

## Mock flight crash drill held on city outskirts

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**Chennai:** Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials simulated a real-life flight crash scenario on the city outskirts on Saturday to assess the preparedness of the fire and rescue team, paramedical staffers, state police, fire and district administration, as part of their search and rescue exercise (Sarex).

A dummy of an ATR flight was set on fire on a college campus in Vandalur, and different wings swung into action. While firefighters put out the fire and rescued “injured” passengers, paramedical teams gave first aid to them. Flyers with grievous injuries were rushed to the medical facility in ambulances, while



**FIRE AND ACTION:** A dummy of an ATR flight was set on fire on a college campus in Vandalur, and different wings swung into action

traffic police made arrangements to send ambulances on priority.

Six observers from the Indian Air Force, Air Traffic Control, and DGCA assessed the preparedness during the mock drill.

The AAI officials said Sarex was conducted by Chennai airport after a gap of eight years. While a similar mock drill was conducted closer to Chennai airport vicinity last year, Sarex is supposed to be conducted far away from the

airport to predominantly assess the preparedness of the state machinery as well as the other stakeholders.

“The mock drill was conducted as if a flight from Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai made a distress call to the Chennai air traffic controller, after which the pilot announced May Day. An Indian Air Force helicopter identified the crash site, after which a rescue operation was initiated,” said Kala P Nair, AAI general manager.

During the debriefing session after the mock drill, various lapses were also discussed, and how they should be taken care of during real untoward incidents. M Suresh, member (air navigation system), AAI, was also present during the mock drill.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## 1,800 flights hit; most Mideast airports shut

■ *Global travel disrupted, thousands stranded* ■ *India flags Mideast airspace high risk*

**London, March 1:** The attack on Iran by the United States and Israel disrupted flights across West Asia and beyond on Saturday as countries around the region closed their airspace, and key airports that connect Europe, Africa and the West to Asia were directly hit by strikes.

Airports across the Middle East remained closed Sunday as the conflict moved into its second

day. Emirates Airlines suspended all flights to and from Dubai until at least Sunday afternoon. The Qatar airport was closed until at least Monday morning, according to Qatar Airways. Israeli airspace also remained closed Sunday.

The closures have stranded tens of thousands of travellers around the world.

Hundreds of thousands of travellers were either

stranded or diverted to other airports Saturday after Israel, Qatar, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain closed their airspace. There also was no flight activity over the UAE, flight tracking website FlightRadar24 said.

That led to the closure of key hub airports in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha and the cancellation of more than 1,800 flights by major Middle Eastern airlines. The three major airlines

that operate at those airports — Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad — typically have about 90,000 passengers per day crossing through those hubs and even more travellers headed to destinations in the Middle East, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium.

Numerous airlines cancelled international flights to Dubai through the weekend, as India's civil aviation agency des-

ignated much of the Middle East — including skies above Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon — as a high-security risk zone at all altitudes.

Air India cancelled all flights to Middle East destinations. Turkish Airlines said flights to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Jordan were suspended until Monday, and flights to Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE and Oman were suspended. — AP

## MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

# Flights to Gulf countries from Kerala airports hit

KOCHI, Feb 28: Flight operations to Gulf countries from Kerala airports have been affected, with several airlines cancelling services following the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, officials said on Saturday.

The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Ltd (TIAL), Kannur International Airport Limited (KIAL) and authorities at Calicut International Airport have issued separate advisories to passengers about possible flight cancellations and delays due to airspace restrictions in the region.

At Kochi's CIAL, spokespersons said that Indigo flights to Doha, Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah and Abu Dhabi scheduled for Saturday evening and night were cancelled.

An Air India Express flight to Sharjah was delayed, officials said.

An Oman Air flight from Kochi to Muscat that took off around 2.25 pm returned to the airport at about 3.40 pm, the spokesperson said, adding that an Etihad Airways flight from Kochi to Abu Dhabi was also delayed.

An Indigo flight from Dubai to Kochi was confirmed cancelled, CIAL added.

The CIAL spokesperson said that international flights to far-east countries and Sri Lanka were operating normally. TIAL spokesperson said Air India Express services from Thiruvananthapuram to Doha and Dubai were cancelled.

An Air Arabia flight from Thiruvananthapuram to Abu Dhabi was forced to return to the airport following the airspace closure, the official added.

Authorities at Calicut International Airport also announced the cancellation of Indigo flights to Dubai, Jeddah and Abu Dhabi.

Air India Express flights from Calicut to Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam were also cancelled, and all flights from Calicut to Qatar have been suspended until further notice, officials said.

KIAL officials said that Air India Express flights from Kannur to Dubai and Indigo flights to Abu Dhabi were cancelled due to the disruption.

Airport authorities have requested that passengers check the status of their flights with the respective airlines before arriving at the airport to avoid inconvenience or stranding due to cancellations or delays. – PTI



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## भारत में 350 उड़ानें रद्द हुईं दुनियाभर में फंसे हजारों यात्री



मुंबई एयरपोर्ट पर फंसे यात्री।

पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़के संघर्ष के चलते दुनियाभर में रविवार को हजारों उड़ानें प्रभावित हुईं। दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त अंतरराष्ट्रीय हब दुबई समेत पश्चिम एशिया के बड़े एयरपोर्ट बंद रहे।

■ फ्लाइटरेडार24 के मैप के मुताबिक, ईरान, इराक, कुवैत, इराक, बहरीन, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात और कतर के ऊपर एयरस्पेस तकरीबन खाली रहा।

■ पश्चिम एशिया के ज्यादातर देशों के अपना एयरस्पेस बंद रखने के चलते भारत में 350 उड़ानें रद्द करनी पड़ीं। इनमें दिल्ली से 100 और मुंबई से रद्द की गईं 125 उड़ानें शामिल हैं। इसके चलते भारत समेत एशिया और यूरोप में हजारों यात्री फंस गए हैं। >> पेज 11



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## जेवर एयरपोर्ट के बाद शुरू होगा दिल्ली देहरादून एक्सप्रेसवे



**बागपत।** दिल्ली-देहरादून एक्सप्रेसवे का शुभारंभ नोएडा के जेवर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के बाद किया जाएगा, जिसका निर्माण भी पूरा हो चुका है। अब फिनिशिंग का काम भी पूर्ण हो चुका है। अप्रैल माह के प्रथम सप्ताह में एक्सप्रेसवे का शुभारंभ कराने की तैयारी शुरू कर दी गई है। इसके लिए पिछले सप्ताह एनएचएआई के अधिकारियों के साथ प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय से आए अधिकारियों ने खेकड़ा से सहारनपुर तक निरीक्षण भी किया था। दिल्ली के अक्षरधाम से शुरू होने वाले एक्सप्रेसवे से बागपत, शामली, मुजफ्फरनगर, सहारनपुर के अलावा आसपास के जिलों व दिल्ली के लोगों को काफी फायदा होगा। संवाद



File photo of a traditional water canon salute being accorded to the maiden Abu Dhabi-Mangaluru flight on arrival at Mangaluru International Airport

night landing facilities limits expansion to larger metros like Mumbai and Delhi.

#### Awaiting takeoff

Vijayapura presents another curious case. A new airport built across 727 acres at a cost of Rs 618 crore is complete and awaiting formal inauguration. Once cleared, flight operations are expected to begin, but until then, the infrastructure remains unused. Hubballi airport, expanded at a cost of Rs 385 crore, boasts an international standard runway and improved facilities. It connects to select cities, but there are demands to restore suspended routes, increase frequency and grant it international airport status to unlock its full potential.

An aviation expert said, "Karnataka has built the runways and terminals. What it now needs is a renewed push to bring aircraft back into its skies and ensure that these airports do not remain monuments to missed opportunities."

## No wind beneath their wings

### UDAN rollback grounds Karnataka's airport dreams

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**K**arnataka's aviation map looks impressive on paper. Airports dot several districts, new terminals are rising and runways stretch across acres of freshly acquired land. Yet in reality, many of these airports are witnessing little to no air traffic. With the scaling down of the Centre's UDAN regional connectivity scheme, several towns that once had fledgling air links are now back to watching empty skies. In some districts, services have been suspended. In others, airports are ready but commercial flights are yet to begin. The result is a growing disconnect between infrastructure and actual connectivity.

#### Raichur airport

Raichur airport, coming up over 322 acres at a sanctioned cost of Rs 219 crore, is one such project under progress. Around Rs 30 crore has already been released and nearly 30 per cent of the construction is complete. Rehabilitation measures for displaced families are under way, with layouts being developed for affected households. Hassan airport, being built across 534 acres, has achieved roughly 50 per cent completion. In Ballari's Jagalur, plans for an airport over 943 acres are on paper with a DPR prepared, but groundwork has not yet commenced.

#### Connectivity crunch

Kalaburagi offers a stark contrast between potential and reality. It has one of the longest runways in the state after Bengaluru, yet flight services have remained completely suspended for the past six months. Despite heavy public investment running into hundreds of crores, the airport is largely idle. There are strong demands to revive flights to Bengaluru, Mumbai, Tirupati and New Delhi, particularly under a revived or expanded regional connectivity framework.

#### Belagavi airport

Belagavi airport has also seen a sharp drop in services following the rollback of UDAN routes. Earlier, multiple flights operated under the scheme, but now only a handful remain. There is a growing call to declare Belagavi an international airport to boost trade and cross border movement. Bidar is operating just one flight once a day, leaving passengers seeking better connectivity to cities such as Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi.

#### Mangaluru airport

In coastal Karnataka, Mangaluru airport faces its own challenges. There is persistent demand for runway expansion to improve operational capacity and open up more international routes, including to destinations like Singapore. Shivamogga currently connects to Hyderabad, Goa, Chennai and Bengaluru, but the absence of



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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

1 MARCH 2026

## Middle East crisis: Disruptions in flight ops from Bengaluru airport

Check latest flight  
status before  
leaving for airport:  
BIAL to fliers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Flight operations at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru are facing disruptions as escalating tensions in the Middle East led to widespread airspace closures across the region on Saturday.

The disruption follows coordinated strikes by the United States and Israel targeting locations in Iran.

In response, several nations, including Iran, Iraq and the UAE, have temporarily shut their airspaces to civilian traffic, forcing global carriers to cancel, divert or ground several flights.

Indian airlines, including Air India and IndiGo, have proactively suspended all operations to Middle Eastern destinations.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an urgent safety advisory for Indian carriers to avoid the airspace of several countries in the region.

In an advisory to passengers, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of KIA, has said some international flights are experiencing schedule changes.

Passengers have been advised to check the latest flight status with their respective airlines before proceeding to the airport.



### Help desk

To support passengers, a dedicated help desk has been set up at the kerb side (level 3) of Terminal 2 to assist travellers with information and guidance.

"We are closely monitoring the situation in coordination with airlines and relevant authorities to ensure smooth passenger movement and minimise inconvenience," BIAL said in the advisory.

### CB'Pur village on edge

The joint strike by US and Israel on Iran has set many residents in Allipur village of Chikkaballapur on edge, given that members of nearly a hundred Shia Muslim families of Allipur are currently stranded in Tehran, Qom, Mashhad and other cities of Iran.

Allipur's ties with Iran date back several decades, with residents of the village travelling to the West Asian country to pursue medical and Islamic studies.

"It has been eleven hours since we lost contact with our nephew. We have been calling him constantly. He made it a point to call home every day. It's not just us but scores of families in our village are anxiously waiting for information about their loved ones stranded in Iran," said Syed Mehdi, a resident of Allipur in Gauribidanur taluk, Chikkaballapur district.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

1 MARCH 2026

# खाड़ी देशों की 17 उड़ानें निरस्त, एयरपोर्ट ने जारी किया अलर्ट

जासं, लखनऊ: ईरान और अमेरिका-इजरायल के बीच युद्ध को देखते हुए खाड़ी देशों की उड़ानों पर रोक लगा दी गई है। शनिवार शाम के बाद लखनऊ आने और यहां से जाने वाली इंटरनेशनल उड़ानों को निरस्त कर

दिया गया है। इसके साथ ही खाड़ी देशों की उड़ान सेवाएं देने वाली इंडिगो एयरलाइन और एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने यात्रियों के लिए एडवाइजरी जारी कर दी है। शनिवार को दोनों ओर से 17 उड़ानें निरस्त कर दी गईं। इन

उड़ानों के करीब 2500 यात्री दोनों तरफ फंस गए हैं।

चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर दम्माम से रात आठ बजे आने वाली इंडिगो एयरलाइन की उड़ान 6ई-098 निरस्त हो गई।

लखनऊ आने वाले 150 यात्री दम्माम में फंस गए। इसी तरह लखनऊ से दम्माम जाने वाली उड़ान 6ई-097 को भी निरस्त कर दिया गया। लखनऊ से शारजाह जाने वाली उड़ान 6ई-1423 भी निरस्त हो गई।

**संकट** | मध्यपूर्व देशों से गुजरने वाली उड़ानों से हर दिन 90 हजार से अधिक यात्री सफर करते हैं, यात्रियों की संख्या एक लाख से अधिक होने का अनुमान लगाया जा रहा

## संघर्ष के बीच दुनियाभर के हवाई अड्डों पर हजारों यात्री बेहाल

चंडीगढ़/इंदौर/धर्मशाला/बेंगलुरु/लंदन, एजेंसियां। मध्य पूर्व में जारी संघर्ष के बीच संयुक्त अरब अमीरात में हजारों भारतीय नागरिक फंस गए हैं। धमाकों के खौफ के बीच कई यात्रियों के पैसे खत्म हो चुके हैं तो कई को जरूरी दवाएं नहीं मिल पा रही हैं। दूसरी ओर, वहीं, यूरोपीय देशों के हवाई अड्डों पर भी अलग-अलग देशों के हजारों यात्री फंसे हुए हैं। मध्य पूर्व देशों से गुजरने वाली उड़ानों से हर दिन 90 हजार से अधिक यात्री सफर करते हैं। ऐसे में फंसे हुए यात्रियों की संख्या एक लाख से अधिक होने का अनुमान है।

बठिंडा के एसएसडी महिला महाविद्यालय की प्राचार्य नीरू गर्ग परिवार संग शारजाह में फंसी हैं। रविवार को सोशल मीडिया पर वीडियो में उन्होंने कहा, 'हमारी अमृतसर की उड़ान रद्द हो गई। शनिवार रात दस बजे तक हम हवाई अड्डे पर थे। इसके बाद हमें बाहर जाने को कह दिया गया।

नजदीकी होटलों में कमरा नहीं मिला, तब बीस किलोमीटर दूर गए। हमारे सारे पैसे (दिरहम) भी खत्म हो गए हैं।' गर्ग ने भारत सरकार से मदद की गुहार लगाई है। कहा कि कई बीमार यात्रियों को दवा भी नहीं मिल पा रही है।

**भाजपा नेता ने दिखाया धमाके का मंजर** : इंदौर के पूर्व विधायक और भाजपा नेता संजय शुक्ला अपने बेटे के साथ दुबई में फंसे हुए हैं। सोशल मीडिया पर एक पोस्ट में उन्होंने एक वीडियो जारी किया। इसमें वह एक खिड़की से बाहर कुछ दूरी पर हुए धमाके के बाद उठता धुएँ का गुबार दिखाते हैं। वहीं, ट्रैवल एजेंट्स



मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट के डिपार्चर टर्मिनल पर रविवार को यात्रियों को जमीन पर लेटकर समय बिताना पड़ा। • एएफपी

फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया की मध्य प्रदेश इकाई अध्यक्ष अमोल कटारिया ने बताया कि राज्य के सात सौ से अधिक यात्री यूएई में फंसे हैं।

**कांगड़ा में फंसे विदेशी यात्री** : हिमाचल के धर्मशाला, कांगड़ा में कई

विदेशी नागरिक फंसे हुए हैं। इजरायली पर्यटक विला ने बताया कि उनकी उड़ान रद्द हो गई।

**नोरका हेल्पडेस्क पर 381 ने मांगी मदद** : केरल के प्रवासियों की मदद के लिए नोरका रूट्स के

### शैक्षिक टूर पर गए 84 छात्र लौट नहीं पा रहे

पुणे। पुणे के इंदिरा स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस स्टडीज के 84 छात्र शैक्षिक टूर पर दुबई गए थे। डीन जनार्दन पवार ने बताया कि उन्हें एक होटल में सुरक्षित शिफ्ट कर दिया गया है। अध्यक्ष तारिता शंकर ने बताया कि हम विदेश मंत्रालय और नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय से संपर्क कर रहे हैं।

### 700 से अधिक यात्री मध्य प्रदेश के दुबई में अटके

हेल्पडेस्क पर रविवार सुबह तक 381 लोगों ने मदद के लिए कॉल की। वहीं, केरल के तीन लोगों समेत आठ भारतीय नागरिक उड़ान डायवर्ट होने के बाद पाकिस्तान पहुंच गए। ये कराची हवाई अड्डे पर फंसे हुए हैं।

### मध्य पूर्व के आसमान में कोई उड़ान नहीं

लंदन। उड़ानों की निगरानी करने वाली वेबसाइट 'फ्लाइट रडार 24' ने बताया कि यूएई के ऊपर पिछले 24 घंटे में कोई उड़ान दर्ज नहीं की गई है। दुबई, अबु धाबी और दोहा के हब एयरपोर्ट बंद हैं। इस दौरान 1800 से अधिक उड़ानें रद्द की गई हैं। इससे यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

### 700 टिकट की कीमतें बढ़ने के आसार

लंदन। विमान उद्योग विश्लेषक हेनरी हार्टवेल्ट का कहना है कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों को अगले कुछ दिनों तक उड़ानों में देरी या रद्द होने के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए। समय के साथ टिकट की कीमतें बढ़ने के आसार हैं।

**कर्नाटक के 150 छात्रों को निकालने के प्रयास** : कर्नाटक के गृह मंत्री जी परमेश्वर ने बताया कि चिक्काबल्लनापुरा जिले से 150 छात्र यूएई में फंसे हुए हैं। सरकार उनकी मदद के प्रयास कर रही है।



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण  
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026



STD	ETD	Airline	Flight	To/Via	Row	Status
09:45	20:45	IndiGo	6E 1231	Kuwait	F	Cancelled
09:50	20:50	IndiGo	AJ 358	Haneda	A-D	Check-In Open
10:55	20:55	IndiGo	AJ 2973	Pune	A-D	Check-In Open
10:55	20:55	IndiGo	EY 217	Abu Dhabi	H	Cancelled
11:00	21:00	IndiGo	XJ 231	Don Muang	M	Cancelled
11:00	21:00	IndiGo	6E 1405	Abu Dhabi	F	Cancelled
21:10	21:10	IndiGo	AJ 2981	Mumbai	A-D	On Time
21:10	21:10	IndiGo	AJ 3321	Patna	A-D	On Time
21:15	21:15	IndiGo	6E 1307	Doha	A-D	On Time
21:15	21:15	IndiGo	AJ 479	Amritsar	F	Cancelled
21:25	21:25	IndiGo	AJ 2895	Chennai	A-D	On Time
21:30	21:30	IndiGo	AJ 2412	Bengaluru	A-D	On Time
21:30	21:30	IndiGo	EK 515	Dubai	A-D	On Time
21:30	21:35	IndiGo	UK 173	Dammam	K	Cancelled



Stranded passengers wait at the Indra Gandhi International airport on Sunday as several flights were cancelled due to the West Asia conflict.

ARVIND YADAV/SANJEEV VERMA/HT PHOTOS

**Aaditya Khatwani and  
Jasjev Gandhiok**

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** At least 100 international flights — both arrivals and departures — stood cancelled at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International (IGIA) airport on Sunday amid the crisis in West Asia. With West-bound flights crippled for a second consecutive day, fliers were stranded at the airport despite hundreds of the cancellations being announced in advance as they queued up in front of ticketing counters to look at alternative routes.

"Till late evening, at least 100 flights — 62 departures and 42 arrivals stood cancelled," an airport official told HT, adding, "These were primarily flights cancelled in advance, with passengers receiving intimation early, so they don't reach the airport."

With the widespread disruptions to the air space, several flights, including on domestic routes, were also delayed, the official further said.

The airport handles close to 1,520 flights daily.

Airport operator, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), in a post on X directed passengers to contact their respective airlines for the latest information, adding, "Due to the ongoing political developments in (West Asia), westbound international flights may face delays or schedule adjustments."

At Terminal 3, a large number of people stood in front of the information boards staring at flight statuses as they situation developed. 32-year-old Ibrahim Khan, the breadwinner of a family of eight, said his Air India flight to Jeddah for Monday had been cancelled. "I am worried that if I do not reach on



62 departures and 42 arrivals were cancelled, said officials. HT PHOTO

time, my company will cut pay from my salary, which will be a really difficult situation for me, as I need to pay my siblings' school fees and send money home."

The terminal's ticketing area too was full with queues at each airline's counter and tired-looking passengers, some dressed in pyjamas in night clothes, huddled around their luggage. Airline officials were handing refreshment boxes to the people at the counter.

Ashok Kumar (32) said he was starting a new job in Dubai and had travelled from Jalandhar, Punjab, to catch his Spicejet flight scheduled for Sunday evening. "My flight was cancelled, and Spicejet has simply told me to go home. Now not only is my job uncertain, but I will most probably have to travel back home again, which is a big expense for my family."

Data from flight tracking website FlightRadar24 showed over 400 flights were delayed at the airport as of 9pm, including over 300 arrivals. The average delay time for arrivals stood at 19 minutes.

Many passengers said they were frustrated by miscommunication between different airport authorities and officials. Dutch national Saapke Nijhuis, 53, said, Amsterdam airport officials had told her that her flight had been cancelled. But Air India officials had said it was not. "They are constantly telling me that my flight is not cancelled and will depart tomorrow."

"I had come to Jaipur with two of my friends for a vacation, but we need to return back as one of my friend's mother has passed away, and she needs to perform the ceremonial rites," she said.

57-year-old David had flown in from the US for a business meeting in Hyderabad said he was told that not only is his Air India flight cancelled, but there are no flights till March 5 or 6. "Now I've booked another flight through a travel agency, via Kuala Lumpur, but I'm worried that will be cancelled as well."

Harita Dave (33), who lives in Canada, said that she had come to Ahmedabad with her husband for her wedding, but they learnt their flight was cancelled on Saturday night when they landed in Delhi. "We asked the airline if they could provide accommodation, but they said that, as the problem was not due to their fault, they couldn't, and we had to book a hotel here to stay in overnight."

Many people at the airline desk centre were also searching for lost luggage. Many of them said their connecting flights from Delhi had been cancelled, which they only learnt after they landed at IGIA.

35-year-old Vikas Sharma had come to Delhi for a vacation. They were supposed to fly back to Germany on Sunday afternoon but their flight was cancelled after they checked in. Holding an infant in his arms, he said, he had been waiting since then for their luggage.

Ajay, a 24-year-old, said he had been waiting for his luggage since 8:30 am, when his flight landed. "I am going to Germany to start a job and came to Delhi from Thiruvananthapuram. When my flight landed at 8:30am, we were told that the Air India flight to Germany is cancelled and the luggage was released on the conveyor belts, but my suitcases were missing. Air India officials told me to come here, and I've been waiting at the terminal for 7 hours, but to no avail as I have still not

gotten my suitcase back. This is a huge source of stress, as I am already worried about losing my job due to not being able to reach on time," he added.

Vishal Basir (43), who was returning home to London with his eight family members, had come to Delhi on an IndiGo flight from Amritsar. "They let us board the flight from there, and then when we landed here at 8:00am we found out that our next flight is cancelled. Since we are a bit group, we had 16 suitcases with us, and have been in the centre for hours trying to track them down. The process is really slow, with our baggage being given to us in groups of 2-4 every few hours. We are still short of 2 suitcases, and are really upset with the management as we were redirected across the airport multiple times only to be sent here," he added.

Responding to reports of the inconvenience at the airport, the Delhi airport also posted on X. "During these challenging times, we sincerely appreciate your patience. Please be assured that our on ground staff is available across all terminals to assist passengers and provide the necessary support. However, we request your cooperation, as certain processes may take additional time due to the extraordinary circumstances. Our dedicated teams are working diligently with all partners to minimise disruptions and ensure a safe and comfortable experience for every passenger," it said.

In a post on X, Air India said it was making every effort to assist affected passengers with rebooking and alternative travel arrangements. "Passengers impacted by the cancellations are being informed on their registered contact numbers."



## Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

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### Over 100 flights cancelled at IGI Airport over airspace curbs

**Express News Service**  
*New Delhi, March 1*

SIXTY-TWO FLIGHT departures and 40 arrivals have been cancelled at Delhi's IGI Airport as on Sunday evening, sources said, amid disruptions linked to airspace restrictions over Iran and parts of West Asia. Some airlines also cancelled flights, scheduled for Monday.

Airport authorities said the cancellations were largely on west-bound international sectors. The Ministry of Civil Aviation said:

"The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is maintaining close coordination with airlines to ensure full compliance with safety and operational regulations," the ministry stated.

● P V SINDHU, KARNATAKA JDS MLC & HIS FAMILY, BJP LEADER, BENGALI ACTOR ALONG WITH HER SON, TOURISTS AND STUDENTS AMONG THOSE STRANDED

## ‘Situation is bad’: Hundreds stuck in Dubai, other hub airports

**Press Trust of India**  
New Delhi, March 1

AS FLIGHT operations to and from West Asia remain disrupted after the US and Israel’s attack on Iran, hundreds of Indians are stranded in Dubai and other key hub airports, with many of them taking to social media to appeal to the Indian government for assistance.

Olympic medallist P V Sindhu, JD(S) MLC from Karnataka S L Bhojgowda and his family, Bengali actor Subhashree Ganguly along with her son, tourists and student groups are among those held up in Dubai.

More than 700 people from Madhya Pradesh, including two former MLAs, are stranded in the UAE due to flight cancellations, Amol Kataria, chairman of the Travel Agents Federation of India’s MP unit, told PTI.

Kataria said former MLA and BJP leader Sanjay Shukla is among those stranded in Dubai.

“Due to the current international situation, our return to India today could not take place as Dubai airport was temporarily closed. We are receiving full cooperation from the Dubai administration and the Government of India. We will return to Indore as soon as the situation normalises,” Shukla’s post on social media said. He said his elder son is also with him.

The BJP leader also posted a video on social media, in which he is seen pointing out of a window to the smoke billowing after an explosion a few kilometres away.

Following the attack by the US and Israel, Iran launched retaliatory military strikes targeting Israel and American military bases across the region, including the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan.

“The situation here has become bad. You can see that a bomb just exploded. All traffic has stopped. People here are



Indians at the Kuwait embassy on Sunday. PTI

being alerted and asked to stay in their rooms,” Shukla said.

He appealed to PM Narendra Modi to ensure safe return of Indians stranded in Dubai.

Indore MP Shankar Lalwani said several people from the city

were stuck in the UAE, and the Ministry of External Affairs has been informed about this. “As soon as the situation normalises, efforts will be made to bring these people back to India from the UAE,” he said JD(S)

MLC from Karnataka, S L Bhojgowda, and his family are among those stranded in Dubai.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah said his government is in touch with the MEA in connection with efforts to bring people back safely. “I spoke to Bhojgowda. He said he is safe and is at a hotel,” Siddaramaiah said.

“From Ballari, some 35 people are stuck. The total is 52, including people from other states. We will make efforts to bring all of them back,” he said.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said the Centre was making continuous efforts to ensure the safe return of Indians. “Currently, the situation there is turbulent. Even flying a plane there is dangerous,” he said.

P V Sindhu and her coach, Irwansyah Adi Pratama, were left stranded at Dubai International Airport after flight operations were suspended. Pratama had a narrow escape after an explosion occurred close to where they

were stationed at Dubai Airport while travelling to Birmingham.

Sindhu on Sunday morning described the tense moments on social media. “The ordeal continues to unfold, and the situation is becoming more frightening by the hour. A few hours ago, there was an explosion close to where we were held up at the airport,” she wrote on social media.

Bengali actor Subhashree Ganguly and her son Yuvaan are held up in Dubai, her husband, film director-producer and TMC MLA Raj Chakraborty, said. The actor and their son are currently staying at a hotel in Palm Jumeirah. “There was an explosion near their hotel,” Chakraborty told PTI.

Eighty-four MBA students from a Pune-based Indira School of Business Studies (ISBS), who had gone to Dubai as part of a five-day study tour, have been unable to return due to the closure of airspace.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

# मुंबई, दिल्ली समेत देश के हवाई अड्डों पर 350 उड़ानें रद्द

## आज भी रहेंगी प्रभावित, यात्रियों के लिए जरूरी एहतियाती निर्देश जारी किए गए

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 1 मार्च।

ईरान पर अमेरिका और इजराइल के हमले और खाड़ी देशों के हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने से रविवार को मुंबई, दिल्ली हवाई अड्डा समेत देश के तमाम हवाई अड्डों पर करीब 350 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। इनमें दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर करीब 100 उड़ानें जबकि मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर 125 समेत देश के अन्य शहरों से भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द की गईं।

एअर इंडिया, इंडिगो समेत अन्य भारतीय एअरलाइंस ने अगले दो दिन तक कमोवेश ऐसी ही

### सीबीएसई ने पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र में परीक्षाएं स्थगित कीं नई दिल्ली, 1 मार्च (ब्यूरो)।

ईरान-इजराइल संघर्ष के मद्देनजर, केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) ने रविवार को पश्चिम एशिया क्षेत्र में दो मार्च को होने वाली कक्षा 10वीं और 12वीं की बोर्ड परीक्षाओं को स्थगित कर दिया। अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी।

स्थिति की आशंका को देखते हुए उड़ानें रद्द करने और यात्रियों की सहूलियत और सुरक्षा के लिए

सीबीएसई के परीक्षा नियंत्रक संवम भारद्वाज ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया के कुछ हिस्सों-बहरीन, ईरान, कुवैत, ओमान, कतर, सऊदी अरब और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात-में मौजूदा स्थिति के कारण, बोर्ड ने दो मार्च को होने वाली कक्षा 10 और 12 की परीक्षाओं को स्थगित करने का निर्णय लिया है।

जरूरी एहतियाती निर्देश भी दिए गए हैं। दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एअरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डीआइएएल) के

मुताबिक, पश्चिम एशिया की बदलती राजनीतिक स्थिति के कारण पश्चिम की तरफ जाने वाली अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में व्यवधान, समय या मार्ग में बदलाव किए जा सकते हैं।

मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर अपराह्न 2:30 बजे तक कुल 125 उड़ान रद्द की गईं, जिनमें 67 प्रस्थान और 58 आगमन उड़ान शामिल हैं। दिल्ली में 60 अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रस्थान और 40 आगमन उड़ानें रद्द की गईं। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट किया कि मध्य पूर्व में भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों की वजह हवाई क्षेत्र पर लगाई गई पाबंदियों के मद्देनजर भारतीय वाकी पेज 8 पर

# मुंबई, दिल्ली समेत देश के हवाई अड्डों पर 350 उड़ानें रद्द

घरेलू एअरलाइंस द्वारा संचालित 350 उड़ानें रविवार को रद्द कर दी गई हैं। यात्रियों को सलाह दी गई है कि संबंधित एअरलाइंस से अपनी उड़ान की स्थिति की जानकारी लें और किसी भी जरूरी सहायता के लिए संपर्क में रहें।

विमानन नियामक ने शनिवार को सभी भारतीय विमान संचालकों को सलाह दी कि वे प्रभावित हवाई क्षेत्र से गुजरने से बचें और प्रभावित देशों की राष्ट्रीय प्राधिकरण की जानकारी के मुताबिक नोटिस टू एअरमेन (नोटम) पर बारीकी से नजर रखें। नियामक ने 11 देशों के हवाई क्षेत्र को उच्च जोखिम वाला बताया है। मंत्रालय ने पहले घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा 444 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द किए जाने की संभावना जताई। इस बीच, अमृतसर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर रविवार को पश्चिम एशिया में हवाई मार्ग बंद होने के कारण 10

उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। कतर एअरवेज की दो उड़ानें (दोहा-अमृतसर और अमृतसर-दोहा), एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की चार उड़ानें (दुबई-अमृतसर, अमृतसर-शारजाह, शारजाह-अमृतसर और अमृतसर-दुबई), स्पाइसजेट की दो उड़ानें (दुबई-अमृतसर और अमृतसर-दुबई) और इंडिगो की दो उड़ानें (शारजाह-अमृतसर और अमृतसर-शारजाह) रद्द की गईं।

इंडिगो ने मध्य पूर्व में हवाई क्षेत्र पर प्रतिबंध की वजह से 2 मार्च को 160 उड़ानें रद्द कर दीं। इंडिगो ने एक्स पर बताया कि मध्य पूर्व के हवाई क्षेत्र से होकर गुजरने वाली चुनिंदा अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का अस्थायी निलंबन दो मार्च तक के लिए बढ़ा दिया गया है। स्पाइसजेट की भी 23 उड़ानें रविवार को रद्द कर दी गईं। एअर इंडिया ने रविवार को यूरोप, उत्तरी अमेरिका समेत अन्य देशों की 50 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दीं।

‘फ्लाइट्स कैंसल, हॉस्टल में ठहरे हैं, थोड़ी-थोड़ी देर में धमाके हो रहे’



**दुबई एयरपोर्ट:** फ्लाइट्स कैंसल होने के बाद जानकारी के लिए घंटों इंतजार करते रहे लोग।



**कोच्चि एयरपोर्ट:** इंटरनेशनल उड़ाने टलने के बाद परेशान दिखे हवाई यात्री। सामान के साथ भटकते रहे।



**मुंबई एयरपोर्ट:** फ्लाइट्स कैंसल होने के बाद कुछ यात्री रातभर फंसे रहे। कहा, कोई अपडेट नहीं मिला।



**दुबई से गुहार:** कोटा के कुछ छात्रों ने दुबई से रेस्क्यू की अपील की। सोशल मीडिया पर विडियो डाली।



90 लाख

भारतीय मिडिल ईस्ट में  
केंद्र से सुरक्षित निकालने की गुहार

जंग के बाद मिडिल ईस्ट का एयरस्पेस दूसरे दिन रविवार को भी बंद रहा। दुनियाभर में हवाई यात्री जहां-तहां फंसे रहे। करीब 90 लाख भारतीय खाड़ी देशों में हैं। कई लोगों ने केंद्र सरकार से उन्हें सुरक्षित रेस्क्यू की अपील की। सोशल मीडिया पर सैकड़ों लोगों ने विडियो शेयर कर गुहार लगाई। दुबई में फंसे कोटा के स्टूडेंट सिद्धार्थ जैन ने बताया, वे दुबई के अकैडमी एजुकेशनल जोन में हैं। एक हॉस्टल में ठहरे हुए हैं। पास ही मिसाइल से हमला हुआ है। कहा, थोड़ी-थोड़ी देर में धमाके हो रहे हैं। अधिकारियों ने बताया, पुणे के 90 MBA स्टूडेंट्स भी दुबई में फंसे हुए हैं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## 100 flights cancelled at IGI Airport amid west Asia crisis

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**

■ New Delhi

Travel chaos erupted due to airspace restrictions over Iran and parts of the Middle East. Flight cancellations at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport have increased sharply, with 60 departures and 40 arrivals, totalling 100 flights, being cancelled so far.

"Due to the evolving political situation in the Middle East, west-bound international flights may experience disruptions or schedule changes," DIAL said in a post on X.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital. It is also the country's largest airport, handling more than 1,300 flight movements daily.

Earlier, the Civil Aviation Ministry said 444 international flights are expected to be cancelled by domestic carriers on Sunday. "In view of airspace restrictions arising



from geopolitical developments in the Middle East, a total of 350 flights operated by Indian domestic carriers have been cancelled on March 1, 2026," the civil aviation ministry said in a post on X at 4:34 pm on Sunday.

At 12:25 am, the ministry in an X post said that 444 inter-

national flights were expected to be cancelled on Sunday due to airspace restrictions over Iran and parts of the Middle East. On February 28, the ministry said 410 flights of domestic carriers were cancelled.

"The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is main-

taining close coordination with airlines to ensure full compliance with safety and operational regulations," the ministry stated.

At Delhi airport, several long-haul and Middle East-bound services have been affected. IndiGo has cancelled multiple flights from Delhi on Sunday, citing "airspace restriction". These include services to Ras Al Khaimah, Kuwait, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Athens, Manchester, Jeddah, Riyadh, and Dammam. The airline also suspended select international flights that use Middle East airspace till 11:59 pm on March 2.

Some airlines also cancelled Monday flights that use the Middle East airspace. Although several flights were cancelled, airport operations remained relatively smooth as live flight tracking website Flightradar24 showed an average departure delay of just 14 minutes, within the normal range.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

# Airports, hotel hit in overnight strikes in UAE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ Dubai

Several waves of Iranian attacks targeting the airport and several other sites across the UAE kept people awake on Saturday night.

Dubai's airport and the iconic Burj Al Arab were among the places hit by what the UAE officials described as drone attacks.

A Government of Dubai media office statement said "drone caused its shrapnel to spark a fire at the Burj Al Arab hotel," and that it was brought under control. "No injuries" were reported.

Authorities in Dubai also revealed that debris resulting from air interception operations caused a fire at one of

the berths of Jebel Ali Port without causing any injuries.

"Dubai Civil Defence teams immediately responded to handle the fire, while their efforts continue to control it," it said.

The authorities also urged the public not to circulate video clips dating back to the Jebel Ali Port fire on July 7, 2021, and confirmed that more reliable information will be broadcast upon receipt.

Amid silent alerts sounded across the country for possible missile attacks, an incident of one such attack taking place at the airport was reported.

"Dubai Airports has confirmed an incident at Dubai International Airport (DXB)



just moments ago. Emergency response teams have been activated immediately, and the incident is being handled in coordination with the relevant authorities," the statement said.

It also said that the attack resulted in 4 injuries, and the necessary urgent medical assistance has been provided. "Updated information will be broadcast as soon as it is received," it added.

Because of the ongoing fasting month of Ramzan and this being the weekend, people stayed awake late at night, tormented by intermittent sirens on the streets and alerts issued by the authorities.

Local media reports claimed that Abu Dhabi's Zayed International Airport came under overnight attacks, resulting in the death of an unnamed Asian worker and seven injuries. The incident is yet to be confirmed by the Government.

A similar attack was reported at the Jebel Ali Port. However, no injuries were reported.

The UAE's Ministry of Defence announced that, since the onset of the Iranian

attack, the air force and air defence forces of the United Arab Emirates have successfully engaged and destroyed 137 ballistic missiles and 209 drones launched towards the country's territory, underscoring the high readiness of the air defence systems and their capability to address various threats.

"The Ministry stated that, since the beginning of the attack, 137 Iranian ballistic missiles launched towards the UAE had been detected, of which 132 were destroyed, while five fell into the sea. A total of 209 Iranian drones were also detected; 195 were intercepted, while 14 fell within the country's territory and waters, causing some minor side damage," it said in

a statement. Schools in Dubai and Abu Dhabi have been asked to move to distance learning till Thursday.

The UAE's General Authority of Civil Aviation has announced that the state will bear all costs of accommodation and sustenance for affected and stranded passengers, as the country's airports and national carriers have dealt with approximately 20,200 individuals impacted by the rescheduling of some flights.

"Temporary accommodation has been provided, along with meals and beverages, in addition to facilitating rebooking procedures in accordance with the approved operational plans," it said.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## Airports closed, thousands of travellers stranded

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London

The attack on Iran by the United States and Israel disrupted flights across the Middle East and beyond Saturday as countries around the region closed their airspace and key airports that connect Europe, Africa and the West to Asia were directly hit by strikes.

Airports across the Middle East remained closed Sunday as the conflict moved into its second day. Emirates Airlines suspended all flights to and from Dubai until at least Sunday afternoon. The Qatar airport was closed until at least Monday morning, according to Qatar Airways. Israeli airspace also remained closed Sunday.

The closures have stranded tens of thousands of travellers around the world.

Hundreds of thousands of travelers were either stranded or diverted to other airports Saturday after Israel, Qatar, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain closed their air-



space. There also was no flight activity over the United Arab Emirates, flight tracking website FlightRadar24 said, after the government there announced a "temporary and partial closure" of its airspace.

That led to the closure of key hub airports in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, and the cancellation of more than 1,800 flights by major Middle Eastern airlines.

The three major airlines that operate at those airports — Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad — typically have about 90,000 passengers

per day crossing through those hubs and even more travelers headed to destinations in the Middle East, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium.

Two airports in the United Arab Emirates reported incidents as the government there condemned what it called a "blatant attack involving Iranian ballistic missiles" on Saturday.

Officials at Dubai International Airport — the largest in the United Arab Emirates and one of the busiest in the world — said four people were injured,

while Zayed International Airport in Abu Dhabi said that one person was killed and seven others were injured in a drone strike. Strikes were also reported at Kuwait International Airport.

Though Iran did not publicly claim responsibility, the scope of retaliatory strikes that Gulf nations attributed to Iran extended beyond the American bases that it previously said it would target.

"For travelers, there's no way to sugarcoat this," said Henry Hartevelde, an airline industry analyst and president of Atmosphere Research Group. "You should prepare for delays or cancellations for the next few days as these attacks evolve and hopefully end."

Airlines that are crossing the Middle East will have to reroute flights around the conflict with many flights headed south over Saudi Arabia. That will add hours to those flights and consume additional fuel, adding to the costs airlines will have to absorb. So ticket prices could

quickly start to increase if the conflict lingers. The added flights will also put pressure on air traffic controllers in Saudi Arabia who might have to slow traffic to make sure they can handle it safely. And the countries that closed their airspace will miss out on the overflight fees airlines pay for crossing overhead.

But Mike McCormick, who used to oversee air traffic control for the Federal Aviation Administration before he retired and is now a professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, said over the next few days these countries might be able to reopen parts of their airspace once American and Israeli officials share with the airlines where military flights are operating and how capable Iran remains at firing missiles.

"Those countries then will be able to go through and say, okay, we can reopen this portion of our space but we'll keep this portion of our airspace closed," McCormick said.

# 44 flights cancelled at RGIA amid Israel-Iran tensions

## Officials Issue Directives To Passengers

Sunny.Baski  
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**Hyderabad:** Air travel to and from the city was disrupted on Saturday after at least 21 arriving and 23 departing flights were cancelled in the wake of escalating tensions between Iran and Israel.

Officials at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) confirmed that several international services, particularly those operating through Gulf airspace, were either cancelled or rescheduled as airlines reassessed flight paths due to safety concerns.

Airlines operating routes to destinations such as Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Kuwait, Sharjah, Medan, Jeddah and other West Asian hubs were among the most affected. While some carriers opted to cancel services outright, a few flights have been delayed. Passengers

• Officials said that several services were either cancelled or rescheduled

• Airlines see surge in enquiries from passengers planning onward int'l connections through Gulf transit hubs

### 'SAFETY CONCERNS'



### MOST AFFECTED ROUTES

• Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Kuwait, Sharjah, Medan, Jeddah & other West Asian hubs



Source: Flightradar24.com

were seen waiting at airport counters, seeking clarification on rescheduling and refunds.

### Enquiries

Airlines saw a surge in enquiries from passengers planning onward international connections through Gulf transit hubs. "I have a flight to Amsterdam via Dubai on March 4; is this flight suspended? What is the current situation?" said Nitin Agarwal while tagging Etihad Airways on X.

"Hi @emiratessupport, I have a flight on Emirates

from Hyderabad to New York via Dubai on March 3. Unable to contact your call centre or live chat. How can I reach you to explore my options?" posted P Satya, a flier

The airport authorities advised passengers to verify flight status directly with their respective airline prior to departure for the airport. In light of the evolving situation in the Gulf and associated airspace restrictions, certain international flights may be subject to disruptions, including delays, rescheduling, or changes in operating times, RGIA said.

# Counting pills, fearing blasts: Indians stranded in West Asia

'Asked To Leave Sharjah Airport Without Help, Don't Know Where To Go'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Neeru Garg and her husband counted pills and hours. Their Sharjah return flight vanished. A taxi ride brought them to Dubai — and into a city under missile fire. “We have no money left and are running low on essential medicines,” Garg, a college principal from Punjab’s Bathinda, said Sunday from the home of an Indian doctor where they found shelter. “We don’t know where to go.”

Across west Asia, thousands of Indians — tourists, expatriates, pilgrims, politicians and families with children — have been left stranded after US-Israel strikes on Iran triggered Iranian retaliation. This in turn forced mass airspace closures and shutting down Dubai, the world’s busiest transit hub. “We were asked to leave the airport without any help,” Garg said.

Air travel disruptions deepened the crisis. Indian carriers cancelled about 350 flights



Passengers await assistance at Dubai airport parking lot on Sunday

Sunday alone, while west Asia-based airlines scrubbed more than 1,600 services across their networks. Airports from Chennai and Jaipur to Mangaluru and Amritsar reported mass cancellations to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Doha and Jeddah.

In Karnataka, dozens of Kannadigas were marooned across Dubai after flights were grounded mid-journey. Among them were Congress MLAs NR Bharath Reddy and SR Srinivas, and JD(S) MLC SL Bhojgowda.

Bhojgowda, travelling

from Johannesburg to India via Dubai with his family, said the shutdown came without warning. “As soon as we reached Dubai airport, it was conveyed to us that all flights were grounded due to air strikes by Iran,” he said in a video message, adding that they were safe but stuck.

Karnataka election commissioner SG Sangreshi and Pushpa Amarnath, vice chairperson of state guarantee schemes implementation committee, were also unable to return. Amarnath, who was in Dubai for an

award event, said guests received repeated safety alerts. “We were advised not to stand near windows. Around 60 tourists from Karnataka are staying in my hotel. All flights cancelled.”

From Ballari district, 50 tourists who flew to Dubai on Feb 24 were left stranded when their return flight on Feb 28 was cancelled as air strikes began. Fifteen members of one family said they were denied entry at the airport and had exhausted the cash they were carrying.

“Hotel rooms were costing Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 a night per person. We couldn’t afford it and had no place to go,” one relative said. State MLAs later arranged accommodation for the group in service quarters near the airport.

In Kolkata, actor Subhasree Ganguly’s husband, film director and Trinamool MLA Raj Chakraborty, said she could hear missile blasts from her hotel. She was stranded in Dubai with her son. Return dates remain uncertain.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

**OP EPIC FURY: US, ISRAEL STRIKE IRAN**

## Amritsar airport operations hit; several flights cancelled, diverted

**CHARANJIT SINGH TEJA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, MARCH 1**

Escalating military tensions in West Asia have led to the cancellation and disruption of multiple international flights operating from Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport to Gulf countries, airport sources said on Sunday.

Around 10 international departures from Amritsar to destinations such as Dubai, Sharjah, Muscat and Doha were affected following temporary airspace closures by several countries in the region.

Aviation authorities in parts of West Asia, including

Qatar, the UAE, Iran and Iraq, have either restricted or temporarily shut their airspace as a precautionary measure, impacting flight routes across the sector.

Qatar Airways announced that its flight operations remain temporarily suspended due to the closure of Qatari airspace. The airline said it would resume services once the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority confirms the safe reopening. Passengers have been advised to monitor official updates and check with the airline before proceeding to the airport.

Air India also issued an operational update, stating

that it has cancelled select flights scheduled for March 1 to prioritise the safety of passengers and crew.

The affected flights included the Amritsar-London (Gatwick)-Amritsar service. The airline expressed regret over the inconvenience caused and said affected passengers were being informed and offered alternative travel options. It shared helpline numbers for assistance and rebooking support.

According to aviation sources, flights operated by Emirates and FlyDubai to Dubai have been suspended until further notice. Services

by IndiGo, Air India Express and SpiceJet to Sharjah and Dubai were either turned back mid-route or diverted due to sudden airspace restrictions. One SpiceJet flight (SG-55) was reportedly diverted to Ahmedabad as a precautionary measure.

Airport authorities in Amritsar have tightened security arrangements as a precautionary step. Officials advised passengers to remain in close contact with their airlines for real-time updates, rebooking options or refunds, as the situation remains fluid and dependent on further developments in the region.

## इस्राइल-ईरान संघर्ष का बड़ा असर...हजारों उड़ानें प्रभावित, भारत में 350 रद्द

### पश्चिम एशिया के ज्यादातर देशों के ऊपर हवाईक्षेत्र खाली रहा

नई दिल्ली/दुबई। अमेरिका-इस्राइल और ईरान के बीच जारी संघर्ष के चलते दुनियाभर में रविवार को हजारों उड़ानें प्रभावित हुईं। दुनिया के सबसे व्यस्त अंतरराष्ट्रीय हब दुबई समेत पश्चिम एशिया के बड़े एयरपोर्ट बंद रहे। वहीं पश्चिम एशिया के ज्यादातर देशों के अपना एयरस्पेस बंद रखने के चलते भारत में 350 उड़ानें रद्द करनी पड़ीं।

ईरान के हमलों में दुबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट को नुकसान पहुंचा, जबकि अब्धाबी और कुवैत के एयरपोर्ट भी प्रभावित हुए। फ्लाइंग-ट्रैकिंग प्लेटफॉर्म फ्लाइंगडॉट.कॉम के डेटा के अनुसार, पश्चिम एशिया में हजारों उड़ानों पर असर पड़ा है। फ्लाइंगडॉट.कॉम के मैप्स से रविवार सुबह पता चला कि ईरान, इराक, कुवैत, इस्राइल, बहरीन, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात और कतर के ऊपर एयरस्पेस तकरीबन खाली रहा। एजेंसी



हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने से इंडोनेशिया के बाली में हवाईअड्डे पर परेशान लोग। एजेंसी

### दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर 100 और मुंबई एयरपोर्ट पर 125 उड़ानें रद्द की गईं

अमेरिका-ईरान संघर्ष का भारत में भी उड़ान संचालन पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ा है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर 100 उड़ानें कर को गईं, जिनमें से 60 जाने वाली उड़ान और 40 आने वाली उड़ान हैं। इसी तरह मुंबई के छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर भी 125 उड़ानें रद्द की गई हैं। इनमें से 67 जाने वाली और 58 आने वाली उड़ानें हैं। तिरुचिरापल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर 1 मार्च के लिए 17 आने वाली और 16 जाने वाली उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गई हैं और 2 मार्च के लिए 3 आने वाली और 2 जाने वाली उड़ानें रद्द की गई हैं।

### एअर इंडिया ने यूएई, सऊदी, इस्राइल और कतर आने जाने वाली सभी उड़ानों पर लगाई रोक

एअर इंडिया ने एक बयान में कहा कि उसने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, सऊदी अरब, इस्राइल और कतर आने-जाने वाली सभी उड़ानों पर रोक 2 मार्च को 23:59 बजे तक बढ़ा दी है। इसके अलावा 2 मार्च को यूरोप के लिए तब कुछ उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गई हैं। साथ ही इन उड़ानों के तय वापसी लेग्स भी रद्द कर दिए गए हैं।



### हालात बहुत डरावने थे : सिंधू



दुबई। दो बार की ओलंपिक पदक विजेता भारतीय शटलर पीवी सिंधू ने दुबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर फंसे होने के दौरान भयभीत करने वाले पलों को सोशल मीडिया पर साझा किया। सिंधू ने लिखा, स्थिति हर घंटे और भयावह होती जा रही थी। कुछ घंटे पहले जहां हम हवाई अड्डे पर छिपे थे, वहां के पास विस्फोट हुआ। मेरे कोच इरवांसयाह वहां से सबसे करीब थे, उन्हें तेजी से भागना पड़ा। यह हम सभी के लिए बेहद तनावपूर्ण और डरावना पल था। हालांकि, वह अब सुरक्षित हैं। एजेंसी



# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## भारत समेत एशिया और यूरोप में हजारों यात्री फंसे

एयरपोर्ट बंद होने के चलते भारत समेत एशिया और यूरोप में हजारों यात्री फंसे गए हैं। दिल्ली स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर फंसे एक यात्री ने लगातार उड़ानों में देरी और रद्द होने पर अपनी निराशा जताई और कहा कि मुझे दिल्ली से सऊदी के लिए उड़ान लेनी थी, लेकिन मेरी उड़ान रद्द हो गई। हम 14 घंटे से इंतजार कर रहे हैं, लेकिन हमें अभी तक कुछ पता नहीं चला है। यह बहुत मुश्किल होता जा रहा है। वहीं इंडोनेशिया के बाली में आई गुस्ती नगुराह राय अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर लंबी लाइनें देखी गईं।

■ बांग्लादेश के ढाका में हजरत शाहजलाल अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर यात्री अपने सामान के साथ अपनी उड़ान की जानकारी का इंतजार करते नजर आए, जबकि नेपाल में काठमांडो के त्रिभुवन अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट के डिपार्चर बोर्ड पर रद्द उड़ानों की एक लंबी सूची नजर आई। दुबई और पड़ोसी दोहा कनेक्टिंग उड़ान के शेड्यूल वाले नेटवर्क के जरिये यूरोप और एशिया के बीच लंबी दूरी के ट्रैफिक को जोड़ते हैं। इन दोनों जगहों पर हजारों यात्री अपनी उड़ानों का इंतजार करते दिखे।

■ वहीं, पाकिस्तान ने अलग-अलग एयरलाइंस की कम से कम 184 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द दी हैं। एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि इस्लामाबाद, लाहौर, कराची, क्वेटा, सियालकोट, पेशावर, फैसलाबाद से दुबई, अबू धाबी, दोहा, मस्कट, शारजाह, रियाद, जेद्दा के लिए सभी उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गई हैं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## Centre mulls ₹30,000 cr modified UDAN scheme for take off in April

**NEW HIGH.** Plan marks new phase of expansion with ₹18,000 cr for infra and ₹12,000 cr to fund viability gap

**Rohit Vaid**  
New Delhi

The Union Cabinet is likely to consider roll out of a modified version of the UDAN scheme for implementation from April 1, sources familiar with the development told *businessline*.

Accordingly, the revamped framework, if approved, would extend the regional air connectivity programme beyond its term and mark the beginning of a new expansion phase.

The proposal, which has been reviewed by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of the Ministry of Finance, envisages a total outlay of ₹30,000 crore, sources said.

Over, ₹18,000 crore has been earmarked for the development of new airports and related infrastructure, while ₹12,000 crore has been



**REGIONAL PUSH.** According to sources, the expanded scheme will prioritise helipads and smaller airports in hilly areas, aspirational districts and the North-East

proposed as viability gap funding (VGF) to support airline operations on regional and remote routes.

### SMALL AIRPORTS

Under the existing UDAN framework, airlines receive VGF and other concessions from airport operators and

support from Central and State governments to operate flights connecting unserved and underserved airports.

The plan to modify and extend UDAN was first announced in the Budget 2025-26 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who

stated that the next phase would aim to connect 120 additional destinations and enable travel for nearly four crore passengers over the next decade.

According to sources, the expanded scheme will prioritise helipads and smaller airports in hilly areas, aspirational districts and the North-East.

It is also expected to address bottlenecks that affected earlier rounds, including land acquisition delays, technical and regulatory constraints, aircraft availability, leasing challenges and maintenance support.

The scheme is likely to continue operating under a market-driven bidding model, wherein airlines assess passenger demand and propose routes during bidding rounds.

### MILESTONES REACHED

According to recent official

Since its launch in April 2017, more than 1.56 crore passengers have flown on over 3.23 lakh UDAN flights

data, under the scheme launched in April 2017, 649 routes have been operationalised out of 915 valid routes awarded, connecting 93 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and two water aerodromes.

The data showed that over ₹4,300 crore has been disbursed as VGF, while ₹4,638 crore has been invested in airport development under the scheme.

In total, more than 1.56 crore passengers have flown on over 3.23 lakh UDAN flights, so far.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## Airlines cancel 350 flights on Sunday

**Our Bureau**  
Mumbai

Indian carriers cancelled 350 international flights on Sunday with the closure of airspace amid ongoing clashes in West Asia region.

UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar remain closed for air traffic due to drone assaults and attacks on local airports. While Oman and Saudi Arabian airspace remained partially open, Indian carriers avoided transit cancelling their outbound Europe and US flights on Sunday.

Air India said close monitoring and careful assessment of the evolving situation in the West Asia resulted in further curtailment of its scheduled operations to Europe and US on Sunday.

Select flights to Europe including those to Birmingham, Zurich and Copenhagen have been cancelled on Monday. Additionally non stop flights to New York and



**TOURISTS STRANDED.** UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar remain closed for air traffic

Newark will operate with a halt at Rome IndiGo said it's Europe flights would be cancelled in addition to those in West Asia. Air India Express too has extended cancellation of flights to the GCC member countries till Monday midnight.

### EMBASSIES HELP

The shut down of major West Asia hubs led to massive disruption. Flights bound to Dubai and Doha diverted to European airports while some returned to point of origin. Indian embassy in

Hungary arranged for meals for 130 passengers on a Emirates Chicago-Dubai flight which diverted to Budapest, it said in an X post. Similarly, Indian Embassy in Kuwait said it is in touch with and assist the Indian nationals stranded in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Saturday issued instructions to airlines and airports on passenger facilitation and operational co-ordination. Among other things, it requires airlines and airports to set up disruption help desks.

## 18 aircraft stranded overseas

**Aneesh Phadnis**  
Mumbai

Eighteen Indian aircraft are stuck at airports in West Asia, Athens and Istanbul due to the closure of airspace following the US-Iran conflict, data from flight tracking website Flightradar24 shows.

While IndiGo has seven aircraft on ground, Air India Express has six planes parked at airports across West Asia. The list also includes Air India (2), Akasa Air (1), QuikJet (1) and SpiceJet (1 wet leased plane).

### CREW MEMBERS SAFE

The following airports have the maximum number of Indian planes on the ground: Dubai (5) and Abu Dhabi (5), followed by Dubai World Central (2) and Istanbul (2). Athens, Bahrain, Doha and Sharjah airports have one aircraft parked each since Saturday.

Sources said over two hundred pilots and crew members of IndiGo and Air India Express are stuck in West Asia. While a Tel Aviv-bound Air India Boeing 777 returned from mid-air on Saturday, there are sixteen Air India crew members in Israel. "We are in touch with our crew members. All of them are safe," said an Air India Express official. An IndiGo executive said the crew have been instructed to follow advisories issued by the Indian embassy.

The airports in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Kuwait have come under attack from Iran as it retaliates against US and Israeli strikes. Emirates and Etihad said they have suspended all operations to and from Dubai and Abu Dhabi until Monday afternoon.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued a safety advisory to Indian carriers. Carriers have been advised to refrain from operating in West Asian airspace.

# रविवार को 350 उड़ानें रद्द हुईं

दीपक पटेल और  
अशरा श्रीवास्तव  
नई दिल्ली, 1 मार्च

ईरान पर शनिवार को अमेरिका और इजरायल के सैन्य हमले के बाद, भारतीय घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित कम से कम 350 उड़ानें रविवार को रद्द कर दी गईं। पश्चिम एशिया में व्यापक हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंध लागू किए गए हैं।

बढ़ते संघर्ष ने कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई मार्गों को बाधित कर दिया, जिससे भारतीय एयरलाइंस को अपने मार्ग बदलने या सेवाएं निलंबित करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा है।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एक्स पर बताया, 'पश्चिम एशिया में भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रम के कारण हवाई क्षेत्र पर लगे प्रतिबंधों को देखते हुए, भारतीय घरेलू एयरलाइंस द्वारा संचालित कुल 350 उड़ानें 1 मार्च को रद्द कर दी गई हैं।' यात्रियों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे अपनी-अपनी एयरलाइंस से उड़ान की स्थिति की जानकारी प्राप्त करें।

मंत्रालय ने कहा कि वह स्थिति पर नजर रखने और यात्रियों को सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए एयरलाइंस, हवाई अड्डे के संचालकों और अन्य हितधारकों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है।

हालांकि अधिकांश उड़ानें ईरान और उससे सटे हवाई क्षेत्र के कुछ हिस्सों में लगाए गए प्रतिबंधों और



अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द होने पर रविवार को कोच्चि में फंसे यात्री

जोखिम आकलन के कारण रद्द हुई हैं, लेकिन यूरोप जाने वाली उड़ानें भी प्रभावित हुई हैं। यूरोपीय संघ विमानन सुरक्षा एजेंसी (ईएएसए) ने क्षेत्र में बढ़े हुए जोखिम को उजागर करते हुए एक सुरक्षा सूचना बुलेटिन जारी किया है।

जोखिम कम करने के उपायों के तहत, ईएएसए ने जेद्दा और मस्कट सहित कुछ हवाई मार्गों के उपयोग पर तीसरे देशों की एयरलाइनों (जिनमें भारतीय एयरलाइनें भी शामिल हैं) द्वारा यूरोप से आने-जाने वाली उड़ानों के लिए प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है। हालांकि, यूरोपीय एयरलाइनों के पास पाकिस्तान के ऊपर से उड़ान भरने का विकल्प है। यह मार्ग पिछले साल ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बाद से पाकिस्तानी हवाई क्षेत्र पर प्रतिबंध के कारण भारतीय एयरलाइनों के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं है जिससे भारतीय एयरलाइनों के लिए हवाई मार्ग के

विकल्प सीमित हो गए हैं और यूरोप जाने वाली उड़ानें रद्द की जा रही हैं।

एयर इंडिया ने अपने अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क में और कटौती की घोषणा की। एयरलाइन ने एक्स पर कहा, 'पश्चिम एशिया में बदलती स्थिति की बारीकी से निगरानी और सावधानीपूर्वक आकलन के कारण हमें अपनी निर्धारित उड़ानों में और कटौती करनी पड़ी है, क्योंकि हमारे ग्राहकों और कर्मचारियों की सुरक्षा हमारी सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है।'

पहले से घोषित उड़ानों के अलावा, एयर इंडिया ने 1 मार्च को कई उड़ानें रद्द कर दीं, जिनमें मुंबई-लंदन (हीथ्रो), दिल्ली-बर्मिंघम, दिल्ली-एम्स्टर्डम, दिल्ली-ज्यूरिख, दिल्ली-मिलान, दिल्ली-वियना, बंगलूरु-लंदन (हीथ्रो), दिल्ली-कोपेनहेगन और दिल्ली-फ्रैंकफर्ट की उड़ानें शामिल हैं। कंपनी ने बताया कि प्रभावित यात्रियों को

उनके पंजीकृत संपर्क विवरण पर सूचित किया जा रहा है और उन्हें दोबारा बुकिंग या धनवापसी का विकल्प दिया जा रहा है।

एयरलाइन ने 28 फरवरी या उससे पहले की गई बुकिंग के लिए रियायत दी है, जो 5 मार्च तक की यात्रा के लिए है, जिससे यात्रियों को बिना किसी अतिरिक्त शुल्क के यात्रा को पुनर्निर्धारित करने या पूर्ण धनवापसी का विकल्प चुनने की अनुमति मिलती है। इंडिगो ने पश्चिम एशिया के हवाई क्षेत्र का उपयोग करने वाली चुनिंदा अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों पर अस्थायी रोक को 2 मार्च तक बढ़ा दिया है। एक यात्रा सलाह में, कंपनी ने कहा कि यह कदम सुरक्षा मानकों को बनाए रखने के लिए एहतियाती उपाय है और ग्राहक वैकल्पिक उड़ानों का विकल्प चुन सकते हैं या पूर्ण धनवापसी का दावा कर सकते हैं। एयरलाइन ने 28 फरवरी या उससे पहले की गई बुकिंग के लिए पश्चिम एशिया और अन्य प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से आने-जाने वाली यात्राओं पर छूट को 7 मार्च तक बढ़ा दिया है।

विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया के घटनाक्रम के कारण भारत में रहने वाले विदेशी नागरिक जिन्हें अपनी यात्रा योजनाओं में बदलाव करना पड़ा है और जिन्हें वीजा विस्तार की आवश्यकता है, उन्हें सहायता के लिए निकटतम विदेशी क्षेत्रीय पंजीकरण कार्यालय से संपर्क करना चाहिए।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## 350 flights hit as West Asia skies close

**DEEPAK PATEL &  
AKSHARA SRIVASTAVA**  
New Delhi, 1 March

At least 350 flights operated by Indian carriers were cancelled on Sunday after the US and Israel carried out military strikes inside Iran on Saturday, triggering retaliatory threats from Tehran and prompting widespread airspace restrictions across West Asia.

The escalating conflict has disrupted multiple international corridors, forcing Indian airlines to reroute or suspend services as key airspace segments became unavailable or were deemed high risk.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a post on X that "in view of airspace restrictions arising from geopolitical developments in the Middle East, a total of 350 flights operated by Indian domestic carriers have been cancelled on March 1". Passengers were advised to check flight status with their respective airlines.

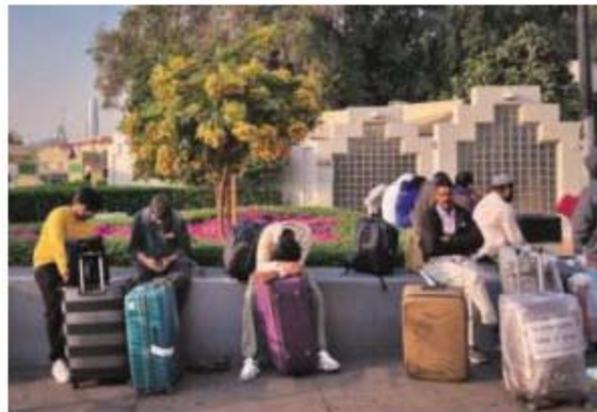
The ministry added that it was closely coordinating with airlines, airport operators, and other stakeholders to monitor the situation and facilitate pas-

senger support.

While most cancellations stem from restrictions and risk assessments across parts of Iranian and adjoining airspace, flights to Europe have also been affected. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) issued a safety information bulletin highlighting heightened risks in the region.

In its circular, EASA said: "On February 28, the US and Israel conducted military strikes targeting sites within Iranian territory. In response, Iran has announced retaliatory attacks. Given the ongoing military intervention, retaliatory actions against US and Israeli assets in the region are likely to occur, introducing additional high risks not only to the airspace of Iran but also to that of neighbouring states hosting US military bases or otherwise affected by hostilities and associated military activities, including interceptions."

As part of its risk mitigation measures, EASA restricted the use of certain airspace segments, including Jeddah and Muscat, for flights to and from Europe by third-country carriers, including Indian airlines.



Stranded passengers at the Dubai International Airport

European carriers, however, have the option of overflying Pakistan — a route unavailable to Indian airlines, narrowing routing options for Indian carriers and contributing to Europe-bound cancellations.

Against this backdrop, Air India announced further curtailment of its international network. "Close monitoring and careful assessment of the evolving situation in the West Asia have necessitated further curtailment of our scheduled operations, with the safety and security of our customers and crew remaining our

highest priority," the airline said in a post on X.

In addition to previously announced suspensions, Air India cancelled multiple services on March 1, including Mumbai-London (Heathrow), Delhi-Birmingham, Delhi-Amsterdam, Delhi-Zurich, Delhi-Milan, Delhi-Vienna, Bengaluru-London (Heathrow), Delhi-Copenhagen, and Delhi-Frankfurt. The airline said affected passengers were being informed through their registered contact details and offered rebooking or refunds.

Air India has provided full flexibility for bookings made on or before February 28 for travel up to March 5, allowing passengers to reschedule without additional charges or opt for a full refund.

IndiGo also extended the temporary suspension of select international flights using West Asian airspace until March 2. In a travel advisory, the airline said the move was a precautionary measure to uphold safety standards and that customers could opt for alternate flights or claim full refunds. Waivers for travel to and from West Asia and other impacted sectors have been extended until March 7 for bookings made on or before February 28.

The Ministry of External Affairs said foreign nationals in India who have had to alter travel plans due to developments in West Asia and require visa extensions should contact the nearest Foreigners Regional Registration Office for assistance.

Travel platforms are monitoring the situation in Dubai, where on-ground experiences and city tours.



## Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

1 MARCH 2026

### इंडिगो की अहमदाबाद सहित 4, एयर इंडिया की दिल्ली और मुंबई फ्लाइट का शेड्यूल बदलेगा

जयपुर | एयरपोर्ट पर 17 से 23 मार्च तक रनवे के मेंटेनेंस के चलते रोज 4 घंटे का नोटम लागू रहेगा। दोपहर 1 से शाम 5 बजे तक रनवे अस्थायी रूप से बंद रहेगा। इससे 5 प्रमुख शहरों की 6 फ्लाइट का संचालन प्रभावित होगा। इनमें दोपहर 1:25 बजे इंडिगो की अहमदाबाद फ्लाइट, डेढ़ बजे

एयर इंडिया की दिल्ली फ्लाइट, 1:35 बजे मुंबई की फ्लाइट, 1:45 बजे इंडिगो की चंडीगढ़ फ्लाइट, 1:55 बजे दिल्ली की फ्लाइट और 2:20 बजे वाली सूरत की फ्लाइट शामिल हैं। ये फ्लाइट्स प्रमुख रूप से प्रभावित होंगी। दिल्ली, मुंबई सहित 3 फ्लाइट्स तय शेड्यूल से पहले संचालित की जा सकती हैं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## एयर इंडिया ने अमेरिका, यूरोप की 22 और उड़ाने रद्द की



नई दिल्ली।

टाटा समूह की  
विमान सेवा

कंपनी एयर इंडिया ने पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संकट के बीच अपनी अमेरिका और यूरोप जाने वाली 22 और उड़ानों को रविवार को रद्द करने की घोषणा की। एयरलाइंस ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्मों एक पर बताया कि उसकी दिल्ली से बर्मिंघम, एम्सटर्डम, जुरिक, मिलान, वियना और कोपनहेगन जाने वाली एक-एक उड़ानें रद्द रहेंगी।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

1 MARCH 2026

## AAIB flags low visibility in Ajit Pawar plane crash

**Preliminary report cites fog, lack of navigational aids and runway issues**

MRITYUNJAY BOSE  
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has cited low visibility, a lack of meteorological facilities, and operational gaps in the preliminary findings into the January 28 Learjet crash at the Pune district's Baramati airport that claimed five lives, including that of then Maharashtra deputy chief minister and NCP president Ajit Pawar.

The business jet was operating a non-scheduled flight from Mumbai to Baramati, and crashed around 8.46 am.

The airfield is primarily used for flight-training operations, with two flight-training organisations (FTOs) having their base there. The airport has two temporary air traffic control (ATC) towers, both being operated and maintained by students and instructors of the FTOs for their respective flight operations and VIP flights.

The AAIB report pointed out that the airfield did not have any navigational aids other than windsocks, and "no windsock was available towards the runway 11 side".

### SHORTCOMINGS

- Airfield did not have any navigational aids other than windsocks
- No windsock was available towards runway 11
- Last runway re-carpeting done in March 2016
- This resulted in fading of runway markings and presence of loose gravel
- Visibility was 3,000 m, below required 5,000 m

The last runway re-carpeting was in March 2016, which resulted in the fading of runway markings and loose gravel on the surface.

### More details

Elaborating on the sequence of events, the AAIB report stated that on the day of the accident, the tower was manned by a ground instructor of one of the FTOs.

The flight crew was told that visibility was 3,000 metres, said the report, noting that this was well below the minimum required for VFR flight, which is 5,000 metres. The AAIB also concluded that there was "very shallow fog in patches" in Baramati.

Both the flight data recorders — the Solid-State Flight Data Recorder (SSFDR) and the Solid-State Cockpit Voice Recorder (SSCVR) — were damaged due to exposure to high temperatures during the accident.

# India calls for calm after US-Israel strike on Iran

**Issues advisories to Indians in Gulf nations to remain vigilant**

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Hours after a massive military confrontation broke out in West Asia, India on Saturday asked Iran, Israel, and the USA to “exercise restraint and avoid escalation,” while embassies in Iran and other Gulf nations advised Indian residents “to avoid unnecessary movements and remain indoors” as far as possible.

“India is deeply concerned at the recent developments in Iran and the Gulf region. We urge all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritise the safety of civilians,” the Ministry of External Affairs said in a brief statement, reacting to the fast-evolving situation after a joint US-Israel strike on Iran.

“Dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected.”

Indian missions in the region are in touch with Indians and have issued advisories asking them to remain vigilant, stay in contact with the missions, and

follow local security guidance.

The Indian embassy in Tehran asked Indian nationals to exercise extreme caution, avoid unnecessary movements, and remain indoors as far as possible. Similar advisories have been issued by the embassies in the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain.

Meanwhile, defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh underscored the importance of maintaining India’s “strategic partnerships” in West Asia.

“The events are moving pretty fast. In West Asia, we have a large diaspora. We will have to continue to maintain our strategic partnerships,” Singh said at a conclave in Delhi.

Notably, about 10 days ago, both Iran and the US participated in the Indian Navy’s International Fleet Review and Milan 2026 exercises at Visakhapatnam. Iran’s Moudge-class frigate IRIS Dena and a delegation were part of the show.

## IN-DIASPORA

■ Little over 10,000 Indians, including students, living in Iran

■ The Indian diaspora in Israel comprises over 41,000 people

■ New Delhi not immediately considering evacuating Indian nationals from Iran or Israel, sources said



Stranded passengers wait outside a terminal, amid cancellation of flights to West Asia due to the US and Israel strikes on Iran, at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi. PTI

## Indian carriers suspend West Asia flights

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With tensions escalating in West Asia, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation on Saturday asked Indian airlines to continuously monitor airspace restrictions and ensure the timely re-routing or diversion of flights.

Air India, Air India Express and IndiGo said they had temporarily suspended flights to and from West Asia.

An Air India Delhi-Tel Aviv flight was diverted to Mumbai due to the closure of Israeli airspace, with Flightradar24.com saying it was airborne for over five hours and decided to return when it was in Saudi Arabian airspace.

Civil Aviation Minister K

Ram Mohan Naidu chaired a high-level meeting to review preparedness and response measures in the civil aviation sector. Ministry, Airports Authority of India (AAI), and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials, airline operators, and major airport operators attended the meeting, conducted via video conferencing.

“Indian carriers operating international services have been advised to continuously monitor airspace advisories, NOTAMs, and route restrictions issued by the authorities concerned,” an official statement said. “Airlines have been directed to ensure timely re-

## DGCA issues advisory

The DGCA on Saturday asked Indian operators to avoid operating within the airspace of 11 countries in the region, saying there could be high probability of “spill-over risks” like misidentification of civil aircraft.

routing or diversion of flights, wherever required, strictly in accordance with global safety protocols and established contingency planning procedures,” it said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

1 MARCH 2026

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## Mumbai airport to halt diversions after parking crunch

Mumbai airport on Saturday issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) stating it will not accept any flight diversions until 8 am on Sunday amid disruptions following

US strikes on Iran. The move was prompted by a shortage of parking bays, with several flights either returning to their origin or diverting to nearby airports, sources said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## बी 787 विमानों के फौसेट कंट्रोल में सुधार कर रही एअर इंडिया

**नई दिल्ली, प्रेस :** अमेरिकी संघीय विमानन प्रशासन के निर्देश के बाद एअर इंडिया अपने अधिकांश ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों में फौसेट कंट्रोल माड्यूल (नल नियंत्रण माड्यूल) में सुधार कर रही है। इस निर्देश में पानी के रिसाव को रोकने के लिए फौसेट कंट्रोल माड्यूल में सुधार करने के लिए कहा गया था, क्योंकि पानी के रिसाव से विमान के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों पर असर पड़ सकता है।

अमेरिकी संघीय विमानन प्रशासन (एफएए) ने दो फरवरी को कुछ बोइंग 787-8, 787-9 और 787-10 विमानों के लिए एयरवार्निंग्स टायरेक्टिव (एटी) जारी किया। इन विमानों को ड्रीमलाइनर के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। इससे पहले जनवरी 2024 में एटी जारी किया गया था जो 787 विमानों में फौसेट कंट्रोल माड्यूल से पानी के रिसाव की संभावना से संबंधित था। इस समय टाटा समूह के स्वामित्व वाली

- संभावित पानी के रिसाव की समस्या के समाधान में मिलेगी मदद
- अमेरिकी संघीय विमानन प्रशासन के निर्देश के अनुरूप उठाया कदम

एअर इंडिया के बड़े में 33 बोइंग 787 विमान हैं, जिनमें 26 पुराने 787-8 विमान शामिल हैं।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि एअर इंडिया ने एफएए के निर्देश के बाद अपने अधिकांश बोइंग 787 विमानों में फौसेट कंट्रोल माड्यूल में आवश्यक संशोधन करना शुरू कर दिया है। बोइंग 787 विमानों में से आधे से अधिक में सुधार कर दिया गया है। हालांकि, यह पता नहीं चल सका कि कितने विमानों में सुधार का काम पूरा हो चुका है। एअर इंडिया और बोइंग की ओर से कोई आधिकारिक टिप्पणी नहीं आई है।

## भारत समेत दुनियाभर में हजारों उड़ानें हुईं रद्द

जागरण न्यूज नेटवर्क, नई दिल्ली

अमेरिका-इजरायल व ईरान की जंग ने पश्चिम एशिया में हवाई यात्रा को रविवार को लगातार दूसरे दिन बुरी तरह से प्रभावित किया। भारत समेत दुनियाभर में हजारों उड़ानें रद्द हुईं। ईरान, इराक, कुवैत, इजरायल, बहरीन, यूएई और कतर का हवाई क्षेत्र लगभग खाली रहा। यहीं नहीं, विमानन कंपनियों को कुछ फ्लाइटों के रूट बदलने पड़े। दुनिया का सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डा दुबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट दूसरे दिन भी बंद रहा। पश्चिम एशिया के हवाई अड्डों पर हजारों यात्री फंस गए हैं। यह हाल के वर्षों में विमानन क्षेत्र का सबसे बड़ा संकट है।

रायटर के अनुसार, अमेरिका और इजरायल के हमलों में ईरानी सर्वोच्च नेता अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई की मौत के बाद क्षेत्र का अधिकांश हवाई क्षेत्र बंद रहा। प्रमुख ट्रांजिट हवाई अड्डे जिनमें दुबई, अबू धाबी (यूएई) और दोहा (कतर) शामिल हैं, समेत पश्चिम



पश्चिम एशिया की उड़ानें रद्द होने के चलते रविवार को चेन्नई हवाई अड्डे पर फंसे यात्री। एएनआई

एशिया के ज्यादातर हवाई अड्डे या तो पूर्णतया बंद रहे या नाम मात्र को संचालन हुआ। अमेरिका व इजरायल के ईरान पर हमलों के चलते ईरान ईरान ने पड़ोसी खड़ड़ी देशों पर प्रतिशोधी हवाई हमले किए। दुबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे को ईरान के हमलों के दौरान नुकसान हुआ, जबकि अबू धाबी और कुवैत के हवाई अड्डों पर भी हमले हुए।

फ्लाइट-ट्रैकिंग प्लेटफॉर्म फ्लाइटअवेयर के अनुसार, पश्चिम एशिया में हजारों उड़ानें प्रभावित हुई हैं। उड़ान-ट्रैकिंग सेवा ने कहा कि एक नया "नोटिस टू एयरमेन" (नोटाम) जारी कर ईरानी हवाई क्षेत्र के बंद होने को कम से कम तीन मार्च तक के लिए बढ़ा दिया गया है। हवाई अड्डों के बंद होने से पश्चिम एशिया में ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे एशिया और

यूरोप में भी हजारों यात्री फंस गए हैं। यूरोप, एशिया और मध्य पूर्व की एयरलाइंस ने बंद या सीमित हवाई क्षेत्र से बचने के लिए उड़ानों को रद्द या फिर रूट ड्राईवर्ट किया। इससे न केवल यात्रा में अधिक समय लगा बल्कि ईंधन की लागत भी बढ़ गई।

**भारत में ही 350 से ज्यादा अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें कैंसिल :** प्रेट के अनुसार, भारतीय एयरलाइनों ने रविवार को पश्चिम एशिया में जंग के चलते लगभग 350 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दीं। रविवार को दिल्ली और मुंबई हवाई अड्डों पर ही कम से कम 225 उड़ानें रद्द की गईं। इनमें प्रस्थान और आगमन दोनों शामिल हैं। हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने और सुरक्षा चिंताओं के कारण एअर इंडिया और इंडिगो ने उन उड़ानों को कैंसिल किया है जो इन हवाई क्षेत्रों का इस्तेमाल करती हैं। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एक एक्स पोस्ट में कहा कि ईरान और पश्चिम एशिया के कुछ हिस्सों में हवाई क्षेत्र प्रतिबंधों के कारण 444 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द होने की संभावना है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

**AS AIRLINES DEAL WITH REFUND CLAIMS...**

## Insurers Face Airspace Closure Strain

Flight cancellations may trigger rise in aviation war-risk premiums, hit capacity

**Shilpy Sinha**

**Mumbai:** Aviation insurers are relieved that no passenger aircraft has suffered any damage in the ongoing conflict in West Asia. However, widespread airspace closures across the region and largescale flight cancellations are placing the market under operational strain, which could trigger a rise in av-

iation war-risk premiums, impacting available aircraft capacity.

"Aviation is purely the key risk, and capacity may shrink," said Sandeep Dadia, CEO and country head at Lockton India. Airlines tend to take hull and liability cover for planes, usually less than 1% of the sum assured. For air travellers, those who bought trip cancellation cover under travel policy may attempt to file claims. However, most travel insurance policies exclude losses arising from war or acts of war, leaving coverage dependent on specific wording and cause-of-loss interpretations. "With over 700 flights cancelled in Dubai alone and airspace closures across Iran, Iraq,



and Israel, the aviation hull and liability market is under duress," said Prateek Singhal, executive president and head of reinsurance at Howden Insurance.

Airlines may still face refund obli-

gations under consumer protection regulations, even if insurance recoveries are limited. "Loss of revenue is not covered under aviation policies," an industry official said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

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## Flights Grounded, Airlines Offer Waivers

Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** India's aviation industry continued to bear the impact of the conflict in West Asia and closure of airspaces and key airports in several countries for the second straight day on Sunday, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights and leading airlines to issue rescheduling fee waivers or full refunds.

"A total of 350 flights operated by Indian domestic carriers have been cancelled on March 1" due to the restrictions, the civil aviation ministry announced on Saturday. The ministry advised passengers to check flight status with respective airlines, stating that it is coordinating with carriers, airport operators, and other stakeholders to monitor the situation and facilitate support.

The cancellations follow airspace closures across parts of West Asia since February 28, which have affected both Gulf and Europe-bound services from India. Several Indian aircraft remain grounded at airports in West Asia amid operational uncertainty.

AI has extended the suspension of all flights to and from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Qatar until 23:59 hrs IST on March 2.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## TURBULENCE IN THE SKIES

### Indian carriers cancel 750 flights in 2 days, thousands stranded

YARUQHULLAH KHAN

**AS THE WAR** raged in West Asia — a key transit hub for flights to Europe and the US — Indian carriers cancelled around 750 international services on Saturday and Sunday, with more cancellations expected through the week.

Globally, thousands of flights were disrupted, leaving scores of passengers stranded, as Iranian strikes kept major West Asian airports, including Dubai — the world's busiest international hub — closed on Sunday.

The disruptions — one of the sharpest aviation shocks in recent years — come at a time Indian carriers have been reeling under prolonged closure of airspaces over Pakistan, Russia and Ukraine.

Among Indian carriers, IndiGo cancelled an estimated 450 flights, Air India around 100 flights, Air India Express around 85, SpiceJet around 75 flights, and Akasa Air around 40 flights on Saturday and Sunday due to the latest closure of



A plume of smoke caused by an Iranian strike is seen in the background as Emirates planes are parked at the Dubai International Airport on Sunday. The world's busiest international travel hub has been shut.

the airspaces of 11 countries. Emirates, FlyDubai, Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways, Gulf Air, Saudia, and Kuwait Airways have cancelled 2,941 flights on these two days.

The airspace closure is expected

to affect not only passengers over the coming weeks but also the finances and international expansion plans of domestic airlines in the final quarter of FY26. Air travel between India and the UK, Europe,

West Asia, and North America is likely to face significant disruptions, with flights being delayed, cancelled, and rerouted, as airlines grapple with substantial operational challenges due to the closure of air-

spaces over Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman.

Analysts warn that the potential fallout from on-going disruptions could be just the beginning, and if these issues persist, airlines may face an additional financial burden estimated at "hundreds of crores" due to increased operating costs and lost revenue. This compounds on top of the expected net loss of ₹17,000-18,000 crore that the aviation industry is projected to incur in the ongoing financial year.

One-stop flights via West Asian hubs are under pressure, leading to longer layovers or route diversions, said Lokesh Sharma, a senior defence and aviation analyst. "Flights between Asia, Europe, and North America are being rerouted. It's not just a logistical issue, it's a strategic shift in how airlines calculate viability, risk, and

resource allocation," Sharma said. "Close to 500 outbound and 500 inbound flights linked to India are being impacted. If we assume an average of 220 seats per flight, even on extremely conservative estimates, the losses could be around \$100 million per week for flights operating in and out of India," Mark

Martin, founder and CEO of Martin Consulting, said.

Domestic carriers have been avoiding Iranian airspace for several weeks before the latest escalation, and with Pakistan maintaining its airspace closure to Indian airlines since May 2025, airlines are left with minimal viable flight paths to Europe and North America. "Detours of two to three hours on wide-body aircraft could add approximately \$6,000-7,500 per flight hour in operating costs," Ernest Arvai of AirInsight said.

**Conservative estimates peg losses at around \$100 million per week for flights operating in and out of India**



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

1 MARCH 2026

## Airspace over W Asia closed

Dhairya Gajera

MUMBAI

Global aviation plunged into a state of emergency following the coordinated military strikes by Israel and the United States against Iran early Saturday. The retaliation by Tehran, targeting Israel and U.S. military installations across the Gulf, led to the closure of multiple national airspaces and the cancellation of thousands of flights worldwide. Fearing for civilian safety, aviation authorities across the West Asia shut down key corridors.

► [Contd on | nation](#)

## Airspace over...

Countries including Israel, Iran, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq and Jordan announced total or partial shutdown of their airspace. The move triggered the cancellation of over 3,500 flights to airports in these countries.

Airline like Emirates suspended all its flights from Dubai, while Etihad cancelled all its departures from Abu Dhabi, and Qatar Airways suspended all its operations to and from Doha. The shutdown of Dubai and Doha, which are two of the world's most critical transit points, has caused massive chaos in global scheduling.

India, which operates some of the highest flight frequencies to the Gulf region, faced a severe travel crisis. Numerous flights operated by Indian carriers were cancelled within the first few hours of the conflict, followed by the cancellation of all flights until March 2. Indian airlines, including IndiGo, Air India and Akasa Air, issued travel advisories informing passengers about the suspension of operations.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a safety advisory asking Indian airlines to refrain from operating within the affected airspace in the West Asia and Persian Gulf regions at all flight levels and altitudes until March 1. The affected airspace includes Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) also issued a travel advisory advising passengers to check and confirm their flight status with the respective airlines.

"The Airports Authority of India and private airport operators have been advised to maintain enhanced coordination with airlines for ground handling, parking bays, passenger amenities, crew logistics and immigration support, as necessary," the ministry stated.

Indian airports also issued advisories asking travellers to check their flight status before leaving for the airport. Major airports, including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Thiruvananthapuram, issued travel advisories amid the ongoing crisis.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

1 MARCH 2026

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## **Flight fails to land in Nepal for second day**

**Bengaluru:** Chaos prevailed at Kempegowda International Airport here after passengers bound for Nepal have staged a protest against Air India Express, alleging gross mismanagement that disrupted their travel plans for two consecutive days.

According to passengers, the flight departed Bengaluru for Kathmandu at 10.30 am on Thursday. However, the aircraft returned without landing in Kathmandu under circumstances that were not clearly communicated to travellers, they alleged.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

1 MARCH 2026

## Iran-Israel tensions halt Surat-Dubai flight, diamond trade on edge

**FPJ News Service**

**SURAT**

Escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, with the United States drawn into the conflict, have cast a long shadow far beyond West Asia — reaching deep into Surat's global trade lifeline. In a sudden move citing security concerns, Air India Express has cancelled its Surat-Dubai flight for the next 24 hours, leaving passengers stranded and the city's diamond industry on edge.

The cancellation follows heightened military activity in the region, prompting airlines worldwide to reassess routes and passenger safety. At Surat International Airport, anxious travellers gathered in large numbers after the announcement, seeking



clarity on rescheduling and refunds.

But beyond the immediate inconvenience, the bigger blow has landed on Surat's diamond traders — many of whom rely heavily on Dubai for high-value business transactions.

"This is a serious setback," said Mehul Shah, vice-president of Bharat Diamond Bourse (BDB). "Due to the increasing tension between Israel, America and Iran-Iraq, airline companies have cancelled flights. With the closure of the Dubai and Middle East flight services, traders

who had crucial business meetings are now stuck."

Dubai operates a structured tender system for diamond trading, where appointments are pre-scheduled and strictly timed. Missing a tender date can mean losing access to high-value deals worth crores of rupees.

"Those who had tenders scheduled today or tomorrow will miss their slots," Shah added. "It is impossible to predict when the next opportunity will come. This disruption could stall transactions and affect liquidity in the market."

Industry insiders fear that prolonged instability in West Asia could ripple through Surat's export-driven diamond ecosystem, impacting both trade volumes and international partnerships.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

HARI BHUMI

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## एयर इंडिया बोइंग 787 विमानों के एफसीएम में कर रही है बदलाव

एजेसी >> नई दिल्ली

एयर इंडिया अपने अधिकांश ड्रीमलाइनर विमानों के 'फॉसेट कंट्रोल मॉड्यूल' (जल नियंत्रण मॉड्यूल) में बदलाव कर रही है। यह कदम अमेरिका के संघीय विमानन प्रशासन (एफएए) के उस संशोधित निर्देश के बाद उठाया गया, जिसमें पानी के रिसाव की आशंका वाले मॉड्यूल को बदलने के लिए कहा गया था। इस रिसाव से विमान के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों पर बुरा असर पड़ सकता था। एफएए ने दो फरवरी को एक उड़ान सुरक्षा



निर्देश (एडी) जारी किया था, जो कुछ बोइंग 787-8, 787-9 और 787-10 विमानों पर लागू होता है। इन विमानों को ड्रीमलाइनर के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। टाटा समूह के स्वामित्व वाली एयर इंडिया के बेड़े में 33 बोइंग 787 विमान हैं, जिनमें 26 पुराने 787-8 विमान शामिल हैं।

आफत

## भारत से 760 उड़ानें रद्द, हेल्पलाइन नंबर जारी

मध्य पूर्व में जारी तनाव के बीच भारत से खाड़ी देशों समेत कई अन्य देशों के लिए भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का परिचालन बंद हो गया है। प्रमुख भारतीय विमानन कंपनियों ने उड़ानों पर रोक की अवधि भी दो मार्च (सोमवार) तक बढ़ा दी है। शनिवार सुबह से रविवार देर शाम तक 760 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं।

### कई विमानों को आधे रास्ते से लौटना पड़ा

ईरान पर हमले के बाद शनिवार से ही भारत से मध्य पूर्व देशों की उड़ानें बंद कर दी गई थी, जबकि वहां से उड़ानें भारत नहीं आईं। भारत से दुबई और अन्य स्थानों की कुछ उड़ानों को आधे रास्ते से लौटना भी पड़ा। रविवार को खाड़ी देशों के अलावा इंग्लैंड, जर्मनी, आस्ट्रिया, इटली, ग्रीस की उड़ानों पर भी अस्तर देखा गया। देर शाम तक दिल्ली से 100 और मुंबई से 125 उड़ानें रद्द हो चुकी थीं। रविवार देर रात तक रद्द अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों की संख्या 444 से अधिक हो सकती है।

### यहां से लें जानकारी

**इंडिगो:**  
[goindigo.in/information/flight-cancellations.html](http://goindigo.in/information/flight-cancellations.html)  
**एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस:**  
[airindiaexpress.com](http://airindiaexpress.com),  
#ChatWithTia, 'एआईएक्स'  
मोबाइल ऐप, +91-1169329333,  
+91-1169329999  
**स्पाइस जेट:**  
[spicejet.com/#status](http://spicejet.com/#status), +91-1169329333, +91-1169329999  
**अकासा एयर**  
+91-9606112131,  
[akasaair.com/flight-status](http://akasaair.com/flight-status)

**410** उड़ानें भारत से मध्य पूर्व और अन्य देशों की रद्द हुई थीं

**444** से अधिक उड़ानें रविवार देर रात तक रद्द होने का अनुमान

### कंपनियों की उड़ानें बंद

**भारतीय कंपनियां**  
एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस, इंडिगो, अकासा एयर, स्पाइस जेट  
**विदेशी कंपनियां:**  
ओमान एयर, गल्फ एयर, एमिरेट्स, कतर एयरवेज, एयर अरेबिया, एतिहाद एयरवेज

### हवाई अड्डों के लिए अलर्ट

डीजीसीए ने 'एक्स' पर बताया कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के रूट में बदलाव की संभावना को देखते हुए देश के सभी प्रमुख हवाई अड्डे परिचालन अलर्ट पर हैं। वरिष्ठ अफसर मौके पर तैनात हैं।

### एयर इंडिया में रिफंड सुविधा

एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने एक पोस्ट में बताया कि यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए टिकट बुकिंग रद्द कराने या यात्रा तिथि में बदलाव कराने की सुविधा शुरू हो गई है। यात्री पांच मार्च 2026 तक बिना किसी शुल्क के यह काम करवा सकेंगे।



**पाकिस्तान से 184 उड़ानें रद्द**

पाकिस्तान से भी मध्य पूर्व के लिए 184 उड़ानें रद्द हुई हैं। नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि इस्लामाबाद, लाहौर, कराची, क्वेटा, सियालकोट, पेशावर, फैसलाबाद से दुबई, अबु धाबी, दोहा, मस्कट, शारजाह, रियाद, जेद्दा के लिए सभी फ्लाइट्स कैन्सल कर दी गई हैं।

# Global travel grinds to halt as tensions rise

The disruption has stranded Indians abroad, and those from abroad in India

**HTC and agencies**  
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**NEW DELHI/MUMBAI:** For Sukur Ali Shaikh, a fitter from Kolkata travelling abroad for the first time, the dream of a Gulf job ended at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Sunday morning. He and two companions had received their tickets the previous evening and arrived at the terminal at 10.30 am, unaware that the skies between India and the Gulf had been effectively sealed since the day before. "We are out of money," he said. "Even food at the airport is unaffordable. We request someone to either fly us back home."

Shaikh's predicament was repeated in terminal after terminal across India on Sunday — the second consecutive day of mass cancellations along a corridor that carries more Indian passengers than any other in the world.

The Gulf airports sit at the crossroads of east-west air travel, funneling long-haul traffic between Asia and Europe through a tightly scheduled network of connecting flights. When they close, the consequences ripple far beyond the region.

According to a June 2025 report by the International Air Transport Association, the Middle East accounts for 39.2% of all India's international passenger traffic — 14.9 million travellers in 2024. The UAE alone, at 19.9%, is India's single largest international aviation market; Mumbai-Dubai and Delhi-Dubai are the two busiest international routes from India by flight count.

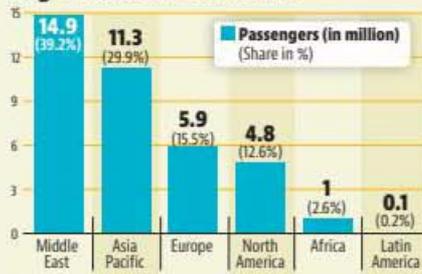
On Saturday, Iranian missiles struck Dubai International — the world's busiest international hub, handling more than 1,000 flights a day — causing physical damage and forcing its closure. Abu Dhabi's international airport was hit by a drone. Kuwait's airport was targeted. The three airports that together carry the bulk of Indian traffic to and through the Gulf went dark simultaneously.

India's Director General of Civil Aviation said 410 flights were

## Key hub for flights

**39.2%** of India's international O-D (origin-destination) traffic in 2024 was bound for the Middle East (West Asia), making it the leading destination region

### Region-wise traffic in 2024



### Busiest routes in 2024

Rank	Route	Share (in %)
1	Mumbai-Dubai	2.7
2	Delhi-Dubai	2.2
3	Delhi-Kathmandu	1.6
4	Delhi-Bangkok	1.4
5	Mumbai-Abu Dhabi	1.4
6	Delhi-London	1.3
7	Chennai-Colombo	1.3
8	Kochi-Abu Dhabi	1.3
9	Chennai-Singapore	1.2
10	Kochi-Dubai	1.1

Source: International Air Transport Association (IATA)

cancelled across the country on Saturday, with approximately 440 expected on Sunday. At Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, 100 international flights stood cancelled by Sunday evening. Bengaluru's Kempegowda International recorded 37 cancellations, with routes to Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai and Doha all affected. At Mumbai, around 220 flights were cancelled over the two days.

Across Kerala's four international airports — which operate roughly 100 Gulf flights a day, reflecting the state's vast expatriate diaspora in the GCC — dozens more were cancelled for a second consecutive day. Thiruvananthapuram alone recorded 37 on Saturday and 26 on Sunday.

Every major Indian carrier has now grounded its Gulf services. Air India suspended all flights to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Qatar until 11.59pm on March 2. IndiGo, India's largest airline, halted all Middle East operations until 11.59pm on March 2. Air India Express suspended all west-bound international flights till the same. Akasa Air grounded services to Abu Dhabi, Doha, Jeddah, Kuwait and Riyadh until March 2. SpiceJet suspended UAE services.

The disruption has stranded Indians abroad, and those from abroad in India. Among the hundreds caught at the Gulf end is PV Sindhu, the shuttler, at Dubai International when the airport

came under attack. Writing on X on Sunday, she described an explosion near her location inside the terminal. "My coach had to quickly run out of the area as he was closest to the smoke and debris. It was an extremely tense and scary moment for all of us," she said, noting that the Indian High Commission in Dubai had been assisting those sheltering at the airport.

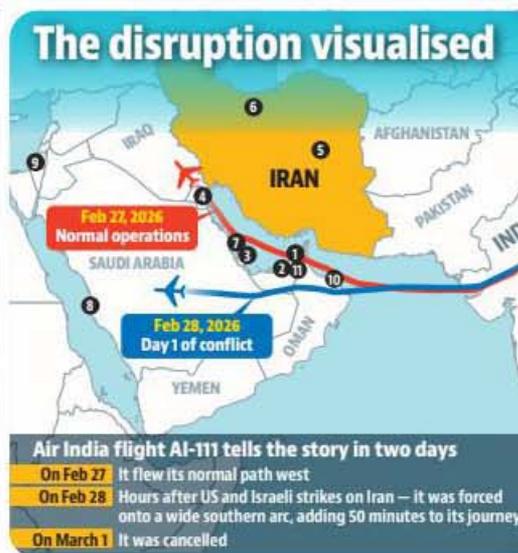
Around 150 students from Karnataka's Chikkaballapur district were stranded in Dubai.

"Dubai Airports confirms that all flight operations at Dubai International (DXB) and Dubai World Central — Al Maktoum International (DWC) are suspended until further notice," Dubai Airports said on Saturday. "The Embassy and Consulate are in touch with the UAE authorities and airlines for taking care of the Indian passengers stranded at the airports in UAE due to temporary and precautionary airspace closure," the Indian Embassy in the UAE said.

The human texture of those waiting at Indian airports cuts across every stratum of traveller. Ashok Kumar, 32, had journeyed from Jalandhar to Delhi to board a SpiceJet flight to Dubai, where a new job awaited him. The airline, he said, had simply told him to go home. "Not only is my job uncertain, but I will most probably have to travel back home again, which is a big expense for my family."

The stranded are not all Indian. Saaple Nijhuis, 53, had come from Amsterdam to Jaipur with two friends for a vacation, but needed urgently to return — one of her companions had lost her mother and needed to perform the last rites. Nijhuis said she had received word that her Monday Air India flight home was cancelled, though the airline's ground staff were telling her otherwise. "We are forced to wait here as there is confusion on whether we will be able to return tomorrow or not," she said.

The timeline for restoration remains opaque. Israel's airspace is formally closed until March 6. A no-fly zone over Oman's Muscat region runs until March 15. "The scale of these hubs today is just so enormous," said John Strickland, a UK-based aviation analyst. "You will have hundreds of thousands of people being stuck in wrong parts of the world without any certainty as to when they can move."



## Artery to westbound flights choked

**Neha LM Tripathi**  
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**NEW DELHI:** More than a third of India's international air traffic ground to a halt on Sunday as Iranian missile and drone strikes forced the closure of the Gulf's three great aviation hubs, severing the corridor through which the vast majority of India's westbound flights — to the Middle East, Europe and North America's East Coast — are routed.

The ministry of civil aviation said a total of 350 flights operated by Indian carriers had been cancelled on Sunday and the government "is in close coordination with airlines, airport operators and other stakeholders to proactively monitor the situation and facilitate necessary passenger support".

A June 2025 report by the International Air Transport Association found that the Middle East accounts for 39.2% of all India's international passenger traffic — 14.9 million travellers in 2024, more than any other region. That corridor runs through a handful of Flight Information Regions that,

by late Saturday, had been shut simultaneously and indefinitely.

By the time the last NOTAMS — the formal aviation instruments declaring airspace closed — were issued, they covered a sweep of sky commonly used by westbound traffic. Tehran has been shut since Saturday noon, with the warning extending the conflict risk over international waters in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea. Baghdad followed within hours. "The shutdown of Baghdad Flight Information Region at 13:10 IST on February 28 is particularly significant for Indian carriers, as it directly blocks the northern corridor typically used for India-Europe overflights," an official said. Kuwait, Bahrain, Doha, Jeddah and Damascus closed in quick succession.

These closures choked an already constrained air corridor for Indian airlines: the Pakistani airspace has been closed to Indian carriers for eleven months, eliminating one primary route west. The Gulf corridor — through the UAE, Qatar,

Bahrain and onward — was the principal alternative.

With both now unavailable, airlines have been forced onto a longer southern arc.

Flights now track southwest over the Arabian Sea, enter through southern Oman, thread through the mandatory waypoints of the Red Sea and Egypt before reaching the Mediterranean.

This has added to flying time and airlines are exploring what officials described as "southern deviations or technical halts" as the only viable options remaining. The diversion adds between one and two hours to journey times.

Air India's Delhi-London service on February 28 flew this southern arc, arriving 50 minutes later than the previous day's flight on the same route. The airline, the only Indian carrier operating transatlantic services, said that its flights to New York's

### AIRPORT AND AIRSPACE CLOSURES

- Dubai (DXB)** World's busiest international hub. 1,000+ daily flights. Physically struck overnight. Closed
- Abu Dhabi (AUH)** Hit by Iranian drone strike. All departures suspended
- Doha (DOH)** Qatar's sole major hub. Airspace closed since Feb 28 18:30 IST
- Kuwait (KWI)** Airport targeted by drone. Airspace closed since Feb 28. Closure runs to March 2
- Baghdad (ORBB)** Airspace closed since Feb 28, 13:10 IST. Blocks primary northern India-Europe overflight corridor directly
- Tehran (OHH)** Continuously closed since Feb 28, 12:00 IST. Conflict caution zone extends over Persian Gulf and Oman Sea waters
- Bahrain (OBBB)** Airspace closed. US Navy 5th Fleet HQ struck by Iranian missile
- Jeddah (OJJJ)** Airspace closed but mandatory waypoints further south defined — traffic on approved tracks only
- Israel (LLLL)** Airspace closed until March 6
- Muscat (OOMS)** No-fly zone (18 NM radius). New temporary ATS route established for UAE-origin traffic to southern Oman only
- Sharjah / Ras Al Khaimah** No ATC service/closed until March 2, 05:29 IST

JFK and Newark are now operating with a technical stop at Rome's Fiumicino Airport — a refuelling halt made necessary by the additional range of the southern diversion demands.

IndiGo cancelled around 360 flights through March 3.

Select Europe services have been cancelled entirely: the Amritsar-Birmingham, Delhi-Zurich and Delhi-Copenhagen routes and their return legs were grounded on March 2. "All other flights to North America and Europe will operate per schedule using alternative routings over available airspaces in the Middle East, which is expected to add to the flying times," the airline said.

Experts said the financial toll is being tallied. "The weekly impact to Indian and international airlines flying to and from India stands at an extremely conservative estimate of ₹875 crore," said Mark D Martin, chief executive of aviation consultancy Martin Consulting. "...Chances of improvement in the airspace closures for at least one week are less."

# West Asian airspace closed; Indian airlines cancel flights

DGCA issues advisory to avoid 11 countries until March 2; airports across India put on operational alert to manage potential flight diversions, unscheduled landings and passenger facilitation

**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

**W**ith tensions escalating across West Asia on Saturday, large swathes of the airspace in the region became a no-go zone, forcing global and Indian airlines to cancel flights to the region and reroute several others to avoid the affected corridors on Saturday.

India's aviation safety regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), issued an urgent safety advisory valid until March 2 for all airlines to avoid 11 countries in the region – Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

The U.S. and Israel launched a major attack on Iran on Saturday, while it retaliated by firing missiles and drones toward Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

The Air India Group, which also includes its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express, as well as IndiGo announced they were cancelling all their flights to West Asia until midnight on March 1.

Iran and Israel closed their airspace at the start of the day, with other coun-



**Go and touch:** An Abu Dhabi-bound Air Arabia flight that took off on Saturday afternoon landed back at the Thiruvananthapuram airport a while later. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tries in the region, including Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Iraq, Oman and Syria, quickly following suit. A time-lapse from FlightRadar24 initially showed an empty corridor of airspace between Iran and Israel, which gradually expanded as more countries across the region imposed restrictions.

## Passengers stranded

Major international hub airports in the region, including Dubai and Doha, were also shut, leaving thousands of passengers stranded as flights turned back mid-air or were cancelled.

The Air India Group suspended flights to Dammam, Sharjah, Riyadh, Do-

ha, Dubai, Jeddah, Muscat, Riyadh, Tel Aviv, Sharjah, Bahrain, and Kuwait City. Akasa Air said it was suspending all its flights to Abu Dhabi, Doha and Jeddah.

Air India's Delhi-Tel Aviv flight was forced to turn back early, while its Chicago-Delhi service took a longer routing to steer even farther clear of Iranian airspace, which it had already been avoiding.

Air India Express, which operates a large number of Gulf-bound services, cancelled around 110 flights to the region. Five of its aircraft remain stranded there, including one deployed on the Sharjah-Indore route.

Civil Aviation Minister K.

Rammohan Naidu and Civil Aviation Secretary S.K. Sinha held a review meeting to assess the impact on flight operations and passenger security.

"Airports across the country, particularly major international gateways, have been placed on operational alert to manage potential flight diversions, unscheduled landings and passenger facilitation requirements. The Airports Authority of India and private airport operators have been advised to maintain enhanced coordination with airlines for ground handling, parking bays, passenger amenities, crew logistics and immigration support, as necessary," a statement said.

## Airlines cancel 350 flights; all services to 11 nations suspended

**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

Indian airlines cancelled nearly 350 flights on Sunday, with Air India suspending 20 additional long-haul services to European destinations, including London, Zurich, Milan, Frankfurt and Copenhagen.

The cancellations add to the complete suspension of flights by all Indian carriers to 11 countries in West Asia, following air strikes in the region in the wake of the war between Israel-U.S. and Iran and an urgent advisory issued by the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation valid until March 2. Air India on Sunday announced 20 additional flight cancellations across Europe, taking the total number of its long-haul and ultra-long-haul services, over and above the Gulf flights, scrapped for the day to 48. This includes 28

### Indians among those injured in Iranian strikes

NEW DELHI

Several Indians were among those who have been injured in the missile and drone attacks by Iran in West Asia, authorities in the UAE and Oman said. Indian missions heightened activities to address concerns of citizens scattered across West Asia. » **PAGE 11**

earlier cancellations affecting routes to the U.S., Canada and Europe.

The UAE's aviation regulator announced that the state would cover all accommodation and sustenance costs for the stranded passengers, ensuring continued provision of essential services, according to *Khaleej Times*.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» **PAGE 10**

## Indian airlines suspend services to all 11 nations

Authorities in Dubai and Abu Dhabi have instructed hotels to accommodate guests unable to depart due to the disruption.

In Dubai, the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism issued a formal directive to hotel managers, asking them to allow affected guests to extend their stay on the same terms as in their original bookings.

In Abu Dhabi, authorities issued a parallel order that goes a step further, confirming that the government would bear the accommodation costs for stranded guests, according to local media reports.

The Embassy of India in Muscat, Oman issued a public notice informing that Indian citizens in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE), who hold valid resident cards, were eligible for a visa on arrival, enabling them to enter Oman and seek temporary shelter.

The advisory added that Indian passport holders with a valid visa or residence permit from the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Japan and Schengen countries are also eligible for a visa on arrival, allowing entry into Oman for up to 10 days without a pre-arranged visa.

Other travellers may apply for an e-visa through an authorised travel agency.

# Corporate Communications Directorate

LOKSATYA

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## ईरान संकट के बीच मुंबई-दिल्ली उड़ानें प्रभावित, 225 रद्द

### संकट

- मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर 125 और दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर कम से कम 100 उड़ान रद्द हुईं

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या। ईरान पर अमेरिका और इजराइल के हमलों तथा खाड़ी क्षेत्र में हवाई मार्गों के बंद होने के कारण रविवार को मुंबई और दिल्ली हवाई अड्डों से कुल 225 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं।

मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर 125 और दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे पर कम से कम 100 उड़ान रद्द हुईं। दिल्ली में 60 अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रस्थान और 40 आगमन उड़ान रद्द हुईं। दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डीआईएएल) ने 'एक्स' पर कहा, 'पश्चिम एशिया की बदलती राजनीतिक स्थिति के कारण पश्चिम की ओर जाने वाली अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में व्यवधान या समय में बदलाव हो सकता है।'

मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर अपराह्न 2:30 बजे तक कुल 125 उड़ान रद्द की गईं, जिनमें 67 प्रस्थान और 58 आगमन उड़ान शामिल हैं। सूत्रों के अनुसार, पश्चिम एशिया की घटनाओं के कारण मुंबई हवाई अड्डे पर पाकिंग की कमी के चलते शनिवार रात नौ बजे से रविवार सुबह आठ बजे तक किसी भी उड़ान का मार्ग बदलने की अनुमति नहीं दी गई थी। कई उड़ान अपने मूल हवाई अड्डे पर लौट गईं या उन्हें नजदीकी हवाई अड्डों की ओर भेज दिया गया।

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने पहले ही कहा था कि रविवार को घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों द्वारा 444 अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें रद्द किए जाने की संभावना है। इस बीच, अमृतसर अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर रविवार को पश्चिम एशिया में हवाई मार्ग बंद होने के कारण 10 उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं। कतर एयरवेज की दो उड़ानें (दोहा-अमृतसर और अमृतसर-

### पीवी सिंधु और अभिनेत्री सोनल चौहान भी फंसी

● नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या। ईरान पर अमेरिका और इजराइल के हमलों के बाद पश्चिम एशिया से आने-जाने वाली उड़ानों में बाधा के कारण सैकड़ों भारतीय दुबई और अन्य प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर फंसे हुए हैं, जिनमें से कई सोशल मीडिया के जरिए भारत सरकार से मदद की अपील कर रहे हैं। दुबई में फंसे लोगों में ओलंपिक पदक विजेता पी.वी. सिंधु, अभिनेत्री सोनल चौहान, कर्नाटक से जद (एस) के विधान परिषद सदस्य एस.एल. भोजेगौड़ा और उनका परिवार, बंगाली अभिनेत्री सुभाश्री गांगुली अपने बेटे के साथ, पर्यटक और छात्र समूह शामिल हैं। ट्रेवल एजेंट संगठन के एक पदाधिकारी ने रविवार को बताया कि मध्य प्रदेश के दो पूर्व विधायकों सहित 700 से अधिक लोग उड़ान रद्द होने के कारण संयुक्त अरब अमीरात में फंसे हुए हैं। ट्रेवल एजेंट्स फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया की मध्य प्रदेश इकाई के अध्यक्ष अमोल कटारिया ने बताया कि वे पर्यटन और व्यापारिक उद्देश्यों से यूएई गए थे। कटारिया ने कहा कि पूर्व विधायक और भाजपा नेता संजय शुक्ला भी दुबई में फंसे लोगों में शामिल हैं। शुक्ला ने सोशल मीडिया पर एक पोस्ट में कहा, "मौजूदा अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिस्थितियों के कारण दुबई का हवाई अड्डा अस्थायी रूप से बंद होने से हमारी आज (रविवार) भारत वापसी संभव नहीं हो सकी। शुक्ला ने कहा कि यहा (दुबई) हालात बहुत खराब हो चुके हैं। उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी से दुबई में फंसे भारतीयों की सुरक्षित वापसी सुनिश्चित करने की अपील की।



दोहा), एअर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की चार उड़ानें (दुबई-अमृतसर, अमृतसर-शारजाह, शारजाह-

अमृतसर और अमृतसर-दुबई), स्पाइसजेट की दो उड़ानें (दुबई-अमृतसर और अमृतसर-दुबई) और

इंडिगो की दो उड़ानें (शारजाह-अमृतसर और अमृतसर-शारजाह) रद्द की गईं।

## ₹500 crore hit: US-Iran crisis grounds India's airline profits

Abhishek Law & Dipali Banka  
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

**E**scalating tensions across West Asia have begun to strain the operations and finances of India's top airlines, including IndiGo, the Air India group, Akasa Air, and SpiceJet, with experts estimating that airspace disruption may result in revenue losses of around ₹500 crore for carriers.

In a tweet on Saturday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said Indian airlines cancelled around 410 flights on 28 February, and 440 on 1 March, following security concerns over the Middle East airspace, hitting Gulf and long-haul routes beyond the region, including services to London Heathrow and Canada.

West Asia accounts for 15-20% of IndiGo's daily revenue, according to a sell-side analyst. "Flight cancellation due to the West Asia crisis will have an impact on airline revenues. Sustained disruption especially on the international routes, directly affects volumes," said Gagan Dixit, senior vice-president oil and gas and aviation at Elara Securities. "IndiGo's roughly 30% of capacity share is international operations and two-thirds of it is linked to the Middle East. So the airline has meaningful exposure to the region, around 15-20% of daily revenue is exposed."

"AIX is also heavily exposed to West Asia, but it is difficult to quantify the impact as it is



Around 850 Indian airline flights, including services by Air India and IndiGo, were cancelled in two days amid rising security risks.

privately held and does not disclose financials," he added.

Experts said the disruptions could translate into losses of over ₹500 crore after factoring in lost ticket sales, passenger refund and rescheduling cost with additional expenses from longer flight routings pushing operating costs higher.

"A ballpark calculation suggests a ₹40,000 round-trip ticket cost, about 450 flight cancellations and roughly 200 seats per flight. This comes to approximately ₹500 crore direct revenue losses for carriers," Mark D.

Martin, aviation expert and founder of Gurugram-based Martin Consulting, said.

With a direct hit of ₹500 crore, there could be a much larger impact due to a potential jump in oil prices, which could hurt the airline's earnings. Losses are expected to rise further as airlines operating Gulf routes from northern

India face longer flying times due to continued restrictions over Pakistani airspace. "This means carrying more fuel and reduced cargo capacity, which will have a further impact on earnings," Martin said.

In an advisory issued on 28 February, the DGCA flagged a "significant escalation in security risks" for civil aviation, citing a safety bulletin issued by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency following recent US and Israeli military strikes inside Iran and Tehran's retaliatory measures. Airlines were advised to avoid operating across eleven Flight Information Regions, including Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Oman, till at least 2 March.

The disruption has hit a corridor central to Indian airlines' global business. IndiGo operates around 300 weekly flights to West Asia. Air India Express runs nearly 335 weekly services to Gulf destinations.

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

**DGCA advised carriers to avoid airspace across 11 West Asian regions, disrupting key international corridors**

## Indian airlines cancel 350 flights

**NARESH BISWANI**

**NEW DELHI/MUMBAI:** Indian airlines cancelled 350 international flights on Sunday as operational disruptions continued for the second day due to the escalating Middle East conflict.

With airspace closures in the Middle East and security concerns, Air India and IndiGo have also cancelled their flights that use these airspaces. With the rise in regional military actions due to the US and Israeli strikes on Iran, the number of cancelled flights has increased as

the airspace remains shut in the region.

Since the start of the conflict, over 3,000 flights have been cancelled due to the closure of airspace. On Saturday, over 1,800 flights to and from the region were cancelled due to the ongoing situation in the region.

"In view of airspace restrictions arising from geopolitical developments in the Middle East, a total of 350 flights operated by Indian domestic carriers have been cancelled on March 1," the Civil Aviation ministry said in a post on X on Sunday. **Continued on P4**

## Indian airlines

On February 28, the ministry said 410 flights of domestic carriers were cancelled.

Air India and SpiceJet shared details about the number of flights cancelled through X posts. Air India said Sunday morning it had cancelled a total of 22 international flights, besides 28 it had announced on February 28 due to the Middle East crisis. According to SpiceJet, 33 flights to and from the UAE have been cancelled.

Air India Express extended the suspension of flights to and from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates until 2359 hours IST on March 2.

IndiGo said the temporary suspension of select international flights that use Middle East airspace, has been extended until 2359

hours IST on March 2. All airlines provided the updates through posts on X while Air India Express issued a statement.

Meanwhile, the ministry also said it was closely coordinating with airlines, airport operators and other stakeholders to proactively monitor the situation and facilitate necessary passenger support.

Airlines are also offering waivers for rescheduling and cancellation charges. Air India and Air India Express said that for bookings made on or before February 28 with travel originally planned up to March 5, passengers can reschedule flights at no additional charge or request a full refund. This is for travel to and from the Middle East, which has been impacted due to the ongoing situation.

Not only domestic and international flights to and from the region, but the ongoing situation has also led to the cancellation of long-haul flights from the region to other parts of the world. Air India has cancelled flights from India to Europe and from India to the US due to the closure of airspace in the region. Currently, eight countries have closed their airspace due to the ongoing military actions in the region. These countries include Iran, Israel, Iraq, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan. These countries have closed their airspace due to the ongoing military actions and strikes in the region. Dubai International Airport, which is considered to be the busiest airport in the world in terms of international passengers, is currently feeling the heat due to the closure of the airspace in the region.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## Airlines cancel all flights to West Asia, traffic to Europe, US hit for 2nd day

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE aviation chaos due to the escalating tensions in the Middle East continued for the second consecutive day on Sunday with airlines from India cancelling all flights to the region and to some cities in the West, which are accessed via the closed airspace.

As per the Civil Aviation Ministry, a total of 350 flights were cancelled on Sunday. In line with an earlier directive issued by the aviation watchdog, the DGCA, to all airlines, they extended the cancellation of their flights up to 11.59 pm on Monday.

"In view of airspace restrictions arising from geopolitical developments in the Middle East, a total of 350 flights operated by Indian domestic carriers have been cancelled on March 1," the ministry said.



### GROUNDED

- 1 A total of 350 flights were cancelled on Sunday, as per the Civil Aviation Ministry
- 2 104 flights, 62 departures and 42 arrivals cancelled at Delhi airport on Sunday

On Saturday, 410 flights were cancelled. Airlines have announced a full refund or re-scheduling of all tickets booked until March 5 or 7 for bookings made before February 28.

IndiGo cancelled 166 flights to the region and to London on Sunday. It announced 162 cancellations on Monday and 42 for Tuesday too. A spokesperson for Air India Express said, "Air India Express has extended the suspension of flights to and from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE until 23:59 pm India Time (18.29 hrs UTC) of 2nd March."

Air India had already suspended all its flights to and from UAE, Qatar, Israel and Saudi Arabia. It also cancelled its flights to London, Birmingham, Amsterdam, Zurich, Milan, Vienna, Copenhagen, and Frankfurt from Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru on Sunday. On Monday, it will cancel flights to the Middle East and Birmingham, Copenhagen, and Zurich. SpiceJet flights to the Middle East were cancelled on Sunday and Monday.

**350 उड़ानें रविवार को रद्द**

## दो दिन में 850 फ्लाइट्स रद्द, 2 लाख लोग प्रभावित

Maneesh Aggarwal  
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■ नई दिल्ली: मिडिल-ईस्ट का एयरस्पेस बंद होने से तमाम फ्लाइटों को कैंसल करना पड़ा है। नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने बताया कि दो दिनों में 850 से अधिक इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट कैंसल करनी पड़ी है। एक मार्च को भारत से केवल मिडिल-ईस्ट देशों के लिए जाने वाली 350 से अधिक फ्लाइटों को कैंसल किया गया। इनके अलावा यूके, अमेरिका और अन्य यूरोपीय देशों की फ्लाइटों भी कैंसल की गई हैं। जानकारों का कहना है कि दो लाख यात्रियों पर असर पड़ा है। भारतीय एविएशन इंडस्ट्री को अभी तक तकरीबन 500 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हो चुका है। फ्लाइटों के कैंसल होने से एयरपोर्ट्स पर हवाई जहाजों को खड़ा करने के लिए पार्किंग फुल हो गई। सरकार और एयरलाइंस ने यात्रियों को अडवाइजरी जारी कर कहा है कि वह अपनी किसी भी इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट से पहले संबंधित एयरलाइंस से संपर्क करके अपनी फ्लाइट के स्टेटस के बारे में जरूर पता कर लें कि कहीं वह कैंसल या री-शेड्यूल तो नहीं की गई है।



कई एयरपोर्ट्स पर जहाजों की पार्किंग फुल हो गई है।

### विदेशी एयरलाइंस भी प्रभावित

विदेशी एयरलाइंस, जिनपर असर हुआ उनमें एमिरेट्स, फ्लाई दुबई, एतिहाद, एयर अरेबिया, कतर एयरवेज, ब्रिटिश एयरवेज, इरान एयरलाइंस, इराकी एयरवेज, कुवैत एयरवेज, टर्किश एयरलाइंस, यूनाइटेड एयरलाइंस और ओमान एयर समेत अन्य विदेशी एयरलाइंस शामिल हैं।

### वैकल्पिक रूट पर भी विचार

युद्ध अगर लंबा चला तो दूसरे इंटरनेशनल रूटों पर भी विचार किया जा रहा है। इसमें ओमान के नीचे सलालाह और रियाद होते हुए आगे अमेरिका और इंग्लैंड समेत अन्य देशों की तरफ फ्लाइटों का मूवमेंट कराया जा सकता है।

## होली पर वाराणसी के लिए भी हवाई यात्रा आसमान पर

वाराणसी। होली में थोड़े ही दिन बचे हैं। ऐसे में महानगरों में काम करने वाले लोग अपने घरों को लौट रहे हैं। इस कारण विमानों में सीटें नहीं बची हैं। सीटों की बुकिंग को देखते हुए

■ 3000 का टिकट 8900 का हुआ

■ दिल्ली, मुंबई, बंगलुरु का बढ़ा किराया

विमानन कंपनियों ने किराया दोगुने से अधिक बढ़ा दिया है। दिल्ली से वाराणसी आने का किराया जहां आम दिनों में 3000-4000 रुपये के बीच होता है, वह बढ़कर 7800 से 8900 रुपये के बीच हो गया है। टिकट बुकिंग साइट के अनुसार सबसे अधिक बुकिंग दिल्ली, मुंबई और बंगलुरु की हुई है। इन शहरों से



आने वाले विमानों में 2 और 3 मार्च को सीटें फुल हैं। इसे देखते हुए विमानन कंपनियों ने किराया बढ़ा दिया है। दिल्ली से वाराणसी आने का आम दिनों में किराया 3 से 4 हजार रुपये के बीच होता है। इस समय एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का किराया 7894 रुपये, इंडिगो का 8395 रुपये और एयर इंडिया का 8968 रुपये है। मुंबई का किराया आम दिनों में 4 से 5 हजार रुपये के बीच होता है। इस समय एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस

का 7728 रुपये, इंडिगो का 8268 रुपये और अकासा एयर का 8477 रुपये है। बंगलुरु का किराया आम दिनों में 4 से 5 हजार रुपये होता है। इस

समय एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का 11041 रुपये, इंडिगो का 7628 रुपये और अकासा एयर का 7339 रुपये है। हैदराबाद से आने का किराया भी महंगा है। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस का 12569 रुपये, इंडिगो का 12619 रुपये और एयर इंडिया का किराया 11731 रुपये है। बढ़े किराये को देखते हुए लोग ट्रेन और निजी बसों की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं। हालांकि त्योहार पर ट्रेन और बसों में भी सीटें फुल चल रही हैं।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

SWATANTRA BHARAT

LUCKNOW

1 MARCH 2026

## सरकार चौकस : फ्लाइट संचालन और यात्रियों की सुविधा पर खास जोर



नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम एशिया में जारी तनावपूर्ण स्थिति के मद्देनजर नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने एयरलाइंस और अन्य संबंधित हितधारकों की तैयारियों की समीक्षा की है। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि बदलते हालात को देखते हुए यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और संचालन की निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सभी एजेंसियों को सतर्क रहने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं।

सरकार ने एयरलाइंस से जरूरत पड़ने पर उड़ानों के समय पर री-रूटिंग और डायवर्जन सुनिश्चित करने को कहा है, ताकि किसी भी संभावित व्यवधान का यात्रियों पर न्यूनतम असर पड़े। इसके साथ ही एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर्स को एयरलाइंस के साथ बेहतर समन्वय बढ़ाने और यात्रियों की सुविधाओं के साथ-साथ करू लॉजिस्टिक्स सपोर्ट को मजबूत करने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं।

## Several flights cancelled at Amritsar Airport amid Israel-Iran conflict

### AGENCIES

Amritsar, 1 March

Several flight operations have been disrupted at the Amritsar airport following escalating tensions and reported conflict in parts of the Gulf region, officials said on Sunday.

Amritsar Airport Director Bhupinder Singh added that five flights were affected, including a SpiceJet flight to Dubai that was recalled midair after refuelling, and an IndiGo flight from Amritsar, which was diverted to Surat.

Speaking to ANI, Bhupinder Singh said, "Yesterday, five flights were cancelled. 2 flights were cancelled on the ground. 2 other flights had taken off; one was SpiceJet for Dubai, which was in midair and was called back to Amritsar around 7 PM after refuelling.

The other flight was IndiGo 6E 147 from Amritsar, which was diverted to Surat Airport. Another flight, Air Express, which was on the ground, and passengers de-boarded. Another Indigo flight coming from Sharjah to Amritsar was cancelled. Another Air India flight to Birmingham got cancelled."

The cancellations come amid heightened hostilities in the Middle East after coordinated military strikes involving Israel and the United States targeted Iranian sites,



triggering retaliatory threats and airspace shutdowns in Iran, Israel and Iraq.

The conflict has led to major disruptions in global aviation, with airlines suspending services to Gulf destinations as a precautionary measure.

On Saturday, in Bengaluru, several passengers were left stranded at Kempegowda International Airport after multiple flights to Middle Eastern destinations were cancelled amid escalating tensions between Iran and Israel.

The disruptions follow widespread airspace closures across parts of West Asia, affecting international travel routes.

Rashid Khan, one of the stranded passengers, told ANI that the airport authorities cited the ongoing conflict as the reason behind the cancellation. "The reason the airport authority gave me was the Iran-Israel war. My flight is cancelled," he said. Khan was scheduled to travel from

Delhi to Bengaluru and onward to Abu Dhabi.

"They gave me the option of another city. I chose my city. My route was Delhi to Bangalore and Bangalore to Abu Dhabi. Now it is cancelled," he added, expressing frustration over the sudden change in plans. Another passenger at the airport said uncertainty continues over when operations will resume. "Authorities are saying that the flights will not be resumed until the ceasefire is in place there. We have to go there. Our office and everything are there. We are going to Italy directly from Bahrain. Now, there is no flight for Bahrain," the passenger said.

Earlier, the Ministry of Civil Aviation announced that 444 flights are expected to be cancelled. In a post on X, the MoCA stated that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is in complete coordination with all the concerned airlines to ensure passenger safety and operational regulations.





# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

1 MARCH 2026

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## Flights feel the brunt

SANJAY MANDAL

**Calcutta:** Flights connecting Calcutta with West Asia were cancelled between Saturday evening and Sunday morning after at least eight countries in the region closed their airspaces.

Incoming flights from these destinations were also cancelled. Flights to the US and Europe were diverted because transit hubs Dubai and Doha were out of bounds.

Late on Saturday, Air India announced the cancellation of several flights to Europe and the US. Flights linking London, New York, Chicago, Frankfurt and Paris with Delhi, Mumbai and other Indian airports were among those cancelled.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation listed the airspaces of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman as "high-risk zone". (See Metro)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

1 MARCH 2026

## Ajit jet crash report spots airfield lapses

AMIYA KUMAR  
KUSHWAHA

**New Delhi:** The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), in its preliminary report on the January 28 crash that killed Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and four others, said the Learjet was attempting to land in low visibility when it hit trees before crashing.

In the report released on Saturday, the AAIB also flagged several safety lapses at the uncontrolled Baramati airfield, including faded runway markings.

Based on findings so far indicating systemic gaps at uncontrolled airfields, the AAIB has issued safety recommendations to enable prompt preventive action.

Uncontrolled airfields lack permanent air traffic control, and traffic information is provided by instructors and students of flying training organisations.

In its 22-page report, the AAIB detailed how VSR Venture's Learjet crashed on January 28 during touchdown, citing CCTV footage from a

nearby village.

"The aircraft first impacted trees before hitting the ground, which is at a lower elevation than the runway surface. The ground impact was about 50 metres to the left of the edge of Runway 11," the report said. The aircraft then caught fire.

The report flagged that the visibility was 3,000 metres — below the 5,000-metre minimum required under visual flight rules (VFR) for uncontrolled airfields. Winds were calm while the Baramati tower gave landing clearance.

On the first approach, the crew executed a go-around after failing to sight the runway. During the second approach, the pilot reported the field in sight, following which landing clearance was granted.

The accident occurred during touchdown. The aircraft was heard transmitting words "Oh Sh\*\*t... Oh Sh\*\*t" before it crash-landed on the left side of the runway threshold.

The AAIB said it is examining all aspects to establish the facts, root cause and contributory factors.

Preliminary findings pointed to multiple deficiencies at the Baramati airfield. One end of the runway is table-top, and air traffic control is handled by students and instructors of flight training organisations.

The airfield also lacks weather reporting facilities, navigational aids beyond windsocks, and in-house aircraft rescue and firefighting units.

The runway was last re-carpeted in March 2016, and since then, markings have faded and loose gravel is present on the surface. "There is no boundary wall around the aerodrome. The available fencing is inadequate and does not cover the entire area," the AAIB noted.

The bureau has recommended that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issue directions to operators flying VFR into uncontrolled airfields to strictly follow standard operating procedures. It also urged that non-scheduled, private and charter operations be permitted only when weather conditions meet DGCA norms.

# Airspace shut, flights grounded, many stuck

## Itinerary off gear, stranded in London

SANJAY MANDAL AND DEBRAJ MITRA

**Calcutta:** Five flights connecting Calcutta with West Asia were cancelled between Saturday evening and Sunday morning after at least eight countries in the region closed their airspace following joint US and Israeli strikes on Iran and retaliation by Tehran.

Incoming flights from these destinations were also cancelled, causing widespread disruption. Cancellations were reported from major Indian cities, leaving thousands stranded. Flights to the US and Europe were diverted as Dubai and Doha — two key transit hubs — were off-limits.

Late on Saturday, Air India announced the cancellation of several flights to Europe and the US. Flights connecting London, New York, Chicago, Frankfurt and Paris with Delhi, Mumbai and other Indian airports were among those cancelled.

Airline representatives said there would be more cancellations and delays, as carriers were likely to avoid the affected airspaces.

In Calcutta, an Emirates flight to Dubai, a Qatar Airways flight to Doha, and Air Arabia and Etihad flights to Abu Dhabi were cancelled, an airport official said. An Emirates flight scheduled to depart Calcutta on Sunday morning was also cancelled.

A Qatar Airways cargo flight from Hong Kong to Doha was diverted to Calcutta at 6pm on Saturday. "All flight cancellations were due to the closure of large parts of West Asian airspace. We are awaiting further announcements on reopening of the airspace," said the official.

Emirates announced a suspension of all flights to and from Dubai until early Sunday morning. Indian carriers, including Air India, IndiGo and Akasa Air, suspended flights to all destinations in the region. Akasa Air halted services to and from Abu Dhabi, Doha, Jeddah, Kuwait and Riyadh until March 2. SpiceJet said that some flights may be affected due to airspace restrictions.

Air India said it had cancelled all regional flights until 11.59pm on March 1. An Air India flight from Delhi to Tel Aviv on Saturday returned mid-route due to Israeli airspace closure. On Saturday afternoon, IndiGo posted on X that "all flights to and from Middle East are cancelled till 0000hrs".

### Passenger plight

Many travellers were left in limbo.

A woman in her 50s, visiting her ailing brother in Calcutta, was scheduled to return to Kuwait, where she has lived for nearly two decades, via a connecting flight from Dubai. She was supposed to be on a Calcutta-Dubai Emirates flight around 8.30pm on Saturday.

"Many Indians living in Kuwait had flown out for the long weekend. Wednesday and Thursday were public holidays on account of National Day and Liberation Day. Now, they are stranded in different parts of India and abroad," she said from Tollygunge.

Her friend, flying from Delhi to Muscat en route to Kuwait, was rerouted to Kochi. Emirates flights arriving in Calcutta around 7.40am on Sunday and departing for Dubai at 9.15am were



Smoke rises over Tehran's skyline after an explosion on Saturday. (AP/PTI)

also cancelled.

Iran, Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and the UAE shut their airspaces. Syria closed part of its southern airspace near Israel for 12 hours. Flights to Saudi Arabia and Oman were also disrupted.

Travel agents received nonstop phone calls. "Several passengers who are stuck have been calling us. We were busy till late in the evening trying to reschedule tickets," said Anil Punjabi, chairman of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), eastern region.

Anjali Dhanuka, chairman of the Travel Agents Association of India (eastern region), said: "Many passengers are stranded and confused. But we are unable to reach the affected airlines; calls to their call centres are going un-

answered. This has added to the plight of passengers."

### Ministry advisory

On Saturday evening, the directorate-general of civil aviation (DGCA) issued a safety advisory listing the airspaces of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman as "high-risk zones", asking carriers to avoid operations. The advisory is valid until March 1.

The Union ministry of civil aviation held a virtual meeting with senior officials, the airports authority of India (AAI), the DGCA, airlines and major airports. "The review focused on ensuring passenger safety, operational continuity and real-time coordination in light of multiple airspace restrictions..." a

press statement said.

The ministry advised airlines to continuously monitor advisories, NOTAMs and route restrictions.

### Kerala impact

Kerala was particularly affected, prompting the state government to set up an emergency help desk for Malayalis stranded in the Gulf. Flights from all four Kerala airports were cancelled, and a Kochi-Oman flight was called back.

Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan urged Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs (NORKA) to activate an emergency helpdesk, and airports issued advisories asking passengers to check their flight status to avoid chaos at the airports.

**Additional reporting by**  
Cynthia Chandran and  
Amiya Kumar Kushwaha

SANJAY MANDAL

**Calcutta:** Many Calcuttans scheduled to fly home on Saturday night or Sunday morning faced uncertainty after large parts of West Asian airspace were closed following US and Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliation.

Abesh Chandra Sinha Choudhury was one such traveller, stranded in London after his flight from Heathrow to Dubai on Saturday night was cancelled.

Sinha Choudhury, a lawyer, had arrived in London on February 27 and was initially scheduled to return on March 5. He brought forward his return, booking an Emirates flight in business class for an additional ₹70,000, according to his travel agent.

He was due to take a connecting flight from Dubai to Calcutta on Sunday evening.

"Now I am hearing that the flight (Heathrow-Dubai) has been cancelled. I have checked out of my hotel too," Sinha Choudhury told Metro from London on Saturday evening, Calcutta time. "I have no idea what I am going to do."

Emirates announced a temporary suspension of all its flights until 11pm GMT (4.30am IST), citing multiple regional airspace closures.

"Due to multiple regional airspace closures, Emirates

has temporarily suspended all operations to and from Dubai," the airline said.

In a customer advisory, Emirates urged travellers to check their flight status before heading to the airport.



Remains of a car after a strike in Tehran. (Reuters)

"Customers impacted by flight cancellations must contact their travel agency for rebooking. If booked directly with Emirates, please contact us... Ensure contact details are correct by visiting 'Manage Your Booking' to receive updates. We are actively monitoring the situation and engaging with relevant authorities. We apologise... for any inconvenience... The safety and security of our passengers and crew remain our highest priority," the airline said.

Sinha Choudhury's travel agent said efforts were underway to rebook him on the next available flight. "If the Middle East (West Asia) airspace doesn't open by Saturday, we'll try to book a flight through other airlines and bring him back via Delhi or Mumbai," the agent said.

## 19 flights cancelled, Gulf passengers hit

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**Bengaluru:** Flight operations at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) witnessed significant disruption over the weekend, with 19 international services cancelled between Saturday and Sunday. According to sources at the airport, the cancellations largely affected routes connecting Bengaluru with key West Asia destinations, particularly Dubai and Abu Dhabi, impacting hundreds of passengers travelling to and from the Gulf.

According to an internal status sheet reviewed by TOI, 10 outbound flights from Bengaluru were cancelled, along with nine inbound



ones. The affected sectors included Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam. A majority of the cancelled services were operated by IndiGo, followed by Air India Express and Emirates, while one Etihad departure was also impacted.

Airport officials indicated that UAE routes bore the brunt of the disruption, accounting for more than half of the total cancellations because of airspace restrictions across the region. "This level of cancellation concentrated

on Gulf sectors is not routine. It appears to be linked to airspace restrictions and operational adjustments rather than any weather-related events," an airport operations source said on the condition of anonymity.

The disruption spanned late-evening departures Saturday and early-morning arrivals and departures Sunday, suggesting a cascading impact on aircraft rotations.

A ground-handling executive at the airport explained that international operations are tightly sequenced. "When an incoming aircraft is delayed or cancelled at origin, the outbound leg from Bengaluru is immediately affected. That ripple effect can continue into the next operational

cycle," the source said.

Passengers at the airport reported confusion and last-minute schedule changes, with some learning of cancellations after arriving at the terminal. Airline officials confirmed rebooking arrangements and alternative options were provided. "Passengers are being accommodated on the next available services or offered refunds as per policy," an airline representative said.

Officials maintained that overall airport operations remained normal and that the disruption was confined to specific international sectors. A dedicated passenger help desk has been set up at the kerbside (Level 3) of T2 to assist travellers.

# 14 flights to West Asia cancelled

## Muscat Not Letting Flights Into Its Region

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**Chennai:** Flight operations to and from West Asia destinations were disrupted on Saturday after a sudden escalation in tensions between Israel and Iran, with several flights from Chennai to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha cancelled through Sunday.

At least 14 flights, five on Saturday and nine until 8am on Sunday, operated by different airlines, were cancelled, while uncertainty gripped those who booked flights for the later hours on Sunday.



File picture

**ISRAEL-IRAN WAR:** Fliers advised to stay up to date with alerts

Three flights that were to arrive from Bahrain, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi between 8pm and 8.40pm were also cancelled.

Oman Air flight to Muscat, which departed from Chennai airport at 2.20pm on Saturday, was the first to be diverted back due to airspace restrictions in West Asia. The

flight was later cancelled. Soon, Qatar Airways' Chennai-Abu Dhabi flight, scheduled for 4.10pm, was cancelled, followed by Etihad Airways flight to Abu Dhabi from Chennai at 9.40pm. The Emirates flight to Dubai, scheduled for 9.45pm, was postponed and then cancelled.

Indian carriers Air India and Indigo soon announced the cancellation of flights to West Asia destinations. Air India's flight to Dubai from Chennai, scheduled at 6.45pm on Saturday, was cancelled.

Air India instructed passengers to check its official website for the latest updates on flight operations. "In view of the developing situation in parts of the Middle East, all Air India flights to all destinations in the Middle East are suspended," it said.

Indigo said it cancelled all its flights to West Asia and a few other international routes until 6pm on Sunday, and assured that updates would be communicated promptly via registered contact details. International airlines such as Oman Air, Air Arabia, Emirates, and Qatar Airways advised passengers to stay up to

date with latest flight alerts.

Sources said Muscat did not allow flights into its flight information region (FIR) if they were to exit into Emirates FIR. "It accepted only those flights that will exit Muscat into Jeddah, resulting in congestion. Many flights that departed from India were returning from Muscat FIR," said sources.

The services cancelled at Chennai airport on Sunday included Indigo's Doha flight at 3.40am and Dubai flight at 6.20am, and Air Arabia's Sharjah flight at 3.45am and Abu Dhabi flight at 4.50am. Etihad's flight to Dubai at 3.55am, Emirates's flight to Dubai at 3.50am, Qatar Airways's flight to Doha at 4.05am, Gulf Air's flight to Bahrain at 5.35am, and Oman Air's flight to Muscat at 7.20am were also cancelled.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

1 MARCH 2026

## 98 flights cancelled at Mumbai airport amid Iran-Israel conflict

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Ninety-eight flights were cancelled, five diverted at Mumbai airport as of 9:30pm on Saturday, amid escalating tension in parts of the Middle East and Gulf region. Among them was IndiGo's Mumbai-London flight 6E-1.

At 9pm, the Mumbai airport informed airlines and pilots that parking space was not available for diverted aircraft and that no diversions would be accepted until 8am on Sunday. Late in the evening, Air India cancelled several long-haul international services scheduled for March 1, citing safety considerations. The affected flights in-

clude services between Delhi, Mumbai and Amritsar and London (Heathrow and Gatwick), New York (JFK), Newark, Chicago (via Vienna), Toronto (via Vienna), Frankfurt and Paris. The airline said it is notifying passengers and offering alternative travel options.

Akasa Air said all its flights to and from Abu Dhabi, Doha, Jeddah, Kuwait and Riyadh have been suspended until March 2, 2026. For bookings made to or from these cities until March 7, passengers may opt for a full refund or reschedule at no additional cost. Air India Express extended the suspension of its westbound international flights until 23:59

hrs on March 1. "Air India Express has extended the suspension of its westbound international flights until 23:59 hours on March 01, 2026," said a spokesperson.

Airfares for March 1 travel to London and several Middle East destinations surged after the airspace closures, with a one-way direct London fare touching Rs 1.40 lakh on Saturday afternoon. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation issued an urgent advisory warning of "a significant escalation in security risks" in the Middle East and Persian Gulf airspace, advising Indian operators to avoid the affected airspace at all flight levels.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

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## Flight disruptions leave Indians, foreigners stuck

**A**cross west Asia, thousands of Indians — tourists, expatriates, families with children — were left stranded after US-Israel strikes on Iran triggered Iranian retaliation, forcing mass airspace closures and shutting down Dubai, the world's busiest transit hub.

On Sunday, Indian carriers cancelled about 350 flights while west Asia-based airlines scrubbed more than 1,600 services across their networks. Airports reported mass cancellations to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Doha and Jeddah.

Meanwhile, about 160 fore-

### Exercise caution, Indian nationals told

**P**M Modi took stock of the situation at a CCS meeting late Sunday. With airspace closed, govt advised Indian nationals in Iran and other places in the Gulf to exercise utmost caution and follow local security guidance. **P7**

igners are stuck at Indian airports. Indian immigration has been giving temporary permits to some who want to exit, said an official. **P3,8**

## Passengers Stranded As Over 100 Flights Cancelled

### West Asia Crisis Hits Ops, Flyers Vent It Out On Social Media

**Priyangi Agarwal**  
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**New Delhi:** Airspace closures over parts of West Asia continued to disrupt flight operations, leading to the cancellation of 104 flights to and from Delhi on Sunday.

Delhi airport wrote on X that due to the ongoing political developments in West Asia, west-bound international flights may face delays or scheduled adjustments. "Passengers are strongly encouraged to contact their respective airlines for the latest flight information before heading to the airport," it added.

Many passengers took to social media to say that they were stranded at Delhi airport.

An airport official said: "At least 104 flights, including 62 departures and 42 arrivals, were cancelled until Sunday evening. Most of them were cancelled on Saturday, and passengers were intimated in advance."

As many airspaces remained closed, several flights, including domestic ones, were delayed. According to FlightRadar24, the live flight tracking website, over 300 flights, including around 250 arrivals, were delayed at Delhi airport. The average delay time for arrivals was nearly 25 minutes. Apart from West Asia, flights to and from Delhi were impacted on other routes such as London, Birmingham, Zurich, Amsterdam, Milan, Vienna, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, Chicago, New York and Paris.

Harsh, a passenger whose Delhi-Toronto flight via Doha was cancelled on Saturday, wrote on X, "I haven't received any rescheduled flight until now. Please resche-



Over 300 flights, including around 250 arrivals, were delayed at Delhi airport

dule my flight ASAP as I am stuck here at the airport in Delhi."

Gordon Dimmack, who was travelling to England after arriving from Phuket, was among the passengers stranded in Delhi for over 24 hours. In a series of posts on X, Dimmack said the bombing began shortly after they landed in Delhi, following which passengers were asked to get off the aircraft after waiting for nearly three hours. He described the terminal as "chaotic". He and his wife eventually slept on bean bags that were provided only after screaming at airline staff, he said.

"After nearly 20 hours stuck at this airport, all we had been given to eat was one egg sandwich, two tiny bottles of water, and a

bottle of foul-tasting juice," he said, adding that another sandwich was later provided.

In another update posted on Sunday evening, Dimmack said the situation was gradually improving, with airline staff beginning to reroute passengers on alternative flights, and he was returning to Thailand.

Another X user, in a series of posts, claimed that his daughter and son-in-law were stuck at Delhi airport after their flight to Tel Aviv was diverted to Delhi. "Their port of origin is Jammu. They are getting mixed responses from the staff for tickets to Jammu," the user said.

Many passengers also asked on social media about the status of their upcoming flights.

## Air travel crippled as almost 2,000 flights cancelled

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Air travel remained severely crippled in West Asia — from the UAE to Israel — with around 1,600 flights cancelled by the region's airlines like Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways till Sunday evening across all global routes. Indian carriers like IndiGo, Air India and Akasa cancelled 350 flights during the day, according to the aviation ministry.

Most airlines have already announced cancellations till Monday. Resumption depends on when carriers deem flights to be safe in the war zone.



Indian carriers like IndiGo, Air India and Akasa cancelled 350 flights during the day

Late Sunday, however, Air India announced "flights to North America and Europe will operate using alternative routes over available airspaces in West Asia which is expected to add to the flying times". In a statement, it added, "Flights to New York (JFK) and Newark (Liberty International) will operate with technical stops at Rome (Fiumicino Airport)."

With Pakistan airspace closed for Indian carriers, they can't fly Pakistan-Afghanistan-CIS to the west — the route followed by Lufthansa and other western airlines. Air India cancelled around 125 international flights to and from the West on Sunday. The Tata-owned carrier made it clear that it

has extended suspension of flights to and from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Qatar until 11.59 pm on March 2. "Additionally, select flights to Europe scheduled on March 2 have been cancelled, along with the scheduled return legs of these flights (AI17: Amritsar-Birmingham; AI51/AI52: Delhi to and from Zurich; AI57/AI58: Delhi to and from Copenhagen and AI14 Birmingham-Delhi."

IndiGo also announced "suspension of select international flights that use West Asia airspace until March 2, 2026, 11.59pm IST".

For most airlines, the first priority is to get aircraft and crew stuck at foreign airports back home. Air India completed that task for its wide-body aircraft on Sunday and is looking at operating Europe, UK and North America (US, Canada with fuelling stops in Vienna or Rome) through the oceanic route in Oman's south, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Ditto on the way back.

Abu Dhabi has taken an exceptional step by asking its hotels to extend stays of guests stuck due to flight cancellations. "The cost of the extended stay will be covered by DCT," its department of culture and tourism (DCT) said in a circular.

Some stranded Indians are looking at driving from the UAE to Muscat and then flying home from there. However, the Indian embassy in Muscat issued an advisory on Sunday that "prior visit/tourist visa (e-visa) is required to enter Oman".

Indians holding valid visa or residence permit from the US, UK, Canada, Japan, or Schengen countries can apply for on-arrival visa, it said.



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

2 MARCH 2026

## 350 flights cancelled amid airspace freeze across Gulf

**SHEKHAR SINGH**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEWDELHI, MARCH 1**

Intensifying conflict in the Middle East has pushed Indian aviation into turbulence, with at least 350 flights cancelled on Sunday as airspace across 11 countries shut down following military strikes involving Iran, Israel and the United States.

The crisis has been building over the past 48 hours. On February 28, 410 flights operated by Indian carriers were cancelled as airlines scrambled to respond to sudden airspace closures.

On Sunday, the impact was visible across key hubs as Delhi airport recorded cancellation of at least 100 international flights, while Mumbai airport reported 125 disrupted air traffic movements — 67 departures and 58 arrivals. Amritsar international airport also saw 10 cancellations linked directly to Middle East airspace closures, including multiple services operated by Qatar Airways, Air India Express, SpiceJet and IndiGo on the Dubai, Doha and Sharjah routes.

Officials advised passengers to check flight status before

heading to airports. An official assured passengers that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Civil Aviation Ministry were working closely with the airlines.

Air India cancelled 22 additional international services on Sunday, taking its total overseas cancellations to 50. SpiceJet has cancelled 33 flights scheduled for March 1 and 2, while IndiGo has announced over 470 cancellations between March 1 and 4. Air India Express has also suspended flights to the region until 11:59 pm (IST) on March 2.