger security, in the last 3 years. Speaking to reporters after inaugurating a new terminal at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, he said that the NDA Government has been a key player in the development of the civil aviation sector in India.

"The new terminal building at Indira Gandhi International Airport will be a landmark project for the NDA Government, with a capacity to handle up to 60 million passengers annually," he said. "This is a testament to the NDA Government's commitment to the development of the civil aviation sector in India."

The Union Minister for Civil Aviation has been a key player in the development of the civil aviation sector in India. He has been instrumental in the development of the civil aviation sector in India, with the NDA Government's commitment to the development of the civil aviation sector in India.

"The NDA Government has been a key player in the development of the civil aviation sector in India, with the NDA Government's commitment to the development of the civil aviation sector in India. This is a testament to the NDA Government's commitment to the development of the civil aviation sector in India."

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Corporate Communications Directorate

RASHTRIYA SAHARA

DELHI

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

एअर इंडिया के विमान से पक्षी टकराया, उड़ान रद्द
विजयवाड़ा। विमान से पक्षी टकराने के कारण विजयवाड़ा से बेंगलुरु जाने वाली एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की एक उड़ान रद्द कर दी गई। विमानन कंपनी के एक अधिकारी ने बताया, उड़ान भरने के लिए रनवे की ओर जाते समय विमान के अगले हिस्से से एक चील टकरा गई, जिसके बाद उड़ान रद्द करनी पड़ी और 90 यात्रियों के लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की गई। अधिकारी ने कहा, पक्षी टकराने की घटना उड़ान भरने से पहले हुई। यह तब हुई जब विमान रनवे की ओर जा रहा था...।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

GURUGRAM

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

B'luru-bound AI flight called off after bird hit

VILAYAWADA: A Bengaluru-bound Air India Express flight was cancelled on Thursday after an eagle hit the aircraft's nose while taxiing on the runway for takeoff, an airline official said, adding alternate arrangements were made for 90 passengers on board. — PTI