

Private airports power AAI's profit as core network bleeds

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The Airports Authority of India's (AAI) profitability is increasingly being driven by a small set of privatized airports, even as most of the airports it runs continue to make losses, raising questions about the sustainability of its earnings as more assets are slated for privatization.

Income from six airports operated under public-private partnership (PPP) agreements accounted for more than 30%



Six PPP airports accounted for over 30% of AAI's net profit in FY25, highlighting their growing importance.

of AAI's net profit in the year ended March 2025, according to its annual report released in February.

At the same time, the bulk of its own network remains under strain. An estimated 91, or about 75%, of the 122 airports owned by AAI reported losses of ₹1,600 crore, while the remaining 31 airports earned a profit of ₹2,740 crore.

AAI reported total revenue of ₹20,648 crore and a net profit of ₹7,233 crore for FY25. Its revenue is about double that of ₹10,836 crore reported by GMR Airports Ltd and ₹10,224 crore by Adani Airports Ltd for the period.

However, a significant portion of AAI's earnings came not from its own airport operations but from payments linked to assets it has already leased out.

AAI received ₹2,232 crore from six PPP airports—Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram—all operated by Adani Airports. These payments are classified as "under-recovery", or compensation paid by private operators for investments AAI

had made before the airports were leased out. Part of this amount includes a one-time payment, and is not expected to recur.

The under-recovery income jumped about 150% from the previous year, contributing more than 10% of AAI's total revenue and over 30% of its net profit.

In contrast, older privatized airports such as Indra Gandhi International Airport and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport saw only

about a 5% rise in annual fees paid to AAI.

AAI owns and operates 122 airports, and also earns revenue from airports leased to private operators under PPP arrange-

ments. "AAI is effectively moving towards a landlord model as most of the airports run by it are in losses. However, lease rent and the PPP model are driving its topline and bottom-line," said Dipak Purwar, partner at Noida-based chartered accountancy firm, SDSA & Co.

A landlord model is one where AAI earns lease rentals and revenue share from private airport operators rather

than running airports itself.

"The ₹2,232 crore it received as under-recovery including one-time payment from six of the PPP airports is contributing over 10% of the topline and over 30% of the profit. It is mentioned in the policy that payment towards regulatory asset base, a financial model used to calculate the value of infrastructure investments like airport terminal, and recovery up to commercial operation date will be recognized as revenue over the lease period," Purwar said.

Queries sent to AAI and civil aviation ministry remained unanswered till press time.

Within AAI's own network, profitability remains concentrated in a handful of airports. Kolkata and Chennai Airports were the biggest contributors, generating profits of ₹855 crore and ₹500 crore. Other profitable airports were Pune, Patna, Srinagar and Bagdogra airports.

Several others, including Kushinagar Airport, Rajkot Airport and Vijayawada Airport, continued to incur losses, while non-operational airports such as Shimla Airport and Vellore Airport added to maintenance costs.

For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

About 75% of Airports Authority of India-operated airports—91 of 122—reported losses of ₹1,600 crore



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THE ASIAN AGE

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

Airfares set to go up as govt hikes ATF by 8.5% for domestic airlines

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

Airfares for both domestic and international travel are expected to rise due to the "exponential" surge in jet fuel or aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices. The government, however, clarified that the ATF prices for domestic airlines were raised by a calibrated 8.5 per cent on Wednesday, instead of more than doubling as warranted by a war-driven surge in global oil prices.

ATF or jet fuel for domestic carriers was

AS PER the reports, the ATF pricing for April has been increased to about 115 per cent for domestic flights and 107 per cent for international carriers

hiked ₹8,289.04 per kilolitre, or 8.56 per cent, to ₹1,04,927.18 per kl from ₹96,638.14 per kl last month, according to state-owned oil firms.

Domestic airlines will pay half of what foreign airlines, as well as other carriers such as non-scheduled, ad hoc, and charter, would pay. For

them, the prices have gone up by ₹1,10,703.08 per kl, or 114.5 per cent, to ₹2,07,341.22 per kl.

Also, the rates of commercial LPG, one that is used by hotels and restaurants, are hiked to ₹195.50 per 19-kg cylinder, while domestic cooking gas LPG rates, which were last hiked by ₹60 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 7, remain unchanged.

Generally, state-owned oil retailers revise their ATF and LPG prices on the first day of every month based on international benchmarks and the exchange rate.



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AMAR UJALA

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से बंद कीं सेवाएं

साहिबाबाद। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से अपनी सेवाएं बंद कर दी हैं। साथ ही इंडिगो ने भी दो शहरों की उड़ानें कम कर दीं। अब हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से महज सात शहरों की उड़ानें ही रह गई हैं।

सोमवार से शनिवार तक सात और रविवार को पांच शहरों की उड़ानें अब हिंडन से भरी जा रही हैं। वर्तमान में मुंबई और बंगलूरु से महज दो शहरों के लिए एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस एयरलाइंस की उड़ानें थीं। कंपनी ने फ्लीट उपलब्धता की कमी बताते हुए अपनी उड़ानें बंद कर दीं।

वहीं, इंडिगो ने अपनी मुंबई और अहमदाबाद की उड़ान सेवा हिंडन से

फ्लीट उपलब्धता की कमी से बंद कीं मुंबई व बंगलूरु की उड़ानें

बंद कर दी है। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से साल भर के अंदर ही उड़ानों की संख्या घटकर 25 से 7 रह गई है। मार्च के अंत तक नौ शहरों की 12 उड़ानें यहां से जा रही थीं। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने बताया कि 29 मार्च के बाद समर सीजन के लिए स्लॉट बुक किया जाना था। एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने स्लॉट बुक करने की फ्लीट की उपलब्धता न होने का कारण देते हुए दोनों शहरों के लिए स्लॉट बुक नहीं किया। इस तरह हिंडन से एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की एक वर्ष के अंदर ही सभी उड़ानें बंद

पिछले साल ही एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने 10 रूटों पर शुरू की थीं उड़ानें : वर्ष 2025 में अप्रैल-मई के बीच एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने कोलकाता, गोवा, जयपुर, चेन्नई, पटना, वाराणसी, मुंबई, भुवनेश्वर, जम्मू और बंगलूरु समेत 10 रूट पर उड़ानें शुरू की थीं। एयरलाइंस कंपनी ने फरवरी में आठ शहरों की उड़ानें बंद कर दीं। महज मुंबई और बंगलूरु की उड़ान थी, अब उनको भी बंद कर दिया गया है।

हो गई हैं। वहीं, इंडिगो ने भी अपनी मुंबई और अहमदाबाद की उड़ान रद्द कर दी है। मुंबई की बजाय अब इंडिगो की हिंडन से नवीं मुंबई की उड़ान शुरू की है। वर्तमान में सप्ताह के पांच दिन हिंडन से सात शहरों की उड़ानें हैं और रविवार को महज पांच शहरों के लिए उड़ानें भरी जा रही हैं।

वर्तमान में इंडिगो की नवीं मुंबई, वाराणसी, कोलकाता, बंगलूरु और चेन्नई के लिए उड़ानें जारी हैं। रविवार को वाराणसी की उड़ान नहीं रहती है। वहीं, स्टार एयर की ओर से प्रतिदिन नांदेड और आदमपुर की उड़ान है। रविवार को नांदेड की वापसी फ्लाइट नहीं है।



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

Govt limits domestic ATF price hike to 25%; IndiGo ups surcharge, AI may cut overseas ops

Our Bureau
Mumbai

In a bid to soften the blow for airlines, State oil marketing companies have limited the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) rate hike to 25 per cent for scheduled domestic flights.

ATF price for non-scheduled domestic flights and international routes has been increased substantially in view of the sharp rise in crude oil prices.

Following the revision, IndiGo hiked the fuel surcharge on domestic and international flights.

COSTS MANAGEABLE

Addressing mediapersons, Asangha Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary in the Civil Aviation Ministry, said the move provides critical relief to airlines and ensures that their operating costs on domestic routes remain manageable.

The measure will help prevent a potential industry wide crisis.

Domestic airlines welcomed the government decision and asked the Centre to extend the price relief on international routes.

Carriers with large international networks such as Air India and IndiGo are taking steps to mitigate the impact.

Around 60 per cent of Air India's capacity is deployed on global routes and with no protection on international rates, the airline management is considering cancelling a number of overseas flights.

REVISED CHARGES

IndiGo said ATF prices for international flights had more than doubled, leading to a significant impact on operating costs. On domestic routes, IndiGo will now levy a ₹275-₹900 surcharge



(earlier it was at a flat ₹425). The surcharge on international routes will vary from ₹900 to ₹10,000 depending on the distance (up from ₹425-₹2,300).

Airlines will now pay ₹1,04,927 per kilolitre for scheduled domestic flights. This is 25 per cent higher than the rate that was charged to airlines (around ₹84,000). The rate for non-scheduled domestic flights has been increased to ₹2.07 lakh per kilolitre.

In an X post on Wednes-

day, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said ATF prices in India were de-regulated in 2001 and are revised on a monthly basis based on a formula of international benchmarks.

"Due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the extraordinary situation in global energy markets, price of ATF for domestic markets was expected to increase by more than 100 per cent on April 1. In order to insulate the domestic travel costs from the substantial increase in international prices, PSU oil marketing companies of the Ministry of Petroleum, in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, have passed only a partial and staggered increase of 25 per cent to the airlines. Foreign routes will pay for the full increase in ATF prices, consistent with what they pay in other parts of the world," the Ministry said.



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BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

Jazeera Airways adds India-Kuwait route

Mumbai: Jazeera Airways is expanding the India-Kuwait air bridge to facilitate passenger and cargo movement between the two countries. From April 7, Jazeera Airways will operate additional flights to Kannur, Kozhikode, Mangaluru and Tiruchirapalli. These will be operated from Dammam in Saudi Arabia. Kuwait International Airport has been shut due to the Iran conflict.

OUR BUREAU



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

IndiGo to operate 2,000 daily domestic flights this summer

Rohit Vaid
New Delhi

Airline major IndiGo is all set to operate up to 2,000 daily domestic flights in the ongoing summer schedule, following the disruption in December 2025.

Notably, a 10 per cent cap on capacity was enforced upon the airline last year after operational disruptions, with the airline subsequently demonstrating a "swift recovery".

However, with the satisfactory regulatory recovery of all key operational parameters, the airline has started to ramp up services from over 1,850 domestic flights which were operating till

March 29, 2026. Speaking to *businessline*, Abhijit Dasgupta, Senior Vice-President, Planning and Revenue Management, IndiGo, said the airline has undertaken multiple operational measures to strengthen performance, including enhanced real-time monitoring through upgraded operational dashboards.

ROBUST PLANNING

Besides, improvements were carried out in crew and aircraft rostering systems, and more robust contingency planning for irregular operations. The exercise, he noted, is aimed at maintaining stability while managing higher traffic volumes during the peak summer period.



"All resources required to operate the planned summer schedule are in place and have been approved by relevant authorities," he said, adding that operational planning has been aligned with regulatory requirements and internal readiness to ensure smoother execution.

Furthermore, the airline has been focusing on strengthening its workforce outlook in line with growth and expansion plans.

Notably, IndiGo has always had a prudent approach towards staffing across pilots, cabin crew, and operational roles, ensuring workforce availability remains aligned with operational requirements. Dasgupta said that the airline is on track to sustain an optimal workforce to support stable and reliable operations.

NETWORK EXPANSION

Accordingly, IndiGo is progressing with measured network expansion across both domestic and international markets. On new destinations, Dasgupta stated that route decisions are anchored in market scanning processes and are governed by commercial as well as opera-

tional viability considerations. The airline recently inducted its first A321XLR aircraft, enabling the launch of direct services to Athens from Delhi and Mumbai.

This will be followed by new international routes, including Shanghai, which commenced on March 29, and Reunion Island, effective April 29, further strengthening its international connectivity. On the domestic front, IndiGo has expanded its regional network with the addition of Bhavnagar and Jamnagar in Gujarat.

Additionally, it is scaling up operations in Navi Mumbai with over 400 weekly departures effective March 29. Apart from this, the air-

line plans to commence services from the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar in due course.

RISING FUEL COSTS

Nevertheless, the operating environment remains dynamic and uncertain. According to Dasgupta, challenges such as airspace restrictions, airport constraints, and rising fuel and insurance costs continue to impact all airlines' operations, including IndiGo.

In addition, he said IndiGo is closely monitoring these developments and will adjust capacity as required, following safety and operational assessments, while factoring in evolving commercial viability.

एयरलाइनों की एक तिहाई लागत ईंधन में स्वाहा

जयंत पंकज

पश्चिम एशिया संकट के कारण बुधवार को भारतीय घरेलू एयरलाइनों के लिए एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में 8.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की गई, जबकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए पिछले महीने की तुलना में कम वृद्धि हुई है। वित्त वर्ष 2015-16 से वित्त वर्ष 25 तक भारतीय विमानन उद्योग ने 70,515 हजार टन एटीएफ का उपभोग किया है। यह प्रति विमान औसतन 11 हजार टन है।



**आंकड़ों के
आईने में**

वित्त वर्ष 16 से 25 के दौरान प्रति विमान एटीएफ की खपत में कमी आई है, जो विमानन क्षेत्र में धीरे-धीरे दक्षता

सुधार को दर्शा रही है।

भारत के विमानन उद्योग की लागत संरचना में विमान ईंधन और तेल का हिस्सा वित्त वर्ष 16 में 30 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर वित्त वर्ष 24 में 39 प्रतिशत हो गया। भारत की प्रमुख एयरलाइन कंपनियों परिचालन की कुल लागत का कम से कम एक-तिहाई पैसा ईंधन पर खर्च कर रही हैं।

ईंधन मार्केटिंग कंपनियों ने बुधवार को एटीएफ की कीमतों में वृद्धि कर दी। तेल कीमतों में पिछले साल मार्च के बाद यह सबसे अधिक बढ़ोतरी है।

लागत का एक-तिहाई ईंधन पर खर्च

वित्त वर्ष	इंडिगो	स्पाइस जेट	एयर इंडिया
2020	33.2	38.9	27.9
2021	17.8	30.8	13.3
2022	29.5	39.4	25.5
2023	42.1	48.2	41.2
2024	37.8	38.7	35.1
2025	34.2	35.7	—

एयर इंडिया की वित्त वर्ष 25 की वित्तीय विवरण रिपोर्ट में विमान ईंधन व्यय का जिक्र नहीं, स्रोत: कंपनी वार्षिक रिपोर्ट, टोपलर, बीएस विश्लेषण

एटीएफ पर सबसे ज्यादा खर्च

वित्त वर्ष	ईंधन	रखरखाव	मूल्यहास	शुल्क
2016	30.0	13.3	5.7	9.1
2017	31.2	14.2	4.6	9.7
2018	32.4	10.1	3.6	9.7
2019	37.4	8.8	3.5	8.6
2020	33.7	14.7	13.4	8.3
2021	19.8	17.4	26.5	8.6
2022	33.7	16.9	18.1	8.1
2023	45.7	13.5	10.0	7.5
2024	39.4	15.8	10.0	8.4

आंकड़े प्रतिशत में, सभी लागतें शामिल न होने के कारण कुल 100% नहीं होगा, स्रोत: डीजीसीए, बीएस विश्लेषण

DATA NOMICS

1/3rd of airline costs burn in fuel in Indian skies

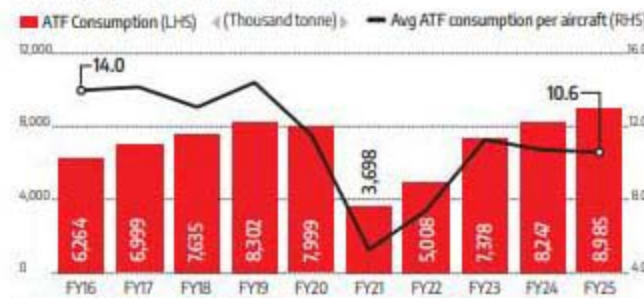


JAYANT PANKAJ

Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices for domestic airlines in India were increased by 8.5 per cent on Wednesday, while those for international flights saw a lesser hike compared to last month's, due to the ongoing West Asia crisis. From FY16 to FY25, the Indian aviation industry consumed 70 million tonnes of ATF, averaging 11,000 tonnes per aircraft.

ATF consumption in India increases

ATF consumption per aircraft moderated during FY16 to FY25, showing gradual efficiency improvements in the aviation sector.

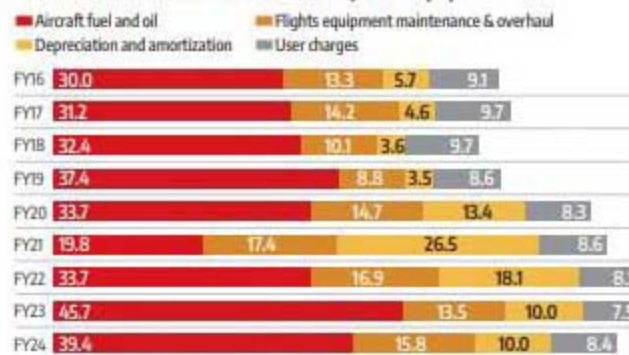


Source: DGCA, BS calculations

ATF cost share is the highest in aviation industry

The share of aircraft fuel and oil in the cost structure of India's aviation industry increased from 30 per cent in FY16 to 39 per cent in FY24.

Share of cost structure of aviation industry in India (%)



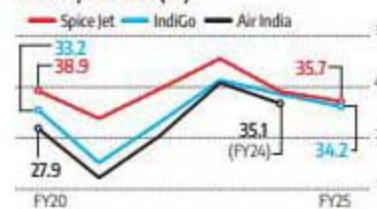
Note: Total won't add to 100 as all costs not taken. Source: DGCA, BS calculations

Fuel constitutes at least one-third of total cost

Fuel expenses account for at least one-third of major airline companies' total costs.

Note: The value of aircraft fuel expense is blank in the financial statement report of Air India in FY25

Share of aircraft fuel expense out of total expenditure (%)



Source: Company annual reports, Toffler, BS calculations

Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

ATF, commercial LPG, premium fuel prices soar amid oil squeeze

Jet fuel burden only partially passed on to airlines for domestic travel

SHUBHANGI MATHUR & DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 1 April

India's oil-marketing companies (OMCs) have raised aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, prices for domestic airlines, responding to surging energy costs driven by the West Asia conflict.

India's largest airline, IndiGo, responded by replacing its flat fuel surcharge of ₹425 on domestic routes with a slab-based system ranging from ₹275 to ₹950, depending on distance. In the case of international flights, the fuel charges will vary from

₹900 to ₹10,000, depending on the distance; so far, the flat surcharge was ₹2,300. Other domestic carriers have also welcomed the move.

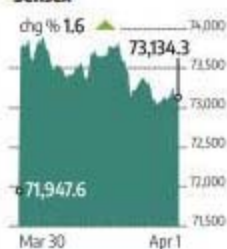
Furthermore, premium petrol and diesel prices were increased again on Wednesday, while state-run OMCs announced a ₹195.50 rise in the price of commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders.

From April 1,

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) raised ATF prices to ₹1.05 lakh per kilolitre in New Delhi, an 8.5 per cent increase from ₹96,638 per kilolitre in March. Turn to Page 7 ▶



Sensex



PAGE 10

Mkts rebound sharply on de-escalation hopes

Domestic equities rebounded on Wednesday in line with global markets after the US signalled a potential timeline for ending the conflict in Iran, easing concerns around crude oil prices and boosting risk appetite.



“IRAN'S NEW REGIME PRESIDENT, MUCH LESS RADICALISED AND FAR MORE INTELLIGENT THAN HIS PREDECESSORS, HAS JUST ASKED THE US FOR A CEASEFIRE!”

Donald Trump, US President

- Iran rejects Trump claims that Tehran asked for ceasefire P8 ▶
- Restaurant industry staring at ₹79,000 or hit a month P2 ▶

ATF, commercial LPG, premium fuel prices soar amid oil squeeze

In the early hours of Wednesday, IOCL had increased ATF prices by more than 100 per cent to ₹2.07 lakh per kilolitre in line with global trends. The government later intervened, stating that “a partial and staggered increase” of 25 per cent, or ₹15 per litre, would be passed on to airlines to shield domestic travel costs. International routes, however, will bear the full increase. For airlines operating overseas, ATF prices in Delhi rose 107 per cent to \$1,690.81 per kilolitre.

Senior officials in the oil and aviation ministries

declined to comment on whether further increases are likely, saying such decisions remain with OMCs.

“In order to insulate the domestic travel costs from the substantial increase in international prices, PSU oil marketing companies of the Ministry of Petroleum, in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation, have passed only a partial and staggered increase of 25 per cent (only ₹15/litre) to the airlines,” said Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) in a social media post on X.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

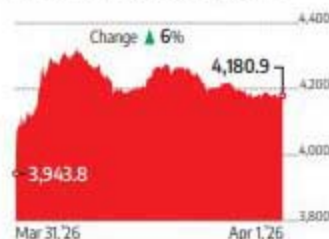
DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

IndiGo shares jump after Willie Walsh named CEO

High hopes

InterGlobe Aviation share price in ₹



Source: Bloomberg
Compiled by BS Research Bureau

REUTERS

1 April

Shares of IndiGo gained 4.4 per cent on Wednesday after the budget airline appointed industry veteran Willie Walsh new chief executive officer (CEO), just weeks after the departure of long-time CEO Pieter Elbers.

Jefferies described the appointment as a "remarkably swift" resolution for an airline of IndiGo's scale and complexity, likely to minimize any leadership vacuum and ensure continuity in execution. Walsh, who brings four decades of aviation experience, is expected

to steer IndiGo through its current growth phase, operational stabilisation and international expansion, Jefferies said. Walsh's term as head of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) ends on July 31, and he is expected to join IndiGo by August 3, the airline said in a statement.

IndiGo commands about 65 per cent of India's fast-growing aviation market. However, the carrier faced its biggest crisis in December, cancelling more than 4,500 flights after failing to prepare for new pilot rest rules.

Regulators reprimanded several senior executives, including Elbers,

citing "inadequate overall oversight of flight operations and crisis management".

Like its peers, IndiGo has also been hit by higher costs as flights are rerouted due to the conflict in West Asia and Pakistani airspace restrictions. Jefferies also noted that key priorities for the airline now include improving reliability, addressing crew issues, and balancing its low-cost model amid ongoing cost pressures. IndiGo shares are down 19 per cent so far this year, making it one of the worst performers on the Nifty 50.

The airline is currently valued at ₹1.59 trillion (\$16.97 billion).

IndiGo appoints IATA chief William Walsh as new CEO

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's largest airline IndiGo on Tuesday appointed William Walsh, the Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), as its new CEO, subject to regulatory approvals, three weeks after the resignation of Pieter Elbers.

The decision was taken by the Board of InterGlobe Aviation Limited, which runs IndiGo, and Walsh is expected to "join no later than" August 3.

Walsh, whose term in IATA is coming to end on July 31, started as a pilot, COO and then CEO of Irish flag carrier Aer Lingus (2000-2005), and later moved to British Airways as CEO (2005-2011), and then as CEO of IAG (2011-2020), before heading to IATA.

"The airline has a strong foundation, a compelling vision, and an exceptional reputation. What stands out the most to me are its people, their passion, professionalism, and commitment. The aviation landscape is evolving rapidly, and IndiGo is extremely well-positioned to be at the forefront of this change," Walsh said.

An IndiGo statement said that "in his new role, Walsh will be responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the airline, with a focus on transformational initiatives to strengthen the operational performance, advance the company's network and commercial strate-



William Walsh

gy, while enhancing customer experience".

He will work closely with the Board and leadership team to rightfully position IndiGo as it scales up to the next phase of growth, it said.

Walsh's entry into IndiGo comes three months after the airline witnessed one of its worst crises — cancellation of 2,507 flights and delays of 1,852 flights between December 3 and 5, inconveniencing thousands of passengers, since it could not assign adequate crew to operate services owing to revised Flight Duty Time Limitation, which allowed enhanced rest time for pilots.

New DGCA chief

Meanwhile, the head of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has been replaced. The Centre on Wednesday appointed Vir Vikram Yadav, a 1996-batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, as the new Director General of the DGCA. He replaces Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.

कमर्शियल एलपीजी सिलिंडर 195 रुपये महंगा, एटीएफ के दाम भी बढ़े

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: पश्चिम एशिया में जंग के चलते वैश्विक स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में भारी उछाल की वजह से सरकारी तेल कंपनियों ने बुधवार को कमर्शियल एलपीजी सिलिंडर की कीमतों में 195.50 रुपये की वृद्धि कर दी। दिल्ली में अब 19 किलो वाले कमर्शियल एलपीजी सिलिंडर की कीमत अब 2078.50 रुपये हो गई है। घरेलू एलपीजी सिलिंडर के दाम में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है। उधर, होर्मुज स्ट्रेट बंद होने के कारण एविप्रेशन टरबाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में 100

प्रतिशत से अधिक की तेज बढ़ोतरी के बावजूद भारत सरकार ने घरेलू एयरलाइंस के लिए केवल आंशिक वृद्धि को मंजूरी दी है। सरकार का कहना है कि इस फैसले के बाद घरेलू एयरलाइन कंपनियां यात्री किराये को समायोजित करेंगी और यात्रियों पर कोई अतिरिक्त बोझ नहीं डालेंगी। सभी भारतीय एयरलाइनों ने इसका स्वागत तो किया है लेकिन यात्री किराये की संभावित वृद्धि के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा है। एयरलाइनें पहले से ही फ्यूल सरचार्ज के रूप में कुछ बढ़ा हुआ किराया ग्राहकों से ले रही हैं।

- नई दरें एक अप्रैल से लागू हुईं, घरेलू एलपीजी सिलिंडर के दाम में नहीं किया गया कोई बदलाव
- एटीएफ में 8.50% की आंशिक वृद्धि से सरकार की विमान किराये को नियंत्रित करने की कोशिश



एटीएफ पर फैसले के बारे में सबसे पहले पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने बताया - 'घरेलू यात्रा लागत को अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों में हुई भारी वृद्धि से बचाने के लिए मंत्रालय के तहत क्रम

करने वाली तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय से परामर्श के बाद एयरलाइंस को केवल आंशिक व चरणबद्ध रूप से 8.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि (केवल 15 रुपये प्रति लीटर) की अनुमति दी

प्रीमियम पेट्रोल 11 और प्रीमियम डीजल डेढ़ रुपये महंगा

एक्स्ट्रा प्रीमियम पेट्रोल व एक्स्ट्रा ग्रीन डीजल (प्रीमियम डीजल) के दाम भी बुधवार से बढ़ गए। प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की कीमतों में 11 रुपये और प्रीमियम डीजल में डेढ़ रुपये प्रति लीटर की बढ़ोतरी की गई है। अब दिल्ली में प्रीमियम पेट्रोल (100 आक्टोन पेट्रोल) की कीमत 149 रुपये से बढ़कर 160 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गई है। प्रीमियम डीजल के दाम 91.49 रुपये से बढ़कर 92.99 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गए हैं। सामान्य पेट्रोल व डीजल के दामों में कोई बढ़ोतरी नहीं की गई है।

है। विदेशी उड़ानों पर एटीएफ की पूरी वृद्धि लागू होगी, जो दुनिया के अन्य हिस्सों में एयरलाइंस भुगतान करती है, उसके अनुरूप होगी।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने इस फैसला का

स्वागत करते हुए कहा, यह फैसला यात्रियों को किराये में तेज वृद्धि से बचाएगा। जानकारों का कहना है कि इस फैसले से भारत से खाड़ी, यूरोप या अमेरिका की उड़ानें निश्चित तौर पर काफी महंगी होने जा रही हैं।

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के अनुसार, एटीएफ की कीमतें वर्ष 2001 से ही अंतरराष्ट्रीय बेंचमार्क के अनुसार मासिक आधार पर तय होती हैं। वैश्विक संकट के कारण एक अप्रैल से घरेलू बाजार में कीमतें दोगुनी से अधिक बढ़ने की आशंका थी। दिल्ली में घरेलू एयरलाइंस के लिए एटीएफ की नई कीमत अब 1,04,927 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर हो गई है। विदेशी रूट्स, नान-शेड्यूलड, एडहाक, चार्टर उड़ानों के लिए पूर्ण वृद्धि (114.5% तक) लागू होगी, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अन्य देशों के बराबर है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

इंडिगो एयरलाइन ने आज से फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ाया

नई दिल्ली, आइएनएस: देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने दो अप्रैल से फ्यूल सरचार्ज में बढ़ोतरी की है। दूरी के आधार पर घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए यह चार्ज 275 से 950 रुपये प्रति सीट व अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए 900 से 10,000 रुपये प्रति सीट तक होगा। एयरलाइन मार्च से उड़ानों पर फ्यूल सरचार्ज वसूल रही है लेकिन अब इसमें संशोधन किया है।

घरेलू बुकिंग के ये होंगे शुल्क

दूरी (किमी)	शुल्क
0-500 किमी	275 रुपये
501-1000 किमी	400 रुपये
1001-1500 किमी	600 रुपये
1501-2000 किमी	800 रुपये
2,000 किमी से अधिक	950 रुपये

अंतरराष्ट्रीय बुकिंग के लिए अब यह फ्यूल सरचार्ज

महाद्वीप/देश/क्षेत्र	शुल्क
दक्षिण एशिया	900 से 2500 रुपये
रुफ एवं पश्चिम एशिया	3,000 से 5,000 रुपये
द.पूर्व एशिया और चीन	3,500 से 5,000 रुपये
अफ्रीका	5,000 रुपये
यूरोप	7,500 से 10,000 रुपये

घरेलू एयरलाइनों के लिए एटीएफ कीमतों में 8.50% की वृद्धि

आंशिक बढ़ोतरी से सरकार की विमान किराये को नियंत्रित करने की कोशिश

विदेशी एयरलाइनों के लिए
114% महंगा हुआ एटीएफ
जगरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली



विमान में भरा जा रहा एविपेशन टरबाइन फ्यूल। फाइल

वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजार में अस्थिरता और हार्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के बंद होने के कारण एविपेशन टरबाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में 100 प्रतिशत से अधिक की तेज वृद्धि के बावजूद, भारत सरकार ने घरेलू एयरलाइंस के लिए सिर्फ आंशिक वृद्धि को मंजूरी दी है। इस फैसले से विमान यात्रियों पर किरायों में भारी वृद्धि का चाबुक नहीं चलेगा। सरकार का कहना है कि इस फैसले के बाद घरेलू एयरलाइन कंपनियां यात्री किराये को समायोजित करेंगी और यात्रियों पर अतिरिक्त बोझ नहीं डालेंगी। सभी भारतीय एयरलाइनों ने इसका स्वागत तो किया है पर यात्री किरायों की संभावित वृद्धि के बारे में साफ तौर पर कुछ नहीं कहा है। एयरलाइनें पहले से ही फ्यूल सरचार्ज के रूप में बढ़ा हुआ किराया ग्राहकों से ले रही हैं। एयरलाइनों ने स्पष्ट किया है कि उनके लिए उड़ानों की लागत को फिलहाल नियंत्रण में रखना आसान होगा।

इस फैसले के बारे में सबसे पहले

आज से इंडिगो ने फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ाया

देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो एयरलाइन ने दो अप्रैल यानी गुरुवार से फ्यूल सरचार्ज में बढ़ोतरी की है। दूरी के आधार पर घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए यह चार्ज 275 से 950 रुपये प्रति सीट और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए 900 से 10,000 प्रति सीट तक होगा। एयरलाइन 14 मार्च से पहले ही घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ान टिकटों पर 425 से लेकर 2,300 रुपये का फ्यूल सरचार्ज वसूल रही है लेकिन अब उसने इसमें संशोधन किया है।

पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने बताया - 'घरेलू यात्रा लागत को अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों में हुई भारी वृद्धि से बचाने के लिए पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के तहत काम करने वाली तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों ने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय से परामर्श के बाद एयरलाइंस को आंशिक व चरणबद्ध रूप से 8.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि (15 रुपये प्रति लीटर) की अनुमति दी है। विदेशी उड़ानों पर एटीएफ की पूरी बढ़ोतरी लागू होगी जो कि दुनिया के अन्य हिस्सों में एयरलाइंस धुगतान करती हैं, उसके अनुरूप होगी।'

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री राम मोहन नायडू ने इस फैसला का स्वागत करते हुए कहा, यह फैसला यात्रियों को किरायों में अचानक तेज वृद्धि से बचाएगा, घरेलू एयरलाइंस पर बोझ कम करेगा और एविपेशन क्षेत्र की निरंतर स्थिरता को

सहारा देगा। यह समग्र अर्थव्यवस्था को भी लाभ पहुंचाएगा। मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव असंगबा चुबा आओ ने कहा - 'इस कदम से एयरलाइंस की घरेलू परिचालन लागत का प्रबंधन आसान होगा और इससे एयरलाइन टिकटों पर अतिरिक्त ईंधन सरचार्ज लगाने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। एटीएफ की आंशिक बढ़ोतरी के साथ एयरलाइंस अपनी मूल्य निर्धारण रणनीति को दोबारा समायोजित कर सकेंगी।'

हालांकि जानकारों का कहना है कि इस फैसले से भारत से दुनिया के अन्य देशों खसतौर पर खाड़ी, यूरोप या अमेरिका की उड़ानें निश्चित तौर पर काफी महंगी होने जा रही हैं। इन रूटों पर संचालन करने वाली कंपनियों को पहले से ही युद्ध की वजह से लंबी दूरी तय करनी पड़ रही है जिसमें ज्यादा ईंधन

का इस्तेमाल होता है। जेट फ्यूल की कीमतों में हुई इस बढ़ोतरी से एयरलाइंस पर और दबाव पड़ने की संभावना है।

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के अनुसार, एटीएफ की कीमतें वर्ष 2001 से ही अंतरराष्ट्रीय बेंचमार्क के अनुसार मासिक आधार पर तय होती हैं। वैश्विक संकट के कारण एक अप्रैल से घरेलू बाजार में कीमतें दोगुनी से अधिक बढ़ने की आशंका थी। दिल्ली में घरेलू एयरलाइंस के लिए एटीएफ की नई कीमत अब 1,04,927 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर हो गई है, जो पिछले महीने के 96,638 रुपये से 8.56 प्रतिशत अधिक है। विदेशी रूट्स, नान-शेड्यूल्ड, एडहाक और चार्टर उड़ानों के लिए पूर्ण बढ़ोतरी (114.5 प्रतिशत तक) लागू होगी, जो अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अन्य देशों के बराबर है।



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

1 APRIL 2026

दिल्ली में एयर ट्रेफिक कंजेशन यात्री जयपुर में परेशान

नवज्योति, जयपुर। जयपुर से दिल्ली जाने वाली इंडिगो की फ्लाइट एयर ट्रेफिक कंजेशन के कारण देर



तक जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर ही अटकी रही। यह फ्लाइट जयपुर से शाम 5.15 बजे रवाना होनी थी, लेकिन दिल्ली में भारी हवाई यातायात दबाव के

चलते इसे उड़ान भरने की अनुमति नहीं मिली। दिल्ली एटीसी ने बढ़ते ट्रैफिक के कारण विमान को होल्ड पर रखा, जिससे फ्लाइट निर्धारित समय से लगभग एक घंटे देरी से शाम 6.12 बजे रवाना हो पाई। जिससे यात्री परेशान रहे।

AMID WEST ASIA CRISIS

Partial Rollback in ATF Price Hike as Govt Steps in to Check Airfares

Airlines operating on intl routes to pay full increase in jet fuel prices

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Oil marketing companies on Wednesday scaled back a move to sharply raise jet fuel rates, with the Centre permitting only a partial increase in rates despite the Iran war triggering a surge in global oil prices. The rare move of government intervention is expected to potentially help avert a spike in domestic airfares just ahead of elections in some states later this month and the peak summer travel season.

"In order to insulate the domestic travel costs from the substantial increase in international prices,

state-owned oil marketing companies of the Ministry of Petroleum, in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation, have passed only a partial and staggered increase of 25% (only ₹15/litre) to the airlines," the oil ministry posted on X.

It added that airlines, while operating on international routes, will pay for the full increase in jet fuel prices consistent with what they pay in other parts of the world. Oil companies rolled back a major increase in jet fuel prices within hours of pushing them to a record. Fuel makes up about 30% of the cost of operating an airline in India.

Indian Oil, which leads pricing

moves, initially doubled the price in New Delhi to ₹2,07,341 (\$2,187) a kiloliter for April. Hours later, it revised the rate to ₹1,04,927, according to the state-run company's website.

While crude prices have spiralled following the supply disruptions caused by the war, the crack spread or the difference between the market price of a barrel of crude and the jet fuel refined from it has climbed sharply higher. From \$24.28 per barrel in February last week, the spread shot up to \$61.44 by March 20, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

UNPRECEDENTED MOVE

Airline executives termed the government move as unprecedented. Following the announcement, IndiGo recalibrated the fuel surcharge for domestic flights from ₹125 flat to a distance-based tiered structure varying between ₹275 and ₹650.

"The government's decision to allow only a partial increase comes as a big relief for the aviation industry at a time of unprecedented global uncertainty," said Ajay Singh, CMD of SpiceJet.

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the government decision was a timely measure to ease pressure on passengers and the aviation sector.

Commercial LPG Up by ₹196; Premium Petrol by ₹ 11/L

New Delhi: Oil marketing companies Wednesday raised the price of commercial LPG by ₹195.5 per cylinder, premium petrol by ₹11 per litre, and premium diesel by ₹1.5 per litre to pass on the impact of higher global crude oil rates. A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder will now cost ₹2,078.50 in Delhi, while the price of a 5-kg refill has been increased by ₹51 to ₹549. Rates of both 19-kg and 5-kg cylinders are market-linked, while that of 14.2-kg domestic cylinders are government-controlled. The April 1 increase in commercial LPG prices is due to a 44% surge in the Saudi contract price—from \$542 per tonne in March to \$780 per tonne for April—as 20-30% of global LPG supplies are stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, the oil ministry said in a post on X. Saudi contract price is the benchmark for LPG procured from the Middle East region. Prices of 14.2-kg domestic refills remain unchanged. —Our Bureau



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

Govt caps ATF hike; IndiGo raises levy

NITIN KUMAR,
AKBAR MERCHANT
& SAURAVANAND
New Delhi/Mumbai, April 1

THE GOVERNMENT ON Wednesday stepped in for the second time in recent weeks to shield households and consumers from a spike in fuel-linked costs, capping the rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for domestic airlines at about 8.5%. This comes after earlier cutting excise duties on petrol and diesel to contain retail prices. However, it did not seem to have the

FLIGHT PLAN



■ Rise in aviation turbine fuel for domestic airlines capped around **8.5%**

desired effect.

The calibrated move ensured that ATF prices rose to around ₹1,04,927 per kilolitre in Delhi, instead of more than

■ IndiGo revises fuel surcharge structure, replaces flat ₹425 per domestic ticket with slab-based charge ranging from ₹275-₹950

■ Midpoint works out to around ₹600-₹620, implying average increase of about 40-45%

doubling in line with global benchmarks amid the ongoing West Asia conflict.

Continued on Page 7

Commercial LPG price goes up by ₹195

THE PRICES OF commercial cooking gas were hiked by ₹195.50 per 19-kg cylinder from Wednesday even as state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) stare at cumulative losses of ₹40,484 crore by end-May due to mounting under-recoveries triggered by the West Asia conflict, reports Saurav Anand. ■ PAGE 5

Govt caps ATF hike

THE DECISION WAS expected to protect air travellers from an immediate surge in fares driven by fuel surcharges, even as it shifts part of the burden onto state-run OMCs.

However, following the government's intervention, IndiGo revised its fuel surcharge structure, replacing the earlier flat ₹425 per domestic ticket with a slab-based charge ranging from ₹275 to ₹950. While this lowers the burden on short-haul routes, the midpoint of the revised range works out to ₹600-₹620, implying an average rise of roughly ₹175-₹200 per ticket, or about 40-45%.

"On domestic routes, fuel surcharges still appear somewhat arbitrary and not fully aligned with prevailing ATF prices. Airlines need to exercise restraint and caution while imposing such levies, especially in an extremely price-sensitive inflation-hit market in the aftermath of the US-Iran conflict," Mark Martin, CEO, Martin Consulting, told FE.

Prior to IndiGo's revised surcharge, government officials had said the staggered and partial increase was designed to

avoid a sharp pass-through to consumers while maintaining viability for airlines.

For international operations, IndiGo has imposed a higher surcharge, citing a steep rise in jet fuel costs. Charges now range from ₹900 for short-haul sectors within the subcontinent to as high as ₹10,000 per sector for long-haul routes to the UK and Europe, with intermediate slabs of ₹2,500-₹5,000 for destinations across the Gulf, Southeast Asia, China and Africa. This, however, benefits scheduled domestic airlines, but non-scheduled, charter and international operations continue to face market-linked prices, where rates have surged sharply.

The government's broader approach has been to absorb part of the global crude price shock. Cuts in excise duty on petrol and diesel, coupled with nudges to states to reduce VAT, have helped keep pump prices unchanged despite rising input costs. However, prices of select premium or branded fuels were raised, with Extra Green diesel rising by ₹1.50 a litre to ₹92.99 and 100-octane petrol (XP100) up by ₹11 to ₹160 per litre.

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

High fuel prices, war disruptions, operational inefficiencies hurting performance

Air India's losses seen doubling to ₹20,000 crore in FY26

DEV CHATTERJEE
Mumbai, April 1

TATA GROUP-OWNED Air India is likely to report a full-year loss exceeding ₹20,000 crore for the fiscal ended March 2026—nearly double the previous year—raising concerns at Bombay House. The airline's deteriorating financials come at a time when the broader aviation sector itself is under severe strain, suggesting that the pain is far from being company-specific and could deepen if geopolitical tensions persist.

The carrier posted a loss of about ₹16,000 crore in the nine months through December 2025 on revenue of ₹70,000 crore, according to people familiar with the matter. This is sharply higher than



»INSIDE«
LOYALTY PROGRAMME GETS A TWEAK P5

an earlier internal projection of a full-year loss of around ₹2,000 crore by Tata Sons. In FY25, Air India had reported a

consolidated loss of ₹10,864 crore on operating revenue of ₹76,754 crore. While it remains one of the group's largest revenue contributors, it is also its biggest loss maker.

A combination of factors has weighed on performance: elevated fuel prices, airspace

disruptions linked to the Iran conflict, the Ahmedabad accident last June, and persistent operational inefficiencies. Nearly four years after its acquisition in 2022, a sustained turnaround remains elusive.

Continued on Page 7

Air India's losses may double

Emails sent to Tata Sons and Air India on Tuesday didn't elicit a response, but analysts say Air India's troubles must be viewed in the context of a sector grappling with multiple headwinds. India's largest airline, IndiGo, reported a 78% plunge in net profit to ₹549 crore in the December quarter, hit by flight disruptions and elevated crew costs, even as revenue rose 6% to ₹23,472 crore. The sharp divergence between revenue growth and profitability underscores stress across the industry.

Rating agency Crisil has also flagged subdued operating performance for Air India in FY26 amid a series of external shocks. Airspace closures beginning April 2025 disrupted key North America routes, leading to longer flight times, higher fuel burn and rising costs. These pressures are not unique to Air India and have affected the entire industry.

The June incident further dented passenger confidence, prompting a voluntary "safety pause" that included temporary aircraft groundings between July and September 2025. At the same time, unresolved US visa



issues have weighed on demand in key global markets, while aircraft delivery delays have constrained capacity expansion.

These challenges, Crisil noted in December, may persist, keeping pressure on costs and overall operating metrics. With geopolitical tensions still elevated, outlook for airlines—including Air India—could worsen if disruptions continue.

The sector also remains vulnerable to currency volatility. Lease rentals and maintenance costs—accounting for 20-25% of operating expenses—are dollar-denominated.

While Air India benefits from a natural hedge through international revenues and a hedging programme introduced in 2024, forex movements con-

tinued to pose risks.

Against this backdrop, mounting losses at Air India and Tata Digital have emerged as a key concern for Tata Trusts, which owns 66% of Tata Sons. The airline had also sought an additional equity infusion of ₹10,000 crore from its parent in the previous fiscal. Following the merger with Vistara in November 2024, Singapore Airlines holds a 25.1% stake in the combined Air India entity.

For now, Air India's swelling losses are as much a reflection of internal challenges as of an industry caught in turbulence. And unless the external environment stabilises, the path to recovery may remain long and not just for Air India, but for the sector as a whole.

IndiGo hikes fuel charge on distance-based fares

● Second increase in under 3 weeks

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, April 1

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST airline, IndiGo, on Wednesday revised fuel surcharges across domestic and international routes for bookings from April 2, marking its second increase in under three weeks.

The move comes even as the government has capped the rise in ATF prices for domestic routes, allowing only a partial pass-through to limit fare increases.

The latest revision replaces the earlier flat domestic surcharge of ₹425 per ticket, introduced on March 14, with a distance-based structure ranging from ₹275 to ₹950. While the new slabs lower charges for short-haul routes, the midpoint of the revised range works out to around ₹600—Rs 620, indicating an average increase of roughly ₹175—₹200 per ticket, or about 40–45% over the previous level.

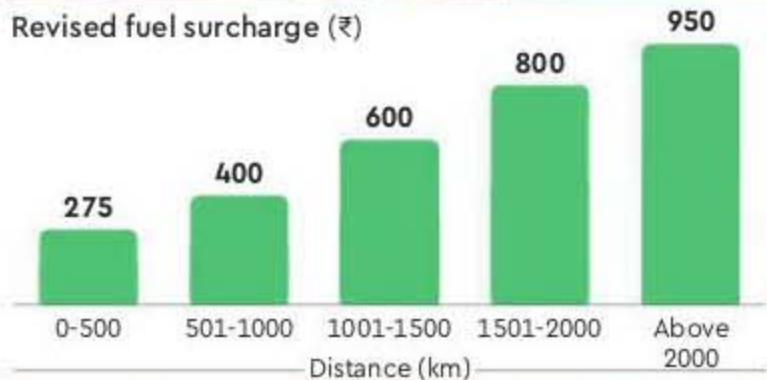
Under the revised structure, passengers will pay ₹275 for flights up to 500 km, ₹400 for 501–1,000 km, ₹600 for 1,001–1,500 km, ₹800 for 1,501–2,000 km and ₹950 for sectors beyond 2,000 km.

Industry experts said the revised domestic surcharge appears misaligned with the moderated increase in fuel costs. "On domestic routes, fuel surcharges still appear somewhat arbitrary and not fully aligned with prevailing ATF prices. Airlines need to exercise

COST BURDEN



Revised fuel surcharge (₹)



■ The move comes even as the government has capped the rise in ATF prices for domestic airlines

■ International surcharges jump sharply to ₹900-₹10,000 as uncapped fuel costs more than double

restraint and caution while imposing such levies, especially in an extremely price-sensitive, inflation-hit market in the aftermath of the US-Iran conflict," said Mark Martin, CEO of Martin Consulting.

On international routes, where ATF prices have more than doubled over the past month and are not subject to similar caps, IndiGo has implemented a sharper increase in surcharges.

Charges now start at ₹900 for short-haul routes within the subcontinent and go up to ₹10,000 per sector for long-haul destinations such as the UK and Europe. Flights to the

Gulf and Middle East will attract ₹3,000—₹5,000, while routes to Southeast Asia and China will see ₹3,500—₹5,000 per sector.

The airline said the revised charges reflect only a partial pass-through of higher fuel costs and have been calibrated to limit the burden on passengers. It acknowledged that without the Centre's intervention in capping domestic ATF price increases, the impact on fares would have been significantly higher. For airlines, fuel accounts for nearly 40% of operating costs, making pricing adjustments critical to protect margins.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

AI resets loyalty play with easier rewards

AKBAR MERCHANT
Mumbai, April 1

AIR INDIA HAS recast its Maharaja Club loyalty programme, cutting the cost of rewards and easing the path to elite tiers, in a move aimed at retaining frequent flyers as competition intensifies on both domestic and long-haul routes.

The changes, to be rolled out from April 1, follow more than a year of customer feedback and apply across most of the airline's network.

The carrier said over 90% of routes will see improved redemption value, with lower point requirements for both tickets and upgrades.

Domestic award seats will now start at 1,500 Maharaja Points, while cabin upgrades begin at 4,000 points. On international routes, one-way redemptions have been reset at 35,000 points for Europe, including the UK, 40,000 for

FLYING HIGHER

■ Over 90% of routes will see improved redemption value, with lower point requirements for both tickets and upgrades

■ Domestic award seats will now start at 1,500 Maharaja Points, while cabin upgrades begin at 4,000 points

■ On international routes, one-way redemptions have been reset at 35,000 points for Europe, including the UK, 40,000 for the US and Australia, and 50,000 for Canada



the US and Australia, and 50,000 for Canada. Economy redemptions have been cut by about 30% on a majority of domestic routes and three-fourths of international sectors, while business class requirements are lower by up to a quarter on select routes.

The airline has also tightened rules around changes and cancellations, but with clearer thresholds. Platinum mem-

bers can alter bookings up to two hours before departure without penalty, while Gold and Silver members get longer advance windows. Outside these timelines, a flat 25% fee will apply. Importantly, points used for upgrades will be fully refunded on cancellation, addressing a long-standing pain point for frequent flyers.

Tier qualification has been eased, reducing the number of

flights needed to move up the ladder. Platinum status will now require 60 flights, down from 90, Gold 45 from 60, and Silver 20 from 30. The airline said eligible members will receive retrospective benefits for the past year, effectively accelerating upgrades for regular travellers.

In a bid to improve the on-ground experience, priority services and lounge access will now extend to one co-passenger on the same booking for top-tier members. Points accrual has also been tightened, with credits expected within two hours of travel, including on Star Alliance partner flights.

Chief Commercial Officer Nipun Aggarwal said the overhaul is designed to make the programme "more meaningful and flexible", signalling a shift towards faster rewards and fewer restrictions as Air India seeks to deepen customer stickiness.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

1 APRIL 2026

Change at DGCA helm

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is set for a leadership change as the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) transferred Faiz Ahmed Kidwai from the post of Director General. **Vir Vikram Yadav** will take charge of the aviation regulator following a year of intense scrutiny over the Air India crash in Ahmedabad, IndiGo's operational crisis and various regulatory challenges.

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle targeting key administrative positions, the ACC approved a series of high-level transfers on Tuesday, primarily



Vir Vikram Yadav to take charge

reshaping the leadership at the DGCA and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

Kidwai, a 1996-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, had helmed the regulator since January 2025.

► **Contd on | nation**

Change at DGCA...

He faced significant pressure regarding the flight duty time limitation (FDTL) issue, which was resolved only after judicial intervention when the DGCA failed to ensure airline compliance.

Moreover, a series of aviation incidents, including the Air India crash that killed 260 people and IndiGo's December operational crisis involving thousands of flight cancellations, drew sharp criticism during Kidwai's tenure. He will now take charge as Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Yadav, a 1996-batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, moves to the watchdog from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), where he served as Additional Secretary. His appointment comes as the DGCA intensifies oversight on airline accountability and safety protocols.

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

1 APRIL 2026

IndiGo appoints IATA DG as CEO

Dhairya Gajara

MUMBAI

IndiGo appointed International Air Transport Association (IATA) Director General

William Walsh as the chief executive officer, 20 days after Pieter Elbers resigned from the position following the airline's massive operational disruption in December. Walsh is expected to assume the charge by August 3 after his tenure at IATA ends on July 31.



▶ **Contd on** | nation

IndiGo appoints...

Popularly known as Willie, Walsh has formerly served as the CEO of British Airways and International Airlines Group, which owns Aer Lingus, British Airways, Iberia, Level and Vueling. He is considered as one of the most successful, respected, influential and long-lasting leaders in modern aviation history and is admired for his pragmatic and resolute management, effective complex restructuring, and successful mergers and acquisitions. His career commenced from his role as a pilot, COO and then CEO of Aer Lingus, CEO of British Airways, CEO of IAG and since then, the IATA DG.

In his new role at IndiGo, Walsh will work closely with the Board of InterGlobe Aviation and the leadership team to rightfully position IndiGo as it scales up to the next phase of its growth.

This comes 20 days after Elbers resigned from his post, citing personal reasons. However, industry experts believe that his resignation was linked to IndiGo's massive operational crisis in December, when thousands of flights were cancelled due to errors in crew rostering to align with the new flight duty time limitation (FDTL) rules.

IndiGo Chairman Vikram Singh Mehta said, "I am thrilled that Willie will be at the helm of IndiGo. He is an exceptional global aviation leader with a stellar track record of outstanding leadership across several airlines. His appointment will mark a new chapter for IndiGo, as it continues its journey in one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world."

Walsh said, "I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead IndiGo. The airline has a strong foundation, a compelling vision and an exceptional reputation. What stands out most to me are its people, their passion, professionalism and commitment. The aviation landscape is evolving rapidly, and IndiGo is extremely well-positioned to be at the forefront of this change. I look forward to partnering with colleagues across the organisation to build a culture of excellence, innovation, collaboration and sustainable value for all stakeholders."

झटका : कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर, हवाई सफर और महंगा



नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। पश्चिम एशिया संकट से बीते दिनों अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमत में तेज उछाल का असर भारत में देखने को मिल रहा है। सरकारी तेल कंपनियों ने बुधवार को वाणिज्यिक और पांच किलो के एलपीजी सिलेंडर के दाम बढ़ा दिए। प्रीमियम पेट्रोल-डीजल के साथ ही विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में भी इजाफा किया गया है।

कंपनियों ने 19 किलोग्राम वाले वाणिज्यिक सिलेंडर की कीमत 195.50 रुपये बढ़ा दी है। दिल्ली में अब इसकी कीमत 2,078.50 रुपये हो गई है। इससे पहले एक मार्च को 114.5 रुपये बढ़ाए गए थे। वहीं, पांच किलो के सिलेंडर के दाम 51 रुपये बढ़ाए गए हैं।

प्रीमियम पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम फिर बढ़ें : देश में बिकने वाले चुनिंदा प्रीमियम या ब्रांडेड पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम 12 दिन बाद दोबारा बढ़ाए गए हैं। इससे 'एक्सट्रा ग्रीन' डीजल की कीमत 1.50 रुपये बढ़कर 92.99 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गई है। वहीं, 100 ऑक्टेन पेट्रोल (एक्सपी100) की कीमत 11 रुपये प्रति लीटर बढ़कर 160 रुपये प्रति लीटर कर दी गई है। इससे पहले 20 मार्च को भी प्रीमियम पेट्रोल के दाम में

195 रुपये बढ़ाए गए वाणिज्यिक सिलेंडर के दाम।

11 रुपये प्रति लीटर प्रीमियम पेट्रोल की कीमत बढ़ी।

घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए शुल्क

दूरी (किलोमीटर में)	ईंधन सरचार्ज
0 से 500	275 रुपये
501 से 1000	400 रुपये
1001 से 1500	600 रुपये
1501 से 2000	800 रुपये
2000 से अधिक	950 रुपये

2.30 रुपये तक वृद्धि की गई थी।

इंडिगो ने शुल्क बढ़ाया : विमान ईंधन की कीमत बुधवार को बढ़ाकर रिकॉर्ड 2.07 लाख रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर हो गई। इसके बाद इंडिगो ने ईंधन शुल्क की दरों को संशोधित किया है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवा के लिए शुल्क 900 से दस हजार रुपये तक की बढ़ोतरी की गई है। इससे पहले 14 मार्च को ईंधन शुल्क में घरेलू उड़ान सेवा पर 425 रुपये का शुल्क लगाया गया था।

कच्चा तेल गिरा : इस बीच बुधवार को ब्रेंट क्रूड ऑयल के दाम गिरकर सौ डॉलर के करीब पहुंच गए। ट्रंप के युद्ध खत्म करने के संकेतों के चलते दामों में गिरावट देखी जा रही है।

➤ अधिक शुल्क देना होगा P11

विमान सेवा शुरू होने में देरी संभव



ग्रेटर नोएडा, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से विमान सेवा शुरू होने में देरी संभव है। एयरपोर्ट बना रही कंपनी के सीईओ के विदेशी मूल का होने के कारण इसमें समय लग सकता है।

नागरिक उड्डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बकास) से एयरपोर्ट सिक््योरिटी प्रोग्राम की मंजूरी मिलने के लिए इस आपत्ति का निस्तारण जरूरी है। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट का 28 मार्च को उद्घाटन हुआ था। दावा किया जा रहा था कि एयरोड्रम

मिलने की तिथि से 45 दिनों के अंदर विमान सेवा शुरू होगी, लेकिन अब इसमें थोड़ा समय लग सकता है। इसके लिए इंटेल्जेंस ब्यूरो (आईबी) का ग्रीन सिग्नल मिलना जरूरी है। सुरक्षा को लेकर बकास के 2011 के नियम कहते हैं कि भारत में किसी भी एयरपोर्ट के सीईओ का भारतीय होना जरूरी है।

सरकार इस मामले में बीच का रास्ता निकालने में जुटी है। वहाँ, इसी मंजूरी के बाद ही एयरपोर्ट पर काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों के लिए एयरपोर्ट पंटी पास (एईपी) बन सकेगे। टिकट बुकिंग सेवा भी तभी शुरू होगी। एसीईओ शैलेंद्र भाटिया का कहना है कि एयरपोर्ट सिक््योरिटी प्रोग्राम की मंजूरी के लिए आवेदन किया जा चुका है।

हिंडन से अहमदाबाद, पटना की उड़ानें बंद

ट्रांस हिंडन। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से मुंबई, अहमदाबाद और पटना की उड़ान बंद हो गई है। बीते साल दिन भर में 16 शहरों के लिए 50 उड़ान संचालित होती थीं और अब सात शहर की 14 उड़ान ही रह गई हैं।

एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस ने गर्मियों के शेड्यूल में हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से सभी उड़ान पूरी तरह से हटा दीं। वहाँ, इंडिगो ने भी उड़ानों की संख्या घटाई है। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से अब इंडिगो की बेंगलुरु, नवी मुंबई, कोलकाता, चेन्नई व वाराणसी और स्टार एयर आदमपुर व नांदेड़ की उड़ानें संचालित हो रही हैं।

देश की सबसे बड़ी एयर कंपनी इंडिगो ने दूरी के हिसाब से लगाया सरचार्ज, पहले एकमुश्त शुल्क वसूला था हवाई सफर के लिए अब अधिक शुल्क देना होगा

असर

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) के दाम बढ़ने के साथ ही विमानन कंपनी इंडिगो ने ईंधन शुल्क में संशोधन कर दिया है। खास बात यह है कि इंडिगो ने घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्गों पर दूरी के हिसाब यह शुल्क लगाया है, जबकि इससे पहले 14 मार्च को लगाए गए ईंधन शुल्क में घरेलू सेवा के लिए एकमुश्त 425 रुपये ही जोड़े गए थे।

इस नई व्यवस्था से हवाई सफर करने वालों को अधिक रकम चुकानी होगी। माना जा रहा है कि अन्य एयरलाइंस कंपनियों भी दूरी से हिसाब से ईंधन शुल्क वसूल सकती हैं। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि विमानन कंपनियों के कुल खर्च में ईंधन का हिस्सा (करीब 40 फीसदी) काफी बड़ा होता है। इसलिए जैसे ही ईंधन महंगा होता है, कंपनियों इसका बोझ यात्रियों पर डाल देती हैं।

गौरतलब है कि बीते महीने ही विमानन कंपनियों ने ईंधन शुल्क लागू किया था। इसमें एयर इंडिया ने घरेलू

हवाई किराये में इतनी बढ़ोतरी संभव



जानकार कहते हैं हवाई किराए में जल्द 10-15 फीसदी तक की बढ़ोतरी की जा सकती है। हालांकि, सरकार विमानन कंपनियों के साथ बातचीत कर रही है। सरकार चाहती है कि विमानन कंपनियां एक साथ भारी बढ़ोतरी न करें, लेकिन विमानन कंपनियों का कहना है कि युद्ध के बीच खाड़ी देशों के लिए संवाहित की जा रही उड़ानों पर उन्हें घाटा हो रहा है। खासकर भारत से खाड़ी देशों को जाने वाली उड़ानों में यात्रियों की संख्या सीमित होती है।

इंडिगो ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवा के लिए लगाया शुल्क

- भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप (500 किमी तक): 900 से 2500 रुपये तक
- खाड़ी और मध्य पूर्व (2000 किमी तक): 3000 से 5000 रुपये तक
- दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया, चीन (2000 किमी तक): 3500 से 5000 रुपये
- अफ्रीका: 5000 रुपये
- ग्रीस और तुर्की: 7500 रुपये
- यूके, यूरोप: 10,000 रुपये

हवाई टिकट पर 399 रुपये, वेस्ट एशिया 800-900 रुपये, दक्षिणी-पूर्वी एशिया से जुड़ी उड़ानों पर 1800 रुपये और अफ्रीका से जुड़ी हवाई यात्रा पर

2700 रुपये का एकमुश्त शुल्क लगाया था। इसके बाद इंडिगो और आकासा एयर जैसी एयरलाइंस कंपनियों ने भी शुल्क लागू किया था।

तेज वृद्धि रोकने में मदद

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय मंत्री राममोहन नायडू ने कहा कि विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में आंशिक एवं चरणबद्ध बढ़ोतरी लागू करने का फैसला यात्रियों को हवाई किराये में अचानक होने वाली तेज वृद्धि से बचाने में मदद करेगा। साथ ही घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों पर बोझ कम करने में मददगार होगा। इससे माल की सूचारु आवाजाही सुनिश्चित करने में भी मदद मिलेगी।

2700 रुपये का एकमुश्त शुल्क लगाया था। इसके बाद इंडिगो और आकासा एयर जैसी एयरलाइंस कंपनियों ने भी शुल्क लागू किया था।

ईंधन की बढ़ती कीमतों ने आम परिवार पर बोझ बढ़ाया

व्यावसायिक गैस सिलेंडर, प्रीमियम पेट्रोल-डीजल और हवाई ईंधन (एटीएफ) के दाम फिर बढ़ने से आम लोगों पर महंगाई का असर और बढ़ सकता है। कुछ दिन पहले ही इन ईंधनों के दाम बढ़ाए गए थे, जिससे होटल-रेस्तरां से लेकर रोजमर्रा की कई चीजें महंगी हो चुकी हैं।

टिफिन सेवा महंगी

बीते एक माह में इसके दाम 310 रुपये बढ़ चुके हैं। इसका सीधा असर रेस्टोरेंट और ढाबों पर पड़ेगा तथा इनकी परिचालन लागत बढ़ेगी। बाहर खाना, मिठाई, चाय-नाश्ता और टिफिन जैसी सेवाएं महंगी हो सकती हैं।

कंपनियों ने शुल्क बढ़ाया

- 14 दिन के भीतर दाम दो बार बढ़े। उपयोग करने वालों पर बोझ बढ़ा।
- डीजल के दाम बढ़ने से फल, सब्जी, दूध और पैक्ड फूड की दुलाई महंगी होने की आशंका है।
- ऑनलाइन ग्रॉसरी, लॉजिस्टिक्स कंपनियों ने शुल्क बढ़ा दिए हैं।

युद्ध से पहले-बाद में कितना असर

खर्च की मदें	निम्न आय वर्ग (अनुमानित)	मध्यम आय वर्ग (अनुमानित)
जंग से पूर्व (फरवरी 2026)	15,000	48,000
जंग के दौरान (28 मार्च तक)	19,000	57,300
वृद्धि का प्रतिशत	26.6%	19.4%

■ (नोट: आंकड़े इकोनॉमी वॉच के कंज्यूमर स्पेंडिंग डेटा से जारी)

बढ़ सकती हैं कर्ज की दरें

ब्लूमबर्ग का अनुमान है कि अगर तेल की कीमतें लंबे समय तक ऊंची रहती हैं तो महंगाई रोकने के लिए रेपो रेट बढ़ाना पड़ सकता है। इससे कर्ज लेना महंगा होगा।

■ ब्लूमबर्ग के अनुसार, एटीएफ महंगा होने से टिकट की कीमतों में 30 फीसदी तक वृद्धि होने के आसार हैं। इसका असर दवाओं और ई-कॉमर्स की शीघ्र डिलीवरी पर भी पड़ सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

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{ OUR TAKE }

New captains in a turbulent sector

Neither of the two new top-level appointments — at IndiGo and DGCA — come at a routine time for the country's civil aviation sector

Indian aviation's two most consequential appointments in years arrived within hours of each other this week. William Walsh, formerly of British Airways, IAG and currently at the powerful aviation lobby group IATA, will take over as IndiGo's chief executive. Vir Vikram Yadav assumes charge as director general of civil aviation. Neither appointment is routine, and neither comes at a routine time. The sector had one of its worst years in 2025 — 260 lives lost in the Air India flight 171 tragedy, over 5,000 IndiGo flights cancelled in a single week that stranded 300,000 passengers — and began 2026 in no better shape, with a crash that killed a deputy CM and the West Asia conflict driving fuel costs and forcing longer international routes, leaving the industry staring at financial pain.

Today, Brent crude has surged past \$102 a barrel, from less than \$70 in February. Indian carriers are barred from nine countries' airspaces, with reroutes adding up to 70 minutes and nearly two tonnes of extra fuel burn on every European sector. Analysts project industry-wide losses of ₹17,000–18,000 crore for FY2026; Air India alone expects a record loss of at least ₹15,000 crore.

Walsh inherits an airline whose operational credibility was shattered barely three months ago — a ₹22.2 crore penalty, quarterly profit down 78%, and a predecessor who was, by all indications, made to make way. The turnaround mandate is clear — the airline has long stretched the limits of operational efficiency, and now requires systemic change.

Yadav's brief is arguably harder. The DGCA's inquiry into the IndiGo crisis cited "inadequate regulatory preparedness" — a rare admission that the regulator failed its mandate. The AI-171 investigation, politically and diplomatically fraught given the deliberate-act theory and American involvement, will reach a critical point under his watch with a report due this summer. And the institution he will lead struggles with hundreds of vacancies. He must run a credible safety regulator on incomplete strength at the worst possible time.

And then there is the relational test between the regulator and IndiGo, India's largest domestic airline. The December crisis laid that bare when the regulator granted exemptions, then penalised the airline for the provisions it had relaxed. India wants 500 million air passengers by 2030. It wants to be a global aviation hub. Those ambitions require a regulator and a market leader that treat safety as foundational, not negotiable. How Walsh and Yadav navigate what awaits them will shape not just an industry, but the aspirations, the global credibility and the safety of 1.4 billion people, many of whom are only just beginning to fly.

Indian carriers get ATF price advantage vs peers

Press Trust of India

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NEW DELHI: Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices for domestic airlines were raised by a calibrated 8.5% on Wednesday, instead of more than doubling as warranted by a war-driven surge in global oil prices, even as rates for commercial LPG and premium petrol were also increased amid firm energy trends.

ATF or jet fuel for domestic carriers was hiked by ₹8,289.04 per kilolitre, or 8.56%, to ₹1,04,927.18 per kl from ₹96,638.14 per kl last month, according to state-owned oil firms.

Domestic airlines will pay half of what foreign airlines, as well as other carriers such as non-scheduled, ad hoc, and charter, would pay. For them, the prices have gone up by ₹1,10,703.08 per kl, or 114.5%, to ₹2,07,341.22 per kl.

Alongside, rates of commercial LPG - the other petroleum product apart from ATF, whose pricing is deregulated - were increased by ₹195.50 per 19-kg cylinder.

Price of select premium, or branded petrol and diesel, which make up for 2-5% of all auto fuels sold in the country, too, was increased by ₹1.50 a litre to ₹92.99 for 'Extra Green' diesel and by ₹11 to ₹160 a litre for 100 octane petrol (XPI100).

Prices of normal, or



ATF price for foreign airlines is up 114.5% to ₹2,07,341.22 per kl, while domestic airlines saw a rise of only 8.5%. MINT

unbranded petrol and diesel, remain unchanged, and so do the rates of domestic cooking gas LPG.

The Petroleum Ministry stated that while the international oil prices have jumped to over \$100 per barrel in one month, "only a partial and staggered increase of 25% (only ₹15 per litre or ₹15,000 per kl)" was being passed on to airlines. The Civil Aviation Ministry also endorsed the number.

The difference between the two was explained by Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, as one was the final rate inclusive of all levies and taxes, while the 25% number was the increase on the "base price" of ATF.

At a media briefing, Sharma said a calibrated approach has been taken on revision of ATF

prices so as to have minimal impact, while Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, said the move would ensure that carriers' domestic operational costs remain manageable and will not lead to the levy of additional fuel surcharge on airline tickets.

With the partial hike in ATF price, airlines would recalibrate their pricing and the move prevents a potential industry-wide crisis, he added.

The jet fuel price rise is likely to further strain airlines, which are already burning more fuel in taking longer routes for flying to Western destinations due to the war. Fuel makes up around 40% of an airline's operating cost.

Explaining the rationale for the jet fuel price hike, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in a post on X, said ATF prices in India were deregulated in 2001 and are revised on a monthly basis, based on a formula of international benchmarks. "Due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and extraordinary situation in global energy markets, the price of ATF for domestic markets was expected to increase by more than 100% on April 1," it said.

This is the first time ever that the ATF price has crossed the ₹2 lakh per kl mark. The previous peak was in 2022 when rates hiked by ₹1.1 lakh per kl after oil prices surged after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Despite ATF cap for local flights, fares rise as IndiGo raises levy

Amid Centre's assurance, IndiGo announced a rise in fuel surcharge by up to ₹950 for domestic flights and up to ₹10,000 for international flights

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Despite the Centre stepping in to limit the impact of the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) hike by capping the rise at about 8.5% for domestic travel and assuring there would be no additional fuel-linked levy while jet fuel prices almost doubled for international and chartered flights, IndiGo raised fuel surcharge by up to ₹950 on local routes and ₹10,000 on Europe flights.

On Wednesday, ATF prices for international operations by Indian carriers and chartered flights almost doubled to ₹2,07,341.22/kilolitre from last month. But domestic air travel was relatively shielded with a modest 8.5% rise to ₹1,04,927.18 per kilolitre. Calculated on retail prices of petrol by including taxes, Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma explained there was a 25% increase.

The announcement by oil marketing firms was followed by IndiGo raising fuel surcharge further, after reintroducing the levy last month in response to rising fuel prices.

Fuel surcharge

Instead of a flat ₹425 fuel charge for domestic passengers it announced last month, IndiGo rationalised



Hazy future: An IndiGo Airlines aircraft taxis on the tarmac on an early morning at Kolkata. REUTERS FILE

domestic surcharges, which now range between ₹275 and ₹950 depending on distance, effectively reducing the burden on shorter routes.

In contrast, international fuel charges have seen a steep increase. Previously ranging from ₹900 to ₹2,300 per sector depending on region, the revised charges now go up to as high as ₹10,000 for long-haul routes such as Europe, reflecting the sharp rise in ATF prices for international operations. The new surcharges come into effect from April 2.

The hike in price came amid the Centre's reassurance there would not be any further airfare hike.

"The move prevents a potential industry-wide crisis," Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation Asangba Chuba said about the special intervention by

the government for domestic air travel during inter-ministerial press briefing.

Mr. Chuba added, "the limited increase of 25% in ATF prices will allow airlines to offer competitive pricing avoiding the additional fuel surcharges that would have been necessary under the market linked dynamics."

However, following the West Asia crisis, airlines are already grappling with multiple challenges, including longer flight paths and war risk insurance premiums and flight cancellations.

Despite IndiGo raising fuel surcharge, airline officials are concerned about impact on demand. One official said the surcharge introduced last month already dented consumer appetite, leaving little room for any further fare increases.

IN WAKE OF AVIATION TURBINE FUEL PRICE HIKE

IndiGo revises fuel surcharge, those flying abroad will have to pay more

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, April 1

FOLLOWING THE increase in prices of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, India's largest airline IndiGo on Wednesday announced a recalibration of fuel surcharge for its domestic flight tickets, while steeply raising the charge on international flight tickets.

For domestic flights, the Rs 425 flat fuel surcharge announced last month has been replaced with a distance-based tiered structure varying between Rs 275 and Rs 950.

Despite the surge in ATF prices in India from Wednesday, the government and public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have decided to pass on only a fraction of the actual price increase for domestic flights of scheduled airlines. For international flights — where the full price increase is being passed on to airlines — the surcharges have been hiked from Rs 425-2,300 to Rs 900-10,000.

According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), given the surge in international prices of jet fuel, the price in India was expected to more than double from Wednesday, but only a "partial and staggered" increase is being passed on for now for scheduled domestic airlines. For



The revised fuel surcharges will be effective for bookings made from Wednesday midnight. FILE/TASHI TOBGYAL

overseas flights, however, airlines will have to pay the full market-linked price for ATF. Non-scheduled operators, like private charter operators, will also have to pay the full price, which has gone up by almost 115% from March levels.

Following the announcement, ATF prices listed on the website of India's largest OMC Indian Oil Corporation were revised significantly downwards

from levels that were published early Wednesday.

"IndiGo is thankful to the Government for timely intervention, without which April 2026 fuel cost increases would have severely impacted affordability of domestic air travel... Although fully offsetting the fuel price increase would require substantial fare revisions, IndiGo has passed on a relatively smaller amount to

customers keeping in mind the consequential burden on them," the airline said in a press release.

The revised fuel surcharges will be effective for bookings made from Wednesday midnight.

Instead of the flat levy of Rs 425 for domestic flight tickets, which took effect from March 14, IndiGo will now have a distance-based surcharge: Rs 275

for distance up to 500 km (like Delhi-Jaipur), Rs 400 for 501-1,000 km (like Delhi-Ahmedabad), Rs 600 for 1,001-1,500 km (like Delhi-Mumbai), Rs 800 for 1,501-2,000 km (like Delhi-Bengaluru), and Rs 950 for over 2,000 km (like Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram).

As for international flight tickets, those to and from countries in the Indian subcontinent will attract a surcharge of Rs 900 for distances up to 500 km and Rs 2,500 beyond 500 km. For West Asia, flights with a distance of up to 2,000 km will have a surcharge of Rs 3,000, and Rs 5,000 for those above 2,000 km.

As for Southeast Asia and China, flights with a distance of up to 2,000 km will have a surcharge of Rs 3,500, while those with distances beyond 2,000 km will attract Rs 5,000. Flight to and from Africa will also attract a surcharge of Rs 5,000, while those to and from Greece and Turkey will have a surcharge of Rs 7,500. Rest of Europe and the UK will attract a levy of Rs 10,000.

These are significantly higher from the surcharges that were so far in place: Rs 425 for flights in the Indian subcontinent, Rs 900 for West Asia flights, Rs 1,800 for flights to and from Southeast Asia, China, and Africa, and Rs 2,300 for European flights.

ATF PRICE FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS MORE THAN DOUBLES

Jet fuel price for domestic flights hiked 8.6% as govt cushions shock

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, April 1

EVEN AS the prices of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, have surged globally due to the raging West Asia war, the price of the fuel for domestic scheduled flights in India has been hiked only partially by the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

According to the ministry, given the surge in international prices of jet fuel, the price in India was expected to more than double from Wednesday (April 1), but only a "partial and staggered" increase is being passed on for now for scheduled domestic airlines. For overseas flights, however, airlines will have to pay the full market-linked price for ATF. Non-scheduled operators, like private charter operators, will also have to pay the full price, which has gone up by almost 115% from March levels.

"ATF prices in India were deregulated in 2001 and are revised on monthly basis based on a formula of international benchmarks. Due to the closure of Strait of Hormuz and extraordinary situation in global energy markets, price of ATF for domestic markets was expected to increase by more than 100% on 1 April. In order to insulate the domestic travel costs from the substantial increase in international prices, PSU Oil Marketing Companies of the Ministry of Petroleum, in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), have passed only a partial and stag-



ATF prices vary across the country due to differences in levies charged by states. REUTERS

gered increase of 25% (only Rs 15/litre) to the airlines. Foreign routes will pay for the full increase in ATF prices consistent with what they pay in other parts of the world," the MoPNG posted on social media platform X.

Following MoPNG's announcement, ATF prices listed on the website of India's largest OMC Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) were revised significantly downwards from levels that were published early Wednesday morning.

The price of ATF in Delhi had jumped almost 115% month-on-month to a record Rs 2.07 lakh per kiloliter as of early Wednesday; the price listed now specifically for scheduled domestic airlines is Rs 1.05 lakh, higher by just 8.6% from March levels. The new reduced price for domestic scheduled airlines in Mumbai

is Rs 98,247 per kilolitre, against the full price of Rs 1.95 lakh. For airlines on international run, the price of ATF in Delhi jumped 107% to \$1,690.81 per kilolitre. The OMCs usually revise jet fuel prices on the first of every month; ATF prices vary across the country due to differences in levies charged by states.

On being asked about the difference between the 25% increase announced by the government and the actual hike of 8.6% that was reflected on the IOC website, Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma said that former was the increase on the base price of jet fuel, while the latter was the increase in the final price inclusive of all taxes and levies. MoCA Joint Secretary Asangba Chuba Ao said the decision to only partially pass on the price hike would help in keeping do-

• MITIGATING IMPACT

TO INSULATE the domestic travel costs, PSU Oil Marketing Companies have passed only a partial and staggered increase of 25% to the airlines

FOR OVERSEAS flights, airlines will have to pay the full market linked price for the jet fuel

NON-SCHEDULED operators, like private charter operators, will also have to pay the full price, which has gone up by almost 115% from March levels

JET FUEL accounted for over 40% of Indian airlines' operating costs even before the war

mestic airlines' costs manageable, and expressed hope that it would lead to a rethink on the fuel surcharges that some airlines had announced in anticipation of a steep fuel price hike. He added that the measure is expected to dissuade airlines from imposing further fuel surcharges on domestic flight tickets.

Anticipating a surge in jet fuel prices in India in line with the jump in other countries, major Indian airlines like IndiGo, Air India group, and Akasa Air had imposed or hiked fuel surcharges on tickets, varying from around Rs 200 for domestic flights to \$200 for long-haul international routes. The surcharges and fares could go up further, particularly for international flights, industry insiders said.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Commercial LPG, premium fuel prices hiked too

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, April 1

THE PRICE of commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was hiked by Rs 195.50 per 19-kg cylinder on Wednesday, even as the price of LPG for households was kept unchanged despite mounting under-recoveries on cooking gas sales by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs).

With the latest price revision, the 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder now costs Rs 2,078.50 in Delhi, while the 14.2-kg cylinder used by households continues to be sold at Rs 913 in the capital. Fuel prices vary across the country due to differences in levies charged by states.

Prices of a couple of variants of premium petrol and diesel have also been hiked, although prices of regular petrol and diesel—that account for 95% of petrol and diesel sales in India—remain unchanged even as the OMCs are incurring heavy losses on the sale of these essential transportation fuels.

Currently, the OMCs are incurring under-recoveries of over Rs 24 per litre on petrol and almost Rs 105 per litre on diesel. The government last week slashed excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre to provide some relief to the OMCs as they have not hiked retail prices of the two fuels.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



Corporate Communications Directorate

JANSATTA

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

विमान ईंधन की कीमतें दोगुनी, घरेलू एअरलाइंस के लिए वृद्धि 8.5%

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 1 अप्रैल।

वैश्विक स्तर पर तेल कीमतों में आए उछाल के कारण एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल (एटीएफ) या विमान ईंधन की कीमत बुधवार को बढ़ाकर रिकार्ड 2.07 लाख रुपये प्रति किलोलिटर से अधिक कर दी गई। हालांकि, सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों ने घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों के लिए इसे 8.5 फीसद तक सीमित रखा गया।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों के अनुसार, घरेलू एअरलाइन कंपनियों के लिए एटीएफ की कीमत में 8,289.04 रुपये



प्रति किलोलिटर या 8.5 फीसद की बढ़ोतरी की गई है। उन्हें विमान ईंधन 104,927.18 रुपये प्रति किलोलिटर की कीमत पर मिलेगा। पिछले महीने यह 96,638.14 रुपये प्रति किलोलिटर थी।

देश में विकने वाले चुनिंदा प्रीमियम या ब्रांडेड पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम भी बढ़ाए गए हैं। इस प्रकार के ईंधन का इस्तेमाल दो से

पांच फीसद तक है। इससे 'एक्स्ट्रा ग्रीन' डीजल की कीमत 1.50 रुपये बढ़कर 92.99 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गई है। वहीं 100 आक्टोन पेट्रोल (एक्सपी100) की कीमत 11 रुपये प्रति लीटर बढ़कर 160 रुपये प्रति लीटर कर दी गई है। सामान्य या बिना ब्रांड वाले पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतें अपरिवर्तित हैं। साथ ही घरेलू खाना पकाने वाली गैस एलपीजी की दरें भी यथावत हैं।

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि एटीएफ कीमतों में संशोधन के मामले में संतुलित दृष्टिकोण अपनाया गया है, ताकि इसका प्रभाव न्यूनतम रहे।



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2 APRIL 2026

अहमदाबाद विमान हादसा

जांच रपट में दखल से सुप्रीम कोर्ट का इनकार

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 1 अप्रैल।

अहमदाबाद में हुए एअर इंडिया विमान हादसे से जुड़े एक मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को प्रारंभिक जांच रपट में दखल देने से इनकार कर दिया।

प्रधान न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत ने याचिका के पीछे की मंशा पर सवाल उठाए। उन्होंने याचिकाकर्ता से पूछा कि गहरी मंशा क्या है? क्या हम समझ नहीं रहे? अदालत ने कहा कि मृतकों के परिजन खुद याचिका लेकर नहीं आए। जिनकी जान गई, उनके परिवार नहीं आए। लेकिन आप आ गए। इसके साथ ही संवेदनशील मामले में तीसरे पक्ष की याचिका पर पीठ ने चिंता जताई। दरअसल, गुजरात के अहमदाबाद शहर में पिछले साल



एअर इंडिया की फ्लाइट एआइ-171 के भीषण हादसे में 260 लोगों की मौत हुई थी।

इसी हादसे से जुड़ी याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान प्रधान न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने प्रारंभिक जांच रपट में दखल देने से साफ इनकार कर दिया। पीठ ने याचिका दायर करने वाले तीसरे पक्ष की मंशा पर गंभीर सवाल उठाए और कहा कि यह संवेदनशील मामले में अनावश्यक हस्तक्षेप

लगता है।

प्रधान न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि मृतकों के परिवारों की अनुपस्थिति में तीसरे पक्ष द्वारा दायर याचिका पर गंभीर चिंता है। कोर्ट ने संकेत दिया कि ऐसे संवेदनशील मुद्दों में बाहरी हस्तक्षेप उचित नहीं है। एअरक्राफ्ट एक्सीडेंट इन्वेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो की प्रारंभिक जांच रपट पहले ही सार्वजनिक हो चुकी है। जिसमें दोनों इंजनों के फ्यूल कंट्रोल स्विच रन से कटआफ स्थिति में चल जाने का जिक्र है। हालांकि, अंतिम रपट अभी लंबित है और जांच अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी चल रही है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहले भी केंद्र सरकार को जांच की स्थिति रपट पेश करने के लिए समय दे चुका है। इस हादसे में 169 भारतीय, 53 ब्रिटिश, 7 पुर्तगाली और एक कनाडाई नागरिक समेत कई देशों के यात्री शामिल थे।

भारत में दाम नहीं बढ़ेंगे: सरकार ने कीमतों पर 25% का कैप लगाया जेट फ्यूल 100 प्रतिशत महंगा

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में ATF यानी जेट फ्यूल 100% से ज्यादा महंगा हो गया है। इस तेजी के बावजूद सरकार ने ATF में बढ़ोतरी को सिर्फ 25% तक सीमित रखने का फैसला किया है।

आज से हवाई ईंधन (ATF) की कीमतों में कितनी बढ़ोतरी हुई है?

जवाब: अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार को देखते हुए भारत में हवाई ईंधन के दाम 100% से ज्यादा बढ़ने की आशंका थी। लेकिन सरकार ने हस्तक्षेप करते हुए इसे केवल 25% तक सीमित कर दिया है। दिल्ली में अब ATF 1,04,927 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर हो गई है, जो मार्च में 96,638 रुपए थी।

सरकार को यह फैसला क्यों लेना पड़ा?

जवाब: पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के मुताबिक, 'स्ट्रेट ऑफ हॉर्मुज' बंद होने की वजह से ग्लोबल एनर्जी मार्केट में असाधारण स्थिति पैदा हो गई है।

अगर सरकार दखल नहीं देती, तो ईंधन के दाम दोगुने से ज्यादा हो जाते। घरेलू हवाई सफर को पहुंच में



रखने के लिए यह फैसला लिया गया है।

क्या इसका फायदा अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को भी मिलेगा?

जवाब: नहीं। सरकार ने साफ किया है कि यह राहत केवल घरेलू उड़ानों के लिए है। जो फ्लाइट्स विदेश जा रही हैं, उन्हें ATF की बढ़ी हुई कीमत ही चुकानी होगी। अंतरराष्ट्रीय रूट पर चलने वाली फ्लाइट्स जेट फ्यूल के लिए वही रेट देंगी जो दुनिया के बाकी हिस्सों में चल रहे हैं।

इसका आम यात्रियों के टिकट पर क्या असर पड़ेगा?

जवाब: चूंकि सरकार ने ईंधन की बढ़त को 25% पर रोक दिया है, इसलिए घरेलू उड़ानों के किराए में 'अचानक और बहुत ज्यादा' उछाल नहीं आएगा। हालांकि, 25% की बढ़ोतरी भी कम नहीं है, इसलिए एयरलाइंस टिकट की कीमतों में मामूली इजाफा कर सकती हैं।

'स्ट्रेट ऑफ हॉर्मुज' का बंद होना भारत के लिए क्यों चिंता की बात है?

जवाब: यह समुद्री रास्ता कच्चे

तेल को सप्लाय के लिए दुनिया का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पॉइंट है। इजराइल, ईरान और अमेरिका के बीच बढ़ते तनाव के कारण यह रास्ता ब्लॉक हो गया है। भारत अपनी जरूरत का बड़ा हिस्सा यहीं से आयात करता है। सप्लाय रुकने से कीमतें बढ़ गई हैं।

क्या आने वाले समय में राहत बढ़ सकती है?

ATF के दाम कब और कैसे तय होते हैं?

जवाब: भारत में साल 2001 से ATF की कीमतें विनियमित हैं। इनका निर्धारण अंतरराष्ट्रीय बेंचमार्क के आधार पर हर महीने की पहली तारीख को सरकारी तेल कंपनियों करती हैं।



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2 APRIL 2026

Jet fuel flip-flop

Airlines got a fuel price scare after state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) more than doubled its aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price, only to roll back most of the hike within hours on Wednesday. Its initially notified price for jet fuel was ₹207,341 a kilolitre for April in New Delhi, up 115% from March, marking its highest level ever. This was swiftly revised to ₹104,927 for domestic airlines, a mere 8.5% increase. Foreign airlines, however, will have to pay the higher price, officials said. Expressions of relief from Indian air-carriers suggest a government role in the downward revision. True, it is consistent with the Centre's stated preference for gradual hikes in response to an oil shock caused by the war in West Asia. Airfares, thus, aren't about to spike, though they're clearly on an incline. Oil companies will have to bear a significant burden till the point they can cover their input costs. Since air travellers are not among India's subsidy deserving, even if mass aviation is a policy aim, that process should not be delayed. It's better to focus on shielding the poor from the ravages of energy inflation. State intervention in times of crisis is justifiable. But market distortions must not be allowed to settle in.

MINT

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2 APRIL 2026

ATF hike to lift int'l fares; premium, pvt fuels jump

ATF for domestic flights to cost 8.5% more; fuel price doubles for overseas flights

Dipali Banka, Abhishek Law & Rituraj Banerji

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Shocks from the West Asia war lashed across India's energy landscape on Wednesday, as prices of jet fuel, premium fuels and commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) jumped, portending widespread impact on a range of consumer-facing sectors.

Flying abroad is set to cost significantly more this summer, with airlines expected to raise fares following the steep hike in jet fuel prices. State-run oil marketing companies briefly raised jet fuel prices by more than 100% early in the day, before significantly rolling back the hike for domestic scheduled flights within hours, in an effort to cushion the impact on local travel. However, airlines operating international routes will have to absorb the full increase, setting the stage for higher ticket prices in the coming weeks, which typically see high outbound air travel.

Wednesday's spike in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, alongside a ₹200 jump in commercial LPG cylinder rates, hikes in premium petrol and diesel by state-run retailers, and fresh price increases by private player Shell,

TRAVEL TROUBLE

The fuel price surge follows outbreak of the US, Israel and Iran war.

PSU Oil Marketing Companies reduced ATF prices after government intervention

■ At 8am ■ At 10:15am ATF prices in metros on 1 April (in ₹ lakh per kilolitre)



Fuel costs in FY25 (in ₹ crore)



Source: Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, Investor presentation, MCA corporate filings

FUEL FIX

DOMESTIC jet fuel now costs ₹1,04,927 per kilolitre in Delhi

THIS is about 8.5% higher than ₹96,638 during March

EARLIER in the day, prices were set at ₹207,341.22/kilolitre

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

reflect the broader impact of the West Asia war. Private retailer Nayara had increased fuel prices last week.

Jet fuel now costs ₹1,04,927 per kilolitre in New Delhi for domestic

flights, about 8.5% higher than ₹96,638 in March. Earlier in the day, prices had been set at ₹207,341.22 per kilolitre, before the government stepped in to cap the increase. The higher rate will

now apply only to non-scheduled domestic operations such as chartered flights, as well as international services. The petroleum ministry said the decision was taken after consulting the aviation ministry.

"Fare increases on international routes are expected to be sharper than on domestic flights, as there is no policy cushioning and aviation fuel prices for international operations have more than doubled," said Karan Khanna, lead analyst for hotels, real estate, aviation, and small & mid caps at Ambit Capital. "Airlines were any way expected to rise due to higher fuel costs, but since the government has allowed a staggered increase instead of a sharper hike, the extent of fare hikes will likely be more moderate," he said.

IndiGo on Wednesday announced its second fuel surcharge hike in a month, ₹275-900 on domestic routes and ₹900-10,000 on overseas routes. India's largest airline said that without government intervention, the affordability of air travel would have been severely affected.

The impact of higher fuel costs is likely to be felt across sectors, from aviation and hospitality to

ATF hike to lift air fares; Shell raises prices

FROM PAGE 1

logistics and retail. For now, the government's calibrated approach has prevented a sharp spike in domestic airfares, but the global nature of the energy prices means that Indian consumers—particularly those travelling abroad—are unlikely to be spared.

The partial ATF hike rollback reflects the government's effort to balance consumer sentiment with the reality of a tightening global energy market. The surge in fuel prices follows the outbreak of war involving the US, Israel and Iran on 28 February, which has disrupted supply chains and shut airspace in parts of West Asia. Airlines have been forced to take longer routes to Europe and other destinations, increasing fuel consumption at a time when costs are already rising.

On Wednesday, commercial LPG prices were raised by around ₹200 for a 19-kg cylinder, marking the second hike in a month. In Delhi, the price now stands at ₹2,078.50, up ₹195.5 since 7 March.

Meanwhile, fuel retailers have also raised prices of premium petrol and diesel. Indian Oil increased the price of its XP100 petrol variant to ₹160 per litre from ₹149, while premium diesel 'Xtra Green' now costs ₹92.99 per litre. Private retailer Shell has hiked petrol prices by ₹7.41 per litre and



Airlines operating international routes will have to absorb the full increase in fuel prices, setting stage for higher ticket prices. MINT

diesel by ₹25 per litre, with Bengaluru prices reaching ₹119.85 and ₹123.52 per litre, respectively.

Crude oil prices have jumped from under \$70 a barrel in February to above \$100, with Brent crude trading at \$102.52 on Wednesday. The situation has been worsened by Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint through which about 20% of global oil trade passes. The disruption has also impacted liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supplies, with 20-30% of global volumes estimated to be stuck in transit.

The energy crisis spells bad news for airlines: ATF accounts

for 40% of their operating expenses, making it the single largest cost component. Indian airlines collectively spent close to ₹60,000 crore on fuel last year, according to financial filings. IndiGo alone spent ₹26,197.3 crore, while Air India

and Air India Express together accounted for nearly ₹29,000 crore.

With international fuel prices spiking 129% in March, refiners are passing on higher crude costs, leaving airlines with little choice but to raise fares or absorb margin pressures.

Airlines had already begun preparing for higher costs even before the latest price revision. IndiGo and Air India

introduced fuel surcharges on domestic routes in the second week of March, a move aimed at partially offsetting rising expenses.

"Airlines have already responded to these hikes (fuel cost) by introducing fuel surcharges, which are expected to support revenues by 7-8%. This helps partially offset higher fuel costs, with the balance absorbed through fare hikes and margin pressures," said Jainam Shah, aviation analyst at Equinus Securities Pvt. Ltd.

While the government's intervention has softened the blow for domestic travellers, analysts say the relief is limited. International routes, which account for roughly 20-25% of airline capacity, remain fully exposed to global fuel prices.

"The impact is expected to be more pronounced on international routes," Shah said, adding that costly fuel continues to weigh on airline profitability despite policy support.

Queries emailed to Air India, Air India Express and SpiceJet remained unanswered.

"The impact on IndiGo's revenue is likely to be around 0.5%, which airlines may try to offset through fare hikes or higher per-seat pricing," Shah noted.

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

GOVT MOVES TO PREVENT CRISIS AS FUEL COSTS SOAR

Partial ATF hike for domestic carriers; international operators bear full brunt

SIMONTINI BHATTACHARJEE

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday announced a calibrated increase in aviation turbine fuel prices for domestic airlines, cushioning the impact of an unprecedented global surge driven by the ongoing conflict in West Asia and disruptions in critical energy supply routes. While global benchmarks suggested that jet fuel prices in India could have more than doubled from April 1, state-owned oil marketing companies, in consultation with the ministries of petroleum and civil aviation, passed on only a partial increase of about 25 per cent, translating to roughly Rs 15 per litre, in a move aimed at protecting both airlines and passengers from a sharp cost shock.

The decision comes against



TAKEAWAYS

- » Increase equals Rs 8,289.04 per kilolitre from March levels
- » Government limited hike to about 25% or Rs 15 per litre
- » Full market-linked increase could have exceeded 100%
- » International carriers face 114.5% hike to Rs 2,07,341.22 per kilolitre
- » Jet fuel prices cross Rs 2 lakh per kilolitre for first time
- » ATF prices deregulated since 2001, revised monthly on global benchmarks

the backdrop of extraordinary volatility in global energy markets, triggered in part by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime route through which a significant share of the

world's oil and fuel supplies pass. Officials said that under a fully market-linked system, aviation turbine fuel prices would have surged by over 100 per cent. Instead, domestic carriers

will face a much lower increase, with prices in Delhi rising by Rs 8,289.04 per kilolitre, or 8.56 per cent, to Rs 1,04,927.18 per kilolitre from Rs 96,638.14 per kilolitre in March. *Continued on P4*

Partial ATF hike for domestic...

Continued from Page 1

In contrast, international airlines and non-scheduled operators will bear the full impact of the price surge. For these carriers, aviation turbine fuel prices have risen by Rs 1,10,703.08 per kilolitre, or 114.5 per cent, reaching Rs 2,07,341.22 per kilolitre, marking the first time that jet fuel prices have crossed the Rs 2 lakh per kilolitre threshold. The previous peak was recorded in 2022, when prices touched around Rs 1.1 lakh per kilolitre following the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Explaining the rationale, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said that aviation turbine fuel prices in India have been deregulated since 2001 and are revised monthly based on international benchmarks. "Due to the closure of Strait of Hormuz and extraordinary situation in global energy markets, the price of ATF for domestic markets was expected to increase by more than 100 per cent on April 1," the ministry said, adding that a staggered increase was adopted "to insulate the domestic travel costs from the substantial increase in international prices."

Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu described the move as "pragmatic and forward-looking," noting that it balances market realities with the need to shield passengers from sudden fare spikes. "This calibrated approach will help shield passengers from sharp fare increases, ease the burden on domestic airlines, and support the continued stability of the aviation sector at this crucial juncture," he said, adding that it would also ensure smooth cargo movement and maintain critical air connectivity for trade and logistics.

Fuel costs account for nearly 40 per cent of an airline's operating expenses, making them a key determinant of ticket prices and profitability. Officials indicated that an unrestricted increase in aviation turbine fuel prices could have forced airlines to either significantly raise fares or reduce flight operations. By limiting the immediate pass-through of costs, the government aims to prevent such disruptions and maintain stability in a sector that handles over 4.5 lakh domestic passengers daily.

Asangha Chuba Ao, joint secretary in the civil aviation ministry, said the partial increase would keep operational costs manageable and avoid the need for additional fuel surcharges. "This move prevents potential industry-wide crisis and allows airlines to maintain competitive pricing for domestic passengers," he said, adding that carriers are expected to recalibrate their pricing strategies in response to the revised fuel costs.

Airlines had already begun adjusting to rising fuel prices in recent weeks. Several carriers had introduced or increased fuel surcharges, with domestic ticket surcharges ranging around Rs 200 and long-haul international routes seeing increases of up to \$200. Industry insiders had warned that a steep rise in fuel costs could lead to demand contraction, particularly in a price-sensitive market like India, potentially forcing airlines to cut capacity on certain routes.

Industry stakeholders broadly welcomed the government's intervention. IndiGo said the partial hike would help insulate domestic travel costs, while SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh described the decision as a "significant relief" at a time of global uncertainty. Akasa Air also said that such measures contribute to a stable operating environment and enable airlines to manage costs more effectively.

Despite the moderated increase, some upward pressure on fares is expected. Industry estimates suggest that a 25 per cent increase in aviation turbine fuel could raise overall operating costs by around 10 per cent. Officials, however, indicated that there are mechanisms in place to monitor airfares and intervene if abnormal pricing trends emerge.

The current surge in fuel prices has also been compounded by operational challenges arising from the conflict in West Asia. Airspace restrictions have forced airlines to take longer routes for flights to Western destinations, leading to higher fuel consumption and increased costs. At the same time, global jet fuel prices have nearly doubled since late February, rising to \$195.19 per barrel for the week ended March 27 from \$99.40 per barrel a month earlier, according to industry data.

The broader energy landscape has also seen significant price movements. Commercial LPG prices were increased by Rs 195.50 per 19-kg cylinder, taking the price in Delhi to Rs 2,078.50. The increase was attributed to a 44 per cent jump in the Saudi Contract Price, from \$542 per tonne in March to \$780 per tonne in April, amid supply disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz closure. Around 20 to 30 per cent of global LPG supplies have been affected by the disruption.

Domestic cooking gas prices, however, remain unchanged at Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi, with oil marketing companies incurring an under-recovery of Rs 380 per cylinder to shield consumers. The government said cumulative losses on LPG could reach approximately Rs 40,484 crore by the end of May, following total losses of Rs 60,000 crore last year, which were shared equally between public sector oil companies and the government.

Prices of regular petrol and diesel have also been kept unchanged, even as global petroleum prices have risen sharply. In Delhi, petrol continues to retail at around Rs 94.72 per litre and diesel at Rs 87.62 per litre. However, prices of premium fuels have been revised upward, with 100-octane petrol rising by Rs 11 per litre to Rs 160 and select branded diesel variants increasing by Rs 1.50 per litre.

The government also highlighted that India's domestic LPG prices remain among the lowest globally, with comparable rates significantly higher in neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Within the aviation sector, the calibrated fuel price increase is seen as part of a broader effort to maintain stability amid global disruptions. Officials noted that smooth air connectivity is critical not only for passenger travel but also for cargo movement and supply chains. Ensuring manageable fuel costs for domestic carriers is therefore considered essential for sustaining economic activity.

At the same time, the divergence between domestic and international fuel pricing underscores the government's attempt to balance competing priorities. While domestic airlines benefit from moderated costs, international operations remain fully exposed to global price movements, reflecting standard market practices.

As the situation in global energy markets continues to evolve, officials indicated that pricing decisions would remain responsive to prevailing conditions.

Meanwhile, IndiGo on Wednesday announced revised fuel charges ranging from Rs 275 to Rs 10,000, which will push airfares higher for many domestic and international flights amid the rise in jet fuel prices.

For domestic flights, the revised fuel charges will be Rs 275 to 950, and in the case of international flights, the fuel charges will vary from Rs 900 to Rs 10,000. The charges, which will depend on the distance, will be applicable from 0001 hours on April 2.

The fuel charge will be Rs 275 for domestic flights on routes that are 0-500 kms long and Rs 400 for flights that fly 501-1,000 kms.

The amount will be Rs 600 for 1,001-1,500 kms, Rs 800 for 1,501-2,000 kms and Rs 950 for distances above 2,000 kms.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

1 APRIL 2026

IndiGo commences Kolkata-Shanghai daily flight operations

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Low-cost carrier IndiGo has commenced daily non-stop flights between Kolkata and Shanghai, marking a fresh push to strengthen air connectivity between India and the People's Republic of China.

The service, which began operations on March 29, will be operated using the airline's fuel-efficient A320neo aircraft, offering improved comfort



on the route. With the addition of Shanghai, IndiGo has expanded its mainland China

network, building on its existing services from Kolkata and Delhi to Guangzhou.

The airline said the new route is aimed at meeting rising demand for business and leisure travel, while boosting trade, tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries. Passengers from several Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar, will be able to connect to Shanghai via Kolkata.

Vinay Malhotra, Indi-

Go's head of global sales, said Shanghai is a major financial and commercial hub and a key gateway for global trade, adding that the new service would enhance economic engagement.

IndiGo now operates 21 weekly flights to mainland China. According to the schedule, flight 6E 1709 departs Kolkata at 21:45 and arrives in Shanghai at 04:40 the next day.

The return flight, 6E 1710, departs Shanghai at

05:40 and reaches Kolkata at 09:05. All timings are in local time zones. Customers can book tickets through IndiGo's website, mobile app and authorised agents.

The airline also offers options such as pre-booked meals, seat selection and flexible fares, aimed at enhancing passenger convenience and providing greater choice on international travel routes from eastern India and beyond in the months.

Govt caps ATF price hike at 25% for domestic airlines as rates up 100%

Govt says it allowed only partial pass-through of ATF price to prevent rise in domestic airfares

1 Overseas or charter operators will have to bear the full impact of the jet fuel price rise

2 The gov't also increases commercial LPG rates by ₹195.50 per cylinder

3 Surge in commercial cylinder prices is due to 44% surge in Saudi Contract Price

PSU OMCs in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation, have passed only a partial and staggered increase of 25% to the airlines
Petroleum ministry

IndiGo raises fuel surcharges for second time

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AIRFARES are set to get pricier as IndiGo has revised fuel charges on domestic and international routes for all new bookings made after 0001 hrs on April 2, 2026. The move by the country's largest airline comes after the oil marketing companies (OMCs) revised aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices on Wednesday.

It also comes despite the joint secretary at the civil aviation ministry Asangba Chuba Ao's remark that the government's decision on a limited increase of jet fuel price ensures that carriers' domestic operational costs remain manageable and will not lead to additional fuel surcharge.

IndiGo had last month introduced a fuel surcharge between ₹399 and ₹2,300 for domestic and international flights as the ongoing conflict in West Asia triggered a sharp rise in energy prices.

The fresh revision, which is now based on distance travelled, takes the fuel surcharge up to ₹950 (above 2000 km) for domestic flights and up to ₹10,000 for flights to Europe and the UK (other than Greece and Turkey). It is expected that other airlines will also revise their fuel surcharge.

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE impact of the West Asia war between Iran and Israel has started taking a toll in India, as the country has significantly increased the prices of commercial LPG cylinders, aviation turbine fuel (ATF), and premium petrol and diesel on Wednesday.

For the first time, ATF or jet fuel — which constitutes 40% of the total operational expenditure of airlines — was more than doubled, rising 115% to record ₹2.07 lakh per kilolitre on Wednesday from March levels. However, for domestic airlines, the price hike was capped at 25%, with the government allowing only a partial pass-through to prevent a steep rise in airfares in the country. As per oil marketing companies, ATF for domestic airlines in Mumbai is

₹96,247 per kilolitre, against the full price of ₹1.95 lakh.

However, international or charter operators will have to bear full impact, with the price of ATF in Delhi jumping 107% to \$1,690.81 per kilolitre. As per the petroleum ministry, due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the extraordinary situation in global energy markets, the price of ATF for domestic markets was expected to increase by over 100% on April 1 for all users.

"In order to insulate the domestic travel costs from the substantial increase in international prices, PSU oil marketing companies of the Ministry of Petroleum, in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), have passed only a partial and staggered increase of 25% (only ₹15/litre) to the airlines. Foreign routes will pay for the full increase in

ATF prices consistent with what they pay in other parts of the world," the MoPNG posted on social media platform X.

The government also raised commercial LPG rates by ₹195.50 per cylinder, along with a ₹2 per litre hike in XP95, Power95, and Speed fuels. A 5-kg mini cylinder has become costlier by ₹51. A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder now costs ₹2,078.50 in Delhi. Rates were last increased by ₹114.5 per 19-kg cylinder on March 1.

Domestic cooking gas LPG rates, last hiked by ₹60 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 7, remain unchanged. It costs ₹913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi. The Centre cited the ongoing war as the reason, which has disrupted cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital choke point that transports 40% of India's crude oil imports, over 50% of its LNG imports, and 90% of its LPG.





Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

एयर इंडिया क्रैश रिपोर्ट पर SC सख्त, याची से पूछा- आपकी मंशा क्या है?

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

अहमदाबाद में पिछले साल हुए एयर इंडिया विमान हादसे की प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट को लेकर दायर याचिका पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कड़ा रुख अपनाया। अदालत ने बुधवार को याचिकाकर्ता की मंशा पर सवाल उठाते हुए पूछा कि उसकी 'डीप-रूटेड एजेंडा' क्या है। कोर्ट ने याचिका खारिज कर दी और यह मांग भी नहीं मानी कि इसे संबंधित अधिकारियों के समक्ष एक प्रतिनिधित्व के तौर पर माना जाए। अदालत ने याचिकाकर्ता की ओर से पेश वकील से कहा कि जिन लोगों ने अपने परिजन खोए, वे अदालत नहीं आए, लेकिन याचिकाकर्ता इस तरह की याचिका लेकर पहुंच गया। कोर्ट ने संकेत दिया कि उसे याचिका के पीछे की मंशा पर गंभीर संदेह है।



जून 2024 में हुआ था विमान हादसा, 241 लोगों की मौत हो गई थी।

HC ने खारिज कर दी थी याचिका

मामला दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट के 25 फरवरी के आदेश से जुड़ा था। हाई कोर्ट ने उस याचिका को खारिज किया था, जिसमें मांग थी कि विमान हादसे तक पहुंचने वाली 'घटनाओं की पूरी श्रृंखला' प्रारंभिक जांच रिपोर्ट में शामिल हो। याचिकाकर्ता चाहता था कि एयरक्राफ्ट एक्सिडेंट इन्वेस्टिगेशन ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट में इंजन के 'फ्लेम आउट' होने का टाइम-चार्ट, फ्यूल सिचव के ट्रांजिशन और यह स्पष्ट किया जाए कि यह प्रक्रिया मैकेनिकल थी या मैनुअल।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

LUCKNOW

1 APRIL 2026

Bagdogra-Delhi flight makes emergency landing in Lucknow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ Lucknow

A Delhi-bound Air India Express flight from Bagdogra (Siliguri) made an emergency landing at the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport here after a smoke alarm, sources said on Tuesday.

The flight (IX1523), operated by an Airbus A320 aircraft, was diverted to Lucknow on Monday evening after the pilot issued a "Mayday" call – an internationally recognised distress signal used in life-threatening emergencies – after the crew detected smoke in the avionics – avi-

ation electronics bay.

According to sources, Air Traffic Control (ATC) in Lucknow was alerted about the diversion, and the aircraft landed safely at around 5:18 pm.

A total of 148 people, including six crew members, were on board the flight.

All passengers were safely evacuated after landing.

Following the incident, the aircraft was declared "Aircraft on Ground" (AOG), a technical term indicating that the plane has been grounded due to a fault requiring immediate inspection and repair before it can fly again.

IndiGo announces ₹75 to ₹10,000 revised fuel charges; airfares to rise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The country's largest airline IndiGo on Wednesday announced revised fuel charges ranging from ₹275 to ₹10,000, which will push airfares higher for many domestic and international flights amid the rise in jet fuel prices.

The announcement from the country's largest airline comes on a day when the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices were revised, and the Government decided to only partially hike the price by 25 per cent for the domestic flights. From March 14 onwards, the airline has been levying fuel charges ranging from ₹425 to ₹2,300 on domestic and international flight tickets as the fuel prices jumped in the wake of the West Asia conflict.



"Although fully offsetting the fuel price increase would require substantial fare revisions, IndiGo has passed on a relatively smaller amount to customers, keeping in mind the consequential burden on them," IndiGo said on Wednesday and regretted the inconvenience to passengers resulting from the fuel charges.

For domestic flights, the revised fuel charges will be ₹275 to ₹950, and in the case of international flights, the fuel charges will vary from ₹900 to ₹10,000. The charges, which will depend on the distance, will be applicable from 0001 hours on April 2. The fuel charge will be ₹275 for domestic flights on routes that are 0-500 kms long and ₹400 for flights that fly 501-1,000 kms.

The amount will be ₹600 for 1,001-1,500 kms, ₹800 for 1,501-2,000 kms and ₹950 for distances above 2,000 kms. Currently, the airline levies a flat fuel charge on domestic flight tickets.

The airline said it was thankful to the government for the timely intervention, without which April 2026 fuel cost increases would have severely impacted the affordability of domestic air travel.



Corporate Communications Directorate

PUNJAB KESARI

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

एटीएफ की कीमतें दोगुनी घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों के लिए सिर्फ 8.5% की बढ़ोतरी

वैश्विक स्तर पर तेल कीमतों में आए उछाल के कारण एटीएफ या विमान ईंधन की कीमत बुधवार को बढ़ाकर रिकॉर्ड 2.07 लाख रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर से अधिक कर दी गई। हालांकि, सार्वजनिक



क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों ने घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों पर इस वृद्धि का काफी कम बोझ डाला है। इसे वैश्विक स्तर पर तेल कीमतों में आए उछाल से निपटने के लिए एक संतुलित दृष्टिकोण कहा जा रहा है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों के अनुसार, घरेलू एयरलाइन कंपनियों के लिए एटीएफ की कीमत में सिर्फ 8.5% की बढ़ोतरी की गई है। उन्हें विमान ईंधन 104,927.18 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर की कीमत पर मिलेगा। दिल्ली में घरेलू एयरलाइन कंपनियों के लिए एटीएफ की कीमत में 8,289.04 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर या 8.56% की बढ़ोतरी हुई है, जिससे कीमत बढ़कर 104,927.18 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर हो गई है। पिछले महीने यह 96,638.14 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

RAJASTHAN PATRIKA

JAIPUR

1 APRIL 2026

विमान की लखनऊ में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग

लखनऊ@ पत्रिका. पश्चिम बंगाल के बागडोगरा से दिल्ली जा रही एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस की उड़ान को लखनऊ में इमरजेंसी लैंडिंग करनी पड़ी। विमान के एवियोनिक्स बे में धुआं दिखने पर पायलट ने 'मेडे' कॉल की। इसके बाद विमान की लखनऊ में आपात लैंडिंग करवाई गई। विमान में 148 यात्री और 6 चालक दल के सदस्य सुरक्षित हैं।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

Partial ATF price hike ensures domestic operational costs of Indian carriers remain manageable: Govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 1 April

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Wednesday announced a calibrated 25 per cent increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices for domestic scheduled carriers, a move welcomed by the Indian aviation industry amid global energy market disruptions due to the West Asia situation.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has stated that the Centre's decision to allow only a partial increase of 25 per cent on ATF prices for domestic airlines

provides "critical relief", and the move will "prevent a potential industry-wide crisis".

"The decision enables airlines to maintain competitive fares for domestic travelers by avoiding additional fuel surcharges that a fully market-linked pricing mechanism may have triggered," said Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, while addressing an inter-ministerial briefing in the national capital on the situation arising out of the conflict in West Asia.

With over 45 lakh passengers

flying daily on domestic routes, the measure safeguards passenger interests, supports operational and financial stability of airlines, and ensures continued air connectivity for cargo, trade, and the broader economy, he said.

"The Indian aviation industry has welcomed the Government of India's decision to implement a limited increase of 25 per cent in ATF prices for domestic scheduled carriers on domestic routes," the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

He further stated that this measure provides critical relief

amid unprecedented global energy price surges arising from disruptions in West Asia.

The intervention ensures that domestic operational costs of Indian carriers remain manageable, he said.

"For Indian Carriers where fuel typically accounts for nearly 40 per cent of total operating expenses for Indian carriers, the calibrated increase helps prevent a potential industry-wide disruption," the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

He mentioned that the limited increase of 25 per cent

on ATF price enables airlines to maintain competitive pricing for domestic travellers, avoiding the need for additional fuel surcharges that would have been necessary under market-linked pricing.

Indian airlines have conveyed that such calibrated measures are essential for maintaining operational stability and financial sustainability in a challenging global environment, while also safeguarding passenger interests and strengthening sectoral resilience, the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation said.





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

1 APRIL 2026

Poser on DGCA chief transfer

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: NCP (Sharad Pawar) legislator Rohit Pawar, who has consistently alleged a conspiracy in the Baramati plane crash that killed his uncle and Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, on Tuesday questioned the transfer of DGCA chief Falz Ahmed Kidwai.

Rohit said on X: "Only a handful of officers in the DGCA remain truly honest and resistant to pressure — among them is Mr Falz Ahmed Kidwai. Defying the civil aviation minister, Kidwai took the bold decision to ground four Learjet aircraft of VSR through a special audit. While officials who allegedly supported VSR face no action or transfers, it is deeply unfortunate that an upright officer like Kidwai... has been transferred."

Ajit was travelling in a VSR Learjet.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TELEGRAPH

KOLKATA

1 APRIL 2026

Airline appoints chief of IATA to drive expansion

IndiGo picks Willie Walsh as new CEO

OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: IndiGo named industry veteran Willie Walsh as CEO on Tuesday, tapping the voice of the global airline industry from lobby group IATA to steer India's largest carrier out of a recent operational crisis and drive its overseas expansion.

The surprise appointment of Walsh, 64, was seen as a coup for the privately owned budget carrier after Pieter Elbers left following a scheduling meltdown that halted travel and drew regulatory scrutiny.

"For IndiGo to bring in Willie Walsh as its next CEO is a big move. It's a reflection of the airline's stature in global aviation as well as India's rising importance," Kapil Kaul, CEO of aviation advisory firm CAPA India, said.

Walsh's term as head of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) ends on July 31, and he is expected to join IndiGo by August 3 at the latest, the airline said.

The decision to recruit one of the highest-profile industry figures comes as IndiGo is expanding its network with longer-distance Airbus A321XLR and A350 jets, a strategy that will require deep experience navigating access to overseas markets.

"He will work closely with the board and the leadership team to rightfully position IndiGo as it scales up to the next phase of its growth," IndiGo said in a statement.

Walsh, popularly known as Willie, was formerly CEO of British Airways and International Airlines Group (IAG), a holding company which owns



Willie Walsh

Aer Lingus, British Airways, Iberia, Level and Vueling. He started his career as a pilot and later served in multiple ranks in various aviation platforms.

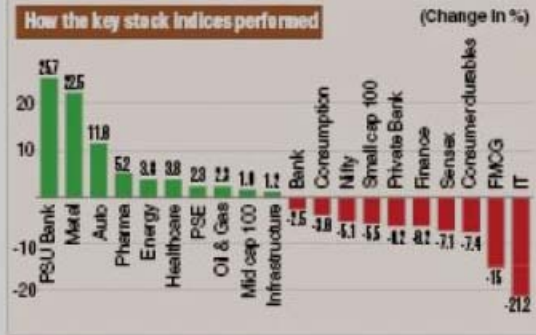
Commenting on his appointment, Walsh said, "I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead IndiGo. The airline has a strong foundation, a compelling vision and an exceptional reputation."

Welcoming Walsh, Vikram Singh Mehta, IndiGo's chairman, said he is "thrilled" that Willie will be at the helm of IndiGo. "He is an exceptional global aviation leader with a stellar track record of outstanding leadership across several airlines," Mehta said.

Rahul Bhatia, managing director of IndiGo, who was given the charge of the interim head to lead the domestic carrier, also welcomed Willie to IndiGo.

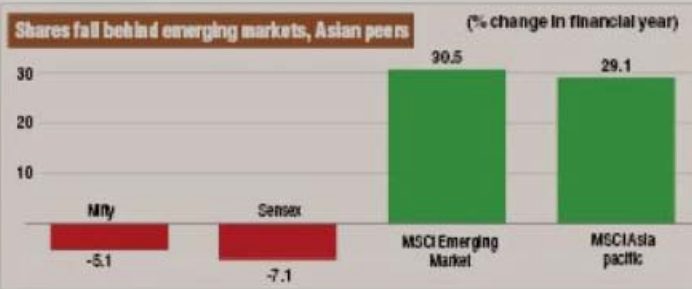
"Walsh is an iconic and accomplished aviation leader and brings a rare combination of global perspective, operational expertise of having built strong customer-focused airlines, deep industry experience and a values driven leadership, making him exceptionally suited to lead IndiGo at this pivotal cusp of growth," Bhatia said.

VOLATILITY, OUTFLOWS DEFINE A WEAK FY26



Top 5 Nifty50 gainers in FY26	
Bharat Electronics	32.28
Shriram Finance	32.52
Hindalco	30.12
SBI	29.12
Titan	29.12

Top 5 Nifty50 losers in FY26	
Trent	38.05
TCS	34.42
ITC	29.59
Wipro	28.69
TaMo PV (from Oct 14)	24.81
IndiGo	22.78



Five factors that influenced Nifty 50 in FY26

Rally followed by sharp correction
The Nifty 50 witnessed a turbulent FY26, marked by a rally in the first nine months and a steep correction in the final quarter. The index scaled a peak of 26928.55 on January 2, 2026, before retreating sharply to close at 22331.40 on March 30, 2026 — down 4 per cent from its opening level of 23165.70. The downturn was largely triggered by escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia in late February, which drove a spike in oil prices and prompted a global risk-off sentiment.

Elevated volatility
Markets remained volatile throughout the year, with the India VIX rising from 13.78 at the start of the fiscal to 27.89 by end-March, reflecting heightened investor anxiety. Early momentum was supported by the Reserve Bank of India's record dividend payout, aggressive rate cuts, GST reductions ahead of the festive season and improved corporate earnings in the second quarter. However, recurring disruptions — including US tariff measures in April and reciprocal actions in August — kept markets on edge, before a sharp sell-off amid a full-blown geopolitical conflict.

Record foreign outflows
Foreign investors remained persistent sellers, pulling out \$19.69 billion from Indian equities during FY26 — the highest annual outflow on record, surpassing the \$18.46 billion seen in FY22, according to NSDL data. The outflows reflected a broader shift towards safe-haven assets, particularly the US dollar. Domestic institutional investors and retail participants helped cushion the impact, collectively investing \$13 billion during the year (till February), according to NSE data.

Sectoral divergence
Sectoral performance remained uneven. Metals and automobile stocks outperformed for much of the year, supported by rising commodity prices and robust domestic demand, respectively — particularly following GST cuts in the third quarter. In contrast, private sector banks lagged due to margin pressures arising from CASA compression, while IT stocks remained under pressure.

IT sector headwinds
The IT sector faced structural and cyclical challenges. Higher H-1B visa fees and US trade tariffs weighed on profitability, while the rapid adoption of generative AI raised concerns over the sustainability of traditional, headcount-driven business models. These factors led to underperformance in large-cap IT stocks, further dragging down the broader index.

Compiled by Pinak Ghosh

ATF price up 25% after flip-flops; domestic flyers spared steep rise in fares for now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Domestic air travellers may have been spared steep airfare hikes for now as oil companies didn't fully pass on the impact of higher crude prices, but international tickets for western destinations are likely to go up further after doubling since the start of the Iran war as airlines take longer routes.

After a series of flip-flops through Wednesday, govt limited the hike in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) base price

Commercial LPG price up over 10%

Price of commercial LPG cylinders rose over 10% Wednesday, from Rs 1,883 to Rs 2,078, in the capital. IndianOil raised the price of 100-octane petrol and premium diesel by Rs 11 and Rs 1.5 per litre, respectively. **P 6**

for domestic flights to 25%, while warning of "interventions" if fares rise unreasonably. Jet fuel base price for

international sectors has more than doubled over the last month.

The day had started with domestic and international ATF getting dearer by 115% and 107%, respectively. Within hours oil companies clarified that the hike for scheduled airlines was lower. By late afternoon, govt pegged the increase in base price at 25%.

By evening, IndiGo had revised the fuel surcharge it had introduced on March 13.

►More than doubled. P 15

For int'l ops, ATF prices have more than doubled in last month: IndiGo

►Continued from P 1

Effective from today (April 2), only short domestic flights covering distances up to 1,000 km will see a cut from the earlier Rs 425. All other flights, from longer domestic ones to those going to the UK and EU, saw a rise of up to Rs 7,700. Earlier, domestic flights faced a flat surcharge of Rs 425, irrespective of distance flown. Other airlines like Air India Group and Akasa could follow suit.

To avoid charges of collusion, Indian carriers always stagger levy of and/or hike in fuel surcharge, which made a comeback last month.

"IATA's Jet Fuel Monitor indicates over 130% increase in fuel prices for the region on a month-on-month comparison... re-calibrated domestic fuel charge to vary by different travel distances... without (govt limiting do-

PRICIER FLIGHTS

IndiGo fuel surcharge

Old was from March 13

New from April 2

Old domestic: ₹425, irrespective of distance

New domestic: ₹275 to ₹900, based on distance

Old international: ₹425 to ₹2300, based on distance

New international: ₹900 to ₹10,000, based on distance

estic ATF hike) increases would have severely impacted affordability of domestic air travel. For international operations, ATF prices have more than doubled in the last month, impacting the airline's operating costs on these routes," IndiGo said.

With several key elections round the corner, govt is closely watching domestic

airfares. Joint secretary in aviation ministry Asangba Chuba Ao said: "(Limiting domestic ATF hike to 25%) will ensure domestic operational costs of Indian carriers remain manageable... prevents a potential industry-wide crisis... allows airlines to maintain competitive pricing for domestic travellers, avoiding additional fuel surcharges that would have been necessary under a market-linked pricing mechanism. If there are any abnormal fare surges, we will intervene."

Oil companies are yet to get clarity on the impact that the "staggered increase" will have on their finances.

Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the oil ministry, said that the staggered increase in prices and the timeline for the next revision were policy matters, and govt would decide at an appropriate time.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

2 APRIL 2026

Jet fuel rate up 8.5%, commercial LPG to cost ₹195 more

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

On the back of global crude oil price surges over a month, the rates of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), branded petrol and commercial LPG were hiked on Wednesday, though the cost of normal fuel and domestic LPG remained unchanged.

The rise has been across the deregulated fuel categories which, the government said, needed to absorb the shocks of international price rise, with crude oil alone surging from \$70 to \$100 per barrel in a month.

The ATF prices went up by 8.5 per cent while commercial LPG will cost Rs 195 extra. The ATF prices in India were deregulated in 2001 and are revised on a monthly basis based on a formula of international benchmarks. Due to the closure of Strait of Hormuz and extraordinary situation in global energy markets, the price of ATF for domestic markets was expected to increase by more than 100 per cent from April 1.

"But to insulate the domestic travel costs from the substantial increase in interna-

PM CHAIRS CCS MEET, REVIEWS WAR IMPACT

PM Modi chaired a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The meeting, second since the Iran conflict began, discussed the war's impact and assessed the availability of essential goods.

tional prices, PSU oil marketing companies of the Ministry of Petroleum, in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, have passed only a partial and staggered increase of 25 per cent (only Rs 15/litre) to the airlines. Foreign routes will pay for the full increase in ATF prices consistent with what they pay in other parts of the world," the government said. Accordingly, today ATF prices for domestic airlines were raised by 8.5 per cent.

Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma said the ATF cost escalation was only partial. "Scheduled domestic airlines will see a rise of Rs 21 per litre and non-schedule of Rs 110 per litre," she said, adding that the government would take a further call on ATF prices at an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Jet fuel rate up 8.5%, commercial LPG to...

appropriate time. "The consumption of commercial LPG is less than 10 per cent of the total LPG consumed in the country. April 1 price increase in commercial LPG price is due to a 44 per cent surge in the Saudi Contract Price: from \$542/MT in March to \$780/MT for April, as 20-30% of global LPG supplies are stuck in the Strait of Hormuz," the Petroleum

Ministry said.

Commercial LPG prices were hiked by Rs 195.50. A 19-kg commercial LPG will cost Rs 2,078.50 in Delhi. Premium petrol will also cost more. Last week, there was a Rs 2/litre upward revision on premium petrol variants—XP95, Power95, Speed—whose prices are revised on fortnightly basis. These are purchased by motorists, at a

premium, by choice.

Apart from the above three categories, there has been no change in prices of petrol, diesel or domestic LPG.

Petrol still costs Rs 94.77/litre and diesel Rs 87.67/litre in Delhi. "This is possible because of excise duty cuts by the government after global petroleum prices rose by up to 100 per cent in the last one month. PSU

OMCs are incurring under-recoveries of Rs 24.40/litre on petrol and Rs 104.99/litre on diesel as of today," the ministry said. Likewise, domestic LPG consumers continue to be protected. A 14.2 kg domestic cylinder still costs Rs 913 and those under PM Ujwala Yojana Rs 613. "At current prices, OMCs are incurring under recovery of Rs 380/cylinder," Sharma said.