



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

Delhi airport registers highest passenger traffic in June

FOOTFALL DROP. Hyderabad and Chennai have steepest declines of 12.9% and 12.7%

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

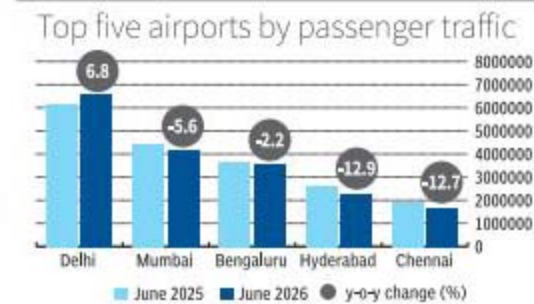
Delhi was the only airport among India's five busiest aviation hubs to register growth in passenger traffic in June, while Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai all recorded y-o-y decline, according to data released by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Hyderabad and Chennai recorded the steepest declines of 12.9 per cent and 12.7 per cent respectively.

Delhi airport handled 65.79 lakh passengers during the month, a 6.8 per cent increase over 61.63 lakh in June 2025, further widening its lead as the country's busiest airport.

Mumbai retained its position as the second-busiest airport followed by Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai, the data showed.

Indian airports handled 3.34 crore passengers in June, down by 2 per cent



from the corresponding month last year, indicating that the slowdown was reflected across the country's aviation sector, though with significant variations among individual airports.

OVERSEAS TRAFFIC

Among the country's five busiest airports, Delhi remained the dominant international gateway in June 2026, followed by Mumbai, the second-largest international hub which recorded a decline in overseas traffic,

while Bengaluru posted a comparatively modest fall.

Hyderabad and Chennai witnessed the steepest contractions in international passenger traffic, mirroring the weakness seen in their overall passenger volumes during the month.

Domestic passenger traffic presented a relatively mixed picture. Delhi again led the country with healthy growth, reinforcing its position as India's busiest airport.

Mumbai and Bengaluru

remained the second and third busiest domestic airports, although both registered declines compared with June 2025.

Hyderabad and Chennai also reported lower domestic passenger volumes, contributing to their overall double-digit decline in total traffic, says the data.

J Krishnan, an expert in aviation, said the uncertainties prevailing in West Asia have severely impacted passenger travel both as work-force and tourist.

Non-stop services to destinations like Amsterdam, Paris, San Francisco and Tokyo goes well with Bengaluru when compared with Chennai and Hyderabad. For Central Asian destinations, Delhi and Mumbai are preferred airports, he said.

Vinod Kumar, Manager Sales - South India, STIC Travel Group, said, international travel from India is showing clear signs of recovery.

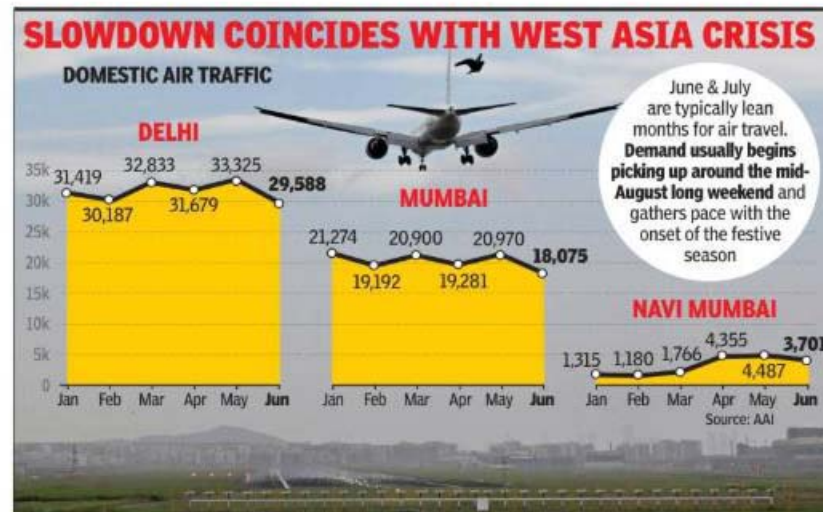
Navi Mum air traffic slips as capacity trimmed amid costs

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Domestic air traffic at Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has begun to lose momentum after an initial ramp-up, with aircraft movements falling to around 100 flights a day in July, sources said. The airport began handling commercial airline flights on Dec 25 last year and registered steady growth in air traffic till May, before witnessing a decline in June and July.

In June, airlines operated 3,701 arrival and departure flights at NMIA, a 17% decline from the 4,487 flights operated in May, according to data released recently by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). In terms of daily movements, that translates into a drop from an average of 145 flights a day in May to 123 in June. Sources now say flight volumes have fallen further to around 100 a day in July. NMIA did not respond to a query sent by TOI. Four months after its debut, Navi Mumbai airport had entered India's top 10 airports in terms of domestic air traffic, ranking ninth in April.

The current slowdown coincides with a sharp increase in airline costs. The conflict in West Asia pushed Brent crude briefly above \$126 a barrel on April 30, while the Indian ru-



pee weakened to a record 96.96 against the US dollar on May 20, raising the cost of imported aviation turbine fuel, aircraft leases, maintenance and other dollar-denominated expenses. "Airlines typically respond to such cost pressures by trimming marginal or recently launched capacity rather than cutting flights at established hubs. NMIA, which is still building its network, has therefore borne a disproportionate share of the reductions," an industry executive said. June and July are also typically lean

months for air travel. Demand usually begins picking up around the mid-August long weekend and gathers pace with the onset of the festive season.

The trend is visible when compared with the country's two largest metro airports. AAI data shows Mumbai's domestic aircraft movements fell from 20,970 in May to 18,075 in June, while Delhi recorded a smaller decline, from 33,325 to 29,588 over the same period. Delhi's international operations, meanwhile, continued to grow year-on-year, with air-

craft movements up 2.5% in April, 6.6% in May and 6.9% in June, indicating that the capital's overseas traffic has remained relatively resilient despite global geopolitical tensions. Mumbai's international traffic, on the other hand, reflected the impact of disruptions to West Asia operations. Year-on-year international aircraft movements were down 17% in March, 14% in April, 7.4% in May and 1.4% in June, suggesting the pace of decline eased as operations gradually stabilised.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate Bhogapuram international airport today

Our Bureau
Hyderabad

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, near Visakhapatnam, and lay the foundation stone for a semiconductor project and dedicate to the nation a host of power infrastructure and highway projects today.

The airport, is developed under the Public-Private Partnership mode by the GMR Group at a cost of over ₹5,640 crore, the greenfield airport has been designed to handle 6 million passengers annually.

SEMICON PROJECT

PM will also lay the foundation stone for the ASIP Semiconductor Project at Vi-



sakhapatnam, being developed with an investment of over ₹460 crore.

The facility is being developed by ASIP Technologies Pvt Ltd in partnership with APACT, Republic of Korea.

It is Andhra Pradesh's first semiconductor manufacturing facility approved under the India Semiconductor Mission.

The facility will manufacture around 96 million semi-

conductor chips annually and create high-skilled employment opportunities, while fostering a robust ancillary ecosystem.

He will lay the foundation stone for the Transmission System for Integration of Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone - Phase-I (4.5 GW), being implemented by Powergrid through a Special Purpose Vehicle, with an investment of about ₹5,550 crore.

Further, he will inaugurate the Transmission System for Kurnool Wind Energy Zone/ Solar Energy Zone (Andhra Pradesh) - Part A & Part B, implemented at a cost of around ₹3,550 crore and the Transmission Scheme for Solar Energy Zone in Ananthapuram (2,500 MW) and Kurnool (1,000 MW), implemented by Powergrid at a cost of over ₹820 crore.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

सेटर्सडे विलक

आंध्र प्रदेश: डेडलाइन से 5 महीने पहले तैयार हुआ
भोगापुरम एयरपोर्ट; पीएम मोदी आज करेंगे उद्घाटन



भोगापुरम (आंध्र प्रदेश) | विशाखापट्टनम से 45 किमी दूर स्थित भोगापुरम में अल्लुरी सीताराम राजू इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट का प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार को उद्घाटन करेंगे। डेडलाइन से 5 महीने पहले (31 महीने में) तैयार हुआ ये प्रोजेक्ट देश में सबसे तेजी से बने एयरपोर्ट्स में से एक है।

- कॉमर्सियल उड़ानें 17 अगस्त से शुरू होंगी। सालाना 60 लाख यात्री सफर कर सकेंगे। भविष्य में क्षमता 1.8 करोड़ यात्रियों तक बढ़ा सकेंगे।
- एयरपोर्ट का 3,800 मीटर लंबा कोड-ई रनवे बोर्डिंग 777 जैसे बड़े विमान संभालने में सक्षम है। 25 हजार टन वार्षिक क्षमता का मालवाहक हब भी है।
- एयरपोर्ट की कुल लागत करीब 4,592 करोड़ रुपए है। इसका क्षेत्रफल करीब 2,203 एकड़ है। इसका निर्माण ग्रीन बिल्डिंग कॉन्सेप्ट पर हुआ है।





Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

31 JULY 2026

RGIA EARNs HIGHEST ACI WORLD RECOGNITION

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 30

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad said it had achieved Level 5 accreditation in the ACI world airport customer experience programme. According to a statement, the programme is the highest level of recognition awarded under the globally acclaimed framework.

The accreditation placed the RGIA among a group of airports worldwide that have embedded customer experience as the cornerstone of their corporate strategy, operational excellence, and stakeholder collaboration, the statement said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

31 JULY 2026

SHORT TAKES

CM'S FLIGHT DELAYED BY RAIN AT RGIA

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 30

The Indigo aircraft in which Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was travelling to the city from Delhi was delayed by about 20 minutes on Wednesday night due to the heavy rain.

The Indigo management in a statement said Flight 6E 717 did not get landing clearance at the RGIA due to bad weather. It said it was standard protocol to ensure that the plane and the passengers landed safely.

The departure of the flight from Delhi at 5.55 pm was delayed to 6.16 pm. It was expected to arrive at 8.15 pm but finally landed at 8.54 pm.

Airport said that all other aircraft operations were normal.

Senior pilot Anil Kumar explained that the air traffic control at every airport would be the final authority to give clearance for an aircraft to land or take-off. On reports that the aircraft landed on its second attempt, Kumar said it would be the pilots' call, depending on several factors such as unstable approach, wind shear or obstacle on the runway.

He added that the Category II facilities at the RGIA made it possible to land the aircraft even when visibility was poor. Water standing on the runway would not affect aircraft operations at the RGIA unless the waterlogging was beyond limits of the aeroplane, "which is very rare."



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

30 JULY 2026

एयरपोर्ट पर विमान हाइजैक, यात्रियों में मचा हडकंप!

मॉक ड्रिल में परखी आपातकालीन तैयारियों की क्षमता

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों में उस समय हडकंप मच गया, जब एक विमान को आतंकीयों ने हाइजैक कर लिया। बाद में मॉक ड्रिल की सूचना देने पर यात्रियों ने राहत की सांस ली। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर बुधवार को सीआईएसएफ की ओर से एंटी-हाइजैक मॉक ड्रिल हुई। इस अभ्यास का उद्देश्य एयरपोर्ट की आपातकालीन तैयारियों, सुरक्षा व्यवस्था और विभिन्न एजेंसियों की प्रतिक्रिया क्षमता का व्यापक आकलन



करना था। मॉक ड्रिल के दौरान विमान अपहरण की काल्पनिक स्थिति तैयार की गई, जिसके आधार पर सीआईएसएफ, एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन और अन्य संबंधित एजेंसियों ने निर्धारित सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल के तहत त्वरित कार्रवाई का अभ्यास किया। इस दौरान विभिन्न विभागों के बीच समन्वय, संचार व्यवस्था, संकट प्रबंधन प्रणाली और निर्णय लेने की क्षमता का परीक्षण किया गया। इसके जरिए सुरक्षा बलों और संबंधित विभागों की तैयारियों की और मजबूत करने पर जोर दिया गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

31 JULY 2026

कोलकाता एयरपोर्ट पर स्पाइसजेट के यात्री परेशान

नवज्योति, जयपुर। कोलकाता से दिल्ली जाने वाली स्पाइसजेट की एक फ्लाइट निर्धारित समय रात 8.55 बजे रवाना नहीं हो सकी, जिससे एयरपोर्ट पर यात्रियों को भारी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। फ्लाइट में सवार कई यात्रियों को दो घंटे से अधिक समय तक इंतजार करना पड़ा। यात्रियों के अनुसार एयरपोर्ट पर छेड़ते बच्चों, चरिष्ठ नागरिकों और परिवारों को सबसे अधिक दिक्कत झेलनी पड़ रही है। उनका आरोप है कि एयरलाइन न तो वैकल्पिक फ्लाइट उपलब्ध करा रही है और न ही टिकट का रिफंड देने को तैयार है। एयरलाइन कर्मचारियों ने देरी की वजह ईंधन संबंधी तकनीकी समस्या बताई है। इस फ्लाइट से दिल्ली पहुंचकर कनेक्टिंग उड़ान के जरिए जयपुर आने वाले यात्रियों पर भी इसका असर पड़ा है। परेशान यात्रियों ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय से मामले में हस्तक्षेप कर शीघ्र समाधान कराने और यात्रियों को उचित सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने की मांग की है।

क्या सरकार एयरपोर्ट-एयरलाइन स्वामित्व के नियमों में ढील देगी?

अदाणी समूह के एक अनुरोध के बाद, नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय इस बात की जांच कर रहा है कि क्या एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटिंग और एयरलाइंस के बीच क्रॉस-ओनरशिप (समान स्वामित्व) के प्रतिबंधों में ढील दी जाए। किसी भी प्रस्ताव को केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल में ले जाने से पहले अधिकारी नीति आयोग और अन्य सरकारी मंत्रालयों के साथ परामर्श के लिए एक 'कॉन्सेप्ट नोट' तैयार कर रहे हैं।

सरकार क्या प्रस्ताव दे रही है? : जिन प्रतिबंधों की समीक्षा की जा रही है, वे कानून की बजाय एयरपोर्ट रियायत समझौतों में शामिल हैं। दिल्ली और मुंबई हवाई अड्डों के लिए रियायत समझौते एयरपोर्ट

ऑपरेटर में कुल एयरलाइन स्वामित्व की सीमा 10 प्रतिशत तय करते हैं, जबकि नोएडा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा (जेवर) और नवी मुंबई हवाई अड्डों के समझौते किसी एयरलाइन में 26 प्रतिशत तक स्वामित्व की अनुमति देते हैं। इन प्रावधानों को उल्टे क्रम में भी लागू किया जा सकता है, जो प्रभावी रूप से

जागृति चंद्रा

एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटिंग को एयरलाइंस में महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सेदारी हासिल करने से रोकते हैं।

हालांकि अदाणी समूह ने मीडिया रिपोर्टों का खंडन किया और कहा कि एयरलाइन व्यवसाय में प्रवेश करने में उसकी कोई रुचि नहीं है, लेकिन एक अलग रिपोर्ट में अदाणी एयरपोर्ट्स के सीईओ अरुण बंसल के एक पत्र का हवाला दिया गया, जिसमें कहा गया था कि अदाणी डिफेंस एंड एयरोस्पेस टियर-2 और टियर-3 शहरों में कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाने में सार्थक भूमिका निभाने के लिए एयरलाइन व्यवसाय में भाग लेने का मूल्यांकन कर रहा है। सरकारी अधिकारियों ने इस तर्क को पकड़ लिया है और कहा है कि क्रॉस-ओनरशिप नियमों में संशोधन से नई एयरलाइनों के प्रवेश का मार्ग प्रशस्त होगा और घरेलू बाजार में इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया समूह के वर्चस्व तोड़ने में मदद मिलेगी।

चिंताओं का समाधान कैसे किया जाएगा? : वर्तमान रियायत समझौते यह सुनिश्चित करके कि

हवाई अड्डे तटस्थ बुनियादी ढांचा प्रदाता बने रहें और गेट आवंटन, टर्मिनल एक्सेस, हवाई अड्डे की सुविधाओं या अन्य परिचालन निर्णयों में संबद्ध एयरलाइनों का पक्ष न लें, संभावित हितों के टकराव को रोकने के लिए एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटिंग और एयरलाइंस के बीच अलगाव बनाए रखते हैं।

सरकारी अधिकारियों का कहना है कि नियमों में किसी भी तरह की ढील के साथ सुरक्षात्मक उपाय भी किए जाने की संभावना है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि एयरपोर्ट और एयरलाइन व्यवसायों के बीच एक उचित दूरी बनी रहे। जिन उपायों पर विचार किया जा रहा है उनमें स्लॉट आवंटन और एयरपोर्ट संचालन से संबंधित डेटा सहित व्यावसायिक रूप से संवेदनशील जानकारी के प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष सांझाकरण को रोकने के प्रावधान शामिल हैं।

अदाणी समूह पहले से ही 8 हवाई अड्डों के साथ देश का सबसे बड़ा एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर है। इसके पास रख-रखाव, मरम्मत और ओवरहाल कंपनी एयरवर्क्स में 99-98 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है।

एयरलाइंस ने इस पर कैसी प्रतिक्रिया दी है? : भारत के दो सबसे बड़े एयरलाइन समूहों इंडिगो और एयर इंडिया ने इस कदम का विरोध करते हुए तर्क दिया है कि एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटिंग को अपनी एयरलाइंस रखने की अनुमति देने से हितों का भारी टकराव पैदा होगा और प्रतिस्पर्धा कमजोर होगी। इंडिगो के प्रबंध

निदेशक राहुल भाटिया ने कहा कि इसकी कोई वैश्विक मिसाल नहीं है क्योंकि यह आमतौर पर हितों के एक बड़े टकराव को जन्म देगा, और समय के साथ यह उपभोक्ताओं के हितों के खिलाफ जाएगा। एयर इंडिया ने भी इसी तरह की आपत्ति जताई है।

भारत में भी एक प्रमुख राज्य समर्थित (सरकारी) एयरलाइन है जो मुख्य हवाई अड्डों को संचालित करती है, न कि निजी स्वामित्व वाले हवाई अड्डों पर प्रतिस्पर्धा करने वाली कई निजी स्वामित्व वाली घरेलू

एयरलाइंस। इसके विपरीत, भारत का प्रस्ताव कई निजी स्वामित्व वाली एयरलाइनों वाले प्रतिस्पर्धी बाजार में समान स्वामित्व की अनुमति देगा, जिससे हितों के संभावित टकराव पर चिंताएं बढ़ेंगी कि क्या एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर अपनी संबद्ध एयरलाइनों को तरजीही व्यवहार दे सकते हैं।





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

PM Modi to visit Andhra, K'taka today to launch projects worth over ₹17,900 cr

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 31 July

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on Saturday, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple infrastructure, connectivity, energy, semiconductor and cultural projects aimed at boosting regional development, clean energy, advanced manufacturing and youth empowerment.

During the day-long visit, the Prime Minister will launch projects worth over Rs 17,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh before travelling to Mysuru in Karnataka to inaugurate the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth Centre-Viveka Smaraka.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Modi will begin his visit in Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district, where at around 11

a.m. he will undertake a walkthrough of the passenger terminal building of the newly developed Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport. At around 11.30 a.m. he will formally inaugurate the Greenfield airport, launch multiple development projects and address a public gathering.

Developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model at a cost of over Rs 5,640 crore, the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport has been designed to handle six million passengers annually and is expected to significantly strengthen air connectivity in north coastal Andhra Pradesh while boosting tourism, trade, investment and employment.

The state-of-the-art airport incorporates advanced technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Building



Information Modelling (BIM), Airside 4.0 technologies, an Airport Predictive Operations Centre (APOC), biometric passenger processing, automated baggage handling systems and intelligent operational monitoring solutions. These technologies are expected to improve operational

efficiency, passenger convenience, safety and resource utilisation.

The airport has also been developed with a strong emphasis on sustainability. It features energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, LED lighting, a 5 MW solar power plant, rainwater harvesting, electric vehicle charging

infrastructure, smart building management systems, waste management initiatives and environmental monitoring measures. The terminal has been designed in accordance with Green Building Standards and is registered with the US Green Building Council (USGBC).



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

AIR INDIA, PARTNERS EYE MEDICAL AIR LOGISTICS SEGMENT

Mumbai, July 31: Air India signed an initial pact with global eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) aircraft developer and manufacturer SkyDrive, and Suzuki Motor Corporation of Japan to conduct a joint feasibility study on the use of eVTOL aircraft for medical air logistics in India.

The proposed collaboration comes amid India's major cities face severe traffic congestion.

By combining SkyDrive's eVTOL technology, Air India's operational expertise and Suzuki's India market insight, the three companies aim to develop last-mile emergency medical logistics solutions, contributing to the advancement of India's medical infrastructure, it said.

The application of eVTOL aircraft for medical air logistics is to reduce critical transit times when every minute can make a difference,"

said Ramesh Mamidala, Head of Cargo of Air India. "India is today one of the world's largest and fastest-growing aviation markets, and we see advanced air mobility as a natural extension of the country's transport ecosystem. Air India will contribute to this feasibility study with its operational expertise to help evaluate and develop a framework for safe, reliable, and scalable eVTOL operations," he added.

—PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo to cut wide body flights from October-end

Mumbai: IndiGo will discontinue its damp leased wide body flights from October 25 and suspend its service to London until such time its Airbus A350 aircraft are delivered, it said on Friday. IndiGo said it was taking the decision due to the challenging environment triggered by the ongoing geopolitical tensions. Flights between Mumbai and Amsterdam will transition to the airline's own Airbus A321XLR, effective October 25. OUR BUREAU



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

Air India, SkyDrive, Suzuki sign pact to study eVTOL aircraft use

Air India Ltd on Friday signed an initial pact with global eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) aircraft developer and manufacturer SkyDrive, and Suzuki Motor Corporation of Japan to conduct a joint feasibility study on the use of eVTOL aircraft for medical air logistics in India. The proposed collaboration comes amid India's major cities face severe traffic congestion, creating significant challenges for time-critical medical logistics, according to a company release. By combining SkyDrive's eVTOL technology, Air India's operational expertise and Suzuki's India market insight, the three companies aim to develop last-mile emergency medical logistics solutions, contributing to the advancement of India's medical infrastructure, it said.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

इंडिगो 25 अक्टूबर से बंद

करेगी वाइड-बॉडी उड़ानें

मुंबई | देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो 25 अक्टूबर से वाइड-बॉडी उड़ानें बंद करेगी। कंपनी नॉर्स अटलांटिक के साथ लीज समझौता भी खत्म कर रही है। मुंबई-एम्स्टर्डम रूट पर अब एयरबस ए321 एक्सएलआर विमान से फ्लाइट मिलेगी। इसके साथ ही नए विमानों की डिलीवरी तक लंदन हीथ्रो सेवा अस्थायी रूप से बंद रहेगी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

30 JULY 2026

एयरलाइंस ने फ्लाइट्स की संख्या में कटौती की, फिर भी हवाई किराया आसमान पर

मुंबई का किराया 25 हजार तक, कई शहरों के लिए सफर डेढ़ से तीन गुना महंगा

नवज्योति, जयपुर। एयरलाइंस की ओर से जून से शुरू की गई उड़ानों में कटौती का असर अब यात्रियों की जेब पर साफ दिखाई देने लगा है। जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से संचालित कई प्रमुख रूटों पर फ्लाइट्स की संख्या घटने के बाद हवाई किराया में डेढ़ से तीन गुना तक बढ़ोतरी हो गई है। सबसे अधिक असर मुंबई, गोवा,

हैदराबाद, अहमदाबाद, कोलकाता और बेंगलूर जैसे व्यस्त रूटों पर देखा जा रहा है।

एविएशन टरबाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) महंगा होने और परिचालन लागत बढ़ने के कारण एयरलाइंस ने 1 जून से कई उड़ानों में कटौती की थी। अब सीमित सीटों और बढ़ती मांग का सीधा फायदा एयरलाइंस को मिल रहा है।

मुंबई रूट पर सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित

मुंबई रूट पर स्थिति सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित है। मुंबई और आस-पास के क्षेत्रों में लगातार बरिश से रेल यातायात बाधित होने के कारण बड़ी संख्या में खजरी हवाई सफर की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं। मांग बढ़ने के साथ एयरलाइंस ने किराए में भारी वृद्धि कर दी है। 4 अगस्त को जयपुर से मुंबई के लिए मात्र पांच उड़ानें हैं, जिसका किराया 16359 रुपये से शुरू लेकर 25 हजार रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। बेंगलूर के लिए

पांच उड़ानों का किराया 8200 से 8726 रुपये, हैदराबाद के लिए 8427 से 10160 रुपये तथा कोलकाता के लिए 8795 से 9215 रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। अहमदाबाद, चंडीगढ़ और इंदौर जैसे अपेक्षाकृत छोटे रूटों पर भी 1300 से 2500 रुपये तक अतिरिक्त किराया देना पड़ रहा है। गोवा के लिए केवल एक उड़ान है, जिसका किराया 12695 रुपये है, जो सामान्य दिनों की तुलना में करीब 70 प्रतिशत अधिक है।



त्यौहारी सीजन में बढ़ता है किराया

एयरलाइंस की बकेट प्राइसिंग प्रणाली के कारण जिन रूटों पर मांग कम है, वहां किराया अभी भी सामान्य बना हुआ है। गुवाहाटी के लिए प्रतिदिन दो उड़ानें संचालित हो रही हैं और यात्रीभार कम होने से किराया लगभग 7145 रुपये है। दिल्ली-मुंबई बाट यह है कि सफर दो घंटे की गुवाहाटी उड़ान का किराया लगभग उतना ही है, जितना केवल 50 मिनट की अहमदाबाद उड़ान का। यदि फ्लाइट्स की संख्या जल्द नही बढ़े तो आगामी त्यौहार और छुट्टियों के सीजन में किराए और अधिक बढ़ सकते हैं।

इस वजह से बढ़ा हवाई किराया

एटीएफ महंगा होने से परिचालन लागत बढ़ी। 1 जून से कई रूटों पर फ्लाइट्स में कटौती हुई है। सीमित सीटों के मुकाबले यात्रियों की मांग अधिक बढ़ी। मुंबई में बारिश से रेल सेवाएं प्रभावित, इसलिए हवाई यात्रा की मांग बढ़ी। एयरलाइंस की बकेट प्राइसिंग के कारण मांग बढ़ते ही किराया कई गुना बढ़ गया।

प्रमुख शहरों का हवाई किराया: (4 अगस्त का किराया)

शहर	फ्लाइट	वर्तमान किराया
मुंबई	5	16359 से 25000
बेंगलूर	5	8200 से 8726
कोलकाता	3	8795 से 9215
हैदराबाद	3	8427 से 10160
अहमदाबाद	3	7100 से 7499
पुणे	2	8145 से 9877
गोवा	1	12695
चेन्नई	1	9687
लखनऊ	1	6590
इंदौर	1	6038

IndiGo to Suspend Wide-Body Ops from October 25



Mumbai: IndiGo on Friday said it will discontinue its wide-body operations from October 25 and terminate its damp lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways, citing a challenging operating environment amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

The airline said its Mumbai-Amsterdam service, currently operated with a damp-leased Boeing 787-9, will be switched to the Airbus A321XLR from October 25. It will also temporarily suspend flights to and from London Heathrow until its ordered Airbus A350-900 aircraft begin joining the fleet.

IndiGo had signed a damp lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways for six Boeing 787-9 aircraft earlier this year to accelerate its long-haul expansion.

The carrier said the operating environment has changed significantly since the programme was launched, with higher costs, airspace restrictions, elevated fuel prices and currency pressures affecting route efficiency, schedule reliability, connectivity and overall competitiveness.

According to the airline, these challenges, coupled with increased volatility across global aviation markets, prompted a comprehensive review of the programme and alternative deployment plans.

"The global aviation industry continues to navigate ongoing geopolitical uncertainties, necessitating a prudent deployment of resources in the short term while preserving long-term strategic objectives," said Abhijit Dasgupta, Senior Vice-President, Planning and Revenue Management, IndiGo. **PTI**

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo to end wide-body operations from Oct 25



AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, July 31

INDIA'S LARGEST AIRLINE, IndiGo, on Friday said it will discontinue its wide-body operations from October 25 and conclude its damp lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways on October 31, citing a challenging operating environment amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

The airline said its Mumbai-Amsterdam flights will be operated using the Airbus A321XLR from October 25, while services to and from London Heathrow will be temporarily suspended until the delivery of its Airbus A350-900 aircraft.

IndiGo is expected to receive its first Airbus 350-900 around mid-2027, sources told FE. IndiGo currently has three Airbus A321XLRs in its fleet with more expected to join this year.

As part of the transition, the airline said it will work closely with affected customers by offering suitable alternatives, including alternate travel arrangements and refunds, wherever applicable, to ensure a smooth transition.

IndiGo had entered into a damp lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways in early 2025 for six Boeing 787-9 aircraft to launch limited long-haul operations while preparing for the induction of its Airbus A350 fleet. The arrangement enabled the airline to begin services to destinations in the UK and Europe while building capabilities required for future wide-body operations.

Besides the Boeing 787-9 fleet, IndiGo had also leased two Boeing 777-300ER aircraft from Turkish Airlines for its Mumbai-Istanbul route. However, the service was discontinued a few months ago.

According to the airline, the long-haul programme helped it develop expertise across key areas, including network planning, customer experience, crew operations, maintenance, airport handling, revenue management and international partnerships.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

31 JULY 2026

IndiGo's MD pushes for aviation tax cuts

PTI

NEW DELHI

IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia urged the government to cut taxes and rationalise airport charges, arguing that lower airfares would unlock "massive" demand in one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets and accusing policymakers of taxing flying as if it were "an elitist mode of transport".

IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia urged the government to cut taxes and rationalise airport charges, arguing that lower airfares would unlock "massive" demand in one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets and accusing policymakers of taxing flying as if it were "an elitist mode of transport".

"I think some of these things have to get rationalised. Because the Indian consumer is so price sensitive that if you

can lower fares, you just open up a massive demand." Bhatia stated that airlines had largely absorbed cost pressures instead of passing them on to passengers. "So, in a time span of three years where inflation has risen by 12%, airfares, which represent the fares that the airline collects for themselves, have gone up between 1% and 3%. User Development Fee charges at airports have gone up as much as 95%.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo to end Norse Atlantic lease, discontinue wide-body operations

Neha LM Tripathi

neha.tripathi@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: India's largest airline, IndiGo, announced on Friday that it will discontinue its wide-body operations effective October 25, 2026, and end its damp lease agreement—an arrangement where the lessor provides the aircraft, flight crew, and maintenance — with Norse Atlantic Airways effective October 31, 2026, citing geopolitical challenges.

The carrier had entered into the agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways for six Boeing 787-9 aircraft in early 2025 to start limited long-haul operations, fast-track learning, develop capabili-

ties, and establish a brand presence ahead of its Airbus A350 operations. "Due to the challenging operating environment triggered by the ongoing geopolitical tensions, IndiGo today announced that it will discontinue its wide-body operations effective October 25, 2026 and conclude its damp lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways effective October 31, 2026," the airline said in a statement.

"The airline will temporarily discontinue its services to and from London Heathrow until such time that its A350-900s are delivered," IndiGo stated.

Flights between Mumbai and Amsterdam currently operated with Norse will transition to

IndiGo's Airbus A321XLR aircraft, effective October 25, 2026.

IndiGo said the operating environment has changed considerably since the programme was announced, driven by a significant escalation in costs.

"Airspace constraints, elevated fuel costs and currency pressures have impacted route efficiency, schedule integrity, connectivity and overall competitiveness. These factors have created operational and economic challenges at a time when volatility across aviation markets has reduced industry-wide risk appetite, prompting a comprehensive review of the project and evaluation of possible alternative solutions," the statement said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo to stop wide-body aircraft operations

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

IndiGo, the country's largest airline, will discontinue its wide-body operations effective 25 October 2026 and conclude its damp lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways effective 31 October 2026. IndiGo attributed this decision to the challenging operating environment triggered by the ongoing geopolitical tension.

The development comes as airlines in India continue to bleed losses due to higher jet fuel prices, airspace closures, and adverse foreign exchange movements.

IndiGo flights between Mumbai and Amsterdam will be tran-

sitioned to be operated using its Airbus A321XLR, effective 25 October 2026. The airline will temporarily discontinue its services to and from London Heathrow until such time that its A350-900s are delivered.

IndiGo had earlier doubled its order for the A350-900 aircraft to 60 and also holds options to purchase 40 more. Deliveries are expected to begin in 2028 as the airline expands into long-haul international operations.

Abhijit Dasgupta, SVP, Planning and Revenue Management, IndiGo, said that the global aviation industry continues to navigate ongoing geopolitical uncertainties, necessitating a prudent deployment of resources in the



short term while preserving long-term strategic objectives.

IndiGo entered into a damp-lease agreement with Norse Atlantic Airways for six Boeing 787-9 aircraft in early 2025. This enabled them to commence services to markets in the UK

and Europe, while accelerating the development of the operational capabilities, commercial expertise and customer insights required to support its future widebody ambitions. Dasgupta said this project was never about serving specific routes

but laying foundation for long-haul operations in future.

"As we enter the next phase of our growth, we remain firmly committed to expanding our global footprint across key mid and long-haul markets. We will continue to strengthen our European network through services using the Airbus A321XLR, while maintaining internal momentum to prepare for our own widebody services in line with our long-term international ambitions," added Dasgupta.

IndiGo also noted that the operating environment has changed considerably since they inducted widebody aircraft from Norse Atlantic, with a significant escalation in costs.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

1 AUGUST 2026

The Statesman

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

Air India, SkyDrive, Suzuki sign MoU to study feasibility of medical air logistics in India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai, 31 July

Air India Limited, SkyDrive Inc, which develops and manufactures eVTOL aircraft, as well as Suzuki Motor Corporation issued a joint statement on Friday that they have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to conduct a joint feasibility study on the use of electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft for medical air logistics in India.

According to the statement, India's major cities face severe traffic congestion, creating significant challenges for time-critical medical logistics. By combining

SkyDrive's eVTOL technology, Air India's operational expertise and Suzuki's India market insight, the three companies will take on the challenge of realizing last-mile emergency medical logistics, contributing to the advancement of India's medical infrastructure, according to the statement.

Commenting on the development, Air India's Head of Cargo, Ramesh Mamidala said, "India is one of the world's largest and fastest-growing aviation markets today, and we see advanced air mobility as a natural extension of the country's transport ecosystem".

"This collaboration with

SkyDrive and Suzuki reflects our shared ambition to explore 21st century solutions to address real-world challenges while shaping the future of mobility. The potential application of eVTOL aircraft for medical air logistics is particularly compelling because it combines technology and purpose, helping to reduce critical transit times when every minute can make a difference," Air India's Head of Cargo, Ramesh Mamidala said.

"We are pleased to contribute to this feasibility study with our operational expertise, airport infrastructure knowledge, and stakeholder

relationships to help evaluate and develop a framework for safe, reliable, and scalable eVTOL operations," Air India's Head of Cargo, Ramesh Mamidala said.

On the occasion of signing the MoU, SkyDrive Inc Founder and CEO Tomohiro Fukuzawa said, "Since our founding, SkyDrive has been dedicated to transforming the future of transportation through the aerial mobility revolution. We are incredibly proud to partner with Air India and Suzuki to take a step toward medical logistics—a sector where every second counts and lives can be saved".

"In India, where chronic congestion is a pressing

issue, utilising eVTOLs for advanced medical logistics—including the transport of high-value, time-critical medical supplies—will reshape medical infrastructure. We will work dedicatedly to contribute to saving as many lives as possible," SkyDrive Inc Founder and CEO Tomohiro Fukuzawa said.

Talking about the development, Suzuki Motor Corporation's Executive General Manager for Next Generation Business Development Masao Fujitani said, "The eVTOL aircraft being developed by SkyDrive, with which Suzuki is engaged in business and technology

collaboration, represents a new form of mobility that embodies Suzuki's philosophy of 'Sho-Sho-Kei-Tan-Bi (smaller, fewer, lighter, shorter and neater)'. We believe it has the potential to play a role in supporting medical infrastructure in urban areas".

"Under our corporate slogan, 'By Your Side,' Suzuki will continue to provide diverse mobility options tailored to customers' needs and contribute to regional development. By collaborating with a wide range of mobility companies, including SkyDrive and Air India, Suzuki aims to realize



"infrastructure mobility closely connected with people's lives," Suzuki Motor Corporation's Executive

General Manager for Next Generation Business Development Masao Fujitani said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

31 JULY 2026

Longest nonstop flight eyes 2027 take-off

LAURA CHUNG

Sydney: Millions of people were following online as an Airbus jet operated by Qantas touched down in Toulouse, France, on Tuesday. It had just completed a marathon: flying 23,075.92km in 24 hours and 24 minutes nonstop from Melbourne, Australia.

Only the specially manufactured plane was not carrying any passengers. It was a test for the airline's long-awaited Project Sunrise, which aims to offer the first nonstop flights between Sydney and London starting next year.

The route would become the world's longest commercial passenger service and usher in a new era of ultralong-haul travel. It has also raised a host of questions. How can a plane fly for so long without refuelling? How do humans survive that many hours in the skies? And would anyone want to take such a trip?

Here are some answers.

What is Project Sunrise?

In 2017, Qantas announced plans to connect Australia to London and New York with direct flights that would reduce current travel times by up to

four hours by doing away with transfers in Asia, West Asia or North America.

To do this, in 2022, Qantas ordered 12 specially modified Airbus A350-1000ULR jets. After several delays, test flights began last month. The first major one was a flight from Toulouse, Airbus's headquarters, to Melbourne, a journey that took 19 hours and 12 minutes.

The return flight this week took longer, as the flight team — consisting of several Airbus flight test crew members, two design engineers and two Qantas technical pilots — tried to simulate the longest potential commercial route and account for unexpected diversions, according to Airbus.

"This was the longest flight ever flown by an Airbus aircraft," a spokesperson for the company said in a statement on Wednesday. "We are now evaluating the data with the relevant authorities to determine if it also qualifies as an official world record."

More than 3.6 million people tracked its route on Flightradar24, the website said, the second-most tracked flight in the site's history. (More than five million fol-



The Airbus test aircraft being developed for Qantas's 'Project Sunrise' stands in Toulouse, France, on June 18. (Reuters file picture)

lowed the Royal Air Force flight carrying Queen Elizabeth II's coffin from Edinburgh to RAF Northolt near London in 2022).

Qantas anticipates that the Sydney to London flight, which will take up to 22 hours, will operate daily beginning in October 2027. There is no timing for the start of service between New York and Sydney, although further details are expected next year, the airline said.

How can the plane fly for so long?

Part of the reason that the customised Airbus A350-1000ULR can fly such long distances without refuelling is because of the installation

of an additional rear centre fuel tank. That allows the aircraft to carry an additional 5,300 gallons of fuel and helps extend the plane's range from about 16,853km to 18,520km, according to Airbus.

On the return flight this week, the team tested the fuel management and air conditioning systems, as well as the flight crew rest area. The new plane will be able to fly over the North Pole region, a first for an Australian commercial airline, according to a statement by Qantas's chief technical pilot, Alex Passerini.

"There's obviously lower density, less traffic and so on" near the North Pole, he said, "so we can get the best out of the airplane."

The North Pole route will operate during winters in the Northern Hemisphere because of favourable jet-streams, with the airline flying more traditional routes at other times.

What will it be like for passengers?

The plane is designed with 238 seats across four cabins: first, business, premium economy and economy. This is fewer seats than on a standard long-

haul flight and means more space for passengers.

Qantas said the plane will also have a "well-being zone" where passengers can get snacks and stretch. The airline said it had worked with a range of health and food experts, including from the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre, to find ways to reduce jet lag and the effects of being in a plane for 20 hours.

Professor Stephen Simpson, who leads the centre's team working on Project Sunrise, said that plans include modifications to cabin lighting and meal ingredients. For example, breakfasts will contain caffeine or chilli to help your body wake up, and the lights will be brighter.

A team of scientists flew on three specialised research flights — using another aircraft — from Sydney to New York and London in 2019 and monitored 23 volunteers. Those with specially designed menus, lighting, sleep and movement plans experienced less severe jet lag and better cognitive performance in the two days after the flight.

AI Express to launch direct flights between Madurai & Mumbai, Delhi

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Madurai: Come Sept, passengers can fly from Madurai to Chennai at cheaper fares, as Air India Express, a subsidiary of Air India, is set to launch direct low-cost flights connecting the two cities. The airline will start non-stop flights from Madurai to Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi from Sept 1. Bookings have opened on some of these routes.

“The Chennai service is expected to bring competition to a route now dominated by IndiGo, said Mahendra Varman,” an aviation enthusiast. The airline operates 66-seat ATR aircraft and fares rise during festivals and periods of high demand. Tickets have touched ₹20,000 to ₹25,000 per passenger on



FARES TO GET CHEAPER

some days. Air India Express operates flights from Trichy to Bengaluru and Hyderabad at fares ranging between ₹2,000 and ₹2,500 during normal periods. “A similar fare can be expected on the Madurai-Chennai route. More seats and competition should also prevent fares from rising sharply during festive periods,” he said.

Air India now operates one premium-category flight from Madurai to Mumbai through Chennai. The one-stop service includes busi-

ness-class seats and is priced higher than low-cost flights. Air India will close bookings for this service from Sept 1.

While Air India operates an Airbus A320 with around 140 to 150 seats, including premium seats, Air India Express will deploy aircraft with more than 180 economy seats, Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials said.

The airline plans to increase its Madurai departures to five by Jan 2027. The next phase will include a direct flight to Bengaluru and an international service to a Gulf destination. At present, the airport, despite carrying an international tag, operates only one flight to Sri Lanka. Other services to Gulf and Singapore remain suspended. A total of 36-37 domestic flights are operated from the airport every day.