



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

अब हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से भी घरेलू सफर हुआ महंगा

साहिबाबाद। पश्चिमी एशिया में चल रहे युद्ध के कारण अब हिंडन सिविल एयरपोर्ट से भी उड़ान भरना महंगा हो गया है। देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइंस कंपनी इंडिगो ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय के साथ ही घरेलू उड़ानों के किराए में भी 30 से 35 फीसदी तक बढ़ोत्तरी की है। प्रत्येक घरेलू उड़ान पर करीब 800 से 1000 रुपये तक का अतिरिक्त फ्यूल चार्ज लगाया है।

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से विभिन्न शहरों के लिए अब तक जहां शुरुआती किराया जहां पांच से सात हजार रुपये था अब वह बढ़कर साढ़े आठ हजार से नौ हजार तक हो गया है। दरअसल, यह महंगाई जेट ईंधन के महंगा होने की वजह

जेट ईंधन महंगा होने से एयरलाइंस कंपनियों ने घरेलू उड़ानों पर भी बढ़ाया किराया

से हुई है। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से अब उड़ानें सीमित हो चुकी हैं और यात्रियों की संख्या अधिक है। इसकी वजह से भी किराया में इजाफा हुआ है। हालांकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों में एयरलाइंस कंपनी ने पिछले 15 दिनों में दूसरी बार फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ाया है। वहीं, हिंडन से पहली बार उड़ानों के किराए में इजाफा हुआ है। बेंगलुरु रूट पर टिकट में न्यूनतम करीब 35 फीसदी तो कोलकाता के लिए किराया न्यूनतम करीब 30 फीसदी तक बढ़ा है। ब्यूरो



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

हवाई अड्डों पर रुपये के नोट बदल सकेंगे निवासी

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने गुरुवार को बताया कि उसने प्रवासी के साथ-साथ निवासियों को भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों के प्रस्थान हॉल में आब्रजन या सीमा शुल्क डेस्क के आगे ड्यूटी-फ्री क्षेत्र या सुरक्षा क्षेत्र में स्थापित विदेशी मुद्रा काउंटर्स पर भारतीय रुपये के नोट बदलने की अनुमति दे दी है। यह सुविधा आब्रजन या सीमा शुल्क डेस्क के आगे ड्यूटी-फ्री या सुरक्षा क्षेत्र में स्थापित काउंटर्स पर उपलब्ध होगी। इससे पहले, इस तरह के नोट बदलने की सुविधा मुख्य रूप से अनिवासियों तक ही सीमित थी। यह कदम मुद्रा विनिमय गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने वाले निर्देश ज्ञापन के तहत मौजूदा ढांचे की समीक्षा के बाद उठाया गया है।

बीएस



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

2 APRIL 2026

BLR Airport earns Level 5 customer experience accreditation

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has received Level 5 accreditation under the Airports Council International Customer Experience programme, the highest tier in the global framework.



The accreditation was granted after an assessment of the airport's customer experience systems, including passenger services, operational processes, and overall management approach. The framework evaluates airports on service design, customer insights, and stakeholder coordination.

"Achieving Level 5 under ACI's Customer Experience Accreditation programme reflects the discipline and consistency of this approach. This milestone is driven by the collective effort of our airport community, and it strengthens our focus on delivering consistent, intuitive, and differentiated experiences that meet the expectations of a global traveller," said Hari Marar, MD & CEO, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operator.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

2 APRIL 2026

सीईओ के विदेशी मूल का होना नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की उड़ान में बाधा

जागरण संवाददाता, ग्रेटर नोएडा : नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से हवाई यात्रा की उम्मीद करने वाले लोगों का इंतजार बढ़ सकता है। नागर विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो ने अभी तक एयरपोर्ट सुरक्षा प्रोग्राम को स्वीकृति नहीं दी है। एयरपोर्ट की विकासकर्ता एवं संचालक कंपनी यमुना इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट प्रा. लि. (यापल) के सीईओ का विदेशी नागरिक होना नागर विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो के नियम के आड़े आ रहा है। एयरपोर्ट सुरक्षा प्रोग्राम के लिए संचालक कंपनी का सीईओ भारतीय नागरिक होना अनिवार्य शर्त है। एयरपोर्ट सुरक्षा प्रोग्राम के स्वीकृत होने के एक से डेढ़ माह बाद ही एयरपोर्ट से विमान उड़ान भर सकेंगे।

नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय ने

एयरपोर्ट सुरक्षा प्रोग्राम के लिए संचालक कंपनी का सीईओ भारतीय नागरिक होना अनिवार्य यापल सीईओ हैं स्विस नागरिक

छह मार्च को नोएडा एयरपोर्ट को एयरोड्रम लाइसेंस जारी किया था। इसके बाद एयरपोर्ट से विमान सेवा जल्द शुरू होने की संभावना जताई जा रही थीं। 28 मार्च को प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी एयरपोर्ट का लोकार्पण भी कर चुके हैं। एयरपोर्ट से विमान सेवा शुरू करने के लिए जरूरी एयरपोर्ट सुरक्षा प्रोग्राम को अभी तक नागर विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो से स्वीकृति नहीं मिली है।

एयरपोर्ट की विकासकर्ता कंपनी यापल ज्यूरिख एयरपोर्ट इंटरनेशनल एजी की भारतीय एसपीवी (स्पेशल परपज व्हीकल) है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 APRIL 2026

Duty-free liquor shop approved at Surat international airport after 2-year delay

Melvyn Thomas

SURAT

After years of delays and growing criticism over missing passenger amenities, travellers flying abroad from Surat finally have a reason to cheer. The Airports Authority of India has cleared the establishment of a duty-free shop at the city's international airport and has already floated a Request for Proposal (RFP) to fast-track the project.

The move comes more than two years after the new terminal was inaugurated by Narendra Modi on December 17, 2023, a delay that had drawn sharp criticism from frequent flyers and local stakeholders.

Despite being labelled an international airport, several mandatory passenger facilities remain incomplete. A prayer room is yet to be built, while the smoking lounge became operational months after the terminal opened.



"Passengers have waited long enough for basic international airport facilities. Duty-free retail is a welcome step, but the delay raises serious planning questions," said a local aviation observer.

Other passenger-centric amenities have also rolled out slowly, reinforcing perceptions that Surat's aviation infrastructure has lagged behind its economic growth.

According to the RFP, the upcoming outlet will stock a wide range of products, including liquor, tobacco, cosmetics,

chocolates, electronics, watches, jewellery and selected Made-in-India goods permitted by customs.

A senior airport official said, "The duty-free facility will bring the airport closer to global standards and significantly enhance the international travel experience from Surat."

Liquor sales in a dry state spark debate

However, the announcement has ignited a major legal and policy debate. Gujarat remains a prohibition state, where liquor sale and consumption are tightly regulated.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

हिंडन से उड़ानों के टिकट महंगे

ट्रान्स हिंडन, व.सं.। जंग का असर अब हवाई यात्रा पर दिखने लगा है। हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से संचालित उड़ानों के टिकटों में 20 से 45% तक बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

खासतौर पर बेंगलुरु, कोलकाता, चेन्नई और वाराणसी रूट पर किराए में तेजी आई है। जेट ईंधन की कीमत बढ़ने के चलते एयरलाइंस ने फ्यूल सरचार्ज जोड़ दिया है, जिससे यात्रियों की जेब पर अतिरिक्त बोझ पड़ रहा है।

हिंडन एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान शुरू होने के समय जो टिकट दरें थीं, अब उनके मुकाबले किराया काफी बढ़ चुका है। सप्ताहांत में मांग बढ़ने के कारण कई रूट पर टिकट और महंगे हो रहे हैं। बेंगलुरु के लिए टिकट पहले जहां 6,200 से 7,000 रुपये के बीच मिल रहा था, अब यह बढ़कर 9,500 से 10,500 रुपये तक पहुंच गया है।

न्यूनतम करीब 35 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। रविवार को यही टिकट 15,000 रुपये तक पहुंच रहा है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

उड़ानों में 60% सीटें बिना अतिरिक्त शुल्क देने का आदेश टला

मुंबई। केंद्र सरकार ने उड़ानों में 60% सीटें बिना किसी अतिरिक्त शुल्क के उपलब्ध कराने के अपने आदेश को फिलहाल स्थगित कर दिया है। नागरिक उड़्डयन मंत्रालय ने महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) को पत्र लिखकर कहा है कि 20 अप्रैल से लागू होने वाला यह नियम अगले आदेश तक स्थगित रहेगा। मंत्रालय के अनुसार यह निर्णय फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन एयरलाइंस और अकासा एयर के जापनों के बाद लिया गया है। एयरलाइंस ने तर्क दिया कि इस फैसले से उनके कमर्शियल ढांचे और मौजूदा अनियंत्रित किराया प्रणाली पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा। बढ़ती शिकायतों के बीच 18 मार्च को मंत्रालय ने यात्रियों को राहत देने के लिए 60% सीटें बिना किसी अतिरिक्त शुल्क के उपलब्ध कराने का निर्देश दिया था। एजेंसी



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

IndiGo to deploy A321XLR aircraft on Istanbul route

Press Trust of India
Mumbai

Domestic carrier IndiGo announced that it will deploy its long-range narrow-body A321XLR aircraft on the Delhi-Istanbul route, which is currently being serviced with an Airbus A320neo with a technical halt at Jeddah, starting from April 19.

The strategically important route enables the airline to offer seamless onward connections to over 50 international destinations through its codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines, it said.

NON-STOP

The Airbus A321XLR operating IndiGo's non-stop Delhi-Istanbul route would be the airline's second such plane.

Earlier this year, IndiGo became the first Indian carrier to induct the Airbus

A321XLR into its fleet and launched operations to Athens.

The new-generation aircraft offers enhanced range, fuel efficiency and cabin comfort, enabling IndiGo to unlock new long-haul markets, it said.

WET-LEASE

IndiGo initially wet-leased two widebody Boeing 777 from Turkish Airlines in early 2023 to cater to the rising demand for international travel from India.

The airline started operating its first wet-leased B777 on the Delhi-Istanbul route from February 1, 2023, and the second such plane on the Mumbai-Istanbul route from May 17, 2023.

For the first time on this sector, IndiGo said it will offer a dual-class configuration with 183 economy seats and 12 IndiGoStretch (business class) seats.



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

एयरलाइंस की आपत्तियों के बाद 15 दिनों में फैसला बदला **सरकार का यू-टर्न: फ्लाइट में 60% सीटें मुफ्त देने के फैसले पर रोक लगाई**

भास्कर न्यूज़ | मुंबई

केंद्र सरकार ने एयरलाइंस को फ्लाइट में 60% सीटें बिना अतिरिक्त शुल्क के चुनने देने वाले निर्देश को अस्थायी रूप से रोक दिया है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक यह नियम 20 अप्रैल से लागू होना था, लेकिन अब इसे अगले आदेश तक स्थगित कर दिया गया है। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय ने 15 दिन पहले 18 मार्च को कहा था कि डीजीसीए को निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि किसी भी फ्लाइट में सीट चयन के लिए न्यूनतम 60% सीटें बिना चार्ज

उपलब्ध कराई जाएं। इसका उद्देश्य यात्रियों को सीट चुनने में समान अवसर देना बताया गया था।

मंत्रालय के अनुसार, इस मुद्दे की समीक्षा के दौरान फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन एअरलाइंस की ओर से भेजे गए प्रतिवेदन देखे गए। इनमें ऑपरेशनल असर, किराए पर प्रभाव और मौजूदा डिरेगुलेटेड टैरिफ व्यवस्था से तालमेल जैसे मुद्दे उठाए गए। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि व्यापक जांच पूरी होने तक 60% सीटें मुफ्त देने का प्रावधान लागू नहीं किया जाएगा। फिलहाल यात्रियों को लगभग 20% सीटें बिना शुल्क चुनने का विकल्प मिलता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DESHBANDHU

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

इंडिगो का एसएएमई से हुआ करार

नई दिल्ली। देश की प्रमुख विमान सेवा कंपनी इंडिगो ने स्कूल फॉर एयरक्राफ्ट मेंटेनेंस इंजीनियरिंग (एसएएमई) को अपने कैडेट एएमई कार्यक्रम के लिए आधिकारिक प्रशिक्षण भागीदार चुना है। इंटरग्लोबल समूह की कंपनी इंडिगो ने गुरुवार को एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में बताया कि यह विशेष प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम उच्च संभावना वाले छात्रों की पहचान, प्रशिक्षण और उन्हें पेशे के लिए उपयुक्त एयरक्राफ्ट मेंटेनेंस इंजीनियर बनाने के लिए तैयार किया गया है, ताकि देश के तेजी से बढ़ते विमानन क्षेत्र की मांगों को पूरा किया जा सके। एसएएमई भी इंटरग्लोबल द्वारा समर्थित है। भारत दुनिया के अग्रणी विमानन बाजारों में से एक है। देश में यात्री विमानों और हवाई यातायात में तेजी से वृद्धि हो रही है। ऐसे में विमान के रखरखाव और मरम्मत के लिए कुशल कार्यबल की आवश्यकता भी बढ़ रही है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN CHRONICLE

HYDERABAD

2 APRIL 2026

Airfares likely to rise as ATF prices increase 8.5%

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO | DC
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

Airfares are likely to rise as aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices have been increased, though the government said the hike has been moderated to limit the impact on passengers.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation clarified that ATF prices for domestic airlines were raised by about 8.5 per cent in April, taking the rate to around ₹1.04 lakh per kilolitre, rejecting earlier reports of a steeper increase.

Officials said the price for domestic carriers was increased by ₹8,289 per kilolitre to ₹1,04,927, while fuel for international and non-scheduled operators saw a sharper rise to over ₹2.07 lakh per kilolitre.

The ministry of petroleum and natural gas said



the increase was calibrated despite global crude oil prices crossing \$100 per barrel, with only a partial burden passed on to domestic airlines to avoid a sharp spike in ticket prices.

Civil aviation authorities said the move was aimed at keeping operating costs manageable and preventing airlines from imposing additional fuel surcharges on passengers.

Joint secretary Sujata Sharma said the calibrated revision was intended

to minimise impact, while Asangba Chuba Ao from the civil aviation ministry said the step would help airlines adjust pricing without triggering an industry-wide crisis.

Civil aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu termed the decision pragmatic, noting that domestic operations were being shielded while international routes faced market-linked pricing.

Industry representatives welcomed the move. Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director of SpiceJet, said the decision would help airlines navigate volatility in global fuel markets.

Separately, commercial LPG prices were increased by Rs 195.50 per 19-kg cylinder, while domestic cooking gas rates remained unchanged.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

केदारनाथ यात्रा के लिए हेली टिकट बुकिंग को लेकर एडवाइजरी जारी

जागरण संवाददाता, रुद्रप्रयाग

केदारनाथ धाम के लिए हेलीकाप्टर टिकट बुकिंग को लेकर जिला प्रशासन ने एडवाइजरी जारी की है। यात्रियों को फर्जी वेबसाइट, इंटरनेट मीडिया विज्ञापन एवं वाट्सअप मैसेज से सतर्क रहने की सलाह दे गई है। यात्री इंडियन रेलवे कैटरिंग एंड टूरिज्म कारपोरेशन (आइआरसीटीसी) के अधिकृत हेली यात्रा पोर्टल के माध्यम से आनलाइन बुकिंग कर सकेंगे। आधिकारिक पोर्टल <https://www.heliyatra.ircoc.co.in> से ही हेली टिकट बुक करने की अपील की गई है ताकि यात्री साइबर धोखाधड़ी से बच सकें। हेली टिकटों की आनलाइन बुकिंग 10 अप्रैल से शुरू होगी। केदारनाथ धाम के कपाट 22 अप्रैल को श्रद्धालुओं के लिए खोल दिए जाएंगे।

जिला पर्यटन अधिकारी राहुल चौबे ने बताया कि फेसबुक एवं इंस्टाग्राम जैसे प्लेटफॉर्म पर पोस्ट के जरिये साइबर ठग आकर्षक विज्ञापन दिखाकर लोगों

फर्जी वेबसाइट, इंटरनेट मीडिया विज्ञापन एवं वाट्सअप मैसेज से सतर्क रहने की सलाह

को भ्रमित करते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त गुगल सर्च में सबसे ऊपर दिखाई देने वाले लिंक भी कई बार फर्जी हो सकते हैं, जिनके माध्यम से यूजर्स को नकली वेबसाइट पर ले जाकर ठगी का शिकार हो जाते हैं। साइबर अपराध वाट्सअप काल या चैट के जरिये हेलीकाप्टर टिकट बुकिंग का दावा करते हुए सीधे पैसे की मांग करते हैं। क्यूआर कोड स्कैन कराने का दबाव बनाते हैं। पूर्व में कई यात्रियों से ठगी के मामले सामने आए हैं।

रुद्रप्रयाग में तीन स्थानों से होगा संचालन:
रुद्रप्रयाग में तीन स्थानों सिरसी, गुप्तकाशी व फाटा से केदारनाथ धाम के लिए हेली सेवाओं का संचालन होगा। सिरसी से केदारनाथ तक का किराया 3043 रुपये, फाटा से 4840 और गुप्तकाशी से किराया 6077 रुपये रहेगा। इसमें जीएसटी अतिरिक्त देय होगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK NAVJYOTI

JAIPUR

2 APRIL 2026

इंडिगो ने टिकट पर ईंधन शुल्क बढ़ाया

एजेंसी/नई दिल्ली। देश की अग्रणी विमान सेवा कंपनी इंडिगो ने विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में वृद्धि के बाद बुधवार गुरुवार की आधी रात के बाद से टिकट पर ईंधन शुल्क बढ़ाने की घोषणा की है। एयरलाइन ने घरेलू उड़ानों में अधिकतम 950 तक और इंटरनेशनल फ्लाइट्स में 10,000 तक एक्सट्रा फ्यूल चार्ज लगाया है। इंडिगो ने 18 दिन में दूसरी बार घरेलू और इंटरनेशनल उड़ानों पर फ्यूल सरचार्ज बढ़ाने का फैसला लिया है। इससे पहले कंपनी ने 14 मार्च को भी किराए में बढ़ोतरी की थी।



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

Govt Suspends Directive on Flight Seat Selection Fee

Move to make 60% seats free deferred over fare, policy concerns

Arindam Majumder

New Delhi: The government has put on hold a directive requiring all Indian airlines to make at least 60% of seats on every flight free of selection charges.

The direction, announced in March, was in response to increasing complaints from travellers over difficulty in getting free seats, and family members having to pay for seats to ensure they are seated together.

The move, however, faced severe opposition from carriers. The Federation of Indian Airlines had said such a direction would hurt a key mode of earning ancillary revenue for airlines, in turn for-



cing them to raise base ticket prices, undermining the very passenger welfare the policy intends to protect.

"The matter has been reviewed in light of representation received from airlines highlighting operational and commercial implications including potential impact on fare structure and consistency with deregulated tariff regime," Kumar Saurabh Raj, an official at the Ministry of Civil Aviation, wrote in a direction to sector regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

There was also a question on the legality of the move.

Under the rules of deregulation of airfares, airlines are allowed to charge separately for items like preferential seats, bags and meals. They are free to fix the charges. The DGCA can only intervene if airlines are found to violate principles of transparency and discrimination.

Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 APRIL 2026

‘Danger’ note written on tissue paper delays IndiGo flight by 8 hrs

Mumbai: An Ahmedabad-bound IndiGo flight from Mumbai was delayed by over eight hours on Wednesday after a tissue paper with “Danger” written on it was found shortly after pushback, officials said.

The flight (6E 911) had pushed back at 1.21am and was scheduled to depart from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at 1.30am. At 1.32am, the pilot

alerted Air Traffic Control after the note was discovered in the front galley, beneath a crew folder.

The aircraft was immediately moved to an isolation bay, and a comprehensive security check was initiated. Passengers, baggage and the aircraft were thoroughly screened, but no suspicious object was found.

According to a Sahar police official, airport authorities

alerted the police control room, following which a Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) conducted a detailed inspection. The flight eventually departed at 9.48am and landed in Ahmedabad at 10.36am, according to flight tracking data.

The police have registered a case against an unidentified person and launched an investigation. IndiGo declined to comment on the incident.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 APRIL 2026

IndiGo announces ₹275 to ₹10,000 revised fuel charges

PTI
NEW DELHI

India'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 comes on a day when Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices were revised and the government decided to only partially hike the price by 25% for 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 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. The airline regretted the inconvenience to passengers resulting from the charges.

For domestic flights, the revised fuel charges will be ₹275 to ₹950, and for international flights, the 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 up to 500 km long and ₹400 for flights between 501 km and 1,000 km.



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

2 APRIL 2026

Mopa-Doha flights to restart from May 16

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Qatar Airways has announced a phased expansion of its global flight schedule until June 15, scaling operations to over 120 destinations worldwide. As part of this restoration plan, flights between Doha and Manohar International Airport, Mopa (GOX), in Goa are set to resume from May 16.

The revised schedule comes

amid continued tensions in West Asia, which have significantly disrupted air travel across the region. Acting on advisories issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), airlines have been avoiding airspace over several countries, including Iran, Iraq, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, following recent military escalations.

This led to the cancellation of most Gulf-bound flights

from Goa in recent weeks. Earlier, the airline had extended its schedule only until April 15, operating limited services to around 90 destinations, with Goa notably excluded.

With the latest update, Qatar Airways has begun gradually restoring connectivity across its network. The airline confirmed that all flights to and from Doha are operating through specially designated flight corridors.



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

अहमदाबाद-कोलंबो के बीच सीधी उड़ानें

अहमदाबाद। श्रीलंका की निजी एयरलाइन कंपनी फिट्सएयर 15 मई से अहमदाबाद और कोलंबो के बीच सीधी उड़ानें शुरू करेगी। एयरलाइन सोमवार, बुधवार और शुक्रवार को उड़ानों का परिचालन करेगी। इससे अहमदाबाद और कोलंबो के बीच पहली बार सीधी हवाई सेवा उपलब्ध होगी। इससे यात्रा का समय घटकर करीब तीन घंटे रह जाएगा।

Centre rolls back 60% free flight seat allocation order

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The civil aviation ministry on Thursday suspended a directive requiring airlines to let passengers select at least 60% of seats on any flight without a seat-selection fee, less than three weeks after announcing the rule as part of a passenger rights push.

The ministry of civil aviation said the provision would be kept

“in abeyance till further orders” pending a “comprehensive examination of the issue,” according to a letter dated April 2 addressed to the Director General of Civil Aviation.

The ministry said the rollback followed representations from the Federation of Indian Airlines and Akasa Air, which flagged the rule’s potential impact on fare structures and its consistency with India’s deregulated tariff

continued on →13

FLIGHT SEAT ALLOCATION

regime. The government separately announced it will cap monthly increases in aviation turbine fuel prices for domestic flights at 25%, with both measures seemingly linked to the financial turbulence caused by surging oil prices and route restrictions linked to the West Asia conflict.

The original March 17 circular had directed scheduled airlines to allocate a minimum 60% of seats without a selection charge on every flight, and to seat passengers sharing a booking together, preferably in adjacent seats. The ministry had framed the measures as a step toward strengthening passenger convenience and standardising practices across the sector.

Thursday’s order does not affect other provisions of the March 17 circular. The DGCA has been asked to continue enforcing rules on co-seating of passengers on the same PNR, transparent policies for carriage of sports equipment, musical instruments and pets, and clear disclosure of applicable charges.

Indian carriers currently charge ancillary fees for seat selection during web check-in, with only between 5% and 15% of seats on a typical flight available without an additional charge. Seats toward the front of the aircraft and window seats are usually priced higher.

The FIA, whose members include Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, wrote to the ministry on March 19 arguing the directive would backfire on passengers. It warned airlines would simply recover lost ancillary income through higher base fares.

FIA also cited a 2017 Delhi High Court ruling that preferential seating is a valid unbundled service and DGCA has no authority to fix or cap its price as long as the service is optional, transparently disclosed and non-discriminatory. It further argued the directive contradicted the government’s own 2024 Air Transport Circular, which had endorsed unbundling as a mechanism to keep base fares affordable.

Spike in fares turns air travel to some destinations costly

The price of Aviation Turbine Fuel saw a partial hike on April 1 and in the last week of March; a one-way flight from Chennai to Thoothukudi now costs nearly as much as flying to New Delhi

PORT CALL

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

Get ready to loosen your purse strings as flying out of Chennai to a few of the metro and tier II cities just got dearer. A one-way flight from Chennai to Thoothukudi now costs nearly as much as flying to New Delhi.

It is to be noted that the price of jet fuel or Aviation Turbine Fuel, which makes up nearly 40% of an airline's operating cost, saw a partial hike on April 1 and in the last week of March, as the Centre removed the cap on airfares. Some of the sectors that have seen a rise in airfare for travel in April include Chennai-Madurai, Chennai-Thoothukudi, Chennai-New Delhi, and Chennai-Bengaluru.

While the cost of a one-way flight from Chennai to Madurai ranges between ₹7,200 to ₹8,200, the fares for Thoothukudi ranges between ₹7,000 and



Soaring cost: Travel agents say they are keeping a close watch on the airfares as the holiday season is approaching. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

₹8,200. Airfares from Chennai to Bengaluru too have witnessed a spike and a one-way trip will cost a passenger anywhere between ₹4,400 and ₹5,500.

The flights to New Delhi have gone up marginally ranging between ₹8,000 and ₹9,300. Fares to Mumbai, Tiruchi, Hyderabad have remained largely unchanged.

Such a surge in airfares

will adversely impact affordability for frequent flyers, tourists, and prove to be a strain on passengers who fly during emergencies, A. Sankar, president of Indian Air Passengers Association said. "If someone is flying last minute, the fares will spike even further. How can air passengers afford such steep fares? I hope the fares don't go up any further," he added.

Travel agents say they are keeping a close watch on the airfares as holiday season is approaching.

S. Jeyasekaran of Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) said, "People start making preparations for their holiday early April itself. So, the fares spike further sharply in other sectors, then tourists will find it very difficult to afford air travel."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

Centre puts 60% free seats mandate for flights on hold

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, April 2

AFTER RESISTANCE from airlines against the direction to offer at least 60% seats free of charge on flights, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Thursday placed the order on hold for a “comprehensive examination” of the issue.

“... pending a comprehensive examination of the issue, it has been decided that the provision related to offering at least 60% seats free of charge shall be kept in abeyance till further orders,” MoCA said in an official communication to aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), it is learnt.

“The matter has been reviewed in light of representations received from the Federation of Indian Airlines and Akasa Air, highlighting operational and commercial implications of the above provision, including its potential impact on fare structures and consistency with the prevailing deregulated tariff regime,” MoCA is learnt to have said.

On March 18, the DGCA had directed airlines to ensure that at least 60% of seats on flights are offered without any selection fee and passengers on the same booking reference, or PNR, are

seated together, “preferably in adjacent seats”, among a few passenger friendly measures.

“DGCA may, however, ensure continued enforcement of other passenger facilitation measures contained in the aforesaid letter, including transparency in seat allocation, co-seating of passengers on the same PNR, carriage of musical instruments, sports equipment and pets and clear disclosure of applicable charges,” MoCA said in the communication to DGCA, it is learnt.

The 60% free seat mandate, which was to take effect from April 20, led to pushback from airlines, with the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), which includes IndiGo, Air India, and SpiceJet as members, and Akasa Air sending representations to MoCA against the move. Already struggling with higher costs and operational disruptions due to the West Asia war, airlines had warned the government that such a mandate would lead to higher airfares, sources indicated.

Seat selection fees form a major ancillary, or non-ticket, revenue stream for airlines, and mandating more than half the seats to be offered free of charge could impact their revenue.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

MINT

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

Govt suspends 60% free seat selection rule pending review

Airlines had raised concerns over the order's operational and commercial impact

Dipali Banka & Abhishek Law
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Less than three weeks after directing airlines to offer at least 60% of seat selection free of charge in every flight to improve passenger facilitation, the ministry of civil aviation has kept the order in abeyance following concerns raised by airlines over its operational and commercial impact.

The directive would remain suspended until further orders while the government conducts a detailed examination of the issue, the Centre said in a 2 April letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). *Mint* has reviewed a copy of the letter.

The ministry had written to the aviation safety regulator on 17 March asking airlines to strengthen passenger facilitation measures and ensure that at least 60% of seats in any flight are offered free of charge. The move had triggered strong objections from carriers, which argued that such a mandate could disrupt existing fare structures under India's deregulated aviation pricing regime.

"The matter has been reviewed in light of representations received from the Federation of Indian Airlines and Akasa Air, highlighting operational and commercial implications of the above provision, including its potential impact on fare structures and consistency with the prevailing deregulated tariff regime," the letter said.

"In view of the above, and pending a compre-



hensive examination of the issue, it has been decided that the provision relating to offering at least 60% of seats free of charge shall be kept in abeyance till further orders," it said in the letter.

An email sent to MoCA, DGCA, Akasa Air and Federation of Indian Airlines did not elicit a response till press time.

However, the ministry asked the DGCA to continue enforcing other passenger facilitation measures outlined in the earlier directive. These

include greater transparency in seat allocation, ensuring co-seating of passengers on the same passenger name record (PNR), and clearer disclosure of applicable charges. The regulator has also been asked to ensure smoother policies regarding the carriage of musical instruments, sports equipment and pets on flights.

dipali.banka@livemint.com
For an extended version of this story, go to live-mint.com

No windfall tax on diesel, ATF exports from Reliance SEZ refinery: Official

'As per judicial pronouncements on this issue, the special additional excise duty and additional excise duty are not applicable on SEZ refineries'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

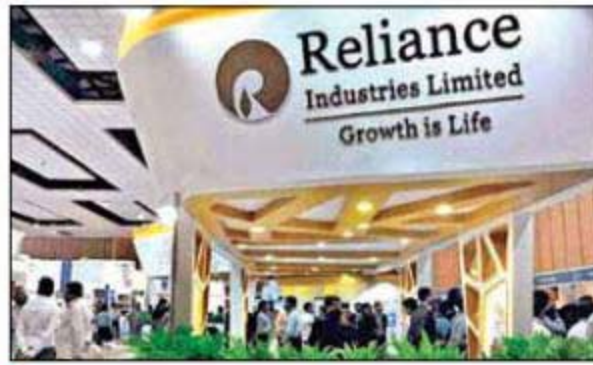
NEW DELHI: The reimposed windfall export taxes on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) will not apply to Reliance Industries Ltd's SEZ refinery due to judicial rulings, a senior official said on Thursday.

Effective March 26, the government revised fuel levies, reintroducing export duties of Rs 21.50 per litre on diesel and Rs 29.50 per litre on ATF, while keeping petrol exports exempt. The move coincided with a Rs 10 per litre cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel.

Initially, it was not clear if exports from Reliance's special economic zone (SEZ) refinery - one of the largest contributors to India's refined product exports - would retain exemptions similar to those under the 2022 windfall tax regime.

"As per judicial pronouncements on this issue, the special additional excise duty and additional excise duty are not applicable on SEZ refineries," Jainendra Singh Kandhari, Joint Secretary in the Tax Research Unit (TRU-1) of the Department of Revenue, said at a media briefing.

The government reinstated the windfall export tax amid disruptions to global energy supplies caused by the Middle East conflict. The levy, first introduced in July 2022 follow-



The government reinstated the windfall export tax amid disruptions to global energy supplies caused by the Middle East conflict

ing Russia's invasion of Ukraine and withdrawn in December 2024, has been reimposed in the form of a special additional excise duty (SAED) to encourage refiners to prioritise domestic sales over exports.

Reliance owns and operates two refineries at Jamnagar in Gujarat - a 33 million tonnes (MT) per year unit catering to the domestic market and a 35.2 million tonnes only-for-exports SEZ unit. The export tax will be reviewed fortnightly - as was the practice previously - to align the duty with prevailing rates. According to a Citi Research report, the export taxes are equivalent to \$36 per

barrel on diesel and \$50 per barrel on jet fuel.

"In FY25, 75 per cent of Reliance's diesel production and 35 per cent of its jet fuel production were from its SEZ refinery, which we believe, based on 2022 precedent, could be exempt from this tax.

"If we therefore assume the export tax is applicable only on the non-SEZ volumes, the impact should be largely offset by still-elevated diesel/jet fuel cracks vs pre-conflict levels," it had said in the report last week.

The government, on March 26, announced the first material reduction in domestic petroleum excise duty since April

Key Points

- » Reliance owns and operates two refineries at Jamnagar in Gujarat - a 33 MT per year unit catering to the domestic market and a 35.2 MT only-for-exports SEZ unit
- » Export tax will be reviewed fortnightly, as was the practice previously, to align duty with prevailing rates
- » The export taxes are equivalent to \$36 per barrel on diesel & \$50 per barrel on jet fuel

2022, offering relief to oil marketing companies (OMCs) that had been incurring huge losses after being unable to raise retail prices of petrol and diesel despite a sharp surge in crude oil costs.

In a separate note, Jefferies said the reimposed export duty broadly caps diesel/ATF spreads at \$20 per barrel for standalone refiners like Reliance. "This is similar to the level of margin caps introduced during the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022. However, this time the movement in crude premiums and freight rates has been very stiff, making capturing spreads challenging for global refiners."



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

CIVIL AVIATION PUSH: GROUND REALITY CHECK FOR SOARING AMBITION

THE airport recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Jewar outside Delhi is the country's 165th. It's a milestone towards India's ambitious target of flying over a billion passengers annually by 2047 and operationalising 350-400 airports across the country. It's true that a nation as vast and populous as India needs an extensive aviation network to complement its other mass transit systems. While the government's ambition is well placed, it must ensure that the economics of the expansion is aligned with the ground reality.

The Union civil aviation minister recently announced India is set to induct 1,700 new aircraft to add to the existing fleet of over 1,200. By 2036, the country is expected to have around 3,000 aircraft if geopolitical tensions do not delay deliveries. Aircraft that were expected to be delivered in 10 years may now take up to 15 years. To operate such a large fleet, the country would require 10,000-12,000 more trained pilots, nearly double the current number. The aviation industry, which is estimated to support around 7 million jobs directly and indirectly at present, has the potential to generate 3.5 times more employment.

Infrastructure is not the primary challenge today, as the government has been generous in funding the sector. The bigger issue is the commercial viability of airline operations. India's aviation sector is currently a duopoly with IndiGo cornering 63 percent of the market and the Tata Group claiming 25 percent. The risk of one airline carrying almost two-thirds of passengers was amplified last December when IndiGo's operational issues rippled across the sector and affected lakhs of passengers.

The sector needs greater competition—a more balanced market with at least one more airline commanding over 10 percent market share—to help expand the overall pie. The government has attempted to improve regional connectivity through the UDAN scheme. However, a parliamentary panel noted last week that of the 657 routes awarded, over 150 remain uncommenced. Airlines also stop operations at most smaller centres when the subsidy to fly those routes ends. The government would not want to be left with ghost airports and unviable routes. Therefore, while the push for aviation is necessary, the government must not lose sight of its economic viability and balance.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

War: Flights see surge in GPS spoofing

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE over a month-long West Asia conflict is having an unintended consequence – civil aviation flights from India operated in the UAE air space are frequently flying a bit off track due to the tactics deployed by the warring countries. This is making them travel a bit longer, resulting in waste of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and potentially endangering passenger safety, sources said.

Global Positioning System (GPS) spoofing, which involves tampering with the navigation signals of a vehicle to misdirect it from its original path, has surged manifold. A senior official of the Airport Authority of India, which controls the Air Traffic Control (ATC) centres, and multiple sources from airlines in India confirmed that they are battling against this hazard in the skies.

“With Iran, Israel and Iraq air space off limits for airlines presently, many airlines in India operate flights on and off to the UAE region, including to Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Fu-



Radio Navigation Satellite Service interference can impact aircraft operations far beyond the immediate affected area, creating potential safety risks across multiple flight regions

Juan Carlos Salazar, ICAO secretary general

jairah and Ras Al Khaimah airports. The flights primarily encounter GPS spoofing there,” an airline official told this newspaper. He said this was a tactic now adopted by many nations to safeguard their own skies. “They want to divert the GPS system of drones as well as missiles and hence put in place massive spoofing technologies.

This ends up misleading civilian planes flying in the airspace,” he added.

The official said pilots are able to take back their flights to safety after switching over to the manual process. “When it comes to my airline, I will not call spoofing a big threat to passenger safety. However, they end up delaying the journey for everyone on

board as well as adding expenses to each trip due to the extra fuel used because of the wrong route taken,” he said. A senior AAI official confirmed that they were observing a surge in flights going off track a bit and getting back to the original route later.

During a summit in Montreal last year, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) General Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar had said, “Radio Navigation Satellite Service interference can impact aircraft operations far beyond the immediate affected area, creating potential safety risks across multiple flight regions.” He said ICAO was working with its members to implement protective measures through aviation safety frameworks and standards.

Aviation enthusiast Shardul Chauhan, who witnessed multiple instances of GPS spoofing through flight tracking platforms, said, “GPS spoofing is a reality which spans land, air and now the seas. It is used by state and non-state actors to mislead aircraft, drones, ships and weapons.”





Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

60% FLIGHT SEATS OFFER PUT ON HOLD

The Government on Thursday "put in abeyance" its earlier direction to airlines to offer at least 60 per cent of seats in a flight without levying any additional charge from April 20, according to sources.

"The matter has been reviewed in light of representations received from the Federation of Indian Airlines and Akasa Air, highlighting operational and commercial implications of the above provision, including its potential impact on fare structures and consistency with the prevailing deregulated tariff regime. "In view of the above, and pending a comprehensive examination of the issue, it has been decided that the provision relating to offering at least 60 per cent of seats free of charge shall be kept in abeyance till further orders," Civil Aviation Ministry said in a communication to the DGCA.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE STATESMAN

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

IndiGo to deploy second A321XLR aircraft on Delhi-Istanbul route from 19 April

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, 2 April

IndiGo will deploy its second Airbus A321XLR aircraft on the Delhi-Istanbul route from 19 April, as part of its international expansion.

The airline said the route will support onward connectivity to more than 50 international destinations through its codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines.

The airline will introduce a dual-class configuration on this route for the first time, with 183 economy seats and 12 IndiGoStretch seats, its business offering. Passengers in both cabins will be served complimentary hot meals and beverages, with vegetarian



options provided by default and non-vegetarian meals available through pre-booking. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase in economy or through pre-booking, while IndiGoStretch passengers will receive them as part of the service. The aircraft will also feature a digital inflight entertainment system that

allows passengers to stream content, including films, television shows and games, on their personal devices.

The Delhi-Istanbul route is a key part of IndiGo's international network as it enables connections to multiple destinations through its partnership with Turkish Airlines.

The airline said the deployment of the A321XLR will help expand its long-haul operations.

Earlier this year, IndiGo became the first Indian carrier to induct the Airbus A321XLR and started operations to Athens, marking a step in its international expansion plans.



ATF price cushion for domestic flights

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: Aviation turbine fuel (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.

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 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.

By evening, the country's largest airline, IndiGo, 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.

The rate of commercial LPG — the other petroleum product apart from ATF whose pricing is deregulated — has been increased by ₹195.50 per 19kg cylinder.

The price of select premium, or branded petrol and diesel, which make up for 2.5 per cent 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 ₹180 a litre for 100 octane petrol (XP100).

Relief for domestic flights

► FROM PAGE 1

The prices of normal, or unbranded petrol and diesel, remain unchanged, as do the rates of domestic cooking gas LPG.

The petroleum ministry said that while international oil prices had jumped to over \$100 per barrel in one month, "only a partial and staggered increase of 25 per cent (₹15 per litre or ₹15,000 per kl)" was being passed on to airlines. The civil aviation ministry 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 per cent number was the increase on the "base price" of ATF.

At a media briefing, Sharma said a calibrated approach had been taken on revision of ATF prices so as to have a minimal impact. Asangba Chuba Ao, joint secretary in the ministry of civil aviation, said the move would ensure that carriers' domestic operational

costs remain manageable and would 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 because of the war. Fuel makes up around 40 per cent of an airline's operating cost.

Explaining the rationale for the jet fuel price hike, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas said in a post on X that ATF prices in India were deregulated in 2001 and were 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, the price of ATF for domestic markets was expected to increase by more than 100 per cent on April 1," it said.

"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 (only ₹15 per 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."

Rates of commercial LPG, which is used by hotels and restaurants, were hiked by ₹195.50 per 19kg cylinder. A 19kg commercial LPG now costs ₹2,078.50 in Delhi.

হাত বাড়ালেই

Suvida

গর্ভনিরোধক পিল

EP Ekaag Pharma Pvt. Ltd.

Toll Free: +91 800 402 7447



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

2 APRIL 2026

‘Danger’ note delays Mumbai-Amd flight

An Ahmedabad-bound IndiGo flight was delayed by over eight hours on Wednesday after a tissue paper with “danger” written on it was found in the aircraft immediately after the pushback, officials said.

The aircraft was then taken to an isolation bay, where a thorough search of the passengers, their baggage and the aircraft was carried out but nothing suspicious was found, they said.

A case was later registered in this connection against an unidentified person, police said.

“At 1.32am, an IndiGo pilot reported to the ATC that a tissue paper bearing the word ‘danger’ was found in the flight (6E911). The aircraft had pushed back at 1.21am. The tissue paper was located in the front galley (kitchen area) of the aircraft, underneath a crew folder,” sources said.

The flight was scheduled to take off from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at 1.30am and land in Ahmedabad at 2.50am. It took off at 9.48am and reached Ahmedabad at 10.36am, as per live flight tracking website flightradar24.com. ११



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

60% free seat rule put on hold after airlines flag fiscal impact

SHEKHAR SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has put on hold its recent directive mandating airlines to offer at least 60 per cent of seats free of charge on every flight, following strong objections from the aviation industry over its operational and financial impact.

In an official communication dated April 2, the ministry said the provision requiring scheduled airlines to provide a minimum of 60 per cent seats free of cost would remain in

abeyance until further orders. The decision comes less than a fortnight after the directive was issued on March 17 as part of broader passenger facilitation measures.

The rollback follows representations from the Federation of Indian Airlines and Akasa Air, which flagged serious concerns over the feasibility of such a mandate in a deregulated tariff regime. Airlines argued that enforcing free seats at this scale would severely disrupt fare structures, distort market dynamics and threaten financial sus-

tainability in an already cost-sensitive sector.

The ministry acknowledged these concerns, stating that the matter required a "comprehensive examination" in light of its wider commercial and operational implications.

The move signals a recalibration of policy after industry stakeholders warned that the order could trigger unintended consequences, including fare hikes on remaining seats and reduced route viability.

Despite suspending the contentious clause, the government has asked the Directorate

General of Civil Aviation to continue enforcing other passenger-centric measures outlined in the earlier directive. These include greater transparency in seat allocation, ensuring co-seating of passengers booked under the same PNR and clear disclosure of charges for services such as the carriage of musical instruments, sports equipment and pets.

The initial order had drawn sharp reactions within the aviation sector, with experts questioning its alignment with India's liberalised pricing framework.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

Govt raises death compensation for air passengers up to ₹1.69 crore

New rules notified, to apply retrospectively from Dec 2024

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

In a major move to empower passengers, the government has raised airline compensation limits across board with claims for deaths on board reaching up to Rs 1.69 crore.

The Centre has revised the maximum compensation that airlines are legally required to pay passengers in cases of death, injury, baggage loss, flight delay and cargo damage.

The revision updates liability limits contained in the Third Schedule of the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, and has been made effective retrospectively from December 28, 2024. The last revision of these limits happened on March 2, 2020.

The latest notification revises liability limits expressed in

REVISED COMPENSATION

- The compensation ceiling for losses suffered by a passenger due to flight delay has been increased from approximately ₹5.95 lakh to nearly ₹7 lakh
- For checked-in or cabin baggage that is lost, damaged, or delayed, compensation limit goes up from ₹1.43 lakh to around ₹1.69 lakh per passenger

Special Drawing Rights (SDR) — an international unit of account maintained by the International Monetary Fund whose value fluctuates against the Indian rupee on a daily basis. The government has done approximate rupee conversions which are indicative

and will vary based on the prevailing SDR-to-rupee rate on the date of any actual claim.

The guaranteed compensation limit in case of death or bodily injury to a passenger has been raised from 1,28,821 SDR to 1,51,880 SDR, an increase of 17.9 per cent. "At an approximate conversion rate, this translates to a rise from roughly Rs 1.43 crore to nearly Rs 1.69 crore per passenger," officials explained.

For checked-in or cabin baggage that is lost, damaged, or delayed, compensation limit goes up from 1,288 SDR to 1,519 SDR. The compensation limit for air cargo has been raised from 22 SDR to 26 SDR per kg for lost or damaged goods. Sources said passengers who suffered loss on or after December 28, 2024, are entitled to claims under the new limits.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

3 APRIL 2026

Flyers filed 42,000 complaints in 3 months, 98% disposed of

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

The 24x7 Passenger Assistance Control Room (PACR) and AirSewa portal received 42,122 complaints between December 10, 2025, and March 27, 2026. Of these, 41,249 complaints (97.92%) have already been resolved, said the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The ministry said the PACR had tightened grievance redressal timelines, particularly for high-friction issues like flight delays, cancellations and refunds, while improving coordination across airlines, airports and regulators.

Refunds and cancellations emerged as the biggest flashpoint, with 19,722 complaints, of which 19,433 were resolved. Delays triggered 7,272 complaints, with 7,218 resolved; while 5,376 of 5,502 baggage-related complaints were addressed; and 8,404 of 9,626 cases of issues in other categories were resolved. — TNS