



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

2 AUGUST 2026

AAI pushes for building airport in Rameswaram

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has written to the Tamil Nadu government pushing for the implementation of the Rameswaram airport in Ramanathapuram district.

In a communication sent recently, the AAI said they were willing to build the Rameswaram airport and had asked the State government to identify the site and acquire land for the project, sources said. “The AAI is keen on developing the airport because

there is good potential owing to the number of tourists who visit this town. It can be implemented under the RCS-UDAN scheme, provided the State government finalises a site and also acquires the land for the project,” a source said.

Initial request

In September 2024, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had written to the State government requesting the development of this airport. Subsequently, the Tamil Nadu government identified five sites – Devipattanam, Palankulam, Sattak-



While a site for the airport has not been finalised yet, the State government shortlisted two sites in September 2025.

konvasalai, Pirappanvalasai, and Tirupullani – and after narrowing the sites down to two in September

2025, it had asked the AAI to do a pre-feasibility inspection at the shortlisted sites. Following the inspection and study, the AAI recommended the site closer to Tirupullani (near Keelakarai) as the location to build the airport.

As a civil enclave

The State government also looked at INS Parundu, an Indian Navy Air Station near Uchipuli in Ramanathapuram district. Sources said that while it was possible to have a civil enclave development (a earmarked civilian area for

commercial flights within the naval air station), there were some challenges in doing so.

“A site has not been finalised yet. Both Uchipuli and Keelakarai have been examined. Further discussions have to be held to consider various aspects, after which a site can be chosen,” another source said.

But there is also a view that since the Madurai airport is only about a three-and-a-half-hour drive from Rameswaram, whether a new airport should be developed for the town.

City airport likely to get additional lounges in its terminals by next year

AAI plans to increase the number of lounges from four to seven, and enhance the food and beverage options; one of the lounges will come up in the upcoming T3 international terminal

PORT CALL

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) plans to create additional lounges at the Chennai airport and enhance the food and beverage options in its terminals. It plans to increase the number of lounges from four to seven so that air passengers can relax, dine or work comfortably.

According to the AAI officials, there are two lounges in T1 domestic terminal and one each in the T2 international terminal and T4 domestic terminal.

"There is a strong demand for this facility, and hence, we want to expand it further. We reviewed the space availability and found that there is a good



The lounge at the T2 international terminal of Chennai airport. The other three lounges are located in the domestic terminals.

scope for setting up additional lounges in the domestic and international terminals. Besides, we plan to float separate bids for a firm to manage the food and beverage outlets in all the terminals. The idea is to give more choices for passengers," an official said.

The request for proposal (RFP) to establish new lounges has been sent to the AAI headquarters in New Delhi for approval, another official said. "Once they approve the document, it will be issued, and we will likely finalise the contractor in about six months. We expect the

new facilities to be ready by next year," the official said.

While the upcoming T3 international terminal will get a new lounge, it is not clear where the other two lounges will be created. "We will look at where the demand is greatest and decide," he added.

A. Sankar, a frequent flyer, said additional lounges would be helpful, as he has witnessed the lounges in the T1 domestic terminal and T2 international terminal crowded during peak hours on many occasions. "But what is more important is that the AAI should offer more options in these lounges. When compared to Bengaluru, the food choices are very limited and unsatisfactory. It should divide the tender and bring in more players, so that passengers have a good variety," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE

GUWAHATI

2 AUGUST 2026



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh, on Saturday. – PTI

Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

3 AUGUST 2026

सुरक्षा

एयरसाइड रिमोट स्टैंड्स पर लगेगे वर्ल्ड जियोडेटिक सिस्टम, पायलटों, एटीसी और ग्राउंड स्टाफ को मिलेगी सटीक लोकेशन

आईजीआई पर विमान संचालन होगा अधिक सुरक्षित

शनि पाथौली

नई दिल्ली। इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय (आईजीआई) एयरपोर्ट पर विमान संचालन को अधिक सुरक्षित और सटीक बनाने के लिए एयरसाइड क्षेत्र में वर्ल्ड जियोडेटिक सिस्टम (डब्ल्यूजीएस) आधारित साइन बोर्ड लगाए जाएंगे।

एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन ने इनकी आपूर्ति, स्थापना, परीक्षण और संचालन की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। नई व्यवस्था लागू होने के बाद एयरसाइड क्षेत्र में मौजूद प्रत्येक रिमोट स्टैंड की



दुनिया भर में मान्य लोकेशन प्रणाली

डब्ल्यूजीएस दुनिया में इस्तेमाल होने वाली मानक भू-स्थानिक निर्देशांक प्रणाली है। जीपीएस, उपग्रह आधारित नेविगेशन, डिजिटल मैपिंग और विमान ट्रैकिंग जैसी आधुनिक प्रणालियां इसी पर आधारित हैं। किसी भी स्थान की सटीक भौगोलिक स्थिति तय करने में यह प्रणाली सबसे विश्वसनीय मानी जाती है। एयरपोर्ट के एयरसाइड संकेतक भी अब इसी वैश्विक मानक के अनुरूप होंगे।

पहचान वैश्विक भू-स्थानिक मानकों के अनुरूप होगी। इससे पायलटों, एयर ट्रैफिक कंट्रोल (एटीसी), ग्राउंड स्टाफ और एयरलाइन कंपनियों के बीच समन्वय बेहतर

होगा। परिचालन संबंधी गलतियों की आशंका भी कम होगी।

डब्ल्यूजीएस आधारित संकेतकों से विमान पार्किंग, ग्राउंड हैंडलिंग और एयर ट्रैफिक संचालन के दौरान

सभी एजेंसियां एक समान लोकेशन सिस्टम का इस्तेमाल करेंगी। इससे विमानों का टर्नअराउंड टाइम कम होगा और उड़ानों के समय पर संचालन में मदद मिलेगी।

आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर रोजाना सैकड़ों उड़ानों का संचालन होता है। व्यस्त समय में कई विमानों को टर्मिनल भवन से दूर स्थित रिमोट स्टैंड पर खड़ा किया जाता है।

यात्रियों को यहां तक बसों के जरिए पहुंचाया जाता है। नई व्यवस्था लागू होने के बाद विमान, सेवा वाहनों और ग्राउंड टीमों के लिए निर्धारित स्थान तक पहुंचना पहले से अधिक आसान और तेज हो जाएगा। इस तकनीक का सबसे बड़ा फायदा एटीसी और पायलटों को मिलेगा।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

2 AUGUST 2026

New Vizag int'l airport opens

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Nearly 12 years after the bifurcation of the state, Andhra Pradesh got its first green-field international airport with a capacity to handle six million passengers an-

nually. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, in Vizianagaram district, on Saturday.

Details on Page 8

KIADB urges Centre to fast-track eco clearance for Vijayapura airport

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Infrastructure Development Corporation (KIADB) has urged the Union government to expedite the long-pending environmental clearance for the Vijayapura Greenfield Airport, following a recent Supreme Court judgment that cleared a major legal hurdle delaying the project.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on Friday, KIADB Managing Director Khushbu Goyal requested early consideration of the state's proposal for environmental clearance.

The letter was written at the direction of Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil.

The request comes days after a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, in its July 29 judgment, ruled that projects commenced without prior environmental clearance but which subsequently sought approval under the applicable regulatory framework could be considered in accordance with the law.

The case arose from a petition filed by the Vanashakti organisation challenging projects undertaken without prior environmental clearance.

Referring to the judgment, Khushbu said the Vijayapura Greenfield Airport has complied with all other statutory requirements and is ready for commissioning.

She noted that the airport, built at an estimated cost of around Rs 618 crore, is expected to improve regional connectivity and boost agricultural exports, tourism, industrial investment, education and overall socio-economic development in the Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka regions.

The Supreme Court verdict has effectively removed the principal obstacle to the airport's commissioning, paving the way for the project to move forward once environmental clearance is granted.

Earlier this week, Patil had said that the airport could be inaugurated and become operational within the next three months, subject to the grant of environmental clearance and completion of the remaining statutory formalities.



The runway of Vijayapura airport. The facility, built at an estimated cost of Rs 618 crore, is expected to improve regional connectivity and boost agricultural exports, tourism, industrial investment, education and overall socio-economic development in Kittur Karnataka and Kitturu Karnataka regions. DH FILE PHOTO



Corporate Communications Directorate

DECCAN HERALD

BANGALORE

2 AUGUST 2026



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram. PTI

Andhra gets Greenfield Intl airport

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated Andhra Pradesh's first Greenfield international airport in Vizianagaram that has the capacity to handle 60 lakh passengers annually.

Named after the legendary freedom fighter, the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport project at Bhogapur-

am was conceived in 2014, soon after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, when it became an urgent economic necessity following the state's loss of Hyderabad to Telangana.

The airport's state-of-the-art terminal features facial recognition for paperless entry, more than 10 aerobridges, and the capacity to manage 2,500 passengers an hour.

Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK JAGRAN

KANPUR

2 AUGUST 2026

पहले एयरपोर्ट के नाम केवल एक परिवार के नाम पर रखे जाते थे : मोदी

विशाखापत्तनम, ग्रेट्र : प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने शनिवार को आंध्र प्रदेश के विजयनगरम जिले के भोगपुरम में नवनिर्मित अल्लूरी सीताराम राजू अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डे का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा कि यह एयरपोर्ट आंध्र प्रदेश के विकास के लिए "रनवे" के रूप में कार्य करेगा। इस दौरान उन्होंने कांग्रेस और गांधी परिवार पर भी कटाक्ष किया कि पहले एयरपोर्ट केवल एक परिवार के नाम पर होते थे। पीएम ने कहा कि अब तस्वीर पूरी तरह बदल गई है। उधर, कर्नाटक के मैसूरु में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में मोदी ने युवाओं से विकसित भारत के निर्माण में जुटने का आह्वान करते हुए कहा कि स्वामी विवेकानंद के आदर्श राष्ट्र निर्माण के लिए एक मजबूत रोडमैप (मार्गदर्शिका) हैं। कहा देश के युवाओं में भारत को साल 2047 तक एक विकसित राष्ट्र बनाने की पूरी क्षमता है।



प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी • फाइल

- पीएम ने आंध्र प्रदेश में नवनिर्मित एयरपोर्ट का उद्घाटन करते वक्त कांग्रेस वा गांधी परिवार पर साधा निशाना
- भोगपुरम में पांच हजार करोड़ की लागत से बने अल्लूरी सीताराम राजू एयरपोर्ट का किया उद्घाटन
- युवाओं से विकसित भारत के निर्माण में जुटने का आह्वान, कहा- स्वामी विवेकानंद के आदर्श राष्ट्र निर्माण को मजबूत रोडमैप

भोगपुरम में एयरपोर्ट के लोकार्पण के साथ ही राज्यभर में 18,000 करोड़ रुपये की विकास परियोजनाओं का शुभारंभ करने के बाद रैली में पीएम ने कहा 5,700 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की लागत से बनाए गए इस एयरपोर्ट की प्रारंभिक वार्षिक यात्री क्षमता 60 लाख है। मोदी ने कहा 12 वर्षों में देश के नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति हुई है

और हवाईअड्डों की संख्या 74 से बढ़कर 166 हो गई है। मोदी ने कहा वैश्विक कंपनियां आंध्र प्रदेश में निवेश की संभावनाएं तलाश रही हैं। राज्य मैनुफैक्चरिंग गतिविधियों का हब बन सकता है। इससे रोजगार के अवसर पैदा होंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि गूगल ने भी विशाखापत्तनम में 15 अरब डालर के एआई और क्लाउड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर कैपेक्स की घोषणा की है। प्रधानमंत्री ने यह भी

कहा कि केंद्र सरकार नक्कापल्ली में विकसित किए जा रहे मेगा फार्मा पार्क को पूरा सहयोग दे रही है, जिससे आंध्र प्रदेश फार्मास्युटिकल क्षेत्र का बड़ा केंद्र बन सकता है। पीएम ने विशाखापत्तनम में 460 करोड़ की लागत वाली एसआइपी सेमीकंडक्टर परियोजना का शिलान्यास किया। यह परियोजना 'एसआइपी टेक्नोलॉजीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड' द्वारा दक्षिण कोरिया की एपीएसीटी के सहयोग से विकसित की जा रही है। इसमें प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 9.60 करोड़ सेमीकंडक्टर चिप का निर्माण होगा।

मैसूरु में श्री रामकृष्ण आश्रम में स्वामी विवेकानंद सांस्कृतिक युवा केंद्र का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने भारत के युवाओं से सेवा, नवाचार, शिक्षा और अनुशासन के माध्यम से राष्ट्र निर्माण के लिए खुद को समर्पित करने का आह्वान किया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

2 AUGUST 2026

Modi inaugurates new int'l airport near Vizag



Srinivasa Rao Apparasu

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HYDERABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced that the Centre would extend all its support to the upcoming Visakhapatnam Economic Region, which would play a pivotal role in Andhra Pradesh's development journey and evolve into one of Asia's most significant economic hubs.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the Visakhapatnam Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, Modi said the Centre was committed to creating the necessary infrastructure and ecosystem to transform the

PM SAID IT WAS A MATTER OF PRIDE THAT THE AIRPORT HAD BEEN NAMED AFTER A FREEDOM FIGHTER

region into a major investment and employment destination.

Modi said NDA government's development strategy was centred on attracting investments that would generate employment, increase production, boost exports, and ultimately improve the quality of life for people.

"Investment leads to production, production leads to

exports, exports create employment, and employment transforms people's lives. This is the development model the NDA government is pursuing," he said.

Describing the day as a landmark in Andhra Pradesh's march towards achieving the 'Swarna Andhra Vision', he said projects worth nearly ₹18,000 crore, including the inauguration of the new international airport, had been launched.

The Prime Minister said it was a matter of pride that the Bhogapuram airport had been named after freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, who sacrificed his life for the rights of tribal communities.

PM Narendra Modi

ANI



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

PATNA

2 AUGUST 2026



PM Narendra Modi along with Andhra Pradesh Governor Syed Abdul Nazeer and Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu views a model of the newly inaugurated Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport during his visit to Bhogapuram, in Vizianagaram on Saturday.

ANI

PM Modi inaugurates
Bhogapuram airport

*Says Andhra Pradesh poised
to be manufacturing hub*

OUR CORRESPONDENT



CLOSER LOOK

- » Modi said the airport would become the 'runway' for Andhra Pradesh's development, particularly in the northern region
- » Developed by the GMR Group, the airport will commence commercial flight operations on August 17

VISAKHAPAT-
NAM: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted Andhra Pradesh's growth prospects, saying global companies were increasingly looking to invest in the state, which is poised to emerge as a major manufacturing hub.

Addressing a public rally after inaugurating the airport at Bhogapuram and launching development projects worth Rs 18,000 crore, Modi said the airport would become the "runway" for Andhra Pradesh's development, particularly in the northern region.

The Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport has been built at a cost of over Rs 5,700 crore with an initial annual passenger handling capacity of six million, expandable to 40 million.

Developed by the GMR Group, the airport will commence commercial flight operations on August 17.

"Google has announced a \$15 billion AI and cloud infrastructure campus at Visakhapatnam. Many other global companies are also exploring new opportunities. This will greatly benefit Andhra Pradesh and create opportunities for the country's youth," Modi said.

He said the Centre was backing a mega pharma park at Nakkapalli, **Continued on P4**

PM Modi

which is being developed into a major pharmaceutical hub in the state.

The Centre and the Andhra Pradesh government are prioritising the blue economy, port development and industrial growth, he said, adding that the state was also making rapid strides in sectors such as semiconductors, information technology and innovation.

Modi said the country's blue economy initiatives were gaining momentum, helping position north Andhra Pradesh as a "coastal economic corridor". Generating employment through investment remained the government's priority, he said. The blue economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources to drive economic growth, create jobs, and safeguard marine ecosystems.

Projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore had been announced for Andhra Pradesh in recent years, while railway projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore were under implementation in the state. The PM said Andhra Pradesh had the potential to become a hub for manufacturing and the pharmaceutical sector.

During his address, Modi said the country's aviation sector had witnessed remarkable growth over the past 12 years, with the number of airports more than doubling from 74 to 166.

The naming of the airport reflected the government's emphasis on recognising the contributions of inspiring personalities from the country's rich history, he said.

Taking a swipe at the Congress and the Gandhi family, Modi said, "Earlier, airports were named only after one family," and asserted that his government had changed that practice.

He cited the naming of the airport at Varanasi after Maharishi

Valmiki as an example.

Referring to the regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik), Modi said it had enabled people from smaller towns to travel by air.

He said the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh, led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, was working at "double speed" to accelerate the state's development.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu described the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport in Vizianagaram district as the "jewel of north Andhra", saying it would transform the region's economic landscape.

Modi, accompanied by Naidu and Civil Aviation Minister K Ram-mohan Naidu, arrived at the venue in an open-top vehicle amid cheers from the gathering.

The Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram is the country's second greenfield airport to commence operations this year, after Uttar Pradesh's Jewar airport, which began commercial flight operations on June 15.

In a statement, the GMR Group said the airport had been completed several months ahead of schedule and would begin commercial operations on August 17.

Spread over 2,200 acres, the airport has been developed by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd under the Public-Private Partnership model on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer basis. The integrated project spans 2,703.26 acres, comprising the airport spread across 2,203.32 acres, a 500-acre aviation hub, and an aviation university and EduCity over 136.63 acres, besides comprehensive airside infrastructure, commercial development, residential zones and approach roads.

GMR Airports Ltd, part of the GMR Group, operates six airports and has developed greenfield airports at Hyderabad, Goa and Bhogapuram.

In Mysuru, PM Modi inaugurated the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth Centre - Viveka Smaraka - at Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama here. He also offered prayers and floral tributes to Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, his wife 'Maa' Sharada Devi and disciple Swami Vivekananda.

Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister D K Shivakumar accompanied him.

According to an official statement, the Viveka Smaraka commemorates Swami Vivekananda's historic visit to Mysuru in November 1892 during his journey across India.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

2 AUGUST 2026

PM inaugurates Alluri Sitarama Raju int'l airport

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Bhogapuram (AP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated and dedicated the Rs 5,600-crore Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, about 50km from Visakhapatnam, to the nation. He also laid the foundation stone for development projects worth more than Rs17,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the greenfield airport, Modi said naming the new greenfield airport after freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju reflects the NDA government's commitment to honouring national icons rather than members of "a single family" — an apparent swipe at the Congress.

"In the past, airports were named after members of a single family. We have changed that tradition," Modi said, citing airports named after Maharishi Valmiki in Ayodhya and Sant Ravidas in Punjab.

Modi dedicates ₹5,600-crore Bhogapuram airport to nation

Pitches Andhra As India's 'Next Growth Engine'

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ANDHRA'S NEW GATEWAY: Prime Minister Narendra Modi also laid the foundation stone for development projects worth more than ₹17,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. He highlighted that the number of operational airports in the country had increased from 74 in 2014 to 166

members of a single family. We have changed that tradition," Modi said, citing airports named after Maharishi Valmiki in Ayodhya and Sant Ravidas in Punjab.

"Every citizen of Andhra, every Indian and every international traveller who uses this airport will draw inspiration from the life and

sacrifices of Alluri Sitarama Raju."

Describing Andhra Pradesh as a state with the potential to become a "growth engine of a developed India", the PM said the Centre had accelerated investments across sectors.

"During my last three visits alone, projects worth ne-

arly ₹2 lakh crore have either been launched or inaugurated in the state. He said the Centre is building a comprehensive industrial ecosystem in the state, spanning semiconductors, artificial intelligence, data centres, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy. He also highlighted the Centre's support for a bulk drug and pharmaceutical manufacturing ecosystem at Nakkapalli, adding that investments exceeding ₹5 lakh crore had been committed to green energy projects in the state's Rayalaseema region.

Highlighting the growth of India's aviation sector, Modi said the number of operational airports in the country has increased from 74 in 2014 to 166. He also announced the launch of the UDAN regional connectivity scheme, under which investments of ₹29,000 crore are planned, and said govt was expanding its spoke airport model to improve international connectivity beyond major metropolitan centres.

PM opens AP airport, says state to drive India's growth

**Modi Launches
₹17.9k Crore
Projects in Andhra**

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PM Narendra Modi, AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu and aviation minister K Rammoohan Naidu at Bhogapuram airport, on Saturday

rama Raju reflected the NDA govt's commitment to honouring national icons rather than members of "a single family"—an apparent swipe at the Congress.

"In the past, airports were named after members of a

single family. We have changed that tradition," Modi said, referring to airports named after Maharishi Valmiki in Ayodhya and Sant Ravidas in Punjab.

►Continued on P6

►From P1

The Prime Minister added, "Every citizen of Andhra Pradesh, every Indian and every international traveller who uses this airport will draw inspiration from the life and sacrifices of Alluri Sitarama Raju."

Describing Andhra Pradesh as a state with the potential to become the "growth engine of a developed India", the PM said the Centre had significantly stepped up investments in the state across multiple sectors.

"During my last three visits alone, projects worth nearly Rs 2 lakh crore have either been launched or inaugurated in the state. We are developing the Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER) into one of India's major industrial centres, with the goal of making it a leading economic hub in Asia," he said.

Modi said the Centre was creating a comprehensive industrial ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh encompassing semiconductors, artificial intelligence, data centres, pharmaceuticals and renewable



ECONOMIC HUB

energy. Referring to Google's proposed \$15-billion AI and cloud infrastructure campus in Visakhapatnam, he said Andhra Pradesh was emerging as a preferred destination for global technology investments that would genera-

te employment and create opportunities for the country's youth.

The PM highlighted the Centre's support for developing a bulk drug and pharmaceutical manufacturing ecosystem at Nakkapalli. He said investments exceeding Rs 5 lakh crore had been committed to green energy projects in the Rayalaseema region.

Calling the occasion 'historic', Modi praised more than 13,000 tribal women and girls for setting a world record by performing the traditional Dhimsa dance.

"On one hand, an airport that reaches for the skies has been built; on the other, our tribal sisters have created a world record, showcasing India's rich tribal heritage," he said.

Highlighting the rapid expansion of India's aviation sector, Modi said the number of operational airports in the country had increased from 74 in 2014 to 166. He also announced the launch of the second phase of the UDAN regional connectivity scheme, under which investments of Rs 29,000 crore are planned.



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

3 AUGUST 2026

IndiGo targets bigger global push, diaspora traffic through India



As IndiGo marks 20 years of operations, the airline that transformed air travel in India is preparing for what its cofounder calls a "longer leap of flying" as it charts an ambitious international expansion to connect the global Indian diaspora to their homeland, recapture international traffic now flowing through Gulf hubs and, over the longer term, carry passengers between foreign countries via India. The country's largest airline, which has a domestic market share of more than 66 per cent, is set to induct Airbus A321 XLR aircraft before taking delivery of wide-body A350s from 2028. With an extensive domestic network, IndiGo is prepared to take a "longer leap of flying", IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia (*pictured*) said, adding that the airline will connect more overseas destinations with the A321 XLR and later with the A350.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS STANDARD

DELHI

3 AUGUST 2026

Dominating the sky

Indian aviation needs more competition

IndiGo, with more than 66 per cent of the passenger share among domestic airlines, is leaving its teens during a difficult period in aviation history. While IndiGo, at 20, is a success story in the Indian skies for continuing to fly (for a large part in profit) for two decades, its market dominance has often raised a question mark over the issue of competition. While a possible duopoly has been a matter of concern in other sectors such as telecom — even pushing the government to pick up a significant stake in a debt-ridden private telecom company — aviation has been a largely two-player market for all practical purposes in the recent years. Although the government is reportedly exploring the idea of allowing airport owners to run airlines, it should not allow another monopolistic air pocket.

That said, with India witnessing robust growth in passenger traffic, it needs greater competition to help both the industry and consumers. In India, which is the third-largest domestic market globally, the annual passenger traffic is estimated at over 400 million. According to a government projection, the numbers could exceed one billion by 2047. Even as some stringent rules, such as the policy that required airlines to operate within India for five years before going international, got scrapped, there's need for greater reform to broaden consumer choice. While there's been an investment push to increase the number of airports and boost regional connectivity, it's important to enhance competition following the privatisation of Air India (now in the Tata group) and subsequent consolidation. The consolidation has left the market with two airlines of consequence — IndiGo and the Air India group. The rest are small players.

The agile and low-cost carrier founded by Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal, with its first flight using the A320 aircraft between New Delhi and Imphal on August 4, 2006, had entered a crowded and competitive aviation market. Air India, Jet Airways, and Kingfisher Airlines, besides SpiceJet, Air Deccan and GoAir, were its competition then. After running for more than 20 years, Jet got grounded in 2019 due to mounting debt, providing IndiGo more space to expand aggressively. Among others, Kingfisher stopped operations in 2012, Air Deccan in 2008 in its first stint and subsequently as a regional player in 2020, and GoAir in 2023. Against this backdrop, the industry sees high taxes on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) as an obstacle to profitability. High operational cost owing to high airport charges at major centres also affects profitability. Covid-linked flying restrictions and the geopolitical situation barring several routes have added to the stress in the aviation sector.

Although this is a global reality, India's hurdles have been harder to overcome because of the blocking of Pakistan's airspace for international flights. Besides, there are regulatory issues linked to pilot fatigue and flight duty time limitations (FDTL). IndiGo was at the centre of it all in December last year, when it failed to comply with the regulatory norms on pilot fatigue and FDTL, cancelling hundreds of flights and throwing Indian aviation into chaos. The December crisis, arguably caused by a duopoly situation, also took the issue of pilot shortage centre stage. The policymakers, regulators and the industry should invest meaningfully in pilot training while making Indian aviation attractive for the existing lineup of talented pilots and crew members.

इंडिगो की 20वीं वर्षगांठ पर 'लंबी उड़ान' की तैयारी

भाषा

नई दिल्ली, 2 अगस्त

इंडिगो एयरलाइन अपने परिचालन के 20 वर्ष पूरे होने पर अब एक 'लंबी दूरी की उड़ान' शुरू करने की तैयारी कर रही है और बड़े पैमाने पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय विस्तार की योजना बना रही है। इसके तहत एयरलाइन दुनिया भर में बसे प्रवासी भारतीयों को उनके देश से जोड़ने, खाड़ी देशों के केंद्र से होकर जाने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई यातायात को वापस अपनी उड़ानों में लाने और भविष्य में भारत के रास्ते विदेशों के बीच यात्रियों को ले जाने का लक्ष्य रखेगी।

घरेलू बाजार में 66 प्रतिशत से अधिक हिस्सेदारी रखने वाली देश की यह प्रमुख एयरलाइन कंपनी जल्द ही एयरबस ए321 एक्सएलआर विमान अपने बेड़े में



शामिल करने जा रही है और 2028 से ए350 बड़े आकार के विमानों की आपूर्ति शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। इंडिगो के प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया ने कहा कि व्यापक घरेलू नेटवर्क के दम पर कंपनी अब 'लंबी दूरी की उड़ानों' की दिशा में बड़ा कदम उठाने को तैयार है और ए321 एक्सएलआर तथा बाद में ए350 विमानों के जरिये अधिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय गंतव्यों को जोड़ा जाएगा।

हालांकि, भाटिया ने कहा कि 4 अगस्त को कंपनी की 20वीं वर्षगांठ

है, लेकिन अब भी इंडिगो को वैश्विक एयरलाइन कहना जल्दबाजी होगी। प्रबंध निदेशक के साथ ही कंपनी के सह-संस्थापक भाटिया ने कहा, 'क्या हम वहां पहुंचना चाहते हैं? हां, हमारी आकांक्षा है, लेकिन कंपनी का मूल अब भी घरेलू नेटवर्क ही है। बड़े विमानों के साथ कुछ प्रयोग हो रहे हैं, लेकिन हमें वैश्विक कहना अभी कल्पना को बढ़ाना होगा।'

भाटिया ने कहा कि लंबी दूरी की रणनीति का मुख्य केंद्र भारतीय यात्रियों और वैश्विक भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय को सेवा देना होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले एक दशक में खाड़ी देशों की एयरलाइन ने अपने केंद्र के जरिये भारत से जाने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय यातायात का बड़ा हिस्सा अपने कब्जे में ले लिया, जिससे आर्थिक मूल्य विदेश चला गया।



Corporate Communications Directorate

DAINIK BHASKAR

JAIPUR

2 AUGUST 2026

दिल्ली के लिए दोपहर 12 बजे भी अब फ्लाइट

जयपुर | जयपुर से दिल्ली जाने वाले यात्रियों को अब दोपहर में भी सीधी फ्लाइट मिल सकेगी। एयर इंडिया ने शनिवार से फ्लाइट एआई-430 का संचालन शुरू किया है। यह फ्लाइट जयपुर एयरपोर्ट से दोपहर 12 बजे दिल्ली के लिए रवाना होगी। इससे पहले यही विमान एआई-429 के रूप में दिल्ली से सुबह 11:20 बजे जयपुर पहुंचेगा।

नई फ्लाइट जुड़ने के बाद जयपुर से दिल्ली के लिए रोजाना पांच डायरेक्ट फ्लाइट्स उपलब्ध हो गई हैं। यात्रियों को पहली फ्लाइट सुबह 8:50 बजे और आखिरी शाम 5:15 बजे मिलेगी।

सुबह से शाम तक 5 फ्लाइट

एयरलाइन	फ्लाइट	प्रस्थान
एयर इंडिया	एआई-1834	सुबह 8:50 बजे
इंडिगो	6ई-2165	सुबह 9:10 बजे
एयर इंडिया	एआई-430	दोपहर 12 बजे
इंडिगो	6ई-2038	दोपहर 1 बजे
इंडिगो	6ई-6492	शाम 5:15 बजे

पायलटों की कमी पूरा करने को खुलेंगे 11 नए फ्लाईंग स्कूल

नई दिल्ली, एएनआइ : देश में पायलटों की कमी दूर करने और विदेशी फ्लाईंग स्कूलों पर निर्भरता घटाने के लिए 11 नए फ्लाईंग स्कूल खुलेंगे। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआइ) ने देश में पायलट ट्रेनिंग की क्षमता को मजबूत करने का बड़ा कदम उठाया है। एएआइ ने फरवरी 2026 में शुरू किए गए लेटेस्ट ई-टैंडर राउंड के तहत अपने सात हवाईअड्डों पर 11 नए फ्लाईंग ट्रेनिंग आर्गनाइजेशन (एफटीओ) के लिए टेंडर प्रक्रिया पूरी कर ली है। एएआइ के अनुसार, तकनीकी बोलियां 30 अप्रैल 2026 को और वित्तीय बोलियां 22 मई 2026 को खोली गईं। यह पूरी प्रक्रिया सफल रही है।

गौरतलब है कि अत्यधिक समय तक उड़ान के कारण देश में पायलट थकावट का सामना कर रहे हैं। इसके लिए सरकार ने पायलटों के काम के घंटे कम करने के लिए नए नियम भी लागू किए हैं, लेकिन एयरलाइन कंपनियां इसका विरोध कर रही हैं। ऐसे में नए फ्लाईंग स्कूल खोलने से प्रशिक्षित पायलटों



- एएआइ ने पूरी की नए फ्लाईंग ट्रेनिंग आर्गनाइजेशन के लिए टेंडर प्रक्रिया
- पायलट ट्रेनिंग क्षमता होगी मजबूत, विदेशी फ्लाईंग स्कूलों पर घटेगी निर्भरता

पायलट लाइसेंस जारी करने की संख्या में हुई है बढ़ोतरी पायलट लाइसेंस जारी करने की संख्या में बढ़ोतरी हुई है। कमर्शियल पायलट लाइसेंस जारी करने की संख्या 2018 में 640 थी। यह संख्या 2024 में 1628 हो गई। डीजीसीए ने विदेश में ट्रेनिंग लेने वाले कैडेट्स को 615 कमर्शियल पायलट लाइसेंस और 2309 स्टूडेंट पायलट लाइसेंस भी जारी किए।

की कमी दूरने में मदद मिल सकती है। नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय का अनुमान है कि अगले 10 साल में 30 हजार से 31 हजार 800 अतिरिक्त पायलटों की जरूरत होगी। अगले 5 साल में एयरलाइंस 500 नए विमान बेड़े में शामिल करेंगी। 50 नए एयरपोर्ट भी बनने वाले हैं। इस समय देश में है

नए एफटीओ से होने वाले फायदे

- उम्मीद है कि 11 नए एफटीओ शुरुआती चरण में 60 से 70 ट्रेनिंग विमान जुड़ेंगे। पूरी क्षमता पर कुल मिलाकर 110 से 120 एयरक्राफ्ट का बेड़ा होगा, साथ ही कई सिम्युलेटर और ट्रेनिंग डिवाइस भी होंगे।
- शुरुआत में हर साल 400 से 500 एविएशन प्रोफेशनल्स (जिनमें कैडेट पायलट और टेक्निकल ट्रेनी शामिल हैं) को मिलेगी ट्रेनिंग। पूरी तरह चालू होने पर, यह संख्या बढ़कर हर साल लगभग 1500 प्रोफेशनल्स तक पहुंच सकती है।
- विदेशी पायलट ट्रेनिंग पर निर्भरता कम होगी। ट्रेनिंग पर होने वाला रकम भारत में ही खर्च होगा। क्षेत्रीय हवाईअड्डों के इस्तेमाल को बेहतर बनाने और उन्हें शुरुआती फ्लाईंग ट्रेनिंग के लिए आदर्श बनाने में मदद मिलेगी।

डीजीसीए से मान्यता प्राप्त 41 एफटीओ अप्रैल 2026 तक देश में डीजीसीए से मान्यता प्राप्त 41 एफटीओ हैं जो 63 फ्लाईंग बेस से काम कर रहे हैं। एएआइ के नोट में चेतावनी दी गई है कि अगर घरेलू ट्रेनिंग क्षमता का तेजी से विस्तार नहीं किया गया, तो बढ़ती मांग को

लंबे समय तक पूरा नहीं किया जा सकेगा। 2021 में पांच एयरपोर्ट पर नौ एफटीओ स्लाट दिए गए और 2022 में पांच एयरपोर्ट पर छह और स्लाट दिए गए थे। इसके साथ ही एएआइ बोर्ड ने एफटीओ के विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 20 एयरपोर्ट पर 25 साल के लिए जमीन देने को मंजूरी दी थी।

WITH DOMESTIC LEADERSHIP SECURED, THE NEXT CHALLENGE IS GLOBAL EXPANSION

IndiGo at 20: The harder climb begins

NITIN KUMAR
& AKBAR MERCHANT
New Delhi/Mumbai, August 2

THERE WAS A time when Maruti Suzuki's identity was almost inseparable from the Maruti 800. Affordable, reliable and built for the Indian middle class, the compact hatchback transformed personal mobility much the way the Ambassador and Premier Padmini once defined an earlier era. But as incomes rose and consumer preferences shifted, Maruti realised that selling small cars alone would not sustain leadership. SUVs replaced hatchbacks as the industry's growth engine, forcing the company to broaden its portfolio, enter premium segments and rethink its strategy while holding on to the efficiency that had made it the country's largest carmaker.

As IndiGo completes 20 years on August 4, it finds itself at a similar inflection point. The formula that transformed Indian aviation over the past two decades has taken the airline to the top of the domestic

THE SCALE-UP

THEN	NOW
First flight: Aug 4, 2006	2,200+ daily departures
1 aircraft family	440+ aircraft
Delhi-Guwahati-Imphal	140+ destinations
Domestic LCC	A350 long-haul strategy
No premium cabin	IndiGoStretch
No loyalty programme	BluChip
India-focused	Global ambition



The aircraft which took the first flight of IndiGo on August 4, 2006, flying from New Delhi to Imphal

market. The challenge now is not merely to defend that position but to build a globally competitive airline in a business that demands very different capabilities from the ones that helped it dominate India's skies.

When IndiGo launched operations between Delhi, Guwahati and Imphal in August 2006, Indian aviation

was defined by flamboyance. Jet Airways was the country's premier full-service airline. Kingfisher Airlines was promising a luxury flying experience. Market share battles were fierce, costs were rising and airlines competed as much on services as on scale.

IndiGo chose a different path. Instead of chasing glam-

our, it focused on execution. One aircraft family, quick turnaround times, high aircraft utilisation and an obsession with punctuality became the pillars of a business model that prioritised consistency over excitement. The strategy looked unremarkable at the time but proved remarkably durable. Two decades later, Kingfisher

has disappeared, Jet Airways has ceased operations and Go First has folded. IndiGo, meanwhile, operates more than 2,200 daily departures, has over 440 aircraft in service and an order book of more than 900 aircraft, while carrying over 680 million passengers since its inception.

The first phase of its journey was about making flying affordable and accessible. The next will be about something far more ambitious.

Rahul Bhatia, the airline's co-founder and managing director, has described the coming decade as the most significant phase of international expansion in IndiGo's history. For years, the airline's messaging revolved around low fares, punctuality and operational reliability. Today, it is talking about long-haul operations, India as a global aviation hub and building an airline with a much wider international footprint.

Continued on Page 12

IndiGo at 20: The harder climb begins at...

FLIGHT PATH



processes. International expansion changes that equation. Widebody aircraft require different maintenance capabilities and crew planning. Long-haul passengers expect premium cabins, lounge

IndiGo has ordered Airbus A321XLR aircraft to open medium-haul international markets, doubled its Airbus 350 order

been the cornerstone of its domestic operations," he adds. For the first time in its history, IndiGo is preparing to operate Airbus A350 aircraft, a move that takes it into a segment dominated by established global airlines such as Emirates, Singapore Airlines, Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines. The economics of long-haul flying bear little resemblance to short domestic sectors. Aircraft spend longer in the air, turnaround times increase, crew scheduling becomes more demanding and geopolitical disruptions can force costly changes to flight paths.

The airline also enters this phase at a time when competition at home is beginning to intensify again. Air India, backed by the Tata Group, is rebuilding itself into a global network carrier with a massive aircraft order, while Akasa Air continues to expand its domestic footprint.

supply chain disruptions and engine issues, such as those involving Pratt & Whitney in recent years, have already shown how quickly external factors can disrupt fleet plans. Reportedly, the government is considering removing

Unlike the past decade, when several rivals were preoccupied with financial survival, IndiGo now faces competitors with deeper pockets and long-term ambitions.

If there was one episode that highlighted the limits of scale, it came in December 2025. The introduction of revised flight duty and rest regulations for pilots exposed weaknesses in IndiGo's crew planning, triggering widespread cancellations and delays. A subsequent government inquiry pointed to inadequate preparedness for the new rules, deficiencies in planning systems and over-optimisation of operations. The disruption dented the airline's carefully cultivated reputation for reliability and served as a reminder that efficiency and resilience are not always the same thing.

For years, IndiGo's competitive edge came from running one of the industry's leanest operations. But as airlines become larger and networks more interconnected, a highly optimised system can also become more vulnerable to disruptions.

What works for a 500-flight operation does not necessarily work for one operating more than 2,200 daily departures.

The episode reinforced a broader point.

The next phase of IndiGo's growth will depend less on adding aircraft and more on building organisational depth. Managing an order book of more than 900 aircraft will require thousands of additional pilots, engineers and cabin crew, while India's airport and maintenance infrastructure will also have to expand in tandem.

Supply chain disruptions and engine issues, such as those involving Pratt & Whitney in recent years, have already shown how quickly external factors can disrupt fleet plans. Reportedly, the government is considering removing

the cross-holding restrictions under the Operation, Management and Development Agreement (OMDA) for Delhi and Mumbai airports. This has led to a fresh debate over whether airport operators should be allowed to own airlines. Proponents argue that allowing infrastructure companies with deep balance sheets to enter aviation could create stronger competitors and increase consumer choice. Bhatia has strongly opposed the proposal, pointing out that airports control critical infrastructure such as slots and terminal access, making airline ownership by airport operators a potential conflict of interest.

AeroIntellect's Mittal believes India's geography could become one of IndiGo's biggest advantages if the country succeeds in developing itself as a transit hub linking East and West. Airports such as Delhi, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Jewar, Chennai and Kolkata could emerge as connecting gateways over the next decade. The airline's move into premium travel and underserved long-haul routes also opens up new revenue streams that simply did not exist when IndiGo began operations.

The irony is that IndiGo's next challenge may not be defeating competitors but reinventing itself. Like Maruti Suzuki, which discovered that remaining the largest carmaker required becoming a very different company from the one that built the Maruti 800, IndiGo now finds itself at a point where leadership demands reinvention rather than repetition.

The low-cost philosophy that transformed Indian aviation is unlikely to disappear. But it will have to coexist with premium products, global partnerships, widebody aircraft and international hubs.

The first two decades rewarded standardisation, discipline and simplicity. The next will demand adaptability.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

3 AUGUST 2026

FTA opens runway for direct India-NZ flights

PRASANTA SAHU
Auckland, August 2

THE INDIA-NEW ZEALAND free trade agreement (FTA) is expected to deepen trade and investment between the two countries, but one of its most visible outcomes could be in the skies connecting tourism hotspots in the Pacific nation.

Air New Zealand is positioning itself for direct services to India, seeing growing opportunities in business travel, tourism, education and freight. Tourism operators across New Zealand are equally optimistic, expecting easier air connectivity to translate into more Indian visitors exploring the country's adventure and cultural attractions.

India is already New Zealand's fastest-growing major tourism market. Around 81,000 Indian visitors trav-

NIKHIL RAVISHANKAR,
CEO, AIR NEW ZEALAND

Air New Zealand is expanding its commercial presence in India while working with Air India on regulatory approvals for a joint venture



elled to New Zealand in 2024-25, with holidaymakers accounting for 30% of arrivals. Visitor numbers continue to climb, with about 8,000 Indians arriving in April 2026 alone. Most visitors spend more than a week in the country and travel across multiple regions, making destinations such as Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown and Christchurch major beneficiaries of the

growing market.

"The potential is significant," Air New Zealand Chief Executive Nikhil Ravishankar told FE. "Over time, I think we'll see strong growth in direct connectivity, but also in overall air connectivity between New Zealand and India."

While nonstop flights attract the headlines, Ravishankar said India's diversity means connectivity across the

country is just as important.

"One of the challenges with direct connectivity is you've got to pick one place to launch a service," he said. "Today, through our partnerships with Singapore Airlines, Scoot and Air India, we already connect 15 destinations across India via Singapore. That hub-and-spoke model gives customers access to a much broader network."

Ravishankar said Air New Zealand is expanding its commercial presence in India while working with Air India on regulatory approvals for a joint venture, a key step towards launching nonstop operations.

"Simply adding an aircraft doesn't guarantee demand—you need tourism promotion, commercial partnerships and market development. That work is already underway," he said.



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JANSATTA

DELHI

3 AUGUST 2026

इंडिगो की 20 वीं वर्षगांठ पर 'लंबी उड़ान' की तैयारी की

नई दिल्ली, 2 अगस्त (ब्यूरो)।

परिचालन के 20 वर्ष पूरे होने पर इंडिगो एअरलाइन अब एक 'लंबी दूरी की उड़ान' शुरू करने की तैयारी के तहत अपनी अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवाओं के विस्तार की योजना बना रही है। इसके तहत एअरलाइन दुनिया भर में बसे प्रवासी भारतीयों को स्वदेश से जोड़ने, खाड़ी देशों से होकर जाने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई यातायात को वापस हासिल करने सहित भविष्य में भारत के रास्ते अपनी उड़ानों के जरिए अलग अलग देशों तक यात्रियों को पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य है। इंडिगो अपने परिचालन के 20 वर्ष पूरे होने का जश्न मना रही है, और भारत में हवाई यात्रा को बदलने वाली यह एयरलाइन अपने सह-संस्थापक द्वारा वर्णित 'उड़ान की एक लंबी छलांग' के लिए तैयारी कर रही है। इंडिगो के प्रबंध निदेशक राहुल भाटिया ने कहा कि कंपनी जल्द ही एअरबस ए321 एक्सएलआर विमान अपने बेड़े में शामिल करने जा रही है और 2028 से ए 350 (बड़े आकार) विमानों की आपूर्ति शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।



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JANSATTA

DELHI

3 AUGUST 2026

पिन्स तकनीक लागू, खराब मौसम में भी उड़ान भरेगा हेलिकाप्टर

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 2 अगस्त।

अब खराब मौसम में भी हेलिकाप्टर के लिए सुरक्षित उड़ान भरने में सहूलियतें बढ़ गई हैं। हेलिकाप्टर सेवाओं में सुधार के लिए नई तकनीक को लागू किया, जिससे खराब मौसम में भी सुदूर और पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में सुरक्षित उड़ान को राह आसान हुई है। यह ऐसी जगहों के लिए उपयुक्त है, जहां उड़ानों के उतरने के लिए पर्याप्त सुविधाएं नहीं हैं।

नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय की तरफ से पाइंट इन स्पेस (पिन्स) इंस्ट्रुमेंट अप्रोच प्रक्रिया को मंजूरी मिलने के बाद उड़ान प्रक्रिया के सत्यापन को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा कर लिया गया है।

नागरिक उड्डयन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) ने

उत्तराखंड नागरिक उड्डयन विकास प्राधिकरण (यूसीएडीए), भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई), भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आइएमडी), हेलिकाप्टर संचालकों सहित सभी हितधारकों के साथ इस साल चार धाम यात्रा के

नई तकनीक से
सुदूर और पर्वतीय
क्षेत्रों के लिए बढ़ी
सहूलियतें।

पहले चरण के दौरान हेलिकाप्टर के सुरक्षित, कुशल और व्यवस्थित परिचालन के व्यापक सुरक्षा निगरानी और नियामक ढांचा लागू किया। केदारनाथ, बद्रीनाथ, गंगोत्री और यमुनोत्री की तीर्थयात्रा के लिए हेलिकाप्टर परिचालन का पहला चरण 19

अप्रैल-से 26 जून तक चलाया गया। इस पहल के बाद लागू होने के बाद चार धाम का पहला चरण बगैर किसी दुर्घटना के पूरा कर लिया गया। सरकार का लक्ष्य देश में नई तकनीक आधारित विश्वस्तरीय हेलिकाप्टर सेवाएं प्रदान है।

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NAVODAYA TIMES

DELHI

3 AUGUST 2026

अब दुनिया में लंबी उड़ान भरेगी 'इंडिगो'

नई दिल्ली, 2 अगस्त
(एजेंसी): देश की सबसे
बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने
अपने परिचालन के 20



वर्ष पूरे होने के अवसर पर वैश्विक विस्तार की
महत्वाकांक्षी योजना का खुलासा किया है। घरेलू
विमानन बाजार में 66 प्रतिशत से अधिक हिस्सेदारी
रखने वाली कंपनी अब लंबी दूरी की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
उड़ानों के जरिए दुनिया भर में अपनी मजबूत मौजूदगी
दर्ज कराने की तैयारी में है।

इंडिगो जल्द ही अपने बेड़े में एयरबस ए321
एक्सएलआर (लंबी दूरी का यात्री विमान) शामिल
करेगी, जबकि वर्ष 2028 से एयरबस ए350 विमानों
की आपूर्ति शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। इन विमानों के
माध्यम से एयरलाइन अधिक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय गंतव्यों को
अपने नेटवर्क से जोड़ेगी।

इंडिगो के सह-संस्थापक एवं प्रबंध निदेशक
राहुल भाटिया ने कहा कि कंपनी का मजबूत घरेलू
नेटवर्क अब उसके अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विस्तार की सबसे
बड़ी ताकत बनेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि फिलहाल
इंडिगो को वैश्विक एयरलाइन कहना जल्दबाजी
होगी, लेकिन कंपनी निश्चित रूप से उस दिशा में
तेजी से आगे बढ़ रही है।

भाटिया ने बताया कि कंपनी की रणनीति का
मुख्य उद्देश्य दुनिया भर में बसे भारतीय प्रवासी
समुदाय और भारतीय यात्रियों को बेहतर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
हवाई सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराना है।